

IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

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

January / Janvier 2008 (Vol. 12, No./Nº 1)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, January 13

1:00PM-5:00PM

Gatineau Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

ELECTION OF 2008 EXECUTIVE:
Membership selects MonSFFA's
president, VP, and treasurer for
the coming year.

1:15PM

GETTING WARPED: Hands-on
workshop; contribute an article,
review, photos, or art to the
club's fanzine on the spot and
help put the next issue together.

3:30PM

FAN FILM THEATRE: Enjoy the
latest in SF/F-themed fan film
productions culled from the Web.

UPCOMING MonSFFA MEETINGS:

FEBRUARY 17

Reproduction in SF

MARCH 30

**Star Trek: Animated Series,
Remastered Original Series**

APRIL 20

**Fund-Raiser: Bake Sale
and Sci-Fi Garage Sale**

MonSFFen Celebrate Festive Season and Club's 20th Anniversary



MonSFFA marked its 20th anniversary last month, adding commemorative celebrations to the club's annual Christmas party. In addition to the usual Christmas party traditions, the club welcomed MonSFFen, current and former, and friends to a buffet dinner and dance, handed out special anniversary souvenirs, and screened nostalgic video footage, circa MonSFFA's early years.

Over 40 folk joined the party, among them former MonSFFA members Kevin Holden and Trudie Mason, he a founding member of the club and both very active in the organization of events and activities during MonSFFA's formative years. Ex-Montrealer Andrew Gurudata, a long-time friend of the club, travelled from Toronto to DJ the party while Mark Burakoff and Lindsay Brown oversaw a super-sized raffle, prizes for which included a number of books, collectibles, DVDs, and a portable DVD player. A number of nifty door prizes were also distributed throughout the evening.

The club's archives were opened for the occasion and

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The annual membership fees
of the following MonSFFA
members are *overdue*:

AUBIN, Debra
BLOOM, Hendrik
ETTINGER, Sheila
HUOT, Geneviève
MURPHY, Tim
NADEAU, Marc
SHAINBLUM, Mark

**Annual membership fees
are due this month, January,
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members:**

Ø

Annual membership fees
will become due next month,
February, from the following
MonSFFA members:

BROWN, Lindsay
KRIMP, Nick
LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie

Please renew your MonSFFA
membership in timely fashion.
Annual dues for a regular
membership are \$25. Fill out the
application form, bottom of page,
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**

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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.

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APT./APP.

Interests / Intérêts: _____

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Mark Burakoff, Lindsay Brown oversee raffle at club's 20th Anniversary bash (below); Theresa Penalba celebrates on dance floor (right).



MonSFFA president Berny Reischl, right, catches up on news with gafiated Kevin Holden, a club founder. All photos this issue by Charles Mohapel.

MonSFFA's complete collection of *Warp* fanzines was put on display for perusal. Party-goers, meanwhile, signed anniversary messages to the club on a large card provided for that purpose. The revelry finally wrapped up in the wee hours; a great time was had by all!

The club salutes its current membership and all MonSFFEn who have come and gone over the past 20 years. And, we thank those many club members and friends who pitched in to help plan and run our 20th Anniversary/Christmas 2007 party.

November MonSFFA Meeting

We're short of space this issue, so we'll be brief.

MonSFFA's November 18 meeting opened with Sylvain St-Pierre's trip report on the 2007 Worldcon in Yokohama, Japan. Sylvain showed numerous slides as illustration while he recounted his experiences at Nippon 2007, noting that the Japanese approach to SF conventions is somewhat different from that of Canadians and Americans. The practice of pre-registering for a con, for example, is uncommon in Japan and thus, lines at the Japanese Worldcon's pre-registration desk were rather shorter than North American fans expected. Sylvain spoke, as well, of host city Yokohama, which he explored to some extent during his stay, offering photos of several of the local attractions he visited.

Following the mid-meeting break, Keith Braithwaite, assisted by his children Scott and

Erin, ran a challenging and entertaining game of Sci-Fi Pictionary.

Just prior to the start of the meeting, the club's BoA convened to map out programming for the coming year.

Our thanks to all those who contributed to our November meeting.

2008 MonSFFA Meeting Schedule

The club has selected the following dates for its regular meetings and events this year: January 13, February 17, March 30, April 20, May 25, June 22 (field trip), July 20 (summer barbecue), August 24, September 21, October 26, November 16, December 6 (Christmas party).

2008 Club Elections

The first order of business at the club's January 13 meeting will be the selection of MonSFFA's 2008 Executive Committee. All club members in good standing are encouraged to participate in this process.

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. The three executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility.

Our sitting Executive members are: Berny Reischl, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; and 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.

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.

Reminder: MonSFFA Address Change

We remind our readers that MonSFFA changed its mailing address last year. We are no longer at the Place du Parc postal box we had used for a decade or more. Please remember to direct all mail to the club's *new* address:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**

Printed Version of January 2008 Impulse Delayed

Production of the printed version of this issue of *Impulse* has been unavoidably delayed and, regrettably, will not reach the mailboxes of our subscribers in the usual timely manner. We apologize for the delay. This electronic version of the issue has been distributed as always.

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February / Février 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 2)

NEXT MonSFFA
MEETING IS
THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, February 17

11:00AM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:00AM

BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING:

MonSFFA's BoA convenes to
finalize 2008 programming and
discuss club business.

1:00PM

PLANET XXX: A look at love,
alien style, as variously depicted
in SF.

3:00PM

SCARY MONSTERS, SUPER

CREEPS: We examine the craft of
scaring an audience. (Note: plans
to invite local cult horror movie-
maker SV Bell to speak at our
meeting fell through as he was
unavailable on this date. We hope
to welcome him to a MonSFFA
meeting later in the year.)

**NEXT MONTH'S
MonSFFA MEETING:**

MARCH 30

—*Star Trek*—

**Animated Series and
Remastered Original Series**

2008 Executive Faces Difficult Year

With rough seas ahead, MonSFFA opted for a steady hand on the tiller in 2008—last year's Executive Committee have been returned to office for another year. President Berny Reischl, vice-president Keith Braithwaite, and treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre probably make up the most experienced of any MonSFFA Executive to date. This will serve us well as the club tackles dramatic operating cost increases related to the rental of our meeting room, an issue we expect will override just about all others in the coming year.

The Days Hotel has again increased function space rental rates this year and our treasury simply cannot sustain these elevated costs for much longer. Already struggling with last year's price hike, MonSFFA is now faced with somehow raising still more cash, cutting meetings, or abandoning the hotel altogether for another, less expensive meeting hall, if indeed such a locale can be found. No walk in the park but we are confident of having put in place the best possible Executive to deal with the situation.

We wish Berny, Keith, and Sylvain well as they prepare to pilot the club through another year.

2008 MonSFFA Meeting Schedule Revisions

The Days Hotel has informed MonSFFA that a possible booking conflict may require us to reschedule our September 21 meeting. We'd be looking at holding the meeting a week earlier. Pending further word from the hotel, however, our September meeting date remains as is.

Our planned October 26 meeting has been scrubbed as meeting rooms are unavailable on that

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THIBODEAU, Claude

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date, or on any other in October. We are considering alternate activities for that month.

The remainder of our meeting schedule remains unchanged: February 17, March 30, April 20, May 25, June 22 (field trip), July 20 (summer barbecue), August 24, November 16, and December 6 (Christmas party).

January MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA kicked off 2008 with a newsletter workshop, overseen by *Warp* editor Cathy Palmer-Lister. MonSFFEn present were recruited to write articles, pen reviews, and such for the next issue of *Warp*, the club's newsletter/fanzine, while others were asked to proofread submissions. Cathy introduced an informal nostalgic theme in the wake of MonSFFA's 20th anniversary celebrations, held in December. A few of the club's old-timers were interviewed, reminiscing on the club's early days.

Following the mid-meeting break, Berny Reischl cued up a selection of fan films he'd culled from the Web, including a clever *Star Trek* spoof presented in the style of an old black-and-white silent movie, complete with melodramatic

acting, printed dialogue panels, and piano accompaniment. Of particular interest were several funny, well-acted shorts produced by a Montreal-based troupe of filmmakers/actors calling themselves GalactiCast, who deftly applied green-screen techniques to rather good visual effect. *Lost*, *Blade Runner*, *King Kong*, *Power Rangers*, even TV's Dr. Phil were the subjects of the group's farcical sci-fi parodies.

The club membership present also selected MonSFFA's Executive Committee for the coming year (see lead item).

Our thanks to all who contributed to our January meeting.

Printed Version of January Impulse Included with February Mailing

We again apologize for the delay in delivering the printed version of last month's *Impulse*. While the online version was distributed as always, production delays prevented the printed version from reaching our subscribers' mailboxes in the usual timely manner, just before the scheduled January club meeting. A number of MonSFFEn picked up their copies at

that meeting last month; the rest have received their due copy by post along with this month's *Impulse*. Better late than never.

Reminder: MonSFFA Address Change

We are still receiving items of mail at the club's old address. As the post office will soon cease to redirect our mail, we remind club members and correspondents that MonSFFA changed its mailing address late last year. We are no longer at the Place du Parc postal box we had used for many years. Please remember to henceforth address all mail to MonSFFA's new coordinates:

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

Emru Townsend

We are in receipt of solemn news that longtime friend of MonSFFA Emru Townsend is ill and in need of a bone marrow donor. Our thoughts are with him and his family.

As we understand it, finding a compatible donor is, unfortunately, no easy task. Emru's sister, Tamu, has provided the following Web site addresses and encourages folk to consider registering as bone marrow donors. "The 11 million potential donors worldwide can help save a life," she says.

Hema Quebec:
<http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca>

Canada Blood Services:
<http://onematch.ca/registry>

National Marrow Donor Program (US):
<http://www.marrow.org>

National Blood Service (UK):
<https://secure.blood.co.uk/bonemarrow.asp>

MonSFFA Moment A Moment in the 20-Year History of MonSFFA

1988 **MonSTA becomes MonSFFA:** This club began as a Star Trek fan club, the Montreal Star Trek Association, MonSTA. However, soon after the launch of the club in late 1987, it became apparent that the interests of members extended well beyond Star Trek. At the urging of then-club executives Kevin Holden and Capucine Plourde, MonSTA's members voted to expand the club's sphere of interest beyond Star Trek to encompass all of the science fiction and fantasy universe. Thus, in 1988, MonSTA became MonSFFA, the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association.

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March / Mars 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 3)

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Sunday, March 30

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

AN ANIMATED ENTERPRISE: We review the further adventures of Captain Kirk and crew as depicted in the Saturday-morning Star Trek cartoon series.

3:00PM

CLASSIC TREK REMASTERED: A sampling of some of the remastered and enhanced footage featured on the new high definition video disc releases of the original Star Trek series.

UPCOMING MonSFFA MEETINGS:

APRIL 20

- Green Science Fiction
- Sci-Fi Garage Sale (Fund-Raiser)

MAY 25

- Heroes and Villains
- Trivia Game Challenge

JUNE 22

- Field Trip to Montreal Biodome

Last of the "Big Three"

Multiple Hugo and Nebula award-winning science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke passed away of respiratory illness on March 19 at age 90. He had suffered for decades from post-polio syndrome, the result of having contracted polio in 1962. The British-born Clarke, an enthusiast of undersea exploration who has lived in Sri Lanka for some 50 years, was the last of science fiction's so-called "big three," Isaac Asimov and Robert A. Heinlein being the other two best known and most celebrated SF writers of the post-World War II era.

An avid collector of pulp science fiction magazines in his youth, and a devoted "space cadet," Clarke was the first non-American Guest of Honour at a Worldcon, in 1956. His major science fiction novels include *Childhood's End* (1950; expanded 1953), *The City and the Stars* (1953; expanded 1956), *The Deep Range* (1954; expanded 1957), *A Fall of Moondust* (1961), *Rendezvous With Rama* (1973), and *The Fountains of Paradise* (1979). He is probably most associated, however, with *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968), the definitive SF film by Stanley Kubrick, which Clarke co-scripted with Kubrick, and which was based on Clarke's short story "The Sentinel" (1951). Clarke also novelized the film.

In 1945 he published "Extra-Terrestrial Relays," a paper outlining the principles of satellite communication using satellites in geostationary orbits. Some 25 years later his concept became reality. He received numerous honours for his invention and today the 42,000-kilometer geostationary orbit is referred to as the Clarke Orbit, so named by the International Astronomical Union.

Twice chairman of the British Interplanetary Society (BIS), Clarke's work on space flight influenced astronomer Carl Sagan while TV producer Gene Roddenberry took some of his inspiration for *Star Trek* from Clarke. In July of 1969, CBS tapped Clarke to co-anchor news coverage of the *Apollo 11* moon mission with Walter Cronkite and astronaut Wally Schirra. He repeated the assignment for *Apollo 12* and *15*, and the historic *Apollo-Soyuz* link-up.

The visionary Clarke was among the first to predict reusable space vehicles and the proliferation of the mobile phone. He speculated that we'll soon see space tourism, complete with domed hotels on the moon and people riding

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HAMMOCK, Christopher

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DODDS, Georges
NOVO, Fernando

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CLARKE'S LAWS

First

When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong.

Second

The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to venture beyond them into the impossible.

Third

Any significantly advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

into orbit on the space elevator he envisioned in *The Fountains of Paradise*. He also ventured that the 21st century will see the development of some kind of new energy source, that we'll be able to synthesize all of our food in the not-too-distant future, and that by 2030, we will have made contact with an extraterrestrial civilization.

February MonSFFA Meeting

Sex and horror were on the agenda at MonSFFA's February 17 gathering.

Sylvain St-Pierre was first up with an extensively researched presentation on reproduction in SF, from strange alien mating rituals to the creation of life via such means as genetic manipulation and cloning. Aldous Huxley's novel *Brave New World* and the popular *Star Wars* movies, for example, feature cloning. Mary Shelley's classic *Frankenstein* was offered as an example of the creation of life not by God but man, with horrific consequences, while tales of artificial life include the films *Blade Runner* and *A.I.* Vampires, *Star Trek's* Borg, and the pods of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* reproduce by assimilation. Immortality eliminates the need to reproduce and, indeed, the state of imperishability goes hand in hand with impotence in Bob Shaw's *One Million Tomorrows*. And then there's Frank Bellkap Long, who postulates a species in which the females are a thousand times larger than the

males. Larry Niven's female Kzinti, meanwhile, are non-sentient. But it is the male Dextran who is non-sentient in David J. Lake's *The Right Hand of Dextra*. Isaac Asimov creates a scenario involving three sexes in *The Gods Themselves* while Jack Vance's Dirdir features multiple types of males and females. A.E. Van Vogt's Riim and Jack L. Chalker's Czill reproduce by splitting apart, as does the Blob of classic sci-fi movie fame.

Sylvain outlined still more stories in which aliens sported, for instance, removable sex organs, or could switch genders or procreate with other species—*Star Trek* features a lot of this type of hanky panky—or enjoy sex telepathically. When it was all over, everyone lit up and enjoyed a cigarette.

Keith Braithwaite was up after the mid-meeting break with a discussion of the techniques employed by horror writers and filmmakers to scare their readers and viewers. Keith cited comment on the subject by a variety of horror writers, including Stephen King, Dean Koontz, Robert Bloch, Charles L. Grant, and William F. Nolan.

Nothing is so frightening as what's behind the closed door. The anticipation of violence is far more suspenseful than violence itself. The monster glimpsed at in the shadows is much scarier than the one viewed in graphic detail. In other words, allowing the reader or viewer's imagination to do the heavy lifting, rather than laying it all out before an audience, works best. No blood-splattered prose or gut-churning gore splashed on the screen can equal the spine-tingling chills evoked by the imagination of the reader or viewer. A cheap scare can be had by shocking an audience with some sudden, gruesome trick, but *real*, down-deep terror is best achieved by suggestion, by the steady building of suspense, by tapping into the most primal fears of the reader or viewer.

Keith examined this thinking in detail, providing examples from horror literature and film, while outlining some of the stylistic techniques employed by successful horror writers. For example, words and images of death—quiet as graveyard, moonlight as pale as a corpse—subliminally suggest to the reader that a character is in serious danger or is about to die. Also, the use of simpler words and shorter sentences as the narrative approaches a climatic moment of violence increasingly propels the reader forward, headlong, to that moment.

Our thanks to presenters Sylvain St-Pierre and Keith Braithwaite.

MonSFFA Moment A Moment in the 20-Year History of MonSFFA

1996 **Plant 9 From Outer Space:** A cast and crew of some two dozen MonSFFen shoot a cheesy Ed Wood-style sci-fi movie over the course of a single weekend in late February. *Plant 9 From Outer Space*, a humourous, low-budget spoof of SF films and TV shows, and of fandom, premieres to a standing-room-only crowd later that year at Con•Cept. MonSFFA's first fan film is an instant hit and will subsequently garner an Aurora Award nomination while sales of VHS copies more than double expectations. *Plant 9* turns a substantial profit for the club, soon spawning a sequel and, in years to come, further successful "MonSFFilms".

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April / Avril 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 4)

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Sunday, April 20

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

Sci-Fi Garage/Bake Sale (MonSFFA Fund-Raiser)

1:00-5:00PM

BAKE SALE: Our expanded MonSFFA snack table is open all afternoon and we and invite you to sample our menu of tasty SF/F-themed delicacies!

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

GREEN SCIENCE FICTION:

An examination of environmental themes in SF literature and film.

2:15PM

SCI-FI GARAGE SALE: We open our fund-raising sale of cool SF/F stuff! MonSFFen are invited to bring in their used books, old toys and collectibles, etc. and sell these treasures to fellow club members. Then, buy something of theirs! MonSFFA will collect a 10-percent share of sales as a facilitator's fee. (See lead item, right, for full details.)

Next Month's Meeting:

MAY 25

**Heroes and Villains
Visual Trivia Challenge**

Sci-Fi Garage/Bake Sale

The club is holding a small fund-raiser at our April 20 meeting in the form of a combination garage and bake sale (see events calendar, left). We encourage all members to participate, and to bring a friend!

Here's how it'll work:

Let's begin with the garage sale. Members are invited to sell off some of their old sci-fi stuff—books and comics, videos and DVDs, toys and collectibles! Clear your shelves of used magazines, or empty your cupboards of items you no longer collect and sell these treasures to your fellow MonSFFen.

We ask that you please slap your name and a price tag on each item or bundle of your stock.

And, stuff a few extra dollars in your wallet or purse as you will almost certainly spot something someone else has brought in that you've just got to have!

As facilitator, MonSFFA asks for a 10-percent cut of your sales—sell \$50 worth, for example, and MonSFFA receives \$5 of that. We'll have a few members on duty to handle things and oversee the garage sale.

And, MonSFFA will accept with *much* thanks any generous donations of cool items members may wish to make in support of the club's fund-raising efforts. Said items will be included as prizes in future club raffles or, should we accumulate a sufficient number, auctioned off that very afternoon to augment garage sale profits.

We've conceived the bake sale as a lavish version of our usual MonSFFA snack table. Suggested donations for the various delicious treats will be posted.

Members may participate in two ways: first, by purchasing some of the tasty offerings and second, by supplying a few of these edibles. We ask that members prepare a delectable SF/F-themed snack—cookies, cupcakes, fudge or chocolate squares, for example—or modify munchies purchased at the grocery store to somehow reflect our sci-fi theme—the *Star Trek* insignia might be rendered in icing on a store-bought cookie, for instance. Members not particularly skilled at creating desserts may simply pick up a commercially available snack item that can be cleverly renamed—a donut could thus become a stargate. Be creative and have fun.

Note that a *small* serving for about a dozen people is all

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The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

KRIMP, Nick
HUOT, Geneviève

**Annual membership fees
are due this month, April,
from the following MonSFFA
members:**

DODDS, Georges

Annual membership fees will become due next month, May, from the following MonSFFA members:

BENNETT, Paul
BURAKOFF, Mark
MINEAU, Sebastien
SICHEL, Danny
WALLING, René
WHITELAW, Maureen

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**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**

Thank you for renewing your membership in MonSFFA, Montreal's premiere SF/F fan club.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Address / Adresse: _____

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Interests/Intérêts: _____

that is required of each member supplying a snack or two. Also, please do not prepare foodstuffs that require refrigeration or that need to be heated before serving as we are not equipped to handle such. And importantly, please include a list of ingredients for the benefit of MonSFFen who may have allergies to certain foods.

All monies raised through this Sci-Fi Garage/Bake Sale will be directed to the club's general operating fund.

Star Trek Theme at March MonSFFA Meeting

Star Trek was the theme of our well-attended March 30 meeting, with Theresa Penalba speaking on *Star Trek: the Animated Series* and Wayne Glover allowing MonSFFen a look at some of the original series episodes recently re-released in high definition DVD format, sporting extraordinary reworked visual effects.

Theresa led off, briefly covering the origins of the *Star Trek* series that continued the adventures of the original *Enterprise* crew in animated form for two seasons, from 1973 to 1975.

While a Filmation Studios-produced cartoon, the Daytime Emmy Award-winning *Star Trek: the Animated Series* was not typical Saturday-morning kiddie fare. The show reunited all but Walter "Chekov" Koenig of the original live-action series' cast—Koenig was a victim of budgetary restrictions—and featured stories by many of the same writers who had penned scripts for the original series. The writers followed the same guide that had been used on the original show, but had greater freedom to envision bizarre alien races and such as this was an animated series—anything that could be imagined could be drawn. Original series alumna D.C. Fontana was hired as the animated show's story editor on Gene Roddenberry's recommendation.

Despite being a cartoon, the show resisted dumbing things down for the kindergarten set and offered a combination of familiar and new characters to satisfy old and new audiences alike. Most notable of the new crew were the multi-limbed Edosian Lieutenant Arex, and the feline Lieutenant M'Ress. Sequels to some of *Trek's* favourite tales pleased fans who had been yearning for more since the cancellation

MonSFFA Moment A Moment in the 20-Year History of MonSFFA

1992

First TransWarp: MonSFFA was one of five local skiffy clubs that together mounted a mini-con in mid-April dubbed the TransWarp Mega-Meeting. The cost and workload of staging this event was shared among the clubs, as was a healthy profit, a portion of which was donated to charity. Some 125 folk attended. The event came about after MonSFFA and Warp 9, one of the partner clubs, having been informed by a mutual member that both had scheduled a meeting on the same day, discussed the idea of holding a joint meeting. It turned out the member had been in error but the ball was already rolling and the idea soon grew to include the other three clubs.

of the original series several years prior. Further, these animated adventures featured original-series guest stars like Mark "Sarek" Lenard, Roger C. "Harry Mudd" Carmel, and Stanley "Cyrano Jones" Adams reprising their familiar roles.

The animated series also introduced elements that would show up in later versions of *Star Trek*, like the holodeck, a second exit on the *Enterprise's* bridge, and the revelation that the "T" in James T. Kirk stood for Tiberius.

Theresa closed by treating the group to a screening of the episode "More Tribbles, More Troubles," a sequel to the classic "The Trouble With Tribbles."

Following the mid-meeting break, Wayne Glover took center stage and offered his audience a look at the high definition DVD releases of the original series. He noted that the recent scrapping of the HD-DVD format in favour of Blu-Ray has resulted in the cancellation of any further *Star Trek* releases in HD-DVD. To date, season one of the original series has been released but the planned follow-up of seasons two and three is now revoked. All three seasons will be retooled for the Blu-Ray system.

This hi-def *Trek* features spectacular new digitally created visual effects that have been inserted into the episodes, replacing the low-budget effects work of the originals. Matte paintings and planetscapes have been upgraded to remarkable result. The *Enterprise* itself is beautifully recreated in CGI, refined with

exceptional hull detail of a quality light years beyond that of the original images. Fresh camera angles and movements, as well, dramatically improve the visual impact of the *Enterprise* and other spaceships maneuvering against enhanced starfields. Where the original special effects often showed a simple bright light to represent an oncoming spaceship viewed on the main screen by Kirk and crew, the reworked visuals offer a nuts-and-bolts spacecraft wonderfully realized in CGI. One of the most awesomely revamped sequences, to be sure, is the wreck of the starship *Constellation* from "The Doomsday Machine."

Release dates for the Blu-Ray versions of the three original series seasons are not known at this time and while some of these hi-def episodes have been broadcast on cable in the U.S., they have not yet aired in Canada, Wayne stated. The MonSFFen present, then, were glad of the opportunity to have a look.

We thank our March-meeting presenters Theresa Penalba and Wayne Glover, as well as Beryn Reischl for providing technical support. The usual suspects receive a nod of thanks, too, for their help planning and running the meeting.

Early arrivals were treated during the pre-meeting time slot to a screening of a recent episode of *Star Trek: New Voyages*, a semi-professional Web-based series. A quick club BoA was also convened during the mid-meeting break to cement the last details of 2008 MonSFFA meeting programming.

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DE FANTASTIQUE

May-June / Mai-Juin 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 5)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, May 25

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

HEROES AND VILLAINS: We try our hand at designing a comic book superhero and his or her nemesis.

2:30PM

PIXELIZED SCI-FI POSTER CHALLENGE:

A visual game that challenges players to identify sci-fi movie posters the images of which have been purposely obscured by the application of several pixelation filters. How good is your eye at filling in the details?

FIELD TRIP TO BIODOME

Sunday, June 22

MonSFFen to meet in
entrance lobby of Montreal
Biodome at 10:45AM

Biodome located next to Olympic
Stadium (Metro Pie-IX or Viau)

Admission: Adults \$20, Children \$10

See lead item, right, for details.

JULY 20

MONSFFA BBQ, PARC ANGRIGNON

Sign Up for Biodome Field Trip

The club has planned a field trip to Montreal's Biodome in place of a June meeting. The outing will take place on Sunday, June 22.

The Biodome, housed in the former Olympic Velodrome next to the Olympic Stadium (Metro Pie-IX or Viau), is a first-rate zoological exhibition featuring recreations of a number of ecosystems supporting a variety of terrestrial and aquatic animal life. Wonderful photographic opportunities abound. Our admission fee includes self-guided tours of not only the Biodome, but the related Insectarium and Botanical Gardens.

We will gather in the entrance lobby of the Biodome at 10:45AM (don't be late!) in order that we may enter as a group at 11:15AM and benefit from a special group rate offered for admission: \$20 per adult, \$10 per child. These prices amount to \$5 off the regular cost of admission per individual. We require a group of at least 20 to qualify for the discount. MonSFFen are encouraged to welcome family and friends along for the afternoon.

Some club members have already signed up; we must reach the 20-person minimum by the conclusion of our May 25 meeting, and collect all monies for the group admission charge. Note that should we be unable to meet that minimum, all monies will be refunded and we'll each then have to pay the regular admission charge.

Finally, folk may wish to bring with them a bagged lunch rather than partake of the somewhat pricey onsite snack bar.

Next Impulse in July

Please note that *Impulse* will not publish next month, June, as the issue you hold in hand (or are viewing on screen) covers both May and June. The next issue of the news bulletin is scheduled for release in mid-July, shortly before our annual club barbecue.

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KRIMP, Nick

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members:**

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BURAKOFF, Mark
MINEAU, Sebastien
SICHEL, Danny
WALLING, René**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, June, from the following MonSFFA members:

**BELLEMARE, Josée
DION, Mireille
PELLEY, Lynda
SILVERMAN, Barbara**

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April Meeting's Fund-Raiser Boosts Revenue

MonSFFA staged a small fund-raising operation in conjunction with its April 20 meeting, boosting usual meeting revenue by over \$100. Club members and friends in attendance enjoyed a spread of delectable victuals at our SF/F-themed bake sale while snapping up bargain-priced books, toys, and assorted collectibles at MonSFFA's Sci-Fi Garage Sale.

A table was set up in a corner of the room from which were sold a variety of entertainingly named sci-fi snacks that had been prepared for the occasion by club members. Fudge squares were labelled Bantha Podo, for instance, while slices of cake tinted with green food dye were dubbed (what else?) Soylent Green. This fare was available throughout the afternoon and together with our usual selection of drinks, kept the fen well fed and watered.

A number of MonSFFen, meanwhile, had brought in a selection of sci-fi items for sale to their fellow club members. Several tables were set up to display these wares and sales profited both the MonSFFen selling their stock and the club, which collected a percentage of sales as a facilitator's fee.

We take this opportunity to thank those members and friends who contributed to and helped organize and run our fund-raising operations, in particular Julia Sinclair, Lindsay Brown, and Alice Novo, who handled the bake sale, and Josée Bellemare, who oversaw the garage sale.

As for the afternoon's programming, Cathy Palmer-Lister moderated a discussion of "green" SF, this being science fiction stories featuring an environmental theme. While global warming—or more accurately, climate change—has dominated public debate these past few years, the group recalled the many disaster tales published in the 1970s involving elevated pollution levels triggering a return to the Ice Age. The science of climate change now popularly promulgated, it was noted, suggests that while certain areas of planet Earth may well heat up, turning now temperate territories into arid deserts, other regions are expected to plunge into just the kind of Ice Age conditions those decades-old SF stories envisioned. The recent blockbuster film *The*

Day After Tomorrow depicted such a scenario. This is all a little exaggerated, perhaps, suggested some.

Discussion ranged widely, questioning, for example, the ethics of terraforming another world to suit human needs, a common SF trope. Also proffered was the theme of environment adversely affected by overpopulation, this another doomsday theme popular in the SF of earlier decades. Stories involving new sources of energy were touched upon but biofuels were thought by some to alleviate one problem while causing another—spiralling food costs and eventually, shortages. The film *Soylent Green* was cited as a means of dealing with this issue, and as a grotesque form of recycling.

While the Earth has undergone dramatic environmental shifts over the course of its natural history, it was suggested that the rapid advance of climate change recorded in recent years may not, ultimately, allow species to adapt, as they have in eons past. But some species will no doubt survive, just as has always been the case at such pivotal points in the life of our planet. The great beasts of the Ice Age perished as their world grew warmer but many other creatures managed to survive the transition to a warmer climate.

Finally, man's grasp of technology has allowed him to adapt to vastly different environments and may well prove to be his savour in any ecological cataclysm to come.

The group then enjoyed a screening of the moving eco-themed SF film *Silent Running*, courtesy Berny Reischl.

MonSFFA's Anticipation Plans

As MonSFFen know, the World Science Fiction Convention—the Worldcon—will unfold here in Montreal next year under the name Anticipation. As one of the principal SF/F organizations operating in the host city, MonSFFA's executive believes that the club should hold a welcome-to-Montreal room party, perhaps, or some such function at the event.

Over the summer, the executive would like the input of the club's membership as to MonSFFA's plans for Anticipation. How should we welcome world fandom to our

city? What can we put together for the Worldcon next year? Give it some thought and let the executive know of your ideas, either in person at one of our upcoming meetings, or by standard or electronic post.

Reminder: Please Advise Club of Your Change of Address

Montreal's traditional moving season is upon us and we remind any MonSFFen who are moving in the coming months to please each advise the club of their change of address so that we may update our mailing list.

Briefly:

- While MonSFFA's monthly meetings continue to be held at the Days Hotel, given the club's budgetary constraints and the improbability of the hotel reducing sufficiently its newly elevated function space rental rates, the club is actively searching for a new meeting locale, preferably in the downtown area. While we would certainly like to stay put, regrettably, financial realities are what they are. Cost cutting has helped some and will allow us to extend our stay at the Days Hotel a little longer, but long-term projections tell us that we simply cannot sustain the increasing cost of renting our meeting hall there.
- MonSFFA was once again involved in the premieres of a number of movies over the past number of months. Club members benefited from free passes to the first Montreal screenings of the sci-fi adventure *Jumper*, as well as the non-SF/F films *Untraceable*, *Vantage Point*, and *21*.
- MonSFFA Webmaster Berny Reischl and *Warp* editor Cathy Palmer-Lister have worked out all the bugs and we are pleased to announce that *Warp* is now available in .pdf format exclusively to MonSFFA members. E-mail Berny (president@monsffa.com) to request the access password for each issue then surf to the club's Web site and download your issues of e-*Warp*, complete with full-colour photos and hot links, among other features.
- We remind MonSFFen due to renew their memberships over the summer months to please do so in timely fashion.

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July / Juillet 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 6)

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SICHEL, Danny
WALLING, René

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members:**

**BRODEUR, Chantal
GLOVER, Wayne
JAMSHIDI, Abbas
PETERS, Ernst-Udo
MORROW, Gordon
WADSWORTH, Beulah**

Annual membership fees
will become due next month,
August, from the following
MonSFFA members:

CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
JAMES, David
METHE, Ann
NOVO, Alice

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Montreal's premiere SF/F fan club.

MonSFFA BBQ IS THIS WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JULY 20

10:30AM-4:00PM

Parc Angrignon, Lasalle



**MonSFFA members,
their families and
friends invited!**

**Bring your own chairs
or picnic blankets, food and
drink; we will supply a
cooking grill.**

**If rained out, event
rescheduled for following
Sunday, July 27,
same time, place.**

**MonSFFA Meeting
Schedule Resumes
AUGUST 24**

Biodome Field Trip

Over a dozen MonSFFEn and friends convened at the gates of the Montreal Biodome on Sunday morning, June 22, for an excursion to the indoor zoological park, this in place of a June meeting. Just shy, unfortunately, of the 20-people minimum required, we were thus unable to avail ourselves of a group discount on admission. Missed it by that much, as Maxwell Smart might have noted. But we nonetheless enjoyed a fascinating field trip.

The Biodome features a wide variety of exotic wildlife housed in four distinct environments recreated in exacting detail. The first and largest is a tropical rainforest in which numerous colourful birds and agile monkeys populate the trees that line the pathway snaking through the exhibit, affording visitors many wonderful photographic opportunities. Further along, a waterfall feeds a small river populated by a number of caimans and other jungle denizens, who bask in the steamy, sweltering heat that realistically duplicates a torrid ecosystem. Also on show in a series of aquariums and terrariums are tropical fish, snakes, lizards, and frogs.

The two Canadian forest environments feature familiar wildlife such as the beaver, otter, porcupine, and lynx. A huge aquarium holding numerous species of large fish well known to anglers, like the sturgeon, proves to be a simulated northern lake surrounded by cliffs when viewed from another vantage point, replete with various species of water fowl swimming about or circling overhead.

The Arctic and Antarctic section includes numerous terns, puffins, and such bird life, including a bevy of playful penguins whose antics both above and below the water can be viewed by delighted guests.

The day also included a stroll through the nearby Insectarium, complete with the opportunity to sample various chocolate covered crawlies, and the vast Botanical Gardens, a world-class horticultural exhibit.

A good time was had by all.

May MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's May 25 meeting featured, first, an exercise in designing a superhero and supervillain. Club vice-president Keith Braithwaite put on his artist's hat for

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MonSFFA Moment

A Moment in the 20-Year History of MonSFFA

1988 **First Warp:** The first issue of the club's official newsletter was published in October. Dubbed Warp, the 'zine's co-editors were Mike Masella and Kevin Holden. Dressed in fantasy apparel of her own creation, Capucine Plourde was the cover girl, posing with friend David Laforce. Prior to this date, the club had randomly put out small, untitled newsletters, few copies of which survive today. Four years after the release of this inaugural issue, Warp number 20 ran the first of several full-colour covers the 'zine has featured over 20 years of publication—69 issues to date—with art by Aurora Award-winning illustrator and MonSFFAan Jean-Pierre Normand.

the occasion, sketching said supers based on input from his audience. A video camera trained on Keith's sketchpad as he worked provided a live feed to a television monitor so that folk could see the comic book characters developing from their suggestions.

Keith spoke of common superhero clichés, such as the acquiring of super powers by means of some scientific experiment or accident, and including that of basing a character on some kind of animal motif—Batman, Hawkman, Spider-Man, Wolverine. The group leaped on this notion, selecting the skunk as inspiration for their superhero!

"Skunkman"—a working name—was to have the ability to somehow manipulate smell. After some discussion, it was decided that he would carry on his utility belt a series of compressed-gas canisters, each containing vapour of a different scent, and that these would be hooked up to a wrist-mounted nozzle which he would wield like a gun against the forces of evil.

The working name Skunkman, however, did not particularly appeal to the group and a number of proposals for a cooler name ensued. These included The Whiff, The Fume, Captain Polecat, simply The Skunk, and the monogram which seemed most popular with the group, The Gray Gasser (suggesting a gray, Batman-like costume, perhaps).

An origin story was quickly concocted but not set in stone. Employed at a perfume

company, chemist Gordon Palmer (a name derived from those of club members Gordon Morrow and Cathy Palmer-Lister) is injured in a laboratory accident, costing him his sense of smell. Just how and why this leads to his becoming the superhero described remained unclear, however, and the issue was set aside for further deliberation another day.

Costume design was tackled next as the group pondered that most important consideration of superhero fashion: cape or no cape? The group went with a cape, tapered and decorated with twin stripes to suggest a skunk's tail. Other costume elements included a cowl and gas mask-like goggles.

The same creative process was repeated to come up with a nemesis for this champion of aroma.

Nabbed robbing the cash register at the club at which she worked as a Playboy Bunny, Miranda Morrison (this name derived from those of *Simpletons' Life* co-stars Miranda Feenstra and Maery Morrison) was fired and reduced to working as a cleaning lady to make ends meet. Here, this orphaned girl from the wrong side of the tracks discovered that she possesses an unusual power, the ability to manipulate dust, dirt, and slime into deadly weapons. And so was conceived that provocatively-costumed empress of embezzlement, The Dusty Bunny!

The second half of the meeting was

dedicated to a game hosted by MonSFFA president Berny Reischl, who began by showing the audience an image of a science fiction movie poster that had been obfuscated by means of a pixelation filter. Berny had programmed his laptop to depixelate the image within a few moments of its appearing on screen and folk were challenged to identify the movie represented before the picture was returned to clarity. Another poster quickly followed, then another, and still others in uninterrupted succession.

A cacophony of rapid-fire, often wild and decidedly erroneous guesses were shouted out loud as the sci-fi, as well as fantasy and horror posters appeared in steady sequence, leaving the audience but a few seconds on each for their guesswork.

All in all, a rather fun meeting. We thank in particular our presenters, Keith Braithwaite and Berny Reischl, for their efforts.

Briefly:

- We chose at random, from the pool of MonSFFen who took part in our Biodome field trip, two winners of complimentary passes to the Montreal premiere of the sci-fi flick *Hancock*, starring Will Smith. Barbara Silverman and Sean Peatman were the lucky two. A nod of thanks to Rosie Ciriello at Promo Avenue for these and many of the other movie passes the club regularly receives.
- We remind our members to put forward suggestions as to the club's plans for the Worldcon next summer. How do we want to welcome worldwide SF fandom to our city? A room party, perhaps, or a special issue of *Warp*? Let the Executive know of your ideas soon.
- With Montreal's traditional moving season upon us, we remind any MonSFFA member who has moved on or about the July 1st weekend to please advise the club of his or her change of address so that we may update our mailing lists.
- MonSFFA headquarters reminds you that club services tend to slow down some during the summer months. It may take a tiny bit longer than usual to process your membership renewal, for example, or update the club Web site, but rest assured that we haven't forgotten. We're just taking it easy, enjoying the vacation season like everyone else.

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IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN
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MONTRÉLAISE DE
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DE FANTASTIQUE

August / Août 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 7)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, August 24

11:00AM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:00AM

BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING:

Agenda includes finances and fundraising, programming of future meetings, and other important issues. All members are encouraged to participate (See also "Call to BoA Meeting", right.)

1:00PM

FANRAFT: For the third year running, we devote our August afternoon to the enjoyment of "fancraft" through a series of demonstrations and workshops. MonSFFen and friends are invited to share their particular hands-on creative hobbies with each other. Learn about and try your hand at SF/F-themed scale modelling, origami, digital illustration, needlepoint, and more. (See "Fancraft Demos at August Meeting", right, for details.)

**NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:
September 21**

Fancraft Demos at August Meeting

MonSFFA's August 24 meeting will largely be devoted to a number of demonstrations of what we have termed "fancraft" (see "Next MonSFFA Meeting," left), meaning fancraft projects. As longtime members will know, we have programmed our August meetings thusly for a couple of years, now, providing MonSFFen with the opportunity to observe the creative talents of fellow club members as applied to SF/F-themed craft projects and learn "how-to" in an informal workshop setting.

This year as in previous years, stations will be set up around the room at which folk may try their hand at a number of crafts, or simply observe as techniques are demonstrated. In addition to the handful of workshops we've scheduled, we're opening the meeting widely to any and all, inviting members and friends to bring in examples of their own SF/F fancraft and share their particular hobby with others. Everyone is welcome to run a demo, should they wish—please supply the necessary materials and tools—or simply contribute a few items to a display of fancraft projects. The idea is to share your hobby with your fellow MonSFFen. We hope to showcase a wide variety of imaginative crafting—scale modelling, miniature-painting, woodcraft, origami, scrapbooking, needlepoint, costuming, creative photography, digital graphics, and more—all under the thematic umbrella of science fiction and fantasy.

Drop club president Berny Reischl a line by e-mail (president@monsffa.com) before this weekend and let him know how you'll be participating.

Call to BoA Meeting

The club's Executive have scheduled a Board of Advisors (BoA) meeting for the morning session of our August 24 gathering, said meeting to begin at 11:00AM and run until about 12:30PM. Numerous important issues are on the agenda, including finances and fundraising, an update on the club's ongoing search for a new meeting hall, programming of future meetings, and member participation in outside-of-meeting activities. All members are encouraged to attend; the Executive wants *your* input.

DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR BELOW? WATCH THIS SPACE TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE.

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

BENNETT, Paul
GLOVER, Wayne
JAMSHIDI, Abbas
MINEAU, Sebastien
MORROW, Gordon
PELLEY, Lynda
WADSWORTH, Beulah
WALLING, René

Annual membership fees are due this month, August, from the following club members:

**CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
JAMES, David
METHE, Ann
NOVO, Alice**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, September, from the following club members:

ASPLER, Joseph
BOIES, Marquise
BRAITHWAITE, Keith
DUROCHER, Dominique
HICKEY, Mark
McCULLOGH, Brian
McCULLOGH, Megan
McCULLOGH, Philip
MOIR, Dorothy
MOIR, L.E.
PENALBA, Theresa
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

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E-mail/Courriel: _____

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Interests/Intérêts: _____

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MonSFFA BBQ 2008

With showers forecast, Sunday, July 20, the day of this year's club barbecue, was typical of the rather wet summer we've been experiencing. But the rain held off until late afternoon and so we were able to enjoy a dry MonSFFA barbecue.

The patch of meadow we have adopted for our barbecue these past few years proved unavailable to us this year. Upon arrival, we discovered that the stage for an outdoor music concert had been set up on the very spot. So,

we migrated some hundred yards or so further into the sprawling Parc Angrignon grounds to settle near a patch of trees along the shore of a small, artificial lake, where the young children present delighted at the appearance of a graceful heron.

Turn-out was healthy despite the overcast skies and MonSFFolk and friends gathered to partake in a relaxing afternoon of football and frisbee, among other activities. While the adults engaged in casual conversation and grilled burgers or hotdogs, the kids explored the surrounding terrain, played on the swings

and slides in an adjoining park, and later, took turns at the controls of an RC airplane. That there wasn't much of a breeze failed to discourage the youngsters, who ran back and forth across the field in their repeated attempts to launch a kite skyward.

Having enjoyed a most pleasant afternoon in the park, the group packed up and headed for home at about 4:00PM, just as the rain began to fall, too late to spoil the fun.

Our thanks to club president Berny Reischl for organizing the event.

X-FILES 2 AND OTHER DISAPPOINTMENTS by Keith Braithwaite

For X-philes who may not yet have caught the new *X-Files* movie, be warned that the return of Mulder and Scully proves a big disappointment.

In a nutshell, the story is disjointed and lacks any particularly compelling element. Further, audiences may find it difficult to sympathize with a serial pedophile. As the film unspools, we find that the relationship between Mulder and Scully has progressed some since last we saw them, but actors David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson seem not to have entirely recaptured the essence of the characters they made famous on TV.

I do applaud producers for steering clear of the kind of alien/conspiracy plot that defined the TV series but had, unfortunately, become so convoluted towards the end of the show's run as to cause viewers to lose interest. But the stand-alone story they present here instead proves a lukewarm retread of themes far better handled during the run of the series.

I wanted to believe, but alas, I simply could not.

I'd have to rank *The X-Files: I Want to Believe* as one of my

biggest let-downs at the cineplex. And that got me to thinking about movies that fell really short of my expectations, films that sucked worse than the Canadian Olympic team in Beijing. Now I'm not talking about flicks that you're not especially pumped for but it's half-price night at the theatre and there's nothing else to do anyway so what the heck. Or about movies you just *know* are going to be bad but were dragged to by a friend who now owes you one. I'm talking about films for which you had high hopes going in. It's a real drag when *these* movies blow.

And so, in no particular order, here are a few more of the movies I found most disappointing:

The Phantom Menace >

I suppose this long-awaited return to the beloved *Star Wars* universe couldn't possibly live up to the hype. With the publicity machine cranked up to eleven and fans in a near-religious fervor as the film's premiere approached, this was going to be the biggest thing *ever* in sci-fi! Hard to satisfy those kinds of expectations.

That said, this first of the *Star Wars* prequels was burdened with hackneyed dialogue and lacked the spark that made the

original *Star Wars* such fun. And the idea that the volume of so-called midi-chlorians in the blood determines one's aptitude with the Force, it seems to me, pulls the rug right out from under the Jedi. Guess Yoda and the boys are not *really* all that special. Presumably, a simple injection of these microscopic organisms would cause any fool who happens along to become strong with the Force. Even the insufferable Jar Jar Binks! And that's just *wrong*.

Godzilla > I'm talking the 1998 American remake, here, of course. Reinterpreting a cinematic icon is always risky and while this big-budget effort features what is a quite serviceable big lizard, the beast is just not, by any measure, *Godzilla*. A weak story and poor casting didn't help sell the thing, either.

Hollywood take note: nobody does giant monsters like the Japanese; in future, leave the *Kaiju* to them that know how.

The Lost World: Jurassic Park > Despite all the cool CGI dinosaurs, this second *Jurassic Park* film was pretty lame. The plot serves as nothing more than a means to loosely string together a series of action sequences. But the worst thing

about it is that the velociraptors so menacingly contrived as a deadly threat in the original are here subdued by a kid performing gymnastics. *Com'on!*

Rent *Jurassic Park III* instead.

Cloverfield > Borrowing heavily from *Godzilla* for its monster, the real-life 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York City for its tone, and *The Blair Witch Project* for its visual style, this cleverly marketed effort comes in as rather less than the sum of its parts. *Way* too derivative.

Alien 3 > The original *Alien* begot in *Aliens* that rarest of animals, a follow-up worthy of the original. One could be optimistic, then, regarding number three.

But the third film begins by unceremoniously dispatching all but Ripley of the heroic survivors of the second. Now these were audience favourites, engaging characters that had come through a terrifying close encounter with a whole nest of this film series' frightfully nasty title critters. Written out. Just like that. And before the opening credits were even done!

The writers then proceeded to introduce a new roster of thoroughly unlikable characters, shave the resolute and resourceful Ripley *bald*, and finally, off her, too! What were they thinking?

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IMPULSE

September-October / Septembre-Octobre 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 8)

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NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, September 21

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

SPACECRAFT DESIGN: We look at the many cool spacecraft designs populating sci-fi film and television, several inspired by the real thing.

2:00PM

CON•CEPT 2008: A quick update on this year's upcoming Con•Cept SF/F convention (see also lead item, right).

2:45PM

THE SEXY SIRENS OF SCI-FI:

The boys can't help but slaver over the many foxy females of our favourite SF/F films and television shows and we'll analyze the appeal of these lovely ladies, beyond simply their physical appearance, examining the character of a heroine and the femme fatale archetype.

OUTING NEXT MONTH

October 26

Bowling

Details to be announced
in early October at MonSFFA.com

Con•Cept 2008

This year's edition of Con•Cept will unfold at the usual Days Hotel locale, 1005 Guy Street, downtown (same hotel at which MonSFFA meets), over the October 17-19 weekend. Scheduled guests include award-winning author David Brin (*Earth, the Uplift books, Kiln People*) and actress Samantha Ferris (*The 4400, Supernatural, Smallville, Battlestar Galactica*).

MonSFFA will, of course, be in attendance. This club founded Con•Cept and has either run the convention or helped and supported the event since day one. (Next year, by the way, will mark Con•Cept's 20th anniversary.)

Con•Cept has always succeeded in appealing to as many interests within SF/F fandom as possible. With a gregarious mix of guest appearances, discussion panels, workshops, fan film screenings, and hallway debates, along with convention staples like the dealers' room, art show, con suite, masquerade, and dance, this con delivers a *great* SF/F party for all.

At the door cost of admission is an even \$50; the premium Friends-of-Con•Cept option, which includes a few special extras, will run you \$60. Visit the con's Web site—www.conceptsf.ca—for more details.

August Meeting Devoted to Fancraft

For the third year running, the club devoted its August meeting, held on the 24th this year, to a number of hands-on fancraft workshops. The creative talents of MonSFFA members were evident as numerous SF/F-themed crafts were on display. Folk had the opportunity to learn about each or try their hand at any of the crafts for which a workshop had been set up.

Sci-fi needlepoint, origami, and creative snack-making were among the hobbies featured this year, the snack-making providing a tasty demonstration of how to make an SF/F snack item using everyday confections like jelly beans, marshmallows, and cookies. A number of appetizing aliens, mouth-watering monsters, and scrumptious spaceships ensued with a *Doctor Who*-themed treat winning kudos as the most artistic and appealing at day's end. Members were encouraged to employ what they'd learned here to the benefit of the fund-

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BRODEUR, Chantal
JAMES, David
JAMSHIDI, Abbas
METHE, Ann
MINEAU, Sebastien
PETERS, Ernst-Udo
WADSWORTH, Beulah
WALLING, René

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are due this month, September,
from the following club
members:**

BOIES, Marquise
DUROCHER, Dominique
HICKEY, Mark
McCULLOGH, Brian
McCULLOGH, Megan
McCULLOGH, Philip
PENALBA, Theresa
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

Annual membership fees will become due next month, October, from the following club members:

PETTIT, William S.

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Thank you for renewing your membership in MonSFFA, Montreal's premiere SF/F fan club

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NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

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raising snack table MonSFFA sets up at all regular meetings.

Meanwhile, at the scale modelling station, two of the club's youngest members were busily painting their plastic Snap-Tite kits of prehistoric beasts using a technique called dry brushing, thus named because so modicum is the quantity of paint applied that the paintbrush is practically dry. This approach produces subtle blends of colour and is the perfect method of giving molded plastic scales or fur an authentic look. The technique is commonly utilized to realistically "weather" spacecraft, aircraft, and vehicle models and can be used, as well, for figure-painting or prop-making. A number of uni-coloured, dollar-store plastic toy animals were on hand so that people could have a go at dry brushing and a resulting rat later made the rounds of the creative snack-making table!

At another station, a demonstration of computer-generated photo-art was underway. Working with such software as Adobe Photoshop, the step-by-step process of retouching, combining, and tweaking photographs to create a digital illustration was revealed for all to see on a large monitor. The next cover of our club fanzine, *Warp*, is to feature a product of this workshop.

Perhaps the most unusual and fascinating demonstration of the day was the recycling of spent cartridges to fashion prop or souvenir bullets. Several people inquired as to a silver bullet, lest they encounter a werewolf on the way home from the meeting. Without the necessary gunpowder and primer caps to produce live rounds, of course, these bullets were just for show and completely harmless.

We thank the many crafters in the club for sharing their hobbies with fellow MonSFFen on this day.

No Regular Meeting or Impulse Next Month

Please note that because a meeting hall is not available to us next month, we will not hold an October meeting. As such, and as a cost-saving measure, *Impulse* will not publish next month.

But MonSFFen will nevertheless have opportunity to get together! In lieu of a meeting, we are organizing a group outing—an afternoon of bowling at a downtown location—the details of which will be announced on the club Web site next month. Further, we expect that many

of our members will be attending Con•Cept 2008 (see also lead item).

MonSFFA's next regular meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 16.

Briefly:

- Montreal's traditional moving season is now a couple of months behind us. We remind any MonSFFA member who moved on or about the July 1st weekend or shortly thereafter to please advise the club of his or her change of address so that we may update our membership database and mailing lists.
- A group of MonSFFen attended the Montreal launch of the new *X-Files* film during the summer movie season as a result of MonSFFA's on-going involvement in the sponsoring of local sci-fi film premieres. We thank our good friends in the movie promotions business for the complimentary passes.
- MonSFFA's Executive welcomes input from members as to the club's plans for Anticipation, the 2009 Worldcon, scheduled to unfold here in Montreal in August of next year. How will MonSFFA welcome worldwide SF fandom to our city? A room party or reception has been suggested; perhaps we might publish a special issue of *Warp* outlining our club's history. Members are encouraged to let the Executive know of their ideas at the next club meeting. A special raffle has been instituted at club meetings to help raise the funds needed to finance this project.

Suggestions for 2009 MonSFFA Meeting Programming

In no particular order, following are a dozen of the topic suggestions for next year's schedule of MonSFFA meetings. These ideas are among those received at BoA and regular meetings from the ranks of the club's membership.

Your Executive would like feedback as to which interest you, and as to specifically which you might be able to contribute in some manner, perhaps as a panelist or presenter. Please also feel free to add to the list.

A BoA meeting is planned for November 16, at which time we will formulate our 2009 meeting schedule and nail down programming based upon your feedback.

1. Superman

As depicted in comics, on radio and TV, in movies.

2. Government in SF/F

Exploration of different forms of government as depicted in SF/F.

3. SF/F About SF/F

Exploration of SF/F stories that reference the SF/F genre in some way.

4. The Write Stuff

Discussion of trends in SF/F writing; what's hot, what's not, both in professional circles and in online fanfic. Highlight the most original new fiction, most hackneyed clichés, and most overused plot devices. Invite professional writers as panelists and include fanfic authors, as well.

5. Zombie Stories

Given their familiarity with the topic, perhaps invite past guest speakers Nancy Kilpatrick and/or SV Bell as panelists.

6. Next on this Channel...

Exploration of rejected or unrealized SF/F TV show pilots and short-lived (no more than a single season) series that left viewers hanging.

7. Best SF/F Movies Never Made

Exploration of promising SF/F films that never got past the planning stage or forever remain "in development."

8. "Take Me To Your Leader!"

Exploration of alien invasion scenarios in SF literature and on screen.

9. It's A Small World After All

Exploration of Lilliputian worlds and people in SF/F—*Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Land of the Giants*, *Fantastic Voyage*, among other examples.

10. Game: The Word is Given

Randomly selected character, place name, or the name or term given by an SF/F author or scriptwriter to a thing or concept, must be identified by players—e.g., Yoda, Dagobah, gimer stick, the Force. Poker chips earned for correct answers, lost for wrong answers.

11. Game: Magnification Factor 3

Iconic sci-fi images shown at extreme magnification. Players must identify each image to score points. Magnification factor reduced by half after 10 seconds; if image now identified, reduced points earned. Same again, and finally, image displayed at zero magnification to confirm/provide correct answer and end round.

12. Giving Good Panel

How-to guide on preparing and presenting a topic for an audience.

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November / Novembre 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 9)

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Sunday, November 16

11:00AM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:00AM

BOARD OF ADVISORS: We tackle pressing club business, including the finalizing of plans for next month's Christmas Dinner and Party and next year's meeting dates and programming. Input from the club's membership is welcome and encouraged.

12:30PM

LUNCH BREAK: 45-minute break for quick lunch

1:15PM

STAR MYTHS: We examine some of the ancient stories spun around the constellations above.

3:00PM

TO BE ANNOUNCED: Programming originally scheduled for this time slot is unconfirmed as we go to press; substitute programming to be announced at meeting.

DECEMBER 6

**MonSFFA Christmas
Dinner and Party**

Details to be announced

Planning for Club's Annual Christmas Dinner and Party

We've scheduled Saturday evening, December 6th, as the date of MonSFFA's annual Christmas Dinner and Party this year. During the BoA session at the club's November 16 meeting, we'll finalize plans as to exactly where we'll dine and party. An announcement will follow in December's *Impulse* and on the MonSFFA Web site. Stay tuned.

September Club Meeting

MonSFFA's September 21 meeting focused first on spaceship design, then briefly on the upcoming Con•Cept SF/F convention, and finally, on the sexy sirens of sci-fi.

Keith Braithwaite, Wayne Glover, and Dominique Durocher kicked off with a look at some of the many spaceships of science fiction. Keith began with a few examples of the two most common design types featured in science fiction films of the 1950s and early 1960s, the rocket and the flying saucer.

The smooth-hulled, shiny metal rockets of such classic films as *Destination Moon* and *Rocketship X-M* were largely patterned after the real German V-2 rocket in use near the end of World War II. The V-2 and similar models provided the template for the fictional rocketships of sci-fi cinema during the mid-20th century. Hollywood ran with the design, fitting ever more elaborate stabilizer fins and wings to the craft, culminating in such nifty though improbable vehicles as those featured in *Spaceways* or *The First Spaceship on Venus*.

While *Forbidden Planet's* extraordinary C57-D space cruiser was an Earth ship, most saucer-shaped designs of this period were reserved for alien craft, perhaps because the various flying saucers of sci-fi film were inspired by the numerous reported sightings of UFOs at the time, often described as saucer-shaped.

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Ø

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RUFIANGE, Yolande

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The silvery hubcaps spinning through sci-fi skies included those appearing in *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, and *This Island Earth*.

Keith screened a selection of clips from these and other movies, showing some of the best-known rockets and saucers in motion.

Wayne focused on the more varied and recent spaceship designs featured in such fare as *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, and *Battlestar Galactica*. The intricately detailed superstructures of these craft, sporting hull plates, snaking conduits, exhaust vents, and all manner of exposed machinery, take after the look of the spaceship *Discovery*, created for the seminal SF film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Wayne offered a size-comparison chart of some of the genre's most famous spacecraft, including the numerous versions of the *Enterprise*, the original and new *Galactica*, and *Star Wars'* *Millennium Falcon*, the triangular Star Destroyers, and the moon-sized *Death Star*.

Dominique closed the presentation with a look at some of the real spacecraft blueprinted and built for NASA and the Russian space program, treating the group to some dramatic documentary footage of launches, crashes, and the test flights of experimental craft. He noted that Hollywood regularly features fictional variations of real spacecraft in the movies, like the space shuttles in *Armageddon*.

Following the mid-meeting break, Cathy Palmer-Lister took 10 minutes to quickly highlight for MonSFFen the upcoming Con•Cept 2008 SF/F convention and encourage folk to attend the event.

Keith was up again to wrap up the afternoon's programming with a slideshow of sci-fi's sexiest screen sirens and a discussion of the many reasons male fans in particular are drawn to these femme fatales.

Clearly, the physical attractiveness of the actresses playing the roles figures considerably, particularly in the case of a young sci-fi fan entering his teenage years

MonSFFA Moment

A Moment in the 20-Year History of MonSFFA

1989

First Con•Cept: In late 1989, MonSFFA premiered a one-day SF/F convention it dubbed Con•Cept. The club's aim with this mini-con was to cater to as many fannish tastes as possible, reflecting MonSFFA's own philosophy. John Matthias chaired a concomm made up almost entirely of new-comers to conrunning. Many had not yet attended a sci-fi convention, let alone organized and run one! Con•Cept '89 took place on Sunday, November 12, at the downtown Maritime Hotel. Guests included local SF writer Donald Kingsbury and Ottawa fan Larry Stewart, who served as MC and has attended every Con•Cept since. The successful event drew 300 fans and made \$700.

and beginning to take an interest in girls. Keith noted that the marketers of sci-fi take full advantage of this youngster, invariably splashing illustrations of beautiful, buxom, scantily-dressed women on sci-fi magazine and book covers, exciting in the young lad more than just a thirst for space-faring adventure stories. And it's no accident that the women cast in genre movies or television series come with fashion-model looks.

The total hotness of so many of screen sci-fi's characters, be they male or female, taps into the same idealization—physically, of course, but otherwise, as well—of heroes and heroines throughout history. Comic book superheroines like Supergirl and Wonder Woman, Keith opined, with their impossibly perfect physiques and striking beauty, are drawn that way for the very same reasons that the ancient Greeks carved impossibly perfect and strikingly beautiful statues of their heroes and heroines. These characters are all bigger-than-life fantasies, representations of what we perceive to be the best, most honourable, most desirable attributes of the human race. And we wish we could either be that someone, better than ourselves, or attract the attentions of that someone. In other words, we want to

be or we want to bed the hero or heroine.

It was offered that a character grabs one's attention and holds it only if that character is a well-written, engaging sort. A good character needs more than good looks. True, but with regard to visual storytelling, it doesn't hurt—in fact, it probably helps—if that character is represented by a physically attractive individual. Why would we idealize our heroes and heroines emotionally, intellectually, but not physically? That the vampire slayer and the invincible cheerleader are smokin' hot blondes, or the pistol-packin' tomb raider and the sword-wielding barbarian princess tall, dark-haired knock-outs with legs up to here, or the resourceful FBI agent and the lesbian witch smoldering red-heads open to new things, only adds to the whole bigger-than-life fantasy.

We thank our presenters Keith, Wayne, Dominique, and Cathy, along with all those club members who helped to plan and run this, our September meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: We're a bit short of space this issue, so we'll run a full report on Con•Cept 2008 next issue, along with brief coverage of MonSFFA's bowling outing last month.

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IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

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

December / Decembre 2008 (Vol. 12, No./Nº 10)

MonSFFA's Members and Friends Invited to Club's 2008 Christmas Dinner and Party

**SATURDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 6**

Dinner at 6:30PM

Nickels Bar and Grill Restaurant
1500 Atwater (Alexis Nihon Plaza),
Local G23, downtown Montreal
(Atwater Metro)

Reservations under name:
Bernard Reischl/MonSFFA

Party at 8:00PM
Park Place Bar
1244 rue Mackay
(downtown, between
Ste-Catherine and
René-Lévesque)

*As is our tradition, we will
be collecting toys and items of
non-perishable food for donation
to Sun Youth's Christmas Basket
Drive. In the spirit of the season,
please give to benefit those less
fortunate in our community.*

NEXT MONSFFA MEETING Sunday, January 18, 2009

Club Elections

*Giving Good Panel: How-To Guide
Battlestar Galactica: Spot the Cylon*

2008 MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party

Plans for MonSFFA's annual Christmas Dinner and Party have been finalized. Note that while we had originally discussed, at our November 16 BoA meeting, booking the Mr. Steer restaurant on Ste-Catherine for dinner, that establishment cannot accommodate us on the December 6 date we requested and so we have substituted the Nickels Bar and Grill Restaurant in Alexis Nihon Plaza (Atwater Metro). Seating is limited to 24, however, so it'll be first come, first serve. We ask that members contact club president Berny Reischl by e-mail (president@monsffa.com) to advise him of their intention to attend. Should folk be unable to join us for dinner, we hope you'll be able to meet us afterwards at our familiar watering hole, the Park Place Bar, for the party.

Date, times, and other details are provided in the events column, left.

We take this opportunity to wish all of our members and friends the very best of the season.

Emru Townsend Succumbs to Leukemia

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Emru Townsend on Tuesday evening, November 11. He was 39. Emru was an erudite, refined, and gracious individual, a profoundly amiable fellow, beloved and respected throughout Montreal's animation and SF/F community. He will be greatly missed.

Emru's many friends in local fandom were cautiously optimistic this past summer when news came that, against all odds, a stem-cell donor had been found for him. (Because very few blacks are registered as donors, there was little chance of finding a match.) Though we all knew he was not yet out of the woods, this turn of events gave many of us hope. But alas, his particularly aggressive form of leukemia proved unconquerable. He died peacefully surrounded by close family.

Emru is survived by his wife, Vicky Vriniotis, young son Max, parents Beverley King and David Townsend, and sister Tamu.

**DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR
BELOW? WATCH THIS SPACE
TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP
FEES ARE DUE.**

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

BOIES, Marquise
DUROCHER, Dominique
JAMES, David
METHE, Ann

**Annual membership
fees are due this month,
December, from the
following club members:**

RUFIANGE, Yolande

Annual membership fees will become due next month, January, from the following club members:

PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. Annual dues for a regular membership are \$25. Fill out the application 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 renewing your membership in MonSFFA, Montreal's premiere SF/F fan club.

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. / Tél.: () ()

HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

Address / Adresse: _____

E-mail / Courriel: _____

NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

Interests / Intérêts: _____

CITY/VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL

Monetary donations in his memory can be made to:

African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust

<http://www.aclt.org>

National Marrow Donor Program (US)

<http://www.marrow.org>

In keeping with Emru's wishes, we encourage folk to please learn more about registering to be a bone-marrow and stem-cell donor. Contact:

Hema Quebec

<http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca>

Canada Blood Services

<http://onematch.ca/registry>

National Marrow Donor Program (US)

<http://www.marrow.org>

National Blood Service (UK)

<https://secure.blood.co.uk/bonemarrow.asp>

Con•Cept Throws Another Great Sci-Fi Party

Con•Cept is always a fun sci-fi party and the 2008 edition of the long-running general-interest SF/F convention was true to that maxim. Con•Cept 2008 took place at the event's familiar Days Hotel locale in downtown Montreal over the October 17-19 weekend.

Enthusiastic fans welcomed headlining guests David Brin, the award-winning author of *Earth*, the *Uplift* books, and *Kiln People*; local genre star Yves Menard, former literary editor of Quebec's SF magazine, *Solaris*, and award-winning author of 14 books and over 40 short stories in both French and English; and actress Samantha Ferris, featured in the genre television series *The 4400*, *Supernatural*, *Smallville*, and *Battlestar Galactica*, among others. Filling out the guest roster and providing entertaining panel content were such special guests as Toronto-based TV and radio personality, and "Canada's ultimate fangirl," Liana K; science guest Stéphane Dumas, who is active in the SETI project; and co-MC's Larry Stewart and Alain Ducharme.

Panel programming was strong and most of the panels were lively—always a plus—and very well attended. And the layout of the convention floor at the Days Hotel allows for what has become something of a unique characteristic of Con•Cept, spirited hallway

discussions and debates between panels that practically constitute another panel track. Meanwhile, Con•Cept's fan film screenings—another noteworthy feature of this con—continue to entertain with inventive, original, and sometimes racy sci-fi and horror shorts and features produced on paltry budgets by budding filmmakers. Cool!

MonSFFA was, of course, in attendance throughout the weekend, set up at a promotional table in the dealer's room taking memberships and selling back issues of *Warp* and several of our fan film DVDs. We thank those club members who helped staff our table.

Con•Cept's dogged concom (many of whom happen to be MonSFFolk, including long-serving chair Cathy Palmer-Lister) and tireless crew of volunteers are to be congratulated on a job well done, particularly in light of the fact that the con continues to be understaffed, a perennial problem that could jeopardize future editions of the event. Unfortunately, too, unconfirmed registration numbers suggest that attendance might have been down a little this year over recent years and the con may thus come up a few hundred dollars short of operating expenses. But regardless, what we take away from Con•Cept 2008 is that it was a whole lot of fun. And we look forward to Con•Cept 2009, which will mark the con's 20th anniversary.

November MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's last regular meeting of 2008 took place on November 16, beginning with a pre-lunch Board of Advisors parley that focused primarily on planning next year's meetings and other activities (dates listed, final item, this page).

Cathy Palmer-Lister provided the afternoon's featured programming, giving a talk on star myths, the ancient stories spun around the night skies. She chose to focus not on the commonly known Greek and Roman legends attached to the familiar constellations above, but rather on lesser known tales, including several North and South American aboriginal myths. The actors in these stories were often animals like the bear or birds like the robin and bluejay. Cathy noted that the night sky provided seasonal markers for the planting and later, harvesting of crops, for instance, and certain stories devised around prominent stars served to impart such knowledge to each generation. Life lessons were also taught

through sky stories.

Following the mid-meeting break, the group was invited to take part in a sort of time capsule project. Club president Berny Reischl sat all members present down in front of his camcorder and asked them to voice forecasts as to MonSFFA, Montreal, and indeed, the world at large five years hence. He videotaped everyone's predictions with the intention of burning the recordings to a DVD to be viewed at MonSFFA's Christmas party in 2013. How good are science fiction fans at predicting the future? As regards our group at least, we'll know in five years.

Time allowed for a bit more work on next year's programming before the meeting closed and folk adjourned to dinner at a nearby restaurant.

We thank Cathy and Berny for their contributions, as well as all who took part and all who helped to plan and run our November meeting.

Briefly:

- We are expecting to receive complimentary premiere passes to the remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. The IMAX screening is scheduled to take place at the downtown Scotiabank Montreal Theatre on Thursday evening, December 11 at 7:00PM. These passes will be distributed to randomly selected MonSFFA members; check the club's Web site for updates.
- As function space was unavailable to us in October, the club booked an afternoon outing in lieu of a meeting. A dozen or so MonSFFers convened at the downtown AMC Forum Sports Bar Bowling Alley (in the old forum) on October 26 for an afternoon of conversation, food and drink, and bowling. A good time was had by all and the group wrapped up the afternoon with coffee and dessert across the street at Nickels. Our thanks to Berny Reischl for organizing this outing.

2009 Club Meeting/Event Dates

The club has selected the following dates for its meetings and events next year: January 18, February 22, March 22, April 19, May 24 (*Star Trek* movie outing), June 14, July 26 (summer barbecue; rain date: August 2), August 23, September 20, October 25, November 22, December 5 (Christmas Dinner and Party).

MonSFFA will also be in attendance at the 67th Worldcon, Anticipation, August 6-10.

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