NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

68 CHURCH STREET
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO, CANADA, L2R 3C6
TELEPHONE (905) 688-4111 FAX (905) 685-5081

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR RELEASE:	October 23, 2008	Immediately	Long
	DATE	TIME	DISTRIBUTION
PREPARED:	October 23, 2008	3:00 p.m.	St. Catharines
	DATE	TIME	LOCATION

Public Service Advisory
Local Computer Hoax Cites the NRPS

Police members have received information about an on-line computer hoax involving the Niagara Regional Police Service and concerns from the community are being raised as this email gathers momentum on the Internet.

The hoax involves a fictitious report from Paul Bevan of the Sexual Assault Unit, warning people about a situation involving a contaminated business card that was passed to a woman at a gas station. This hoax is being distributed as an email to “Brock Staff” who are urged to pass it along. The theme of this hoax is not a new one. Numerous versions have been distributed in the past since May 2008.

In this particular version, the creator of this false email has used the perceived authority of a member of the Niagara Regional Police Service in an obvious effort to lend credibility and in doing so it would understandably seem that this email is fact. The Niagara Regional Police are vehemently denying the authenticity of this email and are encouraging the community to disregard it.

For further information about hoaxes and ‘urban legends’ and the details of this particular matter, there are numerous anti-hoax web sites available on the Internet such as:
http://www.hoax-slayer.com
http://www.snopes.com/horrors/mayhem/burundanga.asp

The Niagara Regional Police Service encourages the public to educate themselves about computer hoaxes, though if further information is required, please contact the police station in your municipality, or visit our web-site at www.nrps.com.

-30-

PREPARED BY:	Jacquie Forgeron	Cst. #9693	Public Affairs Unit
	NAME	RANK & FILE NO.	UNIT
AUTHORIZED BY:			
	NAME	RANK & FILE NO.	UNIT