

## Police warn of fraudulent phone number useage

Halton police are warning the public its non-emergency number will never show up on caller ID after residents have reported receiving fraudulent calls.

Police said Friday they have been made aware of three incidents in which the service's telephone number is being used for "fraudulent representation." All three of these incidents were reported to the service's fraud intake unit on April 6.

In at least one of these

cases, the caller claimed to be "police."

Referred to as "spoofing," a caller can make it look like they are phoning from any number on Canadian telephone systems. Police said fraudsters will do this to hide the origin of the call.

The police service's information technology unit is investigating the "spoofing" using internal and external resources. The fraud intake and cyber crime units are working together

to gather forensic information about the activity.

Police want the public to know calls from them will never show up as being from their non-emergency number, which is 905-825-4777. They are warning the public not to provide any information to someone contacting them from what appears to be that number.

The "spoofing" doesn't represent a data or records information breach, police said.

## License plate fraud in Halton Hills

A Georgetown woman is relieved that she went to the police after noticing a strange set of license plates on her vehicle.

Julie Liddle was just getting into her car in the Georgetown Market Square parking lot when she noticed something was off with her licence plates.

"It's funny how you unconsciously notice your plates," she said. "Mine were new plates and the ones they put on there were beat up."

She says after calling her husband and finding out that he hadn't touched the vehicle, she realized someone had swapped her licence plates out for those off of a stolen

vehicle.

"The police said that this is a fairly common practice," said Liddle.

Police told her that criminals typically choose vehicles of a similar make and model to the stolen vehicle and steal their plates in order to throw off the police.

Liddle says she's relieved that she noticed and went to the police, because had officers pulled her over with stolen vehicle plates, they would have approached the situation much more critically than a simple highway infraction.

"Be more vigilant about checking your plates," she said. "This could happen."

## A NEW CEMETERY IN HALTON HILLS

A new cemetery for the general public is taking shape for residents in Halton Hills and their families. Devereaux Cemetery is located in a quiet country setting on the 17th Side Road, just west of Trafalgar Road. It's adjacent to the Holy Redeemer Cemetery and open to people of all religious faiths.

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Q

Can a teenage child influence a court when determining access?

A

The age and wishes of a teenage child when those wishes are founded on reasonable and objective evidence can be used to define the terms of access. This does not mean that a 13 year old can refuse to see her father when an access order exists. It does mean in making the order in the first place a court will consider the wishes of a teenager. To obtain the wishes of a child often a court will appoint the "Children's Lawyer". This person who is either a lawyer or clinical investigator (social worker) investigates the circumstances of the child and makes recommendations to the court as to what is in the best interests of the child regarding custody and access. The Children's Lawyer's report is very influential on the court because they speak only for the children and their only role is to assist the court in determining what is best for the child and not what is best for the parents.

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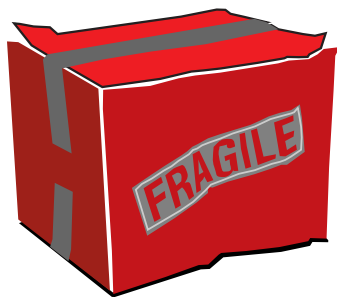
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by Michael Halsall



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