

For immediate release

January 4, 2018

Halton Hills Public Library, Canadian Federation of University Women and Halton Police Team for Fraud and Scam Awareness

HALTON HILLS, ON – At best, it’s embarrassing and humiliating. At worst, it can cost thousands of dollars in life savings; even homes can be lost.

If you or a family member have ever been a victim of a telephone scam or identity theft, you well know this type of pain. It’s a violation of a most serious kind. Perpetrators are sophisticated, cunning, and prey on society’s most vulnerable.

Imagine working all your life to save for retirement or to enjoy some simple perks to make your daily life easier. Then in a moment it’s all gone. You discover that friendly voice on the end of the telephone who promised so many things is a fake.

Scenarios like this are becoming more common and scams more sophisticated. It’s sad to say, these are no longer rare occurrences. It’s not only the elderly who are targeted; it can be anyone. Unfortunately so many of these issues go unreported because the victim feels too embarrassed to tell family, let alone police. Make no mistake: these are criminal violations.

Halton Hills Public Library today announced a new presentation designed to raise awareness of how to protect against frauds and scams.

The first of its kind event, presented free at the John Elliott Theatre, is made possible by the Canadian Federation of University Women (Georgetown). It will be presented by representatives of Halton Regional Police Services Fraud Unit.

“Fraud is everywhere; from criminals trying to steal our personal information and our identities to obtain credit to those who invade our homes through the telephone, mail and email with promises of fake lottery wins and alarming stories about loved ones in accidents,” noted Detective Constable Sarah Rudall.

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“The most efficient way to disarm these criminals is through becoming educated to their methods. Halton Regional Police Fraud Unit hopes to reach out and give residents the tools to recognize and stop fraud. We hope to see a large audience on Tuesday who can in turn spread the word to family and friends.”

Adult Services Librarian Danielle Dawe, the event’s coordinator, could not agree more. “The Library is a strong community hub and resource, and we saw a need for raising awareness about the perils that certain technologies enable. Young or old, this is an important topic to be educated about. It’s our pleasure to work with CFUW and Halton Regional Police Services, and we hope this insightful event helps keep our residents safe.”

“Frauds, Scams and How to Protect Your Identity” takes place as follows:

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

John Elliott Theatre

9 Church Street, Georgetown

FREE (no registration required). For questions about the program, please contact Halton Hills Public Library:

905-873-2681 ext. 2511

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About the Halton Hills Public Library

The Halton Hills Public Library (HHPL) provides free access to best-selling books, eBooks and eReaders, newly released DVDs, CDs and more. Professionally-trained Library staff go beyond Google in the search for information. Every week, approximately 5,200 people come through the Library’s doors, in addition to the more than 7,500 who visit electronically. For more information on programs, services, hours of operation and access to the online catalogue, visit www.hhpl.on.ca.

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