

I M P U L S E

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

July / Juillet 2016 (Vol. 20, No./N° 6)

**NEXT
CLUB EVENT
IS THIS WEEKEND****SUNDAY, JULY 17****MonSFFA's Summer
Barbecue-in-the-Park
10:30AM-4:30PM****Parc Angrignon, Lasalle
(Angrignon Metro)***All Club Members, their
Families and Friends Invited!***Bring your Own Food and Drink;
Club will Supply Cooking Grill.****SEE DETAILS, RIGHT
(please read lead item)****UPCOMING MEETINGS:****August 28***Fancraft Workshops, Group-Projects***September 18***Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée (early-
bird programming); Theology in SF/F;
Name That Theme Music (game)***October 16***Foreign and Exotic SF/F; Surviving the
Apocalypse; Why Don't they Make 'em
Like they Used To?***November 20***Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée (early-
bird programming); Villains!; My
Favourite Martians***JOIN US FOR 2016
MonSFFA BARBECUE**

MonSFFA has scheduled its traditional summer Barbecue-in-the-Park this year for Sunday, July 17. In the event of a forecast of rain on that date, we'll bump festivities to the following Sunday, July 24. (If the skies seem suspect on the morning of the 17th, check the MonSFFA Web site—MonSFFA.ca—for any eleventh-hour bulletins regarding postponement, or not, of the event.)

We take this occasion to extend a most cordial invitation to all club members, and their families and friends, to join us in the park this coming Sunday.

We'll gather at about 10:30-11:00AM under or nearby our usual stand of trees in Parc Angrignon, Lasalle (Angrignon Metro). You'll find us behind the Metro/bus station and just a short walk from the parking lot adjacent the now-shuttered "Farm", or petting zoo (see map, Events Column, left).

Bring your own food and drink; MonSFFA will supply a small cooking grill. We usually commandeer a couple of picnic tables for the day, but you may wish to cart along a folding chair of your own, or a picnic blanket, and perhaps a card or board game, ball, or Frisbee. And don't forget your sunscreen!

Do join us for a pleasant afternoon of easy conversation, refreshing drink, and tasty food amongst fine company!

**SUMMERTIME, AND
THE LIVIN' IS EASY...**

We again remind club members that MonSFFA moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the

**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:

BELLEMARE, Josée
D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda
HAMMOCK, Christopher
LUPIEN, Leslie L.
MOIR, L. E.

Due This Month, July:

Ø

Due Next Month, August:

GLOVER, Wayne
NOVO, Fernando

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.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

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

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

volunteer-members who run the club are, at various times during this period, on vacation or away on weekends, and thus unavailable for club commitments. Rest assured that the club still gets done what it has to get done, only at a more leisurely pace than usual.

We thank MonSFFen for their understanding and wish all a pleasant summer.

Fund-Raising Sci-Fi Book Sale Fattens Club's Wallet!

MonSFFA held its fourth fund-raising used book sale on Sunday, June 12, drawing bargain-seeking genre booklovers from across the city. Following in the tradition of our original Super Sci-Fi Book Sale and its sequels, Return of the Super Sci-Fi Book Sale and Son of the Super Sci-Fi Book Sale, this so-dubbed Bride of the Super Sci-Fi Book Sale pocketed some \$300 for the club! The event also raised MonSFFA's profile and resulted in a few newcomers joining our ranks.

Welcome!

Buyers seemed particularly excited by our \$10 Big Box Bargain, many walking out with several boxes or large grocery bags filled to capacity with hardcovers, paperbacks, trade paperbacks, graphic novels, comics, magazines, even a few non-SF/F books! Some folk insisted on paying a little more than our posted price so as not to feel that they were taking unfair advantage of us!

We sold a sizable portion of our stock, thus making room in our warehouse for fresh inventory. We're already preparing for next year's book sale!

Proceeds from MonSFFA's Super Sci-Fi Book Sales are to benefit the club; all monies raised are directed to MonSFFA's operating budget.

Finally, an enormous dollop of thanks is due those MonSFFen who helped cart in and sort books, set up our sales tables, and break it all down at the end of the day.

June 12 Club Meeting Held in Conjunction with Book Sale

With the above-mentioned Bride of the Super Sci-Fi Book Sale running throughout the afternoon, MonSFFen and the visitors present participated in a series of brief casual discussions, each on a given topic. Keith Braithwaite served as moderator, asking, for example, in the wake of a disappointing reception for Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice, what producers should be doing in order that DC-based superhero movies succeed in matching the quality of the popular Marvel-based offerings. Better writing and more humour, a little comic relief, were cited as solutions by several people. The interpretation of Superman in

this latest film, as well as in Man of Steel, was all wrong, some said, too tonally dark, both figuratively and visually. Such a zeitgeist is better suited to Batman. There ought to be more of a contrast between these two iconic superheroes, the Big Blue Boy Scout and the Dark Knight! Others commented that the DC flicks take themselves much too seriously.

Also discussed were ComicCon-style sci-fi conventions, which for many simply do not provide a satisfying con-going experience, despite their mammoth budgets and A-list guest rosters. Too big and impersonal, was the thinking, when compared to the traditional model of sci-fi con as exemplified by such events as ConCept here in Montreal and Ad Astra in Toronto.

But ConCept is no more, a victim of apathy, declining numbers, and a dearth of funds! And Ad Astra, apparently, is struggling while attendance surges at the big super-conventions, which everywhere are steadily supplanting smaller, traditional cons. An inevitable turn of events given the mainstreaming of science fiction and fantasy, it was supposed.

For most present, a ComicCon, despite its scale, has less to offer than the old-fashioned cons. A typical ComicCon can be taken in satisfactorily within, perhaps, a few hours before things start to become repetitive. Compare this to a small con like ConCept, which during its peak years of drawing a comparatively infinitesimal 300-400 fans, nevertheless managed to offer those attendees more stimulating and entertaining content than they'd possibly have the time to enjoy in a single weekend! And on a decidedly more engaging and intimate level, without the endless line-ups!

But, it was countered, there's something to be said for the sheer scale of the ComicCons, and the opportunity to meet, if only briefly, so many of the big stars that a ConCept could never hope to book. At a price, however, that is, admittedly, rather exorbitant!

A series of interesting and amusing video-clips and classic sci-fi trailers were screened to entertain those who had finished their book shopping, and the afternoon closed with a game of War and Feast, the MonSFFA-designed board/card game of warring Vampires, Werewolves, and Zombies!

We thank all those who helped put together and run this meeting.

Briefly:

► We note with sadness the recent passing of actor Anton Yelchin, who starred as Chekov in the rebooted Star Trek films. Yelchin's death, in L.A., was ruled accidental. He was fatally crushed when his SUV apparently popped out of gear and rolled down his driveway, pinning him against a security fence. Yelchin will appear posthumously in Star Trek Beyond, in theatres July 22.

► In other Star Trek news, Sulu, played by John Cho in the rebooted Trek films, will be revealed as gay in Star Trek Beyond. Art imitates life, here, in that George Takei, who starred as Sulu on the original TV series and in subsequent films, came out a decade ago. Co-screenwriter Simon Pegg, who also stars as Scotty in the rebooted movies, intended the revelation that Sulu is in a same-sex marriage in this latest film as a tribute to Takei's gay rights activism. But ironically, Takei has stated that he finds the idea "really unfortunate," arguing that the move fails to respect Star Trek originator Gene Roddenberry's vision.

► The printed version of Warp 95 will be available for distribution at the club's July 17 Barbecue-in-the-Park (see Events Column, and lead item, page 1). We remind MonSFFen that the 'zine is available to all club members online (MonSFFA.ca), and that they may also pick up a printed copy at club meetings and events, if they so desire. Members who wish to have a printed copy mailed to them are asked to please contact club VP Keith Braithwaite with their requests: keith1958@live.ca

► Note that in the event of a postal strike this summer, mailings of Warp and Impulse will be suspended until Canada Post resumes normal operation.

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

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