

IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

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

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

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

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

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*:

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

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**

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: _____

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 Berny 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.

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":
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- E-mail: bigewok@total.net
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Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

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:

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