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NEWS

Beware of fraudsters posing as CRA representatives

Police warn scam has been on the rise

As residents muddle through tax season, Halton police are issuing a warning about fraudsters posing as representatives from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

The scam, which has been on the rise lately, involves the victim receiving mail, emails or phone calls appearing to be from the CRA.

The emails and mail are often complete with CRA logos, police said.

In the communications the victims are told there has been a mistake or a reassessment and they're entitled to a refund.

Police said they're then asked to provide detailed personal information including their full name, address, date of birth, social insurance number and possibly banking and credit card information.

The fraudster says this information is needed to process the refund, but it actually exposes the victim to identity theft and possible financial loss.

Police said another tactic used by scammers involves calling the victim and stating they owe back taxes in the amount of thousands of dollars.

The caller then threatens to have the victim arrested or deported if they don't pay immediately.

Police said the CRA doesn't request personal information of any kind by email and has a formal process in place for those who owe taxes and would never demand cash payment immediately.

Residents are advised not to take immediate action and contact the CRA themselves when confronted with these types of communications to find out if they are valid.

For more information about this scam, visit www.cra-arc.gc.ca/ntcs/bwr-eng.html.

Anyone with information on this scam can contact Halton police fraud investigators at (905) 825-4747, ext. 8739, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), through the web at www.haltoncrimestoppers.com or by texting 'Tip201' with the message to 274637 (crimes).

Oakville youth charged with driving 96 km/h over speed limit in Milton

Halton police charged a teen with stunt driving after he was allegedly caught on radar driving 176 km/h in a posted 80-km/h zone.

Police say that near Trafalgar and Burnhamthorpe roads in Milton around noon Monday, an officer conducting traffic enforce-

ment used his radar to clock a driver travelling 96 km/h over the speed limit.

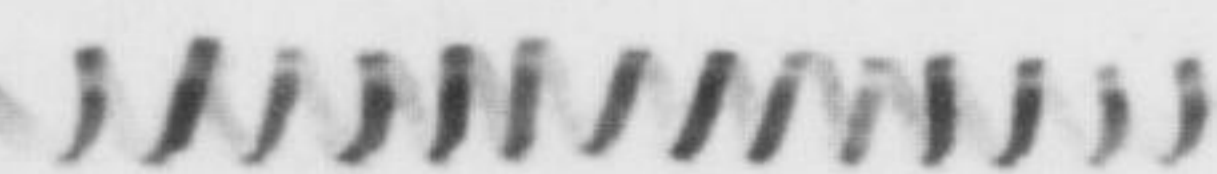
Charged with several offences, including stunt driving and speeding, is an Oakville youth. His vehicle and his driver's licence were automatically taken away for seven days.

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