

# MonSFFA • A MonSFF IMPULSE

NEWS BULLETIN  
OF THE MONTREAL  
SCIENCE FICTION  
AND FANTASY  
ASSOCIATION

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

January / Janvier 2011 (Vol. 15, No./Nº 1)

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

**Sunday, January 16**

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

### SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

**1:00PM**

**2011 MONSFFA ELECTIONS:** Election of club's Executive Committee for 2011.

**1:15PM**

**SPECIAL GUEST PHILIPPE GOBEILLE:** Our guest seeks "expert" input on the zeitgeist of 1950s sci-fi/horror movies for an upcoming stage play, for which he is artistic director.

**2:00PM**

**BREAK / OPEN DISCUSSION:** Update on latest club business, fund-raising raffle, and brief free-form discussion. What SF/F- or club-related topic is on your mind?

**2:30PM**

**SIGNS AND SYMBOLS, LEGENDS AND MYTHS:** An examination of various mythologies and their related symbols.

**3:30PM**

**OLD-TIME RADIO PROJECT:** We hope to complete the last of the voice work required for our on-going radio project.

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING

**February 20**

Sci-Fi Couples / 2012 MonSFFA  
Calendar Photo Shoot

## 2011 MonSFFA Calendars Sell Out! More Printed!

We are *thrilled* to report that within a couple of weeks of release, our initial run of MonSFFA 2011 calendars had sold out! This, our first club calendar, highlights the creative output—artwork, costumes and props, scale-model spaceships, etc.—of a selection of talented MonSFFen while serving as a fund-raiser for our association.

To meet demand, we have produced a second run of calendars and these will be available for purchase as of our January meeting. Each retails at \$8, but MonSFFen benefit from a discounted price of *only* \$5 with the club's Platinum members enjoying a further rebate of \$1.

And, we are already at work on a 2012 MonSFFA calendar, which we hope to have available for sale in time for this summer's convention season.

## Club's 2010 Christmas Dinner and Party Closes Year's Activities

MonSFFA's 2010 Christmas Dinner and Party was held Saturday evening, December 4.

The club's members and friends gathered first for a festive dinner at the Scores restaurant on Ste-Catherine. While enjoying the repast and exchanging season's greetings, MonSFFen participated in a quick fund-raising raffle to benefit the club, the prizes for which included the *Star Trek* edition of the popular TV trivia game Scene It. Also, a handful of folk cleaned out our stock of 2011 MonSFFA calendars (more have since been printed and will be available for sale at our January meeting; see item, above). We thank MonSFFA Emperor/president Berny Reischl for organizing the dinner portion of our Christmas celebrations.

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

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

BOIES, Marquise  
DUROCHER, Marc  
HICKEY, Mark  
REISCHL, Bernard  
SINCLAIR, Julia

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

**PALMER-LISTER, Cathy**

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

KRIMP, Nick  
LUPIEN, Denise  
LUPIEN, Leslie

Standard membership is *only* \$25 annually. Please complete the application form, below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to MonSFFA), and mail to:

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

Thank you for renewing  
your MonSFFA membership  
in timely fashion.

## MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name / Nom: \_\_\_\_\_ Age / Âge: \_\_\_\_\_

Address / Adresse: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

CITY/VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL

## AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

Tel. / Tél.: ( ) ( )  
HOME/MAISON WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail / Courriel: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests / Intérêts: \_\_\_\_\_

The party was held a short walk down the street from Scores at the “Not So Privateer” bar. Here was held our Rewards Raffle, offering exclusively those members who had run programming at our meetings in 2010, or pitched in to help with special events and projects, a chance to win one of several prizes the club put up as humble tokens of thanks. Another quick fund-raising raffle followed shortly thereafter, interrupting only briefly the traditional back-room pool tournament that has become a staple of our Christmas bash. In keeping with our holiday custom, MonSFFen donated several grocery bags worth of toys and non-perishable food items, which were later transported to Sun Youth headquarters and added to that charitable organization’s Christmas Basket Drive. We thank Keith Braithwaite for seeing to this. Revellers sipped their libations and chatted to a party soundtrack mixed for the occasion by Keith, who also booked the bar for us. A variety of shots were downed and toasts made before things wound down and the club closed the book on another fun year.

We thank the staff of the “Not So Privateer” bar for welcoming our group yet again, as they have for more than a decade, now. And, we trust our members and friends enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## 2011 MonSFFA Events Schedule

Pending confirmation from the hotel, the club’s meeting schedule for the coming year is as follows: January 16, February 20, March 13, April 17, May 15, August 21, September 18, October 23, November 20.

We have plans for a group outing, on the 12th, in lieu of a June meeting, our summer barbecue is set for July 24 (rain date: July 31), and our 2011 Christmas Dinner and Party will take place on Saturday evening, December 3. And, we will be present at ConCept 2011, of course, over the weekend of October 14-16.

Please note that dates are subject to change.

## November MonSFFA Meeting

Our November 21 meeting experienced the same kind of last-minute agenda change as had our October gathering. Both Mark Durocher and Lindsay Brown’s scheduled presentation on mythologies and related symbols, and Wayne Glover’s revisiting of the remastered *Star Trek* Blu-Ray releases were scrubbed as two of these three presenters were sidelined at home and unable to attend the meeting. Keith Braithwaite stepped in with a brief presentation on a couple of interesting movies he’d recently seen, and a period of open discussion provided a further substitute. We led with Sylvain St-Pierre’s presentation on *Weird Sci-Fi Technologies*, itself a holdover from October’s meeting schedule.

Spanning more than a century of science fiction, Sylvain offered numerous examples of some of the bizarre substances and devices concocted by genre writers and filmmakers, like *Avatar*’s Unobtainium, the tractor beam popularized in *Star Trek*, *Nova*’s Illyrion, or Tom Swift’s electronic retro-scope. Bioengineering produces living machines in a number of SF stories while Harry Harrison imagined the unusual “bloater drive” as a means of getting around. Jules Verne envisioned a steam-powered elephant and, indeed, the steampunk universe offers many a mechanical marvel. Some of the contraptions Sylvain highlighted were, in fact, *real* gadgets, like the motorized ice cream cone that slowly rotates the frosty treat to facilitate licking. It was interesting to note that such inventions as radio, the submarine, and even the common hot-air hand dryer were once the stuff of science fiction.

Keith Braithwaite, screening a few clips, offered quick reviews of *Lesbian Vampire Killers*, a 2008 British comedy that finds two hapless fellows looking to get laid amid a gaggle of girl bloodsuckers fond of the femmes, and *Yo-Yo Girl Cop*,

a stylish Japanese oddity about secret agent schoolgirls battling each other with deadly yo-yos!

An open discussion closed the meeting, during which time the group expanded upon the preliminary 2011 events planning that had taken place at that morning’s BoA conclave.

Thanks to all involved with this, our final meeting of 2010.

## 2011 Club Elections

The first order of business as the club begins a new year is traditionally the election of MonSFFA’s Executive Committee for that year. MonSFFA’s 2011 elections will take place at our January 16 meeting. All MonSFFA members in good standing are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. The three executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility.

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

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA. An e-version is available on MonSFFA’s Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following methods:

- In person at a MonSFFA meeting
- Via the club’s mailing address, to the attention of “Impulse”:  
MonSFFA c/o  
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose  
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

- E-mail: keith1958@live.ca
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

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SCIENCE-FICTION ET  
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February-March / Février-Mars 2011 (Vol. 15, No./Nº 2)

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

**Sunday, February 20**

10:30AM-5:00PM

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

**10:30AM, THE RETURN OF**

**PHILIPPE GOBEILLE:** *Last month's guest returns for a script read-through of the upcoming sci-fi stage play on which he and his team are working. They're looking for more of the club's "expert" input on the zeitgeist of 1950s sci-fi/horror movies.*

**1:00PM, SCI-FI COUPLES:** *In honour of Valentine's Day, we look at some of sci-fi's most romantic couples.*

**2:00PM, BREAK / OPEN DISCUSSION / PHOTO SHOOT FOR 2012 MONSFFA CALENDAR:** *While we photograph the costumes, scale models, sculptures, etc. MonSFFEn submit for inclusion in our 2012 MonSFFA calendar (see item, page 2, for details), we'll briefly discuss the latest club business then enjoy an open free-form discussion. What SF/F- or club-related topic is on your mind?*

### NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

**Sunday, March 13**

(St-François Room, Hôtel Espresso)

**1:00PM, SPECIAL GUESTS:** *Space buffs David Shuman and Paul Simard speak on the future of the space program.*

**2:45PM, DODGING THE DOOMSDAY ROCK:** *How to prevent a planet-killing asteroid from colliding with Earth!*

## 2011 Executive Committee

The club kicked off a fresh year of MonSFFActivities at its January 16 meeting by first selecting its Executive Committee for the coming 12 months. Returned to office were Berny Reischl and Keith Braithwaite, as, respectively, president and vice-president. Voters placed their confidence in Berny and Keith's many years of experience running the club.

Sylvain St-Pierre, our long-serving treasurer, was nominated to the bean-counting post again sans contenders but as he was not present at the meeting, the position of treasurer was not officially filled until he later accepted the job via e-mail.

Lindsay Brown, who had served commendably as a second vice-president last year, opted not to run again as increased demands on her free time, she believes, would likely hamper the effort. We thank Lindsay for her valuable contributions to MonSFFA's Executive. Her input would certainly be welcome again should she rejoin the administrative body at some future date.

We applaud our 2011 Executive Committee and wish them well as they prepare to lead us through what we expect will be another year of fun and fascination.

## 2011 MonSFFA Calendars

After printing up a second run to meet demand, we now have but a handful of our new MonSFFA 2011 calendars remaining in stock. These will be available for sale at our February meeting; grab one before they're all gone!

This, our first club calendar, highlights the creative output—artwork, costumes and props, scale-model spaceships, etc.—of a selection of talented MonSFFEn while serving as a fund-raiser for our association. Each retails at \$8, but MonSFFEn benefit from a discounted price of only \$5 with the club's Platinum members enjoying a further rebate of \$1.

We have begun work on a 2012 club calendar and will be conducting a photography session at our February 20 meeting for any of MonSFFA's costumers, modellers, sculptors, etc. who wish to contribute works of fancraft to the project (see next item for details).

We plan to have our 2012 calendar available for sale in time for this summer's convention season.

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

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

DUROCHER, Marc  
HICKEY, Mark  
MOIR, Dorothy  
MOIR, L. E.

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

LUPIEN, Denise  
LUPIEN, Leslie

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

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

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 application form, below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to MonSFFA), and mail to:

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

Thank you for renewing your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion.

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No. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT. / APP. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / VILLE \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL \_\_\_\_\_

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Tel. / Tél.: ( ) ( )

HOME / MAISON

WORK / TRAVAIL

E-mail / Courriel: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests / Intérêts: \_\_\_\_\_



## February Meeting: Club Members' Finest Fancraft Wanted

We will be photographing examples of the finest fancraft produced by our members at the club's February 20 meeting this weekend. MonSFFen will recall that we held such a session last year in preparation for the production of our 2011 MonSFFA calendar, recently released. With a 2012 club calendar planned, we are again looking for the best creative work of our members in terms of costumes and props, scale models, carvings and sculptures, etc.

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

But I already have great shots of my costumes and models, you say. If so, bring them in to the February meeting. You know the drill! These images should be clean, good quality photos or digital reproductions of your fancraft. As we are selecting images to be featured in our 2012 calendar, we are looking for well composed shots, properly in focus and expertly lit, against a neutral backdrop. We want the attention to be on your work, unobstructed by any distractions in the background.

We'll also be gathering drawings and paintings of sci-fi subjects rendered by those artists in our group. Again, good quality prints or digital reproductions of these are welcome. As we did with the 2011 calendar, we hope to highlight in our 2012 calendar a wide variety of fancraft in different mediums.

Finally, those members whose artwork was featured in our 2011 calendar are asked, of course, to submit fresh pieces to the 2012 project.

## Minor Revisions to 2011 MonSFFA Events Schedule

The Hôtel Espresso, our meeting locale, has confirmed the 2011 meeting dates we published in last month's *Impulse* with one exception, October 23. Meeting space is unavailable on that date and so, following discussion with the members present at our January 16 meeting, we have decided to request October 30 as our alternate and

schedule some kind of a Halloween activity.

Here, then, is the club's slightly revised meeting schedule for 2011: January 16, February 20, March 13, April 17, May 15, August 21, September 18, October 30, November 20.

Plans for a group outing, on the 12th, in lieu of a June meeting, remain in place. Also unchanged are the dates for our summer barbecue, set for July 24 (rain date: July 31), and our 2011 Christmas Dinner and Party, to take place on Saturday evening, December 3.

## January MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's January 16 meeting opened 2011's activities by welcoming a special guest seeking the club's expertise on the zeitgeist of 1950s sci-fi movies. The club also selected its Executive Committee for the coming year (see lead item) and worked further on the group's on-going "old-fashioned radio play".

Marc Durocher and Lindsay Brown's scheduled talk on mythologies and related symbols was scrubbed for the second time in as many meetings due to the unavoidable absence of one of the presenters. We have set this one aside until an as yet undetermined future date.

Philippe Gobeille, our special guest, introduced himself as the artistic director of an upcoming sci-fi musical being put together for the stage. The show is expected to premiere later this year and Philippe is responsible for the look of the stage play. He brought along the production's musical director and the two of them explained that the piece takes its cues from the sci-fi movies of the 1950s. As they have little knowledge of this particular genre, they were hoping that a science fiction club might be able to help them out. Unfortunately, a copy of the script was not yet available but they did have samples of a couple of the musical numbers.

At this point in their preparatory process, they were looking for general guidance. What common design elements, colour schemes, and so on were representative of 1950s sci-fi flicks? Could we suggest any sight gags that would be instantly recognizable to aficionados of the genre that could be incorporated into the set design? Might we, at some later date, be able to help them identify the particular movies referenced in the script and song lyrics?

Naturally, we were happy to oblige and

spent the better part of an hour providing them with the benefit of our knowledge. They were more than pleased with the help we furnished and were keen to garner more. We suggested they drop in to our February meeting with a copy of the script and song lyrics in hand so that we might review the dialogue and offer more precise insight as to the in-jokes included, and maybe suggest specific visual or physical pranks stemming from these.

An open discussion took up the middle portion of the meeting, during which time the group mostly discussed club business and outlined upcoming projects and activities.

The latter part of the afternoon was given over to the club's on-going radio production, a creative group endeavour begun last year. We set out, on this day, to complete the last of the voice work required before editing and post-production on the project can begin. And we *almost* managed it! But not quite. We will need one more recording session—to be scheduled soon—in order to finish.

Thanks to our two guests for involving us in their most interesting project, to our radio-project recording engineer, Berny Reischl, and our company of voice actors, and to all those MonSFFen who planned and ran this, our inaugural 2011 meeting.

## Membership Renewals

We remind MonSFFen to renew their memberships in *timely* fashion. More than a manageable number of renewals came in a tad late last year, thus bugging the club's cash flow. Your membership fees help to pay for our meeting hall rental, publications and mailings, etc. Without the funds, we can't afford as much fun!

So when the month rolls around during which your membership fees become due (check your membership card or the right-side column, front page of each issue of *Impulse*), please be sure to pay said fees, either in person at that month's meeting or event, or by sending us a cheque via post.

## Note: No Impulse Next Month

As a cost-saving measure, *Impulse* will not publish next month, March. Details of our March meeting agenda are, therefore, included in the events column of this issue, which we've designated our February-March 2011 edition. *Impulse* returns in April.

**Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA. An e-version is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following methods:**

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DE FANTASTIQUE

May / Mai 2011 (Vol. 15, No./Nº 3)

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

**Sunday, May 15**

1:00PM-5:00PM

Portneuf Room (Basement Level)  
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy Street

**1:00PM**

**WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN:** We sift through the concepts of a number of unrealized sci-fi film and TV projects.

**2:00PM**

**A FOND FAREWELL TO HARRY POTTER:**

We've already read the final chapter of his adventures and now he's about to bow out on the big screen, as well. We bid farewell to the boy wizard, looking back fondly at Harry Potter in print and on screen. And, we examine some of his imitators.

**3:00PM**

**BREAK / OPEN DISCUSSION / PHOTO SHOOT FOR 2012 MONSFFA**

**CALENDAR:** While we photograph the costumes, scale models, sculptures, etc. MonSFFA submit for inclusion in our 2012 MonSFFA calendar, we'll briefly discuss the latest club business then enjoy an open, free-form discussion. What SF/F- or club-related topic is on your mind?

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, June 12**

Special Outside-of-Meeting Activity; to be Announced (Watch This Space)

**Sunday, July 24**

MonSFFA Barbecue; Details to be Announced (Watch This Space)

## Recent Meeting Attendance a Concern

The club's leadership has noted with some concern a drop in attendance at monthly meetings in recent months. If this trend continues, we suppose future meetings could be held at a coffee shop, saving MonSFFA the monthly room rental fee. Now while saving money is always a good thing, we don't really want to hold meetings at a Tim Horton's, of course!

Based on feedback received last year, we've made a few subtle adjustments to the monthly meeting format with the aim of optimizing programming content and allowing for more open discussion. So, have we misunderstood the mood of the membership? Have we missed something? Is our choice of panel topics unsatisfactory? Or are there other factors that seem to be keeping members from participating in our monthly gatherings as they once did? In general, folks, is MonSFFA meeting your expectations? Are you having fun?

We, naturally, want the club to be the best that it can be, and to continue to provide us all with a "home" for our numerous interests, built around our collective passion for SF/F. We are preparing a survey of members to shed light on things and provide guidance. In the meantime, please feel free to offer any thoughts you may have on the matter. Drop us a line:

Club president/Webmaster: president@monsffa.com  
VP/Impulse editor: keith1958@live.ca  
Warp editor: cathypl@sympatico.ca

## February MonSFFA Meeting

The club's February meeting was held on the 20th and Philippe Gobeille, the artistic director for an upcoming, locally produced sci-fi musical stage play and our January meeting's special guest, returned to visit with a couple of his creative crew in tow. Philippe and company are preparing a comedic sci-fi musical for a fall debut.

The play is set in the 1950s and at our January gathering, Philippe had sought MonSFFA's expertise as to the principal characteristics of the science fiction films of that time, from which the play takes its cues. Our folk provided him an overview of the predominant themes and visual style of said films, and now, on this occasion, Philippe was back, script in hand, for a quick read-through so as to further mine our knowledge of the subject.

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FEES ARE DUE.**

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HAMMOCK, Christopher  
HICKEY, Mark  
LUPIEN, Denise  
LUPIEN, Leslie  
NOVO, Fernando

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

**BROWN, Lindsay  
BURAKOFF, Mark  
SICHEL, Danny**

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

BELLEMARE, Josée  
SILVERMAN, Barbara

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E-mail / Courriel: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests / Intérêts: \_\_\_\_\_

We highlighted for him in particular the various clever references contained within the script to the sci-fi B-movies of that nostalgic drive-in era. Time did not allow for a full reading of the script so we promised to complete the task within a week and send along our final notes via e-mail. This we have done.

We are certain that MonSFFA members look forward to seeing the play this fall.

With Valentine's Day having taken place the previous weekend, Josée Bellemare offered a look at some of SF/F most endearing screen couples. Showing stills from film and television series, she highlighted the likes of Han and Leia, Buffy and Angel, Lois and Clark, Buck and Wilma, and the favourite of this news bulletin's editor, Xena and Gabrielle. Captain Kirk and his many loves warranted special mention! Discussion ensued as to the most handsome hunks and voluptuous vixens of the sci-fi universe and the attractive qualities, physical and otherwise, of our favourite heroes and heroines.

The latter part of the meeting was given over to the photography of various items of creative fancraft club members had brought in for use in our planned 2012 MonSFFA calendar. While club president Berny Reischl saw to the photo shoot, the floor was opened for discussion of first, recent MonSFFA business, and then any and all topics of interest to those present. The conversation ranged widely and could have gone on a while longer were it not for the need to wrap things up for the day. Some of the group carried on afterwards over dinner nearby.

Thanks to all who planned and put this one together.

## March MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's March meeting unfolded on the 13th and welcomed familiar guest speakers David Shuman and Paul Simard on the subject of the future of the space program. With the last of the space shuttle flights coming in but months and further budget cuts at NASA, will man's adventure in space soon come to an end?

Space buffs David and Paul first gave a slideshow on man's history in space, from Sputnik to the moon landing to the space shuttle era and the International Space Station. They spoke, as well, of the numerous projects envisioned but never realized as a result of budget cutting. A return to the moon and a manned excursion to Mars, for example, have been scrubbed. Robotic probes will carry out man's exploration of space in future, it seems,

rather than man himself, who will venture no further than the ISS.

Discussion followed and the consensus was that man would, one day, again voyage beyond Earth orbit, if only because of our decidedly human curiosity about the universe. But the Americans may find their to-date hegemony in space challenged by emerging powers like China.

Cathy Palmer-Lister capped the meeting with a treatise on the fairly recent explosion of newly discovered NEOs, or Near Earth Objects. There are far more meteors, asteroids, and comets that will pass sometimes scarily close to Earth than we ever previously believed. Might one of these spell our doom? There are a number of SF books and movies about this kind of thing.

The extinction of the dinosaurs and other such decimations of life in prehistory, are theorized to have occurred as the result of large meteor impacts. Cathy noted that we've been hit before, as evidenced by impact craters like the well-known Barringer crater in Arizona. And, we've been hit fairly recently, too. Cathy recounted the details of the devastating Tunguska event in Siberia in 1908. There are sizable impact craters to be found the world over and as close to home as northern Quebec.

Scientists have proposed a variety of methods by which we might divert away from Earth a looming doomsday rock and Cathy gave a quick overview of some of these. But successfully blasting apart, or altering the course of, a large celestial body is by no means guaranteed. In any case, by the time we have detected an incoming object and plotted its course, it may be too late!

Our usual thanks to those who planned and ran this meeting, with a special nod to guest speakers David Shuman and Paul Simard, and to our own Cathy Palmer-Lister, for a most entertaining and informative space-themed afternoon.

## April MonSFFA Meeting

The club's April meeting was held on the 17th and featured a primer on selling sci-fi collectibles on eBay.

Theresa Penalba, with a technical assist from Berny Reischl, demonstrated the procedure for setting yourself up on eBay and selling your sci-fi collectibles for fun and profit. She detailed the means of posting your items for sale to maximize interest, the auction process, and payment and shipping procedures. The

popular auction site operates on the honour system and Theresa explained that those who attempt to put one over on folk are quickly called out, so, she stressed, honesty is the best policy.

The afternoon's second panel saw Danny Sichel speak on the topic of pets in SF/F. Danny noted that there is in fantastic fiction a longstanding tradition of companion animals, pets, if you will. Data's cat, Spot, is one such contemporary example and essentially a common house pet, albeit roaming a "house" that in this case happens to be a futuristic starship. But as we are dealing with SF/F, pets are not always of the commonplace variety.

Danny introduced a number of examples that included various alien creatures, dragons, horses, and even Curdle, China Mieville's living milk carton! Terry Pratchett's Luggage, meanwhile, which, as the name suggests, carries luggage, is, Danny noted, more working animal than pet. Many of the creatures depicted in SF/F fall into this category and cannot really be thought of as pets. One must also be careful to consider intelligence when differentiating between aliens and their pets, the former being of human-level or superior intelligence, the latter, lesser animals of lesser intelligence providing companionship.

The meeting closed with an open discussion period. The group also managed, during the morning pre-meeting timeslot, to record a few more pages of script for the club's on-going "old-fashioned radio play" project.

Thanks to all those who planned and ran this meeting.

## Briefly

- We are given to understand that a postal strike may befall us at the end of this month. If so, it will not be possible, of course, for us to mail paper editions of *Impulse* to members until such time as the strike has ended. We thus direct our readers to the e-version, available in .pdf format via MonSFFA's Web site.
- A reminder that our May 15 meeting is the submissions deadline for the club's planned 2012 calendar. We are looking for works of art or fancraft—illustration, sculpture, costumes and props, scale-model spaceships, etc.—created by our members. Please bring in your work so that we may photograph it for inclusion in the calendar, or alternately, provide us with clean, good quality photos or high-resolution digital reproductions of your work. We hope to have our 2012 calendar available for sale in time for this summer's convention season.

**Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA. An e-version is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following methods:**

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- Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse":  
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Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

**www.MonSFFA.com**



# MonSFFA • A MonSFF IMPULSE

NEWS BULLETIN  
OF THE MONTREAL  
SCIENCE FICTION  
AND FANTASY  
ASSOCIATION

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

June-July / Juin-Juillet 2011 (Vol. 15, No./Nº 4)

## MonSFFA'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

### GROUP OUTING Sunday, June 12

#### Indiana Jones and the Adventure of Archeology

(plus MonSFFA Commercial Shoot)

11:30AM, Montreal Science Centre  
King Edward Pier, Old Port

Admission: \$23 (adults)

(For full details, see lead items, right)

### MonSFFA BARBECUE Sunday, July 24

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



MonSFFA members, their families, friends invited! Bring your own chairs, picnic blankets, food and drink; club will supply cooking grill. If rained out, rescheduled for Sunday, July 31, same time, place. (See also item, page 2)

**NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 21**

## You Call This Archeology?

We have scrubbed a June meeting in favour of kicking off our schedule of summer activities a little earlier this year. To open MonSFFA's summer of 2011, the club has decided upon a group outing to the Indiana Jones and the Adventure of Archeology exhibit at the Old Port.

The exhibit explores the myths, secrets, and science of Indy's famous on-screen archeological discoveries, like the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Grail. On display is a collection of props employed in the production of the *Indiana Jones* movies, as well as authentic ancient artifacts borrowed from the National Geographic Society and the Penn Museum.

The exhibit is hosted by the Montreal Science Centre, King Edward Pier, at the Old Port in Old Montreal. That's at the intersection of St-Laurent Boulevard and de la Commune Street, roughly a 10-minute walk south, towards the river, from either the Place d'Armes or Champs-de-Mars metro stations. Street parking is available in the area for those coming by car, though we caution it can sometimes be difficult to find a spot. Alternately, there is a pay parking lot near the Science Centre (access via King Edward Pier entrance).

We will meet in front of the Science Centre at 11:30AM (no later!) on Sunday, June 12, then enter the exhibit together. Admission: \$23 for adults, \$20 for teens and seniors, \$13.50 for children under 13 years of age. Includes access to general admission exhibits. (Club president Berny Reischl will have his cell phone with him should anyone have difficulty finding the place; call him at: 514-885-5294.)

Join us for this rare opportunity to view some really cool stuff and learn a little something about the fascinating field of archeology!

## After Indy Outing

We expect to exit the above-mentioned Indiana Jones archeology exhibit around 1:00PM. We have planned, at this time, a *second* group activity. After a brief lunch break, we'll put together a quick script for a short promotional spot for the club. Nothing fancy—no more than a minute or so in length, no special costumes, props, or complicated stunts or special effects—just a simple, clever, effective commercial touting MonSFFA, featuring ourselves as spokespeople in front of whatever interesting backdrops the Old Port offers. We'll then shoot the piece right then and there! So show up with a few rough ideas in mind, people, and let's have fun with it!

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

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

HICKEY, Mark  
NOVO, Fernando

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

BELLEMARE, Josée

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

BENNETT, Paul  
GLOVER, Wayne  
MORROW, Gordon

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

NOVO, Alice

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 application form, below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to MonSFFA), and mail to:

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

Thank you for renewing your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion.

## MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name / Nom: \_\_\_\_\_ Age / Âge: \_\_\_\_\_

Address / Adresse: \_\_\_\_\_

No. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT. / APP.

CITY / VILLE

PROVINCE

POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL

## AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

Tel. / Tél.: ( ) ( )

HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail / Courriel: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests / Intérêts: \_\_\_\_\_

MonSFFen who will not be visiting the archeology exhibit are certainly welcome to meet up with us in front of the Science Centre at 1:00PM to take part in the video shoot.

## This Year's MonSFFA Barbecue Set For July 24

MonSFFen, their families and friends are invited to the club's annual summer barbecue, scheduled this year for Sunday, July 24. In case of inclement weather on that day, the event will be postponed one week, until the following Sunday, July 31.

We expect to occupy our usual spot at Parc Angrignon in Lasalle. Look for us on the picnic grounds just behind the Angrignon metro station, a couple hundred feet or so from the parking lot next to Ferme Angrignon, the park's petting zoo. (See map to picnic site, events column.) We plan to secure a few picnic tables and set up around 10:30AM. Bring along a Frisbee, soccer ball, or any games that you may wish to enjoy, plus your own food and drink—the club will supply a cooking grill.

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

## May MonSFFA Meeting

The club's May gathering was held on the 15th and recorded healthier attendance numbers than the recent string of meetings for which attendance was noticeably down, occasioning some concern on the part of the club's chiefs, as expressed in this news bulletin last issue. We are encouraged by this improvement.

The afternoon's slate featured a most interesting presentation by Sylvain St-Pierre, who shifted his focus, for the better, from the advertised topic. Rather than exploring the various SF/F films and television series that were planned, but ultimately, never produced—a subject we have covered before—he refreshed his presentation to highlight the abandoned concepts of sci-fi's familiar movies and TV shows.

For example, *Star Trek's* U.S.S. *Enterprise* was originally envisioned as having a large spherical fuselage rather than the sleeker saucer-shaped upper hull that ultimately defined the look of the now classic spaceship. And at one point, designers had positioned that saucer as the ship's lower hull. A sketch of the *Enterprise* for the discarded *Star Trek: Phase II* television series (producers instead decided on a big-screen return to *Star Trek* in the late 1970s, resulting in *Star Trek: The Motion*

*Picture*) looked like a cross between the well-known *Enterprise* design and one of *Star Wars'* giant Star Destroyers.

*Next Generation's* Ferengi, in early concepts, resembled garden gnomes, as did Jedi master Yoda in several discarded design sketches. And before it became the signature weapon of the Jedi Knights, the lightsabre was to have been an everyday sidearm wielded by just about everyone in the *Stars Wars* universe. Further, Luke was to have been female in an early development of the story, and would have served as a love interest for Han Solo!

Sylvain's presentation was illustrated with numerous blueprints, costume sketches, and conceptual drawings, showing his audience unrealized designs for everything from R2-D2 (minus legs; uniball propulsion) to *Alien's* *Nostramo* spacecraft (massive asteroid with living quarters, engines attached) to *Babylon 5's* Delenn (Minbari conceived as genderless beings).

An interesting path not taken involved Québec-born actress Geneviève Bujold, who was originally cast as the captain of starship *Voyager* (she quickly decided to forego the demands of a weekly television series). Sylvain screened a clip of Bujold playing a scene as Captain Nicole Janeway.

Also touched upon were rejected concepts in the real world, notably NASA's early designs for the Lunar Lander, and redacted portions of novels, like H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, the original edition of which included a chapter set in the far distant future with man reduced to a kangaroo-like creature. Jules Verne had an entire book rejected by his publishers, who thought it too unbelievable. Rediscovered in 1989 and published in 1994, *Le XXe siècle* is, in hindsight, a remarkably prescient work of science fiction.

The second half of the meeting began with a scheduled discussion of *Harry Potter* as the finale of the film series nears. The books were compared to their movie adaptations and the *Potter* phenomenon in general explored. All agreed that the undeniably popular books and movies were eminently enjoyable, if not destined to *Lord of the Rings*-like status in the fantasy genre. The greatest legacy of the novels, it was argued, is not so much that they are adequate if not fine works of literature, but that they engendered in children the desire to read in a world where, increasingly, the venerable written word is losing ground to the flashy visuals of the screen.

Also scheduled to close the meeting was

a period of open discussion and after a time, the *Harry Potter* topic morphed right into a spirited discussion of copyright, with folk finding both the corporate entertainment industry and the individual consumer guilty of abuses. Some kind of middle ground must be found, it was felt, between the no-rules buccaneering prevalent on the Web in particular and the rampant protectionism and obsessive control over content exercised by the entertainment industry.

We thank our planners and presenters for their most appreciated effort regarding this, our last meeting before the club shifts to an agenda of summer activities. We return to our monthly meeting schedule August 21.

## Briefly

- *Impulse* will not publish next month, July. This issue has been designated our June-July 2011 edition. *Impulse* returns in August.
- As of this writing, news outlets continue to report on the possibility of a nationwide postal strike. In the event of postal strike, MonSFFA will be unable, of course, to mail out printed issues of *Impulse* to members until such time as the strike has ended. Mailings of *Warp*, and of new membership cards, would also be interrupted. We thus direct our readers to the e-version of *Impulse*, accessible in .pdf format via MonSFFA's Web site. *Warp* is also published in password-protected electronic form, available via the club's site. The printed editions of either publication may be obtained at MonSFFA meetings. Membership cards are also commonly distributed at our meetings.
- A handful of MonSFFen recently enjoyed the local premiere of the sci-fi vampire flick *Priest* by way of a few complimentary passes provided the club as one of the sponsors of the screening.
- We have received a number of comments via e-mail in response to the request last issue for the thoughts of MonSFFen regarding the structure and programming of club meetings. We appreciate the input of the membership and encourage your continued interest. MonSFFA's Executive, of course, strives to have the club provide a fascinating and fun "home" for all of our numerous interests, built around the group's collective passion for SF/F. Help us achieve that goal by letting us know what you think about the choices we make. Drop us a line:

Club president: president@monsffa.com  
VP/*Impulse* editor: keith1958@live.ca  
*Warp* editor: cathypl@sympatico.ca

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Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

**www.MonSFFA.com**



## NEXT MONSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

**Sunday, August 21**

**1:00PM-5:00PM**

**St-François Room**

**Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.**

**Downtown Montreal**

### PROGRAMME

**1:00PM**

**RARE GEMS, FORGOTTEN CLASSICS, BIZARRE ODDITIES:** A magic sword, an alternate universe in which pornographic movies provide the template for reality, and a rubber tire possessed of murderous telekinetic powers feature in another of our occasional looks at the diverse Genre films available on DVD/Blu-Ray.

**2:00PM**

**SCI-FI Pictionary:** Can you guess what SF/F title our gamemaster is looking for based solely on the marker sketches your teammates can produce in one minute? Join us for a sci-fi version of the fun and frantic parlour game.

**3:30PM**

**OPEN DISCUSSION/FANCRAFT:** The floor is open for discussion of any SF/F or fannish topic. We've also got a couple of "fancraft" demos planned.

August/Août 2011 (Vol. 15, No./N° 5)

## MonSFFen Enjoy Barbecue in Park

Sunday, July 24, came with perfect picnic weather for the club's traditional summer barbecue. A good number of MonSFFen gathered under a tree-shaded spot in Lasalle's Parc Angrignon to enjoy the sunny summer weather, conversation, games, at one point an impromptu water fight, and a variety of hamburgers, hotdogs, grilled chicken delights, salads, snacks, and cool beverages.

Club president Berny Reischl lent the club his portable barbecue, firing it up at about noon. Before too long, folk were grilling their various meats and shortly thereafter savouring a marvellous barbecued lunch.

A stiff breeze moderated afternoon temperatures and kept any annoying insects away from the picnic tables, which had been secured earlier by Phil Simard. Phil arrived at about 8:30AM (!), well ahead of the rest of our group, commandeered that prime tree-shaded spot and several tables before the usual invasion of Sunday picnickers poured into the sprawling park from the adjacent Metro station. Parc Angrignon is a favourite destination for thousands of Montrealers during the summer months and MonSFFA has held its annual summer barbecue in the park since our first such outing in 2002.

All in all, a most wonderful day enjoyed by all.

## 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:

GLOVER, Wayne  
HICKEY, Mark  
NOVO, Fernando

### Due this Month, August:

NOVO, Alice

### Due Next Month, September:

BOIES, Marquise  
BRAITHWAITE, Erin  
BRAITHWAITE, Keith  
BRAITHWAITE, Scott  
DUROCHER, Dominique  
PENALBA, Theresa

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

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

*Thank you for your  
patronage*

## MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION D'INSCRIPTION

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

## AMonSFF FORMULAIRE

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

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

Province Postal Code/Code Postal E-mail/Courriel: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS/INTÉRÊTS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Indiana Jones Archaeology Exhibition

In lieu of a June meeting, the club organized an outing to the Indiana Jones and the Adventure of Archaeology exhibition for Sunday, the 12th. Oddly, but a handful of MonSFFen trekked to the Old Port to take in this unique presentation. Those members who passed it up and haven't since visited are skipping an amazingly cool display of Genre movie history, coupled with dozens of related factoids from the real world of archaeology. (There's still time to see the exhibit at the Montreal Science Centre; it runs until September 18.)

For any fan of the Indiana Jones movies, the highlight of the exhibition is the collection of costumes, props, set pieces, and production art from all four films. An iPad-like device provides each individual visitor with information on each of the items on display, including pertinent aspects of the filmmaking process and connections to the real archaeological pieces that inspired many of the fictional treasures Indy chases in the film series.

And you can get up real close, too, examine the intricate details of the Ark of the Covenant prop, one of the full-scale Crystal-Skull aliens, a miniature Temple-of-Doom mine car, Henry Jones' Grail notebook, the Grail cup, and so much more.

Further, there are sections devoted to real artefacts, including a number from some local archaeological digs.

## Video Shoot

Exiting the Indiana Jones exhibit, our small contingent of MonSFFen grabbed lunch at an adjoining food court, then scouted locations for a video shoot planned for the remainder of the afternoon. The idea was to film a few short advertisements for the club, on the fly, bare-bones, with only a clever idea at the heart of the effort. Berny Reischl discovered a large, empty section of the building in which was housed the food court, accessible and well-suited for shooting video.

With Berny and Mark Burakoff behind the cameras, the group, over the course of a couple hours, managed to shoot the basics for five or six commercials. The footage will be edited and animated text added to complete the project

## Impulse Make-Over

As you have no doubt noticed, this news bulletin has received a make-over. More accurately, it is in the process of being redesigned. We'll be tweaking things here and there over the next little while until we settle on a final look, so please bear with us.

The computer and the desktop publishing software used these many years to produce Impulse, while quite versatile and entirely proficient at the fine art of fanzine layout, are also rather an ancient OS and string of code that have become increasingly incompatible with modern systems. Getting Impulse ready for the Web has become particularly problematic and thus were we compelled to retire our old equipment.

We hope you like the face-lift, which, again, we will refine over the coming months as we experiment with the new toys we are now employing to produce Impulse.

## ComicCon Prompts Club to Change September Meeting Date

It's a good bet that a lot of MonSFFA members plan on attending the upcoming Montreal ComicCon, set to go at Place Bonaventure over the September 17-18 weekend. And so, to avoid conflicting with the big show, the club has moved its September meeting from the 18th to the 11th, same time, same place.

The Montreal ComicCon, meanwhile, features a galaxy of guests including Batman's Adam West and Burt Ward, comics legends Stan Lee and Neal Adams, Buck Rogers' Gil Gerard and Erin Gray, TNG's Michael Dorn and Marina Sirtis, Buffy the Vampire Slayer's James Marsters, Mercedes McNab, and Clare Kramer, and many more! Our good friend Sv Bell, a prolific producer of low-budget independent horror films, is also on the bill. Cool!

Information about this event can be obtained at: [www.montrealcomiccon.com](http://www.montrealcomiccon.com)

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Laval, Québec, Canada  
H7R 1Y6

Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

[www.MonSFFA.com](http://www.MonSFFA.com)

# I M P U L S E

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

October/Octobre 2011 (Vol. 15, No./N° 6)

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING COMING SOON

**Sunday, October 30**

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.

Downtown Montreal

### PROGRAMME

1:00PM

**COOL SCI-FI TOYS:** Remember your older brother's wind-up walking tin robot? Dinky Toys' die-cast model Space: 1999 and Thunderbirds vehicles? Major Matt Mason? Those first Star Wars action figures? We revisit the days of our collective youth through an exploration of classic sci-fi toys, comparing them to today's examples.

2:30PM

**BREAK/OPEN DISCUSSION:** While we break mid-meeting, the floor will be open for discussion of any SF/F or fannish topic.

3:15PM

**FAN FILM THEATRE:** We screen a sampling culled from the Web of some of the most creative short films produced by sci-fi fans worldwide.

**ConCept 2011**

**October 14-16 (see lead item)**

**NEXT CLUB MEETING**

**Sunday, November 20**

## ConCept 2011 Unfolds This Weekend

The 2011 edition of Montreal's long-running SF/F convention, ConCept, takes place this weekend, October 14-16 at the downtown Hôtel Espresso, MonSFFA's meeting locale. Founded by MonSFFA in 1989 and today a wholly independent, entirely volunteer-run operation, ConCept has always provided local fandom with an entertaining sci-fi party packed with a variety of activities. In this age of the mega sci-fi convention, ConCept remains an oasis for those who enjoy a more traditional, intimate and casual event that, paradoxically, offers more, in fact, than simply the dealers' room and endless autograph lines characteristic of most of the big shows. And in a setting that doesn't call to mind the planet Gideon!

Headlining guests this year include Vancouver-based actress Agam Darshi, who portrays Kate Freelander in the sci-fi series Sanctuary, and authors Eric Flint and Patrick Senécal. Flint penned the alternate history novel 1632 and the comic fantasy novels The Philosophical Strangler and Forward the Mage. He has collaborated on works with David Drake, David Weber, Mercedes Lackey, and Dave Freer. Drummondville-born Senécal wrote the horror/thrillers *Sur le seuil*, *5150 rue des Ormes*, and *Les Sept Jours du talion*, all adapted for the screen, as well as the Boréal-award winning, Lewis Carroll-inspired *Aliss*.

Other guests include folk singer Judith Hayman, recording artist Heather Dale, whose music draws upon Celtic mythology, and co-Masters of Ceremonies Alain Ducharme and Gordon Rose.

At-the-door admission for the full weekend is \$50; MonSFFA members enjoy a 20-percent discount. For more information visit ConCept on the Web at: [www.conceptsf.ca](http://www.conceptsf.ca)

MonSFFA supports ConCept, providing the event with many of its volunteer staff. We'll see you at ConCept 2011 this weekend!

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

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

### Overdue:

BOIES, Marquise  
HICKEY, Mark  
NOVO, Fernando  
PENALBA, Theresa

### Due this Month, October:

BOOM, Hendrik  
DUROCHER, Marc  
KENNEY, Daniel P.  
PELLEY, Lynda  
PETTIT, William S.  
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain  
WADSWORTH, Beulah

### Due Next Month, November: Ø

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

**MonSFFA c/o  
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose  
Laval, Québec, Canada  
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*Thank you for your  
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## New MonSFFA Membership Cards

MonSFFA recently began issuing a freshly designed, multi-coloured membership card to MonSFFen renewing their memberships, and to those new joiners. This new card, designed by club president Berny Reischl, will be phased in over the coming year, replacing our familiar yellow membership card. Note that the old card some members currently hold will be recognized as valid until the close of 2012, by which time all members should have re-upped and received a new card.

## Montreal ComicCon 2011

Many MonSFFen no doubt attended the recent Montreal ComicCon at Place Bonaventure over the September 17-18 weekend. They were among some 20,000 comics, horror, and sci-fi fans who took in the event, according to a local newspaper report published following the convention. The hall was certainly crowded and we can easily believe that number, and perhaps add a few thousand more.

Effectively demolished by this mass of fandom was the myth of today's sci-fi fan being a socially awkward, girl-shy fellow in his 20s or 30s still living in his parents' basement. There were as many women wandering the convention floor, young and old, as men, noted another newspaper piece on the event. Interviews with dozens of the fans present found few that fit the myth. The Montreal ComicCon's attendees were a diverse mix of teenagers, young college students, aging baby-boomers, many couples, some married with their children in tow, blue collars workers and professionals. It's always satisfying to see the mainstream's negative image of the so-called geek turned on its head.

Autograph hounds must have been especially thrilled with the opportunity to meet so many luminaries from the fields of comics, movies, and television. The galaxy of guests included actors Adam West and Burt Ward, stars of the 1960s Batman TV show, and comics legends Stan Lee and Neal Adams. Also on hand were Buck Rogers' Gil Gerard and Erin Gray, Star Wars' Jeremy Bulloch, TNG's Michael Dorn and Marina Sirtis, Buffy the Vampire Slayer's James Marsters, Mercedes McNab, and Clare Kramer, among many more!

Fans could have their rare comic book or collectible signed, or have a photo taken of themselves with their favourite actor. But at considerable additional cost. Autographs and photo opportunities with the star guests were extra, averaging about \$30 and climbing as high as \$125 for an Adam West/Burt Ward photo op. The avid fan's visit to ComicCon might well require taking out a second mortgage!

Perhaps folk might have, instead, opted to spend their money in the dealers' room—big conventions like this one tend to offer little more than a roster of name stars for the autograph collectors and a dealers' room for the rest of us, although we must give this con points for setting up a display of very cool sci-fi vehicles, including the classic 1960s Batmobile. You don't see that every day! The event catering primarily to comics fandom, we were not surprised to find a lot of the hundred or more vendors in the hall selling comic books. Action-figures were in abundance, as well. Prices varied and there were probably a few bargains to be found but in general, we gauged that prices were not particularly discounted. To be fair, we didn't have opportunity to properly peruse the dealers' room so there may well have been some great deals amid the clutter of merchandise.

The reason we didn't have opportunity to properly peruse the dealers' room was that the place was so very crowded. We don't know if organizers were expecting so many, but the horde moving about the hall at times made it near impossible to get around. Shoppers were packed thick in front of dealers' tables and we often couldn't get near the goods. The throng proved an impediment to fully enjoying the convention, unfortunately. Line-ups to take in many of the scheduled talks and Q&As by star guests were so lengthy that a lot of people missed these appearances in part or altogether waiting in line to get in. The queue just to get into the con snaked back and forth in the foyer, taking between an hour and two to negotiate!

Big, star-studded shows like the Montreal ComicCon, while offering fans the chance to meet celebrated stars of the genre, are at the same time burdened by the inevitable disappointment experienced by the many fans who miss meeting their favourite stars simply because there are too many people in line in front of them. We suspect that some may not be so willing, next time, to spend their day waiting in single file, hoping that they'll get to the front of the line before the star attraction leaves the building.

## Next Issue

We are all out of room this issue, so readers will have to wait until next issue (November) for coverage of recent MonSFFA meetings and other club-related news and information. And so, until next time...

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November/Novembre 2011 (Vol. 15, No./N° 7)

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING COMING SOON

**Sunday, November 20**

**1:00PM-5:00PM**

**St-François Room**

**Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.**

**Downtown Montreal**

### PROGRAMME

**1:00PM**

**SCI-FI TELEPHONE LINE:** We'll ask our writers and artists to alternate describing and sketching as we observe just how altered initial images becomes as they travel along our sci-fi telephone line. (Patterned on the classic parlour game.)

**2:15PM**

**BREAK/OPEN DISCUSSION:** While we break mid-meeting, we'll further detail meeting programming ideas for 2012, and open the floor for discussion of any SF/F or fannish topic.

**3:30PM**

**OLD-FASHIONED RADIO PROJECT:** We rededicate ourselves to this neglected group undertaking by finishing the recording of the last few pages of script, come hell or high water!

### 2011 MonSFFA CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY

**Saturday, December 3**

(Details Next Issue)

## Catching up on Recent MonSFFA Meetings

### August

Space this issue is at a premium, so we'll quickly report for the record that our club meeting of August 21 included Keith Braithwaite's overview of the early-60s B-movie *The Magic Sword*, the contemporary art film oddity *Rubber*, and the recent sci-fi/soft porn comedy *Deep in the Valley*. Our scheduled game of *Sci-Fi Pictionary* was pushed to September to allow more time for continuing feedback on and discussion of meeting and extra-meeting activities. We closed with a 20-minute video tutorial showing the creation of an illustration using an airbrush, shot at a club meeting in 1989 and featuring the talents of artist and now club president Berny Reischl.

### September

September's meeting was held on the 11th and featured a presentation by Josée Bellemare and Mark Burakoff on the topic of Steampunk. The motifs of an imaginary world in which steam-powered Victorian technology drives man to astounding adventures have permeated many areas of the SF/F universe, from superhero comics to Jim Henson's famous Muppets! The distinct visual facade of Steampunk is all over SF/F art, comics, film, and television these days and has spawned a boom in fannish costuming circles the likes of which we have not seen since the emergence of the renaissance fair.

Following the mid-meeting break, one of our newest members, Paul Gareau, read aloud a brief article he had penned on the topic of writing better science fiction, and Keith Braithwaite capped the afternoon hosting a game of *Sci-Fi Pictionary* in which all present participated. Lots of fun

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ARE DUE.**

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## October

October's meeting was held on Halloween's eve and featured Sylvain St-Pierre's nostalgic recalling of some of the really cool sci-fi toys we played with as youngsters, like the tin rockets, ray guns, and robots of old, the space-age Major Matt Mason series, and the more recent Micronauts and Transformers. Sylvain's presentation included numerous slides and old TV commercials pitching various toy lines.

Berny Reischl followed with screenings of selected short fan films culled from the Web, highlighting the imagination and creativity of sci-fi fandom, after which an impromptu BoA meeting closed proceedings. The group selected meeting dates for next year and began piecing together meeting programming.

## Club Projects Delayed

Our planned 2012 MonSFFA Calendar, which we had hoped to have printed and begun selling earlier this year has been delayed. We will not, unfortunately, have any copies ready in time for Christmas and the project will now become a 2013 calendar, hopefully to be released for sale—this is a fund-raising vehicle for the club—sometime in the first half of next year. We truly regret the hold-up, which we attribute to available free time issues that have prevented those working on the final stage of the calendar's production from completing the task in time to affix a 2012 label to the thing. We thank the MonSFFen who have contributed works of art to the project and pledge that those images will be employed in, as mentioned, what will now become our 2013 club calendar.

Another on-going group project that has stalled is our old-time radio play. Ideas were kicked around and various episodes written a while ago. All but a couple pages worth of dialogue have been recorded to date. Again, a dearth of time to work on the project as well as the narrow availability of some of our chosen actors has left the radio play unfinished. We have rededicated ourselves to completing this project come hell or high water and will begin by committing those final pages of script to "tape", thus finishing all of the voice work required and allowing us to begin editing and adding sound effects and music.

Finally, what was supposed to have been a quick video project—the creation and filming on the fly of several advertising spots for the club—has dragged, too. While the initial steps of creating the ads and filming them unfolded as planned over an afternoon this past June, the remaining job of editing the pieces has yet to be concluded. We are committed to seeing this project through, as well.

In analysing the reasons for the setbacks we are experiencing completing these largely outside-of-meetings undertakings, we are finding that the time to work on such ventures tends to be, of late, rather limited. Most of us make time for the monthly club meetings, of course, but our busy non-hobby related schedules leave little additional occasion for further fanac. This is simply a factor of increased demands on our time either at work or with

family as we all get a little older. That's life, folks! And there really isn't much that can be done about it, other than attempting to better manage our time as individuals and, as a group, trying to spread the work around a little more than has been our practise. It is almost certainly stymieing to our objectives that the various tasks demanded of these projects are too often left in the hands of the same few club members.

## Was 2011's Con ConCept's Swan Song?

ConCept 2011 took place over the weekend of October 14-16 and while this edition of Montreal's long-running SF/F convention was well received by those in attendance, and offered the con's usual fun and interesting array of panel programming and other activities throughout the weekend, the event suffered maybe its worst year yet in terms of attendance. Numbers were down to possibly an all-time low and as a result, the convention will probably see red this year, perhaps fatally so.

But more lethal to the survival of this stubbornly enduring little con is the paucity of volunteers to plan, organize, and run the thing. This has been the Achilles heel of the convention for several years, now, and it is a testament to the dedication of those few concom members who have stayed with the listing ship—we hesitate to say sinking ship, but realistically, that may well be the case—for these past few years. If this ship is to right itself, more people must be recruited to concom. Period. Without enough folk to do all that has to be done to successfully promote and stage even a small convention like ConCept, sooner or later, our metaphorical ship will founder. Those who have kept ConCept afloat remain too few and ever more burned out to effectively cover all stations and consequently, things slide, like local advertising and promotion, which was virtually non-existent this year. Few if any posters or flyers were distributed to comic book shops and sci-fi bookstores around town, or at other local SF/F events. That lapse alone may have cost the con 40 or 50 attendees, enough to make the difference between financial success and ruin.

While the recruitment of fresh concom blood is vital, ConCept must also face the challenge posed by the big mega-conventions, like the Montreal ComicCon, that have arrived on scene of late. These huge shows attract many thousands and charge about the same as ConCept does for their weekend's entertainment.

But the mega-con is a different animal than is ConCept, geared largely to autograph signings and merchandise sales presented on a massive scale (lots of star guests, lots of dealers), with little else of interest on the programme. One can easily spend ten times the price of admission at the dealers tables and on autographs or photo opportunities with the stars. And, after a few hours, a substantial part of which will be spent standing in long lines to briefly chat with the celebrities, you've taken in about all there is to take in at such an event.

ConCept, built on the traditional literary SF con model, is a more intimate affair, allowing attendees greater interaction with guests and providing a lot more and varied programming, refreshing practically every hour. One can spend the entire weekend at ConCept without experiencing all that is on offer. Granted, the guests are fewer in number and are rarely the kind of big movie and TV stars that the mega-cons book, but they are interesting and entertaining folk, nonetheless. Author Eric Flint—one of ConCept 2011's guests—for example, was a most interesting fellow with many intriguing tales to tell of the science fiction publishing industry, whether as a panellist on the convention floor or upstairs over drinks at an evening room party.

There are pros and cons to both models of sci-fi convention. ConCept will have to distinguish itself as an event that grants fans of SF/F opportunity to meet and mingle with fascinating, accomplished folk and delve far more deeply into the nuts and bolts of their favourite genre than does a mega-con, which is the domain of celebrity and will always be able to top ConCept in that respect.

ConCept is always a good time and we dearly hope that the concom swells in number and is able to meet the challenges ahead. We think its fair to say that we'd all miss our annual sci-fi party were it to fold. We wish ConCept clear sailing.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## MonSFFA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, December 3

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

**DINNER** at 6:00PM, downtown  
LES 3 BRASSEURS RESTAURANT  
1356 Ste-Catherine Street West  
(corner Crescent; Guy-Concordia  
or Peel Metro)  
*Reservations under name of  
Bernard Reischl*

**PARTY** at 8:00PM, downtown  
"NOT SO PRIVATEER" BAR  
(formerly Park Place Bar)  
1244 Mackay Street  
(between Ste-Catherine and  
René-Lévesque)

*Drinks, Music, and Pool! • Collection  
of toys, non-perishable foods for Sun  
Youth Christmas Baskets; please give in  
the spirit of the season • Rewards Raffle  
for volunteer members—don't forget to  
bring your orange "Participation  
Coupons"! • MonSFFA Christmas  
Raffles!*

**NEXT MonSFFA MEETING**  
**Sunday, January 22, 2012**  
(Club Elections)

## Club's Christmas Celebrations

MonSFFA will celebrate the 2011 holidays with our traditional Christmas Dinner and Party, this year scheduled for Saturday evening, December 3. All of the club's members and their families, and MonSFFA's many friends, are welcome to celebrate the season with us! See the events column, left, for the official invitation and details.

We will gather at Les 3 Brasseurs restaurant on Ste-Catherine, corner Crescent, at 6:00PM. Reservations have been made under the name of club president Bernard Reischl; seating is limited so don't be late! The selections are certainly appetizing; main courses available include fettuccine primavera, Atlantic salmon, flank steak and grilled shrimp, and chicken brochette with frankfurter sausage. We have posted the restaurant's Holiday Menu on the club's Web site.

Following our festive dinner, we'll walk the few blocks to the "Not So Privateer" bar on Mackay (between Ste-Catherine and René-Lévesque) for the evening's party. Long-time club members will recognize this establishment as our traditional watering hole for these many years (it used to be called the Park Place Bar).

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

The Rewards Raffle is an exclusive draw and the means by which we offer special thanks for their participation to those club members who ran programming at our meetings this year, or pitched in to help with special events and projects. For such volunteer actions in 2011 club members have received, or will receive at the dinner, orange participation coupons. These coupons will serve as raffle tickets in the

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Rewards lottery. Each coupon-holding MonSFFAn will have a chance to win one of the prizes offered by the club as humble tokens of thanks. Members having coupons in hand are asked to bring these to the party and to write their names on each in the space provided. The coupons will be tossed into a hat as we kick off the party, and winners drawn.

The club takes this opportunity to thank for their efforts each and every MonSFFAn who ran programming in 2011 or helped with special events and projects. This club runs on the involvement of its members and your having taken part is greatly appreciated.

And so, we hope to see all of you at the club's 2011 Christmas Dinner and Party, and to all we offer our early wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## November MonSFFA Meeting

A goodly number were in attendance for the club's final meeting of 2011, held on November 20.

Keith Braithwaite opened proceedings with a game of Sci-Fi Telephone Line. Giving full props to MonSFFAn Marquise Boies, who back in the '90s originated this particular variation on the traditional parlour game, Keith selected four artists and four writers from the group and made of them two teams. A writer from each team was shown an image—a spacecraft on the one hand and a monster on the other—and given five minutes to write a description. These descriptions were then handed to each of the next team members in line—artists—who each produced a sketch based on their respective team member's freshly penned description, and so on through another set of writer and artist, resulting in final sketches, which were then compared to the original images.

It was interesting to note the diversions from the original, as well as the similarities, with folk observing that hardware—here the spaceship—seemed to come through this process in better shape than organics—the monster.

In addition to our usual raffle, the mid-meeting break saw a new idea for an in-meeting fund-raiser tested, with positive results. Continued discussion of plans for 2012 meeting programming followed—we had begun laying out the coming year's activities at our October gathering—as well as talk of various other items of club business. A suggestion to, at some point soon, cease producing and mailing paper issues of *Impulse* as a means of saving the club a couple hundred dollars per year was met with largely favourable reaction. *Impulse* would thus become an exclusively electronic publication. A few MonSFFen, however, remain attached to the traditional paper news bulletin. We'll explore the issue further in the coming months.

The meeting wrapped up with a brief recording session, committing the last few remaining pages of dialogue to "tape" with regard to our on-going old-fashioned radio play project. Paul Gareau and Keith Braithwaite gave emotive performances, with Berny Reischl working the board as recording engineer. We have rededicated ourselves to this recently neglected group undertaking and with this session, now have all of the voice work completed. Editing and post-production (sound effects and music) are next!

## 2012 MonSFFA Meeting and Events Dates

The club has booked the following Sunday meeting dates for 2012: January 22, February 19, March 25, April 22, May 27, August 19, September 23, October 28, and November 18. We have an outing planned for Sunday, June 10, and will hold our annual barbecue on Sunday, July 22 (should the forecast call for rain, we'll bump the barbecue ahead a week to Sunday, July 29). Finally, we have scheduled Saturday, December 8, as the date of our traditional Christmas Dinner and Party.

We await confirmation from the Hôtel Espresso as to meeting dates; please note that all dates are subject to change.

## 2012 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 2012 elections will take place at our first meeting of the new year, slated for January 22. All MonSFFA members in good standing are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. The three executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility. Our sitting Executive is as follows: Berny Reischl, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

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

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

## Briefly

- We note with sadness the passing, on November 21 at her home in Ireland, of award-winning author Anne McCaffrey, best known for her *Dragonriders of Pern* novels, which deftly combined science fiction and fantasy. She was 85.
- Reports indicate that, unfortunately, ConCept 2011 did not cover expenses. However, the organization remains in the black when accumulated past revenues are considered, though with rather less financial wiggle room. Planning for 2012 has tentatively begun; volunteers are needed to keep the long-running convention a going concern.
- Apparently, the decades-long popularity of the Tintin comics here in Québec has prompted producers to release the French-language version of *The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn* right here at home, on December 9, before the movie opens in English across the rest of North America on December 21. Steven Spielberg directs and serves, too, as co-producer with Peter Jackson. The footage we've seen of this motion-capture animated extravaganza looks rather impressive.
- We remind MonSFFen to renew their club memberships in timely fashion.

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