



OTTAWA PC NEWS

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The newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group

November 2001

CLUB NEWS

Domain name changes for OPCUG *by Chris Taylor*

The Ottawa PC Users' Group has operated electronic services for over three and a half years under the domain name `opcug.ottawa.com`. This subdomain of `ottawa.com` was provided free of charge through the courtesy of *The Ottawa Citizen* (who owned `ottawa.com`) and Magma (who provided the DNS services for *The Ottawa Citizen*). Recently, Southam Publications took over the DNS services for all their publications including *The Ottawa Citizen*. They have been revamping their Internet presence and the `ottawa.com` domain, which used to point directly to the *Citizen's* On-line city guide ended up being redirected to `Canada.com`. During these cleanup and redirection operations the domain name `opcug.ottawa.com` was accidentally removed. We disappeared off the Internet for almost a day before we got things straightened out.

We had been warned about two years ago that we may not be able to keep the `opcug.ottawa.com` domain name and we have now been told that the reinstatement of the domain name is only temporary, until we can establish our own domain name.

We have registered the domain name `opcug.ca`. As of the writing of this article, both `opcug.ottawa.com` and `opcug.ca` are working. They both point to the same address. However, there is no guarantee how long `opcug.ottawa.com` will continue to function. All members are encouraged to switch over to using `opcug.ca` as quickly as possible. The following are the addresses/instructions for accessing electronic services on PUB II. Note that only the web portion (and only parts of the web portion) may be accessed without having an account on PUB II.

Web

<http://opcug.ca>

<http://www.opcug.ca> (points to exactly the same as above)

FTP

`opcug.ca` (provides access to all the file areas)

E-MAIL

`firstname.lastname@opcug.ca` (for personal email)

`listserve@opcug.ca` (for sending subscribe/unsubscribe commands to the listserver)

`lastname@opcug.ca` (for sending mail to a particular list – where “lastname” is the name of the particular list you are subscribed to)

For more information on using the listserver, send a message to `listserve@opcug.ca`. Leave the subject blank and in the body of the message put “get help” (without the quotes)

Wildcat Navigator

If you use Wildcat to dial-up directly through a phone line to PUB II, you do not need to change anything. If you use Wildcat to connect to PUB II after you have connected to your Internet Service Provider, in the Wildcat Connection Manager, click once on the connection you have for PUB II. Click the

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Next meeting: **WEDNESDAY, November 14th, 2001**

CPU? This one's for U!

by Tim Mahoney

Hanif Mawji of J-Squared Technologies Inc. will be presenting the latest on AMD processors and on AMD's roadmap to future processors, at the November 14th OPCUG meeting.

J-Squared Technologies is a leading Manufacturers' Representative in the Canadian market. Since its inception in 1990, J-Squared Technologies has distinguished itself as the most technically proficient solutions provider in the marketplace. J-Squared sales engineers are committed to working with its customers and principals to provide leading-edge solutions.



OPCUG elections coming!

In the last issue of *Ottawa PC News*, a call went out for someone to head up the election committee. Claude Jarry has come forward to volunteer for the job

As I said last month, I would encourage anyone to come forward and stand for election to the Board of Directors. It can be a lot of fun and you can influence the direction the Group takes. If you think you might be interested, you can talk to any of the current Board for more information.

If you *know* you are interested, let Claude know. You can contact him by phone at 526-9318 or by email at al689@freenet.carleton.ca. Please provide your name, address, phone number and membership number (if known).

The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2001.

If there are more than nine nominations, an election will be held at the February OPCUG general meeting. Candidates will have an opportunity to include an article in the February issue of *Ottawa PC News*, outlining why they feel they should be elected to the Board of Directors. Candidates will also be given an opportunity to speak to the membership prior to the vote at the February meeting.



CALENDAR

Meetings	Date	Time and venue
OPCUG General Meeting	Wednesday, Nov. 14 th	7:30 p.m. Auditorium of the National Museum of Science and Technology, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd.
Internet SIG (I-SIG)	Wednesday, Nov. 14 th	Come and join our discussions!
Developers SIG	Wednesday, Nov. 14 th	Immediately following the main OPCUG presentation, and occasionally at other locations in the region.
Delphi User Group		8:00 p.m. at Chapters Store in the Pinecrest Mall (at the Queensway)
Ottawa Paradox Users Group	3 rd Thursday each month	6:00-8:00 p.m. — Corel Bldg 1600 Carling Ave
PIG SIG (i.e., Wing SIG)	Nov. 14 th (after SIGs)	NEW LOCATION!!!! Good Times Cafe - corner of Baxter & Iris

Please note that unless otherwise noted, SIGs meet at 9:00 p.m. (immediately following the OPCUG General Meeting).

Domain name *...continued from page 1*

'Properties' button. In the 'Phone or Host for WinSock device', enter `opcug.ca`

Telnet

`opcug.ca`

POP3

incoming server: `opcug.ca`

outgoing server: your ISP's outgoing SMTP server

If you are a member of the OPCUG, do not have a PUB II account and would like to set one up, you can download the PUB II "Quick Start Guide" in Adobe Acrobat format by inserting the following link into your browser;

<http://opcug.ca/public/pub-qsg.pdf>

If you want to sign up for PUB II through a browser, just go to <http://opcug.ca> and click the "PUB II" button in the left frame. Then click on "New User" and follow the prompts. Note that after you log on for the first time, you must send a message to `Chris.Taylor@opcug.ca` with your name, address, phone number and membership number (if you happen to know it) in order to have your account upgraded so you can access all parts of PUB II.

Alternatively, you can send an email to `Chris.Taylor@opcug.ca`. Let me know how you intend to access PUB II (dial-up, Telnet, or web browser) and I can provide you with step-by-step instructions.

On behalf of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, I would like to thank the kind folks at the Ottawa Citizen and Magma Communications for allowing us to use the `opcug.ottawa.com` domain name for so long.



CLUB NEWS

Member services

Do you operate a business that you would like to advertise to other members of the Ottawa PC Users' Group? Do you have an area of expertise you think other members of the OPCUG might be interested in — either for free or at a reasonable price?

Are you looking for a job and need a place to let people know your skill set? Are you looking for an employee to fill a particular position and want to get the word out?

Perhaps the new "Member Services" from the Ottawa PC Users' Group is the place for you! Operated both as a conference area and a list on the OPCUG listserver, "Member Services" is set up to promote, advertise and share experience and services among the OPCUG membership. Just one more way to fulfill the OPCUG motto of "Users helping users".

If you already have an account on PUB II, you can dive right in to the new conference area "Member Services".

If you don't yet have an account on PUB II (and are a member of the OPCUG), you can create a PUB II account yourself by browsing to <http://opcug.ca>. Click on the "PUB II" button in the left frame. Then click the "New User" button and follow the prompts. After you create an account, be sure to send an email to `sysop@opcug.ca` to have your account upgraded. Until you do, you will not have access to the conference areas. Please include your address, phone number and membership number (if known).

Other means of accessing PUB II are detailed in the PUB II Quick Start Guide, which may be found at <http://opcug.ca/public/pub-qsg.pdf>. Please note that you need the Adobe Acrobat viewer to use this file.

Another way of accessing "Member Services" is through the OPCUG Listserver. To subscribe, send an email to `listserve@opcug.ca`. Leave the subject blank. In the body of the message put; subscribe MemberServices Within a few minutes, you should receive a welcome message which includes instructions on how to use send messages to the Member-Services list, as well as the terms of usage and frequently asked questions.

If you would like to read the full terms of usage and frequently asked questions for "Member Services", you can read the first posting in the conference area or send a message to `listserve@opcug`.

Leave the subject blank and in the body of the message put; get MemberServices-W Within a few minutes, you should have a new email in your mailbox with the details.

For more general information on using the OPCUG Listserver, send an email to `listserve@opcug.ca`. Leave the subject blank and in the body of the message, put; get info.



E-Remove: A pre-processor for incoming e-mail

by Alan German

I believe that it was at the first Orphan's SIG meeting where Brigitte Lord, OPCUG's Web Master, mentioned that she used E-Remove as a pre-processor for electronic mail. The essence of this utility is that it provides an opportunity to review messages on your ISP's mail server, and the ability to delete specific messages from the server without actually downloading them.

Since many SPAM messages feature rich text, which generally increases the size of individual messages, and viruses normally come in the form of large attached files, the ability to erase such messages "at source" appears to be rather attractive. As the recipient of lots of junk E-mail, which usually comes in duplicate (but that's another story), the prospect certainly caught my attention. While E-Remove functions exactly as advertised, the program may not be the ideal solution for everyone. In fact, my experience indicates that the utility of this utility will depend strongly on the nature of the E-mail which a given individual receives.

The potential problem is the relatively long time taken by E-Remove to download extracts of the messages from the ISP's mail server. Over a three-week period, for my own incoming mail, I made a check on the time taken by E-Remove to download its partial versions of the messages, and the time required by Eudora to retrieve the same messages in their entirety. I also noted the number of bytes of messages which I would have deleted from the server using E-Remove, and the total number of bytes of the complete messages downloaded by Eudora. On average, E-Remove needed about half of the connect time taken by Eudora to pre-process the same batch of messages, while offering savings of about one third of the download traffic. Since, after deleting messages with E-Remove, the remaining two-thirds of the message traffic still need to be downloaded by Eudora, clearly this is not a time-effective solution. Overall, in my specific case, it proved to be more efficient to download all of the messages and then delete unwanted mail in Eudora.

There were some exceptions to this general rule. E-Remove identified a 1.6 MB attachment to a message and, by screening the message header, I could identify that I didn't wish to receive either the message or the file. This provided a considerable time saving on my dial-up connection for this particular session. In another mail session, the program allowed me to delete 11 separate instances of 204 KB files infected with the SirCam virus [I send you this file to get your advice — Delete!]

So, whether or not E-Remove will be a useful utility program for you will depend on the nature of the E-mail which you normally receive, and if you value the ability to pre-screen your mail prior to downloading it from the mail server. I suspect that one shouldn't get too hung up on download times. My average mail session was just a little over a minute, so even if using E-Remove were to double the time taken to download the mail, it isn't a great hardship in the grand

scheme of things. And, using this program can give great satisfaction in directly thwarting the best efforts of the SPAM and virus merchants!

Installing the program is simplicity itself, one just has to unzip the distribution file into a sub-directory and run the resulting executable file, `eremove.exe`. There is a variety of items to configure on the change-existing-settings screen. You can enter the user ID and password needed to log on to your ISP's mail server, and have the option to save the password for use by future E-Remove sessions. You must enter the address for your ISP's mail server and the port which it uses. Advanced settings include letting you specify additional mail accounts, an E-mail client to be launched once the E-Remove session is complete (e.g., Eudora or Outlook Express), and the number of lines of each message which is to be downloaded for previewing.

Running the program, with an active Internet connection, accesses the specified POP server and provides a summary screen of information relating to the messages available for downloading. For each message, the information given is the priority of the message, an indication if a file is attached, the size of the message in KB, the date on which the message was sent, the sender's E-mail address, and the subject line.

A single click on any message in the list marks the message for deletion. Multiple messages may be selected by clicking on multiple entries in the list. Continuing the program's operation, deletes the selected mail items, and moves on to the final screen where the option to run an E-mail client on exit is presented. Normally, one would continue in this manner so as to download the remaining — wanted — messages from the mail server.

Double clicking on a particular message in the list provides two information tabs. The

continued next page

E-remove *...continued from page 3*

“General” tab displays the initial lines of text in the message which E-Remove has obtained from the mail server. The “Source” tab displays the complete E-mail header information. A sort feature is also provided, whereby clicking on any column in the list of messages sorts the list on that specific category. Thus, one can sort messages by size, date sent, priority, etc.

E-Remove is a freeware program which the author, Victor Javier of the Philippines, has tested under Windows 95 and NT. The current release appears to be Version 2.4, dated July 4, 1988.

However, at the time of writing, the web site specified for user registration, <http://home.pacific.net.sg/~thantom/eremove.htm>, was giving an error message (Homepage Error: The userid that you have specified does not exist).

A search on Google (<http://www.google.com>) identified an alternative web site at <http://eremover.bizhosting.com/> which provides information about E-Remove, and is a source for downloading the software distribution. However, this site does not appear to have been updated for some time, and a number of the links are broken.

All this to say that it would appear further updates to this software may not be available. Nevertheless, Version 2.4 can be obtained from the bizhosting web site, and is quite serviceable. OPCUG members can also download the E-Remove distribution package, [eremov24.zip](#) (200 KB), from The PUB.

Bottom Line:

E-Mail Remover, Version 2.4

Freeware from Victor Javier

Web Site: <http://eremover.bizhosting.com/>



PRODUCT REVIEW

DriveCopy 4.0 *by Harald Freise*

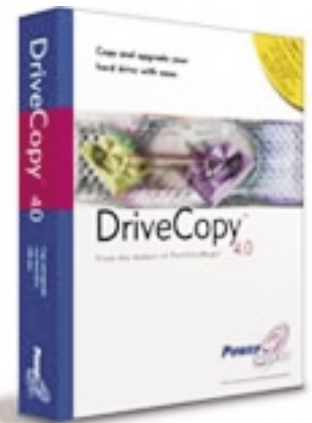
What is there to say? It works! Hard drive too small? Tired of trying to free up disk space? Don't want to take the time required to find and back up all your data, install one of those inexpensive huge hard drives, re-install all your applications and restore your files on the new drive? How much your time is worth? DriveCopy from PowerQuest can save you some.

DriveCopy is a well-known product from PowerQuest that got better over time. In 10 easy to understand “follow the 10 steps” directions you can be up and running in a fraction of the time required to manually add and configure a new hard drive.

Before starting, check out the machine for a required extra free power and data cable connector for the additional drive. If there isn't a spare power connector there are “y” cables available as a remedy. If your CD-ROM is a slave on the only IDE cable in the machine, then it would be a good time to place and configure the CD-ROM drive on the second IDE port and purchase an additional IDE cable with 3 IDE connectors for the hard drives. Follow the hard drive manufactures' directions on changing the master and slave jumpers on both drives as detailed by the instructions and connect the drives to the IDE port. Configuring the systems BIOS to correctly recognize the two drives isn't onerous as it sounds since most BIOS's have been Auto Detect for quite a few years. SCSI drives controllers must support Int 13 devices for DriveCopy to be used. If FDISK can see and partition the SCSI drives, DriveCopy can be used to transfer the disk data.

What's new in version 4.0 is the use of “virtual floppy technology” that does away with the previous minimal task of making a DOS boot disk. DriveCopy 4.0 now has support for hard drives up to 80GB and DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 9x, ME, NT, Win2K and OS/2. Good transfer speed is still found from their SmartSector copy technology. If a sector is empty, they don't bother copying it to the new drive. The usual scenario is that the original drive is smaller than the new drive.

The smaller partition is then expanded to fill the remaining available disk space. The reverse situation wasn't as straight forward. What was requested was to upgrade a large slow drive with a much faster smaller drive. After doing the requisite reading of the manual, DriveCopy apparently does not resize partitions. After running scan disk and



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Koala HTML (v1.0) *by Brigitte Lord*

There are a number of programs available to the webmaster to help him design and maintain a website. The simplest of these is a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) type of program that lets you place text, images, and other elements graphically on a page. As you work, you see almost exactly how the page will look in a browser. The most difficult way to create a web page is to work in a basic text editor such as Notepad or WordPad and type all the HTML tags manually. Not only do you not see what the page looks like as you work, but you must know many common HTML tags and how to use them. Because HTML tags are usually repeated many times on any web page, this becomes tedious and can lead to typos that will make the tags ineffective. The result is a web page with elements that may not be rendered correctly or at all.

Koala HTML by **AVANTRIX Inc.** falls in between WYSIWYG and manual HTML text editing. The HTML tags are all pre-formatted for you and you merely have to click them with your mouse to insert them in the built-in text editor. This eliminates HTML typos and greatly reduces keystrokes. The interface of the program is laid out with a narrower window on the left containing an extensive list of HTML tags, and a wider window on the right containing a text editor for inserting the tags and composing HTML “freehand”. The progress of the web page can be previewed at any time by clicking the Preview tab. This shows the web page in an Internet Explorer-type browser window. Alternatively, the web page can be quickly launched in a browser of your choice (provided you already have it installed on your system) from the Tools button on the menu bar. All HTML elements are colour-coded in the text editor, but a word wrap feature is not

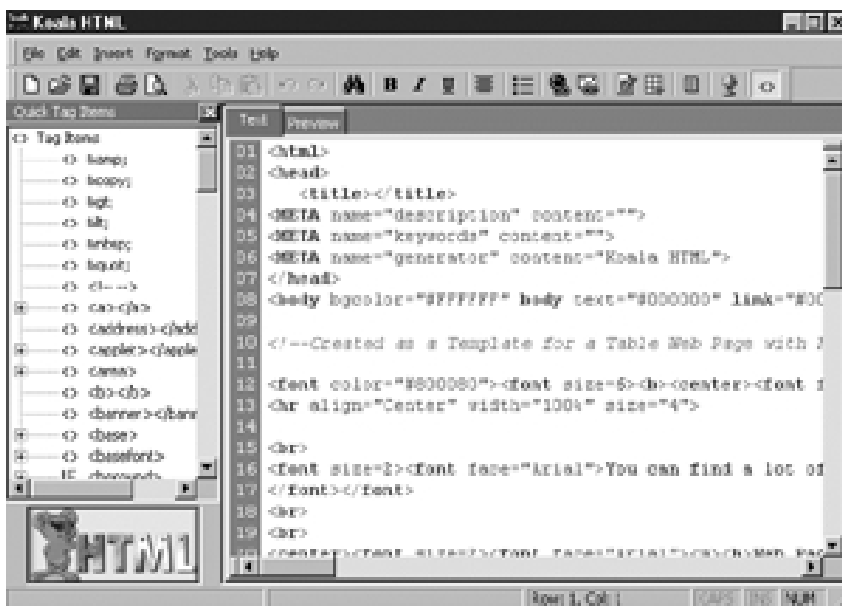


available, forcing one to scroll horizontally. To make matters worse, the left window containing the tags is not resizable. Although it can be closed completely, this is not practical for beginners.

Koala HTML offers three templates from which to build your web page. The Basic template contains some sample text, a block quote section, a bulleted list, and a hyperlinked e-mail address. The Table template contains some of the above with a preformatted table. These two templates offer a frame onto which a less experienced user can build his web page. The more experienced user will most likely use the Blank template containing the bare-minimum in HTML tags.

The program offers a number of GIF and JPEG web images for buttons, lines, bullets, and backgrounds. As well, many animated GIF's are bundled with the program. Several scripts are available in DHTML and Java such as **Browser Redirect**, **Add to Favourites**, **Slide In Menu Bar**, **Mouse Pointer Effect**, and **Lottery Number Picker**. I especially liked the **Rain Effect** and the **Chinese Zodiac**. Much appreciated is the extensive list of tag items that includes even the most mundane elements like ** ** (non-breaking space), and **<!-- -->** which lets you insert an internal comment on the page that will not display in a browser.

Unlike HTML code generated by some WYSIWYG programs, the code in Koala HTML is clean and non-proprietary due to its list of standard tags. A web page created in an upscale word processor, for example, may contain a great deal of extraneous code that some browsers may ignore or interpret incorrectly. Koala even tells you which tags work strictly in either Internet Explorer or

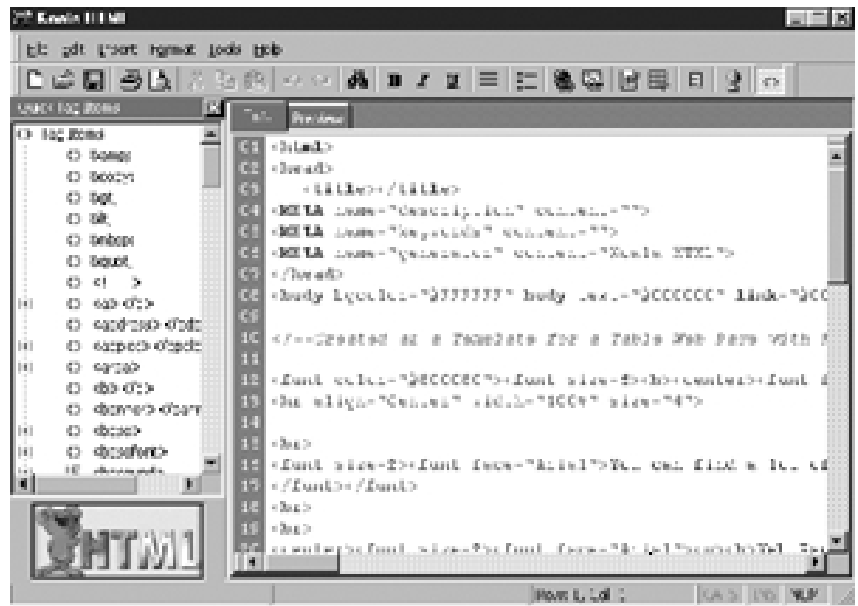


Koala HTML ...continued from page 6

Netscape Navigator (such as the infamous BLINKING tag created by Netscape). Of course, it would be easy to add all kinds of unnecessary code with this type of program, after all, it's so easy to click-and-insert all those tags. For this reason, it would be nice if Koala HTML had a proof-reading feature for beginners to clean-up their code if necessary.

Koala HTML also gives you the ability to publish your web page. The built-in FTP client is basic but functional. It can automatically upload any images or other web items (called **Dependencies**) that you have included in your web page. If it cannot find these items, it will prompt you to browse for them on your hard drive. Advanced users can turn this feature off, but this is a nice touch for beginners.

After working with Koala HTML, I found the program easy to use and effortless. Insertion of HTML tags, images, and scripts was a breeze. The experienced user will truly appreciate the reduction in repetitive keystrokes and typos. However,



an inexperienced user with little knowledge of HTML would have difficulty assembling anything but a basic web page. In future versions, I would like to see an entire help section devoted to defining each tag (as I have seen in another program). Although AVANTRIX recommends Koala HTML to users who do not have any experience in creating a web page, I feel the user needs to be somewhat familiar with HTML in order to use this program comfortably.

For those who would like to try Koala HTML, there is a fully functional 15-day demo version available for download at <http://www.koala-html.com>.



Drive Copy 4.0 ...continued from page 5

defragging the hard drive (a stellar idea in any event), PoweQuest's PartitionMagic was used to resize the original drive so that it would fit on the new drive. After that it was a straightforward DiskCopy according to the fine manual.

One annoying thing found was that after entering the serial number demanded on the install, DriveCopy returned an error message that stated bluntly “Incorrect serial number — proceed anyway?” It was enough to make us start over, just in case the utility would hold the data ransom or would in any way compromise the data on either drive. After pulling the plug (the manual says DriveCopy is “power-fail safe”) another attempt was made. The serial number is case sensitive. It was later discovered that the drive copy process goes through even if the incorrect number is used.

Recommended minimum requirements (or better) Intel 486, 32MB memory and 5MB free disk space.

Imagine, if you will, effortless installation of your OS, all applications and data from one drive to the other. It's true. On another rather negative note: if your computer didn't work well before adding another drive and using DriveCopy; it won't work any better after.



OTTAWA PC NEWS

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July and August. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members.



Member participation is encouraged! If you would like to contribute an article to *Ottawa PC News*, please submit it to the newsletter editor (contact info below). Deadline for submissions is three Saturdays before the General Meeting.

Group Meetings

OPCUG meets on the second Wednesday in the month, except July and August, at the National Museum of Science and Technology, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa. Meetings are 7:30–9:00 p.m. and Special Interest Groups go until 10 p.m.

Fees

OPCUG annual membership: \$25 per year.

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[Http://opcug.ottawa.com/](http://opcug.ottawa.com/)

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To **receive the newsletter by e-mail**, send a message to listserv@opcug.ottawa.com with the text “subscribe Newslettertxt” or “subscribe NewsletterPDF” (without the quotes) in the body of the message. No subject line is required.

To cancel the paper version e-mail

mark.cayer@opcug.ottawa.com asking to cancel the delivery of the paper version of the newsletter (or ask him in person — Mark is usually at the back of the auditorium at General Meetings). Help the environment, save costs.

To **subscribe to the Announcements List**, e-mail listserv@opcug.ottawa.com. Leave the subject blank. In the body of the message put “subscribe announcements” (without the quotes). Within a couple of minutes you will receive a confirmation message from the listserver.

“Announcements” is a low volume list that the Board of Directors can use to get in touch with the membership. Subscribers can expect at least one message per month — the meeting reminder that goes out a few days in advance of the general meeting. Other than that, the only time it is used is when the Board feels there is some important news that should be brought to the attention of all members.



CLUB LIFE

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Bring your old computer books, software, hardware, and paraphenalia you want to **GIVE AWAY** to the General Meetings, and leave them at the table near the auditorium's entrance. *Please limit magazines to publication dates of less than two years old.*

You may **TAKE AWAY** any items of use to you. Stuff left over at the end of the meeting will be sent to the recycle bin.

