

# President's Corner

By *Léo Lefebvre*,  
President, Toronto Users Group  
for Midrange Systems

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## TUG Volunteers

Now that we have completed our twelfth annual Technical Education Conference (aka TEC) I have time to relax a bit (not too much though – I have few more things to do!) During my break, I reviewed the last few TUG events and realized how fortunate TUG is on the volunteer side.

Of course, TUG's strength is built on the hard work and energy of its 12 directors and a couple of long time (i.e., permanent) contributors. But it is not on them I would like to draw attention. I would like to recognize the gracious contribution of few people outside of the regular TUG Board of Directors.

Our most recent TEC has been a good example of how TUG can get the support of some individuals who really care about TUG. For this TEC, we introduced some new features that were valuable for TEC attendees but also quite demanding on the volunteers. For the first time this year, TEC offered its attendees iSeries certification testing. For the two days of the conference, any attendee could walk into the testing room and write a certification test. Of course we needed volunteers to serve as "proctors" and we needed a couple of volunteer proctors at all times. Besides **Don Heller** of IBM and TUG Director **Stephen Bingham**, a few other people gave their time for the benefit of the TEC attendees. **Ken Davis** (Canadian Tire), **Harry Hashtilow** (Mother Parkers). Without their help it would have been quite difficult to accommodate all of those who wanted to take the tests. I also have to mention the good help of our TUG/IBM liaison **Stephen Quan**.

Staying with TEC, another area where we received lots of help from "occasional" volunteers was at the registration desk. **Angela Gonsalves** (Coca-Cola) and **Jerry Dmytrasz** (Kia Canada) were back for their fourth year!

Last year, **Ed Jowett** stepped down from the TUG board but decided to stay on the TEC organizing committee. We had many meetings to prepare this 12<sup>th</sup> TEC and Ed was present at each and every meeting. On the committee, he took care of the communication with the hotel. During the two days of the conference, Ed was session manager for three rooms at the same time! What a Trooper. Thanks Ed.



*TEC keynote speaker Trevor Perry with Léo Lefebvre*

Two nice ladies who must not be taken for granted are **Inass Moussa** (Smurfit-Stone) and **Loretta Dryer** (Toromont). For the longest time, Inass and Loretta have been helping at the Meeting of Members registration desk. It's been so long, I don't remember when they started. Come to our next meeting and you will see them again.

After every MoM, you will read a review of the meeting in the next issue of this magazine. The "reporting duty" is usually assigned to the TUG secretary (currently **Stephen Bingham**). Occasionally, the secretary cannot be at the meeting and we have to find someone to write the review. For this past meeting, Stephen was unable to attend, so I asked **Stephen Collins** (Park Properties Management) if he would write a review of the meeting to be published in this issue. As you may have guessed, Stephen accepted the challenge and you can read the result on page 7 of this magazine. Would you like to be a "reviewer"? Let me know. It's easy and can be quite rewarding. Who knows where it can take you? ...as **Vaughn Dragland** (the magazine editor) would say "Get Famous, Get Rich, Get Published!"

Another group of volunteers outside of the TUG Board, who are also a backbone of TUG's success are all of the speakers who, over the years, have generously given their time to educate the TUG members.

On behalf of the TUG Board, I would like to thank publicly all those volunteers, regular or occasional who help make TUG the best Users Group in the World. If you would like to give us a hand, let me know and we'll find a place where you can make a contribution to TUG. If you would like to make a presentation to the group, call me. If it is a subject of interest for the TUG members, I will find a time for you to present it. 