

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 2026 (Vol. 29, No./N° 2)

NEXT MonSFFA EVENT

**e-Meeting:
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 21**

1:00PM-5:00PM

**Exclusively Online via ZOOM at:
www.MonSFFA.ca**

MEETING THEME: *Come prepared with two or three examples of SF/F books or films that you discovered quite by happenstance, and thoroughly enjoyed, contrary to your expectations! We'll talk about these during today's "Hidden Gems" discussion.*

AGENDA INCLUDES:

- **DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS MOVIE!**—*Books often translate poorly to the movie screen. We proffer examples of good SF/F books made into bad SF/F movies, and vice versa!*
- **HIDDEN GEMS**—*We ask MonSFFen to offer examples of SF/F books or films serendipitously happened upon and thoroughly enjoyed; happy, accidental discoveries, real gems previously hidden and now revealed, unexpected surprises, much to the pleasure of the reader or viewer!*
- **SCI-FI BALDERDASH (GAME)!—***Actual SF/F titles, fake synopses, lots of fun!*

Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting

Saturday, March 14
In-Person Meeting, Downtown
As always, dates subject to change

MonSFFA's 2026 ELECTION RESULTS, REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE CLUB!

Elections

As is our tradition, the club selected its Executive Committee for the coming year during the first meeting of the New Year, in this case, our January 10 e-meeting on ZOOM.

Returned to office by acclamation were Keith Braithwaite, president; Mark Burakoff, vice-president; and Joe Aspler, treasurer. Chief Returning Officer Josée Bellemare made it all official, congratulating and welcoming the "new" executive, with all present bestowing committee members best wishes for the coming year of club operations.

President Braithwaite then renominated Warp editor Danny Sichel and MonSFFA Webmaster Cathy Palmer-Lister as officers/advisors, with both agreeing to continue serving in their respective roles.

State of the Club

Working from 2025 numbers, treasurer Joe Aspler submitted a report on the state of the club's finances, which remain quite healthy. He cautioned, however, that revenue streams which have helped us weather the COVID-19 storm are certain to ebb as we move forward. In response, the club, last year, reluctantly raised its membership rates, and enacted cost-saving measures wherever possible.

President Keith Braithwaite noted that the pandemic and post-pandemic years have seen a thinning of our ranks as many people remained hesitant to re-engage in their pre-pandemic pastimes, a phenomenon apparently not limited to MonSFFA. There has been a notable change in the greater communal mindset, Keith believes, which has seen some adopt a more reclusive posture regarding society's "new normal." Economic factors related to the rising cost of living, too, have had their effect, of course.

Keith reminded the group that during the pandemic years, MonSFFA was required to

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES?

Check Here to See if Your Annual Membership Fees Are Due, Overdue, or Soon Due (Note: Based on Most Recent Membership List Update; May Not Reflect Very Latest Renewals):

Fees Due Last Month January:
PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

Fees Due This Month, February:
NONE

Fees Due Next Month, March:
NONE

Standard membership is only \$35 annually. We offer a family rate of \$50. Add \$10 to either in order 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: _____

suspend many of its usual activities, and therefore opted to temporarily suspend the collection of annual dues. Thus have MonSFFen—some, at least—simply gotten out of the habit of regularly paying their annual membership fees.

Of utmost importance to the financial health, and ultimate future of the club is the imperative that we all get back into the habit of paying our annual membership fees on time, and that we help recruit new members!

It should come as no surprise that it costs money to rent meeting space, publish our fanzine, maintain our Website, and generally fund the daily operations of the club.

To put it in relatable terms, without the bucks, there can be no “Buck Rogers!”

The pandemic is over, now, and its aftermath has brought increases in MonSFFA’s costs, sometimes sharp increases. To date, we have managed to cover expenses with fund-raising efforts like our annual sci-fi used book sale, and further benefitted from generous donations of books, comics, and other collectibles, which we have been able to sell at our fund-raisers, and online. We’ve done well in difficult times at keeping this club a viable, going concern—better than many thought we would. But long-term, fund-raising alone won’t be enough!

And so, with all of that said, the Executive encourages all club members to first, talk up the club to friends who share their interest in SF/F and might consider joining our ranks, and secondly, to *please* renew their annual membership fees *on time!*

Membership fees are charged annually to each club member, and are due during the calendar month in which their membership was initially activated! A MonSFFan whose membership was first activated in January, for example, is required to pay their fees every subsequent January.

Please remit your fees in a timely manner as they help to cover the cost of club operations.

Don’t recall in which month you joined? Check to see if your name is listed in the Membership Column (first page), or just ask us when your fees are due!

Your MonSFFA membership dues remain excellent value for money—works out to less than \$3 per month!—and help to support a club that stages events every month, providing fascinating and fun sci-fi content, creative projects, and so much more!

UPDATE: 2026 MEETING AND EVENTS SCHEDULE!

Just a quick note to inform our membership that the club’s 2026 downtown meeting-hall bookings have now been confirmed and are no longer listed as “tentative.” Please update your calendars accordingly. Also, we were gratified to find that our price per booking will remain unchanged—no increase over last year’s charge!

MonSFFA’s activities resumed this year with our January e-meeting, held on Saturday, the 10th, and

continue with our scheduled February 21 e-meeting this coming Saturday. Remember that during peak winter months, the club meets virtually, over ZOOM. We return to our downtown meeting room at the Nouvel Hotel beginning on March 14.

Again, here is our 2026 meeting and events schedule; all dates are Saturdays unless otherwise indicated, all dates are now confirmed.

January 10 (e-Meeting)

February 21 (e-Meeting)

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 6

July 12 (Sunday; BBQ-in-the-Park)

July 26 (Sunday; Virtual Picnic)

July 12 (Sunday; Summer Barbecue-in-the-Park)

July 26 (Sunday; Virtual Picnic)

August 15 (“Fancrafting Workshops”)

September 19

October 17 (Super Sci-Fi Book Sale)

November 14

December 5 (Christmas Dinner & Party)

December 12 (Virtual Holiday Get-Together)

SENSOR READINGS

- Decades after he explored UFOs and alien visitations with *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977) and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), superstar director Steven Spielberg revisits the topic this summer with *Disclosure Day*, scheduled for a June 12 release.

A trailer has been circulating and the film’s marketing campaign touts the tag line “All will be disclosed.” Spielberg himself came up with the story, involving the revelation to humanity that space aliens do, in fact, exist, and they appear to be of the shape-shifting variety. Speculation in some quarters is that *Disclosure Day* is a sequel to *Close Encounters*. Emily Blunt, Josh O’Connor, Colin Firth, Eve Hewson, and Colman Domingo star.

- Amazon is developing a new *Stargate* series for its Prime Video streaming service, with veteran television franchise creators and executives Martin Gero, Brad Wright, and Joe Mallozzi involved. Screenwriter Dean Devlin and director Roland Emmerich, who co-produced the 1994 movie upon which the television series were based, are listed as executive producers, bringing together for the first time *Stargate*’s film and television teams. The third and final *Stargate* live-action series wrapped in 2011 and fans of the popular franchise have long lobbied for the Gate to be opened once again. Apparently, this new series will *not* be a reboot or a reimagining, but the next chapter in the established storyline. All canon will be maintained! In the early stages of development, this new, as yet untitled series is probably a couple years from casting and a premiere, but given the details announced to date, we can certainly speculate that original cast members may well make an appearance.

- Driven by social media and posting noteworthy sales numbers in recent years, “Romantasy” has taken hold of publishing, and is now trending as a top genre. Romantasy blends the tropes of traditional romance fiction with those of fantasy, typically pairing young, female protagonists with a magical or mythological lover, like an elf, fairie, warlock, centaur, or minotaur. Stirred into the soup is more than a dash of spicy sex! Darker sub-genres of Romantasy like “Romantastopia” and “Horromantasy” introduce additional elements to the recipe, those of the dystopian novel and horror genre, respectively. BookTok and Instagram, where Romantasy’s readership of primarily young women share fan art, reviews, and book lists, fuels the fire and exercises a formidable influence on the publishing industry. Some observers have opined that so toxic is today’s real-world dating scene that young women prefer the escapist distractions of Romantasy!

- After issues arose during a “wet dress rehearsal,” earlier this month, of the Space Launch System, or SLS rocket that will propel Artemis II’s Orion spacecraft to the moon, a February launch was scrubbed. The next available launch dates fall early in March, Friday the 6th being the earliest. The NASA-led Artemis II mission will test systems and carry four astronauts to the moon for a lunar flyby, including the Canadian Space Agency’s Jeremy Hansen. The last Apollo mission visited the moon in 1972, and Artemis II will see man return in advance of a planned landing in 2028.

- Coming to Montreal on March 27, 2026: Harry Potter: Visions of Magic! Downtown Place Bonaventure hosts this interactive, multimedia experience featuring motion-activated sounds and videos, ambient music, and lighting and fog effects. Patrons are issued a magic wand with which to explore J. K. Rowling’s Wizarding World. Cool! We are informed that typically, one can take in the experience in about an hour, an hour-and-a half. No prices yet quoted, but tickets will only be available online, and once purchased, are not refundable or transferable. The show runs until August, and so should be considered as a possibility for the club’s planned June 6 field trip. For more information: harrypottervisionsofmagic.com/ca

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

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA’s Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: Keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the Impulse mailing address: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9

Impulse est préparée une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l’AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: Keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l’adresse de Impulse: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9