

Halton Police provide tips during National Fraud Month

March is National Fraud Prevention Month and the Halton Regional Police Service wants to get the message to the public.

The HRPS, in conjunction with numerous government, law enforcement, consumer and volunteer groups, wants to get the word out on how to avoid scams.

Each year, thousands of Canadians of all ages and backgrounds become victims of fraud, said police.

Fraud victims not only suffer direct financial loss, but also the stressful process of reversing the damage fraud and identity theft can do to their credit and credit histories.

The RCMP recently revealed approximately 1 million Canadians are victims of mass marketing fraud and identity theft in Canada annually - at a cost of \$10 billion.

They also reported that six in 10 Canadians were targeted by fraud in 2010; organized crime groups conduct nearly 80 per cent of mass marketing fraud; and fewer than five per cent of victims contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

To officially kick off Fraud Prevention Month, the Better Business Bureau and the Competition Bureau of Canada, have released their 'Top 10 Scams for 2014.'

Topping that list is a scam that involves the victim receiving mail that says they have won a big lottery jackpot.

The scammer instructs the person to send back \$30 as a

'processing fee' and include their personal details, such as a telephone number and date of birth.

Once the letter is sent, the victim soon discovers the lottery win was not real.

At this point not only is their money gone, but they are added to a 'sucker list' and are likely to receive more bogus offers in the mail, police said.

For a list of other scams, along with information on upcoming Fraud Prevention events and activities visit www.haltonpolice.ca/SpecializedUnits/CriminalInvestigations/Pages/Fraud.aspx.

Halton police are asking people to take time to review fraud prevention tips and strategies to avoid becoming a victim.

Some of these tips include:

- Not responding to emails that feature offers of money, threats of legal action or warnings about 'compromised security'
- Never providing personal or financial information to anyone in an email
- Not clicking on links in emails from senders you do not know
- Changing computer passwords at least every 90 days, to help protect the security of your information

Anyone with information about fraudulent crime or any other crime is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or through the web at www.halton-crimestoppers.com or by texting 'Tip201' with a message

Groups to host St. Patrick's meals

A St. Patrick's dinner/dance will be hosted by the Georgetown Legion Ladies Auxiliary Saturday, March 15. Cocktails 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets \$20 per person. Available at the bar.

St. John's Anglican Church will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day by holding its annual Irish Stew Supper, 5-7 p.m. on Monday, March 17. There will be entertainment. People may enjoy

beef or lamb stew and 'green' desserts. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Adults, \$10; children (6-10)-\$5; pre-schoolers- free. For further information, please call Joan, 905-877-5797 or Barb, 905-873-6280.

A St. Patrick's Day Lunch will be held on Monday, March 17 at the Georgetown Seniors Centre. Enjoy Irish Stew and entertainment. Non-members welcome.



Georgetown Kia made a \$35,000 donation to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation's redevelopment project and will have one of three triage rooms in the emergency department named after the local dealership. Pictured above (from left) are: Laurent

Thibault, K.C. Carruthers and Christine Ellison from the Hospital Foundation, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Georgetown Kia general manager Tony Garofoli and business consultant Moe Lalani.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Kia donations sends Hospital campaign over \$6 million mark

The Georgetown Kia dealership will have its name placed on one of the three new triage rooms in the Georgetown Hospital's emergency department following a \$35,000

donation to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation this past week.

With that donation, the foundation has surpassed the \$6 million mark on its way

to achieving its goal of raising \$6.75 million for its redevelopment project, which is approximately 85 per cent complete from a construction standpoint.



Halton Chinese association donates to Acclaim

Halton Region Chinese Canadian Association raised over \$15,000 for our charity at their Chinese New Year Banquet last month. It was a celebration to usher in the Year of the Horse, and the event featured a traditional lion dance, cultural performances, a 10-course dinner with New Year pastries and dessert, fund-raising karaoke, silent auction, door prizes, as well as singing and dancing to live band music towards the end of the evening. Over \$2,000 alone was raised through pledges for the evening's karaoke and singers. The funds raised at

the Chinese New Year celebration will go towards Acclaim Health programs that support the mental health of seniors, including its Alzheimer Services and Volunteer Visiting programs. Acclaim Health supports 19,000 people each year, 75 per cent of whom are seniors. From left to right: David Tang, Event Co-chair; Cindy Chen, Event Co-Chair; Louis Tsai, President of Halton Region Chinese Canadian Association; Angela Brewer, CEO of Acclaim Health; and MC's for the evening Sabrina Chen and Bill Chan.

Submitted photo