

## I M P U L S E

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

January / Janvier 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 1)

**NEXT  
CLUB MEETING  
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, January 15****1:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.  
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: In honour of the late  
Carrie Fisher, make and wear a black  
armband bearing a depiction of Princess Leia.***PROGRAMME****1:00PM-2:30PM****NAME THAT TUNE (SCI-FI EDITION):** An exploration of SF/F soundtracks and notable Genre composers, plus sci-fi themes and imagery in pop music, all in the form of a fun and challenging game!**2:30PM-2:45PM****RETURN OF THE DRAGON!:** Hear all about the revival of local gaming con Draconis!**2:45PM-3:00PM****MID-MEETING BREAK:** Brief discussion of club business; fund-raising raffle**3:00PM-3:15PM****2017 MONSFFA ELECTIONS:** Selection of club's Executive Committee for coming year; all MonSFFen encouraged to participate.**3:15PM-4:15PM****OMG!:** Ancient mythological gods, as in Stargate! Or Christian allegories by authors like C. S. Lewis! Or the Raelians and other cults!—There's no escaping the various visions of God! Or is there? If there's no such thing as magic, can gods exist? Should we rid fantasy altogether of the supernatural?**4:15PM-5:00PM****BRAINSTORMING SESSION:** We kick around further our ideas for 2017 meeting programming; member input urged and appreciated!**CLUB ELECTIONS AT  
JANUARY 15 MEETING**

The first order of business as the club begins a new year is traditionally the election of MonSFFA's Executive Committee for that year. These elections always take place in January, at our first meeting of the year, and are officially confirmed by the following meeting, in February.

Official notice is hereby given that MonSFFA's 2017 elections will be held at our January 15 club meeting, immediately following the mid-meeting break.

All MonSFFA members in good standing, having paid in full their annual membership fees, are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. These executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility. On occasion, a second vice-president may be elected, as well, usually to handle an important, specific task, or to take the reins on a special project.

Our sitting Executive is as follows: Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

Any MonSFFA member in good standing who is responsibly and reliably able to carry out the duties of office may run for any one of the Executive posts. Candidates may nominate themselves, or accept nomination from another member in good standing. Nominations are received by the chief returning officer, or CRO, usually just before the commencement of voting on Election Day.

Long-time MonSFFA An Josée Bellemare is currently serving as our CRO.

All MonSFFA members in good standing are eligible to cast a ballot. Members are asked to be present at the designated place and time in order

**DOES YOUR  
NAME APPEAR BELOW?  
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KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL  
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES  
ARE DUE***The Annual Membership Fees of  
the Following Club Members are...***Overdue:**

D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda  
DUROCHER, Marc  
GLOVER, Wayne  
HAMMOCK, Christopher  
MOIR, L. E.  
NOVO, Fernando  
PETTIT, William S.  
WHITELAW, Maureen

**Due This Month, January:**

NOVO, Alice  
PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

**Due Next Month, February:**

RUFIANGE, Yolande

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:

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4456 Boul. Ste-Rose  
Laval, Québec, Canada  
H7R 1Y6**

*Thank you for your  
patronage*

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No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code/Code Postal \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL/COURRIEL: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS/INTERETS: \_\_\_\_\_

to exercise their right to vote. Proxy voting is not permitted, except under special circumstances and by approval of the CRO (out-of-town members unable to attend the vote, for example, may have their ballots cast by the CRO in their absence, or make their choices via e-mail or other form of communication outside of the designated voting hour).

## November Club Meeting

The club's final meeting of 2016 was held on Sunday, November 20, and began with another edition of our semi-regular showcase, the Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée.

Fantasy adventures were on tap this morning, the MonSFFen gathered choosing from a list of movies that included *The Magic Sword* and *Jack the Giant Killer* (both 1962). The group opted for the very best, selecting for review the celebrated Ray Harryhausen masterpiece *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* (1958), featuring one of the stop-motion maestro's most acclaimed creatures, the iconic Cyclops!

While some evaluated the story and script as old-fashioned by today's standards, this did not especially diminish audience enjoyment of the picture. Everyone classed the film a tremendously rousing fantasy adventure that pitted Sinbad and his brave crew against a bevy of extraordinary creatures brought to life in an amazing display of special effects wizardry and craftsmanship. All agreed that the movie stands the test of time.

Perhaps inspired by this Harryhausen classic, Keith Braithwaite and François Menard, during the course of the afternoon, completed principal photography on the club's own stop-motion project, a simple short film using paper cut-out dinosaurs animated against construction and crepe paper backdrops.

The meeting also saw one of our own, Shawn Picard, introduce to his fellow MonSFFen his own creative project, a recently self-published high fantasy novel, one of several he has penned and marketed online.

The group also kicked around a few programming ideas as the club began preparing for 2017's meetings.

Our principal presentation of the afternoon was by Sylvain St-Pierre on the topic of the dastardly villains of SF/F. Covering legendary bad guys from SF/F literature, comics, and the screen, Sylvain outlined the attributes of villainy and, along with his audience, explored our fascination with the likes of Dracula, Sauron, and Darth Vader. The best-conceived villains are not merely one-dimensional baddies with a penchant for violence, destruction, and memorable catch-phrases! And, they do not see themselves as evil, but are, rather, driven by some albeit warped reasoning or desire.

As always, we thank for their contribution our programme participants this day, as well as all those who helped to plan and run this meeting.

## Holiday Dinner Closes MonSFFActivities for 2016

MonSFFA's 2016 Christmas Dinner/Party was held on Saturday evening, December 3. Some 20 club members and friends were in attendance, including former MonSFFA president Berny Reischl, who degafiated briefly to join his old sci-fi comrades for the holiday dinner gathering. The downtown Irish Embassy Pub and Grill served as our meeting place, as has become our recent Christmas custom.

Folk enjoyed the good company, conversation, and seasonal cheer over a fine meal and drinks. The surprising election of Donald Trump as U.S. president just a month earlier seemed like something out of a dystopian science fiction novel to many and was the topic of more than one discussion!

Via our special "Rewards Raffles", token thank-you gifts were distributed to randomly selected volunteer-members in recognition of the efforts of all volunteer-members on behalf of the club during the year. We also offered a table-full of gift-wrapped prizes to the lucky winners of our traditional Christmas fund-raising raffle (all proceeds are directed to funding the club's operations). We thank very much all those who donated items to our raffles.

Finally, we extend thanks to club president Cathy Palmer-Lister for making the arrangements with the Irish Embassy, and to club VP Keith Braithwaite and MonSFFAn Josée Bellemare for organizing the various raffles.

We trust that all of our club members, their families, and friends enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Our best wishes to all for the coming year.

## Briefly:

► We are saddened to learn of the recent passing of club member Leslie Lupien, and offer our sincere sympathies to his wife, Denise, and family. Rest in peace, old friend.

► 2017 MonSFFA meeting/event dates are as follows (pending confirmation): January 15, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14 (field trip), June 4 (book sale), July 16 (picnic-in-the-park), August 27 (Fancraft workshops), September 17, October 15, November 12, December 9 (Christmas Dinner/Party).

► Please note: while we usually meet on the second floor of the Hôtel Espresso in the St-François Room, the hotel staff sometimes shuffles us to another room down the hall, or moves us upstairs to the 7th-floor luxury suite, Room 700. If we're not set up in our regular St-François Room, check the other rooms on the floor to see if we've been relocated, or check with the front desk; they'll point you in the right direction.

► The Star Wars community was rocked over the Christmas holiday by the passing of actress Carrie Fisher, best known for her portrayal of Princess Leia in the Star Wars screen saga. Fisher suffered what was described as "a massive heart attack" on a flight from London to Los Angeles. She was attended to aboard the flight and handed over to waiting EMT's when the plane landed. Rushed to hospital, Fisher succumbed a few days later. She was 60. A talented and wickedly funny writer who was well regarded in Hollywood as a script doctor, Fisher had struggled with depression and addiction much of her life. She mined her own experiences to pen the 1987 novel, and later 1990 screenplay for, *Postcards From the Edge*, the story of an actress trying to rebuild her career after getting out of rehab while living with her brash, opinionated, and domineering mother. The fictional tale mirrored Fisher's life in many ways, for instance her relationship with her own mother, Hollywood legend Debbie Reynolds. Sadly, Reynolds, heartbroken at her daughter's death, died herself the following day, reportedly having said shortly before she passed, "I want to be with Carrie." Fisher was cremated and, after a joint memorial ceremony for mother and daughter, a portion of her ashes were buried with Reynolds at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hollywood. Fisher's Star Wars co-stars and fans have expressed their shock and sorrow at her passing. She will always be remembered fondly as the brave, resourceful, defiant, take-charge Princess Leia, a role model for young girls everywhere. A campaign to have Disney declare Princess Leia an official Disney Princess has been launched by fans (the Disney corporation now owns Lucasfilm, and the Star Wars franchise). The "Disney Princess" designation has traditionally been reserved for the young cartoon heroines of Disney's acclaimed animated films.

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*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*

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February / Février 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 2)

**NEXT  
CLUB MEETING  
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, February 12****12:00PM-5:00PM****Grand Salon****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.  
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: In celebration of  
Valentine's Day, simply wear something red!***PROGRAMME****12:00PM-1:00PM****EARLY-BIRD BRAINSTORMING SESSION:**We work further on our schedule for 2017's  
meeting programming; fresh ideas welcome!**1:00PM-3:00PM****GUEST SPEAKER:** Are flying saucers real?Is Agent Mulder on to something? MonSFFA  
welcomes retired McGill University professor  
Don Donderi, who will be speaking on the  
topic of UFOs. Professor Donderi has authored  
the book UFOs, ETs and Alien Abductions: A  
Scientist Looks at the Evidence.**3:00PM-3:30PM****MID-MEETING BREAK:** Brief discussion  
of club business; fund-raising raffle**3:30PM-4:30PM****EH, ROBOT!:** What will the Canadian  
economy look like in the future? Will there  
still be jobs for everyone when robots are  
doing all the work? Will we attain SF's  
utopian dream of a fully automated society  
without want or need, or are we staring down  
the barrel of a dystopia? Discuss!**4:30PM-5:00PM****BRAINSTORMING SESSION, REDUX:** To close  
the afternoon, we briefly get back to working on  
our 2017's meeting programming, fine-tuning  
and finalizing any outstanding scheduling.  
Missed the early-bird session? You can still  
contribute! Put forth your ideas now!**NEXT TWO MEETINGS:***March 12, April 9***CLUB ELECTION RESULTS**As is the club's practise, MonSFFA held  
elections at its January meeting to select the  
Executive Committee for the coming year. Returned  
to office were: Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith  
Braithwaite, vice-president; and Sylvain St-Pierre,  
treasurer. These long-serving MonSFFen will form  
our 2017 Executive Committee.MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-  
president, and treasurer—who together form the  
Executive Committee—and charges them with the  
responsibility of running the club on behalf of the  
membership. These executives recruit advisors and  
appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this  
responsibility.On occasion, a second vice-president may be  
required, usually to handle an important, specific  
task, or to take the reins on a special project. A  
co-VP was not elected for 2017.We offer congratulations, thanks, and our best  
wishes to the 2017 Executive Committee as they  
take the helm.**DATES CONFIRMED,  
CLUB MEETINGS MOVE  
DOWN THE HALL**We have received word that all of the meeting  
dates we requested for 2017 have been confirmed.  
All Sundays, those dates, now official, are: January  
15 (meeting has taken place), February 12, March  
12, April 9, June 4 (book sale), August 27 (fancraft  
workshops, group projects), September 17, October  
15, and November 12.In addition, we have a field trip planned for  
Sunday, May 14, our annual picnic-in-the-park set  
for Sunday, July 16, and our Christmas  
Dinner/Party scheduled for Saturday evening,  
December 9.We are informed that because of a recent  
downsizing of meeting hall facilities at the  
Hôtel Espresso, our longstanding meeting room,  
St-François, is no longer free past 4:00PM Sundays.  
As this would cut into our meetings by some 30-60**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:**D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda  
DUROCHER, Marc  
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NOVO, Fernando  
PETTIT, William S.  
WHITELAW, Maureen**Due This Month, February:**

RUFIANGE, Yolande

**Due Next Month, March:**MÉNARD, François  
SIMARD, Phil  
WALLING, Evelyn  
WALLING, RenéStandard membership is only \$25  
annually. We offer a family rate of  
\$40. Add \$10 to either of these to  
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Laval, Québec, Canada  
H7R 1Y6***Thank you for your  
patronage***MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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minutes, we opted to move permanently to the larger Grand Salon, down the hall.

Note, however, that on occasion, the Grand Salon may not be available, at which point we'll either hike back to the St-François for a truncated meeting, or relocate upstairs to the 7th-floor luxury suite (room 700) in which we held a couple of meetings last year.

Such room changes may be last-minute, so if you don't find us in Grand Salon, check the two alternates above mentioned. A quick inquiry at the front desk downstairs in the main lobby will also get you pointed in the right direction.

Finally, we have obtained a freeze in room rental costs for the year, which is sure to please the Treasurer!

## January Club Meeting

The opened 2017 with a well-attended January 15 meeting. The afternoon's agenda was a busy one!

Keith Braithwaite kicked it off with an exploration of SF/F soundtracks and notable Genre film and television composers presented in the form of a difficult but fun game employing a range of classic sci-fi film music and contemporary TV themes and songs. The group was divided into two teams that took turns endeavouring to correctly identify, from short excerpts, the movies and television shows for which each piece of music was composed.

A selection of orchestral pieces, synthesizer driven electronic works, and pop music numbers employed as TV themes tested the group's knowledge of sci-fi/fantasy/horror soundtracks. Throughout the game, Keith paused briefly to speak of such outstanding composers as Bernard Herrmann, John Williams, Jerry Goldsmith, and horror director John Carpenter, who scored most of his own films.

Keith also touched on the subject of SF/F themes, metaphor, and imagery in pop and rock music, inviting folk to identify songs and singers from a few lines of lyrics, a challenge that proved rather daunting!

The club also welcomed MonSFFAn Christopher Hammock to the podium to update folk on plans to relaunch the dormant local gaming convention Draconis, coming March 3-5, 2017, at Cégep du Vieux Montréal.

For more information, check out the con's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FestivalDraconis](http://www.facebook.com/FestivalDraconis)

The club held its annual elections, on this occasion, choosing MonSFFA's Executive Committee for 2017 (see lead item).

Danny Sichel gave a talk on the concept and attributes of gods, depicted in Genre literature and elsewhere, speaking of such godly characteristics as omniscience, immortality, and divinity. He compared the mythologies of the various gods with what science has to say about the universe and spoke of the relationship between man and deity, putting up visuals as he spoke to illustrate his points.

Finally, Cathy Palmer-Lister led a brainstorming session seeking to compile programming ideas and schedule presentations, discussion panels, and workshops for the club's upcoming meetings.

For their invaluable contributions to this first club meeting of 2017, we thank our programme participants,

and acknowledge, also, those who helped to plan and run the event.

Several MonSFFen convened for dinner after the meeting, enjoying the hearty menu at the nearby Irish Embassy Pub and Grill.

## Powerless Brings Humour to DC's On-Screen Universe

The newest superhero television series doesn't focus on superheroes at all! A light sitcom, NBC's *Powerless* brings much needed humour to DC's on-screen universe. The show stars Vanessa Hudgens (*Sucker Punch*) and Alan Tudyk (*Firefly*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*).

Hudgens is Emily Locke, who is thrilled to have been hired as the new R&D director at the Wayne Enterprises subsidiary Wayne Security, a company that makes products for average folk, providing them a measure of safety in a world in which superheroes and supervillains regularly clash in and around Charm City. Tudyk plays Bruce Wayne's wastrel of a cousin, Van, who heads Wayne Security.

The residents of Charm City must constantly deal with the fallout of superheroes battling supervillains—smashed buildings, wrecked transit systems and the like—and have become weary of it all, even resentful that yet another superhero incident on the way to work is going to cause them to be late for a meeting or some such inconvenience. Emily has yet to grow so jaded and remains starstruck when encountering superheroes.

When Bruce Wayne decides to shut down Wayne Security because it isn't turning out any worthwhile products, Van makes no effort to save the company, seeing an opportunity to move back to Gotham City and climb the corporate ladder. But Emily motivates her motley crew of R&D personnel into developing a highly effective wrist-worn supervillain detector, impressing Bruce Wayne, who decides to keep Wayne Security operational.

Gently poking fun at the absurdity of the comic book superhero trope, the humour is quiet, unforced, and delightfully silly. The premise is the winner, here, something of a cross between the Steve Carell sitcom *The Office* and the 1994 comic book miniseries *Marvels*. The show also offers comic book fans obscure DC references and inside nods, like having Adam West provide an introductory voice-over in the pilot.

If the series remains true to itself, and its talented cast are permitted to develop their quirky characters, *Powerless* has a lot of potential.—*review by Carl Phillips*

## Briefly:

► Battlestar Galactica's original Captain Apollo, Richard Hatch, has died. He was 71. The actor passed away on February 7 after a lengthy illness.

► Peter Capaldi is leaving *Doctor Who* later this year! The Scottish actor who has interpreted the Doctor's 12th incarnation since 2013 recently announced that the modern series' tenth season will be his last. Also departing the series at the conclusion of season ten is showrunner Stephen Moffat.

► Ben Affleck will star but no longer direct the solo Batman movie expected for 2018 or 2019. Playing the Caped Crusader "demands focus, passion and the very best performance I can give," Affleck contends. "It has become clear that I cannot do both jobs to the level they require. Together with the studio, I have decided to find a partner in a director who will collaborate with me on this massive film. I am still in this, and we are making it, but we are currently looking for a director."

► Born just down the road in Trois-Rivières, Canadian director Denis Villeneuve is fast becoming a star Genre filmmaker. His acclaimed 2016 SF film *Arrival* is up for eight Oscars, including Best Director and Best Picture. He is currently finishing work on *Blade Runner 2049*, scheduled for an October 6 release this year, and will follow up with a reboot of *Dune*!

► The next *Star Wars* film has a title, *Star Wars: Episode VIII—The Last Jedi*. The late Carrie "Leia" Fisher will appear in the movie; the actress had completed filming her scenes shortly before her untimely passing this past Christmas. Disney recently made it clear that Leia will not appear in the ninth and final chapter of the Skywalker saga as originally planned, not even in CGI form. The character's fate remains undecided at this juncture but producers will have to somehow explain her sudden absence from the storyline. The Episode VIII action picks up immediately following the closing moments of Episode VII. Caution: here there be spoilers! Leaked script pages suggest that Rey will be trained in the ways of the Force by Luke, much as he had been schooled by Yoda, while less reliable rumours have it that the mysterious Snoke reveals to Luke in a pivotal scene that Anakin Skywalker was his son, making Snoke Luke's grandfather! Meanwhile, Joss Whedon is keen to direct a *Star Wars* movie! Maybe the Boba Fett stand-alone?

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March / Mars 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 3)

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CLUB MEETING  
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, March 12****12:00PM-5:00PM****Grand Salon****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.  
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: In celebration of St. Patrick's  
Day, simply wear something green!***PROGRAMME****12:00PM-1:45PM****SUNDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE—****FLYING SAUCER EDITION:** Chose for  
review one of five vintage sci-fi films on  
our list this month, all featuring flying  
saucers in honour of last month's guest  
speaker on UFOs, Professor Don Donderi!**1:45PM-3:00PM****CAN GOVERNMENT GET ANY MORE****WEIRD?:** The newly installed Orange  
Potenat south of the border suggests that  
the answer is "No," but SF/F offers us  
despotic galactic empires, lottery-based  
democracies, post-apocalyptic tribalism,  
machine-ruled planets, and more! We'll  
examine some of the stranger examples!**3:00PM-3:30PM****MID-MEETING BREAK:** Brief discussion  
of club business; fund-raising raffle**3:30PM-4:30PM****SCI-FI CONVENTIONS:** A look at the  
different types of Genre conventions on the  
schedule from which to choose, big and  
small, near and far.**4:30PM-5:00PM****BRAINSTORMING SESSION:** With the input  
of MonSFFen, we further hone our 2017  
meeting programming and welcome any  
additional panel/workshop  
suggestions.**PROPOSED  
CLUB FIELD TRIP**

Regarding our proposed May 14-club  
field trip, it has been suggested that we visit  
the West Island's Ecomuseum, a zoological  
park located in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, on  
Sainte-Marie Road, just north of Highway 40.  
We might also cap the outing by taking in a  
movie at the nearby Collisée Kirkland cinema  
complex, and maybe follow the movie with  
dinner at an adjacent restaurant.

The Ecomuseum has recently undergone  
an upgrade of some of its exhibits. The facility  
features animals native to the Saint-Lawrence  
Valley, including deer, caribou, lynx, arctic  
fox, wolves, black bears, martens and river  
otters. A number of eagles, hawks, and other  
predatory birds are also on site, as are housed  
a variety of fish, amphibians, and reptiles.

Admission is reasonably priced and car  
pools might be arranged so as to allow as many  
MonSFFen as may wish to attend to do so.

This recommendation has been noted by  
MonSFFA's BoA, which welcomes for  
consideration any and all field trip ideas. Let  
us know of any proposals you may have for  
this year's annual group outing as soon as  
possible; May draws near!

**GRAND SALON IS  
NEW OFFICIAL MonSFFA  
MEETING ROOM**

We reiterate to club members that a recent  
downsizing of meeting hall facilities at the  
Hôtel Espresso has left our longstanding  
meeting room, St-François, no longer available  
past 4:00PM on Sundays. As this would cut  
into our meetings by some 30-60 minutes, we

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WHITELAW, Maureen**Due This Month, March:**MÉNARD, François  
SIMARD, Phil**Due Next Month, April:**

NADEAU, Marc

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annually. We offer a family rate of  
\$40. Add \$10 to either of these to  
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opted to move permanently to the larger Grand Salon, down the hall.

Henceforth, look for us there!

However, on occasion, the Grand Salon may also be unavailable, in which case we'll either hike back to the St-François for a truncated meeting, or relocate upstairs to the 7th-floor luxury suite (room 700), as we did just last month for our February gathering.

Note that such room changes may be last-minute, so if you don't find us in Grand Salon, check the two alternates above mentioned. A quick inquiry at the front desk downstairs in the main lobby will also get you pointed in the right direction.

Providentially, we have secured our new and rather larger meeting room at no additional cost and so have kept the club's room rental budget within parameters.

## **Flying Saucers in February!**

The club's February meeting boasted a special guest speaker, retired McGill University professor Don Donderi, who spoke on the topic of UFOs and alien abductions. Professor Donderi has been fascinated by the subject since childhood. He authored the 2013 book *UFOs, ETs and Alien Abductions: A Scientist Looks at the Evidence*, a few copies of which he had on hand for sale, at our urging; they were quickly snapped up and Don kindly obliged purchasers by autographing their copies.

To set the mood, we opened the meeting with a screening of MonSFFA's 2001 found-footage short film *Encounters of the Very Close Kind*, in which a few sci-fi fans video-taping their own fake UFO sighting using a pie-plate model, are interrupted by the real thing suddenly swooping in overhead! Don found our little amateur production delightful and seemed pleased to be among a group of people who, while not without a measure of skepticism on the matter, were generally open to the prospect of alien visitations, and even excited by the possibility.

His PowerPoint presentation encapsulated the essentials of a course he is currently teaching at McGill called *UFOs: History and Reality*, which puts forth that, beyond reasonable doubt, UFOs are real and of extraterrestrial origin!

He outlined the history of the modern UFO phenomenon, detailing a few of the better-known encounters over the years, beginning with private pilot Kenneth Arnold's 1947 sighting of a formation of UFOs over the Cascade Mountains in Washington State. Press coverage of this incident launched the explosion of public interest in UFOs

and debuted the term "flying saucer," which has been a part of UFOlogy's vernacular ever since. The famous 1961 case of Betty and Barney Hill, who under hypnosis recalled the missing details of their claimed abduction by aliens, was of particular interest to Don, who holds a PhD in psychology from Cornell University.

He noted that while he respects skeptical viewpoints and encourages the rigorous scientific examination of evidence, *he* has concluded that there is definitely something to all of this. While recognizing that some sightings can be explained in conventional terms, and that hoaxes can easily be perpetrated, in general, he believes the overall data collected supports the contention that UFOs are real, that they are extraterrestrial in origin, and that their crews appear to be catching and releasing humans, perhaps for purposes of study. There is certainly enough evidence, at least, to warrant further investigation.

The group quite enjoyed the genial Professor Donderi's talk, and the lively Q&A that followed.

The latter part of the meeting involved MonSFFen in speculations on the society and, specifically, economy of the future. With automation rapidly displacing human workers, even today, what kind of a future can Canadians expect? Will we attain SF's utopian dream of a fully automated society without want or need, or are we staring down the barrel of a dystopia? Will there still be jobs for everyone in a future where robots are doing most, if not all, of the work?

Keith Braithwaite moderated a rather animated discussion of the ramifications of our rapidly evolving automated society and the future that seems to be developing because of it. Many expressed doubt that any kind of utopia would emerge.

Machines, growing exponentially in artificial intelligence and efficiency, will always be better and faster than humans, it was argued. We've already largely done away with assembly-line workers, bank tellers, and are now phasing out even minimum-wage cashiers in fast food restaurants! Automated cars and trucks are said to be just around the corner, which will eliminate the need for taxi and truck drivers. There will be fewer jobs for people in the years to come, it was opined, and without fresh thinking on the redistribution of the national wealth, resultant greater individual poverty. Also, those few holding all of the wealth and influence will not likely surrender control to those increasingly jobless and destitute.

But if all the money and power resides in the hands of only a very few, can a free society such as Canada's continue to function without resorting to some form of Totalitarianism? We may well see the end of Western Capitalism as governments seek to provide for everyone in a largely jobless environment. That sounds a lot like communism, some retorted, which has been tried already, and has failed. And yet, a country that cannot provide a decent livelihood for its citizens is unsustainable! We will *have* to find a way to provide a decent living for everyone.

The idea of a guaranteed income was brought up, but some wondered exactly how such a system would work, and questioned whether debt-saddled governments would even be able to afford such a program. Others noted that human nature drives our need to feel we are contributing to society in some substantive way. Life must have its meaningful rewards. So how will people contribute to the society of tomorrow, and will their efforts be considered of any appreciable value?

The spirited discussion could have gone on for another hour or more but time constraints cut things short as the afternoon drew to a close. We had just enough clock remaining to squeeze in a quick follow-up on the programming brainstorming session we had held in the hour just prior to the start of the meeting.

We thank very much our guest speaker, Professor Don Donderi, for his visit, and MonSFFAn Barbara Silverman for recommending him as a guest speaker. We thank, too, debate moderator Keith Braithwaite and all who participated in our discussion. Finally, thanks to those who helped to plan and run this meeting.

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## I M P U L S E

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

April / Avril 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 4)

**NEXT  
CLUB MEETING  
IS THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, April 9****1:00PM-5:00PM****Grand Salon****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.  
Downtown Montreal**

*MEETING THEME: It's the Easter season!  
Contribute a small plate of chocolate  
bunnies or Easter eggs to supplement  
our snack table!*

**PROGRAMME****1:00PM-2:30PM****GUEST SPEAKER ANDREW FAZEKAS:**

We welcome "The Night Sky Guy" for a talk on Star Trek-related astronomy! Science reporter and educator Andrew Fazekas has authored the new National Geographic publication *Star Trek: The Official Guide to the Universe*, copies of which will be available at the meeting for the sale price of \$30. (See also lead item, right.)

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

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

**3:00PM-4:30PM****SOUND AND VISION—FOLEY AND**

**SOUNDTRACK WORKSHOP:** Foley is a film industry term for the manual creation of sound effects for a movie's soundtrack. We'll set up a makeshift recording studio in order to work together on the sound effects and soundtrack required for our paper cut-out stop-motion animation short film project, creating particular sound effects and editing these into the film's soundtrack. Your participation and creative input is required!

**Next Month: MAY 14**

*Field Trip to Old Port for  
CSI: The Experience*

**NIGHT SKY GUY TO TALK  
TREK AT APRIL MEETING**

We are thrilled to welcome to the club's April 9 meeting guest speaker Andrew Fazekas, TV's "The Night Sky Guy" (see events column, left)!

An active member and former president of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, the long-time astronomy columnist for the *Montreal Gazette*, and a contributing writer for *National Geographic*, Andrew is a science reporter and educator, and author of the new book *Star Trek: The Official Guide to the Universe*, published by *National Geographic*.

In his book, Andrew "takes fans and astronomers alike on an incredible journey into space," delving into the "science behind specific *Star Trek* voyages," and exploring the "connections between planets and places in the *Star Trek* universe and their counterparts in the real universe." Andrew will speak on this topic, comparing *Star Trek*'s many fictional M-class planets with the Earth-like worlds astronomers have, in recent years, discovered beyond our solar system.

Copies of Andrew's coffee-table book will be available for sale at \$30 apiece.

**CLUB TURNS TO CRIME!**

Following the suggestion of a visit to the West Island's Ecomuseum zoological park as a group excursion, a second proposal for an outing has been put forth and was, in fact, chosen by club members at MonSFFA's March 12 meeting as the preferred option.

We hereby give notice that on Sunday, May 14, the club will visit the Montreal Science Centre at the Old Port to take in *CSI: The Experience*, an interactive learning adventure in which folk are challenged to investigate a

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DUROCHER, Marc  
GLOVER, Wayne  
MÉNARD, François  
SIMARD, Phil  
WHITELOW, Maureen

**Due This Month, April:**

NADEAU, Marc

**Due Next Month, May:**

BROWN, Lindsay  
BURAKOFF, Mark  
REDMOND, Isis  
SICHEL, Danny

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“crime scene,” collecting and analysing blood splatter, DNA, and other evidence in order to solve the case! This exhibit is based on the popular CSI television franchise.

Adult admission is advertised at \$23. Lesser prices are listed for children and seniors, and a family rate is also available. Apparently, Canadian residents will benefit from a further discount as part of the year-long celebrations of Canada’s 150th birthday!

MonSFFen will be responsible for their own tickets to the event; food and drink can be purchased on site, and paid parking is available. Complete information on this, our 2017 Spring field trip, will be published in these pages next month, and on the club’s Web Site.

It was additionally suggested that the club nonetheless visit the Ecomuseum, but in July, perhaps on the Sunday following our Summer Barbecue, when the weather is likely to be more amenable to an outdoor jaunt. Details to follow; watch this space.

## March MonSFFA Meeting

The club met in the Hôtel Espresso’s Saguenay Room for its March 12 meeting, which listed a rather busy schedule that began with early-bird programming, namely, another edition of our popular Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée, this day offering folk a choice of vintage SF movies featuring flying saucers. Our list included a couple of bona fide classics of the genre, *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951) and *Forbidden Planet* (1956), as well as the abysmal *Plan 9 From Outer Space* (1959), but folk chose for review the perfectly serviceable B-movie *This Island Earth* (1955).

Setting aside the usual sloppy B-movie science and stereotypical characterization with which such films are often imbued, the group was taken by *This Island Earth*’s intriguing story and above-average visual effects. While most had never before seen the film, many recognized the Metalunan Mutant, a bug-eyed monster of 1950s sci-fi that is, today, an icon of the era.

The meeting proper began with Sylvain St-Pierre’s presentation on SF/F’s weird and wacky forms of government, spanning despotic galactic empires, lottery-based democracies, post-apocalyptic tribalism, and planets ruled by machine! Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, Huxley’s *Brave New World*, many of Heinlein’s stories, among other examples, see real-world governmental structures and political systems—monarchism, republicanism, libertarianism, fascism, socialism, capitalism, anarchism—taken that few steps further, and sometimes to extremes.

Copiously illustrating his presentation with images from sci-fi books, comics, and films, Sylvain detailed some of the most bizarre forms of government that the Genre’s authors have imagined, including one in which the chosen leader is dispatched upon completion of his term of office!

A quick break followed, during which we discussed a few items of club business and held our usual mid-meeting fund-raising raffle, awarding a number of cool prizes to lucky ticket holders, including premiere passes to the new film *Life*.

The meeting resumed on the topic of science fiction conventions, outlining, for the benefit of MonSFFen, upcoming local events and those in nearby cities, and comparing fan- and pro-run conventions.

It was noted off the top that SF/F conventions, or “cons,” are currently in the throes of transformative change. The decades-long era of fan-run cons, such as Montreal’s now-defunct ConCept and Toronto’s Ad Astra, seems to be coming to an end!

These weekend gatherings, entirely staged by fans themselves, generally boast a few Genre writers as guests and feature a healthy schedule of hourly discussion panels, presentations, and workshops on a variety of subjects. Throw in the other typical elements of these cons, like a dealers’ room, masquerade, art show, and nightly room parties, and you’ve got a lot of fun and interesting things to do, enough to keep the average fan happily engaged for the whole weekend! Such cons typically draw a quite manageable few hundred people, at most, a couple thousand. The annual World Science Fiction Convention—the WorldCon—is the exception, being the science fiction publishing industry’s singular showcase event. Think of it as the Olympics of the science fiction field!

But the advent and proliferation of big, profit-driven super-cons, like ComicCon and FanExpo, is now threatening to drive traditional fan-run cons into extinction! Many of the smaller cons have folded in recent years, unable to compete with the big-budget super-cons.

While there’s nothing particularly objectionable about Montreal’s ComicCon, for instance, many older fans in particular have commented that such events, while offering unparalleled guest lists of major sci-fi screen stars and comic book luminaries, nevertheless fail to hold one’s interest for long. Most can be satisfactorily experienced in just a few hours. These colossal events are, essentially, Q&A’s and autograph signings, and a giant dealers’ room, populated by tens of thousands of fans, many cosplaying as their favourite sci-fi characters, that, admittedly, being pretty cool. A few folk added that lately, however, some of these super-cons are beginning to get a little repetitive—same guests year after year, largely the same merchandise for sale.

Don’t get us wrong! A ComicCon can be great fun, but at the same time a little bit disappointing, definitely exhausting, and very, *very* costly. And there’s simply no getting around the prolonged amount of time spent standing in line waiting to get into the next Q&A.

Think of fan-run cons, if you will, as an intimate concert by your favourite band at a small club venue, and the big super-cons as a stadium show. Different experience, each with its merits, each with its shortcomings.

The afternoon wrapped up with a brief stab at completing our 2017 meeting programme, with panels and panelists slotted into the calendar for the remainder of the year. All subject to change, of course!

A nod to Keith Braithwaite for hosting another of his Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinées, our thanks to Sylvain St-Pierre for his most entertaining presentation, and kudos to all who helped to plan and run this meeting.

## Briefly:

- Rainn Wilson (*The Office*) has been cast as a familiar fellow on *Star Trek: Discovery*. He’ll play interstellar con man Harry Mudd! Originally set to debut in January, *Discovery* has now been delayed until late summer or early fall.
- R.I.P. horror comics artist Bernie “Berni” Wrightson (*Swamp Thing*), dead at 88.

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## I M P U L S E

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

May-June / Mai-Juin 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 5)

**CLUB  
FIELD TRIP  
IS UPCOMING****Sunday, May 14****Group Outing to Old Port's  
Montreal Science Centre for  
CSI: THE EXPERIENCE**

- Investigate crime scene, analyse evidence, solve case!
- Meet at 12:30PM in front of ticket booth, lobby of Science Centre. *Don't be late!*
- Enter exhibit area together at between 1:00PM and 1:15PM.
- Each club member responsible for own cost of admission, listed at \$23 (discounts and rebates available).
- See lead item (center column) for details.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING****SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 12:00PM-5:00PM  
Grand Salon, Hôtel Espresso,  
1005 Guy St., Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: Dragons! Wear a dragon T-shirt, socks, or cap; bring in a dragon-related item for our display table!***PROGRAMME****12:00PM-2:00PM****SUNDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE:**

Showcasing movies featuring dragons!

**2:00PM-3:15PM****HERE THERE BE DRAGONS!:** We examine the legends surrounding fantasy's supreme beastie while highlighting some of the Genre's most memorable dragons!**3:15PM-3:30PM****BREAK:** Dragon-themed raffle-prizes featured!**3:30PM-4:30PM****THE DRAGON SLAYER—DEFINING A HERO:**

What are the key attributes of the dragon slayer, and of fantasy and SF heroes in general? Discuss!

**CLUB FIELD TRIP IN MAY**

Attention MonSFFen! Mark Sunday, May 14, in your calendars, for with the Who's familiar guitar riff ringing in our ears, we're headed to the Montreal Science Centre at the Old Port to take in CSI: The Experience!

Based on the popular, long-running American television franchise, this "interactive learning adventure," so described, will allow us to play forensic detective as we investigate a "crime scene," collecting and analysing "blood splatter, DNA," and other evidence in order to solve a case of criminal nefariousness!

We'll meet no later than 12:30PM in front of the ticket booth in the Science Centre's lobby. Our plan is to have everyone purchase tickets for a 1:00PM or 1:15PM entry, so that we may all access the exhibit area at the same time.

*So don't be late!*

MonSFFen will be responsible for their own admission. Adult admittance is listed at \$23, with discounts available for children and seniors. A family rate is also offered, and we are given to understand that Canadian residents will benefit from a further rebate as part of the cross-country celebrations of Canada's 150th birthday this year!

Arrive a bit early if you wish to scoff a quick bite beforehand. You may pack a lunch, or purchase food and drink at the snack bar on site; a dining area is open to all.

The Montreal Science Centre is located on the King Edward Pier, Old Port of Montreal—that's at the intersection of St-Laurent Boulevard and de la Commune Street, an approximately 10- to 15-minute walk from either the Place d'Armes or Champs-de-Mars Metro stations.

Street parking is available in the area for those travelling by car, but we caution that it

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D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda  
DUROCHER, Marc  
GLOVER, Wayne  
NADEAU, Marc  
SIMARD, Phil  
WHITELOW, Maureen

**Due This Month, May:**

SICHEL, Danny

**Due Next Month, June:**

BELLEMARE, Josée  
SILVERMAN, Barbara

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can be difficult to find a spot. Alternately, paid parking is available in a lot adjacent the Science Centre (access via King Edward Pier entrance).

This outing will take place in lieu of a club meeting this month. Note that our next MonSFFA meeting is scheduled for June 4.

For more information on CSI: The Experience visit the Science Centre's Web site: [www.montrealsciencecentre.com](http://www.montrealsciencecentre.com)

## Night Sky Guy Visits MonSFFA

We welcomed astronomy writer/educator and life-long Star Trek fan Andrew "The Night Sky Guy" Fazekas to our April 9 club meeting to talk Trek and compare Star Trek science to real science. Andrew, a fan of the original 1960s series, in particular, asserts that, unlike other sci-fi TV shows of the day, Star Trek got a lot of the astronomical science right. Producers adhered to science fact as much as possible, he says, in creating their reasonably plausible science fiction storylines.

Andrew opened his presentation by outlining his interest—nurtured at an early age by his father—in both Star Trek and science, astronomy in particular. He noted that many of today's researchers, engineers, and technicians were inspired by Star Trek as youngsters, and that cell phones, iPads, and other modern electronic devices can trace their lineage back to the then-futuristic gadgets featured in Star Trek. Gene Roddenberry's inspirational sci-fi series served to instill in motivated young people a vision of the future that they have applied to the real world as adult scientists and inventors.

Andrew is author of the National Geographic publication *Star Trek: The Official Guide to the Universe*, in which the fictional stars and planets to which the starship Enterprise travels are compared with their counterparts in the real universe. The Orion Nebula, for example, could easily stand in for the fictional Mutara Nebula featured in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*. And Spock's home world of Vulcan may well have a real-life equivalent orbiting the star 40 Eridani A, also known as Keid. Some of the 3000 or so exo-planets recently discovered by astronomers resemble the earth-like terrestrial planets that Star Trek classifies as M-Class worlds.

Pitching his proposed book to the Star Trek people, Andrew was met with pronounced enthusiasm and described the whole experience of researching and writing the book in exceedingly positive terms.

A lively Q&A followed and eager MonSFFen snapped up sale copies of Andrew's book, which he graciously autographed for each buyer.

The latter part of the meeting was given over to a workshop on the sound design of our paper cut-out stop-motion animated film project, concentrating on recording sound effects for the production.

Keith Braithwaite began by screening of a brief primer he had prepared on the art of what is called Foley, that is, the creation of specific sound effects tailored to a film or television show. The process is named for its inventor, Jack Foley.

Keith then showed the group how he had "scored" our short film by cutting and blending together snippets of royalty-free music downloaded via Creative Commons, before he and François Menard set up a makeshift recording studio to capture the sound effects needed to complete our project.

Various MonSFFen sat before the microphone to mimic a variety of dinosaur grunts and bellows, which Keith then ran through sound processing software, altering pitch, tempo, or speed to arrive at a series of nifty "voices" for our dinosaur characters. A bath towel was manipulated to create the sound of the Pterodactyl's wings flapping. Strips of cut-up newspaper were bunched together, mop-like, and gently agitated to simulate the sound of jungle foliage rustling, and a pair of paper cups "walked" through a Tupperware container of dry macaroni feigned the sound of our dinosaurs' footsteps.

Keith closed the afternoon with a quick demonstration on inserting the various sound clips into the film's soundtrack.

We appreciate greatly guest speaker Andrew Fazekas' talk and thank him very much for visiting with us. We thank, too, Keith Braithwaite and François Menard for running our Foley workshop. And, a nod is given all who helped to plan and run this meeting.

## Briefly:

► Please note that *Impulse* will not publish next month, June. You are presently reading our May-June 2017 issue, reviewing last month's April 9 club meeting, and previewing our upcoming field trip on May 14, and subsequent club meeting June 4. *Impulse* will return in July, in advance of our annual Summer-Barbecue-in-the-Park.

► *Star Trek: Discovery*, to air on Space here in Canada, will also be available on Netflix, it has been announced. 13 episodes are planned for Season One. The show's delayed premiere date remains unspecified; figure on, at earliest, sometime in late Fall. Bryan Fuller has withdrawn as the creative team leader and showrunner. Sonequa Martin-Green (*The Walking Dead*) is cast as the series' lead character, a lieutenant-commander aboard *Discovery* known only as Number One, with Jason Isaacs (*The OA*, *Outland*) as *Discovery*'s Captain Lorca, and Mary Wiseman (*Longmire*) as Cadet Tilly. Anthony Rapp (*Rent*) is an openly gay science officer, Lt. Stamets, and Doug Jones (*Hellboy*) is Lt. Saru, an alien new to the Trek universe. Michelle Yeoh (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) is Captain Georgiou, of the starship *Shenzhou*. Maulik Pancholy (*30 Rock*) is *Shenzhou*'s Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Nambue, with Sam Vartholomeos (*The Following*) as Ensign Connor, a junior officer aboard *Shenzhou*. We'll also see James Frain (*Orphan Black*, *Gotham*, *True Blood*) as Sarek, and Terry Serpico (*Rescue Me*) as Starfleet's Admiral Anderson. Michael Dorn will *not* be playing one of *Worf*'s ancestors!

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

We remind club members that MonSFFA moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the Executive and many other of the volunteer-members who contribute to the running of the club are, at various times during this period, on vacation or away on weekends and therefore unavailable for club commitments. Rest assured that the club still gets done what it has to get done, like membership renewals and Web site updates, but usually at a more leisurely pace than is the norm during the rest of the year.

We thank MonSFFen for their understanding and wish for everyone a pleasant summer, during which the club will host its annual July Barbecue-in-the-Park, among other activities.

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

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**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—****DINOSAUR EDITION (early-bird**

**programming):** MonSFFen will be asked to choose a film for review from our list of vintage dinosaur movies!

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

**FOREVER AND A DAY:** 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 workshoping 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  
McCULLOUGH, 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  
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H7R 1Y6**

*Thank you for your  
patronage*

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_



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.

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## I M P U L S E

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

September / Septembre 2017 (Vol. 21. No./N° 8)

**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!

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*The Annual Membership Fees of  
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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

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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 preceeding 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 *Dinosaur* (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 Sheckley'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.

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October / Octobre 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 9)

## NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

### Sunday, October 15

**12:00PM-5:00PM****Grand Salon****Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St. Downtown Montreal**

*MEETING THEME: Halloween approaches! Don your favourite ghoulish costume, or carve a Jack-O-Lantern for the display table!*

**PROGRAMME****12:00PM-2:00PM**

**SUNDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE:** In keeping with the topic of this afternoon's lead presentation, we offer a choice of films featuring Victorian characters and settings!

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

**THE SCIENTIFIC ROMANCE:** The so-called scientific romances of the 19th century (and earlier)—often repurposed today as Steampunk—are what science fiction stories were called before the term science fiction was coined. We examine our favourite Genre from this Victorian perspective.

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

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

**3:30PM-4:45PM****BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR 2018**

**MEETING PROGRAMMING:** We open planning for 2018 with this preliminary brainstorming session, in which we'll collect ideas for presentations, panels, and workshops for next year's MonSFFA meeting schedule. Come prepared with a few proposals! Your suggestions, MonSFFen, are encouraged and welcome!

**NEXT MEETING: November 12***Book and Craft Sale*

## WANTED: PROGRAMMING IDEAS FOR 2018!

We are asking MonSFFen to write down a few ideas as to the kinds of presentations, panel discussions, Q&A's, games, group projects, etc. that they'd like to see next year at club meetings.

Assign a possible title and/or provide a brief description of each notion, and perhaps flesh out your thoughts a bit.

Please bring in and submit your notes to us at this month's club meeting (October 15), at which time we will be hosting a preliminary programme planning session.

Your input, MonSFFen, is encouraged and appreciated, as always!

## CRAFT SALE DETAILS AND INFORMATION ON SALES TABLE RESERVATIONS

In conjunction with our SF/F book sale, scheduled for November 12, we are holding a Sci-Fi and Holiday Craft Sale!

After having organized numerous years of crafting workshops, we anticipate that MonSFFen have learned and practised enough to try their hand at producing a few items to sell at this, our first official "Fancraft" sale. Given our vocation as a club, and the upcoming festive season, we're encouraging folk to produce, chiefly, but not exclusively, science fiction or fantasy and/or holiday-themed pieces.

Feel free to work in paper, wood, metal, plastic, clay, textiles, etc. Produce something unique, attractive, *saleable*—decorative knick-knacks, jewellery boxes, letter openers, sci-fi Christmas ornaments, perhaps. If you already have finished pieces, that's fine. Include these in your inventory.

You may also wish to sell interesting items that you may have acquired at craft sales or SF/F conventions over the years. That's fine, too.

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**Due This Month, October:**

PELLEY, Lynda

**Due Next Month, November:**

KNAPP, Brian K.  
KNAPP, Cathy  
JANSSEN, Steven  
PICARD, Shawn

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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

The club will be pleased to reserve table space for any MonSFFA member who wishes to buy sales space at the craft sale. Our rate is \$5 per four-foot length of table. We'll be taking reservations *and collecting payment* at our October 15 meeting this weekend.

Should you have only one or few items to sell, you might wish to avail yourselves of our proxy sales service; MonSFFA will sell your item(s) for you, taking a 10-percent cut of whatever revenue your merchandise generates. So if your wood carving of a Hobbit wearing a Santa Claus hat sells for \$10, the club keeps \$1 and hands to you the remaining \$9!

All monies raised by MonSFFA through table-space rental fees and sales commissions will be considered fund-raising proceeds and directed to the club's coffers.

### September MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's September meeting took place on the 17th and opened with a report on the 75th WorldCon. Held in mid-August in Helsinki, this was Finland's first crack at hosting the event. Several MonSFFA members had opportunity to attend and gave our group an account of their experience.

To the surprise of many seasoned WorldCon-goers, the event was quite well attended, with reportedly just over 7100 folk on site and some 10500 memberships and day passes sold. Historically, WorldCons held outside of major U.S. or English-speaking cities draw but a few thousand attendees. But Helsinki can boast numbers that rank it the second biggest WorldCon to date! By comparison, Montreal's WorldCon in 2009 drew just shy of 4000 and sold just short of 5000 memberships. Toronto's 2003 effort put up similar numbers.

As an added curiosity, our meeting's display table was festooned with souvenirs of the Helsinki WorldCon, as well as with unique Finnish candies and other treats for folk to sample. A few of these edibles were added to the mid-meeting raffle's prize pool, courtesy Sylvain St-Pierre, who had kindly picked them up in Helsinki for this very purpose!

Cathy Palmer-Lister, René Walling, and Josée Bellemare followed with a treatise on fairy tales, tracing their development from the oral traditions of old to the modern treatments on film and television, notably by Disney Studios. It was remarked that contemporary interpretations differ greatly from those in days of yore in that they've been cleaned up for consumption by children. The original tellings tended to be rather more ribald and violent!

Keith Braithwaite closed the afternoon with a game challenging folk to answer a series of questions related to selections of music excerpted from sci-fi film and television scores.

Thanks all around to our programme providers on this afternoon, and to those folk who helped to plan, set-up, and run the meeting.

This club depends on the contributions of its members!

# The **SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE...** *Rises Again!*

Attention SF&F Readers:

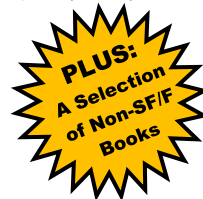
**AMAZING PRICES** on Thousands of *Amazing Stories* by *Science Fiction* and *Fantasy* Authors from *Asimov* to *Zelazny*!

*We've got plenty of inventory left over from our previous sales, plus lots of fresh stock, and we're clearing it all at our astonishingly low prices!*

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**LOWEST PRICES IN THE GALAXY!**

**THE MORE YOU BUY, THE MORE YOU SAVE!**

<b>Paperbacks:</b>	50¢ each, 3 for \$1.00, 7 for \$2.00!
<b>Trade Paperbacks:</b>	\$2.00 each
<b>Hardcovers:</b>	\$3.00 each
<b>BIG BULK BARGAIN:</b>	\$10.00 for a whole BIG box full of books!
<b>Select Specialty Books:</b>	as marked
<b>Magazines and Comics:</b>	10¢ each

**EVERYTHING! MUST! GO!**

**Open to the Public! Spread the Word and Bring a Friend!**

**STOCK UP NOW FOR YOUR HOLIDAY READING!**

**Sunday, NOVEMBER 12, 2017, 1:00-4:00PM**

**Hôtel Espresso (2nd Floor), 1005 rue Guy, corner Boul. René-Lévesque  
(Metro Guy/Concordia or Lucien L'Allier)**

*Sponsored by, and in support of MonSFFA, The Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association*

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## I M P U L S E

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

November / Novembre 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 10)

**NEXT  
CLUB MEETING  
IS THIS WEEKEND**  
**Sunday, November 12**  
**10:30AM-5:00PM**  
**Grand Salon**  
**Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.**  
**Downtown Montreal**

*MEETING THEME: The Super Sci-Fi Book Sale Rises Again! Plus, added this year, a Sci-Fi/Holiday Craft Sale! We ask that MonSFFen come in early to help us set up! We greatly appreciate the extra hands!*

**PROGRAMME****10:30AM-1:00PM****SET-UP FOR THE SUPER SCI-FI BOOK**

**SALE RISES AGAIN!:** We ask club members to help unpack boxes of books and set up the sales tables for our fund-raising SF/F used book sale.

**1:00PM-4:00PM****THE SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE RISES**

**AGAIN!:** We hold our fund-raising SF/F used book sale! A good book makes a great Christmas gift! The more you buy, the more you save! Bring a friend!

**1:00PM-4:00PM****SCI-FI/HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE!:**

While shopping for book bargains, be sure to check out our inaugural Sci-Fi/Holiday Craft Sale! Peruse a selection of handcrafted items made by our club members! Pick up an item or two for yourself, or as a gift! Bring a friend!

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

**CLEAN-UP:** Help us pack up and tidy up; your help is greatly appreciated!

**NEXT MONTH: Saturday, December 9**  
**Downtown Christmas Dinner/Party**  
*(complete details next issue)*

**THE SUPER SCI-FI BOOK  
SALES RISES AGAIN!**

Just in time for the Christmas shopping season, MonSFFA is holding the latest in its popular series of SF/F used book sales!

Benefit from our astounding bargains! Pick up a handful or a whole box of science fiction and fantasy paperbacks and hardcovers at incredible discounts! A good book makes a great Christmas Gift! Spread the word and bring a friend!

The sale unfolds on Sunday, November 12 at the downtown Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St. (corner René-Lévesque), second floor.

The sale opens to the public at 1:00PM, to MonSFFA members an hour earlier, and runs until 4:00PM.

Cash sales only, please!

We suggest you bring along a few grocery bags in which to tote home all of your bargain books!

All funds raised at this sale will be directed to MonSFFA's operating budget.

**SCI-FI/HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE!**

In conjunction with the above-mentioned SF/F book sale, we are holding a Sci-Fi/Holiday Craft Sale!

A number of our club members have fashioned handmade SF/F-themed treasures, as well as holiday items, and will be offering these for sale during the course of the afternoon. While shopping for bargain books, do check out the craft items available, and pick up one or two, for yourself or as a gift!

The club has already reserved table space for a number of our crafters; any last-minute reservations can be made the morning of the sale, subject to availability. Our rate is \$5 per four-foot length of table. Payment is accepted in cash only, please.

Should you have only one or a few items to sell, you might wish to avail yourselves of our proxy sales service; MonSFFA will sell your item(s) for

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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  
DUFOUR, Paula  
DUROCHER, Dominique  
DUROCHER, Marc  
GLOVER, Wayne  
GRAND, Jason  
McCULLOGH, Brian  
PELLEY, Lynda

**Due This Month, November:**

KNAPP, Brian K.  
KNAPP, Cathy  
JANSSEN, Steven  
PICARD, Shawn

**Due Next Month, December:**

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### October MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's October meeting took place on the 17th and opened with the year's final edition of Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée, host Keith Braithwaite offering a slate of movies set in the Victorian age, or featuring Victorian characters. From Keith's list—Master of the World and Mysterious Island (both 1961), The First Men in the Moon (1964), and the more recent Time After Time (1979) and Pride and Prejudice and Zombies (2016)—folk opted to review Mysterious Island, which they found to be a perfectly entertaining sci-fi/adventure tale, complete with an erupting volcano included in the climatic scenes! The movie benefitted from the presence of several stop-motion creatures brought to life by master animator Ray Harryhausen.

This presaged nicely Sylvain St-Pierre's wonderful presentation on the Victorian Romance. This is an outdated term used to describe early examples of what we would today class as science fiction. Sylvain noted that, despite aesthetic similarities, Victorian Romances are not Steampunk, in that the latter imagines an alternate, retro-technological world, the former, a future as plausibly imagined by 19th-century authors like Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, and others, who extrapolated from the scientific knowledge of the day. Sylvain outlined in detail the contributions of these writers, and early filmmakers like Georges Méliès, to the Genre. He touched, as well, on the real-world inventions and technological developments of the 19th century.

As time was running short, our planned brainstorming session on programming ideas had to be truncated, with MonSFFA president Cathy Palmer-Lister asking folk to simply write down their ideas for workshops, panel programming, etc. and hand them in to her so that she might collate the suggestions and begin to build a proposed schedule for next year.

We'll be discussing 2018 programming again soon, both collectively online and at a club meeting at first opportunity.

Thanks all around to our content providers on this afternoon, and to those folk who helped to plan, set-up, and run the meeting.

This club depends on the contributions of its members!

### Briefly:

- The next issue of Impulse will be published in short order, just prior to our December 9 Christmas Dinner/Party. Watch for it in about three weeks!

# The **SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE...** *Rises Again!*

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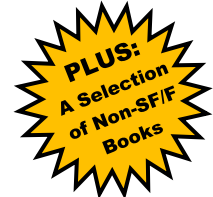
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## I M P U L S E

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

December / Décembre 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 11)

**CLUB'S  
CHRISTMAS  
DINNER/PARTY  
IS THIS WEEKEND****Saturday, December 9  
6:00PM, Downtown Montreal****IRISH EMBASSY PUB & GRILL  
1234 RUE BISHOP**Guy-Concordia Metro; two streets east  
of Guy, near corner Sainte-Catherine

Telephone: 514-875-8777

Web site: [www.irish-embassy.com](http://www.irish-embassy.com)*PARTY THEME: Wear your silliest,  
gaudiest, loudest, most colourful  
seasonal sweater or hat!**MONSFFEN, THEIR FAMILIES,  
AND THE CLUB'S FRIENDS,  
ARE INVITED TO JOIN US  
IN CELEBRATION OF  
THE FESTIVE SEASON!*

- Dinner and Drinks!
- MonSFFA Christmas Raffle!
- Rewards Raffle for Volunteer Members!
- And More!

*Reservations have been made under the  
name "MonSFFA/Cathy Palmer-Lister"***In the spirit of the season, we encourage  
MonSFFen to donate to a local food  
bank or toy drive***Have a Very Merry Christmas, and a  
Peaceful, Healthy, and Happy New Year!**(See also lead item, center)***MonSFFA'S 2017  
CHRISTMAS DINNER/PARTY**

MonSFFA's annual Christmas Dinner/Party is scheduled, this year, for Saturday evening, December 9. We will return, once again, to the always welcoming Irish Embassy Pub and Grill downtown.

All MonSFFen, their families, and the club's many friends, are hereby cordially and officially invited to MonSFFA's 2017 Christmas Dinner/Party! Do join us in celebrating this festive season!

We will gather at 6:00PM on Saturday, the 9th, at the Irish Embassy, 1234 Bishop Street (near the corner of Ste-Catherine) to enjoy a fine meal, drinks, good company, and holiday cheer. Tables will be reserved for our group; please arrive on time in order to facilitate prompt seating.

Main courses available on the Pub's Holiday Menu include prime rib, turkey, maple-glazed salmon, and a vegetarian dish, Linguine Pomodoro. The price of your meal, including taxes and tip, should come to about \$35, give or take, a bit less for the vegetarian option. Drinks are extra.

We will have a number of special gift-wrapped prizes on offer as part of our traditional Christmas fund-raising raffle, as well as our special thanks-to-volunteer-members draw. So bring along a little extra cash, people, with which to buy raffle tickets!

Lastly, with those in our community less fortunate in mind, and in the spirit of the season, we encourage MonSFFen to donate to a local food bank or toy drive.

We offer thanks to club president Cathy Palmer-Lister for making the dinner arrangements with the Irish Embassy, and we take this opportunity to wish all MonSFFA

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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  
DUROCHER, Dominique  
DUROCHER, Marc  
GLOVER, Wayne  
GRAND, Jason  
KNAPP, Brian K.  
KNAPP, Cathy  
McCULLOGH, Brian  
PELLEY, Lynda  
PICARD, Shawn**Due This Month, December:**  
Ø**Due Next Month, January:**NOVO, Alice  
PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

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H7R 1Y6***Thank you for your  
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members and friends of the club a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy, Happy New Year!

## Next Year's Programming

We have been working on and plan to finalize our 2018 MonSFFA meeting programming at our January meeting in the New Year. In October, we asked MonSFFen to suggest topics they would like to see explored at our meetings next year. We'll open the floor to any further proposals, updates, or amendments to the list. And if you are so inclined, please consider, as well, participating next year in one or more programming items as a presenter or panellist.

## Club's Sci-Fi Book Sale Matches Last Year's Take!

The opening weeks of the Christmas shopping season proved profitable for MonSFFA, which held the 2017 installment in its popular series of SF/F used book sales on Sunday, November 12, from 1:00-4:00PM. As always, astounding bargains were available on the club's sizable inventory of second-hand science fiction and fantasy books, comics, and magazines.

While attendance was less robust than that of last year's book sale, this 2017 edition ended the afternoon matching the funds raised in 2016: \$300! Given that a good book makes a great Christmas Gift, it seems patrons took the opportunity to pick up a few seasonal gifts for friends and family, or perhaps for themselves!

We take this opportunity to thank all those who donated books to the cause, and the many folk who showed up early to help us set up, and at the end of the day, take down the sale. We couldn't manage the job without all of your help, people, and your efforts are greatly appreciated!

All funds raised at this sale have been directed to MonSFFA's operating budget.

## Trial Sci-Fi and Holiday Craft Sale Quiet

In conjunction with the above-mentioned SF/F book sale, a Sci-Fi/Holiday Craft Sale was held. This was the club's first try at a craft sale, showcasing some of the handmade SF/F- and Christmas-themed treasures handcrafted by MonSFFen, wooden dinosaur puzzles, magic wands, jewellery, Christmas-themed knitted cat toys, and decoratively etched glasses among the items on offer.

While there was interest from folk browsing the sales tables, our vendors reported that business was slow, some speculating that this was perhaps because customers were more focused on the many book bargains to be had.

Sales were light and MonSFFA netted but a few dollars for the effort, so it is unlikely that we'll stage another such craft sale, or at least not one patterned on this particular model. Perhaps another approach entirely to marketing the crafting talents of our members is in order; we're open to suggestions!

All Sci-Fi and Holiday Craft Sale monies raised by MonSFFA through sales-table rental fees and sales commissions have been directed to the club's coffers.

## Club Elections Upcoming in January

The first order of business as the club begins a new year is traditionally the election of MonSFFA's Executive Committee for that year. These elections always take place in January, at our first meeting of the year, and are officially confirmed by the following meeting, in February. All MonSFFA members in good standing, having paid in full their annual membership fees, are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. These executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility. On occasion, a second vice-president may be elected, as well, usually to handle an important, specific task, or to take the reins on a special project.

Our sitting Executive is as follows: Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

Any MonSFFA member in good standing who is responsibly and reliably able to carry out the duties of office may run for any one of the Executive posts. Candidates may nominate themselves, or accept nomination from another member in good standing. Nominations are received by the chief returning officer, or CRO, usually just before the commencement of voting on Election Day.

Long-time MonSFFA member Josée Bellemare is currently serving as our CRO.

All MonSFFA members in good standing are eligible to cast a ballot. Members are asked to be present at the designated place and time in order to exercise their right to vote. Proxy voting is not permitted, except under special circumstances and by approval of the CRO (out-of-town members unable to attend the vote, for example, may have their ballots cast by the CRO in their absence, or make their choices via e-mail or other form of communication outside of the designated voting hour).

Potential candidates are encouraged to advise the CRO of their intention to run for one of the three specified offices as soon as possible. See the CRO in person at a club meeting or function; or contact the club via our Web Site at: [webmaster@monsffa.ca](mailto:webmaster@monsffa.ca); or by standard post at: MonSFFA, c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6. Mark any correspondence to the attention of the CRO.

## Briefly:

► November's MonSFFA meeting was given over to our used book sale, and our new craft sale. So, none of our usual programming was scheduled. Keith Braithwaite did set up a small TV and provided as background a run of sci-fi movie trailers, music videos and other short subjects for the duration of the 3-hour sales. The club's regular meeting schedule resumes in January 2018; watch this space, or check the club's Web Site regularly for updates. Impulse will publish next shortly before our January 2018 meeting.

► Please note: while we usually meet on the second floor of the Hôtel Espresso in the Grand Salon ballroom, as advertised, the hotel's banquets manager sometimes rejigs things at the last minute and relocates us. On occasion, we've enjoyed the use of a 7th-floor luxury suite, Room 700. If you find that we're not set up in our regular Grand Salon locale, check with the front desk, located downstairs in the main lobby; they'll point you in the right direction.

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