

# I M P U L S E

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

November-December / Novembre-Décembre 2024 (Vol. 27, No./N° 9)

## MonSFFA'S NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

**1:00PM-5:00PM**

Le Nouvel Hotel  
1740 Boul. René-Lévesque O  
(corner St-Mathieu)

“Salle Maisonneuve”  
(South Tower)

...and simultaneously on ZOOM!  
[www.MonSFFA.ca](http://www.MonSFFA.ca)

MonSFFA meets downtown, in Le Nouvel Hotel's “Salle Maisonneuve.” Le Nouvel is located on a major bus line. Nearest Metro: Guy/Concordia or Lucien-L'Allier, both just a short walk from Le Nouvel!

**MEETING THEME:** Programming 2025!  
We ask MonSFFen to contribute ideas for next year's presentation topics, discussions, and workshops!

### NOVEMBER'S AGENDA INCLUDES:

- **REPORT ON CLUB'S BOOK SALE 2024**—Treasurer reports of our recent fund-raising event!
- **CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY-THEMED SF&F**—We look at seasonal sci-fi in print and on screen!
- **MEETING PROGRAMMING FOR 2025**—We brainstorm ideas for next year's meeting programming!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7:**  
Christmas Dinner and Party 2024! (see “Christmas Celebrations,” page 2, for details)

## RETURN OF MonSFFA'S SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE DEEMED A SUCCESS!

We are pleased to report that the club's Super Sci-Fi Book Sale, which returned last month after a five-year pandemic-related hiatus, was a resounding success!

This book sale is MonSFFA's principal fund-raiser. All proceeds from the sale are directed to the operating budget of the club, and the 2024 edition took in north of \$900 in revenue, among our top results. The club's treasurer will present final figures and other details of the sale to the membership at our regular November meeting.

The Executive, meanwhile, wishes to reiterate its thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the transportation of our stock of books, set-up our sales tables, and packed it all away at day's end. With many thousands of books to handle, this is, to be certain, a monumental task, and the sale simply could not operate without our team of volunteers!

Thanks is also extended to those folk who donated books to the cause, thus contributing to the robust inventory of publications on offer to the public—hardcovers, paperbacks, comics, and magazines! As part of our dearly departed friend Sylvain St-Pierre's legacy, many more French-language books were available, to the delight of shoppers.

After several years absent, there had been concern that the book sale may well have faded from the consciousness of local SF/F fandom. But patrons were lined up at the door prior to our opening the sale and as we learned, people had very much missed the annual event and were glad to see it returning! Many urged us to hold the sale twice a year, spring and fall!

Our “Big Box Bulk Bargain” again proved popular, with customers taking advantage of the opportunity to score a full box of books for only \$15! Most bought several such lots. By the end of the afternoon, we had sold several thousand publications of all kinds, roughly half of our total on-site inventory. In the wake of the sale, a

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES?

*The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the club's normal operation for more than three years! During this period, our regular in-person meetings were suspended, and the payment of annual fees were deferred.*

*The club has now begun again collecting those annual membership fees, this in order to return to a positive cash flow situation, and so cover the monthly costs of renewed operations.*

Standard membership remains 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 form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to “MonSFFA”), and mail to:

MonSFFA, c/o  
29 Harold  
Kirkland, Québec, Canada  
H9J 1R7

## MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

## AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

NAME/NOM: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE/ÂGE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL./TEL.: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: \_\_\_\_\_  
No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code/Code Postal \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL/COURRIEL: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS/INTERETS: \_\_\_\_\_

selection of particularly valuable specialty books have been sold online, adding to the total revenue raised.

A final acknowledgement is tendered to all those book-loving fans who attended and purchased books; may you all have good reads, and thank you for helping to support our club.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

This year, the club will celebrate Christmas, and the festive season broadly, on Saturday evening, December 7, at 6:30PM. In keeping with our tradition, we will gather at a downtown restaurant/bar for dinner and drinks, and hold our traditional fund-raising Christmas-gift raffle.

As Le Nouvel Hotel includes a restaurant, and everyone is already familiar with the hotel's address, we thought we'd give said restaurant a try! Situated in the building's south tower, or condo tower, the Novella Restaurant is easy to find. Simply walk down the glass corridor, as if to a regular MonSFFA meeting, but turn right instead of left at the elevators; the Novella is right there.

MonSFFen, their families, and friends of the club are all welcome to join us for an evening of dining and merriment as we celebrate the season!

## SEPTEMBER MonSFFA MEETING

MonSFFA's meeting of September 14 opened with a report on the 2024 Worldcon, which was held in Glasgow, Scotland the previous month, and which MonSFFen Joe Aspler and Cathy Palmer-Lister attended.

Joe screened photos of the event as he reviewed the convention, highlighting the venue, masquerade and hall costumes, special musical performances, art show, Hugo ceremony, dealers' room—which he noted was copiously stocked with books—and the wealth of panel programming typical of a Worldcon. He had opportunity to meet a few famous authors, like Joe Haldeman, and Scottish writer and Guest of Honour Ken MacLeod. Similarly, Cathy outlined her impressions of and experiences at the convention, the science panels of which she quite enjoyed.

She and Joe also spoke of their sightseeing excursions, taking in several museums and visiting landmarks, like the town of Linlithgow, billed as the birthplace of Starfleet Master Engineer Montgomery Scott!

Unique to this Worldcon was an official tartan and an official gin, along with a cocktail!

Joe and Cathy both rated the Glasgow Worldcon highly, having found the event very well organized and run.

Also presented to the group was the available information on hand regarding a current Montreal bid to host the Worldcon in 2027.

Mark Burakoff was up next with an overview of the original, and subsequent Tom Swift book series. Created by publisher Edward Stratemeyer, the famous boy inventor has been a part of the science fiction pantheon since the early 20th century, extending well into the 21st, and is credited with helping to popularize the nascent genre that would eventually be called science fiction. Mark, a collector of Tom Swift books, showcased a handful of volumes from his bookshelves, the earliest



dating back to the original series of 1910-1941.

He noted that the character was initially portrayed as a gifted young tinkerer having an aptitude for mechanics and electronics. The first title was *Tom Swift and his Motor Cycle* (1910). As the series progressed, the inventions around which each story was built became more innovative, ahead of conventional science and technology, and more pronounceably science fiction. Later titles included *Tom Swift and his Electric Rifle* (1911) and *Tom Swift and his Magnetic Silencer* (1941).

Penned by numerous ghostwriters under the house pseudonym Victor Appleton, and later Victor Appleton II, Tom Swift, his son, Tom Swift, Jr, and all other incarnations of the character, paved the way for such as Jonny Quest and Joe 90. And The original Tom Swift begat later well-known Stratemeyer creations The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew.

Keith Braithwaite closed the afternoon with a treatise on the art of naming science fiction and fantasy characters. From the etymology of names to the sound of a name spoken aloud and its subliminal sway—hero, villain, sidekick—Keith explored some of the means by which authors arrive at an evocative, memorable name for a character. Many play with spelling, or fashion portmanteaus, for example, drawing inspiration from their own families or friends, or from persons they admire.

Careful stickhandling was in order, Keith advised, when it comes to overly long or unpronounceable alien names, which can often annoy readers. He further stressed the importance of properly matching names to time and place when writing genre fiction set in a particular historical period.

Online name generators can be helpful, as well as old telephone directories or census reports. Certain names just sound right for a certain type of character, Keith stated, and so a writer must sometimes simply rely on their own emotional response to a name, while considering, too, their readership's probable level of enthusiasm for that name.

Keith closed by sharing some of his favourite sci-fi names, and putting up a name-generating chart so that each of the group could determine their individual space-alien name!

We thank our presenters for their contributions to our programming on this occasion, and tip our hat, as well, to all those who helped to plan and run the meeting.

## NO IMPULSE NEXT MONTH; BEST OF THE SEASON TO ALL!

This issue of *Impulse*, designated our November-December 2024 edition, is the last of the year. The news bulletin will not publish next month, December.

We take this opportunity to wish all MonSFFen, their families, and those good friends of the club the very best of the festive season, and a Happy New Year!

*Impulse* will return in January of 2025.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: [www.MonSFFA.ca](http://www.MonSFFA.ca)

*Impulse* is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: [Keith1958@live.ca](mailto:Keith1958@live.ca) • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the *Impulse* mailing address: 125 Rue Léonard, Châteauguay, Québec, Canada, J6K 1N9

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