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Seniors fall victim to telephone scam

Police warning residents to beware

Police are warning Milton seniors to be on the alert after two elderly Halton residents were bilked out of \$11,200 in a telephone scam.

Police say over the past week fraudsters got the money out of two Acton seniors, and tried to get money from a third victim using the "granddaughter scam."

The three seniors were contacted by a female identifying herself as a 'granddaughter.' The victims unfortunately responded by asking, "Is that you... (their granddaughter's name)" unwittingly providing the caller with an identity.

In each case the caller indicated she was calling from Quebec and had been involved in a collision while driving a rental car and the car rental company was demanding \$3,500 in cash.

The caller then asked grandma if she would wire the money through Western Union to a named individual in Montreal. After an hour or so, the victim received a second call to determine if the money transfer had been made.

At that point a money transfer control number was given to the 'granddaughter' so she could authenticate the pick-up.

One victim wired \$3,900 and

a further \$3,500.

A second victim sent \$3,800 by wire, but coincidentally the following day when the 'granddaughter' called back to ask for a further \$4,500, her mother happened to be visiting grandma and the ruse was exposed.

The third victim avoided being defrauded when she became suspicious of the call and took steps to verify her granddaughter's whereabouts before making any promises of assistance.

Seniors' apartment buildings targeted

Acting Det. Sgt. Crystal Kelly said Milton seniors need to beware.

"These callers are targeting apartment buildings known to have seniors. However they have also hit addressed homes where seniors reside," she said.

"This is not just happening in Acton. It's widespread, and because it is being done by phone, everyone is vulnerable."

Police say there are a variety of scams where the con artist poses as a relative, ranging from collisions and needing bail money to being stranded in another country.

For crime prevention and safety tips go to haltonpolice.ca/community-policing/seniors/pages/default.aspx or haltonpolice.ca/community-policing/safetysecurity/pages/default.aspx.



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

LOFTY WORK: Contractors were out Saturday clearing snow and ice from the rooftops of townhouses in a Childs Drive complex. The lofty work involved shovelling with the aid of a ladder, safety harness and ropes.

New fire station plans unveiled

By Christina Comisso
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Deep red bricks, cobblestone and two vintage fire trucks will grace Milton's central fire hall, symbolizing the department's 150-year history.

Plans for the future home of Milton fire's headquarters, set to open in 2012, were unveiled during a public meeting last Tuesday night, where a dozen or so residents gathered to give the department their input on the station.

Most of the concerns from neighbours surrounded the noise that will come from the Derry Road and Savoline Boulevard facility. The station will house Milton's only 24/7 fire crew, which Fire Chief Brian Ellsworth estimated will respond to 90 per cent of emergency calls in town. Half a dozen houses rest directly in front of the station on Savoline, where the station's six trucks will exit.

But neighbours need not be too worried about losing sleep from flashing lights and sirens. Ellsworth said 60 to 65 per cent of calls are made during daytime hours, while only 15 per cent are made between midnight and 8 a.m. Depending on the severity of the call, firefighters can use their dis-

• see STATION on page A2

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