



Biography of Geoff Coulson

Geoff Coulson has been a meteorologist with Environment Canada for over 26 years. During his career he has been an operational forecaster, trainer, software developer and involved in public outreach. Since 2004, he has been one of the two Warning Preparedness Meteorologists in Ontario responsible for supporting emergency responders/managers and the media before, during and in the wake of severe weather events. Geoff also manages the CANWARN volunteer storm spotter network in Ontario and sits on the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Committee. He is a recent recipient of a Public Service Award of Excellence for Client Service.

GEOFF'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS IS ON APRIL 6th AT THE CENTRE IN DRYDEN

Weather and Emergencies ~ Preparation, Response, Recovery

The deadly tornado of July 9th, 2009 in the Lac Seul area was yet another reminder of the types of severe weather that can impact Northwestern Ontario. Weather can be the cause of an emergency or can complicate efforts to respond and recover from an emergency. In order to assist emergency manager/responders, municipal officials and the media in preparing for, working through and recovering from weather-related emergencies, Environment Canada created the Warning Preparedness Meteorologist (WPM) position in Ontario in 2004. This talk will touch on what the program is about and how it may assist you in planning emergency exercises or getting targeted weather information before, during and in the aftermath of a weather-related emergency. Geoff will also discuss emerging issues like appropriate risk communication...how best to impart the significance/rarity of certain weather events to a variety of clients.