

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 2019 (Vol. 23, No./N° 1)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND**Saturday, January 19****1:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal**

MEETING THEME: MonSFFen are asked to proffer ideas for meeting programming in the coming year—presentations, discussion panels and debates, hands-on workshops and group projects, games! Put your thinking caps on, folks!

PROGRAMME**1:00PM-1:15PM**

2019 MONSFFA ELECTIONS: Time to vote! We select our 2019 Executive Committee! (See also "2019 Club Elections," page 2)

1:15PM-2:15PM

SCI-FI BALDERDASH: We put a sci-fi twist on the popular parlour game of trivia and bluffing!

2:15PM-2:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Discussion of and information on club business; fund-raising raffle

2:30PM-4:30PM

PLANNING SESSION, 2019 MEETING PROGRAMMING: We put together the programming for our 2019 meetings! The club welcomes from the membership ideas for presentations, discussion panels and debates, hands-on workshops, group projects, and games! Collectively, we'll build the coming year's programming. Tell us what topics you'd like to explore in 2019!

NEXT MONTH:**FEBRUARY 9: Time Travel!****2019 MEETING SCHEDULE AND PROGRAMMING**

We have received word from the Hôtel Espresso that our January and February 2019 meetings have been booked; once we have finalized our 2019 meeting schedule, we will submit requested dates for the remainder of the year. The second-floor St-François room will again this year be our regular meeting room; all meetings will there take place, unless otherwise indicated (occasionally, the St-François may be unavailable for one reason or another, at which times we are transferred to an alternate room).

Here, then, is our tentative 2019 Meeting Schedule (all meetings Saturdays):

January 19 (confirmed)**February 9** (confirmed)**March 9** (to be confirmed)**April 13** (to be confirmed)**May 11** (to be confirmed)**August 10** (to be confirmed)**September 14** (to be confirmed)**October 5 or 26** (to be determined and confirmed)**November 9** (annual Sci-Fi Book Sale; to be confirmed)

In addition to these regular meetings, we'll also, of course, hold our annual club Barbecue-in-the-Park (Parc Angrignon) on either Saturday, July 20th, or Sunday July 21st (to be determined).

We may hold a June meeting on either Saturday the 8th or the 15th, or instead, organize a club field trip on one of those dates, or alternately, on Sunday the 9th or the 16th (to be determined).

And, our 2019 Christmas Dinner/Party will take place either on Saturday, December 8th or 15th. We'll also consider a locale for the party, be it our traditional Irish Embassy Pub and Grill (which is scheduled to reopen early this year), the downtown Baton Rouge at which we held our 2018 Christmas celebrations, or another locale entirely. All of this will be discussed and finalized at our upcoming January 19 meeting; stay tuned.

We will also put together our 2019 meeting programming at January's gathering. We ask

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Overdue!:

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

Due This Month, January:

NOVO, Alice
PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

Due Next Month, February:

MOIR, L. E.
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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Thank you for your patronage

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

MonSFFen to suggest topics they would like to see explored during 2019. We'll open the floor to any ideas, suggestions, or proposals for presentations, discussion panels, debates, games, workshops or group projects. And remember, if you are so inclined, please consider participating in one or more of our programming items as a presenter or panellist!

2019 Club Elections

MonSFFA begins each new year with the election of its Executive Committee for that year. These elections always take place at our first meeting of the year, in January, 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.

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 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).

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; 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.

"The Super Sci-Fi Book Sale Breathes Anew" Nets Hundreds!

MonSFFA's final meeting of the year, on November 17, was given over to the club's annual fund-raising Sci-Fi Book Sale, 2018's edition having been dubbed The Super Sci-Fi Book Sale Breathes Anew!

Patrons benefitted from astounding bargains on a wide variety of SF/F hardcovers and paperbacks, totting home grocery bags-full of books after perusing

the many sales tables displaying the club's considerable stock!

This sale proved one of our most successful ever, adding a sizable sack of lucre to the club's coffers: \$800!

We thank the many volunteers who helped set up and take down the sale, and those club members and friends who very kindly donated books to the cause.

All funds raised are to be directed to MonSFFA's operating budget.

Club Celebrates Christmas 2018 with Lunch/Party

A devastating fire having shuttered our usual Irish Embassy Christmas-Party locale last year, some two dozen club members and guests gathered a few blocks east at the downtown Baton Rouge Steakhouse & Bar on de la Montagne for MonSFFA's 2018 Christmas get-together. The date was Saturday, December 8 and this was a lunchtime rather than our traditional evening holiday celebration.

Folk enjoyed a fine meal and seasonal cheer in the glow of the club's portable, fully-illuminated and decorated Christmas tree, under which were arrayed a variety of gift items/raffle prizes, beautifully wrapped for the occasion by club VP Keith Braithwaite, who unfortunately was absent the festivities due to a broken foot sustained just a week earlier! President Cathy Palmer-Lister had visited Keith at home the day before to pick up the gifts and tree for our party and reported on his condition to the gathered MonSFFen, who toasted their VP and expressed wishes for his speedy recovery.

The traditional Volunteer-Members' Rewards Raffle was drawn, gifting a representative few club members with token thank-you gifts for having helped to organize and run the club's activities throughout the calendar year. A special prize was awarded Leslie Perryon for having renewed his membership early in 2018! Treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre oversaw the club's annual Christmas Raffle, which raised \$116 for the club—congratulations to all the winners and our thanks to all those who donated gifts/raffle prizes to the cause! A nod, as well, to Josée Bellemare, who coordinated our Rewards Raffle, and another to Cathy, who made all the arrangements with the restaurant.

A merry, festive time was had by all!

Briefly:

► With a new meeting-room rental contract comes a price increase; the club will now be laying out \$160, plus taxes, for each monthly reservation of our Hôtel Espresso meeting room. Fortunately, the club's finances are fairly healthy, having ended 2018 with over \$2000 in the bank. We take this opportunity to remind MonSFFen of the importance of renewing their memberships in a timely manner in order to insure cash flow throughout the year. Remember, no bucks, no Buck Rogers!

► Star Trek: Discovery steers a course into its second season this month with promises of moving the series away from the dark tone of season one to a more optimistic tenor, in line with the original series, of which Discovery is a prequel. Look for Captain Christopher Pike and the Enterprise to join forces with Discovery for a run of episodes. Cast as Pike is Anson Mount, formerly Black Bolt in the now-cancelled Marvel's Inhumans. His "Number One" will be played by another Marvel alumni, Rebecca "Mystique" Romijn. Majel Barrett originally portrayed the character. Expect, also, a visit to Saru's homeworld, the return of mirror-universe Georgiou and the real Captain Lorca, and perhaps most anticipated, the first appearance of Michael Burnham's brother, Spock, interpreted by Ethan Peck.

► A fourth installment of the rebooted Star Trek film series seems uncertain at this juncture, given that contract negotiations with star Chris "Captain Kirk" Pine and Chris Hemsworth, who was to reprise his brief 2009 turn as Kirk's heroic father, George, have apparently gone south! George Kirk was bleedin' demised at last report, but would have, presumably, come back from the dead, somehow! In addition, the director attached to the production, S. J. Clarkson, who would have been the movie franchise's first female director, has now left the ship amid rumours suggesting that Star Trek 4 has been shelved—she was quickly recruited by HBO to serve as an executive producer and director on the upcoming Game of Thrones spin-off. Paramount representatives are not offering any comment on any of these developments at this time.

► And speaking of Chris Pine, his Steve Trevor character, presumed dead in the closing moments of Wonder Woman, is somehow back from the dead, and *unaged*, in sequel Wonder Woman 1984, set 70 years after the events of the first Wonder Woman film!

► We wish MonSFFA VP and Impulse editor Keith Braithwaite a speedy recovery from the broken ankle he recently suffered.

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NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, February 9

12:00PM-5:00PM

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

MEETING THEME: In honour of Valentine's Day, wear an article of red clothing, or better yet, donate some chocolates to our snack table!

PROGRAMME

12:00PM-2:00PM

SATURDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE—IT'S ABOUT TIME! (Early-Bird Programming): As time travel is on the agenda this afternoon, we offer a selection of time travel-themed movies and ask MonSFFen to choose one of them for review!

2:00PM-3:00PM

A TIME TRAVELLER'S SURVIVAL GUIDE: Tips for the rookie time-traveller on surviving in the future with no knowledge of the technology or understanding of new societal norms, and in the past while avoiding accusations of witchery or the accidental erasure of your own timeline!

3:00PM-3:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Fund-raising raffle; discussion of and updates regarding club business

3:30PM-4:30PM

THE MONSFFA DEBATES: We pit debating teams against each other on a number of questions and ask our audience to decide on the winners!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 9—Mars, a 3-D Presentation (Guest Speakers); Colonizing the Solar System

April 13—Twilight Zone and The Outer Limits: An Appreciation (Includes Episode Screenings)

May 11—Primer/Demonstration of 3-D Printing; Club Group Project

SITTING MonSFFA EXECUTIVE RETURNED TO OFFICE FOR 2019

At the club's first meeting of 2019, the club held its annual elections, supervised by acting CRO (Chief Returning Officer) Mark Burakoff, filling in for the absent Josée Bellemare who was away attending to urgent family matters.

Returned to office for another term was last year's Executive Committee: Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

We offer them our congratulations, veterans of club operations all, and wish them well as they undertake another year at the helm.

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.

UPDATE: CLUB MEETING/ EVENTS SCHEDULE AND PROGRAMMING FOR 2019

A planning session was held at our January 19 get-together to work out the coming year's meeting and events programming schedule. As part of this exercise, we nailed down our preferred meeting dates, March through November, and have since submitted these to the Hôtel Espresso (this month's February 9 date had previously been confirmed). The hotel recently contacted us to let us know that *all* of our requested dates have been booked!

We've made a change in regards to the traditional July club barbecue and usual August meeting, swapping these, one for the other, so

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that we may celebrate, to the very day, the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing with a planned presentation/panel discussion. So take note that this year, our annual barbecue-in-the-park will take place in August.

We've opted for a field trip in June; we'll be visiting the West Island's Ecomuseum, a zoological park, after which we'll take in a movie at a nearby theatre.

We remind MonSFFen that the second-floor St-François room is again this year designated our regular meeting hall; all meetings will there take place, unless otherwise indicated (occasionally, the St-François may be unavailable for one reason or another, at which times we are transferred to an alternate room).

Here, then, is our official 2019 Meeting/Events Schedule (all dates are Saturdays, unless otherwise indicated):

January 19

February 9

March 9

April 13

May 11

June 9 (Sunday): Field Trip to Ecomuseum

July 20

August 11 (Sunday): Barbecue, Parc Angrignon

September 14

October 26

November 9: Annual Sci-Fi Book Sale

December 7: Christmas Dinner/Party

January Meeting

MonSFFA kicked off 2019 with a January 19 gathering, at which we held our annual elections of the club's Executive Committee members (last year's Executive was returned to office for another term—congratulations to Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; and Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer; see also lead item).

We moved, then, directly to an enjoyable diversion somewhat familiar to anyone who has ever played the parlour bluffing game Balderdash. We're hesitantly dubbing our version Sci-Fi Balderdash, but it's truthfully only very *slightly* kind of like Balderdash, but not really! It's just that we haven't come up with a proper name for it yet.

Players were handed a game sheet upon which each was to write a two- or three-sentence invented synopsis based solely on the title—given to everyone by game-master Danny Sichel—of an *actual* published science fiction or fantasy story. The submissions were then collected and read aloud in random order, along with an additional

summary, *the real one!* Players each hazarded a guess as to which was the genuine article. Points were awarded for correct guesses, and to any player whose outline managed to fool others into believing that it was the real synopsis.

We got in about a dozen rounds of the game—a fun way to start the year!

After the mid-meeting break, we dove into the business of planning our 2019 meeting and events programming, finalizing the selection of our preferred dates and welcoming suggestions for presentations/panels and workshops. We kicked all of these ideas around, melded some notions with others, slotted some into the schedule grid, discussed possible group projects and field trips, and eventually got things down to what we believe will be a most interesting, entertaining, and fun calendar of activities!

We also began to assign presenters and panelists to programming items and by the end of the afternoon, we had much of the year planned, with only a few vacant slots left to be filled. The folk who went out for dinner together post-meeting honed the agenda further over a hearty meal and drinks.

Among the presentations/panels our members can look forward to in the coming months are an appreciation of two of the greatest SF/F anthology series ever broadcast on TV, the original *Twilight Zone* and *Outer Limits*; a very cool 3-D slide-show on the exploration of Mars—the special glasses will be supplied—and discussion of the technological challenges faced by man regarding the colonization of this solar system, as well as the ethics of such a venture; a primer and demonstration, for hobbyists, of home 3-D printer systems; and this summer, a retrospective of the historic Apollo 11 moonshot that we have scheduled to coincide exactly with the 50th anniversary of that monumental event! All of this and more is in the pipeline for MonSFFen in 2019!

We thank Danny Sichel for running our game this afternoon, as well as everyone who pitched in to work on our 2019 programming/events schedule. We acknowledge, too, those club members who helped to plan and run this meeting, and clean up afterwards.

MonSFFen Asked to Collect Materials for Group Project

The club has decided on a group project for 2019. We are proposing to hold a team competition in which scratchbuilt model spaceships will be fabricated over the course of three one-hour sessions beginning in May. We're calling the 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, old door hinges, nuts and washers, clothespins, that sort of thing—any small, interestingly-shaped plastic, metal, or wooden doohickeys!

Members are asked to begin collecting for this project such items as they can scavenge around the kitchen, basement, or garage. And please insure that your items are thoroughly cleaned before bringing them in.

Briefly:

► Correction: last issue, in discussing possible dates for our annual Christmas Dinner/Party this year, we mistakenly identified both December 8th and 15th as Saturdays. They are, in fact, Sundays. Our celebrations will be held, as always, on a Saturday, specifically, Saturday, December 7. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

► We are saddened by news of the loss of club member Josée Bellemare's beloved mother, Lise, last month at age 84, who, we are informed, passed away peacefully in her sleep. We offer our sincere sympathies to Josée and her family at this most difficult time. Know, Josée, that your friends at MonSFFA are thinking of you. We understand that a memorial service is planned for spring; no date yet announced.

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March / Mars 2019 (Vol. 23, No./N° 3)

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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

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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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NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND**Saturday, April 13****12:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: Chocolate! MonSFFen are asked to donate to our snack table a few Easter-themed chocolate treats!***PROGRAMME****12:00PM-1:00PM****TWILIGHT ZONE DOUBLE-HEADER:**

We explore that land of both shadow and substance, things and ideas as we cross over into the Twilight Zone by way of a couple of episodes of the classic sci-fi series in advance of our presentation on the acclaimed show.

1:00PM-2:30PM**THE DIMENSION OF IMAGINATION:**

We unlock that door with the key of imagination in this appreciation of the original Twilight Zone sci-fi television show!

2:30PM-2:45PM**MID-MEETING BREAK:** Fund-raising raffle; brief discussion of recent club business**2:45PM-3:45PM****THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR TELEVISION SET!:**

Via this retrospective of the original 1960s science fiction anthology television series, we experience the awe and mystery which reaches from the inner mind to... The Outer Limits!

3:45PM-4:45PM**WE ARE CONTROLLING TRANSMISSION!:**

Do not attempt to adjust the picture as we enjoy a classic Outer Limits episode.

NEXT MONTH: Saturday, May 11

- ▶ *Primer on/Demonstration of 3-D Printing*
- ▶ *First of Three Workshops for our Utopia Planitia Shipyards Competition (Club Group Project)*

REMINDER: MonSFFen ASKED TO COLLECT MATERIALS FOR GROUP PROJECT

At next month's May 11 club meeting, we will embark upon our group project for 2019 with the first of three scheduled workshops for MonSFFA's Utopia Planitia Shipyards Competition! This is a reality show-style team contest in which scratchbuilt model spaceships will be fabricated over the course of three one-hour sessions (May, July, and September).

Said ships are to be made using a variety of discarded everyday household items like empty soft drink bottles, toothpaste caps and assorted lids, plastic cups, empty plastic food containers, drinking straws, plastic utensils, parts of old broken toys or sections of the housings for obsolete household electronics and appliances, old door hinges, nuts and washers, fasteners, clasps, clothespins, and such—essentially, 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, in advance of May's first workshop, club members are asked to collect for this project such items as described above that they can scavenge around the kitchen, basement, or garage. Please insure that these items are thoroughly cleaned before bagging or boxing them and bringing them in to our upcoming April and/or May meetings.

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
JANSSEN, Steven
MOIR, L. E.
PICARD, Shawn
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René

Due This Month, April:

Ø

Due Next Month, May:

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

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: _____

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping us successfully stage our makeshift model-building competition!

Participants are encouraged to come prepared; put together a small personal tool kit—scissors, utility knives, and other cutting tools, a straight-edge, files, masking or electrical tape, etc. The club will supply certain equipment, such as glue, paint and brushes, and a drill.

Further details and the rules of the competition will be outlined during an introductory preamble well prior to the first workshop.

After the contest, the completed spaceship models will be photographed against an “outer space” scenic backdrop for a planned feature in a future issue of club fanzine Warp, with the winning model gracing the cover.

Mars in 3-D at Club’s March Meeting!

MonSFFA welcomed guest speakers David Shuman and Paul Simard to the club’s March 9 meeting. Both members of the Montreal Centre, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), David and Paul are avid space enthusiasts who have visited with us before, a few years ago. We were pleased to have them back as they’ve always put on for our group a most entertaining and informative presentation. This time, the topic was the exploration and eventual colonization of Mars.

Distributing 3-D glasses to the assembled MonSFFen, David and Paul screened for us a brief 3-D film they’d produced featuring magnificent images of Mars recorded during recent exploratory missions to the Red Planet, and detailed the latest advances in rocketry that both national governments and private industry have made, or are currently developing, with a manned mission to Mars the ultimate goal.

But it won’t be easy! The obstacles are many, as our guests outlined, not the least of which are the great distances and travel time involved, and the inhospitable Martian environment sure to test any crew that has successfully landed and set up a base.

However, David and Paul expressed confidence that, with national governments and private-sector industrialists working together, man will likely set foot on Mars within our lifetimes!

A bonus on this occasion was a screening of the rough cut of a film David and Paul are putting together about their personal journey to South Carolina to witness and photograph the total eclipse of the sun in August of 2017. They gave us

a charming hour-by-hour account of their travails in first, getting to the right spot, and then, arriving there in time so as not to miss the spectacle. They recalled being both thrilled at having made it, despite numerous obstacles and delays along the way, and awestruck at witnessing in person this astonishing celestial show. And they managed to snap some amazing pictures in the process!

The next total solar eclipse will occur on April 8, 2024, and the path of totality will be much closer to home—Kingston and Cornwall in Southern Ontario, Montreal and Sherbrooke in Southern Quebec! Mark your calendars.

Following the mid-meeting break, Sylvain St-Pierre plugged in his iPad and presented the group with a treatise on space law as envisioned in various works of science fiction, and as established in actuality by the Outer Space Treaty, or formally, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. With man’s increasing presence in Earth orbit, and on and around the moon and planets, the need for a set of rules governing our activities in space is more important now than ever.

Sylvain covered his topic extensively, citing numerous examples of some of the far-out “laws” to be found, and often broken, in sci-fi, as well as questions arising regarding responsibilities and liabilities related to orbiting communications satellites and such, and in the modern space age, the activities of non-governmental actors like Space-X and Blue Origin.

We thank very much our two guest speakers, David Shuman and Paul Simard, for their enjoyable and informative visit, as well as our own Sylvain St-Pierre, for his illuminating contribution to this, our March 2019 MonSFFA meeting. And, we acknowledge the efforts of those MonSFFen who helped to plan and run this event.

Briefly:

▶ Please take note: The club’s summer barbecue-in-the-park, traditionally held in July, will this year be held in August! We’ve made this change so that we may host our planned 50th-anniversary retrospective of the Apollo 11 moonshot on July 20, which, as chance would have it, is a Saturday and happens to be the exact historical date on which that first moon landing took place back in 1969. We’ll hold our barbecue in August, then—on the 11th—in place of the usual August club meeting. The monthly meeting schedule will resume with our September 14 gathering. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

▶ The Toyota Motor Corporation is developing a manned lunar/Mars rover. The bus-sized vehicle will be capable of traveling some 10,000 kilometres on missions of up to six weeks, powered by Toyota’s next-generation hydrogen fuel cell. Astronauts will be able to live and work inside the rover’s pressurized cabin without need of donning bulky spacesuits. Toyota’s rover is to be deployed on the proposed missions that will return man to the moon beginning in the early 2030s, and eventually lead us to Mars.

▶ Canned by Disney from his helming of the third Guardians of the Galaxy movie over tasteless jokes posted online 10 years ago, James Gunn, it seems, has been forgiven his trespasses and rehired. But before he gets back to it in earnest, he’ll be making The Suicide Squad (more a reboot than a sequel!) for Warner Bros. Gunn jumped to Marvel rival DC’s property in the wake of his firing and production on Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 3, not surprisingly, soon fell behind schedule.

▶ Captain Marvel has chalked up over \$1 billion in combined domestic and international box-office receipts, positioning the film as the highest grossing superhero movie to date that features a female lead.

▶ Jordan Peele’s remake of Rod Serling’s original 1959-1964 Twilight Zone premiered earlier this month and has garnered mixed reviews. The CBS All Access show, which was filmed in Vancouver, can be seen in Canada on Citytv.

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NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND**Saturday, May 11****1:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal**

MEETING THEME: Spaceships! Bring in bits and pieces of household flotsam, and a personal model-building tool kit (scissors, straight-edge, utility knife, sandpaper, etc.) for our model spaceship-building group project.

PROGRAMME**1:00PM-2:15PM**

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?: Whether a fan of supernatural tales, true believer, local history buff, or just curious, amateur ghost hunting has become an interest for many. We explore the hobby and learn how to suit-up to bust us some ghosts!

2:15PM-2:30PM

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

2:30PM-3:00PM

DEMONSTRATION OF 3-D PRINTING: We'll set up a 3-D printer and offer a demonstration of how model-makers or crafters can fashion their own plastic parts and sculptures at home! The machine will run during the remainder of the meeting and the demonstration will conclude after...

3:00PM-4:30PM

UTOPIA PLANITIA SHIPYARDS COMPETITION: MonSFFA's 2019 group project involves a team competition in which model spacecraft will be scratchbuilt using discarded household odds and ends. Each team will cut, shape, glue together, and paint these bits and pieces to fashion a spaceship! For additional information, see item "Last Opportunity to Contribute Materials for Club's Group Project," page 2.

NEXT MONTH: SUNDAY, JUNE 9

*Field Trip to Ecomuseum
(see lead item for details)*

CLUB FIELD TRIP TO LOCAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK PLANNED FOR JUNE

Mark Sunday, June 9, in your calendars! The club has opted for a group outing to the West Island's Ecomuseum this year!

Featuring both indoor and outdoor exhibits, this zoological park is home to over 100 species of animals indigenous to Quebec—wolves, foxes, bears, lynx, deer, caribou, racoons (of the weapons-free, non-talking type!), a variety of birds, including an assortment of raptors (not those kind!), and various reptiles, amphibians and fish. The fast-moving and playful river otters are a highlight of the nature trail!

There are indoor and outdoor picnic areas, so one may bring along a bagged lunch of sandwiches, snacks, and a drink if one is so inclined. And for souvenir hunters, there's a gift shop!

General admission is \$17.25 (discounts are available for children and seniors) and parking is free of charge! MonSFFen are responsible for their own admission and any other field trip-related expenses.

The Ecomuseum is located at 21125 chemin Sainte-Marie in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Check public transit schedules for metro/bus/train routes but we are told that the 419 bus from Fairview Mall will drop you off at the main entrance. If travelling by car, take Autoroute 40 to Morgan Boulevard (exit 44) and follow the blue tourism signs to the zoo. The club will discuss at our May 11 meeting organizing car pools to the zoo.

After our visit, we are thinking of taking in a movie (probably Godzilla: King of the Monsters) at the nearby Colisée Kirkland

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Overdue!:

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GLOVER, Wayne
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HICKEY, Mark
JANSSEN, Steven
MOIR, L. E.
PICARD, Shawn

Due This Month, May:
SICHEL, Danny

Due Next Month, June:
BELLEMARE, Josée
SILVERMAN, Barbara
TOUSIGNANT, Yves

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Thank you for your patronage

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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: _____

Theatre. This, too, will be discussed at our May 11 meeting.

Visit the Ecomuseum online: zoocomuseum.ca

MonSFFen Enter Twilight Zone, Experience Awe and Mystery of Outer Limits at April Meeting!

MonSFFA's April 14 gathering was dedicated to science fiction anthology television shows, specifically two of the finest, *The Twilight Zone* and *The Outer Limits*.

We opened the meeting an hour early so as to include the screening of a pair of classic *Twilight Zone* episodes as a prelude to Keith Braithwaite's presentation on the celebrated Rod Serling-created masterpiece. *Twilight Zone*, though billed as science fiction, was broader in scope and cannot be pigeon-holed so easily. Showcasing some of the show's best moments as he covered various aspects of its creation and production, Keith pointed out that the series, while sporting the trappings of science fiction, was arguably closer to supernatural fantasy, just as it was heartfelt or funny as often as it was suspenseful and terrifying. This, plus a gifted team of writers under Serling's leadership, the characteristic and memorable "twist endings," and Serling's singular style of narration made *Twilight Zone* one of the best television series ever created, science fiction or otherwise.

Sylvain St-Pierre followed with his appreciation of early televised science fiction in general, and in particular the 1960s anthology series *Outer Limits*, a successor to *The Twilight Zone* that quickly earned its own revered place in the pantheon of top-notch science fiction television. Purer science fiction than was *Twilight Zone*, *The Outer Limits* spawned a cadre of scary, spooky, and sophisticated aliens and monsters. The meeting closed with the screening of an outstanding *Outer Limits* episode penned by acclaimed SF writer Harlan Ellison.

We thank our two panellists, Keith Braithwaite and Sylvain St-Pierre, for their most entertaining presentations, and we acknowledge the efforts of those MonSFFen who helped to plan and run this, our March 2019 MonSFFA meeting.

Last Opportunity to Contribute Materials for Club's Group Project

At this month's MonSFFA meeting (see Events Column), the club will embark upon its group project for 2019 with the first of three scheduled workshops for what we are calling our Utopia Planitia Shipyards Competition. This is a reality TV show-style team contest in which scratchbuilt model spaceships will be fabricated using a variety

of discarded everyday household articles scavenged from around the kitchen, basement, or garage. The project/contest will unfold over the course of three one-hour sessions (May 11, July 20, and September 14).

For the past few months, we have been collecting from club members a stash of items such as empty soft drink or shampoo bottles, toothpaste caps and assorted lids, plastic cups, empty plastic food containers, drinking straws, plastic utensils, parts of old broken toys or sections of the housings for obsolete household electronics and appliances, old door hinges, nuts and washers, fasteners, clasps, clothespins—essentially, any small, interestingly-shaped plastic, metal, or wooden doohickeys! In advance of our first scheduled Utopia Planitia workshop, club members have one last opportunity to bring in an assortment of bits and pieces for the project. Please insure that these items are thoroughly cleaned before bagging or boxing them and bringing them in to this Saturday's May 11 meeting.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping us to successfully stage our makeshift model-building competition!

MonSFFen are encouraged to come prepared; put together a small personal tool kit—scissors, utility knives and other cutting tools, a straight-edge, files, sandpaper, masking or electrical tape, etc. The club will supply certain equipment, such as glue, paint and brushes, and a drill.

Details of the competition will be outlined during an introductory preamble just prior to the first workshop.

After the contest, the completed spaceship models will be photographed against an "outer space" scenic backdrop for a planned feature in a future issue of club fanzine *Warp*, with the winning model gracing the cover.

Briefly:

► Please take note: we again remind MonSFFen that the club's summer barbecue-in-the-park, traditionally held in July, will this year be held in August! We've made this change so that we may host our planned 50th-anniversary retrospective of the Apollo 11 moonshot on July 20, which, as chance would have it, is a Saturday and happens to be the exact historical date on which that first moon landing took place back in 1969. We'll hold our barbecue in August, then—on the 11th—in place of the usual August club meeting. The monthly meeting schedule will resume with our September 14 gathering. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

► Avengers: Endgame has raised the bar both creatively and in terms of box office gross. The culmination of Marvel's now 22-film shared universe superhero adventure set a record, topping during its opening weekend alone \$1.2 billion in box-office receipts! It is forecast to reach the \$3 billion mark before all is said and done, besting record-holder *Avatar*! *Endgame* is a pitch-perfect movie that will be hard to equal—the action, emotionally engaging performances, humour, memorable moments, and epic comic-bookiness of the whole thing are all stratospherically superb! The folks at DC, to be certain, have an uphill battle ahead of them.

► Star Wars fans are mourning the recent death at age 74 of actor Peter Mayhew. "I loved him," said Harrison Ford of his film partner and friend, who played Han Solo's co-pilot and partner-in-crime Chewbacca in five Star Wars movies. Standing at over seven feet tall, Mayhew was described as the "gentlest of giants" by co-star Mark Hamill. He passed surrounded by family; may the Force be with him.

► This edition of *Impulse* has been designated our May-June 2019 issue; *Impulse* will not publish in June. Our next issue will be released in July, shortly before the club's July 20 meeting.

► Correction: we failed to include in last issue's Events Column mention of the ghost-hunting panel recently added to the May 11 meeting's agenda. *Impulse* regrets the oversight and apologizes for the omission. We are haunted by our mistake!

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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

July-August / Juillet-Août 2019 (Vol. 23, No./N° 6)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, July 20, 11:30AM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: It's the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing! Bring in for our display table your moonshot souvenirs, books, toys, etc.

PROGRAMME

11:30AM-12:30PM (Pre-Meeting Session)

UTOPIA PLANITIA SHIPYARDS COMPETITION:
 MonSFFA's 2019 group project continues as our build teams finish assembling and begin detailing and painting their scratchbuilt model spacecraft!

1:00PM-2:30PM

ONE GIANT LEAP: 50 years ago on this very date, Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, marking the culmination of President Kennedy's challenge to his nation to put a man on the moon and return him safely to Earth! We remember, evaluate, and celebrate this monumental achievement, discussing it, too, from the point of view of sci-fi fans, for whom science fiction had become reality!

2:30PM-2:45PM

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

2:45PM-3:30PM

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE: An appreciation of the work of NASA space artist Robert T. McCall.

3:30PM-4:30PM

MUSIC IN SF/F: An exploration from numerous perspectives of music in science fiction and fantasy.

MonSFFA's Summer Barbecue-in-the-Park
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 10:30AM-4:30PM



Parc Angrignon, Lasalle (Angrignon Metro)
 See complete details, right; please read lead item

INVITATION TO CLUB'S ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

MonSFFA's Summer Barbecue-in-the-Park, traditionally held in July, will this year be held on Sunday, August 11! We've made this change so as to accommodate plans for our scheduled 50th-anniversary retrospective of the Apollo 11 moonshot on July 20, which, as chance would have it, happens to be the exact historical date on which that first moon landing took place back in 1969.

We take this opportunity to invite all club members, their families, and friends to join us for our annual Summer Barbecue-in-the-Park, 2019 edition!

Be sure to check the club's Web site the evening prior to the event for any word of cancellation due to impending rain. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be postponed until the following Sunday, August 18, same time and place.

So, if the rain stays away, we will gather on the 11th 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!

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

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 NOVO, Alice
 PICARD, Shawn

Due Last Month, June:

BELLEMARE, Josée
 TOUSIGNANT, Yves

Due This Month, July:

Ø

Due Next Month, August:

Ø

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4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
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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 are sometimes 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.

July 20 MonSFFA Meeting to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of Moonshot

On July 20, 1969, the lunar lander Eagle touched down on the moon, an astounding exploratory and scientific feat achieved from conception and design to testing and realization in less than a decade! A few hours later, Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first human being to set foot on other world, followed shortly thereafter by crewmate “Buzz” Aldrin. The event was watched back on Earth by a worldwide television audience of some 530 million!

MonSFFA will remember and celebrate this monumental achievement in space exploration and scientific and technological advancement at our July meeting, the date of which just happens to be the 20th, the 50th anniversary, to the day, of this grand milestone in human history!

See “Events Column,” Page 1, for details.

June Field Trip: MonSFFen Enjoy Frolicking Otters and Other Zoo Animals

A group of MonSFFen ventured to the wilds of the West Island on Sunday, June 9, to visit the Ecomuseum, a zoological park.

The day was hot and sunny, and we feared that perhaps the animals might shelter themselves from the heat and quietly sleep their day away. While the black bears and a few other critters did just that, the rest of the over 100 species indigenous to Quebec—wolves, foxes, lynx, deer, caribou, racoons, hedgehogs, rabbits, assorted birds, and a pair of particularly playful river otters—were out and about! MonSFFen were able to get a good look at them all and snap numerous photos.

In addition to the nature walk through the various, newly renovated enclosures, there were indoor exhibits, as well, showcasing various reptiles, amphibians, and fish, which we checked out after a snack break in the cafeteria. A perusal of the gift/souvenir shop wrapped up our safari.

We then convoyed down the road a short drive to the Colisée Kirkland Theatre, where we took in

a couple movies, most of the group opting for the new Godzilla film with a couple of us choosing the X-Men finale Dark Phoenix. Though enjoyable enough, neither movie impressed greatly, according to our people, post-screenings.

We had organized carpools for the outing and wish to thank those club members who provided rides to their fellow MonSFFen.

A most enjoyable day!

Ghosts and Spaceships Feature at May Meeting!

MonSFFA's May 11 meeting opened with a talk on ghost hunting, covering the recognized characteristics of ghosts as outlined by a number of well-known paranormal investigators and ghost hunters, as well as the schedule of documentary-like television programs about ghosts available on cable these days, citing those most egregiously phoney.

Panelists Lindsay Brown and Katreina Mace played believer and skeptic as they examined and debunked some (but not all!) of the most famous ghost sightings, photographs, and notorious cases, like that of Montreal prostitute Mary Gallagher, brutally murdered and decapitated by her friend and fellow prostitute Suzy Kennedy following a dispute over a client, and whose ghost is said to return to a Griffintown street corner every seven years in search of her missing head!

A listing of Montreal's haunted hot spots and the local guided “ghost walks” available was presented in conclusion, along with a display of ghost-hunting equipment (a number of highly sensitive electronic recording devices).

During the course of the afternoon, Mark Burakoff, having set up his home 3-D printer, answered questions on and gave a demonstration of 3-D printing, producing a few plastic widgets for use by the build teams who began working, during the latter part of the meeting, on scratchbuilding model space ships from an assortment of plastic bottles and caps, empty food containers and cardboard cereal boxes, and other discarded household articles that MonSFFen had collected over the previous few months for the purposes of this exercise.

This meeting saw us launch the club's group craft project for 2019, which we dubbed the Utopia Planitia Shipyards Competition, a friendly reality TV show-type contest set to unfold over three one-hour workshops, the first of which immediately followed our explanation of the project and outlining of the competition's rules.

We thank ghost aficionados Lindsay Brown and Katreina Mace, 3-D printing expert Mark Burakoff, and Keith Braithwaite for organizing and overseeing the space ship-building contest. Mark and Dominique Durocher also contributed, here, offering advice and tips on model building. We acknowledge, too, the efforts of those MonSFFen who helped to plan and run this, our May 2019 club meeting.

Briefly:

- ▶ We are very sorry to hear of the recent loss of long-time MonSFFA member Wayne Glover's beloved father. Sadly, Arthur Glover passed away on Wayne's birthday. Our thoughts are with our friend and his family at this most difficult time. Wayne has been absent MonSFFA for a time, focusing on helping to care for his ailing parents. He informs us that a celebration of his father's life will be held at noon on August 25 at the Two Mountains Heritage Club, 503 Rue Cedar in Deux-Montagnes (J7R 1H1).
- ▶ We note, too, the passing of Blake's 7 star Paul Darrow (Kerr Avon) at age 78.
- ▶ Correction: last issue, when thanking those who contributed to our April meeting, we mistakenly referred to the event as our March meeting. Impulse regrets the error.
- ▶ This edition of Impulse has been designated our July-August 2019 issue; Impulse will not publish in August. Our next issue will be released in September, shortly before the club's scheduled September 14 meeting.

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

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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 2019 (Vol. 23, No./N° 7)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, September 14, 11:30AM-5:00PM

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

MEETING THEME: Superheroes! Wear a T-shirt or other article of clothing sporting your favourite comic book superhero!

PROGRAMME

11:30AM-12:45PM

(Pre-Meeting Session)

UTOPIA PLANITIA SHIPYARDS

COMPETITION: MonSFFA's 2019 group project continues as our build teams finish assembling and detailing their scratchbuilt model spacecraft, then paint and weather them! If possible, additional time will be allotted in order to allow the completion of this project.

1:00PM-2:00PM

CAN YOU SEPARATE THE ART FROM THE

ARTIST?: Should we judge artists solely based upon their works? Can a terrible person still be considered a great sci-fi writer or filmmaker? Is it reasonable to impugn yesteryear's creators for attitudes, language or actions that would only by today's standards be considered inappropriate?

2:00PM-2:30PM

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

2:30PM-3:30PM

IT'S A BIRD! IT'S A PLANE! IT'S...?: How well do you know your superheroes? Game in which players are challenged to identify comic book superheroes from just a quick, partial peek at their costumes!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- October 26 (Halloween)
- November 9 (Fund-Raising Book Sale)

WEATHER PERFECT FOR CLUB'S ANNUAL SUMMER BARBECUE, WASHROOMS LESS SO!

MonSFFA's annual Summer Barbecue-in-the-Park unfolded this year on Sunday, August 11, with some 20 or so club members and friends gathering in Lasalle's Parc Angrignon under absolutely wonderful weather conditions, in stark contrast to the steady showers that soaked last year's picnic. While rain fell on the days leading up to and immediately following our barbecue, the 11th proved a splendid day—sunny, comfortably warm and dry, with a slight breeze wafting across the park that kept the insects at bay.

We had moved the barbecue from its traditional July booking into August in order to accommodate our plans for a club meeting on July 20 celebrating, to the day, the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing (see next item).

Folk began assembling under our usual stand of trees about 10:30AM, where a number of picnic tables were secured and not too long afterwards, our portable barbecue was erected and fired up. Within about 45 minutes, a variety of burgers and sausages were sizzling on the grill while salads, snacks, and drinks were scooped in advance of the main course.

Casual conversation ranged from the recently wrapped second season of Star Trek: Discovery and the latest Marvel movies to the about-to-unfold Worldcon in Ireland, other more local vacation plans, and additional morsels of summer frivolity.

All in all, a quite pleasant afternoon of easy conversation, tasty fare, and refreshing drink enjoyed amongst the company of fellow MonSFFen and 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:

DUROCHER, Marc
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HICKEY, Mark
MOIR, L. E.
NOVO, Alice
PICARD, Shawn
TOUSIGNANT, Yves

Due This Month, September:

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

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:

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The afternoon was marred, however, by the utterly filthy condition of the on-site washroom, a single Port-a-Potty temporarily installed while the park's permanent facilities were apparently under repair or renovation. This latrine hadn't been emptied or cleaned in weeks, it seems! The stench was eye-wateringly vile and the floor and toilet seat were smeared with excrement, rendering the commode unusable.

This has prompted a number of suggestions from inconvenienced MonSFFers that we look into moving our barbecue elsewhere should Angrignon's washrooms not see a marked improvement by next summer. The club is seriously considering such action and exploring possible alternate sites.

July 20 MonSFFA Meeting Commemorates 50th Anniversary of Moonshot

On July 20, 1969, the lunar lander Eagle touched down on the desolate surface of the moon, an astounding exploratory and scientific feat that was achieved from conception and design to testing and realization in less than a decade. A few hours after that historic touchdown, Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first human being to set foot on another world, followed shortly thereafter by crewmate "Buzz" Aldrin. The event was watched back on Earth by a worldwide television audience of some 530 million!

At the club's July 20, 2019, meeting, Keith Braithwaite presented a series of short video excerpts highlighting the television news coverage of the Apollo 11 mission by the major U.S. networks while he and a panel of MonSFFers reminisced on the monumental achievement that was Apollo 11.

Keith, along with Joe Aspler and Dominique Durocher, offered their childhood memories of the event, and their general knowledge of the Apollo program. For science fiction fans, the first manned excursion to the moon was not so outlandish a proposition; after all, they had been for decades prior reading imaginative fiction and watching fantastic films about just such an adventure. But the real thing was undoubtedly even more thrilling, perhaps especially for science fiction fans, who had been primed for and anticipating what they saw not as an impossible fantasy, but an eventuality.

Our panelists recalled the exhilaration they felt at the time, as the countdown to launch marked each second leading up to the mighty burst of roiling fire and smoke that propelled the giant Saturn V rocket skyward. A few days later, it was those breathless moments experienced raptly following the radio communications between Eagle and mission control as the LEM maneuvered over the Sea of Tranquility with just minutes of fuel remaining. The world held its collective breath waiting for Armstrong and Aldrin to confirm a successful landing. And, of course, the

highlight of the whole venture, the historic first step, broadcast live from the lunar surface, was every bit as awe-inspiring today, viewed in retrospect, as it was while it was happening on that memorable evening in 1969.

Keith further offered a brief slideshow overview of the work of celebrated NASA and space artist Robert T. McCall (1919-2010), who chronicled in illustration the progress of the American space program from the early days of the Mercury flights, through the exciting Gemini and Apollo years, and on to the Space Shuttle missions of the 1980s and beyond. His drawings, sketches, and paintings have appeared in books, magazines, and NASA's promotional publications, while his inspiring wall-sized murals are featured in museums.

McCall's style is painterly, boasting bold, descriptive brush strokes and exhibiting his keen eye for lighting. In addition to his detailed visual record of NASA's history, he looked to the worlds of tomorrow, envisioning a vast technological society expanding outward from Earth, and a bright future for man in space.

McCall also did conceptual and poster work for Hollywood, most famously for 2001: A Space Odyssey and Star Trek: The Motion Picture.

Sandwiched between these two similarly-themed presentations, Danny Sichel's fascinating PowerPoint presentation took us down another path entirely, examining the topic of music in science fiction and fantasy from several perspectives. Star Wars' famous Cantina Band, shown clutching their strange instruments, were quickly recognized by MonSFFers, as were musical instruments like Mr. Spock's Vulcan lute or the Holophonor depicted in an episode of Futurama. Iain M. Banks' Culture novel The Hydrogen Sonata features an 11-stringed instrument that can only be played by a four-armed musician!

Danny listed SF/F books, comics, movies, and television programs as varied as Orson Scott Card's Songmaster, he of the emotion-amplifying singing voice, and the animated children's cartoon Jem and the Holograms, about a rock band that employs advanced holographic technology on stage. Or Alan Dean Foster's Spellsinger, about an aspiring rock guitarist whose repertoire allows him to perform magic in the fantasy world to which he has been transported, and the recent film Yesterday, in which only one man remembers The Beatles and becomes famous by claiming their songs as his own. These and other stories were explored, focusing on the particular, and sometimes peculiar role of music in the narrative.

The pre-meeting Utopia Planitia workshop scheduled that morning had to be scrubbed as organizer Keith Braithwaite was unable to make it in on time due to Montreal's on-going construction-related weekend road closures and many lengthy detours. We hope to finish this model spaceship scratchbuilding group exercise during the upcoming September 14 pre-meeting session, with a modest slice of the meeting's time itself possibly to be added on in order that we complete the project as originally scheduled. We'll have to play that one by ear on the day-of.

We thank very much our presenters and panelists, and all those folk who helped to plan and run this meeting.

September Meeting Speaker Postpones Talk

MonSFFA's own Barbara Silverman was scheduled to give a talk, at our September 14 meeting, on mythology and the important role it has and continues to play in human history, but has informed us that, regrettably, she will be unable to attend as planned and must postpone her presentation. We hope to reschedule her for early next year.

But we have slated what could prove a heated debate that asks the question "Can you separate the art from the artist?" If a favourite sci-fi writer or filmmaker is revealed to be a blatant sexist or racist, or holds political views, perhaps rather controversial and in pronounced contrast to your own, can you still appreciate the individual's work, if not the individual? We also have a game scheduled that challenges folk to correctly identify comic book superhero characters from limited glimpses of their costumes! Can you recognize that cape or mask before your opponents? And, as mentioned above, we may find a little extra time to devote to completing our on-going group project.

So do join us for our September 14 MonSFFA meeting this weekend! (See also Events Column, page 1.)

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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

October-November / Octobre-Novembre 2019 (Vol. 23, No./N° 8)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, October 26, 11:30AM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: It's Halloween! Contribute to our snack table a spooky treat to be shared with the group; or, wear something black and orange, or your favourite Halloween costume!

PROGRAMME

11:30AM-12:45PM

(Pre-Meeting Session)

UTOPIA PLANITIA SHIPYARDS

COMPETITION: MonSFFA's 2019 group project concludes as our build teams put the finishing touches on their scratchbuilt model spacecraft and prepare them for judging and photography.

1:00PM-2:30PM

REPORT ON WORLDCON AND EUROCON

IN IRELAND: Several of our group travelled to Ireland this summer for both the 77th Worldcon and the 2019 Eurocon; they offer for our enjoyment a review of these conventions.

2:30PM-2:45PM

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

2:45PM-3:45PM

MINING THE DATA: An examination of the fanfash data leads to some interesting and unexpected conclusions regarding trends in SF/F fandom.

3:45PM-4:45PM

SCI-FI SOCK PUPPETS: With a potential fan film project in mind, we offer a hands-on demonstration on making sock puppets in a sci-fi style!

NEXT MONTH: Sci-Fi Book Sale

Saturday, November 9

SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE NEXT MONTH!

MonSFFA will host the next in its popular series of SF/F used book sales next month, on Saturday, November 9, just in time for the Christmas shopping season! Locale: the downtown Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St. (corner René-Lévesque), St-François Room (the club's usual meeting room) on the second floor.

Benefit from our astounding bargains! Pick up a handful or a whole box of science fiction and fantasy paperbacks and hardcovers at incredible discounts, as outlined in our ad, page 2!

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

Cash sales only, please!

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

We ask those who so very kindly offer to help us unpack our boxes of books and set up our sales tables to please arrive as early as possible, 10:00-10:30AM-ish.

Note that we are accepting donations of any used sci-fi books, magazines, or comics you may wish to gift to the club to augment our stock; please bag or box and deliver them to the sale before noon. We thank you for your donations.

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

UPCOMING CLUB ELECTIONS

As the end of another fun and successful year of MonSFFA activities dawns, we advise our membership that the club begins each new year with the election of its Executive Committee for that year. These elections always take place at our first meeting of the year, in January, 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.

The club elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer, who together form MonSFFA's Executive Committee and are charged 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.

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:

- ASPLER, Joseph
- BOIES, Marquise
- DUROCHER, Dominique
- DUROCHER, Marc
- HAMMOCK, Christopher
- HICKEY, Mark
- MOIR, L. E.
- NOVO, Alice
- PICARD, Shawn
- TOUSIGNANT, Yves

Due This Month, October:

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

Due Next Month, November:

- DESPLAND, Alexis
- KNAPP, Brian K.
- KNAPP, Cathye
- 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:

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

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).

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 by way of our Web Site at: 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.

Lively Debate at September Meeting

The club's September 14 meeting began early with a workshop session as MonSFFA members involved in our Utopia Planitia Shipyards Competition continued work on their scratchbuilt-from-household-junk model spaceships, focusing on final detailing and painting. The build teams were playing a little catch-up as unavoidable circumstances had prompted the cancellation of an earlier session of our 2019 group project. We were able to allow a bit more time this session to help mitigate hours lost.

Danny Sichel was up front as moderator for our primary panel of the afternoon, a discussion/debate that asked: can one separate the art from the artist?

Danny prefaced the discussion with a little background on recent controversial redesigns of prize trophies and name-changes made to prominent SF/F awards. This begged the question at hand and the ensuing discussion was a lively one, with just about everyone in the room offering comment.

So was it fair to apply the societal/political values of today to authors or other important genre personages of a previous era? Are revelations of bad behaviour on the part of a particular SF/F star reason to peg their work as unworthy and therefore verboten?

Folk debated back and forth, eventually expanding the discussion beyond the science fiction and fantasy realm to include the popular arts in general. While some might be critical of a given artist's political opinions, for example, or despicable behaviour, they would not categorically rule out ever enjoying a book, film, or other creative work by that artist. But knowing what the artist's personal views were on issues would almost certainly influence one's interpretation—or reinterpretation—of the work, it was agreed.

As to whether or not an award should be rechristened in light of new revelations about the individual for whom the award was named, most of our group felt that such a call would probably best be made on a case-by-case basis. We

all speculated, as well, on what "transgressions" today's artists might commit that future audiences would, perhaps, consider just as unacceptable as these same artists so consider the "sins" of their predecessors.

A fun and amusing little diversion capped the afternoon as we held a couple rounds of a quick game in which MonSFFA members were challenged to identify comic book and screen superheroes and villains. Shown only brief, partial glimpses of the colourful characters' costumes, our people scored quite well despite being stumped on a few of the more obscure of the caped and cowl'd that we highlighted!

Thanks are proffered Keith Braithwaite, who oversaw this session of our Utopia Planitia Shipyards Competition and hosted the above-described game, and Danny Sichel, who captained our discussion/debate. We also acknowledge the contributions of those club members who helped to plan and run this meeting.

Briefly:

- ▶ Here's a snippet of entertainment news for Halloween: Mary Shelley leads a group of Romantics that include her husband, Percy, and Lord Byron in what has been described as a "Victorian X-Files." Riverdale and Chilling Adventures of Sabrina producer Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa is behind this new series for HBO Max. The Shelley Society takes on all manner of supernatural threat, including Shelley's literary creation, the iconic Frankenstein monster. Aguirre-Sacasa is also spearheading *The Brides*, a serial about the bloodsucking undead seductresses featured in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. The show is to be a sexy vampire soap opera/horror show focused on three "empowered, immortal women." Trick or Treat, everyone!
- ▶ This edition of *Impulse* is designated our October-November 2019 issue; *Impulse* will not publish in November, returning for a final issue of 2019 in December, just prior to the club's annual Christmas Dinner/Party (details to be announced).

Invasion of the SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE... From Planet "X"!

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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AN ASTOUNDING ASSORTMENT AVAILABLE!**

Including... **TRADE PAPERBACKS** and **HARDCOVERS!** **ANTHOLOGIES** and **SPECIALTY BOOKS!** Plus a Selection of **MAGAZINES** and **COMICS!**

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UNIMAGINABLE, UNBELIEVABLE, UNBEATABLE BARGAINS!
THE LOWEST PRICES IN THE GALAXY! THE MORE YOU BUY, THE MORE YOU SAVE!

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

EVERYTHING! MUST! GO!
Open to the Public! Spread the Word! Bring a Friend!

STOCK UP NOW FOR YOUR HOLIDAY READING!

Saturday, NOVEMBER 9, 2019, 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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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

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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 2019 (Vol. 23, No./N° 9)

**MonSFFA's
2019 CHRISTMAS
DINNER IS THIS
WEEKEND!**

**Saturday, December 7
7:00PM, Downtown Montreal**

**BATON ROUGE STEAKHOUSE
& BAR, 1050 RUE DE LA MONTAGNE**

Just south of corner René-Lévesque,
beside Centre Bell (Lucien-L'Allier Metro)

- MonSFFA Christmas Raffle!
- Rewards Raffle for Volunteer Members!
- *And More!*

See Item "Christmas Dinner
2019" (center column) for details

FIRST MonSFFA MEETING OF 2020:

**Saturday, January 11, 1:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)**

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St. Downtown Montreal

*MEETING THEME: Come prepared to suggest and
discuss programming ideas for the coming year!*

PROGRAMME

1:00PM-2:30PM

G&S IN SF/F: Gilbert and Sullivan wrote some of music's most popular light operas and their works have oft been translated, parodied, and copied. Exhibiting a special attraction for sci-fi creators—Isaac Asimov was famously a fan!—the works of G&S have turned up in many SF/F stories, films, and TV shows, such as Star Trek and most recently, Good Omens. Aside from polite satire aimed at Victorian society, Gilbert had a weakness for fantasy and whimsy, and we'll explore that as well as other aspects of G&S in SF/F, including one anecdote featuring a future astronaut!

2:30PM-3:00PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Club elections; brief discussion of club business; fund-raising raffle

3:00PM-4:30PM

PROGRAMMING FOR 2020: We'll brainstorm ideas and begin planning and scheduling 2020's meeting programming.

**SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE
GROSSES NORTH OF \$1100!**

The "Invasion of the Super Sci-Fi Book Sale from Planet X" was the moniker given this year's fund-raising used SF/F book sale, which proved MonSFFA's most lucrative to date, adding a little over \$1100 to the club's coffers last month (November 9)!

The room was packed with avid bargain hunters as the sale opened to the public, with many folk expressing delight at the large selection of hardcovers and paperbacks available, and at our astounding bargains, in particular the Box-of-Books-for-\$10 deal! Within the roughly four-hour duration of the sale, we managed to clear some two thirds of our considerable inventory, if not more!

The club wishes to thank all of the member-volunteers and friends of the club who helped to set up, run, and at afternoon's end, pack away our book sale. Your helping hands were greatly appreciated!

We thank, as well, the numerous people who very kindly donated books to the cause; thank you so much for your support of our club!

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

The sale went just swimmingly, with the exception of what we, unfortunately, can only conclude was a theft! It seems someone surreptitiously made off with the donations jar that had been placed, as usual, on the snack table. The few dollars collected here, at this and each of our meetings throughout the year, helps to offset the cost of renting our function space. We've never before had a problem leaving this donations jar sitting on the snack table at the back of the room, for the most part unattended, and didn't think it necessary to post a guard! And so, an otherwise wonderful day for MonSFFA was marred somewhat by a single lousy deed!

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2019

Mark Saturday, December 7 in your calendars (that's this coming Saturday, folks!)! We will be gathering between 7:00PM-7:30PM for our traditional seasonal celebrations once again at the downtown Baton Rouge Steakhouse & Bar, located at 1050 de la Montagne (Mountain), just south of the corner of Boul. René-Lévesque, downtown—it's beside the Bell Centre; nearest Metro station is Lucien-L'Allier.

**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:

- BOIES, Marquise
- HAMMOCK, Christopher
- JANSSEN, Steven
- KNAPP, Brian K.
- KNAPP, Cathye
- NOVO, Alice
- PETTIT, William S.
- PICARD, Shawn
- TOUSIGNANT, Yves

Due This Month, December:

- DUROCHER, Marc

Due Next Month, January:

- PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

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: _____

Reservations have been made under the name “Cathy Palmer-Lister/ MonSFFA” and all of our usual “Christmas Party” features will take place—Volunteer-Members’ Rewards Raffle, MonSFFA Christmas Raffle, our decorated Christmas tree, etc. (Remember to bring a few extra dollars with you for our Christmas Raffle, a club fund-raiser!)

For those driving in, convenient indoor parking is available right next door! This parking garage is accessed from de la Montagne, just south of René-Lévesque, under the TD Bank branch located in the corner office tower there. The garage entrance is well indicated with signage. Regular street parking is also available in the area, however, note that vacant spots will likely be scarce (this is downtown Montreal on a Saturday night, after all!), so allow yourself plenty of extra time to find an available one.

All of that said, we take this opportunity to issue the following:

An invitation to all MonSFFen, their families and the club’s friends, to join us in celebration of the festive season! And our best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy, and Happy New Year!

And lastly, in the spirit of the season, we encourage MonSFFen to donate to a local food bank or toy drive.

2020 MonSFFA Events Schedule

MonSFFA’s 2020 Events Schedule is as follows (all dates Saturdays unless indicated; all bookings subject to change):

January 11 (Club Elections)

February 8

March 7

April 4

May 9

June 6

Sunday, July 12 (Summer Picnic-in-the-Park)

August 8

September 12

October 17

November 14 (Super Sci-Fi Book Sale)

December 5 (Christmas/Holiday Dinner/Party)

Function Space Rental Cost Nearly Doubles!

While the club expected the cost of renting function space to rise for the coming year, we did not at all anticipate so drastic an increase—the Hôtel Espresso’s management have informed us of a 90-percent jump in our costs!

The club’s Executive are discussing the increase with hotel representatives, hoping to work out a more modest increase, but at the same time, MonSFFen should be made aware that the club simply cannot financially sustain such a sizable increase, and that barring successful negotiations with the hotel, we may find ourselves exploring other options, including that of finding new, less expensive facilities, possibly outside of the downtown area.

MonSFFen will, of course, be kept abreast of the situation and consulted prior to any key decisions being made.

October Meeting

MonSFFA’s 2019 group project was completed at the outset of this meeting as the various scratchbuilt model

spaceships (fabricated of empty pop bottles, plastic food containers, and bits of assorted household “junk”) were given a final coat of paint. Build teams had been working on their ships during workshop sessions over several months. Keith Braithwaite oversaw this project, which had been dubbed our Utopia Planitia Shipyards Competition.

Several MonSFFen had the good fortune to travel to Ireland this past summer to attend the 77th Worldcon as well as the 2019 Eurocon, and the meeting proper got underway with an account of their trip. Projecting on screen numerous photographs of their adventure, Sylvain St-Pierre, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Joe Aspler, and René Walling offered a brief tourist’s overview of Ireland before describing in detail the conventions themselves, comparing the Irish Worldcon to typical North American and other European Worldcons, noting the little things that made the event charmingly and uniquely Irish.

René followed solo with an overview of the statistical work he has been doing for several years, now, regarding Worldcons and SF/F fandom, noting some interesting misconceptions about the state of Worldcons (they’re not in decline, as many believe), and spotting a few trends that seem to be developing in fandom. He outlined, as well, his methods of gathering data and the difficulties, in certain cases, posed by a lack of easily accessible facts and figures regarding Worldcons past.

Josee Bellemare closed the meeting with a primer/how-to session on sock puppets, incorporating a sci-fi angle to the examples she had on hand and laying the groundwork for a potential club group project/fan film next year.

We thank all of our presenters today while also acknowledging the contributions of those club members who helped to plan and run this, our October 2019 meeting.

Club Elections at January 2020 Meeting

The club begins each new year with the election of its Executive Committee for that year. These elections always take place at our first meeting of the year, in January, 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.

Please mark Saturday, January 11 in your calendars, for this is the date of our first meeting of 2020, at which will be held the elections for MonSFFA’s 2020 Executive Committee.

The club elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer, who together form MonSFFA’s Executive Committee and are charged 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.

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 MonSFFAn 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).

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 by way of our Web Site (see bottom of page); or by standard post to the club’s mailing address (see bottom of page). Mark any correspondence to the attention of the CRO.

Briefly:

▶ Considered one of the worst films ever made, the 1964 Christmas “classic” Santa Claus Conquers the Martians is a low-rent Yuletide/sci-fi pastiche in which Santa Claus and two Earth children are kidnapped and brought to Mars in order to instill in Martian children a bit of the Christmas spirit! But rogue Martians oppose the plan and resort to sabotage before they are ultimately foiled and Santa Claus ends up “conquering” Mars not by force, but with the simple spirit of Christmas. The film is often disparaged for its stilted acting, cheesy special effects, and ridiculous Martian costume design, but to be fair to producers, the movie was intended as a comedic children’s Holiday film, and the production values weren’t all that bad, given the shoestring budget. Those Martian costumes, however, were unquestionably ridiculous!

▶ At the opposite end of the quality spectrum is 1946’s heartwarming It’s A Wonderful Life, which includes a chilling alternate-history sequence, beautifully shot in *film-noire* style, that proves pivotal in lead character George Bailey’s redemption. A *true* Christmas classic!

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