

I M P U L S E

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

November-December / Novembre-Décembre 2023 (Vol. 26, No./N° 4)

**NEXT
MonSFFA MEETING
IS ON SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 26!**

1:00PM-5:00PM

*Royal Canadian Legion,
Lachine Branch*

**3015 Rue Henri-Dunant,
Lachine, Quebec**

*Between Provost and Saint-Antoine,
just east of 32nd Avenue*

AGENDA:

- **SUPERPOWERS**—*The Kind You Don't Want!*
- **A DEEPER DIVE INTO A WRINKLE IN TIME AND AUTHOR MADELEINE L'ENGLE**—*More on L'Engle's Novel, its Adaptations in Other Media, and the Author Herself*
- **AIR SHOWS AND AVIATION MUSEUMS**—*A Little Something for SF Fans Who Often Are Also Fans of Aviation*

**MonSFFA's CHRISTMAS
LUNCHEON**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9,
2:00PM-6:00PM**

and...

**CLUB'S CHRISTMAS
ZOOM-CHAT!**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17,
1:00PM-4:00PM: www.MonSFFA.ca**

*See lead item, center column,
for details...*

**CLUB TO MEET NEXT ON
A SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER,
SATURDAY IN EARLY
DECEMBER FOR HOLIDAY
CELEBRATIONS!**

Important! Please take note that MonSFFA's upcoming **November Club Meeting** will take place later in the month than usual, and on a *Sunday*, not our customary Saturday!

As the Lachine Legion Hall was unavailable to us on *any* Saturday in November, we have therefore booked the room for Sunday, November 26. Mark your calendars accordingly.

Also, we will again hold our **Christmas Luncheon** in celebration of the festive season, this scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 9, from 2:00PM to 6:00PM.

A buffet will be offered, and we'll hold our traditional **MonSFFA Christmas Raffle**—lots of gift-wrapped prizes to be won! This raffle serves as a fund-raiser benefitting the club. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each; Platinum-level members enjoy a two-for-the-price-of-one bargain! So bring your loonies and folding money, and may the odds be ever in your favour!

We are returning to the same West Island locale as last year, courtesy L. E. Moir, who has made the arrangements. Members and guests will receive an official invitation, either via e-mail or postal mail, in advance of the event. Said invitation will include directions for those driving to the party, as well as for those travelling by public transit.

Post-Luncheon, those wanting to continue the celebrations will relocate a short distance to a local pub!

As regards our out-of-town members, unfortunately, WiFi is not available at the Luncheon locale, so a ZOOM hook-up will not be possible. We will, therefore, additionally host an **Online Get-Together** the following weekend, specifically on Sunday, December 17. This casual ZOOM-chat will run from 1:00PM to 4:00PM, allowing everyone the opportunity to exchange best wishes for the Holiday season.

**HAVE
YOU PAID YOUR
ANNUAL MonSFFA
MEMBERSHIP FEES?**

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the club's normal operation for more than three years! During this period, our regular in-person meetings were suspended, and the payment of annual fees were deferred.

The club has now begun again collecting those annual membership fees, this in order to return to a positive cash flow situation, and so cover the monthly costs of renewed operations.

Standard membership remains 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
29 Harold
Kirkland, Québec, Canada
H9J 1R7**

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 take *this* opportunity, now, to officially extend, by way of *Impulse*, MonSFFA's very best wishes to all club members and friends for a very Merry Christmas, Joyful Holiday, and a Happy New Year!

Impulse

Impulse is an electronic publication of the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA). Print copies (B&W) are available to club members who prefer a traditional news bulletin. If you wish to receive a print copy, contact us to have your name added to our mailing list.

Technical Difficulties Hamper Club's "Halloween" Meeting

Unfortunately, MonSFFA's October 14 "Halloween" meeting was beset by problems, primarily technical difficulties related to our use, on this occasion, of older, somewhat outdated equipment that seemed plagued by a poor WiFi signal. The smooth presentation of our programming, in particular the screening of video components, was thus impeded. Folk joining us online were the most adversely affected.

Local traffic issues, too, delayed the arrival of a couple of our principals, and conflicting outside events scheduled on this same date, perhaps, cut into attendance.

That said, those in attendance did enjoy Keith Braithwaite's treatise on the horror genre, in which he outlined just how writers and filmmakers manufacture the scares. Keith expanded upon Stephen King's "Three Levels of Horror," and offered the tips of genre scholars and professionals on terror-inducing techniques.

Joe Aspler followed with his presentation on early SF's view of our solar system, and how science, in due course, nullified even those then-learned speculations. Venus, for example, was thought to be a world of steamy jungles and swamps, populated by dinosaurs, much like prehistoric Earth. Mars was imagined as largely an arid world, made habitable due to that famous network of water-conveying canals.

Joe showcased many of science fiction's numerous visions of the various local planets as imagined by the genre's creative minds during the 19th century, and the first half of the 20th, *and* as recently as the 1960s and '70s!

Regrettably, the day's agenda fell behind schedule as we attempted to fix, or at least mitigate our technical difficulties. In the end, we scrubbed our closing group discussion on everyone's scariest moments recalled from horror movies and TV series. Another time, perhaps.

But, online attendees were able to enjoy exclusive bonus content which included a review and photo gallery of September's field trip to the Montreal Aviation Museum, in addition to reruns of presentations featured as part of the club's first Halloween e-meeting back in 2020, when the pandemic was but a few months along and the club had just begun meeting online. Of course, those physically present at *this* Halloween



gathering were able to access that same bonus content at home, post-meeting.

We thank our presenters, as well as all who contributed to our 2023 Halloween meeting.

Getting to the Lachine Legion for November's Meeting

Easily accessible via public transit, the Lachine Legion is located at 3015 Rue Henri-Dunant, between Provost and St-Antoine, just east of 32nd Avenue (see map).

The 191 bus, among others, stops on 32nd Avenue, less than a 10-minute walk from the Legion. Those travelling from Montreal, for example, can board the 191 at the Lionel Groulx Metro Station; the ride to 32nd Avenue clocks in at about 35 minutes. From neighbourhoods west of Lachine, the 191, as well as the 195, depart from Terminus Dorval and take roughly 25 minutes to reach 32nd.

We recommend that transit users consult the STM (www.stm.info/en) for the bus routes that will most efficiently convey them from their particular neighbourhood to the Lachine Legion and back.

MonSFFen travelling to the Lachine Legion by car may exit from Autoroute 20, whether eastbound or westbound, at 32nd Avenue (Exit 60). Drivers may also access 32nd from Autoroute 13. It's a short couple blocks drive south on 32nd to the intersection with Provost (see map). Turn east onto Provost, then promptly south onto 31st Avenue, which lets out onto Henri-Dunant. Turn east again and find the Legion Hall about 50 metres from the intersection on the south side of the street.

The Legion maintains a parking lot adjacent the building; there is no charge to park one's vehicle. Free parking is also available on Henri-Dunant.

Quickies:

- Middling enthusiasm and comparatively lacklustre box-office for *The Marvels*, and other recent superhero movies, suggests that, perhaps, audiences are tiring of such fare. This was bound to happen, sooner or later!
- Coming soon to Netflix: Zack Snyder's *Rebel Moon*, initially pitched as a more mature *Star Wars* story, then as a video game, a TV series, and finally, as a two-part film aspiring to spawn a franchise. Part one will screen on the streaming giant in December, with part two following in April of 2024.
- MonSFFA is finding it more difficult than expected to secure desired dates for our meetings at the Lachine Legion, and further, the price has already jumped a couple of times, without prior notice! So, the Executive feels compelled to consider alternatives. But for the moment, we continue to meet, live and in person, at the Lachine Legion.

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 *Impulse* mailing address: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9

Impulse est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club ● Courriel: keith1958@live.ca ● Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831 ● Par la poste à l'adresse de *Impulse*: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9