

# Tell everyone when you've been scammed

"Once bitten, twice shy" goes the adage. Company owners and employees, who have lost money to scam artists in the past, to be on guard against wolves in sheep's clothing.

But experts on protecting your money at the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, said those who have been fleeced once by scam artists are at greater risk than those who have not.

"This increased risk is no indication you're more gullible or less informed than anyone else," said Marilyn Gurevsky, a manager with the ministry's business division.

"You are at greater risk because scam artists will come back to people who have already been their victims. Also, they sell lists of victims to each other - you're

## FINANCE

likely to be the target of a number of dishonest schemes if you've been bitten once."

Gurevsky said the best protection against scam artists, at home and at the office, is to be informed.

Know how to deal with promoters on the telephone, by mail and in person.

Also, scan local media reports to keep abreast of any scams currently active in your area.

"Above all, share information," said Gurevsky.

"One of the biggest boons to scam artists is people's reluctance to tell anyone else they've been taken."

At work, this means making sure that everyone in the office has information about any scam that has been used against the company: how the approach was made, how the recipient was pulled into the scam and what resulted.

One of the most common office scams is the phoney photocopy toner or paper deal. This is usually set up by someone who phones in, often saying they're completing a survey and want to know if you have one of several types of photocopiers (they'll name the top five sellers). They'll ask you for the serial number, then hang up.

A few days later someone will call with a great deal, offering cheap rates

on paper or toner.

They may say they represent your regular supplier, which many employees don't doubt because they know the make and serial number of the office photocopier.

Once you agree to accept the merchandise you'll discover the discount doesn't apply to what you've ordered and end up with a huge bill.

If they think you can be intimidated, they'll threaten - in an aggressive tone - to take you to collections if you don't pay up.

"Don't accept COD orders for office supplies.

"Don't give out office credit card numbers or banking information of any kind over the phone unless you're placing the order and you've made the call.

"Don't pay for anything, even if it's only a \$5 charge, if you've no record it was ordered. And don't give a piece of office stationery or a receipt sample to anyone who arrives at your door. They could be used for fraudulent purposes," said Gurevsky.



### What's new in office scams?

"We're seeing some of the tried-and-true scams (scams that have made dishonest promoters a lot of money) being used on potential victims that aren't usually at the top of the hit list - small business people."

Gurevsky said that publicity about the increasing numbers of people going into business for themselves in small and sometimes one-person operations is attracting the attention of scam artists.

Take a careful, detached look at offers you receive in the mail.

One of the most common approaches is to take your money through a 900 or pay-per-call telephone number.

Although many legitimate direct marketers use 900 numbers, the ministry is concerned about the ease of access the numbers provide fraud artists to their victims' money.

Any time you're asked for money in advance, it should be a tipoff all may not be as it seems.

If you receive an offer for any service or equipment that just seems too good to be true, check before you write a cheque.

## If approached call Project Phonebusters

If an approach was made by telephone or mail, contact Project Phonebusters (a special police task force that the ministry works on with the RCMP and OPP) at 1-705-495-8501.

If you think an approach seems suspicious, whether it is made by mail, phone or in person, call the Ministry's General Inquiry Unit at 1-800-268-1142 or (416) 326-8555 in the Toronto area. Project Phonebusters, or the fraud unit of your local police force for information.

# RRIF

## Registered Retirement Income Fund

Many Canadians are choosing a RRIF when they mature their RRSP. A RRIF is basically a reversed RRSP, instead of putting money into savings for retirement, you are withdrawing a minimum amount each year to supplement your retirement income.

**Complimentary Information Luncheon**  
Monday, November 24, 1997  
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

**Featured Speakers:**  
David Redwood, Regional Sales Manager  
Trimark and  
Larry Stadnyk, Investment Rep. of  
Edward Jones

Sandwiches provided by Village Grocer

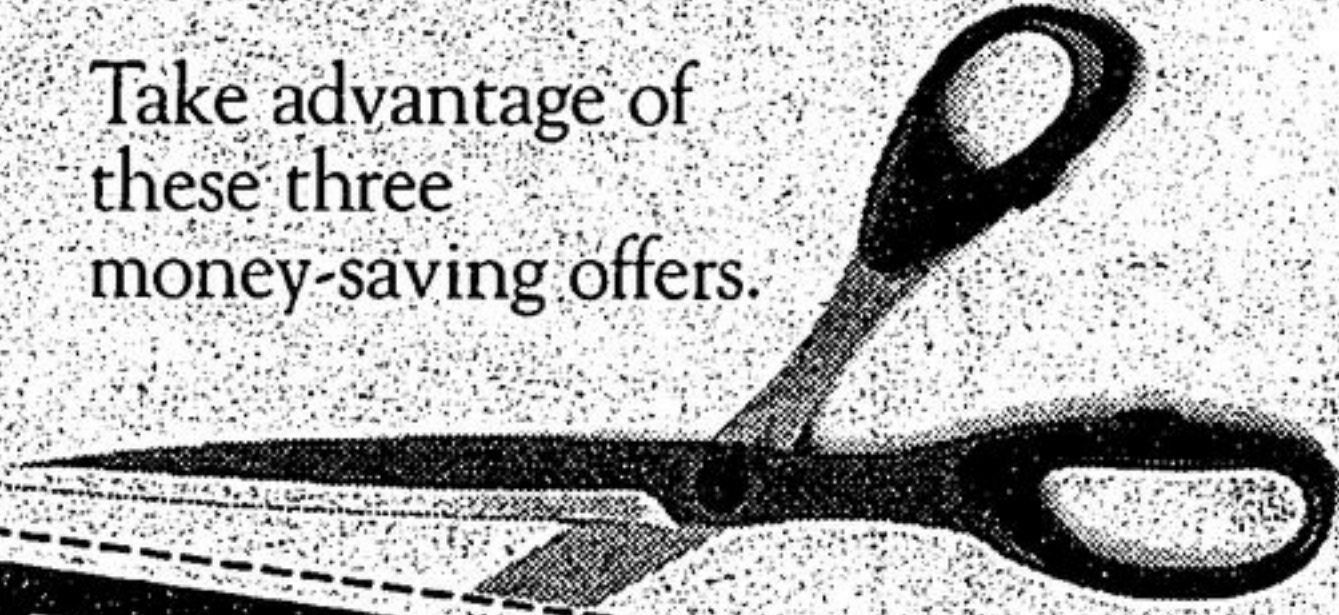
**Call Kathy at 305-8507**  
to reserve a seat

Location:  
4591 Hwy. #7  
Unit #110, Unionville  
905-305-8507  
<http://www.edwardjones.com>

**Edward Jones**  
Serving Individual Investors  
**TRIMARK**  
MUTUAL FUNDS  
Member CIBC

## Our Cachet Centre Branch at Woodbine & 16th Ave. is open to serve you.

Take advantage of these three money-saving offers.



### 2% Cash Back\* on Mortgages

Transfer your residential mortgage to Canada Trust and we'll give you 2% of the mortgage balance in cash. So if your balance is \$100,000, we'll give you \$2,000 in cash - deposited to your Canada Trust account! Use the money for anything you want - after all, it's your money.

### Transfer your Chequing Account. \$100 Bonus

Transfer your chequing account to Canada Trust and we'll give you a one-time bonus of \$5 per \$100 transferred, to a maximum bonus of \$100.

We'll even deposit your bonus right into your new Canada Trust chequing account. Choose from three different service plans including Self Serve, Full Serve and Infinity Plan, with fees ranging from \$6.95 per month to \$12.95 per month.

### Home Equity Line of Credit. Save \$395\*

Our secured PowerLine™ uses the equity in your home to secure the loan. Rates as low as prime. And for a limited time, we're waiving the \$395 title insurance for those who qualify.

Regular lending requirements apply. See branch for additional conditions.

9255 Woodbine at 16th Ave.  
Phone: 905-887-2811

Hours:  
9:30-6:00 Mon. to Wed.  
9:30-8:00 Thurs. & Fri.  
9:30-3:00 Sat.

**Canada Trust**

\*Offers valid from November 1, 1997 to February 28, 1998. Some conditions apply to these offers; the above offers may be combined with each other but not with any other offers or discounts. Complete terms and conditions in branch. Offers may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Organizations and businesses are not eligible. Trade marks of Canada Trust Mortgage Company.



## Pat Robinson

CIP

Trustee in Bankruptcy

Call for a free personal discussion:

- Help with creditor problems
- Proposal to creditors
- Personal & Business Bankruptcy
- Financial counselling

9555 Yonge St. #401  
(at Weldrick) Richmond Hill  
(905) 508-9493  
Email: pat@patrobinson.com

15139 Yonge St.  
(at Church) Aurora  
(905) 727-2577  
Web: www.patrobinson.com

## LOW, LOW, LIFE TERM INSURANCE RATES

Affordable Financial Security...

AGE	MALE NON SMOKERS RATES			MALE SMOKERS RATES		
	\$250,000	\$500,000	1,000,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	1,000,000
40	\$233	\$375	\$680	\$468	\$840	\$1,525
45	\$255	\$440	\$810	\$590	\$1,110	\$2,150
50	\$358	\$645	\$1,220	\$815	\$1,560	\$3,050
55	\$498	\$925	\$1,780	\$1,185	\$2,300	\$4,530
60	\$780	\$1,490	\$2,910	\$1,798	\$3,465	\$6,725
65	\$1,435	\$2,690	\$5,115	\$2,555	\$4,755	\$9,035
70	\$2,593	\$5,115	\$10,160	\$5,913	\$11,725	\$23,350

- FEMALE RATES CONSIDERABLY LESS
- MONTHLY PREMIUMS AVAILABLE
- LOWEST RATES FOR LEVEL & INCREASING TERM PLANS
- NO TAX ADDED TO PREMIUMS QUOTED
- LOWEST RATES FOR DISABILITY COVERAGE
- ESTATE PROTECTION PLANS
- SPECIAL RATES FOR SELECT SMOKERS

Call **CYRIL GERSON** today for your financial security needs.  
Tel: 905-764-6924 Toll Free: 1-800-465-3601

MEMBER: INDEPENDENT LIFE INSURANCE BROKERS OF CANADA