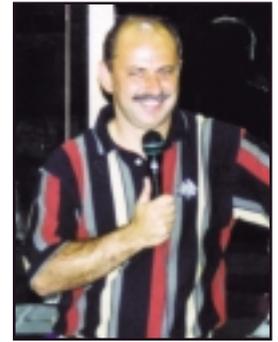
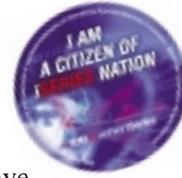


President's Corner

By *Richard Dolewski*,
President, Toronto Users Group for Midrange Systems



Richard Dolewski

What a great summer it has been! The weather in Toronto has been everything one could ask for. Hot and sunny, mixed in with sunny and hot. We have had a record hot summer, one perfect for the cottage or swimming pool. I hope you all have had an opportunity to enjoy it with your families by taking vacations or (at a minimum) a time-out from the work place.

The news this last summer has been anything but good. You cannot open a newspaper, or turn on a radio without hearing something negative about our economy. Never a day goes by without a news story on the wire “Q2 earnings fall well short of expectations”, or “Another round of job cuts in an effort to trim costs.” Nortel... Nortel... Nortel. Every day brings some new batch of data, giving conflicting signals.

We have all been squeezed in our work place. Cut back and remove the fat. Is there really any left? We have already gone through down sizing, right sizing... What's next? The computer shops are running lean and mean these days. How many of you have 3 weeks of holidays available to you with no opportunity to take them? Your employer says take the day off but make sure I know where to reach you if something comes up! Everyone out there is busy and playing a key role in the success of their organization. Summer used to be when companies planned NO projects. It seems that now many organizations have aggressive summer

deliverables on the table. Times have changed. As we ride this roller coaster out, take a time out from the work place, at least a mental one.

Make time for small moments. Actually enjoying a lunch is a start. Taking a full moment for a coffee, taking the kids to the local park, or driving to a sun drenched beach can all be, at a minimum, mental medicine. Sit down and daydream, (but not while driving of course.)

Who hasn't considered at one time or another running a bed and breakfast, opening a wine shop or bookstore, becoming a golf pro? My 30 handicap bursts that dream immediately. Switching our mind-set to our “dream job” can place a smile on our faces as we stare out onto the lake or a park setting. Your mind starts to convince yourself – Why Not? Why shouldn't I switch to a more relaxing line of work? Then comes the crash...the subconscious kicks in. Would I really enjoy making that 200th bed, or teaching another fumbling beginner golfer? Well as the saying goes, don't quit your day job. It's nice to daydream and stop thinking about all those technical daily challenges even if it only lasts for a short moment in time.

This year's TUG Directors have undertaken a challenging portfolio. We have seen the user group make great strides in the past campaign. Ever increasing membership participation in many TUG hosted events including MOMs (Meetings of Members), the TEC conference, and the

vendor showcase can be attributed to the timely topics and the quality of education made available. The golf tournament sells out so fast (less than 2 weeks,) that we are becoming victims of our own success.

Special recognition must be give to Léo Lefebvre for another outstanding double term as President of TUG. His dedication to this organization is truly commendable. We have all witnessed through his leadership continued growth of this quality organization through, otherwise, lean times in the technical sector. Léo's commitment to TUG is unparalleled. Leo is not going very far. He has accepted the role of Second Vice-President and of course, Past President. There goes his free time between midnight and 8:00AM!

So now the board is faced with bringing the group forward to the next level. The new board members and their portfolios can be found listed on page 5. I am pleased to accept the role of President once again for TUG and do look forward to the challenges that we face. Our committees are already hard at work striving to make the coming year even more successful. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to the opportunity of meeting all of you at the upcoming events. Remember – suggestions for improvement are always welcome. Don't be just a member, get involved!

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