Thank You TEC Sponsors

By Jay Burford

A group of volunteers joining together in an organization like TUG creates a powerful force for the accomplishment of some mammoth tasks. To use an old cliché the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. "What am I talking about?" you may ask! Well, in this particular instance I am referring to the recent TUG TEC. We know that one of the primary goals of TUG is to help to advance the knowledge and education of the members, as is done regularly with the exceptional speakers that come to the various Meetings of the Members (MOM). However, one-night meetings are vastly different than putting on a two day Technical Education Conference (TEC). The **Eighth Annual TUG TEC** held in April had over three hundred (300) attendees who came to participate in more than seventy (70) education sessions and visit fifty (50) exhibitors at the Showcase. It was an immense success and we owe a huge vote of thanks to all the volunteers and TUG Administrative staff, who worked so hard all year to set up the conference.

TUG Volunteer, Jerry Dmytrasz with Anna Musella-Chiasson and Ed Jowett (seated)

They dealt with the hotel and outside contractors and suppliers and all the attendees and vendors. However, TUG and these volunteers were also very fortunate to have another group of strong supporters.

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They are the many companies that "went the extra mile" and became sponsors. Some of them are members of TUG, and some of them are suppliers. Some even, are members of the wider community – and even though they are not involved directly in the IT industry, they also recognize the value, and wish to encourage the effort being put forward by TUG, to provide education to its members.

In this column, I would like to recognize these organizations as outlined below, and say:

"Thank You for Your Support!"

The AS400 Network – NEWS/400, supplied the Tuesday morning Coffee Break refreshments (www.as400network.com/) "The AS400 Network is a comprehensive collection of resources for AS/400 professionals, brought to you by Duke Communications International,"

StorageTek supplied the Tuesday afternoon Coffee Break refreshments. (www.storagetek.com/) "StorageTek is the only global information storage provider to use 'Open, Intelligent and Integrated'™ solutions to promote the efficient use of critical information and remove the information management constraints that inhibit business growth."

Orlan Karigan
(www.okassoc.com/home.htm) "**Orlan, Karigan & Associates Ltd.** is an Information Technology consulting firm focused in IBM AS/400 and Windows/NT technologies."

Orlan Karigan and Precision Logic jointly supplied the Wednesday morning Coffee Break refreshments.

Precision Logic
(www.precision-logic.com/) "If your need is EDI or E-Business, we are the team to talk to, experts dedicated to the successful implementation of systems and management of information."

TUG supplied the Wednesday afternoon Coffee Break Refreshments. (www.tug.on.ca/index.html) "TUG" stands for the **Toronto Users Group** *for Midrange Systems*. Our purpose is to provide a professional forum for the presentation and exchange of ideas that pertain to IBM midrange computers (mainly iSeries), and related subjects for users; from the technical, management, and end-user perspectives."

LANSA sponsored the enjoyable entertainment in the Showcase, as provided by the group ENCORE (Quality Entertainment for All Occasions in the Barbershop Style). (www.lansa.com/) "LANSA allows you to build commercial applications rapidly. LANSA's development environment leverages your knowledge of the AS/400 to make learning as rapid as possible."

Grand Prizes for our end-of-the-day draw in the Showcase were supplied by the following organizations:

The Briars Resort and Inn – Another World on Lake Simcoe - provided a delightful overnight stay with all meals included. (www.briars.ca/) "You'll simply love The Briars. This lakeside heritage resort provides refuge for guests among acres of lush lawns, gardens, towering trees and cedar hedges; our surrounding forests,

fields and streams are home to a variety of wildlife, as well as a Scottish woodlands golf course and a live theatre in the old Red Barn."

COMMON supplied a two hundred dollar ($200 U.S.) gift certificate to be used as part of the Registration Fee at either the New Orleans or the Minneapolis IT Education Conferences. (www.common.org/) COMMON's Strategic Vision - To facilitate IT knowledge-sharing, education, problem-solving, and industry influence for the IBM user group community.

The Tundra Restaurant at the **Hilton Toronto** donated a Gift Certificate for a charming dinner for two. (www.toronto.com/E/V/TORON/0050/17/56/1.html) "Tundra… conjuring up limitless horizons, it is quintessentially Canadian. From the design to the decor to the menu, Tundra has been conceived to evoke the image, texture and taste of Canada."

IBM Canada gave out a two hundred dollar ($200) gift certificate for IBM merchandise. (www.ibm.com/ca/en) "Adapting seamlessly to the latest technology, IBM eServer iSeries announces a powerful new release which can help you reduce the complexity of managing a complex business environment."

The **Sheraton Parkway Toronto North** provided a gift certificate for an overnight stay. (www.sheratonparkway.com/) "The Sheraton Parkway Hotel prides itself in exceeding expectations. We are North Toronto's Largest conference centre with over 30 conference rooms able, to host from 5 to 1200 people."

* The TEC Showcase Grand Prize winners are listed on page 50.