

# KAWARTHA KRONICLE

## PETERBOROUGH, ONT.

The monthly newsletter of  
The Kawartha 99'ers

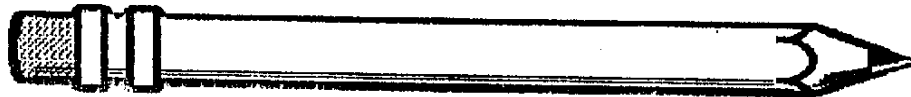


224 Woodward Ave  
Peterborough, Ont  
Canada K9L 1J7

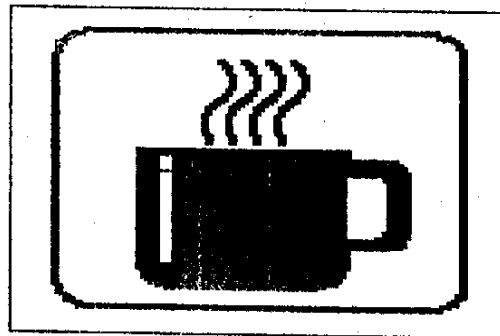
Vol. 9 No. 9

FEBRUARY 1992

\* BE OUR VALENTINE \*



Jim Peterson of Tiger Cub fame recently wrote an article in which he said that he has a console with Extended Basic module; a PE box with a disk controller card, two double-sided drives, a 32K card, an RS232 card and a Horizon Ramdisk. He has a Gemini 10X printer and an Avatex 1200 baud modem. He goes on to tell about his Speech Synthesizer, a pair of TI joysticks, a TELL module and an Editor Assembler module. The gist of his article is that this is all you will ever need. Jim Peterson has contributed a pile of software to the TI world. I respect this gentleman's judgement. This is more hardware than I have. I don't have a Ramdisk...yet! And yet, I can't help but think that there are many innovative pieces of hardware coming down the tubes right now. I cannot dismiss



them just like that!

I am retiring from teaching this June. There have been a lot of changes in communications. Pre-TI, I owned a portable typewriter. Everything had to be created first with pencil and paper (and, yes, the cup of coffee helped too). Then you typed it onto a page (laboriously so that you didn't make an error). How much better are computers. You can make mistakes and then go back and correct them. You can move text around.

In my first two years of teaching, in the little red schoolhouse, I used a hectograph pad to duplicate things for the kids. A hectograph pad



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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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PRESIDENT	PHIL TOWNSEND	705 745 3757
VICE PRESIDENT	GLEN DANIELS	705 741 4876
TREASURER	KAREN WILSON	705 742 3087
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NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR	JOHN BAAL	705 745 1438
NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR	DICK BULMER	705 799 6111

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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. & McDonnell St. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

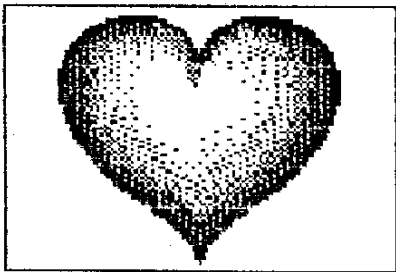
Membership fees are collected on an annual basis at the annual meeting. Fees are \$24.00 per annum. New members joining part way through the year are charged the rate of \$2.00 per month for the balance of the club's fiscal year. The group's annual meeting is held on the second Wednesday in March at which time elections for the group's executive is held. Memberships can only be held in an adult's name. 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 editor, sent to the group's mailing address or uploaded to the S.S.F.C. bulletin board (TI section) at 705 749 5538, 24 hours a day (8N1).

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.



IS



THERE

?? ANYONE OUT THERE ??

\* Who has a list of operating tips, tricks and traps for a Radio Shack TRS80 TP10 thermal printer, model number 26-1261. It's a challenge at the moment, it didn't come with a manual (the price was right). Also, someone suggested investigating the use of fax paper as an inexpensive substitute for the rather pricey thermal paper rolls. Any comments?

Please contact Dick Bulmer  
c/o the Kawartha Chronicle

**Continued from p. 1**

looked like a cookie sheet with clear jelly on it. The idea was to write on a piece of paper with indelible pencil. Then you lay the sheet on the jelly for about 30 minutes. By placing sheets of paper on the jelly, one at a time, you could get about 15 to 20 readable copies. It was a far cry from present day photocopiers. Frankly, I don't know how we did it.

When I hear people say that what we have is all we ever need, I think of hectograph pads. Yes, I'm content with my system for now. But I'm still looking at all of the interesting ideas that are coming out. There are many new technological advances for the TI. As I tell my kids at school, "the mind is like a parachute...keep it open or else you're dead!"

John Bael.....Editor

FEBRUARY

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# Console-ing the Orphan

by Phil Townsend

## What A Night!

January's meeting turned out to be a much busier affair than we had anticipated. What with the planned business, software demonstrations and Gary Bowser's demonstrations of OPA's latest products the last of us didn't straggle out of the meeting room at the police station until after eleven pm. Those present all learned a great deal, many thanks to John Baal and Gary Bowser for the excellent evenings workshops.

The products from OPA that we enjoyed seeing were

## OPA DEMONSTRATES LATEST PRODUCTS

T.I.M., which produced crystal clear 80 column text, S.O.B. which supplies a disk manager from start-up and lists on screen all storage devices such as disk drives, ram cards hard drives etc. and then lets you access them all. Both of these devices plug directly into the motherboard of the TI console. The only difficulty we ran into with the TIM was that the group's Commodore 1802 monitor would not work when we hooked it up using the RGB to composite convertor that OPA is selling with TIM. Gary said he felt that a simple part change in the convertor would correct the problem. As of this writing I haven't heard whether the solution has been found.

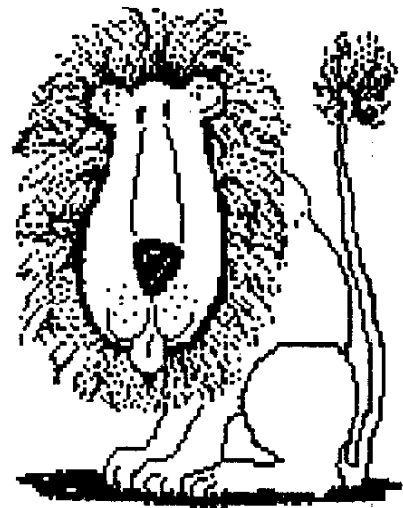
## Other Events

Our local TI community now has a new TI family. Mike and Janice Grierson and their two children are now the proud parents of an "expanded Orphan". It was easy to find a complete system for these folks, John only had to go to Florida to find the expansion box! Actually he and his better half were on a Christmas visit to their family in the Sebring area. John contacted some members of the local TI user group and they put him on to a person with several TI's for

sale. John picked up <sup>w</sup>one of them for the Grierson's. Following a short period of instruction, Janice and Mike bundled up their new electronic treasure and headed home. This family are planning to join our happy throng and learn along with the rest of us...Welcome aboard!

Our next demonstration day at Lansdowne Place has been confirmed for February 29th (Leap Year Day!). We are hoping that all of the local members will be able to join us at the mall and lessen the load. Those who have participated in this educational / member seeking activity before have always enjoyed the camara-

derie, meeting new people and a chance to try out the many pieces of software that we have with us. Plan to be a part of this year's experience. Out of town members are most welcome to join us if you don't mind making the trip. So far we have



## DEMONSTRATION DAY

confirmation of attendance from John Baal, Glen Daniels, Dick Bulmer and Phil Townsend. We are going to need more people power to make this be a success so let us know what part of the day you can be with us.

Continued next page ...

## Console-ing the Orphan ... cont'd

### Library News

Our new tape/module librarian has informed us that the group's two XBasic modules are missing from the library. We are also looking for the group library modules; Super Demon Attack, Adventure, MASH and Console Writer. If you have any of these cartridges would you please let John Acheson know so that he can update the module library records.

### A Word From ...

The group received a nice letter from Tony McGovern in response to our fairware donation. Tony has just recently recovered from eye surgery and can now look at a computer screen again. As soon as he was back in action he updated Funnelweb (again) and has sent us a copy of version 4.40. Thanks, Tony we hope you stick with us for many years to come. A message to others who are sending a fairware donation to Australia, use a bank draft converted to Australian dollars, this makes it possible for people trying to cash them in to do so without a lot of problems. Perhaps if Tony had access to a Horizon 3000 card he could mount the RAMBO unit that the Toronto group sent him. Just think what new programs Tony could devise if he had TIM, SOB and Rambo from OPA and Bud Mills' Horizon 3000 Ram card. Perhaps some user groups could send Tony the hardware as a fairware payment. This would surely encourage Tony to stay with the TI community!

### Coming Up ...

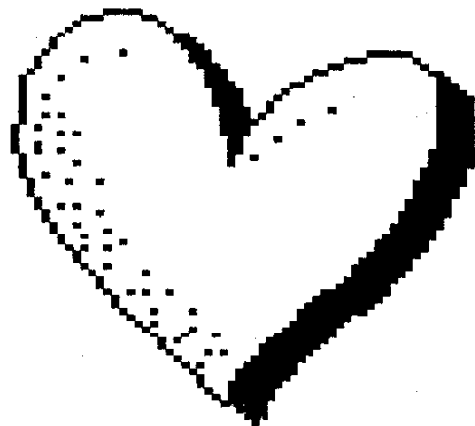
According to the Ottawa newsletter the Ottawa user group WILL be hosting yet another TI Fest. The 1992 edition will be held in April. This was discussed at the January meeting and it was agreed upon by the members that we, as a group would be interested in representing Comprodine Software at the Fest. As soon as we have details we will pass them along to the members.

The Lima Multi User Group Fair is to be held on the Weekend of May 15th and 16th, 1992. It appears that several members are again interested in going to Ohio and representing Comprodine Software. Here we come, Charlie!

### Software

Speaking of Comprodine Software, A recent phone conversation with Rodger Merritt in California confirmed the rumours of new software now being available. There is a new greeting card creation program which uses TI Artist fonts and instances directly, no conversions necessary. I believe the program was written by Paul Charlton, the author of Artist Print Shop also distributed by Comprodine. There are also some new games by Quinton Tormanen, the author of Backsteine. He has also developed another 50 screens for this game as well. Rodger is sending us copies of the new software so that we can make them available to the Canadian user groups.

The final version of Mail List Manager has files set up for user group newsletter exchanges and membership files. If you would like a copy let Glen or Phil know. Should any other user group desire a copy of this revised program (original author is Bill Gaskill) send your request and \$5.00 for mailing and materials to us at the mailing address given elsewhere in this newsletter. I called Bill Gaskill in Colorado to let him know of the update and have since sent him a copy. In return, Bill sent us a copy of his mailing list file for TI Base. Thanks Bill!



**I Love My TI**

## Console-ing the Orphan ... cont'd

### Great Video!

Over the Christmas break I was able to make contact with Jack Sughrue of the MUNCH user group in Massachusetts. It was a treat to speak with Jack again, with both of us being elementary school teachers we inevitably got involved in some shop talk. Jack's user group has an interesting project underway, they are videotaping some basic do-it-yourself TI fixes and upgrades that have been written about by numerous other groups. Such things as installing half height disk drives and cooler fans and using the Kawartha 99'er template for drilling vent holes above the Console power supply. Jack will send us a copy of the tape when the project is completed. This sounds like a great idea and will be very helpful to many users.

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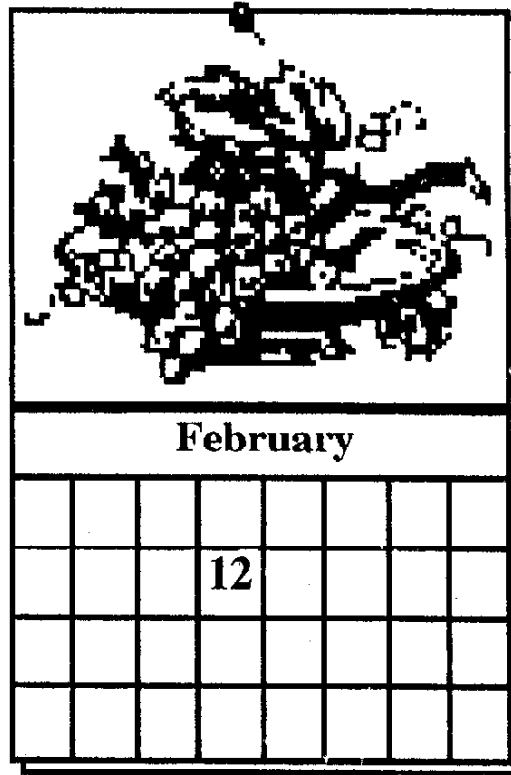
Our treasurer, Karen Wilson tells us that the group funds are reasonably healthy. The bank balance is hovering around the \$325.00 mark. With our financial year end coming up in March, we are in great shape.

### Leadership!

At the next meeting we will be asking members to have their names stand for executive positions (president, vice-president, treasurer and newsletter editor). Hopefully, some of the newer members will see fit to get involved at the executive level and help the group in some new directions. Please consider this carefully. The elections will be held at the March 11th meeting.

### How 'Bout That

As I have been writing this column my wife and a neighbour have been playing "Wheel of Fortune". The last several hours of hysterical laughter and entertainment provided by our Orphan is what makes this little machine so important. It isn't the fastest, the most powerful, the fanciest or the



newest of technology but that isn't what is important. It is friendly, inexpensive, highly useful, educational, entertaining and the central cause of a lot of friendships. Thanks to Texas Instruments, the programmers, the hardware hackers, the third party support businesses, the user groups and Micropendium. My family, friends, neighbours, students and I are having a great time with the Orphan because of you!

That's it for now.

Keep on "Console-ing the Orphan"!

Phil Townsend

# JOHN'S FORMATTER TIP

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by Harold Hoyt  
St. Louis Computer Bridge  
May, 1991

John Briscoe is some of that new blood that the club needed. Here is another good tip from John.

This one is a real time saver for people who use the TI Writer Formatter in Funlweb. You can do a disk directory while in the Editor and mark a file so that you don't have to type in the DSKx.FILENAME. This is a big help if you can't remember the filename. If you do a disk directory while in the Formatter, apparently you can't mark the file, so if you want to mark a file for the mailbox, you exit the Formatter, enter the Editor, do a disk directory, mark the file, and exit the Editor, re-enter the formatter. This is a very clumsy, and slow if you are not using a ram disk.

John's trick has you do a disk directory (Fctn)7 while still in the formatter. Arrow down to the file you want. Press the space bar, which places an invisible mark on the file. Press <ctrl> = to return to the formatter, then press <fctn> D (right arrow) to place the new file name in the formatter mail box. Saves the see-saw time for repeatedly loading the formatter and editor, just to mark files.

This is super for people who are intimidated by long filenames and can't remember, was it DOCS or -DOCS- or -README- or README. If you give up and use single character filenames, then a year from now, when you are reviewing your disks, you won't have a clue as to what file X is for.

## LISTING W/COMMENTS

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from the PUNN NEWSLETTER  
reprinted from the K.C. 99'er CONNECTION, July, 1990

Have you ever wanted to place comments on a catalog listing, especially when passing a diskette on to a friend. If you do not have Disk Utility 4 by John Birdwell, then try the following. Go crank up your Funnelweb disk and load up DM-1000. Now do these steps:

1. Go into DM-1000 and change the output device by pressing FCTN 3 at the main menu. You will need to change from 'PIO' to 'DSKn.filename'. As you don't want printer codes and you don't wish to save permanently, press 'N' at the option.

2. Go through the normal procedure to catalog a disk. Once the catalog is displayed, press FCTN 7 to print, however instead of going to your printer, it goes to your Disk Drive, creating a DV00 file with the file name you give it in step 1.

3. Go back to Funnelweb and load in TI-Writer. Now you can add all the comments you wish to each line that is displayed in the listing. Be sure to turn word-wrap ff (CTRL 0).

By using this method you can make your listing more informative to the person who will be receiving it. For example, programs related together can be grouped together, regardless to their names.

TI-WRITER:  
JUST FOR US BEGINNERS  
IN TI-WRITER  
by Jim Leshner  
from Dallas 99 Interface

Suppose you have a page of text with just about 3 or 4 lines left over. Oh, how you would like to get those extra lines on just one page. Well, here is one way we can do it. Looking at the numbers on the left side of your screen, when you are in TI WRITER edit mode, we have 70 lines and we want to put them all on one page which normally only accepts 66 lines. With the cursor at the upper lefthand corner of the page, press FCTN 8 to give yourself an extra line to work with. Then press CTRL U FCTN R FCTN D and look down the list for the number 70 and see what it matches up with. It should be 22. Now we don't want the lines to go to the very bottom of the page so let's use 21. Now if we look on page 146 of our TIW manual, at the list on the next page, we find that 21 is a shift U, so at this point we press SHIFT U. Then press CTRL U again to return to normal key function. And at the space between the strange looking characters when you pressed FCTN R and the other strange looking character when you pressed SHIFT U, place the number 3. The first character is an escape character telling the printer "Pay attention here, I'm going to give you a

command." The 3 is the code for the printer to change the line spacing and the last character is the character the printer recognizes as 21. And so there you are.

Suppose you wanted to go the other way, you want to fill the page with only 50 lines. Look down the list and find 50, WHOA! What's this, the number 2? That's right, immediately after typing in the escape character (the tiny b), press CTRL U to get back to normal key operation and type 32. The minimum number of lines seems to be about 13, the maximum is about 105. If an attempt is made to go beyond this limit, the top of one line starts merging into the bottom of the line above it. Now for the 1,2,3 system. For 70 lines per page. After you have positioned the cursor in the upper left corner and inserted a space with FCTN 8:

1. Press CTRL U
2. Press FCTN D
3. Look up the number 70
4. Note that it matches number 21
5. Note that 21 matches SHIFT U. Press SHIFT U
6. Press CTRL U
7. Type a 3 between the tiny b and the tiny 5
8. Print the page.