

Kids used by phony charities

Some phony charities use cute kids and helpless animals to tug at the purse strings of unsuspecting Ontario residents.

The sale of chocolate bars by young children is the most common charity scam in the province, says Tom Johnson, chief investigator for the Business Practices Division of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations (MCCR).

"I'd say there are more kids out there selling chocolate bars for phony charities than for truly worthy causes," says Johnson. "As in most of these scams, the canvassers play on people's sympathies."

The business is set up by a promoter, generally a young adult, who buys chocolate bars from a manufacturer or makes them in a basement operation. A team of children, usually 10 to 12 year-olds, is then recruited to sell the candy on commission. The promoters sometimes wait for youngsters outside school buildings to offer them jobs.

Each child is told exactly what to say in the sales pitch and warned to avoid using the word charity. As long as it is never referred

to as a charity, the scheme is not illegal.

Since some worthy charities also sell chocolate bars to bring in money, it is difficult to spot the phonies.

And the promoters set up their operations to look as much like the real thing as possible. Some tell their young sales force to say the money will go to "student employment projects": although the only jobs created are in peddling chocolate bars. Youngsters are also instructed to tell potential customers the money will "help keep children off the street", when in fact the sales are putting young people on the streets to flog chocolate bars.

The youngsters themselves get little money from the venture. If bars are sold for \$3, the children might get 40 cents for each one. Generally, the candy costs about \$1 to make and the promoter pockets the rest of the proceeds.

Legitimate charities may even get comed into helping promoters. Charitable groups have, for example, agreed to take a small

percentage of proceeds for allowing their names to be printed on chocolate bar wrappers. Thus, the promoter still rakes in the largest profit and can advertise sales as a "legitimate charity drive". These schemes can be almost impossible to spot.

The ministry recently became aware that kind-hearted people have been duped into donating money to an American-based "animal welfare" group which had only its own financial welfare in mind. Residents even volunteered to collect funds for the outfit, until they discovered most of the money went straight into the directors' pockets.

Few creatures with more than two legs ever benefit from such schemes and some may even suffer if people become wary of donating money to legitimate animal welfare societies.

Simply asking questions can help deal with phonies. Ask outright if the money is "going to a legitimate charity". If the answer is yes, find out which group is involved, where they are located and how much they

will get from each sale.

Be aware that the existence of a federal income tax registration number does not guarantee the organization is a reputable charity.

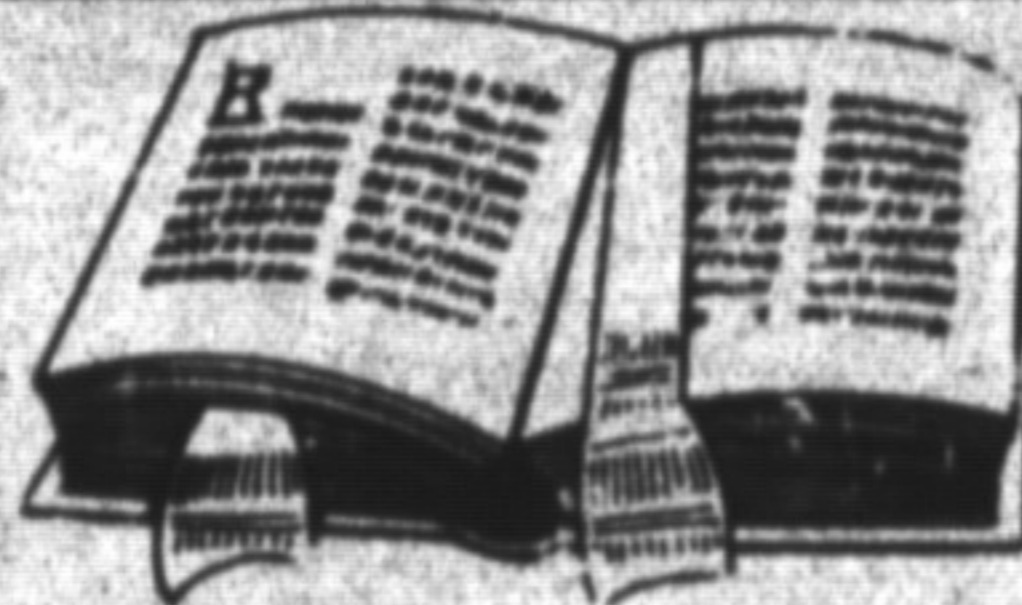
Get the name, address and phone number of the canvasser or promoter. Check on the organization if it looks suspicious.

Ask children if they're making money from the sales. Most charities use volunteers to sell fund raising items.

Any legitimate organization will be happy to answer questions.

An informative brochure, Phony Charities—Scams For All Seasons, has been produced by the ministry. To obtain a copy, call the Consumer Information Centre at (416) 963-1111 or (toll free) 1-800-268-1142.

CHURCH SERVICES



ST. PAUL'S OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Main St. at James St. Rev. E.T. Jack Birch
878-8895

Sunday, January 6, 1985

11:00 a.m. - Family Sunday - Baptism Sunday
SERMON: Let your Light Shine.
12:00 noon - Annual Congregation Budget Meeting
Nursery Available
Babysitting available for 2, 3 & 4 year olds.

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Robert Baldwin Public School, 180 Wilson Dr.
Rev. Thomas Prachar, 878-2562

Sunday, January 6, 1985

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Family Worship
Listen to "The Lutheran Hour" on Sundays
8:00 a.m. - CKOC 1150;
"Come and Grow With Us!"

GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent - Fundamental
Pastor: Walter H. Isaak
876-2298

Sunday, January 6, 1985

We welcome you to meet with us at:
United Steelworkers Centre
407 Pine Street
Next to Milton Library
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
6:30 p.m. - Evening Service
Nursery Provided
"The End of Your Search for a Bible Church"

NEW LIFE PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP

878-5913
Affiliated with P.A.O.C.
Morning Services at E.W. Foster Public School
320 Cox Blvd. (between Laurier & Childs Dr.)

Sunday, January 6, 1985

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. - Sunday Service and 7:00 p.m. Tues.
Bible Study at 92 Lorne Scots Dr.
All Are Invited

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

245 Commercial St.
Milton, Ontario, L9T 2J3
Pastor: Ken Campbell - Phone 878-3542

Lord's Day Services
Sunday, January 6, 1985

9:45 a.m. - FAMILY BIBLE HOUR
- classes for all ages -
11:00 a.m. - FAMILY WORSHIP HOUR
6:30 p.m. - LIBERATION
- a service of song & salvation -
ALL WELCOME TO ALL SERVICES
AT EMMANUEL -
- a church on the go for God -

MILTON ALLIANCE CHURCH

Sam Sherratt Public School
Pastor: Errol Rempel
878-9584

Sunday, January 6, 1985

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School For The Whole Family
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
6:30 p.m. - Evening Service
Everyone Welcome
Nursery Facilities at all Services
Christ Our Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer
and Coming King

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1412 Britannia Rd. West
Minister: Brian Cox 878-5696

Sunday, January 6, 1985

10:00 a.m. - Bible School Class for all ages
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship and the Lord's Supper.
7:30 p.m. - Preaching of the Gospel.

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Kelvin F. Mutter
878-0035

Sunday, January 6, 1985

10:00 a.m. - Worship and Communion Service.
11:10 a.m. - Sunday School for the Whole Family
Nursery Available
Location: Auditorium of The Halton Centennial Manor.
Affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec.

MILTON GOSPEL HALL

306 Ontario St. S.
878-2022
Christians Gathered In The Name of the Lord
Jesus Christ

Sunday, January 6, 1985

10:00 a.m. - Breaking Bread
11:45 a.m. - Sunday School
7:00 p.m. - Gospel Service
Wednesday
7:30 p.m. - Prayer and Bible Reading
All Are Welcome to These Services
"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness. Math. 6.33"



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX, MILTON

170 Main St. E. 878-6066
The Rev. T.J. Lewis
Christian Education Director - Mrs. T. Smit
Organist/Choir Director - Mr. D. Van Ravens

Sunday, January 6, 1985

9:45 a.m. - Senior Church School
- Young Adults' Bible Class
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
- Junior & Intermediate Church Schools
- Adult Supervised Nursery
MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES
Thurs., Jan. 3/85 - 7:00 p.m. - Junior Choir
8:00 p.m. - Senior Choir
Tues., Jan. 8/85 - 2:00 p.m. - W.M.S. - Robertson
AUX.
8:00 p.m. - W.M.S. - Evening Dept. Church Hall
Wed., Jan. 9/85 - 1:30 p.m. - "Get together"
Group

ALL WELCOME

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 596, Burlington
4272 Appleby Line
Rev. W.E. Payne 634-4879

Sunday, January 6, 1985

9:45 a.m. - Bible School Classes for all ages
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. - Evening Communion Service
Tues. 7:00 p.m. - Trinity Boys & Girls Club
Wed. 7:45 p.m. - Regional Prayer Meetings

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