

# VLDB 2004 Newsletter

Issue 3

September 2, 2004

## Ten-Year Best Paper Award



### **Rakesh Agrawal and Ramakrishnan Srikant** **IBM Almaden**

Since 1995, the VLDB Endowment recognizes outstanding research work that has made impact on both setting new research directions, as well as influencing technology in the form of product development and improvements. The work of many honored by the award are now "standard" practice, and are used in many products and environments.

*This year's award winners are Rakesh Agrawal and Ramakrishnan Srikant, from IBM Almaden.*

Rakesh Agrawal is an IBM Fellow, who leads the Intelligent Information Systems Research at the IBM Almaden Research Center. His current research interests include privacy and security technologies for data systems, web technologies, data mining and OLAP. He has pioneered fundamental concepts in data privacy, including Hippocratic Database, Sovereign Information Sharing, and Privacy-Preserving Data Mining. He earlier developed key data mining concepts and technologies. IBM's commercial data mining product, Intelligent Miner, grew out of this work. Rakesh Agrawal has published more than 100 research papers and he has been granted more than 50 patents. He is the recipient of the ACM-SIGKDD First Innovation Award, ACM-SIGMOD Edgar F. Codd Innovations Award, as well as the ACM-SIGMOD Test of Time Award. He is also a Fellow of IEEE and a Fellow of ACM. Scientific American named him to the list of 50 top scientists and technologists in 2003.

## Announcements

- **Change in programme:** There is a change in session chairmanship. David Toman will chair Research Session 15 today.
- **Lost and Found.** Some items have been found. If you have lost something, please contact the registration desk.
- There are some spare copies of the workshop proceedings. If you want to get one for free, please contact the registration desk.

## Internet Access

- **Wireless:** There are three wireless stations in the Ballroom foyer area, and one outside the Territories room. Each station has a capacity of 40 connections. The SSID is "Fairmont".
- **Desktop computers:** There are four desktop computers with Internet connection available at Salon A.

### *Ten Year Best Paper Award (continued)*

Dr. Ramakrishnan Srikant is a Research Staff Member in the Intelligent Information Systems Research department at IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose, CA. His research interests include privacy technologies for data systems, data mining, and web technologies. Dr. Srikant received the 2002 ACM Grace Murray Hopper Award "for his seminal work on mining association rules". Dr. Srikant has published more than 30 research papers that have been extensively cited. He has been granted 12 patents, and has another 9 pending patent applications. Dr. Srikant was a key architect for IBM's commercial data mining product, Intelligent Miner. He was named an IBM Research Division Master Inventor in 1999, and has also received 2 Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards for his contributions to Intelligent Miner. Dr. Srikant was the Program co-Chair of SIGKDD 2001. He has also served as the Tutorials Chair of KDD 2003, the Industrial Track co-Chair of PAKDD 2003, and co-Chair of the 1999 SIGMOD DMKD Workshop. Dr. Srikant received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1996. He also has a B. Tech. degree in Computer Science & Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India.

# TOURISM

## Events for the rest of the week

**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.

**September 4th to September 6th. Canadian International Air Show.** Some of the best military and civilian planes and pilots in the world dance across the sky. Don't miss the famed Canadian Forces Snowbirds demonstration team (Ontario Place).

**September 4th to September 6th. Ashkenaz: A Festival of New Yiddish Culture.** Over the past decade, Toronto's Ashkenaz festival has become the greatest and most widely attended North American event celebrating the contemporary Yiddish cultural revival. Highlighting the theme of migration, Ashkenaz 2004 features a startling mixture of performances showcasing rich traditions moving in joyful new directions. For more details, visit [www.ashkenazfestival.com](http://www.ashkenazfestival.com) (HarbourFront Centre).

**September 4th. Morning. St. Lawrence Market.** Though popular most of the week, the city's original market comes to life on Saturdays with local farmers, artists and artisans plying their wares. This historic area also has numerous old warehouses that have been converted into residences, stores, restaurants and pubs. (corner of Jarvis and Front St. Five minutes walk from the hotel).

## Weather

*Sunny with cloudy periods*

*High 24C 75F*

*Low 13C 55F*

## Turner, Whistler, Monet: Impressionist Visions

This exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) brings a remarkable group of paintings by Turner, Whistler and Monet to Toronto for the first time.

**J.M.W. Turner, James Whistler and Claude Monet** created some of the most poetic landscapes of the 19th century. The exhibition follows the three artists from the Thames to the Seine to the Venetian Lagoon, exploring the relationships between their themes and variations. These visionary works trace the dialogue between British and French art that contributed to Impressionism and symbolism and explore a new context for the industrial revolution and environmental degradation. The exhibition presents 120 works from British, European and North American collections, including approximately 60 oil paintings and 60 works on paper.

In addition to the exhibition, you can enjoy the permanent collection of AGO, which comprises more than 38,000 works representing European Old Masters, Group of Seven, Inuit, and Canadian and international contemporary art.

Today, the museum is open on extended hours (until 8:30 pm). The AGO is located at 317 Dundas Street West, at the corner of Dundas and McCaul streets, a short walk west (3 blocks) from St. Patrick subway Station (University-Spadina line).

## Near the hotel...

- **Distillery Historic District:** North America's best preserved collection of Victorian industrial architecture is located in this historic enclave in downtown Toronto. Formerly the Gooderham & Worts Distillery (founded in 1832), *The Distillery* has been developed as a centre for arts, culture and entertainment. It is filled with galleries, artist studios and workshops, boutiques, retail stores, restaurants, bars and cafés. (located a short walk from the hotel, near the corner of Parliament and Front St. East)
- **Toronto Islands:** The ferry docks to the Toronto Islands are just a few minutes walk from the hotel. The islands provide the most spectacular view of Toronto's skyline. Best of all, there are no cars allowed, which makes the area a favourite for cyclists, walkers and rollerblade enthusiasts. The ferry docks are at the foot of Bay St.