



Nov 01/ 2006

Bill Steer

The Canadian Ecology Centre
6905 Hwy 17
Mattawa ON P0H 1V0

Dear Bill.

The West Ferris Scouts have already benefited from the Green Check and the Instructor's Courses taken at the Canadian Ecology Centre. I have trained the youth on the GPS technology and put the knowledge into practice by going Geocaching. During the last 2 -3 three years , the scouts have been reluctant to go on " hikes " that last more than 2-3 km. But by introducing the GPS and Geocaching the youth will follow the treasure for endless kilometers . The youth pickup the terminology and menu driven screens of the GPS units very quickly with the techniques learnt in the Green Check Course. The green check program and the instructors course gave me the knowledge , tools and teaching techniques to instruct youth for years to come. Without the grant from the Ministry of Health - Active 2010 - Communities in Action Fund this opportunity would have not been available to our Scout Guide leaders. The Scout organization has very limited funds for training of leaders. The other great benefit of the grant is the 15 GPS units available to Nipissing Scout and Guides. It has always been a problem with doing any geocaching / GPS training is to have access to 10 -15 identical units .

Bill, we hope in the future the Communities in Action Fund will make a grant available for computer training of GPS software. This would allow the leaders to download waypoint coordinates quickly to the GPS units so the youth could be " geocaching" ie hiking with a GPS unit without the hassle of entering in data. This will save all the double checking we have to do.

Bill, I look forward to returning to the Canadian Ecology Centre for future training on GPS technology.

Yours

Ian Buckham

Ian Buckham
Scout Master
West Ferris Scouts.