

# Final stand for candidates before voters go to polls

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Also, "three days before the last election (Mr.) Peterson told the people he had a specific plan regarding car insurance controls. Take a look at your bill and tell me if David Peterson keeps his promises."

On the question of the proposed federal Goods and Services Tax, Mr. Duignan added, "if the Liberals really felt so strongly about the GST David Peterson would not be Brian Mulroney's tax collector."

Mr. Elliot took the podium next and touted his party's economic record. "When the Liberal government took office we faced a \$34 billion deficit and the Mulroney Tories

cutting (transfer) payments to the province by \$2.1 billion. We had to act. We did." The government cuts its budgets and increased the sales tax one per cent and income tax five per cent in order to slash the provincial deficit.

"The leader of the PCs (Mike Harris) says he is against taxes," Mr. Elliot continued. However, he "advocates a user fee for health care and if that's not a tax I don't know what is."

On the other hand, the NDP favors "a four billion dollar spending spree" which would create a "one billion dollar deficit" — in contrast to the Liberals, who "worked long and hard to balance the budget."

"We are a fiscally responsible government," Mr. Elliot said, and "the leading jurisdiction in North America" when it comes to environmental legislation.

In choosing among the six Halton North candidates voters must decide "which person will best preserve your future and your children's future," Mr. Elliot said.

Mr. Gori charged that Mr. Elliot "seems to have no stand on his own." When the Patti Starr scandal broke "did he stand up or did he sit on his backbench?" When another scandal broke regarding land development in York Region, "did he stand up or sit in his backbench?" When 140 provincial government of-

ficials participated in a widely criticized junket to Italy and when Premier Peterson "renege on his promise" to control car insurance rates "did he stand up or sit on his backbench?"

When the government "refused to intervene" to stop widespread logging at Temagami "did he stand up or sit in his backbench?"

As Halton North representative, Mr. Gori said he would "not be afraid to stand up and state the truth no matter what the political consequences."

Green Party candidate Patricia Kammerer painted a picture of a province seething with almost revolutionary turmoil. "The roads

are congested, crime is rampant and taxes are hitting the roof. Instead of slowing down for a while the government is forging ahead." The Liberals are doing "irreversible damage" to the environment with unrestrained development, she contended.

"Bad government breeds bad citizens. Somewhere, someone is going to stand up and put the country on fire and politicians will have nobody to blame but themselves."

Libertarian John Shadbolt, who the other candidates have repeatedly described as "refreshing" quipped that men's suits must be designed by civil servants because they have four pockets — one each for municipal, provincial and federal governments and a fourth to provide whatever is left over for personal use.

"The Libertarian Party is dedicated to trying to cut taxes. People are getting fed up. Something's got to give. We have to bring the civil service under control and reduce taxes. I'm damn mad about it and that's the reason I'm running."

Tory Dave Whiting said "I am a politician and I'm not ashamed of it. Politics is not a dirty word. Politicians run this country, this province, this town."

But Liberal politicians at Queen's Park have "a lot to answer for," Mr. Whiting continued. "They're trying to hide behind the federal government. Next Thursday (tomorrow) is when (Mr.) Peterson will have to answer for what he's responsible for."

Mr. Whiting outlined what he saw as several threats to Halton North. Open pit mining companies such as Dufferin Aggregates have not given up on the idea of filling their abandoned quarries with garbage, he said. Dufferin has "just retreated" while awaiting the outcome of a similar landfill application in Acton.

Mr. Whiting slammed the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) designation applied to the city core and surrounding regions, such as Halton. The GTA, a Liberal created planning entity set up to deal with shared concerns such as transportation, housing and waste disposal, is "another level of government already costing us dollars. It's going to cost us more."

## Where the candidates stand on the issues

By ROB KELLY

Candidates for Halton North faced approximately 190 Milton constituents at E.C. Drury School last week in the final all candidates debate before tomorrow's provincial election. There were some tough speeches from the campaigners, and no shortage of pointed queries from the crowd. What follows is a sampling of how the various hopefuls responded to questions:

### Abortion

In response to a question regarding their positions on abortion most candidates, save the Family Coalition Party's Giuseppe Gori, took a pro choice stance.

"I'm not for abortion, I'm for choice," said the New Democratic Party's Noel Duignan. "There's no way I should impose my morality on anybody else."

Liberal Walt Elliot said that if a woman exercises her right to have an abortion, it is the government's responsibility "to see to it that the procedure is carried out properly."

"What about the baby?" asked Mr. Gori. "Does the baby have any choice? Do I have the choice to kill any of you? If you start from the position that this is a human person, then there is no choice."

Progressive Conservative Dave

Whiting is pro choice. However, he said unfortunately the option "has led to (some) young ladies having two and three abortions and that's using abortion as birth control."

"I don't think we can any longer afford to bring unwanted children into the world," said Patricia Kammerer of the Green Party. "We have to be responsible for the children that already exist."

Libertarian John Shadbolt is pro choice, but favors encouraging young people to have children (presumably through financial incentives) because "we are an aging society."

### Education

Although the provincial share of education funding has fallen off from its high of approximately 50 per cent in recent years, some candidates would buck that trend, reversing the ongoing practice of using property taxes to carry more and more of educational costs.

"The provincial government has got to take back responsibility for education," said Mr. Duignan of the NDP. He advocated an increase to 60 per cent provincial funding in "four to five years."

Mr. Elliot said community colleges have too much leeway in choosing

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Photo by JOHN WARREN

### Steamy campaign

Progressive Conservative Leader Mike Harris stopped by the Steam Era show Saturday to do some campaigning with Halton North PC candidate Dave Whiting.

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