

Personal computers undergo change

IBM, the world's largest computer manufacturer, entered the personal computer market with a vengeance in the early 1980's with the introduction of the IBM PC. The PC was designed as a personal computer (in that only one person would use it at a time) but not a home computer. As such, the PC was designed for business use; it had good text capabilities and some graphics capabilities, but fairly limited capabilities in the areas of colour and sound, making it rather uninteresting for playing games. Since its introduction, the IBM-PC has changed and grown though, and is now capable of producing high quality colour graphics and acceptable sound, particularly with the addition of add-on products from other suppliers. Nonetheless, the PC remains primarily a business tool - "a serious" computer.

The main thing the PC had at its introduction was the IBM name, and that meant instant market recognition and acceptance. The result was an enormous number of companies writing software - programs - for the PC, building add-on hardware for the PC, and evening copying the PC itself. This latter class of computer is often called PC-compatible, or IBM-compatible, or simply a compatible. Today, compatibles are made by a large number of companies, some with reputations which rival that of IBM. Compatibles from lesser known suppliers - the no-name PC-compatibles, are often negatively described as "clones". Compatibles and clones are arguably one of the most important trends in the computer industry in the past 10 years. From little-known companies charging prices only a fraction of that charged by IBM, to well-known firms charging premium prices, compatibles and clones have forced consumers to question the real value of a brand name.

Name brand suppliers offer more than just a name, of course. Very often they offer the promise of higher quality, either in greater reliability, greater speed, or greater capability. Many name-brand compatibles also offer higher degrees of compatibility with IBM; some will even guarantee IBM compatibility. Support and service may be better with a name brand, not on-

Local club shifts venue

By KEN BAKER
Herald Special

The 1989/90 executive of the Halton Hills British/Canadian Club are pleased to announce that as of Thursday (tomorrow), the monthly social nites will be held in the main floor lounge of the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 120 in Georgetown. All future meetings will be held at this location on the first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m.

With the re-structuring of the group in 1989, and with the co-operation of Brenda and Graham Gove, proprietors of the Copper Kettle Pub in Glen Williams, who allowed the club to use their establishment as its' initial home, the club set about the task of organizing a number of functions for the members and their families.

As the organization continues to evolve, the present executive would like to see the Halton Hills British/Canadian Club take a more active and visible role in the community. Who can forget the site of the London double-decker bus making its way up Main St. in last year's Santa Claus parade.

The executive would like to take this opportunity to invite all members; both past and present; as well as anyone who would like to find out more about our group to our meeting tomorrow at our new home at the Royal Canadian Legion, 127 Mill St., Georgetown.



Scott Williams
COMPUTER
CHIPS

ly because they have a reputation to uphold, but also because they have enough computers installed to be able to afford the additional support costs. The documentation - the user manuals - which are supplied with the computer will also usually be higher with a brand name.

Ultimately, the choice of a name-brand compatible, a no-name clone, or even a system from IBM themselves, may come down to price. At home, where cost is likely an important factor, you may be able to live with slightly lower quality; at work however, the fate of the business may ride on the reliability of the system in use.

Lifestyles



Nursery school outing

Maple Nursery School visited Carl Laidlaw's Orchards recently to enjoy picking apples. Pictured above, enjoying the great outdoors are Andrew Rebertoy, Becky Findlay, Mark Rostrup, Aaron Kirk, Lauren Knaption, Shevagh Darcy, Carly Maher, Julia Williams, and Mrs. Hardcastle. (Photo submitted)

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