



## Wilderness Survival Course for Outdoor Enthusiasts Supports New Campus – February 2012 with Fred Blackstein

Hopefully, most people will never have to use wilderness survival techniques in an extreme or dangerous situation. Having basic knowledge in some of these practical skills, however, can benefit just about anyone who likes to participate in outdoor pursuits.

Thanks to Fred Blackstein, members of the general public have the opportunity to learn what he has taught to more than 1,000 people over the years including police officers, paramedics and Search and Rescue (SAR) teams.

Starting on February 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Blackstein will be teaching a 12-hour Wilderness Survival course at Algonquin College in support of the new Pembroke Campus building fund.

Students will learn many skills including navigating in wilderness areas with map and compass, understanding GPS use, and navigating by the sun or stars in an emergency situation. They will also learn how to start a fire in inclement weather, treat hypothermia, set up an emergency shelter, deal with bad weather, understand black bear behaviour, and purify water.

Mr. Blackstein has over 40 years of wilderness experience as a keen outdoorsman, master canoeist, and leader of Renfrew County's civilian SAR Team. He is an OPP Certified SAR instructor and has received commendations for SAR activities from both the Commissioner of the OPP and the Base Commander of CFB Petawawa. For these SAR efforts, and many other volunteer activities in the community, he was awarded Canada's highest honour when he was inducted as a Member of the Order of Canada.

His course runs for four sessions--every Tuesday in February--from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Algonquin's Pembroke Campus, 315 Pembroke Street East. The cost is a minimum \$100 donation to the Algonquin College Foundation and will be applied to the new Pembroke Campus building fund. Mr. Blackstein, a strong advocate of the new campus and honorary chair of its capital campaign committee, is providing all equipment required and donating his teaching time as a community service.

**TO REGISTER:** Anyone interested in taking the Wilderness Survival course should call Anna at the College at 613-735-4700, ext. 2735. Students may register by phone with their credit card information, or in person with a credit card, cash, cheque, or money order. All students will receive a charitable income tax receipt for their donation.

*For more information about the Pembroke Campus Capital Campaign, contact Marie Mask, campaign administrator at 613-735-4700, ext. 2842.*