

CLUB'S MEETINGS/EVENTS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

Due to the ongoing, rapidly developing COVID-19 pandemic, MonSFFA, in exercising an abundance of caution, has opted to suspend its meetings and events until the coronavirus crisis has abated.

We invite our members and friends to visit our Web site (MonSFFA.ca) regularly, and particularly on **Saturday, April 4 at 1:00PM**, the date and time of our would-have-been April club meeting. At that time, we'll be posting special content for you, just to stay in touch and give you something to do during our collective "quarantine!"

In the meantime, you may want to catch up on your sci-fi reading and viewing! And if you're not too freaked out by all the talk of COVID-19, may we recommend:

The Andromeda Strain (novel or film): Michael Crichton's story of scientists combatting a deadly, constantly evolving extraterrestrial microorganism.

The Years of Rice and Salt (novel): Kim Stanley Robinson's alternate history in which a mutated version of bubonic plague wipes out all of Europe, resulting in the emergence of a very different global balance of power than we know historically.

The Stand (novel or TV mini-series): humanity is devastated by the "Captain Trips" virus, and that's just the beginning of this Stephen King nightmare!

The Naked Time (TV episode): classic Star Trek episode in which a madness-inducing infection spread by touch afflicts the crew of the Enterprise.

COVID-19 CRISIS PROMPTS CANCELLATION OF CLUB MEETINGS AND EVENTS!

As announced days ago on the club's Web site, and here, now, in this special edition of Impulse, MonSFFA has cancelled future meetings and events until further notice!

Shortly after the club gathered at the Hôtel Espresso downtown for its March meeting, the ongoing coronavirus crisis began to swiftly escalate, with increasing numbers of infections reported in Quebec, the rest of Canada, the U.S., and Europe.

The announcement that the NBA had suspended play for the remainder of its season after a player was reported to have tested positive for the virus was just the first indication that professional sports leagues would be, in short order, shut down and major sporting events like the Australian Grand Prix and Boston Marathon postponed or cancelled. Things were suddenly moving very quickly, with breaking news reports practically every hour of schools shutting their doors, museums and tourist sites closing, film and television shows ceasing production, the cancellation of concert tours, serious stock market declines, and panic buying at grocery stores!

It wasn't long before Montreal announced that city-run arenas, libraries, and community centers would be closed until further notice. Other area cities, too, were closing their facilities. Quebec's casinos were shuttered! The reasoning was that by curtailing large gatherings of people, the virus' spread would be mitigated.

The Federal government has now strongly advised that Canadians not travel outside the country, and that those currently away return as soon as possible. National governments worldwide are similarly counselling their citizens, in some cases closing their borders, and enforcing mandatory nationwide shut-downs, travel restrictions and quarantines.

Prime Minister Trudeau is, himself, in self-isolation after his wife tested positive!

This shit is getting real!

It is, therefore, quite reasonable for MonSFFA to have suspended its meetings and events for the time being.

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
JANSSEN, Steven
NOVO, Alice
PICARD, Shawn
RUFIANGE, Yolande
TOUSIGNANT, Yves

Due This Month, March:

MÉNARD, François
WALLING, René

Due Next Month, April:

NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando

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: _____

COVID-19: A Few Facts

There is much about the COVID-19 virus that we do not yet know, and a lot of misinformation has been circulating online and elsewhere, so we felt it prudent to offer MonSFFen, as best we can, the facts as currently understood. Note that information concerning COVID-19 is evolving and subject to change based on scientific/medical research now underway.

- COVID-19 is a new infectious disease caused by a novel respiratory coronavirus believed to have originated in Wuhan, China at the end December last year.
- About 80 percent of people who contract the disease recover without need of special treatment. Roughly 16 percent become seriously ill and develop difficulty breathing. The elderly, and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions like heart or lung disease, diabetes, or cancer are at greater risk of becoming critically ill. The global mortality rate for COVID-19 was recently estimated at 3.4 percent.
- The COVID-19 virus is spread chiefly person-to-person, but may also be acquired from touching contaminated surfaces, and then touching one's nose, mouth, or rubbing one's eyes. But this is not thought to be its principal means of transmission. It is thought to spread mainly by the inhalation of respiratory droplets expelled from an infected person's nose or mouth when they exhale or cough. It is *not* an airborne virus.
- Wearing a mask to shield yourself from an infected individual will do little if anything to protect you.
- The length of time this virus can survive on objects is uncertain at this time, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses and may persist on surfaces for a few hours or a few days, depending on the type of surface, and on environmental conditions like temperature and humidity.
- The disease's incubation period—the time between catching the bug and the development of symptoms—is believed to be somewhere between one and 14 days, most probably about five days.
- The typical symptoms of COVID-19 are dry cough and fever, but patients may also suffer tiredness, aches and pains, nasal congestion, a runny nose, sore throat, and diarrhea.
- The COVID-19 virus may, or may not peter out as we move into summer and the weather warms. While the flu tends to weaken during warmer weather, this doesn't necessarily mean that the COVID-19 virus will do the same. Its aggressiveness right now in warm climates such as Florida and Australia suggest that, perhaps, it will continue to thrive into our Canadian summer.
- Antibiotics are ineffective against the COVID-19 virus, or in fact any viral infections. Antibiotics are designed to work against bacterial infections, not viruses. At this time, there is no vaccine or antiviral medication for COVID-19. Clinical trials are underway but it will take a year or more to develop a preventative treatment or cure.
- The best precautionary practises at the moment regarding COVID-19 are: 1) wash your hands thoroughly and often with soap and water; 2) as challenging as it may be, try to avoid touching your face; 3) keep a two-metre distance from others (social distancing) to remain out of range of any infected secretions expelled when another coughs or sneezes; 4) practise good respiratory hygiene

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

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

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

by coughing into your bent elbow or covering your mouth and nose with a tissue, and dispose of said tissue right away; 5) if you're not feeling well, stay home in self-isolation for at least two weeks and 6), if you must interact with people during this period, keep such contact to a minimum and wear a mask over your mouth and nose to prevent your infecting these people; finally, 7) if your symptoms become acute and you experience difficulty breathing, seek medical help immediately.

Costuming Focus of March Club Meeting

With the coronavirus crisis developing evermore rapidly, the club held likely its last meeting for a couple or more months on March 7, with costuming/cosplay the focus of proceedings.

Star Trek fan Dan Kenney got things started with a detailed and informative overview on the crafting of Klingon forehead prosthetics using latex rubber. With a number of examples on display, Dan showed how to first sculpt one's design in modelling clay on a mannequin's head, then brush on over that the liquid latex, one layer at a time, with the greater number of layers (25 to 30) providing the best, most durable result. He demonstrated live the application of a layer of latex, later carefully peeling it off to show everyone the result once it had set.

Colouring the prosthetic with make-up, matching to one's own skin tone, and introducing a wig and hair extensions to complete the piece were detailed, with Dan explaining each step of the process. He was careful to describe what to do, and why, as well as, importantly, what *not* do so as to arrive at a satisfactory end product. Of interest was an in-progress Klingon/Andorian hybrid design he had brought in, complete with antennae!

As he spoke, Dan showcased the various products and tools he uses in crafting his headpieces, all available commercially at stores selling arts and crafts supplies. Dan also covered the creation of Klingon uniforms, essentially attaching fabric pieces and painted cardboard "armour" to thrift store-bought clothing.

Lindsay Brown and Mark Burakoff followed with a show-and-tell showcasing some of the award-winning costumes they have made and worn in competition over the years. Notable was the way in which they mixed and matched store-bought clothing with their own tailored pieces, added accessories (some of these hand-made, or modified from dollar-store toys, etc.) to arrive at impressive steampunk, cartoon, and superhero costumes. Having a (usually humorous) skit of some kind when competing in a masquerade was emphasized; presentation is an important element of any successful competitive costuming entry! Also, Josée Bellemare offered a similar showcase of some of her fanciful costumes and custom-made T-shirts.

It had been decided to postpone until another time our planned discussion on the probability of our making contact with an extraterrestrial civilization, and so Keith Braithwaite closed this busy meeting with his presentation of some of the painting techniques that can be used to quickly and inexpensively upgrade toy water guns and such into more realistic looking costuming accessories, or props for fan-film productions. Using a dark wash can bring out the moulded detail on plastic sword or knife handles and blades, for instance, as well as paint on blood, oil, or grease stains. Dry brushing and stippling techniques can add wear-and-tear (simulated rust, nicks and scratches, mud and dirt) to surfaces while brightly coloured plastic items can be painted to look like wood, metal, or stone. Keith had on hand a few examples to show, and demonstrated live a few of the painting techniques of which he spoke, while folk had a go at it on a few of the toys brought in for this purpose.

We thank Dan, Lindsay, Mark, Josée, and Keith for their most informative presentations/demonstrations, and give a nod, as well, to all others who contributed to the planning and successful staging of this meeting.

Update: Club's Search for a New Meeting Hall

The community center on Bannantyne Avenue in Verdun mentioned last issue (March 2020) as a possible future meeting venue for MonSFFA will not likely pan out after all, in that rooms are apparently not available Saturday afternoons, and the facility is closed on Sundays. Our search continues; we will keep members updated on our progress via social media, and in these pages.

Briefly:

- ▶ There is no logical reason for people to be hoarding toilet paper during this crisis. Stop it!
- ▶ Impulse will publish its next issue approximately one week prior to the next MonSFFA club meeting or event, date yet to be determined but, we hope, sooner rather than later.