



Abbotsford Police Department

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Chief Constable Mike Serr

"Strength in Community"

NEWS RELEASE

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AbbyPD gives dating advice

Online dating has become one of the most common forms of dates these days. For the most part, online dating is safe and provides a way to connect with people. However, it can also come with some risk... scammers who capitalize on other's hope of romance and relationships.

Unfortunately, some scammers move past online frauds and try to connect in person. The AbbyPD would like to offer some dating advice to keep you safe and protect you from scammers and thieves.

Choosing your site:

- Pay attention to the geography setting in your dating app- strangers should not have access to your exact location to them to your neighbourhood.
- Avoid putting a lot of personal information on your profile- in the first instance, don't list information such as your last name, links to your social media accounts, or contact information. The more information you provide allows strangers the ability to steal your identity or track you down in real life.

Interacting Online:

- Use the dating app messaging system- it may be less convenient, but safer than giving a stranger access to your phone number through texting.
- Ask a friend. If you are interested in someone, get a friend to check the profile and offer honest feedback. If you have mutual friend- check in and find out what the person is like.

Meeting in person:

- Arrange your transportation- avoid letting someone know where you live.
- Meet in a public place as you are getting to know your new companion.

***Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.***

- Stay aware and stay alert- you are with a stranger. Don't leave your valuables unattended, drink less than you would with friends, and avoid being out until you are tired.

The AbbyPD want to help keep you stay safe in the dating world so you are comfortable and aware. If someone makes you feel unsafe, you have the right to leave- the situation, location or conversation. Contact the police if you feel your safety is at risk.

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