

# 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

May-June / Mai-Juin 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 5)

## NEXT MonSFFA EVENT IS THIS WEEKEND

Club Field Trip to:

### DISNEY: ONCE UPON A TIME

An exhibition of works of art  
that served as inspiration for  
the Disney Studios

**Saturday, May 26**

Meet at 11:45AM *sharp* (don't be late!)  
in front of Montreal Museum of Fine  
Arts, 1380 Sherbrooke St. W. (corner  
Crescent St.), downtown Montreal

Cost (cash only, please):

- \$15 per person
- \$7.50, students and seniors
- Free for children under 12  
accompanied by an adult

## Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting:

**Sunday, June 10**

1:00PM-5:00PM  
St-François Room, Days Hotel  
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

### SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING:

#### MONSFFILMS WORKSHOP:

We continue planning and work on  
both *Timeline* and *Beavra Las Vegas*,  
our current video-film projects,  
including recording the vocal tracks  
for "Beavra Las Vegas," a filk song  
for the *Beavra* sequel's soundtrack.

## ATTENTION: May Meeting Cancelled in Favour of Club Field Trip

Please take note: the club's May 27 meeting has  
been *cancelled* in favour of a group outing, to take  
place on Saturday, May 26. We will visit the Montreal  
Museum of Fine Arts to take in an exhibition of some  
of the works of art that served as inspiration for the  
Disney Studios while creating some of their  
masterpieces of animation.

We want to take the opportunity to see this  
wonderful exhibition before it closes next month, as  
well as step out of our usual meeting schedule for a  
change. Treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre notes, too, that the  
club will save the cost of renting our meeting room this  
month, which can only help our bottom line.

Unfortunately, the just-announced transit strike  
almost certain to be in full swing this weekend threw  
something of a monkey wrench into our plans, but  
nevertheless, we hope that enough of you will manage  
to join the group on Saturday, despite the strike. If we  
manage a group of 20 or more, the cost of admission will  
be less than the listed \$15 per person, so bring a friend!

See the "events" column, left, for details of the  
field trip. Please be on time (11:45AM sharp!) as we  
must pay admission and enter as a group. *We will not  
wait* for late-comers! Some members, in attendance at  
our April meeting, have paid in advance; for those who  
have not, cash only, please.

You may rent an "audio guide" unit for the exhibition  
from the museum at a cost of \$5, should you wish.

Note: if you decide to skip our field trip but still  
want to see the show, admission to the museum is free  
the next day, Sunday, the 27th, which just happens to be  
the date of Montreal's "free museums" day this year.  
However, we must caution you that the crowds on these  
days are typically monstrous and the line-ups long. We

## 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:

KENNEY, Daniel  
METHE, Ann  
NOËL, Kim  
SMITH, Garry  
WADSWORTH, Beulah

**Annual membership  
fees are due this and next  
month (May and June)  
from the following MonSFFA  
members:**

#### MAY

MORROW, Gordon  
SICHEL, Danny  
SYSAVANE, Khoba

#### JUNE

BELLEMARE, Josée  
DUROCHER, Dominique  
EASTMAN, Justin  
GLOVER, Wayne  
JAMES, David  
MOHAPEL, Charles  
PELLEY, Lynda  
PENALBA, Theresa  
SILVERMAN, Barbara

Annual membership fees  
will become due in July from the  
following MonSFFA members:

AUBIN, Debra  
BRODEUR, Chantal  
MURPHY, Tim  
PETERS, Ernst-Udo

Please renew your MonSFFA  
membership in timely fashion.  
Annual dues are \$25. Fill out the  
membership application form,  
bottom of page, include payment  
(cheque or money order made out  
to MonSFFA), and mail to:

**MonSFFA**  
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc  
Montreal, Québec  
H2X 4A7

## 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. / Tél.: ( )	( )
Address / Adresse:		E-mail / Courriel:	
NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE		APT. / APP.	
CITY / VILLE	PROVINCE	POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL	
Interests / Intérêts:			

opted to avoid that scenario so that we may fully appreciate and enjoy the exhibition.

We apologize for any inconvenience this last-minute re-jigging of the club's events calendar may have caused members. Circumstances conspired to prevent more timely notification.

## April MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's well-attended April 22 meeting was devoted to *Stargate SG-1*, the longest running American sci-fi television series in history. Panelists Phil Simard, Theresa Penalba, and Wayne Glover hosted an appreciation and discussion of the popular show, which was based on the 1996 film *Stargate*.

Our panelists described the series as top-notch sci-fi entertainment and it was put forth that the show's central conceit, that of a gateway through which one could travel instantaneously to distant worlds, provided the show's writers with countless opportunities for engaging stories. This, offered the panel, was one of the strengths of *Stargate SG-1*—the show compares favourably to the original *Star Trek* in this respect—resulting in many excellent episodes over the 10-season life of the series. *SG-1* deserves to be ranked among the best sci-fi series ever broadcast.

An animated audience quickly joined in the conversation, commenting on the remarks of the panelists, tossing in their own opinions, and listing favourite *SG-1* episodes and moments. The show appeals to many tastes, it was opined, offering stories of exploration and discovery, space opera, military adventure, tales of intrigue, humanity, and more.

The panel cited other pluses, including the show's strongly defined and well-written main protagonists, a sardonic sense of humour, a solid group of supporting characters, and a great cast.

Barbara Silverman was up following the mid-meeting break with a brief presentation on the ancient mythologies

and historical locales from which *Stargate*'s creators drew.

Most obvious is ancient Egyptian culture, the motifs of which were extensively tapped for both the *Stargate* film and subsequent TV series. Some of the character names and locales in the *Stargate* universe were culled from the ancients. Apophis, for instance, the lead villain of *SG-1*, derives his moniker from the Greek name for Apep, an evil demon in Egyptian mythology. And his Goa'uld queen, Amonet, was named for the Egyptian goddess Amunet (sometimes spelled "Amonet").

Naqahdah, which the show's fans will recognize as the fictional material from which the stargate was constructed, is in history the name of an ancient Egyptian town and a pre-dynastic Egyptian culture (spelled "Naqada" in both cases), explained Barbara.

The planet Abydos, meanwhile, home of *SG-1* team member Daniel Jackson's wife, Sha're, was no doubt named after the ancient Egyptian town situated along the river Nile. Perhaps, speculated Barbara, when weaving the sad story of Jackson and Sha're—she becomes human host to the Goa'uld, Amonet—*Stargate*'s writers were partly inspired by the tragic tale of Greek mythology's doomed lovers Hero and Leander, the latter hailing from another town called Abydos in what is today Turkey.

Augmenting the afternoon's programming was a display of *Stargate SG-1* collectibles, including DVDs, books, photographs, scale model kits, and detailed replicas of some of the props used on the show.

Our *SG-1* presentations and discussion were bookended by screenings of a couple of episodes of the new *Doctor Who* spin-off, *Torchwood*.

A nod of thanks to our panelists, Phil Simard, Theresa Penalba, Wayne Glover, and Barbara Silverman. And, our thanks, as always, to the usual suspects who regularly help to plan and run our events.

## June MonSFFA Meeting Scheduled *Just Two Weeks* After May Field Trip; No *Impulse* Next Month

Note that June's MonSFFA meeting will take place only two weeks after our May 26 field trip. Normally, there is about a month between MonSFFA gatherings and so, because of the shortened time between our May and June events, and because the production schedule of this news bulletin generally requires a tad more than two weeks, *Impulse* will not publish next month. The issue you are now reading has been designated our May/June 2007 issue. *Impulse* returns in July, in time to announce details of our annual summer barbecue.

## Cost-Saving Measures re *Impulse*

In keeping with the club's most recent cost-saving measures, we have decided to drop the June issue of *Impulse* not only this year (see previous item), but in future years, as well. We expect, also, to permanently drop at least one more issue from the schedule, probably December's. Our goal is to trim by two or three the number of issues of *Impulse* published annually. This will save the club money in terms of both the news bulletin's printing and mailing costs while having a minimum impact on services to members.

Further, we will encourage members, whenever possible, to opt for the electronic (.pdf) version of *Impulse* rather than the paper issue so as to save on printing and mailing costs, the latter in particular representing a sizable portion of *Impulse*'s annual budget.

Currently, about 25 percent of club members receive *Impulse* via the Internet rather than as a paper publication delivered by postal mail. We hope to double that figure by year's end and eventually, count in the 90 percent range the number of MonSFFen receiving our *e-Impulse*.

**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  
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc  
Montreal, Québec, H2X 4A7

- E-mail: [bigewok@total.net](mailto:bigewok@total.net)
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

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](mailto: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":  
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[www.MonSFFA.com](http://www.MonSFFA.com)