

# Lifestyle

## Computer purchasers offered wide range of choices

By SCOTT WILLIAMS

Many years ago, the decision most computer purchasers had to make was whether or not to buy from IBM. Nowadays, especially for those purchasing a computer for the home, there are many large and reputable suppliers to choose from.

The Apple Computer Company arguably started the personal computer revolution with the introduction of the Apple II back at the end of the 1970's, and beginning of the 1980's. The Apple II was an affordable and capable computer. It was fairly easy to use, and offered colour, graphics, and sound. Variants of the Apple II are still available today, and offer many of the same advantages. Many schools use Apple II's, so if you're thinking of a computer for your child, that



Scott Williams  
COMPUTER  
CHIPS

may be a consideration also. At the high end of the Apple computer line is the McIntosh. The McIntosh is the computer that popularized the use of a "mouse" as a pointing device, and made wide use of "windows", which we'll be covering in a later column. Although rather pricey, the

Mac offers a powerful system that is easy to use.

Commodore is another of the industry's pioneering companies. Their PET computer, with its tiny keyboard and its cassette tapes for storing programs, brought the computer down into the price range of the average family. Newer systems for Commodore include the Commodore 64, used in many schools, and the Amiga, a system known for its outstanding graphics and sound capabilities.

The Commodore 64, still popular in the used market, was good for games, but has some limitations for more serious use. The Amiga, on the other hand, can handle both well. Although originally a product line with only one model, Amigas now come in a fairly broad price range.

Atari, long known for "intense" video games, is a strong contender for the Amiga. Atari systems are also well known for colour graphics and sound, but are not as widespread as their counterparts from Commodore. Both Atari and Commodore suffer from periodic financial troubles, so it would be wise to watch them a bit before committing any serious money.

Many other companies have dabbled in the home computer market, including Radio Shack who once had enormous market share, and Texas Instruments, who eventually gave up the home computer business for more profitable ventures.

When choosing one of these brands of computer for the home, it pays to shop around, and to visit stores that cater specifically to the home market. Computer needs for the home are very different from the requirements of the office, so it's wise to speak to someone who understands.

And what of the IBM-PC? Well, we'll be covering that next week.

## N.H.A.D.H. fashion show a hit

By ANNE SIDEBOTTOM

It is with great pride and appreciation that N.H.A.D.H. announces that our benefit Fashion Show, held last month, was a tremendous success. We raised \$1,100.00. This money will go towards our residence renovations, which are underway at 75 Mill Street, Georgetown.

Such successes can only occur as a result of a committed team of volunteers. At this time we acknowledge the following for their contributions:

Cameron's Fashions, Owners: Penny O'Reilly, Carol Barrow, Asst.: Barb McCrea.

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Prizes/Donations: Rustcraft, Nancy's Own Flowers and Gifts, The Village Shoppe, Betty Miller, Vanderburgh Flowers.

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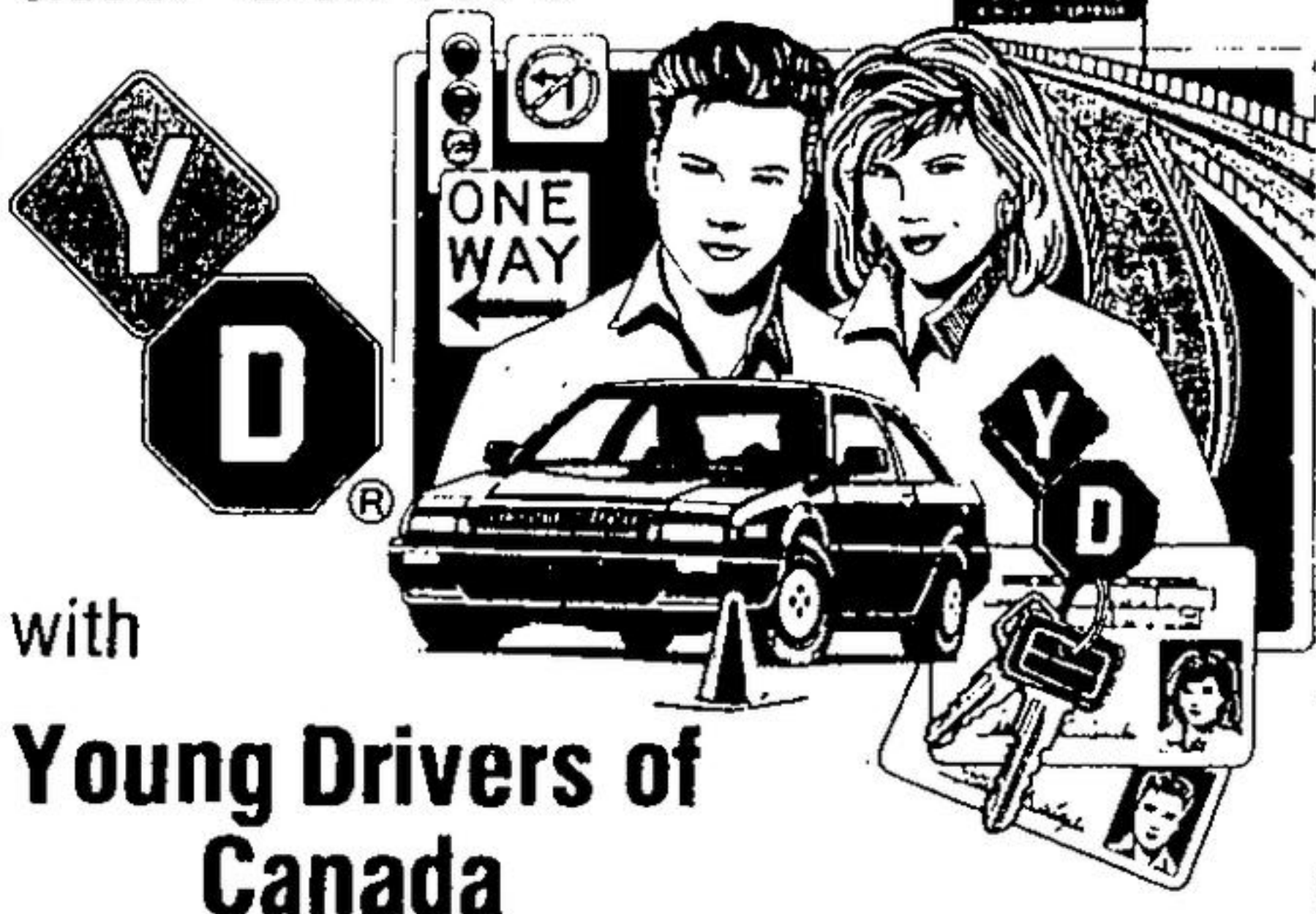
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