

# Northern Express

Vol. 34 • Premiere Issue

September 2006

## Edmonton Welcomes SIGUCCS!

The 2006 SIGUCCS Fall Conference is quickly approaching. This newsletter will provide you with some key information to help you register and plan your trip to Edmonton, Canada. Look for more details on the SIGUCCS Website: [www.siguccs.org](http://www.siguccs.org).

## Registration Tips

- REGISTER NOW. Early [Registration](#) closes on October 9th, after which the registration fees increase by \$50 USD.
- [Become a SIGUCCS member](#) and save on registration and workshop fees.
- Build your skills by attending just those [workshops](#) that interest you in topics ranging from leadership to cyber-forensics or register for the full conference.
- Full-time students pay only \$125 USD to attend the conference (early registration rate).

## Program Highlights

This year we're "**Expanding The Boundaries**" as we delve into tech problems and solutions specific to higher education. Visit our web site to preview the variety of [abstracts](#) in topics including: management, technology, customer support, training and documentation, instructional support and classroom technology.

Don't forget to attend or even create a "Birds-of-a-Feather" (BOF) session to enlighten and share your experiences and knowledge with fellow attendees. A special thanks to our many amazing authors, presenters and volunteers for putting this wonderful program together.

- Fact-of-the-Day ... The only US capital without a McDonald's is Montpelier, VT. •

### *Learn the Lingo:*

- *eh? (ay)* Used instead of "huh," "ya know," etc; short form for "what did you say," "would you repeat that please," etc.
- *anglo (an-glow)* A non-french Canadian: "I am an anglo."
- *brew (bru)* Beer: "Pass a brew this way, eh."
- *Grey Cup (Gr-eh Cu-puh)* Canadian Football Championship trophy: "The Edmonton Eskimos won the Grey Cup."
- *mountie (mount-ee)* Royal Canadian Mounted Police who wear red uniforms and ride horseys
- *newfie (nu-fee)* A person from Newfoundland; butt of many Canadian jokes: "I love newfies."
- *poutine (poo-tin)* Fries, cheese and gravy: "I had a poutine for lunch."



Indoor adventures abound at the West Edmonton Mall

## Hotel

- Phone the [Fantasyland Hotel](#) toll free at (800) 737-3783 and use the SIGUCCS reservation code: **56370** to get the special SIGUCCS rates.
- Before making your reservation, check out the [hotel theme rooms](#) on the Web site. They can be lots of fun.
- SIGUCCS has a block of rooms reserved for a limited time. **MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION BEFORE OCTOBER 2ND.** After this date, unbooked SIGUCCS rooms will be made available to others like the Canadian Finals Rodeo, which comes to town the same day our conference finishes. And the cowboys and visitors love to stay at the Fantasyland Hotel!

## Travel

- If you want to make your trip to Canada a bit of a holiday, consider renting a car and driving from Edmonton to Jasper, Banff or Calgary via the mountains and ice fields route. Special rates for some other [Alberta area hotels](#) are on our web site.
- Upon arrival at a Canadian airport, be sure to have your Customs paperwork completed and ready for inspection. Forms will be given to you during your flight.
- When you arrive at the [Edmonton Airport](#) there are several options for getting to the hotel:
  - » [Sky Shuttle Service](#): \$15.00 CDN one way, \$25.00 CDN return ticket (both ways)
  - » Taxi: \$50-55 CDN (max. 4 people)
  - » Minivan: Add \$8.00 CDN to Taxi (5-6 people)
  - » [Prestige Limousine Sedan Cars](#): \$70 CDN one way (4 people)



Americans - Don't forget to apply for absentee ballots. Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th.

## First Time Attendees

Make the most of your trip! Visit the [conference home page](#) to read an informative article written by regular attendees.

## Things to Do

- Sunday's reception is a beach party. Yes, a BEACH party! In Canada. In November. Dress in beachwear, bathing suits, etc. for the warm and humid temperatures and for fun. There will be access to most of the [waterpark facilities](#), including lifeguards for those who get too rowdy!
- The Gala event is a comedy dinner theatre and the play is: **The Gerry Steinfeld Show**. Tickets are limited to 350, so please indicate whether you will attend when you register.
- A digital camera **Scavenger Hunt** is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, in lieu of the traditional 5 KM fun run.
- Bring your credit cards as the hotel is right in one of the world's largest shopping malls, the [West Edmonton Mall](#).
- Check the "Things to Do" part of the SIGUCCS web site for other attractions around Edmonton, including a rodeo!
- Look at the [conference schedule](#) for dates, times and locations of activities. Also see our web page on other [Things To Do](#) in the Edmonton-Alberta area.

## Internet Connections

There is an email room for conference attendees and wireless access throughout the hotel. Internet access in rooms is also available for a fee.

## Contributors

This year we have more room and are trying something different. Vendor displays will be set up near the email area throughout the conference. Some vendors may be on hand during breaks but they will also be there during the "Meet the Contributors" session on Monday night.

## We Need Help!

The SIGUCCS Conference is put together by real people with day jobs, families and a zillion other commitments - just like you! We also have a passion for education and sharing. You can be an integral part of the conference by volunteering to help with various duties like staffing the Information Desk, setting up audio-visual equipment, stuffing goodie bags, and more. Sign up for [volunteer opportunities](#) online!

*Signs You May Be Canadian:*

- You stand in "line-ups" at the movie, not lines.
- You drink pop, not soda.
- You can drink legally while still a "teen."
- You drive on a highway, not a freeway.
- You sit on a couch not a Chesterfield - that's a small town in Quebec!
- You dismiss all beers under 6% as "for children and the elderly."
- You are excited whenever an American television show mentions Canada.
- You can eat more than one maple sugar candy without feeling nauseated.
- You use the bathroom instead of restroom.
- You take a holiday instead of a vacation.



*West Edmonton Mall waterpark facilities*

## Weather and Attire

The usual dress for the conference is casual to business-casual.

Inside the Mall, the temperature is a consistent 22° C/72° F and the waterpark is perpetually warm and humid, perfect for "beach" attire.

[Edmonton Weather](#) in November can be "quite crisp" as we say in Canada. Average temperatures range from 5° C/41° F to -4° C/25° F and there may be a few centimeters of snow on the ground.

## Contact Us

We welcome your comments and suggestions! Please feel free to contact conference organizers. A complete listing of conference organizers and [committee chairs](#) is available on the SIGUCCS web site. Don't forget to email us with photos and funnies to add to future issues.