

## **Media Release**

For Immediate Release

### **GPS Technology “Saves Lives” – “Awareness Needed” for Consumers/Professionals**

#### **Standards for Certification Announced**

Safety will be enhanced and “lives saved” if consumers learn more about Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. A national organization has created standards and a certification program to meet these needs.

“There are thousands of people purchasing GPS units who do not understand the relationship between the map, the compass and the GPS unit,” said Ken Waller, an Information Technology professor at Nipissing University, in North Bay, Ontario. “It is an amazing technology that is not only fun to use but will enhance the safety of those working within or enjoying the great outdoors.”

“Lives will be saved, if GPS users begin to carry satellite phones, especially in rural situations. A distress call will be more efficiently dealt with if people at both ends understand the spatial coordinates displayed by the GPS unit,” said Mr. Waller. “More awareness and education is required. The foundations of basic navigation are easily learned.”

He said, “there is a need to have consumers, and those working in rural situations, properly trained to understand these basics. There are paramedics, police and fire personnel, educational and outdoor leaders and those working for utility companies, who find themselves in situations where the GPS and a satellite phone would enhance safety. Those in leadership positions or needing accreditation for insurance liability purposes should be properly trained.”

In response to this need a national, non-profit organization has released GPS training standards and a certification program to increase safety in the outdoors for the private and public sectors.

The Canadian Ecology Centre Foundation ([www.canadianecology.ca](http://www.canadianecology.ca)) specializing in Global Positioning System (GPS) training has announced training standards and a certification program to meet the needs of people working in or enjoying the outdoors.

“GPS units remain one of the hottest, selling items in outdoor retail stores,” said Bill Steer, Manager, Education.” The GPS training and accreditation is based on learning the basic relationship between the map, the compass and the GPS unit. Many people do not realize the numbers displayed on the GPS unit refer back to the map. The GPS

manufacturers make fantastic products, but the owners' manuals fall short of explaining this important relationship. He said, "Like many safety related programs these standards and the certification will become requirements for the private and public sectors."

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The GPS certification standards, safety scenarios and this media release can be found at [www.canadianecology.ca](http://www.canadianecology.ca), go to the GPS certification tab.

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