

Westville Police Service

"Committed to building a safe, healthy, friendly, and engaged community through a high level of policing"

Westville Police Service members responded to 128 calls for service in the month of November 2022. Of the calls for the month, 36 criminal investigations, 11 other provincial statues, 5 municipal by-law enforcements, 31 are motor vehicles related and 45 are other calls to service.

12 SCAMS of Christmas

- Look-Alike Websites**
When stores sell out, you may find the items online on different websites than the official retailer's. Remember, it's easy to mimic a real website. Some sellers will take your money and run, leaving you without the gift or money to buy it elsewhere.
- Fake Shipping Notifications**
These can have attachments or links to sites that will download malware on your computer to steal your identity and your passwords. Don't be fooled by a holiday phishing scam.
- Social Media Gift Exchange**
Purchasing one gift and receiving 36 sounds like a great deal, but this seasonal scam is actually a pyramid scheme, which is illegal.
- Phony Charities**
Everyone is in a generous mood during the holidays, so scammers take advantage of that with fake charity solicitations in email, on social media sites, and even by text. Check out charities at give.org before donating.
- Grandparent Scams**
Seniors should be cautious if they get a call from a grandchild claiming to be in an accident, arrested or hospitalized while traveling in another country. Never send money unless you confirm with another family member that it's true.
- Letters From Santa**
Several trusted companies offer charming and personalized letters from Santa, but scammers mimic them to get personal information from unsuspecting parents. Check with bbb.org to find out which ones are legitimate.
- Temporary Holiday Jobs**
Retailers and delivery services need extra help at the holidays, but beware of solicitations that require you to share personal information online or pay for a job lead. Apply in person or go to retailers' main website to find out who is hiring.
- Unusual Forms of Payments**
Be wary of anyone who asks you to pay for holiday purchases using prepaid debit cards, gift cards, wire transfers, third parties, etc. These payments cannot be traced and cannot be undone.
- Free Gift Cards**
Pop-up ads or email offering free gift cards are often just a ploy to get your personal information that can later be used for identity theft.
- Travel Scams**
With busy holiday travel, bargains may be tempting. Be cautious when booking through online ads, never wire money to someone you don't know and ask for references.
- E-Cards**
Electronic cards can be great fun, but be careful. Two red flags to watch out for are: the sender's name is not apparent; you are required to share additional information to get the card.
- Puppy Scams**
Be very careful buying pets online, especially during the holidays. You may get a puppy mill pooch with problems, or you may get nothing at all because it was a scam.

Holiday Season Crime Prevention Tips

- **Deliveries:** To deter thefts, have your packages delivered to a designated delivery location or your place of work rather than your front door or mail box.
- **Do not leave packages in your car.** At home or while out shopping, never leave packages or personal effects in your car.
- **Do not leave your property unattended.** Don't place your purse in the shopping cart. Don't leave your cellphone on the table while dining. Don't leave your wallet out on a counter when paying for items.
- **Protect your home:** To decrease the chances of your home being burglarized, keep all of your doors and windows locked. Install exterior lighting with motion-sensors and an audible alarm system.

If you See Something, Say Something! Call 9-I-I to report criminal activity.



Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even for a few minutes.



Shopping Crime Prevention Tips

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible.

