

## NEXT CLUB EVENT IS THIS WEEKEND

**SUNDAY, JULY 22**

### MonSFFA's Summer Barbecue-in-the-Park

**10:30AM-4:30PM**



#### Parc Angrignon, Lasalle (Angrignon Metro)

All Club Members, their Families and Friends Invited!

Bring your Own Food and Drink;  
Club will Supply Cooking Grill

**SEE DETAILS, RIGHT**  
(please read lead item)

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**August 18** *Sword and Sorcery; Judging a Book by its Cover (sci-fi book cover art); Tour of Starship Enterprise (Ticonderoga, NY)*

**September 8** *Ret-Conning; Astronomy (Guest TBA); DIY Podcasting*

**October 20** *Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée—Halloween Edition (early-bird programming); Golden Age of Pulp; Folktales: Influence on SF/F*

**November 17** *The Super Sci-Fi Book Sale Unchained! (fund-raiser)*

**NOTE: Programming subject to change**

## INVITATION TO CLUB'S ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

MonSFFA takes this opportunity to invite all of its members, their families, and friends to join us for our annual Summer Barbecue-in-the-Park, scheduled, this year, for Sunday, July 22.

The long-term forecast is calling for a partly overcast day with temperatures in the low-30s. There is indicated a possibility of scattered light showers, but we do not expect that these will amount to much.

However, weather forecasts can change so take note that festivities will be bumped to the following Sunday, July 29, in the event of persistent rain. We'll run any eleventh-hour bulletins of a postponement of the event on the club's Web site—MonSFFA.ca—the morning of the 22nd, should circumstances so dictate. Check our site for news if the skies seem suspect that morning. Otherwise, we'll see you at the park!

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

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

So do join us for a pleasant afternoon of easy conversation, refreshing drink, and tasty fare amongst the company of fannish friends!

## 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  
DUROCHER, Marc  
GLOVER, Wayne  
HAMMOCK, Christopher  
HICKEY, Mark  
McCULLOGH, Brian  
MOIR, L. E.  
NOVO, Alice  
PICARD, Shawn  
RUFIANGE, Yolande  
SICHEL, Danny  
WALLING, Evelyn  
WALLING, René

#### Due Last Month, June:

TOUSIGNANT, Yves

#### Due This Month, July:

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#### Due Next Month, August:

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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.

## Field Trip More Than Just Another Brick in the Wall!

MonSFFA undertook as our summer excursion a field trip to Canada's Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa on Saturday, June 9.

The venerable Science and Technology Museum has for decades been a destination of choice for school field trips or family excursions. Closed in recent years for necessary renovations to the building housing the museum's exhibits, the now refurbished and updated CSTM is again open and welcoming visitors! And the balance-challenging Crazy Kitchen, dating back to the museum's opening in 1967, is still a part of it all!

We found the museum to be a wonderful collection of artifacts tracing the progression of technology in Canada through the years, from tiny vacuum tubes and transistors to massive radio-telescopes (the latter in scale-model form, here), children's bicycles to giant, powerful steam-powered train locomotives, children's toys to family recreational vehicles. A 1950s-era military radar console had the retro sci-fi look of any number of spaceship control panels seen in old SF movies or TV shows. Très cool! There were displays of old radios and television sets, record players and high-fi stereo consoles, CBC broadcast microphones, early video-gaming systems, and common household items such as a barrel-like clothes washing machine, with a set of rollers mounted atop through which the wet clothes were run to squeeze as much water out before the wash was hung up to dry on a clothesline. Several of our older members recalled such washers from their childhoods.

The science behind the technology on display was outlined in a variety of interactive stations.

The CSTM's showcase exhibition this summer is The Art of the Brick, a Lego exhibition featuring the work of renowned Lego builder/artist Nathan Sawaya. His original pieces, as well as recreations of world famous works of art like Michelangelo's David, Da Vinci's Mona Lisa, and Van Gogh's Starry Night, greatly impressed our group. His largest sculpture was a full-sized T-Rex skeleton, made of over 80,000 bricks!

For information on the museum, visit the CSTM's Web site: [cstmuseum.techno-science.ca](http://cstmuseum.techno-science.ca)

After our visit, we sat down to lunch at a local eatery, then disbursed in smaller groups to a variety of shopping locales before heading back to Montreal. All in all, a most enjoyable day.

We thank all involved in organizing and carrying out our field trip, in particular our volunteer carpool drivers.

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

We remind 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.

## May Club Meeting

MonSFFA's May 26 meeting was our last before the club's summer activities began.

We started a little late—blame it on Montreal's construction-related road closures and traffic jams, which delayed the arrival of a few of us!—with an edition of Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée focused on flying saucers and UFO aliens. Those MonSFFers gathered in advance of the regular meeting chose from a list of five so-themed films—the classic Day the Earth Stood Still (1951), the quintessential '50s flying saucer flick Earth vs. The Flying Saucers (1956), the Canadian-made stinker Starship Invasions (1977), a TV movie, Roswell (1994), and the creepy alien abduction tale Dark Skies (2013). Folk opted for the thrills of Ray Harryhausen's stop-motion saucers in Earth vs. the Flying Saucers, rating this B-movie a serviceable actioner with a competent script and cast that benefitted from Harryhausen's superior special effects magic; his scenes of saucers attacking and the destruction of Washington, D. C. landmarks were the highlights. An enjoyable, if not exceptional, movie.

Keith Braithwaite opened the meeting proper with a PowerPoint presentation on the influences UFOlogy has had on sci-fi movies and TV shows, like the aforementioned Earth vs. the Flying Saucers, which drew on real reported UFO sightings for elements of its story, and for the designs of the featured flying saucers. Keith cited other films, and TV series like The Invaders (1967-'68), Project U.F.O. (1978-'79), Dark Skies (1996-'97) and, of course, the X-Files (1993-2002; 2016, 2018), all of which, to varying degrees, tapped into actual UFO lore in scripting their stories. The late start to the meeting necessitated a shortened presentation, unfortunately, so Keith has more on UFO-themed films and TV series in reserve for another time.

After the mid-meeting break, Danny Sichel was up with his talk on translation as featured in sci-fi. Such devices as Star Trek's universal translator, Star Wars' protocol droids, the Babel fish of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe, and others allow us to speak to aliens, understand what they are saying, although not always with complete accuracy. Danny outlined some of sci-fi's most interesting examples of translation methods, and the problems of the inevitable mistranslations or misunderstandings that are bound to crop up from time to time. He noted that an alien species, quite possibly, may not communicate with sounds, as we do, and that would certainly complicate our understanding each other!

We thank Keith and Danny for their presentations, and all who helped to plan and run our May 2018 meeting.

## Briefly:

► The always opinionated, irascible, irreverent Harlan Ellison passed away on June 28 at age 84. Beyond SF/F literature, Ellison's prodigious talents extended into film and television, comics, criticism, and as an essayist. His awards are numerous and include multiple Hugos and Nebulas, several Edgar Allan Poe and Bram Stoker Awards, as well as honours for his Outer Limits and Star Trek screenplays. Among his best known works: A Boy and his Dog, I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream, City on the Edge of Forever (Star Trek), Demon with a Glass Hand (Outer Limits), Jeffty is Five, The Beast that Shouted Love at the Heart of the World, and 'Repent, Harlequin!' Said the Ticktockman.

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

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

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