

NEXT CLUB MEETING: SATURDAY, MAY 9

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

Salle Faubourg
(South "Condo" Tower)

And Simultaneously on ZOOM at: www.MonSFFA.ca

MEETING THEME: *We will be voting on our 2026 field trip destination, and your participation is welcome and encouraged! You may submit any last-minute proposals before we make our choice.*

MAY'S AGENDA INCLUDES:

- **YOUR MOST IMPACTFUL SCI-FI MOVIES AND TELEVISION!**—Which were the SF/F movies or television episodes that had the most impact on you, intellectually or emotionally, and left you thinking profoundly about what you had just seen well after the closing credits had rolled?
- **SINBAD AND THE VOYAGES NEVER TAKEN: THE UNREALIZED FILMS OF RAY HARRYHAUSEN**—Which fantastical, amazing, incredible sci-fi or fantasy movies might have come to be, if only the stop-motion master could have made them?
- **COMING ATTRACTIONS!**—We look ahead to this summer's season in SF/F film, television, and publishing.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, June 6: Club Field Trip
Sunday, July 12: BBQ-in-the-Park

CLUB TO CHOOSE JUNE FIELD TRIP DESTINATION

Each June, MonSFFA foregoes a regular meeting and sets out instead on a field trip, visiting museums, exhibitions, and such.

The Executive have been collecting from club members suggestions as to where we might venture this year, and at our upcoming May 9 meeting, those options will be presented and discussed. Any last-minute additions to the list will be welcomed at that time, and then we will choose by vote one of options as this year's field trip destination.

Our 2026 MonSFFA Field Trip is scheduled for Saturday, June 6.

In past years, the club has visited Montreal's Biodôme, for example, and several of the city's museums to take in special exhibitions on medieval knights, dinosaurs, ILM, the art of Disney's animation studios, and aviation. We've also car-pooled to Ottawa in recent years to visit the many national museums in our country's Capitol.

Generally, a destination is selected that offers some element of science, technology, history, or art, especially when some even tangential aspect of SF/F is a part.

CLUB HUNTS GIANT LEECHES, EXPLORES SF/F'S TITANIC TALES AT APRIL MEETING!

Our April 11 meeting began with a screening of the public-domain, low-rent, 1959 B-movie *Attack of the Giant Leeches*, during which MonSFFen were encouraged to shout out commentary and crack jokes at the film's expense, in the style of *MST3K*!

MST3K (*Mystery Science Theatre 3000*) was a TV comedy series that featured characters compelled to watch cheesy, really bad, sci-fi B-movies. During the screenings of these films, they would comment aloud with droll, pithy remarks mocking plots, acting, special effects, etc.

A monster flick worthy of the drive-in circuit

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, April:
NONE

Fees Due This Month, May:
BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
MACE, Isis
MOORE, Moses

Fees Due Next Month, June:
SILVERMAN, Barbara
WALLING, René

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: _____

produced by Roger Corman and his brother, Gene, the film *really* skimped on special effects, notably the giant-leech costumes, which were apparently made of old raincoats and garbage bags!

Club members had a lot of fun mocking the movie and generally commenting on its shortcomings, of which there were many—writing, acting, production values, the lead character’s girlfriend serving, perhaps, a little more coffee than necessary throughout proceedings!

On this occasion, calling out remarks aloud during the screening was perfectly acceptable behaviour, and in fact, encouraged!

On this very date, April 11, in 1912, Keith Braithwaite noted, the *Titanic* set out from Ireland on the final leg of her scheduled transatlantic crossing. He offered a brief primer on the great ship, outlining her construction and launch, and the timeline of her doomed maiden voyage, before exploring science fiction and fantasy’s take on the famous ocean liner.

There have been numerous SF&F novels, films, and television shows featuring the *Titanic*, and Keith highlighted a selection of these.

The first work of *Titanic* fiction that he remembers reading, fresh out of high school, was Clive Cussler’s science fictional techno-thriller/undersea adventure novel *Raise the Titanic*, later adapted as a movie. The pilot episode of Irwin Allen’s *Time Tunnel* was a *Titanic* tale. Numerous paranormal romance and supernatural horror novels have been set either aboard the ship, in 1912, or at the wreck site, more than two miles beneath the surface of the Atlantic. A *Doctor Who* Christmas Special was set aboard a spaceship version of *Titanic*, as was an episode of the animated sci-fi comedy *Futurama*.

Showing still images and video clips, Keith covered his topic from bow to stern, concluding with his assessment of James Cameron’s *Titanic* as a paranormal romance! While most consider the movie a classic romance, set against an epic historical calamity, Keith argues that the closing sequence introduces a supernatural element. The just-departed spirit of Rose is reunited with the ghost of her beloved Jack, and with all those she had travelled with aboard ship, and who died in the sinking, on a preternaturally restored *Titanic* inhabiting the wreck site at the bottom of the ocean, as if a ghost itself.

Naturally, of interest to our group was NASA’s return to the moon, freshly in the news, with Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen having been a part.

We screened edited TV coverage of the Artemis II mission, from launch to splashdown, which, just the evening prior, had successfully concluded to much acclaim and fanfare. Older MonSFFers recalled that the same kind of excitement surrounded the Apollo flights of the late 1960s, including, of course, the first lunar landing mission in the summer of 1969.

POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO “ECHO” ISSUE DURING ZOOM-CHATS

The club will be testing a new fix to the “echo” issue some online participants are experiencing when video-clips are played during our meetings. We hope it’ll work, and bring this annoyance to an end! Stay tuned.

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

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

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

RUSSELL LISTER, 1948-2026

We are terribly saddened by news of the sudden, unexpected passing of Russell Lister, husband of long-time club member and former MonSFFA president Cathy Palmer-Lister. Russell passed away on April 11 at age 77. He and Cathy had been married for 54 years.

“He was a wonderfully amiable sort,” recalls current club president Keith Braithwaite, who had occasion to visit from time to time, “always warm, welcoming, helpful, quick with a smile or a laugh, and only intermittently the curmudgeon Cathy affectionately ascribed him to be, but always in the most charming of ways.”

We are pained that the vagaries of fate have left Cathy shocked, staggered, and in this life abruptly and ever parted without opportunity to have said goodbye. We can only imagine the sorrow she must feel as we offer sincere condolences to our friend and her family at this most difficult time.

In accordance with Russell’s wishes, no funeral will be held. He was a wholehearted supporter of the SPCA Montréal, and donations may be made to that organization in his memory.

