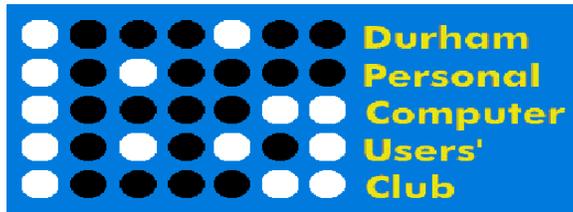


June 2022

PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter



May Prize List

Our Prize list is of course missing this month due to our inability to have a general meeting at the church.

Hope all are doing well and staying safe in this COVID infection time!

Please visit the Club Web Page for all the latest links and information

<http://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/>

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Next Meeting

Open Microphone for all Members

By Peter Camilleri

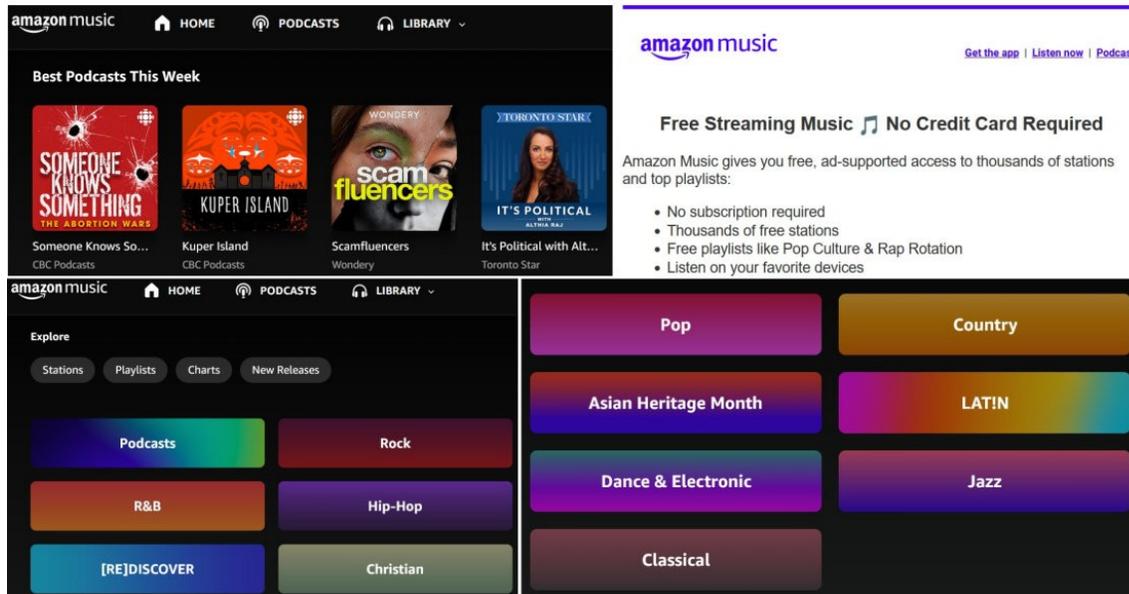
On ZOOM – Thursday, June 9 2022, 7:00PM

FYI

- By Dan Delong

Amazon Music (and Podcasts)

Personally, I'm more interested in the commercial free podcasts available on **Amazon Music**, than for the pop music. Should you opt for listening to music, the commonly held Amazon log-in is required, but you will get ads along with urgings to pay \$8.99 per month, unless your are a **Prime** customer. Those with an Amazon home appliance (Alexa or Echo) may enjoy its easy integration with voice control. Furthermore, the music is uncompressed (HD), mostly. [Ttps://music.amazon.ca/](https://music.amazon.ca/)



Batteries with 100 Years Long Life

This news comes from a Tesla supported Canadian study at Dalhousie University carried out by long time battery researcher, Jeff Dahn. By adding nickel to the mix, and almost eliminating cobalt, and by keeping the temperature of the battery not that much higher than a warm room, energy density and longevity (up to a century) is predicted. <https://interestingengineering.com/batteries-could-last-100-years>

Solar Cell Records

Solar cell efficiency has steadily improved, from 1976's average of 1% to 8%. Modern thin film flexible cells reach up to 23%. The even more typical crystalline cells, used for houses and energy grids yield up to 30% (but usually supply at 20%). The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the US, through altering chemistry and substructure, has reached 40%. While still at the laboratory stage of manufacture, these cells need production changes to become economical for earthbound use; space satellites may be the best use for them to date. Boeing has pushed efficiency even higher, using concentrators to approach the theoretical peak of 60% efficiency.

<https://interestingengineering.com/record-highest-efficiency-solar-cell>

[Some of the best information about solar cells is found on Wikipedia...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_cell_efficiency] On the same front, **perovskites**, a mineral, can be printed on a flexible substrate to create electricity, for a much low cost than silicon. However, it is not as durable.

<https://interestingengineering.com/a-novel-use-of-solar-panel-material-can-substantially-upgrade-durability>

Zinc-Air Battery

Zinc-air batteries may also replace car batteries in the future, or replace secondary batteries running accessories in cars, because they are energy dense, cheaper, and they do not pollute, either through disposal or recycling. (nor do they explode). Exposure to sunlight enhances output as well.

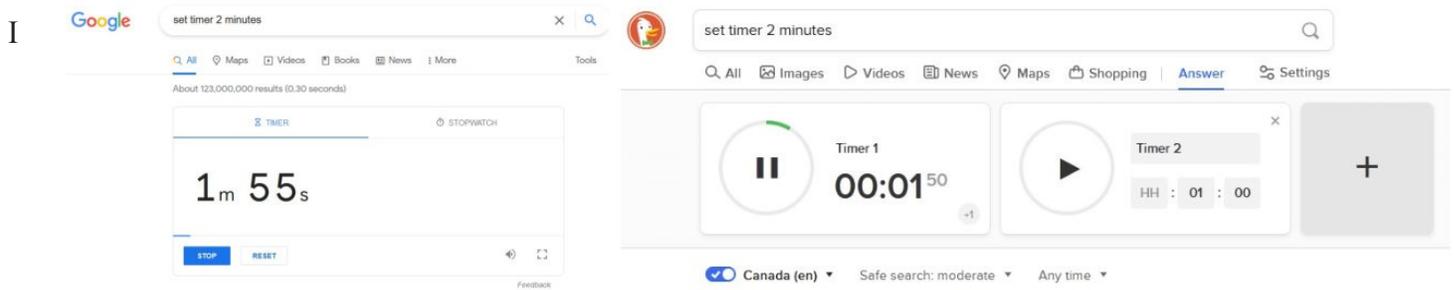
<https://techxplore.com/news/2022-04-zinc-air-battery-solar-power.html>

Thermal Batteries

Highly heated metals outputting electricity directly may instigate doubt in many minds; but MIT, and others, are pursuing it with success. We have used heat from fuels, nuclear, and geothermal to make electricity, through the intermediary step of boiling water and blasting steam through turbines. However, turbines can take only so much heat before breaking down. **Thermophotovoltaic** batteries deal with very high temperatures and can transfer this heat (stored by using excess electricity produced during times of lower demand) with a return efficiency of 41%. Ongoing work in this area expects to increase efficiency further and eventually become part of the power grid.

<https://www.science.org/content/article/thermal-batteries-could-efficiently-store-wind-and-solar-power-renewable-grid>

Search/Address Field Timers



became so engrossed reading about batteries that I missed an appointment. This could have been avoided, had I known that the address field in a browser can be used to quickly set a timer. The timer that becomes active may differ depending on your default search engine. I preferred the timer from **Duck Duck Go**, over **Google**'s own results. **Bing** does not bring up an active time, but a single additional click will. Just type, "set timer x minutes", where x is the number of minutes, in the address field of any browser. The Google result will allow switching between a counter using hours, minutes and seconds, and a stopwatch display that counts down in seconds and 1/100ths of a second. The Duck Duck Go timer offers to create additional timers, by clicking on the big Plus sign.

Tiny Robots

When miniaturising their robots, and taking a lesson from nature, staff at Northwestern University have made robots measuring only about one millimetre in size. They move without electricity or radio waves. The most successful shape so far appears to be a six-legged, double-clawed "thingy", similar to a crab in appearance and movement. Other shapes look like crickets, beetles and inchworms. Certain frequencies of laser light, cause appendages to flex, thereby creating movement. Miniature robots may be useful someday in human medical treatments and in maintaining industrial machinery. <https://www.cnet.com/science/biology/tiny-robot-crab-doctors-could-roam-the-human-body-one-day/>

HP Frontier Super Computer is theWorld's Fastest.

Considered to be the fastest, yet ranking well on "green-ness" it still needs six thousand gallons of cooling water per minute. This is not surprising, since 8,730,112 cores are at work (includes 9,400 CPUs and 37,000 GPUs) for a speed of 10 to the power of 18 Exaflops per second.

<https://interestingengineering.com/fastest-supercomputer-located-us>

Windows 11 Helpful Features

Scroll two active windows simultaneously; Quick access to Start Menu; Take a fast, full, screen-shot, or quickly access Snip&Sketch; Save battery; Open pinned items with number keys; See file extensions; Use Focus assist; See storage hogs; Minimize windows with a mouse shake. These are all unique Windows 11 features, designed to ease usage. The next Windows 11 update will change **Windows Spotlight**, by bringing lovely Bing images to the lock screen. Spotlight will also handle your background images in a similar manner. You may have noticed lock screen images changing whenever you updated Win10. In Windows 11 the images will change throughout the day, yet will **not be save able**, unless you learn how, as shown in this video... [<https://youtu.be/X-uphrq5wEo>]

<https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/windows-11-hidden-features-thatll-change-how-you-use-your-computer/>

Real Time Bidding by Advertisers

I wondered why, after a five year absence from Montreal, I was getting tourism ads for Montreal/Quebec on Facebook. This happened both during and after a quick visit there recently. It seems that Google (the main supplier of real time bidding, or Facebook itself) has been offering my location information to advertisers in an anonymous, automatic, bidding process, based on the location of my phone or computer (either at that moment, or in close proximity to that moment). Certain advertisers can outbid others, in this kind of algorithmic contest for eyes. The Quebec Tourism Bureau seems to be the highest bidder.

<https://9to5mac.com/2022/05/17/your-online-behavior-and-location-shared/>

Duck Duck Go (an ad blocking/tracking blocking) search engine, allows Microsoft tracking to continue, while blocking non- Microsoft sites.

<https://9to5mac.com/2022/05/25/duckduckgo-privacy-microsoft-permission-tracking/>

Best Laptops

This may not be the best time to buy a laptop, considering all the recent supply problems for chips and some Asian assembly line Covid related slow downs, but CNET has always been a trusted website for testing devices. Prices shown are in USD.

<https://www.cnet.com/tech/computing/best-laptop/>

200MP Camera Lens

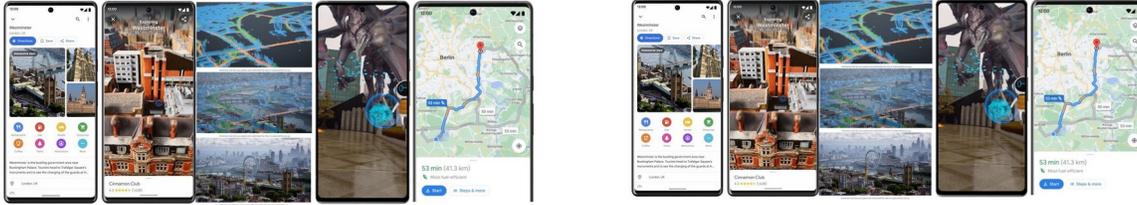
You might think a 200MP lens is meant for a pro-level movie camera, but no! This lens will be inserted in smart phones, first by Motorola, then by Samsung, in their Galaxy S23. 4K movies at 120fps (slow motion) are also in the works for phones equipped with this **ISOCELL HP1 sensor** (about 2 by 2 centimeters). A demo image of a cat, taken with this sensor, was blown up to a highly detailed print size of 28x22 meters.

<https://techviral.net/samsung-now-unveild-200mp-lens/>

Google Drive in Chrome

There may be a few folks who use Chrome to access their Google Drive. By June 4, **Cut/Copy/Paste, with keyboard shortcuts**, will function in Chrome. Along with this action, a link to the file will be shareable when pasted into an email or document sent to anyone you wish to have access to this file.

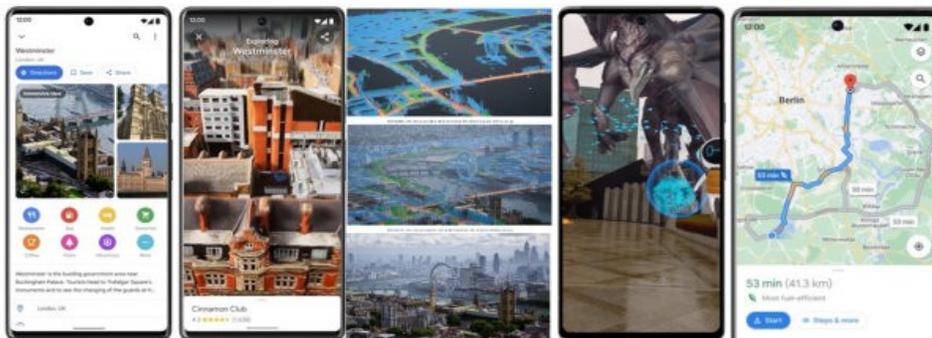
Street View Studio



Google’s 360 degree panorama’s of streets and pathways (**Street View**) have so far depended on car mounted camera systems driven by employees, along with tricycles and heavy backpack mounted systems. Google has designed a smaller camera system for use by anyone who can convince them that they will make good use of the equipment. Even those not chosen for this privilege can still use other approved cameras to enter data into **Street View Studio**, for later integration into Street View. Phones will also get that same ability as computers/tablets to see the same street scenes taken at earlier times.

<https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2022/05/google-brings-street-view-history-to-phones-introduces-street-view-studio/>

Google Maps - three improvements



Major cities are getting a much improved 3-D, bird’s eye view, of structures and the inside of tourist destinations. Avatars may suddenly appear as you follow walking directions, and driving directions will show the most gas saving route (not always the quickest route).

<https://blog.google/products/maps/three-maps-updates-io-2022/>

Google to Monitor Coughing and Snoring

In addition to listening for “wake-up” voice commands, an Android phone can also listen to grunts, snores, and coughs. So far, only Google employees are trying out this feature, using it as a health monitor of sorts. Sleeping patterns reflect overall health. The sounds made during sleep, including wakeful coughing, can indicate certain health risks.

<https://techviral.net/google-detect-snore-and-cough/>

Proton Mail - the alternative

The free version of Proton Mail, in addition to encryption and no data mining, allows for 150 messages per day, which is adequate for most individuals. To get more storage space (15 GB, like Google) and more addresses, plus a custom (non-proton) email domain, along with a calendar and VPN, the price is about \$65 CDN per year. Proton recently introduced an unlimited version with 500 GB of storage and a storage drive interface, similar to DropBox for about \$160 CDN per year. *[Note the name change, from Proton Mail to Proton.]* Prices drop considerably when paying for 24 months (\$115 for 500 GB and \$260 for unlimited for 2 years), rather than when paying monthly.

<https://proton.me/>

Huawei/ZTE 5G also banned in Canada

By June 28, 2024, major installations connected to the Web, must divest themselves of Huawei and ZTE hardware. By end of 2027 4G equipment must be removed, and purchase of either 4G or 5G must stop by September of this year. In the recent past, a lot of money has been spent on such hardware, so replacing it with more trusted equipment will cost customers, and government agencies using it, a lot of money as well.

[Perhaps this rejection of Chinese hardware may explain the drop in price (by hundreds of dollars) for all models of Huawei MateBooks.]

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/huawei-5g-decision-1.6310839>

Dead Email Addresses *[opinion]*

Unless I continued to pay for it, access to my first email address, with an Oshawa ISP, several decades ago, vanished when I switched to Teksavvy. I did not pay the original Oshawa ISP, hence those who send mail to that old address may never know if it was delivered. *[Perhaps the Oshawa ISP no long operates their mail server at all, in which case the sender would get an error message.]* The same will happen if I switch from Teksavvy to another ISP. There is a solution to risking an expired, paid, email service. That is, by purchasing a hosting package, which includes an **email server you can manage yourself**, many personal email addresses can be created, all using the same domain identity. *[This will only be worth it if you also plan to actually use the hosting service to hold websites; but, it is more expensive than just letting your current ISP (e.g.:- Rogers, Bell, Teksavvy) assign an included email address (or several).]* Yahoo, Microsoft, and Google provide excellent free email addresses, all with varying storage limits. Should any of these services die, so will your contacts and data.

With the elimination of telephone books, it has become more difficult to find people we wish to communicate with. Electronic communication has become the default for almost everyone, yet some of us can't afford to pay for our online existence, in perpetuity. The only ID that follows us from birth to death is our social insurance number (SIN), issued by the federal government, with usage restricted to banking and taxation.

We can now access our tax records online using our SIN. Could the government help out by adding a national email address to our SIN, and also our passport?

Since our preferred email address may not be this proposed government issued address, how about letting each citizen redirect it to different preferred addresses over a lifespan, without disclosing our universal government address (unless we so choose)? This is the way DNA and ancestry registries let customers communicate, only through their own chat interface, where personal contact information like phone numbers, home addresses, or emails can be shared among users, only when they wish to do so.

Linux in the News

by Alex Morrison



[Have an old iPad lying around? You might be able to make it run Linux soon](#)

- ArsTechnica; By Andrew Cunningham (Posted by [the_doctor](#) on Jun 4, 2022 8:51 AM EDT)
- Story Type: [News Story](#); Groups: [Developer](#), [Kernel](#), [Linux](#), [Migrations](#)

Devs say they have Linux booting on devices using Apple A7- and A8-based chips.

- [Full story](#)
- [Read more](#)
- [0 threads and 0 posts](#)

Ubuntu 22.10 Plans to Replace WPA with IWD for Wireless Connectivity

- [debugpointnews.com](#); By arindam (Posted by [arindam1989](#) on Jun 4, 2022 7:02 AM EDT)
- Groups: [Ubuntu](#)

Ubuntu 22.10 Kinetic Kudu plans to introduce IWD by replacing the WPA for wireless connectivity and management.

- [Full story](#)
- [Read more](#)
- [0 threads and 0 posts](#)

You Can Now Pre-Order the HP Dev One Linux Laptop Powered by Pop!_OS Linux

[0 Comments](#)

HP Dev One Linux laptop is now available for pre-order powered by Ubuntu-based Pop!_OS Linux distribution and targeting developers. The laptop is created in collaboration with Linux hardware vendor System76.

GNOME 42.2 Release Improves Support for Flatpak and Snap Apps, Fixes Many Bugs

[4 Comments](#)

GNOME 42.2 is now available as the second point release in the GNOME 42 desktop environment series with more bug fixes and improvements. Here's what's new!

Debian-Based Nitrix 2.2 Switches to Linux Kernel 5.17, Adds Full-Disk Encryption

[0 Comments](#)

Nitrix 2.2 distribution is now available for download. This release comes with Linux 5.17 as default kernel, updated NVIDIA ISOs, updated packages, and various other improvements.

Mozilla Firefox 101 Is Now Available for Download, This Is What's New

[3 Comments](#)

Mozilla Firefox 101 web browser is now available for download. This is a minor update to the popular web browser that brings various changes and improvements.

DPCUC President's Notes

by Peter Camilleri

After a long and cold winter, it's so nice to enjoy the much nicer Spring and Summer weather. The club was supposed to be meeting in person again, albeit in an outdoor setting, but that had to be postponed.

Instead, we will be holding an open session where all will have the opportunity to speak their minds. Possible suggestion for topics include a show and tell, fun finds, technical questions, or any gripes you may wish to get off your chest.

I plan to discuss the ancient computer I recently dug up. It was my first serious machine and provides a glimpse into a long lost era.

With any luck, our outdoor potluck will make an appearance soon.

Finally, in the wide world, I cannot believe that this insane war has passed the 100 day mark. As before, we can only hope and pray that sanity is restored soon.

Pray for Peace.

Peter Camilleri, President DPCUC.

Linux – Why Use Linux

By Alex Morrison



I was a long time Windows user as I had to use it at the office and support other Windows users.

At home I discovered Linux and soon started to test it as a Windows alternative.

At first I purchased secondary hard drives to install Linux as I didn't yet want to destroy my Windows system.

Soon I discovered how to dual boot my Windows system with a Linux system. Not all Linux systems supported dual boot very easily.

After a few years I started to add a few more PC's to my home and installed different Linux systems. I realized I was using Linux almost all the time.

Now I have three Linux PC's. A laptop and two desktops. The laptop runs PCLinux only.

One desktop runs PCLinux only and I use that for the newsletter writing. My second desktop runs a test Linux system and currently that is Manjaro. The second desktop also runs Windows 10. I keep the Windows 10 until it expires to use it once a year to do my taxes and update my car GPS software once every year or two.

Why do I like Linux?

I do not use or need any antivirus or malware removal tools on Linux. Someday I suppose I may need them but I haven't needed them for many years yet.

I do video and audio editing using Linux. I browse the internet with Firefox [my preference]. Other browsers also work on Linux.

I watch videos, play music and edit photographs on Linux.

When I am ready to select a test Linux to put on my second desktop I boot from a live DVD or USB to see if I like the look of the system.

I don't know what the readers of this column or our newsletter in general use at home. The Linux user group I know run one or more Linux PC's.

Years ago Linux didn't work well on some hardware. Wireless and printer support was weak. Today most Linux systems work well on almost all hardware and Wireless and printer support is excellent.

You shouldn't be afraid to boot a Live CD/DVD or USB of Linux to take a look at it. As long as you don't click the install button [usually on the desktop somewhere] you are safe to play with the live system. You might even like it!

The best feature of Linux is the software manager. That is a program that all Linux systems use to install software. You can search for and install software for your needs comfortable in knowing that it is safe to do so.

When you install anything from the software manager [Synaptic on PCLinux, Pamac on Manjaro] you are safe in knowing that the software comes directly from the distribution [system] you installed and has been tested thoroughly before released to the users.

As an example – using Synaptic – I open the program and click search [by Description and Name]. Suppose I search the word photo.

In response I see 40 or more programs listed related to the word photo. EG: darktable, digicam, ephoto, gimp, etc....

By clicking any program a description appears below it to explain what the program offers. If I want it I simply right mouse click on it and select install.

We have software like Wine and Winetricks and Lutris and Playonlinux and Protont hat enable many Windows programs and games to run on Linux.

If you are interested in asking questions about Linux just attend our nest meeting on Zoom. Just email me and I will arrange to add you to our distribution Zoom link.

Our Linux zoom meetings are the first Thursday of each month.

Sudoku

June 2022

by Alex Morrison



EASY

	1				4			9
9		2		5				4
	4		8					
	9			2		1		
		6	4				7	
		7	5	9			4	
6					8			3
							1	
3		9						

MED

8		9						
	5		1					4
	3		6			8		2
			9		7			
7	2				8	9		
					1	6	4	
	7				2		5	
2		3						
				3			7	6

HARD

			2	5		9		
	2	1	9					
	4					7		8
	5			6	1	4		9
9						8		
				8				
		4						
			6				1	
		7						6

Sudoku

The game boards on this page were produced using **Sudokuki** on PCLinux 64 Bit running KDE 5 Plasma.

The objective is to fill in the missing numbers ensuring that every 3 X 3 grid has the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats and every full column or row has the numbers 1 through 9 again with no repeats.

If you have troubles solving the puzzles send an email to me and I will send you the solution.

Have fun! Alex

IF you don't Like Sudoku puzzles – try these pages

<https://www.boatloadpuzzles.com/playcrossword>

<http://www.freegames.net/puzzle-games.html>

<https://www.cryptograms.org/play.php>

Durham PC Users Club**BALANCE SHEET**

Unaudited

ASSETS

	2022	2021
	Apr 30	Apr 30

CURRENT ASSETS

TD Canada Trust General Account	666.80	1,240.65
Equipment Fund	2,456.95	2,456.95
Cash Floats	<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,153.75	3,727.60

OTHER ASSETS**EQUIPMENT**

BenQ Projector	1.00	1.00
Cooler Stand	1.00	1.00
Storage Cabinet	1.00	1.00
Tripod Stand	1.00	1.00
Projection Screen	<u>1.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>

TOTAL EQUIPMENT	5.00	5.00
------------------------	-------------	-------------

PRIZES/GRATUITIES ON HAND	<u>223.02</u>	<u>286.74</u>
----------------------------------	----------------------	----------------------

TOTAL ASSETS	3,381.77	4,019.34
---------------------	-----------------	-----------------

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
----------------------------	-------------	-------------

MEMBER'S EQUITY

Balance May 1/20	4,019.34	4,116.47
Increase (Decrease) for Year	<u>-637.57</u>	<u>-97.13</u>
Balance April 30/21	<u>3,381.77</u>	<u>4,019.34</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	3,381.77	4,019.34

NOTES:

Depreciated items left on the books at \$1.00 to show their existence.

Prepared by:

A. R. Francis, Treasurer

**Durham PC Users Club
INCOME STATEMENT**

Unaudited

	2022	2021
REVENUES		
Membership	0.00	480.00
Door Prize Draws	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	0.00	490.00
EXPENSES		
Insurance	108.00	108.00
Membership Supplies	199.75	60.30
Merchandise for Gratuity/Sale	90.26	95.58
Postage	0.00	87.65
Hall Rental	0.00	0.00
Postal Box Rental	<u>239.56</u>	<u>214.70</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	637.57	566.23
DEPRECIATION OF EQUIPMENT	0.00	20.90
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(637.57)	(97.13)

NOTES

Our General Account balance is presently \$666.80 which is a decrease of \$573.85 from a year ago.

Our Equipment Fund balance is \$2,456.95 which is the same as last year.

Equipment is depreciated annually at 30% of the prior year's value and is now fully depreciated.

Our revenue from memberships decreased by \$480.00 to zero this year as members were given an extension on renewals until we resume live meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We had no Hall Rental expense as we were unable to use Faith United Church for the entire year.

We had no revenues this year.

Prepared by:

A. R. Francis, Treasurer

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG's

Special Interest Groups are for members only.

SIG's are really free monthly seminars with question and answer sessions following the presentation(s)

Members of SIG's enjoy a feeling of community and share common goals and interests.

Most SIG's are informal and members who attend them set the agenda for the meeting based on their own needs.

New ideas for SIG groups are welcome.

Special Interest Groups

Details

BEGINNER

Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: Call for Location
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 3rd Thursday of month 7:00 PM

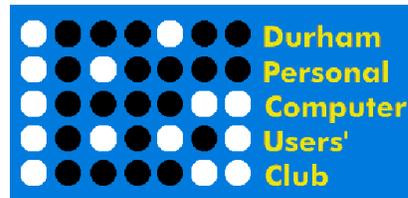
LINUX

Durham Linux User Group

Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: OSCC 43 John St W
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 1st Thursday of month 7:00 PM

Digital Camera Group

Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: Call for Location
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 4th Thursday of month at 7:00PM



**DPCUC
EXECUTIVE**

2021-2022

President	Peter Camilleri	peter.c.camilleri@gmail.com	289-928-1579
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Advertising Director	TBA		
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HOME PAGE --- <http://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/>

**Newsletter
Information**

PC Monitor is the official publication of the Durham Personal Computer Users' Club and is published monthly at Oshawa, Ontario. The DPCUC mailing address is PMB # 110, 27-1300 King St East, Oshawa, ON L1H8J4. The PC Monitor cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies in the content although efforts will be

The deadline for articles and information is 10 days following the monthly meeting. Late submissions may not be published due to tight schedules. Submit articles by email to the editor at alexmorr@rogers.com Articles should be submitted in Word Format using Times New Roman as the preferred Font.