

# KAWARTHA KRONICLE

## PETERBOROUGH, ONT.



The monthly newsletter of  
The Kawartha 99'ers

C/O G. Daniels  
R.R. #5 Peterborough  
Ont. Canada K9J 6X6

Vol. 11 No. 2

" \* Ever "Bean" to LIMA? \*

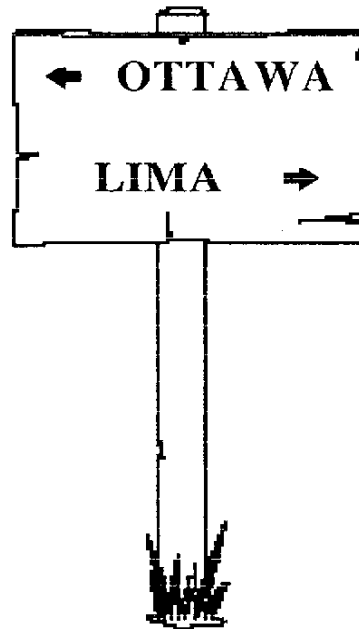
May, 1993

## Console-ing The Orphan

### Ottawa was Fun - Again

Just as we thought things were quieting down in the TI world, all kinds of activity suddenly erupted - it must be spring! The recent Ottawa TI Fest hosted by OTIUG was a whirlwind affair for the "Kawartha Kontingent" made up of Dick Bulmer, Glen Daniels and myself who drove up on the Saturday morning from Peterborough, John Acheson and his family who arrived in Ottawa for the weekend and Colin Dingle, one of our long distant members, who drove in from Belleville. There were some great deals in used hardware. I think I was the only one who didn't make any purchases! There was everything from old 300 baud TI acoustical modems to Horizon ram disks all at unbelievable prices. Apart from the horse trading it was fun to meet up with so many TI buddies from all over Ontario and Quebec. We met up with Bob Boone and Pat Graham along with Steve Andrews and Serge from North Bay, then there was Gary Bowser from Toronto and of course all of the good folks from the Ottawa area. Many thanks to the Ottawa group for being such great hosts and for taking the time and effort to continue the tradition of the Ottawa Fest.

Judging by the small (but enthusiastic) turnout, the TI community has shrunk in numbers dramatically over the past two years. There weren't any new products and I got the impression that there really wasn't a lot of activity going on in many of the groups, apart from the diehards. I am grateful that the TI community has lasted as long as it has, I figure that any support from here on is a bonus. The amazing part is that TI will still repair or replace defective TI994/A



equipment!

John Baal and his wife, Nelda have returned from the sunny south. After a short weekend visit to the Peterborough area they have returned to cottage renovating in the Deep River area. It was fun catching up on all of the news from the past winter. Glad you're back with us, John.

Mike Dunn and I have traded phone calls lately. Mike and family are fine and doing well.

### LIMA LOOMS IMMINENTLY

Dick Bulmer, Glen Daniels, Pat Graham from North Bay and Tom Jakabfy from Oshawa will be trekking to Lima, Ohio for their TI faire on the 14th/15th of May. Unfortunately because of my upcoming house move I will not be able to attend this year, hopefully Dick and Glen will take LOTS of video to share with the rest of us on their return. If any other members wish to accompany this motly crew on their sojourn, give Glen a call and see if they can squeeze you in. This issue will be both late and probably somewhat skannier than normal, sorry but life just got very hectic - thanks to Dick and Glen for jumping in.

*Keep on Cosole-ing the Orphan - Phil*

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS \*\***

**KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP**

FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER  
c/o G. Daniels - R.R.#5  
PETERBOROUGH, ONT.  
CANADA K9J 6X6

\*\*\*\*\*

PRESIDENT	JOHN ACHESON	705 743 7751
VICE PRESIDENTS	GLEN DANIELS/STEVE WRIGHT	705 740 0153
TREASURER	KAREN WILSON	705 742 3087
DISK LIBRARIAN	GLEN DANIELS	705 740 0153
TAPE LIBRARIAN	JOHN ACHESON	705 743 7751
MODULES LIBRARIAN	JOHN ACHESON	705 743 7751
PRINT LIBRARIAN	LINDSAY BROWN	705 932 5295
NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN	DICK BULMER	705 799 6111
NEWSLETTER TEAM	DICK BULMER	705 799 6111
	PAT MCGILLEN	705 742 8374
	PHIL TOWNSEND	705 745 3757

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Meetings are generally held on the SECOND Wednesday of each month (Sept. to June) at the PETERBOROUGH POLICE DEPT. meeting room, located at the intersection of Water St. & McDonnell St. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Membership fees are collected on an annual basis at the annual meeting. Fees are \$24.00 per annum. New members joining part way through the year are charged the rate of \$2.00 per month for the balance of the club's fiscal year. The group's annual meeting is held in March at which time elections for the group's executive is held. Memberships can only be held in an adult's name, though interested children / teens are welcome and encouraged to take part in club meetings and activities. Out of town members are most welcome.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of the KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP.

Advertisements and contributing articles for this newsletter may be given to the newsletter staff or sent to the group's mailing address. Articles may be submitted in print, disk or electronic format

The KAWARTHA 99ers would like to thank those groups who exchange information and newsletters regarding the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER with us. We endeavour to recognize and credit original authors and sources of articles of information which we reprint or make available to our membership.

The KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP is a non-profit group who welcomes any individuals who have an interest in the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER.

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FRESH and REFRESH

by

Dick Bulmer

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IF YOU ATTENDED our April meeting you will remember the excerpts from Bob Tisdale's humorous letter in which he described his five days on the road driving a rental van, loaded to the gunwales with household effects, to his new home in a Vancouver suburb.

Well, on April 18th Bob phoned to report that he was settling into his new home but something was missing... his copy of our April newsletter. I assured him it had been mailed. He called again on the 26th to let me know he still had not received his newsletter (I think he was just a little homesick though he has his two granddaughters in the upper duplex.) Next day, I mailed him another.

Note the change in the address Bob gave me. He may live in Cloverdale and mail addressed there should reach him, but the post office people claim they will find him easier if you use "SURREY." So, write him at:

17085 61A Ave.  
Surrey B.C.  
V3S 5P5

His telephone number is 1-604-576-6528

\*\*\*\*\*

AN UPDATE on the status of the Horizon Ramdisks sent to Bud Mills for repair, last year. Bud phoned me early in April to say he had finally got all three working... one was especially difficult, taking many hours...and he would mail them to Glen Daniels the next day. They arrived about a week later, the Horizon 1000 has been added to the club PEB and is working fine. Glen and I have our 2000s working too.

Bud was true to his word, he just billed us for the price he had quoted even though the repairs were much more difficult than he had expected. Why he even added an on/off switch to all three cards.

A public Tip of the hat to Bud.

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IN MARCH, I reported on the delightful response I received when I wrote to Delores Werths, of Harrison Software, when I enquired about the MIDI musical interface. You will recall that "Lory" wrote me a few times, sent a copy of the first issue of THE ENTERPRISE, the newsletter of the MIDI users group and on top of that, two demo tapes.

Then, as if that weren't enough, Bruce Harrison phoned about two weeks ago and offered to pick up a copy of Mike Maksimic's MIDI package for me at the upcoming Lima fair. During that same phone call I also spoke with Lory who repeated the offer. I thanked them both, explained that a couple of us were tentatively planning to attend the Lima fair and that I was looking forward to meeting them.

Well, while "ANYONE OUT THERE?" didn't draw the hoped-for response, one can't help but be impressed by the attitude of the TI community when you do make contact, the seemingly almost universal desire to help a fellow TIER.

\*\*\*\*\*

CLEARLY, TIers are a special breed. But let's not overlook ex-TIers.

A few months ago, Pat Graham of the North Bay 99ers, published a very favourable review of the screen title program, SCREEN EDITOR, written by Herman Nieuwendaal. I wrote, quoted from Pat's write-up and asked Herman if he would send me a copy. He replied expressing surprise to receive an enquiry, having left the TI fold three years before. Even so, he said, he would try to locate a copy.

April 19, a pleasant surprise in my mail, a package from H.Nieuwendaal. A nice note and two disks; "Herm-Ware" and "Quad Lister." Unable to verify it because he no longer has a TI, Herman said he was fairly sure the version of SCREEN EDITOR he sent would overcome the minor flaw that Pat Graham had encountered. I gave Pat a copy on April 24th, when I met him in Ottawa.

Well, Herman may no longer be an active TIER but you couldn't tell by his courteous response. And thanks to him, Glen Daniels has some goodies for the May DOM.

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(More H&R)

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WHILE ON THE SUBJECT of helpful ex-Tiers, here is another example:

Late last year, I gave more than a cursory look at GRAPHIC LABEL MAKER and liked it. I listed a few questions and suggestions and mailed them along with my fairware contribution to Steve McWatty at the Kinburn address on the title screen. The post office returned the envelope, "ADDRESS UNKNOWN."

Then, while at the Ottawa fair, a few weeks ago, I asked whether anyone knew of Steve McWatty's whereabouts. Bob Boone suggested I try Arnprior ON.

Back home, a few days later, a check with Bell information produced a number. When I phoned, Steve was out, his wife explained that he was having a busy day. I left a message that I would call again another day. It was less than two hours later that Steve called (long distance, by the way) and apologized for not getting back to me sooner. Though he has not used his TI for a couple of years, he very easily answered my questions. He didn't just leave it at that, though, he asked me to send him a print-out of the program (he was not sure his was handy) and he would see whether the changes could be made.

There may be fewer active Tiers, but it looks like the Tier syndrome will survive for some time yet.

If you too had your fairware contribution returned, here is Steve McWatty's current address:

261 Harrington St.  
Arnprior ON  
Canada  
K7S 2T8

\*\*\*\*\* H&R End



?? ANYONE OUT THERE ??

\*with information on the care and feeding of a CORCOMP INC. TRIPLE TECH card. I bought one at the Ottawa fair, but didn't notice there were no operating instructions in the box.

contact Glen Daniels  
c/o the Kawartha Chronicle

MULTIPLAN - ARTICLE 5

BY PAT MCGILLEN

In the last article, we looked at the main menu options. Now lets spend some time on one that I'm sure you'll use quite often. "WINDOWING", lets us look at our title column while working in another, which would normally be off the screen.

By pressing "W" for the window option, the menu we see is; Window: Split, Border, Close, Link.

"SPLIT", allows us another sub-menu, - Horizontal, Vertical, Title. For this application the most practical option is "Verticle", and after choosing that type "2", at the highlighted cursor. Next CTRL A to the next field, and type "Y", to link the two columns. That way, when we arrow down, the titles stay with the proper rows in the adjoining column.

Next call up "Border", in order to highlight the two distinct columns. At the cursor, type in "1", and hit enter. Then again type "W", and "B", and type "2", or if it's already in the cursor box, hit enter. You will now see, if you arrow right, the months will change, while the titles remain fixed in the left column. Another way you can do this, is to border at window "1". Now the first two columns are bordered. Now call option "split" and "verticle", at column 2 and linked "Y" and enter, to create two distinct columns. To remove the borders, simply go through the reverse procedure, (Window; Border; and enter.

The next option, "Close", does exactly what it says - it eliminates the window you have created, and puts you back to square one.

The "Link" option is also self explanatory, as it will make the two columns work together, or seperately.

Ok, thats a short trip through the "Window" option. I'm sure you'll find it very helpful as you proceed through the months. Experiment with it often, and you'll become quite comfortable with it. Have fun.

OUR 4/A UNIVERSITY

by Jack Sughrue  
Box 459  
E.Douglas MA 01516

#4 ROOTS

Last session, Class, we had a couple questions from Mr. Shakespeare over there by the window. He said he had a nephew in junior high and two elementary school grandchildren.

Okay. Okay, Mr. Shakespeare. Just put your grandchildren's pictures away. So long as we know one's 8 and one's 4 and that your nephew in junior high is having trouble reading.

Got that, Class.

He wants to know what the TI can do for him. Or, more specifically, for the significant kiddies in his life.

There are so many directions one can go here that I'm not sure where to begin. Because I'm so text oriented, I think I'll begin with some sources that may not be dried up yet. There are real books like Fred D'Ignazio's TI PLAYGROUND, which I'll discuss during another class. But, first, I want to discuss Newsletter Childrenware.

Zounds, Mr. Shakespeare! Just be patient. I'm sure I'll answer your questions before you even have to ask them.

Now.

Er, oh, yes; the newsletters.

There were so many great newsletters over the years that provided good, solid, educational material in so many enterprising ways - ways that let the adults learn along by typing in the programs. It would be impossible to even list them all on the blackboard here.

Let me just take a super example and hope that her materials are still on disk in the club's library for new massive circulation.

Sue Harper (the present librarian of the Pittsburgh User Group, P.O. Box 8043, Pittsburgh PA 15216) for years wrote a wonderful column called "Kiddie Corner" (note she didn't succumb to the temptation to misspell "Corner" with a "K") and reviewed material for young (and old) learners. Sometimes the older learners could type the programs for the younger learners.

Although I never met Sue, I have been an admirer of her creativity and writing talent for years.

Anyway, Class, while I was preparing some notes I uncovered some of the old "PUG Peripheral" newsletters and want to share a bit of a Fall '89 issue (when her son was 9 and daughter 11):

"This month, since we are all getting back into the swing of things with school, I thought I would give you a little quiz. Yes, indeed, you can tell I used to be a school teacher! Really, it's not a hard quiz; it's a take-home (for sure) and you have a month to do it! Just five questions, and then a little program to amuse you until next month, when I will give you the answers!

1. Write a program that will make the screen blink the colors of fall.
2. Write a program that will play 'Mary Had a Little Lamb.' I'll help you on that one - the notes are A,B,A,G,F,G,A.
3. Write a program that will make your name blink on and off until you use FCTN 4 to stop it.
4. Write a program that will turn your name red and make the screen blue.

Sue also did program reviews, as I said, that dealt with learning. These were all excellent, too. For example, in this same '89 issue, she reviewed Jim Peterson's "KINDERTIMES," which I have had the good fortune to use with some younger children with much success.

Here's Sue:

"This program, listed as TCX-1062 on the disk ... is a very nice little program which uses only 12 sectors, and yet has quite a bit to offer.

"The main audience for this program would be third graders learning their multiplication tables, or for a review for the next few grades. The program will accept parameters higher than one digit numbers, but working these problems in your head becomes difficult.

"At the beginning, the program asks the user for the highest number desired and the lowest number desired. These two answers set the parameters for the multiplicands. The format of the program is:

7 X 6 =

and waits for the answer. The answer must be typed in with the highest digit first, which is why I say this program is not suited for 'hard' questions like 167 X 639. In the 7 X 6 example, the user types in 42 and presses ENTER. The user is rewarded with a graphics display for correct answers."

And so on.

Actually, Jim (TIGERCUB) has upgraded this program. He even has a nice, new program that prints out simple worksheets (with answers on a separate sheet). Ideal for any adult who spends time helping children with math. Refer to your notes from previous classes to learn more about this extraordinary (and extraordinarily inexpensive) resource called TIGERCUB.

These rich resources of newsletter and disk and tape libraries of clubs throughout the country are some of the very best sources all of you can use for learners even in today's "high-tech wizardry" marketplace. The TI STILL does what it was made to do better than anybody else.

No, Mr. Shakespeare, I am not going to give you or Ms. Bronte or anyone else in the class the answers to Sue's five problems. That is homework for next class.

Please, please, Class! Give me your attention! Stop that moaning and groaning back there! These five questions will be on the mid-term, so I would definitely have them ready for the next class.

Yes, yes. There were many other people who did such articles for newsletters and magazines. I remember Chick De Marti of the Los Angeles Group often had similar fascinating items in his "Did You Know That...?" column. I wonder if he has all those great columns on disk?

And Fred D'Ignazio ran a regular children's column in COMPUTE, I think. Anyway, TI PLAYGROUND is one of his tested for-and-by-kids program books.

Maybe next class I'll do nothing but educational books, like my favorite, THE ACADEMIC TI.

Meanwhile, do your homework and maybe you can reach Sue or Chick for extra-credit material.

The software, Mr. Bell? We'll get to the tapes and cartridges during another session, right after we finish discussing the rest of the textware. What? The SYLLABUS, Mr. Bell. Must follow the syllabus.

No, Mr. Shakespeare, a syllabus is not like a hexbus. Perhaps if you'd care to walk out with me to my car, I'll explain the differences on my way.

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And Fred D'Ignazio ran a regular children's column in COMPUTE, I think. Anyway, TI PLAYGROUND is one of his tested for-and-by-kids nephews and nieces are arriving at the right ages for using these services. Remember, Mr. Shakespeare, and all the rest of you who have questions similar to his, that what may be old stuff for oldtimers is new stuff for newtimers.

You may quote me.

But let's get back to Sue Harper. I hope she has all her stuff on disk.

Anyway, she always began her column with a nice graphic (teddy bear in the case mentioned). This was at a time when not too many newsletters used graphics for their local columns.

REMEMBER REMEMBER REMEMBER  
NEXT MEETING MAY 12TH AT 7:00 P.M.  
AT THE POLICE STATION

## Computer Recycling Depot

The following computer items are for private sale by the owner unless otherwise stated. The Kawartha 99'ers makes no claim or accepts no responsibility as to the suitability or condition for any items advertised through this service. Free advertising space for the private purchase or sale of computer related products is offered and limited to members of the Kawartha 99'ers User Group.

### Lot A:

- Parallel interface to hook up a TI console to a Printer, no need for the expansion box if you wish to obtain hardcopy (\$15.00)
- a complete set of disk software c/w manuals for TI COUNT by Pike Creek Computer Co. Inc., a small business, modular software program for the TI 99/4A which includes; general ledger, accounts receivable / payable, inventory system, payroll system and mailing system. (\$10.00)
- assorted **games modules** c/w manuals - will run on console only systems (\$2.00 each)
- assorted **educational modules** c/w manuals - will run on console only systems (\$5.00 each)
- assorted "how to..." and **educational books** for the TI 99/4A, suitable for children or adults wanting to learn more about the TI 99/4A computer (\$4.00 each)
- cables, connectors, spare TI 99/4A parts, working consoles etc. also available at varying prices

To purchase on any of the above items call Phil at 705-745-3757 (evenings 6pm - 11pm EST) or (weekends 10 am - 11pm EST).

### Lot B:

- Speech synthesizer - \$25.00
- RF modulator (new) - \$6.00
- Cassette cables: - single - \$5.00 / double - \$10.00
- TI joysticks - \$5.00
- Munchman module - \$4.00
- Home Financial Decisions module - \$3.00
- PE Box fan (used) - \$4.00
- DSDD unformatted 5 1/4" floppies (box of 10) - \$5.00
- Home Computer Magazine on tape (Vol. 5 #5 / Vol.5 #6) - \$10.00 each

To purchase on any of the above items call Glen at 705-740-0153 (9am - 11pm EST).

### Lot C:

- **Axiom Parallax** parallel interface to hook up a TI console to a printer, no need for the Expansion Box if you wish to obtain hardcopy - \$15.00

To purchase the above item call Dick at 705-799- 6111 (9am - 11pm EST).