

OTTAWA TI FEST '89

Ottawa II Fest '89...in twenty-five words or less...fewer people, hard core II folks. Ask us If we had a good time. OF COURSE we did. Peterborough was one of the larger contingents from out of town with five members.

It was nice to renew acquaintances on Friday night with the Ottawa group as hosts. I met some new people again. never cease to be amazed at the hard work and dedication of these people. For the people ! met, programming for the TI is a hobby. I'm sure that some of them put into it as much as they do their regular jobs. The monetary returns aren't great. These are the people who keep the II community alive. Without them---without software---we're dead!!! Thanks folks.

While we're on this topic, Roger Merritt's software sold well. The Kawartha 99ers set up a booth and sold Roger's disks. Great stuff!!! And the price is right. I'm still not sure how he does it on 32K. Thanks Roger. A lot of people have another reason to keep their TI machines going. And they're having fun!

I'm a foster father again. I came home with an IBM Displaywriter System 6360. (This has nothing whatever to do with the Ottawa TI Fest.) But don't you think that is an impressive title for a computer??? It's an orphan too. It isn't actually a COMPUTER. It's a dedicated wordpro. It's ENORMOUS!!! The disk drive alone is bigger than a Mac. It takes 8" floppies. Those of you who are in the business. community will be familiar with these. I was whelmed by the size. In fact, you could say that I was OVERWHELMED! The printer weighs 64 pounds! Naturally, on the way home, it was named the Lap top. I have piles of disks and maintenance manuals. The bad news is that I don't have any user manuals. It has been fun figuring out how this @!\$%&*# thing works. I'm sure I haven t even scratched the surface with it. But it keeps me off the streets.



KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

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Meetings are held on the SECOND Wednesday of every month at the PETERBOROUGH POLICE DEPT. meeting room, located at the intersection of Water St. & McDonnel St. meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Membership fees are collected on an annual basis of \$18.00 per annum (individual) or a portion thereof at the rate of \$1.50 per month for the balance of the year. Family memberships are available for \$24.00 per annum or pro-rated at a rate of \$2.00 per month for the balance of the year. The group's annual meeting is held on the second Wednesday in March at which time elections for the group's executive is held. Memberships can only be held in an adult's name.

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 editor or mailed to the group's P.O. bcx.

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.

THE NEWS

by Phil Townsend



THE FUN CONTINUES

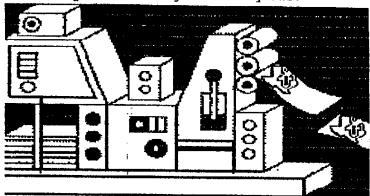
by Phil Townsend

Once again the Ottawa TI User Group with their intrepid leader, Jane Laflamme, amazed and overwhelmed those of us that trekked to the Nation's capital on the last weekend of April. Those of us from Peterborough thank you wholeheartedly for your efforts. We realize the time and effort that go into the organizing and running of an event such as the TI FEST. We want you to know that your efforts are most appreciated!

8:00 p.m. arrival in the "KAWARTHA COACH" piloted by our own Mike Dunn to the Talisman Inn we were efficiently checked into our rooms. Next we unerringly found the hospitality suite. I say that only because the Ottawa group are considerate enough to use the same location as in previous years. The "merry"members of our group said a quick hello to the occupants of the hospitality suite and found therein Gary Bowser and Randy Rossetto from the Toronto User Group. Along with these two jovial comrades we made our way a few blocks east to a terrific little Chinese food restaurant.

Atter a fine repast and several golden beverages we made our way back to the Talisman. Once back at the hospitality suite we had the opportunity to meet and chat with Clint Pulley, the author of C99. Clint turned out to be a very interesting and entertaining Tler who filled us in on some of his newest developments. Watch for forthcoming announcements.

As the evening developed we met numerous old and new acquaintances. A truly fine evening was had by all.



hot off the press

cont'd
Bright and early Saturday morning we checked out of the hotel enjoyed a marvelous breakfast and soon began to set up our booth in the Merrivale highschool gym. Our group had copies of the numerous fine software packages from Comprodine software to sell to the avid TIers about to invade Ottawa. After a few minor hitches such as getting power and adjusting the dip switches on Mike's printer we were truly underway. Business was more than brisk for most of the day and I got to meet many of the folks who up to this point had only been names in the newsletters. I finally got a chance to meet Claude Mathieu from the Quebec City area. Claude is the TIer from whom we purchased the club system last fall. It was nice to put a face to the name and voice.

Our endeavour was a financial success for our group. It was nice to participate in the Fest in a new and different capacity than "attendee". My only disappointment was that I didn't get to the many seminars that were offered during the day.

At first we wondered if it was going to be a slow day as there didn't seem to be many people rushing through the doors to our booth, however as the morning progressed we were very often swamped.

I got a chance to pick up a few new programs from Chris Bobbitt of Asgard software. He had with him the "Disk 'O Pyrates" and the Disk 'O Dinosaurs programs which I bought from him, along with Typewriter 99 (I had a chance to "play" with this one). Chris also mailed the update for Calendar Maker 99 to me which I received last week (thanks Chris, the old disks and payment is on the way). I continue to be amazed at the quality and amount of new software that continues to surface for the orphan.

The Toronto Nine T Niners furnished me with a number of copies of programs and graphic files which I copied on a nifty high-powered, midget-sized, full blown, double drive TI. Steve Mickelson had put together this little beauty and the compactness was impressive. Steve, how about an article and parts list in one of your newsletters?

All in all it was a terrific FEST and I know that I speak for all of the Peterborough group in saying that it was a job well done!

BITS & PIECES

COMING UP

hy Phil Townsend

As the days grow longer there seems to be greater demands upon one's time. As the June 14th meeting approaches we seem to be getting a full slate of activities. If you wish to learn how to tear down and clean the contacts in your console, a workshop will be held. Bring your console, a small clean paintbrush, a soft cloth to lay the console on and a small Philips (star-shaped) screwdriver if you have one. Phil will lead you through the process.

Also at the meeting, Jim Foster has agreed to update members' consoles with the diode which allows joystick use with the Alpha lock key up. He will also replace the resistor which controls the video output and in most cases improves your picture. Your cost will be \$3.00 which will help pay for the parts and act as a group fund-raiser.

The main attraction at the June meeting will be our good friend and TI supporter, Bob Boone from North Bay. Bob, as usual will have with him his full complement of TI goodies in software and hardware for you to view and purchase. If you have been trying to find that elusive product for your orphan this may be your best bet of finding it.

The club system will be set up so that you may get copies of fairware and public domain programs while at the meeting.

We are expecting visitors from the Toronto and Oshawa TI groups, so join the fun. Remember we are now at the Peterborough Police Station at the corner of Water and Mcdonell. Meeting time is 7:00 p.m.

OTHER NEWS...

We usually take July and August off from meetings, however there seems to be high interest in having a July meeting this year. Let's discuss this and come to a decision on June 14th.

Our tradition has been to have a picnic/barbecue in July. I would like to offer our home for this year's festivities. People can bring their own hot dogs/ hamburgers and beverages. Perhaps the club can supply paper plates & cups. Kathie and I will provide tea and coffee. The main advantage of this location is that if the bugs get too bad we can hide inside. Perhaps I might even be able to demo the use of a modem to interested members.

We have a "green belt" area behind us that is large enough for the kids to play baseball etc. This is a tamily get-together, so please feel free to bring your spouses and children.

HELP...

We seem to have misplaced the Extended Basic cartridge which normally goes with the group's system. This is the black cartridge with the "Kawartha 99'ers" engraved on it. If you happen upon it while doing your spring-cleaning please bring it along to the next meeting.

A COMMERCIAL...

Don't forget to post those flyers which were given out at the last meeting. It would be very helpful if those notices found their way to high traffic areas such as grocery store bulletin boards. If you need more flyers or missed the last meeting, see Phil on June 14th.

CHECKING AROUND ...

Last week I was speaking with Jim McLaren from Whitefish, Ont. Jim is hoping to have an 80 column card installed and running soon in his system. Apparantly he has had some difficulty locating the documentation for the card. I hope he will have some good news soon and that I hear how the installation goes. An 80 column card allows you to view on the screen the same amount of horizontal text that is generally printed on a standard letter-sized piece of paper. Although this capability is not necessarily a necessity for word-processing, it certainly makes the job a lot less complicated.

A few weeks ago I was visiting friends in the Toronto area. While there I was able to get to the "COMPUTERFEST" show at the C.N.E. grounds. Members of the Toronto TI group were manning a booth there. Among the many items for sale were; Star-Gemini NX1000 printer\$230 " " " Colour printer.\$320 DS/DD disks\$3.99 Epson printer stands\$6.95

On the same visit I located an unused PE box from a list of owners that Randy Rossetto had provided. A price was soon agreed upon and the deal was made. My students have now graduated to saving their files on disk.

FINALLY...

If anyone out there knows of unused TI equipment which could be donated to a good cause, there are several members of our group who could utilize some more hardware in there classrooms.

"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

BEGINNING PROGRAMMING-2

Let's review; NEW takes everything computer's memory. out of the NUM gives you automatic line number ing PRINT will actually print that line on the screen. END ends the program.
CALL CLEAR clears the screen.
RUN makes the computer run the program. LIST will make the program itself reappear from the memory.

Try a <u>numerical program</u>.

SHIFT + is add.

SHIFT - is subtract.

SHIFT * is multiplication.

/ is division.

Suppose you want to convert pounds to kilograms. Type in:
NEW NUM
100 LET P=50
110 REM P=WEIGHT IN POUNDS
120 LET K-P/2.2
130 REM K=WEIGHT IN KILOGRAMS
140 REM ONE K=2.2 P
150 PRINT K
160 END

Did you remember to press ENTER at the end of each line? Now press ENTER again. Type in RUN and press ENTER again. Magic! REM doesn't do anything. These are lines the programmer uses for remarks about his program.

Now let's add some more lines to streamline this program. Type in LIST. There's your program. Type in: 10 CALL CLEAR. To put this new line where it belongs, type in LIST. Now type in: 145 PRINT "THE ANSWER IS:" RUN it. If you want to delete a line, just type in the line number---nothing else.

 $$\operatorname{\textsc{Try}}$$ changing the program by changing line 100.

Another way of changing the value for P is to use an INPUT statement. Try this:
100 INPUT P. RUN the program again. Opposite the question mark, put in a value...for example 89. Try it with other values.

To make the program clearer, type in: 100 INPUT "POUNDS ?":P

Okay...are you ready for this!!!
Try making your own program to convert degrees Fahrenheight (F) to degrees Celsius (C). The formula is: Degrees C = 5/9 (Degrees F-32). Use the INPUT statement and CALL CLEAR. Hint: LET C=5/9*(F-32)
The brackets must be in your program.

Now we're going to try some string variables. You already know what numeric variables are...like "K=50". This is a numeric value assigned to a name. A string variable is a combination of characters (letters and numbers, or other symbols) assigned to a name. String variables differ from numberic variables in these ways:

1. The variable name must end with a \$.

2. The alphanumeric characters in the "string" must be enclosed in quotation marks.

3. "Strings" of numbers cannot have arithmetic operations performed with or upon them.

Try this:
CALL CLEAR
LET N\$="TRUDEAU"
PRINT N\$
Now type:
LET W\$=" IS A LIBERAL."
PRINT N\$; W\$
Did you leave one space between the "
and the word IS?

Now go back to your kilograms/pounds conversion program. LIST the program. Type in:
20 INPUT "NAME, PLEASE?":B\$
142 PRINT "OK, ";B\$
Then LIST the program again.

We need some ways of tidying up programs. What do you do if you type in a line and ENTER it and then you discover that you made a mistake??? Easy! Type in: NUM 100 (or whatever the line is that you want to repair). Suppose you want to LIST the program, but not all of it. Type in LIST 310 (or wherever you want to begin).

Look back at the weight conversion program. There are some weird line numbers there. To tidy up these, type in RES for resequence. Then LIST the program. Now all your numbers are in sequence beginning at 100 and going up in increments of 10. Great, ain't it!!

The GO TO (or, lf you prefer, GOTO...the TI doesn't care) statement makes a loop. Type in:

NUM 10
10 CALL CLEAR
20 INPUT K
30 PRINT K
40 PRINT
50 K=K+1
60 GO TO 30
Then RUN the program. When you get the "?" for the value of "K", put in the number 1. When you want to stop the program, press FUNCTION 4 (CLEAR).

The computer counts so quickly, you can hardly count it. That's why you put in line 40. It's a blank line. Enjoy!!!

John Baal - Editor

"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR CASSETTE SYSTEM
BY MICKEY SCHMITT
NUMBER 6
CASSETTE - TIPS - TRICKS - AND TIDBITS
PART II

This month I am continuing with the topic of Cassette - Tips - Tricks - and Tidbits... As I try to pass along more of what I've learned the hard way... And what I've learned from my fellow T.I. triends.

In keeping with the spirit of learning from one's own mistakes... I would highly recommend using the following guidelines — When you are working with your cassette system.

When saving your programs onto a cassette - You should get into the habit of recording them onto a counter reading which ends in a ZERO. This may sound like an unnecessary procedure to follow at first - But let me assure you that it is a very good habit to get into - As it actually serves two useful purposes. First... It will make it much easier to locate a program on your cassette tape - As you are watching the counter reading speed by - And second... (and far more important) it will allow you some additional blank space between your programs. That way you can make changes on a program - And then save it back onto your cassette - At the same tape location as the original was located - Without accidently writing over the first part of the following program - Or the ending of the preceeding program! Believe me... I learned this the hard way. If you don't give yourself a little extra room to work with - You run a very high risk of overwriting your programs when you try to save them back over your originals!

If you have a cassette tape that you wish to keep permanently + And are afraid that you may accidently record over it - You can break out the left rear tab of the side of the cassette that you want to save - Or you can break out both tabs if you wish to save both sides of the cassette. Following this procedure will prevent you from accidently recording over your programs. If however - You decide at a later time that you would like to record over a cassette that has had its tabs broken out - All is not lost. A piece of cellophane tape placed over the tab opening - Will allow you to once again record programs onto the cassette.

One of the most important things that I have learned about cassette tapes is that if you don't keep up with them — You start to collect alot of junk. This "JUNK" that I am referring to — Is the many bits and pieces and parts of programs that were saved when you were creating or using a program. Once your final program is completed — Get rid of all your "JUNK" saves! If you don't do it right away you'll forget about it — And the next thing you know — You start saving new programs onto a cassette that is full of "JUNK" — And then you end up having to waste alot of valuable time — Checking an entire cassette — Just to find out what's what! Once a "JUNK" tape has served its purpose — Record over it — with a volume setting of ZERD. That way the "JUNK" will be erased — And you won't have to wonder if that particular program — Or tape — Was important anymore!

Next month's topic will be CLYDE COLLEDGE'S: HIGH-SPEED CASSETTE LOADER. This is a most impressive breakthrough for those of you who are still using a cassette system. Don't miss it!!!

The Lighter Side

Reprinted from the *QB Monitor*, newsletter of the QB 99'ers, Bayside, Y. Credited to the Cedar Valley 99'er U.G. Newsletter.)

We can all relate to the following from Sister Pat aylor:

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK...

If you remember ages ago when boot referred to footware, not a program coming on a computer.....

Or the days when a bulletin board was simple school equipment and not electronically sent messages.....

Or times when we spoke of animation in reference to a person's enlivened spirit, not a screen imitating life.....

Or those cons ago when conversations were political or religious, not binary or ASCII.....

Or utilities were electric bills, not terrific helpers to aid a floundering computer novice.....

Or when default referred to a failure to meet an obligation instead of a comfortable choice made for you......

Or another century when alpha and omega were companions in speech instead of alpha and lock.....

Or a time in the past when dip referred to a condiment and switches were a tool for chastisement.....

When strings were musical instruments, not a sequence of characters.....

When terminals were bus and train depots, not input/output devices.....

When a buffer shined one's floors, and was not a temporary storage device.....

When bugs were insects, not errors in a computer program.....

Or when monitors watched school halls and lavatories instead of you watching a screen performance.....

When emulation was striving to exect, not computer imitating computer....

Or a bus was transportation, not a circuit.....

When call meant to phone, not to branch to a sub-routine.....

When a dump took care of waste material, and was not a lovely print-out.....

When address was where you lived, not an operand portion of a computer instruction....

When memory belonged to people, not computers......

Those belonged to another day, another year, and even times, another century!!! Is it later than we thought or t simply a question of the past not quite yet converted the future!!! Can it be only a year ago when comcrese first overwhelmed me!!!

THE COMPUTER WIDOW SURVIVING WIDOWHOOD

By Annette Davies

(Reprinted from the KC 99'er CONNECTION, newsletter of the Kansas City 'II-99/4A Computer Users' Group. Credited to the Rocky Mountain 99ers Users' Group.)

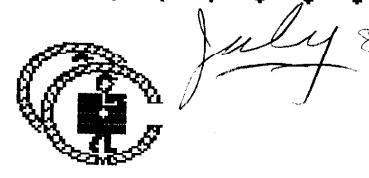
Semi-single life (willing or not) gives you a golden opportunity. Now you can do all those things your Puteaholic would never do. Before you sign up for that "Learn to Knit Car Seat Covers" class, I'd recommend learning the new rules of your home.

In order to save other "C.W.s" the agony of discovering them, I've listed a few of the more important ones below.

- 1. NEVER dust the computer! Accidently spraying an open disk drive with Pledge causes sever apoplexy in the user.
- 2. Wiping the adjust buttons on the monitor creates squiggly lines on the screen. This will cause your user to spend hours trying to "de-bug" a program. (Great revenge tactic!!)
- 3. No matter how bad they get, NEVER, NEVER spray the computer for cockroaches. This creates sever withdrawl symptoms in your user when the computer is sent out for repairs.
- 4. Don't throw anything away! That sales slip covered with what looks like a list of curse words from the comics is, in reality, the first line of a program for stopping world hunger.
- 5. Even if it has been three days since your user has eaten, don't bring him food! When his shaking hands drop a tuna sandwich on the keyboard, you might as well start packing as he'll never forgive you.
- 6. Never tell him anything important while he is "-puting!" He won't remember it and he won't believe that you really told him.
- 7. Never attach a loose disk to the machine with a kitchen magnet. If you do this, try not to laugh too hard when he begins screaming in panic over his "lost" programs.
- 8. Don't allow the cat to sleep on the keyboard. Cat hair can gum up a keyboard almost as fast as Pledge.
- 9. Don't put his disks in a three-ringed binder by punching holes in them. (This is another packing offense.)
- 10. Invest in a comfortable sofa and set it up in the computer room. (It's for you!!)

Now get out there and enjoy those classes!!

a.d.





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