

MAHONEY, STEVE

Peel B...

Time for 'change of direction'

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Mahoney seeks Liberal seat

By MICHAEL LIGHTSTONE
Staff Reporter

After much speculation about his political future, Ward 8 councillor Steve Mahoney has announced that he is seeking the Liberal nomination in the new provincial riding of Mississauga West.

At a press conference Monday, Mahoney told reporters it was time for him to "change direction" in this, his first quest for a seat at Queen's Park.

He maintained the Liberals stand a good chance of forming a majority government after the next provincial election, and "it's important to have proactive representation at the senior levels of government."

An Erin Mills resident, Mahoney, 39, is taking his second shot at politics outside the municipal arena. In 1980, he ran unsuccessfully for the federal Liberal nomination in Mississauga North.

Mahoney is a former real estate salesman and has been a City councillor since 1978. He has also served

on Peel regional council, and has been Mississauga's representative with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). He feels his municipal experience and his work with AMO "will assist in possible future provincial endeavors."

The councillor is to officially kick off his election campaign March 9 at a local restaurant. He believes the major issue affecting the rapidly growing riding is transportation. And on the provincial front, it's Canada's free trade initiatives.

"The province of Ontario is probably more affected by free trade than any other province in this country," he said.

Married with three children, Mahoney has lived in Mississauga for 20 years.

Mahoney is the third candidate to bid for the Mississauga West Grit nomination. Jhalman Singh Gosal, 53, and Steve Nezic, 50, have also entered the race.

Gosal announced his intention to run for the Liberals late last month.

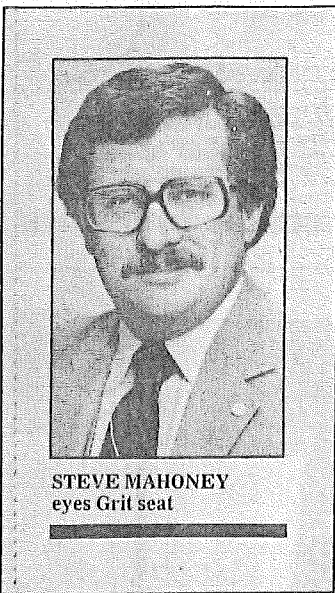
Nezic, a Croatian Canadian, said he is a longtime Liberal and is seeking the nomination because he feels government could stand to benefit from increased participation from ethnic Canadians.

"I think I can give to this country, the province of Ontario, and the new riding of Mississauga West a real grass roots ideology... and bridge the gap between ethno-cultural groups and native born Canadians and government," he said.

Married with three children, Nezic resides in Brampton.

Mahoney's announcement brings to five the number of candidates seeking the riding's Queen's Park seat. Pat LePage and Darwin Kealey are vying for the Progressive Conservative nomination.

No candidate has yet declared an intention to seek the New Democratic Party nomination.



STEVE MAHONEY
eyes Grit seat

Mahoney plans to keep door open on candidacy for mayor's office

By JOHN STEWART
Staff Reporter

While Steve Mahoney announced his candidacy for the Liberal nomination in Mississauga West Monday, he didn't close the door to a run for the mayoralty in 1988 if his provincial bid fails.

Mahoney told a press conference at the Civic Centre that should he lose the nomination fight, or the election,

then he could still be a candidate for the mayor's chair in 1988.

"I'll leave that decision" until faced with it, said Mahoney who sported a red tie to go with his party affiliation.

If he does win the election and there is more than a year to go until the next municipal election in November 1988, Mahoney said he thinks council should call a by-election to replace him.

The councillor's wife, Katie, said in an interview following the press conference that she would be interested in running in an election to replace her husband. But she said she would not be a candidate if council chooses to make an appointment rather than hold a by-election.

Mrs. Mahoney said she was interested in a long-term commitment as councillor. "I think I would do a very credible job," she said.

Another potential candidate to replace Mahoney is his campaign man-

ager for the nomination fight, Ray Weiss.

Mahoney said he has not yet decided how he will handle his council job during an election campaign. He may take a leave of absence but he will not resign. If he takes a leave, he will not accept a salary for his council job during that time.

The politician said he had not been approached by any Liberal party search committee to seek the MPP's post. He denied rumors that he was holding out for promises of a Cabinet post and said it would be highly presumptuous of him to do so.

Although admitting that it might be difficult for him to be a backbencher in a large majority government, the councillor said "I'm prepared to put in my innings" to win advancement.

Mahoney says he has been a longtime member of the Mississauga North federal Liberals but has not been involved in any party at the provincial level.

Feb. 18-87 MN

Peel Stampbook 44