



Michael Kusner

Liberal hopeful

Another hopeful for Markham's new provincial riding has tossed his candidate's hat into the ring. Victoria Square resident Michael Kusner, 58, will seek the Liberal party nomination for the new seat and faces Markham's Gail Newall in the race.

Mr. Kusner, a professor, small business consultant, and urban planner made the announcement this week and says he'll be "a strong voice at Queen's Park on the Peterson Team."

An active member of Markham's Liberal Party executive, Mr. Kusner has organized several Liberal policy conferences and prepared papers in leadership campaigns for Bob Nixon, David Peterson and Pierre Trudeau.

Locally, he is involved with the Victoria Square Ratepayers Association, Markham Board of Trade, Markham Business Association, Unionville Historical Society and the York Technology Association.

Mr. Kusner says Markham is currently experiencing "a serious planning crisis," and needs to plan now for its future.

The founder and former chairman of the Urban Planning Department at Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Mr. Kusner has lived with wife Phyllis and two daughters in Victoria Square for the past seven years.

"The problem with most politicians and planners is that they don't look far enough into the future," he said. "If you are just starting today to plan for 1997, you're too late. I want to help our community catch up and start addressing our long term needs."

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