

# THE VCON VANGUARD

(A Personal Fanzine devoted to promoting VCON 41 in 2016)

Issue #2 – December, 2015

published by [R. Graeme Cameron](#), VCON 41 Chair



**We Are Pleased To Announce  
That Renowned Godzilla Enthusiast Stan G. Hyde,  
A Man To Whom Restraint Means Nothing,  
Has Agreed To Be Godzilla Fan Guest Of Honour At VCON 41!**

The above photo records the unfortunate incident which took place  
At Milford's Used Car Corral on what turned out to be Stan's last day as salesman.

**Note:** The real story behind the cover. Stan G. Hyde starred in a short film titled “Milford’s Used Car Corral” in which his character, a “Wild West” salesman, fanatically describes the features of a long-haul truck as it transforms into a giant robot. Unfortunately his signatory sign-off firing of his six-guns triggers the robot’s defense system.

Our film design GoH Eric Chu (of Battlestar Galactica fame) directed the film and provided the special effects. As he put it: “Made with \$200, one desktop computer, and a cowboy hat... Yee-Ha!”

You can see it here: < [Watch it now on YouTube](#) > (Over two million hits so far! Stan be famous!)

## **VCON 41**

**September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

### **AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOUR**

**Robert J. Sawyer**

(Golden Fleece, Quintaglio Trilogy, Neanderthal Parralax Trilogy, Illegal Alien, FlashForward, Webmind Trilogy, Red Planet Blues, Quantum Night, & many others)

### **ARTIST GUEST OF HONOUR**

**TBA**

### **SUPERMARIONATION GUEST OF HONOUR**

**Jamie Anderson**

(Son of Gerry Anderson: Supercar, Fireball XL5, Stingray, Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons, Journey to the Farside of the Sun, UFO, & Space 1999. Jamie maintains Anderson Inc. to preserve his father’s legacy and is actively preparing a new Supermarionation series titled Firestorm)

### **FILM DESIGN GUEST OF HONOUR**

**Eric Chu**

(Battlestar Galactica, Cholly & Flytrap, Droids, Beetlejuice, Captain Power, The Gate II, A Chinese Ghost Story, Peter Pan II: Return to Neverland, Stasys, Space Command, Moonbase Alpha: Legacy, Bitten, Extant, Falling Skies, Firestorm, Milford’s Used Car Corral, & others)

### **EDITOR GUEST OF HONOUR**

**Karl Johanson**

(Editor of Neo-opsis Magazine, formerly co-editor of Aurora Award winning Under the Ozone Hole Fanzine)

## GODZILLA FAN GUEST OF HONOUR

**Stan G. Hyde**

(G-Fest Lecturer, Renowned Godzilla Expert,  
Founder Monster Attack Team Canada, and Star of Milford's Used Car Corral)

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**Spider Robinson**

(Night of Power, Callahan's Crosstime Saloon, Time Travelers Strictly Cash, Callahan's Secret, Callahan's Lady, Callahan's Key, Lady Slings the Booze, Time Pressure, the Lifehouse trilogy, User Friendly, By Any Other Name, Telepath, Deathkiller, Very Bad Deaths, Very Bad Choices, and with Jeanne Robinson, the Stardance trilogy)

## HOTEL

**TBA**

## MEMBERSHIPS

# **Get Earlybird Special Rate Before Prices Go Up In January!!**

Since our website [www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca) is about to switch host & be rebuilt,

simplest to go direct to: [Buy VCON 41 memberships here](#)

## CURRENT RATES

### Full weekend Memberships

**Adult = \$40** – (January goes up to \$50)

**Senior = \$30** – (January goes up to \$40)

**Adult Student = \$30** – (January goes up to \$40)

**Teen (14-18) = \$20** – (January goes up to \$30)

**Youth (9 – 13) = \$20** – (January goes up to \$30)

**Child (infant to 8) = Free**

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## GENERAL VCON 41 INFORMATION

### WHAT?

VCON is Canada's oldest ongoing science fiction and fantasy convention. The first VCON was held in 1971 at the Hotel Georgia with Ursula K. Le Guin as Guest of Honour. The upcoming VCON will be our 41<sup>st</sup>!

The theme of VCON in 2016 is “Muppets, Puppets, and Marionettes” which includes everything from giant puppets to stop motion models to Supermarionation. Expect panels and lectures on these and many other SF&F topics, plus demos, workshops, and numerous audience-participation live action games like “Human Battleship” and “Fan Feud.” A mid-sized SF&F convention run by fans for fans, we average 700 to 800 attendees.

The secondary theme is “The Small Press Cabal” which will celebrate independent Small Press Canadian Book and Magazine publishers who have created the environment for a veritable renaissance of Canadian SpecFic. Participating professionals will include publishers, editors, authors, artists and poets.

### WHY?

To have fun of course. Why else would one get involved in SF&F fandom? We want both our Guests of Honour and our attendees to enjoy themselves as much as possible.

### WHEN?

The dates are firm. From Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> to Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2016.

### WHERE?

We are currently in negotiation with a number of shy, rather coy hotels. Nuptials to be announced soon.

**HOW DO I JOIN UP?** Go to: [Buy VCON 41 memberships here](#)

## WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE BUYING STUFF ON-LINE?

Ah, that means you are a delightfully old-fashioned Luddite like me!

Just write a cheque, or send a post-office money order, made out to “West Coast Science Fiction Association,” and include a mention it is for a VCON membership (or) Art Show panel (or) program book ad (so we don't think you're simply sending us money out of the goodness of your heart), and mail it to:

W.C.S.F.A./VCON 41

Box 78069

Grandview RPO

Vancouver, B.C., Canada

V5N 5W1

## **STAN G. HYDE – GODZILLA FAN GUEST OF HONOUR**

*By R. Graeme Cameron*



**"I AM WITH ONE OF MY FAVOURITE GODZILLA COSTUMES, THE 1999 'MILLENNIUM' GODZILLA, ONE OF TWO GODZILLA SUITS THAT ARE GREEN. THE OTHER WAS GODZILLA JR. ALL THE REST ARE GREY."**

Recently retired, Stan taught English literature, film, and drama at Churchill High School, and, whenever he could convince the School Board, courses in Science Fiction literature. His teaching skills were such that he became Deputy Chief Examiner for an International Baccalaureate Film Studies course, necessitating frequent trips overseas during which he established an international reputation. When I went to High School in the 1960s I didn't even know teachers HAD reputations outside of school, let alone international ones. Stan was a highly-regarded professional throughout his career, and very popular with his students, unlike some of the sloths who failed to teach me ANYTHING back in the day—though I suppose, my own lack of motivation might have had something to do with it—Stan is very good at motivating, not to say, inspiring people. He is an exceptionally good speaker. Enthusiastic doesn't even begin to describe it.

Mind you, I'm a bit sketchy on the details of the professional aspects of his travels, since he always come back raving about the dinosaur exhibits he'd seen, or media retrospectives on topics like Ray Harryhausen's career in stop motion animation, or the history of the Dr. Who series. I marvelled at what a remarkable coincidence it was that his professional trips just happened to coincide with unique, thoroughly exciting exhibits any reasonable fan would sell his first born in order to attend. Almost as if Stan had planned it that way. (By the way, you should ask him about the ghost in the school furnace. I dare you!)



**“HAVING A GREAT DAY (AUGUST 2015) AT TOHO STUDIOS WITH TERUYOSHI NAKANO,  
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EFFECTS AT TOHO FOR MANY YEARS  
AND KNOWN AS ‘MR. DAIBAKUHATSU’ (OR ‘MR. BIG EXPLOSION’),  
AND KENPACHIRO SATSUMA, ACTOR, STUNT PERFORMER, AND SUIT ACTOR  
WHO PLAYED GODZILLA FROM 1985 TO 1995.”**

But, enough of his professional life. Did you know that in real life he is a Fenaissance Man?

(Fenaissance = Fannish Renaissance.)

Did you know that he has more than 200 models of Godzilla, each one different? That he can look at a photo of Godzilla and identify the movie the still came from by the shape of the ear alone? That he is a regular columnist for G-FAN, North America's premiere Godzilla magazine? That every year G-Fest flies him to Chicago to lecture fans on, you guessed it, GODZILLA?

Oops. This account of a Fenaissance Man is all about Godzilla. What are some of Stan's other attributes? Did you know:

That San co-authored and co-performed (with me) the infamous GODZILLA SEX-LIFE SKIT over twenty times at various Pacific North west conventions over the years? Oops. Arrgh. More Godzilla. (Ask him what Godzilloids use for condoms!) Hmm, what else?

That Stan was Artist Guest of Honour at VCON 22 in 1997 because of his great and subtle skill in model painting for which he has won many awards? For instance, beautiful, delicate renderings of Godzilla's grey skin. Yes, grey, NOT green! Stan can prove it! Ask him! Arrgh! Godzilla! Gronk! Actually, beautiful paint jobs on myriad other critters as well... got to get off this Godzilla kick...

That Stan has actually met Godzilla? Put his arm around him? Gotten his autograph? That he knows the true colour of Godzilla's skin because, during a personal tour of Toho studios, they took him into the room where all the suits from all the movies are hanging? That he has met many of the actors who wore those suits? (They showed him how to walk like Godzilla!) Not to mention Directors and Special Effects experts and other Toho veterans? That they even let him hold the Oxygen-Destroyer prop from the original Godzilla? (A privilege rarely extended to visitors.) Ask him about the shed containing all the nifty miniatures used in the films. Go ahead! Ask!

**"ME AND KOICHI KAWAKITA WITH THE ORIGINAL OXYGEN DESTROYER PROP FROM THE 1954 GODZILLA FILM. (MY FRIEND YOSHIKAZU ISHII ACTUALLY FOUND IT WHILE WORKING AT TOHO STUDIOS.) MR. KAWAKITA, SADLY, PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR. HE WAS DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EFFECTS AT TOHO IN THE MID-80'S UNTIL AROUND 1998."**

Did you know that Stan's fannish career began with a long, lonely bus ride across Canada to attend Torcon II, the 1973 Worldcon held in Toronto with Guests of Honour Robert Bloch, William Rotsler, and Lester Del Rey? Not to mention Isaac Asimov VS a Toronto City Hall computer? Ask Stan what went on, what really happened at Torcon II. He knows! I tell you he knows! Gronk! Oops...

Did you know that Stan founded SFAV (the Science Fiction Association of Victoria) in 1975? In the midst of a poker game?

That Stan was the Editor of the first SFAV clubzine UP THE TUBES in 1978? (As opposed to two previous never-published attempts which went "down the tubes" called THE WENDIGO and INCREDULOUS TALES – which Stan either helped create or helped prevent see the light of day, or both – hmmm.)



That he attended RAIN TOO in 1980 where, quote, “I had to buy back my own piece of amateur art, nobody else would bid on it.” Fannish to the core!



That he helped found Monster Attack Team Canada in 1989? This is an extraordinary club consisting mostly of professional film designers and prop-makers who work in “Hollywood North” as the local Vancouver film industry is called. Numerous films and TV series seeming taking place in the United States are actually filmed in British Columbia. “X-Files” for instance, and “Supernatural.” Eric Chu, our Film Design Guest of Honour, is a member of M.A.T.C. (See VCON VANGUARD issue #1 for details on Eric’s career.)

In their private moments club members, in addition to whatever fanboy collectables from their favourite movies and TV shows that the rest of us might be interested in acquiring, collect rare limited edition “garage kits” that are hard to find. On these they lavish incredible attention to detail in painting the assembled models, many of which will be on display in the Art Show at VCON 41 and in a lecture room specifically set aside to focus on M.A.T.C. and the special effects industry, especially as pertaining to puppetry, stop motion animation, and Supermarionation. M.A.T.C. members will also put on a variety of demos in both rooms.

About twenty years ago members of M.A.T.C. discovered that some “garage kits” were decidedly too rare, as in completely unobtainable, in that no one had ever made models of some of their favourite beasts, be it the incredibly moronic-looking “turkey” monster from THE GIANT CLAW, the loathsome walking guppies from THE SLIME PEOPLE, or the silly puppet dragon in REPTILICUS. So M.A.T.C. member Charlie Grant sculpted the Giant Claw birdie, and fellow member Jim Blair the latter two critters, made molds, and produced limited edition models primarily for club members, with a few extras available to the general public. It would be accurate to say these extremely rare M.A.T.C. models are much sought after by serious collectors.

Did you know that, as you might expect from the above, Stan is an expert on movie monsters, and not just Japanese guys in suits in either. I quote from a conversation I had with Stan a couple of decades ago:

ME: “So she wrote in saying she liked my review of THE GIANT CLAW, but couldn’t understand why I left out the scene where the monster attacks the bus in the fog.”

STAN: “Why, the poor deluded fool. How could she confuse a scene from THE DEADLY MANTIS with a classic film like THE GIANT CLAW? Tich! Faggh! Such ignorance!”



**“I AM VISITING SHINICHI WAKASA’S ‘MONSTERS, INC’ SHOP IN TOKYO. HE’S BUILT MOST OF THE GODZILLA SUITS FOR TOHO STUDIOS SINCE THE 90’S AND IS STANDING ON THE LEFT IN THE PICTURE. THE YOUNGER GUY ON THE RIGHT IS MY FRIEND RYUKI KITAOKA WHO IS AN ACTOR AND STUNT PERFORMER.”**

Did you know that Stan has contacts in Japan who feed him insider info about upcoming Godzilla models and movies before anyone else in North America hears about it? Oops. Godzilla again. Gronk! Arrgh!

Did you know that Stan’s talents have manifested themselves in incredibly diverse ways? That he scripted STEALTH LOVE (art by Dario Carrasco Jr.) which appeared in the third issue of GIRLS OF NINJA HIGH SCHOOL comics in 1993?

That as founder (and occasional President) of SFAV, Stan wrote numerous columns under the title THE LIGHT-HEARTED VITUPERATOR AND JOLLY REVILER for the SFAV clubzines PHOENIX and FROM THE ASHES? And later, on a monthly basis, for BCSFAzine (newsletter of one of the three clubs which originally founded VCON) from #193 (June 1989) to #269 (October 1995)?

That Harlan Ellison once phoned Stan long distance to thank him for comments he'd made in a particular LIGHT-HEARTED column in BCSFAzine?

That in BCSFAzine #215 (April 1991), Spider Robinson (our VCON 41 Master of Ceremonies) wrote: "This is my first letter of comment to any zine in over ten years... I am COMPELLED to write, to thank you for printing Stan Hyde's column in #214. Damn fine piece of work, moving and thoughtful... Way to go, Stan."



**"HERE I AM AS AN EXTRA IN 'GODZILLA 2014.'  
A SMALL GREY ARROW ON THE LEFT POINTS ME OUT.  
I AM WEARING, IN TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN ACTOR NICK ADAMS,  
THE SAME TYPE OF HAT HE WORE IN SEVERAL TOHO PRODUCTIONS."**



I leave you with one last Stan and Godzilla factoid. That Stan once stood alone on a Japanese beach at sunrise, facing the rising sun, while chomping on a hearty helping of "Squid-on-a-stick."

Did you know that the above line is not only true, it is also happens to be an off-colour Godzilloid allusion? Ask Stan to explain. I dare you! Gronk!

Stan G. Hyde – Fenaissance Man!

## REMEMBERING THE FIRST VCON

*By Mike Bailey – CoChair: VCON 1*

Vcon 41??

How can this be? I'm still a youngster – at least in heart.

Reminds me of that scene in the first version of the film "Dune" wherein Baron Harkonnen escapes poison gas and asks, "Am I alive? Am I alive? ...I'm alive!"

Back at the time of Vcon I (1971), the UBC SFFEN had a club room in SUB at UBC. (Not too many acronyms, I hope.) The club had a library of a couple of thousand paperbacks and members could borrow any

books available. Dan Say was a very hyper member and wanted to put on a convention. I was a little more sedate and after being convinced to give it a go, Dan and I became Co-chairs.

We decided to run the convention for 1.5 days and use the Georgia Hotel. We rented their best room, used I recall by the Beatles during their visit. We would have a reception in this room on Friday night, then use the hotel's meeting rooms for various programming items the following day. I think our rate was \$7 for the entire event. Less for students, I think.



**VCON 1 GUEST OF HONOUR URSULA K. LE GUIN  
TALKING TO CO-CHAIR MIKE BAILEY, SATURDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 1971.**

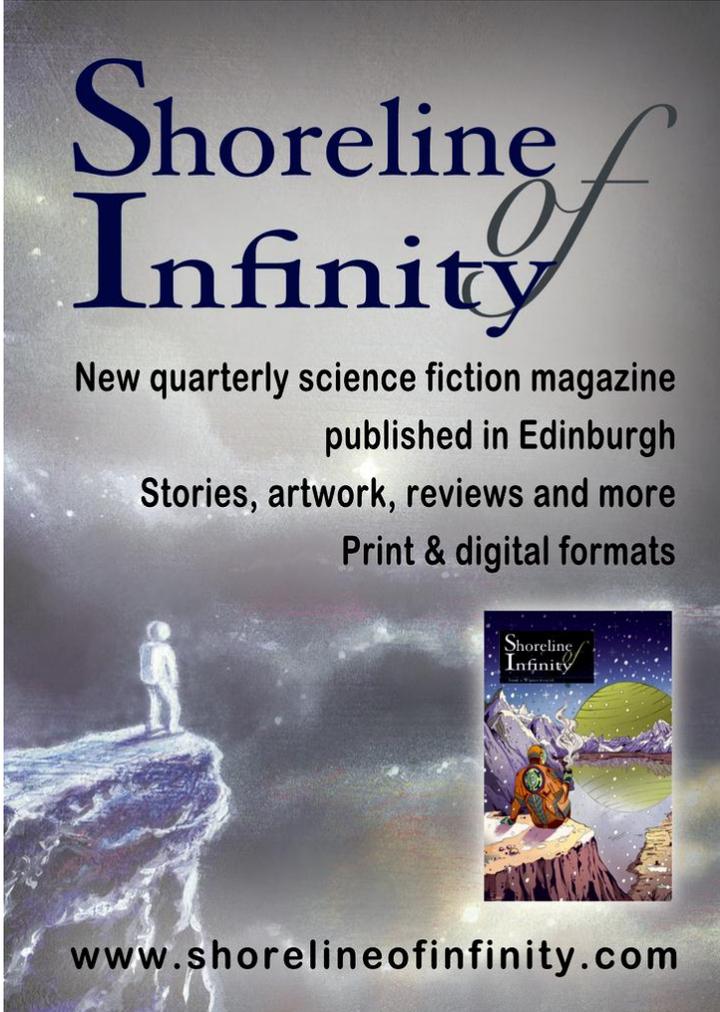
The reception was a big hit with Con attendees and we met many American fans who mostly came up from Seattle. I recall meeting two American war veterans who had just returned from Vietnam and were not acclimated to civilization. One was feeling pucky and pulled out from a knapsack a can of something and a large knife with which he punctured the can and used the knife blade to scoop out the food. Last time I saw them, one was the owner of a bookstore in Tacoma and the other – whose immediate plan had been to go to northern California and grow “basil” in remote areas, “basil” that had to be guarded by people with guns – told me he was on government benefits for PDST from that now ancient war.

Even in those days I was sick of “awards”. Too many of them for not-overly-deserving “winners”. So we bronzed some lemons and mounted them and bestowed them as the first “Elron” awards. The audience was appreciative of our efforts. We even used some stop-motion film made by Graeme (VCON 41 Chair) who is still around AND active.

We hosted some very strong GoHs in the early days. As mentioned by Graeme, Ursula K. Le Guin was our first GoH and she was followed by Philip K. Dick for VCON 11. Phil stayed in Vancouver after Vcon II, working for a drug rehabilitation outfit. He started to fantasize about such an organization that received many government grants to keep it in existence. His fantasy organization started to develop new drugs and distribute

them, then receive more grant money to help addicts. I think it became a book... Frank Herbert was another early GoH, at VCON 111. My memory of him is that he was very business-like and chartered an airplane to come to the Con. We paid for it. Jack Vance was a delightful surprise. He had a guitar and wandered around playing it and singing various sea shanties.

Am I alive? Am I really alive? Yes, I'm alive! And hopefully for a few more years...

The image shows the cover of the 'Shoreline of Infinity' magazine. The title 'Shoreline of Infinity' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'Shoreline' in a serif font and 'of Infinity' in a cursive script. Below the title, it says 'New quarterly science fiction magazine published in Edinburgh'. Further down, it lists 'Stories, artwork, reviews and more' and 'Print & digital formats'. At the bottom, the website 'www.shorelineofinfinity.com' is displayed. The background features a person standing on a rocky outcrop overlooking a vast, starry space. A smaller inset image shows a character in a futuristic suit sitting on a similar outcrop, with a large green planet in the background.

**Shoreline  
of  
Infinity**

New quarterly science fiction magazine  
published in Edinburgh

Stories, artwork, reviews and more  
Print & digital formats

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

**This is our first "sold" ad, featuring a Scottish SF fiction prozine out of Edinburgh, Scotland. It will appear in every issue of the VCON VANGUARD and also in our program book. We welcome any and all genre advertisers and offer the same deal, buy early and be included in each monthly issue of our newsletter at no extra charge! See below for details.**

### **PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISING RATES**

#### **To Place Ad:**

Contact me at < [VCON 41 Ad Sales](#) > and once the ad is sent to me I will generate an invoice from Eventbrite to be paid within 30 days.

**Advantage of placing ad early:** Your ad will be included at no extra charge in monthly issues of The VCON Vanguard.

**Trade Ads:** If you are running a fannish convention or genre event and wish to place an ad in our program book in exchange for a VCON 41 ad in your program book, contact me at the above address.

(Note: last issue inadvertently printed wrong set of prices. These are the correct ones.)

#### **Black & White:** (Interior pages)

- \$100 – Full Page
- \$75 – Half Page
- \$50 – Quarter Page
- \$25 – Business Card

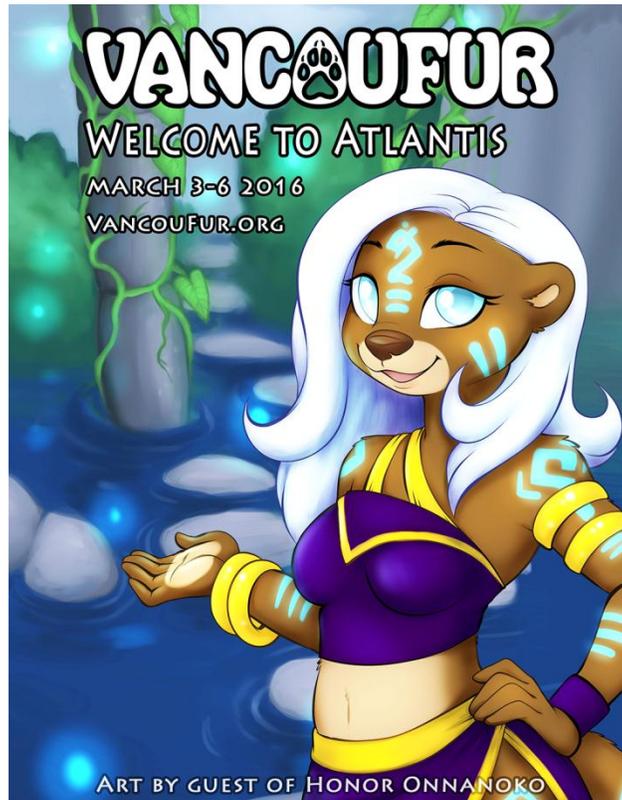
**Colour:** Inside Covers & 4 mid-section interior pages)

- \$200 – Full Page Interior [\*]
- \$150 – Half Page Interior [\*]
- \$100 – Quarter Page Interior [\*]
- \$50 – Business Card Interior [\*]
- \$300 – Full Page Inside Cover
- \$150 – Half Page Inside Cover

[\*] “Interior colour ads” are included in a single colour sheet at the middle of the program book, providing four full pages of colour printing.

The back cover is reserved for a VCON 42 ad.

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**The above is an example of a trade ad, the first we have received. I will continue to run it in every issue of The VCON Vanguard, and their ad for 2017 will appear in our program book in October. In exchange an ad for VCON 41 (yet to be created) will appear in the Vancoufur program book. This is how conventions cross promote and help each other. Darn good practice methinks.**

To repeat myself: If you are running a fannish convention or genre event and wish to place an ad in our program book in exchange for a VCON 41 ad in your program book, contact me at < [VCON 41 Ad Sales](#) >

## ART SHOW GALLERY TABLE & PANEL RATES

Artists! To Purchase table or panel: Go to Eventbrite site: < [Purchase Art Show Table or Panel](#) >

Queries can be sent to: < [Vcon 41 Art Show](#) >

The following earlybird rates are on offer (good till December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015).

EARLYBIRD FULL (8 FT) TABLE = \$10.95

EARLYBIRD HALF (4 FT) Table = \$5.78

EARLYBIRD PANEL = \$13.02

EARLYBIRD STUDENT PANEL = \$8.36

NOTE: that proof of student status will be required during setup of student panels.

ALSO NOTE: that prices include eventbrite fees.

## LETTERS OF COMMENT

Note: All these received November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

From: [Taral Wayne](#)

You're a sucker for punishment, but if that's what gives you your giggles, go for it.

**The Graeme:** *I may wind up giggling, permanently. I hope not.*

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From: [Melissa Mary Duncan](#)

Love this! Keep them coming! Thank you!

**FAYE - The Art of Melissa Mary Duncan**

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

**The Graeme:** *Thank you. I hope to keep to a monthly schedule.*

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From: [Jean-Pierre Normand](#)

Wow, ça promet! ("Wow, it promises!")

Envoyé de mon iPad

**The Graeme:** *Yes, indeed, I can hardly wait till the infrastructure (hotel, GoHs, etc.) is entirely in place and we can concentrate on program planning. All kinds of wonderful ideas under consideration.*

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**From: Victor Schwartzman**

The con has a great theme, cochairs and guests. So I just signed up for next year. Love it!

I know Bob Sawyer a little, and love stop motion. Perhaps I can help with a panel.

By the way, Graeme. Guess what I'm doing these days. Give up? Producing and hosting a radio show on co-op radio, CFRO-FM.

I am on the organizing committee of Barrier Free BC, which is dedicated to a BC Persons with Disabilities Act, similar to the proposed Canadians with Disabilities Act. This would be sweeping access legislation designed to eliminate barriers and avoid individual human rights complaints. We first met three weeks ago, I proposed doing a show on disabilities and barriers at CFRO, and a week and a half later I'm on the air. I was already a certified technician, doing the on air technical work for World Poetry Café.

Soapbox Radio is a series on CFRO on Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m. I'm doing alternate Wednesdays, two hours a month.

So maybe you and some other VCON folks should be on the air a few times, probably starting in March, perhaps to discuss the possibility of a panel for VCON on the subject of the SF&F genre as appreciated and interpreted by handicapped fans. Maybe one of your guests of honour can do a live phone in during the show? Can you imagine—media coverage BEFORE the convention???

**The Graeme:** *There are a number of fans with a variety of handicaps who have attended VCON over the years. Your idea for a panel devoted to their perspective on their participation in SF&F fandom is intriguing. A topic worth exploring. In any case I'd be delighted to appear on your show (I've been on Co-Op Radio a number of times years back, always promoting SF&F.) and it would be nifty if one of the GoHs can join me or phone in as you suggest. Free publicity always a good thing. And kudos to you for buying a VCON membership! I encourage all our readers to imitate your action immediately!*

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**From: Casey Wolf**

How wonderful! Congratulations and I know a good shrink.

Hugs, Casey

**The Graeme:** *About half way through the Con I will indeed probably need a hug from a psychiatrist. One of the reasons I took on the job of Chairing VCON 41 (a mid-sized convention of about 750 people) is to prove I can chair a Ditto convention (a tiny con for about 20-40 fanzine fans) in 2017. Start big and build small. I'm sure any shrink would have something to say about my ability to prioritize.*

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**From: Linda Demeulemeester**

Very cool, Graeme,

I'm sure it will be great!!

**The Graeme:** *Ah, but a great what? That be the question. Thanks for your good wishes.*

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**From: Gregg Chamberlain**

Let me join the horde of well-wishers in support of your deluded decision to slave away as chairman of the 41st annual VCON.... May you rest in pieces.

On a more serious note, the con could not be in better or more capable hands.

Okay, re-reading that previous sentence, I am thinking there could be another interpretation taken there, one of interest to the local constabulary... oh well.

Really really really seriously now (I promise): good man, RGC. The convention has a capable commander and, while I likely will not be able to attend, I sure do wish I could after reading all the preliminary teaser info of the high-profile guests confirmed already.

Good luck and could you provide details on where supporting membership contributions can be mailed, if available?

Ta-merci. Gregg Chamberlain

Godzilla RULES! All other monsters drool!

**The Graeme:** *If you turn back to page 5 you will see our mailing address and the request that all cheques and post-office money orders be made out to "The West Coast Science Fiction Association."*

*In VCON tradition "supporting memberships" are called "donations" and can vary in size according to the whim of the donator. There is no set amount. All donations are appreciated (and listed in the program book) because they help the convention at least break even. Any funds beyond that provide seed money for the next VCON the following year.*

*Some days I wake up and feel capable, other days I wonder what I've gotten myself into. As the convention draws nearer I will switch between these modes of thought on an hourly basis. Let the convention loom close, and it will be on a minute-by-minute basis. During the convention itself, a matter of seconds. This will create a flickering, disjointed appearance and pattern of behavior common to 99% of convention Chairs. Just so you know. Thanks for the vote of confidence!*

## **NEXT ISSUE**

Next issue, the January Issue, I will focus on a different Guest of Honour and also provide more information on our developing plans for VCON 41. Going to be a heck of a celebration!