

SAHRA eBlast – Nov 24 2019

Fraud Alert Lunch & Learn

Constable Leslie Henry, Toronto Police gave an engaging presentation on Fraud and Seniors at Armour Heights Presbyterian Church on Nov 19th. Here are several highlights:

- Fraud methods used by criminals continuously change, so it is important to keep aware and educated.
- Fraudsters are criminals who attempt to make themselves trusted. They are friendly, helpful, persistent, persuasive, and are generally non-violent.
- They communicate by phone (they've even contacted the officer's office phone number), internet, mail and in person.
- If anyone asks you for money, even if it is just a few hundred dollars, consider that a Big Red Flag! If you send some, they will just ask for more.
- There are non-technical ways for fraudsters to commit fraud against you:
 - Dumpster diving: They can look in your garbage and blue bin for information. You should shred or safely burn any documents which have personal information.
 - Mail theft, or even just looking at who is sending you mail, by looking in an exterior mailbox. Make sure you secure your mail at the point of delivery.
 - Social engineering: [Definition from Wikipedia: The psychological manipulation of people into performing actions or divulging confidential information.] Example: Someone phones you from your bank and, after explaining some plausible situation, asks for your bank card number. Never give them any of your personal information. They already have it!
 - Shoulder surfing: Someone looks (over your shoulder, for instance) to read a personal document you are reading, or see the PIN you are entering at an ATM or point-of-sale credit or debit card reader. Beware of overhead cameras as well as individuals. Be careful of what documents you read in public; always cover the PIN number pad when entering your PIN.
- Clean out your wallet or purse and take with you only what you need when you step out.
- Close unused credit card accounts.
- Watch out for the "Grandparent Scam": Someone phones and insinuates that they are a grandchild in trouble, needing money. Often the conversation will start with something like, "Do you know you this is?" since they may not know the name of a grandchild. The situation is always an emergency since they want you to act before you have a chance to stop and think about what you are being asked to do.
- We've all been called by someone saying they are with the CRA. These "always" request payment. However, be aware that it may start off with offering a refund – all they need to know is your banking information! Never give it to anyone whom you do not personally know, and even then be suspicious.
- Be very cautious about Romance scams. A romance scam is a confidence trick involving feigning romantic intentions towards a victim, gaining their affection, and then using that goodwill to commit fraud.
- Be suspicious of door-to-door salespeople who arrive uninvited, offer to perform some service but the deal is for today only. Again, they are trying to force you to act before you think about what is going on. Be especially suspicious of someone with no credentials or with suspicious credentials.

Midtown Town Hall – Mon, Nov 25 6:30 pm

At North Toronto Collegiate Institute, 17 Broadway Avenue

Hosted by Councillors Mike Colle, Josh Matlow and the office of Jaye Robinson.

Learn about how changing Provincial Planning rules are affecting the Yonge & Eglinton community and potential measures to improve our quality of life.

Open the [LPRO Nov Newsletter](#) attachment for more details.

Elementary School Classroom Accommodation Town Hall – Tues, Nov 26 6:30-8:30 pm

At Forest Hill Collegiate Institute Library, 730 Eglinton Ave West

Presentation by Daniel Castaldo, Senior Manager, Planning – as our community continues to grow and intensify, accommodation pressures emerge at local public schools when faced with increasing student enrolment. Information will be shared on how this rapid rate of growth is impacting public schools in the community. Learn about updated enrolment and demographic information, the impact of residential intensification on local schools and studies in the Board's Long Term Program & Accommodation Strategy and Secondary School Review to address these challenges.

Open the [LPRO Nov Newsletter](#) attachment for more details.

Online Reporting of Driving Infraction or Traffic Concern

Are you upset about that driver in the yellow SUV which never stops at the stop sign? Are you driven to distraction by the drivers who continually speed along your residential block? There's an app for that!

You can report many different kinds of incidents or concerns on the Toronto Police's [CORE \(Citizen Online Reporting Entry\) website](#). Two of them are [Driving Complaints](#), and [Local Neighbourhood Traffic Issues or Concerns](#). Keep in mind that the police only deal with enforcement. If you are interested in road redesign, for instance, then approaching the Councillor's office is the better avenue to effect change.

A [Driving Complaint](#) includes a specific vehicle involved in unlawful behaviour such as speeding, unsafe lane changes, disobeying traffic lights or failing to stop at a stop sign. Choose the "Driving Complaint" area at the bottom of the webpage to enter information about unlawful driver behaviour. Be prepared to provide info about the time, place and description of the vehicle – it is best to have the vehicle's licence plate number. A photo or video is even better. The best information will identify the driver since usually the driver is charged, not the vehicle owner. Even if the police cannot identify the driver, a letter will be sent to the vehicle owner explaining the complaint.

A [Local Neighbourhood Traffic Issue or Concern](#) report assists a citizen with providing the police with information about ongoing traffic concerns in her / his neighbourhood. Examples include: Ongoing issues such as racing on certain nights and times, many motorists ignoring a stop sign, speeding by many motorists on a specific roadway and similar general traffic safety issues. Choose the "Local Neighbourhood Traffic Issues or Concerns" area at the bottom of the webpage to enter information. Be prepared to provide info about the specific location, day(s), and time(s) of the issues.

You can also report the following issues on the CORE website:

- Damage to property under \$5000
- Damage to vehicle under \$5000
- Fraud under \$5000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5000
- Theft under \$5000
- Theft of gas from a gas station
- Graffiti
- Immediate parking complaint

Community Police Liaison Committee – November Updates

- Shootings in 32 and 33 Divisions (33 is to the east of 32) last month are 50 year-to-date versus 42. Fortunately, there has been no loss of life. Project Community Space, which moves officers into high-risk areas for higher visibility, has been extended to the end of November to deal with this. Extension beyond that depends on funding.
- Robberies and B&E's (Break & Enters) are down this year compared to last year (19% and 3% respectively), but vehicle theft is up (22%). For the most part entry to homes is by smashing doors and windows.
- Despite B&E's being down from last year, there has been a spike recently in 32 Division. The police are focusing on high B&E areas with both uniformed and plain clothes officers. On November 19, there was an arrest of a significant B&E player in both York and Toronto
- B&E criminals only want to enter an empty home. To find empty homes, they look for lack of footprints in the snow. They also leave twigs in between a door and its jamb: if the twig is still in place a day later, the door hasn't been opened – and presumably the home is empty. In a two recent cases, B&E's took place while people were in the homes.
Learnings: Always ensure that your home looks lived in when you are away. Clear the snow from your walkways, driveway and vehicles. Be on the lookout for twigs left between the door and its jamb. If found, contact police. If someone knocks on the door or rings the doorbell, always answer so you establish that someone is home. You don't need to open the door to answer – you can talk through a closed door.
- As reported in an earlier eBlast, six youths were arrested following a swarming robbery attempt on Avenue Road. The police are looking for links to other robberies in the city.
- In a recent study of a small area, **over 75%** of speeding tickets were issued to residents of the area. Ensure that you are obeying the rules and laws of the road while driving, both close to home and elsewhere.
- A new regulation change will allow the use of photo radar in school zones.
- Within our neighbourhoods, we often see or hear of persons attempting to open vehicle doors when parked overnight in driveways. Even if they don't steal anything, this should be reported to police. Attempted theft is an offence. Often the criminal is a repeat offender: the police have knowledge of them (what they look like, etc.). Make a phone call to the non-emergency number (416-808-2222) if you can report while the crime is happening. If reporting later, use the online tool: go to the [Toronto Police CORE \(Citizen Online Report Entry\) website](#), select "Theft from Vehicle UNDER \$5000" even though a theft didn't take place, and complete the report. If you have a photo or video, make sure to include it.

- With the upcoming holiday season, many people will be ordering gifts online to have them delivered. This also means that Porch Pirates, who steal packages left near the front door, will become more active as well. Porch Pirates have been active in our neighbourhood within the last year. In a previous eBlast, SAHRA has mentioned that Canada Post offers [FlexDelivery](#) which holds packages so that you can pick them up later. Or you could ask a nearby neighbour to look out for packages and bring them in until you are home.
- Criminals sometimes scan or steal mail left by Canada Post at homes which have outside mailboxes. They are attempting to gain enough information for identity theft. This has happened in our neighbourhood, so be aware. Ensure that your mail is secure after it is delivered. Perhaps you should consider installing a slot in your door to accept mail and remove the outside mailbox which is not secure.

Neighbourhood Watch Online

Neighbourhood Watch groups are being formed in the North, South-East and South-West areas within SAHRA boundaries. If you are interested in leading or participating in such a group, please send an email to info@sahratoronto.com and we can provide information.

Safety Measures by Armour Heights Public School

We are pleased to report that a suggestion for increased safety by one of our residents by the Armour Heights Public School has been acted on by the City (Transportation Services). No Parking signs have now been added on Belgrave just *north* of Ravenhill on the east side and on Belgrave *south* of Ravenhill on the east side. No Parking signs did not exist before and drivers parked too close to the corner. Having the new signs up has reduced parking there and the area is safer for it.

Community Events

Festive Light Lunch & Folk Dancing – A holiday festive light lunch featuring Karen Millyard teaching some English historical folk dancing. Lunch will be served after the dancing at 11:30 am. **Tuesday, Nov 26 10:30-11:30 am** at Armour Heights Presbyterian Church. RSVP by calling 416-485-4000.

PA Day Camp – Armour Heights Church invites Grades K to 6 to a PA Day Camp for games, art, science, cooking and outdoor fun. **Friday, Dec 6 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Cost of \$20 per child. Bring a bag lunch. Please contact Rev. Rebecca at (416) 485-4000 rebecca@armourheights.org.

Christmas Luncheon – A Christmas Celebration Luncheon and Communion at Armour Heights Presbyterian Church. **Tuesday, Dec 10 12:00-2:00 p.m.** RSVP to estone@armourheights.org or call 416-485-5000.

Christmas Kitchen

Reserve this date for Christmas Kitchen 2019 at St. Timothy's Church. All the goodies you need for Christmas in one place. Tourtieres, pecan pies, jams and jellies, ginger bread, butter tarts, mincemeat tarts, soups, home baked loaves, and much more. A special Young Shopper's Room. Santa Pictures. A giant Silent Auction and Sam's "Ham on a Bun" lunch café.

Saturday, November 30th 10:00 am to 1:30 pm

St. Timothy's Church (100 Old Orchard Grove)