

TUG PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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By Léo Lefebvre,
President, Toronto Users Group for *iSeries*

TEC 2006 is at Our Door

Here we are — only few weeks before our 13th annual TEC. All our topics and speakers have been firmed up and the grid is stabilizing pretty well.

This year, the conference is bigger and better than ever! We are breaking records. As we stand at press time, 35 speakers are enrolled to present sessions during the first two days. The roster of 35 speakers is a record for TEC. (The previous record was 25.)

With the addition of a full track of “professional development” topics in a seventh room, another record will be established — 77 sessions, up from 66!



IBM System i5 Model 595

Designed for medium to large enterprises, the model 595 is the largest server in the eServer iSeries family. It offers multiplatform management and maximum flexibility for customers requiring up to 64-way symmetrical multiprocessing capability.

And that does not even include the “hands on labs” at the IBM Toronto Software Lab. So, on the third day (yes, it's not a typo — **third day**) we are moving to the IBM Toronto Lab for two separate sessions of what are called “Open Labs”. Open Labs mean that you have the choice of lab subjects. You can select between five or six subjects. To obtain a complete list of topics check the TEC website at www.tug.ca/tec. While there, you can also check all the sessions lined up for 2006.

A New Name for TUG

Times are changing, systems are changing, and after almost 15 years we have decided to change our name to reflect our renewed commitment to the best computer system in the world, and to show that TUG is a real leader. Of course we could not part from our famous acronym, TUG, so we only changed the second part of our name. From now on, we are the **Toronto Users Group for System i5**.

Thanks IBM

TUG is an independent group. It is not run by any single company. Twelve elected and independent directors, coming from various member companies in the Greater Toronto Area, are running TUG. A few hardcore volunteers are also assisting those directors.

Many supporters and sponsors are required to help with logistics and operation costs. One of the biggest supporters (and sponsor as well) is **IBM** itself. On many occasions we approach **IBM** for help and at different levels. It can be for ideas on meeting topics, helping us mailing our conference brochures (with postage paid or not) or supplying speakers.

Just look at the coming TEC, on April 18 to 20. There will be no less than 23 speakers



Photo by Vaughn Dragland

Léo Lefebvre

from **IBM** (from Toronto, Rochester, Somers, etc). As I mentioned earlier, there will be a full day of hands-on “open labs” at the **IBM** Toronto Laboratory — courtesy, again, of **IBM**. Actually, the day of lab sessions will be the third edition of a similar event. We had lab sessions at TEC in 2004 & 2005, concurrent with other sessions.

IBM has maintained a liaison on the TUG Board for most of the 21 years of our existence. The current **IBM** liaison on the TUG board is **Stephen Quan**, the main speaker for the second session at our Meeting on March 22. I could list many more occasions where **IBM** has helped TUG, but I would run out of space quickly. Although **IBM** is one of the biggest TUG supporters, TUG is not run by **IBM**, and **IBM** does not interfere with TUG's decisions.

So, one more time, I would like to recognize all the help TUG receives from **IBM** and, on behalf of the whole TUG Board, I would like to thank **IBM** for all the help and support we get from them.

Register on-line

Our January meeting was held at the fantastic Living Arts Centre Mississauga (LAC). We are going back there for our March 22 meeting (but in a different room). The January attendance was fantastic, almost a full house! For that reason, I would strongly suggest you to register as soon as possible. Go to www.tug.ca/t_agenda.html and let us know you are coming. The limited seats will fill up quickly. 