

# Case Study



It's like watching an episode of CSI. Bad guys on the run, police in hot pursuit. The difference is it's not Las Vegas and the LVPD. It's northern Alberta and the red-coated RCMP.

But don't look for any police helicopters overhead chasing a white Bronco. That's fine for California, but Alberta is a bit more sophisticated. In Alberta, we use a network of sleek satellites traveling at 27,000 km/hr. Each satellite circumnavigating the earth every 100 minutes!

Orbiting 800 km above the earth, these motorcycle-sized satellites, provided by ORBCOMM out of Virginia, cut a communications swath of coverage on earth providing global positioning and two-way communications for modern day crime fighters.

Chronic crime is rampant in northern Alberta and B.C. Millions of dollars of heavy equipment is being stolen from companies throughout the north. Everything from specialized oilfield service trucks to recreation vehicles such as power boats, quads, motorcycles and pick-ups are scattered all over the bush. Victim companies have had enough. They are fighting crime at a whole new level, literally.

With the assistance of GEOTrac International, an Alberta-based global positioning and communications company, and the RCMP, companies are recovering stolen property within hours. This coordinated effort uses sophisticated satellite imagery, global positioning and high-tech tracking devices to lead RCMP precisely to the goods.

GEOTrac uses both cellular and satellite networks to deliver GPS coordinates directly to a highly detailed map. Unlike most GPS companies who use off-the-shelf mapping, GEOTrac has custom-built Point2It Mapping Service that layout trails and roads throughout the north. As lease roads were built, GEOTrac was there bread crumbing the road construction vehicles. Take that road detail and overlay state-of-the-art satellite imagery and you have a clear view of exactly where property was stolen and where it ends up.

Recently, two of GEOTrac's customers have engaged GEOTrac and the RCMP to recover thousands of dollars of stolen property. Gary Lang of Raven Oilfield Services in Fort St. John noticed one less truck in the yard when he got in one morning.

"Once I ruled out the vehicle wasn't in use somewhere, I turned to GEOTrac's Asset Control Centre to get a 800 km aerial of what was going on, said Lang. "When I saw it was on it's way to Prince George, I realized, it's been stolen!"

GEOTrac's Asset Control Centre is a web-based application that enables customers anywhere on the Internet to view their fleet, generate reports and manage operational details of their assets.

Lang, notified the local detachment of the RCMP and GEOTrac. In less than an hour of mobilizing a ground team, and working with the Prince George detachment, the

# Case Study



RCMP raided a location housing thousands of dollars worth of equipment. The GEOTrac service was so exact; it gave police a road by road, building by building description of the location. The thieves were caught off guard. One was sleeping in the truck while the others fled on snowmobiles with RCMP in pursuit.

"They took off James Bond style. Quite frankly, we all agreed that if it wasn't for that (**GPS**) system, there was probably a less than one per cent chance that they would have seen any of that stuff again," said Const. Jeff Jackson of Fort St. John RCMP.

In Grande Prairie, another customer was the latest victim. The manager on duty came in to work at 6 AM and noticed something wasn't right.

The customer then turned to GEOTrac to assist the RCMP with the details. The vehicle was stolen at 3:45 AM. As soon as the vehicle was turned on, an onboard data modem woke up and sent a message to the satellite network. The thieves already had a good 2 hrs head start.

The RCMP began the chase. Each turn in the road led the RCMP closer and closer. Finally, hidden off the road, RCMP approached a man peeling off the decals to the truck.

RCMP found more than they were looking for; there was a nice nest of stolen property including electronics and vehicles. By 11 AM, the RCMP had their man.

This episode of CSI in the north is being re-run all over the north. The alarming frequency of theft is driving companies and individuals to protect their property using GPS. The success rate of recovering stolen property is a function of time lapsed. The sooner you track the property, the more likely you'll prevent it from changing hands. The GEOTrac system uses a satellite network that allows for continuous coverage. Competitors using only cellular technology run the risk of out of coverage. Out of coverage, out of sight, out of reach.

The GEOTrac service has three components: network, hardware and web-based software application. An inconspicuous data modem hidden in the vehicle combined with continuous satellite coverage and a web-based detailed mapping solution provides the right outcome for customers to recover stolen property.

Although GPS technology has been around for years in different applications, the RCMP in B.C. believe this was the first time GPS has been used to this extent for recovering stolen property.

For more details on how you can protect your property using GPS, visit GEOTrac for a demo at [www.geotracinternational.com](http://www.geotracinternational.com)