TUG
PRESIDENT'S CORNER
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By Léo Lefebvre, President,
TORONTO USERS GROUP
for Power Systems

Here we are—the 2008-09 season is well on its way! We already had our first Meeting of Members with presentations by **Don Yantzi** and **Nazmin Haji** on Rational Developer for System i (better known as RDi). And what a great presentation it was! There is a meeting review by Seneca College student **Rebeca Romero** later in this issue. Read what she has to say about her first technical session presented at a TUG MoM and by someone other than a Seneca College teacher.

Speaking of meeting reviews, we are always looking for volunteers, and writing your comments about the meeting(s) you just attended is a great way to "dip your toes" in the "volunteerism" pond. It is easy and very gratifying to get published (and you may even become famous!) It is really easy. It would take only a couple of hours of your time, maybe less. It all depends on how quickly you can put your thoughts in writing. Maybe you already are doing something similar to a meeting review. Maybe you are a "blogger", or maybe you are one of those people answering questions on a users forum. Then writing a simple review would be even easier. Take a look at the last few editions of the TUG magazine to see how previous writers presented their views of the sessions they just attended. Interested? Let me know. Send me a note at leo@tug.ca or look for me at our next meeting. We'll make it easy for you.

IBM i Chief Scientist
Dr. Frank Soltis

Another way to get more involved with your users group is to come up front at the end of a presentation and thank the speaker. If you were at the meeting on September 17, you would have seen **Kumar Rajendra** thanking Don Yantzi, and **Tom Mavroidis** thanking Nazmin Haji. They both did a great job. Ok, Kumar is a TUG director and Treasurer, but Tom is a regular TUG member who attends meetings like any other member. Don't be shy—raise your hand. Ask me to let you thank the speaker in the name of all the other attendees.

As you can see, I want to involve as many people as I can. After all, TUG is a group of people getting together to learn from each other, and hopefully, have everyone involved.

On a regular basis, IBM and TUG partner together to bring you special presentations. Our upcoming meeting, on November 19th, 2008, at the Living Arts Centre Mississauga is one of those special collaborations. **Kathy Gregson** (editor and publisher of the monthly "IBM iSay" newsletter) is bringing with her several members from the Rochester Executive Briefing Centre and Development teams as expert speakers. These Power experts are touring the country to present the latest and greatest on the Power platform. At this point, **Kurt Rump**, **Erwin Early**, and **Randy Ruhlow** are the three speakers who will be opening the meeting at precisely 4:30 p.m. on that day. I emphasise 4:30 p.m. because these people will have a lot of material to cover in the only two hours we can provide them.

After our regular social break (which on this occasion will start at around 6:30 pm) we will present our special guest speaker—the most sought after speaker the IBM midrange platform has ever known— **Dr. Frank Soltis!** We should also say that he is the father of our beloved IBM i. Knowing Frank, he will certainly address the evolution of the IBM midrange platform to the mighty Power Systems and what the future looks like.

TUG President Léo Lefebvre

Many of us have been working in the IBM midrange for most of our working lives and got to know Frank very well. And we got to appreciate his talent even more. But we are not the only ones feeling the attraction for this "scientist extraordinaire."

During his last visit to Toronto, Dr Frank Soltis went to Seneca College to address a group of students and teachers (http://tug.ca/Seneca20071003/). If you had been in the audience that day, you could have felt the change in atmosphere in the room. When Dr. Frank was introduced, it was with some sort of polite reception from the audience that he started to speak. However, as the presentation evolved, you could feel and see the interest growing bigger and better. By the end of his presentation, everyone was very appreciative of what he had to say, and many people were asking for him to come back.

The presentation at the college was in the morning. Afterwards, one student came to me and asked if he could join us for the TUG MoM that same evening. Of course I invited him to join us. So, **Ranjiv GT** came to listen to Dr Frank Soltis for the

second time in one day. A few weeks ago, Ranjiv sent me an email with some technical questions. When I answered, I mentioned that Dr. Frank was coming back this year. Here is part of his reply:

"Thank you for replying to me and for the fix. Also, I am really glad for your note regarding Dr. Frank Soltis' next visit this year. Do you remember me from last year, fall 2007? Dr. Frank Soltis and the crew visited Seneca College. I was there for his awesome speech regarding the next generation of System i. After hearing him at Seneca College, I was really interested in seeing him at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel. So, I came to you for the directions, and I made it there after I finished my classes that day. I was the only one attending the meeting as a student. I have to thank you especially, for helping me to get an autograph from Dr. Frank Soltis that day. It is one of my priceless things in my life...

After the meeting, I took a picture with the great scientist Dr. Frank Soltis. (I feel I am blessed because most people don't even get a chance to get close to him.) I hope to attend his meeting this year too. He is my inspiration and a role model towards my education."

As you can see, Dr Frank Soltis touches everyone he meets. So, on November 19, 2008 you have another chance to meet and hear him again.

For this occasion, registration for the meeting will be collected by IBM. So, when you register through the TUG website, you will be re-routed to the IBM registration system. The special registration link for this event is www. tug.ca/i. Please be sure to register in advance so we can plan for the correct amount of food, etc.

Vaughn Dragland

Steve's Farewell Address

By Stephen Quan

*Excerpt from Stephen's speech
at the TUG Meeting of Members Sept. 17, 2008*

It is with more than a little sadness that I stand here tonight, as it marks my last official function as your IBM Liaison. There are few things, if any, that have been a greater professional pleasure in my career to date than to be your IBM representative. You, the membership of this group, have always impressed me with your passion for technology and your dedication to the System i platform. With the advent of the new Power Systems platform, we at IBM look forward to a bright future for the IBM i environment. A reflection of this is the first class liaison you will be getting in **Dale Perkins**.

I have very limited time up here tonight, so I will not be able to praise my many friends on the TUG board individually. Suffice to say, Léo and the Board have been the most dynamic supporters of the IBM i environment outside of Big Blue itself and some of the most technically proficient specialists I've ever encountered. It's been nothing but a joy to team with you. If I were an IBM executive, I'd hire each and every one of you guys!

I'd also like to thank all the IBMers I've worked with on TUG matters during my time here. Teaming with them and seeing their devotion to the users group's well being made me extra proud to say at TUG events, "I'm an IBMer".

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end, so I will end off with a heartfelt thanks, not simply to the TUG Board, but to all the members of our users group: it has been a wonderful four years as your IBM Liaison, for it has been an honour, in every way, to serve you. I will always consider myself a member this intrepid users group. TUG