

## Police warn everyone to beware of a Microsoft scam

Caledon OPP is warning residents about a Microsoft scam.

Scammers posing as Microsoft representatives have called Town of Caledon home owners to try and gain access to their computers and personal information by stating that their computers are infected with a virus.

Police warn that once access is granted, the resident observes the caller remotely access their banking information and personal files. The resident is unable to stop the gathering of further information due to the computer being locked by the caller.

Computer users are reminded, that unless they initiate the call, they should not allow anyone access to their computer. They should not give out personal, banking or credit card information to anyone unless they are sure of whom they are dealing with.

Police warn that scammers target people into installing malicious software that can capture sensitive information, including passwords, username, banking and credit card information.

There are some tips people can use to protect themselves.

- ? Change your passwords frequently.
- ? Remember that reputable agencies will not ask for this information unless you have initiated the call.
- ? Never download anti-virus software from a pop-up or link sent to you through an e-mail.
- ? Update your anti-virus software often and scan your computer for viruses regularly.
- ? Don't click on links or attachments in e-mails sent to you by someone you don't know.
- ? Turn on your browser's pop-up blocking feature.
- ? Never click on a pop up that claims your computer has a virus.