

# CAS not connected to 'sound-alike' organization

The Halton Children's Aid Society (CAS) is alerting individuals and businesses to claims made by an organization called Canadians Against Child Abuse Society (CACAS).

According to Halton CAS, volunteers and paid employees of the CACAS are soliciting donations throughout Halton and neighbouring communities claiming connections with local children's organizations, including Children's Aid

Societies.

They also claim to support a "hotline to help abused children", but the toll-free number is just the group's office in Nova Scotia, "open 9-5, Monday to Friday."

Neither the Halton Children's Aid Society nor the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton has any connection to this organization.

"We appreciate and rely upon the generosity of

the citizens of Halton. It is important that you are not confused into thinking that this organization is anyway associated with the Halton Children's Aid Society or its Foundation," says Halton CAS executive director Roy Walsh.

If you would like to support children and youth who are victims of, or are at risk of abuse and neglect, the Halton CAS accepts donations directly from the public through the Children's

Aid Foundation of Halton, which supports programs not covered by government funding.

The staff and volunteers of these organizations don't conduct door-to-door or telephone canvassing.

If you have supported the CACAS believing it was in support of Halton CAS, you can file a complaint with the police and with the Canada Revenue Agency.

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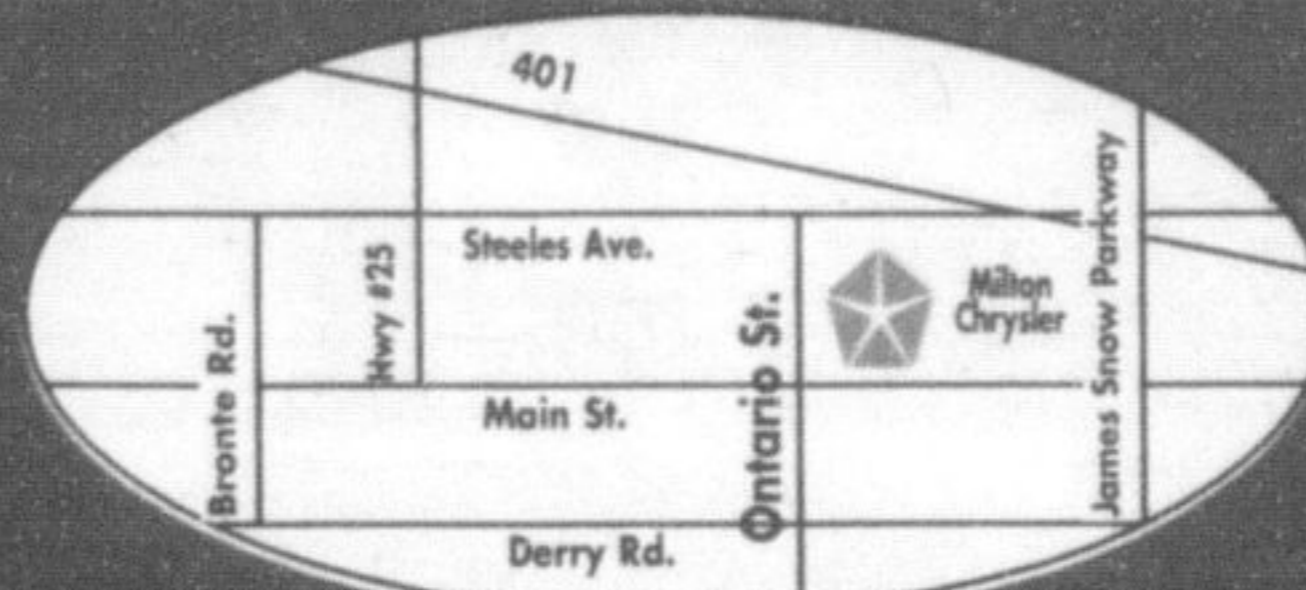


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## Economy heading for downturn, says MPP

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh says the Liberal government must take serious steps in the upcoming spring budget to avoid a downturn in the Ontario economy.

"We are about to face the perfect economic storm with virtually all financial sectors facing difficulties at the same time," he said. "No matter what happens, there will be bumps for Ontarians; however, without action now, there could be real hardship for many Ontario families by the end of 2005."

He noted the dramatic drop in last month's employment numbers for the province — full-time jobs were down by 51,000, wiping out a large part of the 86,000 new jobs in Ontario established last year.

"There have been huge losses in full time and factory jobs and only minor gains in part-time service sector jobs in retail and food," he said.

Mr. Chudleigh added the Ontario economy has gone flat since the health tax was announced last spring, piled on top of higher corporate taxes.

"Only Liberals thought additional taxes for individuals and corporations, coupled with higher fuel costs and a rising Canadian dollar, would not cast a shadow over the Ontario economy."

## Residents signing petition

• from WOMEN on page 1 with small children in this area."

She said some of her neighbours have resorted to sending their children to school in taxis, which can cost hundreds of dollars a month.

But Ms Lacroix said the board has a transportation appeals committee where Ms Heidemann could make a delegation.

"There is a process they can go through," she said, adding the board would certainly look at her petition.

Ms Heidemann said if that's the only way she can make her case, she'd consider going before the appeals committee.

For now, she's going to continue circulating the petition, which she said has garnered about 43 signatures, and she expects to get many more.

"Everybody's very positive about the petition," she said. For more information e-mail [ira\\_heidemann@sympatico.ca](mailto:ira_heidemann@sympatico.ca).

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at [mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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