

# Unionville man wins chess tourney

By STEVE HOUSTON  
Staff Reporter

Unionville chess champion Ian Findlay likes to compare himself to golf great Jack Nicklaus in his style of play on the board.

"If he (Nicklaus) gets a bogey he comes back and birdies the next two holes," said the 26-year-old Normandale Rd. resident.

And applying the previous analogy to chess, that's exactly what Mr. Findlay did last week at the New York Open. After losing what should have been an easy sixth match, he buckled down and won his seventh and eighth matches.

This allowed him and Milliken's Vinny Puri to split the first and second prize money of \$10,500

American. Both players won seven of eight matches.

Unofficially ranked 10th in Canada, Mr. Findlay is a Fide Master and found himself facing Vinny Puri in the sixth match at the Open. Though 18-year-old Puri is a junior player, he beat Mr. Findlay, taking his own half point lead.

"Of all my games I had played (at the Open) I probably took that one the least serious," said Mr. Findlay. "Vinny slowly outplayed me. Later on I was kicking myself."

Held at the New York Penta in Manhattan, the tournament was a best of eight series. Following Mr. Findlay's loss to Vinny he went on to face Yugoslav emigre Zoran Gaechuk and won, then faced American champ Chris Chase in the eighth and succeeded.

"I felt more confident going into the final game," said Mr. Findlay. "I felt I owed it to myself to play for a win."

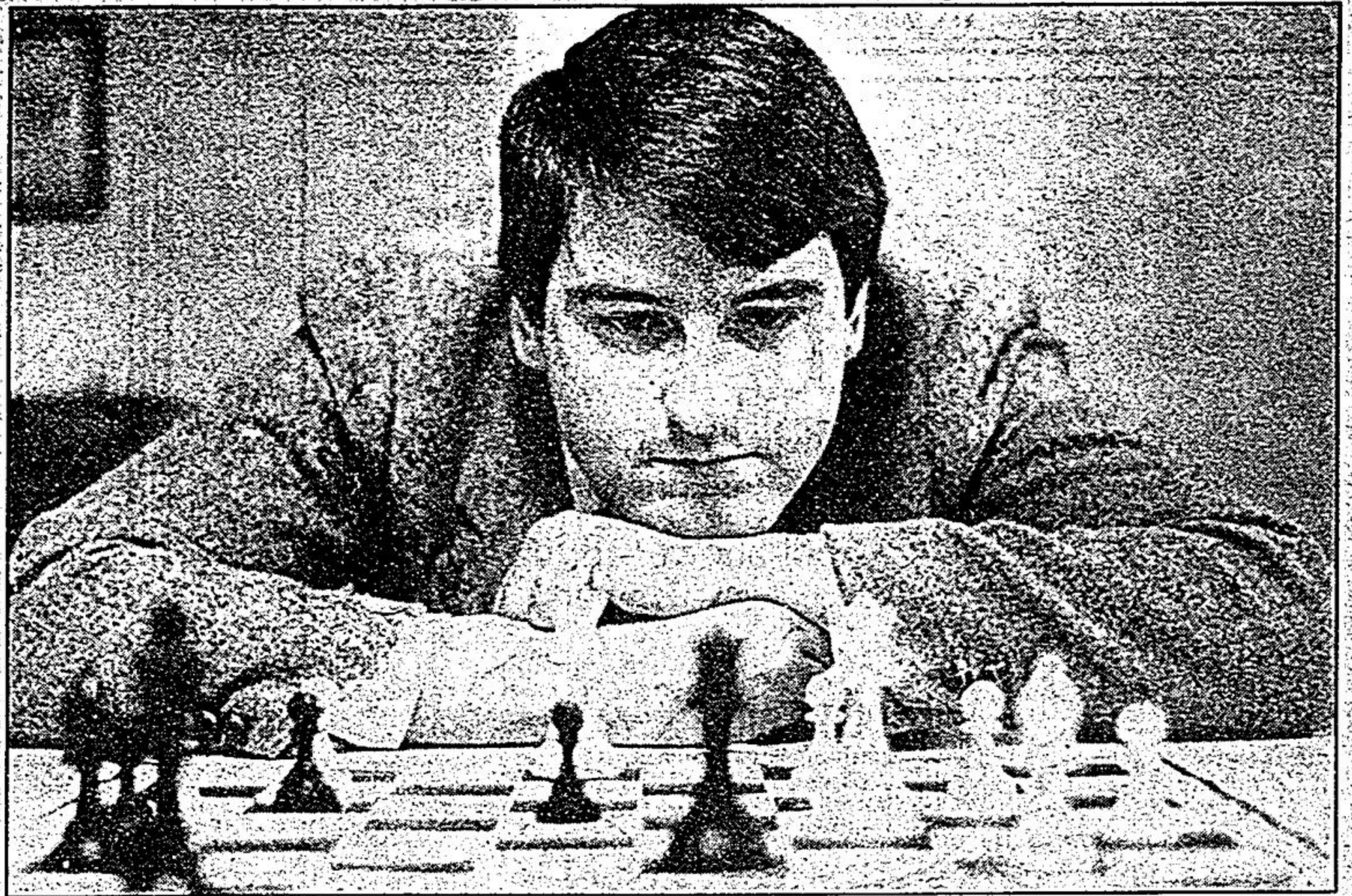
Ian Findlay began playing chess at seven years of age with his father. In Junior High School he became more involved in the game, and vowed to beat the school's top player.

"Then I started reading chess books and I went to the Toronto Chess Club," he recalled. "Eventually I began to get better and better. By Grade 8 I could hold my own against him and by Grade 9 I was much better. He subsequently stopped playing."

That early streak of determination has stayed with him and now pays off in the toughest of battles.

He plans to continue working on his game and improve his Canadian rank. The next major tournament he enters is the Canadian Closed, an invitational competition. The winner of that represents Canada in the next World Tournament. The final goal is representing Canada in the Olympics.

"The New York Open really encouraged me and I'll play in Winnipeg (Canadian Closed) in July," he said. "Even for the best players the New York Open would have been a good pay day for them."



One move at a time. Unionville resident Ian Findlay, 26, studies the board before making his next move. The set up shown is the winning one against American Chris Chase that captured him a first

place draw at the recent New York Open in Manhattan. He and Milliken resident Vinny Puri split the first and second prize purse and brought home \$5,250 each for their efforts.

## Anyone in Claremont a picknicker

A community picnic shelter may soon be erected in Claremont's neighborhood park at a cost of about \$2,000.

Marion Peddie, president of the Claremont and District Community Association, said her group is supporting the project with assistance from the hamlet's service organizations.

Ratepayer Lorne Almack has donated a one acre parcel of land to house the new structure near the park's existing ice pad, according to Mrs. Peddie. The Town of Pickering has also purchased a new set of playground equipment that's slated for the expanded Claremont site.

Further details will be discussed at the association's next general meeting on Tuesday, April 22. It begins at 8 p.m. in the Masonic Hall.

Mrs. Peddie hopes a "better cross-section of people" will attend that session to provide input on the shelter proposal.

The project is to be funded entirely by public donations, she said.

## Markham office ransacked in break-in

Thieves escaped with \$300 during a recent theft at Gibbs Nathaniel Canada Ltd. on Riviera Dr. in Markham.

York Regional Police said the theft took place between March 31 at 6:30 p.m. and April 1 at 8 p.m. Entry was gained through an un-

locked door leading to the warehouse.

The office area was ransacked and a desk drawer forced open.

## Nominations now open at Board

Nominations for the council and executive positions of the Markham Board of Trade are being accepted until May 14.

The nominating committee is accepting nominations for the executive positions of President, first and second Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Nominations are also being accepted for the election of 11 Board Directors.

Nomination forms must have the signature of the nominee and a seconder along with a brief

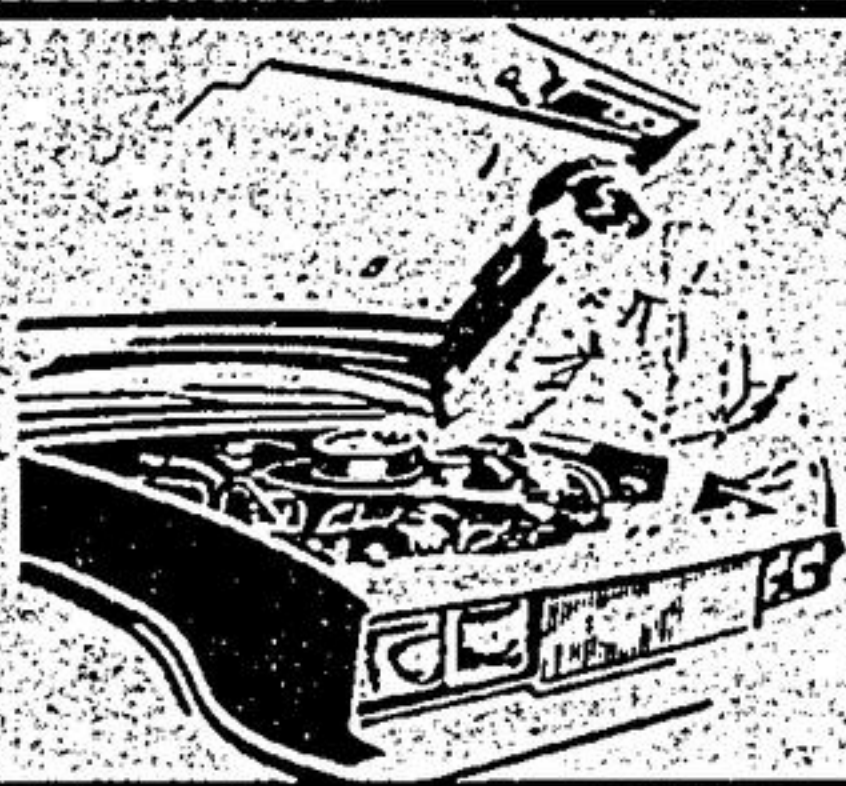
profile and can be obtained at the Board of Trade office.

Elections take place on Wednesday, June 18. A final draft of the Markham Board of Trade's revised bylaws are now available at the Board office.

The draft will be presented at the April Council meeting for study and approval. It will then be submitted to Ottawa for final approval.

Board members are invited to review the revised bylaws at the Board office.

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