

The people make a community

Dear Editor:

Many people will applaud the fact there is to be an election in our area (Ward 1). People here seem extremely unhappy with their lot in life. Many moved here from urban areas to enjoy privacy, but complain because there is no activity. They can't have their cake and eat it too. I feel people and not politicians make

a community. Here folks seem content to sit back and complain, blaming all their problems on Council. If they themselves would get up off their backsides they could make things happen. I honestly feel our present councillor has tried. I also feel she too becomes very frustrated when things she'd like to see happen don't happen. The solution as I see it is the formation of a Pine

Orchard-Cedar Valley Community Association. Working as a committee, much could be accomplished, much more than one person going it alone.

Sincerely,
Marguerita Cardillo,
R.R. 1, Cedar Valley

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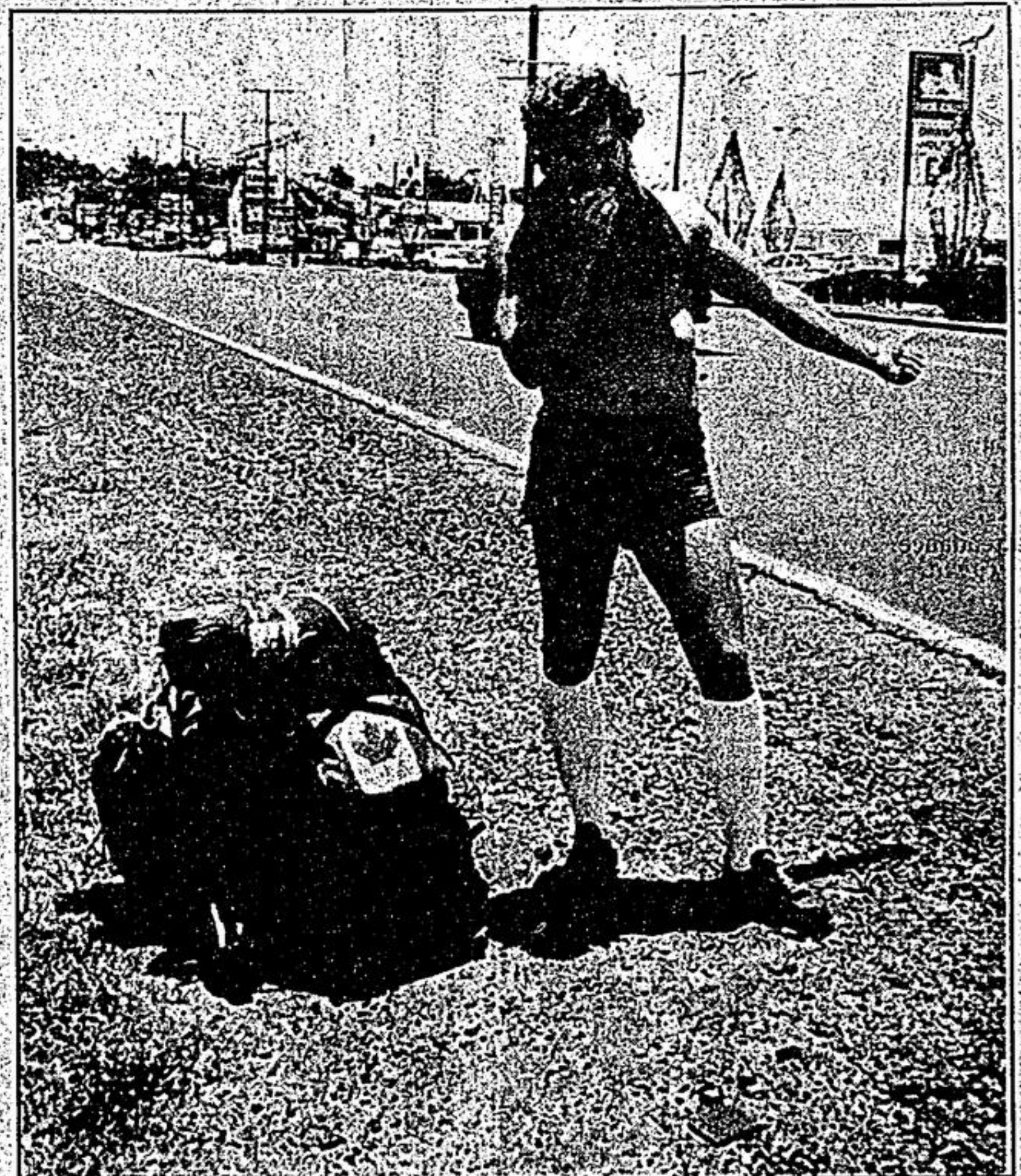
World traveller returns home

Trip was an education

By Brian Kirlik

Ian Harris was itching to get away for awhile. And judging by the length of time he was away from home, it must have been some itch. Seven months ago, he left on a trip some dream people only dream about and others wouldn't even consider. In a nutshell, Ian flew from Toronto to Los Angeles then to New Zealand and then to Australia. And that was only half the journey. After spending several months in the south pacific, Ian had to get himself home once his plane landed back in Los Angeles. "My intention was to go down (to Australia) to work," said Ian in an interview. But Australian authorities weren't to keen on the idea, said Ian. "They said they would kick me out if I worked." Anyway, after thousands of miles and several months, Ian could no longer feel that itch and was happy to return home. "I missed mom's cooking, my friends, Shredies, mustard and Joanne (1955 Chevy)," said the 21-year-old. And while he admits the south pacific is everything he expected, the trip certainly couldn't be made into a tourist commercial. "I slept under the stars a few times because I didn't get to where I was going," he said. On a short stop-over in San Jose on his return, Ian had to sleep on the doorstep of the YMCA, something he says he'll never forget. Why, he even learned to cook in Perth, Australia. Prior to his discovery that all

food needn't necessarily come from a bag or box, Ian said he lived on junk food. The one thing he says he will never forget about Australia was the heat. According to Ian, temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius are commonplace. "I bought a popsicle once and it started to melt before I got a lick in," he said. Aside from his \$2,000 plane ticket, Ian's transportation consisted of whatever way he could find. More often than not, he found himself standing out on a highway in the heart of Australia hitch-hiking. "The things I've done are all memories now," he says. Once he arrived back in Canada on the west coast, Ian set out for Ontario with numerous stops in the various provinces. He was caught in a late-spring snow storm in Alberta and was arrested for hitch-hiking in Thunderbay. He hitched a freight train and his departure consisted of leaping out of the moving train that was travelling at 20 miles per hour. Then, finding himself in the all-familiar hitch-hiking stance at the side of the road just outside of Hunstville, Ian was picked up by a family from right here in Stouffville. It seems Ian was carrying a sign that had Stouffville on the back. When the car drove past, the family noticed the sign in the rear-view mirror and picked him up. It was, says Ian, a very convenient coincidence. "Of all the cities I've been to, I think Sydney and Toronto are my favorite. They each have a bit of character." Now that he's home, Ian is trying to organize his life. He's still not sure what exactly he wants to do with the rest of his life. Whatever he decides, you can bet his knapsack remains packed in the back of his closet, just in case his itch comes calling.



Ian Harris, son of Ivan and Gale Harris, Main Street West, Stouffville, is home again, following a long-distance trip that took him to many countries around the world. Ian used every means possible to get from place to place including his thumb as indicated in the photo above.

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