

# 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

November / Novembre 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 9)

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

**Sunday, November 22**

11:00AM-5:00PM

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

### SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

**11:00AM**

**BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING:** We begin planning next year's activities; all club members are welcome and encouraged to participate.

**1:00PM**

**THE WRITE STUFF:** We convene a panel of published genre writers for a discussion of recent trends in SF/F literature. Our special guest speakers will offer opinion on what's hot and what's not, and highlight the most exciting original new fiction on bookshelves as Christmas approaches.

**3:00PM**

**THE WORD IS GIVEN:** Game for all in which players must identify the SF/F book, film, or television show attached to a randomly selected character name, place name, or term describing a thing or concept. A handsome prize will be awarded the winner!

## Next Month: MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party

**Saturday Evening, December 5**  
(Details to be Announced)

## MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party Hits Snag

The club's traditional Christmas Dinner and Party is scheduled for Saturday evening, December 5 this year, but planning has hit a snag. We have discovered that our familiar seasonal watering hole, the Park Place Bar, is out of business! Thus are we scrambling to find another suitable establishment in the downtown area that can accommodate us on short notice. We also have to select a restaurant for our festive dinner, preferably within easy walking distance of the bar we choose.

With the input of our membership, we hope to work everything out at and soon after the BoA meeting to be held at this month's club meeting on the 22nd. Details of the dinner/party will follow in short order, online and in the December issue of *Impulse*. Be advised that it's all going to come together rather quickly and confirmation of our plans will probably go out last-minute. So keep that Saturday night open and stay tuned for further information.

## ConCept Attendance Down

Outgoing ConCept chair Cathy Palmer-Lister estimates that the 2009 edition of the con drew about half the people it had the previous year, perhaps as few as 125 or so paying attendees. Final accounting has yet to be completed as we go to press but it's a safe bet that ConCept 2009 lost money. Surpluses realized in prior years should offset this year's losses but as a result, ConCept 2010 will have to start from square one financially.

With ConCept 2009 coming so soon—first weekend of October—after the Montreal Worldcon in August, it is not unreasonable to speculate that some folk who might normally have attended skipped the local con this year, having exhausted their budgets at the Worldcon. This is not unusual, we are given to understand, and many North American cons either scale back or take the year off when the Worldcon comes to their town. But ConCept was celebrating its 20th anniversary and the con hoped to benefit from good word of mouth at the Worldcon. In hindsight, the con would have been better off skipping 2009.

**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*:

BOIES, Marquise  
DUROCHER, Marc  
JAMES, David  
MORROW, Gordon

**Annual membership fees became due from the following club members last month, October:**

**BOOM, Hendrik  
KENNEY, Daniel P.  
McCULLOGH, Brian  
McCULLOGH, Megan  
McCULLOGH, Philip  
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain  
WADSWORTH, Beulah**

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

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

RUFIANGE, Yolande

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 your membership renewal.

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

ConCept's perennial problem of understaffing is at least equally to blame for this year's poor attendance, however, in that promotion and advertising suffered from particular neglect this year. With too few volunteers to properly attend to all the organizational details leading up to the event, things don't get done on time, if at all. Important things, like promotion and advertising. Nobody's fault, really, but a detriment all the same. It is a tribute to the determination of the overworked ConCept team that the affair manages, year after year, to take place at all! And to consistently earn the praise of attendees, who enjoy and appreciate the inviting and lively ambience that has come to define the convention.

ConCept's guest line-up is testament to the broad range of interests the con explores and invited guests, too, often comment positively on Montreal's annual sci-fi party. This year's smiling roster included actress Karen Cliche, a former Montrealer who starred in the recently released horror film *Saw VI* and genre TV's *Flash Gordon*. Also from the film and television milieu was local special effects make-up expert Olivier Xavier, whose credits include *The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne*, *Grande Ourse*, and *Supernatural*. The Author Guests of Honour were Kelley Armstrong, who penned the popular Otherworld paranormal suspense series, and Natasha Beaulieu, who wrote the dark fantasy *Cités intérieures* books. Filling out the bill were Chandra X-Ray Observatory scientist and educator Donna Young, award-winning fantasy-flavoured portrait artist Sybiline, Celtic folk singer and recording artist Heather Dale, and accomplished filker Phil Mills.

ConCept's driving force for almost a decade, chair Cathy Palmer-Lister, had earlier in the year announced that she intended to resign after ConCept 2009 and at closing ceremonies received heartfelt applause for her many years of dedication to the con. We are encouraged by the number of people, a few enthusiastic newcomers among them, who stepped up as Cathy stepped down, including a prospective new chair. And Cathy seems amenable to continuing to serve, probably in some advisory role.

Long live ConCept! So say we all!

## September and October MonSFFA Meetings

MonSFFA's September meeting took place on the 20th, October's on the 18th.

Keith Braithwaite and Leslie Lupien opened September's gathering with the fascinating stories of how a number of Hollywood science fiction movies were planned, developed, but never, ultimately, filmed.

These included a collaboration between acclaimed director Stanley Kubrick and SF giant Arthur C. Clarke on an adaptation of Clarke's novel *Childhood's End*, the premise of which—man the result of god-like aliens having seeded Earth eons ago and destined to become a higher being himself—was considered too controversial at the time. And it was feared that the Overlords featured in the book, Satan-like in their appearance and the basis for man's devil mythologies, would not play well in middle America. In the end, Kubrick and Clarke abandoned the project and instead, adapted one of Clarke's short stories. *2001: A Space Odyssey* was the result.

Keith and Leslie also revealed that movies like *Dune*, *Aliens vs. Predator*, and other turkeys would have differed for the better had earlier visions prevailed.

The second part of the meeting focused on unsold sci-fi television series pilots, Keith providing a number of unintentionally hilarious video clips from such proposed series as *Wishman*, circa early 1980s and starring a pre-*Terminator* Linda Hamilton, and *Baffled*, featuring a post-*Star Trek* Leonard Nimoy as a race car driver who crashes and awakes with psychic powers. Many of the concepts were over-the-top ridiculous, even for sci-fi TV, and it's no surprise they were rejected by networks.

Other potential shows might have been pretty cool, like *Aquaman*, a proposed *Smallville* spin-off, and *Robinsons*, a *Lost in Space* update.

Marquise Boies joined Keith at the dais to recount her own experiences in local television trying to get an animated series made built around characters she had created. Through numerous producers and many reworkings a frustrated Marquise found it increasingly difficult to hold on to her original concept. Her characters never made it to screen and she walked away from the experience a little wiser in the wacky ways of television production.

October's meeting saw Keith and Danny Sichel give a presentation on zombies, citing the seminal films of George A. Romero as the definitive take on zombies. Keith screened a

variety of clips from Romero's films and others, illustrating the evolving behaviour of zombies in cinema and, of course, the blood-splattering gore that is characteristic of these movies. Featured in film, genre literature, comics, and even video games, zombies are often employed as a metaphor for the darker side of our consumer culture, for instance, or the anxieties we experience in modern society.

Following the mid-meeting break, several MonSFFen stepped up to talk for a few minutes each on a favourite SF/F film, television series, novel or short story, comic book, or CD that they felt their fellow club members might value as an under-appreciated masterpiece, a forgotten classic, or simply a worthy rarity.

We thank our program participants and those club members who planned and ran these two meetings.

## Steve Green Sends Thanks for Hospitality

We are in receipt of an e-mail from UK fan Steve Green, who attended Anticipation as the TAFF—Transatlantic Fan Fund—delegate. MonSFFen Jean-Pierre Normand and Ann Methe were pleased to put Steve up for a few days while he was in Montreal and MonSFFA and ConCept treated him to a smoked meat dinner and a few pints of ale as welcome on the eve of the Worldcon. Steve writes:

Finally catching up with my reading after returning from New York exactly one month ago (the final stage of my TAFF trip) and just read *Impulse* (volume 13, number 7). As was probably very apparent, I had a tremendous time in Montreal in the lead-up to Anticipation, and the hospitality MonSFFA members extended meant I could both relax after the trip over from the UK (my first journey outside Europe) and gear myself up for the next three weeks. Please do reiterate to everyone how grateful I am for their friendship and generosity; I hope some day very soon that European fandom can do the same for a Canadian TAFF delegate.

Kindest Regards,  
Steve

We are glad that our new friend enjoyed his time in Montreal and we look forward to reading his TAFF trip report.

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:

[www.MonSFFA.com](http://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](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":  
AMonSFF a/s de  
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose  
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6