

# I M P U L S E

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

February / Février 2024 (Vol. 27, No./N° 2)

**NEXT CLUB MEETING is on ZOOM: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

**1:00PM-5:00PM**

**www.MonSFFA.ca**

## ATTENTION!

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Regrettably, we were unable to secure confirmation of our requested booking of the Lachine Legion's meeting hall sufficiently in advance of our selected meeting date this month.

Rather than cancel the meeting outright, we have opted to instead hold our get-together *entirely* on ZOOM! The meeting will proceed as intended, *but only online*, as a video-chat on ZOOM. We will *not* be gathering this month in our usual physical meeting hall.

*THEME: We've chosen to attach a Mardi Gras theme to this month's meeting! Mardi Gras celebrations are now ongoing in New Orleans, and conclude on February 13. SF/F cosplayers can certainly appreciate, and perhaps derive inspiration from the colourful, exquisite costumes of Carnival!*

### AGENDA INCLUDES:

- **WORST MONSTERS!**—*We discuss and debate which are the genre's worst monsters, in every sense of the word "worst!"*
- **SCI-FI'S LOVABLE ROGUES, AND WHY WE LOVE THEM!**—*Who are the Han Solo's of the genre, and why are they so damned compelling, interesting, and appealing?*

## MonSFFA WEBSITE GOES DOWN; NOW BACK UP!

Just hours before the scheduled launch of MonSFFA's 2024 activities, the club's Website went down! (The site is now back up and operational).

Our January 13 meeting was about to open when we discovered that the club's Website had suddenly become inaccessible, preventing the publishing of all but the first of several posts of material related to said meeting. While intermittent, the glitch was terribly disruptive, at times leaving the Website completely dark. Effectively, then, the online portion of January's meeting was, in part, incapacitated. Fortunately, our ZOOM access was unaffected and but for the usual Website-based posts corresponding to the day's programming, online participants were able to enjoy the meeting through the established video-chat.



Subsequent to the meeting, which had welcomed two special guest speakers *and* included the club's annual election of Executive Committee members, the Website remained functionally impaired for several weeks, severely inhibiting the club's online presence.

Webmaster Cathy Palmer-Lister toiled mightily to get the site back up and running properly, exhausting hours in communication with technical support services and purging the malware that was finally pinpointed as the cause of the trouble. During this

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

period, we were able to post a few messages notifying club members and site visitors of the on-going problem, while putting up some of the meeting-related content we had intended.

As of this writing, we can report that the club's Website is functioning normally again, for the most part—there remain a few somewhat complicated fixes still to be implemented.

## Recent MonSFFA Meetings

Our January 13 meeting, despite the malware-triggered collapse of our Website (see lead item), saw the successful kick-off of both our live, in-person *and* our online activities of 2024.

Special guest speakers David Shuman and Paul Simard, astronomy buffs the two of them, were in attendance to showcase their short documentary film, *Shadowchasers*, and speak on the upcoming solar eclipse set to occur on April 8.

Following a screening of *Shadowchasers*, which chronicled their travel adventures and viewing of the 2017 solar eclipse over the south-eastern U.S., David and Paul gave a detailed primer on this periodic, magnificent celestial phenomenon. They detailed the correct methods of *safely* viewing and photographing an eclipse, and of the emotional impact of the experience. The importance of viewing safely was repeatedly emphasized, and sample viewing glasses were distributed to those MonSFFen present in our meeting hall. David and Paul closed with information on the upcoming April 8, 2024 eclipse, which weather permitting, will be viewable right here in our own back yard!

Following the mid-meeting break, MonSFFA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) saw the president's and treasurer's reports presented. The election of our 2024 Executive Committee immediately followed (see next item).

Joe Aspler closed the afternoon with the second part of his slideshow on air shows and aviation museums, aviation often an ancillary interest of science fiction fans, early SF having been influenced by the aviation industry. The first part of his presentation had unfolded at our November meeting.

MonSFFA's Christmas celebrations were covered in our last issue (*Impulse*, January 2024; Volume 27, No. 1)

November's meeting of Sunday, the 26th—the meeting hall was unavailable to us on any of our usual Saturdays that month—opened with Danny Sichel's presentation/discussion on superpowers, specifically, the kind you *don't* want!

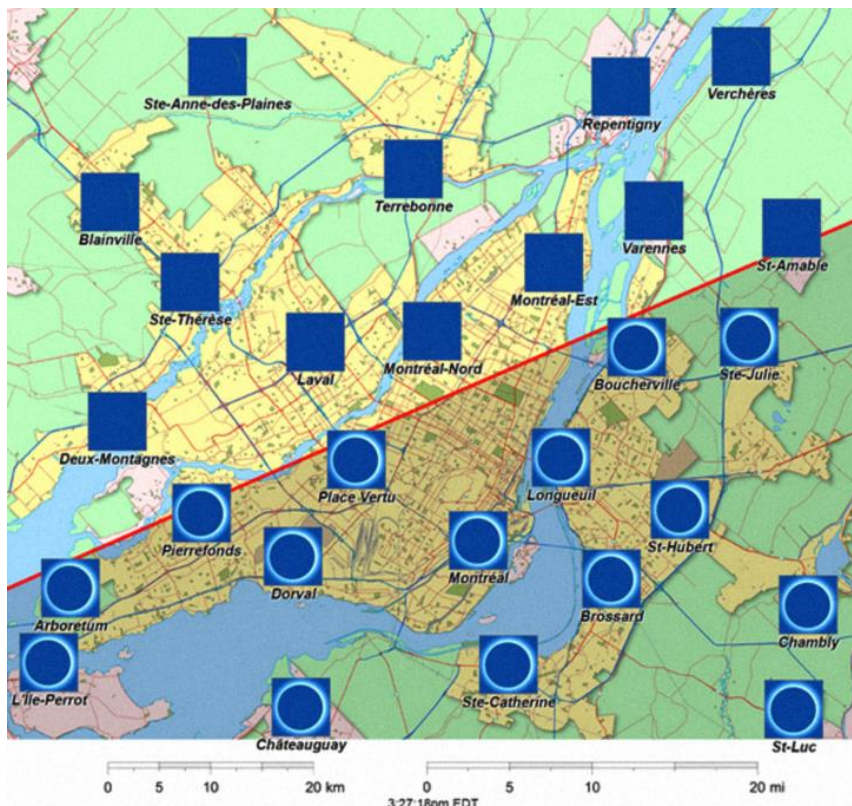
Carly Terreault and L. E. Moir then took a deeper dive into Madelaine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, a topic they'd initially explored in August, focusing on the various adaptations of the book in other media. Disney's movie version, in particular, did not impress our presenters!

Finally, Joe Aspler offered Part I of Air Shows and Aviation Museums, the slideshow which he concluded, as above-mentioned, at last month's meeting.

**Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: [www.MonSFFA.ca](http://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](mailto:keith1958@live.ca) • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the *Impulse* mailing address: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9

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



**January “Total Eclipse of the Sun” MonSFFA Meeting: Guest speakers David Shuman and Paul Simard provided this map of Montreal and environs showing the upcoming April 8 eclipse’s “Path of Totality” (shaded area). Weather allowing, most of Montreal, and regions south and east of the Island, will be prime real estate for viewing the eclipse!**

## Executive Committee Adds Members for 2024

As is tradition, the club began the New Year by electing its Executive Committee for the coming 12 months. Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Josée Bellemare oversaw the elections. Both MonSFFen present in the meeting hall *and* those participating online cast their ballots.

With the retirement of long-serving president Cathy Palmer-Lister, the membership chose to elevate her vice-president, Keith Braithwaite, to the top job. He comes to the post with experience, having previously served as the club's president in the late-1980s, early-1990s. First-time candidates Mark Burakoff and Brian Knapp stepped up to share vice-presidential duties, and Joe Aspler and L. E. Moir remained in place for another term as co-treasurers. An expansion of the Executive saw Cathy take on the role of past president; she will continue, too, as MonSFFA's Webmaster.

We congratulate those MonSFFen forming our 2024 Executive Committee and wish them well as they tackle the challenges of the coming year.

## Lachine Legion Frustrates Club's Booking of Meetings!

Frustratingly, the club is finding it increasingly difficult to secure confirmed bookings of function space at the Lachine Legion well enough in advance of meetings. We are thus left unable to properly outline our schedule or, for instance, invite guest speakers, not knowing for certain if the hall will be available to us on our requested date. This was the case this month, prompting us to move the February meeting entirely online!

The Executive are *dramatically* stepping up efforts to resolve this problem once and for all, or find another meeting locale more amenable to our needs. Stay tuned!