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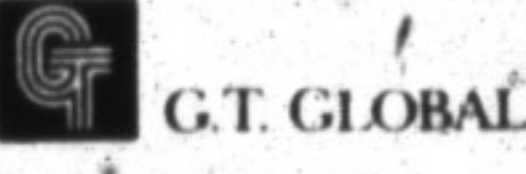
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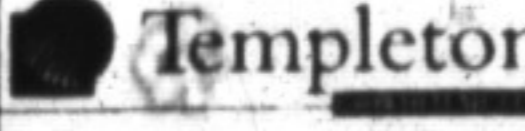
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# Coupland worried he'll lose ally if CAS gets full provincial funding

By **ROD JERRED**  
*Special to The Champion*

While many Ontario Children's Aid Society officials may welcome a recommendation for the province to assume full financial responsibility for child welfare, Ron Coupland, the executive director of the Halton CAS, is not among them.

Last week the Who Does What panel chaired by David Crombie recommended the province assume complete responsibility for funding Ontario's 50 Children's Aid Societies.

The panel's suggestion followed a long-standing recommendation from the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, said Mr. Coupland. Under the current rules, Halton Region is responsible for 20 per cent of the Halton CAS budget—pegged at \$9,275,000 in 1996.

The panel based its recommendation on the fact municipalities have no policy role in child welfare, and only a limited management role through representation on CAS boards.

But, contends Mr. Coupland, Halton's emotional, moral and personal contribution to his organization has always overshadowed its 20 per cent financial commitment.

Admitting his situation may be unique, Mr. Coupland said the Halton CAS has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with regional council and staff.

"It will be a horrendous loss to this organization to lose the advocacy and fine leadership from the Region of Halton."

Mr. Coupland, who has been with the Halton CAS for 21 years, said he viewed the recommendation with apprehension.

"At times our strongest ally was regional council. Time in and time out the day was saved and settled by the force of regional council. They stood behind the Children's Aid Society and the province was ill-prepared to take on regional council."

"If push came to shove over the welfare of the children, the region always stepped in and gave the society the support it needed." Who, he asked, will speak up for the Children's Aid Society against the province now?

Besides the support of regional council members on the Halton CAS board of directors, Mr. Coupland said the society has been able to access the expertise of regional staff for advice on legal, purchasing, tendering and other matters.

"That has been at no expense to the society," said Mr. Coupland. "I don't think the province will replace that local infrastructure."

He laments the end of what he considers a beneficial partnership between the Halton CAS and regional government.

"As long as the region was putting up 20 per cent, that was our ticket to ride," he



"It will be a horrendous loss to this organization to lose the advocacy and fine leadership from the Region of Halton."  
**RON COUPLAND**

said. Without a 20 per cent financial stake in the CAS, Mr. Coupland fears the society will lose its support from the region.

Despite his own misgivings, Mr. Coupland believes the province will follow through on the panel's recommendation. And when that happens, he said, "I will be depressed."

The Who Does What panel was appointed May 30 to make recommendations on a complete overhaul of the delivery and funding of many government services. The goal is to reduce waste and duplication at the provincial and local levels.

## Council slows school closing

• from COUNCIL on page 5

38 year old building. The school is running at slightly more than half its rated capacity of 220 pupils.

Mr. Kingsbury said several years ago when the school was overpopulated and portable classrooms were needed, the facility was scaled back to a kindergarten to grade 6 centre by dropping two grades.

In addition, about \$190,000 in repairs are required during the next 10 years to the

"I support the motion. Why start over again? There will be development there. Percy Merry is the focus of the farming community in Ward 1," said Councillor Barry Lee.

The issue will come before a special meeting of the Halton Board of Education scheduled for E.C. Drury High School on November 19. The final decision is expected to be made by the board in December.

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**Location:** Sheridan College Skills Training Centre, Oakville, and various industry locations in Burlington

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**Start/End Date:** November 4, '96 to March 28, '97  
 (Applications are still being accepted.)

**Prerequisites:** Minimum of Grade 10 English, and an interview with the program coordinator.

**Location:** Trafalgar Road Campus, Oakville

### ISO 9000 Specialist - 9 weeks

**Start/End Date:** January, 1997 dates TBA

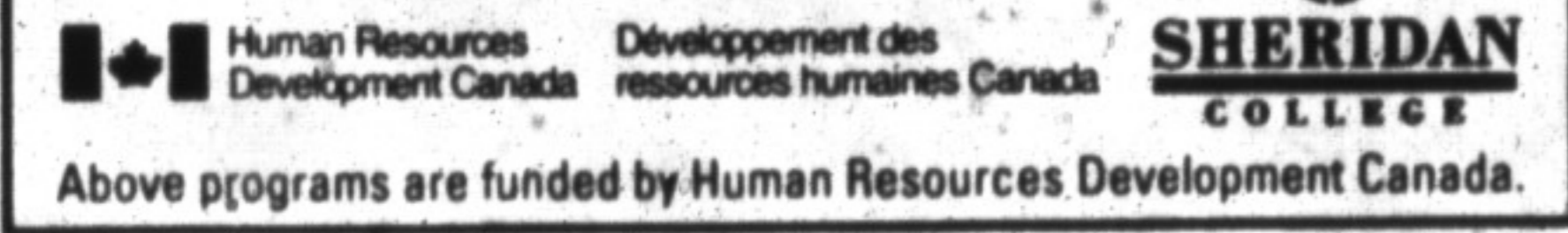
**Prerequisites:** Minimum of Grade 12 and/or technology or technologist training in quality assurance, or demonstrated interest and aptitude in this field.

**Cost:** No cost to you if you qualify for sponsored training; eligibility determined by Human Resources Development Canada.

**Eligibility Requirements:** A Canadian Citizen or permanent resident; at least 17 years of age, and out of the regular school system for 12 consecutive months since turning 16 years of age; Unemployed, currently receiving Employment Insurance (formerly UI benefits) or those who received UI benefits within the last three years (five years in the case of maternity or parental leave).

**Information Packages** are available at the Trafalgar Road Campus, 1430 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, or for more information, call the **Skills Training Info Line:**

- (905) 845-9430, ext. 2202 (Halton area)
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### Local Area Network Administration 16 weeks

**Start/End Date:** January 6 to April 25, 1997

**Prerequisites:** • Grade 12 English and mathematics (testing required)  
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 • Interview with the coordinator

**Location:** Sheridan College Davis Campus, Brampton

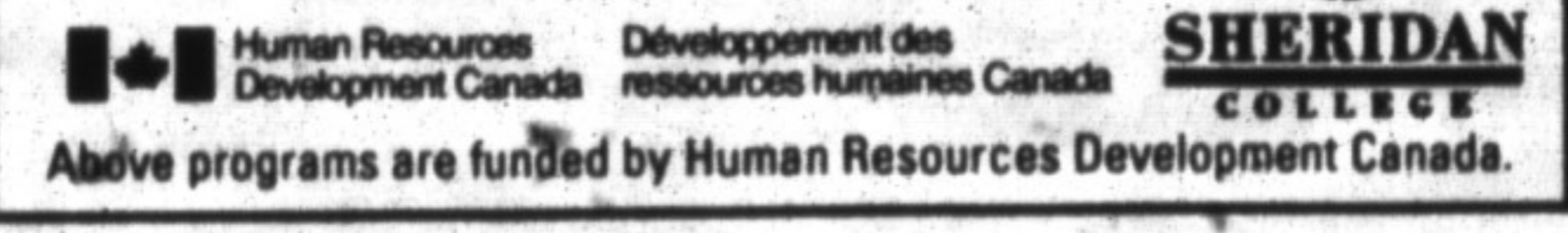
**Info. Session:** November 20, 1996. Call for more details.

**Cost:** No cost to you if you qualify for sponsored training; eligibility determined by Human Resources Development Canada.

**Eligibility Requirements:** A Canadian Citizen or permanent resident; at least 17 years of age, and out of the regular school system for at least 12 consecutive months since turning 16 years of age; Unemployed, currently receiving Employment Insurance (formerly UI benefits) or those who received UI benefits within the last three years (five years in the case of maternity or parental leave).

**Information Packages** are available at the Davis Campus, McLaughlin Road/Steeles Ave., Room B200, Brampton, or call the **Information Line:**

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