

# MonSFFA • A MonSFF IMPULSE

NEWS BULLETIN  
OF THE MONTREAL  
SCIENCE FICTION  
AND FANTASY  
ASSOCIATION

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

June-July / Juin-Juillet 2011 (Vol. 15, No./N° 4)

**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*:

HICKEY, Mark  
NOVO, Fernando

**The annual membership  
fees of the following club  
members are due this month,  
June:**

BELLEMARE, Josée

The annual membership fees  
of the following club members  
will become due next month, July:

BENNETT, Paul  
GLOVER, Wayne  
MORROW, Gordon

The annual membership fees  
of the following club members  
will become due in August:

NOVO, Alice

Standard membership is *only* \$25  
annually. We offer a family rate  
of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these  
to enjoy our premium "Platinum"  
membership level. Please  
complete 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  
MonSFFA membership in timely  
fashion.

## MonSFFA'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

### GROUP OUTING Sunday, June 12

**Indiana Jones and the  
Adventure of Archeology**  
(plus MonSFFA Commercial Shoot)

11:30AM, Montreal Science Centre  
King Edward Pier, Old Port

**Admission: \$23 (adults)**

(For full details, see lead items, right)

### MonSFFA BARBECUE Sunday, July 24

10:30AM-4:00PM,  
Parc Angrignon, Lasalle



MonSFFA members, their families,  
friends invited! Bring your own chairs,  
picnic blankets, food and drink; club  
will supply cooking grill. If rained out,  
rescheduled for Sunday, July 31, same  
time, place. (See also item, page 2)

**NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 21**

## You Call This Archeology?

We have scrubbed a June meeting in favour of kicking  
off our schedule of summer activities a little earlier this year.  
To open MonSFFA's summer of 2011, the club has decided  
upon a group outing to the Indiana Jones and the Adventure  
of Archeology exhibit at the Old Port.

The exhibit explores the myths, secrets, and science of  
Indy's famous on-screen archeological discoveries, like the  
Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Grail. On display is a  
collection of props employed in the production of the *Indiana  
Jones* movies, as well as authentic ancient artifacts borrowed  
from the National Geographic Society and the Penn Museum.

The exhibit is hosted by the Montreal Science Centre,  
King Edward Pier, at the Old Port in Old Montreal. That's at  
the intersection of St-Laurent Boulevard and de la Commune  
Street, roughly a 10-minute walk south, towards the river,  
from either the Place d'Armes or Champs-de-Mars metro  
stations. Street parking is available in the area for those coming  
by car, though we caution it can sometimes be difficult to  
find a spot. Alternately, there is a pay parking lot near the  
Science Centre (access via King Edward Pier entrance).

We will meet in front of the Science Centre at 11:30AM  
(no later!) on Sunday, June 12, then enter the exhibit together.  
Admission: \$23 for adults, \$20 for teens and seniors, \$13.50  
for children under 13 years of age. Includes access to general  
admission exhibits. (Club president Berny Reischl will have  
his cell phone with him should anyone have difficulty finding  
the place; call him at: 514-885-5294.)

Join us for this rare opportunity to view some really cool  
stuff and learn a little something about the fascinating field of  
archeology!

## After Indy Outing

We expect to exit the above-mentioned Indiana Jones  
archeology exhibit around 1:00PM. We have planned, at this  
time, a *second* group activity. After a brief lunch break, we'll  
put together a quick script for a short promotional spot for the  
club. Nothing fancy — no more than a minute or so in length,  
no special costumes, props, or complicated stunts or special  
effects — just a simple, clever, effective commercial touting  
MonSFFA, featuring ourselves as spokespeople in front of  
whatever interesting backdrops the Old Port offers. We'll then  
shoot the piece right then and there! So show up with a few  
rough ideas in mind, people, and let's have fun with it!

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

MonSFFen who will not be visiting the archeology exhibit are certainly welcome to meet up with us in front of the Science Centre at 1:00PM to take part in the video shoot.

## This Year's MonSFFA Barbecue Set For July 24

MonSFFen, their families and friends are invited to the club's annual summer barbecue, scheduled this year for Sunday, July 24. In case of inclement weather on that day, the event will be postponed one week, until the following Sunday, July 31.

We expect to occupy our usual spot at Parc Angrignon in Lasalle. Look for us on the picnic grounds just behind the Angrignon metro station, a couple hundred feet or so from the parking lot next to Ferme Angrignon, the park's petting zoo. (See map to picnic site, events column.) We plan to secure a few picnic tables and set up around 10:30AM. Bring along a Frisbee, soccer ball, or any games that you may wish to enjoy, plus your own food and drink—the club will supply a cooking grill.

Do join us for a pleasant day in the park. And don't forget your sunscreen!

## May MonSFFA Meeting

The club's May gathering was held on the 15th and recorded healthier attendance numbers than the recent string of meetings for which attendance was noticeably down, occasioning some concern on the part of the club's chiefs, as expressed in this news bulletin last issue. We are encouraged by this improvement.

The afternoon's slate featured a most interesting presentation by Sylvain St-Pierre, who shifted his focus, for the better, from the advertised topic. Rather than exploring the various SF/F films and television series that were planned, but ultimately, never produced—a subject we have covered before—he refreshed his presentation to highlight the abandoned concepts of sci-fi's familiar movies and TV shows.

For example, *Star Trek's U.S.S. Enterprise* was originally envisioned as having a large spherical fuselage rather than the sleeker saucer-shaped upper hull that ultimately defined the look of the now classic spaceship. And at one point, designers had positioned that saucer as the ship's lower hull. A sketch of the *Enterprise* for the discarded *Star Trek: Phase II* television series (producers instead decided on a big-screen return to *Star Trek* in the late 1970s, resulting in *Star Trek: The Motion*

*Picture*) looked like a cross between the well-known *Enterprise* design and one of *Star Wars'* giant Star Destroyers.

*Next Generation's* Ferengi, in early concepts, resembled garden gnomes, as did Jedi master Yoda in several discarded design sketches. And before it became the signature weapon of the Jedi Knights, the lightsabre was to have been an everyday sidearm wielded by just about everyone in the *Stars Wars* universe. Further, Luke was to have been female in an early development of the story, and would have served as a love interest for Han Solo!

Sylvain's presentation was illustrated with numerous blueprints, costume sketches, and conceptual drawings, showing his audience unrealized designs for everything from R2-D2 (minus legs; uniball propulsion) to *Alien's* *Nostramo* spacecraft (massive asteroid with living quarters, engines attached) to *Babylon 5's* Delenn (Minbari conceived as genderless beings).

An interesting path not taken involved Québec-born actress Geneviève Bujold, who was originally cast as the captain of starship *Voyager* (she quickly decided to forego the demands of a weekly television series). Sylvain screened a clip of Bujold playing a scene as Captain Nicole Janeway.

Also touched upon were rejected concepts in the real world, notably NASA's early designs for the Lunar Lander, and redacted portions of novels, like H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, the original edition of which included a chapter set in the far distant future with man reduced to a kangaroo-like creature. Jules Verne had an entire book rejected by his publishers, who thought it too unbelievable. Rediscovered in 1989 and published in 1994, *Le XXe siècle* is, in hindsight, a remarkably prescient work of science fiction.

The second half of the meeting began with a scheduled discussion of *Harry Potter* as the finale of the film series nears. The books were compared to their movie adaptations and the *Potter* phenomenon in general explored. All agreed that the undeniably popular books and movies were eminently enjoyable, if not destined to *Lord of the Rings*-like status in the fantasy genre. The greatest legacy of the novels, it was argued, is not so much that they are adequate if not fine works of literature, but that they engendered in children the desire to read in a world were, increasingly, the venerable written word is losing ground to the flashy visuals of the screen.

Also scheduled to close the meeting was

a period of open discussion and after a time, the *Harry Potter* topic morphed right into a spirited discussion of copyright, with folk finding both the corporate entertainment industry and the individual consumer guilty of abuses. Some kind of middle ground must be found, it was felt, between the no-rules buccaneering prevalent on the Web in particular and the rampant protectionism and obsessive control over content exercised by the entertainment industry.

We thank our planners and presenters for their most appreciated effort regarding this, our last meeting before the club shifts to an agenda of summer activities. We return to our monthly meeting schedule August 21.

## Briefly

- *Impulse* will not publish next month, July. This issue has been designated our June-July 2011 edition. *Impulse* returns in August.
- As of this writing, news outlets continue to report on the possibility of a nationwide postal strike. In the event of postal strike, MonSFFA will be unable, of course, to mail out printed issues of *Impulse* to members until such time as the strike has ended. Mailings of *Warp*, and of new membership cards, would also be interrupted. We thus direct our readers to the e-version of *Impulse*, accessible in .pdf format via MonSFFA's Web site. *Warp* is also published in password-protected electronic form, available via the club's site. The printed editions of either publication may be obtained at MonSFFA meetings. Membership cards are also commonly distributed at our meetings.
- A handful of MonSFFen recently enjoyed the local premiere of the sci-fi vampire flick *Priest* by way of a few complimentary passes provided the club as one of the sponsors of the screening.
- We have received a number of comments via e-mail in response to the request last issue for the thoughts of MonSFFen regarding the structure and programming of club meetings. We appreciate the input of the membership and encourage your continued interest. MonSFFA's Executive, of course, strives to have the club provide a fascinating and fun "home" for all of our numerous interests, built around the group's collective passion for SF/F. Help us achieve that goal by letting us know what you think about the choices we make. Drop us a line:

Club president: president@monsffa.com  
VP/*Impulse* editor: keith1958@live.ca  
*Warp* editor: cathypl@sympatico.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":  
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4456 Boul. Ste-Rose  
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

● E-mail: keith1958@live.ca  
● 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: keith1958@live.ca

Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

● Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831  
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[www.MonSFFA.com](http://www.MonSFFA.com)