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The ?Over?Payment? scam

OPP remind residents to be aware of a scam known as an ?over-payment? scam after it was attempted on a resident in the Municipality of Grey Highlands on, November 27th.

The resident, who had posted an apartment for rent on Kijiji, received a cheque well over the amount she had asked for. She was given instructions to return the excess funds. The resident was aware that this was a scam and notified police.

There are different variations of ?over-payment? scams. Typically, it is the type of fraud where the person receiving the cheque is actually owed money for goods sold. The seller receives a counterfeit cashier's cheque, personal cheque or corporate cheque from the ?purchaser? in an amount in excess of the amount owed; is asked to deposit the cheque and wire the excess funds immediately back to the sender/purchaser or the purchaser's agent or shipper; and, the deposited cashier's cheque is subsequently returned as counterfeit and charged back to the seller's account.

Anyone selling goods should be suspicious of any cheque, especially if it is for more than the agreed selling price.

To protect yourself against this sort of scam, never agree to a deal in which the payer wishes to issue an amount for more than the agreed price and expects you to reimburse the balance.

The scammers use a variety of excuses to explain the overpayment, but any such excuse should be treated with the utmost suspicion.

To learn more visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) at www.antifraudcentre.ca or contact them toll free at 1-888-495-8501.