



Tom
Miller
That's how
I see it, eh?
howicit@rogers.com

What comes to mind when you're asked - What are the top things that became obsolete during the last 10 years?

Most likely you'll rattle off items like, film cameras, cathode ray tube (CRT) 'deep dish' televisions, Walkman and CDs, and such items. Hey, how about wires - everything is becoming wireless.

Can you imagine someone saying - Inventions have long since reached their limit, and I see no hope for further developments. Well, a Roman engineer, Julius Sextus Frontinus, did in AD 10.

That's what Charles Duell, commissioner for the U.S. Patent Office, pronounced in 1899.

Egad, they sure got it wrong. But that was back then, eh?

Whoops, not so fast. What was it Bill Gates, the Bill of Microsoft fame, asserted in 1981? No

one will need more than 637 KB of memory for a personal computer - 640 KB ought to be enough for anybody. Wow, what an underestimation! And that was just about 30 years ago.

Get this - the just out Sony PlayStation3 (PS3) video game console has 250 GB or 250,000,000 KB. That's a big number, right? Certainly hyper-awesome compared to the 1982 Commodore personal computer that was released with 64 KB for a retail price of US \$595.

Aside - Oh yeah, PS3 'entertainment console' sells for Cdn \$350 and also plays 'Blu-ray disc' that can not be played on that dinosaur-to-be standard DVD player that came to market what - sometime during the decade that just ended.

The memory card that has made film cameras obsolete comes in different 'capacity' sizes. Even for an entry-level 'point and shoot digital camera,' the postage size, wafer thin memory card can range up to 16 GB. This 'rice-thin cracker' can store, on an equivalent basis to the 'old' photograph album, an amazing 10,000 coloured 'images.' Even some words are becoming antiquated, too, with photograph being set aside for image.

Well, are you still coming up with more things that became obsolete over the last decade, or have you switched gears and are wondering about what's next to be shelved and shown in the 'sunset' museum for future generations to marvel at and ask with bewilderment - Can you imagine someone getting by with that?