## Beware of computer scams

Tunk mail has always been a pain in the mailbox for homeowners. Ever since Alexander G. Bell invented the telephone, telemarketing has been a nuisance. Now we have spams and scams on the computer.

One of the computer scams that seems to be fairly common is the one that is a plea for assistance from a Third World country. The writer claims that a deposed dictator has left some huge amount of money, like \$26 million, in a bank account. The new, honest (ha!) government needs someone who has a secure bank account (such as yourself) to assist with the release of the funds. The writer will want you to put up a modest amount of money as a show of good faith. He might even ask you to travel to the country with the cash.

Firstly, if you wire the money to the writer you can kiss it goodbye. If you decide to visit the country with the cash you will be lucky if you leave with your life. There is no \$26 million. The only money changing hands is yours.

I think that there has to be a certain amount of naiveté on behalf of someone who would send money. The writer is playing on your emotions, and banking (literally) on you wanting to help the less fortunate. The other emotion that they are counting on is greed.

I'm sure that everyone has heard of the old saying....I know I have used it before...
"If it sounds too good to be true, it is!"



I have recently been make aware of a snail-mail scam that claims that an engineer with the Italian government was killed in a car accident, and a banker would like you to stand in as this engineer's next of kin.

Sounds illegal. He has left 38.8 million Euros in a bank account. The writer then provides a phone number and an e-mail address. After they have ripped you off, you can't complain because you were impersonating someone!

If you receive one of these e-mails or letters and you wish to report it, call Phonebusters at 1-888-495-8501, or check out the Web site at www.phonebusters.com

If you have any questions about this or any other police matter contact me at 905-878-5511 or laurel.barnett@hrps.on.ca

—Const. Laurel Barnett is the community support officer for 1 Division



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