

TPUG Newsletter

Views and News of Toronto Pet Users Group
c/o John Easton, 258 Lake Promenade, Etobicoke, Ontario, M8W 1B3 phone (416) 251-1511

Winter— 2007

From the President -

Last Act of a President

By now most of you should already know that at the last AGM (actually at the next Board of Directors meeting) a new president of TPUG was chosen. Because of health concerns I chose to decline my executive position on the board but I remain on the board. At the AGM, aside from the board of directors, there was one member and a non-member present. There were also about a dozen members represented by proxy. This was a good turnout for an AGM. Hopefully the next AGM will have a better turnout.

One of the last things I and the rest of the board did is that **we reduced the membership dues to \$10.00 per year**. All paid up members as of Oct 11, 2007 will have their membership prorated based on their remaining time. I would like to welcome Ian Colquhoun to the Board of Directors and Golan Klinger to the membership roster.

I hope all of you will support Greg Van Laere as your president, he has been very active with in the board over the years and has some great ideas. I will be there to help him, as he needs it.

Tom Luff, Past President

Tribute to Jim Butterfield

I think it is difficult for all of us to write our thoughts and feeling about a loved one and/or friend. But it was when I read an e-mail for a European journalist and responded to his questions that I was able to address the matter: **Who is Jim Butterfield?**

Here are a couple of the question asked by the journalist.

> How would you describe him as person?

Think back on your own childhood ... was there a teacher who inspired a lot of students, who everyone listen to when they taught (because they made learning fun and interesting) and talked to you and others as an equal? Then you may have a good idea of who Jim Butterfield is.

I have met Jim a couple of dozen times or more. And no matter who you are, Jim would talk to you as an equal. He never talks down to people and never had a harsh word. He would impress people with his knowl-

edge, not to show off to us, but to show us what we can do with the tools around us. Jim was a good listener, a kind person and entertaining. Everyone I have talked to has said the same thing.

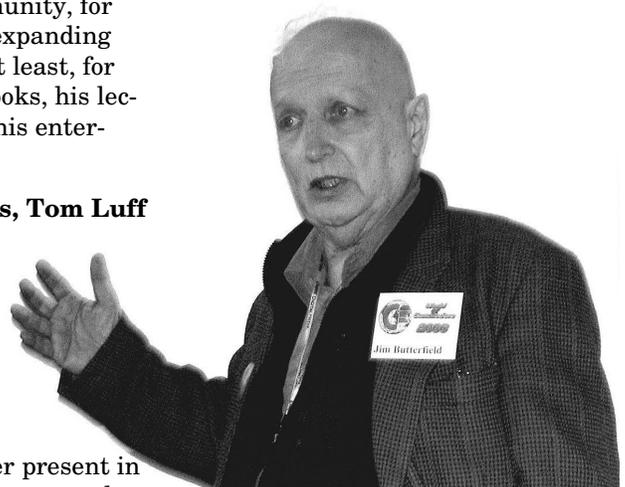
> What do we computer users of today owe to him?

I think we owe him our respect and gratitude for being a part of the emerging computer community, for showing us the way and expanding our horizons. Last but not least, for teaching us though his books, his lectures, the TV shows and his entertaining demos.

Regards, Tom Luff

Past President of TPUG

May Jim's memory be ever present in our minds and may he be constantly in our hearts.



Jim Butterfield — WoC—December, 2006

Member Information

Voice Info

We have discontinued our TPUG phone listing - contact members as listed here at home phones.

Website: www.tpug.ca
e-mail: info@tpug.ca

Membership Rates

NEW \$10 per year

Board of Directors

President	Greg VanLaere
Vice President	John Easton
Secretary	Ernie Chorny
Membership Sec.	Ian McIntosh
Treasurer	George Turek
Director	Ian Colquhoun
Director	Tom Luff
Director	Joe Palumbo
Director	Tom Williams

Librarians

Head Librarian	Ian McIntosh
Amiga	John Buller
C128	Tom Luff
CP/M	Ernie Chorny
GEOS	Joe Palumbo
C64	Joe Palumbo
C64 Education	Greg VanLaer
Comal	Ernie Chorny
Plus/4	Ernie Chorny
Vic 20	Ernie Chorny
PET/CBM/SuperPET	John Easton

Support

Mail	Tom Luff
Telephone	John Easton
Disk Orders	Librarians
Member Records	Ian McIntosh
Meetings	Leif Bloomquist
	and Ernie Chorny
Shows	Tom Luff & Ernie Chorny
Webmaster	Leif Bloomquist

Newsletter

Editor John Easton (416) 251-1511
jeaston@rogers.com

Meeting Schedule

Westside and Amiga West: Third Thursday of the month (except summer) at Alderwood United Church, 44 Delma Drive. Delma Drive is just west of and parallel to Browns Line, south of the Queen Elizabeth Highway, north of Horner Avenue. From the west, exit QEW at Evans Avenue, east on Evans to next stoplight, south on Gair to Delma Drive. From the north or east, follow signs from QEW or Hwy. 427 to Browns Line, exit right to Evans Avenue, turn south on Gair (first stoplight) to Delma.

Contact - **Leif Bloomquist** (416) 221-2328 leif@schemafactor.com
or **Ernie Chorny**(905) 279-2730 chorny@tamcotec.com

From your Editor ...

Well now, and haven't we had a busy time! Even an Annual Meeting ... (which the observant among us will note has long been overdue). Yes, there were reports and statistics provided ... all noted and filed for posterity.

As you may have noticed from our past-president's report, we now have a new President ... namely Greg van Laere. Greg has been our main man in organizing the TPUG storeroom and keeping us up to date on the resources therein. Although Greg holds mixed feelings about being the representative of this organization, let's show him our support for the coming year.

And as for that other resolution mentioned by our immediate past president ... **the reduction of membership fees from \$25 to \$10 per year** ... let me point out that this is merely a **trial** effort. Speaking for our treasurer (who unfortunately couldn't attend the AGM), if we plan to carry on as usual, with projected costs ... \$30+ dollars per month to the local church for our meeting facilities (much too meager), \$2 average cost per issue for printing and distribution of the newsletter, \$130+ /month cost for the storage locker, we'll be hard pressed to cover our costs of operation. If, in the next year we discover this is inoperable, we'll just have to resort to our original plan ... back to the time-immemorial fee of \$25/year.

In the meanwhile, **no more nice guys** ... if you don't have proof of a current TPUG membership, you might well be asked to leave the next local meeting.

And so to this issue. I've attempted to provide some sampling of the tributes paid to our founder, **Jim Butterfield** from various sources. I've no way run out of stuff, but the post office has this strange idea that we should stick to 12 pages. Sorry folks, for instance, I've had to hold Joe Quitner's column Joe's World 'till next time. And I hope you can all read 7 point type.

John ... y'r humble Editor

TPUG Newsletter is meant to be published somewhat quarterly by the Toronto Pet Users Group (TPUG). TPUG is a volunteer non-profit club dedicated to the service and support of owners and users of Commodore computers.

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Articles, letters, tips, questions, art, etc. are welcome. Send hardcopy or disks "Attn: TPUG Newsletter", or use Internet e-mail.

Advertisements are also welcome. Member's small ads are free. Commercial ads are \$100 per page with a \$10 minimum.

Notice to new owners of SuperPet and CBM 8296 machines

TPUG has copies of the Waterloo LANGUAGE DISKS (3 in 4040 format) as supplied with the SuperPet on original purchase.

TPUG has the EXECUDESK disk (8050 format) as supplied with the CBM 8296 on original purchase.

These disks are an integral part of the operating systems of the above machines and since Commodore insisted on referring owners of these machines to TPUG for service, we have added these somewhat proprietary (and also virtually unobtainable) disks to our library - all part of the TPUG mandate of service to our members.

We also will attempt to search out copies of original program disks to replace corrupted disks. In this category you will find such programs as VISICALC, WordPro, and PaperClip.

FB-MIDI interface for the Commodore

www.c64net.comHardware Accessories for the Commodore 64/128 computers By Fotios



www.c64net.com/fotios/fbmidi.php

FB-MIDI Multi standard MIDI interface for the Commodore 64/128

If you're into creating music, FB-MIDI adds MIDI IN, MIDI OUT and MIDI THRU/OUT ports to your Commodore 64/128.

An 8-way DIP switch is used to support various C64 MIDI software standards like Sequential Circuits, Passport and Syntech (Sonus).

If you're new to the world of MIDI, I suggest trying out MIDISLAVE MANAGER 1.1 with any MIDI capable music keyboard.

The FB-MIDI interface was designed to be fitted in a standard Commodore cartridge case that's been slightly modified.

Two plastic PCB supports are supplied for use without a cartridge case.

Price US\$29.00 Plus Postage

INSTANT 1581 DRIVE KIT
(Just add a standard PC floppy drive)

\$49.95

Includes upper and lower shell with logic board & faceplate, a serial cord and power supply box.

- Power Supply only (1581/41-II) \$24.95
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- 1581 Logic Board only \$19.95
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- 1581 JIFFYDOS ROM add \$32.95
- plus 10% shipping (15% USA)

Taxes are extra for Ontario and Canada residents (PST/GST)

Mail cheque or Money Order to:
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Downsview, ON, M3L 1B0

Note: Dealers and User Groups Welcome

JP. PBM Products by Mail is the NEW Manufacturer of Super Snapshot Cartridge V5.22 - NOW SHIPPING

*CURRENT Commodore Club MEMBERS SAVE \$5 MORE off the regular price before freight and taxes.

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SSv5.22 Cartridge	\$ 74.95
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32K RAM add \$19	+\$ _____
subtotal \$ _____	
+10% Freight (15% USA)\$ _____	

All Prices Are Cdn. Funds
5% Exchange On US Funds
Send \$2 for a catalogue
on disk (1541 format)

Subtotal	\$ _____
Ontario Res. add 8% PST+	\$ _____
Canada Res. add 6% GST+	\$ _____
TOTAL (CDN. FUNDS)	\$ _____

Visit JPPBM.COM for full product listings and PayPal ordering information.

Globe & Mail - Lives Lived - Jim Butterfield

Husband, father, pioneer of personal computing. Born February 14, 1936, Ponoka, Alberta. Died of lymphoma, June 29 in Toronto, aged 71

Frank James ("Jim") Butterfield was the third of four children born to James and Nancy Butterfield. His parents were originally from England, having moved to Alberta to try farming there. When Jim was 2, the Butterfield family returned to England for a planned stay of a year or two. Their return was delayed by the outbreak of World War II, and the expected short stay turned into an 11 year sojourn. In 1949, Jim (now 13) returned with his family to Canada.

Jim attended both the University of Alberta and University of British Columbia. His academic career was undistinguished and he soon realized he was more interested in the Radio Society than in the curriculum. He never finished his degree.

In 1957, Jim accepted a job with Canadian National Telecommunications in Whitehorse, training technicians who maintained the new microwave system built along the Alaska Highway. From the first, he demonstrated a gift for teaching: one student recalls Jim explaining a technical point on three successive levels: very basic, much more detailed, and finally, mathematically. Even then, he was at the forefront of the latest technology, and in 1959 published his first article, a treatise on transistor theory in *Popular Electronics*.

Jim was transferred to Toronto in 1962. Soon he had moved out of the world of microwaves and transistors and in 1963 began work on the very large computers that were just coming into use. He left CN in 1981: rumour has it he was fired after telling his boss that personal computers would one day wipe out the private wire teleprinter business. Before leaving CN, however, he made one very important connection: his wife Vicki. Jim's first interest was in Vicki's typewriter, which was top-of-the-line and could type the symbols used for electrical terms such as the ohm. When Vicki asked what the heck that thing was anyhow, Jim came back with a hand-drawn picture of an ohm sitting on the top of a stove, which he said was "an ohm on the range". How could she resist?

Even while working with CN, Jim had begun a second career as a writer and educator on computers. After working with large computers at CN for 12 years, Jim was intrigued with the microcomputers that started to arrive in 1976. Jim's first microcomputer was a Kim-1, and he was soon publishing programs for games and utilities for this and other models. He became a regular contributor to computer magazines, and published several very successful books on machine language programming for Commodore computers. His appearances on the 1982 TV show "The Academy" and numerous speaking engage-

ments made him a well known figure in the world of personal computing. Many persons still recall his encyclopedic memory and knowledge of computers, and his willingness to teach and help others, regardless of age or expertise.

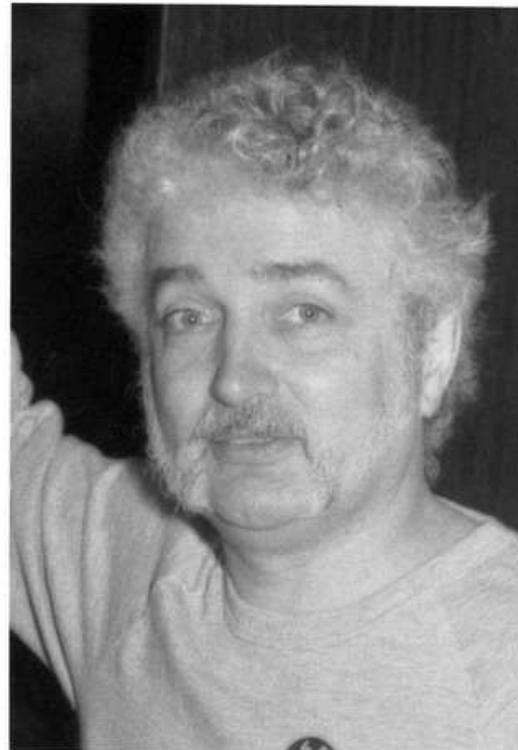
Jim's life took a significant turn in 1988, when his daughter Susannah was born.

Embracing fatherhood at the relatively late age of 52, he immensely enjoyed sharing his love of books, restaurants, and travel with his young daughter. Jim seldom drove a car but loved to walk, and many visitors to his home in Toronto were the beneficiaries of his extensive knowledge of Toronto's restaurants and ethnic neighbourhoods.

Never stodgy, Jim enjoyed many a beer with friends at the Toronto Naval Club. He had a puckish sense of humour - one neighbour remembers a telephone conversation in which both Jim and she remarked on how the meow of a Siamese cat had a similar sound to a bagpipe. During the course of the conversation, this eventually led to each holding their Siamese cat under their arms like a proper bagpipe and gently squeezing to produce the requisite wailed duet.

Jim was a dreamer and an entertainer, and nothing made him happier than to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with an audience - whether it was a group of machine language programmers or a curious child. He is mourned by a world-wide following of computer enthusiasts and by every person who knew him well.

By Diane McKelvey (niece)



World Of Commodore

Toronto Expo

To be hosted by the Toronto PET Users Group, now in its 28th year.

December 1, 2007
Hours are 10am till 10pm.

At Alderwood United Church,
44 Delma Drive (Browns Line/Evans Ave),
Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Accommodations at ... Best Value Inn (650 Evans Ave)
(416) 255-5500 or (888) 525-8346 - info@bestvalueinntoronto.com
Guestrooms are \$70/night for 1 bed or \$80/night for two (Queen size).
Ask for group name: TPUG All funds are in Canadian dollars.

Aside ... some folks have enquired about accommodations at the Stay Inn—just down the street. Rooms there cost about \$25 more per night, but all have two queen sized beds. They do have something of a party room—available on negotiation and dependent on number of reservations booked. We'll leave this option open to on-line negotiation. <http://stayinnsuites.ca/>

There will be vendors selling new and old products, demos of innovative ideas and guest speakers revealing facts about days-gone-by from Commodore and TPUG.

Admission (including 1 souvenir gift bag per family) is \$15 a person, \$20 per family (wife and children); Members \$5, or \$10 per family.

Tables are \$15 for the first one and \$10 for each additional table. TPUG will set up a freebie table, give out door prizes and hold a raffle.

On Friday evening TPUG will welcome out of town guests at the church for setup and to say hello to old friends. Saturday will be the main event. On Sunday morning the overnight guests are invited to a round table to discuss the weekend.

For more information visit our web site, www.tpug.ca/woc. Please pre-register early so TPUG can prepare suitable name-tags and get a better idea as to how many are coming and their needs.

Eulogy for Jim

Hi. My name is Karl Hildon. I used to work for Commodore and I published a magazine about Commodore computers.

I started working at Commodore 29 years ago this month. I was 20 years old. The PET 2001 was barely a year old and although I considered myself a resourceful type, information was scarce. The only co-worker who knew anything about it soon got tired of my bothersome questions.

(It wasn't long after this that my supervisor at Commodore came into my office one day and said, "if you're having any problems, here's a phone number for a guy who says he's happy to help." At the time I was working on a program for the PET that would be used in Eaton's at the Eaton Center. It was a floor directory program and we planned to put a PET at each escalator so that shoppers could find their way around the store. Naturally it was important to keep the program running which meant we could not allow shoppers to break into it with the RUN/STOP key. My first contact with Jim was one of near desperation and I recall my amazement when he gave me the answer - a little trick to disable the RUN/STOP key. I knew right then that this guy was gonna be GOLD!

I also knew it would be easy to overdo it - I knew I would have to be careful not to go to the well too many times. Before I would call Jim back then, I remember I would try to collect up and distil down my questions so as not to call too often and use up too much of Jim's time - after all, we were talking during office hours and I'm pretty sure CN wanted him to do some of their work too. But those calls would often go for an hour each or more - sometimes way more! Sometimes Jim would even call me to share some new finding. I could listen to Jim all day and I figured as long as he wanted to talk, I was going to soak it in.

I remember the day I found out Jim was no longer working at CN. He said, "I was offered a retirement package and I took it." And I believed him. But there was always a part of me that wondered if the time he spent on the phone had anything to do with it.

The first time I met Jim in person was at Lyman Duggan's place in October of '78. They were planning the Toronto PET Users Group. TPUG would eventually become the largest computer club in the world. Meetings started out small with 15 or 20 people, then 30, 50. By the second or third year, meetings were being held in a high school auditorium, sometimes with several hundred attending and standing room only. Jim always had something to share and the crowd would hang on his every word.

By this time I was making a technical newsletter for

Commodore, sometimes regularly. Jim often wrote articles for me to include and he would sometimes pass the diskettes to me at TPUG meetings. I remember one time when I took a look around while he was handing me a diskette and every eye in the room was fixed on that disk - it was like they just had to know what was on it, they knew no matter what it was, it was going to be great.

TPUG would also have an annual conference with computer seminars and demonstrations and a banquet dinner would be held on the Saturday night. One year I offered to prepare a little after dinner entertainment, a skit I called "The Human Computer." I enlisted four "volunteers" from among the dinner guests, of which Jim was one. I attached various pieces of computer stuff to each person and also assigned them a single syllable speaking part. The four parts were X, SEC, Queue and Ting. I had a wand with a nerf ball on the end and when I bonked each person on the head, they were to say their part. The objective was to get the four of them saying the word "executing"

Jim's part was SEC. SEC stands for "SEt Carry" which is a machine language instruction code. As I assigned each part, I would make them practice. I thought if I got Jim to say SEC enough times, he would become the Human Computer's SECs coprocessor or SECs machine.

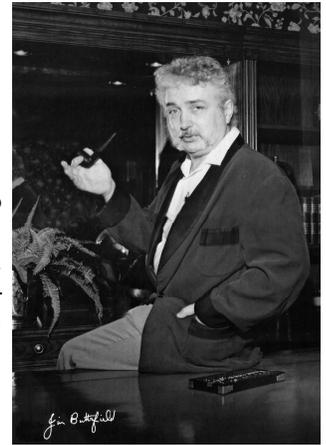
Jim clearly knew what I was up to - he wouldn't say SEC. Instead he would say "Set Carry." I would say, "No, say SEC." I would bonk him again and I'd get "Set Carry." I didn't know what to do - my human computer had this bug and his name was Jim Butterfield! I wanted to bash him over the head, but wait, I was already doing that!

Jim was often described as being a "very animated" guy. I thought, he couldn't have got this way overnight. I decided to look into his past for clues and what I found was a clear pattern. (One could also call this The Jim Butterfield Celebrity Look-alikes Show)



I soon found out that in his younger years, Jim was in a rock band.

Apparently he was quite the showman, which was good because it prepared him for his career in professional wrestling.





Now you may think this is a picture of Hulk Hogan, but it really is Jim - see, he's wearing the same sunglasses that he wore in the rock band.

He was a successful entrepreneur.



Jim was also in the restaurant business.

He did some TV shows.



And he was in movies, cast perfectly here as the hunter Van Pelt in Jumanji.



In his leisure time, Jim liked the occasional role playing game.

And sometimes he would go to the opera.



Then we'd meet up at a TPUG meeting.



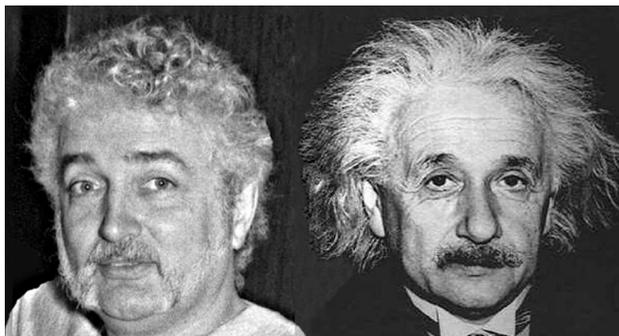
Jim might get home late, but he was a good father and loving husband:



Jim was always doing something. Here's a shot of him arriving for a TV show taping.



Yep, Jim was pretty cool.



Now, in case you don't think this really is Jim, I was able to zoom in on this photo:

And in case there was any doubt about this animated character claim...



Jim would go to work every day:

Here we see Jim showing off the new computer they just got.



After work, Jim knew all the best places to go eat.



And although he loved all the computer connected stuff, I think he liked his home and family best.

All kidding aside, though, in the last 29 years, I haven't met anyone else quite like Jim. Some of the things I notice in myself come from his influence: things like saying "perhaps" instead of "maybe," learning shortcuts like keyboard shortcuts, and having the patience to explain computer related material to my co-workers who want answers but usually don't have time for long winded explanations. And I'll often catch myself, quite unintentionally, doing this with "hand out, fingers extended" just like Jim.



I believe Robert Mitchum had a line near the end of one of his western movies that went, "no one is truly dead until the last person on Earth ceases to speak their name." Well, I'm certain Jim will live on for many years to come, just as I'm sure that we'll miss him every day.

Karl Hildon

Memorial tributes to Jim Butterfield (1936-2007)

Mike Todd, Rothbury, England

miketodd.net/jim/memorialbook/

Malcolm O'Brien

MalcolmO@torfree.net

Like all users of C= computers, I was indebted to Jim for his enormous contributions. But even more so for me after I became editor of Transactor. What a great author to have! I just wish everybody could've heard him play the piano too. What a guy! Always a pleasure.

Mon 5-Nov-2007 15:40 - Toronto

Mark Blans | onthejob@sympatico.ca

It's very sad to learn about the passing of Jim. He was my mentor many years ago and I would frequently look forward to his writings, descriptions and sample codes.

Coming from the era of the Sinclair (my first machine), where I even purchased the extra 64k! module and thermal printer, I made a custom power supply and bought a b/w portable monitor and took it to work with me, whilst my friends were straddled with the Vic-20's.

I eventually wrote code to run a complete gas station/car-wash operation, which my area manager thought was a huge waste of time. I'll bet he wonders why he never became vice president (it was an extremely large oil company). At that time, even the company couldn't envision a station being run essentially by computers!

With all that I read from Jim, I eventually got a loan and bought an SX-64 and 1526 printer (\$2,750) and went on to write programs for many businesses. That SX was a huge hit, whenever I took it to show off software, especially as I would hook it up to external monitors and audio sources.

Eventually, with some tips from Jim, I started writing programs (and developed high-current controllers) to take control of the outside world! My best selling item was a professional lighting system that I still sell to this day!

Jim 'really' inspired me to make the most of computers (especially anything CBM based) and made me follow up with an intensive education in electronics.

Many years later, although I too have made the switch to PC's, I can really thank him for a very rewarding, fun-filled and lucrative career in computers and electronics. I still have my SX (in perfect condition), a modified C-64 (auto-booting) and two regular 64's and love them all.

He was not only brilliant, but humorous and fun and always a great source of information. I owe a lot to the man and he will be missed.

Pioneers, are few a between. Jim was one and I'm glad to see that he's being remembered for leading the way, in those early days when 'we' truly were nerds!

Fri 2-Nov-2007 02:27 - Toronto, Ontario CA

James Alexander james.m.alexander@gmail.com

My condolences to Mr. Butterfield's family and friends. Like many who've posted here Jim was an influence on me getting into computers. Like Mr.

Pierre Laberge who posted here and a few others I never really got to know him well in person. Though I did see him at the few computer shows I attended. The first time I saw him was on the TVO series Bits & Bytes. Though to many, including me, he was THE commodore guy, he never talked down to anyone, on the contrary he was fair to everyone, Commodore fan or not. For anyone getting into the computer industry, they should look at Jim Butterfield as not only a true expert but a person of integrity. Tue 9-Oct-2007 22:07 - Port Hope, Ontario

Richard Bradley richardbradley@gmail.com

Below is the text that I prepared for the Jim Butterfield memorial service. Vicki Butterfield asked my brother David and myself to speak. My brother did speak with me, but his part was from memory and was not written, so you will have to wait for the video to hear what he said. Much thanks to Vicki for the honour of speaking about Jim...Richard

Tribute to Jim Butterfield

My Name is Richard Bradley Toronto PET Users Group member 1439, I am married with 4 kids, 2 Boys, 2 Girls, Kyle is 19, Nathan 18, Kirsten 16 and Natasha is 11. I have been married to my wife Sandi for 21 years; I met her through my volunteer work with the Toronto Pet Users Group (TPUG) meeting when I was 15 years old. While one of my High School teachers, Gord Mahaffy, got me started with the Commodore PET, it was Jim that got me and kept me hooked on computers, I am proud to be able to call him a friend.

Being up here today with all of you to share some memories of Jim is truly an honour for me and considering Vicki included the following statement in the e-mail message she sent me while she mused over the possible speakers list: "25 years ago you, Richard, would be about the last choice, but now you'd be good. You and your brother were about the most inarticulate adolescents on earth. If I answered the phone, you'd ask or Jim and other than that mostly grunt." So now you will better understand how much being up here really means to me.

Never before has one man taught so much to so many, he made it look easy, he made us laugh...and we learned from him. Some would say that Jim was a computer person, but really he was a people person above all else. Jim could take the most complex concepts and put them in to words and demonstrations that did so much more than teach the subject matter, which he did better than anyone else, he was also teaching us how to deal with people. I am a network administrator each and every day, but I am not the smartest techie guy you will ever meet, but I am one of the best at working with people, treating them with respect, looking them straight in the eye, listening to their questions and then providing them with answers that they can understand and learn from; I learned all that from Jim Butterfield.

Going to high school is tough at the best of times, but going to high school as a computer geek makes it that much more difficult. The TPUG high school crowd could have easily made up the cast of revenge of the nerds and several sequels, but Jim gave us hope! Hope that someday we would be able to be respected and valued by others the way we respected and treasured Jim. He made it cool to be a

nerd and I am very proud to be called a computer nerd.

When we went to TPUG meetings we were among hundreds of people, some as young as 6, others as old as 90, but we had all been bitten by "the Commodore bug." The room was almost always silent when Jim, our Guru would show us something new. He would often use others in the room as examples. At one meeting Jim was writing a sub-routine in a language that allowed them to be called by name, so he chose to name it PUNTER, for Steve Punter, the author of WordPro. Once completed Jim with a chuckle then proclaimed that we would now have to EXECUTE PUNTER. The room erupted in laughter; I recall that Steve Punter was not laughing with us,

Jim was known in and around Toronto, but he was known around the world. There is a tribute website for Jim in England, with tributes from Canada, the U.S. and Europe. One tells of an exchange student from South Africa that took the bragging rights home of being able to have met and heard Jim Butterfield, another of a man that burst into tears when he read the Lives Lived in the Globe and Mail and he had never actually met Jim. As much as Jim transcended the world, so to did he appeal to all ages; three generations of my family are here today to celebrate his life and offer support and comfort to his family.

I would wish I could PEEK in to the heavens, RUN over to Jim POKE him on the shoulder ask him just one more time, "why did Commodore put Basic 2 on the 64." In closing I would like to remind everyone here something you already know; how lucky we all are to have had our lives touched by Jim Butterfield. To the members of the Naval Club, it is an honour to be in your presence, to the CN crowd, you had him for a long time, but he chose to be with us, to Jim's family and friends I hope you find some comfort in these memories and most importantly to Vicki and Susannah I thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing Jim with us and wish to give you my Commodore 64 key chain to help you remember this day. To Jim: Thank You for everything my old friend, Thanks!!!
Tue 2-Oct-2007 00:21 - Toronto

Jim Lynch

I first heard of Jim Butterfield while living in Antigua (West Indies) and working as a regional airline pilot. As a Commodore 64, then Commodore 128, owner I used to buy COMPUTE! magazine mainly for his useful machine language routines, and to share those programs with the other members of the Commodore Users Club I had started there.

I came to Canada to live in 1995, and while strolling through the newsgroups on my Apple Powerbook (I had upgraded slightly!!) I came across the name and recognized it.

I sent him an email asking if he was one and the same machine language author from COMPUTE! magazine, and we exchanged pleasantries. I then invited him to lunch - at my expense - at my then-favourite lunch place, the "Green Mango" at the corner of Hayden Street and Yonge just south of Bloor (note: in the few years since, the flavours and prices have all changed for the worse - don't bother to check it out). After lunch he offered me a beer,

and we literally walked a few yards around the corner from the restaurant to the welcoming arms of the Naval Club!!

Jim invited me to a Whiskers (a men-only Club within the Naval Club) dinner one month as his guest, and shortly afterwards I joined the Club itself and was a frequent visitor for about 8 years - until I started found a job. I continued to attend the Whiskers dinners, but life got in the way of all the other times I used to go there.

Over the years Jim invited me to come with him to a few of the computer shows he attended - I am also a computer and web programmer - but I was never able to go with him because there was always something to stop me (there's life in my way again!!), and I do regret I did not put at least one of those things aside and enjoy the show through his eyes.

Jim was a stalwart of the Naval Club, not the least as computer trainer, programmer and troubleshooter, always finding parts and connections when the uninitiated were unable to make progress. He is known best at the Club for his endless store of excellent jokes, which he presented with some panache at any opportunity, his best audience being the male crowd at the monthly Whiskers dinners.

In the years I knew Jim I knew him as a man to respect, a man with a stupendously accurate memory for all things - useful and useless, a man who would go out of his way to help even if you just asked for a cup of sugar. Jim also doted on his small family.

I visited Jim in the hospital a few days before he died, and I am happy I was able to spend a couple of hours with him near the end. Immediately before my intended second visit a couple of days later I received an email that he had passed away the night before - I knew from the first visit that it was serious, but did not realize the end was so close.

Jim Butterfield, you touched the lives of and will be missed by the thousands you knew - and by the millions who never knew you. Would that my own epitaph and memorial could hold such sway!!
Rest in peace, my friend.
Jim Lynch
Sun 23-Sep-2007 12:18 - Toronto

Ernie Chorny chorny@tamcotec.com
I'd heard about Jim before I joined TPUG in 1982. When I attended my first meeting, I was a bit nervous about the prospect of being in the same room as the great man. When Jim came in, I was surprised to see a somewhat ordinary looking man who spoke softly and answered questions from newly minted computer users with the same respectfulness as he accorded the more experienced users.

Throughout the evening, humour prevailed his 'lecturing' and responses. When I got home, I'd sit up till 2 AM trying out the various hints, tips and procedures that Jim had provided.

Whatever I know about Commodore computing and relating to people I learned from Jim Butterfield at those early TPUG sessions.

We all miss Jim.
Thu 20-Sep-2007 09:47 - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Pierre M. Laberge
This is a letter I asked the Globe and Mail to forward to Diane McKelvey, Niece of the late Jim (Frank James) Butterfield...

Dear Ms. McKelvey:
I first heard of your uncle Jim in the 1970's, as a student at Laurentian University, Sudbury. The personal computer had just been invented, and we had a 16K Commodore Pet! Complete with "Chicklet" keyboard, and built-in tape recorder! Later on we got a 5.25" disk drive, and got the PET a whole 32K of RAM!

From someone, somewhere, I don't remember where, I received a small tape cassette on which was an early version of a program called "PetTrek". PetTrek, was an elementary "Star Trek" game for the Pet. It was a fantastic program, a real-time game with moving ships, etc. I still have that cassette and a floppy somewhere. I hope the data on it is still good. Maybe someday I will find a working PET! (Ed. Note—Pierre bring your cassette or floppy to the World of Commodore in December)

We (my friends and I) had hours of fun playing that wonderful simple game. Since, it was written in BASIC, we were able to see the program "listing", and learn from it. We also added on to it: a Battle Computer for the Enterprise (Choice of Apple II or IBM-8080 version, the Apple was programmed to be more accurate!); a Self Destruct; an elementary Help Screen; and an Anti-Matter Weapon. We also gave the player the option of using Jim's original not too bright Klingon opponents, or intelligent real-time constantly moving Klingons... I must tell you that Jim's game -- as well as ours, was the BEST, easiest, and most fun Star Trek game for any computer that I have ever played. And I have seen a number of them! I miss it!

I always meant to try and contact Jim, and tell him how much that simple game (and his TVO appearances) helped me. I have always suffered from depression/mood changes, and that simple game helped me through a lot of rough times. It helped develop my interest in computers, which has helped me to earn a modest living, and in turn, I have helped a few people. Jim was a genius, and a great and wonderful man. Later on, Jim got famous, and was on the TVO program Bits & Bytes. He was always fun to watch and listen to, and extremely witty, educational, interesting, and easy to understand. He was one of their best presenters. I never did get to read any of his books. I regret that.

I'm sorry I never did manage to find Jim and tell him this. I have only had an internet capable computer for the last 3 years, and was on dial-up, until only last month. I kick myself, as I never was smart enough to think of searching for him on the internet, with Google or some other such thing.

And now, it is too late to thank him, and tell him how wonderful he was. When I saw his obituary in the Globe and Mail (Tues, Aug 28, 2007), while a friend and I were grabbing a bite at a local McDonald's, I just started crying. My friend was very concerned, and wanted to know why. I told him a "childhood hero" had died.

I'm writing you this now, to make myself feel better, and I hope you will feel better too. I doubt Jim had an idea as to how many people he helped and influenced. I don't think he would have blown his own horn over it. He would have been tickled that he did some good, and taken any compliments humbly.

Your uncle was a great guy; our world is much smaller and sadder without him. I hope this letter finds you well, and that it helps console you, and make you proud and happy of all your uncle did. And I really, really want to thank you for that truly wonderful, well written obituary. I will treasure it, as a

memory of the halcyon days of my youth, at a time when anything was possible, and giants walked the earth. You may share this letter with anyone. Thank you very much for your time and attention in this matter. I feel better having shared this with you.
Sincerely, Pierre M. Laberge

AND:
As Everyone Knows: One Of The Biggest Giants That Walked The Earth, Was Jim Butterfield.
Jim You Will Be Missed!
Wed 19-Sep-2007 18:53 - Sudbury, Canada

John Cook
sommambulistseeker@gmail.com
The Christmas my family bought our first computer (a C-64), I was disappointed to learn that we'd gotten one with a bad video output. With all the shops closed for the holiday, there was nothing for it but to wait. So, I pored over the user's manual, and tried to wrap my 10-year-old brain around Jim's programming examples ("Jotto" comes to mind). In those few days before we got our replacement unit, a lifetime love of computing and programming was born. I absolutely owe that to Jim Butterfield, and I'm sorry I never got to tell him so in person.
Safe travels, Jim.
Tue 4-Sep-2007 17:39 - Vineland, Ontario, Canada

Kyle Bradley | kbradley@gmail.com
News of Jim's death is shocking. I met him in the later years of his life and his way of speaking just astounds me and he could talk to anyone and make you have an understanding of anything, i myself can not remember Jim in his prime but my father, former TPUG member and former part owner of the BBBS (if you can remember things from 20 years ago) Richard Bradley has told me stories of Jim which you always seemed to learn something from and he will be truly missed by the entire Commodore Community and more.

Jim you were a gentleman of gentlemen and may you rest in peace
Tue 28-Aug-2007 00:23 - Minden, ON, Canada

Matt Young | matt@biodieselvideos.com |
www.biodieselvideos.com
I'm taking a visual basic course at this moment and Jim's name popped into my head - back in the early 80's I used to slog through mounds of code in the back of COMPUTE magazine. Jim was my hero for all things Commodore. He indeed was "The Commodore" in both name and symbol in my mind. I'm sure he is keying code on a cloud now and watching us from above.
Thu 23-Aug-2007 11:52 - Pennsylvania

Peter Nadorvolgyi
peteradorvolgyi@sympatico.ca
Mr. Butterfield was always kind, patient, and very generous with advice. The advice table at the computer shows always had extra long line-ups when Jim Butterfield gave advice.
Sun 19-Aug-2007 22:16 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Heather M. Riley heatherriley@sympatico.ca
Jim was a good friend. I have great memories of him. Sharing cigars. A tour of New York (not the tourist spots). Jim introduced me to computers. I was computer-phobic at the time. Jim was patient, funny and kind.
Cheers, Jim.
Thu 16-Aug-2007 17:37 - Canada

Steggy (aka, troublesome, bigdumbdinosaur)
Very sorry to hear of the loss of *the* Commodore Guru. Jim Butterfield had an engaging personality that spilled over into his speaking and writing style. I'm certain that his clear expositions on what was

going on inside of Commodore computers (especially the immortal C-64) were the inspiration for countless computer hobbyists to get under the hood, so to speak, and find out just what it was all those chips were up to. He sure had that effect on me!

I've had the pleasure, twice, of meeting and speaking with Jim in person, as well as "knowing" him through such essential tools as Supermon 64 (if software can be worn out by continuous use, I have worn out SM 64 many times over). His death is a major loss to the world of computers and I extend the most sincere condolences to his family.
Thu 9-Aug-2007 21:41 - USA

Mike Lewis | dakota97@xmission.com | wasatch-rr-contractors.com/
I am sad to hear of Jim's passing! I only knew Jim by the occasional articles I had read in COMPUTE! magazine, but even still I feel he had a significant influence in my life.

I was only 5 when I wrote my first BASIC program on our C-64, and I was hooked from there. People like him showing a young kid like me how to make my C-64 jump hoops had a great influence on my life and gave me a strong programming background. The last program I wrote for my Commodore was a full-fledged database program capable of storing data files on disk, generating reports, sorting the records by various criteria, and printing to our EPSON Dot Matrix printer.

I think I was 14 or 15 at that time. After that, my high-school days required I move to a PC/DOS platform. Shortly after, the C-64 was put in storage and has remained there since.

While I don't remember specifics, I think it is amazing that a young mind- like mine, between the ages of 6 and 10- was able to understand the things he wrote about. I seemed to get the feeling that Jim wanted to share his knowledge with everyone who was willing to learn, regardless of age or circumstance. My background in computer programming has since helped me learn all types of applications and programming languages very quickly and easily. While I may not be a professional programmer (I am a graphic designer) I draw upon these skills almost daily as I continue to do website design work with HTML, PHP, MySQL, and Javascript.

For me, the C-64 lives on as emulated on my MacBook Pro, and the name Jim Butterfield will forever invoke the many memories I have of discovering computer programming.
Thanks, Jim, for showing me how.
Thu 26-Jul-2007 19:03 - Utah, USA

Darrin Doherty
darrindoherty@hotmail.com
I held onto my copy of Jim's book "Machine language for the Commodore 64" all these years and was finally able to meet Jim and have him sign it for me at World of Commodore 2006.
Thank you Jim for encouraging all of us to pursue our interests in computers.
Tue 24-Jul-2007 12:32 - Toronto

Peter Jennings | peterj@benlo.com | www.benlo.com/microchess/microchess5.html
I was saddened to hear of Jim's passing. We have lost a formidable engineer and a wonderful human being.

In 1976, when I received one of the first copies of Kim-1 User Notes, I was surprised to learn that another Kim-1 owner, Jim Butterfield, lived only a few blocks from me in Toronto.

That summer, Jim and I spent many hours discuss-

ing various esoteric aspects of 6502 programming. It was great to have someone so close to talk to. The first "public" test of Microchess was a game at Jim's house. As the program progressed, we exchanged snippets of code, and he is credited in the source listing for writing the efficient move calculating algorithm at the heart of the program.

It was Jim's announcement of Microchess to Kim-1 User Notes that spurred the first sales of the program, and began my own career as a software publisher. See
http://www.benlo.com/microchess/microchess5.html

I will forever be indebted to the support and advice Jim so freely gave to me and to all who came in contact with him. He was one of the pioneers of personal computing. May he be long remembered as one who made the world a better place during his too brief visit.
Mon 23-Jul-2007 11:23 - Andorra

Ian Matthews administrator @commodore.ca www.commodore.ca
Jim was a Commodore legend in his time and he will be missed. I considered it a privilege just to have email conversations with him.
I send my sincerest condolences to his family.
Sat 21-Jul-2007 23:15 - Calgary Alberta

Michael Cahill and Gary Jones
We met Jim during one of our pub crawls with friends and Vicki. We had a great time at the Naval Club in Toronto on several occasions. We will always remember his great sense of humour and also being a great listener. You knew that when you talked to him, that he was listening to you and what you had to say. He and Vicki were very supportive of our wedding. Upon hearing of Jim's death, I played our wedding video again, and here was Vicki and Jim giving their congratulations to us. What a handsome couple they were, and what a great sense of humour. It is a day that we will never forget. I (Gary) met Jim a few times around my area of employment and we always had great short conversations and always had a good laugh at things. Many times this certainly brightened up the day. Upon hearing about his illness, we were totally shocked. Lately, we have heard about many friends that have been affected by cancer, and this is really upsetting. Our thoughts go out constantly to Vicki and Susannah.
Fri 20-Jul-2007 19:20 - Toronto, Ontario

Bittwister me@privacy.net
I met Jim in 1984 at WOC. We had a 'secret' discussion about cycle timings of the 6502. That was the most I'd learned in 10 minutes since. Very friendly and helpful. I am affected by his passing, he was really a part of growing up and using Commodore.
Thu 19-Jul-2007 22:52 - Halifax, NS, Canada

WAYNE O'HANDLEY | 8johnhb@ns.sympatico.ca
Hi Vicki and Susannah..hope you two are doing well. Jim was a very special and kind person, there are not too many people in the world like Jim. He will be sadly missed by everyone's life he touched.. I'm sorry that it took so long to reach you but I had to get my neighbour Peter to show me what to do because I'm not too bright as you know when it comes to computers. God bless you both and I will be in touch.
Much Love
Wayne & John. John Says Happy New Year
Thu 19-Jul-2007 17:29 - NOVA SCOTIA

Brad Templeton
www.templetons.com/brad
It was a blow to hear this.
I wrote a short blog entry on Jim at
http://ideas.4brad.com/rip-jim-butterfield
Wed 18-Jul-2007 18:57 - San Francisco

John B. (Jack) Holdstock
jholdstock@shawcable.com
https://totalrecoil.wordpress.com/
I originally got to know Jim when I went up the Alaska Highway with CN Telecommunications in 1959. I was stationed at Destruction Bay north of Whitehorse and Jim was one of the staff at the Whitehorse Terminal station. We maintained the land line communications system and worked a great deal over the phone with other technicians in our section which went from Whitehorse north to Koidern, the last station before the Alaska border.

In short order I got to know Jim, first over the phone and then face to face on trips into Whitehorse. He was always an interesting person to spend time with. He had an encyclopedic memory on not just electronics, but could talk just as easily about the bible or printing presses. In those days he was in the forefront of the very latest technology - in this case, transistors. He wrote an excellent and very readable article on transistors which was published in Popular Mechanics (I believe) in which the two main characters were called Peter and John. Of course the joke was that Peter and John were also senior staff working for CNT out of Whitehorse. I'm not sure that Pete and John were amused but the rest of the employees along the highway certainly were.

When the microwave system was being built up the Alaska Highway, Jim went out to the first Microwave school to train technicians in Montreal. He came back to the second school - which was the one that I attended - as an instructor. I remember asking him a technical question one day and he explained it to me on three levels; very basic, much more detailed and finally mathematically. Another time in answering a question he said, "The text book says" and went on to quote a passage. I looked it up and found he had quoted it word for word. I asked him if he remembered everything he read and his reply was, "Only what I want to remember".

A year ago this past spring, my wife Morag and I were in Toronto for a brief visit and Jim volunteered to meet us for breakfast at a little bakery/restaurant he knew off on Bloor Street. When he arrived he informed us that he was taking us on a walking trip of Toronto. And this he did with the usual Butterfield flair. We walked through and ate at ethnic neighbourhoods, went through residential areas and markets, with Jim all the while giving us the history and the flavour of the city's core. It was a marvellous day and a great memory that we have of the man. I have just returned from Dawson Creek and a reunion of people who worked up the Alaska Highway for CNT and Northwest Tel. There are a lot gone now from our era but I did see familiar faces and talked to old friends. And I thought of Jim.
Tue 17-Jul-2007 00:47 - Kelowna, B.C.

Linda Hart | lahart@sympatico.ca
Vickie and Jim lived a few blocks from me back in the old hood. We both had siamese cats. Jim and I once had a conversation about how the meow of a siamese cat had a similar sound to a bagpipe. We wondered if our cats might make a good duet so we arranged a telephone music session. Each of us held our cat under our arm like a proper bagpipe and we squeezed, bellows-like, with the elbow so the cats could produce the requisite wail. We thought it sounded quite good although we weren't certain if the cats could hear each other. Jim was always fun. I'm glad he isn't sick anymore, although as you would expect he kept his humour to the end.
Mon 16-Jul-2007 11:35 - Toronto

William Kindree | bkindree@interlog.com
Here is the the story of the last thing Jim Butterfield and I worked on together. I think it makes for a good

case study of Windows XP Recovery and a good tribute to Jim.

I sent a draft of this note to Jim, for his comments before distributing it, but he was unable to revise it owing to the adverse effects of his treatments.

Bill Kindree

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Windows XP Recovery Case Study

This is the story of an experience of restoring a crashed Windows XP system to operation.

The computer and OS in question were purchased by Jim Butterfield for Susannah about a year ago. It is a Dell desktop computer, with Windows XP installed.

Needless to say, Jim's daughter (Susannah) did not do any backups of her hard drive in the intervening 12 months.

A short while ago (March 2007), while installing a new version of some software that she runs on this computer, she had trouble with the new version of the software; it did not install properly. She then attempted to uninstall this version, and reinstall the previous version of this software. This too was unsuccessful. In fact, the computer appeared to run amok, with great hard disk activity. So, she pulled the plug on the computer.

Been there, done that. (I would have done the same.) Unfortunately, after turning the computer back on, Susannah was unable to reboot Windows XP. Daddy (Jim) was then called upon to solve this problem.

After several tries to restore the system, using Dell's recovery method, but the system did not reboot. Dell's method consists of transferring control to a system repair utility on the hard drive. But the system was not in a good enough shape to do this.

A similar hard disk recovery method based upon Semantec software, was also unsuccessful.

As Dell does not provide a recovery method based upon a bootable Windows XP CD, this was the end of the authorized recovery methods available to Jim.

Then Jim attempted using a CDROM version of Linux, which is bootable from CD, to read the hard drive. This was successful, but he was unable to transfer the contents of the hard drive to a USB hard drive, owing to problems with permissions on the USB hard drive. It was then that Jim called upon me (Bill Kindree) to assist in solving this problem.

I brought over to his house, a bootable Windows 2K CD Install disk. Together, we invoked the Windows 2K recovery process. Essentially, this boots you into a Windows 2K version of the MSDOS console. Attempts to do a DIR command resulted in Windows 2K Recovery reporting that the disk directory was corrupted.

We then ran CHKDSK in report mode, and it agreed. Throwing caution to the wind, we started CHKDSK in repair mode.

It ran for about 15 minutes, and scanned 40% of the hard drive. It ran for a further hour, and scanned (repaired?) a further 4% of the hard drive. It was then we decided to go out to a local Chinese restaurant for a Dim Sum lunch.

Two hours later, we were pleasantly full, and the computer had scanned another 8% of the hard drive. I decided to depart the premises. Jim continued to run this program, until it completed, several hours later.

At this point Jim rebooted the computer. Success of the recovery was demonstrated by the fact that now

the DIR command did not complain about the hard disk. Jim was able to successfully back up the necessary directories to the USB hard drive. But Jim was unable to reboot Windows XP, after this step was completed.

The next step for Jim, was going to be to reformat and install an OS onto the computer. Jim did not immediately do this. I guess he was exhausted from the ordeal; I would be.

Fortunately, a couple of hours later, Susannah turned on the computer, and guess what happened? Windows XP booted; miracle of miracles! This ends the saga of Windows XP gone awry.

Conclusions:

ALWAYS DO FREQUENT BACKUPS OF YOUR COMPUTER SYSTEM'S HARD DRIVES!
Windows 2K install CD is a handy tool for recovering a crashed Windows XP system.
Mon 16-Jul-2007 11:30 - Toronto

Chandra Bajpai | www.prospectmarkets.com
I am sorry to hear of Jim Butterfield's passing. I just Googled his name and was shocked to hear he passed away. I started programming on a 1977 Commodore PET and still remember reading his monthly articles in Compute, and always wished I knew as much as he did. Thank you Jim for all knowledge that you imparted on me in my thirst for knowledge. I still have all my Compute's as well as a basement full of Commodore 2001's, 8032 and even a Kim-1.
RIP Jim.
Sat 14-Jul-2007 21:45 - Natick, MA

Louise Buckland louiseandstan@rogers.com
Stan and Louise send our condolences and we have fond memories of Jim at CNT/CNCP and remember his wonderful sense of humour and wit.
Wed 11-Jul-2007 13:42 - Toronto

Marilyn Schulz | mschulz2334@yahoo.ca
Vicki, I was so sorry to hear about your husband. You may not remember my name but you would recognize my face at Out of the Cold. Having lost a son, the only other thing that I think would be worse is losing my husband. My prayers are with you
Tue 10-Jul-2007 11:32

Garry Owen | garyowen@magnum.ca
I worked with Vicki his life partner in System Training at CNT, can't say I knew Jim well. Best wishes and strength to Vicki and family, I know what it's like I lost my wife Vickie to the same demon.
Mon 9-Jul-2007 19:06 - Ottawa

Harshad Pancholi
harshad.Pancholi@sympatico.ca

I have an astounding episode to relate. Approximately 15 years ago I had an exchange student from South Africa. He was a truly bred white south African boy who had seen no other worlds. The complexity was that my family is of East Indian heritage and we live in Toronto Canada. There was a lot of nervousness and apprehension on how we would adapt the boy in our family. On the first day with us, I asked him whether he would care to go to a computer show with me, especially meet and hear my friend give the public tutorials. His face just lit up. "Not Jim Butterfield of Commodore!"
"He is revered like a god in our school in South Africa". That broke the ice. He met Jim and I have not seen to-date a prouder young man. When he was leaving to go back home he said he is going to boast to his friends that he met Jim in person.
Thanks Jim Butterfield

Mon 9-Jul-2007 19:01 - Toronto Canada

Vic Johnson | mavic@golden.net
I recall Jim from the days when we both worked for CN telecommunications. He always had that "Nutty Professor" look about him, but there was nothing "Nutty" about the way he stuck handled his way through the myriad of computer problems which plagued the fledgling systems we were working with. In later years it often surprised me where he would pop up, like on my TV screen while watching TVO during a fund raiser. My sympathies are with his family.
Mon 9-Jul-2007 16:44 - Rockwood, Ont. Can

Debby Yuke | debbyandrob@sympatico.ca
Although I never knew Jim I have the pleasure of working with his beautiful life partner and wife Vickie. My thoughts and sympathy are with Jim's family and friends at this very difficult time. "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead, where there is no path and leave a trail." - Robert Frost
Mon 9-Jul-2007 16:26 - Oshawa, Ontario

Freda Knapp | fknapp@sympatico.ca
My memories of Jim go back to the early 70's at CN Telecommunications and when in house PC's were a pipe dream. He wrote a program for the CNCP Sales Dept which I used to access a mainframe to configure a network for Household Finance and many more large networks for the next 20 years and long after Jim had left CN Telecommunications. I admired him greatly and will never forget him.
Mon 9-Jul-2007 14:24 - Etobicoke, Ontario

Norrie Millen alwaysnavy@candoo.com
www.candoo.com/ncot/
I met Jim through the Naval Club of Toronto of which we were both keen members, although Jim had an army background. He was an inspiration to me with any computer problems I encountered and I knew that he would always have the answer to any questions I asked. He was about to teach me his unique program which generates the "Whiskers" database when he became too ill. Now I have a real problem, I have no one to ask for help, but something will turn up I am sure. Jim's special sense of humour and the way he delivered his anecdotes, yarns and jokes will be sadly missed and was always the highlight of our "Whiskers" men's night dinners. Rest in peace my friend - you have certainly earned it.
Mon 9-Jul-2007 12:03 - Thornhill, Ontario

Sheila Brady | shakibrady@hotmail.com
He taught me how to use an abacus and then set up a 'contest' with someone else in the room using a calculator. It was fun and easy and I felt something akin to pride at my new talent. I have, in the last 25 years or so taught many people how to use an abacus and I think of Jim every time.
The kazoo stories would probably bring a smile to your face but I was inebriated for most of them and can't really remember enough detail to share - trust me, I'm smiling.
He was one of the kindest people I've ever known.
Sun 8-Jul-2007 15:47 - Atlanta, Georgia

Robert Bernardo rbernardo@iglou.com
videocam.net.au/fcug
Jim was always kind to me at Commodore conventions. He told great stories from his experiences in the 1980's. At one show, he even gifted me with a pair of Commodore suspenders (braces), because I was the one who had traveled the farthest.
Sun 8-Jul-2007 03:19 - Visalia, California

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— WINTER 2007 —



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