

Harper spent final day of campaign in Newmarket-Aurora



By Brock Weir

It was the final day of campaigning for the men and woman vying to be Canada's next Prime Minister and Conservative leader Stephen Harper began his day in Newmarket on Sunday to make a final pitch for his party.

Before an audience of supporters, some who had come from as far away as Port Hope, gathered at the Jet Ice warehouse, Mr. Harper was introduced by Newmarket-Aurora candidate Lois Brown.



Harper was introduced by Conservative candidate -- now outgoing Member of Parliament -- Lois Brown.

"We live in a very dangerous and uncertain world, one that threatens our economy, our prosperity, our jobs and everything that depends on those things: our families and those we love," said Ms. Brown. "Now, we have a very serious choice to make. Tomorrow, Canadians will decide on which government they trust to manage and protect our fragile economy in the face of continued global uncertainty and turmoil. Only a Conservative government can and will protect our fragile economy for the next four years."

Before Mr. Harper took the stage, Ms. Brown said she had just one request of those assembled: vote on Monday for the "future of our families and our country" to push Conservatives to "go over the top."

This was echoed by Mr. Harper who said there was "an awful lot at stake" at Monday's vote, a decision which will have "real consequences" for families, seniors and businesses over the next four years.

"Canadians will choose a government to manage our \$2 trillion economy for the years ahead," he said. "Tomorrow we will choose whether our taxes go up or down. Tomorrow we choose whether we protect our economy with balanced budgets or return to the days of spending money we don't have. Tomorrow, we choose between a Liberal plan that will cost you more and kill jobs [or] our real, positive plan to keep this country moving forward. Our plan will create jobs, it will maintain our balanced budget and this is the

most important thing: our plan will cut taxes for families, for seniors, for small businesses and it will leave more money in our pockets.?

Mr. Harper cautioned the audience not to let the ?rhetoric obscure the real choice? because those choices were stark. He touted a Conservative government's plan to reintroduce the Home Renovation Tax Credit, support for widowed and single seniors, enhanced savings plans for education and persons with disabilities and flexibility for maternal and parental leave and employment insurance.

?I told you at the outset the choice of a Liberal government is a very difficult path and we need to be very clear of the economic risks Canadians take if the Liberals are elected tomorrow,? said Mr. Harper. ?In this campaign, the Liberals stick to a few slogans, they talk very little about the details of their platform. At the heart of that platform is out of control spending. By their own underestimates, \$150 billion dollars in new spending promises to be financed by ongoing deficits and tax hikes. The Liberals think Canadians should pay more tax. You make it, they'll take it, then they'll spend it. That's their program.

?Every single vote for a Conservative candidate is a vote for a positive plan for the next four years, a plan to protect our economy, to create jobs and to lower taxes. Under our economic action plan, we want this country to keep moving forward. We don't want to go back to the days where government ran for a handful of Liberal special interest groups and for the bureaucracy. We want it to serve the hardworking families of this country.?