

STANDALONE GPS MAY BE PASSÉ, BUT I'M STILL A BIG FAN

BIG SCREEN A HELP TO WEARY EYES, WRITES TED BROWN



TED BROWN
Column

both the west coast and east coast, right to St. John's N.L., and we've had no trouble finding our way. (The only questionable spot I've found is the Bo-vaird and Heart Lake area, where it thinks I'm driving in a field, due to all the street changes.)

That unit is now in The Sidekick's vehicle, and we use the new one if we're taking her vehicle on a long trip.

Last year, after we acquired our Mustang, I thought it would be nice to update the old one — not so much for maps, but more for features.

And, since I'm an old guy, with old eyes, I also opted for a much bigger screen — a three-by-5.5 inch screen, which is pretty easy to see.

I had some gift certificates from my kids, and found the top Garmin on sale for less than half price.

I scored one pretty quick.

It's great how the features on the new models are so much more intuitive.

When searching for the address, it helps me along, making suggestions, often which is the correct location.

It automatically updates the info and when you're making an exit off the 400 series highway, a secondary image comes up on the screen, showing exactly which lane to take.

So for me, using a GPS is a no-brainer.

During our social time up north, the conversation steered toward GPS units — and I was a bit surprised.

It seems there are several people who still feel more comfortable using a paper map to find their way.

I'm not saying they are wrong and I'm right, but I was surprised how so many aspects of our lives are dependent on computers, yet there is a lack of acceptance of the GPS systems.

Since having a GPS, we've become much more adventuresome, often taking a scenic route, comfortable to veer off the 400 series highways.

I guess I have a different perspective. In the agricultural sector, the use of GPS is huge. Farmers using GPS cropping fields can monitor yields, the seeding, fertilizer and herbicides with incredible accuracy.

Spraying herbicides

used to be a daytime job, as the markers on the weed sprayer were foam, and had to be visible, to avoid overlapping the spray.

Now, with GPS, that same job can be done at night, when there is less wind, and subsequently less drift of chemicals to other fields.

Same with harvesting. The GPS monitors the yields in the field and maps the field, showing the areas of good yields and the poor yields.

The next year, that data can be used to increase the fertilizer applications where needed.

I will admit, my new GPS does on occasion freak me out.

We'll be driving through some town, and my GPS will say "Make a right turn

at the corner by the TD Bank ..."

How does she know that?

Beats me — I still look around, just in case there is someone there. How did she know it was a TD Bank?

So I'm hooked on GPS when out of town.

I know, people might ask why buy a GPS, when we have one built into most of our smartphones.

A valid point, but with the size of my smartphone screen, compared to my GPS screen — it's really not even close.

Remember, we're talking about 60-plus-year-old eyes here ...

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THE WAY WE WERE



Originally used as the Holy Cross parish from 1885-1965, it was rededicated as L'Eglise Sacré-Coeur to serve French Roman Catholics in 1966. Many of the first families who attended the church were Acadians from New Brunswick who came to work in southern Ontario and settled in Georgetown. Still a familiar site at 39 Guelph Street in Georgetown, this historic church is a listed cultural heritage property.
EHS/photo

BEST BUY CORRECTION NOTICE
NEWSPAPER RETRACTION FOR THE BEST BUY AUGUST 3rd CORPORATE FLYER
In the August 3 flyer, page 5, the Microsoft Surface Pro 12.3" 256GB Windows 10 Pro Tablets (Web Codes: 10737282/ 3) were incorrectly advertised. Please be aware that Web Code: 10737282 features an Intel Core i7 7th Gen processor, and Web Code: 10737283 features an Intel Core i5 7th Gen processor. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

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