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Christmas comes early for Santa's Acton elves

Couple wins two cars and \$10,000 in charity lottery



There will be a new vehicle in the Acton driveway of Diane and Bill Spielvogel next week – but it will not be either of the two BMWs the lucky couple won in the Canadian Cancer Society Daffodil Daily Lottery.

The Spielvogels – perhaps best known in Acton for decades of orchestrating the annual Acton Firefighters Association Santa Claus Parade – cashed out, deciding almost immediately not to take the BMW Cabriolet and the BMW xDrive, the seventh prizes in the cars and cash packages. Instead they accepted \$89,561 according to a lottery official, which includes a \$10,000 cash prize, and will buy a Ford Edge this week.

The May 6 phone call announcing their good fortune was met with a heavy dose of disbelief by Diane Spielvogel, an apparently common reaction among winners. “I didn’t believe it, of course,” she said on Friday morning after the list of winners was released.

“You write the cheque and make the donation and that’s kind of the end of it,” Spielvogel said, adding she had to ask several times if they really had won.

Each year the Spielvogels decide which charities to support – usually the Canadian Cancer Society and Heart and Stroke lotteries – and have won \$100 and binoculars in past draws. Ten-million dollars from the Daffodil Lottery is directed to cancer research, an important factor for Spielvogel who said their family has been touched by both cancer and heart disease, and they want to make their donations count.

The Spielvogels deliberately kept their win somewhat quiet until the official list was released, but family and friends were in the know, and glad for their win. “When they said it’s nice to know a winner, I said it was nice to know

that our ticket was really in the drum,” she said, adding they’ve spent the money “a thousand times” in their heads.

The top three winners each received one million dollars, and there were seven cars and cash prizes. None of the winners accepted the cars, and that is also common according to Canadian Cancer Society lottery manager Janice Gray. “The cars look nice in the brochures, but when the reality comes down to do you want two BMWs or \$90,000, then I guess it’s a little different.”

Gray said, adding they sold 194,000 \$100 lottery tickets.

Another winner

Acton’s Brian Ferguson – with ticket number 147800 – won \$50,000 in gold bullion as the bonus prize in the Princess Margaret Home Lottery Big Ticket lottery on April 5.

Seniors Beware of Phone Lottery Scam

The Halton Regional Police Service cautions seniors to be wary if they get a phone call from people claiming to be with the Heart and Stroke Lottery or Mega-Millions.

Police have received information that a male caller is phoning seniors, claiming to be with one of these two lotteries, and stating the individual has won \$2.5-million and a 2013 Mercedes.

The anonymous male gives the victim a claim

number and instructs them to go to the closest Western Union Outlet. He often even offers to provide a phone number to the victim so they can locate the nearest Western Union outlet.

The victim is then instructed to send \$300 to another party in West Mooreland, Jamaica, get a receipt and then call the man back so they can arrange for the phoney prize to be delivered. The caller asks for per-

sonal information about the victim, such as their name, age, marital status, and address.

Seniors are reminded to not provide anyone with personal information over the telephone unless they themselves initiate the call.

For more information on how to protect yourself from scams and frauds, visit the Halton Regional Police Service website at www.halton-police.ca

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