

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

June / Juin 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 5)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, June 14

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES IN THE 21ST

CENTURY: We outline the fun to be had playing sci-fi role-playing games and examine the many changes that have been introduced to the RPG universe in recent years.

2:15PM

SCI-FI FUND-RAISING FAIR:

We're trying something new! This hour will serve as a test of the concept. Come try your hand at fun, skill-testing games and win prizes!

3:30PM

SCOOPY-DOO, HOW OLD ARE YOU?:

We'll snack on the popular cartoon adventures of Scooby-Doo and his pals, who embarked on their first of many SF/F-ish cases 40 years ago this year.

Next Month's Event:

**MONSFFA'S ANNUAL
SUMMER BBQ**

July 26

Parc Angrignon, Lasalle

(Full details next issue. In case of inclement weather, event will take place following Sunday, August 2.)

MonSFFen Boldly Trek to New Flick

Sans a regular club meeting last month, a large contingent of MonSFFen instead made their way to the downtown Cinema Banque Scotia for a matinée screening of the much anticipated new *Star Trek* film.

Known for his TV successes *Lost* and more recently, *Fringe*, director J. J. Abrams helmed the rebooted *Star Trek*. And if the post-screening comments of our ardent group of Trekkers are any barometer, he has succeeded in resuscitating a once-stellar sci-fi franchise that had become, in recent years, moribund. Abrams' idea of returning to the roots of *Star Trek* proved to be the right call. After all, Kirk, Spock, McCoy, and the others were always rather more engaging characters than any of their successors. And Abrams even managed to technically maintain the original show's canon, jealously guarded by die-hard fans.

Though a few MonSFFen expressed minor quibbles with the film—no one much liked what the set designers had done with Engineering—by and large, the group was impressed. Plenty of action, lots of cool visuals, a cameo by Leonard Nimoy, but most importantly, a terrific new cast channeling uncannily in some cases the actors who first embodied the familiar characters of the original series. Our group really appreciated the many knowing nods to the original and those familiar and favourite characters.

After the show, some of the gang sat down for coffee and further discussion of the movie. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Our thanks to Berny Reischl for organizing the outing.

Warp Moves Online

Our move to put *Warp* online appears to have dodged any major glitches. A few initial minor technical problems were quickly addressed and everything seems to now be running smoothly. The idea is to deliver *Warp* to members as a .pdf, accessible by password from the club's Web site (MonSFFA.com).

An issue-specific password is to be supplied to all members in good standing with each edition of *Warp* released, allowing online access to the 'zine. Printed copies will remain available by request for those who prefer the

**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*:

BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
HAMMOCK, Christopher
NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando
SYSAVANE, Khoba
SICHEL, Danny
THIBODEAU, Claude

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

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

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

MORROW, Gordon
PEATMAN, Sean

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.

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Tel. / Tél.: () ()

HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

Address / Adresse: _____

E-mail / Courriel: _____

NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

Interests / Intérêts: _____

CITY/VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL

traditional magazine format, and will be delivered at a meeting or club event closely following the online release. In other words, all members get the online version and may, in addition, order a printed copy, which will be delivered to them either by hand at the next available opportunity, or, if necessary, via standard post.

We expect many MonSFFen will be entirely satisfied with the electronic version of *Warp* and thus we hope to reduce production costs by printing only the exact number of paper copies requested, and mailing costs by delivering said copies by hand.

Back issues of the 'zine will be available on the club's site, as well.

Sci-Fi Food and Easter Eggs on Menu at April Club Meeting

MonSFFA's April 19 meeting began with Sylvain St-Pierre's exhaustively researched presentation on food in science fiction and fantasy, from futuristic farming techniques and genetically modified crops to exotic alien cuisine and synthetic meals. The production and consumption of food in SF/F runs the gamut, envisioned by such diverse authors as Jules Verne, Harry Harrison, Isaac Asimov, Douglas Adams, Terry Pratchett, and cartoonist Matt Groening. Strange alien diets include the many dishes introduced in the *Star Trek* oeuvre, for example, while the *Dan Dare* comic strips featured food pills and Charlton Heston discovered to his chagrin the secret ingredient in Soylent Green. Clifford D. Simak's wood-eating aliens in *The Visitors* seem not so far fetched when compared to Matter-Eating Lad, a DC Comics superhero hailing from a planet the inhabitants of which can eat anything! Or Kevin O'Donnell, Jr.'s Actuni, a creature that feeds fruit growing out of itself to an organism living inside of it.

Sylvain also included a look at the various miracle kitchens of tomorrow promoted by the appliance manufacturers of the 1940s and '50s, as well as such real-world futuristic foodstuff as the consumables that fly aboard NASA spacecraft. Some fruits and nectars enjoyed in the ancient world are said to have magical properties, according to Greek, Roman, and other mythologies, the audience learned.

Sylvain capped his presentation with a quick look at, essentially, toilets of the future. Waste disposal and recycling systems, both

real and imagined, after all, are a by-product of food consumption. The modern Japanese toilet sports a control panel that looks like it belongs on the bridge of the starship *Enterprise*, where as famously noted by fans of the TV show, there appear to be no facilities.

The mid-meeting break saw our previously announced Easter egg decorating contest judged. Weeks prior to the April meeting, folk had been challenged to decorate an Easter egg in an SF/F theme and bring the result in to the meeting for all to see. There were well over a dozen wonderfully colourful, imaginative entries on display. Cathy Palmer-Lister and Keith Braithwaite ended up tied for first place after the votes were tallied while young Erin Braithwaite received a craftsmanship award for her *Star Wars*-themed "Easter on Endor" diorama.

Then it was on to Easter eggs of a different kind. Berny Reischl was up to finish the afternoon's programming with a sampling of some of the more interesting and amusing so-called "Easter eggs" to be found imbedded in movie and television-series DVDs. These are hidden extras included as unlisted bonus material. Often comedic in nature, they include rehearsal footage, bloopers, on-set practical jokes, and brief interviews with cast and crew members.

Berny screened a number of Easter eggs for the group, including the cast breaking up on camera at the sudden arrival of Spider-Man during the filming of an action sequence for *X-Men*, and the low-tech sock-puppet version of the movie included with the deluxe edition of *The Incredibles!*

We thank Sylvain, Berny, and all who helped to plan and run the April meeting.

Help Needed with MonSFFA Activities at Anticipation

We remind our members that MonSFFA is putting together a room party as our major promotional event during Anticipation, the 2009 Worldcon in August. ConConcept will co-host the event with us and help with expenses. Various fund-raising operations are currently underway to help offset the hefty costs involved, including a "Super Fund-Raising Raffle," of which we will speak in a moment.

We plan to hold the party the Friday evening of the con. Our theme is hockey and the club is asking members for loans of hockey equipment and paraphernalia with which to decorate the room. We're looking in

particular for a street-hockey goal net and a tabletop hockey game. We're also looking for volunteers to help set up and run the party. One need not be attending the convention to serve as a party volunteer. At our June 14 club meeting, ask the Executive how *you* can help!

In addition to our room party, MonSFFA has been asked by Anticipation to mount a static display at the Worldcon outlining the history of the club and Montreal fandom in general. We'll be displaying back issues of *Warp* and other items from the club's archives. To augment this material, we are asking members to loan us old photos, fanzines, promotional flyers and such relating to this club or Montreal fandom in general.

But we haven't received a whole lot of stuff to date, folks!

So please root through your old storage boxes one more time and select a few interesting items to contribute to our historical display. Please also identify as yours the items you lend and bring these in to our June 14 meeting. Your items will be returned to you with much thanks after the Worldcon. We further remind our membership that in order to help finance the club's activities at this summer's Worldcon, the "Super Fund-Raising Raffle" mentioned above was initiated, offering as prizes several premium collectibles valued at between \$25 and \$100. Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased at club events until the winning stubs are drawn at Polaris 23 in Toronto on July 12. Participants are eligible to win one or more of the prizes; winners may collect their prizes either at Polaris on the 12th or at MonSFFA's barbecue in Montreal on July 26. Prizes may alternately be shipped at the expense of the winner.

Impulse Editor Up For Aurora

We remind MonSFFen that Keith Braithwaite has been nominated for an Aurora Award! The Auroras are Canada's awards for achievements in the SF/F field. Voting is underway online and by standard post; the voting deadline is July 15, 2009. The Auroras this year will be handed out at Anticipation, the 67th Worldcon. Folks attending Anticipation need not pay the usual fee to vote. Keith is nominated for his efforts as *Impulse's* editor. We encourage MonSFFen to support one of their own. Surf to the Auroras Web site for more details: www.prixaurorawards.ca

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:

www.MonSFFA.com

- 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