

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, January 19

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: We'll be asking about and videotaping your New Year's resolutions, with the idea of playing the recordings back at the end of the year to see if you've kept your pledges!

PROGRAMME

1:00PM

2014 CLUB ELECTIONS: We select our Executive Committee for 2014. All members in good standing are eligible to vote; any MonSFFAn may nominate another as a candidate, or run for office themselves.

1:15PM

"EXO" MARKS THE SPOT: We explore so-called "exo-planets", wandering the outer regions of space beyond solar systems. Could we in future colonize and mine these worlds for resources?

2:15PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Raffle; brief discussion of club-related business; videotaping of club members' New Year's resolutions.

3:00PM

FAN FICTION POTLUCK: A group workshop/game exercising our talents as fan fiction story and screenplay writers.

NEXT MEETINGS: February 16,
March 23, April 13

CLUB'S 2013 CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY

We returned to the downtown Irish Embassy Pub and Grill for the club's 2013 Christmas Dinner/Party (Saturday evening, December 7) to celebrate the festive season over dinner and drinks. Some 20 or so folk attended, enjoying delicious meals of prime rib, chicken, and salmon. Tasty desserts and a variety of beers and spirits were also consumed.

Our "Rewards Raffle" acknowledged the efforts of volunteer members throughout 2013 and our Christmas Raffle pleased three lucky MonSFFans with a bag full each of SF/F-themed gifts.

A good time was had by all.

NOVEMBER MEETING

MonSFFA's November 17 meeting closed 2013's meeting schedule, offering a primer on a peculiar musical group and recounting one MonSFFAn's experiences developing and shooting a stop-motion animated film.

Marquise Boies took center stage to introduce her fellow club members to an odd steampunk-inspired group of buskers who have developed a weirdly stylish act. More than simply an enthusiastic band of young street musicians, the members of Steam Powered Giraffe have created an intricate history, outlined in a variety of media, for the robotic characters they have created and inhabit when performing. Eye-catching make-up design and costuming coupled with a strange sort of mechanical mime and offbeat comedic stylings make these musicians as interesting to watch as to listen to.

Steam Powered Giraffe boasts a quirky, devoted following, spirited online presence, and has released a few albums of their songs, samples of which Marquise played for MonSFFan during the course of her detailed treatise on the novel band.

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

Due This Month, January:

Ø

Due Next Month, February:

KRIMP, Nick
LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie
RUFANGE, Yolande

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INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

We briefly discussed meeting programming for 2014 and held our usual our mid-meeting fund-raising raffle before and getting back to it.

Following the break, François Menard shared his experiences producing a short stop-motion animated film. A rather time-consuming technique popularized notably by Ray Harryhausen, stop-motion involves creating in a miniature puppet or model the illusion of life by incrementally moving the articulated limbs of the figure, exposing a single frame of film or digital media, then moving the limbs a tick more and snapping another frame, and so on. When played back at the standard 24-frames-per-second, the figure appears to move on its own, as if alive.

Through a process of research and hands-on experimentation, François essentially taught himself how to build and dress the miniature sets, fashion the necessary rigging, and animate the articulated figures he employed for his project. He took his audience through each step of the production, describing how he made the physical sets, created digital backdrops, solved lighting and other problems, and learned by trial-and-error what worked best.

François used an application called Stop-Motion Pro and he covered the basics, here, recommending the software to budding stop-motion animators.

He screened his animation tests, explaining how he fixed errors and fine-tuned things until he got it right.

The articulated characters François used were Masters of the Universe toy action figures and while not specifically designed for stop-motion, they proved reasonably flexible, each having some 20 points of articulation.

François closed his presentation with a world premiere screening of his completed film, which featured He-Man and Skeletor squaring off in armed combat.

Our thanks to presenters Marquise Boies and François Menard, and to everyone who helped to plan and run this meeting.

DRM Stomps Godzilla-Like on Club's New YouTube Channel!

As we reported last issue, MonSFFA has launched its own YouTube channel. Among the short videos of club meetings and such we've put up were the comedic fan films MonSFFilms produced during the early- to mid-2000s.

It didn't take more than a few days for the mandarins of Digital Rights Management (DRM) to descend upon the club's new online enterprise in much the same manner as that errant meteor descended upon the dinosaurs 65 million years ago!

Because we employed excerpts of a couple of rock and roll songs in two of our productions, we were issued a warning and directives to immediately

remove the videos. While the music passages used were selected because the lyrics happened to serve the narratives of our silly little movies—a practise not uncommon in low-key, amateur fan-filmmaking—and regardless of the fact that these short fan flicks of ours are comedic parodies and arguably fall under the “fair use” provision of copyright law, we complied with the “request” and took the videos down.

We are, after all, but a small sci-fi fan club and certainly don't have the resources or desire to become engaged in a legal wrangle with some imperious corporation. Especially not over footage of a guy dressed in a moose costume! Not the hill we want to die on.

In all likelihood, this violation of copyright was probably identified by some sort of automated 'bot designed to search the Web, identify transgressions, and issue admonitions without determining if said transgressions are egregious enough to really demand attention. When we first discussed content for our YouTube channel a few months ago, several club members cautioned that something like this might occur were we to put these videos online. Turns out, they were right!

So, it is what it is. As totalitarian or ridiculous or all out of proportion as the situation may seem to some, MonSFFA's Executive have opted to steer well clear of any potential problem and so we won't be posting any uncertain material on our channel in future.

The MonSFFA YouTube Channel is at:

http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_NPtvlodCh_F1_AigWMSgg

Update: 2014 Club Meeting Dates, Programming

The Hôtel Espresso has confirmed MonSFFA's requested 2014 meeting dates through April. We were informed that these were the only dates the hotel could confirm at this time; we await official word on the remainder of our requested dates for this year.

Here again are our Sunday afternoon meeting dates for 2014 (January through April, confirmed; May-November, confirmation pending): January 19, February 16, March 23, April 13, May 25, August 17, September 28, October 26, and November 16.

In addition, we have a group outing planned for Sunday, June 8 (details to be announced), and have scheduled our annual summer barbecue for Sunday, July 20. Our 2014 Christmas Dinner/Party will take place on Saturday evening, December 6.

From the fertile minds of our membership, who brainstormed ideas late last year, meeting content will include, in no particular order, panels/presentations/workshops on: robots; strange societies; acting in sci-fi fan films; sci-fi fan fiction and short stories; cosplay, masquerades and costuming; paleo-art; and genre card and board games. We have a Filmation Studios retrospective planned and we'll also revisit the arresting phenomenon of cyber crime! We'll screen a selection of cool SF/F-ish stuff found on YouTube and look at sci-fi cinema's coolest alternate endings and deleted scenes. A few astronomical explorations are on tap, too, among other topics.

We'll have fun with games focused on classic sci-fi TV shows, and on the marketing taglines of genre movies.

Our proposed semi-regular “RIP—Remembrance in Profile” feature will offer brief tributes to some of the recently departed notable personages of sci-fi literature, film and television, and art. We intend, as well, to feature more of our 10-minute member-generated book and film reviews off the top of meetings.

The August “fancraft” meeting will include workshops on making inexpensive genre-themed Christmas ornaments, fantasy make-up design and application, and presentations on odd antiquated collectibles.

As always, scheduled meeting programming is subject to change.

Reward for Early Membership Renewal

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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

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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.

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I M P U L S E

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

March / Mars 2014 (Vol. 18, No./N° 3)

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Sunday, March 23

11:00AM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal*MEETING THEME: We just celebrated St.
Patrick's Day; in honour of all things
Irish, wear something green to the
meeting!*

PROGRAMME

11:00AM

BOOK SORTING PARTY: Drop by ahead
of the regular meeting to help us sort
through and organize our book sale.

1:00PM-5:00PM

MEMBERS-ONLY SF/F BOOK SALE:In advance of our big book sale next
month, we offer MonSFFen a pre-sale
shopping opportunity. Great books!
Great prices! MonSFFA's Platinum
members get first choice! (Membership
upgrades available before sale opens.)

1:30PM

THE ROBOT—FRIEND OR FOE?: An
overview of the robot as depicted in SF.

3:00PM

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

3:30PM

TAGLINE: Trivia challenge related to
the memorable taglines used to promote
some of our favourite sci-fi movies.

4:00PM

ACTING UP: Workshop on acting
in sci-fi fan films.

SCI-FI BOOK SALE

In advance of the sci-fi book sale we have
scheduled to take place during our April 13 club
meeting next month, we are holding at this
month's meeting first an 11 o'clock book sorting
party, then from 1:00-5:00PM, in conjunction
with the regular meeting, a special pre-sale
shopping opportunity exclusively for our own
members.Folk are invited to come in early (11:00AM)
and help us sort through and organize for sale the
many genre books we have amassed.We propose to sell paperbacks for 50¢each,
three for \$1, seven for \$2. Other books will be
individually priced at between \$2 and \$5.Then, at 1:00PM, we'll open the sale tables to
our Platinum members, allowing them first crack
at the inventory. At 1:30PM the tables will be
open to all club members and purchases may be
made throughout the afternoon while the regular
meeting unfolds (schedule is printed, left).Members wishing to upgrade their standard
memberships to our premium Platinum level may
do so just before we begin at 1:00PM, and thus
qualify to enjoy a first-choice run at the books.
They'll also benefit from a two-for-the-price-of-
one special on any raffle tickets they buy,
whether at this or any future MonSFFA meeting.So remember to bring your extra cash, people,
and a shopping bag or two, as well, so you may
more easily carry home your purchases.

CARDS IN MAIL

We have lately experienced a delay in the
distribution of membership cards to new and
renewing club members. However, as of this
mailing of Impulse, we are back on track. All
who were due fresh membership cards since the
Christmas break should have received them,
either in person at last month's meeting, or
subsequently by postal mail.

Please understand that MonSFFA is run by a

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small group of volunteer-members on behalf of the greater membership, and that sometimes the demands of job or family on the part of our administrative crew hamper the timely execution of MonSFFA-related duties. Such was the case in this particular instance. This is an unavoidable wrinkle in the fabric of fandom. We can only apologize for the inconvenience.

February Club Meeting

MonSFFA's February 16 meeting was lightly attended, Valentine's Day obligations no doubt superseding fannish pursuits on this specific weekend. Fair enough!

Josée Bellemare heroically did double duty, hosting both of the afternoon's scheduled presentations. Shuffling the deck a little, she began with the first instalment of what we intend as a semi-regular feature of club meetings this year, our R.I.P.—Remembrance in Profile report. Josée covered the career of the late Bob Anderson (not television producer Gerry Anderson, as we erroneously published in last month's Impulse).

Robert James Gilbert "Bob" Anderson was renowned as Hollywood's greatest swordsman (no, that's not what we mean; get your minds out of the gutter!). He died on New Year's Day, 2012, at the age of 89.

Genre film fans may not recognize his name, but have thrilled to his handiwork in many movies. Anderson's career as a fight choreographer and stunt man spanned some 50 years. A former Royal Marine and Olympic fencer, he specialized in sword-fighting and coached such action stars as Errol Flynn, Sean Connery, Antonio Banderas, Viggo Mortensen, and Johnny Depp.

British-born, Anderson emigrated to Canada mid-career and became technical director of the Canadian Fencing Association in Ottawa as well as chairman of the Fencing Academy of Canada.

He staged the famous lightsabre duels in the original Star Wars trilogy, donning the Darth Vader costume in Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi when insurance underwriters expressed concern over having David Prowse, who played Vader, do his own fighting for the latter two of the trilogy's episodes.

Anderson served as a stunt performer or sword master in several Bond films, and was responsible for the swordsmanship in such genre favourites as Highlander, The Princess Bride, First Knight, The Phantom, both The Mask of Zorro and The Legend of Zorro, Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl, and the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

An uncredited stunt man in Superman II, he also appeared as an Imperial officer in Empire Strikes Back, and as a guard in the 1968 Doctor Who serial

Enemy of the World. He served as sword master for the Highlander television series in the early-'90s and at the time of his death, was working on The Hobbit.

Josée immediately followed with a nostalgic review of the SF/F TV shows we enjoyed as youngsters in the 1960s and '70s, a golden age for sci-fi television. Her lengthy list included many a Saturday morning cartoon series. Ubiquitous among these were productions from the prolific Hanna-Barbera company, like The Flintstones, The Jetsons, Scooby Doo, Space Ghost, Birdman and the Galaxy Trio, Jonny Quest, Super Friends, and The Atom Ant/Secret Squirrel Show.

MonSFFen fondly recalled the characters, scenarios, and crazy-cool technologies featured in these various genre adventures.

The Canadian-produced Rocket Robin Hood was affectionately remembered, as was The Mighty Hercules, a Canada/US co-production. A number of Japanese and British imports, often dubbed in French for broadcast in Quebec, were favourites. These included Marine Boy, Speed Racer, Captain Harlock (known in French by the title Albator), the puppet series Thunderbirds and Captain Scarlett, and the Kaiju-inspired Ultraman. Live-action prime-time series like Lost in Space, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, The Invaders, Land of the Giants, Wild, Wild West, and of course Star Trek were also must-see programs for our younger selves.

Josée put stills from the shows up on the big screen as she worked through her list and the group offered comment on beloved characters and what it was that they liked about each series.

As a technical glitch scuppered the video footage we'd shot, at our January meeting, of members reciting their New Year's resolutions, Berny Reischl oversaw a redo. These recordings will be reviewed at the end of the year to see who managed to keep their promises, and who did not! We also discussed recent club business and worked out the particulars of our upcoming Sci-Fi Book Sale.

The closing portion of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of sci-fi's greatest love stories, with each of the folk present contributing a few of their personal favourites. The films Ladyhawke, Somewhere in Time, and The Lake House were mentioned, as were memorable movie and TV moments, like Han Solo's "I know" in response to Leia's profession of love for him moments before he is frozen in carbonite, or Captain Kirk allowing perhaps his utmost love, Edith Keeler, to die in an automobile accident so that the future might be saved in the classic Star Trek episode City on the Edge of Forever. Nurse Chapel's pining for Mr. Spock was brought up as a good example of unrequited love, with King Kong—particularly the 2005 remake—cited as a Beauty and the Beast narrative that is the ultimate unrequited love story. Lois McMaster Bujold's A Civil Campaign, one of the novels in her Vorkosigan Saga, was highlighted as an excellent meld of the science fiction and romance genres.

Paranormal romance was acknowledged as a popular literary genre but what one might think obvious examples, like the Twilight, Vampire Diaries, and Hunger Games stories were largely dismissed by the group as hackneyed teenage romances unworthy of serious consideration.

Examples of non-romantic love were cited, like the friendship-bordering-on-love between a boy and his giant robot in Iron Giant, and the love of a teenager for his car in Christine, although there's a strong element of supernatural possession going on in the latter, which, it was argued, did not constitute real love.

We extend our thanks to Josée Bellemare for the heavy lifting on this occasion, as well as to all who helped plan and run the meeting.

Payment of Membership Fees

We remind MonSFFen to please pay their annual membership fees in a timely manner. A regular, steady cash flow is vital to the continued smooth operation of the club.

And remember that we have instituted a fresh reward this year for members who pay their annual membership fees at least one month early. Their names will be included in a special prize raffle, to be drawn at our year-end Christmas party. An early renewal equals your chance to win a prize, folks! Several MonSFFen have already qualified.

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

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I M P U L S E

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

April / Avril 2014 (Vol. 18, No./N° 4)

**NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, April 13****11:00AM-5:00PM****St-François Room****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: MonSFFen are asked
to bring in a few Easter chocolates for
the meeting's snack table!***PROGRAMME****11:00AM****SET-UP FOR BOOK SALE:** Drop in ahead
of the regular meeting to help us set up
for our Super Sci-Fi Book Sale.**1:00PM-4:00PM****SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE:**Amazing books at amazing prices! Great
selection! We've just added 1000 more
paperbacks to our inventory! Open to
public; bring a friend! (Club fund-raiser)**1:45PM****ACTING UP:** Workshop on acting
in sci-fi fan films.**2:45PM****MID-MEETING BREAK:** Brief discussion
of club business.**3:00PM****CYBER-CRIME:** We revisit the topic and
update folk on the latest online swindles
and criminal scams. (Note: Bitcoins are
not accepted at meeting's snack table!)**4:00PM****RIP—REMEMBRANCE IN PROFILE:**Profile of the late, great television
producer Gerry Anderson, creator of
many FAB sci-fi TV shows.**SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE**MonSFFA opens its April 13 meeting to the
general public, inviting all to our Super Sci-Fi
Book Sale! Club members are encouraged to
spread the word and bring along a couple of
friends. Proceeds from the sale are to benefit
MonSFFA.Attention SF/F readers: MonSFFA has
amassed an inventory of many hundreds of sci-fi
novels and anthologies—we've just added 1000
paperbacks to our stock!—and are pricing these
books to move (cash only, please). It is
recommended that shoppers bring with them a
few large grocery bags so as to carry home the
incredible bargains on offer! (See ad, next page
for details.)MonSFFA's regular meeting will unfold
in conjunction with the sale and visitors are
welcome to take part.**MARCH MEETING REPORT**MonSFFA's March 23 meeting was very well
attended as club members availed themselves of
a marvellous shopping opportunity, a members-
only sci-fi book sale in advance of the big Super
Sci-Fi Book Sale we've scheduled for April 13.The club has been entrusted with the sale of
a large collection of SF/F books kindly gifted to
MonSFFA by one Henri Duval, who will soon
be moving to smaller housing. Explaining that
he won't have room for his collection in his new
quarters, Henri wanted to ensure that the many
books he has enjoyed over the years may now
be enjoyed by others. We are pleased to facilitate
that goal and grateful for Henri's most generous
donation to the club.We thought to give our own members first
crack at the inventory and so organized this
pre-sale shopping opportunity for that purpose.
Bargain priced, hundreds of mostly sci-fi
paperbacks were eagerly snapped up by
MonSFFen, netting the club over \$80 by the
mid-meeting break.**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
PETTIT, William S.
RUFANGE, Yolande
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René**Due This Month, April:**

NADEAU, Marc

Due Next Month, May:BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
REDMOND, Isis
SICHEL, DannyStandard 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**

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

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I M P U L S E

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

May / Mai 2014 (Vol. 18, No./N° 5)

**NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, May 25****1:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal**

MEETING THEME: MonSFFen are asked to bring in to the meeting either a favourite board or card game (of a sci-fi theme, if possible) for our show-and-tell session on good old-fashioned games that don't run on a microchip.

PROGRAMME**1:00PM****FILMATION RETROSPECTIVE:**

We're talking Filimation, the television production studio that brought us The Batman/Superman Hour, Star Trek: The Animated Series, He-Man and the Masters of the Universe, and BraveStarr.

2:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Brief discussion of club business, including June's planned club outing; fund-raising raffle.

3:00PM

SHORT STORIES: We talk favourite SF/F short stories.

3:30PM

BOARD AND CARD GAMES: We're talkin' board and card games, here, and maybe we'll play a few; MonSFFen encouraged to bring in to the meeting a favourite game and tell us all about it.

NEXT MONTH: CLUB OUTING

Sunday, June 8

*(details to be announced)***MAY MEETING ROOM
NOW CONFIRMED, JUNE
GROUP OUTING PLANNED**

We are pleased to have received confirmation from the Hôtel Espresso of our May 2014 meeting hall booking; the club's May meeting will take place, as scheduled, on Sunday, May 25, in our usual St-François meeting room.

Details as to slated programming can be found in the column, left.

We had early in the year discussed organizing a group outing in lieu of a June meeting and have set as our date Sunday, the 8th.

MonSFFen may recall previous such field trips—we took in the Star Wars exhibit a few years ago and more recently, have visited the Biodome and Planetarium. We've also, on occasion, opted for a simple movie matinee or a bowling party. Club members are encouraged to offer suggestions for this year's outing and those present at our May meeting will be asked to consider all and choose one of the options.

Details of the outing will be quickly relayed to the membership via e-mail and posted on the club's Web site. Impulse will also run the information in our June issue. Watch this space!

**BOOKS! BOOKS!
AND MORE BOOKS!**

Easily a couple thousand science fiction and fantasy paperbacks, plus hundreds of hardcovers and trade paperbacks, were offered at astounding markdowns during our "Super Sci-Fi Book Sale", held in conjunction with April 13th's club meeting. By the end of the afternoon, this latest MonSFFA fund-raising event had added over \$400 to the club's balance sheet, twice the amount anticipated! Coupled with some \$80 taken in at a special members-only pre-sale held

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NADEAU, Marc
PETTIT, William S.
RUFANGE, Yolande

Due This Month, May:

SICHEL, Danny

Due Next Month, 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:

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

the month before, our total take comes in just shy of \$500, making this MonSFFA's most lucrative fund-raiser of recent years.

Divesting himself of his thousands of mostly SF/F paperbacks, local sci-fi fan Henri Duval very kindly donated his impressive book collection to the club, certain that we were best positioned to find "good homes" for the many novels. To that bounty were added numerous boxes of books from the club's own library, and still more publications gifted us by a number of club members.

All of this stock was organized atop a dozen tables set up in the club's meeting room and priced to move, with discounts increasing exponentially the more books customers bought. Proving exceptionally popular was our "Big Bulk Bargain"—for just \$10, folk were invited to pick for themselves as many books as could be contained in a large storage box, typically about 60-80 volumes! So pleased were patrons with the selection and pricing that they often added a few dollars more than required when making their purchases.

Turn-out was healthy, with a steady stream of booklovers paying us a visit throughout the afternoon, warmly welcomed and directed to the categorized merchandise by Cathy Palmer-Lister, Danny Sichel, Berny Reischl, and other helpful MonSFFen. Keith Braithwaite served as cashier and a team of club members helped to cart the boxes of books in, and sort them for sale.

As buyers perused the inventory, MonSFFA's regular meeting programming unfolded, with Keith Braithwaite and Marquise Boies hosting a brief workshop for those interested in acting in fan films and other such creative ventures, and Steven Janssen speaking on the fascinating topic of cyber-crime, leading a lively discussion of the real-world issues raised in the online worlds of fantasy gaming.

As our sale progressed, as well as post-event, we received a lot of positive feedback on social media. We have also since been approached by several people wishing to donate books to our cause, and have received inquiries as to any plans for future sales. We can say at this time that the club is currently looking at maybe hosting another book sale sometime in the fall; stay tuned!

We are thrilled by the success of our "Super Sci-Fi Book Sale" and are pleased to have been able to offer so many quality sci-fi books to sci-fi fans. We are also, of course, very appreciative of the revenue this sale has provided MonSFFA and wish to thank all those who bought books. Thanks, as well, to our dedicated staff of MonSFFen, who helped organize, promote, and run the sale. And last but not least, we extend a special "thank you" to our kind benefactors, whose generous donations of books made this sale possible.

Movie Reviews

The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Yet another take on a familiar story. With countless issues of Spider-Man comics from which to draw, couldn't producers have explored a fresh tale, one not yet seen on the screen? It wasn't so long ago, was it, that the Raimi/Maguire versions were screening in theatres? And while Peter is now dating Gwen instead of Mary Jane, the central Green Goblin plot remains essentially unchanged while the other villains are poorly envisioned, Electro in particular. Alfred Molina's Doc Ock in Spider-Man 2 (2004) represents the high-water mark when it comes to silver-screen Spidey villains. I can't honestly say whether Paul Giamatti's Rhino measures up to that mark or not given that he hardly appears in this movie, serving only to set up a sequel in the closing minutes, despite marketing that suggested he'd play a more prominent role.

What's better about these latest Spidey flicks, this one in particular, is the relationship between Peter and his girl (Gwen, in this case), which, upside-down-kiss-in-the-rain aside, shows a lot more spark. I never bought into the Peter/Mary Jane affair, largely because Tobey Maguire lacked the zeal exhibited by Andrew Garfield.—**Carl Phillips**

Godzilla

Purists will be pleased with the nods to classic Godzilla that producers have included in this modern CGI-heavy remake, not the least of which is the design of the titular beast himself, which nicely echoes the original. Spectacular scenes of Kaiju destruction and a well executed, tantalizingly slow reveal of the King of Monsters are top-notch, but the human story falters badly after the initial sequences featuring Bryan Cranston as nuclear engineer Joe Brody, who has figured out what's happening and exits the story much too soon!—**Keith Braithwaite**

**Paperbacks stacked in one small corner of the club's
April 13 "Super Sci-Fi Book Sale" (photo: Sylvain St-Pierre)**



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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.

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RUFANGE, Yolande

Due This Month, June:

SILVERMAN, Barbara

Due Next Month, July:

BENNETT, Paul
KENNEY, Daniel P.

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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/Superman 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.

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I M P U L S E

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

August / Aout 2014 (Vol. 18, No./N° 7)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, August 17
1:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: in keeping with our planned segment on collecting (see below), club members are asked to bring in the oldest collectible or two that they own!

PROGRAMME**1:00PM**

MONSFFARTISTS!: Highlighting the artistic talents of several MonSFFen as applied to SF/F subjects, we'll screen a club video on illustration techniques, including airbrush, sketching with markers, pen-and-ink, and the creation of computer-generated images.

2:30PM

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

3:00PM

FANCRAFT WORKSHOPS: Make-up application, quick and inexpensive sci-fi Christmas ornaments, and more!

4:00PM**RAIDERS OF THE COLLECTIBLES CABINET:**

MonSFFen are encouraged to bring in to the meeting and showcase the one or two oldest collectibles they possess! Items in some way related to sci-fi are preferred, but we'll welcome interesting non-genre pieces as well. Tell us all about your treasures and why they're so very cool!

NEXT MEETING: September 28

Return of the Super Sci-Fi Book Sale, *and more!*

LONG-SERVING CLUB PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE FANDOM

A key member of local sci-fi fandom for nearly three decades, and MonSFFA's president since 2001, Berny Reischl recently announced that he "needs a break" and will be stepping down as the club's chief and retiring from active fandom at the end of this year.

Berny has been one of Montreal-area sci-fi fandom's most energetic organizers for most of his time as an active fan. Joining in 1988 what was then MonSTA (Montreal Star Trek Association), the precursor to today's MonSFFA, he has been a member of the club ever since and one of the group's most engaged participants. His time as club president has more than *tripled* that of any of his four predecessors!

He was also, for many years, the national leader of the Klingon fan group KAG/Kanada and a principal concom member on many of Montreal's ConConcept sci-fi conventions. Numerous of the other local SF/F projects in which he has been involved include: Q-Con (1989); the one-day TransWarp conventions of the early-1990s; Yesterday to Tomorrow: Science Fiction Through the Ages (1997), an SF exhibition mounted at Complexe Desjardins downtown and featuring some of Forrest J. Ackerman's famous collection of memorabilia; the Dimension SF Science Fiction Film Festival (1999) at the Cinéma Impérial; and MonSFFA's enormously popular, standing-room-only "Welcome to Montreal/ Bienvenue à Montréal" room party at Anticipation, the first Montreal WorldCon (2009)—Berny not only contributed cash to help cover the party's expenses, but was one of the diligent MonSFFA crew who served up galactic quantities of smoked-meat sandwiches, bagels, and beer!

After so many years of activity at such an

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

Overdue:

BENNETT, Paul
 KENNEY, Daniel P.
 KRIMP, Nick
 NADEAU, Marc
 PETTIT, William S.
 RUFIANGE, Yolande
 SILVERMAN, Barbara

Due This Month, August:

GLOVER, Wayne
 NOVO, Alice
 NOVO, Fernando

Due Next Month, September:

ASPLER, Joseph
 BOIES, Marquise
 BRAITHWITE, Erin
 BRAITHWITE, Keith
 BRAITHWITE, Scott
 DUROCHER, Dominique
 MOIR, L. E.
 WHITELAW, Maureen

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elevated level of commitment, Berny's intention to gafiate (fannish lingo, meaning to "get away from it all"), we suppose, comes as no great surprise.

He has the incalculable gratitude of this club for his many years of tireless effort on our behalf. We wish him a restful fannish retirement come December and hope that we'll see him from time to time after that at a MonSFFA meeting or event. He will always be most welcome.

Club Visits Aviation Museum

More than a dozen MonSFFen travelled west to Ottawa on June 8 to visit the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum. Several club members graciously volunteered their vehicles as "taxis" so that our group might carpool to the nation's Capital. Those embarking on this field trip were asked to gather early in the morning at the familiar Hôtel Espresso downtown, from which our convoy departed at about 8:00AM.

We pulled into the museum's parking lot about 10:30AM and made our way to the main entrance, where one of Canada's iconic Snowbirds jets was mounted as if in barrel-rolling flight overhead. Our appetites for Canadian aviation history were quickly whet!

With a focus on Canadian achievements in the aviation field, the CASM features a world-class collection of over 130 civilian and military aircraft and artifacts, dating from the early 1900s to the present. We happily spent the next several hours strolling amid the displays snapping photos and admiring the airplanes, perhaps most impressive of which was the giant Lancaster heavy bomber. This champion of the Allied effort in Europe during WWII loomed over the other aircraft in that part of the museum. These included the RAF's famous Second World War stalwarts Hurricane, Spitfire, and Typhoon, all present along with their wartime adversary, the Messerschmitt Me-109.

In contrast to the imposing Lancaster, a number of small early flyers and biplanes seemed almost fragile in comparison. A WWI-era Sopwith Camel was immaculately restored, while a large German plane from that same period showed signs of heavy damage.

There were a number of sleek jet fighters towards the rear of the hangar, including Avro's legendary CF-100, the Voodoo, Banshee, and Starfighter, and two of Canadair's compact but deadly Sabres. Next to a modern CF-18 was the nose section of the Avro Arrow, one of but a few surviving components of Canada's fabled and infamously scrapped Cold War-era supersonic interceptor.

Of the non-military aircraft on view were early airliners, like the Lockheed Electra and the venerable Douglas DC-3, and several of the kind of workhorse airplanes that helped open this country's North, notably the de Havilland Beaver, an iconic Canadian bush plane, and its big brother, the Otter.

Other types of aircraft included sea planes, bright yellow-painted trainers, and several helicopters.

Finely detailed dioramas and scale models were placed throughout the museum, complementing the displays.

Of interest to sci-fi fans, certainly, was the "Living in Space" exhibition, which featured interactive displays and showcased some of the equipment used by astronauts on the ISS. The Canadarm was a highlight, here.

A post-museum visit dinner at a nearby restaurant closed the afternoon for our group, after which we headed for home.

Thanks are conferred upon our drivers, without whom this field trip would not have gotten out of the driveway.

Weather Perfect for Annual Club Barbecue

With perfect weather bestowed upon us, MonSFFA's annual summer barbecue this season took place on Sunday, July 20, at our usual Parc Angrignon locale in Lasalle. It was a warm, sunny day and all present thoroughly enjoyed a pleasant afternoon among friends, not to mention their delectable barbecued beef, pork, and chicken. Sipping refreshing drinks and partaking of the variety of tasty snacks provided, conversation flowed liberally under the shade of several large trees near the middle of an expansive meadow that makes up but one corner of this vast city park.

We can easily chalk this one up as another marvellous club outing and offer a nod of thanks to club president Berny Reischl for providing the cooking grill, and a second to those folk who shared several trays of delicious snacks with the group.

Unfortunately, another MonSFFA summer mainstay, Wayne Glover's backyard barbecue and pool party, did not take place this year. This event usually unfolds within a week or two of the club's barbecue-in-the-park in Lasalle, but ongoing repairs to Wayne's pool left his backyard unavailable for entertaining. MonSFFen were informed of the cancellation via e-mail as news came to us just days after we plugged the event in the June-July issue of Impulse.

Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

We again 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 rest of the summer.

Return of the Super Sci-Fi Book Sale!

Folks, we have a lot of great used books left over from our successful Super Sci-Fi Book Sale back in April, and we've since added additional inventory! So we are pleased to announce that we'll be holding another sale, this time in conjunction with our September 28 club meeting.

Missed the first sale? Looking for fresh reads? Want to get in some early Christmas shopping? This will be your chance to pick up dozens of terrific sci-fi and fantasy paperbacks and hardcovers by name authors at incredible bargain-basement prices!

Spread the word! Bring a friend!

More information to follow online, and in the next issue of Impulse!

Please Note: Parade Sunday May Hamper Easy Access to Club's Hotel

We are advised that the city's Gay Pride Parade will take place on Sunday, August 17, same day as our upcoming club meeting. We mention this because the parade usually forms up and marches along René-Lévesque Boulevard, right next to the hotel at which MonSFFA meets and this has, in past years, caused some difficulty for folk wishing to cross René-Lévesque to get to the hotel. The street is often closed to traffic during the parade and both pedestrians and automobiles are barred from crossing René-Lévesque until the marchers have passed.

As the parade generally gets started just before or at about the same time as our meeting begins, we suggest MonSFFen arrive early enough to avoid any street closures, or approach on Guy Street from below (south of) René-Lévesque.

We'll see you at the meeting!

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September / Septembre 2014 (Vol. 18, No./N° 8)

**NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, September 28****1:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal**

MEETING THEME: As we are holding another Super Sci-Fi Book Sale in conjunction with this meeting, club members are asked to help with early morning (10:30AM) set-up and/or end-of-meeting take-down. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

PROGRAMME**10:30AM-12:45PM (Pre-Meeting)**

SET-UP FOR BOOK SALE: Set-up for sci-fi book sale; club members asked to help unpack, sort, and ready our inventory of books for sale.

1:00PM**RETURN OF SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE:**

Sale opens to public.

2:00PM

CREATIVE CREATURES: We survey some of the more imaginatively original and distinctly fascinating creatures to be found crawling, slithering, ambling, swimming, or flying through the many bizarre and wonderful worlds of SF/F.

3:30PM

CONVENTION REVIEWS: We offer oral reviews of the recent WorldCon in London, England, and Montreal's own 2014 edition of ComicCon.

Next Month's Meeting:**OCTOBER 26**

It Came from the Internet,
and more!

**RETURN OF THE SUPER
SCI-FI BOOK SALE**

MonSFFA again welcomes SF/F booklovers to our second Super Sci-Fi Book Sale of the year! The sale will take place in conjunction with MonSFFA's Sunday, September 28 meeting.

Having amassed a considerable inventory of many hundreds of sci-fi novels and anthologies, the club is again able to offer these to both its members and to the general public at unbelievable bargains! And in the months since our previous sale, we've added even more books to the pile! All volumes are priced to move (cash only, please)! The more you buy, the more you save!

It is recommended that shoppers bring with them a few large grocery bags so as to carry home the extraordinary deals on offer! (See ad, next page, for details.)

MonSFFA's regular meeting will unfold in conjunction with the sale and visitors are welcome to take part.

Club members are encouraged to spread the word and bring along a couple of friends. Proceeds from the sale are to benefit MonSFFA.

AUGUST MEETING REPORT

As has become MonSFFA's practice, we followed our summer break with a meeting dedicated to "fancraft" and collecting which, this year, took place on Sunday, August 17.

Keith Braithwaite opened proceedings with the screening of an old home-video, circa 1995, showcasing the artistic talents of three MonSFFers as applied to sci-fi illustration. The artists—Jean-Pierre Normand, John Matthias, and Berny Reischl—detailed and demonstrated such illustration techniques as airbrush, pen-and-ink, and marker rendering, as well as the then nascent field of computer-generated imaging and animation. Despite the somewhat poor picture

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DUROCHER, Dominique
MOIR, L. E.
WHITELAW, Maureen

Due Next Month, October:

BOOM, Hendrik
PELLEY, Linda
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

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and sound quality in some sequences (these old analog recordings have deteriorated over time), the audience was, all the same, able to enjoy a kind of show-and-tell by three skilled artists.

After the video screening, MonSFFen took turns showing to their fellow members and speaking about their oldest collectibles. Most, but not all of the items presented were related in some way to the sci-fi genre, like a couple of vintage Tom Swift novels and a yellowed comic book featuring the first appearance of Marvel's X-Men. A period medallion commemorating the death of British admiral Horatio Nelson in 1805 at the Battle of Trafalgar was one of the non-SF/F pieces of interest.

The mid-meeting break gave way to a series of "fancraft" demonstrations and workshops. MonSFFen were invited to try their hand at Halloween face-painting/make-up application, the fashioning of science fiction-themed Christmas ornaments, or the construction of a working miniature crossbow that fires matchstick or Q-tip bolts.

The club thanks everyone who contributed to the planning and running of this meeting.

ComicCon Welcomes TNG Cast, Announces Move to July for 2015

Montreal ComicCon 2014 (September 12-14) featured the reuniting on stage of the principal cast of Star Trek: The Next Generation. The Trek reunion was a highlight of the con, but a big disappointment for many was the last-minute cancellation of Matt "Doctor Who" Smith's scheduled appearance.

The ComicCon juggernaut continues apace in Montreal as this year's edition drew thousands more than last year's. The con's Web site boasts that "over 51,000" folk attended, a record number, apparently. We can attest to the Gideon-like crowds on site; the hallways outside of the main room were, at times, so crammed with people that it was difficult to move, let alone get from one end of the building to the other!

ComicCon again offered fans a multitude of pop culture stars, most of them sci-fi TV and movie actors, a giant dealers' room, cosplay stars among the herd of folk dressed up as their favourite sci-fi/horror/comics characters (although there seemed to be fewer costumed fans roaming the convention floor this year than last), and pricey autograph and photo opportunities with the star attractions. (Let's be honest: everything about ComicCon is pricey!)

To their credit, MCC's organizers make an effort to include local content, as well as schedule interesting panel programming as an alternative to the various stars' Q&As. We'd like more of that, please!

It was announced that next year, ComicCon would expand to occupy the entire Palais des congrès convention centre, doubling its floor space! The event also moves from autumn to July 3-5 in 2015.

Return of the...

SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE!

*Attention SF&F Readers: Amazing **BARGAINS** on Thousands of Amazing Stories by Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors from Asimov to Zelazny!*

We've got plenty of inventory left over from our sale earlier this year, and we've now added plenty more!

BOXES OF BOOKS! PILES OF PAPERBACKS!
A VAST VARIETY OF VOLUMES AVAILABLE!

Including...

TRADE PAPERBACKS and *HARDCOVERS*!
***ANTHOLOGIES* and *SPECIALTY BOOKS*!**
A number of *MAGAZINES* and *COMICS*!

UNIMAGINABLE, UNBELIEVABLE, UNBEATABLE PRICES!
THE MORE YOU BUY, THE MORE YOU SAVE!

<i>Paperbacks:</i>	<i>50¢ each, 3 for \$1.00, 7 for \$2.00!</i>
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<i>Select Specialty Books:</i>	<i>\$3.00-\$5.00 each</i>
<i>Big Bulk Bargain:</i>	<i>\$10.00 for a whole box full of books!</i>

Open to the Public!

Spread the Word and Bring a Friend!

SHOP EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, September 28, 2014

(in conjunction with regular MonSFFA club meeting)

1:00PM-4:00PM

Hôtel Espresso (2nd Floor, St-François Room)

1005 rue Guy, corner Boul. René-Lévesque

(Metro Guy/Concordia or Lucien L'Allier)

Hosted by **MonSFFA**, the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association
www.monsffa.com

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October / Octobre 2014 (Vol. 18, No./N° 9)

**NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, October 26****1:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: It's Halloween!**MonSFFen are welcome to attend this meeting in spooky costume, or to bring in Halloween treats or decorations for the occasion.***PROGRAMME****1:00PM****FROM THE CONVENTION FLOOR:** Report on the 72nd Worldcon, Loncon 3, held in London, England.**1:30PM****YOU WEAR IT WELL:** An appreciation of that increasingly popular staple of sci-fi conventions, costuming, or cosplay.**2:30PM****MID-MEETING BREAK:** Fund-raising raffle; brief announcements and club business.**2:45PM****IT CAME FROM THE INTERNET!:** We take a jaunt through the vast World Wide Web, exploring some of the cool, fascinating, amusing, and just plain weird sci-fi tidbits to be found on the Internet.**Next Month's Meeting:****NOVEMBER 16**

The Strange Societies of SF/F; Board of Advisors Meeting (Planning Session, 2015 Club Programming); and more!

**SECOND SCI-FI BOOK
SALE ADDS TO CLUB
COFFERS**

MonSFFA held a second Super Sci-Fi Book Sale last month in conjunction with its September 28 meeting. Boxes of sci-fi and fantasy books left over from the club's first sale in April of this year were augmented by hundreds more volumes freshly donated to the club—thank you to all of our very generous donors!—and again provided booklovers with a vast selection at unbelievable bargain prices.

We thank the many MonSFFen who showed up early that Sunday morning to help cart and unpack books, and set them out on our sales tables. We are reminded that this club runs on the dedication and energy of its members, and we appreciate greatly everyone's effort. We thank our many book-loving customers, as well.

Our two Super Sci-Fi Book Sales this year have raised for the club over \$700, funds much needed in light of the always increasing costs of operation.

The club expects to hold one more book sale, date to be determined but probably sometime in late spring, 2015 (stay tuned for details in the early New Year). This will likely be our last such sale, as we strive to clear our mammoth inventory of paperbacks. Expect prices to be even more insanely bargain-rate than they have been to date!

**SEPTEMBER
MEETING REPORT**

We were in our meeting room early on Sunday, September 28, to set up for our second Super Sci-Fi Book Sale of the year (see lead item). The sale ran in parallel to the club's regular meeting.

The meeting opened with a presentation by

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BOOM, Hendrik
PELLEY, Linda
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

Due Next Month, November:

DESPLAND, Alexis
JANSSEN, Steven
KNAPP, Brian
KNAPP, Cathye

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Sylvain St-Pierre on the bizarre creatures to be found in SF/F. Extensively researched and copiously illustrated with stills and video clips, Sylvain's "Creative Creatures" explored, first, various of the beasts of ancient Greek and other mythologies. Sylvain detailed the characteristics of such creatures as the Gryphon, Minotaur, Centaur, Manticore, and others. The multi-headed Hydra and snake-haired Medusa were recognized by those who had seen some of the old Ray Harryhausen fantasy films while Sylvain elaborated on the less-known Mermecolion, an ant with the head of a lion, the terrifying dagger-toothed Australian Bunyip, and the Japanese "Turtle Man", the Kappa, which devours one's liver by way of the anus!

Europe's olden dragons were cited while Sylvain noted that the rhinoceros inspired many a tale of strange monsters brought back to Europe by the travellers of those distant times.

The Jabberwocky, Cheshire Cat, and various of H. P. Lovecraft's sping-tingling brutes—Cthulu, Yog-Sothoth, Shub-Niggurath and other of the Great Old Ones—were covered, as were thoughtful interpretations of Martians and other extraterrestrials by sci-fi pulp artists Frank R. Paul and Edmund Alexander Emshwiller. More recently are the aliens of sci-fi literature as envisioned by illustrator Wayne Barlowe in his famous Guide to Extraterrestrials.

The afternoon's closed with oral reviews of the recent Montreal ComicCon and the 72nd Worldcon, Loncon 3, in London, England. Discussion followed on the changing convention scene today, as commercially driven ComicCon-like events appear to be sweeping aside smaller, traditional fan-run cons. The notion that the Worldcon has become a convention only for old, unwelcoming, gray-haired fannish traditionalists, attracting fewer and fewer young fans, was dispelled by a topical survey of Worldcon attendees focusing on age and retention carried out by Anticipation co-chair and MonSFFA's René Walling.

MonSFFA thanks everyone who contributed to the planning and running of this meeting.

Obituary: Anne Methe

We are saddened to hear of the passing of our friend Ann Methe, who succumbed to cancer earlier this month.

Ann and her husband, Jean-Pierre Normand, a professional sci-fi illustrator and avid collector, are fixtures of Montreal-area fandom. The friendly and welcoming couple have been involved in many of this city's sci-fi events over the years, including Anticipation, the Montreal Worldcon, and the MonSFFA-born ConCept Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention, for which Ann served as chair and later, as one of the organization's board

members. A three-time Aurora Award nominee, Ann won the prize in 1999 for her chairing of ConCept. Upon news of her passing, she was remembered fondly by many SF/F fans and professionals Canada-wide for her work as a conrunner. We join in honouring her contributions to local fandom as we mourn the loss of a dear friend and offer our sincerest sympathies to Jean-Pierre.

At the time of this writing, we have no news to pass along of a memorial service.

**MonSFFA Wishes to Thank All
of the Donors, Volunteers, and
Customers Who Made Our Two**

SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALES

This Year Such a Success!



**We'll be Back Next Year with Another Book Sale,
and Prices Will be More Unbelievable than Ever!**

**So Watch this Space and Check [MonSFFA.com](http://www.MonSFFA.com) Regularly
for an Announcement and Details Early in the New Year.**

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I M P U L S E

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

November / Novembre 2014 (Vol. 18, No./N° 10)

**NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, November 16
1:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal**

MEETING THEME: The festive season will soon be upon us and MonSFFen are asked to bring in to the meeting a Christmas ornament, store-bought or crafted by their own hand, to hang from our tree.

PROGRAMME**1:00PM**

STRANGE SOCIETIES: An exploration of some of SF/F's most bizarre societies as imagined by genre writers and filmmakers. These are often exaggerated reflections of our own cultures, allegories intended as critical comment on human civilization.

2:00PM**MID-MEETING BREAK:**

Fund-raising raffle

2:30PM**BOARD OF ADVISORS****MEETING/PLANNING SESSION:**

All club members are encouraged to contribute ideas as we select meeting dates for next year and begin planning our 2015 activities, as well as deal with other matters of importance.

Next Month:**CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PARTY
Saturday Evening, December 6**

Details to be announced soon on club's Web site, and in December issue of Impulse. Watch this space!

**OCTOBER
MEETING REPORT**

As suggested by the meeting's stated theme, a number of MonSFFen arrived in Halloween costume, or bearing Halloween treats, for the occasion of the club's October 26 meeting.

The afternoon's agenda was a busy one, opening with a brief presentation by Cathy Palmer-Lister on Loncon 3, the 72nd Worldcon, held in London, England, this past August. Projecting visuals as she offered her review of the event, Cathy found this to have been one of the bigger and better Worldcons she has attended. She was particularly pleased with the strong science programming offered.

Sylvain St-Pierre was up next with a solidly researched seminar on that time-honoured staple of the sci-fi convention, the craft of costuming, these days often called cosplay. Sylvain's talk spanned decades of costuming artistry, from venerable SF fan Forrest J. Ackerman's introduction of the idea of dressing up as an individual from one's favourite SF/F story in the earliest days of science fiction conventions to the modern practice of patrolling the corridors of giant Comic-Con events kitted out as a superhero or video game character and posing for countless photographs. Whether putting together a simple "hall costume" or an intricately detailed outfit for presentation in a con's masquerade (costume competition), fun and creativity are at the heart of the hobby and costuming is arguably more popular today than ever.

Time was running short as we moved to our third presentation of the afternoon, Keith Braithwaite's screening of numerous interesting, cool, or just plain weird sci-fi video clips he and other club members had gathered from the Internet. But with less than 90 minutes of meeting time remaining and well over three hours of material in hand, Keith necessarily had

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BENNETT, Paul
BOIES, Marquise
BOOM, Hendrik
DUROCHER, Dominique
KENNEY, Daniel P.
KRIMP, Nick
NADEAU, Marc
PELLEY, Linda
SILVERMAN, Barbara
WHITELAW, Maureen

Due This Month, November:

DESPLAND, Alexis
KNAPP, Brian
KNAPP, Cathye

Due Next Month, December:

DUROCHER, Marc
REISCHL, Bernard

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No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

to trim his presentation. Comedy skits, celebrity interviews, movie trailers, various oddities, and such—all having some correlation to SF/F—were screened, with Keith promising to present the remaining clips he'd collected another time soon.

MonSFFA proffers thanks to presenters Cathy Palmer-Lister, Sylvain St-Pierre, and Keith Braithwaite, as well as to all who contributed to the planning and running of this meeting.

Best Wishes

We send our best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery to MonSFFA's Alice Novo, currently in hospital combating illness and awaiting a medical procedure. Our thoughts are with her. Get well soon, Alice; we miss you and look forward to your swift return.

Condolences

MonSFFA extends its sincere condolences to club vice-president Keith Braithwaite on the recent loss of his beloved father, who passed away peacefully on November 5, two months shy of his 85th birthday.

The information we have as to a memorial service is as follows:

Visitation from 10:00AM-1:00PM, Saturday, November 15, at the Alfred Dallaire Groupe Yves Légaré funeral home, 123 Maple Boulevard, in Châteauguay, immediately followed by a funeral mass at 1:30PM, just a short distance up the street from the funeral home, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 295 McLeod Street. Family and friends are invited to a reception at Keith's home after the church service (directions will be provided).

Questionnaire

With the official retirement from active fandom of MonSFFA's long-serving president, Berny Reischl, drawing near, the club will shortly embark upon a new adventure under new management, so to speak.

We are therefore taking the opportunity to poll our members as to their abilities and talents. We hope to ascertain who among our ranks may be able to take on some of the tasks—big or small, regular or occasional—that need to be undertaken in order that the club operate smoothly and efficiently. Obviously, the more people involved in organizing and running our activities, the less each individual will have to do.

And so, we are asking what *you* might be able to assist with to help insure that we all continue to get as much enjoyment out of this club as we always have.

Please answer the following questionnaire and deposit it with us, either at the next meeting or event, or by returning it to us via post. You may also provide your answers via e-mail (keith1958@live.ca); all members have been sent this same questionnaire, contained within the e-mail message announcing the publication of this November 2014 issue of *Impulse*.

QUESTIONNAIRE for MonSFFA MEMBERS

Please check the appropriate box or boxes and fill in information where requested

Name: _____ Languages spoken: ☐ English ☐ French
Languages written: ☐ English ☐ French I have been a club member for:
☐ less than 2 years ☐ between 2 and 5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ over 10 years

Annually, I typically attend: ☐ all or nearly all of the club's 12 or so meetings/events
☐ about 6-8 of these ☐ about 5-7 ☐ about 3-5 ☐ fewer than 3 ☐ none

Of the club's activities, I usually attend the: ☐ Sunday meetings ☐ Summer BBQ
☐ Christmas Dinner/Party ☐ Spring outing/field trip

Generally, I: ☐ arrive at meetings/events early ☐ arrive at the posted start time
☐ arrive late ☐ leave early ☐ stay until the end of meetings/events

I am able to help with light tasks, such as the set-up/tear-down of our meeting room, stocking of the snack table, sale of raffle tickets, etc.:

☐ yes ☐ most of the time ☐ on occasion ☐ no

I am able and willing to handle such responsibilities as Web site maintenance, fanzine or newsletter editor, membership supervisor, and event organizer:

☐ yes ☐ yes, but with some guidance ☐ no ☐ no, but I can offer assistance

Have you contributed to the club's fanzine, *Warp*?: ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ not yet

If yes, what type of content have you provided?: ☐ feature articles ☐ fan fiction
☐ comics ☐ book reviews ☐ film/TV reviews ☐ video game reviews
☐ reports on club activities and/or convention reviews ☐ cover art ☐ interior art
☐ photographs of club events/outings ☐ opinion ☐ humour, games, or trivia
☐ other (specify): _____

Were you to contribute to *Warp*, what kind of content do you think you would submit? (List from the options provided in the previous question, above):

Rate honestly your writing skills, taking into account competence in spelling and grammar, eloquence of phrase, quality of prose: ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair
☐ adequate ☐ poor I write best in: ☐ English ☐ French ☐ either

Have you contributed to meeting programming as a panelist?: ☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, typically how often?: ☐ 6 or more times annually ☐ 3-5 times annually
☐ once or twice annually As a solo or co-panelist?: ☐ solo ☐ co-panelist

If you have not taken part in meeting programming but were to do so, do you think you would be more comfortable flying solo as a presenter or participating as part of a discussion panel?: ☐ as a presenter ☐ as a co-panelist ☐ either

Do you have access to, and a working knowledge of, the software (e.g.: Keynote, PowerPoint) and portable hardware (laptop, tablet) that would enable you to put together and show a polished audio/visual presentation?: ☐ yes ☐ no

Alternatively, do you think you could put together a respectable presentation without the use of digital technology?: ☐ yes ☐ I would require help ☐ no

My interests rest principally in?: ☐ science fiction ☐ fantasy ☐ horror
☐ art ☐ comics ☐ science and technology ☐ gaming ☐ costuming
☐ other (specify): _____ I am primarily a fan of the genre's:
☐ literary form ☐ media form ☐ both more or less equally

Return completed survey at a club meeting soonest, or via post or e-mail (keith1958@live.ca).

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

December / Décembre 2014 (Vol. 18, No./N° 11)

CLUB'S CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY IS THIS WEEKEND

**Saturday, December 6
6:00PM, Downtown Montreal**

**IRISH EMBASSY PUB & 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

MONSFFEN, THEIR FAMILIES,
AND THE CLUB'S FRIENDS,
ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
IN CELEBRATION OF
THE FESTIVE SEASON

- Dinner and Drinks!
- MonSFFA Christmas Raffle!
- Rewards Raffle for Volunteer Members!
- And More!

Reservations have been made under the name "MonSFFA/Bernard Reischl"

NOTE: the restaurant does not accept debit cards; payment by cash or credit card only, please

In the spirit of the season, we encourage MonSFFen to donate to a local food bank or toy drive

(See also lead item, center)

2014 MonSFFA CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PARTY

All MonSFFen, their families, and the club's friends, are cordially invited to MonSFFA's 2014 Christmas Dinner and Party! Join us in celebrating the festive holiday! (See Events Column, left.)

We will gather downtown at 6:00PM on Saturday, December 6, at the Irish Embassy Pub and Grill, 1234 Bishop Street (near the corner of Ste-Catherine) to enjoy a fine meal, drinks, and good company. Reservations have been made under the name "MonSFFA/Bernard Reischl". Main courses available include prime rib, roasted pork loin, trout, or vegetarian curry.



Some of the books, DVDs, and collectibles on offer in this year's MonSFFA Christmas Raffle.

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KNAPP, Cathye
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SILVERMAN, Barbara
WHITELAW, Maureen

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DUROCHER, Marc
REISCHL, Bernard

Due Next Month, January:

PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

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No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

The price of your meal, including taxes and tip, should come to about \$35, give or take. Drinks are extra.

Note that the restaurant *does not accept* debit cards; payment by cash or credit card only, please.

We will have a number of first-rate prizes on offer as part of our traditional Christmas raffle, including classic genre novels, DVD movie collections and TV series, handcrafted sci-fi Christmas ornaments, and more. So bring along a little extra cash with which to buy raffle tickets, folks! Further, we'll award volunteer members thank-you gifts by means of our special Rewards Raffle.

Lastly, with those in our community less fortunate in mind, and in the spirit of the season, we encourage MonSFFen to donate to a local food bank or toy drive.

We take this opportunity to wish all MonSFFA members and friends of the club a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

November Meeting Report

MonSFFA's final meeting of the year was held on November 16. A good portion of the agenda was devoted to the preliminary planning of meetings for next year's calendar, beginning with the selection of preferred 2015 dates for our regular gatherings. These will be submitted to the hotel for confirmation. Folk also tossed out suggestions for meeting programming next year, including a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds TV series and explorations of such diverse fare as the Perry Rhodan universe, urban legends, games and sports competition in SF/F, and the search for the Holy Grail. These and other ideas will be fleshed out into panels and readied for the coming year, along with the return of perennial favourites like our August "fancraft" workshops and June outing/field trip.

After a slight delay, Sylvain St-Pierre presented the afternoon's scheduled talk on the topic of sci-fi's "Strange Societies", which are often critical reflections on human civilization. Various of the genre's utopias and dystopias were highlighted, as were such familiar and fabled destinations as Lilliput (Gulliver's Travels) and Plato's Atlantis.

The mid-meeting break saw a quick fund-raising raffle add a few coins to the club's coffers and the display of Christmas ornaments brought in by MonSFFen in keeping with the meeting's designated theme.

Keith Braithwaite then offered a few additional video clips collected for his "It Came from the Internet" presentation of the previous meeting, plus a selection of movie trailers. So much material was amassed for Keith's October screening that unused clips will easily provide the foundation for a reprise of this panel in 2015.

MonSFFA tips its hat to presenters Sylvain St-Pierre and Keith Braithwaite, and thanks, too, all those who contributed to the planning and running of this meeting.

Proposed MonSFFA Meeting Dates for Next Year

The club has selected the following dates for its meetings in 2015 (all are Sundays): January 18, February 15, March 22, April 19, May 24, August 16, September 20, October 18, and November 22.

These dates will shortly be submitted to the hotel. We await confirmation; stay tuned!

In addition, we have an outing of some sort planned for Sunday, June 14, and have scheduled our annual summer barbecue for Sunday, July 19. Our 2015 Christmas Dinner/Party will take place on Saturday evening, December 5.

2015 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 2015 elections will take place at our first meeting of the new year, slated for January 18 (confirmation pending). All MonSFFA members in good standing are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president(s), and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. These 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; Lindsay Brown, second vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

As club members are aware, Berny has recently announced his retirement from fandom, citing the need for "a break from it all" after some 25 years of active involvement in MonSFFA and other fannish organizations, clocking about half of that time as president of MonSFFA. Berny will not, therefore, run for re-election come January. VP Keith Braithwaite, however, has indicated that he will throw his hat into the ring once again. As of this writing, we have no definitive word from the other Executive members as to their intentions.

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).

Briefly:

- We remind MonSFFen to please fill out the questionnaire published in the last issue of Impulse (November 2014; Volume 18, Number 10) and return it to a club executive at the earliest opportunity.
- Issue 89 of Warp has been released and is available for download in PDF format off of the club's Web site. Warp is intended for club members and issues are password protected; to access this latest electronic edition, MonSFFen must e-mail club president Berny Reischl (president@monsffa.com) and request said password. Club members may alternatively pick up a paper version at club meetings and events. If you have not claimed a paper copy of Warp 89 at the most recent club meeting, you may do so at the Christmas Dinner/Party this weekend. To have a paper issue sent to you via postal mail, please contact club vice-president Keith Braithwaite (keith1958@live.ca) and make your request. As a rule, MonSFFA expects that all of its members have access to Warp electronically and does not mail out paper copies unless an express request to do so is received.

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