

President's Corner

By Léo Lefebvre,
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Léo Lefebvre

Well, 2004 has passed and we're already charging headlong into 2005. We had many good times last year and the coming year is promising to be even better!

The Importance of Registration

The last TUG Meeting of Members in 2004 was certainly a great success. For the first time in years we had to tell people we could not take their reservation because we had reached our limit. We even had to turn people away at the door because they had not registered in advance. It's unfortunate for the attendees who missed our great line-up of topics, but I have to admit that it does feel good to get a blow-out turnout! By the way, you can see some pictures of that meeting in this magazine. And, if you want to see more, go to the TUG web site: www.tug.ca and follow the "Photo Gallery" link.

That brings me to the importance of pre-registration. As any other group, when we make our reservation for a meeting room at the hotel or other location, we have to figure out how many people will be attending the meeting, in order to get the right-sized room – and in TUG's case, the proper amount of food. A right-sized room is essential to be able to seat all of the people at the meeting, but we also do not want to get an over-sized room where people would feel "lost."


Price is a consideration, too. A bigger room means a bigger price tag. Food-wise, it is also very important to get the right amount for people at the meeting. Not enough food leaves attendees hungry. Too much food goes to waste. In this case, waste is on two levels: spoiled food (not too smart in a society where many people don't have enough to eat) and "spoiled money" (not too smart for a non-profit users group). Wherever we meet, we have to give the catering group the number of people we are expecting, so that they can prepare the right amount of food. We are charged for whatever number we declare.

We always have a target number when we reserve the room and we adjust it with the registrations received. Normally, we have to firm up our numbers two to three days prior to the event, and that number is the number we are charged for. That's why your registration is important and your presence at the meeting is also important. I guess, for our last meeting at Woodbine Racetrack, all the numbers were right.

Any suggestions?

To attract members to meetings, we have to present topics that you want to see and hear about. Obviously, we do have choices in topics and speakers but we are still unsure how well the group will respond. So, If you have any topics you want to see and/or speakers to suggest, don't hesitate let me know. I am always open to new ideas. Contact me at leo@tug.ca.

Maybe that speaker is you! Let's get in touch and let's see what TUG can do for you, (or better still, what you can do for TUG and its members.) Perhaps you would like to "volunteer" someone else to present a session. That could be done as well, as in the case of our speaker on HMC (Hardware Management Console) on January 19, 2004 – **John Still**.

Do you have suggestions for venue(s)? Let us know if you can recommend a good place to meet, where the rent is reasonable, the food is good, with easy access, and free parking (if possible). In the meantime, best wishes for a great year 2005! See you often at TUG's meetings (and other places) and don't forget to register early. 

The 5th Wave By Rich Tennant



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