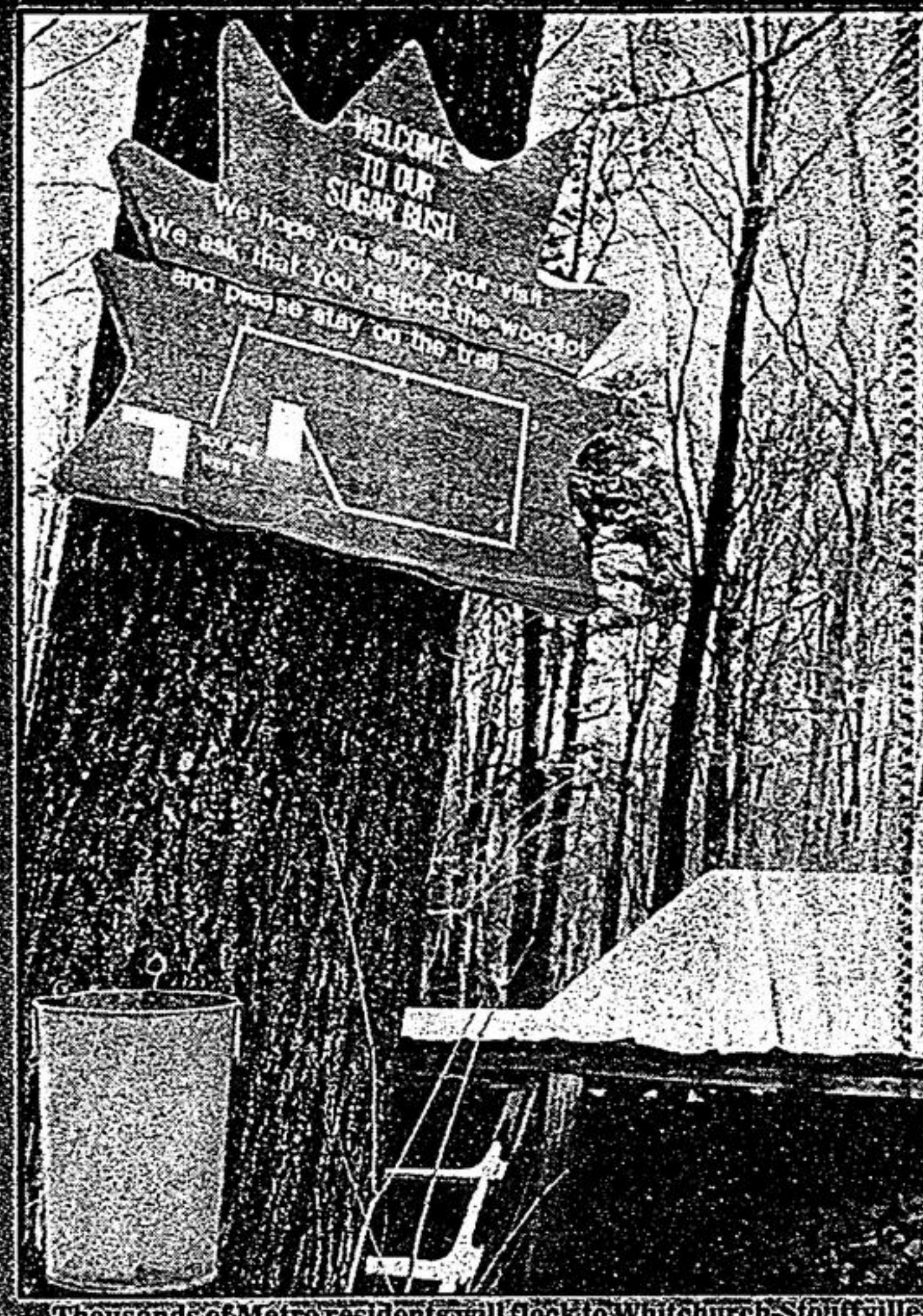


Bruce's Mill Conservation Area

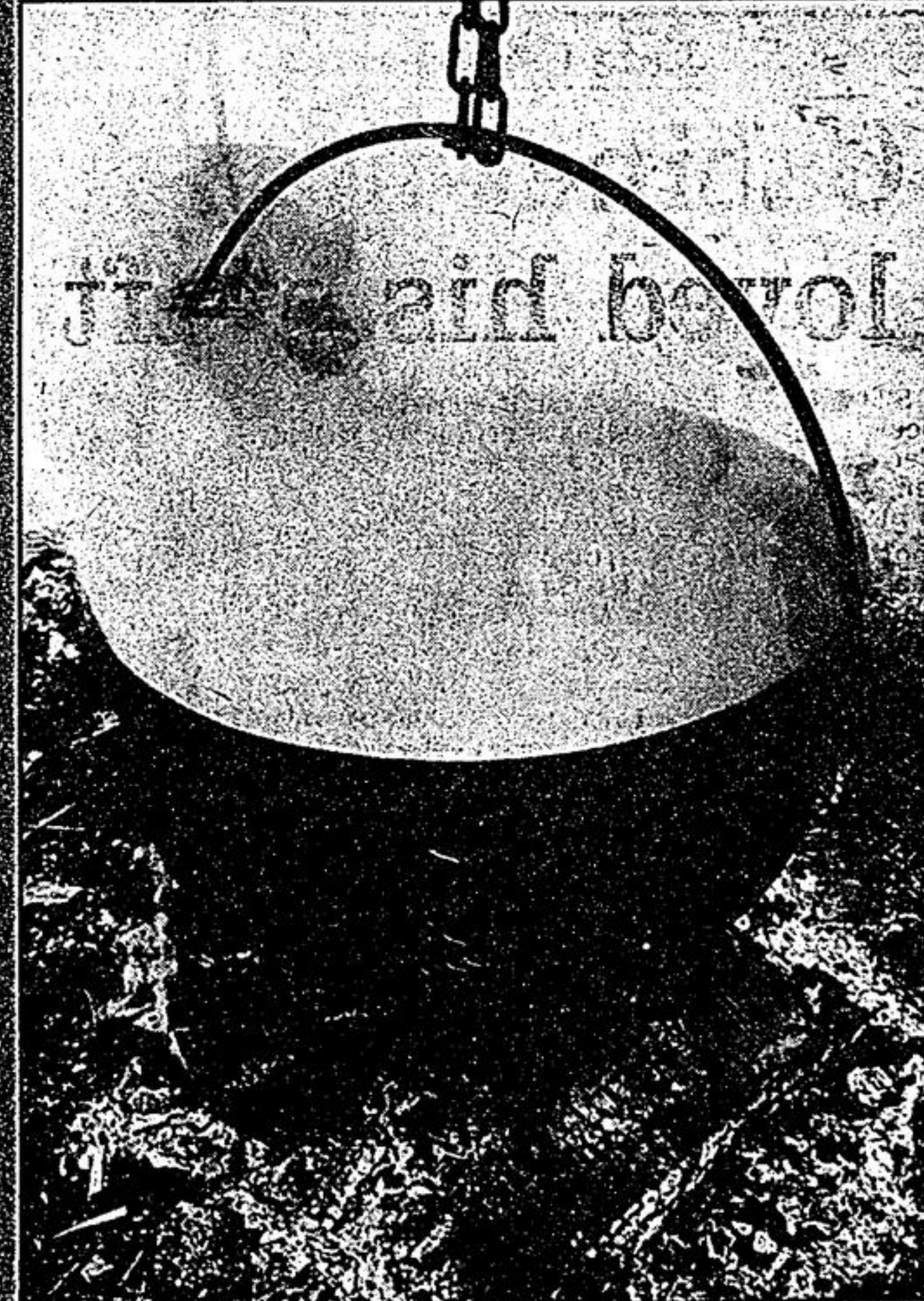
Thousands flock to Stouffville sugar bush as sap flows to signal the arrival of spring



A sure sign that spring is on the way is the start of the maple syrup season at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area. Lead hand Tony Cency

monitors a final stage of the sugaring process during the opening weekend.

Thousands of Metro residents will flock to Whitchurch Stouffville over the next month to visit area sugar bushes, including the one at Bruce's Mill. It's located on Stouffville Road, east of Warden Avenue.



A team of Percherons from the Claireville Ranch are on duty at Bruce's Mill this month. Wagon rides are part of the regular park admission.

Modern technology has invaded the sugar bush, but visitors can still see how early settlers boiled sap in large iron kettles.

Photos by Chris Shanahan

Forest Management

A sugar bush is like a garden, and must be tended. Undesirable and old trees are removed. This thinning provides space and sunlight for the younger saplings to develop into healthy sugar producing trees for the future.



MTRCA staff member Brian Crozier pours syrup into the bowl to make taffy for a customer. Photo by Chris Shanahan.