

LOCAL

Designing woman

Making wonderful websites is Patti May's passion

By MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Something terrific has happened for Patti May. Technology has finally caught up to her creativity. After years of being an self-admitted "computer nerd", the boom in businesses and individuals wanting their own Internet Web sites is her opportunity to mesh knowledge with creativity.

"There's a big between actually working on the design of web page and knowing what you want," she explains. "I know the language behind what goes into a Web page site, what makes it work and how to make it work most effectively.

"For example, many people put a graphic or image on their site that takes a long time to download. It may look good once it's downloaded, but you've already lost the browser who doesn't want to wait. That's where I can really help. I figure out ways to optimize the way the

graphics look taking the least amount of (computer memory) in the shortest period of time."

Watching her switch from the image on her computer screen to the string of verbal commands behind that image is remarkable. Patti sees the image and the technical "translation" with the same mind's eye.

For those of you already too antsy to read on, leave now and check out the following Websites she's designed: www.applecountry.net and go on to link with her own site appledesign, try the Hoselton Studio site and the just-up Little Lake Pavilion.

"I love computers. I'm a computer nerd," the Colborne resident laughs. "My formal school is as an electro-mechanical technologist with robotics speciality. That was a two-year course taken in one year. There were 22 of us started and at the end of 52 weeks, only 10 finished. It was eight hours a day, no time off."

Intrigued by the computers in the college lab, she was hooked.

"From there, I was one the original Commodore 64 owners. That system did graphics



PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

ON LINE: Patti May knows the difference between a neat looking web page that no one will look at and one the customer needs to be successful in business.