

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 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 8)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND**Saturday, September 8****1:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: Bring in for display,
or wear something Star Trek!***PROGRAMME****1:00PM-2:30PM****PLUS ÇA CHANGE...:** We examine the pervasive practice of “retconning” — retrospectively revising everything from Klingon facial features to the origins of comic book superheroes to the race/gender-swapping of long-established characters! Is nothing sacred anymore? Why is this done, and is it a good or bad thing?**2:30PM-2:45PM****MID-MEETING BREAK:** Fund-raising raffle, brief discussion of club business, fan-film project update**2:45PM-3:45PM****SPACE JUNK!:** A talk on the increasingly serious problem of orbiting space junk.**3:45PM-4:45PM****PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD:** We board the original starship 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!**NEXT MONTH’S MEETING:****Saturday, October 20:** *Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée—Halloween Edition (early-bird programming); The Golden Age of Pulps; Folktales and their Influence on SF/F***MonSFFA’S WARP UP FOR AURORA AWARD; DEADLINE TO VOTE NEARS!**

We remind our readers that MonSFFA’s fanzine, Warp, is once again nominated for an Aurora Award, competing in the Best Fan Writing and Publications category. The deadline to cast one’s vote is 11:59PM, EDT, Saturday, September 8, night of the club’s September meeting!

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. 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

REVIVAL OF WARP’S ART SHOWCASE ENVISIONED

Warp editor Cathy Palmer-Lister encourages, as always, contributions to the ’zine, and hopes to revive the once-regular Main Viewscreen art showcase, which highlighted the artwork of club members. MonSFFA are urged to submit their drawings and paintings! Cover art is also wanted.

AUGUST MonSFFA MEETING

The club’s regular meeting schedule resumed in the wake of summer activities with the August 18 gathering. Attendance

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!:

DUROCHER, Marc
GLOVER, Wayne
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HICKEY, Mark
McCULLOGH, Brian
NOVO, Alice
PICARD, Shawn
SICHEL, Danny
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René

Due This Month, September:

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

Due Next Month, October:

PELLEY, Lynda
PETTIT, William S.
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium “Platinum” membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to “MonSFFA”), and mail to:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

Thank you for your patronage

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

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

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____
No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

was robust and the print-version of Warp 101 was available for pick-up.

The afternoon's agenda, however, had to be modified as we found ourselves without our video/slide projection system!

We opened with a discussion of favourite sci-fi book and magazine cover artists, with Cathy Palmer-Lister, Danny Sichel, and Keith Braithwaite highlighting a number of illustrators—Michael Whelan, Vincent Di Fate, Norman Saunders, Wayne Barlowe—and passing around the room books featuring their artwork for all to see. The audience chimed in with their own favourite artists, among them Frank Frazetta, the Brothers Hildebrandt, and Frank Kelly Freas.

Keith also mentioned that often, one can get an idea of what a book is about based on common visual tropes utilized on the jacket by marketing and art directors. High fantasy book covers tend to feature dragons, wizards, warriors clad in medieval garb on horseback, for example. Science fiction books feature spaceships and planet-scapes as shorthand for what's to be found between the covers, or astronauts in jetpacks brandishing ray-guns. A book splashing its author's name in large, bold text across a minimalist cover illustration is usually trying to sell the reader on that author.

François Menard followed with an extensive treatise on Sword and Sorcery, a subset of the larger fantasy genre, highlighting the bloody adventures of sword-wielding warriors epitomized by Robert E. Howard's Kull the Conqueror and Conan the Barbarian. François was our guide through a history of this subgenre in both literature, and film and television. Minus our usual projector, we nevertheless managed to show some of the trailers François had brought along, albeit on a small laptop screen!

We apologize for our logistical oversights!

The planned slideshow tour of Ticonderoga, New York's astonishingly accurate recreation of the original starship Enterprise television sets, finally, was postponed. This presentation has been rescheduled for our September 8 meeting (see Events Column).

We thank Cathy, Danny, Keith, and François for their contributions to the afternoon's programming, as well as all those who helped to plan and run this meeting.

MonSFFA Membership Cards to be Discontinued

With the club's current stack of blank membership cards now exhausted, a discussion ensued at our August 18 meeting on whether or not to commit

budget monies to the printing of a fresh batch, or indeed whether to maintain the practise of issuing membership cards at all.

It was noted that our membership cards were originally designed to allow members to take advantage of certain discounts at local Genre bookstores and hobby shops offered through our now-defunct MonSFFA Discount Program. But each and every one of the participating merchants—at peak, the program sported some 15 vendors—has gone out of business, having, one by one, closed throughout the 1990s and early-2000s as Montreal's retail landscape underwent major upheaval.

After a brief discussion, it was the unanimous thinking of the assembled membership to discontinue the practice of issuing club membership cards. It was proposed that perhaps a digital version of a MonSFFA membership card might be posted on the club's Web site and made available to any members who wished to download and print out at home their own copy.

Another thought was that a small, inexpensive but cool "gift" item be stocked in bulk, and one each given to new and renewing members upon payment of their annual fees. This proposal is under consideration and has not yet been approved for implementation, however.

Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

Summer's end approaches and as MonSFFA know, the club moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the volunteer-members who run the club take vacation time, or are away weekends. Rest assured that the club still gets done what it has to get done, only at a more leisurely pace than usual.

We thank you for your understanding.

Briefly:

► Production on Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 3 has been delayed and the film's planned release postponed as a new director is sought to replace the franchise's recently fired architect, James Gunn. Writer/director Gunn was axed by Marvel Studios' parent company, Disney, after decade-old inflammatory online jokes about pedophilia and rape attributed to him were uncovered. According to some reports, right-wing bloggers gleefully brought to light Gunn's admittedly tasteless remarks in retaliation for his outspoken criticism of President Trump's administration!

► Variety reports that former Doctor Who star Matt Smith will appear in a key role in Star Wars: Episode IX, currently filming. He's British, unquestionably, so it's a good bet that he'll be playing a villain! Also among new cast members are Keri Russell (The Americans) and Dominic Monaghan (Lord of the Rings, Lost).

► Patrick Stewart's new CBS All Access Star Trek television series will see him reprise the role of Jean-Luc Picard. The narrative is set 25 years after the events of Star Trek: Nemesis and will focus on the next phase of the iconic character's life, in which Picard, apparently, is no longer a Starfleet captain. The show is untitled, absent any significant plot details, and without a premiere date at this time.

► Led by a Canadian scientist, a research team at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, has demonstrated a means of dramatically accelerating the formation of magnesite, a CO₂-absorbing mineral that forms in nature over a period of hundreds to thousands of years. But by using polystyrene microspheres as a catalyst, the production of magnesite crystals is accomplished in just 72 days! The process occurs at room temperature and is therefore energy efficient. And the polystyrene microspheres remain chemically unaffected, and so can be reused. Scaled up, this method, then, could potentially help to slow global warming by sequestering atmospheric carbon-dioxide. CO₂ levels have risen dramatically in the past century, driven by human activity, and carbon-dioxide is, of course, a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

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 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 • Boîte vocal: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6