

TUG MoM Location Survey

By Léo Lefebvre

Here are the numbers. At a previous Meeting of Members, on May 30th 2007, we asked attendees to tell us where they were coming from for the meeting. Feeling that we did not reach enough people, we decided to conduct a short survey on our Website. So, between mid-July and mid-August 2007, you were invited to answer a few questions to help us serve you better.

The response was great! I don't know if the chance to win a LACIE 500GB USB 2.0 external drive, designed by Porche (value approx. \$250) made any difference, but we received over 230 replies (including a few doubles—which were discarded.) Of those who answered our call, 129 left us their name and the company they work for.



Dr. Frank Soltis with prize winner Lewis Liu

The draw took place at our 23rd season opener and the Toronto stop on the "System i Direction Tour" featuring Dr. Frank Soltis on October 3rd at the Sheraton. If you wrote your name down, your odds were 1 in 129 to win. The lucky winner was Lewis Liu from Scotiabank. As a bonus, the winner was in attendance and got to carry the prize home after the meeting. Congratulations Lewis and thanks to everyone who took the time to answer our survey.

About the Survey Itself:

The three main questions in the survey were related to the two meeting locations we have been using for most of the last two years: The Living Arts Centre (in Mississauga) and the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel (in Thornhill).

We asked:

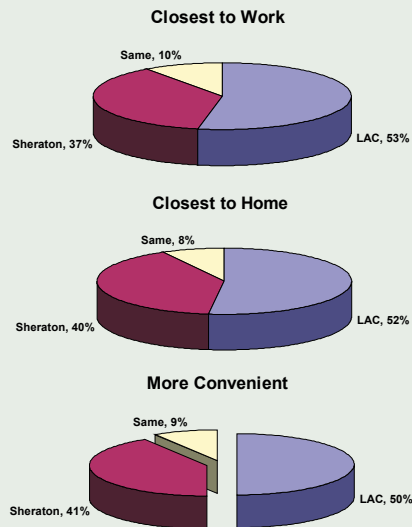
- Which location is closest to your work place,
- Which one is closest to your home, and
- Of those two locations, which one is the most convenient for you?

The **Table** below shows a quick summary of how the answers were divided (after removing the double entries).

As you can see the results are relatively similar. The Living Arts Centre (or LAC) is ahead in all categories but not by huge margins. LAC gets 117 (or 53%) of the "Closest to Work" replies against 81 (or 37%) for the Sheraton, a difference of 36. Twenty two people replied that the distance from work is about the same between LAC and the Sheraton hotel. LAC is also ahead (113 or 52%) in the "Closest to Home" category over Sheraton (89 or 40%). A difference of 24. But, then, looking at the "Most Convenient Location" answers, the difference is only 19 (again in favour or LAC). 19 is also the number of votes for "Same" in this last question.

What Will TUG Do Now?

Based on the answers submitted and from some comments we received in that same survey, it is fair to say that, for the time being, both locations should be kept in the rotation: "Is it possible to alternate and would




that make any sense? i.e., people only inconvenienced 1/2 of the time if preference is split," noted one of the participants. "Can you alternate between the two locations?" asked another one. And someone had an excellent answer: "If the program is relevant to my responsibilities I will attend meetings in either location."

Suggestions for Locations

We did receive some suggestions for the Woodbine Racetrack. (Eleven people mentioned that location.) We, indeed, got very positive feed back when we were at the track, but unfortunately, with the changes that happened about two years ago, it is now almost impossible for TUG to afford the new charges for such a place—unless the members are willing to pay for the food. Other criteria, beside costs, we look for when checking for locations are "ease of access," and "free (and ample) parking facilities."

Suggestions for Topics

Confirming what we knew for sometime already (by the number of suggestions for topics versus the number of suggestions for speakers) the topic is more important than the presenter. More than 55 people entered some topic suggestions, but only 15 suggested speakers. These excellent suggestions for topics will make scheduling for the next MoMs and TEC 2008 a bit easier.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in our survey. We will put the information gleaned to good use. 

Léo Lefebvre is President of TUG. Contact him at leo@tug.ca.

Location	Closest / Work	Closest / Home	More Convenient
LAC	117 – 53%	113 – 52%	110 – 50%
Sheraton	81 – 37%	89 – 40%	91 – 41%
Same	22 – 10%	18 – 8%	19 – 9%
Totals	220	220	220