

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

May-June / Mai-Juin 2008 (Vol. 12, No./Nº 5)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, May 25

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

HEROES AND VILLIANS: We try our hand at designing a comic book superhero and his or her nemesis.

2:30PM

PIXELIZED SCI-FI POSTER CHALLENGE:

A visual game that challenges players to identify sci-fi movie posters the images of which have been purposely obscured by the application of several pixelation filters. How good is your eye at filling in the details?

FIELD TRIP TO BIODOME

Sunday, June 22

MonSFFen to meet in
entrance lobby of Montreal
Biodome at 10:45AM

Biodome located next to Olympic
Stadium (Metro Pie-IX or Viau)

Admission: Adults \$20, Children \$10

See lead item, right, for details.

JULY 20

MONSFFA BBQ, PARC ANGRIGNON

Sign Up for Biodome Field Trip

The club has planned a field trip to Montreal's Biodome in place of a June meeting. The outing will take place on Sunday, June 22.

The Biodome, housed in the former Olympic Velodrome next to the Olympic Stadium (Metro Pie-IX or Viau), is a first-rate zoological exhibition featuring recreations of a number of ecosystems supporting a variety of terrestrial and aquatic animal life. Wonderful photographic opportunities abound. Our admission fee includes self-guided tours of not only the Biodome, but the related Insectarium and Botanical Gardens.

We will gather in the entrance lobby of the Biodome at 10:45AM (don't be late!) in order that we may enter as a group at 11:15AM and benefit from a special group rate offered for admission: \$20 per adult, \$10 per child. These prices amount to \$5 off the regular cost of admission per individual. We require a group of at least 20 to qualify for the discount. MonSFFen are encouraged to welcome family and friends along for the afternoon.

Some club members have already signed up; we must reach the 20-person minimum by the conclusion of our May 25 meeting, and collect all monies for the group admission charge. Note that should we be unable to meet that minimum, all monies will be refunded and we'll each then have to pay the regular admission charge.

Finally, folk may wish to bring with them a bagged lunch rather than partake of the somewhat pricey onsite snack bar.

Next Impulse in July

Please note that *Impulse* will not publish next month, June, as the issue you hold in hand (or are viewing on screen) covers both May and June. The next issue of the news bulletin is scheduled for release in mid-July, shortly before our annual club barbecue.

**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*:

DODDS, Georges
KRIMP, Nick

**Annual membership fees
are due this month, May,
from the following MonSFFA
members:**

**BENNETT, Paul
BURAKOFF, Mark
MINEAU, Sebastien
SICHEL, Danny
WALLING, René**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, June, from the following MonSFFA members:

**BELLEMARE, Josée
DION, Mireille
PELLEY, Lynda
SILVERMAN, Barbara**

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: _____

April Meeting's Fund-Raiser Boosts Revenue

MonSFFA staged a small fund-raising operation in conjunction with its April 20 meeting, boosting usual meeting revenue by over \$100. Club members and friends in attendance enjoyed a spread of delectable victuals at our SF/F-themed bake sale while snapping up bargain-priced books, toys, and assorted collectibles at MonSFFA's Sci-Fi Garage Sale.

A table was set up in a corner of the room from which were sold a variety of entertainingly named sci-fi snacks that had been prepared for the occasion by club members. Fudge squares were labelled Bantha Podo, for instance, while slices of cake tinted with green food dye were dubbed (what else?) Soylent Green. This fare was available throughout the afternoon and together with our usual selection of drinks, kept the fen well fed and watered.

A number of MonSFFen, meanwhile, had brought in a selection of sci-fi items for sale to their fellow club members. Several tables were set up to display these wares and sales profited both the MonSFFen selling their stock and the club, which collected a percentage of sales as a facilitator's fee.

We take this opportunity to thank those members and friends who contributed to and helped organize and run our fund-raising operations, in particular Julia Sinclair, Lindsay Brown, and Alice Novo, who handled the bake sale, and Josée Bellemare, who oversaw the garage sale.

As for the afternoon's programming, Cathy Palmer-Lister moderated a discussion of "green" SF, this being science fiction stories featuring an environmental theme. While global warming—or more accurately, climate change—has dominated public debate these past few years, the group recalled the many disaster tales published in the 1970s involving elevated pollution levels triggering a return to the Ice Age. The science of climate change now popularly promulgated, it was noted, suggests that while certain areas of planet Earth may well heat up, turning now temperate territories into arid deserts, other regions are expected to plunge into just the kind of Ice Age conditions those decades-old SF stories envisioned. The recent blockbuster film *The*

Day After Tomorrow depicted such a scenario. This is all a little exaggerated, perhaps, suggested some.

Discussion ranged widely, questioning, for example, the ethics of terraforming another world to suit human needs, a common SF trope. Also proffered was the theme of environment adversely affected by overpopulation, this another doomsday theme popular in the SF of earlier decades. Stories involving new sources of energy were touched upon but biofuels were thought by some to alleviate one problem while causing another—spiralling food costs and eventually, shortages. The film *Soylent Green* was cited as a means of dealing with this issue, and as a grotesque form of recycling.

While the Earth has undergone dramatic environmental shifts over the course of its natural history, it was suggested that the rapid advance of climate change recorded in recent years may not, ultimately, allow species to adapt, as they have in eons past. But some species will no doubt survive, just as has always been the case at such pivotal points in the life of our planet. The great beasts of the Ice Age perished as their world grew warmer but many other creatures managed to survive the transition to a warmer climate.

Finally, man's grasp of technology has allowed him to adapt to vastly different environments and may well prove to be his savour in any ecological cataclysm to come.

The group then enjoyed a screening of the moving eco-themed SF film *Silent Running*, courtesy Berny Reischl.

MonSFFA's Anticipation Plans

As MonSFFen know, the World Science Fiction Convention—the Worldcon—will unfold here in Montreal next year under the name Anticipation. As one of the principal SF/F organizations operating in the host city, MonSFFA's executive believes that the club should hold a welcome-to-Montreal room party, perhaps, or some such function at the event.

Over the summer, the executive would like the input of the club's membership as to MonSFFA's plans for Anticipation. How should we welcome world fandom to our

city? What can we put together for the Worldcon next year? Give it some thought and let the executive know of your ideas, either in person at one of our upcoming meetings, or by standard or electronic post.

Reminder: Please Advise Club of Your Change of Address

Montreal's traditional moving season is upon us and we remind any MonSFFen who are moving in the coming months to please each advise the club of their change of address so that we may update our mailing list.

Briefly:

- While MonSFFA's monthly meetings continue to be held at the Days Hotel, given the club's budgetary constraints and the improbability of the hotel reducing sufficiently its newly elevated function space rental rates, the club is actively searching for a new meeting locale, preferably in the downtown area. While we would certainly like to stay put, regrettably, financial realities are what they are. Cost cutting has helped some and will allow us to extend our stay at the Days Hotel a little longer, but long-term projections tell us that we simply cannot sustain the increasing cost of renting our meeting hall there.
- MonSFFA was once again involved in the premieres of a number of movies over the past number of months. Club members benefited from free passes to the first Montreal screenings of the sci-fi adventure *Jumper*, as well as the non-SF/F films *Untraceable*, *Vantage Point*, and *21*.
- MonSFFA Webmaster Berny Reischl and *Warp* editor Cathy Palmer-Lister have worked out all the bugs and we are pleased to announce that *Warp* is now available in .pdf format exclusively to MonSFFA members. E-mail Berny (president@monsffa.com) to request the access password for each issue then surf to the club's Web site and download your issues of e-*Warp*, complete with full-colour photos and hot links, among other features.
- We remind MonSFFen due to renew their memberships over the summer months to please do so in timely fashion.

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:

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
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Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

www.MonSFFA.com