

BUSINESS

Tax returns, while you wait

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

You won't see people lining up outside Associate Tax Consultants on Guelph St. anymore, even at the busiest time of the year.

That's because the little white building on the Maple Ave. corner has been completely renovated. There are now six offices where there used to be three, plus there is an enlarged entrance and waiting area. No one will have to wait, unless they want to see a specific person, said Jim Deacur, owner of the company.

The tax preparers do the return while a client is in the office and it takes about 15 minutes per return, he said. An appointment isn't necessary. They have a computerized program which eliminates the need to double check calculations, something which used to take more time. A laser printer spits out a completed return and this can be electronically filed directly with Revenue Canada.

Deacur has provided account-

ing services and has done income tax returns in Georgetown since February, 1971. The busiest time is the first week of March, because employers are required to mail out T-4 slips by Feb. 20, he said. Many people have their return done soon after they get their T-4 slip, he said.

As well as personal returns, Deacur and his staff also do business returns. They give tax advice and their specialty is doing taxes for small business. The minimum cost for a personal return is \$27, but the usual cost is \$35 to \$40, he said. There is an \$8 fee for E-filing, which means the refund will come in three weeks.

He warns that people who expect a hefty refund should be wary of discounters, companies which take a certain percentage, because the bigger the refund, the more money they can get. On a \$1,000 refund, a person might have to pay \$80, he says.

Associate Tax Consultants has offices in Concord and Orangeville, in addition to the Georgetown office.

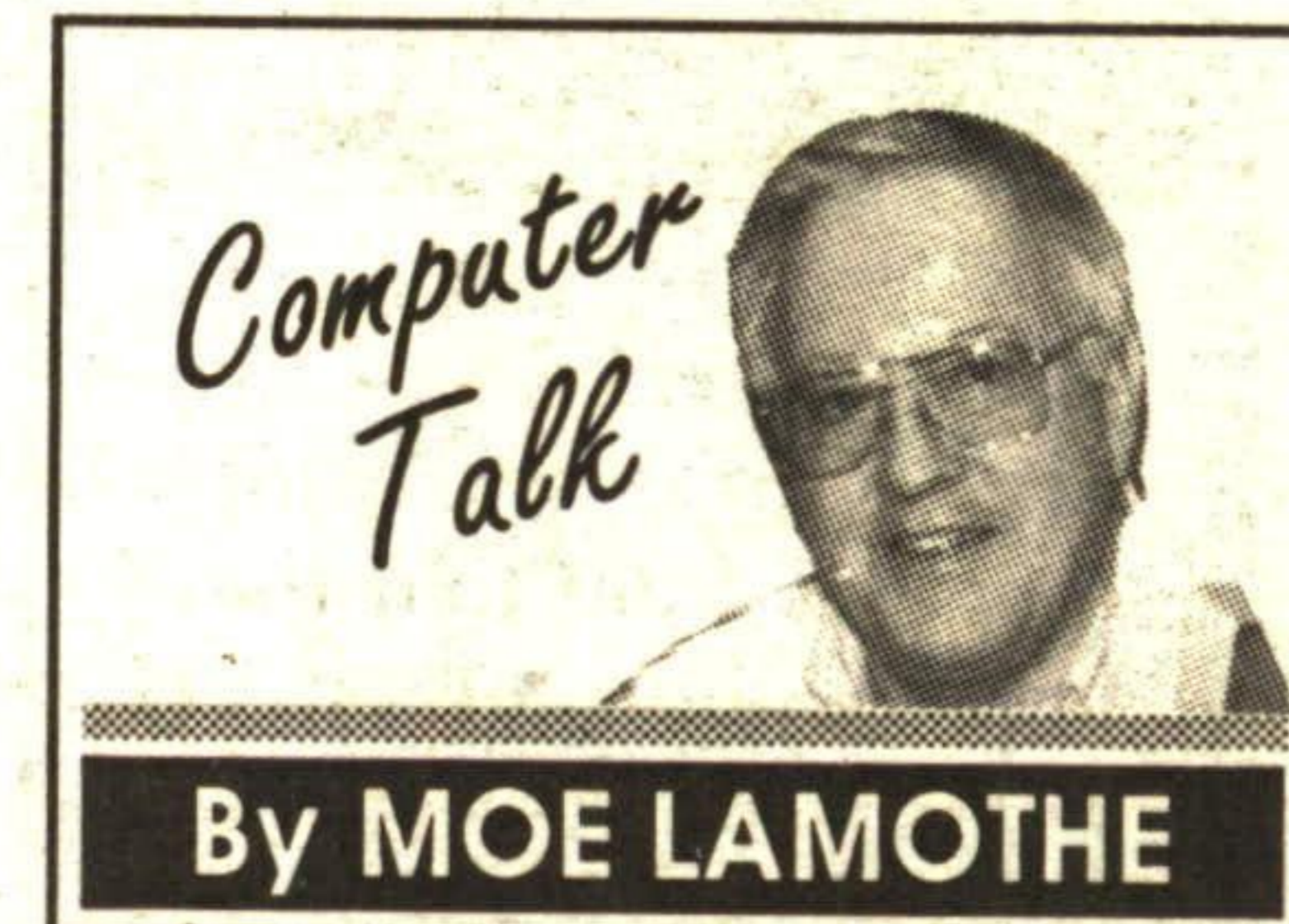
Buying a computer requires research

"I want to buy a computer. What should I buy?"

This question is a frequently asked by both new and experienced computer users. This series of articles will attempt to answer some of the questions you may have regarding the selection of the best hardware and software for your needs. The software and hardware discussed in these articles will be limited to the very popular DOS based computers.

To decide which hardware is best, the first item that needs to be examined is the type of task you want to do. The second item is the type of software you want to use to do the task. After these items have been decided, you are then in a position to select your computer. Let me give you some general guidelines to narrow down the specifics of your task requirements.

Tasks can be broadly divided into Games, Home, Office, Workstation and Engineering. Most hardware configurations can do the tasks required in any of the above environments but you will be much happier with a computer that is configured properly for the specific



tasks you have. The components that make up any DOS based computer system include: case with power supply; motherboard with CPU and memory; disk drives (floppies, hard disk), monitor, display card and keyboard.

You then need to add other components to this basic configuration to achieve the best results. A computer used mainly to play the sophisticated games that are available today might need a CD-ROM, sound card, joystick, and a mouse. You probably won't need a printer.

For a home or small office computer, you would add a mouse and printer to the basic computer. A CD-ROM drive would also be desirable since more software is now

available on CD-ROM. A workstation computer would have a similar configuration except that it may not have a hard disk and the printer would usually be shared over the network. A computer used for engineering and CAD work would require a math co-processor.

The list of components available is endless and reflects the varied and specialized tasks that today's computers are used for. The capacity, speed and quality of components vary greatly.

Following articles will describe the main uses of each component and more closely examine the individual components that make up a typical computer. Our next article will examine some of the basic software choices that you need to make.

Moe Lamothe is president of M.A. Lamothe and Associates Inc. and is actively involved in consulting relating to computer hardware and software. He also conducts testing for CSA, UL and European Safety Approvals for computer and telephone equipment. Moe is president of the Halton Hills PC Users' Group.

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