# KAWARTHA KRONLELE

# PETERBOROUGH, ORT.

The monthly newsletter of The Kawartha 99'ers

224 Woodward Ave Peterborough, Ont Conodo K9L 1J7

Vol. 10 No. 05

\* COMPUTER BASICS

OCT 1992

# Back to TI Basics at Lansdowne Place

At our October 14th meeting we will be finalizing our plans for the demonstration day at Lansdowne Place on October 17th. We need as many members as possible to come out and help with this activity. One or two members alone cannot handle an entire day meeting with the public. Be prepared to offer to bring yourself and some equipment.

Some late breaking news ... Beery Miller, a Geneve owner, programmer and newsletter editor / publisher has acquired the rights from Lou Phillips / Myare Industries for the source code to the Geneve operating system (the program that makes the Geneve run). Hopefully now other programmers will be able to complete and improve upon the Geneve operating system and allow the hardware to operate closer to its potential. Meanwhile another Ti'er is negotiating for the rights to repair and manufacture Myare products, this will help out many Geneve owners who have suffered for several years without any technical support from Myare.

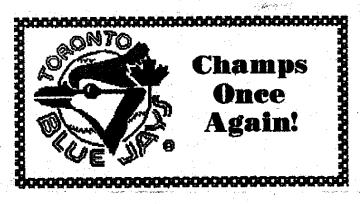
In case you weren't aware, the Chicago TI User Group is hosting its TI Faire / conference on October 31st (Hallowe'en).

Our latest TI wanderer, John Baal, has acquired his Visa and is all set to visit the sunny south at signs of the first snowflake. John will visit Peterborough to see family and friends over Thanksgiving. Sounds like a good excuse for a party!

Mike Dunne has called me over the last two weekends, he is finally getting around to installing the chips on his Horizen ram card. The social life in Kincardine is at such a frantic pace that Mike hardly has time to get to a keyboard! Mike has also

acquired a 486 compatible to go along with his Apple IIe and his TII He sure is ready for those long winter nights!

Clear your calendar for Lansdowne Place!



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### KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

# FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER 224 WOODWARD AVE. PETERBOROUGH, ONT. CANADA K9L 1J7

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		PHIL TOWNSEND	و ملو بلاد ماه بلاد باد رود رود راد		7.45		

Meetings are 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. & McDonnel 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 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, though interested children / teens are welcome and encouraged to take part. 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.

# **CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN**

# A Kodak Moment

by Phil Townsend

The last two weeks of July I took a break away from preparing Macintosh computers for our new elementary school for a family vacation in Massachusetts, U.S.A. I had mentioned to Jack Sughrue (pronounced "sugaroo", as I found out) that my family and I would be in his home state. Jack insisted that we should definitely visit him and his wife, Elaine. Jack lives in Douglas, Mass. which is a village close to the middle / southern part of the state. My wife and I along with our two kids dropped in for an overnight visit on our way to the coast.

I must mention that both Jack and I are elementary school teachers and at one time a few years ago we were both teaching grade five students, so we have a great deal in common professionally as well as our common love for our favourite "Orphan". Jack and I had spoken on the phone on several occasions and we have corresponded over the past few years swapping hints, tales and software.

Our 8 p.m. arrival was heralded by Jack and Elaine having a terrific meal ready for us, accompanied with much lively discussion about the Olympics, politicians, Free Trade, Mass. Turnpike employees and how they welcome tourists and of course today's Elementary education. Jack and I both realize, being teachers that education is being sadly underfunded in both of our countries, Canada and the U.S., We also know that many resources have not been tapped because of politics, lack of imagination. Jack is truly an entrepreneur, however - a man after my own heart! He is finding ways of getting computers to kids despite the "System".

Following several hours of dining, trading ideas, stories and the many uses for computers, the ladies and children went to bed, leaving Jack and I to our own devices! We found Jack's TI and tried out some of the software that I had brought for him and his fellow "M.U.N.C.H. ies". Even though I had driven for twelve hours to get to Jack's, I wasn't tired a bit (well maybe just a little)! Eventually, Jack and I retired for the night with many items stil yet to be discussed.

The following day Jack and Elaine acted as tour guides, ably showing off their village and nearby historical museums and sites. Our visit with Jack and Elaine was far too short, we have only just had a chance to break the ice, but isn't it great how our \$99.00 computer (that's what I paid for mine) can bring people

together... that's what a communication tool such as a computer is supposed to do! Thanks Jack and Elaine, for your hospitality and friendship, it was you who made our trip truly memorable.

For further proof of the power of the TI in bringing people together, I look at the members of our own user group. We are a varied breed in professions, age, interests and lifestyles, but we all have this curiosity about computers, that is the common link. We often have social events which have been spawned by the friendships developed over the course of the past nine and a half years.

Many of the members of our little band have other brands of computers as well as the TI, but we all realize that the TI has some strengths that many of today's computers are just beginning to develop. Characteristics such as; ease of use, voice synthesis, modular design, standard key commands between programs, colour graphics and animation are but a few of the features that made the TI ahead of its time in home use and education. Its games were ahead of its time and are still as good, if not better than many games that I have seen for Nintendo and the like.

Education, games and home productivity are the TI's strong suite and that's where we have to market this little baby if we are going to find new members for our user groups. I had several TI's in my classroom which were used effectively by many students. (past tense here because I am currently working in a central resource role) to help them with reading, writing, math, the arts and graphic design to name just a few areas. My own children who are ten and twelve yearsof age, use their TI's for wordprocessing, games and to work on those math facts. I still haven't found a label creation/printer program on my Mac that is as effective and as quick and dirty to use as Steve Mcwatty's "Graphic Label Maker" for the Tl. Nor have I come across any better Mac program for designing cassette box labels than "Cassette Labeller" which was written for the TI by Tom Wynne and is still available through Asgard Software. I use these programs very often. I also like "Mail List Manager" which is a public domain program written by Bill Gaskill and further developed by Bob Tisdale of our User Group and myself so that our group could use it for tracking exchange newsletters, our group's members and for printing all of the group's mailing labels. The Mac or a DOS machine could do this job but not with the ease and simplicity that the TI affords. So what should all of

Cont'd on page 4

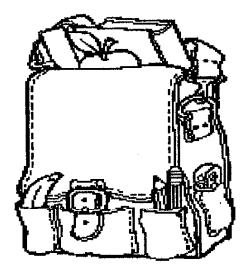
# Cont'd from page 3

these examples be teaching those of who wish to enhance our groups' memberships and the use of the TI ... We should be marketing the TI's strengths like crazy, not fretting because we don't own the expensive add-ons such as 80 column cards, RGB displays, a zillion MB randisk or hard drive. Let's remember and advertise the fact that the Ti is an extremely useful and talented tool that can be utilized with a television and a standard cassette recorder. The Orphan does some important things very well, its up to us to do an equally good job of letting the rest of the world and potential new members know!

# News of past TI'ers, ...

A few weeks ago I was attending the MacWorld conference in Toronto as a representative from our Board of Ed. In one of the sessions about "QuickTime" (video and audio on the Macintosh), I witnessed several computer animation videos created for a contest sponsored by Apple Computer Corp. a few of the videos were created by Apple employees in California, one of them being J. Peter Hoddie, formerly from the Boston Tl user group and a previous editor of their newsletter. Peter also wrote some excellent software utilities for the Tl. Talk about a small world!





# TI On the Go

On October 17th, 1992 the Kawardia 99'ers will once again present a demonstration and information booth at the Lansdowne Shopping Mall. The times are from 8:00 a.m. setup to 4:00 p.m. teardown. We need all of our members out to share the load. Let us know at the next meeting (Oct 14th, 1992) or by phone when you will be able to take a shift and/or what equipment you are willing to provide. Our proposed theme, based on the strengths of the TI is: "Education, Entertainment and the TI". Start digging around in your cupboards for those favourite programs that fit within this theme. We also want to impress the fact that a minimum system TI can be useful, so we will need to set up several console / TV systems as well as the full club disk system. A couple of Axiom interfaces, printers, joysticks and trackballs would be helpful. If you have software modules or cassettes such as; ConsoleWriter, MiniWriter, Paint 'N Print, or other education and entertainment titles let us know so that we can plan the display. The meeting on Oct. 14th., will be a good time to become familiar with this software if you haven't already had a chance to see it.

I'm anxious to see a cassette based program that I received from Jack Sughrue called "Arrow Dynamics" in action. Bob Tisdale has downloaded it onto cassette for us and has explored it. I hope Bob will grace the meeting with a demo. Bring a cassette along if you wish a copy of this BASIC program, unfortunately it will not load and run from disk.

That's about it for now, keep on "Console-ing the Orphan"

Phil

### HULTIPLAN BY PAT MCGILLEN

### ARTICLE 3

In the last article, we looked at setting up a spread-sheet with the labels listing our monthly expenses. Let's call the sheet up, using the "trans" command, and following the steps we discussed in the first article. Go to the first expense you listed, move the cursor to the cell beside that label, and type the amount of that expense. Now either hit "enter", or move the cursor to the next cell down using the arrow key. You will find using the arrow keys will save a lot of time, but try it each way just to familiarize yourself with all the options available to you. Now carry on putting in the amounts of the expenses for the first When you have all entered, you'll want to know what your monthly total is, so move to the cell two rows below the last label, and type "MTHLY TOTAL". Remember, you must flist type "A", for ALPHA, and then the label. Now move to the cell beside it, and lets put in the formula to add up this months expenses. To do this, hit either "V" for VALUE, or "+". You will get the same result with either command. Using the UP arrow key, move to the first amount listed above, and type + . You will see the cursor move back to the cell opposite TOTAL. Now repeat the same move to the next amount above, and again type + . Do you notice the formula starting to build on the bottom of the screen? Repeat this maneuver until you have covered all the amounts listed, and when you come to the last one, instead of typing + , hit "ENTER". The formula is now complete, The formula is now complete, and you will see a total amount inserted in the cell. If you want to carry it a step further, add another label two rows down, and call it "NET". Now move to the cell beside it and type "V". Then again using the UP arrow key move to the cell beside "INCOME", and hit"-".

The cursor will return to the original cell and now move to the cell above containing the total expenses for the month. Hit "ENTER", and this formula is complete, and the difference between your expenses and income will be inserted in that cell. You can also multiply some

figures in different cells by using the same type of formula and using asterisk "\*" which is the multiplication symbol. Seeing as we are making this  $^{
m l}$ record to cover twelve months, we will need the same formulas for each month. Rather than go through the same procedure for each month, we can copy the two formulas across the sheet. This way the total 1 calculate our computer will expenses for the month as we insert the amounts and will also automatically tell us the difference between our income and expenses:

To do this, go to the cell beside total expenses, and on the bottom of the screen, under the main menu, you will see the formula which we put in to give us that amount. Hit "C" for "copy", and another menu will appear. We want to copy the formula to the right, so type "R" and when the next menu asks for the number of cells, type "11". Hit ENTER, and the formula will be copied for the next 11 months. You can also do the same "NET". Just repeat the same for procedure for that formula. You will find as the spread sheet builds that the system is starting to take longer to calculate your expenses. The way to get around this, is each time you load your working disk to the screen, shut off the formulas until you have loaded all the data, and before you save it. To do this, with the main menu showing, type "O" for OPTIONS. The new menu will say, RECALCULATE- yes-no. type "N" for NO, After you have entered and hit enter. the data, do this again, only this time hit "Y" and enter. The data will then be calculated, and you can save information to disk.

Next month we'll look at a few more options, and their uses. As I said before, the most important aspect to learning this program, is to use it often, and experiment with it. Try all the different options, and don't be intimidated by them. The more you use it, the more comfortable you'll get with it. Have fun, and we'll see you next month.

### **NEWS LETTER REVIEWS**

### By Bob Tisdale

Well this summer is over, but I got to do a lot of sailing rather than repairs to the boat. I crew a 23ft. I am Engineer, Cook, motor sailer. occasionally Sailrigger, Lookout, We have not been able to get Helmsman. past the locks at Buckhorn, the bridge height is only 22ft. and our mast is 30ft. 6in. no go and too darned much effort to lower the mast, I suggested filling the boat with water and raising the center board. The captain and owner would not go for this, but he actually thought about it for a short time before it clicked in as being a joke. But one thing about the heat, the center board did clean out a lot of weeds in the lake. Sail until you stopped then reach under with a boat hook to clean off the center board, then go again. Fun, Eun, fun.

Enough of this, I found and typed in several programs from the news letters. Here they are, in no particular order: CLOCK: BY D.L.FITCHORN

DEMO/PROGRAM UNKNOWN DOGCATCHER UNKNOWN

GREEN/FROG Toronto 9T9 april 1984 KIDWRITER by Bill Gadskill Chicago TI UG.

QUICKBILL by L. Dorais Ottawa UG. SAIFTYSONG From Toronto 9T9 UG.

SAMARKAND TIGERCUB 34 J.Peterson SPRINGSONG by L. Dorais Ottawa UG STRIPHAKER bu Robert Coffcy JR.

VALENTINE from Toronto 9T9 UG. XBCAT by L. Dorais Ottawa UG.

These are all working programs and are recommended by myself. There are two I recommend greatly for those of us who have school age children and want an easy program for children to use for homework. One is the KIDWRITER It is an easy word processor like TI-WRITER but without the command codes needed, and it prints out with large printed words.

You can save up to 99 pages of text. Page one is an instruction page, you should print this out first using the KIDWRITER program. Also save the file onto a separate disk. I protected the file but that does not say it cannot be corrupted by accident. The second one This one produces a is STRIPMAKER. command strip for the top of your computer. By changing the words that are in the program you could make any strip you need. The rest ο£ programs are fun and nice to listen to especially the music ones.

Well thats enough for now, I have a boat to winterize. DARN IT....

OH, I nearly forgot, Thanks go to Steve Mickelson of the Toronto 9T9 User Group for the TIC-TALK-TOE program. With my trusty 90 power magnifying glass I was able to enter the program. It works Al. I'm going to try to improve the speech pattern. Nothing worse than a program with a speech impediment or a bad cold.

BOB.



# ?? ANYONE OUT THERE ??

\* who knows how to install an internal command so, at bootup, the owner's name is displayed on the monitor screen.

Please contact Dick Bulmer c/o the Kawartha Chronicle



GLEN'S MOP



This is for those of you who missed our September 16th meeting. When I stop to think about it, it's also for those who did attend. So many other matters were discussed that I neglected to report.

Well, Glen Daniels did it with his MOP! Did what? He cleaned up the difficulties I was encountering with my 16/32 console upgrade.

Remember my progress reports in May and June? Of the four Kawartha 99ers' who undertook upgrading their consoles to 32k with increased speed, only two had succeeded as of the end of June. And of those two, only one kicked into gear smoothly first try. The second required a little extra trouble shooting then it was away and streaking. As previously reported, there is a substantial speed gain

of the two consoles that were giving us trouble, it was eventually found that Bob's (Tisdale) had at least one other, still unidentified, defect that was not related to the upgrade. Boneyard time. As for mine, if you returned it to its original configuration, it functioned flawlessly. But, rewired to 16/32 upgrade specs, it balked, it did nothing.

Glen offered to look at it if he could find time during the summer. Fortunately, he found some spare time and with his MOP, cleared up the problem. It was too late to include a full report in the September newsletter, the FLASH REPORT news sticker was all we had time to prepare.

How did he do it? Magic? No, it was his MOP. The solder joints, the trace cuts and the chip ident numbers had been checked and rechecked ad nauseum. Glen reasoned that it was time for desperate measures. The new chips were removed, the upgrade was dewired. Starting from the original configuration, he once again followed the upgrade instructions. But, This time, with a difference. Despite general opinon, both verbal and in technical articles, that chips are seldom defective. another set of chips was installed.

11/

Breakthrough! It worked! A coincidence? Could it be that the first set of chips was, in fact, without defect and by rewiring, a solder joint fault was corrected? We'll see. We plan to upgrade another console or two in the not-too-distant future. We'll use the first set of chips, those that Clen replaced, giving special attention to the one we think is the culprit. Any bets?

Now all that remains to be done on mine is the modification for a reset switch. Then, with that console reassembled, I can put it back to work and get ready to attack my backup. I may even complete it before Christmas.

Oh, Clen's MOP? It's made of [M]idnight [O]il [P]erseverance

Dick Bulmer

## Hash and Rehash

Sometimes a floppy disk, known to be OK because you have used its programs before, refuses to be read, you keep getting the message DISK/DEVICE ERROR. advice you usually get is to keep trying -- some program authors suggest you try at least 50 times before contacting them. After you have tried, tried and tried, before you call or write, try a simple fix that sometimes works ... while holding the disk, thumb on one edge and middle finger on the opposite edge, insert the index finger of the other hand in the spindle hole and move it around in a circular motion to make sure the disk is moving treely within the jacket. Replace the disk in the drive and maybe, just maybe, it will work.

In the July 1992 issue of the DALLAS 99 INTERFACE newsletter there is an excellent article explaining modem bits, baud and bps. It also recommends a text for those who wish to expand their modem knowledge: . THE MODEM REFERENCE by Michael A. Banks published by Brady Books/Simon and Shuster \$19.95 U.S. For more information you can contact the author. Just write: Michael A. Banks P.O.Box 312 Milford OH 45150 The newsletter can be obtained from our newsletter librarian.

We have several copies of a HANDY-DANDY TI-WRITER USER GUIDE propared by BoB Stephens, with additions by Tom Jakabfy. Write, or ask at the next meeting on October 14th. We also have a copy of a booklet THE WRITERS ... A Guide To The Use of TI-WRITER And Its Clones. Written by Harry Thomas Brashear and edited by Elizabeth Seib. It is a publication of THE WESTERN NEW YORK 99ERG. Read the booklet, keep copies of the guides handy and before you know it, you'll be typing up a storm.

Phil Townsend received a letter from Mike Curtis of EAR 99'ers. Mike says that he and a lot of his club's members are interested in hardware projects. Mike also included this request: "I have a Myarc disk controller and am unable to run the Millers EXPLORER program unless I change to the TI controller. As most of my disks are formatted DSDD, I have to keep copying disks to DSSD format before use and changing controller cards. I have been advised there is a "modified" version that will run on the MYARC controller possibly converted by the person that uses "T.I.B.B.S." as a "diskname de plume". I would be grateful for a copy of this program and will return a copy of our software in return." If you can help Mike, take a minute and drop him a line at: EAR 99'ers Mr. M.J.CURTIS 21 TRELISKE ROAD ROSELAND GARDENS REDRUTH CORNWALL ENGLAND TR15 1QE

Dick Bulmer



Have you marked your calendar?
Only three more meetings before
Christmas!



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# 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.

### For sale:

- 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)
- Database Management; module c/w manual by Navarone Industries (\$10.00)

- Graphix; a draw / paint program on disk for the TI, complete with manual, conversion utility, keyboard strip and samples of graphics on disk. (\$5.00)
- 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 Tl 99/4A parts, working consoles etc. also available at varying prices

For more information or to make a purchase on any of the above items call Phil at 705-745 3757 (evenings 6pm - 11pm EST) or (weekends 10 am - 11pm EST).