

Prominent Liberal party member seeks nomination



GAIL NEWALL
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By **PAULA CROWELL**
Staff Reporter

With the support of former Liberal candidate Ron Maheu, Markham's Gail Newall is seeking the party's nomination to run in the next provincial election.

Ms. Newall, a prominent Liberal Party member, announced her intention Wednesday to a group of nomination campaign workers assembled at the home of Markham councillor Elson Miles.

The 46-year-old mother of two has served on the executive of the

York Centre Liberal association for about 15 years and most recently, as Founding President of the Liberal association for the new Markham provincial riding.

Ms. Newall has served on committees and agencies of all levels of government and feels a necessity to work for a system of governing which she values.

She spent 13 years in South Africa and appreciates Canada's democracy because of her experience there.

"I learned there how fragile democracy is. Apartheid was put in place during my teenage years and I remember it happening very vividly," she said.

Ms. Newall started her career as a social worker and is now coordinator of family counselling in Durham Region.

Her community involvement includes serving on the Markham Mobility Bus Eligibility Review Committee, Markham Women's Year Committee, as founding chairman of Markham Information Service and as co-founder of the York Region United Way.

She has also been a board member of Yellow Brick house, and founder of the Markham Co-operative Play School and past president of the Toronto East Business and Professional Women's organization.

Ms. Newall received a federal appointment to the National Council of Welfare and a provincial appointment to the College of Nurses of Ontario.

She decided to seek the nomination now because her children are old enough that they aren't very dependent on her and her career is at a point where she can make a serious time commitment.

Ms. Newall describes herself as a person who, "likes to work with people centred on issues. I like goals outside of myself, centred on community issues."

Mr. Maheu, the Liberal candidate in the 1985 provincial election, said at the time of his defeat that he would back to fight another campaign.

But in an interview Thursday, Mr. Maheu said a recent business acquisition caused him to rethink his earlier statement.

"I made a pretty substantial business commitment by acquiring another company and I'm not in a position to run this spring," he said.

Mr. Maheu said he would prefer not to get involved initially than to put his name in the hat and have to withdraw later.

"I'm supporting Gail Newall for the nomination. I don't think the Liberal Party in Markham could find a better candidate."

The date of the next provincial election has not been determined, but estimates from Ms. Newall, Mr. Maheu and local MPP Don Cousens put it at sometime between this spring and next fall.

The Liberal Party Association in Markham riding will vote on a candidate for the next election in late February or early March, Ms. Newall said.



Rabbit prefers candy to carrots

Most rabbits like carrots, but this one, a participant in Stouffville's Santa Claus Parade, preferred candy. And just to prove she's human, this buggy bunny identified herself as Jeanette Peak, 14, of Stouffville. Her companion clown is Donna Lea, 10, of Vandorf.

— Jim Thomas

Loader stolen

A Gormley man is missing a front end loader which was taken from a parking lot in Richmond Hill.

The 1986 Case loader, valued at \$70,000, was stolen from the lot of Hillcrest Mall sometime between Nov. 28 and Dec. 1, York Regional Police say.

Town, province differ over pollution threat

Markham Council took an Environment Ministry official to task Tuesday in defense of a town plan to allow a Milliken industrial development.

And Regional Councillor Ron Moran said the town's water management policies rival any other in response to the ministry's concerns about a plan to permit industrial growth on 14th Ave. east of Warden Ave.

Peter White, a spokesman for the ministry, voiced concerns ab-

out contamination of a nearby Rouge River tributary as a result of industrial uses being permitted in the area.

His ministry opposes the town's redesignation of the land from open space to industrial.

However, Councillor Moran claims the watercourse is a dry creek bed that carries storm water runoff during wet weather and spring thaws and said the development won't adversely affect the river.

He also said that water contaminants commonly contribute to the Rouge River and other watercourses without the help of nearby industrial operations.

"Any surface water causes contamination," he said Thursday. "Salt, excrement from farm animals and chemicals farmers use all contribute."

The town's storm water management scheme protects local waterways from erosion damage and flood danger after heavy storms or thaws.

Councillor Moran said the town could now face an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing if the Environment Ministry pursues its opposition to the plan.

"The ministry has opposed it verbally (to date)," he noted. "But we could end up with an OMB hearing."

Kennedy goes north

Markham commuters will be driving due north on Kennedy Rd. at Steeles Ave. come Tuesday.

Town and Regional officials will be on hand for the official opening of the new Kennedy Rd. realignment at Steeles that eliminates the jog commuters have come to know.

Several months and \$5,000,000 in the making, the new extension is expected to relieve much of the rush-hour traffic congestion in the area.

Regional Councillor Ron Moran said the opening is one that has been anticipated by the Town, Region and residents of Markham for quite some time.

Ed and Claudette



"I couldn't carry one wheelbarrow home so I had to buy two." AIRD/86

Markham moves closer to 911 emergency service

After almost a year of study, York Region has decided to hire a full-time employee instead of a consultant to implement a region-wide emergency 911 telephone number.

York's Chief Administrative Officer and 911 Task Force member Bob Forhan made the recommendation for a full-time employee after sifting through proposals submitted by five consulting firms.

Council voted last March to go ahead with the hiring of a consultant to implement the system.

Cost estimates submitted by interested firms ranged in price from \$25,000 for phase one and \$40,000 per year for two years to implement the system to a \$125,000 overall fee.

Council's vote to hire a regional employee for the job at an annual salary of approx-

imately \$45,000 was seen as a more cost-effective scheme.

"It's become evident that we need someone to steer this whole thing," noted Regional Chairman Eldred King. "We don't have someone on staff who has the time to do the work for us."

Markham's portion of the cost towards a 911 system will be collected through taxation, said Regional Councillor Ron Moran.

Peel Region was turned down late last year by the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission in its attempt to bill the 911 service directly to Bell Canada subscribers.

"This is the route we have to take," said Councillor Moran. "Any step forward towards implementation of the 911 emergency number is a step forward for Markham."



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