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FEATURING ARTICLES BY COMPUTER CLUB MEMBERS

"GETTING MORE OUT OF YOUR COMPUTER"

PCCT—Just As Helpful The Second Time Around

By Dorene Jacobs

For the second time in a dozen years, I have reason to be appreciative of the assistance of PCCT, its members and the resources which are available with membership.

PC's came into my life around 1983 when we obtained our first system for my program in the Ontario Government. I was responsible for the development of the "Ethnocultural Data Base," a largely census-based collection of statistics about ethnic groups and immigrants in Ontario. We milked the various Censuses of Canada for everything of any relevance and produced and published tables with a great many manual and typing endeavours until our first PC arrived and we could switch to Lotus 123, albeit still with manual data transfer.

I bought my own computer in 1986 — a 20 MB XT running on DOS, of course, with dual floppy drives and a horrible clunker of a dot matrix printer which I hated for 12 years. And I joined PCCT. Almost immediately I discovered Henry Crane's New User SIG and attended regularly for at least a year, perhaps two. I learned a tremendous amount from this and really admired how Henry handled it: those present could ask questions about whatever was of concern to them and Henry answered each question patiently and thoroughly,

even when the same question might have been asked the session or two sessions before by different members.

Also, I was privileged to edit the club's Newsletter (now *read.me*) for a year during which I time I learned to use the Club's Bulletin Board and to download articles from Club members. That was just before the dawn of desktop publishing and the newsletter was processed in WordPerfect 4.2, if you can imagine. (I had done writing and editing before, and had edited a magazine for the Ontario Government for two years, long before PC's became a gleam in computer developers' brain cells.) I was fortunate in finding in the Club a number of "mentors" who guided me through the first couple of issues until I was comfortable with the available technology. Again, an invaluable learning experience was provided to me. I also, for a short time, did some copying of disks for the Software Library, back when they were mostly of the 5 1/4 in. variety.

The years went by. Technological resources at work were more readily available along with learning opportunities, and I ceased to rely on the Club as much since other activities and interests intervened. However, I maintained my membership and over the last few months have been exceedingly grateful for that. A couple of years ago (after the hard drive on the old XT crashed!) I began to think seriously of upgrading. At first, I attended a few sessions of the Daytime SIG in an attempt to get a sense of

the current technology (way over my head I found). And then last fall, still working with an XT (given to me by a friend who had upgraded), I started attending the General Meetings again. One night I asked at the Software Library table if there was a bridge program which I could run on the XT for which I needed the larger floppies. Sean Sullivan searched his stock (archives?) at home and came up with Grand Slam Bridge which I was able to load and use. I must have mentioned that I really wanted to upgrade, because a few weeks later Sean told me he was considering an upgrade for himself and had worked out a "bundled" package with Roger's *Computer Technology*; he showed me the specs and wondered if I might be interested also. He told me that the Club and several individual members had re-ceived good service from Roger and he emphasized their reliability. And he and Bernard Nottage offered their services to get the new computer up and running for me. Frank Latchford also provided some useful advice. And while a new computer system wasn't exactly in my budget plans at the time, I decided that this was an opportunity not to missed: in the be-wildering world of current technology, the assistance of experienced club members in both purchasing a system and getting started on it was almost too good to be true.

The new system arrived in early December and the promised help **Concluded on page 3**

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Join us at the PCCT on July 20th. See back page for Free Coupon!

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JULY 20TH MEETING

Mr. Kevin Krempulec of Symantec will highlight Norton AntiVirus Software

Anti-virus software—it's become a necessary utility in today's virus prone environment especially with the advent of widespread internet connectivity. Chosen by the one of the industry leaders, as well as by PC Magazine, Symantec will be the guest vendor at the July meeting. Symantec's latest Norton AntiVirus software is not only easy to install but can work in the background, continually looking for those pesky (and downright lethal) virus programs waiting to scramble your system.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 20th in the regular location of the Burgundy Room, North York Memorial Community Hall beginning at 7:00 pm.

The next General Meeting will be September 21st. Microsoft will be the vendor/speaker!

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General Meeting Tuesday, July 20th, 1999

Admission for non-members – \$5.00

6:30pm: Meet and discuss - your ideas for PCCT with some of our Board members and volunteers.

7:00pm: General Meeting - starts with a Question & Answer session.

The Personal Computer Club of Toronto



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July 1999
Volume 17, No. 7
ISSN 0848-8983

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The Personal Computer Club Of Toronto (**PCCT**) is an independent, not-for-profit association for people who use PC microcomputers. Our philosophy: *Users helping Users.*

"read.me" is the newsletter of the PCCT, published 11 times a year, featuring articles by club members and members of other user groups from around the world. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of the PCCT.

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The PCCT does not assume responsibility for damages arising from the publication or non-publication of any advertisement in this newsletter. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by the club.

Special Interest Groups

The Basics SIG **Leader: Frank Latchford (416) 340-0999**

Learning Windows 95/98 SIG. This SIG is intended for those who are new to Windows 95/98. We will discuss how Windows works and how to use it on a daily basis. The intention of this SIG is to teach — not to entertain. We will start at the beginning and go to the end. You should have learned to use some aspect of Windows by the end of the evening.

Daytime SIG **Leader: Bob Matheson (416) 222-4628**

This is a discussion group that covers a wide range of topics relating to IBM and compatible computers. It is for novice, intermediate and advanced users.

Digital Imaging SIG **Leader: Ron Caine (ron_caine@msn.com)**

Interested in scanners, photography, digital cameras and the software to run all that? Then this SIG is for you. We will go over all facets of manipulating pixels to give you the results you want.

Genealogy SIG **Leader: John Mahler (jmahler@globalserve.net)**

The Genealogy SIG is for anyone who is interested in the search of the past. We delve into the family tree and cover the tools, means and resources available to those who search. If you have an interest in your past and want to learn more, come on by and sit a spell.

Hardware SIG **Leader: Clive Apps (416) 510-0020**

Installing and fixing your computer hardware can be fun, a learning experience and can save you money. Find out what goes on under the hood and what you can do about it. Bring your machine and do it there.

Internet SIG **Leader: Avnish Kashyap (905) 671-1736**

This SIG concentrates on how to access and utilize the various resources of the Internet. If you are having difficulties using the Internet or simply wish to learn more, then this SIG is for you. The first 15 minutes of the SIG are used to answer general communications issues.

Investment SIG **Leader: Ken Morgan (416) 491-1932**

Analytical techniques, use of spreadsheets, graphical display of investment analysis all play an important part in these meetings. Also, considerable use is made of video training tapes on investment subjects.

Microsoft Office SIG **Leader: Jonathan Hines**

Learn how to use the Microsoft Office suite of programs: Word, Excel, Access and Powerpoint. A SIG geared to helping small business make effective use of this software.

New User SIG **Leader: Henry Crane (905) 884-5443**

This is a group arranged specifically for novice computer users. It holds informal friendly discussions on the essentials of personal computing. You will get clear concise explanations of computer terms on your personal level of understanding, help with what to learn and how to learn it quickly and cheaply, purchasing, upgrading and problem solving advice that can save you many hours and dollars.

Visual Basic SIG **Leaders: Trevor Pedley & Jim McIntosh**

Learn Visual Basic, a popular programming language. This group follows a beginners level text with a structured learning environment. Easily learn sophisticated ways to program applications in the Windows environment by attending this group.

Windows / Win95 SIG **Leader: Karl Stanley 1-905-836-5222**

Here is where you can learn how to get and use the maximum from MS Windows. You will enjoy an information-packed, entertaining evening while you learn how to use all the Windows tools, and make Windows run more efficiently on your machine. You can participate in the monthly training session and become an expert user in less than a year. You will learn tips and tricks that will save you hours. You will meet many power users, see the latest Windows products and perhaps win a valuable door prize.



Notes from the Board June 99

The Directors continue to meet at least once a month and will continue during the summer months.

Our current financial status is in line with forecast. Our Treasurer Arthur Robertson expects that we will finish the fiscal year at the end of August with figures that befit a non-profit organisation. As a cost saving measure the second (members only) telephone line for the BBS has been cancelled. The BBS, including the software library is still available to those members who have subscribed to use the system. Activity will be monitored by the Sysops.

After an extensive review of Internet Service Providers and of the Website by Steve Rakus, the Directors agreed with the recommendation to change to Idirect. The club domain name stays the same; *pcct.org*. This change will allow the calendar to be on the same website as the rest of the pages. The Website team lead by Mireille Massue continues to provide updated material and has a number of innovative features planned for the coming months. As with the newsletter, a major challenge is obtaining information about club activities in time from the various departments.

As we approach the end of this season, there are a number of leaders who are stepping down from their volunteer duties. After many years *Karl Stanley* has stepped down from leading the Windows SIG. *Bob Matheson* has stepped down from the Daytime SIG. *Clive Apps* has discontinued his leadership of the Hardware SIG. *Jonathan Hines* started the MS Office SIG when that software package first became available, he will step down after the June meeting. After serving one year as Internet SIG leader, *Kash* has decided to focus elsewhere. The Genealogy SIG was started last fall by *John Mahler* and has had a large attendance. John feels he has exhausted his list of ideas and finds there are many other demands on his time. At the same time as these changes with the SIGs are taking place, *Bernard Nottage* has had to discontinue his leadership of the software library team. This is a popular source of software for members, and a revenue source. Another revenue source has been the member's sales Bargoon table, operated by *Martin Moss*. Martin is unable to continue to volunteer for this task. The Directors are now looking for volunteers to continue these activities. If you have a particular area of interest please let one of the Directors know. You don't have to be an expert nor will you be expected to do all the

Second Time Around concluded
materialized.

Bernard spent several hours then and on about three occasions since, and Sean has offered helpful advice and information. Even so, I felt incredibly overwhelmed and intimidated by all the "advanced" technology I now had in my apartment; it was hard to believe that while the total cost was about the same as I had paid in 1986 for my now archaic system, I had obtained so much more. It seemed like going from the 19th to the 21st century in one fell swoop! Everything was new: Windows, e-mail, the Internet, sound, Office 97 (giving up my beloved WordPerfect for the sake of the integrated package), colour inkjet printer (which I love!), a scanner (which I still don't know how to use except for photocopying), a FAX capability; it was totally bewildering and I barely knew where to start.

And so I started going to SIGs, four of them a month (in addition to the General Meeting)! They are: *Win Basics*, *MS Office*, *Internet*, and *Genealogy* (the latter subject being one of the main reasons I wanted Internet access). I have learned a great deal from all of them, and have found both the leaders and individual participants ready to provide answers to my seemingly endless questions. Unfortunately, the timing was not ideal for those SIGs, like Basics and Office, which had a structured program beginning in September and developing through the year, as I started in January. However, I still found them very

helpful and I am exceedingly grateful not only for all that I have learned, but also for the existence of the Club. Gradually, some of the fog has lifted and I am now more comfortable with many aspects of my new computer, although things still have a way of disappearing for no apparent reason! E-mail has been the most active area from the beginning. I have started to design a personal database in Microsoft Access and will do one for a group I'm associated with in the fall. I have taught myself some of the basic features of MS Word, although there's lots more to learn. And starting in the fall, I will be editing a quarterly newsletter for a users' group associated with a particular software; this at the moment seems like a formidable project but again, the trade-off will be the necessity of learning to use more of the technological capabilities which I now have available together with the software. Again, I will be relying on guidance and techie support from other participants.

There is still a long way to go before I learn even a part of all that's there to learn. But without the help of the PCCT and its members, I would not have been able to come this far.

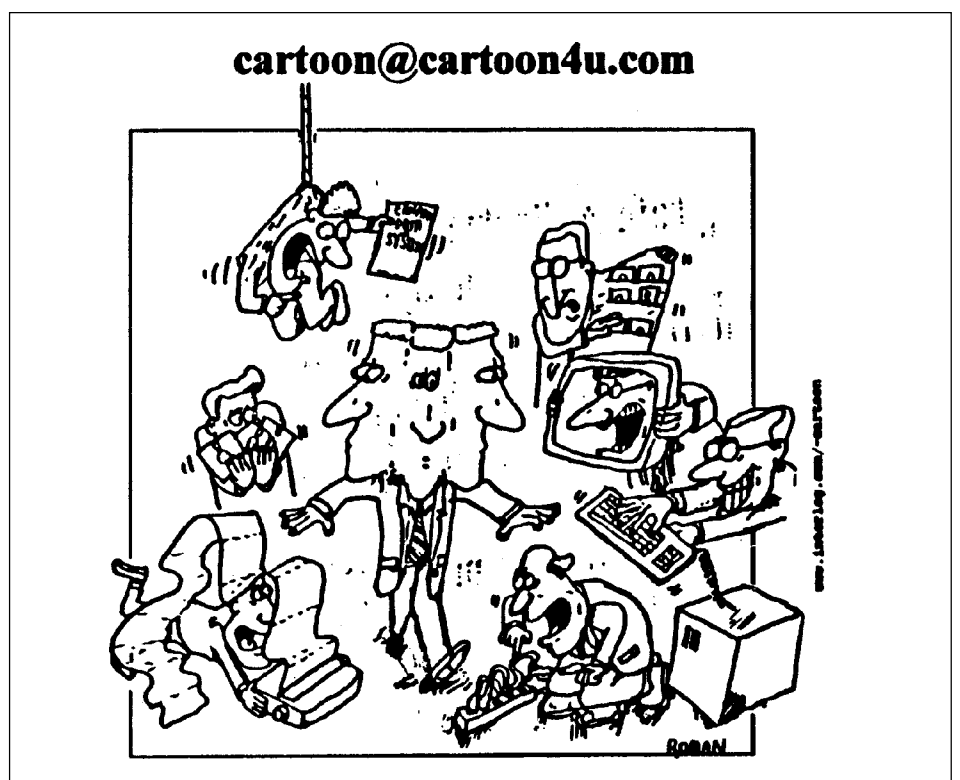
In an attempt to reciprocate to PCCT in what seems a small way, I began to help a little at the Software Library table and offered to assist by copying disks. Unfortunately, the future of the Library seems a little uncertain at the present time, so I don't know if there will be a "job" for me there. I hope there will be. ❖

work yourself. The main need is for ensuring there are monthly activities planned, and that those involved are available as scheduled.

Due to popular demand we will add a new SIG starting in September. This group will focus on the LINUX operating system. We have a leader who has volunteered his time and efforts. We anticipate this will be a monthly evening meeting held at MSL, (formerly named York Public Library) the same as the other SIGs. Continuation will depend upon the amount of interest.

Murray Dobbs has successfully booked a central location for our August Family picnic. We will meet on Saturday 21 August at location #3 in Serena Gundy Park, in the north west corner of Leslie street and Eglinton Avenue. We will be there from the middle of the morning until dusk. Come and bring the family and enjoy social time. Watch our website for late breaking news.

May I wish you all an enjoyable summer, and look forward to seeing you at a new season of club activities in September. *Robin*
Please note address change to robinmw@canada.com



An advertisement for 'Dr. Tips at Your Fingertips'. At the top, the website 'www.drTips.com' is displayed. Below it, a cartoon character of a doctor with a pink face, wearing a white lab coat and a stethoscope, is shown. He is holding a computer mouse in his right hand. To the right of the character, the text reads 'Dr. Tips™ at Your Fingertips'. Below this, in large, bold letters, it says 'Free * Tips for Windows Free Newsletter'. The background is white with a simple border.

And now I lay me down to sleep...

Counting USB peripherals, instead of sheep

By Hal Lewis (PCCT)



In July '97 I finally cranked up my courage, dusted the cobwebs out of my wallet and bought my long procrastinated Pentium 166. The old 386 clone, had done yeoman service for several years but it was time to move on.

USB, the Universal Serial Bus, had been announced, but was not much evident in the available peripherals but it sounded great and I fantasized the USB color printer, USB Modem, and the USB Zip Drive that would someday grace my computer desk, all neatly wired to the glorious new Pentium via the ultra-simple USB connection.

So I made sure the mainboard of my new Pentium was USB capable. I even asked the store clerk, specifically, "Has it got a USB connector?"

"Oh, certainly sir. This mainboard has USB."

And a few days later, looking through the Manual for the Mainboard I found the diagram which showed two (count 'em lads, not just ONE, but TWO) USB connectors on the mainboard. When the time came, I would be USB ready.

Two years passed quickly, peripheral prices slipped downward toward my comfort level, and recently I pondered the purchase of a color printer, and perhaps a Zip Drive. So I examined the back of my computer case to locate where I would plug in my USB devices. There was no USB connector on the outside of the box! I dug out the manual... no, I was not mistaken when I checked the manual two years before. It clearly showed two USB connectors on the board.

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Couldn't be.

Back to the store. A comforting visit, because he was still located there after two years. A polite inquiry.

"Oh certainly sir. The Houston VXPro mainboard is USB capable. You just have to purchase the connector that goes from the mainboard to the back of the computer case."

"How Much....?"

"\$23.00 plus taxes."

"Installed?"

"Well... Ok...we'll install it for you. Only takes a few minutes"

I reminded him of our conversation two years before, and insisted that the USB connector ON the board is useless without the connector ON the case and should have been included at the outset.

"Oh, I'm sorry sir, Case connector is always an extra item, priced separately."

It would have been helpful, back in '97 if he had pointed out that my USB is not functional without it.

He didn't have the connector in stock but would order a few from his Head Office because other customers would undoubtedly seek the same component.

Over a six-week period I checked back several times. It still hadn't come in. Finally, at eight weeks and counting, we set up a definite Saturday morning, 10 am; I would bring in the computer; he would have the connector.

On the appointed Saturday as I swept into the store, Pentium under my arm, he smiled sheepishly and announced that his Head Office had sent the wrong connector. They sent the newer one; my board takes the older one. They

don't have any of the older ones right now, but there will "probably" be some in the next shipment coming from Taiwan.

Dear friends and fellow Computer Club members, this true story is offered as advice from the sadder but wiser USB aficionado: Make sure your planned Pentium purchase or mainboard upgrade INCLUDES the required wiring etc... to bring your USB connector to the outside of your computer case. Further inquiry revealed this is not an issue on newer ATX format computers wherein the USB connectors on the mainboard protrude directly through the back of the computer case. A linking connector is not required.

Only the AT format, requires special wiring to bring the USB from the mainboard to the back of the Case. AT is the Computer Case/Mainboard structural hardware standard that has been in use from the old 80286, upward through 386, 486 and into the Pentiums. And each mainboard producer uses a different link for USB. There is no recognized standard for the USB connection on the board itself.

What next? I shall keep checking to see if the components have arrived from Taiwan. But I am also contemplating a new mainboard with a faster CPU. Perhaps from some other store.

And then what shall be the ultimate fate of the Houston VXPro Mainboard, with or without the missing wiring from Taiwan?

Well, I've been procrastinating again (since July 97) about making my old 386 into a Pentium in response to my wife's periodic suggestions that she would like to become a cyberperson. I would like to install the VXPro Mainboard into the 386, just for the experience and the fun of it. And if the missing wiring never arrives, and if I desperately need to connect my planned USB devices to the 386 reborn as a Pentium, it is possible to add a PCI based USB circuit board to achieve this. ♦

Club members and others with comments or suggestions are invited to e-mail halewis@pathcom.com

COOKIES TIP: Should you accept cookies from a stranger? I'm not sure. When running Internet Explorer, select the View menu from the menu bar. In the View menu select Internet options. Then select the Advanced tab on this menu. Now scroll down the list of items to the Security area and then to Cookies which has a triangular yellow caution flag. There are three options under the Cookie heading and you may select one. *Always accept cookies, prompt before accepting cookies and disable all cookie use.* Selected by clicking on the radio button.

To control the amount of disk space set aside to store cookies, select the General tab in Internet options and then select the Setting button under Temporary Inter-net Files. Move the slider under Amount of disk space to use and there you are. **Bill O'Shea**

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The AntiVirus Software People can't do without...

By Mireille Massue (PCCT)

This software utility was selected as the Editors' Choice in PC magazine 1999 Utility Guide. Windows magazine put it on its June 1999 Winlist. Toronto's computer magazine We Compute chose it as its June 1999 editors pick. What is the software utility people can't live without? It's Symantec's Norton AntiVirus software utility, http://www.symantec.com/region/can/eng/product/nav/fs_nav5-95nt.html

It seems that the Norton AntiVirus Software Utility is also a favorite with many of our Personal Computer Club of Toronto members (PCCT.) Lloyd Lindsay, Chartered Accountant and auditor for the PCCT, chose Norton AntiVirus because "it was a well known program supported by a well known company." Daniel ffolliott, a Y2K consultant, a custom web page designer and the Webmaster for the PCCT web site <http://www.pcct.org> has been using Norton AntiVirus software for years. Doug Colquhoun, the PCCT Vice President and special events co-coordinator didn't have to think which antivirus program to buy when he got hit by the Chernobyl Virus. In fact, he did one better. Doug bought Norton's SystemWorks, a utility suite, which includes the latest version of Norton AntiVirus (Ver 5.). Kash, a computer consultant for small businesses, moderator of PCCT's several busy lists, as well as the Internet SIG leader for the club, chose Norton AntiVirus Software because it was rated as the best and most reliable.

What PCCT members like about Symantec's Norton AntiVirus Software utility is that it's easy to install. Once you've installed the software, you can forget about it. It's always in the background ready to catch the latest virus. Well, you do have to do something. You must update the signature files. Using the LiveUpdate automatically downloads the proper files and installs them on your computer. For people like me, who started with Windows and isn't crazy

about having to go to the web site, download the appropriate files and execute them, LiveUpdate is a relief. (See my review of Norton's Anti-Virus Ver 5 on the PCCT Web Site.)

In his work as a Y2K, Daniel ffolliott, president of North York Computer Consultants <http://www.nycc.to> has discovered and has concerns that Y2k fixes that modify the bios could be undone by a virus. Symantec has confirmed that there are viruses that can attack the bios, so having antivirus software is extremely important. (See Daniel's article on Norton 2000 in this issue of read.me)

Although Kash has never had a virus, due to a strong belief in continually update his virus definitions, some of our members were not so lucky. Lloyd Lindsay, and Daniel ffolliott both got caught and yet it wasn't a problem. Norton AntiVirus warned them that they had a virus and so they were able to delete the virus without it causing any damage to their files. Doug Calquhoun wished that he had had Norton AntiVirus software so he could have been warned. It cost him several days to retrieve his files and get his computer back in working order. Once he installed the software, Doug found out it was a disk that a friend had given him that had caused all the trouble.

With viruses currently circulating the Internet as e-mail attachments named "PrettyPark.EXE" and "Worm.ExploreZip.exe," the only solution for peace of mind is getting your computer protected. Symantec has posted updates to the latest viruses on their web site <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/index.html>

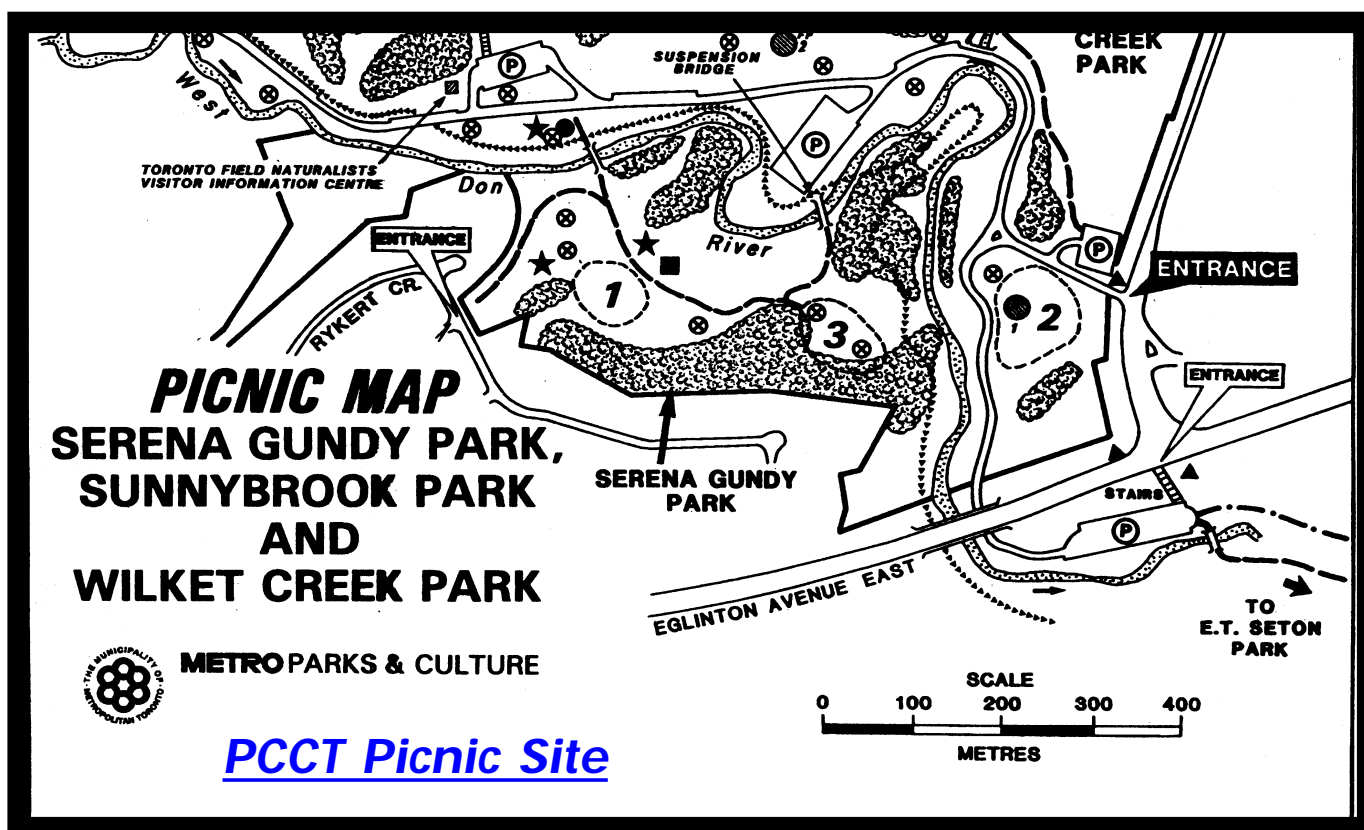
If you don't have an antivirus program installed on your computer, STOP reading this newsletter, get into your car, get on the TTC, ride your bike or walk to the nearest computer store and buy yourself the latest copy of Norton AntiVirus Software Utility (Ver 5.) You will not be choosing a software utility; you will be choosing peace of mind - that's why you shouldn't live without it.

Want more information on antiviruses and other Symantec products? The PCCT web site theme for July is antiviruses, hoaxes and other Symantec product reviews. Just go to www.pcct.org ♦

Mireille Massue is on the board of directors for the PCCT, the Virtual Web Team Leader for the PCCT web site and Media contact.

A NEW MEMBER, who shall be nameless, recently sent me a submission. When I clicked on the attached file to open it, I immediately got a "blue screen of death" framing a scarlet Norton AntiVirus notice which informed me the file contained the "W&M.Ethan.A.Virus. W97M/Ethan. A is a Word97 Macro Virus. It is a fast moving infector and reported to numerous AVERT Labs around the globe". Hav-ing never used an antivirus program on his system, The MEMBER went out on the double to buy—Norton AntiVirus!Editor.

See You There - August 21st



Don't forget our PCCT Family Picnic ...noon to dusk bring a friend!

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It's the Swiss Army Knife toolbar...

Mijenix Powerdesk



By Clive Webster (PCCT)

I have never liked the file manager in Windows called Explorer.

When I used Windows 3.1, I used Norton Desktop as the file manager, and migrated to Norton Navigator with Windows 95, but it would not support 32 bit files. Then I found **PowerDesk at Comdex**, tried it and loved it.

PowerDesk is a very powerful file manager, with lots of versatility and for those of us who like to have things functional and simple, this is a great program.

PowerDesk can be bought locally, but the easiest way, is to download the program for a free trial from www.mijenix and try it.

This is what I did and found I liked it so much I bought it.

Built into the program are a couple of facilities that suited me very much. There are about 80 popular file formats that can be opened from within the program if you install Quick View from the Windows CD ROM. As a bonus, Quick View Plus, a separate program, integrates itself into PowerDesk, allowing the viewing of over two hundred different file formats from programs that are not installed on the computer. Graphics files can be readily viewed and can be converted instantly with a couple of clicks of the mouse into another format.

The other segment of the program is an integrated "Zip" utility. Win Zip is a wonderful program, but because I used it infrequently it has always confused me. The Zip utility built into PowerDesk, makes zipping and unzipping files a

dream. It will also allow spanning across two or more floppies if the file is too large for one disk.

In the general use of the file manager, it is really easy to open up two windows, so that Drag and Drop procedures becomes a breeze. These windows can be switched from left to right as an option. One of four programmable tool bars is a drive bar, which displays all the drives on the computer and they can be selected instantly, making the moving files from one drive to another a very simple task.

If you want to search for missing files, File Finder quickly finds files over all the drives in the computer. These files can be opened in the drop down pane of the desktop using Quick View or Quick View Plus.

If you frequently move from one program to another in the use of your computer, you will love the floating desktop tool bar, which can reside in the tray at the bottom of the screen. Activated by a click of the mouse you have all the program shortcuts you use on a regular basis waiting for you. Also it can display times in various parts of the world and allows for printing controls or restarting the computer.

It's the Swiss Army Knife toolbar.

Two other accessories round out this file manager. Size Manager allows for a graphic display of all the files and programs on each drive. This facilitates thinning out of programs and files long forgotten, but still lurking undetected on the hard drive.

File Synchronizer is a facility that allows for two different folders from different drives or another computer to be compared and, if necessary, synchronized. This is a great benefit for those updating files to a Notebook Computer.

Now if only the manual was as good as the program, but that's another story! It is amazing how much programming and effort goes into producing a program and how little into explaining what has been created.

Mijenix did say they are working on a new manual, we can only hope it is an improvement over the present one. Apart from that small gripe PowerDesk is well worth the \$70 I paid for it. ♦



I used Photoshop For the entire project, importing the map that contained a particular country I wanted (60 different countries) The only countries I couldn't find were Samoa and Vanautu. The maps opened with four layers, two of colour to show elevation and vegetation, one greyscale, showing shaded relief and one giving detailed place names. Since this was to be a black and white publication, I deleted the two colour layers, and combined the place names with the greyscale map and adjusted the contrast with the curves menu in Photoshop.

As each map had to be 3 by 4 inches to fit the layout, I was able to set the crop tool in Photoshop so that it would select a rectangle of that exact dimension to cut and paste into a new file to save as a copy in .tif format. By choosing the starting point of the rectangle I wanted to select, I was able to capture a sized image of the desired country. It was then imported into my Pagemaker layout.

One difficulty was that while International borders could be shown, and capital cities were indicated by a star instead of a dot, none of the countries were named as such. Since it is a long time since I studied Geography (mostly from the maps in my Stanley Gibbons stamp album) I had to find and identify all the countries myself. Here Encarta was invaluable because I could type the name of the country into the search box (have you ever tried to find Andorra?) print out the map and use the hard copy for a reference to find the place I was looking for in Cartesia. Another difficulty was my inexperience as a fairly new user of Photoshop—thanks to Cartesia MapArt, I can now approach it with much more confidence.

Cartesia's web site at: <http://www.map-art.com/> is worth a visit for the sheer joy of their artistic creativity which ranges from artistic to wacky cartoon images and the strictly utilitarian. Single images may be purchased for \$99.00, a price comparable to an Adobe font. As you would expect, pricing varies with the different series.

At 499.99 US, MapArt Terrain series is a specialized product that needs a financial justification for purchase—such as the job I landed by using it. ♦

Up S*** Creek without a map

By Joan Latchford (PCCT)

There is nothing like Learning By Doing! This past month I have been working on a project which grew out of my initial use of Microsoft Draw 2000 combined with the truly superb maps which come with Encarta 99. Using these two programs in conjunction with one another, I did a layout, with which the client was enamoured, only to find that I could not use Encarta's maps for a commercial project.

Craig Faichney has been a great graphic resource for me and when I asked him if he knew of a copyright free source for maps he said I needed Cartesia MapArt, distributed by EyeWire.

I settled on the MapArt™ Terrain International Series which comes on four CD-ROMs, Region 1, America (North and South) Region 2, Asia, Region 3, Europe and Africa and region 4, Globes. Each map comes in Photoshop and generic .eps (Encapsulated Postscript) format, for both the PC and Mac. The maps are detailed and sustain their clarity even after zooming in a number of levels.

You do not need to "install" the maps from Cartesia, since you can simply open them in Photoshop .tif (Tagged Image File Format) file format from the CD-ROM. Each MapArt Terrain map includes a Photoshop file that contains shaded relief, colour and political features in separate layers. These are editable and can be used to create maps to your specifications. Geopolitical features are included on separate paths. Some of these included names of oceans, seas, rivers and lakes, national and state capitals, provinces and political borders. I would have liked to be able to combine some of the paths—for instance, political boundaries and water names but in the time available I was not able to figure out how to do this in Photoshop—if indeed, it is possible.

Tripmaker(r) Basics

By Dave Hanson (PCCT)

RAND MCNALLY, the name just oozes maps and traveling. What could be a better follow-up on 90's product than a CD-ROM travel planner from the famous name? I'd seen Tripmaker in stores but what tipped the balance into purchasing a copy was the offer of a combination road atlas and CD-ROM called Tripmaker Basics for under \$20. This is an entry level version of the Deluxe CD-ROM product.

INSTALLATION: The installation was trouble free which was a good start, however, be aware that the system requirements are a bit misleading. The jewel case jacket specs indicated that only 24 MBs were needed but I suspect this was for the Compact install. The 'Typical' install (which is the default) took approximately 57 MBs of hard drive space. The version I installed was dated 1998 and during installation there were notices for the follow on TripMaker (r) Deluxe 98 (an enhanced version of the Basic program) and two other products.

FUNCTIONS AND FEATURES: When you first fire up the program you are prompted to print out a registration form. You can also register online within the program if you wish. I noted that the serial number on the printed form was different from the one in the jewel case jacket...hmmm, I guess as long as you send one in the McNally folks will be happy.

There are a number of ways to create a trip. I found the easiest was to use the Step-by-Step Guides. This will step you through (using audio queues if you have a soundcard) entering a starting and ending destination. Choices of shortest (distance), quickest (road speeds) or scenic routes can be selected. Once selected, a map showing the route you have chosen is shown with several different items of information, much of it selectable (of how much or how little). This can be printed. Additional information about attractions, as well as scenic tours and points of interest, can also be included in the TripMaker printed package. Metric measurements can be specified (we're in Canada eh?) along with speed limits on types of local /provincial/inter-provincial roads. The program will also cross-reference your trip to the various page numbers in the printed Rand McNally road guides (you must specify 1997

or 1998 guide in Setup). Trip destinations in Canada, the USA, Mexico and even Hawaii can be mapped out and printed with this package.

GETTING ONLINE TRIP INFO: A current CD-ROM title wouldn't have been complete if it didn't have Internet connectivity and even this Basics version program had this function. One must have an Internet session active to take advantage of this feature. I tried it

and it does work—the sample I tried was a trip between Toronto and Montreal. Once the trip was created, going online invoked my WEB browser, surfed automatically to the Rand McNally site, www.randmcnally.com, and displayed a number of appropriately linked web-sites relating to the destinations chosen. In my case, the Canadian Weather Channel, the City of Toronto home page and

Tourism Quebec and Ontario sites. All in all I was pleased and impressed by this program and would recommend it, especially if one is needing to update their printed route map book at a discounted price. ♦

Requirements: Rand McNally Trip-Maker(r) Basics Windows95 or NT 4.0 8 MB RAM and 24 MB of disk Double speed CDROM drive Internet account (to use Internet features) WebPages: www.randmcnally.com



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WHERE: North York Memorial Centre
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WHEN: Third Tuesday of the month.
 see the calendar below.

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- Access to a software library with the best of shareware and freeware programs; communications software;
- Access to the club BBS (for a one-time set up fee of \$20);
- Monthly issues of the club newsletter you're holding right now!

Calendar of Events 1999

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
JULY				1
	5	6	7 Investment SIG MSL 7:00 pm	8
	12	13	14	15
	19	20 General Meeting NYC 7:00 pm	21 New User Group MSL 7:30 pm	22
	26	27 Internet SIG MSL	28	29
SEPTEMBER	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
			1 Investment SIG MSL 7:00 pm	2 Win Basics SIG MSL 7:00 pm
	6	7 Windows SIG MSL 7:30 pm	8 Digital Imaging SIG MSL 7:30 pm	9 Visual Basic SIG MSL 7:00 pm
	13	14 Daytime SIG St. A 1:00 pm	15	16 MS Office SiG MSL 7:00 pm
	20	21 General Meeting NYC 7:00 pm	22 New User Group MSL 7:30 pm	23 Internet SIG YPL 7:30
27	28 Linux SIG YPL 7:30	29	30	

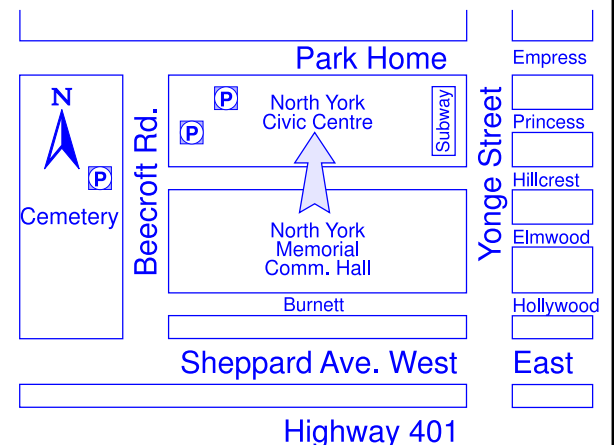
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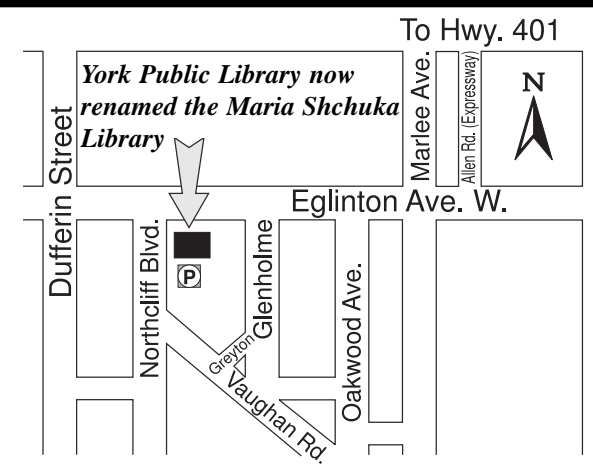
Find out what is going on at the PCCT each week by calling the club hotline at: **(416) 633-6971** for the latest news on meetings.

The new message is changed on Sunday for the following week. Check for last minute changes. If there is a cancellation of a SIG meeting, the message should be on our phone

NYC North York Memorial Comm. Hall, 5110 Yonge St.



YPL York Public Library 1745 Eglinton Ave., West



St.A Church of St. Andrew 2333 Victoria Park Ave

