

Considerations regarding implementing password protection for *hotg.ca* website:

1. Our website hosting service has very strong defences against hackers, locking out IDs with failed attempts. Only members of the web team have edit access and these IDs use long strong passwords (upper & lower cases, numbers and special characters).
2. The contents are not confidential, as it lists activities, schedules and events.
3. There are names, emails and phone numbers for organizers of activities and events.
 - a. This is the minimum information necessary to run such gatherings.
 - b. Explicit consent has been given to display contact information for events and activities.
 - c. If there is any discomfort displaying a personal email address, we can create unique email accounts that are used just for the website.
4. There are no personal private information such as addresses, birth dates, social insurance numbers, driver's license numbers, etc. which could result in identity theft.
5. Event photos do not identify individuals.
6. Implementing password protection will require:
 - a. Disseminating passwords which requires pre-authorization of *hotg.ca* sending email correspondences as specified by PIPEDA (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act). Someone will have to track and maintain this list as residents move in and out.
 - b. Residents will have to remember and enter the password each time they access our website. Hopefully, this does not mean writing it down on a piece of paper and keeping it handy!
 - c. This adds an extra layer of complexity and frustration for residents. This will likely discourage some residents from using our website, when we are trying to increase usage.
 - d. There is no means of preventing residents from sending the password to their friends and relatives outside of our community. This also applies to access by residents who have moved out.
 - e. To be safe, the passwords would have to be changed regularly, e.g., every 3 months. This means:
 - i. keeping the residents email list and authorizations up to date;
 - ii. more opportunity for residents to misremember passwords.
7. We have been advised that it is very easy for savvy users to hack into password-protected websites, so any protection is superficial. Experts we have consulted advised against implementing this measure.
8. Anyone with social media accounts such as Facebook will have already broadcast more personal details to the world than can be gleaned from searching through *hotg.ca*