

I M P U L S E

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

March / Mars 2016 (Vol. 20, No./N° 3)

**NEXT
MonSFFA EVENT
IS THIS WEEKEND****Field Trip to Montreal
Science Centre for
Dinosaur Exhibit****Sunday, March 13****Meet at 12:00PM, Main Lobby
of Science Centre, Old Port of
Montreal****DINOSAURS UNEARTHED***Travel back in time more than 65 million
years to the Age of Dinosaurs in an
immersive experience steeped in realism
that brings to life 14 roaring, full-sized
animatronic dinosaurs!*Centre des science de Montréal, 2 Rue de
la Commune Ouest (Quai King-Edward);
nearest Metro station, Place-d'Armes; paid
parking on-site**Admission: \$15***(Discounts for children, teens, seniors)*See lead item (center column) for further
details; visit the science centre's Web site:
www.montrealsciencecentre.com**NOTE:** Keep in mind that clocks "Spring
Forward" one hour at 2:00AM Sunday,
March 13! Please make allowances so as
not to arrive at the science centre late.**APRIL 17 MonSFFA MEETING****12:00PM SUNDAY SCI-FI CINEMA****MATINÉE:** The George Pal Edition**2:00PM BDSE:** Calm down! That's an
"F", not an "M", so we're talkin' Bandes
Desinées, French sci-fi comics!**3:00PM STOP-MOTION FILM****PROJECT:** Cameras roll!**JURASSIC PORT!**

We're headed to the Old Port of Montreal
on this particular Sunday, rather than to our
usual meeting locale, to explore the Dinosaurs
Unearthed Exhibit at the Montreal Science
Centre! This interactive, animatronic
exhibition closes by month's end, so we
decided to call off our March meeting and
hold, instead, this field trip into the prehistoric
past in order that we not miss the opportunity.
(We hope to add a meeting to our schedule in
June to make up for the cancellation this
month.)

We will gather in the main lobby of the
science centre, near the snack bar, at noon.
We'll nosh on a quick lunch—buy yours at
this food kiosk, or bring your own lunch—
and make our way into the exhibit at about
1:00PM.

The Science Centre sits on the King
Edward Pier, 2 de la Commune West, a short
jaunt south from Place-d'Armes Metro, on
either St-Sulpice or St-Laurent Boulevard to
de la Commune West and the pier. For those
MonSFFen travelling by car, paid parking is
available adjacent the science centre. Metered
street parking is available in the general area,
although we caution that it can be difficult to
find an open spot.

The cost of admission to the exhibit is \$15;
you can buy your tickets at the ticket booth
upon arrival. You may also purchase tickets
online, in advance (to do so, visit:
www.montrealsciencecentre.com). Might
be a good idea to secure your tickets ahead of
time. Discounts apply for children, teens, and
seniors.

Now it just so happens that this Sunday is
the date on which Daylight Savings Time

**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:DUROCHER, Marc
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HECHTMAN, Ken
KNAPP, Brian K.
KNAPP, Mary C.
MOIR, L. E.**Due This Month, March:**D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda
MENARD, François
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René**Due Next Month, April:**

NADEAU, Marc

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

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

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

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No. & Street/N° et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

Province

Postal Code/Code Postal

E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

begins this year, so please take note: you will actually be an hour ahead of the clock you've been accustomed to throughout the winter! Please keep this in mind so as to avoid arriving late; when we say we'll meet at noon, we mean 12:00PM, DST!

Once inside the exhibition hall, we are promised fossil displays, awesome prehistoric vistas, four interactive stations and the opportunity to operate an animatronic dinosaur! There are 14 of the roaring, bellowing, strikingly realistic-looking, full-sized beasts populating recreations of what two major paleontological excavation sites revealed to scientists about life on Earth more than 65 million years ago!

Photography is permitted and, shutterbugs take note, Warp editor Cathy Palmer-Lister will, no doubt, commission snapshots of this outing for reproduction in a future issue of the club's fanzine.

So join us this Sunday for a Jurassic adventure, and bring a friend!

February MonSFFA Meeting

February's club meeting took place on the 21st. The afternoon's programme featured two rather lively discussions!

The first explored the topic of magic in our everyday world and the supernatural artefacts that feature in such TV shows as Warehouse 13, The Librarians, and movies like the Indiana Jones adventures.

Josée Bellemare was at the dais for this wide-ranging exchange on magic and the need for such mystical relics as the Lost Ark, The Holy Grail, Excalibur, the Tesseract, and various other enchanted articles to be kept under lock and key, lest they fall into the wrong hands and their magic be employed for evil purpose. Why is this?

Regarding fictional avenues like the TV series and movies cited, the magical knick-knacks are essential to telling a fantastical tale. Imbued with whatever preternatural power a writer devises, the story's protagonists must overcome obstacles to locate, secure, and protect from malevolent hands the enchanted stone or gem or idol in question. Without these talismans, there is no fantastical element, and therefore no fantastical story!

The discussion touched on the many legends surrounding mythological and "historical" items before moving on to "real-world magic", that being the common belief by many, even in today's modern scientific world, in things paranormal. Proof of the veracity of such is dependent on bogus claims and pseudo-science and therefore no proof at all, argued some. But if one believes adamantly in something, doesn't it become "real," at least to that individual? The debate was

animated and led to whether religious faith was really just another belief in magic. Definitions of magic were proffered, the common denominator being that magic was something that defied rational, scientific explanation, operating outside of the bounds of reality, beyond the physical laws of the universe. Could magic simply be something that science has yet to explain?—Clarke's Third Law was cited. Perhaps, but it would then cease to be magic!

From this debate, we segued into our second discussion topic, on the egregious plot holes, insipid prose, corny dialogue, annoying characters, errors of science, lapses of internal logic within a story, shoddy special effects, and just bone-stupid nonsense that our favourite genre so often foists upon us—the stuff that just drives us crazy! Cathy Palmer-Lister moderated this chat, with Fernando "Fern" Novo and François Menard filling out the panel. Fern got the ball rolling with a quick PowerPoint presentation on some of the irritants he found most aggravating, which unleashed a torrent of like examples from the group. It can safely be said that we all despise with a passion Jar Jar Binks and other so-called Space Monkeys!

The closing portion of the meeting was devoted to continuing work on our on-going stop-motion film project. Final pre-production tasks were undertaken and we set up our animation stand to run a few framing and lighting tests. Our fingers are crossed that everything will be ready to begin shooting at April's club meeting.

We thank very much our February-meeting programme participants, as well as all the folk who helped to plan and run the show.

Briefly:

- Impulse will not publish next month, April. See the Events Column this issue for the April 17 meeting's programme. Impulse will return in May.
- The deep-discount sales of second-hand SF/F books MonSFFA has championed these past couple of years seem, now, to have taken on a life of their own, evolving into an annual fund-raising event. Another such book sale is set for May 15. Contributions to the cause from club members and friends are most welcome and much appreciated; box your old SF/F books and comics and drop them off at our April 17 meeting.

Dinosaur Movie Quiz

How well do you know your dinosaur movies, and your dinosaurs? Provide the type of dinosaur besought in each of the following questions (answers next issue):

1. In the 1925 silent classic *The Lost World*, what kind of stop-motion dinosaur rampages through the streets of London?
2. In 1977's *Planet of Dinosaurs*, a spaceship crew crash-land on an Earth-like world. Awakening the morning after their first night on this world, they spy what species of dinosaur in a clearing near their camp?
3. A *Tyrannosaurus* is one of only two dinosaurs featured in *Dinosaurus* (1960). What kind was the other?
4. Gertie was the first animated dinosaur to appear on film, in Winsor McCay's 1914 short *Gertie the Dinosaur*. She is what type of dinosaur?
5. What kind of dinosaur is Littlefoot, star of 1988's animated *The Land Before Time* and its subsequent sequels?
6. In the original *King Kong* (1933), what variety of Skull Island dinosaur chases, trees, and devours a hapless sailor after overturning the raft on which he and his comrades were crossing a swamp in their pursuit of Kong, who has made off with Fay Wray?
7. Almost 60 interminably dull minutes into the 85-minute B-movie *The Lost Continent* (1951), Cesar Romero and his aircrew, having crash-landed on a Pacific island while searching for a stray test rocket, encounter and are attacked by what sort of dinosaur?
8. The 1985 Disney film *Baby: Secret of the Lost Legend* taps into folkloric African tales of Mokèlé-mbèmbé and stars a cute, baby dinosaur of what kind?

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

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6