OPCUG 40th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

==

OTTAWA   IBM   PC   USERS'   GROUP

N E W S L E T T E R

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November 16th, 1984 — Issue 84(2)

Welcome to all our new members! It is nice to see our club growing and becoming more and more organized. For those new to the club, this is the second issue of the club newsletter, at least in this format, so you haven't missed much. In the months ahead we look forward to all your "new blood" stimulating additional club activities, so please feel free to speak up and offer your services in helping to set up special interest groups (SIGs), in providing tutorial experience to other members seeking assistance, or in providing other services or facilities that you feel may benefit the rest of the club.

Volume 39, Number 4   **April 2022**

OTTAWA

PC NEWS

January 2005

OTTAWA

IBM **P.C.**

USERS' GROUP

NEWSLETTER

January 21st, 1985 — Issue 85(1)

OPCUG The Ottawa PC Users' Group

Mailing Address - 3 Thatcher Street, Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6
JANUARY 1990   (613) 723-▇ (voice)   (613) 723-▇ (BBS)   VOL VII, NO. 1

OTTAWA PC NEWS

Vol. 10 No. 1   The Newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG)   January 1993

Volume 22, Number 1

Vol. 12 No. 1   January 1995

OTTAWA PC NEWS

The Newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG)

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, April 13th, 2022

Next Meeting

Office SMACKDOWN

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Topic: Office Smackdown
Speakers: Alan German and Chris Taylor, OPCUG

The Microsoft Office suite has become the de-facto standard for word processing, spreadsheet calculations, and presentations but, especially for the non-business user, the cost of the software is not insignificant. And, this may become more of a concern if Microsoft, as is sometimes rumoured, moves completely to a subscription-based, software-as-a-service model. One free and open-source alternative is the LibreOffice suite of applications, many aspects of which closely mirror the Microsoft product. But, just how good is this free software and are there any significant limitations in using LibreOffice instead of Microsoft Office? In this presentation, we will review the features of the major modules of both packages, looking specifically at compatibility issues and, looking beyond the dollar savings, we'll see if the LibreOffice suite provides any significant advantages over Microsoft's offerings.

This meeting will be via Zoom video conference.

Join us at **https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting**. The Zoom link will be live at 7:15 pm. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

Meeting ID: **924 9556 0898**
Password: **opcug**

Coming Up…

April 4
Tech Talk: Spring Clean-up
Clean out the cobwebs from your computer and get it back to a secure, efficient state. Alan German, Lawrence Patterson, and Chris Taylor have 10 topics planned including backup, anti-malware, password protection, tweaking performance, tidying email, and more.

May 11
Me & My Mac
Apple and Microsoft have always been rivals. Windows may be more common in the workplace and in homes, but the Apple MacIntosh (or Mac) has always impressed with its beautiful graphics and user friendliness. Join Gillian Villeneuve from the MacIntosh User Group of Ottawa (MUGOO) as she shows us features of her MacBook Pro and shows us how she uses it everyday at home and at work.

June 8
Members' Favourites Night *(to be confirmed)*

All scheduled regular monthly meetings, weekly Q&A sessions, and a link to OPCUG presentations at the OPL are posted on our website at https://opcug.ca/#upcoming. All events are via video conference until further notice.

2022 CALENDAR

Meetings	Date	Time and Venue
Regular Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, April 13th	7:30 pm via Zoom video conference: **https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting** To see all scheduled events, visit https://opcug.ca/#upcoming
Next Q&A Session	Wednesday, March 23rd	Until further notice, Q&A sessions are no longer held after regular monthly meetings. Join us on all other Wednesdays for weekly Q&A.
Beer BOF (Wing SIG East)	Wednesday, April 13th	Enjoy a cold brew or other beverage in the comfort of your home during the video conference.

AGM MINUTES 2022

Annual General Meeting 2021/2022

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2021/2022 was held on February 9, 2022 at the beginning of the February Monthly Meeting. Minutes were taken by the Secretary, Gail Eagen. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

1. Election Results

Chris Taylor, President, announced that there were nine nominations received by the deadline of December 31, 2021 and thus the Board was acclaimed with no Election required. The newly elected Board for 2021/22 was announced as follows:

> Jocelyn Doire
> Gail Eagen
> Alan German
> Wayne Houston
> Brigitte Lord
> Lawrence Patterson
> Chris Taylor
> Bob Walker
> Karen Wallace-Graner

Chris thanked Bob Herres for again taking on the role of Election Chair.

2. President's Report

Chris said that his **President's Report** was published in the January 2022 Newsletter.

3. Treasurer's Report

Alan stated that the Treasurer's Report was published in the February 2022 Newsletter.

Alan provided highlights of the report. The current Club capital was $17,521.93. Income was down due to providing free membership for current members in March 2020 and again in March 2021. Income was from membership after offering 2 years membership for the price of one and from bank interest. Expenses were down from the past. Expenses included the web site, Zoom software, PayPal and honorariums to speakers. Income for 2021 was $695.27 and Expenses for 2021 were $982.62 for a net of income of -$287.35. The financial books had been reviewed by Richard Aylesworth who had provided a positive review. His report was in the February 2022 Newsletter.

Alan asked if there were any questions. No questions were received.

Chris thanked Alan for his efforts.

4. Secretary's Report

Chris said the **Secretary's Report** was published in the February 2022 Newsletter

5. Notes of thanks

Chris thanked 2021 Board Members, Mark Cayer for his membership work, Richard Aylesworth for performing the financial review, Bob Herres for taking on Election Chair, presenters both from the Club and from outside, Lynda Buske for her work on designing and analyzing the member survey on meeting venue and Newsletter contributors. He acknowledged the efforts of Alan German and himself in running the weekly Question and Answer Sessions and thanked members who participated and shared. He also thanked the membership for being a part of it all.

6. Questions and Answers

Chris asked if members had any questions or issues to raise. The following were raised in the chat:

Question. Mark Cayer asked if there was any word on returning to in-person meetings.

Answer: Chris responded no. He stated that the Church where we had previously held in-person meetings was still not ready to welcome rentals, but that the Board was monitoring the situation and would advise the membership if the situation changed through the Announcement list, Newsletter and web site.

7. Meeting Adjournment

Chris called for a motion to close the AGM.

Alan German moved that the AGM be closed. Seconded by Timothy Hillock.

The AGM was closed at 7:41 PM.

Submitted by

> *Gail Eagen,*
> *Secretary, OPCUG*

OPCUG — 40 YEARS AND COUNTING

April, 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the Ottawa PC Users' Group. The following highlights are extracted from the History page that has been compiled on our website by Jocelyn Doire (https://opcug.ca/history/).

The club's activities have always included information sharing through monthly meetings, published newsletters, and electronic communications using BBS and the Internet. We also have along-standing tradition of computer education through programmes such as SIG's and workshops.

Apr 1982 Birth of the Club, founded with 20 charter members

The club formed in 1982/83 as The Ottawa IBM-PC Users' Group, shortly after the introduction of the first IBM-PC. At that time, you could buy a PC with 64K RAM, 160K single-sided drive, graphics card, monitor, serial port and DOS 1.0 for about $5,000! (approx. $13,000 today)

Sep 1984 First issue of the newsletter

The only newsletter not in our on-line archive!

Oct 1985 The BOD considers Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Seeks suggestions/questions that could be used by the SIG organizers.

Mar 1985 The membership fee is set at $20

The membership fee in 2022 is still $20. How many organizations have a similar claim?

Mar 1985 The club introduces the disk-of-the-month with DISK-00

Much of the early interest in the club was obtaining compilations of freeware and shareware on a floppy disk that was issued monthly. Initially, disks were copied in real time. Subsequently, a subscription programme allowed participating members to collect disks prepared prior to monthly meetings.

Jun 1986 To get publicity, the club gives a copy of Ashton Tate's Framework as a door prize

Chris Taylor organizes a software contest for the best original program or an enhancement to an existing program.

Nov 1987 The swap meeting attracts lots of people, and might become a yearly event

Activities such as swap meets and computer fairs were popular in the club's early days.

Jun 1988 The BOD decides to purchase a microcomputer and to setup its own BBS

Cost is to be a maximum of $8000, with the commercial TBBS software supporting file up/downloads, messages, conferences and Fido mail. The PUB (**P**C **U**sers' Group **B**ulletin Board) goes live in October.

May 1989 Special help sessions for beginners are offered prior to regular club meetings

The forerunner of Q&A!

Sep 1989 "IBM" in the club's name is rejected by Yellow Pages unless approved by the company

IBM declines to give permission. Chris Taylor proposes to change the name to Ottawa PC Users' Group.

Jun 1991 The newsletter is renamed to Ottawa PC News

Subtitled - Published by the Ottawa PC Users Group.

Mar 1993 Microsoft presents DOS 6

This attracts the largest crowd ever. There is a satellite linkup with Redmond, Washington. All attendees receive a free copy of DOS 6.

Oct 1993 The PUB gets an upgrade

Five 14.4 kbps modems, plus an 8-line Digiboard, a 1GB hard drive, and two extra phone lines are acquired for about $1089.

Sep 1994 First request to provide Internet access is turned down due to cost
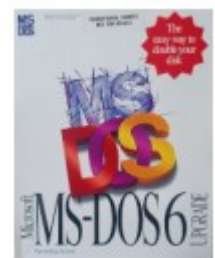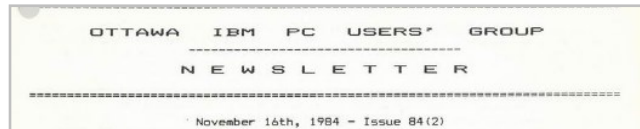
The club has 919 members, the highest ever.

Jan 1995 Mary Seal creates the OPCUG logo

The January newsletter had the first version, a monochrome computer without text.

The coloured logo with the OPCUG text first appeared on a T-shirt in May.

Mar 1995 OPCUG is incorporated

The intent is to limit the liability and to enhance respectability.

40 Years and Counting *(continued from previous page)*

Mar 1996 The tradition of having a free/recycle table is begun

The recycling table continues to be a feature of our in-person meetings, only curtailed by Covid-19.

Apr 1997 Jocelyn Doire starts to email a text-only version of the newsletter

The free service is intended to save some trees, and money. A couple of months later, a PDF version is also made available.

Oct 1997 David Reeves posts the report of the Pub II Committee

The committee recommends creation of a web site with a mailing system, including a listserver, and using the PUB as a file and bulletin repository, with a permanent connection to the Internet.

Feb 1998 PUB II is now online

It uses two phone lines (dial-up), and an ADSL line with a recorded top speed of 98 kB/sec. Chris is to buy Wildcat Interactive Net Server (WinServer) with an 8-user licence for about $300.

Jun 2002 First club BBQ with free hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks

The pre-cursor to the more recent Pizza-Q's.

Nov 2003 Alan German organises a very successful beginners' workshop

The first in a series of workshops, some for beginners, others on specific topics.

Jun 2005 OPCUG's first official Privacy Policy goes online

This is required to comply with the PIPEDA federal law on data privacy.

May 2008 First of a series of presentations by OPCUG members at

the Ottawa Public Library

In February, 2015 Chris Taylor, having given more than 200 presentations, received the Mayor's City Builder Award for outstanding volunteerism. By January, 2022 the club had provided more than 600 library presentations.

Dec 2012 OPCUG organizes a charity auction as part of our December meeting

A silent auction for a range of donated computer hardware and software items was supplemented by a collection for non-perishable food items and cash donations with all the proceeds going to the Ottawa Food Bank. This was the first of several such events, always being held during the Christmas period.

Jun 2013 The club holds its first eWaste event

The event is a huge success with recycled items including computers, monitors, and televisions.

Jan 2016 The Beginners SIG, Windows SIG, and the Linux SIG morph into the Q&A Session

Over the years the OPCUG has offered many Special Interest Groups (SIGs), small meetings after the main presentation. People attending our monthly meetings are invited to join the Q&A session and ask questions about Windows, Linux, or any computer hardware or software problems.

Nov 2016 Ottawa PC Users' Goup Mugs

Coffee mugs ordered for sale to members were delivered with the erroneous

legend "Ottawa PC Users' Goup". They were quickly replaced by the vendor.

The "Goup" mugs were highly prized and were used in draws for door prizes.

Apr 2018 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

Thanks to the efforts of our hard-working PR guy, Jeff Dubois, six of our members received 2018 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards; Chris Taylor (33yr), Mark Cayer (25yr), Bob Walker (21yr), Jocelyn Doire (19yr), Alan German (15yr) and Brigitte Lord (15yr).

Mar 2020 The club launches a new version of its website

The new design, developed by Rebel.com, features a modern look and database-driven content using WordPress.

Apr 2020 OPCUG has its first on-line meeting

The Covid-19 pandemic prevents public gatherings and all club meetings are switched to the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Jul 2020 Q&A goes weekly

With the pandemic restrictions continuing people are forced to spend more time at home. OPCUG implements a weekly-series of on-line Q&A sessions over Zoom.

Apr 2022 OPCUG's 40th anniversary!

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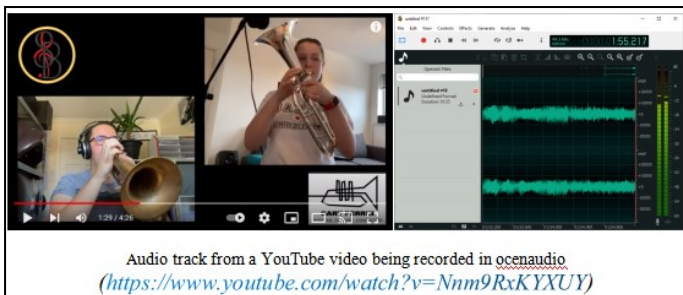# Ocenaudio - An Alternative Sound Editor   *by Alan German*

Those of you who have attended some of our past Q&A sessions will have followed the discussions about Audacity, an open-source sound editor that ran into some controversy when it was acquired by the Muse Group. The issue was that the program's privacy policy was changed to allow certain data elements relating to the user to be collected and transmitted back to home base. This raised a number of privacy concerns among members of the open-source community and, as a result, the program code was forked to create several new versions of the editor. At the time of writing, the various forks appear to have been abandoned, have stalled, or are progressing quite slowly. For anyone concerned about continuing to use Audacity as a sound editor, one viable alternative is ocenaudio.

Ocenaudio was originally developed by a group of university researchers in Brazil. The program code is not open-source, but the package has been released as freeware. Multiple platforms are supported with versions for the Windows, Linux and Mac operating systems.

Installation of the program in Windows is a little odd. The installer offers the option to browse to a folder but, whatever folder is selected, the program is installed in C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Local\ocenaudio. Nevertheless, a desktop icon points to the executable file in the installation directory so that the program launches correctly.

Once installed, the program is simple to use, while perhaps not being completely intuitive to navigate. By default, the program selects the available microphone; however, the recording source can be changed by navigating to *Controls – Record Mixer Configuration*. Such a change is desirable if the recording is to be made from either the Internet or a cable connection to an external music player using the line-in port on a sound card.

Audio track from a YouTube video being recorded in ocenaudio
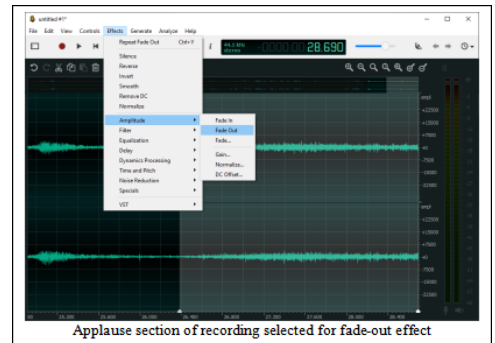*(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nnm9RxKYXUY)*

Recording and playback are controlled by the conventional set of player icons in the program's menu. Starting a recording is simply a matter of pressing the red *Record* button. The recorded waveform is displayed in real time in the main program window, with the recording input levels shown on the right side. The program can have multiple tracks open concurrently and the left sidebar displays a list of currently-available recordings. Pressing the *Stop Playback* button (the black square) ends the recording and leaves the window open so that any additional processing can be undertaken.

It is convenient at this point to hide the left sidebar, using the icon on the left side of the menu, in order to focus on the recorded waveform. Two useful items are displayed immediately above the waveform. A number of editing tools may be accessed using the groups of black-and-white icons. The series of magnifying-glass icons on the right allow zooming the waveform in and out, both horizontally and vertically. In addition, a timeline below these icons allows a specific section of the waveform to be displayed by clicking the mouse on the timeline and scrolling to the left or right.

The icons on the left-side include options to cut, copy or delete the selected area of the recording, or to add fade-in or fade-out effects. Some of these features are also accessible through keyboard shortcuts.

Applause section of recording selected for fade-out effect

For example, the end of the recorded waveform can be trimmed by selecting the desired region and simply pressing *Delete* on the keyboard.

Fabulous Support – While reviewing the information about this software on the web site I came across a couple of minor typographical errors. I notified the developers using the on-line feedback form and was amazed to find the page updated within just a few hours! This speaks volumes about the care and attention paid to the software by ocenaudio's development team.

Once all the desired edits have been completed, the resulting waveform can be saved as an audio file in a variety of formats. Selecting *File – Save As* defaults to saving the file as MP3, but other choices for *Save as type* include FLAC, OGG and Wav. The edited file can also be stored using *Export*. This provides a range of file types, including WAV, MP4 and OGG; however, each of these provides further options. For example, selecting Export – MP4 allows choices for audio compression, bit rate, and audio quality to be selected.

If you have the need to make audio recordings, and perform simple editing tasks on the resulting product, ocenaudio may well be all you need. And, since it's freeware, it won't cost you anything to try it out!

Bottom Line:

ocenaudio (Freeware)
Version 3.11.1
https://www.ocenaudio.com

THROUGH THE LENS

A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts. After the click of your camera, you're only half done!
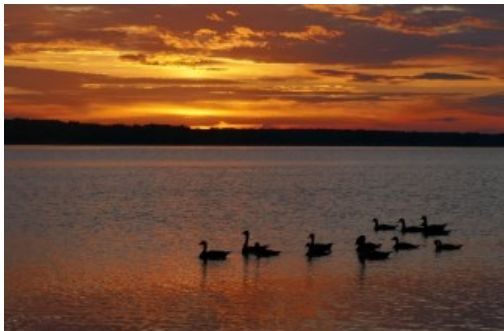
Silhouettes and Vignettes

by Lynda Buske

There are certain situations where the details of an object you are photographing are either not important or indeed could be distracting from what you want your image to say. Perhaps just a general shape or outline is best. In cases like these, you may wish to consider having your object(s) of interest underexposed to form a simple silhouette.

The easiest silhouettes to take are during periods of low light such as dawn and dusk where your camera will automatically underexpose the foreground if you are focused on the sky. I like to add human interest to some sunset scenes but do not want details of their faces or clothing as it detracts from the colourful sky.

Choose objects that are easily recognizable such as human form, birds, boats, rocks, etc. That way the viewer is not squinting or puzzling over what is contained in the image. Clearly, you would not choose a silhouette if you wanted to show a particular bird species or a friend's face.

If you have been unable to achieve a silhouette while shooting, the easiest way to create or intensify one is to darken tones. This can be achieved with photo editing functions such as "darken", "deepen", "shadows" or simply adjusting "exposure". These kinds of adjustments can be made using free photo editing software such as Windows Photos or Photoscape X.
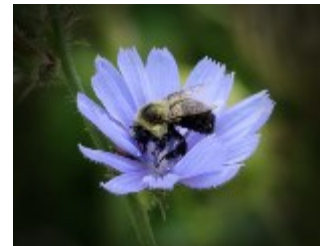

Vignetting can add darker or lighter tonal areas to the border of your photo to create an effect. Dark vignettes are typically used to draw your eye towards the main subject of the image by toning down other areas. This can be very effective with portrait photos. Even with free software programs such as Windows Photos or Photoscape X, the vignette can be adjusted for size and intensity. With more advanced programs, you can control the shape and position as well.

While not as common, using a white vignette can add an ethereal quality or even a halo type effect. It is often used with baby or bridal photos but can also soften busy edges that might be distracting such as tree branches.

Before vignette   **After black vignette**

Before vignette   **After white vignette**

PRODUCT REVIEW

Phone Shutdown Using Software *by Alan German*

One of the minor annoyances with my Motorola Moto G3 Android phone is that the power button, is tiny, slightly-recessed, and exactly the same colour (black) as the phone's body. The small size and the lack of contrast with its surroundings make it hard to locate the button and, more particularly, make it exceptionally difficult to press!
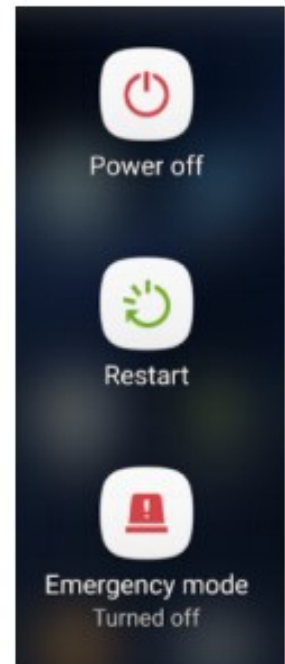
With around 3.5 million apps available for Android it would seem likely that there is a software solution for my dilemma and this is indeed the case. The app I eventually settled on is *Shutdown (no Root)* created by a developer named *samiadom*. As the name implies root access to the phone's file system is not required in order to use this app.

Once installed, the app couldn't be simpler to use. Click on the icon (the red button shown in the Bottom Line info.) and a menu of control buttons slides into the current screen from the right (see screenshot). Click on *Power off* and the phone shuts down. No fiddling with tiny hardware buttons. Two clicks and you are done!
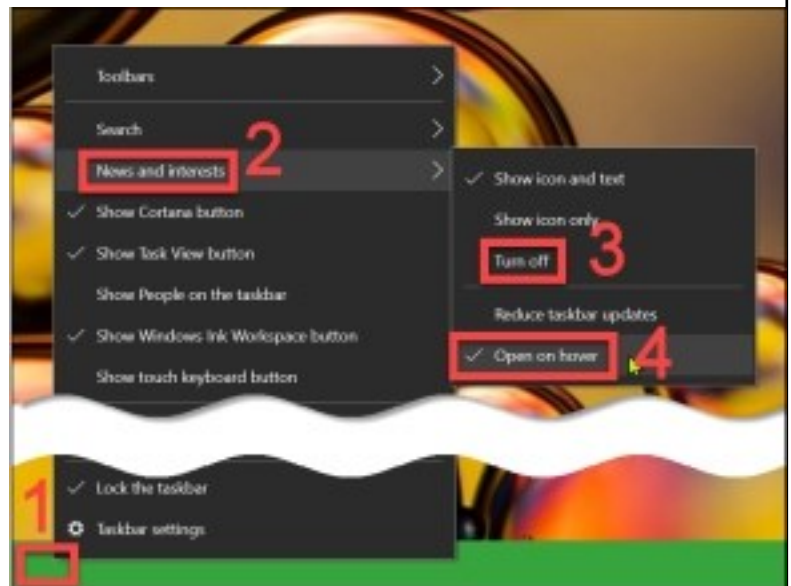
Bottom Line:

Shutdown (no Root)
samiadom
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.samiadom.Shutdown

Quick Tip 43: *News and interests* annoyances
by Chris Taylor

In May of 2021, Microsoft ~~imposed~~ ~~foisted~~ released *News and interests*—a tray icon app that can provide useful information. I like that it provides local weather information at a glance.

What I definitely do not like is that a huge window pops up if my mouse just happens to pass over the *News and interests* tray icon. Fortunately, there is a simple fix.

Right-click a blank area of the Taskbar (1) and select *News and Interests* (2) in the pop-up menu. You can turn off *News and interests* completely by clicking *Turn off* (3). Or click *Open on hover* to remove the check mark for that option. *News and interests* will no longer open a big box when your mouse passes over its icon. You can still access the full *News and Interests*: you just have to click the icon.

CLUB LIFE in 1984

Over the next year, we will celebrate 40 years of the OPCUG with excerpts and articles from old newsletters. For some of you, this will be a trip down memory lane. For others, it will be a glimpse of the club and computing in the early days. The excerpt below is from the second newsletter (the first one is missing) and is part of a vast repertoire of material we have on hand in our newsletter archives (https://opcug.ca/newsletters/).

NEXT MEETING DATE IS: Wednesday, November 28th at 8:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION IS: CAMSELL HALL, Booth & Carling

UPCOMING EVENTS

For those interested, there is a large Computer Show coming up in Toronto, running from Monday, November 19th to Thursday, November 22. It is being held at the International Centre, out by the Toronto International Airport. The show is sponsored by the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) and the keynote speaker at this event will be Dr. David Suzuki. It should be an excellent opportunity to see what is new on the market and to play with all the toys you dream of someday owning.

LAST MEETING: October 31st, 1984

We had an excellent turn out last meeting. There were close to 100 people in attendance; all with a burning hunger for library software. Poor Mike was inundated with requests and sold out our entire library stock by half-time. Many of you had to leave orders for this upcoming meeting. For the next time, we will try to stockpile enough back issues of the library diskettes to handle the hoards.

Our speaker for the evening was Dr. John Nash, President of Nash Information Services. He gave an excellent presentation on the "Trends and Hopes in Microcomputer Software". John was able to give us both a very objective evaluation of where software seems to be heading over the next decade as well as a personal 'wish list' for software development. John and Mary, his wife and business partner, graciously made themselves available for discussions after the talk and were among the last to leave that evening. I would like to extend thanks, on behalf of the club, for their contribution to the success of our last meeting.

Nominations for executive positions were called for at the Halloween meeting in preparation for the elections to be held at the upcoming meeting in November. Please consider participating in this process because the stronger and larger our executive the more we can accomplish.

SOFTWARE LIBRARY NEWS

The reserve of public domain software that the club has been distributing on its monthly disks has started to grow again, thanks to the many recent contributions from club members. The software includes: PC-WRITE (a word processor), EPISTAT (a statistics package), a genealogy package, the PC Professor BASIC language tutorial, an Extended Batch Language facility, MVPFORTH (a FORTH Language Interpreter), and the Ultra-Utilities (similar to the Norton Utilities). Most of these offerings are distributed via the FreeWare concept. That is, they are public domain in terms of distribution, but the authors request a nominal donation if you find the software of some use to you. Our club encourages this type of activity and urges you to participate by sending in the appropriate donations if you make frequent use of these software offerings.

We will be ordering more software in the near future so if you would like some say as to what the club purchases, please contact Gord Hopkins at the next meeting, have a look through the catalog of software available, and make your requests known.

SOFTWARE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

I was approached at the last club meeting by Gerry ████. He is interested in contacting other people in the club who have educational software for the IBM-PC and who would be willing to enter into a software exchange program. Gerry is specifically interested in software aimed at the 5-10 year old range. If anyone is interested, please contact Gerry at ████.

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 Sundays before the next General Meeting.

To receive the monthly newsletter by email, send an email to:
opcug-newsletter+subscribe@googlegroups.com (leave subject and body fields blank)
You do **not** need to create a Gmail or Google Groups account.

To subscribe to other OPCUG Google Groups member services, go to:
https://opcug.ca/google-groups-how-to/

Group Meetings

OPCUG meets on the second Wednesday in the month, except July and August, at the Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. Parking is free at the church. OCTranspo bus #90 stops nearby. Details at https://opcug.ca/venue/.
(NOTE: Due to COVID-19 safety guidelines, all our events are via video conference until further notice. Details at https://opcug.ca/venue/)

Meetings are 7:30–9:00 p.m. followed by a Q&A Session until 10 p.m.

OPCUG Membership Fees: $20 per year
Mailing Address: 3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6
Web address: **https://opcug.ca**
Follow us on Facebook: **https://www.facebook.com/opcug**
Follow us on Twitter: **https://www.twitter.com/opcug**

President and System Administrator
Chris Taylor chris.taylor@opcug.ca 613-727-5453
Meeting Coordinator
Lawrence Patterson meetings@opcug.ca
Treasurer
Alan German alan.german@opcug.ca
Secretary
Gail Eagen gail.eagen@opcug.ca
Membership Chairman
Mark Cayer mark.cayer@opcug.ca 613-823-0354
Newsletter
Brigitte Lord brigittelord@opcug.ca
(editor/layout/e-distribution)
Public Relations
Lawrence Patterson PR@opcug.ca
Facilities
Bob Walker 613-489-2084
Webmaster
Brigitte Lord webmaster3@opcug.ca
Privacy Director
Wayne Houston privacy2@opcug.ca
Special Events Coordinator
(Mr.) Jocelyn Doire jocelyn.doire@opcug.ca
Director w/o Portfolio
Karen Wallace-Graner karenwg@opcug.ca

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40th Anniversary Logo

Our font man, Chris Taylor, replaced the highly stylized font in our logo with a cleaner one and added "for over 40 years".

Old logo: the highly scripted font of our motto "Users helping users" was more difficult to read, especially when the logo was reduced in size for use on the web or on promotional material.

Happy Anniversary, everyone!