

**NEXT  
CLUB MEETING  
IS THIS WEEKEND**  
**Sunday, September 17**  
**1:00PM-5:00PM**  
**Grand Salon**  
**Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.**  
**Downtown Montreal**

*MEETING THEME: WorldCons! Bring in your souvenirs of WorldCons past—programme books, badges, buttons, pins, photos albums and T-shirts! We'll accept souvenirs of ConCept or other local cons from those of you who have not had opportunity to attend a WorldCon.*

**PROGRAMME****1:00PM-2:30PM**

**WORLDCON 75 REPORT:** A few of our number travelled to Helsinki, Finland, recently to attend the 75th World Science Fiction Convention! We'll hear of their WorldCon adventure, from start to Finnish!

**2:30PM-3:00PM**

**MID-MEETING BREAK:** Discussion of club business; fund-raising raffle

**3:00PM-4:00PM**

**ONCE UPON A DREAM:** A part of our culture for hundreds of years, entertaining and educating generations of children, as well as adults, Fairy Tales continue to inhabit contemporary popular culture, in traditional form and new! We examine and discuss the importance to society, and influence of Fairy Tales, and their counterintuitive persistence in a modern world of science and technology.

**4:00PM-5:00PM**

**PLAY THAT SCI-FI MUSIC FAN BOY!:** Game in which players are challenged to answer quiz questions related to sci-fi film and television music.

**PREMIERE OF CLUB'S  
STOP-MOTION SHORT  
AT AUGUST MEETING**

A good number of folk were in attendance at MonSFFA's August 27 meeting for the official premiere of the club's long-awaited stop-motion animated short film, Theories of Dinosaur Extinction: Number One—The Meteor Hypothesis. The film was released under the MonSFFilms banner.

This group project drew upon the talents of many MonSFFen, working on the production in 3- to 4-hour sessions every few months over the course of some two years. Shot on a multi-plane animation stand built especially for the project, the film's dinosaur puppet cast were simple cardboard and craft paper cut-outs. Stop-motion was employed to walk them through stylized prehistoric landscapes that were made from crepe and construction papers coloured with crayons.

Sound effects recorded by the group during a Foley session a few months ago were added to a selection of creative commons-sourced music to arrive at the end result, a humorous, charming little film that drew praise from the premiere audience.

A "Making of..." featurette is currently in production.

MonSFFA president Cathy Palmer-Lister surprised principal organizers of the project and the film's co-directors, Keith Braithwaite and François Menard, with a gift as thanks for overseeing the production; each received one of her lovely, hand-made wooden dinosaur puzzles!

**YOUR PROGRAMMING  
IDEAS FOR 2018 WANTED!**

Attention: MonSFFen! Start thinking about the kinds of presentations, panel discussions, Q&A's, games, group projects, etc. that you'd like to see next year at club meetings!

**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  
SIMARD, Phil  
WHITELAW, Maureen

**Due This Month, September:**

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

**Due Next Month, October:**

PELLEY, Lynda  
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Write down your suggestions; assign a possible title and/or provide a brief description. Flesh out your ideas a bit, if you are so inclined, and bring in and submit your notes to us at our October 15 meeting.

We will be, at that meeting, opening a programme planning session. And your input, as always, is encouraged and appreciated!

## August MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA resumed its schedule of programmed meetings on August 27; topics explored included the prolonging of human lifespans and the future of warfare. The club also took the opportunity to officially premiere of its long-awaited stop-motion animated short film, which deals with the extinction of the dinosaurs (see lead item).

Immediately preceding the meeting was unspooled another edition of Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée, on this occasion showcasing—naturally—dinosaur movies!

The MonSFFA present chose to review the 1975 Doug McClure-starring fantasy/adventure *The Land That Time Forgot*, picking it from a list that included stop-motion masterworks *The Valley of Gwangi* (1969) and *When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth* (1970). B-movies *The Land Unknown* (1957) and *Dinosaurus* (1960) rounded out our list. Everyone recognized at the outset that while *Gwangi* and *When Dinosaurs Ruled* were undoubtedly better than the other movies on offer, most had seen them before. But they had not seen the McClure film. That, and the fact that it was an adaptation of an Edgar Rice Burroughs story was enough to sell it to the club members gathered!

While a reasonably faithful adaptation of the classic Burroughs tale, the film, proclaimed our post-screening reviewers, was not a particularly stellar example of top-drawer acting, and not at all a good example of special effects magic when it came to the realization of the story's dinosaurs, which were brought to life using a combination of full-scale models and mechanical puppets. There was no hiding the stiffness and obvious fakery, here, although to his credit, the director did try!

Despite its flaws, however, our crowd largely enjoyed the flick.

A presentation on immortality and the science fictional concept of extending the individual lifespans of men and women opened the meeting proper, with Sylvain St-Pierre examining his topic thoroughly from numerous angles.

The mythologies of most cultures include immortal beings, like the Greek god, Zeus, the Roman deity, Jupiter, and the Eight Immortals of Chinese legend. Fantasy, certainly, as well as science fiction are genres populated by many immortal or long-lived characters, from *Dracula* to *Cthulhu*, Egyptian high-priest *Imhotep* to the *Elves of Middle-Earth*, *Dorian Gray* to *Lazarus Long*, and *Captain Scarlet* to *Star Trek's Q*.

Man's pursuit of the proverbial Fountain of Youth was examined and novels and stories involving

immortality of one kind or another cited, such as Jonathan Swift's timeless *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) and the Faustian bargain that is Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (in book form, 1891). Add to these Robert Sheekley's *Immortality, Inc.* (1958), Poul Anderson's *The Boat of a Million Years* (1989), Orson Scott Card's *The Worthing Saga* (1990), and more recently, Christine Amsden's *The Immortality Virus* (2014), to name a few. Canada's own Robert J. Sawyer has explored themes of immortality to varying degrees in his novels *The Terminal Experiment* (1995), *Flashforward* (1999), *Mindscan* (2005), and *Rollback* (2007).

Comic books, too, feature immortal (or virtually immortal) superheroes—Wonder Woman, Thor, Deadpool, Spectre—and villains—Thanos, Darkseid, Ra's al Ghul, Vandal Savage.

Modern medical science, meanwhile, *has* extended, and continues to extend, human lifespans. Men and women live, on average, a little longer today than statistically they did even just 20 years ago! Could a man one day achieve immortality by “downloading” his consciousness into a robot duplicate? Will a woman live on after biological death in the form of an online avatar possessed of her cognizance?

As the science advances ever forward, we find ourselves on the cusp of being able to manipulate our own biology at the cellular level in order to, perhaps, dramatically extend our lifespans! Might we, in the not-to-distant future, succeed in rendering ourselves, in effect, immortal?

The aforementioned premiere of MonSFFA's animated short film took place in conjunction with the usual mid-meeting break.

The day's closing presentation/discussion came courtesy Mark Burakoff, who began by projecting on screen an image of a rock, which one prehistoric man eons ago could have picked up and thrown at another. The second image put up was that of a stick, which could be wielded against an enemy. These were the first weapons!

Mark traced the history of weapons and warfare from early man to the present before inviting speculation on what warfare might be like in the future.

Affixing that rock to the end of a stout stick was the first instance of man developing a better weapon: the club. And sharpening one end of a long stick to a point gave him the spear, increasing the range from which he could strike at a target. The bow and arrow followed, and on it went, down through human history to the introduction of the horse as a mobile assault platform and the forging of the first metal weapons, to the invention of gunpowder, to the development of firearms, mechanized vehicles of war like the tank and the airplane, the utilization of the first atomic bomb, and finally, the deployment of cruise and intercontinental ballistic missiles, and the remotely operated combat drones of today.

Cyber-warfare will certainly be an important element of any future wars, Mark offered. And deadly biological weapons, the use of which has been greatly restrained since their devastating use in World War I, will most likely be deployed in large measure at some point, probably by either a rogue state or terrorist faction. Or, taking our cue from H. G. Wells, we might well attempt to repel an alien invasion from the stars by hitting them with the common cold, essentially harmless to us but probably lethal to them!

Who knows what advanced weapons systems a technologically superior race might unleash against us?—beam weapons of some kind that could melt our cities into slag in an instant! Or maybe an energy field that disrupts the atomic structure of its targets so as to simply erase them from existence! Or an invisible, catalytic agent that envelops our entire planet and converts Earth's atmosphere into some unbreathable mix of death-dealing gases! Or perhaps it would all come full circle, and like that prehistoric fellow pitching a rock at his enemy, an alien battleship might simply nudge a large asteroid out of its orbit and direct it at Earth! We'd have no more defense against something like that than did the dinosaurs against the doomsday rock that caused their extinction!

We thank our two presenters, Sylvain St-Pierre and Mark Burakoff, as well as Keith Braithwaite, who hosted our special dinosaur edition of Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée. Thanks, also, to those folk who helped to plan, set-up, run, and take down this meeting.

**Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: [www.MonSFFA.ca](http://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](mailto: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 préparé 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](mailto: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*