

2 INSTANCES OF THIS SCAM IN PAST TWO MONTHS

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impersonate you to defraud your entire contact list. In the meantime, you lose access to your mobile service, are typically locked out of all your accounts, and are left scrambling."

The OPP said the fraudster will impersonate the victim to gain access to their mobile account and may claim that their phone has been lost or stolen.

The victim's phone number will be linked to a new SIM and device that the fraudster controls.

The fraudster then downloads a series of the most popular and most attractive apps.

They will select the "Forgot Password" button on all apps.

If the account is associated to the victim's phone

number or email address, the fraudster will receive a verification code.

They will then use this code to confirm ownership of the account, create their own password and take over the accounts.

Det. Const. Ed Spence of the Halton police fraud department said that once the phone number has been ported to a new phone the scammer can also begin receiving text messages and phone calls meant for the victim. He said Halton police have seen about 12 local instances of this particular scam in the last couple months.

"The weakness in the system are the telecom companies. All too often telecom companies aren't being careful enough. When someone says they want to port their number they are not sufficiently verifying



Torstar file photo

A nurse is warning others after falling victim to a new SIM Swap scam.

they are talking to the customer," said Spence.

"It is only going to get bigger still I'm sure until the telecom companies get their act together."

The OPP are advising residents to:

- Keep personal information personal by keep-

ing information like your date of birth off social media

- Never answer phishing emails or text messages looking for you to confirm your password or update your account information
- Use an offline pass-

word manager

- Contact your phone provider and ask about additional security measures that may be available
- Contact your service provider immediately if you lose your mobile device.

In addition to her credit

card being defrauded O'Reilly says her email, her Google account, Facebook account and Messenger account were all shut down as a result of this scam.

She has reported the fraud to Halton police.

While O'Reilly is uncertain exactly how scammers got her information in the first place she is hoping people will learn from her experience and do what they can to protect themselves. She noted her credit card company has cancelled the \$10,000 in charges but says the ordeal has still had an impact.

"It's really a huge pain and it does make you paranoid," she said.

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

Anyone in Halton who believes they may be a victim of fraud are asked to contact the Halton police Fraud Unit at 905-465-8741.

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Halton Hills Sports Museum Seeks 2020 Nominees

The Halton Hills Sports Museum is looking for athletes, teams or builders worthy of being inductees into the Halton Hills Sports Museum Hall of Fame. The Museum, located at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex, is seeking nominees for the Museum's gala induction ceremony set for Thursday, June 25, 2020 at the John Elliott Theatre.

Tickets are \$30 each and the evening starts at 6pm for a reception and then the formal awards ceremony begins at 7pm.

Any person or team who is, or has been distinguished as an athlete, an executive member or coach, or who has brought honour to Halton Hills shall be eligible for election provided he or she was a resident of the Town of Halton Hills at the time of the achievement which is the basis for his or her or their consideration. Builder candidates may be either active or inactive at the time of their consideration.

Full nomination criteria and forms are available on the Museum's website, www.hhsm.ca

Deadline for nominations is Feb. 28, 2020

The HHSM Selection Committee
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