

IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

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

October / Octobre 2006 (Vol. 10, No./Nº 10)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, October 29

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

FEEDBACK SESSION: We provide for an attendees' feedback session on both RoyalCon and Con•Cept for the benefit of the organizers of each event. Constructive comment is welcomed.

1:45PM

STAR WARS Pictionary: We'll play a *Star Wars*-themed edition of the popular parlour game.

3:00PM

STAR WARS EN DIRECT: Our members are invited to participate in a live broadcast of the fan-produced Internet radio program *Star Wars en Direct*. Discussion topics will include the planned *Star Wars* TV series and fan fears of the cancellation-happy Fox network pulling the plug on the show after only a few episodes.

**NEXT MONTH'S
MONSFFA MEETING:
NOVEMBER 19**

Days Hotel Hosts Two Local Cons Within A Month

The downtown Days Hotel has, for over a decade, served as the locale for many area SF/F events, including MonSFFA's monthly meetings. Most recently, the hotel hosted two local cons within a month of each other, which can only bolster the facility's standing as Montreal's SF/F meeting place.

RoyalCon

On Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24, the hotel welcomed a new fan-run gaming convention to the local scene. RoyalCon successfully unfolded that weekend, entertaining by early estimates over 250 gamers. In addition to the wide variety of game play scheduled, the con also featured guest speakers, a dealers' room, and a well-stocked con suite.

MonSFFA was pleased to attend RoyalCon and we thank our promotional booth crew—Keith Braithwaite, Fernando Novo, Barbara Silverman, and Maureen Whitelaw—for helping to advance the club at this new convention.

RoyalCon chair Christopher Hammock, who happens to be a member of MonSFFA, tells us that the con was well received and covered its costs. We congratulate Chris and his concom on the premiere edition of RoyalCon and look forward to a sophomore edition in 2007, which, indeed, we are told is in the works.

Con•Cept

This year's installment of the long-running Con•Cept took place over the weekend of October 13-15 at the familiar Days Hotel, which has been Con•Cept's home for many years. The popular, fan-friendly con, known for interesting and entertaining English- and French-language panel programming among other things, drew folk from as far away as Norway! About 300 people, by some estimates—perhaps a few less—were onsite. (Official attendance numbers and financial information have yet to be released.)

Honoured guests included 2006 Hugo-winning author

**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:

DUROCHER, Marc
KRIMP, Nick
MAGNUSSEN, Colleen

**Annual membership
fees are due this month
(October) from the
following MonSFFA
members:**

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Annual membership fees will become due next month (November) from the following MonSFFA members:

BLAIS, Annie
PALMER-LISTER, Cathy
REISCHL, Bernard
RUIFIANGE, Yolande
RUIZ-DIAS, Karina

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. Annual dues are \$25. Fill out the membership application form, bottom of page, include cheque or money order, made out to MonSFFA, and mail to:

**MonSFFA
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc
Montreal, Québec
H2X 4A7**

If you have already done so, ignore this notice. We 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: _____

Robert Charles Wilson (*Darwinia, Blind Lake, Spin*); acclaimed Quebec SF/F writer Élisabeth Vonarburg (*Reine de Mémoire* series); actor Steve Bacic (*Andromeda, Stargate SG-1, Blade, The X-Files*) and director David Winning (*Earth: Final Conflict, Andromeda, Stargate Atlantis*); Ottawa-based independent filmmaker Brett Kelly (*The Bonesetter, The Feral Man, My Dead Girlfriend*); and perennial Con•Cept MC Larry Stewart.

Con•Cept again succeeded in packing a whole lot of fun into a full weekend, offering attendees no less than *four* tracks of hourly programming, a dealers' room, collectibles auction, Con•Cept's signature "Sci-Fi Garage Sale" (attendees are given the opportunity to sell a small number of their collectible items through the auspices of the con), an art show, model competition, displays of fancraft, a masquerade, dance, and con suite. The con's "chat room," an innovation this year, provided table space for small groups of fans to launch a fanzine or self-published book, for example, or get together for a discussion, gaming session, or special interest group meeting.

MonSFFA booked a promotional table at Con•Cept, from behind which our crew talked up the club and sold MonSFFA memberships, MonSFFilms DVDs, and back issues of *Warp* to the tune of \$170 worth. The club thanks those MonSFFen who staffed our table: Keith Braithwaite, Fernando Novo, Barbara Silverman, and Josée Bellemare. And, we offer a special nod of thanks to member Alice Novo's young son, Alex, who helped out at the table for a few hours.

Con•Cept attendees are often effusive in their praise of the con's always-fun, packed schedule and friendly atmosphere, and the crowd this year was no different. It is this, probably more than any other factor, that consistently rates Con•Cept a great party for so many con-goers.

The convention, however, has been chronically understaffed for many years and from time to time, *acutely* understaffed. Con•Cept now faces an uncertain future as few local fans have stepped up to replace seasoned concom members who have either scaled back their involvement or gafiated after years of service to the con. Chair Cathy Palmer-Lister, who has helmed

Con•Cept for longer than she considers wise, is the most recent to retreat, indicating that she will not return as chair. We applaud her tireless dedication to Con•Cept while appealing to local fans—particularly those with the necessary skills and experience—to become involved in the planning and running of the con, as did MonSFFA a half-dozen years ago following the cancellation of Con•Cept 2000. The scrubbing of the con in 2000 was but one of several instances over the years that saw the event cancelled as a result of local fandom's apathy. We may well see present circumstances dictate the same again, *and perhaps for good*, which would be an awful shame.

MonSFFA Fund-Raiser Nets Club Over \$450

A MonSFFilms production meeting opened the club's well attended September 17 gathering, which was otherwise entirely devoted to MonSFFA's annual fund-raiser.

Fabrication of scale-models for the film unit's *TimeLine* project was the focus of this production meeting. *TimeLine* writer/director Keith Braithwaite outlined the process by which footage of actors would be laid over background plates of miniature sets to arrive at a convincing composite of the script's characters stepping in and out of a time machine during a futuristic TV game show. Keith produced design sketches of the sets and set pieces required and the club's model-makers were charged with the construction of these. It is expected that filming on the project will begin early in the new year.

Our fund-raiser followed, beginning with a raffle and moving presently to an SF/F collectibles auction. Over 40 lots were on the block. Items included numerous videos and DVDs, T-shirts, toys, games, model kits, posters, and books. Unique SF/F-themed articles hand-crafted by MonSFFA members were offered along with such collectibles as a reproduction of the One Ring and a Ferengi shot glass, the latter procured from Las Vegas' Star Trek Experience.

\$80, paid for a DVD set of the complete original *Battlestar: Galactica* television series, was the afternoon's highest winning bid. Other high bids ranged between \$18

and \$36. The average bid worked out to just over \$8. The auction netted \$362 for the club!

"Bargain Table" sales of paperback books, magazines, movie memorabilia, etc. were ongoing throughout the meeting and increased the afternoon's tally by a few dollars more. In all, our 2006 MonSFFA fund-raiser added over \$450 to the club's coffers.

We thank, first of all, those members and friends of MonSFFA who donated items to the cause, as well as those who bid on these items. Thanks, also, to our auctioneer, Keith Braithwaite, runner Lindsay Brown, and cashier Mark Burakoff.

Beavra Elron Award-Winner

MonSFFan René Walling returned from V-Con, Vancouver's SF/F convention, earlier this month with news of an award for *Beavra*, MonSFFA's 2003 fan film. *Impulse* readers may recall that a copy of *Beavra* was mailed to Vancouver fans this past summer for viewing at a meeting of the local SF/F club and at V-Con.

René, on behalf of the V-Con folk, presented the "Elron Award" to MonSFFA at Con•Cept 2006 in the presence of MonSFFA president and *Beavra* editor Berny Reischl and club vice-president and *Beavra* writer/director Keith Braithwaite. The tongue-in-cheek Elron Award honours annually the "worst" in science fiction and celebrates all that is cheesiest about the genre. The award is, appropriately, a bronzed lemon set atop a paperback edition of one of John Norman's *Gor* novels.

Officially accepting the Elron on behalf of MonSFFA was Beavra himself, in the form of a hand puppet scheduled to star in the upcoming *Beavra* sequel, *Beavra Las Vegas*.

Our thanks to the V-Con committee for the "honour." *Beavra* can now be legitimately advertised as a *multiple* award-winning film! We plan to produce an explanatory plaque to accompany the award and proudly display it at club functions.

Condolences

MonSFFA extends sincere sympathies to club member Nick Krimp and his family on the passing in August of Roland Krimp, Nick's beloved father.

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
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc
Montreal, Québec, H2X 4A7

- 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":
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