

# WARP 94



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## On the Cover

Originally designed by Karine Church (Wallaby), our mascots robot and dragon, are now off to explore strange new worlds. Thanks to MonSFFAn, Marquise, they have acquired a rocket, inspired by one of our first SF experiences—Tintin !

Ooops—we forgot to give them names! Thinking of what happens to unnamed away team members, the president is pondering a contest to **NAME the MASCOTS!**

### Contact us

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<http://www.monsffa.ca>



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group



## MonSFFA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Except where noted, all MonSFFA meetings are held  
Sundays from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
Espresso Hotel, St-François Room, 1005 Guy Street,  
corner René Lévesque.

**NB: If you do not find us in St-François, please ask at the front desk. We are sometimes moved to other rooms.**

Programming is subject to change.  
This schedule is abridged, more details can be found on our website at  
<http://www.monsffa.ca/>

### FEBRUARY 21

Protecting the Magic \* What Drives You Crazy? \* Stop  
motion animation project

### MARCH 13 FIELD TRIP

We're off to visit the dinosaurs at the Old Port.  
<http://tinyurl.com/hw33lmj>

### APRIL 17

NOON: Return of the Sunday Movie Matinée \* Les Bandes  
Desinées, AKA les BDs \* And then, the culmination of 9  
months work: the filming of our very own Stop Motion Project.

### MAY 15

Our Annual second hand book sale! Donations of gently  
used books are gratefully accepted. After which, we have  
tentatively scheduled a game of something or other to be  
determined by the group.

### JUNE 12

Cities of the Future! \* Seeing the Past through Rose-Tinted  
Glasses \* Board Games: Various members will be bringing  
their favourite SF/F-based board games to share.

### JULY 17

BBQ in Angrignon Park, Back up date July 24

### AUGUST 28

Project Day, (TBD—Hopefully a project that won't take 9  
months.) \*The theme for the snack table will be "Alien Food"  
so cooks, get your aprons on, and be creative! Yes, the food has  
to be edible, but not necessarily attractive!

Really Fine Print: WARP is published quarterly by the Montreal Science  
Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA), a nonprofit organization of fans  
interested in sharing their love of science fiction and fantasy. The opinions  
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production, and your tolerance is appreciated by your fans.





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*You've Got Mail!*

Dear MonSFFen:

Saturday night, and here I am at home, writing a letter of comment for Warp 93. I might want to get out more on the weekend, but it is cold outside, and comfortably warm inside...

My letter...well, after 13 months at MSR, they let me go. No warning, no reason, no advisory, and all of this is quite illegal. At

least the advice of my employment advisors got me to go to Service Canada and tell all, and that got me my EI, so we're safe for now. I suspect that my usefulness may have come to an end, but I really do not know what happened. The job hunt is on yet again, so wish me luck, or give me a winning 6/49 slip.

*So many on the job hunt, and others expecting the ax any day now. When I started in the work force, there was much more stability; people could make plans for the future, buy homes, cars, with far more confidence.*

The Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition was indeed the great time I expected it to be. We purchased the Patron memberships, which gave us literally everything re special events. We ate a gourmet dinner at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and took a caliche back to Fort George afterwards, we had an afternoon tea with Professor Elemental, took a ghost tour of the fort, and had a relaxing paddlewheel tour of the Niagara River. Two concerts each night, and fun and informative activities each day. We will definitely be back next year.

I am not a gamer at all, but...very soon, Assassins Creed: Syndicate will be available as a video game. Go to YouTube, and look up Assassins Creed: Syndicate - Test of Bravery, and you will see me in the audience here and there, waving my cane about, and screaming for blood as unsuspecting gamers are ushered into

the fighting pit. The Toronto Steampunk Society was invited to take part in this video, held in a venue called the Berkley Church, and I had the time. It was great fun!

*Found it here, and I think I see you at the 1.06 mark. What fun for the gamers! Got a laugh seeing the looks on their faces when they say the "injured" fighter in the medical room, and when they walked into the fighting pit. There is a "Behind the scenes" video as well.*

Next weekend is SFCOntario and the annual Convention. Yvonne and I can only be there on the Sunday, but we will be there for the Aurora luncheon. Fingers crossed...

The weekend after the Convention is the Fan Events Forum, sponsored by Anime North, and held on the airport strip. We enjoyed going to it last year, and with luck, we won't bore too many people by bringing forth old stories from our own con-running days.

I am not sure if you are planning another issue for this year, so if not, the best of holidays to all in the club, and we will soon be entering that SFnal year of 2016. Given what's happened in Paris, Beirut and other places over the last few days as I write, may 2016 be a happier year for all.

*Amen, and best wishes to you and Yvonne as well.*

Yours, Lloyd Penney

*In response to my comment about not having received any reviews of Star Wars, Marc Nadeau wrote:*

There is no need to do so. Most reviews of "Episode IV" (1977, 38 years ago) can be use for "Episode VII" (2015) and you'll get a 95% match. The missing 5% is the vast improvement in SFX which no longer shows on screen.

Bye, Marc Nadeau



*This is actually the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of WARP, issued in 1989.. Until WARP 20, issues were numbered according to the month of publication so this issue is called WARP 1 because it was issued in January. Adding to general confusion, the number on the right margin of the cover refers to volume 3, issue 1. There is no first volume of WARP, the club's earlier newsletter had a different name.*

*This issue was MIA until just a few weeks ago when we were contacted by a former member who had run across it during a clean up of fan stuff. The fifth and sixth issues of WARP are still missing. If you should happen to have copies (probably called WARP 3 & 4), we would be grateful for the loan of them so we can scan them into our archives.*



Titled Another Day at the Office, the cover is by **Bernard Reischl**. There is a lot of detail – worth the trip to our website to view the cover in full size.

[http://www.monsffa.ca/?page\\_id=389](http://www.monsffa.ca/?page_id=389)

**Luke Fallon** announces he is stepping down as president. There is a long LoC from **Lloyd Penney**, who is still our most faithful writer of letters of comment. This also marks the start of MonSFFandom as we know it now:

*“This column, formerly MonSFFArting Around!, has had its title changed in response to comments, made by members to the effect that MonSFFA--ting Around! was less than...shall we say, dignified. So there! Happy now!?!)”*

The report mentions a mailing of 160 issues of WARP 11. There is reference to work on a constitution, which apparently bored the membership. (I never heard of a constitution, I wonder what happened to it?)

Highlights of the meeting included a couple of gaming sessions, an SF Win, Lose, or Draw game, and a workshop comparing conventional illustrating techniques with computer

illustration techniques. Displays of artwork and models were also set up, and videos played. A discussion panel on Cyber-punk failed to materialize due to lack of interest.

The Christmas party was held at the Comforts Pub. There is a photo of **Keith Braithwaite** with the raffle draw. I recognize many of the faces, though most had more hair in those day.

The book reviewed is *The Final Nexus* by Gene Deweese, the forty-third novel in Pocket Books's series of original Star Trek adventures. The reviewer notes that Deweese is one of those dreadful Star Trek writers who liberally sprinkles his book with reference to various episodes to prove what a great fan he is.

Trumors reports production problems on the set of the Batman movie, the cancellation of a *Sgt Rock* movie that was to star Arnold Schwarzenegger, a possible *Mad Max IV* movie, and the release of *Doctorin' the Tardis* by the Timelords. Upcoming video releases included Lucasfilms's production of *Willow*, Demi Moore's film *The Seventh Sign*, and incredibly, a sequel to *Killer Tomatoes*. MCA Home Video will be releasing *E. T.* on laserdisc. Howard Koch's original radio script of the Mercury Theatre adaptation of *The War of the Worlds* has been auctioned off for \$143,000.

Newspaper clippings report a possible fossil find, a sea-monster sighting which turned out to be teenagers competing in the costume category of the Polar Bear Swim, and more seriously, NASA searching for signs of our shrinking ozone layer.



## *Upcoming Events & Conventions*

**Lloyd Penney**

Abridged, a more complete listing can be found on our website. <http://www.monsffa.ca>

**February 7 - Retro Expo Montreal**, Delta Hotel, Montreal.

<http://www.gamerscanada.com/retroexpo/emain.html>

**March 18-20 - Toronto ComiCon**, Metro Toronto Convention Centre. [www.comicontoronto.com](http://www.comicontoronto.com)

**March 18-20 - Furnal Equinox**, Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre. Furry convention. Guests: TaniDaREal, Kanthara. [www.furnalequinox.com](http://www.furnalequinox.com)

**April 2 - Kitchener Comic Con**, Kitchener, ON

<http://kitchenercomiccon.com/live/>

**April 8-10 - FilKONtario 26**, Mississauga, ON. Guests: Cecilia Eng, Batya Wittenburg, Peggy Warner-Lalonde [www.filkontario.ca](http://www.filkontario.ca)

**April 16 - FantastiCon Montreal**, Place Desaulnieres, Longueuil, QC. Comic Convention with Toys.

<https://www.facebook.com/fantasticonmontreal/>

**April 23 & 24 - Cornwall & Area Pop Event**, Cornwall, ON. Guests: Brian O'Halloran, more. [www.cornwallpoperevent.com](http://www.cornwallpoperevent.com)

**April 23&24 - Flower City Comic Con**, Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY. Guests: Madison Lintz, Mackenzie Lintz, George Steele, Graham Nolan, Jim Cummings, Douglas Arthur, Karan Ashley, Walter Jones, more. [www.fc3roc.com](http://www.fc3roc.com)

**April 29 - May 1 - Ad Astra 2016**, Richmond Hill, ON. Guests: Jack Whyte, Sandra Kasturi, Brett Savory.

[www.ad-astra.org](http://www.ad-astra.org)

**May 13-15 - Ottawa Comiccon**, EY Centre, Ottawa.

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

**May 13-15 - Corflu 33** Chicago, IL fanzine convention,

<http://www.corflu.org/index.html>

**May 20-22 - What The Fur**, Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites,

Pointe-Claire, QC. Furry convention. [www.whatthefur.ca](http://www.whatthefur.ca)

**May 20-22 - Boreal 2016**, L'Espace Theatre, Mont Laurier, QC. French-language literary convention. Guests: Christopher Priest, Fabien Fournier, Anne-Laure Jarnet (Gaea), Les

Conteurs de la Lièvre, M. V. Fontaine. <http://2016.congresboreal.ca/>

**May 20-22 - Good Game Con 2016**, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto. Video gaming convention.

<https://ca.venyoo.com/event/s1551891-good-game-con-2016> And on

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GoodGameCon/>

**May 20-23 - CanGames 2016**, Rideau Curling Club, Ottawa.

For more information, [www.cangames.ca](http://www.cangames.ca)

**May 27-29 - Anime North**, Toronto Congress Centre + 3

hotels, Toronto, ON, [www.animenorth.com](http://www.animenorth.com)

**May 27-29 - FBDM/Montreal Comic Arts Festival**, Parc

Lafontaine, Montreal. **FREE** [www.fbdm-montreal.ca/en/](http://www.fbdm-montreal.ca/en/)



## **AWARDS**

CPL

*The Aurora Awards were presented November 22 by the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA) at Convention 35, this year hosted by SFContario. For a list of the finalists, go to*

<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/aurora-awards/aurora-nominees/>

Best English Novel

A Play of Shadow by Julie E. Czerneda

Best English YA Novel: TIE

Lockstep by Karl Schroeder

Out of This World by Charles de Lint

Best English Short Fiction

"Crimson Sky" by Eric Choi, Analog, July/August

Best English Poem/Song

"A Hex, With Bees" by Tony Pi Tesseract Eighteen

Best English Graphic Novel

It Never Rains by Kari Maaren, Webcomic

Best English Related Work

On Spec published by the Copper Pig Writers' Society

Best Artist

Dan O' Driscoll, covers for Bundoran and On Spec

Best Fan Publication

Speculating Canada edited by Derek Newman-Stille

Best Fan Music

Kari Maaren, YouTube Channel

Best Fan Organizational

Sandra Kasturi, Chair, Chiaroscuro Reading Series

Best Fan Related Work

Derek Newman-Stille, Speculating, Canada on Trent Radio

*The Aurora/Boréal awards for best works in French were presented in May, at the Congrès Boréal.*

Prix Aurora/Boréal du meilleur roman

Élisabeth Vonarburg, Hôtel Olympia (Alire)

Prix Aurora/Boréal de la meilleure nouvelle

2015 : Joël Champetier : Pour son œil seulement (Solaris 192)

Prix Aurora/Boréal du meilleur ouvrage connexe

2015 : Solaris (rédacteur en chef : Joël Champetier)

**The 2015 CSFFA Hall of Fame** inductees were Dave Duncan, H.A. Hargreaves, and Michael Coney

Nominations are being accepted for the Auroras, <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/aurora-awards/nominate/>

Non-members may contribute to the eligibility lists: <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/aurora-awards/eligibility-lists/> But I strongly urge buying a membership. The voter's package often contains entire books!

**Nominations for the Hugo Awards** has also opened. <http://midamericon2.org/the-hugo-awards/> Voting will begin in early May.



Winners and acceptors, image snitched from Locus.



# StarFleet Treachery

Barbara Silverman

**The story so far:** Captain Janeway is ordered to stop the impending coalition against Starfleet and the Federation. She ambushed the Maquis, and Chakotay was captured, but the rest of his crew escaped. A conversation with Chakotay left Janeway puzzled as to his motives, and the ease with which he was captured.

Then Janeway was assigned to exploring the Gamma quadrant for three months. It appears there may be an alliance between the Cardassians and the Dominion, and if so, the Federation needs to know if it's an alliance of mutual protection, or aggression. Chakotay may hold some answers, so Admiral Janeway was bringing him to Starfleet HQ for a meeting but Chakotay was beamed out of the shuttle craft. The admiral assigns his daughter to search the badlands for the Maquis leader, and she in turn requests the assistance of Tom Paris, who is released from prison for this mission.

Immediately on entering the Badlands, Voyager is detected and scanned by Chakotay's ship. Negotiations are interrupted when both ships are hit by a massive displacement wave, seriously damaging both ships. Heroic efforts bring the engines back on line, but then crew members start vanishing. Janeway orders an emergency lockout, but it is too late. The crews of both ships are transported to what appears to be a cornfield, but is in fact an immense space station. Declaring a truce in the face of a greater enemy, the two captains consider their options, but then Janeway is transported to a laboratory.

Inexplicably returned to their ships, the captains confer and realize they are each missing a crew member and the bodies of those killed by the displacement wave have disappeared. Cavit is increasing belligerent toward Maquis, to the point of becoming a liability to Janeway. The captains, along with Tom Paris, transport over to the Array. There they meet with an old man who refuses to help them recover the missing crew. Back on the Enterprise, Janeway is informed that a G-type star system is only two light-years away. It has an M-class planet, and oddly, the Array is aiming pulses of energy straight at it.

## CHAPTER 31

**A**fter a sleepless night Janeway forced herself up from the very uncomfortable ready room couch. Harry Kim, B'Elanna Torres, the possibility of being stranded in the Delta Quadrant, all weighed heavily upon her. Throughout the long night a thousand and one images had invaded her mind. Tormenting barriers that peaceful sleep could not penetrate. The memories of the dead and dying, gruesome pictures forever burnt into her memory. Images of her father and the families of all those onboard fighting to cope with the anguish of loss.

Images of Kim and Torres.....victims of hideous experiments.

She dreaded the possibilities which today or tomorrow could bring. The gut wrenching facing of her crew when she announced they would not be returning to Federation space. The words telling each member of the crew they would be spending the rest of their lives far away from homes and loved ones. Accepting the truth herself. Never again to see her father or those she held dear.

Nothing familiar, everything alien. Forced to survive among cultures that might or might not welcome them. How would those who placed their trust in her react? Would they feel betrayed, let down by their captain, their protector?

Rubbing her hand over her face, Kathryn Janeway knew that somehow she had to convince the old man to send them back to the Alpha Quadrant. Therein lay the dilemma. Should she concentrate efforts on the Array? Most probably the location of the equipment that had catapulted them into the Delta Quadrant? Or should she and Chakotay take the time to investigate that M-class planet. An investigation that could be a vain attempt in the hope of locating two missing crewmen.

Two missing crewmen who yesterday had been alive, and who today may or may not be.

Which would be the best avenue to choose? The longer one had to search for answers the more elusive they become. Would time be merciful? Would time allow them to pursue the quest for both solutions? The remote possibility of finding two missing members of the crew against attempting to return home.....not a very pleasant choice!

Suddenly the clock had become their enemy!

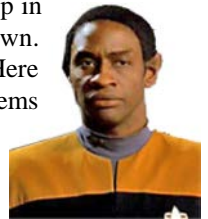
Walking over to the little cubicle located just behind the desk, Janeway splashed cold water onto her face, trying to wash away

the dark circles that had started to form beneath her eyes. Looking at the image in the mirror she made a pledge. "I promise you, I will get this crew home. At whatever cost, even if it's the last thing I ever do!"

Straightening her uniform, attempting to make herself as presentable as possible, the captain then headed in the direction of the door and bridge. Just as she was about to exit the buzzer announced a person or persons requesting admittance.

"Enter!" Changing direction the captain walked over to the replicator.

Both Tuvok and Cavit stepped inside. Cup in hand Janeway headed to her desk and sat down. The first officer handed her several padds. "Here are the repair reports. Crews have main systems operational. We have warp drive up to 3.5, however, now that we were able to run a level-ten diagnostic, the damage is more extensive than originally thought. Carey is working on the systems but cannot give a time estimate. I expect to have the problem rectified shortly."



The captain began browsing through the reports. "I see most but not all weapons are back on-line. The core remains the most urgent, but so too are the weapons. We are in unknown territory, I don't want to be caught in a compromising situation. Put as many of the crew as necessary on these two systems. If necessary, non-essential repairs will have to wait. Keep me informed."

"Yes Captain!" With Janeway's silent dismissal Cavit unhappily left.

Not only was the first officer still nursing a bruised ego from the rebuffs of the day before, but he also felt very strongly about being excluded from the tactical discussions. He was extremely disturbed over her private meetings with both the Maquis leader and Tuvok. After all, was he not the first officer? Was it not vital for him to be kept appraised of her plans? Was it not his duty to council and guide the captain in her decisions? Of which during the last few days many had been in error.

Silently he made his way across the bridge to the turbolift.

"Computer, engineering!" Had it been Human, the computer would have cringed at the tone of his voice. Janeway's truce with

the Maquis. The acceptance of advice from an outlaw and traitor was a gross violation of Starfleet's regulations. It was his duty to convince the captain that she was wrong. He would have to be careful. He would have to be manipulative. She needed to be reminded of the proper protocols, the rules and regulations she had sworn to uphold.

That had been his plan, to approach her this morning when the Maquis leader was not around to distract her, had Tuvok not chosen the same moment to meet with Janeway. Well, he would speak with the



Vulcan, make sure the security officer understood his place. Never again would Tuvok seek out the captain at the same time as that of the first officer.

As for the captain, he would speak with her later. Meanwhile as first officer, Cavit had HIS crew to attend to. He was determined HIS crew would not forget they were Starfleet. And that Tom Paris! The captain granting him freedom of the ship! Allowing him to work at the conn, on HIS bridge. The right place for someone like Paris was in the brig. This was another error Janeway had to correct.

In a foul temper Cavit entered engineering.

## CHAPTER 32

Unaware that her first officer was planning to rectify the manner in which she was conducting herself, Captain Kathryn Janeway continued the task of dealing with the complexities of the current situation. Seeking advice from the one man she could trust not to allow emotion to guide his actions, she called Tuvok.

Leaning back in her seat the captain looked up at the man who had been with her longer than anyone else. "Tuvok, what is your opinion of Chakotay?"

Holding a padd in his hand Tuvok moved to within a couple of feet of the desk. "Captain, could you be more specific."

Reaching slightly forward, Janeway picked up her cup. "Do you agree with Cavit that I was wrong in setting up the truce?"

Without hesitation Tuvok answered her question. "No, Captain. Under these circumstances it was the logical action to take. It is better to work with him than against or in conflict with his efforts. Sharing of knowledge and abilities will always be the most efficient way of finding a solution."

'Ah' thought Janeway, that wonderful Vulcan logic.

Tuvok continued. "To Chakotay the crew comes first. As you do, he feels very strongly about his obligations to them. He maintains very strong discipline, however, he always treats the crew well. He respects them, they in turn respect him. He also follows many Starfleet protocols."

Holding the cap in both hands Janeway gazed down into the dark liquid. She was finding Tuvok's assessment of the Maquis leader very interesting, the Vulcan was certainly giving her something to think about. "In the short time that I've known Chakotay my opinion of him has started to change. He is certainly not what I would consider a rebel and outlaw. However, is this just an act due to our circumstances? Since you were a member of his crew, you know more about the man, not the outlaw."

Tuvok understood his captain was in the process of deciding if Chakotay could be depended upon, of just how far the Maquis leader could be trusted. "Though by Federation standards he is an outlaw, Chakotay is a man of his word, and can be trusted. He will honour that trust, doing nothing to endanger you or this crew. He has very strong moral principals. To him life is precious and should be respected, even that of an enemy. However, do not forget, he is a dedicated Maquis, he is their leader, a skilled, powerful leader who will use every opportunity that comes his way. As you are able to watch and learn his methods, his strength, and weaknesses, he will also be learning yours."

Janeway took a couple of moments to process the words of her security chief. "Do you think that is why he chose Evans to join

him? To gather information?"

For a minute Tuvok's quick mind analysed the situation. "Possible but not probable. There are only three people Chakotay trusts completely. Two of them, Evans and B'Elanna Torres, are members of his crew. The third is Ro Laren. Evans is what you humans refer to as being level headed. He does not hate Starfleet and the Federation as do many serving, not only on the Maquis ship, but in the whole of the Maquis. Nevertheless Captain, you must be careful. Evans is an extremely skilled intelligence agent. Given the opportunity to gather information, he will do so."

"Really." Janeway replied rather lightly.

Tuvok raised an eyebrow. "Captain, you do not seem concerned?"

She did not elaborate but instead commented on Tuvok's previous statement. "It is interesting that Chakotay follows Starfleet protocols."

The Vulcan quietly reminded his captain about Chakotay's past. "He was a Starfleet officer."

The captain tapped her finger against the cup. "Yes he was, with a fine service record. I can now understand why his commanding officers held him in such high regard, recommending that he be promoted to captain."

Her interest in the Maquis leader was growing. "During your time with the Maquis, did you find or see anything to support their claims of Cardassian atrocities?"

The Vulcan folded his hands behind his back. "As for hard proof, no. However, I did hear many comments but did not have first hand knowledge to the events being referred to. However, between what I heard and what I saw when we visited several of the colonies, I do believe closer examination would be justified. In this context many of the Cardassian statements are not logical. Their explanations concerning the deaths of the colonists might not be correct. Especially in their claim that rebel Maquis themselves are doing the killing. Some of the facts appear to have been left out or changed in the reports that Cardassia sent to Starfleet."

Thoughtfully, Janeway placed her cup on the desk. Had her father known this during their last conversation? "Did you inform the Admiral about this?"

Tuvok gave a slight nod. "Yes Captain. We had a long debriefing. I also brought something else to his attention."

Looking up at the Vulcan the captain rested both arms on the desk. "Something else?"

Tuvok took a step closer to the desk. "During a battle we

destroyed a Cardassian supply ship. In the debris we found some unknown technology.”

Unease stirred within Janeway. “Could it have been Dominion?”

Tuvok's reply only served to deepen that concern. “There is that possibility. Chakotay thought so, as did Admiral Janeway.”

Janeway did not show the growing anxiety that Tuvok's information produced. However, she was now determined, at the first opportunity, that she and Chakotay would have a very serious conversation. “Did your search of the logs reveal anything?”

Stepping up to the desk Tuvok handed Janeway the padd. “Nothing Captain. During the time we were on the Array there was no activity onboard the ship, nor were our computer records accessed. It would appear this alien was interested only in our physical selves. I have tried to scan the structure, to no avail. However, I was able to determine that during the course of the night, the energy pulses have been increasing. Both in rate and intensity. The time gap between each one has decreased .47 seconds.”

Leaning back the captain glanced at the padd. “Increasing! Last night Chakotay and I reviewed what little information we had. There is one M-class planet directly in the path of these pulses. Even though this planet is not very hospitable, we decided it would be advantageous to investigate. This energy must be directed to someone or something.”

Being the bearer of bad news did not divert Tuvok from his usual unemotional manner. “I have read Cavit's report and ran several scans myself. It is erroneous to assume there is a connection to the missing crewmen. Based on the facts it is logical to assume both Kim and Torres are dead.”

Janeway looked sharply at her security chief.

The captain's glance did not go unnoticed by the Vulcan. “It is the human inability to accept loss which allows you to believe this barren world could be important. You are maintaining false hope, postponing the inevitable.”

Knowing Tuvok was speaking the truth she played with the padd. This truth she did not want to accept.

Tuvok had served with Janeway long enough to understand

situations such as these were difficult on humans. “According to your summarization of the conversation, the old man stated they might have what he needed, not that they were alive. You are interpreting his words to suit your own desires. It would be best to concentrate our efforts on the array. Try to locate the equipment that can transport us back to Federation territory.”

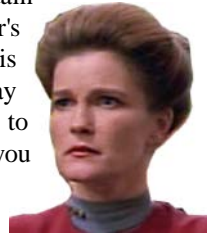
For several long moments the captain thought over her security and tactical officer's advice. “I'm not quite ready to believe there is no hope. He did say something about one day returning Kim and Torres, this leads me to believe they are still alive. Besides how do you explain those pulses?”

Though the Vulcan disagreed with his captain he did not argue, Tuvok simply answered her question. “Surplus energy sent to a collector on the planet. We have no knowledge of how this alien lives, or how the Array functions. Most probably there are periods of time when he has to rely on stored energy. Our long-range scans have failed to reveal any life signs or indications of any type of civilization on the planet. Just a desert wasteland.”

A reluctant Janeway nodded sadly. “As usual you are probably correct. Still....to give up. It does appear strange this alien would use a collector so far from the Array. If he did require this surplus energy he would have to transport it back, or at best be able to reach it in some manner. And....even a desert wasteland can yield up life, sometimes in the most unexpected of places. For the time being, return to the lab, continue to analyze the data we have already have. Run more long-range scans. We may have missed something.”

She looked intently at Tuvok. “One important aspect of the human species....we never give up.”

Standing up she accompanied Tuvok to the door. “We need more information – something to our advantage, something to work with. Run what we know about this alien through the computer. Maybe somewhere, sometime, something like this has been recorded. I'm going to meet with Chakotay.”



## ***REVIEWS: Conventions & Events***

### **OVMF Concert: A trip through time and space! Cathy Palmer-Lister**

Five MonSFFen took in the OVMF Dr Who concert January 30. What a great show! Small wonder it sold out twice. The music was wonderful: sometimes loud and brash as only horns can be, but sometimes soft, sometimes whimsical as well. The conductor, Jocelyn Lebank, is a real Whovian, and brought his insight to the performance. Not only did he compose all the musical arrangements, but he also spent hours reviewing episodes to create a montage to show above the heads of the musicians which was perfectly synchronized to the music. Also, new to the OVMF, the addition of a choir which lifted the music to a whole new level.



*Photo by Fern*

The opening number was, of course, the theme to Dr Who. Oddly, it sounded a bit weak, but on reflection, I think that had more to do with our expectations—we know the theme, very well, indeed, and the different arrangement sounded a bit off.

Costumes? There were Doctors, Daleks, and various companions everywhere, and not only in the audience. Some of the musicians were also costumed, notably a clarinet player who wore a lovely white wedding gown. Sonic screwdrivers, Tardis tuques, Keep Calm and Don't Blink shirts, fez, bow ties (they were cool), Dalek dresses, everywhere you looked. A TARDIS and a Dalek in the hall drew in the fans for



photo ops. (The Dalek was mobile, but not terribly menacing. The kids loved it! )

Fern won a pair of tickets to the next show which will feature theme music from SuperHero movies, March 19. **Star Wars** will be the theme for two shows in June on the 12th and 19th. Mark your calendars!

If you buy your ticket to the **SuperHero** show before the 20th of February, and you will be given a **free CD** of the Dr Who performance recorded at their first showing in November.  
*Members can download pictures and video from our website.*



### Cirque du Soleil : Toruk Reviewed by Sylvain St-Pierre



Most of the Cirque du Soleil shows have a strong element of genre in them, be it fantasy (Khô) or SciFi (Kurios). The narrative, however, always tended to be very loose, present only to provide a tenuous link between isolated individual spots. Doing a structured spectacle based on the movie Avatar was a major change for the franchise and I was wondering how it would turn out.

I did like the result. All the pre-releases for Toruk agreed on one thing: it was going to have less acrobatics and more choreography, which is a bit misleading. There is actually a lot of acrobatics, but so well meshed in the plot that the whole thing flows like a dance rather than a succession of acts.

The decors are superb, and the engineering behind them amazing. A relatively small number of elements keeps moving around in surprising ways, transforming the scene into a forest, a river, a volcano, a meadow and other locales. There is a transition where trapdoors open to reveal beautiful blooming luminous plants; and when they closed up I could not see any trace of them, despite one being less than ten feet away from me. Most

impressive was the use of light projections to simulate flowing water and lava, and even from up close – I was in the fourth row – it really did look like the characters were drifting down a raging river at one point.

It was of course impossible to make the Na'vi ten feet tall, but that was easily forgiven and forgotten, even when the actors went quite far among the spectators up the aisles to prepare for one particular scene.

A considerable amount of effort was also lavished on the accessories, and there is a story behind even the smallest one, available in the (unfortunately expensive) souvenir book. There is no reboot of the Avatar canon, and all the new elements fit perfectly with the movie. So much so that apparently some of those new creatures will be seen in the upcoming sequel.

The basic story is simple and rather classical, but nevertheless effective. It does however require a narrator, so you have to make sure to pick a show in a language you understand, which is something that was not a problem with the old formula. But even if it had been in Japanese, it would still have been enjoyable.

Will all the new Cirque du Soleil shows be like this in the future? If they manage to craft them as well as this one, I would say it will not be a bad thing.

*All pictures copyrighted Cirque du Soleil.*



#### MonSFFen Communications Networks



**Website** <http://www.monsffa.ca/> Comments are welcome. We have an RSS feed, just click the orange icon in the far right side of the URL box.

**Yahoo Group** <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MonSFFA> This group serves largely as a forum for our members and friends. Anyone can apply to join, anyone can post a message on any topic relating to our group interests.

**Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/MonSFFA/> The more official of the two MonSFFA sites on FB, this one also carries posts from our website. **Facebook Group** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3668900441/> Serves as a group forum—any member of the group can post anything of possible interest to fans of SF/F and related subjects.

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/MonSFFA> Mostly carries headlines from our website.

## OCTOBER

A last-minute switch to an upstairs hotel suite/board room may have derailed a few of our group as attendance on this occasion was light. We heard from a couple folk who, finding the usual meeting venue closed and no familiar faces within sight, assumed the meeting had been cancelled. It had not.



An early-bird installment of Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée, hosted by Keith Braithwaite, highlighting classic Universal horror films of the 1930s, '40s, and '50s led off. On offer were *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *The Wolf Man*, *The Mummy* – starring horror icons Karloff, Lugosi, Rains, and Chaney, Jr. – and the ultimate choice of those present, *The Creature From the Black Lagoon*, which was pronounced by our reviewers an entertaining movie of quality.

Sylvain St-Pierre gave a well-illustrated primer on the prolific, decades-long Perry Rhodan cycle, this being a German space opera and the most successful sci-fi book series ever, boasting some 3000 installments to date.

Sylvain was joined by Keith Braithwaite for the next presentation, a visually detailed overview of the 1960s children's television sci-fi/adventure series *Thunderbirds*, which featured a cast of marionettes and a wealth of cool, futuristic vehicles, machines, and aircraft. The discussion amongst the group covered details of plots and production, and zeroed in on the massive appeal of the show, then and now, 50 years on, which it was put forward, has largely to do with the mechanical marvels depicted and the elaborate, hair-raising rescue operations undertaken by the show's International Rescue organization.



We opted to put off our planned stop-motion short film project workshop until November and instead, to the delight of the group, screened a stop-motion lego movie that club member Paul Bennett had made with his son back in the late 1970s. Fun stuff!

## NOVEMBER

The club's last meeting of 2015 featured a visually capacious exploration of wild, wacky flying machines, both real and imagined, and odd, inelegant, crazy-cool spaceship designs in sci-fi film and television. Sylvain St-Pierre and Keith Braithwaite teamed up on this presentation, which began with Sylvain's retrospective of some of early sci-fi's wondrously envisioned flying machines and interplanetary vehicles, elaborate Victorian designs lifted skyward purely by the power of imagination. Sylvain covered the history of balloons and airships, real and fictional, and showcased, as well, real aircraft blueprints from the

late-19th and early-20th centuries, and the various ungainly prototypes built by their designers. Vintage film footage showed the inevitable and total failure of these cumbersome shaking, flapping, and uncontrollable machines as they nosedived unceremoniously from hillsides, rooftops, and launch platforms, dashing in an instant their inventors' dreams of flight.



But of course, a few of them did, in fact, take off, like Gustave Whitehead's No. 21 Monoplane and the Wright brothers' Flyer, the former's claim of a first manned, powered, and sustained flight disputed, the latter's triumph generally accepted as ushering in a new age of flight.

Keith, for his part, screened still images and video clips of some of the unorthodox, bizarre, and just plain weird spaceships created for sci-fi film and television, like Barbarella's pink-hued Alpha 7, exhibiting a shag carpet-lined interior, Nell of Roger Corman's *Battle Beyond the Stars*, sporting a rather buxom hull sculpted by a young James Cameron, and the "biomechanical" derelict craft featured in *Alien* and created by surrealist painter/sculptor H. R. Giger.

Television's *Babylon 5* and the rebooted *Battlestar Galactica* both employed organic shapes and textures in the designs of their many spaceships, no doubt inspired by the natural world. The Minibari warcruiser, for example, resembles an angelfish while the Shadow ships incorporate a mix of spider, crab, and sea urchin features. The design of the titular *Lexx* spaceship, meanwhile, echoes a dragonfly and includes hull details that resemble female genitalia, in keeping with the tone of this Canadian/German/British co-production.

*Star Wars* boasts a number of spacecraft approximating everyday items, like the medical frigate first seen in *The Empire Strikes Back*, which looks a little like an outboard boat motor. Boba Fett's unconventional Slave 1 was initially inspired by a radar dish, apparently, and came to resemble the lamp housing of the streetlights outside the ILM studios.

Some spaceship designs embellished with great flourish familiar moulds, as did the shiny, silver, multi-finned rocket Cosmostrator, of *First Spaceship on Venus*. Others were simply

clumsy and unimaginative, like the "solarscopes" of the unrealized UK SF series *Solarnauts*.



The latter part of the meeting was dedicated to 2016 programme planning, and to further pre-production work on our ongoing stop-motion film project. Unfortunately, a planned installment of our popular Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée scheduled for the meeting's



morning slot had to be cancelled as Matinée host Keith Braithwaite was delayed in his arrival.

## DECEMBER

MonSFFen gathered again this holiday season at the downtown Irish Embassy Pub and Grill on Saturday evening, December 5, for the club's 2015 Christmas Dinner and Party.

Just shy of two dozen MonSFFolk and friends exchanged seasonal greetings, enjoyed conversation over a fine meal and later, lingered over drinks. It was nice to see again, joining his old cohorts for the club's Christmas celebration, former MonSFFA president **Berny Reischl**, who retired from active fandom at last year's Christmas gathering after decades of involvement in sci-fi fandom, much of that time with MonSFFA.

We were pleased to offer a thank-you gift to a lucky MonSFFAn randomly drawn among those who had renewed their memberships early during the calendar year, and by way of our "Rewards Raffle", gifted a few randomly chosen of our numerous volunteer members with a special prize in recognition of their efforts on behalf of the club throughout the year. Finally, the club's traditional holiday raffle awarded lucky winners with festively wrapped sci-fi prizes, including a *Doctor Who* Monopoly game, a couple DVD and Blu-Ray movie collections, books, and a few cool collectibles.

A nod of thanks is directed at the club's president and vice-president, **Cathy Palmer-Lister** and **Keith Braithwaite**, for organizing this event.

A good time was had by all!



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## From *THE ZINE DUMP* #36

A fanzine about fanzines by **Guy Lillian III** A lovely review of WARP 93, Thanks, Guy! – CPL

Warp 93 / Cathy Palmer-Lister, via MonSFFA So hot off the presses it hasn't even seen the presses yet, [this is the link](#) to the low res pdf to the Montreal club's genzine. Though the wonderful editor describes the zine as "skimpy," a Warp journey is always worthwhile. Take, for instance, the cover to this issue, described on the website as follows: *The Doctor and his Companion, by Claude Monet (oil on canvas, 1875), a painting dating from a most fertile phase of the renowned French Impressionist's career, was recently discovered in the attic of a house in Argenteuil in which Monet lived in the 1870s. Little is known of the subjects depicted as the artist left no notes as to their identity or relationship to him. No particulars on the gentleman or lady are to be found, either, in the local historical records of the time and the odd structure beside which the gentleman is standing remains a puzzle. Civic records offer no indication that such a structure ever existed, as if this curious blue box simply appeared out of thin air, and then disappeared just as mysteriously. The title of the work gives us our only clue as to the two subjects, suggesting that the gentleman was, perhaps, a medical doctor travelling with a female relative, Fiancée, or mistress. MonSFFA's own Keith Braithwaite worked on the restoration of the painting. Such exquisite bullshit should not go unhailed – nor such a pretty cover, which does show more than a touch of Monet. Inside, a chapter from a MonSFFAn's Star Trek novel, a note on a weird world-building game, reviews of movies and conventions and a long section on club activities, including a cool visit by the Royal Canadian Astronomical Society which I wish I'd attended.*

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### Room for the Roomies

Lloyd Penney

Some years ago, in the midst of our con-running careers, Yvonne and I took in some roommates to save a few bucks. To protect the guilty and save on their embarrassment, let's call them Joe and Lynda...

In saving those few bucks, we told the hotel we were staying in that we only had two people in our room, and as a result, we received only two keycards. Yvonne and I would be needing our cards, as we'd be in and out of our rooms regularly, and our roomies were out enjoying the con. Fine with everyone, we thought...

At one point Saturday, Joe asked me if he could borrow our room key, and I thought little of it; I was going back and forth regularly. Later on in the day, I realized that Joe hadn't returned the room key, and I hadn't seen him in a while. I found Yvonne and asked to borrow her key...she said Lynda had borrowed her key and hadn't returned it. We looked at each other, and the light

went on. Our roomies had borrowed our key for a little, ahem, afternoon delight, and kept us in the dark. I needed to get into the room, as did Yvonne, and the room was officially occupied, and we were locked out. Needless to say, we were pissed off.

Yvonne and I headed to the hotel front desk, and we said that we'd lost our room keys (I guess we had, I suppose), and could we get replacements? No problems... Yvonne marched off to our room, with me behind her, stifling a laugh, and when we got to the front door, Yvonne, in true matron fashion, swiped the keylock, barged into the room, and demanded, "WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?" As if she didn't know...

Now, I was behind Yvonne, and I certainly didn't get to see what she saw, but I will never forget the sight of two skinny butts quickly disappearing over the side of the couch in the room, and two bewildered faces popping up after.

Good thing they were the forgiving type; we kidded them about taking the room keys for years. And for some, reason, they were never our roommates again...

### A FEW WILD IDEAS ABOUT STAR WARS SEVEN

Sylvain St-Pierre

**SPOILER ALERT SPOILER ALERT SPOILER ALERT SPOILER ALERT**

Rather than to review the latest instalment of the Star Wars saga – something I suspect may have already been done by several other MonSFFAns – I thought it might be fun to jot down a few more or less bizarre theories that I came up with after seeing that movie. **Be warned that if you have not yet seen *The Force Awakens*, reading the following might spoil your fun.**

**Theory 1:** Rey is the daughter or descendant of a character from one of the previous movies. Which one is hard to say (Luke Skywalker is a prime suspect), but that seems highly probable. She was very likely left on Jakku for her own safety, but we do not know by whom yet. We may very well learn only in Episode IX. I would even go as far as to say that she might be Kylo Ren's twin sister. Yes, I know, it's been done, but this may be precisely why it might end up being a surprise...

**Theory 2:** Captain Phasma is Finn's mother. Why else would she be so lenient on him? This would also explain how she recognised him instantly despite the fact that there must be countless thousands of helmeted Stormtroopers under her command. It is almost certain that she must have escaped the trash compactor that Finn and Solo reportedly threw her in – something that we never saw on screen – and managed to evacuate the planet before it blew up. It is highly probable that we will see her again and, if I'm right, her interaction with her son should prove interesting.

**Theory 3:** The First Citizen is related to Maz Kanata. They look sufficiently similar to be of the same species, and the oversized hologram could simply be a way to hide the fact that he is quite small. Snoke might be Kanata's husband, father, brother or nephew, but I would favour him being her son, which would be in perfect tune with the previous theories and Kylo Ren's parentage. This would mean that we are also likely to see Maz again.

**Theory 4:** Han Solo might perhaps be still alive. It's far fetched, but Darth Maul went through worse and came back in the Clone Wars series. There are plenty of ways this could happen without too much suspension of disbelief. For instance, Solo fell into the shaft of a giant thermal oscillator, in what looks like icy mist. He could have been flash frozen and ejected into space when the planet exploded. It is, I readily admit, a very unlikely possibility; but one that should not be entirely dismissed.

**Am I right or wrong?** We will need a few years to find out. The bets are open!



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Find the MonSFFA rocket hidden in this issue! (No, the one in our logo does not count silly!)

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