

## Scam artists trying to 'sell' bogus car warranties

By **GILLIAN CARR**  
JOURNAL PIONEER

**SUMMERSIDE** - General Motors customers are being warned of a vehicle warranty phone scam currently making the rounds on P.E.I.

Jeff Hemphill, general manager with Hemphill Pontiac Buick Chevrolet GMC Ltd. in Summerside said a number of his customers have been called since Monday and told their warranty is about to expire.

So far, none of the people contacted have been taken in by the scam, but they did check their warranties afterwards.

"We've had been about 20 calls a day from people," said Hemphill. "But General Motors does not ever solicit

business in this way."

Hemphill said the scam originated in Ontario a few weeks ago, and is apparently now making its way east to the Maritimes and across the country.

"It's going in blocks," he said. "And it's not limited to any particular model or vehicle name, just random phone calls."

If contacted, people are advised not to disclose any personal or private information over the phone, such as credit card numbers, and to contact the police afterwards.

Hemphill said if customers wish to check their vehicle's warranty status, they should contact the dealership's service department directly at 436-9444.

### SIGNS OF A SCAM

- The call: long distance, originating from the United States;
- The caller: either an automated voice, informing customers their warranty has expired or is about to expire; or a live person, could be female or male, and usually aggressive in trying to sell a new warranty;
- The message: A generic warning that a vehicle warranty is about to expire, tries to scare people into giving information or credit card numbers. Not affiliated with GM or any of the other auto companies.