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Form soccer league for Thornhill boys . . . first game June 3

By Ivy Reeve

A Thornhill minor soccer league was their goal. And they got it. About five weeks ago, Margaret MacDonald wanted to register her six-year-old son, Kevin, in a soccer league.

Realizing that if Kevin wanted to play this game, he would have to be registered in the Markham league, Mrs. MacDonald and Elaine McInnis decided that Thornhill boys should have a league of their own.

They conducted an informal survey among friends in Thornhill, and says Mrs. McInnis, the response was "absolutely affirmative."

After their plan had been approved by the parks and recreation board, they felt the next step was to notify area residents of the proposed league.

With the permission of the board of education, Mrs. MacDonald and Mrs. McInnis sent leaflets to every public school in the area.

Enthusiasm
 Their enthusiasm and efficiency paid off.

The league, says Mrs. MacDonald, has "grown much larger and much faster than we imagined it could."

More than 200 persons attended a meeting April 21 at Thornlea Secondary School. Before the meeting was over, the Thornhill Minor Soccer Club had been officially formed, and an executive had been elected.

The league will be broken down into three divisions, each comprising four teams.

There will be a division for players six, seven and eight years old; one for nine and ten year olds, and a third division for 11, 12 and 13 year olds, based on the boys' ages as of January 1, 1975.

"We would have had more teams if fields had been available," Mrs. McInnis says.

Registration Saturday
 Registration will take

place Saturday, May 3, from 9 am until noon at Thornhill Community Centre.

Fee is \$12.00 per child, payable at time of registration.

Parents taking their boys to be registered are asked to bring birth certificates. Sweater, shorts and sock sizes will be required (the league will be providing uniforms, but not shoes), as well as the signature of a parent or guardian.

Vacancies will be filled on a "first-come, first-served basis," Mrs. McInnis advises.

As a result of the number of names submitted during the meeting, it appears that quotas for the six to eight and nine and ten year old teams have been filled.

However, teams for 11, 12 and 13 year olds are not yet complete.

First game
 The first match will be played June 3 at Thornhill Pitch, behind Thornhill High School.

Subsequently, there will be games every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6 pm until dark.

Coaches soon will be phoning boys about practice sessions.

Volunteers are needed to help coach and manage teams, referee games, and for telephone committees.

Persons wishing to assist may contact Mrs. McInnis (881-1347).

Five team sponsors have been found so far, but another seven are needed.

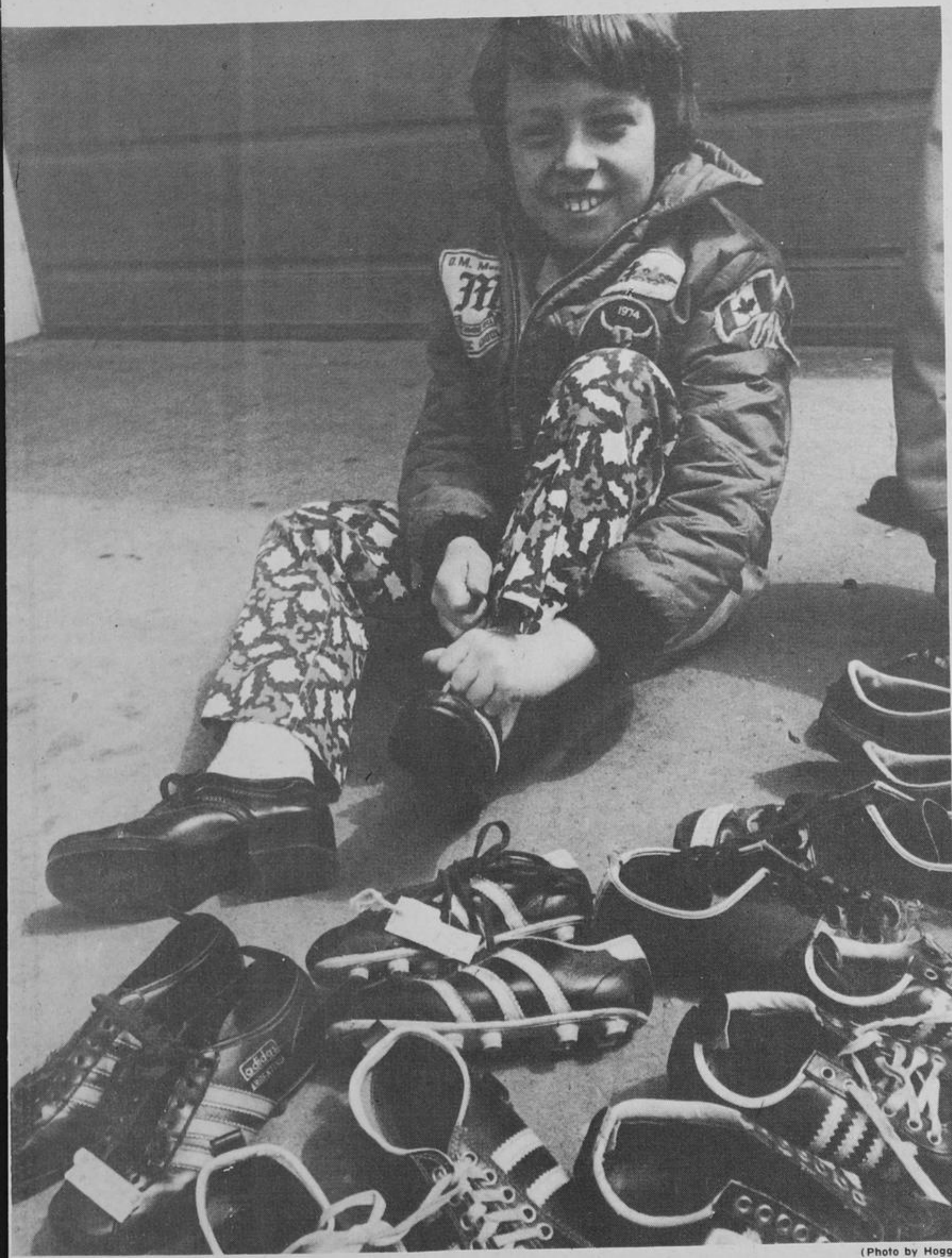
Anyone wishing to sponsor a team may call Mrs. MacDonald (881-0246).

Executive

Executive elected at the meeting were president, Bill Torrance; vice-president, Nick Nixon; secretary-treasurer, Stuart Hartley, and convener, Mrs. MacDonald and Mrs. McInnis, Ben DeBoer, Lyndon Gardner, Jim Gaughan and Barrie Radcliffe.

It is expected that the league will be expanded next year.

Among reasons for soccer's popularity, says Mr. Torrance, is that it is "one game where the brain and the toe work together."



(Photo by Hogg)

He's a winner in Saturday's soccer boot exchange

Hey, these soccer boots fit. Mark Dimpfel of 114 Wright Street, Richmond Hill, was one of a "few" who took advantage of a soccer boot exchange Saturday at the home of Jane Stel. Obviously he found his size. A total of 14 boots were exchanged with officials terming the turnout rather disappointing. In addition, jerseys, shorts and socks were

up for purchase at a minimal rate. Anyone still having a pair of undersized boots for the upcoming Richmond Hill Minor Soccer League season might be able to find someone with the same problem. Any persons still interested in trading should call her at 884-2560.

Lots of talent at hockey school

The newly acquired coach of the Provincial Junior A Aurora Tigers, Bill Purcell, will be among the expert instructors lined up for the new summer hockey school to be run this year at Thornhill Community Centre.

It's being sponsored by the Town of Markham's Recreation and Parks Department.

Assisting Bill will be Wayne Weller and Dave Streit, All-American players for United States university teams; Brian Galbraith, who taught power skating for six years at the Tam O'Shanter school; Jeri Greenham, last season's captain of York University; and Red Gilbert, who will be instructing the goalkeepers.

Doors open July 7
 Youngsters will be eligible to participate from ages 6 to 16 with the camp opening the doors July 7 and running for eight weeks Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Fees for the school are \$50 a week for Town of Markham residents and \$60 for non-residents.

Up to 70 boys can be accommodated weekly.

Girls, too
 Also welcome to register are girls.

Some of the features of the school in addition to free bus service include the use of all of the new Thornhill Community Centres facilities, instructional films, the pool at Thornlea Secondary School, and special dental and accident insurance.

Application forms will be available at the centre with any additional information received by phoning 881-3313.

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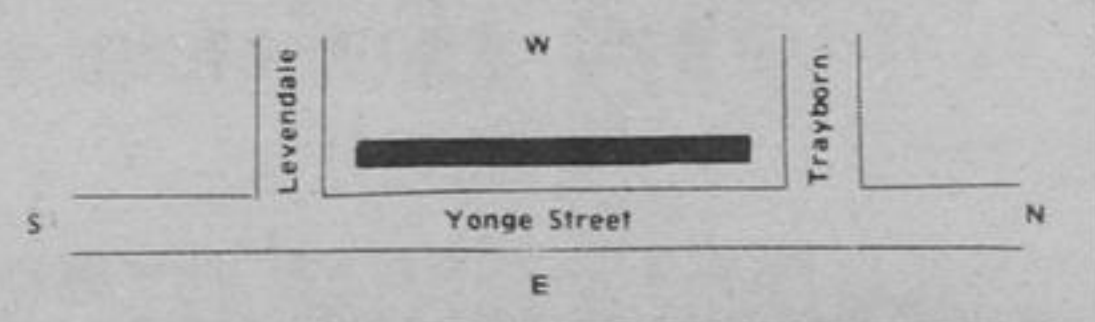
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See next week's Liberal for further details

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