

Don't be fooled

It takes a certain type of person who would take advantage of someone by faking a crisis situation or try to extort money.

Unfortunately we can't properly describe these individuals in a family newspaper.

But be forewarned, there are plenty of these low-lives out there, eager to pounce on an unsuspecting senior or someone who has let their guard down for a moment.

Halton Police issued a warning last week for area residents to be aware there are plenty of scam artists currently at work and there are two types of scams that are particularly active right now— Emergency and Internet.

In Emergency scams, usually the target is a senior who receives a call from someone saying he/she is their grandchild in distress. The caller elicits pertinent personal information from the senior and says they have been involved in a car accident or require money for bail and ask the senior to wire them money through a money transfer company.

Malicious software is an Internet scam where the victim receives a call from someone who identifies himself as a representative of a software company. The caller will attempt to have their software installed on their computer so access can be gained to files, personal banking records and passwords.

Phishing— another Internet scam— involves getting the victim to hand over personal and banking details. The email sent appears authentic, however, police say genuine government organizations and financial institutions never expect people to send personal information in such a format.

It's a good idea for families, especially those with seniors, to discuss these scams and ensure every member of the family is aware how these fraudsters operate and to not be reeled in.

For more information on scams visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website at www.anti-fraudcentre.ca and/or the Competition Bureau's Information Centre at www.competitionbureau.gc.ca

Info can also be found at www.haltonpolice.ca under the Criminal Investigation— 'Fraud' tab.

WEB POLL RESULTS (Go to www.theifp.ca)

Should local artists be allowed to showcase their works in the Cultural Centre Gallery which now houses the Helson art collection?

- Yes (86%)
- No (14%)

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Letters to the editor

Readers sound off on artists' loss of Gallery use

Dear editor,

I just wanted to add the voice of someone who is not an "artist" regarding our town Gallery.

I, too, am saddened that my tax money went to somehow getting rid of a place where our "local" artists could display their works.

I used to look forward, when visiting the library, to seeing what our "local" artisans had done. Now we may never get that opportunity, except maybe a few pieces on the library wall or someplace I never go to (i.e. the Gellert Centre or Town hall). I am sure the lighting and staging won't be as good for the displays. How very, very sad.

Yes, it's nice that Mr. Helson donated this rather large collection, but once we see his works, then what? I don't think a lot of people will drive along our pitiful roads to see one display—the McMichael it isn't.

I thought some of our tax money (along with Mr. Helson's donation) went to improving the library and Gallery and theatre. It's almost like my tax money is going to two new hockey arenas that I won't get to use either.

As I said, I am not an artist but add my voice to those who are and now have nowhere to show their works.

Debra Hayes, Georgetown

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Ted Brown's piece (Jan. 31 Helson 'gift' of art comes with a hefty price) on Fred Helson's donation of \$800,000 worth of art, from his personal collection, is disjointed and nonsensical. He moans about the Town's supposed backtracking on where to hang local art, when he's been told by the Town, and the mayor to relax, and then he complains about the hiring of a curator, who, I am sure, could figure out a more permanent solution for artistic cohabitation.

The suggestion, by Ted, that taxpayers are actually paying for the gift for 10 years of the curator's salary sullies this incredible gesture by Fred.

Mountains out of molehills. I thought we were supposed to celebrate job creation?

Gary Britton, Georgetown

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I am an artist directly affected by the loss of our Gallery at the Cultural Centre to the permanent Helson art collection.

I read with disbelief at the comments made by Mayor Rick Bonnette in Lisa Tallyn's Jan. 31 article, stating that there has been some miscommunication with the arts community, and that we are both to blame, and that

nobody's going to be shut out of the Gallery.

What blame does the local arts community have? I had attended the two meetings offered by Jamie Smith and attended by Councillor Jane Fogal and Stephen Hamilton and others where it was clearly and repeatedly stated that artists will no longer have any access to the Gallery. Those meetings were designed to make us find other spaces for our shows and the news release stated that fact. Why initiate those meetings if we had access to the Gallery?

Susan Little, Georgetown

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I thought that I would check out the new Georgetown library recently. It's such a large indoor facility now and I wondered about the art gallery and if there were any changes to it.

I liked that room; it was clean and quiet with a peaceful feeling. I enjoyed looking at the various paintings and the room was occasionally used for different small functions, which I liked to check out. Once a month on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. during the winter musicians would entertain for one hour.

I don't know what's going to happen now. I am sure that a room could be used for artists and small functions.

David Voegeli, Georgetown