

1,000 Tories expected

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He and his wife, Janice, live in Ballantrae. The couple has two grown daughters.

Mr. Pigott, 57, his wife, Pam, and two children have lived in Markham for more than 26 years. A sales manager, Mr. Pigott's community involvement includes being a member of a local ratepayers group and serving on a conservation advisory committee.

Ms Weerasinghe, 32, a chief executive officer for a private company, has been an advocate for improved health care and a community volunteer. She also has a history of advocating for homeless children and teenagers.

Ms Weerasinghe was raised in Markham and is

married to a local dental surgeon. The couple have three children.

Oak Ridges-Markham was left vacant when MPP Frank Klees shifted his interest farther north to win the Conservative candidacy in Newmarket-Aurora.

The Conservatives are confident they'll be re-elected in Oak Ridges-Markham.

"Frank Klees did a lot of ground work here," riding president Paul Calandra said.

More than 1,000 members of the Oak Ridges-Markham Conservatives are expected to pack the high school auditorium to vote.

Oak Ridges-Markham, with a population of 167,000, is the largest riding in Canada.

"It's bigger than Prince Edward Island," Mr. Calandra said

Jaczek to run for Liberals in Oak Ridges-Markham

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

A former Liberal candidate will run in the new riding of Oak Ridges-Markham.

Dr. Helena Jaczek was acclaimed by area Liberals Thursday evening in Oak Ridges.

Ms Jaczek's crowning marks the doctor's second attempt to capture a seat at Queen's Park. While the Liberals formed government under Premier Dalton McGuinty in 2003, Ms Jaczek was defeated by Tory Frank Klees.

"Since the McGuinty Liberals came into office, our communities have already greatly improved," Dr. Jaczek

told supporters.

"In Oak Ridges-Markham, we have benefited from improved public education and better health care. With the increased growth in this part of the GTA, there is much more work to be done," she added.

FORMER YORK MEDICAL OFFICER

Dr. Jaczek served as commissioner of health services and medical officer for York Region for 18 years.

Born in England, Ms Jaczek came to Canada in 1963, graduated from medical school 10 years later, while completing a masters in health sciences and a masters in business administration.

Before joining York Region's health services, Ms Jaczek practised medicine

for 11 years in Toronto.

She lives with her partner in Oak Ridges and has two children.

For the Conservatives, Oak Ridges-Markham became vacant when Mr. Klees accepted the nomination in Newmarket-Aurora.

The party will choose its candidate in a four-way race June 2.

The New Democrats have yet to select a candidate to the most populous riding in the country.

With a population of 167,000, Oak Ridges-Markham takes in Whitchurch-Stouffville and parts of Markham, Richmond Hill and King Township.

Ontario will go to the polls Oct. 10 to form its 39th legislative assembly.



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FUNDING PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

Adults with a developmental disability can apply for Ministry of Community and Social Services initiative called **Passport: Funding for Community Participation Supports**. The goal of Passport is to improve the quality of participation in the community for adults with a developmental disability.

Passport gives individuals the option of receiving funds to purchase community participation supports and/or they can use the funding to access services through community agencies.

Applicants must be adults who are no longer in school or within 6 months of leaving school.

Application deadline for this round of funding is **June 15, 2007.**

For more information and an application contact:
York Support Services Network,
Passport Coordinator
1-866-257-9776 or 905-898-6455 ext 444
or go online at
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INFORMATION FAIR 2007

If you are a community-oriented, charitable, not-for-profit organization and you would like to let people know more about what you have to offer, you are invited to attend a meeting in the Council Chambers at 37 Sandford Drive, 4th Floor, on Tuesday, May 29th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss and plan Information Fair 2007.

Kindly R.S.V.P to
Debi Paterson
at 905-640-1910 ext. 260

The Information Fair is tentatively scheduled for Thursday August 23rd.

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