

MonSFFA • A MonSFF IMPULSE

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

LE BULLETIN
D'INFORMATION
DE L'ASSOCIATION
MONTRÉLAISE DE
SCIENCE-FICTION ET
DE FANTASTIQUE

February / Février 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 1)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, February 21

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING 1:00PM

RADIO FEN FROM THE MOON (PART 1):

As an in-meeting group project, we'll produce an old-fashioned sci-fi radio play. This afternoon, step one: penning a script. We'll pool ideas and together bang out a draft. Bring along your best stuff, including any short stories or interesting scenes you may already have written that might be adapted for our purposes. Keep things at no more than 5 minutes running time as we'll likely incorporate a few tales, anthology-like.

3:30PM

BRAINSTORMING SESSION, OUTSIDE-

OF-MEETING FUNDRAISERS: We'll take an hour to consider means of raising funds for the club outside of our meetings. Fresh and innovative ideas required; thinking caps on!

Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting:

MARCH 28

We conclude our radio play project by performing and recording the piece we've written

2009 MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party

The club held its traditional festive soirée in celebration of Christmas on Saturday evening, December 5. Close to 30 folk chatted affably while enjoying a meal and the salad buffet at the downtown Scores restaurant on Ste-Catherine street. After dinner, some of the party-goers repaired to the "Not So Privateer" club, our usual seasonal watering hole, the Park Place Bar, spruced up some and operating under a new name. There, the smaller group bellied up to the bar, or the backroom pool table for several hours of stick, and continued their conversations as the night unfolded. Despite the quantities of beer and liquor consumed, some rather good ideas came out of the evening with regard to club operations, promotions, fund-raising, and such. Heck, maybe we should hold our BoA meetings in a bar!

In addition to the traditional Christmas party raffle, we held our first "Rewards Raffle" draw (see next item), through which we offered exclusively those club members who ran programming or volunteered their time to the club during the past year a humble thank-you for their efforts.

Also, as is our custom at Christmastime, we collected toys and non-perishable food items at the party for donation to Sun Youth's Christmas Basket Drive. The contributions of MonSFFA put food on the Christmas table and toys under the tree for some of the less fortunate in our community. Well done, people.

Our thanks to club co-VP Keith Braithwaite, who saw to the delivery of the collected items to Sun Youth. Keith also booked the bar for us and provided several hours of mixed music for the occasion. Thanks are due, as well, MonSFFA president Berny Reischl, who saw to our reservations at Scores. And finally, thanks, of course, to Deb and her staff at the "Not So Privateer", who again warmly hosted our group, as they have for many years, now.

We trust all of our members and friends enjoyed a very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Rewards Raffle Draw at Christmas Party

During our Christmas party (see previous item), we held MonSFFA's first "Rewards Raffle", the culmination of a year-long program designed to reward those MonSFFA who

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FEES ARE DUE.**

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

BOOM, Hendrik
DUROCHER, Marc
JAMES, David
KENNEY, Daniel P.
McCULLOUGH, Brian
McCULLOUGH, Megan
McCULLOUGH, Philip
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain
WADSWORTH, Beulah

**Annual membership
fees are due this month,
February, from the
following club members:**

**KRIMP, Nick
LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, March, from the following club members :

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

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provided content at our meetings, pitched in on special projects, or otherwise volunteered time to the club in 2009. This program, conceived of and overseen by co-VP Lindsay Brown, awarded club members "participation coupons" for each applicable volunteer action performed in 2009. It is these coupons that served as Rewards Raffle tickets in this exclusive draw.

Having collected coupons throughout the year, club members brought these to the Christmas party, inscribed their names on them, and tossed them into a hat. Not every one of our coupon-holders, of course, was going to walk away with a prize. But all of them had a chance at winning one of the prizes and the club takes this opportunity to thank for their efforts each and every MonSFFAn who ran programming in 2009 or otherwise volunteered. This club runs on the involvement of its members and your having taken part is greatly appreciated.

Our first Rewards Raffle saw four winners and each received a nice gift as a modest token of thanks.

We have decided to run this same rewards-for-participation program again in 2010 and we encourage club members to volunteer to give a presentation or sit on a panel at a MonSFFA meeting, volunteer time at the club table during a convention, or help out with one of the club's special projects. The more you participate, the more coupons you'll receive and the better become your chances of winning one of the Rewards Raffle prizes come our 2010 Christmas party. But more importantly, you will have the satisfaction of having contributed to your club, and you will find that there's a lot of fun to be had in so doing. The more each of us puts into MonSFFA, the more we'll all receive in return!

2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

The club's January 17 BoA meeting saw this year's schedule of principal activities drafted, leaving but a few details yet to be filled in. As always, programming is subject to change. Note that we will probably move our June 13 meeting to avoid conflicting with the returning Montreal Grand Prix. MonSFFA's 2010 Events Calendar is as follows:

January 17

1. MonSFFA Executive Elections
2. It was a Dark and Stormy Night: An introduction to the annual Bulwer-Lytton writing competition in celebration of really bad prose, and an accompanying workshop.
3. Board of Advisor's Meeting

February 21

1. Radio Fen from the Moon (Part 1): An in-meeting group project, this first part of which is the collective writing of an old-fashioned SF/F-themed radio play. MonSFFans are asked to bring in their best ideas, including any short stories they may have written or rough drafts they may wish to pen in advance of the meeting. Said drafts should not exceed an approximately 5-minute running time.
2. Brainstorming Session, Outside-of-Meeting Fundraisers: We'll take an hour to consider means of raising funds for the club outside of our meetings and by some fresh and innovative method.

March 28

1. Radio Fen from the Moon (Part 2): The second part of our sci-fi radio play project is the performance and recording of the script that came out of the February meeting. Parts will be cast and actors will rehearse and perform the piece, which will be recorded and later augmented with the addition of sound effects and music. A CD of the final radio play will be produced.

April 18

1. Science Fiction and Fantasy Blogs: A look at some of the more interesting examples currently online.
2. Open Discussion: We experiment with the idea of open, free-form debate; members may bring up and expound upon any SF/F-related matter in a 30-minute unstructured discussion that we expect will meander over many topics.
3. *Timeline* Production Meeting: We take a half-hour to prepare for next month's video shoot.
4. Sci-Fi Social Networking: Enjoying the Genre and communicating with fellow SF/F fans using Facebook, Twitter, and other online tools.

May 16

1. *Timeline* Video Shoot: We resurrect the abandoned *Timeline* fan film project; actors will be shot against green-screen, at a later date to be composited with backdrops in post production. We hope to complete all principal photography during this May 16 session.

June 13

1. Paper or Plastic?: We look at trends in traditional plastic scale model-making and demonstrate techniques in both plastic and paper modelling. Members are encouraged to bring in models they are currently working on to benefit from tips to be offered by the club's master modellers.
2. Sci-Fi Fair: A fund-raiser with an emphasis

on *fun* in which members try their hand at a variety of challenging SF/F-themed carnival midway-like games; premium prizes will be awarded the highest point-getters. A bake sale is planned in conjunction with the fair. Bring a friend!

July 25

MonSFFA Barbecue: Our annual gathering at Parc Angrignon for a pleasant afternoon in the sun. Should weather threaten, the event will be bumped to the following Sunday, August 1.

August 15

1. Fancraft Workshops: In a series of workshops running concurrently throughout the afternoon, members try their hand at a variety of SF/F-themed crafts, such as the creation of exotic sci-fi "jewelry" from nuts, bolts, and other hardware-store items.

September 19

1. Introduction to Computer Gaming: A 1-hour primer on popular computer gaming.
2. Guest Speaker Olivier Xavier: Local special effects artist Olivier Xavier speaks on his professional career, the modern visual effects industry, and the clever FX techniques employed by low-budget independent filmmakers. (Tentative; confirmation pending.)

October 17

1. Future's History: We explore the evolution of the Captain Future character over a variety of media.
2. Weird Sci-Fi Technologies: A review of some of the more bizarre technologies to be found in the annals of science fiction.
3. Science Fiction Themes and Visuals in Commercial Advertising: A look at advertising's use of SF to sell products and services.

November 21

1. Signs and Symbols, Legends and Mythologies: An examination of these, their origins and connections.
2. *Star Trek* Remastered: An appreciation of the remastered versions of the original *Star Trek* episodes, in which the visual effects have been updated.
3. Fan Film Theatre: Screenings of some of the most interesting and recent examples of SF/F fan films available on the Web.

December 4

Christmas Dinner and Party

We are just plain out of space, here, so we'll have to postpone until next issue coverage of January's meeting, the ascension of "Emperor Reischl I", and notes on our new suggestion box and planned MonSFFA calendar.

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March / Mars 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 2)

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Sunday, March 28

11:00AM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:00AM

BRAINSTORMING SESSION, OUTSIDE-

OF-MEETING FUNDRAISERS: We'll take an hour to consider means of raising funds for the club outside of our meetings. Fresh and innovative ideas required; thinking caps on!

1:00PM

RADIO FEN FROM THE MOON (PART 2):

We continue with our in-meeting group project, the production of an old-fashioned sci-fi radio play. This afternoon, step two: the performance and recording of the play. With the script that came out of our February meeting in hand, we'll cast roles and the actors will rehearse and perform the piece, which will be recorded and later augmented with the addition of sound effects and music. A CD of the final radio play will be produced.

Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting:

APRIL 18

Sci-Fi Blogs, Social Networking
for SF/F Fans, and *more*

January Meeting Sees MonSFFA's First Emperor Crowned

MonSFFA has it's first "emperor"! Berny Reischl, the club's long-time president, had announced last year that he would not run for the leadership post come 2010. But he appears to have had a change of heart, perhaps triggered by the "heart attack" he suffered as he made his farewell remarks at the top of MonSFFA's January meeting in advance of the election of a new Executive Committee. Collapsing to the floor, he was fortunate to benefit from the presence of a quick-thinking, short-skirted nurse who happened to be nearby and managed to revive our chief with a sagacious jolt to the nads. In light of his miraculous revival, he was ceremonially dubbed "Reischl the First, MonSFFA's Emperor for Life" by a knight of the First Fannish Order, conveniently on hand and decked out for enthronement duties.

For so many years, MonSFFA having jokingly spoken of elevating Berny to a lifetime position as club boss, given that he has already served in that capacity for eight years, twice the time of any of his predecessors. Be careful what you wish for, the new emperor stated with an impish grin, reminding his fellow MonSFFA of the old adage.

And so does Emperor Reischl I take the reins of the club, joined by VPs Keith Braithwaite and Lindsay Brown, and long-serving Treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre, all enthusiastically returned to office for another year by the membership. Stating, tongue firmly in cheek, that he'll be around forever, or until someone else steps up to take the job, which ever comes first, Berny was applauded for his many years of service to MonSFFA, and for his decision to stay on as president at a moment in the club's history when viable candidates were, uncharacteristically, absent the scene.

Long live the Emperor!

MonSFFA will note that *Warp 73* celebrates Emperor Resichl's ascent to the throne with a special, not-at-all-gaudily-designed dedicatory cover.

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KRIMP, Nick
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WADSWORTH, Beulah

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SIMARD, Phil
WALLING, René

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LOMBART, Marc
NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando
SYSAVANE, Khoba

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Meeting Format

MonSFFA is experimenting a little with meeting formats in 2010. The club has several one-topic meetings planned this year, as well as a few programmed with more than the two presentations/panels to which members are accustomed. The thinking is this:

On the one hand, we want to allow all the time necessary to fully explore a particularly hot topic or carry out an interesting group project. Devoting an entire meeting to a given undertaking allows us as much time as is needed to finish, rather than having to cut it short and leave things incomplete because we've got another programming item scheduled that afternoon.

On the other mitt, we hope to keep most presentations/panels to an hour or less apiece, which will allow three and perhaps four program items per meeting, some 30-50 percent more than that which has been our standard for many years. MonSFFen will benefit from more content and variety, and, we hope as a result, meeting attendance will get a boost. The more we offer, the more members will be motivated to attend our monthly gatherings. And the added bonus, here, is of discouraging talks running too long or meandering too far from the topic and sometimes losing the attention of the audience. Remember the old show business axiom: always leave 'em wanting more.

The Executive will observe response to these new formats and determine if they are more to the liking of our membership. If so, we'll adopt them as much as possible in future.

Suggestion Box

Among the proposals put forth at the club's January 17 BoA meeting was the introduction of a suggestion box as a handy depot for the ideas and comments of MonSFFA's membership. As member input can sometimes become lost, regrettably, amid the hubbub of the often time-limited general discussion at club meetings, we expect that having folk put their thoughts in writing—anonymously, if they prefer—will insure that everyone's remarks reach the Executive and are addressed. The suggestion box will be in place at each meeting in order that MonSFFen may deposit opinion on recent meeting programming; proposals for

changes to, or additional programming, as well as ideas for special projects, events, fund-raisers and such; or comment on any aspect of the club's operations.

Calendar Will Promote Club

As a means of promoting the club, we want to put together a calendar showcasing the finest examples of our members' creative talents. This idea was originally put forth by long-time MonSFFan Josée Bellemare. We have in mind a 2011 calendar, to be made available for sale later this year, thus serving, too, as a fund-raising vehicle. Artwork, costumes and props, and scale models produced by our members will be scanned or photographed during a session scheduled as part of our planned fancraft workshops in August.

Should this calendar project prove successful, we envision carrying it forward in subsequent years.

February MonSFFA Meeting

Having opted to postpone the originally scheduled one-hour brainstorming session on outside-of-meeting fund-raising ideas, the February 21 club meeting was thus entirely devoted to the scripting of an old-fashioned radio play. About 20 folk were present.

First, Keith Braithwaite laid out two possible approaches. One: collectively, the group could consider sci-fi story ideas suggested by individuals, then having selected a favourite, bash out an outline and by afternoon's end, produce a finished script. Or two: select a number of suggestions then break into small working groups to come up with a series of short snippets—a scene or two, just a brief part of a larger piece, or perhaps an advertisement for some imaginary product. The concept, here, was of someone flipping through channels, sampling what's on the air as they search for something to listen to.

The room opted for the second approach as this allowed for the suggestions of not just one but several participants to be employed.

The next step was to generate ideas and pitch these to the room. Folk were supplied with pen and paper and given about 45 minutes to scribble down in brief as many

ideas as they could muster. Some 25-odd were handed in to Keith at the conclusion of the allotted time period. He went through the submissions, reading aloud the titles and calling upon the persons who'd come up with each to pitch their skit to the room. There were UFO pieces, superhero scenarios, talk shows, dramatic scenes, parodies, and more. The group narrowed their favourites down to about 15 but were unable to decide on which four or five would make the final cut. It was ultimately decided to offer it all to chance; the ideas to be scripted were selected by random draw.

These were: Danny Sichel's untitled phone-in advice show for B-list superheroes with essentially useless super powers; "Interludes", Sean Peatman's series of unrelated newscasts and advertising fragments edited together for comedic effect; "Guess What's Coming to Dinner", the opening acts of a Roswell story by Marc Durocher; "MooseMan Revisited", Christopher Hammock's interview program on which is lambasted a proposed American remake of the very Canadian *MooseMan* movie; and Keith Braithwaite's "A Planet to Plunder", in which an evil alien overlord robs Earth of all of its shaving devices in order to set up one groaner of a pun.

Following the mid-meeting break, MonSFFen got back to work on their radio play. The author of each of the selected pieces was joined by a few fellow club members to form a writing group. Under the encouragement of club VP Lindsay Brown, these groups spent the rest of the afternoon penning their segments. There remained some writing to be completed as the meeting neared an end. This was to be done within a week and the final drafts e-mailed to club president Berny Reischl, who would print out several copies of each for the March meeting, at which time the radio play is to be cast, performed, and recorded.

The meeting wrapped up with a brief primer and planner regarding the recording of our radio play.

MonSFFA thanks everyone who took part in this, our February club meeting. There was considerable enthusiasm expressed for future such old-fashioned radio projects and we think it's fair to say that the group quite enjoyed the creative challenge.

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April / Avril 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 3)

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1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
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SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

BLOGS: A look at some of the more interesting examples currently online.

2:00PM

OPEN DISCUSSION: Before the mid-meeting break, we experiment with the idea of open, free-form debate; members may bring up and expound upon any SF/F-related matter in a 30-minute unstructured discussion that we expect will meander over many topics.

3:00PM

RADIO FEN FROM THE MOON,

RECORDING SESSION: We take a half-hour to further unfinished work on our old-fashioned radio play project.

3:30PM

SCI-FI SOCIAL NETWORKING:

Enjoying the Genre and communicating with fellow SF/F fans using Facebook, Twitter, and other online tools.

Next Meeting: May 16

- Scale Modelling
- Sci-Fi Fair/Bake Sale (Fund-Raiser)

June Meeting Cancelled; Scheduled Programming Shifted

We have decided to scrub the June 13 meeting to avoid conflicting with the returning Montreal Grand Prix auto race that weekend. This cancellation will have the added benefit of saving the club some money, which won't hurt in that cash flow is rather tight at the moment.

In place of the meeting, we are planning some kind of outside-of-meeting activity yet to be determined, perhaps a group movie outing or bowling junket. Stay tuned for more information.

The June meeting was to have featured a look at scale model-making, exploring the hobby by means of a workshop on building traditional plastic kits as well as the construction of paper models. Our Sci-Fi Fair fund-raiser was also slated for this meeting, along with an accompanying bake sale. As we do not wish to scrap these events, we have opted to shift them ahead one month.

Thus, our May 16 meeting will now feature the model-building workshop and our Sci-Fi Fair/bake sale fund-raiser. Details of the fair and bake sale will be worked out at our upcoming April 18 meeting then posted on the MonSFFA Web site and published in the May issue of this news bulletin.

But by moving our June programming ahead a month, we must necessarily bump the originally scheduled May 16 *Timeline* video shoot to another date, yet to be determined.

So, to recap, the June 13 meeting is cancelled. June's originally scheduled programming—the workshop on scale model-building and our Sci-Fi Fair/bake sale fund-raiser—move to our May 16 meeting. The *Timeline* video shoot originally scheduled for the May meeting is bumped to another date yet to be determined.

Here's what the revised schedule looks like; please update your calendars accordingly:

May 16 MonSFFA Meeting

1. Paper or Plastic?: We look at trends in traditional plastic scale model-making and demonstrate

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RINZ, Joshua
SICHEL, Danny
WHITELAW, Maureen

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2. Sci-Fi Fair: A fund-raiser with an emphasis on *fun* in which members try their hand at a variety of challenging SF/F-themed carnival midway-like games; premium prizes will be awarded the highest point-getters. A bake sale is planned in conjunction with the fair. Bring a friend!

June 13

Group Outing: To be determined; watch this space.

Outside-of-Meeting Fund-Raising Suggestions

Among the ideas offered at a brainstorming session held during the March club meeting were several interesting proposals.

A casino night of some kind was floated, perhaps in association with ConCept's planned fund-raising efforts. Or, a MonSFFA-staffed carnival midway, similar to the club's Sci-Fi Fair might be set up in the dealers' room at ConCept in October. MonSFFA would pocket the proceeds, minus a cut for ConCept.

A summer garage sale was suggested, to be held either at a willing MonSFFAn's residence or as part of a church or community-sponsored rummage sale. We would feature not only genre items but all manner of second-hand stuff. Items would be catalogued and priced in advance. A staff of club members would see to the transportation of the stock to the designated location and run the sale throughout the day. All monies raised would go to the club, minus, perhaps, a modest percentage paid to those who donated stock of a certain value.

A themed dance, TransWarp-like mini-con, SF/F play or improv event, bake sale, craft sale, service auction, "slave" auction, and car wash were also proffered via the club's suggestion box.

The production for sale of a children's sci-fi colouring book and of SF/F-themed greeting cards were also among the notions put forth.

The pros and cons of all of these will have to be weighed and logistics considered,

of course, but we see potential, here. We will certainly discuss these ideas further with the goal of arriving at a workable plan of action as soon as possible.

March MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA devoted much of its March 28 meeting to the production of the old-fashioned radio play the group had written the previous month. Six loosely connected segments had been scripted and a makeshift recording studio was set up to capture the performance of these. But meeting attendance was a little lighter than had been expected and we found ourselves short of actors, particularly for the female roles. Thus were some of the actors on hand obliged to voice two or three characters.

Berny Reischl handled the tasks of recording engineer and after a few tests of his software and microphone, production began. Each segment was directed by the writer of that segment, who provided the actors with guidance as to the delivery of their lines. The actors had fun developing voices to suit their characters. After a brief rehearsal, each cast member committed his or her lines to "tape." The process went quite smoothly, often with but a few takes necessary. A bit of on-the-fly rewriting got around any minor script errors discovered as recording proceeded.

By afternoon's close, about half the project remained, regrettably, incomplete. We plan to finish the job over the next few MonSFFA meetings. The simplicity of the recording rig, fortunately, allows for a quick set-up and short sessions. And, we hope to have a few more actors present in the weeks to come to fill some of those uncast roles.

The editor will later, in post-production, assemble all of these snippets of dialogue in accordance with the script, then add sound effects and music.

The meeting also included a brief brainstorming session on outside-of-meeting fund-raising ideas (see previous item).

MonSFFA thanks our recording engineer, actors, and everyone else who took part in our March club meeting.

January MonSFFA Meeting

We're somewhat behind on reviewing the club's first meeting of the year, which

took place on January 17th. The meeting opened with MonSFFA's traditional election of a new Executive for the coming year, but this time with rather a twist. Tongue in cheek, MonSFFA crowned its first emperor, as covered in detail last issue. And then it was on to the afternoon's programme.

Joe Aspler led off, offering a brief primer on the famous Bulwer-Lytton writing contest, named for Victorian author Edward George Bulwer-Lytton and sponsored annually by the English Department of California's San José State University. Bulwer-Lytton, a contemporary of Charles Dickens, is remembered for his singularly appalling prose, including the definitive run-on sentence that opened one of his novels and began "It was a dark and stormy night".

The idea of the contest is to pen the opening sentence of a really badly written novel. Florid language is encouraged in an effort to come up with a prime example of the exceedingly awful. Joe read aloud a few award-winning entries from years past, including a couple of his own, before challenging the group to compose their own potential submissions to the 2010 competition. After about an hour of scribbling, a good number of the MonSFFen present had honed their wretched writing to perfection and club fanzine editor Cathy Palmer-Lister collected the results for publication in *Warp* 73.

Following the mid-meeting break, MonSFFA's freshly minted 2010 Executive—Berny Reischl, president/Emperor; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer—convened a Board of Advisors (BoA) session to finish working out the details of meeting programming for the coming year. All present participated, offering suggestions and volunteering to host panels or help with projects. By day's end, the club had finalized the coming year's worth of meeting programming and other activities. (Note: as always, meeting programming and other planned activities are subject to change.)

We thank Joe Aspler for his presentation on the Bulwer-Lytton contest, as well as those MonSFFen who participated in our BoA. A nod is given, also, to those folk who stocked our snack table, and to those who helped with meeting set-up and clean-up.

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DE FANTASTIQUE

May / Mai 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 4)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS COMING SOON

Sunday, May 16

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

PAPER OR PLASTIC? By way of a workshop, we look at recent trends in traditional plastic scale model-making and showcase techniques in both plastic and increasingly popular paper modelling. Members are encouraged to bring in models on which they are currently working to benefit from tips to be offered by the club's master modellers.

2:30PM

GARAGE SALE PLANNING MEETING:

We take a moment to finalize plans for our new fund-raising effort, a neighbourhood garage sale (see item "Garage Sale Fund-Raiser", right).

2:45PM

SCI-FI FAIR: An in-meeting fund-raiser with an emphasis on *fun*! Try your luck at challenging SF/F-themed carnival midway-like games! Premium prizes awarded highest point-getters! A bake sale will run in conjunction with the fair. Bring a friend! Bring some coin!

**NEXT MONTH:
Garage Sale Fund-Raiser
(Details to be announced)**

Discount for MonSFFen at Fringe Festival Play

MonSFFA members will enjoy a discount on admission to *Shades of Grey*, a stage play to be presented as part of the upcoming Montreal Fringe Festival. The Festival runs from June 1 through 20 in the Plateau. *Shades of Grey* is scheduled for six shows during this time, the first on Saturday, June 12.

Inspired by *The Twilight Zone*, Rod Serling's acclaimed SF/F anthology, the production is mounted entirely in black and white! Sets, costumes, props and make-up have all been designed to capture the stark palette of the classic Serling television series.

Club members carrying a valid MonSFFA membership card will save \$2 off the \$12 ticket price. *Shades of Grey* will unfold at the Festival's Venue 7 (Portuguese Association) on St-Urbain Street, corner Rachel. Show dates/times are:

Saturday, June 12, 11:45PM

Sunday, June 13, 10:00PM

Tuesday, June 15, 11:00PM

Wednesday, June 16, 7:45PM

Friday, June 18, Midnight

Sunday, June 20, 5:45PM

Members may enjoy an additional two-for-one special on tickets for the June 15 show.

ConCept's new chair, Liz Cano, is one of the people behind *Shades of Grey* and arranged for the discount for our folk. Thanks, Liz!

For more information on the Festival, surf to the event's Web site: www.montrealfringe.ca

And look for MonSFFA's ad in the *Shades of Grey* programme book!

Garage Sale Fund-Raiser

One of the many suggestions recently offered by MonSFFen regarding outside-of-meeting fund-raisers was that of holding a garage sale at a willing club member's residence. The idea was to feature not only sci-fi items but all manner of second-hand stuff. It was put forth that a friendly neighbourhood garage sale would, one, draw upon a fresh and larger pool of buyers, and two, probably generate more

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BELOW? WATCH THIS SPACE
TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP
FEES ARE DUE.**

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

DODDS, Georges
KRIMP, Nick
LOMBART, Marc
SYSAVANE, Khoba
WALLING, René

**Annual membership
fees are due this month,
May, from the following
club members:**

**BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
RINZ, Joshua
SICHEL, Danny
WHITELAW, Maureen**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, June, from the following club members:

BELLEMARE, Josée
DION, Mireille
METHE, Ann
NORMAND, Jean-Pierre
SILVERMAN, Barbara

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. The annual fee for a standard membership is \$25. Fill out the application form, below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to MonSFFA), and mail to:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
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Thank you for renewing your membership.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

No. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP. _____

CITY/VILLE _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL _____

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HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail / Courriel: _____

Interests / Intérêts: _____

revenue than the annual Sci-Fi Garage Sales we've been holding, which, after several years of declining income, have pretty much run their course as effective fund-raising vehicles.

But there were a few things that would need to be in place for the neighbourhood garage sale idea to work.

First, we'd need access to someone's driveway in order to mount our sale. On-island, off-island, north, south, east or west—it didn't matter, so long as we were set up in a suburban neighbourhood. The need of special permits and other requirements would have to be investigated so that we might hold our sale in respect of local bylaws.

Second, we'd have to collect donated items from the membership in advance of the date of the sale and price everything. If each member were to supply a small box or two of stuff, we'd have ourselves a fair selection of merchandise to lay out. Aside from any Genre material that folk might donate, we'd gratefully accept gardening and workshop tools; kitchenware; small items of houseware like desktop lamps, ashtrays, or flower vases; children's games and toys; jewelry and decorative knick-knacks; and various mechanical or electronic gadgets of interest. Large items, like shelving units, bicycles, lawn furniture and such could also be included provided we could arrange to transport these to the sight of the sale.

Finally, we'd have to assemble a team of perhaps five or six people, at least half of them with their own means of transportation, to run the sale. From among the members of this team, we'd need to provide portable tables on which to display the merchandise, table cloths, and chairs in which to sit. The club would supply a cash box with some \$20 or \$30 worth of small change as a float.

In the wake of our having cancelled the club's June meeting (as reported last issue), the notion of trying to organize such a garage sale for that month was brought up at the April club meeting. The idea as outlined above was thrown out to the group and favourably received. Before long, we had someone volunteer her driveway! She has since looked at the local bylaws and reports that her municipality requires no permits nor places any date restrictions on garage sales. We have therefore decided to give this thing a try!

And so, we are asking MonSFFen to put

together a small box or two worth of saleable items for the cause and bring these in to our May 16 meeting. Your boxes should be about the size of a picnic cooler or microwave oven. Some slightly larger things, like a table lamp, toaster, dart board, or pre-schooler's tricycle, could be brought in along with your boxed material. As for very big pieces, like lawn furniture or those multi-coloured, sturdy plastic children's playhouses/jungle-gyms (almost guaranteed to sell!), let us know what you have and we'll see if we can arrange transportation. The big stuff usually brings in big coin at a garage sale, so we hope to have at least a few such items included.

Remember, your donations need not necessarily be Genre-related; *non-SF/F items are also wanted*. Please select pieces in fairly good condition. Items missing parts or otherwise inoperative tend not to sell for very much, if at all. Give your stuff a good soap-and-water wash, if needed, particularly children's toys like plastic vehicles or building blocks. Games and puzzles should, of course, be complete. These are unsellable if missing tokens, cards, and such. Stuffed animals and dolls are usually popular; make sure they are clean and without torn stitching or missing buttons. Any clothing should be in wearable condition and *must* be laundered. Magazines tend not to sell all that well, but books—paperback or hardcover—and comics in good shape frequently do. Finally, anything unique, unusual often draws buyers.

This is your opportunity to clear out some of the clutter in your garage or basement and at the same time, help finance your club's activities!

Upon receiving your generous donations at the May 16 meeting, we'll sort out the remaining details of our garage sale. The date we are considering for the sale is Saturday, June 12.

April MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's April 18 meeting programme was revised on the fly to accommodate a very special last-minute guest: Claude Gauthier, who worked on the just-released, locally produced film *The Wild Hunt*, about a group of live-action role-players who take their outdoor medieval fantasy game a little too far. *Lord of the Flies*—too far, in fact! Without giving anything away, an enthusiastic Claude spoke at

length about the film, offering that it was a fascinating exploration of the modern human psyche by way of the LARPing community. The story is both humorous and dramatic, peopled by characters that readily engage an audience.

He spoke, too, of the challenges of producing a film in Canada, notably that one must do so with rather less money that would be available for even a low-budget Hollywood production. Filmed at a sprawling LARPing site—Duché de Bicolline—outside of Shawinigan, *The Wild Hunt* was made for about \$400,000 and has garnered considerable praise and several film-festival honours. Claude credited the many talented people involved, in particular Alexandre Franchi, directing his first feature, and an outstanding cast, including lead Mark A. Krupa, who co-wrote the script with Franchi. Some of the cast members have since furthered their careers in Hollywood.

Claude himself did duty as a stunt coordinator and had a small role in the film, though his best scenes ended up on the cutting room floor for reasons of pacing. His principal job, however, was casting director.

Before making his exit, Claude invited MonSFFen to a special screening/wrap party for the film in off-island St-Eustache the following weekend. The short notice notwithstanding, some half-dozen MonSFFen made the trek.

Prior to Claude's arrival, Berny Reischl gave a quick presentation on SF/F blogs, showcasing some of his favourites and offering a cross-section of the countless number of Genre-related blogs currently online.

The meeting also found time to record a few more pages of script for the club's ongoing old-fashioned radio project, and introduce a period of open, free-form discussion that allowed folk to expound upon any Genre-related subject. The group spoke of numerous things but latched on to the topic of recent and rather frustrating network programming practices involving the launching of new series.

Cathy Palmer-Lister was to have given a treatise on fandom and online social networking, but graciously bowed out to allow time for our special guest.

We thank our guest, Claude Gauthier, for dropping in. Thanks, also, to everyone who put together and ran this one.

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June / Juin 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 5)

NEXT MonSFFA EVENTS ARE THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, June 12

GARAGE SALE FUND-RAISER

9:00AM-4:00PM

909 Nelan Street
Greenfield Park (South Shore)

See second item, right,
for information

Sunday, June 13

BOWLING!

All Club Members and
their Friends Welcome

11:45AM-4:00PM

AMC Forum Sports
Bar/Bowling Alley

AMC Pepsi Forum (old Forum),
Atwater Avenue, across street from
Alexis Nihon Plaza (Atwater Metro)

See lead item, right, for details

NEXT MONTH:

Annual Club Barbecue

Sunday, July 25

(Details to be announced)

MonSFFA Meeting Schedule Resumes:

AUGUST 15

Fancraft Workshops

Bowling in June

In lieu of a June MonSFFA meeting, the club has opted to go bowling (see "Events Column", left). On Sunday, June 13, we'll meet *promptly* at 11:45AM just outside the AMC movie theatre complex on the main floor of the AMC Pepsi Forum (the old Forum), Atwater Avenue, across the street from Alexis Nihon Plaza (Atwater Metro). We'll then proceed upstairs to the AMC Forum Sports Bar/Bowling Alley for an enjoyable afternoon of tenpins and casual conversation between frames. We have booked a couple lanes and expect to bowl a couple games, at least. Cost is \$7 per person per game; each individual is responsible for his or her own expenses.

A prize will be awarded whoever records the afternoon's highest score!

All club members and their friends are welcome, including any folk who might prefer to sit out the games and simply enjoy good company. Food and drink can be purchased from the restaurant.

Garage Sale Fund-Raiser

The club is going to try a novel suggestion, proposed via our suggestion box, for an outside-of-meeting fund-raiser, that of holding a neighbourhood garage sale (see "Events Column", left). MonSFFA Theresa Penalba has kindly offered her South-Shore suburban home—909 Nelan Street—as the locale for this sale.

A brief planning session was held off the top of MonSFFA's May 16 meeting to finalize our plans. Club members Keith Braithwaite, Cathy Palmer-Lister, and Alice Novo will join Theresa at her home on the morning of Saturday, June 12, to staff the effort. Our team will open for business at 9:00AM and operate for much of the day, wrapping up no later than 4:00PM. Yard and street-corner signs will be produced to advertise the event and the team will provide from among them a number of tables and chairs with which to set up on Theresa's driveway. The club will supply a cash box with a change float of some \$30.

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SYSAVANE, Khoba
WALLING, René
RINZ, Joshua
WHITELAW, Maureen

Annual membership fees are due this month, June, from the following club members:

BELLEMARE, Josée
METHE, Ann
NORMAND, Jean-Pierre
SILVERMAN, Barbara

Annual membership fees will become due next month, July, from the following club members :

BENNETT, Paul
PEATMAN, Sean
MONTESANO, Giulio
MORROW, Gordon

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4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
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Thank you for renewing your membership.

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NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP. _____

CITY/VILLE _____

PROVINCE _____

POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL _____

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Tel./Tél.: () () _____

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Interests / Intérêts: _____

MonSFFen, meanwhile, had been asked to bring in to the club's May meeting their donations of items for the sale and we were pleased to receive several table's full of merchandise, both SF/F-related and otherwise. We thank our many donors for their contributions to the cause.

It was agreed that all proceeds from this garage sale are to be directed to MonSFFA's general operating fund. Should this undertaking prove profitable, the club anticipates holding other such garage sales later in the summer. Any merchandise unsold this time out will be stored for later use in one of these or another fund-raising enterprise.

Note: should the forecast call for rain, the sale will be *cancelled*. We'd then look at rescheduling for another day.

May Club Meeting Includes Fund-Raiser

MonSFFA's May 16 meeting offered a scale-modelling workshop and included our Sci-Fi Fair/Bake Sale, a modest in-meeting fund-raiser.

Following a brief planning discussion regarding the neighbourhood garage sale MonSFFA plans to hold on June 12 (see previous item for details), Mark Burakoff and Dominique Durocher took a moment to outline the basics of their hobby before opening their kit boxes to demonstrate the how-to's of both plastic and paper modelling. Several small kits were made available to the novices in the group who wanted to try their hand while Mark and Dominique circulated, providing helpful tips on a variety of techniques to those MonSFFen who had brought in kits on which to work. This popular workshop will return as part of the fancraft event we're organizing for August.

The latter part of the afternoon was devoted to the club's Sci-Fi Fair, a fund-raiser with the emphasis on *fun*, featuring several SF/F-themed carnival midway-like games. MonSFFen enjoyed the challenge of taking out Jar Jar Binks from across the room with a Nerf sniper rifle. There was a line-up pretty much the whole time! A second game had folk racing against the clock to "beam" tribbles from the

Enterprise to a Klingon battlecruiser. The tribbles, here, were tiny arts-and-crafts puff-balls and the transporter a pair of chopsticks! Finally, using but a drinking straw to gently coax a miniature sailing vessel across a Lilliputian sea, players had to navigate around treacherous islands to bring their ship safely across the ocean without shipwrecking her against the rocks.

Participants earned points for playing the games, and bonus points for each success. The fun went on for a good hour and at the end that time, the players who had accumulated the most points got their pick of several premium prizes of DVDs, books, and decorative Genre figurines.

A bake sale also ran throughout the meeting, serving up a variety of tasty cookies, cupcakes, and other snacks.

Total income from fund-raising at our May meeting exceeded \$130, which will help buttress club finances. We hope to add still more cash to the pile with our neighbourhood garage sale this month.

The club thanks our programme participants this meeting, as well as all who helped to plan and run the event. Special nods to Keith Braithwaite, Berny Reischl, Mark Burakoff, Alice Novo, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Marquise Boies, and Julia Sinclair, who contributed time and effort to the meeting's fund-raising ventures.

Reminder No. 1: Your Finest Artwork, Costumes, Scale Models Wanted

We remind MonSFFen that we will be photographing examples of their finest fancraft at our August 15 meeting, devoted to fancraft. Club members will recall that we plan to produce a MonSFFA calendar next year highlighting the best creative work of our group.

In order to arrive at the best results, we plan to set up a proper photo area at the meeting and snap MonSFFen wearing their most striking SF/F costumes, for example, or several angles of a club member's precisely detailed spacecraft model. We'll also be looking for drawings and paintings of sci-fi subjects rendered by those artists in our group. 3D artwork such as wood carvings, sculptures, and

props are sought, as well. We hope to spotlight in our calendar a good variety of fancraft in different mediums.

Any members having clean, good quality photos or digital reproductions of their works may provide us with these at the August meeting. Note that as we are selecting photos to be featured in the calendar, we are looking for well composed shots, properly in focus and expertly lit, against a neutral backdrop. So, a dramatically illuminated close-up of your *Enterprise* model set against a black velvet curtain is preferred over a simple snapshot of the model on a display table in the art show. A picture of a MonSFFAn in costume standing in the middle of a busy convention corridor almost certainly won't cut it for our purposes, but a professional shot of that costumed club member, posed before a plain backdrop in the photography area post-masquerade probably would. You get the idea. We want the focus to be on your costume or model or sculpture, unobstructed by any distractions in the background.

Reminder No. 2: Your Childhood Photos Wanted

Be also reminded that we are collecting photos of MonSFFen in their adolescence for use in a game club co-VP Lindsay Brown has devised. Each club member is asked to either provide us with a digital copy of a photo of them as a young child, or the snapshot itself so that we may scan it. We'd like to have your childhood pictures in hand by the end of the August 15 MonSFFA meeting.

Reminder No 3: Please Renew Your Memberships on Time!

Finally, we remind all MonSFFen of the importance of renewing their club memberships on time in order that the club be able to maintain healthy cash flow and meet expenses.

The annual cost of a basic membership remains \$25. A family option is available at \$40 annually. Either of these can be bumped up to our premium "Platinum" level for \$35 and \$50, respectively.

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Summer / Été 2010 (Vol. 14, No./N° 6)

MonSFFA'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

CLUB BARBECUE Sunday, July 25



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

MonSFFen, their families, friends invited! Bring your own picnic blankets, games, food and drink; club will supply cooking grill. *Warp 74* will be available for pick-up. Rain date: Sunday, August 1, same time, place. (See also lead item.)

NEXT MEETING Sunday, August 15

1:00-5:00PM, St-François Room,
Hôtel Espresso (formerly Days
Hotel), 1005 Guy Street, Montreal

FANCRAFT: MonSFFen try a few SF/F-themed crafts in workshops running concurrently throughout afternoon. Also, photo shoot re club calendar (details, see item in main section).

2010 MonSFFA Barbecue

MonSFFen, their families and friends are invited to the club's annual summer barbecue, scheduled this year for Sunday, July 25. Should the weatherman call for rain on that day, the event will be postponed one week, until the following Sunday, August 1.

We expect to occupy our usual spot at Parc Angrignon in Lasalle. Look for us on the picnic grounds just behind the Angrignon Metro station, a couple hundred feet or more from the parking lot next to the park's petting zoo (farm). We plan to secure a few picnic tables and set up around 10:30AM. Bring along a Frisbee, soccer ball, or any games that you may wish to enjoy, plus your own food and drink—the club will supply a cooking grill. Also, *Warp 74* will be available for pick-up.

Do join us for a pleasant day in the park. And don't forget your sunscreen!

MonSFFen Attend Wild Hunt Wrap Party

MonSFFAn Josée Bellemare reports that she and about a half-dozen of her fellow club members trekked up to St-Eustache in April for a special party at the invitation of Claude Gauthier, who was one of the production crew on the recently released feature film *The Wild Hunt*. This critically acclaimed, locally produced movie is about a group of live-action role-players who take their fantasy game just a tad too far. Claude visited MonSFFA during our April 18 meeting to talk about the film and invited club members to the production's wrap party the following weekend.

"It was a lot of fun," reports Josée of the soiree. With the "Bicolline" LARPing event near Shawinigan serving as a setting in the movie, many folk were in costume for the party. A fighting demonstration was staged and Josée and company enjoyed the food and drink on offer, and a special screening of the film.

Bowling for Serenity

In place of the usual June MonSFFA meeting—scrubbed this year to avoid conflicting with the busy downtown party surrounding the return of Grand Prix auto racing to Montreal—

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FEES ARE DUE.**

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

DODDS, Georges
METHE, Ann
NORMAND, Jean-Pierre
RINZ, Joshua
SYSAVANE, Khoba
WALLING, René
WHITELAW, Maureen

**Annual membership
fees are due this month,
July, from the following
club members:**

BENNETT, Paul
MORROW, Gordon
PEATMAN, Sean

Annual membership fees will become due next month, August, from the following club members :

NOVO, Alice

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. The annual fee for a standard membership is only \$25. Fill out the application 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 renewing your membership.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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CITY/VILLE

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AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

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HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

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Interests / Intérêts: _____

the club organized a bowling sortie. MonSFFen were invited to an afternoon of tenpins, food, drink, camaraderie and conversation on Sunday, June 13. The selected locale was the AMC Forum Sports Bar/Bowling Alley in the AMC Pepsi Forum (the old Forum) on Atwater, conveniently on major bus and Metro routes and judged sufficiently distant of the downtown core to steer clear of all the Grand Prix hubbub.

About 10 club members met in the Forum's street-level lobby at 11:45AM before proceeding upstairs to the bar/restaurant/bowling alley. MonSFFA's party secured two lanes and bowled a couple of games while enjoying various libations, servings of chips-and-dip, chicken wings, and such. The MonSFFen were beleaguered at several junctures, however, by problems with the ball return mechanism on their particular lanes, delaying play and eventually prompting a change of lanes. It was without doubt these interruptions that upset the group's collective concentration enough to throw off everyone's bowling proficiency. Despite a number of strikes and spares rolled, many of the scores were not pretty, but Dominique Durocher recorded the afternoon's highest and collected the promised reward for so doing, a finely crafted *Serenity* key chain.

A good time was had by all.

Our thanks are extended club President/Emperor Berny Reischl for making all the arrangements.

Garage Sale Fund-Raiser Adds Coin to Club's Coffers

MonSFFA's neighbourhood garage sale was all set to go on the morning of Saturday, June 12, when persistent drizzle and a gloomy forecast prompted a postponement of the fund-raiser until the following Saturday, June 19. The weather cooperated this time, allowing our team to run the sale for much of the day and raise \$128.75 for the club. With this and the Sci-Fi Fair/Bake Sale fund-raiser held at our May meeting, over \$250 extra has been added to MonSFFA's bank balance in a little over a month.

This garage sale fund-raising effort came about as the result of a suggestion received from club co-VP Lindsay Brown in March. Of the numerous suggestions proposed by MonSFFen for an outside-of-meeting

fund-raiser, the club chose to try Lindsay's notion of a neighbourhood garage sale first. The idea was to collect donations of secondhand items from club members and put on a sale at a willing MonSFFA's home. All proceeds would benefit the club.

South-Shore resident Theresa Penalba got things off the ground by volunteering her driveway and at MonSFFA's May meeting, folk responded to the club's request for donations to the cause by bringing in several boxes and bags worth of both SF/F-themed merchandise and ordinary household and garden items. A handful of her fellow MonSFFen were recruited to join Theresa in setting up and staffing the event: Keith Braithwaite, Alice and Alex Novo, and Cathy Palmer-Lister.

We thank our garage sale team for their time and effort and reiterate our appreciation for the many donations of merchandise provided by MonSFFen.

There remains a goodly quantity of unsold stock and so we are looking at perhaps holding another such garage sale later in the summer. Stay tuned.

August Meeting: Club Members' Finest Artwork, Costumes, Scale Models Wanted

We will be photographing examples of the finest fancraft produced by our members at the club's August 15 meeting, devoted, as it happens, to fancraft. MonSFFen will recall that we plan to produce a MonSFFA calendar next year highlighting the best creative work of our group.

In order to arrive at the best results, we will set up a proper photo area at the meeting and snap MonSFFen wearing their most striking, skillfully fashioned SF/F costumes, for example, or several angles of a club member's precisely detailed spacecraft model.

But I already have great shots of my costumes and models, you say! If so, bring them in to the August meeting. Please note that these images should be clean, good quality photos or digital reproductions of your fancraft. As we are selecting images to be featured in the calendar, we are looking for well composed shots, properly in focus and expertly lit, against a neutral backdrop. We want the attention to be on

your work, unobstructed by any distractions in the background.

We'll also be gathering drawings and paintings of sci-fi subjects rendered by those artists in our group, as well as 3D artwork such as wood carvings, sculptures, and props. Again, good quality prints or digital photos of these are welcome. We hope to spotlight in our calendar a wide variety of fancraft in different mediums.

MonSFFA Members' Childhood Photos Wanted

We are also collecting at the August meeting photos of club members in their adolescence for later use in a game club co-VP Lindsay Brown has devised. Each club member is asked to either provide us with a digital copy of a photo of them as a young child, or the snapshot itself so that we may scan it.

Summertime and the Livin' is Easy

With summer upon us, please understand that the club's executive and advisors take the time to relax a little over these couple months. Just as we trust that MonSFFA's members and friends are enjoying the summer break—a few long weekends, vacations, Montreal's many festivals—those of us charged with running the club are also partaking of downtime and taking it easy.

And so does the pace of MonSFFA slow to a leisurely canter. The club's Web page is not as regularly updated during the summer season, for example. Applications for membership and membership renewals may take a little longer than usual to process. But rest assured that MonSFFA's team of volunteer-organizers will attend to these and other club-related duties just as quickly as their summer schedules permit.

No August Impulse

Impulse will not publish in August this year. The issue you are now reading will serve as a summer edition (July-August) and includes details of MonSFFA's 2010 summer schedule of activities. Mark these dates on your calendars and refer to the club's Web site for any updates.

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September / Septembre 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 7)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, September 19

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Hôtel Espresso
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER GAMING:

One-hour primer on popular
computer gaming.

2:15PM

GUEST SPEAKER: Montreal-based
Olivier Xavier speaks on his career
as a make-up artist and visual effects
specialist in motion pictures and
television. See how it's done on both
low-budget independent films and
big-budget Hollywood productions.
(Note: professional commitments
may arise that could result in the
last-minute cancellation of our guest's
appearance. Should this occur, we
would hope to reschedule for a later
date.)

3:45PM

WARP 75 DISTRIBUTION / OPEN

DISCUSSION: As we distribute
the latest issue of *Warp*, join us for
an open, free-form discussion. What
SF/F-related topic is on your mind?

NEXT MONTH at Hôtel Espresso

October 1-3: ConCept 2010

October 17: MonSFFA Meeting

Guest Speaker Scheduled for September MonSFFA Meeting

We have invited a guest speaker to our September 19 meeting. Olivier Xavier has for many years brought his special effects craftsmanship, notably as a make-up artist, to both the low-budget, independent film scene and big-budget Hollywood productions. He will be speaking on the topic of motion picture special effects and his career in the industry.

We encourage all MonSFFA members to attend, especially those interested in movie make-up and special effects. There are certain to be valuable pointers for aspiring FX artists and movie-makers! With Halloween approaching, costumers, too, may benefit from tips on make-up techniques.

Perfect Weather for 2010 MonSFFA Barbecue

Conditions were sunny and dry as a brisk breeze moderated temperatures on Sunday, July 25, the date of MonSFFA's 2010 Summer Barbecue. Some two dozen club members and friends enjoyed the event, held at Parc Angrignon in suburban Lasalle.

Our group occupied a tree-shaded spot adjacent the park's shallow artificial lake, the fish and waterfowl therein drawing the interest of the youngsters in attendance. Several picnic tables were commandeered and folk were soon sampling our buffet of various salads, finger foods, etc. while conversing on any number of topics and quaffing a cold beverage. Before too long, the barbecue was lit and a selection of hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken wings grilled up and served. Conversation continued well into the afternoon while the kids scampered on a nearby set of monkey bars and took to the park's swings, slides, and teeter-totters.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed a fine and most relaxing summer afternoon in the park.

A nod of thanks is due MonSFFA's president/Emperor, Berny Reischl, who supplied our cooking grill and charcoal.

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SYSAVANE, Khoba
WHITELAW, Maureen

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became due last month, August,
or are due this month,
September:**

ASPLER, Joseph
BOIES, Marquise
BRAITHWAITE, Erin
BRAITHWAITE, Keith
BRAITHWAITE, Scott
DUROCHER, Dominique
DUROCHER, Marc
MOIR, Dorothy
MOIR, L. E.
NOVO, Alice
PENALBA, Theresa

Annual membership fees
will become due next month,
October, from the following
club members :

HICKEY, Mark
KENNEY, Daniel P.
PELLEY, Lynda
PETTIT, William S.
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

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August MonSFFA Meeting

The club's August meeting, held on the 15th, was devoted entirely to fancraft. Several workshops ran throughout the afternoon, at which MonSFFen could learn about or try their hand at a particular fannish craft.

Berny Reischl, a professional graphic artist by trade, offered a primer on digital photo retouching, with an emphasis on costume photography, showing how to compensate for underexposure, eliminate "red-eye", soften skin tones, and other means of enhancing one's digital snapshots.

Mark Burakoff and Dominique Durocher, meanwhile, held court on scale model building, effectively continuing with the workshop they had hosted at MonSFFA's May meeting. They provided insight on all aspects of building traditional plastic kits as well as modelling in paper. There have been a number of quality sci-fi kits released of late.

Finally, Lindsay Brown's demonstration of jewelry-making showed folk how to fashion unique, imaginative, skiffyish pieces employing nothing more than a variety of hardware-store items like nuts, bolts, and washers.

After the mid-meeting break, Keith Braithwaite began setting up a photography area for our planned MonSFFA calendar photo shoot. Club members had been asked to bring in on this day a sampling of their finest fancraft—scale models, props, sculptures, costumes, etc.—so that these might be photographed for inclusion in the club's proposed 2011 calendar, which is to highlight the creative work of MonSFFA's members. By meeting's close, Keith and Berny Reischl had photographed a wide variety of submissions. These, coupled with digital reproductions of members' drawings and paintings also collected at the meeting, will provide the calendar's editors a pool of artwork from which to select. We hope to have our 2011 MonSFFA calendar available for sale at ConCept this year.

A final note: attendance at our August meeting was, regrettably, lighter than usual, perhaps because many of our off-island and suburb-dwelling members, who drive in to meetings, found that they could not procure parking on this particular day, let alone get anywhere near the Hôtel Espresso, at which our gatherings are held. The police had closed all of the surrounding streets to vehicular

traffic to accommodate the local gay pride parade, which, unfortunately, had been scheduled to take place at about the same time as our meeting. At least one MonSFFAn later reported having turned around after trying unsuccessfully to reach the hotel and driven home in frustration.

We thank our workshop hosts and all those MonSFFen who helped to plan and run this meeting.

ConCept 2010

This year's edition of Montreal's annual fan-run SF/F convention is almost upon us. ConCept 2010 is set to take place over the

weekend of October 1-3.

Come on out and support your local sci-fi convention!

Principal guests include author Tad Williams (*Shadowmarch* series), actress Nicki Clyne (*Battlestar Galactica*), and artist Lar de Souza (*Looking for Group*). All the fun unfolds at the downtown Hôtel Espresso (familiar to MonSFFen; formerly the Days Hotel) and includes discussion panels and presentations, workshops, gaming, video screenings, a dealers' room, masquerade, art show, model competition, dance, and more.

For additional information, visit the convention's Web site: www.conceptsf.ca

SHORT BURSTS

Quick reviews of some of this year's genre movies:

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Weird, as one might expect considering the source material and director; not my cup of tea.—*Carl Phillips*

CLASH OF THE TITANS

Lots of action, CGI monsters make for entertaining popcorn flick.—*Carl Phillips*

DESPICABLE ME

Charming characters, zany cartoon fun.—*Susan Denham*

INCEPTION

Dreamy star Leonardo DiCaprio can't save confusing, high-concept piece. Overrated.—*Susan Denham*

IRON MAN 2

Fun but not as much as the first one. Most interesting scenes had to do with upcoming movies *Avengers*, *Thor*.—*Keith Braithwaite*

KICK-ASS

Kicks ass!—*Keith Braithwaite*

LAST AIRBENDER

Boring, top-heavy, animé-inspired nonsense.—*Susan Denham*

PIRANHA 3-D

Unabashedly a "B" movie. Over-the-top Tom Savini-like gore mixed with equal parts T&A, all in eye-popping 3-D!—*Keith Braithwaite*

PREDATORS

Serviceable sci-fi actioner, essentially a remake of the first Predator film with a few

new twists and better acting.

—*Keith Braithwaite*

SCOTT PILGRIM VERSUS THE WORLD

Critically acclaimed, surreal mash-up of teen rom-com and chop-socky action flick infused with videogame zeitgeist may be too hip for the room. Or, more likely, the movie-going proletariat, who've stayed away in droves, suspect it's all a lot of style over substance.—*Carl Phillips*

SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

Not a live-action sequel, remake, re-imagining, or anything else resembling the wonderful Mickey Mouse sequence in the Disney classic *Fantasia*. Just a pedestrian fantasy adventure.

—*Susan Denham*

SPLICE

Features disturbing sexual scenario with genetically engineered hybrid freakishly anthropological in appearance, if that turns your crank. Otherwise, rather clichéd sci-fi thriller.—*Keith Braithwaite*

TOY STORY 3

Fitting coda to a fine animated-film franchise.—*Carl Phillips*

TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

Bites. Sucks.—*Carl Phillips*

VAMPIRES SUCK

Juvenile; a spoof that isn't all that funny.—*Susan Denham*

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October / Octobre 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 8)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, October 17

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Hôtel Espresso
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

FUTURE'S HISTORY: We explore the evolution of the Captain Future character over a variety of media.

2:00PM

WIERD SCI-FI TECHNOLOGIES:

A review of some of the more bizarre technologies to be found in the annals of science fiction.

3:00PM

BREAK / OPEN DISCUSSION: As we hold our usual fund-raising raffle and update members on the latest MonSFFA business, we open the floor for a brief free-form discussion. What SF/F- or club-related topic is on your mind?

3:30PM

SCIENCE FICTION THEMES AND

VISUALS IN ADVERTISING: A look at the advertising industry's use of SF to sell products and services.

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING

November 21

- Signs and Symbols, Legends and Mythologies
- *Star Trek* Remastered
- Fan Film Theatre

ConCept Bounces Back

After a couple of particularly difficult years for Montreal's only annual, fan-run SF/F convention, during which time attendance dropped acutely and finances dipped into the red, ConCept 2010, held over the weekend of October 1-3 at Hôtel Espresso, downtown, marked something of a recovery for the con. Not only were there noticeably more folk on the convention floor, but there were a good many fresh faces on concom and among the volunteers. The latter is perhaps the most important and encouraging detail to be gleaned from ConCept 2010.

If there has been a single thing plaguing ConCept above all of late, it has been the dearth of vital personnel to plan, organize, and run the event. The situation had reached so critical a point last year that con chair Cathy Palmer-Lister warned of the inevitable demise of the convention should folk not be found to fill the vacant posts on concom.

It was heartening, then, to see that this year, at least half if not more of the people running the show were new to the job, including vice-chair/dealers' room manager Jean-Philippe Cardin, art show director Chris Pilgrim, and programming chief Howard Picaizen, all of whom shone. There seems to have developed a fresh enthusiasm for the organizational side of ConCept from some of the younger fans in this city. And so now may the old guard, exhausted after *too* many years at the helm, step down or relax their involvement as they see fit, confident in the knowledge that there will be someone to take over and carry the con forward into the next decade. By that measure alone, ConCept has bounced back with vigour.

But further, with this year's healthier attendance—pre-reg was reportedly the highest it has been in some time!—the various activities were, with few exceptions, very well attended. An awards ceremony for past Aurora winners and nominees was packed with the many Montreal and area fans—including a good number of MonSFFen—eligible to receive the special lapel pin designed and manufactured for the occasion by our own Berny Reischl and Mark Burakoff. (Similar ceremonies are scheduled to take place at conventions across the country.) Representatives of two separate sci-fi film festivals, meanwhile, were on hand to promote their events and screen a sampling for ConCept's attendees. Panel rooms were full or near-full

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DUROCHER, Marc
METHE, Ann
MOIR, Dorothy
MOIR, L. E.
NORMAND, Jean-Pierre
NOVO, Alice
PENALBA, Theresa
PEATMAN, Sean

The annual membership fees of the following club members are due this month, October:

HICKEY, Mark
KENNEY, Daniel P.
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

The annual membership fees of the following club members will become due next month, November:

Ø

The annual membership fees of the following club members will become due in December:

REISCHL, Bernard
RUFANGE, Yolande
SINCLAIR, Julia

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Thank you for renewing your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion.

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for most of the weekend, some even during the usually quiet periods of the con.

The dealers' room was sold out, we are told, and rather busy for most of the weekend, markedly more so than in recent years.

ConCept's innovative Sci-Fi Garage Sale, in which the con's staff sell your collectibles for a cut of profits while you run off and enjoy the con, did quite well, by all reports. There were more room parties Saturday night than have been seen in a while and no one seemed to mind all that much the absence of ConCept's unique con suite, normally situated on the convention floor, conveniently amidst all the activity. This year, unfortunately, a deal could not be reached with the hotel's food services people to allow ConCept to set up the con suite. We may see this popular canteen return next year, but it will probably have to be situated upstairs in a standard hotel room, as are the hospitality suites of most conventions.

ConCept has always put on a good show, even in those years when the organization struggled, but this year's party had that certain something more. Everyone was having just the greatest time, from the headlining guests on down.

The genial Alain Ducharme handled MC duties throughout the weekend and principal guests Tad Williams (author, *Shadowmarch* series), Nicki Clyne (actress, *Battlestar Galactica*), Denise Gendron (folk singer), Véronique Dumas (special effects make-up artist, who hosted a really cool hands-on workshop demonstrating her craft), energetic Lar de Souza (cartoonist, *Looking for Group*), and award-winning Montreal-based vampire writer and editor Nancy Kilpatrick (*Evolve: Vampire Stories of the New Undead*) could not have been a more friendly and charming bunch.

ConCept 2010's con and volunteers are to be congratulated on staging a first-rate convention. We await the official attendance figure but it's safe to say that the con increased that number over those of the past couple years and, we hope, correspondingly boosted revenues, perhaps enough to put the operation back in the black.

September Meeting Guest Speaker A No-Show

Unfortunately, the guest speaker we had invited to our September 19 meeting, special effects make-up artist Olivier Xavier, was a no-show. As Olivier is right in the middle of a film

project at present, we understood as we booked him for our meeting that professional commitments might well call him away at the last minute. It appears that this is what happened. We will communicate with him again and hope to reschedule; stay tuned.

The Executive regrets that MonSFFen were not able to enjoy what certainly would have been a fascinating presentation on make-up effects in both the low-budget, independent film arena and in Hollywood's big-budget sandbox.

Luckily, our lead-off panellist, François Menard, had prepared plenty of material for his talk and was able to almost double his scheduled hour-long primer on computer gaming. François covered computer gaming from its infancy to the modern day, augmenting his talk with numerous screen shots of the many games he spoke of and video clips of the action.

From early, simple games like Pong to the kinds of hyper-realistic sports games available today, François traced the evolution of the gaming industry. MonSFFA being an SF/F fan club, he focused mostly on SF/F-themed games, including early examples such as Space Wars and Asteroids, and the popular, graphics-heavy warfare simulations of today, like Halo. He spoke of the various licensed games that unfold in the *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* universes, among others, of early text-based role-playing games, and of quest adventures like the iconic *Myst*. Whether on the desktop PC, laptop, console, or hand-held device, there's something for all tastes in computer gaming, stated François, from first-person-shooter scenarios that test one's dexterity to complex simulations that demand strategic thinking on the part of players.

When asked if today's kids spend too much time in front of a screen flying around in spaceships and shooting at aliens, and not enough time outside in the fresh air running and jumping and climbing trees, François offered that some probably do. Parents, he admonished, certainly have a role to play with regard to the time their children spend computer gaming. As with anything, moderation is key.

In the hour prior to the start of the meeting and again after the mid-meeting break, we were able to record a considerable bit more of our ongoing radio-play project, committing many pages of dialogue to "tape". Eternal thanks to our actors and actresses, in particular those who came in especially on this day to record their parts.

As the meeting drew to a close, *Warp 75* was distributed and the group had time to discuss a few items of club business.

Thanks to everyone who helped to plan and run this meeting.

MonSFFA Calendar Delayed

We had planned to release our 2011 MonSFFA calendar at ConCept 2010 (October 1-3) but unfortunately, production delays have pushed that release into November.

readers will recall that we recently scanned or photographed a variety of "fancraft"—artwork, costumes, scale-model spaceships, etc.—fashioned by our own club members to be featured in the calendar. Berny Reischl has outlined a layout of the calendar but a heavy work schedule at his day job frustrated his attempts to complete the project in time to have a few copies available for sale at ConCept. Sometimes, as we all well know, real life gets in the way of our fannish pursuits.

We now expect to have the calendar ready in time for our November 21 meeting. While serving to raise funds for the club, this, our first MonSFFA calendar, will highlight the creativity and artistic talent of our membership. It'll make a nifty Christmas gift!

Second Garage Sale

Wayne Glover and Keith Braithwaite were recently able to peddle some of the items leftover from our June Garage Sale Fund-Raiser.

Wayne arranged for a booth at a community garage sale organized by the Lion's Club in the town of Deux-Montagnes, north of Montreal. He and Keith were up early Saturday morning, September 18, laying out a variety of sci-fi books, videos, and other items. By the end of a pleasant, sunny day, more than a quarter of our stock of bargain books and videos, plus a number of other treasures, had been sold, bringing the total revenue raised for the club this summer via garage sales to \$184.75.

As garage sale season has ended, we intend to offer our remaining books and videos to a few of the second-hand bookshops around town in hopes of breaking \$200 in total funds raised. Any leftover after that will be added to the club's book exchange.

Wayne donated the nominal fee he paid for the table space to the club and we thank him and Keith for their action on behalf of MonSFFA.

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IMPULSE

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

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

November-December / Novembre-Décembre 2010 (Vol. 14, No. / N° 9)

MonSFFA MEETING THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, November 21

11:00AM-5:00PM, St-François Room,
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy Street

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:00AM, BOA MEETING: *We map out next year's events schedule.*

1:00PM, WEIRD SCI-FI TECHNOLOGIES: *Review of some of the more bizarre technologies to be found in the annals of science fiction.*

2:00PM, SIGNS AND SYMBOLS, LEGENDS AND MYTHOLOGIES: *An examination of these, their origins and connections.*

3:30PM, STAR TREK REMASTERED: *Original Trek, now with improved visual effects!*

Invitation to 2010 MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party

MonSFFA's members, their families, and the club's many friends, are invited to celebrate the season with us!

SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 4

DINNER at 6:00PM, downtown, **SCORES RESTAURANT**, 1432 Ste-Catherine Street West (Guy-Concordia Metro); reservations under name: Bernard Reischl * **PARTY** at 8:00PM, "**NOT SO PRIVATEER**" BAR (formerly Park Place Bar), 1244 Mackay Street (between Ste-Catherine and René-Lévesque) * **Drinks, Music, and Pool!** * Rewards Raffle for volunteer members—don't forget to bring your blue "Participation Coupons"! * *Collection of toys, non-perishable foods for Sun Youth Christmas Basket Drive; please give in the spirit of the season* * **CHRISTMAS RAFFLES!**

2010 MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party Includes Rewards Raffle

MonSFFA's 2010 Christmas Dinner and Party is scheduled for Saturday evening, December 4. All of the club's members and their families, and MonSFFA's many friends, are welcome to celebrate the holidays with us! See the events column, left, for the official invitation and details.

We will gather, as we did last year, at the Scores restaurant on Ste-Catherine near Guy at 6:00PM (please arrive on time). Following a festive dinner there, we'll take a short walk to the "Not So Privateer" bar (formerly the Park Place, our traditional watering hole to these many years) for the party.

As is our seasonal custom, we'll be collecting toys and non-perishable food items at the party for donation to Sun Youth's Christmas Basket Drive. We have a few Christmas raffles planned, as well, including our Rewards Raffle.

This exclusive draw is the means by which we offer special thanks for their participation to those club members who ran programming at our meetings this year, or pitched in to help with special events and projects. For each such volunteer action performed in 2010, a club member received a blue "Participation Coupon". These coupons will serve as raffle tickets in the Rewards lottery. Each coupon-holding MonSFFA member will have a chance to win one of the prizes offered by the club as humble tokens of thanks. Members having collected coupons throughout the year are reminded to bring these to the party and to write their names on each in the space provided. The coupons will be tossed into a hat as we kick off the party, and winners drawn.

The club takes this opportunity to thank for their efforts each and every MonSFFA member who ran programming in 2010 or helped with special events and projects. This club runs on the involvement of its members and your having taken part is greatly appreciated.

And so, we hope to see all of you at the club's 2010 Christmas Dinner and Party, and to all we offer our early

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

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

BOIES, Marquise
DUROCHER, Marc
HICKEY, Mark
KENNEY, Daniel P.
METHE, Ann
MOIR, Dorothy
MOIR, L. E.
NORMAND, Jean-Pierre
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

The annual membership fees of the following club members are due this month, November:

Ø

The annual membership fees of the following club members will become due next month, December:

REISCHL, Bernard
RUFIANGE, Yolande
SINCLAIR, Julia

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. Please complete the application 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 renewing your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE _____ APT. / APP. _____

CITY / VILLE _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL _____

AMonSFFA FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

Tel. / Tél.: () _____ () _____

HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail / Courriel: _____

Interests / Intérêts: _____

wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

No December Impulse

As *Impulse* will not publish next month, December, this issue has been designated our November/December 2010 edition. Thus have we offered in advance our season's greetings (above) and squeezed in to the events column an invitation to the club's 2010 Christmas Dinner and Party, in addition to the scheduled programming for our November meeting.

Impulse returns in January.

2011 MonSFFA Calendar Makes Fine Christmas Present

MonSFFA's 2011 calendar has been completed and will be available for sale at our November 21 meeting. This, our first club calendar, highlights the creative output—artwork, costumes and props, scale-model spaceships, etc.—of a selection of talented MonSFFA members. Also included, for your edification, are a number of notable dates in the history of the club, and of greater SF/F fandom. A nod of thanks to all who contributed to the project, and to Berny Reischl for putting it all together.

Serving as a fund-raising vehicle for the club, the 2011 MonSFFA calendar is priced at \$8. MonSFFA will benefit from a discounted price of only \$5 with the club's Platinum members enjoying a further rebate of \$1.

Pick up your MonSFFA calendar in time for the new year! And pick up a few more as Christmas gifts!

October MonSFFA Meeting

The busy agenda for the club's October 17 meeting was eased a little in that one of our scheduled presenters had to depart early due to family obligations and was unable to give his talk. (Sylvain St-Pierre will return in November with his exploration of *Weird Sci-Fi Technologies*.) The MonSFFolk gathered still had plenty to interest them, however, with, first, a presentation on the history of the Captain Future character across a variety of media, followed by a fascinating look at the use of SF in television advertising. The group also had opportunity to discuss at length several items of club business,

providing valuable feedback to the club's Executive.

Marquise Boies began proceedings with her extensively researched presentation detailing the journey of the Captain Future character from the pulps to a proposed feature film.

Super-scientist Curtis Newton, alias Captain Future, fought interstellar villains in a space opera magazine series, circa 1940s, aimed primarily at teenaged boys. Dubbed the "Wizard of Science", he was aided by three sidekicks: Grag, a giant metal robot; Otho, an android; and Professor Simon Wright, a living brain in a box. The idea for the character originated with one Mort Weisinger, an editor at Standard Magazines at the time, but it is SF writer Edmond Hamilton who penned most of the Captain Future tales, many of which were later released in book form. Captain Future's adventures were adapted as an animé series in the 1980s, a French translation of which aired in Québec, resulting in the popularity of the character locally.

Marquise outlined the biographies of the various players featured in the stories and touched, as well, on the science depicted. She covered Captain Future's influence on later sci-fi properties and screened a number of clips from the animated series, offering, too, a few variations on the show's theme music.

Marquise closed with talk of a planned live-action Captain Future movie. Expect a "big, fun space opera for the whole family," says German director Christian Alvart (*Pandorum*), who has secured the rights to the character. Financing is apparently in place and a script is in development.

Next up was Alice Novo, who, with an assist from Berny Reischl, put together an interesting collection of vintage and contemporary television commercials that employ science fiction themes and imagery to sell everything from automobiles and electric shavers to beer and breakfast cereal. Many of the ads were humorous—a time-tested sales technique—and folk chuckled at the variety of comical astronauts, space aliens, and robots shilling product. The stars of popular sci-fi TV series popped up as pitchmen, too, cleverly referencing their shows as they sang the praises of some commodity or other. A number of 1960s-era ads tapped into the keen

public interest at that time in the space program.

Perhaps the most celebrated television ad of all drew upon George Orwell's famous novel of a dystopian future, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, to make the sale. The spot, which aired only once, during the Superbowl, introduced Apple's then brand new Macintosh computer by symbolically shattering the home PC environment of the day, represented in the Ridley Scott-directed commercial as a bleak world of drones in thrall of a grim, all-powerful overlord. The ad is capped by a voiceover, intoning that, with the arrival of the Macintosh, the year "1984 won't be like *Nineteen Eighty-Four*".

Thanks to our presenters and to all who helped to plan and run this meeting.

2011 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. MonSFFA's 2011 elections will take place at our January meeting (date to be announced; watch this space). 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 behalf of the membership. The three executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility.

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.

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.

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