

**NEXT
MonSFFA MEETING:
SATURDAY, APRIL 13
1:00PM-5:00PM**

Le Nouvel Hotel
1740 Boul. René-Lévesque O
(corner St-Mathieu)

“Salle Maisonneuve”
(South Tower)

...and simultaneously on ZOOM!
www.MonSFFA.ca

**MonSFFA has moved back
downtown to a new meeting hall!**

We are now meeting in Le Nouvel Hotel's “Salle Maisonneuve.” Le Nouvel is only one block west of our pre-pandemic meeting place, and located on a major bus line. Nearest Metro: Guy/Concordia or Lucien-L'Allier, both just a short walk from Le Nouvel!

MEETING THEME: Spring! The weather is warming, the days are longer, the birds are returning, the club is meeting downtown again, and we've just witnessed a rare total solar eclipse right here in our own backyard! Life is good! We invite members to share their eclipse experience with the group, and to simply enjoy the season!

APRIL AGENDA INCLUDES:

- **THE ECLIPSE EXPERIENCE!**— Share your experience observing last week's solar eclipse!
- **THE SPARK THAT LIT THE FIRE!**— What first got you into SF&F?
- **MAESTRO OF THE MARKETING GIMMICK!**— Career of horror film producer/director William Castle!
and more...

**NEW
MEETING
HALL!**

**MonSFFA INAUGURATES
NEW MEETING HALL!**

Last month, the club held its first meeting in our new downtown meeting hall! Our March 9 get-together inaugurated the new locale and offered a fun and interesting agenda of programming.

Not unexpectedly, a few new-room glitches surfaced, but nothing too serious, and the meeting unfolded smoothly, both live-and-in-person and on ZOOM.

The coffee-and-cookies service provided as part of our new function-space rental contract was excellent, and we marked, as a result, the necessary retirement of our long-running, volunteer-stocked MonSFFA Snack Table. All good things...

Several of the MonSFFen in attendance remarked that this new downtown location made travel by public transit to the meeting a lot easier than was the case during the months of our meeting in suburban Lachine at the local Royal Canadian Legion branch.

**SF WRITER RICH LARSON
TO GUEST AT CLUB'S
MAY MEETING!**

We are pleased to announce that SF writer Rich Larson will attend our May 11 meeting as guest speaker! Rich's books include *Annex*, *Ymir*, and the short story collection *Tomorrow Factory*.

He has been praised by Gardner Dozois as “One of the best new writers to enter science fiction in more than a decade.” Currently based in Montreal, Rich was born in Galmi, Niger, and has lived in Spain and the Czech Republic. His fiction has been translated into over a dozen languages, among them Polish, French, Romanian and Japanese.

Rich will speak on his personal creative process, the mechanics of writing short fiction, the business of selling same, and the transition to novel writing. A Q&A will follow, and Rich will cover, as well, his experience with the Emmy-winning television adaptation of one of his stories for *LOVE DEATH + ROBOTS!*

**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: _____

Check out Rich's bibliography at the Internet Speculative Fiction Database:

[isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?Rich%20Larson](https://www.freesfonline.net/authors/Rich_Larson.html)

In advance of his guesting at our May meeting, sample some of his fiction online at:

https://www.freesfonline.net/authors/Rich_Larson.html

A special nod of thanks to *Warp* editor Danny Sichel, who arranged for Rich's appearance.

MonSFFA FIELD TRIP 2024

The club has scheduled a group outing to take place on either Saturday, June 8 or Sunday, June 9; which of these dates we choose will be determined by our ultimate selection of a destination during our upcoming April 13 club meeting.

The list of field trip possibilities, as suggested by members and in no particular order of preference, is as follows:

1. Insectarium, Montreal (East End)
2. Biodome, Montreal (East End)
3. Cosmodome (Space Museum), Laval
4. Hydro-Electric Dam Tour, either Beauharnois, QC, or Cornwall, ON
5. Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa
6. Natural History Museum, Ottawa
7. Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (Downtown), which includes, among other special exhibitions, The Pop of Life (Pop Art, until July 2024) and the Wanda Koop Exhibition "Who Owns the Moon" (until August 4)

We will review these options at our April 13 meeting and select one of them to visit as our 2024 Field Trip. We'll decide, too, on a meet-up time and address any other important details.

RECENT CLUB MEETINGS

The club met exclusively online in February. We had been unable to confirm with the Lachine Legion a date in February and so, rather than cancel our meeting outright, opted instead to simply hold an online-only get-together on ZOOM.

In keeping with our designated meeting theme, we began proceedings with an informative primer on New Orleans' Mardi Gras (underway at the time), with presenter Josée Bellemare suggesting that the exquisite, colourful costumes of that annual event might serve as inspiration for fantasy cosplayers in particular.

A discussion/debate followed on the topic of the genre's worst monsters, from the giants of Kaiju and those slimy, slobbering horrors from outer space to the creations of Mad Science and the supernatural demons of the underworld! Folk debated what exactly constituted a "monster," some arguing that Dr. Frankenstein's creation or King Kong were not monsters, per se, but simply creatures having no particular animosity towards man, until provoked by man. Like that of a cornered housecat that hisses and scratches at what it perceives as a threat, their behaviour was defensive, a reaction to the "real monsters" of those stories, Dr. Frankenstein and Carl Denham's company of adventurers/filmmakers.

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 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 de Impulse: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9



Others argued that anything posing a threat to man could be considered a monster, certainly from the perspective of man; vampires were cited, as was the acid-for-blood alien that attacked Ripley and her crewmates. Whether a monster saw man as prey was a factor, too, it was noted. But what about a behemoth like Godzilla, or some of Lovecraft's monsters, to which men are merely insignificant insects? Are they *truly* monsters?

The group also got into the worst monsters of sci-fi B-movies, as in the cheesiest, silliest, most laughably ridiculous examples brought to life by poor-quality special effects! Several members presented lists and slideshows highlighting such monsters of the 1950s and '60s as the Giant Claw, the Horror of Party Beach, and Tybo the Carrot Man, famously of *Lost in Space*'s "The Great Vegetable Rebellion."

A discussion of sci-fi's lovable rogues followed, with the group attempting to understand the attraction of Han Solo and his like, as well as the allure of the anti-hero—the bad boy, or girl. For most, it came down to these protagonists being flawed, but essentially good, decent, noble individuals, and therefore more realistic characters when set against the often too-perfect, too-righteous square-jawed heroes of a story.

Time was also devoted to taking from MonSFFen topic suggestions for future meeting programming.

March 9 saw the club hold its first meeting in our new downtown locale.

Featured was Joe Aspler's presentation on proto-SF, exploring the literature that was, essentially, science fiction before the term even existed, like Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818) and Johannes Kepler's *Somnium* (1609, published 1634). Science being a principal element of science fiction, the group debated whether the science in these early works was really closer to fantasy or superstition, and therefore disqualifying. It was noted that by today's standards, perhaps true, but this ancient reasoning was nonetheless the science of its day.

We also enjoyed members' stories of meeting SF/F celebrities, and a game challenging MonSFFen to identify a series of genre movies from their promotional posters, the rub being that each poster had had the film's title and other pertinent information masked off.

We thank all of our meeting planners, presenters, and discussion moderators for their contributions to these two meetings.