

Cell phone scam

Dear editor:

There is yet another telephone scam going around. A company claiming to be a collection or recovery agency calls and tells the person answering that Bell Mobility has hired them as their account is in arrears. Please do not give your birth date, address, credit card information or cell phone numbers to these people. Block the number from calling your house again and tell them you are aware that this is a scam and you will notify the appropriate authorities. The number does show on caller ID and the OPP has a division for this type of scam. I notified Bell Mobility of this scam.

Mrs. Hall,

Shelburne

Note: The Free Press contacted the Shelburne Police on this issue. This is what PC Paul Neumann had to say: I am not aware of this particular scam involving Bell Mobility, however there are hundreds of active phone scams in Ontario.

The author of the e-mail is providing some good advice. A reputable collection agency will not call and ask for details about a customer's account, banking information, or cell phone numbers. If the company is above board, they will have all that information before contacting the customer.

The best advice I can give is to never give any personal information over the phone unless you are contacting the company yourself and are fully familiar with that company. If you are contacted by phone, before giving any information at all, request a call back number and then before calling back compare that number with the customer assistance phone number printed on your monthly bill. If the number is different ? call the customer assistance number on your bill and verify with them that the person calling you is valid and is contracted to do business for your phone company. If you are still uncertain call your phone company and advise them of the possible scam. If you fall victim to such a scam (had an unauthorized transaction out of your bank account or otherwise end up losing money) call the police.