



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Cst. Kevin O'Neil

DATE: November 26th 2009

RE: 84 year old woman defrauded

Leamington police are investigating a fraud that occurred this past Tuesday in which an 84 year old Leamington woman was defrauded out of a substantial amount of money.

At approximately 9:00 am the woman received a phone call from a man who told her that he was a bank manager at a bank here in Leamington. He explained to her that there was a problem at his bank. He stated that there was money stolen from the bank and he wanted her assistance in catching the person responsible. He asked her for her bank account number and the balance which she provided to him. The man told her that the account number and balance matched his numbers of where the money was suspected of being stolen from. He requested her assistance in catching the person responsible. She was instructed to go to her bank and withdraw a specific amount of money, not to handle it and have the bank put it into a plain white envelop. She was instructed that this had to be done very quickly as there were security cameras in the bank that only worked for 15 minutes at a time. When she left the bank, she was to go to a nearby parking lot where she would meet a man named Mr. Waltrip. The victim went to the bank and followed the instructions of the caller. She was waiting in her car in the nearby parking lot when she was approached by a man, average height, average build, grey shirt, grey pants and a touque who identified himself as Mr. Waltrip. She handed the envelope to him and watched as he walked towards the bank. She waited five minutes and then drove off. After realizing that something was wrong she immediately went to the police.

This type of fraud or scam is not new. It usually targets senior citizens. Police recommend that for those that have parents who are seniors who still do their own day to day banking that you should be speaking to them and warning them about all the different types of frauds and scams that target seniors. Go through bank statements and see if there are any unexplained withdrawals, make sure that all personal documents are shredded and not thrown out in the trash or recycling box, and most important never give any personal information over the phone to anyone. If a bank has an issue with your account they will always call and ask you to come in and deal with it in person.

Constable Kevin O'Neil