

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

February / Février 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 2)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, February 22

11:45AM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:45AM

MARE TRANQUILITATIS: Screening of the episode of the television mini-series *From the Earth to the Moon* recounting the Apollo 11 mission.

1:00PM

FLY ME TO THE MOON: In the summer of 1969, man first set foot on the moon. As we approach the 40th anniversary of that great undertaking, we offer an historical overview of the event, plus a look at moon mythology and some of the many lunar adventures in sci-fi cinema and television.

3:00PM

SAVIORS OF THE UNIVERSE—SCI-FI'S HOTTEST HUNKS: Our MonSFFem flip through the sci-fi equivalent of the annual fireman's calendar while exploring with the group the manly attributes of the genre's most handsome heroes.

Next Month's Meeting

March 22

- Lilliputian Worlds
- Game: Magnification Factor 3

Second VP Added to 2009 Executive

The club has returned last year's Executive to office for another term, and added a co-, or second, vice-president. Acting as MonSFFA's Chief Returning Officer, Cathy Palmer-Lister, a former club president, officiated over the selection of this year's Executive at the club's January 18 meeting.

Berny Reischl, Keith Braithwaite, and Sylvain St-Pierre were returned to office as, respectively, president, vice-president, and treasurer. Joining them is Lindsay Brown, who was elected as an additional VP to help with an expected increase in organizational chores during this, Montreal fandom's Worldcon year.

We congratulate our 2009 Executive and, with all confidence, entrust steering of the club to them.

Last Year on the Job for MonSFFA's President, ConCept's Chair

Both MonSFFA's president and ConCept's chair have recently announced that 2009 will be their last year of service as leaders of their respective organizations.

At MonSFFA's January 18 meeting, long-serving club president Berny Reischl took the occasion of his election to another term as the club's chief executive (see lead item) to announce that he will step down at the end of this year. Berny is MonSFFA's fifth and longest-serving president, having held the position for twice the time of any of his predecessors. It's been a good, long run but it's just time for a change at the top, says Berny, who feels that remaining too long on the job risks burn-out, which would hardly benefit the club.

Cathy Palmer-Lister cited fatigue and a dearth of free time to devote to ConCept as her reasons for

**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*:

Ø

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

**KRIMP, Nick
LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie**

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

**D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda
HAMMOCK, Christopher
SIMARD, Phil
THIBODEAU, Claude**

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.

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

CITY/VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

Tel./Tél.: () ()

HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail/Courriel: _____

Interests/Intérêts: _____

departing the post she has held since the convention was rebooted in 2001 under MonSFFA. Cathy also believes that ConCept, indeed any organization, should regularly refresh its leadership in order to capitalize on new ideas and methods, and remain vital.

While we can fully understand Berny and Cathy's reasoning, we will nevertheless surely miss their dedication and guidance come next year.

January MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA opened its 2009 schedule with a meeting on January 18 featuring, right off the top, guest speakers David Shuman and Paul Simard, two local space buffs who found themselves contracted by the Canadian Space Agency to build a replica of NASA's Phoenix Lander. The CSA was a partner in the recently completed Phoenix Mars Mission, an unmanned exploration of Mars' polar terrain.

David and Paul were tasked with building a full-scale replica of the mission's lander that could be used for publicity and exhibition purposes. Their finished model was on display at the downtown Planetarium for a time last year, and more recently, at the Old Port.

Offering a slideshow illustrating their progress as they pieced together what in the end proved a most impressive mock-up of the lander, the two detailed the construction of their scratchbuilt model and spoke of the problems they encountered and overcame. They described the materials applied to the job, largely wood, metal, plastic and assorted workshop scraps, but at times, unique finds like the legs of a large telescope's tripod, which were employed to fashion the vehicle's landing struts. With access to his father's garage, Paul focused on large components, like the body of the lander, while David worked in his apartment studio on the smaller details, like the equipment packages mounted topside.

The pair had access to the actual

blueprints for parts of the lander, but much of their effort relied on photographs of the prototype and educated guesswork. The end result is all the more remarkable in that their replica lander was completed in only three weeks! CSA officials were so pleased with the model that David and Paul may well expect to be contracted for other such projects in future.

Raffle prizes won during the mid-meeting break included a lavishly illustrated coffee-table book on Mars.

Following the break, Cathy Palmer-Lister, acting as Chief Returning Officer, oversaw the election of the club's Executive for the coming year (see also lead item). Returned to office for another term were President Berny Reischl, Vice-President Keith Braithwaite, and Treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre. Added to the Executive this year was a second VP, Lindsay Brown.

The assembled membership offered the 2009 Executive Committee congratulations and best wishes regarding the job ahead.

Berny then took a quick few minutes to screen for the group the video time capsule he had shot and edited at the end of last year, in which MonSFFen made on-camera predictions as to things five years hence. The DVD he produced will be tucked away and screened again only in 2013, a date in accordance with the end of the world, if the Mayan calendar is to be believed.

A panel on the art of giving a panel capped the afternoon. Keith, Cathy, and Maureen Whitelaw sat at the head table and opened a discussion of the "do"s and "don't"s of giving good panel.

Advice offered included: keep things concise; avoid an endless list of examples in illustration of a point when one or two will suffice; and, know your material and be prepared to explain and defend your positions in a debate. It was suggested that preparing a little more material than you expect to use is a good idea, just in case you find yourself running fast.

Invite audience participation in a debate. Control of the discussion must be maintained, however. Do so by establishing a speaking order, encouraging audience members to keep their questions and comments brief, and when necessary, refocusing the group should the discussion wander too far off topic.

Augment your presentation with visuals. Audiences like to see as well as hear what you are talking about. Offering a Powerpoint presentation or screening various video clips in support of your subject makes it all far more interesting for the audience. But don't fret if you are not equipped to do so. Even simply holding up a copy of the book you're discussing, or a series of photographs, provides an element of the visual.

For taking part in our January 18 meeting, we thank very much our guest speakers and panelists. Thanks, also, to those members who helped to plan and run this meeting.

Briefly:

- The October 25 date MonSFFA submitted to the Days Hotel as that month's meeting booking is unavailable. The Executive is considering alternate dates; stay tuned for further information.
- Reminder to MonSFFen attending Anticipation: Hugo and Aurora nomination deadlines are fast approaching. For details see Anticipation's Progress Report 3 or surf to: www.anticipationsf.ca
- Several MonSFFen recently enjoyed the Montreal premieres of *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans* and the comedy *Pink Panther 2* courtesy our good friends at Promo Avenue. As a regular co-sponsor of local film premieres, MonSFFA often receives a certain number of complimentary passes, which are distributed to club members.
- We extend sincere condolences to long-time club member Maureen Whitelaw, whose dear mother recently passed away. Our thoughts are with Maureen and her family.

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA. An e-version is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following methods:

- In person at a MonSFFA meeting
- Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse":
MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

- E-mail: bigewok@total.net
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

www.MonSFFA.com

Impulse est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est aussi disponible en version électronique sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit:

- En personne à une réunion du club
- Courriel: bigewok@total.net

Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

- Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831
- Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse":
AMonSFF a/s de
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6