



OTTAWA PC NEWS

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The newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group

February 1997

Club news

Chairman's report *by Harald Freise*

Yet another year has gone by and great changes have taken place in the computer industry. The buzz word has been 'INTERNET'. It has been everywhere. It has invaded most, if not all, facets of our lives. Car companies, movies, newspapers, magazines, television, even buses present URLs vying for our attention. Everyone it seems, is interested in the Net.

What the Net means to a user group, such as ours, is competition for our attention. Will it replace the OPCUG? I hope not. With vendors redirecting their support and charging users for individual support, there is indeed a place for a user group such as ours.

Consider this. The OPCUG is a vendor-independent volunteer, incorporated, not-for-profit organization. Ten times a year the OPCUG sends out a newsletter with reviews, tips and tricks written by volunteer members such as yourself. Ten times a year OPCUG SIG sessions gather with members helping members coordinated by volunteers. Ten times a year the OPCUG tries to present a topical, broad-based and interesting presentation on a variety of computing specific subjects. Ten times a year members have the opportunity of winning some major door prizes courtesy of the vendors that are invited to our general meetings. The OPCUG is a local group of computer users helping other computer users.

The OPCUG bulletin board maintains a link between members that serves many uses. It is accessible 24 hours a day. Certainly the Pub provides us with messaging areas as an opportunity for discussion, questions, and answers on a variety of computer-related problems. There is support available for new AND older software/equipment. The buy and sell area provides us with a place that is generally free of crass commercialism and vendors. Business users can communicate, securely, using private messaging and file transfers. One can usually find the latest shareware and public domain software on the Pub. Multiple lines mean NO WAITING and RELIABLE, CONSISTENT DOWNLOADS of the latest files. That 5.7-MB version of the latest and greatest Internet browser may take a LOT LESS TIME to download from the Pub than from a dial-up connection to the Internet. Bandwidth, yes we got bandwidth. A minimum of 730 HOURS OF CONNECT TIME a year is included with your minimal \$25.00 membership fee. Consider the value of your membership dollars.

The OPCUG provides not only the opportunity to learn something but also provides the opportunity for personal involvement. It is said that

the fastest way to learn about something is to get involved and do it. The executive are always open to new ideas and challenges. All it takes are volunteers to take charge and to behold responsibility to the membership at large.

This past year has been a stable one for the OPCUG. Many thanks go to the National Museum of Science and Technology for our new venue. It provides us with a stable meeting place that we did not enjoy with our previous location. Due to a distinct lack of volunteers, many proposals and programs were stillborn. Many thanks for all those who have volunteered their time, without cost to the club, and without any thought of personal gain. I hope that the OPCUG will benefit from 'Users Helping Users' for many years to come. Get involved! Spread the word. User Groups are a good idea.

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Next meeting:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1997

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It just gets better *by Julie Dustin*

To keep your sanity, during the endless hardware and software upgrades, you have to stop and realize "it just gets better". In the computer world, anyway. For example, I have three times as much working memory as I had on my first hard drive. I have colours and sounds galore. And CorelDraw has been there through most of it. They are still here and producing more. On Wednesday, February 4, they'll show us the latest.

Peggy Morley, Product Specialist for Corel Corporation, will be showing us the newest and neatest features in CorelDraw version 7.0 and Ventura version 7.0. Both Windows 95 versions were released in November 1996. In the never-ending search for speed, they have gotten faster.

Draw

As Morley explains, there is a concentration on interactive tools. "We have a context-sensitive property toolbar located just below the normal tool bar. As you select the object, it changes."

Other new and improved tools include:

1. Transparency

The flat transparency feature, using lenses in Draw 6, is better. The transparency can move in a circular pattern. For example, a photograph can change from dark to light. "You can make a feature like fireworks looks realistic with this enhancement", Morely explains.

2. Fountain fills

You can change one object and blend more than one colour throughout it. Or you can change the blend from one colour to another.

3. Blending tool

The ability to change one object to another in a smooth transition has been available for a few versions. Maybe that's where the Star Trek staff got the idea from? Now, the process is simpler.

To load the entire package, you may need to bring out one of those old hard drives. It takes approximately 200 MB for everything except the clip art and extra fonts. The price per MB is great though. The full package retails for \$695 and an upgrade is \$249.



Ventura

Ventura 7.0 is still being targeted at the heavy-duty word-intensive users like publishers for books, magazines, catalogues and newspapers. Morely notes, "For most other home and small business users, WordPerfect contains so many features already, it is a publishing tool itself."

"This version for Windows 95, has unlimited tags and allows you to link to unlimited files. It is only restricted by your storage space. You can open multiple publications and move between them. Cutting and pasting text is so easy. The Navigator makes the job of taking tags and master pages between publications much easier."

Ventura comes with WordPerfect for a price of \$895. This allows you to publish HGML documentation automatically. It also includes CD Creator, the software for creating your own CDs (you supply the hardware) and PhotoPaint. A compact installation of Ventura is 65 MB: a full installation takes 137 MB.

Come and see one of our home-town favourites on February 4th.



Beginners' corner

A new beginning *by Duncan Petrie*

Hi! I'm Duncan Petrie – just call me Dunc – and I have been asked to facilitate the club's beginners' assistance section.

The 'Corner' will find a secluded area following most regular meetings to discuss your software or hardware problems. Did you purchase a new computer at Christmas and wonder 'What do I do now?' Drop in!

I alone can't solve every problem. Instead, together we can try to find a solution – if not immediately, then solutions could be posted on The PUB.



Club news

January's winners *by Mark Cayer*

Thanks to Epson Canada for these as well as the other giveaways (key chains, balloons, and pens) at the meeting:

- ◆ ink cartridges were won by David George, Wayne Giddings, Darryl Johnson, and Mark Cayer (who donated his to Bert Schopf for use by the DTP Sig and newsletter staff).
- ◆ package of speciality Stylus paper was won by Wayne Houston.



Calendar

Meetings	February	March
OPCUG General Meetings	Feb. 5 AGM and Corel (see page 2)	Mar. 5 Demonstrations of MS Exchange and Schedule Plus
Desktop Publishing SIG	Feb 4: Corel*	
Internet SIG	Feb. 13	
Ottawa Paradox Users Group	Feb. 20	Mar. 20
FOX SIG	Feb. 11	Mar. 11

Please note: The February general meeting will be on the FIRST Wednesday of the month, as per normal schedule.

* subject to change

Club news

Treasurer's report for 1996 *by Tony Frith*

The Ottawa PC Users' Group continues to shrink in size as do our revenues. To control expenses in 1996 we:

- reduced the number of telephone lines with little discernable effect on access
- arranged for a new, cheaper meeting place (free)
- closed the software library which in the past generated a revenue, albeit small.

Our major expenses continue to be the Newsletter and BBS which form the backbone of the group's non-meeting efforts. We expect costs to rise for the Newsletter with if we fall below the critical mass of people required to use Canada Post bulk mailing and we have to revert to stamped envelopes.

We would like to remind all members that the Group has an 'open book' policy and, on request, members may ask for any information on any financial transaction. A detailed listing of the group's hardware, non-library software, and other inventory is similarly available.

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Financial summary for 1996

Item	1995	1996
Liquid assets		
GIC one year	\$10,000	\$10,000
GIC month	\$5,000	\$5,000
Bank balance	\$9,203	\$7,421
Cash accounts	\$160	-\$419
Total assets	\$24,363	\$22,002
Income		
Membership dues	\$18,805	\$12,675
Other income	\$1,235	\$75
Bank profits, GIC int	\$883	\$819
Software library profit	\$94	\$0
Total income	\$21,017	\$13,569
Expenses		
Newsletter	\$8,930	\$7,856
BBS	\$5,872	\$4,498
Meetings	\$1,367	\$2,298
Miscellaneous	\$1,302	\$119
Membership	\$644	\$297
Telephone	\$446	\$281
S/W library	\$107	\$0
Bank charges	\$5	\$0
Total expenses	\$18,673	\$15,350

Replacing your C: drive *by Chris Taylor*

You looked under the Christmas tree and found a brand new multi-gigabyte hard disk to replace that slow, tiny little 500 meg drive now on your computer. Now comes the fun part, how to get it installed and your files transferred over with a minimum of fuss and bother.

Well I just went through this and thought I would share the method I used. While most of this is relevant to those still running DOS, Windows 95 throws a few extra interesting wrinkles into the operation.

Prerequisites

First, I am assuming that you have a single IDE hard disk, partitioned as a single drive (C:), your drive cable has an extra connector, and you have a spare power connector. If there is no spare power connector, you can buy a Y-connector that will turn one of your existing power connectors into 2 connectors. If you already have more than one IDE hard disk, and your IDE host adapter supports only 2 devices, you will have to remove the second drive temporarily to transfer the files from the first disk to your new drive. This will only work if Windows 95 is installed to your first disk. If your CD-ROM is running off the same IDE host adapter, you can disconnect it while transferring the files and reconnect it later.

Preparation

First, make sure you can recover from a disaster. Back up your hard disk. Anytime you are about to make hardware configuration changes, it is a good idea to back up the registry. You can use the CFBACK program included on the CD-ROM version of Windows 95. You can also pick up the program from The PUB in the Windows Utilities file area.

Next, go into the CMOS setup for your computer (on many computers you press Del while your machine is booting to get to setup.) Write down all the parameters for your current drive. Write down the parameters for your new drive. Most drives include the information on the drive label. Look for information on the number of cylinders, heads and sectors. There may also be information on write pre-comp and landing zone. Sometimes this information only makes it into the manual for the disk.

Make a bootable disk. You can create one in Windows 95 through Control Panel | Add/Remove Programs and click on the Startup Disk tab. Make sure FDISK.EXE, FORMAT.COM, SYS.COM, CHKDSK.EXE, and EDIT.COM made it to the disk. Add any other disaster recovery tools you think you may need. Test the boot disk by starting your computer with it and make sure it works.

Read the documentation on your new drive on how to make this drive a slave. By default, drives are normally set to be the master, so this almost certainly has to be changed. You are now ready to proceed.

Procedure

Power off and open up the machine. Don't bother installing the new drive in a drive bay yet. Just set it so it can be connected and not short out any components. Find a spare power connector and plug it into your new disk.

Find the cable going from your IDE host adapter or motherboard to your hard disk. The cable should have an extra connector on it. Plug the connector onto your new hard disk, making sure that the cable is the right way around. Normally, this means lining it up so the red stripe on the cable is at the edge of the connector on the drive marked pin 1. It is worth verifying that the red edge of the cable goes to the connector on the host adapter or motherboard marked pin 1. This is not too big a deal, if you get it wrong, your machine probably won't even boot and then you just have to power down and reverse the connector.

Power up your machine and go into the CMOS setup. Configure the parameters for the new drive as drive D. Save and reboot. Either boot from your floppy or when it says "Loading Windows 95", press F8 and choose the option to go to a command prompt only.

Run FDISK. Choose the option to select disk drive and choose the second drive. You must then partition the drive. You should consider the cluster sizes for different sizes of partitions. The values for FAT16 partitions are:

Partition size	Cluster size
1024MB+	32k
512MB - 1023MB	16k
256MB - 511MB	8k

You have to balance the choice between ease of use (that is, not having to remember where things are amongst 5 or 6 drive letters) and waste of disk space (each file wastes, on average, half a cluster). Also remember that FAT16 can create only partitions up to 2GB. If you are using a brand new version of Windows (OEM Service Release 2), and you can live with limitations like not using older disk tools and only being able to see the partition from within Windows 95 (that is, you can't access it from MS-DOS 6 or Windows 3) you can use FAT32 to create very large partitions with small clusters. FAT32 supports single partitions up to 2 terabytes and partitions up to 8GB are formatted with 4k clusters. For more information on FAT32, if you have access to the Internet, see <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/pr/fat32.htm>.

continued on page 5...

Once you have partitioned your drive, reboot your machine and go right into Windows 95. Then open a DOS prompt. (Note that this must be a normal DOS prompt within Windows 95, it cannot be MS-DOS Mode or a command prompt before going into Windows 95. The XCOPY procedure used to copy files will copy long file names only from within Windows 95.)

Make sure drive D is the new drive by typing DIR D: which should return an error message indicating the drive is not formatted. Format the new disk with the command

```
format d: /s
```

The /s option switch places system files on the partition so that it will eventually be bootable. If you created multiple partitions while in FDISK, format them as well (without the /s option.) Once the formatting is finished, copy the files from drive C to drive D with the command:

```
xcopy c:\*.* d:\ /s/c/h/e/r/k d:\copied.dat
```

The parameters will do the following:

/s - copies file in subdirectories. Since you are starting at the root, this will handle all directories.

/c - continues copying even if errors occur. Certain files, such as the swap file, cannot be copied because they are open.

/h - copies hidden and system files.

/e - copies empty directories. While this may not seem important, certain directories are required, even if empty, such as the TEMP directory.

/r - overwrites read-only files.

/k - copies attributes. Many things can go wrong if attributes are not copied. For example, if the fonts folder loses its system attribute, it fails to function as a proper font folder.

The final portion (copied.dat) causes the screen output from XCOPY to get re-directed to a file. After the DOS prompt comes back, you can load this file into an editor and review what happened. You should look for any errors regarding files that could not be copied. The one you can ignore is the message about the swap file not getting copied. Normally, this file is called WIN386.SWP.

Verify that all your files made it to the new hard disk.

Once you are sure that all files have been transferred, shut down your machine and power it off. Open it up and remove the old hard disk. Change the jumper on the new drive to indicate it is now a master drive, rather than slave. Install the drive into a drive bay.

Close up your machine, and turn on the power.

Go into the CMOS setup and change the parameters for drive C to the new drive's values and tell it that there is no drive D. Save and exit. Place your bootable floppy in drive A and restart your computer.

When you get to a DOS prompt, load FDISK. Choose the option to set the active partition. From the next screen choose the partition number that shows C: at the left of the screen. Exit FDISK and you are done.

If you have any questions about the procedures, send me a message on The PUB. Oh, and it would be best to do so *before* you begin!

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Club news

Announcement: Annual General Meeting *by David Reeves*

The Annual General Meeting for the OPCUG will be held during the February general meeting as the first order of business. Both the President and Treasurer will submit reports for 1996. Chris Taylor and David Reeves have been reelected to the Board of Directors and have appointed Harald Freise, Mark Cayer, Bob Walker, and Chris Seal to the board. Bob Herres, John Rasmussen, and Tony Frith have chosen not to remain as Directors of the OPCUG. On behalf of the OPCUG, the Board would like to thank them for their efforts over the past years.

Three vacancies remain on the Board of Directors. The Board is actively recruiting to fill these positions and if you are interested, please contact one of the Directors.

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News and reviews *by John Ladds*

In January Pierre Laundry show us an application developed by Larry Chop. Pierre is involved with ISO 9000 standards and travels around the world for ISO 9000 conferences. He required a tool to track meeting, monitor tasks, and record ISO 9000 standards. The system Larry created allowed Pierre to record when, where, and who attended the meetings. Pierre could then create custom reports such as mailing labels for attendees. The system also monitored tasks assigned to committee members and reports on their progress. A big plus of this system was the ad hoc reporting feature, which allowed Pierre to create reports as he needed them rather than having Larry do the work. The name of a new report is added to a table to be used on other occasions.



After Pierre showed the application from a user's perspective, Larry lifted the hood and show us how he handled some other more interesting features of the system. We looked at alias handling, a user friendly query form, and report management. Although this application has freed Pierre to create the reports he needs when he needs them, Larry has lost out on a number of trips to many part of the world to create custom reports.

Paradox tip of the month

Add the forms, scripts, or tables you use all the time to the Project Viewer. By default, the Project Viewer displays only objects in the working directory and the private directory. Paradox provides you with a way to show files from other directories using references. To add a reference, choose Project | Add Reference or click the Add Reference Toolbar button. The Select File dialog box opens. Choose the file you want to add to the Project Viewer. This is very fast and easy access to the forms and tables you use the most.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at Inly Systems, 1221a Cyrville Road from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The next meeting is on Thursday, 20 February, 1997.

For more up-to-date information about meeting topics, please visit our web site at: <http://magi.com/~chopla/opug.html>.

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Internet SIG

February presentation *by Jean Stalker*

Blaine Agnew on The future of high-end content creation and 3-D visualization in the web

In the fall of 1995, the Algonquin College Media Centre was opened to deliver a highly innovative program in multimedia communications. The centre offers training in such subjects as interactive multimedia, digital animation, and electronic publishing. Students use the most advanced technology in existence, in an exciting atmosphere of innovation and interaction. The program is offered to graduates and experienced professionals in broadcasting, journalism, advertising, and graphics design. The centre emerged from a creative partnership of Algonquin, Silicon Graphics, and Alias Research.

Blaine Agnew of Silicon Graphics Canada is the systems application engineer responsible for implementing the network which is at the core of the Media Centre. This network features the kind of high-end SGI machines (Onyx, Indigo, and Indy) used to create special effects in such movies as Toy Story, Jurassic Park, and Terminator 2, and state-of-the-art software.

The presentation takes place on Thursday, February 13 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Keefer room of the Ottawa-Carleton Centre (RMOC), 111



Lisgar St., Ottawa. Visitors welcome. Underground parking is available at low evening rates; the ramp into the parking lot is a right turn off Laurier, about halfway between Elgin and the canal overpass.

For additional information about the Media Centre visit the following web sites:

- ◆ <http://www.sgi.com/International/Canada/success/algonquinc.html>
- ◆ <http://www.algonquinc.on.ca>
- ◆ <http://www.monitor.ca/monitor/vol4iss2/features3.html>

The I-SIG coordinator is David Curling (curlingd@loday.com, telephone 731-5381). The URL for the I-SIG Web-site is <http://www.synapse.net/~loday/isig.htm>.

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January review: Excellent presentations at members' Show & Tell

The January DTP SIG meeting was an excellent and informative evening – without a single sales message! The Show & Tell session gives our members a chance to demonstrate DTP projects they work on and to share their experiences with everyone.

Leading the presenters was **Moe Duchene**, who showed us samples of brochures and newsletters he created for seniors and teens in his community. Using a modest computer, printer and software, Moe demonstrated that it is indeed possible to create effective publications on negligible budgets. Moe refuses any payment for his work, noting that the day he charges for his volunteer work is the day he'll quit. Many budding desktop publishers cry that there is little opportunity to do "real" work out there. Perhaps they should follow Moe's lead and practice their craft for the many non-profit organizations in this town. Well done, Moe!



Moe's Demo...
an impressive insight

Next up was **Terry Mahoney** who explored an amazing VRML (virtual reality modeling language) application called ArchiCAD from Graphisoft. The CD-ROM software takes you on a self-directed tour of several houses designed with stunning architectural skill (including two Canadian houses). The real amazement was that you could position yourself anywhere in the virtual house and look left, right, up, or down. Been there, done that you say? This is more than a simple wire-frame 3-D modelling tool. Each household structure and object is ray-traced and rendered so well that you think you are seeing a live video shot! This technology is pretty neat and we are sure to be seeing more VRML applications like this in educational and entertainment software in the near future.



Come and visit my house,
with Terry Mahoney

SIG Coordinator **Bert Schopf** then showed off a toy he has been playing with recently: a video camera and a Snappy video capture device. After shooting video clips of people at the meeting, he replayed the tape to capture still images onto his computer. It's not the highest picture quality when you compare it with good scanners, but its flexibility and low cost make it attractive for

web graphics and lower-res image capture.

Finishing off the presentations was newcomer **Galen Thurber** who showed us a very-well-designed two-colour newsletter produced with Page Plus from Serif. Galen compared the features of this shareware (yes, shareware!) product to the heavy hitters in page layout (Ventura, Quark, PageMaker) and found that it had all the essential features needed to produce an excellent publication. Great stuff!

February meeting: Corel Ventura – Power Publishing!

We are pleased to welcome Corel Ventura product specialist **Peggy Morley** to our February Desktop Publishing SIG Meeting, Tuesday, February 4th at 7:30 p.m. She will demonstrate the all-new Corel Ventura 7.0 publishing powerhouse and will be fielding questions after the presentation. After the two-year product development cycle for this significant upgrade, expect to be astounded!

DTP SIG meetings are open to the public and are held at Lemmex Computer Training Centre, 275 Slater Street (at Kent), suite 340. Parking (free) is available on nearby streets and in the lot on the Northwest corner of Slater and Kent.

Mark your calendars! The March 4th meeting of the DTP SIG will feature **Doug Gervais**, who will explain all about computer hardware security methods and demonstrate some Prolox hardware devices that deter thieves.

Questions? Call Coordinator Bert Schopf at 232-8427 or email at blackbird@cyberus.ca.

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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. Deadline for submissions is four Saturdays before the general meeting.

Group meetings

OPCUG normally meets on the first Wednesday in the month, except in July and August, at the National Museum of Science and Technology, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa. Meeting times are 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Fees

Membership: \$25 per year.

Mailing address

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

Bulletin board—the PUB (BBS)

Up to 28.8 kbps v.34 228-0665 (6 lines)

Chairman

Harald Freise hfreise@fox.nstn.ca . 828-3411

Treasurer

Tony Frith
frithros@mag.com (819) 671-0401

Secretary

David Reeves david_reeves@nt.com.. 723-9658

Membership Chairman

Mark Cayer cayermar@statcan.ca... 224-8031

BBS Sysop

Chris Taylor ctaylor@nrcan.gc.ca .. 723-1329

Newsletter

Chris Seal (editor) cseal@fox.nstn.ca 831-0280
Julie Dustin (assistant editor)
micropro@fox.nstn.ca 823-1552
Mr. Jean Vaumoron (layout)
vaumojav@magi.com 731-7847

Public Relations

To be announced

Facilities

Bob Walker skywalk@ottawa.net 489-2084

Beginners' corner facilitator

Duncan Petrie 841-6119

DTP SIG coordinator

Bert Schopf blackbird@cyberus.ca.. 232-8427

Fox SIG coordinator

BobThomas@msn.com (voice/fax) 596-3313

Internet SIG coordinator

David Curling curlingd@loday.com.. 731-5381

OS/2 SIG coordinator

Mr. Jocelyn Doire Please contact via PUB

Paradox SIG coordinator

Larry Chop lchop@magi.com... 236-8761 (days)

Windows SIG coordinator

Chris Taylor ctaylor@nrcan.gc.ca ... 723-1329



January presentation: rescheduled to May *by Jean Stalker*

David Curling's January presentation, which was to have been an on-line demonstration, was unavoidably derailed by administrative and technical problems. The coordination team apologizes to those who were inconvenienced by this unavoidable last-minute cancellation.

All is not lost. This presentation, the third session in the annual Update on Web authoring and Web-site management series, entitled Analysis and Preparation of a Web Site, has been rescheduled to Thursday, May 8, 1997. In the meantime, David's presentation agenda and overhead slides are available on-line at <http://www.synapse.net/~loday/auth3.htm>

This site also has links to sources of the application software that David had planned to feature in his presentation, notably Luckman WebEdit (HTML coding), InContext WebAnalyser (automated site analysis), and Microsoft FrontPage (site management).

For additional information about the January, now May topic or about the I-SIG, visit the I-SIG Web-site, (<http://www.synapse.net/~loday/isig.htm>), e-mail David Curling, the I-SIG coordinator (curlingd@loday.com), or telephone him (731-5381).

Anyone wishing to receive regular e-mail announcements and reminders of I-SIG presentations should touch base with Norm Dafoe, by e-mail (ndafoe@sirius.on.ca) or telephone (723-9345).

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0000614

Chris & Michael Taylor
(OPCUG Member #: 7 Expires: 97/02/28)
3 Thatcher St.
Nepean, Ont.
K2G 1S6

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