











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

August / Août 2017 (Vol. 21, No./No 7)

# NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

# Sunday, August 27

12:00PM-4:30PM Grand Salon Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St. Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: Dinosaurs are the stars of our paper cut-out stop-motion animated short film project, the official premiere screening of which is scheduled to take place at this very meeting! In honour of this event, we've set the meeting's theme: dinosaurs! MonSFFen are asked to bring in something dinosaurian for the display table—a dinosaur book, illustration, toy or model, or, perhaps even, an actual fossilized dinosaur bone!

## **PROGRAMME**

## 12:00PM-2:00PM

SUNDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE—

<u>DINOSAUR EDITION</u> (early-bird programming): MonSFFen will be asked to choose a film for review from our list of vintage dinosaur movies!

## 2:00PM-3:00PM

<u>FOREVER AND A DAY</u>: An exploration of the science-fictional idea of extending human lifespans, and the ramifications of immortality!

## 3:00PM-3:30PM

#### MID-MEETING BREAK/FILM PREMIERE:

Discussion of club business; fund-raising raffle; MonSFFilms premieres its new animated short film!

## 3:30PM-4:30PM

TOMORROW'S WARS: Treatise on and discussion of warfare in the future! What weapons and strategies will the world of tomorrow bring? And what will we be fighting over?

# CLUB PLANS CRAFT SALE IN CONJUNCTION WITH NOVEMBER SCI-FI BOOK SALE!

Attention: MonSFFen! Pull out your craft paper and scissors, glue-guns and fasteners, knitting needles and sewing supplies, carving tools and paintbrushes, *and start crafting*!

The club has been hosting "fancrafting" (SF/F-themed crafting) workshops in August for a number of years, now, and we trust you've all learned a thing or two from those sessions, so this year, we're taking the logical next step!

We are officially notifying MonSFFA members of a Showcase Craft Sale, scheduled to take place in conjunction with the 2017 edition of MonSFFA's popular Super Sci-Fi Book Sale.

We are setting up this craft sale to afford club members the opportunity to showcase and sell their own unique, charming handcrafted treasures, SF/F-themed or otherwise! You've all been workshopping for many years; it's time to apply what you've learned!

The book sale, traditionally held in either late Spring or early Summer, is unfolding a little later on this year: Sunday, November 12, just as the Christmas shopping season begins in earnest!

By featuring our craft sale in conjunction with the established book sale, we hope to provide the club's crafters with a readymade pool of potential buyers, while at the same time offering those folk a little something extra as the festive gift-shopping season gets underway!

MonSFFen are invited to reserve, at an affordable fee (yet to be determined), a section of table-top from which to sell 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

BENNETT, Paul D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda DUROCHER, Marc GLOVER, Wayne GRAND, Jason McCULLOGH, Brian NADEAU, Marc SIMARD, Phil WHITELAW, Maureen

**Due This Month, August:** Ø

## **Due Next Month, September:**

ASPLER, Joseph BOIES, Marquise BRAITHWAITE, Erin BRAITHWAITE, Keith BRAITHWAITE, Scott DUFOUR, Paula DUROCHER, Dominique

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	MAIL/COURRIEL:	
INTERESTS/INTERET	TS:		

their hand-made wares at our November sale.

We invite bargain-seeking Genre booklovers from across the city to avail themselves of the superior bargains we offer on sci-fi books, and to shop, at the same time, for that one-of-kind handcrafted gem that will make the perfect Christmas gift!

MonSFFA holds a sizable inventory of SF/F paperbacks and hardcovers, plus a number of specialty books, so skip Santa this year and in November, check out the club's "Super Sci-Fi Book Sale Rises Again," and our new Showcase Craft Sale, featuring inimitable handcrafted sci-fi and other pieces fashioned by our talented club members!

(Proceeds from MonSFFA's Super Sci-Fi Book Sales are to benefit the club; all monies raised are directed to MonSFFA's operating budget. All fees collected for craft-sale table space rental will be considered donations to MonSFFA's fund-raising operations and directed to the club's coffers.)

## Stix Hiscock Joins Likes of Asimov, Ellison, Le Guin, and Chiang as Hugo Nominee!

A tawdry work of "erotica" was nominated for a Hugo this year! The self-published sci-fi parody/ dinosaur porn book Alien Stripper Boned from Behind by the T-Rex was penned by one Stix Hiscock, an obvious pseudonym that happens to be one of several employed by a woman writer who has chosen not to reveal her real name.

Her story is about a green-skinned, three-breasted alien stripper whose nipples shoot laser beams hooking up with a horny dinosaur in her spaceship! That's *got* to be up there with Clifford D. Simak's The Big Front Yard, Jack Vance's The Last Castle, Isaac Asimov's The Bicentennial Man, Poul Anderson's Hunter's Moon, George R. R. Martin's Sandkings, Connie Willis' Fire Watch, Octavia E. Butler's Bloodchild, Harlan Ellison's Paladin of the Lost Hour, Ursula K. Le Guin's Buffalo Gals, Won't You Come Out Tonight, George Alec Effinger's Schrödinger's Kitten, Bruce Sterling's Bicycle Repairman, Ted Chiang's The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate, and Hao Jingfang's Folding Beijing, right?

The Hiscock story didn't win, but made the nominations list courtesy the politically motivated machinations of the Sad/Rabid Puppies, who as a group have, for the past few years, managed to game the Hugo's nominating system and have listed slates of stories by conservative writers they considered deserving in response to the nominations of too many writers they perceived as left-leaning. While these Puppies-nominated

candidates haven't actually won very many Hugos, the Puppies *have* succeeded in screwing with and mocking science fiction's most prestigious literary awards.

Alien Stripper Boned from Behind by the T-Rex did not win the 2017 Best Novelette Hugo; it came in last. Ursula Vernon's The Tomato Thief won.

## **Perfect Weather for Club's 2017 Summer Barbeque**

The weather for MonSFFA's 2017 Barbecue-in-the-Park was just perfect! It was sunny and warm, with the occasional cottony cloud and a light, steady breeze moderating conditions for optimum comfort.

The club was pleased to welcome a number of friends to its picnic, held at Parc Angrignon, Lasalle, under favourable skies on Sunday, July 16. These included Kevin Holden, a founding officer of MonSTA (Montreal Star Trek Association), MonSFFA's forerunner, and visiting all the way from Israel, fanzine editor and Warp pen-pal Leybl Botwinik, who offered curious folk a brief primer on the Israeli SF scene, and his own contributions therein.

Our group enjoyed salads and snacks, refreshing libations, and a variety of burgers, sausages, and other grilled meats, all the while engaged in relaxed conversation. A few of us tossed a Frisbee around while others watched a clutch of ducks paddling about in a small pond adjacent our spot under a stand of shady trees.

It was a most pleasant afternoon in the company of fannish friends!

We proffer thanks to club VP Keith Braithwaite for supplying us with a cooking grill and accoutrements.

## **Briefly:**

- ▶ After months of uncertainty and delay, we finally have a premiere date for CBS' new Star Trek series, Star Trek: Discovery: September 24.
- ▶ Meanwhile, Doctor Who fans seem divided on the wisdom of casting a woman—Jodie Whittaker—as the new Doctor, the 13th incarnation of the character, some seeing the move as stunt casting that panders to current societal sensibilities.
- ▶ Local furry convention What the Fur?, which drew just over 500 attendees last month, has folded. The cost of running the event, apparently, caught up with organizers. We salute them and their volunteer staff, who made the, by all accounts, popular, well-regarded con "shine," to use co-founder/chair Christopher "Feli" Pilgrim's word. Impressively, over its eight years of operation, What the Fur? raised more than \$18,000 for its chosen charity, the West Island's Ecomuseum zoological park.
- ▶ The U.S. saw a total eclipse of the sun on Monday, August 21, the path of totality arching across the country from Oregon through Nebraska to South Carolina. The next time North America will witness such a celestial event will be on April 8, 2024, the path of totality in this instance working its way down the Saint Lawrence River from Kingston, through Cornwall, to Montreal before veering off towards Sherbrooke, central New Brunswick, western Prince Edward Island, and central Newfoundland. You have been warned!
- ▶ Journalist Jonathan Freedland recently wondered how any writer of political thrillers—his bailiwick, under the pseudonym Sam Bourne—could come up with anything as lurid as the daily U.S. news reports. Now SF writer John Scalzi argues that President Trump has ruined the dystopian sci-fi novel! Fair enough.

# Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

We repeat our reminder to club members that MonSFFA moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the 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 rest of the summer.

## 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 prepare 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 concerant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831