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The Basics of Geocaching

What is Geocaching?

GEOCACHING is an activity similar to a modern day treasure hunt; from GEO (of the earth), and CACHE (a hiding place to temporarily store items.

Use geocaching to find hidden items, discover new places in the environment, and have a fun outdoors activity.

A new player registers with www.geocaching.com to create an account.

Overview

1.1   Cache Locations

The location of a cache is narrowed by its GPS co-ordinates, which are published by the cache owner. There are millions of caches currently available.

1.2   Devices

USE A CELL PHONE / TABLET: download the GEOCACHING APP from the on-line store.

USE A GPS DEVICE: there are many units listed for purchase on www.geocaching.com.
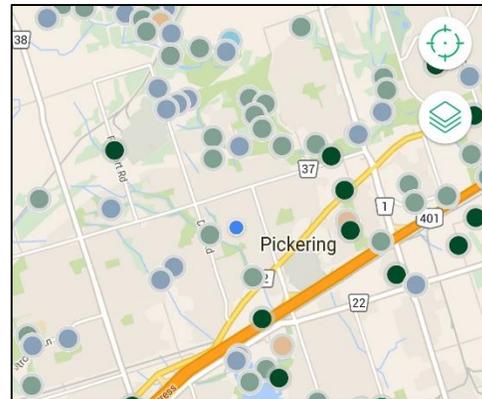
Search for a Cache

(for example, using a cell phone)

1.3   Initial Search
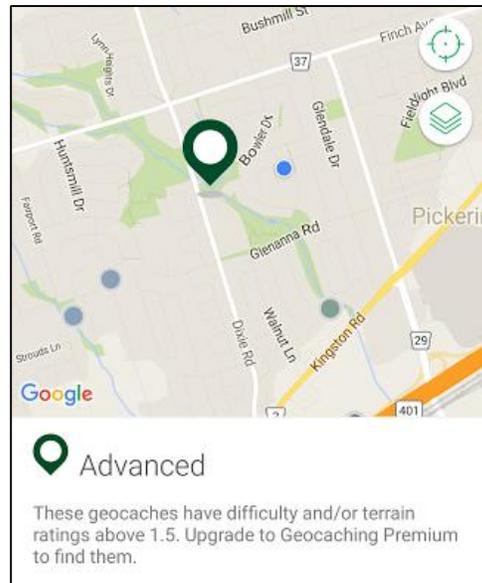
- Open the GEOCACHING APP.

- In the app window, click the SEARCH tool and fill in the LOCATION field, e.g. **Pickering**.

A results window displays showing differently coloured dots to represent caches of varying levels of difficulty.

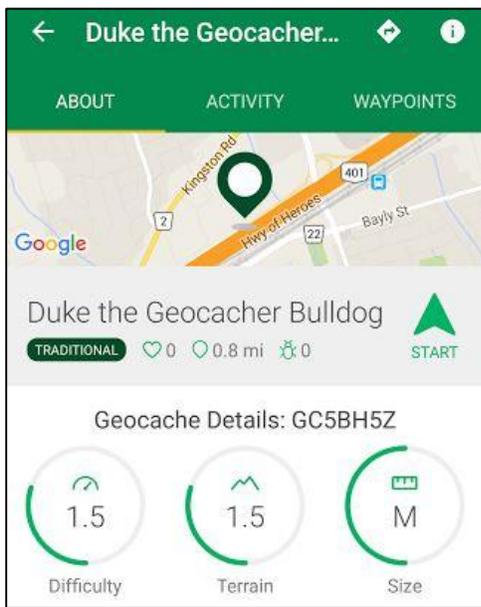Tap a dot to see more information.

1.4   Searching a List

- Click the LIST icon to see a list of cache sites nearby.

- Pick a cache listed as **TRADITIONAL** for an easier start.

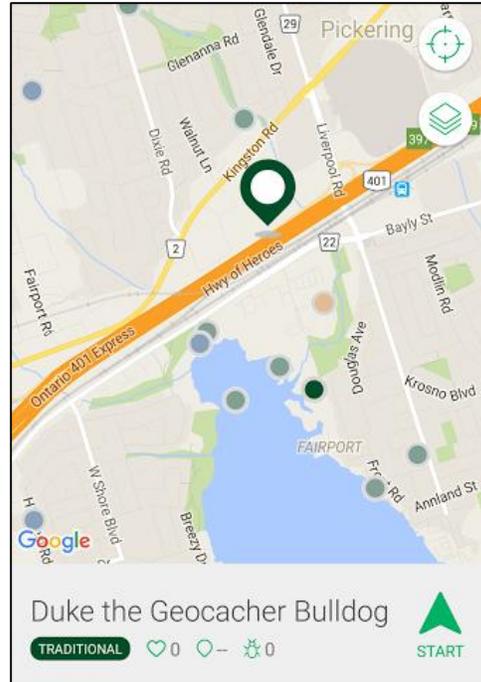- Review the cache's details on the **ABOUT** screen.

1.5   Preparation

- Based on the terrain, weather and degree of difficulty, prepare for the search.

- Include food, water, sunscreen and other protective gear as needed.
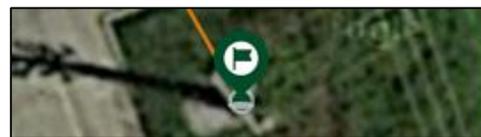
1.6   The Hunt!

- Tap the cache's icon to display a fuller screen containing geographical details.

- Navigate to the approximate location of the cache by driving or walking.

- As you approach the cache's location, enlarge the screen to provide more details.

Note: You may also tap the **VIEW** icon and change to **SATELLITE** view to see details on the ground.

- Locate and open the cache. You may choose to take an object from the cache, replacing it with another object of equal or greater value.

- Enter your details in the cache's log book (name and date), close the cache and return it to its hidden location.

- Log your find with the app and enter your comments.