



I began my career at Huronia as a Technician/Service Manager, leading the technical team in installing and servicing security and fire alarm equipment. I became General Manager, then President and CEO some years later. As the company grew, so did my career, and in 2017 I became Chief Operating Officer. When I was asked to contribute to this month's enewsletter it gave me a chance to reflect on the last 33 years. That same weekend my father-in-law (Paul) and I spent some time together. He, too, used to work at Huronia, so the timing seemed advantageous to tell both our stories. It allowed us both an opportunity to reminisce on the company as it was, how it is today, our mutual successes, and how our careers were intertwined.

Paul had a long career with Hydro, and when he retired, he started a company called Quick Care House Sitting. He would often be responsible for being a key holder contact for some of his Customers, which put him in regular touch with Huronia Alarms, the company responsible for holding Paul's customers' physical keys. Paul and Rob Thorburn Sr. (who was running Huronia Alarms at the time) met, and in 1996, Paul was offered a position at Huronia by Rob Thorburn Sr., which he held until 2003. It was during those years that Paul and I got to work together; he was on the alarm sales team, and I was moving toward my role as General Manager.

I'm sure during those years, we drove his daughter (my wife!) and my mother-in-law crazy talking about work during family Christmas parties and while on vacations together, but it's hard to separate work-brain from home-brain when you love what you do.

While Paul and I no longer work together, he still enquires about the goings-on at Huronia. On a recent trip, my wife and I took with her family, the two of us still talked shop as we watched icebergs float by. We also both took note of all the fire extinguishers, alarms and safety features present on the ship. I guess some things will never change.

~Kevin Leonard, Chief Operating Officer

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE RCMP, CANADIAN ANTI-FRAUD CENTRE (CAFC) AND THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE – RAISING AWARENESS AFTER AN INCREASE IN EMERGENCY/GRANDPARENT SCAM

A fraud prevention campaign was launched this past month to raise awareness about a significant increase in scams that are targeting seniors across Canada, including our smaller communities. Our local [Southern Georgian Bay OPP Detachment sent a news bulletin](#) as part of the overall awareness campaign. Please communicate the following information with your family and friends.

"Emergency scams sometimes called grandparent scams, involve fraudsters contacting seniors or family members claiming that their grandchild or a loved one was in an accident, charged with an offence such as a DUI and drug offences or, in some cases, is ill with COVID-19. Fraudsters will claim that they are law enforcement officials, lawyers and even impersonate the grandchild/loved one. They'll proceed to advise the victim that a payment for bail or fine is required immediately in order for the family member to avoid going to jail. Fraudsters will often claim that there is a "gag order" and the victim cannot discuss the occurrence with anyone. If the victim agrees to pay the requested amount, suspects will arrange to pick up the funds in person or will ask the victim to send cash in the mail.



EMERGENCY-GRANDPARENT SCAM

Fraudsters are targeting seniors by calling and pretending to be a family member in distress, the police or a justice official claiming that a loved one or grandchild is in trouble, and needs money immediately. **Victims are told there's a gag order, and can't speak to anyone.**

PROTECT YOURSELF



Fraudsters...

! Call demanding immediate payment for bail, or fines to avoid going to jail

Remember! The courts won't ask for cash to bail out someone in custody, and will require people to be present in court.

! Claim to be a lawyer, police or family member in an emergency situation demanding funds

Be suspicious of calls that require immediate action. **Hang up!** Call your local police and contact the family member directly.

! Request cash and send couriers for pick up, or demand the victim send cash by courier services or via cryptocurrency

Never send cash, cryptocurrencies or any other funds to unknown persons, unverified addresses or bank accounts.

If you believe you have been scammed, contact your local police and the **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre**:

1 (888) 495-8501 / antifraudcentre.ca

Fraud. Recognize. Reject. Report.

Another variation the CAFC continues to receive reports of is the emergency scam email. Victims report receiving an email claiming to come from one of their email contacts. The email will ask for a favor: purchase gift cards because they're ill or have lost their wallet. In some cases, the sender's email account has been compromised or contact list has been obtained by the fraudsters."

New variation of an emergency scam:

"The CAFC is receiving reports about a fraudulent emergency text or social media message. The fraudster will claim to be a family member or loved one advising that their cellphone is broken or has been dropped in water. The fraudster will then provide an alternate phone number to send a text. The fraudster will proceed to ask for a favor by requesting funds from the victim to repair the broken phone or to pay a bill."

Warning Signs - How to protect yourself:

- If you receive a suspicious phone call claiming to be from a family member in an emergency situation, hang up the phone and contact them directly on the number you have in your contact list.
- If the caller claims to be a law enforcement official and asked you to pay a fine or bail, hang up and call your police directly.

- Listen to that inner voice that is screaming at you: "This doesn't sound right".
- Be careful what you post online. Scammers can use details shared on social media platforms and dating sites for targeting purposes. Suspects can easily gather names and details about your loved ones.
- Be suspicious of telephone calls that require you to immediately take action and request bail money for a family member in distress.
- Be careful with caller ID numbers that look familiar. Scammers use technology to disguise the actual number they are calling from (spoof) and make it appear as a trusted phone number.
- If you receive an email or text message claiming to be from a friend or loved one asking for money, make the outgoing call to the person by looking up the legitimate phone number you have for them in your contact list.
- Use unique and strong passwords for all social media and email accounts.

Anyone who suspects they have been the victim of cybercrime or fraud should report it to their local police and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre's online reporting system or by phone at 1-888-495-8501. If not a victim, report it to the CAFC anyway at Report fraud and cybercrime (antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca)

[Click here for contact information and to read the news release from the Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the OPP.](#)

[Click here to read an article from Collingwood Today, "Organized Crime: Scammers steal homes from Collingwood seniors."](#)

[Click here to read more from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police \(news release\).](#)

REMINDER: DON'T POST YOUR VACATION PLANS OR PICS ON SOCIAL MEDIA UNTIL YOU GET HOME!

Many of our Customers are planning their March Break vacations. In the excitement of it all, there is the desire to share your vacation plans and photos in real-time. To help protect your home security, hold off on posting your pictures until you've arrived safely back home. **Don't** advertise your upcoming holiday plans. **Don't** post photos of you and your family waiting at the airport. **Don't** post pictures of your passport, airline ticket or boarding pass. **Don't** "check in" on social media platforms. **Don't** advertise that your house may be empty. **Don't** give potential-burglars a reason to break into your home.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - SPRING FORWARD – CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS

****This information is for those whose smoke detectors are NOT tied to an alarm system.****

As a reminder to our customers and colleagues (for what may be the final daylight savings time that we experience!) daylight saving time 2023 in Canada will begin at 2am on Sunday, March 12th. So when the clocks go ahead an hour, please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. We recommend that you test smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries routinely in the spring and fall when clocks are changed. Replacing smoke detectors over 10 years old should also be done as they have reached their useful lives.

HURONIA SPONSORS THE CLH FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER "A RED CARPET EVENING #ONWARD"

Huronion Alarm & Fire Security Inc. is again proud to support the excellent work of our community partners, The [CLH Developmental Support Services](#), through sponsorship of their annual [Red Carpet Evening gala](#).

This fundraising initiative helped raise over \$122,000. Funds raised help to provide specialized services to children, youth, and adults with developmental support needs while creating an environment of acceptance, encouragement, and life-long learning. Their work in our community includes resource consultation, community activities programming, supported living homes, and supported employment services.

"Huronion Alarm & Fire Security Inc. (HAFS) and Community Living Huronia (CLH) have supported one another and the Midland community for years. They're a long-time, client of ours and their "neighbours taking care of neighbours" values align with ours. The opportunity to support them by sponsoring their annual gala means that we can help them raise much-needed funds to deliver programs and developmental support services to children, adults, and seniors in our neighbourhood," said Kevin Leonard, COO Huronia

Alarm & Fire Security Inc. "It's about building a stronger, more empowered, inclusive and productive community. We're proud to support that initiative."



WE ARE HIRING! HELP US FIND THE NEXT GREAT ADDITION TO OUR TEAM!

To support our commitment to exceptional customer service, we are always looking to have talented people join our team. Some of our best leads have come from our customers, and so we are reaching out to you again! We are actively recruiting for the following positions:

- Security Alarm Technician (Midland & Utterson/Muskoka)
- Senior Locksmith (Collingwood)

[Click here to submit your resume or to receive additional information about these career opportunities.](#)

If you know of someone who is looking for an employment opportunity with a family-owned and operated business that is dedicated to customer satisfaction, [please contact us.](#)

We offer an incentive for leads that create viable employment opportunities for our company: three months free monitoring for the lead; 12 months of free monitoring if we employ the lead through their probationary period; an additional 24 months of free monitoring should the lead remain employed after one year of continuous service.



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