

One man's high-tech junk is another's pot of gold

By LISA RAINFORD
Staff Writer

He's always been a little bit of a "computer geek," but he didn't anticipate capitalizing on his technological skills by starting a business specializing in computer recycling and repair.

Local resident Dennis Maslo says he stumbled into the venture somewhat accidentally.

In October 2001, he was walking down the hall of the office building where he worked and noticed a computer that had been discarded.

On a whim, he decided to take it home where he proceeded to rebuild it.

It cost Maslo only \$20 to refurbish the computer and when he finished, he decided to sell it. He sold it on ebay to a woman in Florida.

Doing a little research, Maslo discovered Canadians discard an average of 60,000 tonnes of electronic waste each year — "that was three years ago," he said, "but it was enough to make me want to explore this further."

Not only did he approach businesses at his Yonge and Bloor streets office building, but talked to those in the surrounding area as well.

"People were very receptive to this so I put together a promotion package, website and letterhead," Maslo said.

In the beginning, Maslo and a friend packed a mini-van full of computer equipment to keep it out of landfill and they would repair it in his parents' basement.

He collected so many computers that the business, which he had christened Computation, was quickly outgrowing the base-

ment.

"I thought if I was going to keep at this, I should find some warehouse space," said Maslo.

He didn't have to look far. He soon opened up shop at 2444 Bloor St. West.

"We repair people's computers, doctoring them in house or

have them dropped off," he said.

On Feb. 2 through to Feb. 9, Computation will host a computer-recycling event for anyone wanting to get rid of a computer. The store is open from noon until 7 p.m.

For more information, contact 416-910-4358.