

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Residents urged to watch out for scams and fraud

Midhurst/ June 22, 2016 – Federal authorities have recently issued warnings of telephone and door-to-door scams occurring in Simcoe County and across the province where the caller or individual(s) claims to represent the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or other financial/government bodies. The County of Simcoe is reminding residents to be vigilant when they receive, either by telephone, mail, text message or email, a communication that claims to be from an organization requesting personal information, such as a social insurance number, credit card number, bank account number, passport number, and other forms of personal information.

“Members of our Council continue to hear about scams in our communities that take advantage of honest taxpayers, often targeting older citizens,” said Warden Gerry Marshall. “Please use precautions anytime you’re asked for personal information and contact local authorities if you suspect fraudulent communications.”

As reported by local police and media, a common phone scam that occurs each year is where the caller poses as an agent from the CRA and often demands personal information by using threats or coercive language.

If residents suspect fraud or are a victim of a scam, contact the Canadian Anti-fraud Centre (CAFC) by calling 1-888-495-8501 and/or local authorities immediately.

The CRA provides helpful resources to help residents spot a scam and protect themselves against fraud. Learn more by visiting: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/scrty/frdprvntn/menu-eng.html>

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

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Allan Greenwood
Director, Corporate Communications
705-726-9300 ext. 1230
705-794-9301 (mobile)
Allan.Greenwood@simcoe.ca

Collin Matanowitsch
Communications Co-ordinator
705-726-9300 ext. 1430
705-734-8386 (mobile)
Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca