



## Phone scam targets elderly on North Shore

By Nick Curcuro - Staff writer

A Gloucester couple nearly fell victim to scam that targets elderly grandparents in the North Shore area.

Bob and Joan Foster of Reynard Street, Gloucester, received a phone call yesterday morning from a man who claimed to be a Canadian police officer. The man told the couple that their grandson was in a Canadian jail and needed \$3,800 to get out. The couple were then advised to drive to Walmart on Route 114 in Danvers to wire the money.

When the Fosters arrived at Walmart to wire the money, the clerk immediately recognized it as a scam. She showed the couple a memo that detailed the scam, to which an elderly couple who live at Brooksby Village in Peabody had fallen victim.

The Peabody Police Department's public information officer could not be reached for comment last night to confirm the story about the Brooksby Village couple.

According to the Fosters' son, Bob Jr., the clerk described the scam as "not widespread but definitely not new," as the past incident was nearly identical to the Fosters.

The suspects, who are unidentified at this time, had access to the Fosters' home and cell phone numbers. Bob Foster Sr. found out for sure that the incident was a scam when the suspects called back and had the incorrect last name for his grandson.

The Fosters notified police of the scam at 2:25 p.m. yesterday. According to police reports, the suspect's phone number did not appear on the Fosters' caller identification. The incident remains under investigation.