

COiN Meeting Review — May 5, 2007

By Glenn Gundermann



Central Ontario information Network

All great years must come to an end before another great year can start. And so it was that COiN had their year-end member's meeting on May 7 at the Galt Country Club, which started with a fabulous dinner.

New Web Site

Up first was **Andrew Furness**, Professional Services Consultant with Lansa Inc., who is a COiN director and in charge of the COiN Web site. Andrew announced the new COiN Web site (coinusergroup.ca) he has built using Lansa (www.lansa.com), and (still) hosted by Able-One Systems Inc. (www.ableone.com). It looks great right now with the new layout, Schedule of Events, Newsletters, Past Presentations, and everything, and will be enhanced further with more dynamic content, including online member signup and event registration, an interactive member survey, plus current and up-to-date information. The sponsor's section currently contains sponsor links and will contain a sponsor's contents page in the near future. Sponsors can send in a 289 x 62 pixel banner to Andrew at AndrewF@Lansa.com to be included in an advertisement header. The COiN History page was written by board member **Andy Halma** and is a must-read.

COiN's Annual Donation to Conestoga College

Jim Mathie, Application Development Supervisor with Challenger Motor Freight Inc., who is the COiN president, presented a cheque in the amount of \$4,000 to Conestoga College for COiN's annual donation.

Main Attraction

The main attraction of tonight's meeting was the presentation by **Dr. John Tibbits**, President of Conestoga College (www.conestogac.on.ca). John started at Conestoga in 1987 and has kept the promise: Make it a better college from which students will be proud of graduating.

John gave us an overview of the college, which was quite interesting. They have 3,000 students in apprenticeship, 38,000 in continued education, 7,000 full-time students, 4-5,000 in the trading division, and 5,000 upgrading skills. A study by a professor at the University of Waterloo showed that Conestoga contributes \$1.3 billion to the local economy and that 50% of the labour force has taken a course at the college. In terms of percent job placed, Conestoga has finished 1st place 9 years in a row. 95% of graduated students have a job placement within six months and have a 93.3% employer's satisfaction rate.



Léo Lefebvre

COiN speaker Dr. John Tibbits

Conestoga opened up the Waterloo campus without any money from the government. They've doubled their apprenticeship in several areas. The Guelph campus has expanded with a 13% increased enrollment and 25% increased apprenticeship.



Léo Lefebvre

COiN meeting May 5, 2007, Galt Country Club, Cambridge, Ontario

John gave a lot of interesting facts comparing universities to colleges, including government funding and how he thinks the universities "go for bigger" and "quality would decrease".

John cited the Denmark model where they focus more on trades. A BA should be given more credit for applied learning. You don't need a PhD to make a difference. He wants a closer link between high schools and post-secondary colleges. He thinks we are 40 years out of date in the way universities and colleges are separate. We're beginning with transfer credits in Ontario. B.C. and Alberta have it legislated. The USA has a seamless system.

In Summary

As usual, the COiN meeting was very enjoyable. I would encourage members to go to every meeting and non-members to join up. Who can't make five meetings a year? If you learn one thing or meet one interesting person it will make the whole evening worthwhile and this always happens. In the S/38 and early AS/400 days, I belonged to TUG and a user group based in Oakville and went to the meetings for both groups. I would suggest everyone to do the same if they can with TUG and COiN.

Check their new Web site and keep an eye on the upcoming events. The bi-monthly meetings are worth the drive for any System i professional who wants to continually keep learning. More information can be found (including presentation materials and newsletters) at www.coinusergroup.ca or e-mail coininfo@coinusergroup.ca for further details.



Glenn Gundermann is a TUG Board member and chairs TUG's Technical Education Conference committee. He can be reached at ggundermann@tug.ca or (647) 272-3295.