



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

Volume 31, Number 12

December 2014

MERRY CHRISTMAS

December Meeting

Wednesday, December 10th, 2014

Presenter and Topic: *TBA (check the OPCUG website at <http://opcug.ca>)*

Reminder: Meetings have been relocated **indefinitely** to the Bush Theatre at the **Canada Aviation and Space Museum (CASM)**, 11 Aviation Parkway. Details at <http://opcug.ca/public/regmtg.htm>

December Raffle

For the December raffle, we have a **Microsoft Wireless 800 Desktop**.

Experience the freedom and convenience of wireless technology with this affordable keyboard and mouse set. Control a media computer while sitting on your couch, or conveniently stow the keyboard and mouse away without hassling with wires. You can roam up to 15 feet away with a strong signal. Or, you can take the mouse separately to use with a laptop while traveling—the tiny transceiver conveniently snaps into the bottom of the mouse when it's time to pack up and go. Setting up the keyboard and mouse is simple: just insert the batteries, plug in the tiny transceiver, and start typing!

Tickets are, as always, a good deal at \$1 for one, a great deal at \$2 for three or the unbelievable bargain of \$5 for ten!

Silent Auction

As part of the December meeting, the OPCUG will be having a silent auction. All proceeds and non-perishable food donations will be donated to the Ottawa Food Bank. Visit <http://opcug.ca/public/history/Auction/2014/SilentAuction.html> for details.

Email: SilentAuction@OPCUG.ca Info: <http://ottawafoodbank.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Food-Bank-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Photo Contest

The club would like to replace the old logo of the Canada Museum of Science and Technology on the OPCUG website.

Please send your pictures and images to PhotoContest@OPCUG.CA.

Contest entries will be posted at <http://opcug.ca/public/history/PhotoContest.html> and voted on in December.

There will be a prize for the winner - in addition to bragging rights! Good luck to all.

Nominations for OPCUG Board for 2015

Once a year, the OPCUG holds elections for the 9-member Board of Directors. We are once again coming up to this annual event.

Nominations can be submitted to Bob Herres, Election Chair, in person at the October, November and December club meetings or by sending an email to nominations2015@opcug.ca.

Nominations must be received by midnight, December 31, 2014.

Please get involved. Please help the OPCUG continue in its role of Users Helping Users!

(another article on back page)

November Prize Winners

Lil Limoges and **Bob Walker** were each a lucky winner of a copy of the Minitool Partition Wizard software via our raffle at the November monthly meeting.

Next Meeting: **WEDNESDAY, December 10th, 2014**

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.

Group Meetings

OPCUG meets on the second Wednesday in the month, except July and August, in the Bush Theatre at the **Canada Aviation and Space Museum** (CASM), 11 Aviation Parkway, Ottawa. Meetings are 7:30–9:00 p.m. and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) go until 10 p.m.

Parking is available at the museum for a flat fee of \$3 after 5pm. Park in the main lot and enter through the front entrance of the museum. Details at <http://opcug.ca/public/regmtg.htm>

Membership Fees: \$25 per year
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(vacant)

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Santa Goes Paperless

Santa receives an inordinate amount of mail every year; the vast majority of which, not surprisingly, is work related. Ryan wants an eBike, Ethan wants a smartphone, Ava wants an electric guitar and, of course, they've all been on their best behaviour for the past year. Now you'd think that after reading countless letters and toiling long hours in the workshop that, at the end of the day, Santa might just want to kick back with a snifter of something warm and perhaps watch the Leafs on the tube or, at a minimum, turn on CBC radio to listen to Ideas.

But nope, that's not at all what he does. I have it on good authority that Santa is a closet technophile and though he does enjoy a snifter or two in the evening, more often than not, in the evening hours, you'll find him perusing various technology periodicals, including the latest copy of the Ottawa PC News!

A lesser known Santa fact, though it's one that probably should be apparent given the fossil-fuel-free means of transportation he's adopted, is that Santa is environmentally conscious. Wherever, and whenever afforded the opportunity, Santa goes paperless: it's faster, it's cheaper and its carbon footprint is much smaller. The OPCUG favours this green approach and thanks Santa and members alike for going paperless.

In October 2013, roughly 65% of the membership was receiving a printed copy of the newsletter by Canada Post. One year later, in October 2014, that number has declined to about 46% who continue to receive the newsletter by regular mail. This positive trend is reflected by a slight reduction in mailing costs (notwithstanding a dramatic increase in postal rates) and is accompanied by an overall reduction in printing costs to about 67% (a 33% saving) from where we were just one year ago.

The OPCUG will continue to provide hard copies of the newsletter via Canada Post to any member who wishes to continue receiving it in that manner. Members are, however, reminded that delivery of the electronic copy is faster, cheaper and more environmentally friendly and that hard copies are always available at the monthly meeting.

Editor's note: See the back page of the October issue for instructions on how to receive the newsletter by email. You can also view the newsletter online at the OPCUG website (<http://opcug.ca>) by clicking on the NEWSLETTERS button.