

I M P U L S E

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

August / Août 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 7)

**NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND****Saturday, August 18****1:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: Bring in two or three SF/F paperbacks featuring your favourite cover art!***PROGRAMME****1:00PM-2:00PM****SWORD AND SORCERY:** We explore this adventure-laden, magical, and violent sub-genre of fantasy!**2:00PM-3:00PM****YOU CAN JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER!:**

We challenge the old axiom and suggest that there often are visual clues on a book's cover that allow one to anticipate content!

3:00PM-3:30PM**MID-MEETING BREAK:** Fund-raising raffle, brief discussion of club business**3:30PM-4:30PM****PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD:** We board the original U.S.S. Enterprise by way of a slideshow tour of Star Trek's original Enterprise sets, recreated in exacting detail just a two-hour drive south of Montreal!**UPCOMING MEETINGS:****September 8** *Ret-Conning; Astronomy (Guest TBA); DIY Podcasting (Tentative)***October 20** *Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée—Halloween Edition (early-bird programming); Golden Age of Pulps; Folktales: Influence on SF/F***NOTE: Programming subject to change****CLUB'S 2018 SUMMER BBQ
DUBBED "UMBRELLA-CON"**

This year's club Barbecue-in-the-Park at Parc Angrignon was scheduled for Sunday, July 22, and despite threatening rain, went ahead as planned.

Weather forecasts on that morning varied from predictions of light rain, followed by noontime clearing skies, to steady rain throughout the day, including afternoon thunderstorms. As some of these forecasts emanated from sources that in past instances we have found to be notoriously unreliable, we gambled that the rain would likely (*hopefully!*) stop falling about noonish and any thunderstorms would hold off long enough for us to enjoy a few hours of picnicking in the park. But we hedged our bet by advising MonSFFen to maybe bring along their umbrellas, just in case. Luckily, most did!

A light rain fell throughout our picnic, pausing only briefly at one point. We had set up under the cover of a grouping of trees, so we managed to escape a thorough soaking and, despite the inclement conditions, nevertheless enjoyed each other's company. It proved a truncated and moist afternoon of lively conversation on topics ranging from superhero movies, vintage WWII aircraft, and the recent Montreal ComicCon to ghosts, 3-D printers, and—no surprise—the weather. Folk quickly dubbed the event "Umbrella-Con!"

Our barbecue's charcoal-fueled fire not only grilled a variety of tasty meats, but provided a source of warmth for those among us who felt a tad chilly in the drizzle. Our umbrellas and beer also helped us brave the experience!

And of course, as luck would have it, the skies began clearing just as we packed up and made our way home, the afternoon thunderstorms never having materialized.

**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 in June:

TOUSIGNANT, Yves

Due Last Month, July:

Ø

Due This Month, August:

Ø

Due Next Month, September:

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

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

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

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

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/N° et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

Warp in Running For Aurora Award

MonSFFA's fanzine, Warp, is once again nominated for an Aurora Award! We're competing in the Best Fan Writing and Publications category.

Warp won an Aurora in 1999 under the editorship of Lynda Pelley, and has been nominated a number of times under current editor Cathy Palmer-Lister.

To vote, one must be a member of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, annual fees for which are \$10. Voting is conducted online and closes Saturday, September 8, at 11:59 EDT, 2018. The Awards will be handed out at this year's Convention, V-Con 42 (Richmond, B.C.), October 5-7.

Visit the Aurora Awards Web site for complete information on joining the CSFFA, and on voting for the Auroras: www.prixaurorawards.ca

Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

We again remind MonSFFers that the club moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the volunteer-members who run the club take vacations or are away weekends. Rest assured that the club still gets done what has to get done, only at a more leisurely pace than usual.

We trust all are having an enjoyable summer, and we welcome everyone back from the summer break as our monthly meeting schedule resumes with this upcoming August 18 meeting.

Briefly:

► MonSFFA extends sincere condolences to club member Alexis Despland and his family, who on July 31 suffered the loss of Michel Despland, Alexis' beloved father, a professor emeritus in the study of religions and cultures at Concordia University. He was 82.

► Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 writer/director James Gunn has been fired! Gunn helmed the first two Guardians of the Galaxy films for Marvel and was working on pre-production for the third when "incendiary" online remarks he made nearly a decade ago, joking tactlessly about pedophilia and rape, surfaced, prompting Marvel's parent company, Disney, to sack him. Gunn has apologized for his comments, declaring that he's not the self-styled outrageous provocateur he was then, and that he's matured. But Disney insists that the quips in question are simply "indefensible" and incompatible with the company's values. Disney is

standing by its decision, despite lobbying in favour of reinstating Gunn on the part of Guardians cast members and others.

► Actress Ruby Rose will play Kate Kane/Batwoman in an Arrow/Flash/Supergirl crossover special scheduled to air in December on the CW. A Batwoman series may follow in 2019. While attending the recent premiere of *The Meg*, the gay actress became quite emotional at news of her casting, explaining that as a young girl, she never had TV characters, let alone a superhero, with whom she could identify. She is thrilled to be portraying one of DC's few lesbian protagonists, and in the bargain providing a role model for today's gay youth. Rose is one of the stars of *The Meg*, a big, dumb monster movie currently in theatres featuring a Megalodon, that being a giant prehistoric shark.

► A *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* reboot is apparently in the works at Fox, and original *Buffy* series creator Joss Whedon is involved. Early reports suggested that this "inclusive" contemporary *Buffy* TV show will cast a black actress in the role made famous by Sarah Michelle Gellar. However, more recent speculation has it that this black *Buffy* will be introduced not as *Buffy*, but in fact as a new slayer within the established *Buffyverse*. No word on casting yet, or on whether original cast members will appear, although James "Spike" Marsters has said he'd be up for it if called upon. Some fans of the original are wondering aloud whether a reboot is really necessary, or could live up to the well-regarded original, and further, questioning the seeming insinuation that the original was not inclusive, given the presence of such black characters as Kendra and Sineya (the First Slayer), and gay characters Willow and Tara.

► Series lead Andrew "Rick Grimes" Lincoln confirmed at San Diego Comic-Con last month that he will be leaving *The Walking Dead* at the conclusion of this upcoming ninth season of the zombie-apocalypse drama.

► Patrick Stewart will reprise his role as Jean-Luc Picard in a planned new *Star Trek* series for the CBS All Access streaming service. No premiere date yet.

► Climate change is allowing flora and fauna acclimated to more southern climes to now migrate north, including the venomous Northern Black Widow Spider! Typically found in the U.S. and Southern Ontario, the Northern Black Widow is now encroaching on Quebec's southern border and will soon make its way to Montreal and environs! "These words he speaks are true, we're all humanary stew, if we don't pledge allegiance to... The Black Widow!" No word on whether this Black Widow is affiliated with the Avengers. Or radioactive.

► Canadians reported 1101 UFO sightings last year, and at 518, Quebec topped all Canadian provinces and territories with nearly half of those, according to a Manitoba-based survey by UFOlogy Research, which estimates that about eight percent of these sightings might be classified as unexplained. In authoring its annual survey, the group collates data from numerous sources, including UFO organizations, government files, media reports, and internet postings. With 74 sightings, Montreal led Toronto, Vancouver and other Canadian cities reporting UFOs in 2017. In an unrelated statistic, Canadians spend annually upwards of \$22 billion on alcohol, and \$5.5 billion on marijuana.

► President Trump recently announced that the U.S. will immediately begin to organize and establish an American Space Force! This proposed sixth branch of the U.S. military would be tasked with defending the nation, protecting American assets in space, and furthering the exploration of space. Trump stated that in terms of defending America, "it is not enough to merely have an American presence in space, we must have American *dominance* in space!" Claiming that the future belongs "totally to us (Americans)," he envisions building "gleaming new spaceships," opining that "economically, militarily, scientifically, in *every* way, there's no place like space!" The idea was met with both interest and skepticism.

► Correction: we made a slight error in our coverage of the May club meeting last issue, referring to "the Babel fish of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe," when that should have read, of course, "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." Oops!

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

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

Impulse est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • 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