

OPP issue warning about telephone scam

Ontario Provincial Police are warning people about a scam that is spreading quickly and could end up costing residents \$2,400 or more.

The warning comes after a Lambton County OPP officer contacted Phonebusters National Fraud Investigation Centre about the lucrative scam in which people are asked to call a number beginning with any of these area codes: 264, 242, 441, 345, 809, 876, 787, 758, 868, 340, 268, 246, 767, 473, 664, 869, 784 or 649.

The scam works by someone leaving a message on a person's answering machine or pager instructing them to call a number beginning with one of the above area codes. The person is told to call for various reasons such as a family member who has been ill, to tell them someone has been arrested, a family member has died, they have won a prize, or to avoid litigation over an outstanding account.

People unknowingly return the calls and are charged by the minute. From the U.S. the charge is \$2,425. The callers are kept on the line as long as possible with long recorded messages and often charges add up to more than \$24,000.

The area codes are in various places such as Anguilla, Puerto Rico, and the Cayman Islands and can be used as pay per call numbers similar to 1-900 numbers, but there are no requirements that callers must be notified and warned of charges.

Members of the public are being urged not to respond to e-mails, phone calls or Web pages that instruct them to call any of these area codes.

Trying to fight the charges afterward can be a nightmare because the person has actually placed the call and the local phone company and long distance carrier will not want to get involved saying they are providing billing for a foreign company.

The foreign company will argue they have done nothing wrong.

For information regarding any scam contact Phonebusters National Fraud Investigation Centre at 1-888-495-8501.



Meals milestone

Volunteers with Acton's Meals-on-Wheels program enjoyed a luncheon at the Acton youth centre in celebration of the group's 25th anniversary. On hand to accept a certificate from Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle were (from left) Halton Hills Community Support and Information (HHCSI) board president Helen Dubeau (who started delivering meals 25 years ago) 20-year volunteer Ed Footitt and Rena Arbic, an original Meals-on-Wheels volunteer who still delivers today.

Photo by Ted Brown

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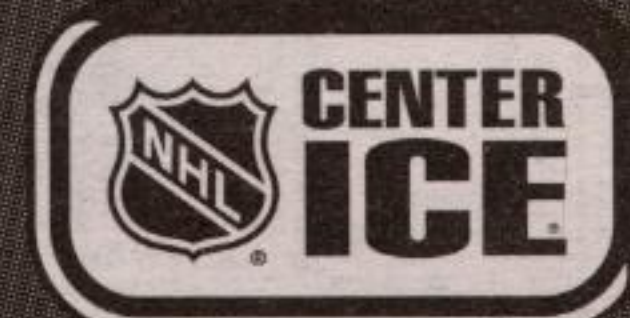
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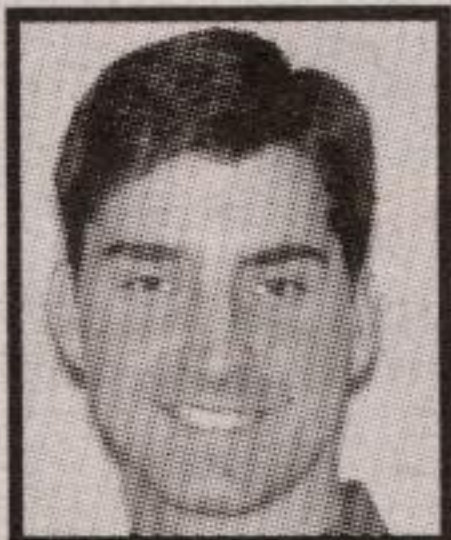
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By Cory Soal R.H.A.D.

... Lend Me Your Ears

A diminished social life is one of the most difficult aspects of age related hearing loss. Many people avoid drawing attention to their hearing loss by having fewer social contacts when it becomes difficult understanding what is being said.

The result is an altered and lonely existence that family and friends may mistake for dementia.

Learning new strategies to cope with hearing loss could go a long way to restoring confidence and improving communication. The Hearing Clinic recommends the following: Inform people of the hearing loss so they may modify their speech; eliminate background noise; watch the speaker carefully and sharpen natural lip-reading abilities; ask the speaker to repeat what was said if necessary, and above all else: Have your hearing thoroughly tested and properly fit with one of today's modern hearing instruments. Contact The Hearing Clinic if you or someone you know needs assistance.

The HEARING CLINIC
We care about your hearing!

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