

**DID YOU
KNOW?**
**Banks not liable
if you hand over
card details to
scammers**

Durham police have warned residents that banks may not be liable for any amounts stolen in scams if the account holder gave away bank card details and PIN numbers to scammers.

"By providing both, victims unknowingly violate their contract with the bank, leaving them financially responsible for any losses," said a police statement.

It reminded residents that banks will never ask for a customer's debit or credit card, and they will never ask for PIN numbers.

The advisory was issued last year along with a warning to the public about a scam involving fraudsters posing as bank employees and convincing victims to hand over their bank cards and PIN numbers. The DRPS Fraud Unit had received 41 reports in the first nine months of 2025 with losses of more than \$200,000.

Modus Operandi

Victims receive phone calls from suspects who claim to be from their bank's fraud department. The caller tells the victim that their bank cards have been compromised and instructs them to place their cards — along with their PIN numbers — in an envelope for a 'bank representative' to pick up. Victims are told that new cards will be sent out the next day, police said.

Shortly after, a driver arrives at the victim's home, collects the envelope and then uses the stolen cards and PINs to withdraw money from the victim's accounts, they added.

How To Protect Yourself

Never give your bank card or PIN number to anyone. Hang up immediately if someone claiming to be from your bank asks for this information. If in doubt, call your bank directly using the number on the back of your card — not a number provided by the caller.

**Nicholson
quashes
speculation**

An Oshawa councillor has quashed rumors surrounding 'a large police presence' in the Wentworth Street West and Oxford Street area on Friday.

Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) had issued an advisory that there will be a large police presence in the area of Wentworth Street West and Oxford Street for an ongoing investigation.

"This is an isolated incident. Please avoid the area," it had said, adding later that the area had been cleared.

There was no further update from the police till Sunday evening.

Brian Nicholson, Councillor for Ward 5 Oshawa and Durham Council, clarified that: "Contrary to a lot of false rumours and speculation, the current event in southern Oshawa is not a hostage taking."

"It was a domestic dispute that led to a person barricading themselves in an apartment unit. The police have secured the area and are taking appropriate action to resolve the situation without injury," said the councillor.

"To those spreading rumours or speculation on Facebook, I ask you to please remove your posts. To those posting negative comments about the community or area residents, you are only embarrassing yourself by exposing your ignorance," said the councillor on a social media post.


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**Metrolinx
Does Not
Seem To
Care About
Oshawa**

As prepares for two-year closure of Simcoe bridge
January 9, 2026

In one of the most hidden moves in Oshawa. Metrolinx has made plans is executing with little or not public input.

This has many area residents and businesses fuming.

How dare they walk in to our City and disrupt our lives claimed Darryl Paker.

Local business owner asked, Where are our elected officials? Why is there not any special incentive packages to offset the mess Metrolinx is causing along Simcoe?

Starting as early as Monday, January 12, weather and other conditions permitting, Simcoe Street will close, between Avenue and Albany streets in Central Oshawa, as work begins to replace the Simcoe Street Bridge.

The bridge replacement is needed to support construction of the Bowmanville Extension. These upgrades will accommodate a new GO track essential for new service, said Metrolinx yesterday.

It said the new bridge must be built higher, longer, and wider to meet modern design standards and to allow for additional track underneath. To do this, new supports need to be placed in different locations, which means the old bridge cannot stay in place during construction.

To complete the work as quickly as possible, a full demolition of the bridge and closure of Simcoe Street is required.

There has been public outcry over the long closure.

Metrolinx said work will be carried out in stages, including:

Utility protection and relocation of existing utilities.

Demolition and removal of the existing bridge structure in a controlled sequence.

Foundation work to support the new bridge.

Construction of new bridge sub-structures and elements.

Finishing works including paving, line painting, and final landscaping.

The lack of consultation is another example of the lack of municipal representation. Local business owner feel as they are being left to fend for themselves as they have nothing that will assure them minimal disruptions.

The Planet Fitness plaza is to see the biggest disruption as all kinds of equipment will be coming in and out of the 401. No public consultation no representation this explains in part downtown Oshawa.