

I M P U L S E

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

March / Mars 2019 (Vol. 23, No./N° 3)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, March 9

12:00PM-5:00PM

**St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal**

MEETING THEME: Mars! MonSFFen are asked to bring in for our display table something—a book, comic, magazine, toy, or collectible—related to the planet Mars!

PROGRAMME

1:00PM-2:30PM

THE FUTURE HUMAN EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION OF MARS:

We welcome guest speakers David Shuman and Paul Simard of the Montreal Centre, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), who will explore with us the future of human Mars exploration and colonization. Both NASA and private enterprise are on a new race to establish a human presence on Mars! As more private companies take interest, this prospect is finally becoming a real possibility set to unfold within our lifetimes. What could that look like? We'll showcase current plans by Space X, NASA, and other government organizations/countries. In addition, we will present a short 12-minute 3-D movie showcasing authentic Martian vistas from the Curiosity Rover and Mars Orbiters.

2:30PM-3:00PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Fund-raising raffle; brief discussion of recent club business

3:00PM-4:30PM

LAW AND ORDER—SPACE! If a Chinese citizen assaults a German on an American space station orbiting above Australia, which laws apply? Can anybody own another planet? Who is responsible for damages caused by a fallen satellite? No longer hypothetical, these questions need to be addressed!

NEXT MONTH: April 13—Tribute to *Twilight Zone and Outer Limits*

GUEST SPEAKERS TO BRING THEIR 3-D MARS MOVIE TO MARCH MEETING

MonSFFA welcomes special guest speakers David Shuman and Paul Simard to this month's club meeting on March 9. David and Paul, members both of the Montreal Centre, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), are avid space enthusiasts!

They will speak on the exploration and eventual colonization of Mars, and will screen for us a short 3-D film they have produced about NASA's recent exploration of Mars.

3-D glasses will be supplied to MonSFFen!

David and Paul have always delivered astonishingly cool presentations. They have not visited the club for several years and we can categorically state that MonSFFen will not want to miss what is certain to be a truly awe-inspiring, fascinating, and entertaining experience.

MonSFFen ASKED TO COLLECT MATERIALS FOR GROUP PROJECT

The club will soon embark upon a group project for 2019. We will hold a reality show-style team competition in which scratchbuilt model spaceships will be fabricated over the course of three one-hour sessions, the first scheduled for our May 11 meeting. We are calling this exercise our Utopia Planitia Shipyards Competition.

Said ships are to be made using a variety of discarded everyday household items like empty soft drink bottles, toothpaste caps and assorted lids, empty plastic food containers, drinking straws, plastic utensils, old door hinges, nuts

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!:

- DUFOUR, Paula
- DUROCHER, Marc
- GLOVER, Wayne
- HAMMOCK, Christopher
- JANSSEN, Steven
- KNAPP, Brian K.
- KNAPP, Cathy
- MOIR, L. E.
- PICARD, Shawn

Due This Month, March:

- HICKEY, Mark
- MÉNARD, François
- WALLING, Evelyn
- WALLING, René

Due Next Month, April:

Ø

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: _____

and washers, clothespins, that sort of thing—any small, interestingly-shaped plastic, metal, or wooden doohickeys!

We'll form teams and each will utilize a set allotment of these doohickeys with which to build their interplanetary space cruiser! The various pieces will be cut up, shaped, glued together, detailed, and painted to produce a model spacecraft.

So, before we begin, club members are asked to collect for this project such items as they can scavenge around the kitchen, basement, or garage, and bring these in to our March or April meetings. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping us successfully hold our makeshift model-building competition! Please insure that your items are thoroughly cleaned before bringing them in.

Good "Time" Had by All at Club's February Meeting!

The club's February 9 meeting was preceded by our first Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée of 2019, time travel being the theme, in keeping with the afternoon's lead presentation on the subject.

The early-birds present were offered a menu of five time-travel movies—the vintage *Beyond the Time Barrier* (1960) and *The Time Travellers* (1964), *Time After Time* (1979), *The Final Countdown* (1980), and for the Valentine's Day romantics in the group, *Somewhere in Time* (also 1980).

Folk chose for review *The Final Countdown*, in which a strange natural phenomenon transports the contemporary U.S. aircraft carrier *Nimitz* back in time some four decades to early December of 1941, just prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour! Can this modern warship and its complement of jet fighters take on the entire Japanese strike force?

Most of our audience rated the film as entertaining enough, but many noted that the number of scenes focusing on the *Nimitz's* flight operations as it launched and recovered fighter jets was rather excessive and entirely superfluous, to the point of either annoyance or amusement. One of our reviewers commented that the film amounted to "*Nimitz porn!*"

The meeting proper began with Sylvain St-Pierre's bountifully illustrated presentation on the topic of time travel, and the many problems one might encounter as a time traveller.

What consequences would arise, for example, if you journeyed back in time and accidentally caused the death of your own grandfather before

he had married and started his family? You might conclude that you would be erased from history, but then, how could you have travelled into the past in the first place if you'd not been born as a result of your grandfather never having sired your father? Such is the fundamental paradox presented by time travel.

Sylvain offered simultaneously a history of the time-travel sub-genre and a primer on the various means by which time travel is achieved in the annals of science fiction, from simply concentrating one's mind on the task to the opening of mysterious naturally occurring time portals to the use of a time machine like the tricked out DeLorean sports car of *Back to the Future* fame.

Discussed, too, were the different theories put forth by sci-fi writers as to the nature of time travel—the past is set and cannot be substantively changed no matter the best efforts of a time traveller; history can be altered and persons and events completely erased by the tamperings of a time traveller; or, with each trip into the past, changes are inevitably made to the timeline, which initiates different futures, each existing in parallel to the original timeline so that travelling in time can best be described as moving from one timeline to another!

Following the mid-meeting break, we opened sometimes tongue-in-cheek debate on a few topics.

Keith Braithwaite first moderated a face-off between Paula Dufour and Leslie Perryon on a resolution stating that the original *Star Trek* remains the best *Star Trek*! Each of the debaters made opening statements in support of their positions, for and against, then argued back and forth, making their points, disputing opposing opinions, and taking questions from the audience along the way until allotted time was up and a winner was declared.

Our second topic of discussion provoked passionate, sometimes raucous debate and ended up running well past the allotted time! The resolution presented was that the Hugos, in the wake of the "*Sad/Rabid Puppies*" successful bugging of the system, should give way to the peer-voted and less-manipulatable Nebulas as science fiction's premiere award. Cathy Palmer-Lister served as moderator on this one, with Keith and Danny Sichel arguing the pros and cons, here.

As we found ourselves up against the clock, our planned third topic was shelved until next time.

We thank Sylvain St-Pierre, Keith Braithwaite, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Paula Dufour, Leslie Perryon, and Danny Sichel for their participation in the afternoon's programming, as well as those club members who helped to plan and run this meeting.

Briefly:

▶ The results of January's election of the club's 2019 Executive Committee have been officially validated. We therefore confirm Cathy Palmer-Lister as MonSFFA's president for this year, Keith Braithwaite as vice-president, and Sylvain St-Pierre as Treasurer.

▶ Canada is going to the moon! Speaking during a recent visit to the Canadian Space Agency's headquarters in St-Hubert, Quebec, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada has signed on to NASA's Lunar Gateway initiative, an international project that will see built an orbital lunar research laboratory and docking station for spacecraft. Trudeau enthused that this space station will allow for "a long-term lunar presence" and serve as a staging area for regular moon missions, with the eventual development of a lunar economy by private industry also a goal. Further, Gateway Station will serve, too, as a launch pad for missions to Mars and beyond! Canada will contribute \$2.05 billion to the project over 24 years and develop a sophisticated "*Canadarm 3*" for the station. NASA expects Gateway to be in orbit around the moon by 2022.

▶ Arrow, Legends of Tomorrow, and Supergirl are rumoured to be facing cancellation!

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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 • 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