

# VLDB 2004 Newsletter

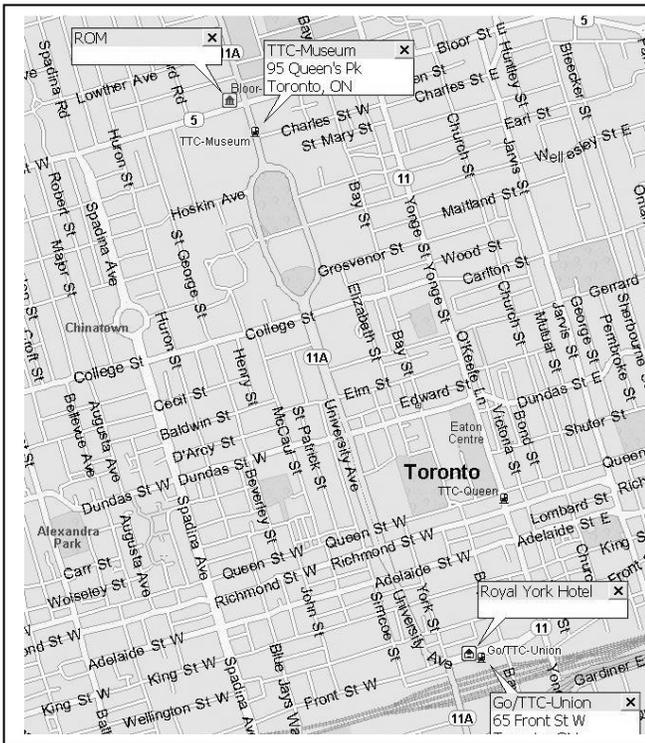
Issue 2

September 1, 2004

## Conference Banquet

Royal Ontario Museum, 6pm

The Conference banquet will take place today at 6:00pm at the Royal Ontario Museum. The museum is located at 100 Queen's Park (Queen's Park and Bloor Street). The best way to reach it from the conference hotel is by subway. At Union Station (which is across the hotel), take the University-Spadina subway line and step out at the Museum Station. The distance from the hotel to the museum is around 3 km.



The Royal Ontario Museum is the largest museum in Canada. It collects and exhibits the cultural and natural history of Canada and the world. The collections and research are the basis of the ROM's international reputation; the collections are diverse in their subject matter and number more than five million objects. Located on one of the most fashionable corners in Toronto and next to the University of Toronto, the ROM is a popular destination. From galleries of art, archaeology and science, showcasing the world's culture and natural history, to exciting public programs and events, the ROM offers a truly engaging museum experience.

## Announcements

- **Errata for Demo Session Location.** Demo Sessions 1 and 2 will take place at the Tudor Room, **NOT** Confederation Room as stated in page 28 of the brochure.
- **Lost and Found.** Some items have been found. If you have lost something, please contact the registration desk.
- If you go to the banquet by subway today, remember that you can use the two TTC tokens that were given to you at registration.

## Submission and Registration Statistics

The conference has the second-largest attendance in VLDB's history, with 672 attendees registered so far. The student attendance is the highest ever with more than 35% of the attendees being students (compared to a historic average of 20%).

### Geographical distribution of attendees

Continent	Total
Americas	72%
Far East, Asia & Australia	10%
Europe & Middle East	18%

### Geographical distribution of accepted papers

Continent	Total
Americas	77%
Far East, Asia & Australia	13%
Europe & Middle East	10%

### Submitted and accepted papers at each conference track

	Core	IIS	Ind&App	Total	Demos
Submit	272	191	41	504	85
Accept	55	28	15	98	34
Rate	20.2%	14.7%	36.6%	19.4%	40.0%

## Theatre

The Toronto theatre scene is the second-largest in North America. The city's most prominent theatres are located at the *Entertainment District*, which is just west of the conference hotel. For a complete list of the shows on stage now, have a look at [www.canstage.com](http://www.canstage.com) and [www.toronto.com/section/arts](http://www.toronto.com/section/arts).

Toronto's musicals are particularly popular among tourists. The following are the two largest currently performing.

- **Mamma Mia!**: The British musical based on the songs of Swedish pop-group legend ABBA has become a world-wide success gaining rave reviews, and performing to sold-out audiences. It is an irresistible story of a mother who confronts her past when 3 men return to a Greek island they've not visited for 21 years, just as her 20 year old daughter is about to be married. ABBA's story-telling songs propel this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, and audiences are having the time of their lives. (Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King St. W.)
- **Hairspray**: Broadway's biggest musical comedy phenomenon takes you back to 1962, as 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto TV's most popular show. Can a big girl with big dreams - and even bigger hair - change the world and still have time to win the boy she loves? This mega-hit is piled bouffant-high with laughter, romance and enough deliriously tuneful new songs to fill a nonstop platter party. As The New York Times says, "If life were everything it should be, it would be more like HAIRSPRAY. It's irresistible!" (The Princess of Wales Theatre, 300 King St. West).

For tickets, call TicketKing at (416) 872-1212 or visit <http://www.ticketking.com>.

**Discounted tickets:** The Toronto theatre community has introduced T.O.TIX, which offers the opportunity to purchase half-price tickets to a wide variety of theatre, dance, comedy, opera and music events on the day of performance. The ticket booth is located at the Yonge-Dundas Square, at the south-east corner of Dundas and Yonge (subway: Dundas station).

**For more information about Toronto, have a look at the guide *Toronto for Database Researchers* at page 6 of the conference brochure.**

## Weather

*Sunny with cloudy periods*

*High 25 C 77F*

*Low 12C 54 F*

## What's On

**8pm: Opera Concert at Harbourfront Centre. Free.** For the tenth year, Altamira and the Canadian Opera Company present Altamira Summer Opera Concerts. For three consecutive nights, COC General Director Richard Bradshaw leads the acclaimed COC orchestra, members of the COC Ensemble Studio and special guest soloists in a selection of arias and overtures, as well as a special musical performance by children who attend the COC's Summer Opera Camps.

The Harborfront Centre is by the lake (235 Queens Quay West), and just 10 minutes walk from the Royal York hotel.

## Ethnic Neighbourhoods

Toronto has developed into one of the most multicultural cities in the world, and this is reflected in a wonderful mosaic of distinctive neighbourhoods. The following is just a sample of the many ethnic neighbourhoods in the city:

- **Chinatown:** This ever-expanding area is home to ethnic Chinese from Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. A wealth of oriental shops and fruit markets spills out onto the street, and a vast selection of authentic Chinese restaurants feature such delicacies as dim sum (at the corner of Spadina and Dundas St. West. TTC: St. Patrick Station, then streetcar westbound)
- **Little Italy:** This lively neighbourhood is the spiritual home of Toronto's Italian community. It's packed with trattorias, trendy restaurants and cafés, and a few more traditional poolhalls. Little Italy's sidewalks are jammed on weekends, with locals and visitors alike sipping espressos on outdoor patios. (College St. between Euclid Ave and Shaw St.) By TTC you must use the Dundas St. streetcar, since the College St. streetcar is under repairs. Go by subway to Saint Patrick Station, take the streetcar westbound until Euclid Av. and walk north to College St.
- **Greektown:** A large collection of restaurants feature authentic Greek cuisine in this lively area, which also boasts a fascinating mix of speciality shops. (Danforth Ave., between Chester and Jones Ave. TTC: Chester Station).