

OPCUG The Ottawa PC Users' Group

NOVEMBER 1989

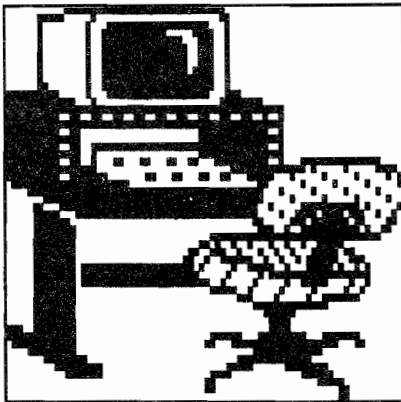
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THE NEWSLETTER

By Bonnie Carter
OPCUG

Hi folks. I am running for the position of Newsletter Editor. My editing background began in high



school where I was the editor of my school newsletter. My university degree in psychology included a number of English courses to further develop my writing skills.

Some of my editing activities have involved writing a weekly column for a city newspaper, editing speeches for a federal Minister and documents written by electronic engineers.

My approach to putting the Newsletter together is to step away from the "hi tech" method of production and, using WordPerfect, produce a clean professional Newsletter to REGULARLY be received by members ONE WEEK BEFORE meetings.

The following are some of my ideas for the Newsletter.

Along with columns such as 'Dear Bonnie' and 'Tidbits', technical articles are a mainstay of the newsletter. A beginners' corner is needed to address basic computing techniques. A 'Readers' Views' section would enable members to their opinions about matters involving the OPCUG. Regular notes from the President would keep members informed of the Executive's activities.

A wealth of tips and technical information is exchanged through the Club's electronic bulletin board 'The PUB'. Although too voluminous to publish it all, a lot is too valuable to let disappear.

The names and topics of guest speakers will be included in EVERY Newsletter. A summary of their talks would benefit those unable to attend meetings.

Come and tell me about YOUR opinions and ideas. You deserve a Newsletter that satisfies your needs.

* * *

JOHNBACK.ZIP

By John Whelan
OPCUG

Once upon a time in the federal government, a PC broke down and a number of files were corrupted. After talking to users and management, it was apparent to me that files had been on computers for over a year and no backups had ever been done!

If backups are made with 'PC Tools' on one machine, 'Fast-Back' on another and through a tape backup unit on a third, life

gets confusing for all involved.

I felt a "no cost" system was needed. It had to "shame" users into backing up their files if they weren't doing it; it had to be user friendly; and it had to be very obvious to support staff just what was on each diskette and how the data had to be recovered.

'Xcopy' did a little of what I wanted, but the message "Insufficient disk space" might not be as easily understood by users as "Please insert an empty diskette in Drive a:". I met one user who didn't even know what a UART was so the system had to be very easy to understand.

I introduced my concerns and ideas through the PUB. Messages flew. Michael Goddard quickly wrote a program that wandered down the disk displaying the names of files that had the archive bit set. More messages flew. Slowly the supporting .bat files shaped up, the program was modified and Version 1 was produced.

Chris Taylor left helpful messages about my .bat files. Bonnie Carter helped by making the documentation readable.

To be continued in January...

Contents

Minutes	2
Johnback	2
For Beginners	3
Readers' Views	4
From the Speaker	5
Dear Bonnie	6
Tidbits	6
PUB Talk	7
Guest Speaker	8

Meetings are held at 100 Sussex Drive, Ottawa
Last Wednesday of the month - 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
No meetings in July and December