

When you read these lines, a new TUG era will have begun. An organization like TUG could not survive without the help of a person looking after the day-to-day office business—like answering phone calls, receiving mail and e-mail, etc. Working in an office, I don't need to explain to you in more detail what **Wende Boddy** has been doing for the last 17 years after she accepted the position of Association Manager for TUG.

A New Era Begins

Actually Wende started with TUG back in 1985. Yes, she was one of the founders of what is known today as the Toronto Users Group for Power Systems (a.k.a. TUG). Originally, the group was named: "System/38 Users Group – Toronto."

I said 17 years because Wende took that job after first serving a few years as a TUG Director. From my notes, she made the jump during the Summer of 1991 (at the same time the current TUG Magazine editor **Vaughn Dragland**, took over his current responsibility.)

Wende Boddy has officially retired at the end of April 2008. She has been a great asset for the organization. But, as we often say, every good thing must come to an end. And some things come to an end too early. We will certainly miss her for all the energy, enthusiasm, and time she put into the organization for the past 23 years.

The position of Association Manager was hers. Actually, Wende was the very first Association Manager TUG ever had. She "carved" that position. Anyway, time is passing and we have to look at the future. **Lindsay Sutherland** is now our new Association Manager. Lindsay had been working with Wende for more than two years on a part time basis. You may have seen her on different occasions, especially at our

annual TEC conference. Or you may have talked to her on the phone when Wende was on vacation. She has now stepped into Wende's shoes and is working hard to fill them.

An Old Friend Passes

I would like to take a moment to reflect about our friend **Mr. Al Barsa, Jr.** who passed away on April 4th, 2008 in Nashville Tennessee (while he was winding down after another great performance at one of his favourite gatherings—the COMMON Annual Meeting and Exposition.)

Al was a respected expert, teacher, and advocate for the entire community of IBM i users and his voice will be very much missed. Al was deeply passionate about the platform. Between his first appearance at TUG, on September 18th 1991, and his last performance at TEC 2002 on May

15th, 2002, Al was a regular speaker at TUG events. Our condolences go to Al's family. A memorial website has been setup at www.mr400.com. TUG will be sending a generous donation to the Al Barsa Memorial Scholarship which was recently created in Al's memory. If you would like to make a personal contribution, go to the COMMON Education Foundation website: (www.common.org/foundation).



Al Barsa, Jr.

A New System Rises

Looking at the future as well, you may have noticed that earlier in this note, I referred to TUG as being the Toronto Users Group for Power Systems. Yes you read right "Power Systems". For some time, IBM was hinting that they would combine the two mid-range computers (System i and System p) into a single hardware platform. Well that time has arrived, and on April 2nd, 2008, during the COMMON Annual Meeting and Expo, in Nashville, IBM made it official. They announced the merger of the two systems into one.



Photos by Vaughn Dragland

Léo Lefebvre

The new "...IBM POWER6™ processor technology supports the AIX, IBM i, and Linux operating systems, to put system performance, availability and efficiency into a new realm".

A New Name Emerges

And so, to reflect that change, the Directors of TUG have voted to go along with IBM's new direction and adjusted the group's name from "System i" to "Power Systems". TUG is now the "Toronto Users Group for Power Systems". The purpose of the group stays the same but now, the audience range is wider. More to come as this transition evaluates its potential.

A Transition Occurs

According to **i Ching** (the ancient Chinese Book of Change) "everything in the universe at all levels from the microscopic to the macroscopic pass in continuous cycles. When we struggle in the opposite direction to these changes we rupture the harmony subsisting between us and the cosmic forces, and become as frustrated as an insect trying to move an elephant. However sometimes we are able to accord gracefully with the inevitable changes, whether they portend increase or decrease, and by relating our affairs to the sequences, we are empowered to do great things." In other words, the only constant is change, and our mission is to roll with it. Stay tuned to TUG as this interesting transitional year unfolds...

