



Top 10 Tips for Safe Computing & Online Privacy

- 1. Protect your personal information.** Be aware of schemes that ask for personal or financial information. Do not respond to unsolicited requests for confidential information.
- 2. Choose effective passwords.** Choose passwords that are difficult to guess but easy for you to remember. Use multiple passwords, change them frequently and use ones that include a mix of letters and numbers: all essential components of online safety.
- 3. Verify a message before you take any other action.** Do not click on a link, call a phone number, wire money or take any requested action, unless you first verify that a request is legitimate. Verify it using information from a source other than from within the message itself.
- 4. Limit the online information that you make available about yourself.** Be careful about including personal information online, on social networking sites, in chat rooms and in unencrypted email, and periodically clear your browser's cache and delete any temporary files, as fraudsters may try to get at your information for their own benefit.
- 5. Be cautious in your online activity.** Be aware that email scams and malicious websites quickly surface for publicized or recurring events or when any news story breaks. Use caution when accessing new sites.
- 6. Be wary of pop-up windows.** Don't click on any action buttons within a suspect pop-up window, including those requesting financial or identification information and those offering to sell you something.
- 7. Maintain a suite of security software products. This should include a reputable personal firewall, anti-virus, anti-spam and anti-spyware, all necessary to provide online protection for your computer and your information.** Beware of pop-up warnings that your computer is infected and instructing you to buy or download software to fix the problem.
- 8. Keep your computer healthy.** Take advantage of automated updates for your web browser, operating system and for all software that supports your online behaviour, e.g. browser plug-ins such as PDF viewers, or regularly check the applicable websites for required software patches and updates.
- 9. Remember to log off.** Ensure you properly log off and close your browser to prevent others from being able to view your information later.
- 10. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is!** Be cautious of emails and websites that promise incredible deals and monetary windfalls. You may end up giving your financial information to fraudsters or downloading malicious software by clicking on a tempting link.

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Spot the Warning Signs of Fraud Before it's Too Late

SLOW DOWN

A common theme in many fraud attempts is the artificial urgency fraudsters employ to prevent you from thinking things through. Don't listen to them. When presented with an enticing offer, stop and think about it. Give it time to percolate. Does it still seem wise?

QUESTION EVERYTHING

Who is this person who contacted you? Do you know them? Is their request unsolicited? Would you trust them to watch your wallet? Why did they approach you? What are the risks? Consider searching the Government of Canada's online resource, the "Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre" for information on current scams. Or, conduct a quick online search with the organization or individual's name - often times people will already have reported the suspicious activity and a record can easily be found.

GET A SECOND OPINION

If you're being asked to do something (wiring someone money, for example) and you feel uneasy about it, bounce the idea off of someone else. Contact a trusted friend, a colleague, or someone at the credit union and run the proposal past them. Do they think it's a good idea, too?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS FREE LUNCH

Many scams play on the appeal of quick, easy money. It's easy to get blinded by the dollar signs. Don't let that distract you from making a reasonable, informed, and cautious decision. Listen to your gut. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.



Holiday Hours

We will be closed for the following days:

GOOD FRIDAY
Friday April 2

VICTORIA DAY
Monday May 24

CANADA DAY
Thursday July 1

Covid-19 Staycation Tips

Many people are now reconsidering their expectation of going away and are instead favouring a staycation over a vacation.

Staycations got their name a few years ago and have evolved from simply a way to save time, money and energy to an event the whole family looks forward to. But as with any good vacation, a staycation also takes some planning.

Start with a family meeting, including the kids, and discuss what exactly a staycation is and isn't for your family. It should be a time to see your city, take in local attractions, enjoy cuisine in a region you may not go to often and sleep in your own bed each night. A staycation is not a time

for chores, renovations, honey-do lists or for your kids to catch up on homework assignments. If you have work to do, that should be a separate plan for either before or after the fun.

Next, brainstorm and decide what you would all like to do around town. Each of you could pick an outing and become the tour leader for the day. You would organize the activity, transportation and meals. Even if your children are young, they could take the lead in suggesting and planning as much as they are able to do.

The intention of a staycation is to kick back and relax without the stress or expense of travelling. Determine your budget ahead of

time and then plan backwards so that you don't spend more than you can afford. You and your family will feel more rested and energized knowing that you met your goal of spending time together without blowing the budget.

Give a money-free weekend a try sometime soon. Your wallet will appreciate the break and you might find that it helps you form some helpful saving habits too!





Community Sponsorship



Coldest Night of the Year 2021 was a very different experience this year with a virtual walk to keep us safe. We were happy to be involved and to contribute \$1000 to this very worthwhile cause in our community. Above: Local event director Phil Redford (left) and our Port Hope staff, Ian (right)

Thank you for helping FatCat Walk Across Canada for Big Brothers Big Sisters campaign!



This year instead of Bowling for Kids' Sake for Big Brothers Big Sisters, GFCU had help to "walk" FatCat across Canada in support of the Move for Kids' Sake campaign. Thanks to our staff and members, we were able to raise \$2030 for such a fantastic cause! All your support is appreciated.

INSTANT ALERTS that STOP FRAUD

SIGN UP TODAY!

With GFCU's mobile alerts you can receive email or text message notifications about events that have occurred in your accounts when you set up and edit through online banking.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR MOBILE ALERTS:

Visit www.ganaraskacu.com and login to your online banking.

Click on "Messages and Alerts" and click "Get Started Today"

Select "Manage Alerts" below. Select "Register for Alerts"

Add a mobile phone number or email address where you would like to receive your alerts.

Select the alerts you would like to receive. Please call 905-885-8134 or 1-888-374-1717 for assistance.





Fat Cat's Big Spring Colouring Draw!



ENTER & WIN
\$50 VALUE
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HOW TO ENTER

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