

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 2009 (Vol. 13, No./N° 6)

MonSFFA BBQ IS THIS WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JULY 26

10:30AM-4:00PM

Parc Angrignon, Lasalle



MonSFFA members, their families and friends invited!

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

If rained out, event rescheduled for following Sunday, August 2, same time and place.

Anticipation, the 67th Worldcon: August 6-10, Palais des congrès

Next MonSFFA Meeting: August 23 (Sci-Fi Fair)

Anticipation Builds for Montreal Worldcon

We are but a couple of weeks from the opening ceremonies of Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, and very much looking forward to the fun. The event is to unfold right here in Montreal, marking only the 5th instance of a Canadian city playing host to the Worldcon, and the first time our city has rolled out the red carpet for worldwide SF fandom.

Organizing and running a Worldcon is no easy task, to be sure, requiring countless hours of work on the part of a battalion of volunteers drawn from sources local, national, and international. MonSFFen are among those volunteers who have undertaken to bring Anticipation to life from August 6-10 and the club takes this opportunity to salute the efforts of all involved. We wish co-chairs René Walling and Robbie Bourget, and their team, a good con!

The convention will take place at the downtown Palais des congrès de Montréal. Ancillary activities will occur at the Delta Centre-Ville, designated the convention's "party and headquarters hotel". It is here that MonSFFA will host a "Welcome to Montreal" room party Friday evening, August 7 (see item "Room Party at Anticipation").

For complete information on Anticipation, visit the con's Web site: www.anticipationsf.ca

Super Fund-Raising Raffle Winners

MonSFFA's Super Fund-Raising Raffle was set up a few months ago to raise cash specifically for the club's planned activities at Anticipation. 56 tickets were sold at \$5 each, netting the club a total of \$280.

Four winning tickets were drawn at Polaris 23 in Toronto on Sunday, July 12. The winners are: Sylvain St-Pierre, who won autographed photos of both William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy; Mark Burakoff, who snared a finely detailed showpiece figure of one of *Battlestar Galactica*'s Cylons; Theresa Penalba, who received a tabletop model of the Doctor's TARDIS; and Richard

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
NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando
SICHEL, Danny
THIBODEAU, Claude

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

MORROW, Gordon

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

CIASCHINI, Lynda
JAMES, David
NOVO, Alice

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. The annual fee for a standard membership is \$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.

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: _____

Astley, who picked up a couple of SF movies on Blu-Ray. Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all those who purchased tickets in support of the cause. Thanks, as well, to those who donated these premium prizes.

In all, fund-raising operations aimed at helping to finance MonSFFA's Anticipation activities have brought in \$440. As our "Welcome to Montreal" room party is to be the club's main event and the most costly, we have decided to devote all of the money raised to this soirée. We are thus good for roughly a third of projected expenses. The balance of the funds needed are to come from party co-sponsor ConCept and other sources.

MonSFFA, ConCept to Welcome TAFF Winner

UK fan Steve Green has been selected as this year's TAFF winner. TAFF is short for Transatlantic Fan Fund, by which a European fan's trip to a North American convention, and vice versa, is covered in part by the fund, similar to Canada's own CUFF, or Canadian Unity Fan Fund, facilitating exchanges between Eastern and Western Canadian fans. Steve will be attending Anticipation and arriving in Montreal shortly before the convention begins.

A TAFF winner is required to write a trip report recounting his or her experiences visiting overseas and Steve informs us that he is eager to sample the flavour of Montreal fandom. Ann Methe and Cathy Palmer-Lister have proposed that we give him not only a taste of Montreal fandom, but of Montreal. Literally! Representatives of MonSFFA and ConCept have decided to treat our new friend to that savory delicacy singularly associated with this town, smoked meat. We'll get acquainted over an afternoon nosh on the Main, either at Schwartz's or across the street at the Main Deli should the former prove too tiny or crowded to comfortably accommodate our party. All MonSFFA members are welcome to join us, as are any and all members of local and area fandom. The plan is to meet on the sidewalk outside Schwartz's at 1:45PM, Sunday, August 2, and sit down to eat at 2:00. Schwartz's address is 3895 St-Laurent Boulevard—that's above Pine; take the 55

bus from the St-Laurent Metro.

Steve, meanwhile, has posted his itinerary online at:

<http://community.livejournal.com/taff2009/>

Room Party at Anticipation

As club members are aware, MonSFFA is organizing a "Welcome to Montreal" room party as the club's major function during Anticipation. ConCept has thrown in with us as co-host of the affair and will help with expenses. We wish to welcome worldwide fandom to our city and at the same time showcase both MonSFFA and ConCept.

The party is scheduled for Friday evening, August 7, at the Delta Centre-Ville, Anticipation's designated party hotel, where MonSFFA has booked a suite for the occasion. We expect to open our doors at about 8:30PM. Note that MonSFFA need not be attending Anticipation in order to attend our party and we encourage all to drop by. We also ask those members who can spare a few hours prior to the party to help us set up the room. If you are available to do so, please contact club president Berny Resichl (president@monsffa.com) and let him know.

June MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's June meeting was held on the 14th, drawing a goodly crowd for a primer on gaming and a 40th anniversary retrospective of the Saturday-morning cartoon adventures of Scooby Doo.

Christopher Hammock opened the meeting with a brief history of the gaming industry, from the arrival of the fantasy role-playing game Dungeons and Dragons and its many imitators in the 1970s through the introduction of the collectible card games of the 1990s. Chris touched on those not always successful games built around licensed entertainment franchises like *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*, and covered the .pdf and POD—Print on Demand—publishing common in the industry today. In the 1980s, conservative religious groups denounced game manufacturers, MonSFFA learned, objecting to the wizards, demons, and other supernatural denizens populating so many fantasy RPGs. Chris fielded questions from his audience as he outlined the various gaming systems developed over the years

and highlighted some of the most popular of contemporary games, like the Lovecraft-based Call of Cthulhu, science fictional Traveller, and Star Wars Saga Edition. It was noted that Dungeons and Dragons, now in its fourth edition, remains one of the most popular games around.

Following the mid-meeting break, Theresa Penalba and Josée Bellemare took the floor for a fond look back at 40 years of Scooby Doo. Interestingly, the goofy Great Dane might have been a sheepdog and was originally conceived as a sidekick rather than the star of the show. Further, until shortly before the series premiered, his name was "Too Much". TV executive Fred Silverman, who had planted the idea for the series in the minds of William Hanna and Joseph Barbera, made the last minute name change after listening to Frank Sinatra crooning "Doobie doobie doo" on his hit record Strangers in the Night.

The cartoon dog and his four human companions first chased across TV screens in September of 1969, their sci-fi and horror-tinged mystery-solving exploits proving a hit for CBS. The show's robust audience share during its first season has never been equaled by any other Saturday-morning series. Scooby Doo ran for many years in various incarnations and our panellists detailed the many new characters, co-stars, and guest stars introduced along the way. Direct-to-video movies have come more recently, the latest of these released last April. 40 years after their first appearance, the adventures of Scooby, Shaggy, Fred, Daphne, and Velma continue to entertain millions in over 50 countries.

The June meeting was to have included a trial run for a new fund-raising concept the club is developing. For a couple dollars a throw, MonSFFA could try their luck at a series of SF/F-themed games of skill and chance and accumulate points towards a number of select prizes. But two of the four coordinators of this "Sci-Fi Fair", so dubbed, were unavoidably absent the meeting and the try-out was postponed until the club's August 23 get-together.

We thank Chris, Theresa, and Josée for the afternoon's programming, and acknowledge, as well, those folk who helped to plan and run the meeting.

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: bigewok@total.net
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

www.MonSFFA.com

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:

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- Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse":
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