OPP renew warning of computer scam

 Police are warning residents after receiving 3 complaints of computer repair scams

Here's a typical scenario: a caller, often claiming to work for Microsoft or another reputable software company, will cold-call you and ask if your computer is running slowly or not working as it should. He will then offer to repair your computer via Internet access, which can involve either software installation or the caller gaining remote control of your computer after you've granted him access. Payment for the software or the repair service is handled via your credit card with charges typically ranging from $35 to $470 per call.

Allowing a third party to download software or remotely access your computer carries a number of serious risks. Malicious software can be installed to capture sensitive data such as your online banking user names and passwords, bank account information and your personal identity information. All of this information can be used in subsequent frauds that empty your bank accounts and charge your credit cards.

Police advise that you should change computer passwords monthly and make them difficult to guess but simple enough to remember.

To report a scam call the Canadian Anti Fraud Centre at 1(888)-495-8501 or on line at https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca