# OTTAWA PC NEWS

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

*Meeting review*

# Avery LabelPro for Windows

*by Harald Freise*

**M**y trusted IBM Selectric was sold last year in a garage sale. For years I had not used it and kept it around in fear that I had to do a single label or envelope. That fear went away when Word and WordPerfect started to do labels and envelopes. I had not actually needed any other program or Selectric for that matter.

As shown at the last OPCUG general meeting, Avery Dennison have a solution to leverage your existing computer and printer into a label making wiz.

One of the hardest things to do when making labels is to get the spacing right for various labels. With LabelPro for Windows that issue just plain goes away. As we saw, no matter what you've got to label they probably have a laser, ink jet, or dot matrix label to match.

Installation is a snap. Two diskettes dump 41920 bytes in your windows directory and a further 3053939 bytes within its own directory. It sets up its own group and icons, including a directory of available Avery products.

The LabelPro Quick-Start is a helpful and fast introduction to the program and its features. The program is actually quite simple and fast. It comes with 150 ready to use layouts for Avery products. There are update disks available for those products that weren't available or released when the LabelPro software was released. To date there are two supplementary disks: Version 1.01 P/N 1985-3 which includes more sample templates for PC's and common word processors. Version 1.02 is an update for their Laser Mini-sheets. Both of these updates can be found on the PUB.

While working within LabelPro the right mouse button is supported for context sensitive tasks. The commands found on the right mouse button are very handy.

You can start the label-design process by opening an existing sample design. You can see descriptions of the standard cryptic eight-dot-three file names as a separate step. This program shows it age here without a WYSBYGI (What You See Before You Get It) box.

As a test drive I decided to recreate some business cards that I originally did up in Corel Draw. Well, within about 15 minutes from installing LabelPro I had them done. Mind you they weren't exactly the same, but pretty darn close.

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### INSIDE

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**M**ake note that the June general meeting is on WEDNESDAY June 28th at Woodroffe High School. See page 3 for details. See back page for a map.

### Graphics

One thing that is notably missing is the ability to rotate a graphic. Whatever changes you need to make to a graphic, do them outside of LabelPro. Sizing bitmapped graphics is coarse and the options allow you to fit it in a 'frame' keeping its original size, sizing it along with the frame (maintaining its aspect ration), or filling the frame (without maintaining the aspect ratio.) The default graphic imported is .WMF but most popular graphic file formats are supported, including postscript .EPS files. There is a limited selection of clip art included.

### Text

Text is placed within frames as well and there is a default grid to align things up for you. When the text and graphics have been placed on the sample label they can be sized and repositioned at will. Text can be rotated unlike graphics. Any font available to in windows can be used within the program.

### Printing

A handy print preview helps in seeing the label before it goes to the printer. Unfortunately, this on screen view is a little coarse and doesn't truly reflect the quality of the printed output. Printing to a plain page first to see if the output is truly what you wanted is an option before wasting a sheet of labels. There are three printer calibration charts included with the program to aid in aligning the program's printing set-up and your printer. Settings here are quite fine and easy to adjust. Printing is not the fastest process in the world and Avery suggests that you turn off print manager to speed things up a bit (actually anything for that matter.)

Once your design is finished you decide on which label you want to use from an extensive list of Avery-specific label part numbers, and your design is multiplied over the number of labels on that sheet.

### Mail merge

One of the strongest pluses for using LabelPro is that the it can use the data from just about any database or program that produce CSV or comma delimited files. Word, WordPerfect, FoxPro, Approach, dBase, and Paradox can all export data to this format, and Avery LabelPro can merge it with a label. These merge files unfortunately are saved in a proprietary .AVD format. I do not know of any other program that uses this file format. There is no export facility within the program. Once it's in there, that's it. You are pretty well stuck with it. These files then can be linked to a label design and label produced from there.

The program is great for fast labels with a minimum of fuss. Most of the work is done for you by the program, as it should be. I don't have a price for it but have seen it in one of the mail order catalogues for about $100.00. Street prices should be considerably less. Perhaps it is the solution that you need for your label printing problems.

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*Club news*

# Prize winners from the May 23 meeting

Everyone who attended received an 'Avery Label Kit' (some for Dot Matrix, some for Ink Jet and most for Laser Jet printers). The 'Avery Label Pro' software door prize was won by Vladimir Kratky.

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# Super Show & Tell

*by Julie Dustin*

On Tuesday, June 28, Midisoft Corporation will be presenting their newest product Super Show & Tell (SST) version 2.0. SST is a Windows-based presentation package that is used to create interactive multimedia presentations. Karl Parks, Midisoft's National Field Sales Manager, will be making the trip to Ottawa all the way from their head office which is based in Bellevue, Washington.

According to the SST brochure, the product lets you integrate sound, video images, and animation files together into one presentation. SST works like a slide carousel and VCR player at the same time. This version supports most of the file formats including .BMP, .GIF, .PCX, .AVI, .WAV, TWAIN devices and more.

Christine Howe of Midisoft says, "SST was initially developed for the home arena. However, because it is so quick and easy to learn, it can be used by children, home hobbyists and business professionals. Over 350 educational institutions are using it across North America."

SST retails for $199.00 U.S. and includes Presentation Partner (a scripting program for existing presentations) and two CD-ROMs. One CD contains a guide to multimedia and the other, a me-

dia library with over 400 MB of pictures and video clips. This new version should be available in stores sometime this summer.

Midisoft's presentation will include a demonstration of how to build a presentation on the spot. (I bet this information will be really useful to know especially for those situations where you manage to leave your overheads/diskette/slides on the airplane! - JD). Yes, there is a rumour about giveaways and/or a raffle.

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## Calendar *(subject to change)*

| General Meeting Location: | Woodroffe High School 2410 Georgina Drive, Ottawa |
|---|---|
| General Meeting Time: | 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. |

| Date | Topic |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, 28 June | See this page |
| Summer | Have fun |

| SIG | Date | Topic | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| OS/2 | Jun 28 | Proposed SIG executive Plans for growth Q&A for OS/2ers | Woodroffe HS |
| OS/2 | Jun 29 | IBM Internet Access Kit | RMOC |
| FOX | Jun 28 | Database Manager | Woodroffe HS |
| FOX | Oct 10 Dec 12 Feb 13 Apr 16 | TBA | Jean Talon conference room, Jean Talon bldg, Statistics Canada Tunney's Pasture |

# New venue for the June general meeting

Make note that the June general meeting is on *WEDNESDAY* June 28th at a new location:

*Woodroffe High School*
*2410 Georgina Drive*
*Ottawa*

Woodroffe High School is South of Carling Avenue and West of Woodroffe Avenue. The entrance to the school is near the junction of Georgina Drive and Edgeworth Avenue. Edgeworth Avenue intersects Carling Avenue just East of

the Ottawa River Parkway. Georgina Drive intersects Woodroffe Avenue a couple of blocks South of Carling Avenue.

See the map on the back page.
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## Ottawa PC News

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members. Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month prior to publication.

**Group Meetings**
OPCUG normally meets on the last Tuesday in the month, except in July, at Sir Robert Borden HS, 131 Greenbank Road, Nepean. Meeting times are 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Fees**
Membership: $25 per year
Disk of the Month: $25 for either 5.25 in. or 3.5 in. diskettes (10 diskettes)

**Mailing Address**
3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6
Telephone answering machine    723-1329

**Bulletin board—the PUB (BBS)**
Up to 14.4 kbps v.32bis   228-0665 (6 lines)

**Chairman**
Harald Freise                          828-3411

**Treasurer**
Tony Frith

**Secretary**
David Reeves                           723-9658

**Membership Chairman**
Mark Cayer                             224-8031

**Software Librarian**
Jorgen Rasmussen                       821-3040
Judy Tomlin (assistant)                821-3040

**BBS Sysop**
Chris Taylor                           723-1329

**Newsletter Editor**
Chris Seal                             831-0280
Julie Dustin (assistant)               823-1552

**Public Relations**
Larry Chambers                         823-3913

**Facilities**
Bob Walker                             489-2084

**Beginners' Corner**
TBA

**DTP SIG Coordinator**
Bert Schopf                            838-3492

**Fox SIG Coordinator**
Andrew Ross MacNeill (voice/fax) 596-3313

**Internet SIG Coordinator**
David Curling                          731-5381
david.curling@bbs.synapse.net

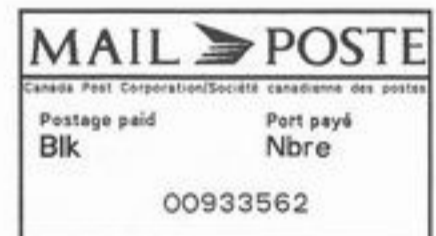**Paradox SIG Coordinator**
Larry Chop                 236-8761 (days)

**Windows SIG Coordinator**
Philip Baker                           247-9555



Association of Personal Computer User Groups
APCUG



The June general meeting is to be held on WEDNESDAY 28 June at Woodroffe High School, 2410 Georgina Drive, Ottawa.

Chris & Michael Taylor
(OPCUG Member #:    7   Expires: 96/02/28)
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