

UPDATED: Ballard to seek Provincial Liberal nomination

By Brock Weir

Councillor Chris Ballard has thrown his hat into the Provincial arena.

The Councillor, who was elected to Aurora Council in 2010, told The Auroran on Saturday that he hopes to challenge incumbent Progressive Conservative MPP Frank Klees in the next Provincial election.

In this minority provincial government, there is no certainty on just when the next election might be called, but Councillor Ballard said he will 'step aside' as Councillor when the writ is dropped, if he is ultimately chosen Newmarket-Aurora's next Liberal candidate.

'I am going to continue to work hard in being an effective Councillor and representing those people who voted for me in representing all of Aurora,' said Councillor Ballard. 'We'll see what happens when the writ drops [but] at that point I will step aside. Until then, even if I am chosen as the candidate, I will keep working to represent the people of Aurora.'

Councillor Ballard said he has heard from 'elected officials in our communities, businesses, and regular folk' that they want better representation at Queen's Park and he believes he is the man for the job.

'I have heard concerns that the focus has been on leadership issues and other issues that are important, but not as important to the people of Aurora and Newmarket,' he said. 'I think I will be able to do a better job for the citizens of both communities. I won't be spending any time chasing leadership hopes and that type of thing, but I will be really focusing on what these communities need, and that is what I have been hearing from a number of years now.'

'I think you have to live in this riding, work in this riding constantly and I am prepared to do that. This is my home, this area has been my home my entire life, and I think it is time we improve the quality of representation we're getting at Queen's Park.'

Councillor Ballard said he plans to launch his campaign for the provincial Liberal candidacy this Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Theatre Auroran.

The Liberal Party of Ontario has yet to set a nomination date for the Newmarket-Aurora riding.