

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTREALAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

January/Janvier 2013 (Vol. 17, No./N° 1)

NEXT
MonSFFA MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, January 20

12:30PM-5:00PM

St-Francois Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.

Downtown Montreal

PROGRAMME

12:30PM

CONCEPT SPECIAL GENERAL

ASSEMBLY: Of interest to MonSFFen, ConCept holds a special meeting in order to formally and permanently shut down the convention. (See item this issue for details.)

1:15PM

2013 MONSFFA ELECTIONS: The club elects its president, VP, and treasurer for 2013. (See item this issue for details.)

1:30PM

HOW TO DESIGN AND PRODUCE COOL COLLECTIBLE SCI-FI LAPEL PINS IN ONE EASY LESSON:

Under the moniker Two Wacky Pin Guys, two of our own have developed a cottage industry producing cool collectible sci-fi lapel pins! They show and tell us all about it.

3:30PM

BREAK/OPEN DISCUSSION: The Mayans were wrong, so we break to "open" our video time capsule (made 5 years ago) and to briefly cover club business. Then we open the floor for the discussion of any SF/F-related topics.

2012 Christmas
Dinner and Party

MonSFFA's closing event of 2012 unfolded on Saturday evening, December 8. Some two dozen MonSFFen and family/friends convened at the downtown Irish Embassy Pub and Grill for the club's traditional Christmas Dinner. Over a fine meal, folk exchanged seasonal greetings and engaged in lively conversation, later sampling some the establishment's discerning selection of Scotch whiskies and other strong drink. This year, we chose to remain at our dinner locale for the party portion of the evening, and so simply remained seated after the plates were cleared. A fund-raising raffle offered Christmas gift bags of goodies as prizes and added \$100 to the club's coffers! By means of our "Rewards Raffle," we also awarded three randomly selected volunteer members with gift bags as a token of the club's thanks for their efforts on behalf of MonSFFA during the previous year. Regrettably, we were unable to arrange for our usual seasonal collection for charity this year, but encouraged MonSFFen to donate individually to a food bank in their neighbourhood.

Thanks to club president Berny Reischl for booking the venue, and to VP Keith Braithwaite for organizing the raffles. We trust all of MonSFFA's members and friends enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2013 Club Elections

The first order of business as the club begins a new year is traditionally the election of MonSFFA's Executive Committee for that year. The club's 2013 elections will take place at our first meeting of the new year, slated for January 20. All MonSFFA members in good standing are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on

DOES YOUR
NAME APPEAR BELOW?
CHECK THIS SPACE TO
KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE DUE.

The Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

BOIES, Marquise
BOOM, Hendrik
KENNEY, Daniel P.
MOIR, L. E.
MORROW, Gordon
PELLEY, Lynda
PETTIT, William S.
WADSWORTH, Beulah

Due This Month, January:

Ø

Due Next Month, February:

KRIMP, Nick
LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/N° et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

Province

Postal Code/Code Postal

E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

behalf of the membership. The three executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility. Our sitting Executive is as follows: Berny Reischl, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

Any MonSFFA member in good standing who is responsibly and reliably able to carry out the duties of office may run for any one of the Executive posts. Candidates may nominate themselves or accept nomination from another member in good standing. Nominations are received by the chief returning officer, or CRO, usually just before the commencement of voting on election day. *Warp* editor Cathy Palmer-Lister, a former MonSFFA president, is currently our chief returning officer.

All MonSFFA members in good standing are eligible to cast a ballot. Members are asked to be present at the designated place and time in order to exercise their right to vote. Proxy voting is *not* permitted, except under special circumstances and by approval of the CRO (out-of-town members unable to attend the vote, for example, may have their ballots cast by the CRO in their absence, or make their choices via e-mail or other form of communication outside of the designated voting hour).

MonSFFA Meeting Dates for 2013

Here are the meeting dates—all Sundays—we have requested of the hotel for our 2013 calendar (the January date is confirmed; we await word on the rest): January 20, February 24, March 24, April 21, May 26, August 11, September 22, October 20, and November 17.

We will organize a club outing for Sunday, June 9, and have scheduled our annual summer barbecue at Angrignon Park for July 21. 2013's Christmas Dinner and Party is slated for Saturday evening, December 7.

November MonSFFA Meeting Looks Ahead to New Year

The club's November 18, 2012, gathering focused primarily on meeting planning for the coming year. With club president Berny Reischl moderating and taking notes, all MonSFFen present participated, tossing out a wealth of ideas for consideration. Among the potential programming items discussed and to be developed were panels/presentations on cyberpunk; steampunk; sci-fi/Westerns; palaeontological art; sci-fi model kit box art; strange worlds, both real and fictional; the genre's ideas on death and what follows; true cyber-crime stories; and geek culture. We also intend to include a number of fun and challenging games throughout the coming year, several

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est prepare une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

"fancraft" workshops, and a confessional/celebration centered on the best Halloween pranks club members have pulled in their days of misspent youth! All of this and more begins at our inaugural 2013 club meeting on January 20.

Keith Braithwaite hosted a game during the latter part of the afternoon in which players' knowledge of the genre was tested, the task being to identify an SF/F book, film, or television series from clues revealing but a single character's name, or a principal or notable setting, or a particular object or concept featured in the piece. For example, the name Chewbacca, or the setting Mos Eisley, or a lightsabre or the Force would suggest that Star Wars is the sci-fi movie in question. Players accumulated points for correct answers and were able to take advantage of missed guesses by opponents. Mark Burakoff had prevailed over all comers by game's end.

Our thanks are proffered to all involved in the planning and running of our last club meeting of 2012.

Special ConCept General Assembly Will Formally Shut Down Convention

ConCept has asked us if it might hold a Special General Assembly in conjunction with our January 20 MonSFFA meeting. In light of our historic connection to ConCept, MonSFFA was happy to allow the convention the time and function space. We are saddened, however, to hear that the purpose of this General Assembly is to formally close the books on ConCept and dissolve the corporation.

Ever the optimists, we hold out hope that ConCept, or some offshoot of the con, will one day rise again to entertain and enlighten area fandom. Despite a few rough spots, ConCept had a great run of more than 20 years, providing local and visiting SF/F fans with an annual, accessible, activity-packed sci-fi celebration and party. Fall just won't be the same without this venerable event.

Below is the note we received from ConCept secretary/treasurer Marc Nadeau:

You are receiving this convocation because you have been a member of ConCept SF&F Inc. in the past. Consequently, this may be of interest to you.

What: Convocation for a Special General Assembly
When: January 20, 2013, at 12:30PM
Where: Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy Street, Montreal, St-François room

AGENDA

- 1.0 Start of the Special General Assembly
- 2.0 Reading of the agenda
- 3.0 Resolution to dissolve/liquidate "ConCept SF&F Inc."
- 3.1 Nomination of the Liquidator
- 3.2 Disposition of the goods
- 4.0 End of the Special General Assembly

Vous recevez cette convocation parce que vous avez été membre de ConCept SF&F inc dans le passé. Conséquemment, ceci peut être d'intérêt pour vous.

Quoi : Convocation pour une assemblée générale spéciale
Quand : 20 janvier 2013 à 12h30
Où : Hôtel Espresso, 1005 rue Guy, Montréal, salle St-François

ORDRE DU JOUR

- 1.0 Ouverture de l'assemblée générale spéciale
- 2.0 Lecture de l'ordre du jour
- 3.0 Résolution pour dissoudre/liquider "ConCept SF&F inc"
- 3.1 Nomination du liquidateur
- 3.2 Disposition des biens
- 4.0 Fermeture de l'assemblée générale spéciale

Marc Nadeau

ConCept SF&F Inc., Secretary/Treasurer; ConCept SF&F inc, Secrétaire-trésorier



NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, February 16

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.

Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: It's Valentine's Day! In a few words, share with your fellow club members a couple of your favourite SF/F love stories, whether drawn from the page or screen.

PROGRAMME

1:15PM

NOW THAT WAS A GREAT SHOW!:

A nostalgic remembrance of vintage sci-fi TV series that excited and inspired us in earlier days. What was it about these shows that brought us back week after week? Have they held up as well-crafted, entertaining sci-fi with the passage of time, and how do they compare to current SF/F television?

2:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Raffle and redo of our video-recording of club members' New Year's resolutions (a technical glitch spoiled the footage shot last meeting!).

3:00PM

RIP—REMEMBRANCE IN PROFILE:

Profile of the late, great television producer Gerry Anderson; we review the fab sci-fi TV shows he created and discuss the wonderful legacy he has left SF fans.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 23, April 13

2014 CLUB ELECTIONS

All four members of last year's MonSFFA Executive Committee were returned to office in the vote taken at the outset of the club's January 19 meeting, MonSFFA's first gathering of 2014. The club elects annually its Executive for the coming 12 months off the top of that first meeting of the year.

Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Cathy Palmer-Lister officially confirmed Berny Reischl, Keith Braithwaite, Lindsay Brown, and Sylvain St-Pierre as, respectively, MonSFFA's 2014 president, first vice president, second vice-president, and treasurer.

We extend congratulations and best wishes!

JANUARY MEETING

MonSFFA's January 19 meeting marked the opening of the club's 2014 events calendar.

MonSFFA's 2014 elections were first on the agenda (see lead item), after which Chief Returning Officer Cathy Palmer-Lister segued into her scheduled talk on exo-planets.

Distributing hand-outs and offering the latest science on exo-planets, or extra-solar planets—those celestial spheres found beyond the boundaries of the solar system—Cathy turned her presentation into an astronomical game of sorts, dividing the group into two teams and assigning each a task. One was to match moons to planets, the other, organize (relatively) nearby heavenly bodies by size, largest to smallest. The teams made a few mistakes but managed to pass the test.

After the mid-meeting break, during which our usual fund-raising raffle was held, club president Berny Reischl set up to record video of club members reiterating their New Year's resolutions. These recordings will be reviewed at the end of the year to see who managed to keep their promises, and who did not! As the camera

DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR BELOW?
CHECK THIS SPACE TO KNOW
IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA
MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

The Annual Membership Fees of the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
HICKEY, Mark
IMBEAULT, Christian
PEATMAN, Sean
PETTIT, William S.
PICARD, Shawn

Due This Month, February:

KRIMP, Nick
RUFANGE, Yolande

Due Next Month, March:

D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda
MENARD, François
SIMARD, Phil
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

Thank you for your patronage

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TÉL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/N° et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

Province _____ Postal Code/Code Postal _____ E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTÉRÊTS: _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

rolled, several MonSFFen chose to approach the undertaking with tongue firmly in cheek. (Unfortunately, a technical glitch rendered the footage shot unusable and so we'll take the time for a redo at our February meeting.)

Keith Braithwaite oversaw what was dubbed our "Fan Fiction Pot Luck" to close the day's proceedings. After a brief primer on fan fiction, focusing in particular on the common practise of penning sci-fi franchise crossovers—writing stories combining situations and characters from two (or more) film or television properties—Keith offered a few tips to the group before outlining the challenge he had prepared for the occasion.

Given an hour and writing on a single sheet of lined paper, folk were charged with composing a short, short story (in the range of about 250-350 words); or, the outline for a longer piece; or, a treatment for a fan film. Writers were permitted to choose the franchises they favoured from a list provided, then required to include a variety of elements determined by a roll of the dice—specific settings, fictional characters, real-life historical events or guest stars, monsters and aliens, etc. A writer having chosen to create a crossover between Star Trek and Battlestar Galactica, for example, or Game of Thrones and Doctor Who, might find himself having to work into his scenario the raid on Pearl Harbour or Montreal's Richard Riot, along with Godzilla or the mythical Minotaur, all while welcoming a cameo appearance by Amelia Earhart or Sheldon Cooper!

MonSFFen took up Keith's challenge and came up with some rather interesting results, which they promise to flesh out and finalize for eventual publication in Warp.

A particular nod of thanks to Cathy Palmer-Lister, Berny Reischl, and Keith Braithwaite for the afternoon's programming.

Club's Meeting Locale Could Change Later this Year

As reported last issue, the Hôtel Espresso has confirmed MonSFFA's 2014 Sunday meeting dates only until April. We await word on the remainder of the dates we've requested for this year.

The hotel has, for the longest time, taken our Sunday bookings a full year in advance without issue. We found it a bit odd, therefore, that this year, for some reason, our dates could not be confirmed beyond April. Was this a new policy on the part of management? Or maybe a prelude to a coming price hike? Our questions were met with a simple statement to the effect that our January-April dates were confirmed and that the hotel would let us know about the rest of the dates we'd requested.

We've since made a few quiet inquiries, put two and two together, and have pieced together what may be

going on. As we have as yet no official word from the Hôtel Espresso, we must caution that at this point, our assessment is *purely speculative*, but nevertheless worrisome!

We wondered if the hotel was preparing to embark upon a renovation of its function space. We have, in recent years, seen renovation work temporarily close meeting rooms, and in one case, remake a room entirely as office space. Further, we have heard, on more than a few occasions of late, scuttlebutt involving the intention of overhauling the large Nicolet hall adjoining our usual St-François meeting locale. To take things a step further, maybe that entire corner of banquet space, including our regular meeting room, is to undergo a refit!

If such a plan were in the offing, the hotel, of course, would refuse any bookings during the planned period of construction, which might stretch over several months or longer. So if work were scheduled to begin in May, that would explain why we could not have our reservations confirmed beyond April.

Once renovations are completed, presumably, we'd be able to once again book the room, although probably at increased cost, which is certainly not desirable from our standpoint.

We also noted that local news reports have covered the recent closings of several small and mid-sized downtown hotels. Apparently, the hospitality business in Montreal is exceptionally competitive. Our sluggish economy, particularly here in Quebec, coupled with a relatively high Canadian dollar, has resulted in pretty flat tourism numbers of late, and that has kept hotel room rates down, making it difficult if not impossible for some hotels to turn even a modest profit.

At the same time, demand for student housing in and around the downtown area has climbed markedly in recent years and many hotel owners have calculated that they'd be better off selling their properties to the universities to be converted into near-to-campus apartments. This has, in fact, already transpired in a few cases. Host of the first ConCept convention in 1989 and for a time MonSFFA's meeting locale, the Maritime Hotel just across the street from the Espresso was shuttered and sold not long ago. We've heard the former hotel is destined to be converted into student housing for Concordia University, but we're not sure of that.

All of this begs the question: are the owners of the Hôtel Espresso considering closing the operation and selling the building? With regard to our interests, such a development would be most unwelcome, to say the least!

Finally, in communicating with our Furry friends regarding their annual convention, traditionally held at the Hôtel Espresso but moving, this year, to a facility out by the airport, we understand that they were told the Espresso would no longer be able to accommodate them because some of the banquet rooms are slated for conversion into offices. As the Furies required sufficient floor space to stage a full-weekend convention, the Espresso suddenly became a non-viable venue for their event.

While this is bad news for any future revival of ConCept, it may not prove an end-of-the-world scenario for MonSFFA. Presumably, if *some* but *not all* of the hotel's function space is to be repurposed, then a meeting room should remain available to us. Perhaps not our usual St-François, but another room in another part of the building.

Our fingers are crossed but we are currently exploring alternate meeting locales, in case we find ourselves without a room at the inn come May.

While the Executive cannot say for certain at the moment, MonSFFen should be prepared for the possibility of the club having to reschedule or cancel some of the meetings planned for later in the year. Rest assured, however, that MonSFFA's leadership we will do its utmost to avoid so doing.

Reward for Early Membership Renewal

We repeat that this year, the club has introduced a reward for members who pay their annual membership fees at least one month early! Their names will be included in a special prize raffle, just like our "Rewards Raffle" for volunteer members, to be drawn at our year-end Christmas party. An early renewal equals your chance to win a prize, folks! We are pleased to report that several MonSFFen have already qualified.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

S P R E A G A D h

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTREALAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

March/Mars 2013 (Vol. 17, No./N° 3)

NEXT
MonSFFA MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, March 24

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-Francois Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.

Downtown Montreal

**MEETING THEME: ST. PATRICK'S DAY;
WEAR SOMETHING GREEN OR BRING
SOMETHING IRISH TO THE MEETING**

PROGRAMME

1:00PM

MOVIE MISTAKES: Pretty much every movie and television program produced includes usually more than a few unintentional errors, both narrative and technical, that often go unnoticed by audiences. We look at some examples from the sci-fi genre and challenge folk to spot the mistakes.

2:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: We pause to partake of the snack table and hold our usual meeting raffle before briefly covering the latest club business.

3:00PM

FAN FICTION AS AN INTRODUCTION TO SF/F: Does fan-produced material serve as a good entry point into the greater SF/F genre for the novice?

4:00PM

OPEN DISCUSSION: The floor is open for discussion of any SF/F or fandom-related topic. What's do you want to talk about?

Irish Folklore

As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and all things Irish, we set aside this month our usual club news dispatches and activities reports to explore the font of inspiration for many a fantasy story, the vivid folklore of the Emerald Isle.

The early oral history of the Irish people liberally fuses fact and fiction to the point of it being difficult for modern historians to separate the two. With repeated tellings, the tales were embellished over generations, and the original Druidic intent of maintaining an historical narrative began to give way to the idea of passing the time during long winter nights with entertaining and uplifting stories told around the fire. When supernatural elements were added to the mix, chronicle became myth, as in the case of the Tuatha Dé Danann.

Tuatha Dé Danann

The Tuatha Dé Danann are, in fact, a people believed by most historians to have originated in the Middle East and migrated to Ireland through central Europe some 1800 years B.C. to become Ireland's first truly civilized society. Advanced for the time in their scientific knowledge and practised in the arts, they lived under a system of government that included a judicial branch presided over by revered Brehons, or judges, whose word was irrefutable law that even the High King could not overturn.

The Tuatha Dé Danann arrived in western Connacht Province and conquered previous invaders the Fir Bolg in the First Battle of Maige Tuired, anglicized as "Moytura" or "Moytirra," on the Mayo-Galway border, assimilating the defeated Fir Bolg into their feudal society. Establishing their seat of government at Tara in county Meath, the Tuatha Dé Danann were themselves conquered about 800 years later by the Milesians, who came to Ireland from the Iberian Peninsula and are believed to be the ancestors of the Gaels. The Milesians subsequently integrated much of Tuatha Dé Danann culture into their own.

As Milesian misunderstandings about those they had vanquished arose, and fears surrounded their strange and unfamiliar customs, superstitions developed and the Tuatha Dé Danann were ascribed all manner of magical powers and supernatural attributes. Thus did the historical Tuatha Dé Danann

DOES YOUR
NAME APPEAR BELOW?
CHECK THIS SPACE TO
KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP
FEES ARE DUEThe Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...**Overdue:**KENNEY, Daniel P.
KRIMP, Nick
LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie
MOIR, L. E.
MORROW, Gordon
PELLEY, Lynda**Due This Month, March:**

MENARD, François

Due Next Month, April:

MACLAREN, Heather

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUING PATRONAGE

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/N° et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

Province

Postal Code/Code Postal

E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

in time become the mystical beings of Irish folklore.

The Irish Literary Revival of the late-19th and early-20th centuries sought to give to Ireland a unique literary and cultural identity, distinct from Britain's, that the country could rally around. Writers such as William Butler Yeats, Douglas Hyde, and Lady Isabella Augusta Gregory drew upon the heroes of legend to showcase the best of the past and create a noble example for the present, shaping a cohesive Irish history and culture.

Lady Gregory's *Gods and Fighting Men* (1904) is considered by many a key Revival work, presenting the Tuatha Dé Danann as not only an historical people, but a representation of Ireland's rich folkloric heritage, giving rise to a sense of national identity and reawakening an interest in Irish folklore and wider Celtic mythology not only in Ireland, but worldwide. Her mix of history and the supernatural offered a captivating folkloric account of Irish history and a magical "Otherworld" specific to the Irish.

The Tuatha Dé Danann are prominently featured in this Otherworld. Believed to have descended from the gods and arrived in Ireland "in a mist...through the air and the high air", they are said to be a semi-divine race, and are masters of the enchanted arts and sciences.

They brought with them the four legendary treasures of Ireland: the Lia Fáil, or Stone of Destiny, which would loudly shout or roar when the rightful High King put his feet upon it, and was also able to revitalize the ruler, insuring a long reign; the Great Spear, or Sleg, of Lugh, which unfailingly found its target and was a guarantor of victory for whosoever wielded it in battle; the Claidheamh Soluis, or Sword of Light or Shining Sword, from which no opponent could escape, and once the sword of Nuada, first King of the Tuatha Dé Danann, who had lost an arm in battle that later was replaced by the healer Dian Cecht with a fully functional artificial substitute cast in silver; and the Coire Dagdae, or Dagda's Cauldron, a bottomless vessel from which no company departed unsatisfied.

After their defeat by the Milesians, the Tuatha Dé Danann were relegated to living underground, beneath the many sídhe, or barrows or cairns, that dot the Irish landscape. By means of the féth fíada, or cloak of concealment, they were able, when they so wished, to walk unseen among men.

Fairies

Fairies, or the Sí, Aos Sí, Aes Sídhe, or Daoine Sídhe, meaning "People of the Mounds," are thought to be of Tuatha Dé Danann lineage. Some sources describe them as survivors of Tuatha Dé Danann society who retreated into the Otherworld after their defeat at the hands of the Milesians. Scholars consider that they may well be folkloric manifestations of the historic Tuatha Dé Danann people.

Fairies are enchanted beings comparable to humans in stature, perhaps a little smaller, and are in general strikingly beautiful in appearance, although some can be hideous and frightening. They live alongside but remain largely invisible to mortal men, tending their farms, enjoying athletic games, engaging in courtship

and the like, much as do humans. They do not appreciate intrusions upon their privacy and are fiercely protective of their homes. Larger communities are ruled by a king or queen and live together in earthen forts, or Rath, inside which their palaces serve as assembly halls and the settings of great celebratory feasts. Passers-by can sometimes hear the sounds of this revelry in the countryside at night.

The din of battle can also be heard late at night when two rival Fairy armies clash; such hostilities are known as a Slua Sí, or Fairy Cavalcade, and it is inadvisable for a human to be out during such a conflict. The white liquid often found on the ground the morning after a Fairy mêlée is thought to be Fairy blood spilt during the fight.

It is prudent to avoid insulting or angering Fairies and considered bad luck, when speaking of them, to refer to them directly, so people instead employ such terms as Na Daoine Beaga (The Little People), Na Daoine Maithe (The Good People), and Na Daoine Uaisle (The Noble People). Also, it is unwise for a human to join in a Fairy feast, for to partake of Fairy food or drink leaves one unable to return to the human world.

Banshee

A Banshee, or Bean Sídhe, meaning "Woman of the Sídhe," is a Fairy woman and harbinger of an impending death. She is more often heard, wailing and keening, usually in the vicinity of the family home of the person soon to die, than she is seen, but rare sightings of the Banshee reveal her to be an old woman combing her long, white hair as she laments.

Fear Dearg

Fear Dearg, anglicized as Far Darrig and meaning "Red Man," is a solitary Fairy half as tall as a man and dressed in a red coat and cap who occupies himself with, in particular, macabre practical jokes. His appearance often signals bad luck, especially if he is refused a request.

Clurichaun

The Clurichaun is similar to the well-known Leprechaun. Some sources regard them as regional variations of the same creature, or as a night form of the Leprechaun. A Clurichaun is always drunk and surly, and will damage one's home and spoil one's wine stock if mistreated. If treated well, he will protect one's wine cellar.

Gancanagh

A Gancanagh, or Gean Cánach, meaning "Love Talker," is a male Fairy known for seducing human women. A toxin in the creature's skin makes him irresistible to the women, who typically die after interaction with the Gancanagh, either of heartbreak while pining for his love, or fighting each other to the death over the fellow.

Dullahan

The Dullahan, or Gan Ceann, meaning "Without a Head," is a headless horseman, usually seen riding a black mount and brandishing a human spine as his horsewhip. He carries his own head tucked under his arm and the place at which he halts his ride is said to be the very spot where a given person is fated to die. Upon the Dullahan calling out their name, that person immediately expires. It is impossible to bar a Dullahan's way as all gates and locks open upon his approach. But he is afraid of gold and can be successfully driven off by even a small amount of the precious metal.

Leprechaun

The most recognized denizen of the Irish Otherworld is undoubtedly the Leprechaun; the mischievous rascal's name is derived from Leipreachán, defined as a "Pigmy or Sprite", as well as, but with less certainty, from the Old Irish Luchorpán, meaning "Small Body."

Leprechauns live in isolation, making for themselves quite comfortable homes in small holes in the ground covered in foliage. They are mischievous tricksters, neither entirely good nor completely evil.

The wizened and bearded Leprechaun stands about two-and-a-half feet tall and dresses in old-fashioned usually red or green attire that includes a magic hat which allows him to disappear and sometimes to travel across great distances in the blink of an eye. He carries with him a change purse each for copper, silver, and gold coins, and a special purse that can never be emptied.

He is a shoemaker by trade, making and mending the dancing shoes of his fellow Fairies of the Otherworld. And in that Fairies love to dance, he is kept rather busy. Paid for his services in gold, he keeps his earnings in a crock that he surreptitiously buries underground or places underwater. Difficult to catch, if one succeeds in getting hold of a Leprechaun, the little chap is compelled to reveal the location of his treasure; or, one can simply follow a rainbow to its end to find the pot-full of hidden riches.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTREALAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

April/Avril 2013 (Vol. 17, No./N° 4)

NEXT
MonSFFA MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, April 28

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-Francois Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: *April Fool's Day—tell us about your most successful deceits; if possible, include corroborating evidence (photos, e-mails, witness statements, etc.).*

PROGRAMME

1:00PM

**WEIRD AND WACKY WORLDS,
PART II—THE SCIENCE FICTION**

WORLDS: A look at some of the more peculiar, way-out worlds of the science fiction genre.

2:15PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Raffle, latest club business.

3:00PM

TRUE CRIME STORIES IN THE VIRTUAL

WORLD: An insiders account of some of the high-tech computer crime—not long ago, the stuff of science fiction—that modern police forces increasingly face.

4:15PM

OPEN DISCUSSION: We open the floor for the discussion of any SF/F-related or fannish topics. What's on your mind?

MAY 26 MEETING:

- Guest Authors, Readings and Talk on New Canadian Superhero Fiction
- Sci-Fi Model Kit Box Art

Sad News

We were saddened to learn of the recent loss of Deborah “Debbie” Gordon, who died on February 17 after a lengthy illness. She was 56.

For most of the past 15 years and more, Debbie warmly welcomed MonSFFA to her downtown Park Place Bar as the club threw its annual Christmas Party in celebration of the season. Steadfastly accommodating, she and her staff gave us pretty much carte blanche on our festivities, reserving the bar's back room for our exclusive use, often stocking requested beers and spirits for our group, and serving us plenty of complimentary shots over the years. Debbie even kept the revelry going past closing time on more than a few occasions.

We unfailingly enjoyed a great party in her company and mourn her passing, particularly in that she left us at so young an age. To her family and close friends, we offer our sincere condolences.

February Club Meeting

Our February 24 club meeting featured two well-researched presentations separated by a brief astronomical update on the PanSTARRS comet that was due to pass by Earth in mid-March.

François Menard led with his talk on Cyberpunk, beginning with the subgenre's early history and development and offering a few definitions.

Essentially, Cyberpunk is postmodern science fiction focused on “high tech and low life,” taking as its protagonists rebellious outcasts, those marginalized people living in “technologically enhanced cultural systems”—tyrannical governments, domineering global corporations—that oppress society. Technology, in particular information technology, is strongly featured and often extends to human beings in the form of such components as prosthetic limbs, brain implants, and genetically engineered or cloned organs.

In covering his topic, François cited such seminal Cyberpunk works as William Gibson's Neuromancer and Bruce Sterling's Islands in the Net, as well as influential Japanese Anime like Akira and Ghost in the Shell. He engaged the group in a lively discussion, touching on everything from Cyberpunk in gaming to the subgenre's look,

DOES YOUR
NAME APPEAR BELOW?
CHECK THIS SPACE TO
KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE DUE

The Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

KENNEY, Daniel P.
MOIR, L. E.
MORROW, Gordon
PELLEY, Lynda

Due This Month, April:

MACLAREN, Heather

Due Next Month, May:

BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
REDMOND, Isis

Due Month of June:

BELLEMARE, Josée
SILVERMAN, Barbara

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium “Platinum” membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to “MonSFFA”), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

Thank You for Your Patronage

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/N° et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

Province

Postal Code/Code Postal

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

established in such films as Blade Runner, Tron, and TV's Max Headroom, to post-Cyberpunk and the resurgence of Cyberpunk, as evidenced by such recent films as Surrogates and In Time.

It was noted that Cyberpunk seems a tad dated in 2013, in the face of rapidly advancing real-world technology that has quickly outpaced the subgenre, but at the same time, the outcast-against-the-system spirit of Cyberpunk remains relevant, and is very much at play in the contemporary world in which we live. We are, in many ways, suggested François, living in a Cyberpunk world today!

Handing out sky maps to all, Cathy Palmer-Lister outlined the viewing parameters for the then-approaching comet PanSTARRS, which, she told the group, was expected to be easily visible with binoculars, and perhaps the naked eye, as it sailed past Earth in mid-March. She also touched on the meteor that lit up the skies over Russia in spectacular fashion just days before our meeting.

Sylvain St-Pierre capped the afternoon with his presentation on the Weird and Wacky Worlds of Fantasy. He took his audience on a slide-show travelogue of strange fantasy worlds from mythology, literature, comics, film, and gaming. With each image of a map, film still, or drawing or painting, Sylvain outlined particular fantasy worlds and provided fascinating details about each.

Among the "worlds" presented were a number of lands featured in various mythologies and fairy tales, literary classics—Wonderland, Neverland, Oz, Middle Earth, Narnia—and modern literature and other media—Kadath (H. P. Lovecraft), Discworld (Terry Pratchett), Kingdoms of Light (Alan Dean Foster), Slumberland (Windsor McCay's Little Nemo comics), Toontown (the Who Framed Roger Rabbit film), and Hyrule (the Legend of Zelda video game).

"Hell" was explored in detail, from ancient Tartarus and the Viking underworld to Hieronymus Bosch's classical interpretation and the visions of Dante and John Milton to such modern versions as those depicted in the Hellboy comics and the movie Beetlejuice.

And speaking of Hell, the worlds of saccharine children's franchises like the Care Bears, Strawberry Shortcake, and My Little Pony were touched upon, too, as were such oddities as the preachy Gospel Temperance Railroad and a series of stories set on the letters that make up the words found on a map!

Sylvain will be covering the Weird and Wacky Worlds of Science Fiction at our April 28 gathering.

Thanks all around on this one.

March MonSFFA Meeting

Keith Braithwaite's presentation/challenge on the topic of the often unnoticed mistakes commonly made in movies and TV shows kicked off the club's March 24 meeting. He began by highlighting the different kinds of cinematic slip-ups that inevitably occur during the production of a film or television series, pointing out that these errors are not to be confused with so-called bloopers, which are discarded by the filmmakers, whereas what Keith called "movie mistakes" end up in the final cut. And there are a

considerable number of these little faults present, not only in low-budget B-movies, but in many of the big-budget summer blockbusters!

So-called "continuity errors" are the most common of movie mistakes; these are usually small inconsistencies in a scene that develop as a result of the filmmaking process. When shooting numerous "takes" of the action from numerous angles, out of chronological order, and sometimes on different days, perhaps weeks or months apart, it's near impossible for the film crew to exactly replicate all of the tiny details on set over the whole stretch. An inconsequential plate of sandwiches on the kitchen table in a scene may, for instance, change position on the table, or perhaps disappear entirely in one camera angle, only to reappear in the next. These kinds of oversights often go unnoticed by the filmmakers until viewing the final edited sequence. Cast and crew, frequently working long hours on a tight schedule, simply cannot keep track of every little thing. Try as they might, they are sometimes going to miss what is supposed to be exactly where on that kitchen table over the course of multiple camera set-ups. And once filming wraps, it's too costly or inconvenient to organize a reshoot and correct these little goofs, particularly in that they tend to be minor details that most movie-goers won't even notice as they focus on the principal action unspooling before them.

Sometimes, for just a moment, an item of filmmaking equipment or a crewmember might enter frame, or cast a shadow across the background. This Keith dubbed a "visible crew or equipment error." An "editing error" would involve, for example, an actor picking up one of those sandwiches from the plate on the kitchen table in a wide shot, and then repeating the same move an instant later in the close-up. This particular kind of mistake occurs rather more often than one would think, Keith remarked. He outlined these and other types of movie mistakes, screening clips from MonSFFA's earliest fan films as examples.

He then screened some two-dozen examples culled from Hollywood's sci-fi catalogue, challenging MonSFFA to spot the gaffes. The group caught fewer than half of these, overlooking even some seemingly obvious blunders, like the large bag of money that just disappears from Dennis Nedry's arms in mid-conversation during a scene in Jurassic Park.

The meeting's theme celebrated St. Patrick's Day and all things Irish; folk were encouraged to wear green or donate a snack item decorated in theme. After twin raffles, offering a number of 2013 SF/F calendars as prizes, and a brief update of planned club activities and other notes of interest to MonSFFA, the meeting continued.

Sean Peatman and Josée Bellemare took the podium for a discussion of fan fiction as a respectable means of introduction to sci-fi. Allowing that much of SF/F fan fiction is poorly written rubbish, they argued that, nevertheless, there is available online a sufficient number of quality stories to engage readers and so, serve as a perfectly acceptable way of discovering the genre. Much of traditionally published professional science fiction and fantasy is rubbish as well—Sturgeon's well-known maxim was cited—yet we consider books to be a typical channel into the sci-fi universe. Why not online fan fiction, then? After all, a good story is a good story.

But fan fiction offers little original material; most of the stories are unofficial and unauthorized (naturally) tales told within existing usually television or movie franchises. It is true that professional SF/F publishers offer substantially more in the way of original material. On the other hand, fan fic writers uninhibited by copyright considerations or the constraints of the original creator's guidelines as to what they can and cannot write, are completely free to work their chosen franchises in whatever way they wish, resulting in some most interesting plots and character developments that would probably never have otherwise arisen. And some of these stories can be more intriguing and entertaining than those of the original creators, our panellists contended. Further, fan fiction Web sites include many popular crossovers, liberally mixing one franchise with another to sometimes captivating effect.

Fan fiction, then, seems as good a means as any to get one interested in the SF/F genre.

The closing half-hour of the meeting was devoted to an open discussion on any genre- or fandom-related topic or topics suggested by the group. Given the previous discussion, the notion of a future fan fiction exercise as a group project was kicked around, the idea being that teams be organized and that each would pick unseen two titles from a list of various sci-fi franchises, then come up with a crossover story outline employing the franchises chosen. Fan fiction writers within the club might then flesh out a finished short story from said outlines and these would see publication in the club's fanzine, Warp.

Our thanks to all involved with the planning and running of this meeting.

Update: MonSFFA Events Calendar

As our initially requested dates for the club's April and October meetings were unavailable to us, we have booked alternates: mark April 28 and October 27 in your calendars.

Also, we are planning a group outing to the newly opened Montreal planetarium (located next to the Olympic Stadium and Biodome) on Sunday, June 9; stay tuned for details.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTREALAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

May-June/Mai-Juin 2013 (Vol. 17, No./Nº 5)

NEXT
CLUB MEETING IS
THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, May 26

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal*MEETING THEME: Contact club president
(president@monsffa.com) for instructions
on uploading digital photos of yourself as
youngster for Who's Who guessing game.*

PROGRAMME

1:00PM

MASKED MOSAIC—CANADIAN SUPER**STORIES:** We welcome a number of author
guest speakers for a discussion of and
introduction to a new book on Canadian
superheroes. (See lead item for details.)

2:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Latest club
business, raffle (prizes: sci-fi model kits!).

3:00PM

SCI-FI MODEL KIT BOX COVER ART:An appreciation of the exhilarating art
featured on sci-fi model kit box covers.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Club Outing to New

Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium

4801 avenue Pierre-De Coubertin (behind
Olympic Stadium and Biodome); Metro
Viau or Pie IX; paid parking on-site*Meet at 1:00PM sharp, planetarium's
main entrance*Picnic lunch (bring your own), then
planetarium shows beginning at 2:30PM.*Admission: \$15 (discounts available;
see lead item for this and
other details)*Special Upcoming
Club Events

We've got a couple of special treats for
MonSFFen upcoming; first, our May 26 meeting
will feature a number of guest speakers,
contributing authors to a new anthology of
Canadian Superhero stories, and following in June,
we will be visiting Montreal's new Rio Tinto Alcan
Planetarium.

Formerly of Montreal, author and editor Claude
Lalumière will join us for our May meeting,
accompanied by a few of the authors who have
contributed to Claude and co-editor Camille
Alexa's latest venture, a collection of Canadian
superhero (and villain!) tales from Tyche Books
called Masked Mosaic: Canadian Super Stories.
These include the tale of Mexican luchadores
wrestling primordial evil in Vancouver, The
Intrepids battling Nazis in Nova Scotia, a
mysterious masked man rescuing an adventuring
heiress in a steampunk Gold Rush-era Yukon,
zombies and ancient Viking magic unleashed in
downtown Toronto, a god-like oracle wandering
Calgary with her cyborg handler, the fearsome Iron
Shadow stalking the streets of Kingstonia, and The
Coachwhip and Cat-Girl fighting crime in lurid
wartime Montreal!

We'll be talking superheroes, from pulp to post-
modern, noir to new wave, all from a Canadian
perspective, and our writer guests—including Lisa
Poh and Patrick T. Goddard—will tell us all about
their contributions to the project, selling and
signing copies of Masked Mosaic and some of their
other books, as well as offering brief readings of
their works.

On Sunday, June 9, in lieu of a club meeting, we
will be gathering at the newly opened Rio Tinto
Alcan Planetarium for a picnic lunch and to take in
a couple of the Planetarium's spectacular theatre
shows. We'll meet at the Planetarium's main
entrance at 1:00PM sharp (don't be late!), then find
a nearby spot to picnic, after which we'll take in,
first, Continuum at 2:30PM, then From the Earth to
the Stars at 3:30PM.

Continuum is a 23-minute presentation described
as a "cosmic poem on the link between humankind

DOES YOUR
NAME APPEAR BELOW?
CHECK THIS SPACE TO
KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE DUE

The Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:KENNEY, Daniel P.
MORROW, Gordon
MACLAREN, Heather**Due This Month, May:**BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
REDMOND, Isis
SICHEL, Danny**Due Next Month, June:**BELLEMARE, Josée
SILVERMAN, Barbara**Due Month of July:**BENNETT, Paul
PEATMAN, Sean
PICARD, Shawn

Standard membership is only \$25
annually. We offer a family rate of \$40.
Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our
premium "Platinum" membership level.
Please complete the form below, include
payment (cheque or money order made
out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/Nº et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

Province

Postal Code/Code Postal

E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

and the universe,” from the “infinitely small to the infinitely large,” providing “a moving journey through the splendours and power of space.” From the Earth to the Stars (40 minutes) offers visitors “a thrilling virtual journey, taking them thousands of light years from Earth, all the way to the stars and beyond.”

Admission to both shows together as a package is listed at \$18.75, but Quebec residents benefit from a cut-rate of only \$15. Accès Montréal cardholders enjoy a further reduction, paying just \$11! There are discounts, as well, for children under 17 years of age, students, and seniors. Tickets to the shows can be bought at the Planetarium, or in advance, online at: <https://billets.espacepoulavie.ca/billetterie/forfait>

The Planetarium is located at 4801 avenue Pierre-De Coubertin, tucked in just behind the Olympic Stadium and Biodome (phone: 514-868-3000). Paid parking is available on-site; the Viau and Pie IX Metro stations are within a short stroll.

April MonSFFA Meeting

Sylvain St-Pierre kicked off our April 28 club meeting with the second part of his Wacky Worlds presentation, concentrating on the way-out worlds of science fiction (he had covered the weird worlds of the fantasy genre at our February meeting). Again screening numerous slides to illustrate his lecture, Sylvain covered, first, early SF’s speculations on the planets of our own solar system and the aliens that might live upon them, before moving on to the fictional worlds imagined by SF novelists, comic book writers, and filmmakers. Sylvain explored with his audience a selection of imaginary planets, from desert worlds like Dune’s Arrakis and Star Wars’ Tatooine to Alan Dean Foster’s frozen ice world, Tran-Ky-Ky, and a future Earth renamed Waterworld in the mid-1990s Kevin Costner sci-fi movie. He detailed the particular features and interesting, fantastic, and bizarre particulars of the many worlds he highlighted, like Stanislaw Lem’s Solaris, a sentient planet, or the cube-shaped Bizarro world, Htrae (Earth spelled backwards!) of the Superman comics, where things are the opposite of those on Earth.

Steven Janssen gave a discourse on cyber-crime following the mid-meeting break, detailing various online schemes usually designed to separate a person from their money and made possible by the tremendous advances in digital technology that have made it so much easier for the nefarious to prey upon the unsuspecting and innocent. This was all the stuff of science fiction not that long ago and society’s laws have struggled to keep up with the rapidly advancing technology while maintaining cherished rights and freedoms.

Steven then delved into the arena of multi-player online role-playing games—World of Warcraft and such—and the “theft” and manipulation of digital wealth with the ultimate goal of converting that virtual wealth into actual real-world cash, perfectly legal in some cases, though not in others.

But most disturbing to many present were the online virtual worlds, like Second Life, in which one may create an avatar and live a “second life.” Most players simply have fun with this kind of game,

pretending, Walter Mitty-like, to be someone they cannot hope to be in the real world. But some perhaps deranged or certainly morally bankrupt individuals choose to live their virtual existences as violent criminals, rapists, serial killers, or pedophiles, and do so with impunity because nothing is real, and therefore no actual persons are being harmed by their actions. It is not unheard of for real-life deviants, sadists, and pedophiles to enter these virtual worlds to get their kicks, visiting for example, online torture chambers where virtual school children are raped and abused. Sickening, but apparently legal!

An impassioned discussion as to whether this was acceptable, even in a virtual environment, saw folk concerned by the implications for our society of permitting this kind of unfettered and extreme anti-social behaviour, and at the same time, worried about the Big Brother-like dangers of having a government telling them what they can and cannot do while playing what is, after all, a game.

MonSFFA thanks our panelists, Sylvain and Steven, as well as all those who helped to plan and run this meeting.

MonSFFA Members: Please Keep Club up to Date Regarding Your Contact Information

MonSFFA members, please be advised that a number of your e-mails have bounced back to us recently; remember to advise us of any changes to your online contact information. As we depend now more than ever on the Internet for the distribution of both Impulse and Warp, and communication in general, it is important that we maintain up to date contact information, lest we be unable to communicate timely club news and information to you, or deliver to you the club’s digital publications. So keep us in the loop when you change service providers, take on an additional e-mail address, or open or change a Facebook account, etc.

Keep us advised, also, of course, of any changes to your home address (Montreal’s traditional moving day is soon approaching) or phone numbers—some of you may have lately added a cell phone to your communications quiver; it helps to keep the avenues of communication between you and the club open if we are made aware of such things.

Rest assured that your contact information is employed strictly for the purposes of MonSFFA-related communication. Club policy prevents us from distributing said information to other organizations or individuals without your expressed permission.

Hot Food at Club Meetings

We have received complaints regarding the pungency of certain hot fast-food items consumed in our meeting room and are asking members to refrain from bringing hot foods of any kind into the meeting room, a practice that we are told is frowned upon in any case by the hotel cleaning staff. The club has available dry snack items and soft drinks at our gatherings, but anything more should be consumed outside of the meeting rooms. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Briefly:

- We honour the remarkable legacy of master stop-motion animator/special effects craftsman Ray Harryhausen, who passed away on May 7 at his home in London, England. He was 92. He was the last surviving of three young friends who met at an SF club in Los Angeles and went on to great notoriety within sci-fi circles and beyond, the other two being Ray Bradbury and Forrest J. Ackerman. Usually working alone and on a limited budget, Harryhausen’s gifted hand brought to life an amazing host of mythological creatures, space monsters, and dinosaurs beginning in the late-1940s, early-’50s. Audiences thrilled to such classic fantasy and sci-fi films as Clash of the Titans, The 7th Voyage of Sinbad, Jason and the Argonauts, The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms, 20 Million Miles to Earth, Mysterious Island, One Million Years B.C., and The Valley of Gwangi. Harryhausen’s exciting and astounding visuals were unmatched and inspired a generation of filmmakers, including genre giants Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, James Cameron, Tim Burton, and Peter Jackson.
- We neglected to mention, in our report on the club’s January 20 meeting (published in February’s Impulse), that the “Video Time Capsule” made by a number of club members in 2008, with the Mayan calendar’s predicted doomsday scheduled to occur in about a year’s time, was “opened” at the first available opportunity after that doomsday date had passed (uneventfully, of course!), which turned out to be our January 2013 meeting. The video featured the predictions for five years hence (2013) of several club members. While many of these prognostications were firmly tongue-in-cheek, some were rather accurate—a number of technological advances in the digital realm and the outstanding success of the at-the-time-still-to-come Montreal WorldCon, Anticipation, for example. More than one MonSFFA member predicted the continued existence of MonSFFA itself and we are pleased to say that these folk were right!

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l’AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA’s Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting ● E-mail: keith1958@live.ca ● Voice mail: 450-692-8831 ● Via the club’s mailing address, to the attention of “Impulse”: MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l’AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club ● Courriel: keith1958@live.ca ● Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 ● Par la poste à l’adresse du club, à l’attention de “Impulse”: AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

CLUB'S SUMMER EVENTS SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 8

Field Trip to Canadian Aviation
and Space Museum (Ottawa)

Departing from Hôtel Espresso,
1005 Guy St., at 8:00AM Sharp!
Don't be late 'cause we won't wait!
We will be carpooling.

Arrival at museum approximately
10:30AM. Museum admission: \$13

Back in Montreal by about 7:30PM

See lead item, this issue, for full details.

Sunday, July 20

Annual MonSFFA Barbecue
10:30AM - 4:00PM
Parc Angrignon, Lasalle



All club members, their families, friends
welcome! We will gather beginning
10:30AM at our traditional spot behind
Angrignon Metro station next to parking
lot in front of now-closed Angrignon Farm
(see map). *Bring your own chairs, picnic
blankets, food and drink; we'll supply the
cooking grill.* If rained out, event bumped
to following Sunday, July 27.

See last item, this issue, for
full details.

FIELD TRIP TO AVIATION MUSEUM

MonSFFA Members in attendance at the
club's May 25 meeting considered a number of
suggestions before deciding on a field trip to the
Canadian Aviation and Space Museum in Ottawa
in lieu of a June meeting. The excursion will take
place on Sunday, June 8 (see column, left).

Several MonSFFen have graciously volunteered
themselves and their vehicles so that we may
carpool. We appreciate their involvement, without
which we would not have got out of the driveway!

Based on feedback received, we expect
between 12 and 16 people to make the trip and
have preliminarily organized drivers and cars
accordingly.

Those embarking on this outing are asked to
arrive at the Hôtel Espresso (the club's familiar
downtown hotel, 1005 Guy Street) by *no later* than
7:55AM on the 8th. We'll meet in the front lobby
and quickly assign folk to cars. The drive to Ottawa
will take about two and a half hours, putting us in
the nation's capital at about 10:30-10:45, so we
must depart Montreal at 8 o'clock sharp!

Please note that if you are late getting to the hotel
in the morning, *we cannot and will not wait for you!*
Considering the travel time involved, we will be on
a rather tight schedule. It would be unfair to hold up
the entire group for the sake of a single person, so
please, *don't be late!* We cannot emphasize this
enough. Anyone who does not arrive on time will,
unfortunately, find themselves left behind.

Those who have indicated to us that they'll be
going but find that they won't be able to make the
trip after all, please let us know by e-mail at:
president@monsffa.com

Drivers will be issued detailed directions before
we leave. We have allowed in our estimates time for
a pit stop (gas, rest rooms) and plan to travel as a
convoy. Passengers are expected to chip in for gas.

Admission to the museum costs \$13. Snack food
or a light meal can be purchased at the museum's
cafeteria, or folk can pack their own picnic lunch.

DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR BELOW? CHECK THIS SPACE TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

The Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

KRIMP, Nick
NADEAU, Marc
PETTIT, William S.
RUFANGE, Yolande

Due This Month, June:

SILVERMAN, Barbara

Due Next Month, July:

BENNETT, Paul
KENNEY, Daniel P.

Standard membership is only \$25
annually. We offer a family rate
of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these
to enjoy our premium "Platinum"
membership level. Please complete
the form below, include payment
(cheque or money order made out
to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

Thank you for your patronage

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____
No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

Province _____ Postal Code/Code Postal _____ E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

A gift shop offers a variety of aviation-related items for those interested in purchasing a few souvenirs.

With a focus on Canadian achievements in the aviation field, the museum features a world-class collection of over 130 civilian and military aircraft and artifacts, dating from the early 1900s to the present, including the de Havilland Beaver, an iconic Canadian bush plane, and it's big brother, the Otter. A number of Allied and German WWII aircraft have been meticulously restored, including the famous Lancaster (Mark X) heavy bomber. Of more recent vintage are the Voodoo and Starfighter jet fighters, along with Avro's legendary CF-100 and two of Canada's Sabres. And the various surviving components of Canada's fabled and infamously scrapped Avro Arrow are a highlight for Canadian aviation buffs. The "Living in Space" exhibition features interactive displays and showcases some of the equipment used by astronauts on the ISS.

The museum closes at 5:00PM; we should, therefore, be back in Montreal about 7:30PM or so. When possible, drivers will drop passengers off at or near a convenient metro station upon our return.

May MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's get-together of the 25th of May was well attended and proved a busy meeting. The afternoon's agenda listed three presentations plus a session devoted to the discussion of proposals for a group outing in early June, and the formulation of a plan of action regarding said outing.

After a brief round of departmental reports, announcements of importance and interest to club members, and expressions of thanks from the club's Executive to the many MonSFFen who pitched in to help run last month's successful fund-raising book sale, François Menard took center stage for his presentation on Filmation Associates.

An American production studio that steadfastly resisted the common practise of shopping out work to cheaper overseas animation houses, Filmation was responsible for the many cartoon comic book, sci-fi, and adventure TV series that were ubiquitous in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. François screened numerous clips and his audience recalled The New Adventures of Superman (cartoons from which were later recycled for The Superman/Aquaman Hour of Adventure and the Batman/Supeman Hour), The Groovie Goolies, Fantastic Voyage (based on the 1966 film starring Raquel Welch), Star Trek: The Animated Series, He-Man and the Masters of the Universe, and BraveStarr.

Cutting corners by employing "limited animation", the repeated use of the same sequences ad nauseam, and a reduced frame rate gave Filmation's cartoons a signature low-quality yet somehow endearing look.

Live-action productions included Space Academy, Jason of Star Command, Ark II, The Ghost Busters (pre-dating by nine years the similar but unrelated 1984 feature film comedy), and Shazam!

The studio folded in 1989.

Alice Novo followed with her stories of "little people" working in the film and television industry.

(We erroneously described Alice's presentation, which she had dubbed "Short Stories", as an appreciation of favourite genre short fiction; sorry for the misleading information!)

Putting up a variety of stills, Alice outlined the careers of such early "little" movie stars as Harry Earles (Freaks, The Wizard of Oz), Angelo Rossitto (Freaks, Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome), and the prolific Billy Barty, who has appeared in over 170 film and television roles, from The Bride of Frankenstein in the 1930s to Alfred Hitchcock Presents, Sigmund and the Seamonsters, and Man from Atlantis in the '60s and '70s to Masters of the Universe and Willow in the '80s. An activist, Barty founded the Little People of America to provide information about and support for little people and coined the very term as a gentler alternative to dwarf and midget.

Other actors highlighted in Alice's presentation included Kenny Baker (Star Wars trilogy), Warwick Davis (Return of the Jedi, Willow), Felix Silla (the original Battlestar Galactica, Buck Rogers in the 25th Century), Zelda Rubenstein (Poltergeist), and the award-winning Peter Dinklage (Game of Thrones, X-Men: Days of Future Past).

The mid-meeting break provided opportunity to finalize plans for our June 8 outing (see Events column and lead item for details).

Mark Burakoff, Keith Braithwaite, and Steven Janssen capped the afternoon with a primer on sci-fi board and card games, discussing the likes of 4000 A.D., Starfleet Battles, Centurion, and Talisman. Mark and Steven spoke on collectible card games and demonstrated for folk a hand of Magic: The Gathering.

Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

We remind club members that MonSFFA moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the Executive and many other of the volunteer-members who contribute to the running of the club are, at various times during this period, on vacation or away on weekends and therefore unavailable for club commitments. Rest assured that the club still gets done what has to get done, like membership renewals and Web site updates, but usually at a more leisurely pace than is the norm during the rest of the year.

We thank MonSFFen for their understanding and wish everyone a pleasant summer.

Impulse Back in August

The news bulletin's staff are taking (most of) the summer off, so please note that this instalment of Impulse serves as a June-July edition. There will be no issue released next month; Impulse will next publish shortly before the club's August 17 meeting.

Annual Club Barbecue

MonSFFA's annual summer barbecue is scheduled to unfold this year on Sunday, July 20. All club members, as well as their families and friends, are invited. The Parc Angrignon locale in Lasalle that we've been availing ourselves of for years, now, is easy to get to, either by car or public transit. A map to the location is published in the Events column of this issue.

Beginning at 10:30AM, we will gather in Parc Angrignon and occupy our familiar spot under a shady grove overlooking the open meadow adjacent the parking lot near the Angrignon Metro station on one side and the now-shuttered Angrignon Farm on the other. There, we will enjoy a barbecued lunch, including a few side dishes and cool beverages, as we relax in the park for the day among friends.

As usual, the club will provide a grill; MonSFFen are encouraged to bring along their own hamburgers, hotdogs, or other such fare and grill for themselves a tasty repast. Pack, as well, your favourite drinks and any delectable edibles or summery snacks you may wish to share.

Our barbecue-in-the-park has become a highlight of the club's calendar and, barring inclement weather, the confluence of good food and good company always makes for an agreeable summer afternoon. So mark July 20 in your agendas; we look forward to seeing you at MonSFFA's Summer Barbecue 2014. And remember your sun screen!

Should foul weather blow in on the 20th, the event will be postponed until the following Sunday, July 27. The membership will be advised of any such rescheduling by e-mail.

A final note:

Usually on either the weekend before or after the club's barbecue, MonSFFA member Wayne Glover hosts a Saturday pool party and barbecue at his home in Ste-Eustache, off island, northwest of the city. As of this writing, we have not received the official word from Wayne concerning this summer's shindig, so we cannot here provide details. But we expect Wayne will soon announce the party and at that moment, we will pass the information along to the membership via e-mail.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTREALAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

August/Aout 2013 (Vol. 17, No./Nº 7)

NEXT
CLUB MEETING IS
THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, August 11

1:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal*MEETING THEME: Fancraft and collecting; exercise your creativity and take part in our August 11 meeting by bringing in examples of your finest SF/F craftwork or items from your sci-fi collections to show-and-tell with the group!*

PROGRAMME

1:00PM-4:30PM

FANRAFT WORKSHOPS: We'll set up a number of fancraft displays and workshops for the afternoon; club members are invited to bring in examples of their own SF/F-themed craft projects and show-and-tell with the group, then try their hand at some of the other fancraft on tap, including a scheduled demonstration/hands-on workshop on stop-motion animation. (See lead item for additional information; see also "Attention: Stop-Motion Mini-Workshop" specifically regarding stop-motion demonstration/workshop.)

2:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Brief discussion of club business; fund-raising raffle.

3:00PM-4:00PM

SCI-FI COLLECTORS' SHOW-AND-TELL: MonSFFen encouraged to showcase sample items from or photos of their sci-fi collections and talk about what they collect and why it's so very cool!NEXT MEETING
September 22August Club Meeting
to Spotlight Fancraft,
Collecting

The club's meeting schedule resumes this Sunday, August 11 (see Events column, left). For the past number of years, our August meeting has been devoted to crafting as related to the SF/F genre, and featured a selection of what we have dubbed "fancraft" workshops. Last year, we added a section on sci-fi collecting.

Again this year, we are spotlighting both fancraft and collecting.

We're asking MonSFFen to bring in to our August 11 meeting any SF/F-themed projects they may be working on to show the group. Club members are encouraged to share their particular crafting skills with their fellow sci-fi enthusiasts, outlining the techniques involved in the fabrication of their chosen craft project(s) and offering how-to tips to others in the group who might want to try their hand. MonSFFA is fortunate to have amongst its members many creatively talented people; if you have a certain talent for drawing or painting, scrapbooking, gift-wrapping and decorating, origami or other papercraft, cake decorating, scale plastic model-making, wood carving, quilting or knitting, etc., bring in your stuff and show-and-tell with the group! And at the same time, learn about other crafting media.

A few MonSFFen have advised us in advance of planned demonstrations, including a primer on creating your own stop-motion animations (for more information, see item "Attention: Stop-Motion Mini-Workshop", next page).

We are again also asking folk to bring in a sampling of some of their sci-fi collections—vintage books, magazines, comics, toys, T-shirts, action figures, promotional give-aways, original art, the autographs of SF/F stars, etc.—and talk

DOES YOUR
NAME APPEAR BELOW?
CHECK THIS SPACE TO
KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE DUEThe Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...**Overdue:**BELLEMARE, Josée
BENNETT, Paul
MACLAREN, Heather
MORROW, Gordon
PEATMAN, Sean
PICARD, Shawn**Due This Month, August:**CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
GLOVER, Wayne
HICKEY, Mark
NOVO, Alice**Due Next Month, September:**BOIES, Marquise
BRAITHWAITE, Erin
BRAITHWAITE, Keith
BRAITHWAITE, Scott
DUROCHER, Dominique
IMBEAULT, Christian
WHITELAW, Maureen

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/Nº et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

Province

Postal Code/Code Postal

E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

about their collections. How did you come to collect the particular things that you collect? Which is your most valuable piece, whether in dollar terms or sentimentally speaking, and why? Which was your most difficult to acquire? Which absent piece remains for you frustratingly elusive?

In that some collections may be too unwieldy to transport, instead, snap a few photos of your treasures and load the pix onto a flash drive so that you may show these to the group at the meeting.

Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy

We remind club members that MonSFFA moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the Executive and many other of the volunteer-members who contribute to the running of the club are, at various times during this period, on vacation and therefore unavailable for club commitments. The club still gets done what it has to get done, like membership renewals and Web site updates, but usually not quite as promptly as during the rest of the year.

We thank MonSFFen for their understanding and wish everyone a pleasant rest of the summer.

Favourable Weather for Pool Party, Club Barbecue

This year's summer siesta for MonSFFen began with Wayne Glover's traditional backyard barbecue and pool party on Saturday, July 13, in Ste-Eustache, northwest of the city. The weather on this day proved just perfect, reports Cathy Palmer-Lister, one of many who attended, and Wayne's in-ground pool beckoned to any who felt things heating up a tad too much. There were plenty of tasty barbecued delights and drinks to share amongst the assembled group, but it was a delicious potato salad, courtesy Wayne's mother, that was particularly popular.

Our thanks to Wayne for hosting another most enjoyable gathering.

Stifling heat surrounded Montreal all of the week following Wayne's party but broke just in time for the club's annual summer barbecue! We gathered under sunny skies and lightly breezy, decidedly cooler and less humid conditions on Sunday, July 21, in Parc Angrignon, Lasalle, our traditional locale for this outing. We set up under a shady copse overlooking the open meadow adjacent the parking lot near the Angrignon Metro station. Some 15 or so people enjoyed a barbecued lunch, cool drinks, snack items, and casual conversation over the course of the afternoon. The confluence of good weather, good

food, and good company made for a relaxing pleasant afternoon for all.

Thanks are extended to all those who shared an assortment of delectable fare with their fellows, and to club president Berny Reischl, who, as always, provided our cooking grill.

ATTENTION: Stop-Motion Mini-Workshop!

MonSFFA's François Menard will be giving a workshop on stop-motion animation at the club's August 11 meeting this weekend. Cool! He sends the following pre-meeting note to those interested in discovering their inner Ray Harryhausen:

Hi Folks,

As some of you may already know, I'm planning to hold a mini-workshop (more like *micro-workshop*!) on making stop-motion animation sequences with a digital camera for the August 11 "fancraft" meeting. So, if anyone—in addition to Keith, of course!—is interested in giving it a try please note that you will need to bring something to the meeting to animate. Some examples:

Dolls/Action Figures: The more points of articulation, the better, though I've had some success with figures having just the basic five—head, arms, and legs. I will be using a Lego mini-figure for my demonstration. Bendy figures are good, too. Larger figures (6-inches and taller) and/or those with loose joints will need some kind of stand or rig to remain upright, depending on what you want them to do. Also, I should point out that they should be "action" articulation points and not "pose". What do I mean by this? The best examples I can think of are the DC Universe Classics or Marvel Legends figures; these are *good* (action!). Whereas DC Direct or Marvel Select are *bad* (pose). Anyone bringing in a McFarlane Toys figure will be taken out back and shot!

Clay/Plastecine/Play-Doh Figures: If any sculptors out there want to try their hand at "claymation", by all means, let's give it a go! Be advised, however, that you'll need your own clay and it would be best to build/sculpt your character ahead of time. I strongly suggest building/sculpting on some kind of armature, even if it's just a wire stick-figure, as this will greatly help in animating the figure, as well as hold it together.

Plastic Models: Again, helps if they have articulation points/moving parts and some kind of stand to hold them upright. Vehicles can be made to move, fly, drive, etc. Just so you know, by the way, it is you who will be touching/moving the models, not me.

Household Items: Socks can be made to crawl around rather well (that's why you're often missing one!); compasses (geometric, not magnetic) can walk or dance, etc.

I will be supplying a camera—a very basic Canon digital—and will be shooting in 640X480 for simplicity's sake, and to be sure I have enough room on my SD card (we will be taking *a lot* of pictures!). Animation speed will be set at 15 frames-per-second, also in the interests of simplicity.

Also, if anyone has any spare rechargeable AA NiMH batteries to lend me for the purposes of the workshop, that would be greatly appreciated. I only have one set (of two) for my camera and I'd hate to run out of juice before the end of the meeting. (My batteries *should* last the duration, but I make no promises!)

Finally, I hope to upload a few short animation examples I shot over the course of an afternoon to the MonSFFA dropbox folder when I'm done with the editing and rendering. They should be there in the next couple days (probably as one video file) so if you want to get an idea of what this is all about ahead of time, you're welcome to take a look.

—François Menard

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTREALAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

September / Septembre 2013 (Vol. 17, No./Nº 8)

NEXT
CLUB MEETING
COMING SOON

Sunday, September 22

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal*MEETING THEME: In keeping with our lead topic, members are encouraged to attend the meeting wearing a cowboy hat or cowboy boots, or holster a ray gun to their hip!*

PROGRAMME

1:00PM

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE ALIEN—SCI-FI/WESTERNS: From *The Wild Wild West* to *The Valley of Gwangi* to *Cowboys and Aliens*, we offer an examination of TV shows, movies, games, comics, etc. that mix two time-honoured genres, science fiction and the Western. (Aliens attending the meeting will be required to wear special ID badges. “Badges? Badges! We don’t need no stinking badges!”)

2:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Brief discussion of club business; fund-raising raffle.

3:00PM

DEATH AND THAT WHICH COMES**AFTER:** Discussion of some of SF/F’s concepts of death and an afterlife.

REMINDER:

Montreal ComicCon 2013
September 13-15, Palais des congrès

NEXT MONTH’S MEETING

October 28 And the Geeks Shall Rule!
• Science Fiction Double Feature
• Monsters Then and Now • Best Halloween Pranks

Crafting and Collecting

MonSFFA resumed its meeting schedule on Sunday, August 11 following the summer holiday break. As we have in recent years, we pegged our August meeting for a celebration of what we’ve dubbed “fancraft”—that is, any science fiction or fantasy-related craft project, whether traditional or outside the box. We’ve also lately added a component devoted to collecting sci-fi stuff, inviting club members to bring in either photographs or a sampling of their collections (rare books or comics, action figures, autographed celebrity photos, promotional give-aways, movie posters, games, collectible cards, miniatures, etc.)

Unfortunately, this particular August gathering was hampered somewhat by space restrictions as the hotel shifted us to a smaller meeting room because our usual St-François hall was unexpectedly unavailable. We didn’t have the elbow room to set up our usual number of workshop stations, but we made due as best we could, with some folk simply giving brief talks about their particular crafting interests. Alice Novo stepped up to demonstrate a few simple paper-folding crafts, offering an entertaining story about the things she was folding during her presentation.

We certainly *did* find the space for François Menard’s fascinating hands-on demonstration of stop-motion animation. Stop-motion, or single-frame animation, is a technique that allows miniature figures, not unlike like toy action figures, to “come to life” on screen. An articulated miniature model is moved fractionally after each frame of film is shot, the end result being the illusion of movement. Explaining the basics of the craft popularized by such visual effects wizards as Willis O’Brien, Ray Harryhausen, Jim Danforth, Phil Tippett, and Nick Park, François offered a number of “do’s”

DOES YOUR
NAME APPEAR BELOW?
CHECK THIS SPACE TO
KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE DUE

The Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:BENNETT, Paul
CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
HICKEY, Mark
MACLAREN, Heather
PEATMAN, Sean
PICARD, Shawn**Due This Month, September:**BOIES, Marquise
BRAITHWAITE, Erin
BRAITHWAITE, Keith
BRAITHWAITE, Scott
DUROCHER, Dominique
IMBEAULT, Christian
WHITELAW, Maureen**Due Next Month, October:**PELLEY, Lynda
PETTIT, William S.
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium “Platinum” membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to “MonSFFA”), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/Nº et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

Province

Postal Code/Code Postal

E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

and “don’ts” to prospective animators. Complete control over lighting, for example, is vital. It can take hours to commit just a minute’s worth of action to film, so shooting outdoors would be inadvisable because the sun would move some distance across the sky over that period of time and the shadow cast by your animated figure would appear to move too, but rather too quickly and unnaturally.

Francois set up a simple animation table and invited people to try their hand at a few seconds worth of stop-motion. Folks had been asked to bring in an articulated figure or object of some kind for the purposes of the demonstration and MonSFFen took turns with an action figure, stuffed animal, plastic dinosaur model with movable head and legs, and the like. The sequences were photographed with an ordinary digital still camera; as the individual frames shot can easily be loaded into a computer’s editing software, there is no need of a movie camera or camcorder capable of single-frame exposures. Our modern digital age allows just about anyone to effortlessly and inexpensively set themselves up as kitchen-table stop-motion animators!

François will put together a demo reel of the efforts, to be screened at an upcoming MonSFFA meeting so everyone can have a look at the final result. He’ll also be giving a talk on and showing examples of his own “Adventures in Stop-Motion” at our November meeting.

After the mid-meeting break, we focused on collecting, with a few individuals showcasing their treasures.

Wayne Glover brought in some of his collection of old sci-fi TV shows, which he has purchased on DVD and Blu-Ray. Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea and the original Star Trek were particular favourites of Wayne’s.

Keith Braithwaite is also a DVD/Blu-Ray collector, his passion being sci-fi movies of the 1950s and ’60s. He had put together a brief slide-show highlighting some of his vast collection of old sci-fi cinema classics like The Day the Earth Stood Still, Forbidden Planet, and The 7th Voyage of Sinbad, not to mention a number of B-movies like The Blob, Attack of the Crab Monsters, and The Green Slime.

Both Wayne and Keith cited fond childhood memories of watching these astounding SF/F adventures on TV as youngsters. Back then, there was no home video; one had to be sitting in front of the television at the appointed day and hour (usually after school, just before the supertime newscasts, or mid-evening) lest one miss all the fun!

Sylvain St-Pierre’s approach is to collect a representative cross-section of those genre areas that interest him, of which there are many. He gave the gathering a PowerPoint tour of his home, presenting his fellow MonSFFen with everything from vintage

books, comics, magazines, and original sci-fi artwork to miniature aliens, creatures, toy robots, and ray guns! This way, Sylvain avoids the albatross of the completist collector and manages shelf space so as not to end up on an episode of Hoarders!

The usual appreciations and thanks to all involved with the planning and running of our August meeting.

Montreal ComicCon 2013 Just Days Away!

Many MonSFFA members will no doubt descend upon the Palais des congrès downtown over the September 13-15 weekend to take in all or some of this year’s edition of the Montreal ComicCon. This convention has grown exponentially in just a few short years. Organizers have been talking of attendance this year reaching, perhaps, 50,000! That would more than double the numbers recorded in 2011, the year that witnessed truly explosive growth and prompted organizers to move from Place Bonaventure to the larger facilities offered by the Palais for the 2012 edition. Prior to 2011, the con drew no more than about 8500, with just 700 coming through the turnstiles in 2006, the event’s inaugural year.

Modelled after the famous San Diego summit, the Montreal convention, of course, adds French-language guests and programming and caters to European bande dessinée as well as to American comics and entertainment. The guest roster is generally lengthy and features more than a few major names from the film, television, and comics industries.

Be aware, however, that this affair is pricey. It’ll run you in the neighbourhood of \$50 just to set foot in the exhibition hall. Pretty much everything after that comes with an additional and often steep price-tag. And, the line-ups to get in to the headlining events are long; be prepared to stand in line for a good part of the time you’re there. Premium passes can get you preferential access, but at a premium price.

Be also aware that regrettably, several of the biggest names advertised for this year’s Montreal ComicCon have cancelled their appearances: Carrie Fisher, David Prowse, Billy Dee Williams (Star Wars), Katee Sackhoff, Tricia Helfer, Jamie Bamber (Battlestar Galactica), Michael Rooker (Walking Dead), George Pérez, Ty Templeton, and Yanick Paquette (Comics).

That said, it’s certainly an experience worth checking out at least once!

And Gillian Anderson (X-Files), George Takei (Star Trek), Christopher Lloyd (Back to the Future), Edward James Olmos, James Callis (Battlestar Galactica), Kevin “Silent Bob” Smith, Jason “Jay” Mewes, Margot Kidder (Superman), Laurie Holden (Walking Dead), Lou Ferrigno (TV’s Hulk), Neal Adams, Chris Claremont, Adam Kubert, and Geof Isherwood (Comics) are all still listed as attending on the con’s Web site (montrealcomiccon.com).

SF/F Well Represented in All-Time Greatest Lists

In mid-July, Entertainment Weekly magazine published its lists of the 100 all-time greatest movies, TV shows, etc. We noted that the science fiction and fantasy genres were well represented at between 12 and 15 percent of the total, give or take a point.

We counted 13 SF/F movies on the list, for example, plus a few that, while not generally considered sci-fi or fantasy, include strong SF/F elements. The original King Kong was ranked highest at number 11. 2001: A Space Odyssey came in at number 25, Lord of the Rings: Return of the King was 43rd, Empire Strikes Back, 53rd, and Blade Runner, 81st. There were 3 horror movies of the supernatural variety included: Rosemary’s Baby (36), The Shining (66), and Romero’s Night of the Living Dead (79).

The Harry Potter series was 7th overall on the novels list while Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy came in at number 99. Other novels listed: A Handmaid’s Tale (29), Ender’s Game (49), Dracula (59), Neuromancer (70), The Hobbit (71), and Frankenstein (81).

Buffy the Vampire Slayer placed 8th overall on the TV list, Lost was 24th (really!), and The X-Files, 29th. Near-last in the 98th spot was the ’60s sit-com Bewitched. Inexplicably, Star Trek: TNG outranked the original series by a wide margin, 69th against 91st! Doctor Who and The Prisoner beat out both of them at 65th and 67th, respectively. The reimagined Battlestar Galactica came in 72nd, Game of Thrones, 76th.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l’AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA’s Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club’s mailing address, to the attention of “Impulse”: MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l’AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l’adresse du club, à l’attention de “Impulse”: AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTREALAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

October / Octobre 2013 (Vol. 17, No./N° 9)

NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, October 27

11:00AM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal*MEETING THEME: It's Halloween! Wear something black and orange. Or, bring with you a small Halloween decoration or a snack item for our snack table.*

PROGRAMME

11:00AM

BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING: We outline plans for next year and deal with club business; all MonSFFA members encouraged to attend and participate.

1:00PM

AND THE GEEKS SHALL RULE: We look at our own kind, and just how passionate some of us are about our hobby!

2:00PM

MONSTERS—THE NEXT GENERATION: Ever wonder what would happen if those classic movie monsters settled down and produced offspring? We'll introduce you to the next generation of some of our favourite monsters.

3:00PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Raffle

3:30PM

SCIENCE FICTION DOUBLE FEATURE:

We screen clips from and review the movies named or referenced in the iconic Rocky Horror Picture Show theme song.

4:30PM

BEST HALLOWEEN PRANKS: Tell us about the best Halloween pranks you've pulled!2013 Montreal
ComicCon Biggest Yet

The biggest Montreal ComicCon to date took place over the weekend of September 13-15 at the downtown Palais des congrès, drawing an estimated 42,000 ardent cosplayers, gamers, comics, sci-fi, and animé fans, an increase of roughly 10,000 over last year's figure. The event seemed to us to run rather smoothly, in no small part due to the able army of volunteers who staffed the con and kept things operating like clockwork, assisted by the Palais' staff. Lengthy line-ups were superbly managed and waits to get in to even the most popular panels never exceeded an hour, quite acceptable considering that long waits in line are the bane of many of these giant conventions.

The immense dealers' room included hundreds of merchandise and artists' booths, and a couple rows of autograph tables. An on-site photography studio offered fans quality photo opportunities with their favourite stars while several full-size sci-fi vehicles were on display at one end of the hall, including a replica of Back to the Future's time-travelling DeLorean and the Ghostbusters' iconic white station wagon. Gamers had opportunity to test drive the new PS4 console in advance of its release and that particular booth was busy throughout the entire weekend. There were a lot of comic book dealers (not surprisingly!) but perhaps a few too many; a greater variety of wares in general would have been welcome. Not that there weren't mountains of stuff to buy, mind you!

All of the programming unfolded one level up and in addition to the leading main-room activities, there were a good many interesting talks and Q&A's scheduled in several smaller rooms adjacent the large main hall, providing for a more rounded convention experience that wasn't solely guest appearances, autograph lines,

DOES YOUR
NAME APPEAR BELOW?
CHECK THIS SPACE TO
KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE DUE

The Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

BOIES, Marquise
CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
DUROCHER, Dominique
HICKEY, Mark
IMBEAULT, Christian
MACLAREN, Heather
PEATMAN, Sean
PICARD, Shawn
WHITELAW, Maureen

Due This Month, October:

PELLEY, Lynda
PETTIT, William S.

Due Next Month, November:

JANSSEN, Steven
KNAPP, Brian
KNAPP, Cathye

Due Month of December:

REISCHL, Bernard

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/N° et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

Province

Postal Code/Code Postal

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

and the dealers' room.

Despite the 11th-hour cancellations of several major advertised guests—Carrie Fisher, Kevin Smith, about half of the Battlestar Galactica principals—the roster was sufficiently deep that fans were not terribly disappointed. Gillian Anderson, George Takei, Christopher Lloyd, and Margot Kidder, among others, accorded proceedings ample sci-fi star power.

Increasingly, fans themselves are becoming “star” attractions at these ComicCon shows and there were thousands on site, here, dressed as their favourite comics, video game, and sci-fi characters. Saturday's Masquerade drew over 50 entrants, but the majority of the “cosplayers” in attendance eschewed the competition and simply patrolled the convention floor all weekend, pausing frequently to pose for pictures. Costuming at genre conventions has probably never been as popular as it is today.

The coin one must lay out to attend one of these mega-conventions is not insubstantial, but that said, Montreal's is one of the best around and we look forward to news of 2014's edition.

September Club Meeting

MonSFFA's September 22 meeting featured two quite animated presentations, and briefly, some actual animation, of the stop-motion variety.

Relocated to the Portneuf meeting room in the hotel's basement due to an unfortunate booking error, we took full advantage of the many large, comfortable couches and chairs arranged about the room. The meeting was akin to sitting down in your living room with a host of your friends!

A cowboy-hatted François Menard was first up, speaking enthusiastically and knowledgeably on the subject of sci-fi Westerns. Two time-honoured genres—science fiction and the Western—share a number of attributes, he stated. Both often feature frontiersmen, SF the space-faring adventurers out there braving the “final frontier”, and Westerns the familiar cowboys and gunslingers of the North American Wild West, circa 19th century. Characters often pack side arms, spacemen some sort of laser or energy beam-emitting pistol, which is really just a futuristic version of the weapon commonly employed by the denizens of Westerns.

Citing examples from literature, comics, and film/television, François included in his presentation video clips of such sci-fi Westerns as Westworld, Outland (essentially, High Noon remade as sci-fi!), Cowboy Bebop, and Brave Starr. Back to the Future III certainly mixes the two genres, by means of an SF element, time travel. Stephen King's Dark Tower series—a fantasy/horror Western—qualifies, François having included the fantasy and horror genres in his broad definition of sci-fi.

He noted that there are two major types of sci-fi

Western. The first features a Western setting and incorporates sci-fi elements; examples include The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr. and the recent big-budget movie adaptation of Cowboys and Aliens. Space Westerns, on the other hand, feature a sci-fi setting incorporating Western elements; examples: Firefly/Serenity and Defiance.

Following the mid-meeting break, Danny Sichel spoke on the topic of death and that which comes after, as explored in SF/F. A whirlwind of references, information, and analysis, Danny covered his topic from numerous angles, beginning by stating that everything in this universe of ours dies. Eventually. Animals, people, stars and galaxies, even the seemingly imperishable Keith Richards! MonSFFA itself will one day give up the ghost, said Danny, though hopefully not anytime soon, added his audience.

So what happens when you die? Religious belief systems have you going “up, down, or somewhere else,” Danny explained, citing and discussing what he called the three “R”s: resurrection (rising from the dead), reincarnation (coming back from the great beyond as another being), and repetition (eternity in some kind of Groundhog Day scenario).

Does the loss of one's mind, one's very *self*, constitute a death, from which stems an afterlife? Might immortality be achieved by uploading one's consciousness to a computer or robot? Is an exact copy of you, in fact, *really* you? Is it you that now exists, or the copy? These questions and others are considered in many works of SF.

Death personified—the skeleton carrying a scythe, Black Flash of the DC Comics universe, the image of a Goth girl—flashed across the screen as Danny highlighted SF/F's numerous takes on Heaven and Hell.

From the seminal Frankenstein, Farmer's Riverworld, and cryonics to the comic book series The Light and Darkness War, zombies, and the transformation of The Velveteen Rabbit, the genre's diverse ideas concerning death and an afterlife were thoroughly examined.

Just before we wrapped up for the afternoon and headed out for dinner at a nearby restaurant, François stepped up again to screen the results of the stop-motion workshop that he ran at our August “Crafting and Collecting” meeting. This demo reel included a few seconds each of the stop-motion animation exercises carried out by MonSFFA members under his guidance. We witnessed, for example, a dancing tabletop camera tripod, a charging toy dinosaur, and a lively Teddy Bear! François will also be giving a talk on and showing examples of his own “Adventures in Stop-Motion” at our upcoming November meeting.

The usual thanks to all involved with the planning and running of this meeting.

Busy Agenda for Halloween Meeting

The programming schedule for MonSFFA's “Halloween” meeting this weekend (Sunday, October 27) is quite busy, with no less than four presentations/discussions planned (two before and two after the mid-meeting break), plus a 90-minute BoA conclave just prior to the start of the meeting. We'll strive to keep things on track, of course, but advise that the meeting may run a tad longer than usual.

Club's Cash Flow

Records, precursors to your old CDs, were large vinyl discs into which grooves had been etched to electronically reproduce sound via a “stylus” that tracked along said grooves as the disc rotated on a “turntable” at a set speed. At the risk of sounding like a broken one, we again remind club members of the importance of paying their annual membership fees on time.

The club depends on a regular, steady influx of cash, month to month, in order to cover operating expenses. When folk delay payment of their annual fees, cash flow is disrupted and MonSFFA sometimes faces difficulty making ends meet.

The month in which your one-year membership expires—in other words, the period during which your fees become due in order to maintain your membership—is marked on your membership card. Please remit your cash or cheque accordingly. Make it a yearly habit, folks!

The Executive thank you for your attention on this matter.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of “Impulse”: MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de “Impulse”: AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTREALAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

November-December / Novembre-Décembre 2013 (Vol. 17, No./N° 10)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, November 17

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: We will remember them; MonSFFA commemorates our nation's fallen service men and women. Club members are asked, simply, to hang on to one of their poppies a week longer and wear it to the meeting.

PROGRAMME

1:00PM

STEAM POWERED GIRAFFE: We explore the phenomenon and fandom surrounding the odd steampunk-inspired musical group Steam Powered Giraffe, including art, fan fiction, merchandise, a role-playing game, and other branches of the project.

2:00PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Raffle; further discussion of meeting topics for 2014.

2:45PM

MY ADVENTURES IN STOP-MOTION: Following on his workshop given at our August "fancraft" meeting, François Menard shares with MonSFFen his own adventures experimenting at home with stop-motion animation.

MonSFFA'S 2013

CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY

Saturday, December 7, 6:00PM

IRISH EMBASSY PUB AND GRILL

1234 rue Bishop

(See lead item, center column, for full details, official invitation)

CLUB'S 2013 CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY

We happily return to the downtown Irish Embassy Pub and Grill this year to celebrate the Christmas season over dinner and drinks.

Main menu choices include Prime Rib au Jus, Chicken and Waffles, Maple-Glazed Salmon, and Vegetarian Curry. Appetizers: either the House Salad or Soup of the Day. Dessert choices offered: Homemade Apple Cake or a Double Chocolate Brownie. A variety of beers and spirits are available.

The cost of the meal has been set at \$22, plus taxes and a 17-percent gratuity—that comes to roughly \$30. Drinks are extra. Please note that the Irish Embassy *does not* accept debit cards; payment by cash or credit card only.

Here is the official invitation to our 2013 Christmas Dinner/Party:

MonSFFA's members, their families, and the club's many friends, are invited to join us in celebration of the festive season

Saturday, December 7

6:00PM, downtown

IRISH EMBASSY PUB AND GRILL

1234 rue Bishop

Guy Metro; two streets east of Guy, near corner Sainte-Catherine; telephone: 514-875-8777;

Web site: www.irish-embassy.com

Dinner and Drinks • MonSFFA Christmas Raffle! • "Rewards Raffle" for volunteer members!

Reservations have been made under club president Berny Reischl's name. We have booked a private room. Please understand that seating capacity is limited and it is therefore important to confirm your attendance with Berny via e-mail *before* November 15. Unfortunately,

DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR BELOW? CHECK THIS SPACE TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

The Annual Membership Fees of the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

BOIES, Marquise
CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
DUROCHER, Dominique
HICKEY, Mark
IMBEAULT, Christian
MACLAREN, Heather
PEATMAN, Sean
PELLEY, Lynda
PETTIT, William S.
PICARD, Shawn

Due This Month, November:

JANSSEN, Steven

Due Next Month, December:

REISCHL, Bernard

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

Thank you for your patronage

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/N° et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

Province

Postal Code/Code Postal

E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

we cannot guarantee seating with the group to any late-comers.

Finally, in the spirit of the holiday, we are asking club members to think of those in need within our community and give to a local food bank or Christmas toy drive.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Club's "Halloween" Meeting

MonSFFA's October 27 "Halloween" meeting boasted a busy schedule. As anticipated, we ran a bit long, but not outrageously so. We did manage to get in everything that was on the agenda!

First up was Sylvain St-Pierre with a most interesting, humorous, and at times disturbing presentation on geeks and the lengths to which some will go to express their devotion to a particular interest. Collectors of Star Trek and Star Wars memorabilia, for example, were highlighted, the collections of some occupying several rooms and even entire homes! These geeks have spent tens of thousands of dollars on their passions! More than a few of them, however, had also, sadly, paid a terrible personal cost in destroyed relationships and marriages as a result of their infatuations. Through a selection of photos, and Web and TV news reports, such levels of geek obsession were explored.

Using pie charts and cartoon figures, Sylvain amusingly offered an analysis of what characteristics constitute a geek. He classified the various subgroups of the genus, as well—sports geeks, technology geeks, model train geeks, food geeks—but zeroed in, for our purposes, on sci-fi geeks. Most are generally well-adjusted folk who simply enjoy a particular thing with a tad more gusto than most—all just harmless fun.

But there are those who take things too far. Tattoos and body modification are other forms of expressing geek fervour and in extreme cases, border on mental disorder, if they do not outright elect one mayor of Insanity Junction.

Montreal's own Rick "Zombie Boy" Genest, most of his face and body tattooed so that he looks like a living skeleton or decaying corpse, is one such extreme.

Sylvain also offered the example of a young man from the Philippines who is fixated on Superman. The fellow not only dresses in the familiar costume and cape, but has undergone numerous plastic surgery procedures designed to make him physically resemble the comic book superhero!

Perhaps the most extreme example of this kind of "fanatical geekness" Sylvain showed the group involved an Asian couple who have had their faces and bodies surgically altered to transform themselves

into the living embodiments of Barbie and Ken!

Next up was young Isis Redmond, assisted by Lindsay Brown, offering a primer on Mattel's Monster High toy fashion dolls. The Monster High franchise also includes books, TV specials, a Web series, software, and a direct-to-DVD movie.

Isis had brought in her collection of Monster High dolls and with Lindsay, gave a brief bio of each. Picking up on the idea put across in the Monster High book series, Isis and Lindsay asked what might occur were the classic monsters of film—Frankenstein, Dracula, Wolfman, The Mummy, etc.—to produce offspring, suggesting that these Monster High characters might be the result, a "next generation" of monsters.

The group was introduced to Frankie Stein, Draculaura, Clawdeen Wolf, Cleo de Nile, Lagoona Blue, Spectra VonDergeist, Abbey Bominable, and others. Isis was sure to showcase their various pets, including Clawdeen's cat, Crescent, Draculaura's bat, Count Fabulous, and Cleo's venomous snake, Hissette.

Following the mid-meeting break, Keith Braithwaite offered his reviews of the sci-fi and horror movies named or referenced in the Rocky Horror Picture Show theme song, Science Fiction/Double Feature.

He began by playing the song, with lyrics flashing onscreen in accompaniment. He then showed trailers and excerpts from the movies, providing interesting tidbits of trivia about and opining on each.

Keith closed by playing a live, up-tempo cover of Science Fiction/Double Feature by the Misfits, to which he had attached a montage of clips from the films, rock video-style.

The afternoon closed with a group conversation on Halloween (and other) pranks, with folk relating tales of some of the best gags they'd pulled off or witnessed. Some reminisced on neighbourhood haunted houses set up for trick-or-treaters while others detailed specific tricks, like a fake séance in which a small model rocket engine was sealed inside a candle, sparking and smoking on cue to convincingly signal the presence of "spirits" from the other side. Practical jokes included lightly coating a victim's toothbrush with hot sauce!

Our "Halloween" gathering was immediately preceded by a Board of Advisors (BoA) confab to select meeting dates for 2014 and to start sketching out programming ideas.

The usual thanks to all involved with the planning and running of this get-together.

MonSFFA YouTube Channel

MonSFFA has launched its own YouTube channel! Content at the moment includes a few of our early- to mid-2000s fan films, like Beavra and MooseMan. We plan to add further content in the coming months, including blooper reels and such from these fan film projects.

We've discovered that simply typing "MonSFFA" into YouTube's search pane for some reason yields results related to "MonSTA" which, ironically, have nothing to do with the original acronym for this club, when it was called the Montreal Star Trek Association! You'll be asked if you meant "MonSTA"; click that no, you did, indeed, mean "MonSFFA" and our videos should then pop up.

Club members are urged to take a look and comment. Also, please report to us any glitches or difficulties encountered with playback so that we may address any problems.

The MonSFFA YouTube Channel is at:

http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_NPtvldCh_F1_AigWMSgg

Proposed MonSFFA Meeting Dates for Next Year

The club has proposed the following dates for its meetings in 2014 (all are Sundays): January 19, February 16, March 23, April 13, May 25, August 17, September 28, October 26, and November 16.

These dates have been submitted to the hotel; we await confirmation. Stay tuned!

In addition, we have an outing of some kind planned for Sunday, June 8, and have scheduled our annual summer barbecue for Sunday, July 20. Our 2014 Christmas Dinner/Party will take place on Saturday evening, December 6.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6