

NURSE FALLS VICTIM TO NEW SIM SWAP SCAM

FRAUDSTER TRICKED CELLPHONE PROVIDER INTO GIVING ACCESS TO VICTIM'S ACCOUNT

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An Oakville nurse is warning the public about a new scam, which succeeded in draining around \$10,000 from her credit card.

Sheila O'Reilly said her ordeal began Saturday, Nov. 9 when she realized she had no service on her cellphone.

She contacted her service provider to find out what was going on and was

told she had no service because she had cancelled her account earlier that day.

"I told them I didn't. I'm on a business account and also I have two other people on this account so I wouldn't have cancelled it," said O'Reilly.

"That's when I was transferred to the fraud department."

The service provider eventually determined that someone had called, impersonated O'Reilly and answered enough security

questions to be given access to the account.

The fraudster then cancelled the account and ported the phone number to another carrier.

Now in possession of O'Reilly's phone number and account information, the scammer succeeded in quickly making numerous purchases with O'Reilly's credit card.

"I phoned Visa right away and the agent at Visa said there had been charges on my account, \$4,000 to Ticketmaster, money to Lucky Mobile, to Uber Eats and he listed a whole bunch of other ones and I just stopped writing them down," said O'Reilly.

"It was close to \$10,000."

The OPP has described this type of fraud as a "SIM Swap Scam."

They issued a warning early in November, noting the new fraud was beginning to make the rounds.

"Fraudsters are using SIM swapping and phone

"It's really annoying and it gets under your skin because you just don't know who to trust out there."

- Oakville Nurse
Sheila O'Reilly

number porting to gain access to your email, social media and financial accounts," said the OPP in a press release.

"From there, they gain direct access to your personal information, calendar, contacts and money. Fraudsters may empty your bank accounts, apply for credit in your good name, or

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By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

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