

# MonSFFA • A MonSFF IMPULSE

NEWS BULLETIN  
OF THE MONTREAL  
SCIENCE FICTION  
AND FANTASY  
ASSOCIATION

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

July / Juillet 2008 (Vol. 12, No./N° 6)

**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*:

BENNETT, Paul  
DODDS, Georges  
MINEAU, Sebastien  
PELLEY, Lynda  
SICHEL, Danny  
WALLING, René

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

**BRODEUR, Chantal  
GLOVER, Wayne  
JAMSHIDI, Abbas  
PETERS, Ernst-Udo  
MORROW, Gordon  
WADSWORTH, Beulah**

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

CIASCHINI, Lynda L.  
JAMES, David  
METHE, Ann  
NOVO, Alice

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 BBQ IS THIS WEEKEND**

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

**10:30AM-4:00PM**

**Parc Angrignon, Lasalle**



**MonSFFA members,  
their families and  
friends invited!**

**Bring your own chairs  
or picnic blankets, food and  
drink; we will supply a  
cooking grill.**

**If rained out, event  
rescheduled for following  
Sunday, July 27,  
same time, place.**

**MonSFFA Meeting  
Schedule Resumes  
AUGUST 24**

## **Biodome Field Trip**

Over a dozen MonSFFEn and friends convened at the gates of the Montreal Biodome on Sunday morning, June 22, for an excursion to the indoor zoological park, this in place of a June meeting. Just shy, unfortunately, of the 20-people minimum required, we were thus unable to avail ourselves of a group discount on admission. Missed it by that much, as Maxwell Smart might have noted. But we nonetheless enjoyed a fascinating field trip.

The Biodome features a wide variety of exotic wildlife housed in four distinct environments recreated in exacting detail. The first and largest is a tropical rainforest in which numerous colourful birds and agile monkeys populate the trees that line the pathway snaking through the exhibit, affording visitors many wonderful photographic opportunities. Further along, a waterfall feeds a small river populated by a number of caimans and other jungle denizens, who bask in the steamy, sweltering heat that realistically duplicates a torrid ecosystem. Also on show in a series of aquariums and terrariums are tropical fish, snakes, lizards, and frogs.

The two Canadian forest environments feature familiar wildlife such as the beaver, otter, porcupine, and lynx. A huge aquarium holding numerous species of large fish well known to anglers, like the sturgeon, proves to be a simulated northern lake surrounded by cliffs when viewed from another vantage point, replete with various species of water fowl swimming about or circling overhead.

The Arctic and Antarctic section includes numerous terns, puffins, and such bird life, including a bevy of playful penguins whose antics both above and below the water can be viewed by delighted guests.

The day also included a stroll through the nearby Insectarium, complete with the opportunity to sample various chocolate covered crawlies, and the vast Botanical Gardens, a world-class horticultural exhibit.

A good time was had by all.

## **May MonSFFA Meeting**

MonSFFA's May 25 meeting featured, first, an exercise in designing a superhero and supervillain. Club vice-president Keith Braithwaite put on his artist's hat for

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

# MonSFFA Moment

## A Moment in the 20-Year History of MonSFFA

**1988** **First Warp:** The first issue of the club's official newsletter was published in October. Dubbed Warp, the 'zine's co-editors were Mike Masella and Kevin Holden. Dressed in fantasy apparel of her own creation, Capucine Plourde was the cover girl, posing with friend David Laforce. Prior to this date, the club had randomly put out small, untitled newsletters, few copies of which survive today. Four years after the release of this inaugural issue, Warp number 20 ran the first of several full-colour covers the 'zine has featured over 20 years of publication—69 issues to date—with art by Aurora Award-winning illustrator and MonSFFAan Jean-Pierre Normand.

the occasion, sketching said supers based on input from his audience. A video camera trained on Keith's sketchpad as he worked provided a live feed to a television monitor so that folk could see the comic book characters developing from their suggestions.

Keith spoke of common superhero clichés, such as the acquiring of super powers by means of some scientific experiment or accident, and including that of basing a character on some kind of animal motif—Batman, Hawkman, Spider-Man, Wolverine. The group leaped on this notion, selecting the skunk as inspiration for their superhero!

"Skunkman"—a working name—was to have the ability to somehow manipulate smell. After some discussion, it was decided that he would carry on his utility belt a series of compressed-gas canisters, each containing vapour of a different scent, and that these would be hooked up to a wrist-mounted nozzle which he would wield like a gun against the forces of evil.

The working name Skunkman, however, did not particularly appeal to the group and a number of proposals for a cooler name ensued. These included The Whiff, The Fume, Captain Polecat, simply The Skunk, and the monogram which seemed most popular with the group, The Gray Gasser (suggesting a gray, Batman-like costume, perhaps).

An origin story was quickly concocted but not set in stone. Employed at a perfume

company, chemist Gordon Palmer (a name derived from those of club members Gordon Morrow and Cathy Palmer-Lister) is injured in a laboratory accident, costing him his sense of smell. Just how and why this leads to his becoming the superhero described remained unclear, however, and the issue was set aside for further deliberation another day.

Costume design was tackled next as the group pondered that most important consideration of superhero fashion: cape or no cape? The group went with a cape, tapered and decorated with twin stripes to suggest a skunk's tail. Other costume elements included a cowl and gas mask-like goggles.

The same creative process was repeated to come up with a nemesis for this champion of aroma.

Nabbed robbing the cash register at the club at which she worked as a Playboy Bunny, Miranda Morrison (this name derived from those of *Simpletons' Life* co-stars Miranda Feenstra and Maery Morrison) was fired and reduced to working as a cleaning lady to make ends meet. Here, this orphaned girl from the wrong side of the tracks discovered that she possesses an unusual power, the ability to manipulate dust, dirt, and slime into deadly weapons. And so was conceived that provocatively-costumed empress of embezzlement, The Dusty Bunny!

The second half of the meeting was

dedicated to a game hosted by MonSFFA president Berny Reischl, who began by showing the audience an image of a science fiction movie poster that had been obfuscated by means of a pixelation filter. Berny had programmed his laptop to depixelate the image within a few moments of its appearing on screen and folk were challenged to identify the movie represented before the picture was returned to clarity. Another poster quickly followed, then another, and still others in uninterrupted succession.

A cacophony of rapid-fire, often wild and decidedly erroneous guesses were shouted out loud as the sci-fi, as well as fantasy and horror posters appeared in steady sequence, leaving the audience but a few seconds on each for their guesswork.

All in all, a rather fun meeting. We thank in particular our presenters, Keith Braithwaite and Berny Reischl, for their efforts.

### Briefly:

- We chose at random, from the pool of MonSFFen who took part in our Biodome field trip, two winners of complimentary passes to the Montreal premiere of the sci-fi flick *Hancock*, starring Will Smith. Barbara Silverman and Sean Peatman were the lucky two. A nod of thanks to Rosie Ciriello at Promo Avenue for these and many of the other movie passes the club regularly receives.
- We remind our members to put forward suggestions as to the club's plans for the Worldcon next summer. How do we want to welcome worldwide SF fandom to our city? A room party, perhaps, or a special issue of *Warp*? Let the Executive know of your ideas soon.
- With Montreal's traditional moving season upon us, we remind any MonSFFA member who has moved on or about the July 1st weekend to please advise the club of his or her change of address so that we may update our mailing lists.
- MonSFFA headquarters reminds you that club services tend to slow down some during the summer months. It may take a tiny bit longer than usual to process your membership renewal, for example, or update the club Web site, but rest assured that we haven't forgotten. We're just taking it easy, enjoying the vacation season like everyone else.

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](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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4456 Boul. Ste-Rose  
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[www.MonSFFA.com](http://www.MonSFFA.com)