

AURORAN LIGHTS

**The Fannish E-zine of the Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Association
Dedicated to Promoting the Prix Aurora Awards and the history of Canadian Fandom**

#1

Feb 2011



**The First CSFFA Award “The Coeurl” sculpted by Mike Spencer
And awarded to A.E. van Vogt at Halcon 3 in March of 1980.
Original photo by Peter Barss.**

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Note: All opinions expressed in the articles are the opinions of the contributing authors (and those of the editor) and do NOT reflect the ‘official’ views of the CSFFA Board of Directors.

EDITORIAL

Very briefly, having been a science fiction fan since I was a little kid, and an active fan from 1970 on, now that I’ve been appointed archivist for the CSFFA I thought it would be fun to put out a monthly zine to promote the Aurora awards, but one aimed specifically at fandom (on behalf of the fannish Aurora awards) rather than prodom. The latter is deserving of a far better and more professional editor than I. So I’ll focus on what I love best: Fandom.

Not only will I print articles about previous fan Aurora winners, but about fandom in general, especially the history of fandom in Canada. Many contemporary fans are relatively unaware of their fannish heritage, and I hope to correct that situation, hopefully with contributions from other longtime fans as well as the product of my own research. Not to overwhelm people with the weight of the past mind you, but to inspire current fans to future effort. And mainly, to have fun. Fandom is all about having fun. Let’s have fun, shall we? Cheers! The Graeme

Many thanks to Bill Burns at < <http://www.efanzines.com> > for hosting.
Please send me feedback! You can reach me at: < [rgraeme\[at\]shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme[at]shaw.ca) >

CSFFA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

AURORA NOMINATIONS OPEN!



THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY ASSOCIATION IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE:

**The 2011 Prix Aurora Award Nominations open
Jan. 8th, 2011. Final nominations must be received no later than
midnight PST April 30, 2011**

One Form Does It All:

- [Register](#) for membership [One-time, free, CSFFA registration on the Aurora site will enable nomination and voting for the Auroras for this and future years.]
- Verify your registration
- Use your new membership id# to [Nominate](#)

You may nominate via our easy to use online system or by manually filling in our [down-loadable nomination form](#) and mailing it in to us.

We need you. Please help spread the word.

We need your nominations and votes to make sure that the best of Canadian Fan and Professional activity gets the acknowledgment it deserves.

- ❖ Updated Aurora category definitions and rules are now available at the [Prix Aurora Web site](#).
- ❖ Lists of eligible works are available (and can be added to) on the wiki site [Canadian SF Works Database](#).

SF CANADA SUPPORTS AURORA AWARDS WITH \$500 PRIZE FOR WINNING NOVELS

SF Canada, Canada's association of professional speculative fiction writers, and the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA) are pleased to announce the **SF Canada Award**, a \$500 prize that will be awarded to winners of the Best Novel categories of the Aurora Award [English] and Prix Aurora-Boréal (French), voted on annually by Canadian fans of speculative fiction to acknowledge the best of Canadian professional and fan activity in both official languages.

The first SF Canada Award will be awarded to the winner of the Prix Aurora-Boréal, for best fantasy and/or science fiction novel published first in French in 2010 by a Canadian author, at the 28th Congrès Boréal in Montréal, May 13, 2011.

The second award, for the winner of the Aurora Award for best fantasy and/or science fiction novel published in English in 2010 by a Canadian author, will be presented at SFContario 2, November 18-20, 2011, in Toronto.

Since 1981, the Prix Aurora Awards have been nominated and voted on each year by the members of CSFFA, a federally incorporated non-profit society which exists to promote quality Canadian speculative fiction and the fan activity that surrounds it. Membership in the CSFFA is free, and open to any admirer of genre fiction who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

SF Canada was founded in 1989 as Canada's National Association for Speculative Fiction Professionals in order to foster a sense of community among Canadian writers of speculative fiction, to improve communication, to foster the growth of quality writing, to lobby on behalf of Canadian writers and to encourage the translation of Canadian speculative fiction.

For more information on the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA), or to schedule an interview, please contact:

< csffa.publicity@gmail.com >

THREE AWARD CATEGORIES ADDED THIS YEAR!

There are three NEW awards this year:

- * **BEST FAN FILK:** Best fan activity by a Canadian Filker in areas such as album, song-writing, performance or sound engineer during 2011. Filk is fan music based on Science Fiction or Fantasy themes.
- * **BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL - ENGLISH:** Best science fiction or fantasy graphic novel, single issue of a serial or on-line comic in English by a Canadian published in 2010.
- * **BEST POETRY/LYRICS – ENGLISH:** Best science fiction or fantasy poem or song in English by a Canadian published or performed in 2010.

There are seven OTHER awards to nominate candidates for:

Under the **PROFESSIONAL** category:

- * **BEST NOVEL – ENGLISH:** Best science fiction or fantasy novel in English, over 40,000 words by a Canadian, published in 2010.
- * **BEST SHORT FICTION – ENGLISH:** Best science fiction or fantasy short fiction in English less than 40,000 words by a Canadian published in 2010.
- * **BEST RELATED WORK – ENGLISH:** Best science fiction or fantasy work (not encompassed by the other categories) such as magazine, literary criticism, book review, critical editions, anthology, or a single author collection released as a book by a Canadian published in 2010.
- * **BEST ARTIST:** Best science fiction or fantasy artwork or body of artwork by a Canadian displayed or published in 2010. This category is for both professional and amateur artists, and for both English and French artists.

Under the **FAN** category:

* **BEST FAN PUBLICATION:** Best fanzine or fan newsletter or fan publication either in print or by electronic means, whose content is significantly related to science fiction or fantasy, published by a Canadian at least once during 2010. This category covers both paper and webzines. It can also include on-line fan-run blogs or review sites. We require that a significant amount of their content be dedicated to science fiction or fantasy genre-related topics such as books, movies, comics, gaming, filk, or conventions. The publication cannot have commercial products for sale or be dedicated to a professional group or person. It must be fannish in nature.

* **BEST FAN ORGANIZATIONAL:** Best contributions to Canadian science fiction or fantasy conventions or club activities by a Canadian during 2010. This category is for fans that run or organize non-profit/non-professional science fiction or fantasy related conventions or clubs. This includes literary, gaming, comic & media events.

* **BEST FAN OTHER:** Best fan activity in the area of science fiction or fantasy (not encompassed by the other categories) in areas such as presentations, performances, APAs or fan-writing by a Canadian during 2010.

THREE SIMPLE STEPS TO NOMINATE!

- 1) Figure out who is eligible for the various categories.
- 2) Nominate the individuals/organizations you want to win.
- 3) Vote on which nominees you want to win.

STEP ONE: ELIGIBILITY

Consider the category requirements above and then wrack your memory to figure out if you know of anyone who is deserving of an award. Ask around what others think to jog your memory.

Best of all go to < <http://www.canadiansf.com> > where the official eligibility lists are maintained. Look at the main menu on the left side of the screen and, to see who's listed already, click on either 'SF WIKI' (professional categories) or 'FAN WIKI'.

If you want to add to the eligibility list (so that others can see your suggestions), you must open a user account. At the bottom of the main menu on the left side of the screen click on < CREATE ACCOUNT > and follow instructions.

Once you have a validated user account you can go (in turn) to 'SF WIKI' and 'FAN WIKI' and add those you think are eligible.

'Creators' are allowed to enter their own work for consideration. After all, being displayed on the list does NOT constitute being nominated for an award. Those listed here are merely part of a database listing who and what MIGHT be eligible to be nominated, at least in the opinion of those making the submissions. The ONLY actual nominees will be the choices listed on the final voting ballot released by the official CSFFA Awards Administrators. NO ONE ELSE is entitled to consider themselves nominees at any time.

STEP TWO: NOMINATE

Once you have made up your mind whom or what you want to nominate, go to the official CSFFA site at < <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca> >, and click on < [Register/Nominate](#) > listed in the menu on the left side of the screen.

First you must register (just once, your registration will be ongoing in the coming years). Click on < [Register](#) > and fill in the required information. Congratulations! You are now a member of CSFFA! A society membership account number will be sent to your email address. Open that email, jot down your number, and follow instructions to verify your account (just one click on the link provided). (And don't worry if you mislay or forget your id number in the future. There's a 'FORGOT YOUR SOCIETY NUMBER' link to click on to retrieve your number.)

Then go back to < <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca> >.

Click again on < [Register/Nominate](#) > listed in the left menu and then click on < [Nominate](#) >. It will ask you for your email address and society number, then pass you on to the nomination forms. You can either fill them out online or download the forms and mail them in. There is no fee.

Note: This is not an eligibility list as such, but the official list of proposed nominations. Those who receive the most nominations will wind up on the final ballot being voted on. Consequently you are NOT allowed to nominate yourself.

STEP THREE: VOTE

Instructions will be provided at an appropriate time in the future.

CSFFA ARCHIVE COMMITTEE EXPANDS!

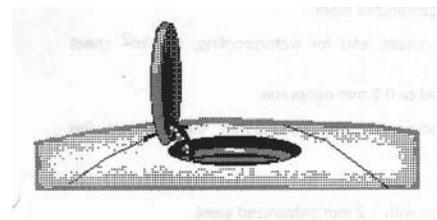
With the planned launching of this zine Archive yee editor has sought to expand the Archive Committee by inviting 'legendary' (which is too say – longtime, vastly experienced, and still active fans) to sign on as consultants and advisors. In addition I hope to convince them to contribute regular articles, maybe ongoing columns, or perhaps just the occasional letter of comment to correct or expand information published herein. So far four fans have joined the committee:

Murray Moore: Long Time fan and LoC writer, contributor to many Canadian APAs and editor/publisher of 'AZTEC BLUE' circa 2000. Also the 2001 CUFF winner and administrator.

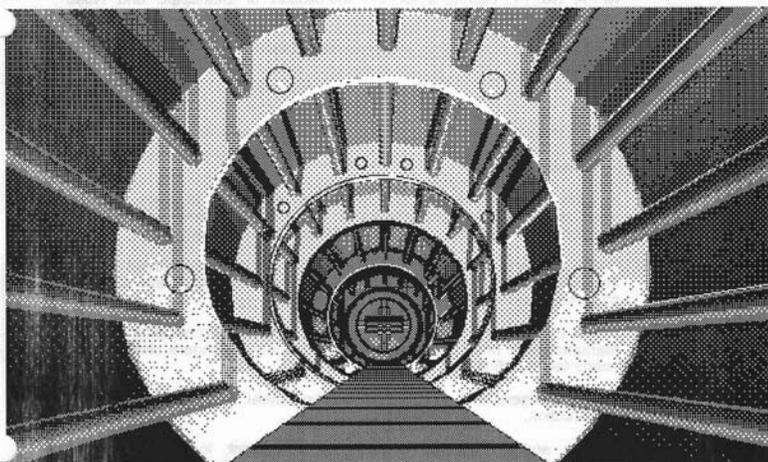
Lloyd Penney: Prolific letter of comment writer (Canada's answer to the legendary Harry Warner Jr. of U.S.A. fame), 1998 CUFF winner & administrator, winner of two CSFFA Aurora awards (1994 for 'Ad Astra', & 1997 for fan writing), and an experienced convention organizer.

Garth Spencer: First winner of a CSFFA fan award (in 1986 for his 'MAPLE LEAF RAG' newszine), and again in 2006 (for his 'ROYAL SWISS NAVY GAZETTE' perzine'), CUFF winner (1999) & administrator, and editor/publisher of multiple issues of at least eleven fanzine titles since the mid 1970s (including: 'SCUTTLEBUTT' 'ENTER THE LISTS', 'THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARTH' & others), as well as numerous fan history monographs and articles. His current perzine is 'ONESWELLFOOP'.

Taral Wayne: 1988 CUFF winner & administrator, Fan GoH at the Montreal Worldcon in 2009, Rotsler Award (for Best Fan Artist) winner, one of the founders of DITTO (an annual convention for fanzine fans), well known contributor of art to fanzines, and prolific fanzine editor/publisher for the last five decades, publications including: 'NEW TOY', 'DNQ' 'SYNAPSE', 'INPUT/OUTPUT', 'STATE OF THE ART', 'RED SHIFT', and many others.



Entrance to CSFFA Archives



Shaft plunging into depths of the CSFFA Archives

And myself (**R. Graeme Cameron**) as Chair of the committee: CSFFA Aurora award winner in 2001 (VCON 25 Chair) and 2010 (WCSFAzine society zine), 1997 CUFF winner & administrator, former editor/publisher of 'ENTROPY BLUES', 'CANFAPA', 'CANFANDOM' & 'BCSFazine', currently editor of 'SPACE CADET', 'WCSFAzine', 'CORUSCATING CONUNDRUMS' & 'AURORAN LIGHTS', President of the B.C. SF Association and archivist for BCSFA, WCSFA, and CSFFA. And, oh yeah, Grand SMOTE of the Elron Awards and infamous for my 'Moog the Magnificent' persona (worst standup comic in the solar system). And don't forget the 'GODZILLA SEX LIFE SKIT' I used to co-present with Stan G. Hyde at many conventions. Well rounded lad I am.

FALLACIOUS FANNISH HISTORY ARTICLES

THE FIRST CSFFA AWARD!

By R. Graeme Cameron & Mike Spencer

When contacted for his impressions of the Halcons which Spider Robinson attended, he and Jeanne living in Nova Scotia at the time, spider wrote the following:

“Just say the words “Halcon I,” and a flood of associations rise to the surface of memory, even after nearly 30 years: the sound of raucous laughter, the thick sweet fragrance of hash, the taste of one of the first—and last—delicious convention banquets I ever ate (or was that because of the hash?), and of course the smiling faces of old friends now too long unseen, like Bob Atkinson, George Allanson, John Bell and Sheldon Goldman. (Smiling with relief that they got away with it.) But just as vivid and pleasant to recall are my first sight of artsmith Mike Spencer’s stunning iron sculptures: a memorably terrifying “Coerl the Black Destroyer,” created for A.E. Van Vogt, and “They Travel In Elephants,” presented to Jeanne and me. The latter is, without question, one of the most beautiful and moving honours we’ve ever received, or for that matter seen; we were just talking about it the other day. (Mike’s “Slow Sculpture,” made for Ted Sturgeon, is equally unforgettable.”

Spider appears to be telescoping memories from several Halcons together here.

HALCON 1: Held in Greenwood Nova Scotia in October of 1977, Spider & Jeanne Robinson attending (probably as Guests of honour) – there’s a fine picture of them at the convention published in the summer 1978 first issue of BOREALIS, John Bell being one of the editors and also, I believe, heavily involved with Halcons right from the beginning. Bob Atkinson is considered the founder of the Halcon conventions however. George Allanson and Sheldon Goldman probably involved from the very beginning as well.

HALCON 2: Held in 1978, or maybe 1979, possibly in Greenwood again. I have no information.

HALCON 3: Held in Halifax, possibly at St. Mary’s University, summer of 1980. A.E. van Vogt was guest of honour and was presented with the first Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Award for ‘lifetime achievement’ by Spider & Jeanne Robinson. This first CSFFA was known as the COEURL (and indeed, apparently there was some effort to call the awards ‘The Coeurls’ from then on, Canada’s equivalent of the ‘the Hugos’, but this failed to catch on. Instead, the acronym CSFFA was transformed into ‘the Caspers’, till common sense prevailed and the more suitable ‘the Auroras’ was chosen in 19??).

Writing in his web site listed above by Spider, the sculptor of the Coeurl, artist Mike Spencer, states:

“COEURL – THE BLACK DESTROYER”

“The first The Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Award, later to become the Aurora under the aegis of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association . Presented to A. E. Van Vogt at Halcon 3 (Halifax, Nova Scotia) in 1980 in recognition of lifetime achievement in science fiction.”

“Commissioned by John Bell, Bob Atkinson, George Allanson and Sheldon Goldman for Halcon. When I received the commission, I was keen to do it. I had read much of Van Vogt's work years before along with a great deal of other science fiction. Only I didn't know how I was going to manage to execute it. But shortly thereafter, and before the work was due, I went to a week-long workshop with Philadelphia sculptor Chris Ray.”

“Chris, now sadly no longer with us, was the author of the bizarre and strangely compelling Mansect series of sculptures (among many others) that I admired extravagantly. The week with Chris provided the technique I needed to raise and form the hollow body of Coeurl.”

“Raised 16 ga. steel and hot-forged steel on a rosewood base. Design by Mike Spencer and Owen Olton based on the description in Van Vogt's story, ‘The Black Destroyer’, and the original artwork in the July 1939 issue of *Astounding*. The head and extremities are forged from solid bar and all the numerous pieces assembled by gas and electric welding. Fangs

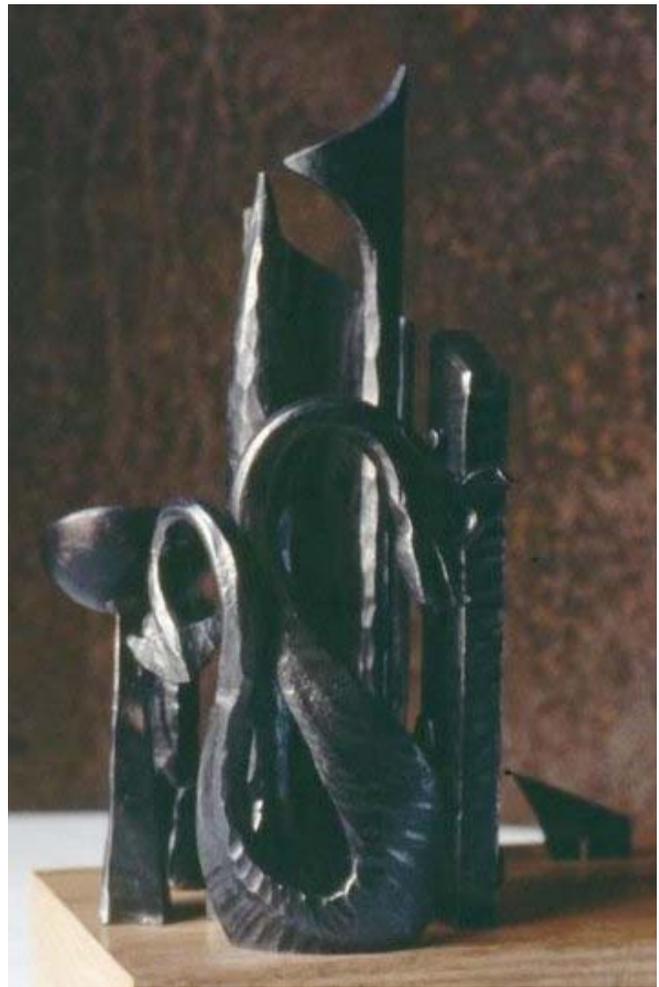
are set into holes drilled in the jaws. It has been erroneously reported in science fiction fandom that this piece is "cast iron". It's not."



"Many thanks to **Robert Whitelaw** who made the rosewood base; to **Owen Oulton** for design collaboration; and especially to **Chris Ray** for his long-time and continuing inspiration."

"At that time, the Halcon organizers were, I think, trying to convince everyone else that the Canadian national award should be called "The Coeur!" in perpetuity."

**THE SECOND
CSFFA AWARD
SCULPTED BY
MIKE SPENCER**



Eileen Kernaghan won the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association 'Best Novel' award at Halcon 8 in 1985 for her novel 'Songs of the Drowned Land'. "This was another case where, sadly, I didn't have the opportunity to read the author's books before making the piece. But since it was also meant to represent, in some way, the broad scope of Canadian imagination as well as to honor Eileen's achievements, I decided to take whimsy as my guide and ambiguity as my companion."

"There are ten elements, arranged in a helical spiral beginning with a little object whose only purpose is to point onward and upward along the spiral. It's followed by something that might be a mushroom or maybe a vortex in the atmosphere of Jupiter. Then comes a vacuum tube (or maybe it's a canopic jar from a lost civilization.) The little human figure might be a Reverend Mother from Arakis or perhaps one of the three Norns who spin the threads of fate at the foot of Yggdrasil."

"Then there's a, well, probably a radio telescope followed by a dragon. Next comes pillar that might resemble the obelisk from 2001 or maybe it's just a count-down starting-light column from the drag races. "

"The central panel -- the fortress wall of Gondor? The protective scarp of Shambala? -- bears a Canadian Maple Leaf etched on top of the marks of the forging hammer. A tall, slender space ship follows and, in the center, a what might be a tall pennon or is it a hand, reaching ever upward?"

"A tip of the hat to Robert Whitelaw who made the oaken base. This proved to be a nearly impossible piece to photograph in a way that captured the humor and ambiguity I envisioned. Thanks to Eileen, Anonymous and Graeme in BC who helped with photos."

Got to < <http://home.tallships.ca/mspencer/> > for a gallery of Mike's works including all the other sculptures (non-CSFFA) he did for Halcon Guests of Honour: eg: Spider & Jeanne Robinson, Theodore Sturgeon, etc.

THE COMPLETE FAN AURORA AWARDS

Here follows a listing of the fannish Aurora Awards to date:

FAN ACHIEVEMENT:

- 1986 - Garth Spencer - for editing of THE MAPLE LEAF RAG & dedication to Canadian fandom.
- 1987 - Elisabeth Vonarburg - for contributions to SOLARIS.

FAN ACHIEVEMENT (FANZINE/PUBLICATION):

- 1988 - MLR - Michael Skeet, editor.
- 1989 - MLR - Michael Skeet, editor.
- 1990 - MLR - Michael Skeet, editor.
- 1991 - NEOLOGY - Catherine Girczyc, editor.
- 1992 - SOL RISING - Larry Hancock, editor.
- 1993 - UNDER THE OZONE HOLE - Karl Johanson & John Herbert, editors.
- 1994 - UNDER THE OZONE HOLE - Karl Johanson & John Herbert, editors.
- 1995 - UNDER THE OZONE HOLE - Karl Johanson & John Herbert, editors.
- 1996 - UNDER THE OZONE HOLE - Karl Johanson & John Herbert, editors.
- 1997 - SOL RISING - Theresa Wojtasiewicz, editor.
- 1998 - WARP FACTOR - Chris Chartier, editor.
- 1999 - WARP FACTOR - Lynda Pelly, editor.
- 2000 - VOYAGEUR - Karen Bennett, editor.
- 2001 - VOYAGEUR - Karen Bennett, editor.
- 2002 - VOYAGEUR - Karen Bennett & Sharon Lowachee, editors.
- 2003 - MADE IN CANADA NEWSLETTER - Don Bassie, editor.
- 2004 - MADE IN CANADA NEWSLETTER - Don Bassie, editor.
- 2005 - OPUNTIA - Dale Speirs, editor.
- 2006 - THE ROYAL SWISS NAVY GAZETTE - Garth Spencer, editor.
- 2007 - BRINS D'ETERNITE - Guillaume Voisine, editor.
- 2008 - No Award.
- 2009 - THE ORIGINAL UNIVERSE - Jeff Boman, Editor.
- 2010 - WCSFazine - R. Graeme Cameron, editor.

FAN ACHIEVEMENT (ORGANIZATIONAL):

- 1989 - Paul Valcour - Pinecone 1.
- 1990 - The Alberta Speculative Fiction Association (TASFA).
- 1991 - Dave Panchyk - President of SSFS & Chair of Combine 0.
- 1992 - John Mansfield - Winnipeg in 94 Worldcon Bid Committee Chair.
- 1993 - Adam Charlesworth - Noncon 15.
- 1994 - Lloyd Penney - Ad Astra.
- 1995 - Cath Jackel - Noncon & ON SPEC.
- 1996 - Jean-Louis Trudel - SFSF Boreal et Prix Boreal.
- 1997 - Yvonne Penney - SF Saturday.
- 1998 - Peter Halasz - The National SF & Fantasy Society.
- 1999 - Ann Methe - Con*cept 98.
- 2000 - Bernard Reischl - (Kag/Kanada).
- 2001 - R. Graeme Cameron - BCSFA President & VCON 25 Chair.
- 2002 - Peter Johnson - USS Hudson Bay, IDIC.
- 2003 - Georgina Miles - Toronto Trek 16.

2004 - Martin Miller - Torcon 3 & Toronto Trek 17 Masquerades.
2005 – Brian Upward (I.D.I.C.)
2006 – Barbara Schofield, Toronto Trek Masquerade)
2007 – Cathy Palmer-Lister (Con*Cept)
2008 – Penny Lipman (Masquerades)
2009 – Randy McCharles – (Chair of World Fantasy 2008)
2010 – David Hayman, for organizing the Filk Hall of Fame.

FAN ACHIEVEMENT (OTHER):

1989 - Robert Runte - NCF GUIDE TO CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION & FANDOM, 3rd edition, editor & publisher.
1990 - Robert Runte - for promotion of Canadian SF writing.
1991 - Al Betz - ASK MR. SCIENCE column.
1992 - David W, New - HORIZONS SF, editor.
1993 - Louise Hypher - SF2 show.
1994 - Jean-Louis Trudel - promotion of Canadian SF.
1995 - Catherine Donahue Girczyc - ETHER PATROL radio show host.
1996 - Larry Stewart - entertainer.
1997 - Lloyd Penney - fan writing.
1998 - Larry Stewart - entertainer.
1999 - Janet L. Hetherington - co-curator of 60 Years of Superman exhibit at Nepean Museum.
2000 - Don Bassie - MADE IN CANADA website.
2001 - Donna McMahon - book reviews.
2002 - Alex von Thorn - fan writing.
2003 - Jason Taniguchi - One-man SF parody shows.
2004 - Eric Layman - fan writing.
2005 – Karen Linsley, filksinging.
2006 – Urban Tapestry, filksinging.
2007 – Peggi Warner-LaLonde – filksinging.
2008 – THE VOYAGEUR – Paul Bobbit, editor.
2009 – Joan Sherman – Heather Dale Concert.
2010 – Ray Badgerow, Astronomy lecture at USS Hudson.

THE 1997 AURORA AWARDS CEREMONY

By R. Graeme Cameron

NOTE: this is an excerpt from my 1997 CUFF trip report to Primedia/Convention in Toronto.

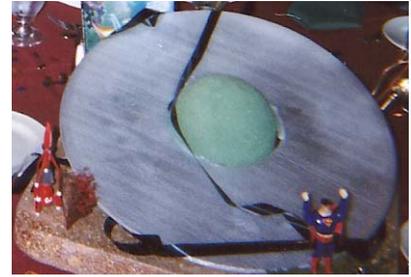
At long last, it's time for the Aurora Awards Banquet and Presentation. As I get off the elevator Henry the 8th and one of his wives step on (costumers I assume). The door keeps closing on Henry (a very large man) as he appears to be hanging on to his 'wife's' back attempting to adjust her bodice, or possibly trying to rip it off. If the latter, that would be roleplaying old Henry to perfection.

A crowd mills about in the hall outside while last minute work is completed in setting up the banquet. I chat with Brian Davis for awhile, and then Lloyd & Yvonne Penney show up and graciously invite the both of us to share their table. Then the doors are flung open and there stands Cindy Huckle, wearing an elegant white dress and blouse, greeting each participant as they enter.

"Ah Cindy, "I blurt out going in, "about my Space Babes lecture..."

"Not now, not now! Now is not the time!"

Suitably chastened, I hasten to join the others at our table. It features a very stfnal centrepiece consisting of a Styrofoam FORBIDDEN PLANET-style flying saucer wrapped in videotape and accompanied by a plastic Superman and a #3 Thunderbirds spacecraft. Cool!



Going around the table from my left, "our table" consists of myself, Brian Davis, Lloyd Penney, Yvonne Penney, actor Bruce Gray (the ruthless investment banker from TRADERS TV show), Jodi Hancock, her husband Larry Hancock (representing the Friends of the Merrill Collection & co-chair of the Toronto in 2003 bid), Mrs. van Belkom, her husband -- a prolific writer -- Edo van Belkom (his most recent book NORTHERN DREAMERS, a series of interviews with Canadian SF&F writers), and David Stockman, whose name is familiar yet I can't seem to place him. I never do find out if he's a Fan or a Pro, or both.

Both Larry Hancock and Bruce Gray are very funny and entertaining. They put the entire table in a merry mood very quickly.

At one point Hancock becomes serious for a moment and wonders aloud, "How does one go about ordering wine?" The very second he finishes his question a waiter reaches over his shoulder and plonks down a bottle of white wine in front of him. Hancock stares down at the bottle, his eyes widening, and gasps, "Wow! That's fast service.... I wanted red though..."

During the course of making polite conversation van Belkom asks me if I'm up for an award. "No, not this year, but I've been nominated six times in the past."

"Six times? SIX TIMES?" van Belkom strikes the table with his fist. "I've published over a hundred short stories and several novels. What the hell do you have to do to get nominated SIX times?"

The others stare at me in awe. I shrink into my chair. "Well, it was just for putting out a clubzine..." I explain in a mumble. "BCSFazine. Print run of a hundred. Nominated six years in a row while I was editor...." My voice trails off.

"Six times..." mutters van Belkom.

I could have added that I'd never won, but thought better of it.... *(Note: I've since won two, van Belkom three!)*



Larry Hancock

When the buffet is wheeled in it is set up next to our table. Cries of protest resound throughout the hall as we are first to get up and load up our plates. The food is nothing great, but perfectly adequate. One of the dishes contains shrimp. Someone mentions they are allergic to shrimp, and nobody can figure out by appearance alone which dish to avoid. "That one!" I declare loudly, laughing inwardly that everyone has missed the obvious. Turns out I am pointing at the chicken dish. Oh well.

Our meal finishes and the horde of fans waiting outside is allowed to enter and fill the rows of seats for the awards ceremony. We of the banquet tables are seated between the stage and the row seating so we have the best seating of all. Even better, my table is on the left-hand side of the hall, so it is easy for me to leap up and scuttle close to the podium to snap pictures without blocking anyone's view. (Though I suppose the cameraman for the SPACE channel didn't appreciate my flash going off periodically. I like to think it added a journalistic touch to their coverage...)

The principal presenters are Marcel Gagne and Robert Sawyer. As best as I can recollect the sequence of presentation is as follows:

Cindy Huckle (Primedia Chair) and, I think, Ruth Stuart (of the awards subcommittee) unveil the awards, which consist of a black-painted wood base supporting stylized plastic waves representing the ever-shifting shimmering veil of the Aurora Borealis often seen in our Northern skies. When seen from above these 'waves' form the outline of a Maple Leaf (the award I'm talking about, not the actual Aurora Borealis...though it would be truly nifty if it did, come to think of it...). Normally the awards are crafted by Franklin Johnson of Edmonton, who has been doing them since 1982, but sufficient advance notice did not reach him in time this year, so the awards were fashioned at the last minute by Ed Charpentier, Primedia's AV chief. Also, the awards usually have colour embedded in the plastic to more accurately resemble the true Aurora, but due to the lack of preparation time this year's awards are made of clear plastic. They glisten nicely all the same though.

1) Jean-Pierre Normand wins for ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT for assorted book and magazine covers. He won in the same category last year as well. With a beard as black and curly as his hair he rather resembles Zeus.



Jean-Pierre Normand

2) Jean-Louis Trudel wins for BEST SHORT-FORM WORK IN FRENCH for his short story "Lamente-toi, Sagesse!" which appeared in "Geneses." This is his third Aurora award. He previously won FAN ACHIEVEMENT (OTHER) for promoting SF, in 1994, and FAN ACHIEVEMENT (ORGANIZATIONAL) in 1996 for SFSF Boreal.

3) Robert J. Sawyer (beating out poor Edo van Belkom among others) wins BEST SHORT-FORM IN ENGLISH for his short story "Peking Man" which appeared in "Dark Destiny III: Children Of Dracula." This is his third Aurora award. He previously won one for his novel "The Golden Fleece" in 1992, and another for his short story "Just Like Old Times" in 1994.

4) "On Spec" magazine (first issue was in Spring of 1989) wins for BEST OTHER WORK IN ENGLISH. Robert Sawyer accepts on their behalf. This is their fourth Aurora award. Their first three victories came in 1990, 1991, and 1995.

5) "Solaris" (a venerable Quebec SF magazine, its first issue -- under the title "Requiem" -- came out in 1974) wins BEST OTHER WORK IN FRENCH. They also won, under various editors, in 1990, 1991, 1992, (possibly in 1993 -- I don't know who won in this category that year), 1995, and 1996. Jean-Louis Trudel accepts for them.

6) And now Larry Hancock takes the stage to present the FAN ACHIEVEMENT (ORGANIZATIONAL) Aurora. The contestants are: Warren Huska (Toronto Trek 10), Lynda Pelly (MonSFFA), Capucine Plourde (Klingon Imperial Diplomatic Corp), Rebecca Senese (Space-Time Continuum), and Yvonne Penney (SF Saturday).



Yvonne Penney

As Larry Hancock tears open the envelope Yvonne bows her head, clenching both fists tightly beneath her throat, her eyes shut, eyelids quivering. Larry calls out her name. Yvonne's eyes fly open in shock. "Oh shit!" she gasps. Lloyd hugs her delightedly as the room bursts into applause. She gets up and goes to the podium, or rather, stands beside it holding the microphone, since the podium is so tall it would hide her from view if she stood behind it. She looks very happy indeed as she makes a brief but gracious speech of acceptance. But alas, as she returns to the table her expression of happiness fades to worry and tension. After all, her husband is also up for an award, and what if he doesn't win? Mind you, Lloyd previously won in 1994 for FAN ACHIEVEMENT (ORGANIZATIONAL) re Ad Astra, so at least they are now even. Still, it would be nice to go home with his and hers awards....

To make matters worse, as far as prolonging the suspense goes, there is a break in the proceedings to allow Allan Weiss of the Friends of the Merrill Collection to give a fine, heart-felt tribute in memory of Judith Merrill who had passed away a month earlier (Sept 12, 1997). Weiss finishes by throwing out a sort of clenched-fist salute and pleading with everyone to commemorate Judith by pledging themselves to a lifetime of radical political reform and struggle. What? This said to a bunch of SF Fans? The most conservative, backward-looking, escapist-minded, to-hell-with-reality, we-just-want-to-have-fun group of social misfits on the face of the planet? Fat chance. Nice try though.

7) Finally, time for the rest of the awards, starting with FAN ACHIEVEMENT (OTHER). The nominees are: Judith Hayman (filmsinging), Lloyd Penny (fan-writing), MonSFFA ("Plant Nine From Outer Space" video), Capucine Plourde (KIDC website design), Norbert Spohner ("Dracula Opus 300", Ashem Fictions, Bibliography), and Larry Stewart (entertainer).



Lloyd Penny

Lloyd and Yvonne hold hands as the envelope is opened. Lloyd wins his second Aurora! Lloyd and Yvonne hug excitedly and he bounds up to the podium (though Yvonne had let go by this point, I should add). He seems in a bit of a daze. Pausing for a moment, he stares down at the award in his hand, then thanks everyone for giving him "the stealth Aurora" (a reference to its clear plastic), which gets a laugh. In the course of further comments he puzzles a few people by stating that he receives about 150 Fanzines a year, as if to imply that's why he is getting the award. In fact, he is being rewarded for his fan-writing TO those zines, more specifically for his letters of comment.



Lloyd Penney, Bruce Gray, & Yvonne Penney

"NorthWords" (James M. Botte, Bertrand Desbiens & Mark Lefebvre -- Society For Canadian Content), "OSFS Statement" (Lionel Wagner of the Ottawa SF Society), "Sol Rising" (Theresa Wojtasiewicz -- Friends of the Merril Collection), "Warp" (Keith Braithwaite - Montreal SF&F Association), and "Under The Ozone Hole" (Karl Johanson & John Herbert).

UTOH won four times previously. The fact this means I lost four times to them has nothing to do with my keen interest in the award this time, of course. I am merely curious in a dispassionate and entirely objective manner as to whether they will finally be crushed like a... er, I mean, whether their winning streak is about to be broken by a worthy competitor. And in fact, tis so, Editor Theresa Wojtasiewicz wins on behalf of "Sol Rising", the newsletter of the Friends of the Merril Collection. The newsletter won once before, in 1992, when Larry Hancock was editor.

9) Yves Mynard wins BEST LONG-FORM WORK IN FRENCH for his novel "La Rose du Desert". This is his fifth Aurora, having previously won in 1992, 1994, 1995 and 1996, all in the BEST SHORT-FORM WORK IN FRENCH category. Jean-Louis Trudel accepts on his behalf.



**Dennis Mullin,
Aurora Awards Administrator**

At this point I'll mention that various teams of presenters work different awards but that each and every award is presented in both French and English. Bruce Gray who grew up in Canada, is very much moved to see this, and says as much while helping Marcel Gagne and Richard Biggs present the last award.



Robert J. Sawyer & 2 Auroras!

As Biggs starts to tear open the envelope, the "Space The Imagination Channel" camera man creeps in very close, the end of his lens moving to within inches of Bigg's groin. With a nervous smile Biggs asks, "What are you doing?" The audience laughs. From my perspective I can see the camera guy is just trying to shoot a closeup of Bigg's hands opening the envelope, but it does rather look as if he is zooming in on Bigg's assets.

10) The envelope is opened, the name read out, and Robert J. Sawyer wins BEST LONG-FORM WORK IN ENGLISH for his novel "Starplex" published by Ace. This is his fourth Aurora, and his second this evening. He's a very happy man.

Primedia Chair says a few words of thanks, then the winners pose with their awards for photo-taking. I get assorted shots, such as Bruce Gray hovering between Lloyd and Yvonne flashing victory signs with both his hands, Sawyer alone proudly holding both awards, and a picture of Dennis Mullin of the Aurora Awards subcommittee looking very relieved things have gone so well

I then go up to Jean-Pierre Normand to congratulate him on his victory. As we shake hands I ask him how I can get a hold of that beautiful Titanic/Godzilla print of his. He tells me to come on up to the Boreal Con*cept party he will be throwing in his room once he gets up there. Great!

As I start to leave I am accosted by Cindy Huckle (for a change, up to now it had been the other way around). "We've decided you can do your Space Babes bit in the Melville room at 11:00 AM tomorrow."

Note: My Space Babes lecture was a 'spoof' lecture arguing that the foundations of the modern feminist movement were laid down by female role models in the sci-fi movies of the fifties. I used film clips to illustrate how far ahead of their time the female protagonists were, and to suggest that young girls in the contemporary audience were subconsciously motivated to take up the cause of feminism when they grew older.

As one ardent feminist sitting in the front row with her arms crossed and frowning throughout the entire lecture commented at the end, "You know, it almost makes sense!" A triumph of sorts.



Lloyd & Yvonne: Happy fans indeed!



**Left to right: Lloyd Penney, Jean-Pierre Normand, Yvonne Penney,
Robert J. Sawyer, Theresa Wojtasiewicz & Jean-Louis Trudel.
1997 Aurora Award Winners All!**

FANS – 1982

By Taral Wayne

Editors note: This article reviewing Canadian fan activity during the year 1982 was first published in the 'Bakka Bookie Sheet' in February of 1983.

Today author Taral Wayne comments: "*In retrospect, it amazes me that so much was going on in Canadian fandom then... and yet I found it a disappointing year!*"

There is no generally accepted definition of fan activity except the one we're reduced to using to define science fiction itself – it's what we point at when we say "fanac". For the purpose of this year's end survey though, we might as well take fanac to mean everything I can think of that was left out of a previous column, "'82 in Review: The SF Year", that isn't obviously a professional event. Rob Sawyer seemed to cover that angle thoroughly. But, as I pointed out to John Rose¹, many things passed beneath Sawyer's notice. And that's when John said, "Why don't you write up the fan angle then." That'll teach me to be a critic...

Fanzines. Across the country, it's been a poor year for fan publishing, generally. The several clubs in Canada continue to put out their monthlies, on a not too regular basis, but these are intended for local consumption and have limited attraction for non-members. Whether it's been the dramatic increase in postal rates or not, generally available/general interest zines in Canada have been few.

The chief titles to appear in '82 have been: *BCSFazine*, the British Columbia Science Fiction Association's 100th newsletter, a special 46-page issue produced for the club by Gerald Boyko, featuring several articles on the history of the BCSFA. *New Canadian Fandom*, numbers 4 and 5, edited by Edmonton's Robert Runte and Mike Hall, came out in January and August this year. No schedule is advertised, but I think we may safely assume that the editors hadn't planned on only two issues this year of a fanzine intended to unify Canadian fandom. So, it appears that they are having difficulties. A parody of *New Canadian Fandom* (*New Canadian Fandom, Eh?*) appeared in April, appropriately enough. It's no secret anymore that the perpetrators of this hoax were myself and Mike Hall, one of the editors of the real *NCF*. He was visiting Toronto and it seemed like a good idea at the time... Selling to raise money for the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was *Galah Performance*, published by myself in January. This 26 page report of his travels among Australian fans was written by an English fan, John Berry, who was well known for his fanzine writing in the '50's. Many of the illustrations were drawn by Hugo-winning fan artist Arthur (Atom) Thompson.² Mostly of interest to Toronto area fans, who have access to local efforts, was Do-Ming Lum's *Books of 1981*, an incomplete but exhaustive survey of SF and Fantasy books appearing the year before. Do-Ming plans a *Books of 1982*, which may or may not be available in Bakka early next year.

Worth an honorable mention was Mike Glicksohn's and Susan Wood's *Energumen 16*, actually published the year before the one under discussion, but late enough in the year, and important enough that I hesitate to omit it. This 100 page extravaganza is only 14 pages short of being the longest fanzine published in Canadian fandom's history, and is exceeded by only two other zines. (*Canadian Fandom 33a*, 114 pages, published in 1957, and *Orca 2*, 108 pages, published in 1978.) Money raised by its sale goes to the Susan Wood Fund established after her untimely death, in Vancouver, in 1980.

Obituary. Vancouver, hard hit by Susan Wood's death in November 1980, was struck again by the murder of Helen "Hen" Flanders, on August 13th. She was found in her bedroom the next morning, strangled by someone who had broken in. She had published the BCSFA's newsletter and worked on V-Con committees, but her influence on Vancouver's fandom was foremost on a personal level.

Amateur Press Associations. Canada has several amateur press associations – apas – each in relative isolation from the mainstream of fandom, and from each other. Perhaps the most active of the moment is the youngest, Toronto's *Tapa*. The editor is its founder, Michael Wallis, and mailings still appear monthly. The opposite extreme is Edmonton's *Dadapa* and *Fewmets*, whose continued existences are in doubt. Of the Vancouver area apas, *Vanapa* is dead and *BCapa* continues to appear in faithful but diminished form. Canada's first apa, *Canadapa*, has virtually died after the election of a non-performing editor. An anarchist's apa, edited from Toronto, probably shouldn't be counted as fan activity, but now you know that there is one at least. Aside from the Canadian apas, many fans in this country belong to apas originating in the

¹ John Rose was, at the time the *Bakka Bookie Sheet* was published, the owner and proprietor of *Bakka Books*.

² The rest by myself actually, including the cover, in the same style as Atom's illustrations..

US and Australia. It is the most widespread form of fan publishing here, though apazines are more like letter substitutes than fan magazines, and almost all have extremely limited print runs on the order of 50 copies or so. There's no keeping track of them.

Conventions. Conventions across the country continue to be the main form of fan activity for most Canadian fans, occupying maybe 200 fans in the running of them, and entertaining thousands. (By comparison, only a couple of dozen fans publish.) The list of cons is almost endless, counting the comics dealers' cons, university or high school one-day cons, TV Show cons, etc. etc. There are only a few major conventions, though. Last year there were fewer than normal, due to the hiatus of *Maplecon* in Ottawa, and the lack of a *Halcon* in Halifax. Remaining were Vancouver's *V-Con 9*, with guests Vonda McIntyre and Jan Gustavson, held in May, and Edmonton's *NonCon 5*, held in October, with guests C.J. Cherry and Steven Fahnestalk. There was a major academic conference in July – unlike *V-Con* and *NonCon*, whose attendances were several hundred, *Borea*, in Chicoutimi PQ, had only around 150 people. Organized by Quebec writer Elizabeth Vonarburg, its guests included Phyllis Gotlieb, C.J. Cherryh, and John Brunner.

Toronto conventions haven't been prominent for many years, and have often been small, and not very successful. The two major cons in '82 were *Torque 3* and *Ad Astra II*, with 150 and 300 people respectively. *Torque 3* had Samuel R. Delaney and Don D'Ammassa as guest, and was held in May. It was the last that will be held, at least for the indefinite future. The organizers, myself, Bob Hadji, and Do-Ming Lum, are tired of the grind. The con was financially successful to the tune of \$500, and substantial amounts of money were donated to *OSFiC*, *TAFF*, gifts for the guests of honour, and reimbursing Anne Sherlock Books for subsidizing the first *Torque*. Art for an ad was given to Bakka for financial aid with *Torque 3*, and remaining money will be put toward publishing a portfolio later in 1983.

Ad Astra II, whose guests were Jerry Pournelle and Ro Lutz-Nagey, was held in June. Whereas the major focus of *Torque* was the panel program, the major events of *Ad Astra* covered films and a costume show. It too was successful, and reportedly cleared \$500. The principal organizers, Mike Wallis, Les Dickson, Howard Scrimgeour et al, have bandied about plans for a financial umbrella to replace the tacitly defunct *Dragonstar* organization. *Ad Astra* profits would presumably be at the disposal of the new non-profit organization to disburse to worthwhile fannish causes. Nothing more has been heard so far about this.

Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund.³ *The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund* is an annual popularity and activity poll that selects among a small number of candidates for that year's *TAFF* representative. On even years, the winner is British, and comes to the *Worldcon* in the US. Odd years send an American fan to Britain for the annual *Eastercon*. Only once before has a Canadian participated – Boyd Raeburn, in the late 50's, a Toronto fan well known for his acerbic and sophisticated fanzines. This year was the second time a Canadian has run for *TAFF*. Boyd and I both lost. The winner this year was Avedon Carol, a Washington DC fan.⁴

Awards. Edmonton's *NonCon 5* was the host of 1982's *Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards*. There were two categories – best novel, and life achievement – which both seem to have been awarded to one author, Phyllis Gotlieb. The award has been plagued with controversy since its inception at *Halcon 1*, three years ago. *NonCon*'s nemesis was Spider Robinson, who contested the con's decision to eliminate American immigrants, i.e. Spider Robinson, from consideration for the award. Spider's open letter was circulated as widely as he could manage, and presumably he'll get his way next year when the award is given by Ottawa.

Fanart. Canada has had a fine tradition of fan artists in the past. 1982 saw little activity on this frontier. Kevin Davies, a Toronto artist, painted a new sign for Bakka, and did their new business card. No doubt local artists in other cities have done similar things invisible to outsiders. Kevin, at least, was a guest of November's *Contradiction* in Buffalo. Barry Kent MacKay, living north of Toronto, and an old-time *OSFiC* member, left retirement as a fan artist to do a few sketch books, full of new drawings which have not, for the most part, been sent to anyone for publication yet. Some have appeared in *OSFiC* newsletters. My own year as a fan artist has been contradictory. Although I've probably done more and better work than last year, little has so far appeared in fanzines. A larger number of fan artists have been doing work for their local clubs, but their art isn't well known elsewhere. There are hints that Edmonton fan artist David Vereschagin may come out of his retirement, at least as far as drawing for *New Canadian Fandom*, but there hasn't been an issue recently to verify the rumor. The first part of a two-installment article on Canadian fan artists appeared in *New Canadian Fandom 5*, the August issue. For those interested in Canadian fan art, refer to the *NCF* address below for back issues.

³ For reasons I cannot reconstruct, I didn't cover either *DUFF* or *GUFF*.

⁴ In 1987 Mike Glicksohn also tried his luck with *TAFF* and continued a fine Canadian tradition by losing to American, Jeanne Gomoll

Miscellaneous. Purely local Toronto news – probably of interest only to Toronto area fans – includes a mention that Elizabeth Pearse of Mississauga was in charge of the *Chicon IV (Worldcon)* art show. Elizabeth has been aiding *Worldcon* art shows, and running small shows herself, for several years, and does most shows in Toronto.

Australian fan Marc Ortlieb included Toronto in his itinerary as he toured North America. He stayed with Mike Wallis and attended a Parturition Day Party⁵ before moving on. Another visitor from abroad is Hope Leibowitz, from the exotic, far-away Bronx. Unlike Marc, Hope is here to stay, as the wife of Toronto fan Bob Webber.⁶

Still another visitor, and another Aussie at that, is Nick Strauss. Nick was in Toronto a number of months as a student, and is by now back home Down Under. Fans from other countries in larger numbers were in town for both *Ad Astra* and *Torque*, but that's not quite the same.

Bakka has begun publishing again. *The Bakka Bookie Sheet* is the first publication from Canada's oldest SF store since the original owner, Charlie McKee, let *Bakka Magazine* fade away after four numbered issues. The last of those was in 1976. I shouldn't need to tell you this – the *Bakka Bookie Sheet* is right in front of you now.

The Toronto based *Ontario Science Fiction Club (OSFiC)*, Canada's oldest, elected new officers in September. *OSFiC's* new executive are Bob Hadji (program moderator), Do-Ming Lum (treasurer), and Kathryn Grimbly-Bethke (secretary and newsletter editor). The new executive hopes to make the members of the club more self-reliant than before, which has changed the character of the club meetings somewhat. There has been a marked change in the direction of the newsletter, towards informality. Perhaps most important, the members, or some of the members, have grown a group identity and socialize apart from the monthly meetings. Stirrings of incipient fanac have been felt, and the group has begun convention going. Their trend is toward the East Coast, unlike the previous generation of Toronto fans, whose orientation is toward the Mid-West.

Toronto fandom lives through its parties. The focus of the Mid-West con bunch is "Baskon", a bimonthly affair at Marg Baskin's St. Dennis apartment, has been going on for three or four years. It's semi-semi-invitational and heavily representative of media and comics fans, gamers, and Wiccans, as well as SF and Fantasy fans. A second, lesser stomping ground for St. Dennis dwellers, Tapa members and Ad Astra-oids is Lloyd Penney's "Apartycon", spun off "Bascon". A more bookish group meets once a month at a greasy chop-stick (the Chinese version of the greasy spoon), and purports to be the "Writer's Unworkshop". Many of the unworkshoppers are the members of *OSFiC* already mentioned, others are from two or three generations of Toronto fandom back. "Parturition Day", a party I host every 95 days, is another occasion for unworkshoppers to get together. So have been Dave Leber's "Poolcon". The annual Dave Warren Party and *OSFiC's* Christmas Party are more neutral ground, but lean toward one group or another.

The Gameways Star Trek Bridge – immortalized in a *Star Weekly* magazine article on famous Canadian white elephants – was at last sold by owner Gregg Hagglund. Maybe. There is some question of whether the sale will go through, as the buyer (reported to be Synergy) is concerned for its public image, and it may be premature to wave goodbye to Gameway's Bridge.

The last item of my agenda isn't strictly fan activity. It's John Robert Colombo's *Years of Light*, a professional book. Seeing as how John's book is about 1940's Canadian fan Leslie Croutch, I think it ought to be mentioned. *Years of Light* can be bought at Bakka, and would be of interest to anyone who wants to know about Canadian fandom in antiquity. The book is a unique profile of a *typical* fan of the times, and also one of Canada's *best-known* fans. Additional material in the appendices includes a list of fanzines published in Canada in the previous year, a chapter on A.E. van Vogt, and an outline of Canadian fan history that's spotty but instructive nevertheless.

A lot of fine detail, but not actually a lot of fanac for 1982. In all likelihood 1983 will see Canadian fandom's conventions pretty much the same as ever. I think, however, that fan publishing will remain in its slump, and its associated activities, writing, art, and letter hacking, will also be in decline. Postal costs are expected to rise again in the New Year, and must take the blame for fans turning away from fanzines. As for Toronto fandom, it's hard to say how it will sort itself out in the next year. With the exception of substituting *Millennium* (a media con) for *Torque*, there probably won't be any drastic changes to the status quo. Or maybe there are surprises in store.

⁵ Held roughly every 95 days in my basement, to celebrate Saara Mar's birth on June 10th. In 1732. Her planet orbits much closer to its suns than Earth does to Sol.

⁶ Hope and WebBob have been separated now for a couple of decades. Ironically, she's in Toronto still, but Bob Webber is living in the U.S.

Read about it next year.

Fanzine Addresses:

New Canadian Fandom, containing articles, reviews, and convention reports, can be had from Robert Runte and Mike Hall, at PO Box 4655, Edmonton, Alberta, T5E 5G5, four issues for \$5.00. They will send you one free sample if you ask.

Galah Performance, can be had from me at 1812-415 Willowdale Ave. Willowdale, Ontario, M2N 5B4, for \$2.00 and .50 postage.

Engergumen 16, is probably still available from Mike Glicksohn, 137 High Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6P 2S3, for \$4.00 (US).

Editors Note: The above three addresses are now defunct, and the fanzines in question are no longer available, so do NOT write for same. The above is printed as part of the original article and merely serves to indicate what was available at the time of the article's first publication.

Also, Taral makes reference to the CSFFA awards "*since its inception at Halcon 1, three years ago..*" i.e. in 1980. My sources state the first CSFFA award was indeed given to Van Vogt at a Halcon in 1980, but there were two prior, lesser known Halcons; the first in October 1977 and the second presumably in either 1978 or 1979. The Halcon in 1980 was in fact the third Halcon. My source for information about the first (1977) Halcon is the summer 1978 first issue of the fanzine BOREALIS published by John Bell and Alain Chabot. To read my detailed review of BOREALIS #1, check out the September 2008 #13 back issue of WCSFAzine archived at <<http://www.efanzines.com>> I will review the second (and last) issue of Borealis in a future edition of AURORAN LIGHTS.

FABLED FANDOM NEWS & NOTES

C.U.F.F. NOMINATIONS OPEN!

Diane Lacey, last year's winner of the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, and this year's CUFF administrator, announces she is now open to nominations for this year's CUFF candidate to represent Western fandom at SFContario/Convention in Ontario

"Canadian Unity Fan Fund provides for an Eastern Canadian or a Western Canadian science fiction enthusiast to attend CanVention. CanVention is the annual convention of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association. Traditionally, the location of CanVention alternates between Eastern and Western Canada. This year CanVention will be held at SFContario in Toronto on November 18-20th. The CUFF delegate will be chosen from nominees residing in the Western region of Canada, defined as Manitoba and parts west. We are looking for a fan from Western Canada to come attend SFContario as the CUFF delegate. The delegate is welcome, even encouraged, to stay longer than just the convention and hang out with the local fans. In fact our Third Monday pubnight, a regular gathering of local fans happens to fall on the Monday immediately following the convention."

"In order to be nominated for the CUFF this year an application must be submitted by March 31, 2011 to d.lacey@gmail.com. The application must have a minimum of three references from people in the east and three from the west. It should contain a letter describing who you are, why this would be beneficial for you and your community. Voting will be open April 5 and close May 31st. This will allow the successful candidate enough time to work with SFContario programming and to schedule their visit."



T.A.F.F. VOTING OPEN!

2011 TAFF Ballot Europe to North America

You can download the Ballot/Registration form from:

[TAFF Home](#) • [Printable Word version](#) • [PDF](#)

Or: < <http://taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2011.html> >

What is TAFF? The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. It exists solely through the support of fandom. Interested fans all over the world vote on the candidates, each vote being accompanied by a donation of not less than UK£2 or US\$3. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote? Voting in the 2011 race is open to anyone active in fandom prior to April 2009, and who donates at least UK£2.00 or US\$3.00 to TAFF. Larger contributions will be gratefully accepted. Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote per person, and you must sign your ballot. You may change your vote any time prior to the deadline.

Deadline: Votes in this race must reach the administrators by **midnight GMT, 26 April 2011 (7pm EST; 4pm PST)**.

Voting details: TAFF uses a preferential ballot system which guarantees automatic runoffs until a majority is obtained. You rank the candidates in the exact order of your preference for them. If the leading first-place candidate does not get a majority, the first-place votes for the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped, and the second-place votes on those ballots are counted as first-place votes. This process repeats itself until one candidate has a majority. Your votes for second and third place are important, but you may give your candidate only one ranking on your ballot. In order to win, a candidate must receive at least 20% of the first-ballot first-place votes on either side of the Atlantic. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. Candidates and their supporters will thus need to canvass fans on both sides of the Pond. You may send your ballot to either administrator, but it will be tabulated with the other votes from the side of the ocean where you reside. Votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not count towards either 20% minimum, but are important to the outcome of the race.

Hold Over Funds: This choice, like "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, should you feel none of the candidates deserve your support. Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and is exempt from the 20% requirement; thus, if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no trip will be held this year regardless of how many votes that option received on the first ballot.

No Preference: For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

Donations: TAFF gratefully accepts your freely given money and material for auction; such generosity has sustained the Fund for more than 50 years. TAFF is fandom's longest-running travel fund, and one of its worthiest causes -- give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

Candidates: Each candidate has posted a bond, promising – barring "acts of God" – to travel, if elected, to the 2011 Worldcon (Renovation, 17-21 August 2011). They have also provided signed nominations and a platform. Please read both sides of the ballot before voting. Send entire sheet as your vote.

(We need your full contact details. TAFF may need to contact you regarding your ballot or to send out newsletters. We do not publish this data or pass it to any other organization.)

We are currently setting up PayPal accounts. If you prefer to use PayPal, please check the TAFF website for details. If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, please provide the name and contact details of an active fan who is known to them and is willing to vouch for you (not a fan group, a candidate, or one of their nominators).

2011 TAFF Candidates:

Graham Charnock: "Vote for me. If you know me, you know why you should. If you don't know me visit my website www.cartiledgeworld.co.uk for biographical details and access to other craziness, which should persuade you. If I am elected I promise I will cut a swathe across North America like a rabid shrew released from a trap. I will party until my balls drop off and then glue them back on and party some more, and I will then report home in full widescreen hi-def detail. That is my solemn promise. Hey, it's what you want and it's what I do."

Nominated by Harry Bell, Sandra Bond, Rich Coad, Mike Meara, Robert Lichtman

John Coxon: "My name is John Coxon, and I got into fandom through being secretary of ZZ9 before editing a fanzine (Procrastinations). As well as winning "Best New Fan" FAAn Award, I edited Eastercon LX's newsletter, and my experience and enthusiasm will translate into my report and administration. Additionally, I'd like to experiment with other methods of reporting on my adventure. I'd love to show North America what makes British fandom brilliant and I think I'm the right person for the job! (As a bonus, I also promise to staple (hard copies of) my trip report, if someone will lend me a stapler.)"

Nominated by James Bacon, Claire Brialey, Chris Garcia, Dave Langford, Steve Stiles

Liam Proven: "I'm Liam – no badge name. I've been an active fan since Conspiracy '87. I'm not partisan; I'm not a gamer, but I've been known to play. Not a fanzine fan, but pubbed a couple of ishes. Not a costumer, but dress up sometimes. Get on with almost everyone. Do the odd panel, moderate 'em even, and volunteer at cons. I write for a living, so I promise an entertaining and prompt conrep. Finally, since I'm self-employed in a hostile financial climate, this is the only way I'll ever get to an American con – but I can take a long vacation!"

Nominated by Bridget Bradshaw, Lilian Edwards, Nic Farey, Lloyd Penney, James Shields

Paul Treadaway: "I'm probably best known in fandom as a conrunner, due to my work with the two Glasgow Worldcons. The pattern was probably set at my first convention, Conspiracy, where I walked through the door and was instantly recruited to sell raffle tickets for Fans Across the World. In fact, if elected, this will be the first Worldcon since then where I haven't either been on a Worldcon committee or helping to sell a Worldcon bid! I look forward to the chance to meet a wide range of fans, and of course renew my acquaintance with the friends I've already made."

Nominated by Vincent Docherty, Fran Dowd, Mike Glycer, Tim Illingworth, Maureen Kincaid Speller

You can download the Ballot/Registration form from:

[TAFF Home](#) • [Printable Word version](#) • [PDF](#)

Or: < <http://taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2011.html> >

2011 FAAN AWARDS BALLOT

The Fan Activity Achievement Awards Ballot for Corflu 28, voting Deadline February 4th, is now available on the Corflu website: < <http://corflu.org/FaanBallot2011.pdf> >

Announcement of winners. The 2011 Fan Activity Achievement (FAAn) Awards will be announced on Sunday February 13, 2011 at CorFlu 28 (www.corflu.org).

Deadline for voting is 08:00 PST (8 a.m. in California) on Friday February 4th 2011 – no voting during Corflu this year.

Submitting your ballot. You may submit your vote in either of two ways:

- send email to: < [Egoboo28\[at\]corflu.org](mailto:Egoboo28[at]corflu.org) > *You are not required to submit the ballot, only your choices;*
- by real mail: Spike, #110, 530 Showers Dr Suite 7, Mountain View, CA 94040 USA

Voting. You are voting on work made public in 2010. You may make between zero and five choices in each category. Votes for yourself will not be counted. Each first-place vote scores five points, each second-place vote four points, and so on.

Eligibility. You do not have to be a member of CorFlu 28 in order to vote. Anyone with the necessary knowledge of the people and their work is eligible. If you think you may be unknown to the Administrator (Spike), please cite a fan (include contact details, e.g. email address) who can confirm your credentials. Your name & contact info is required.

Voting Categories:

- Best Fan Writer
- Best Fan Artist
- Best Fanzine
- Harry Warner Jr Award for Best Fan Correspondent
- Best Fan Website

The FAAn Awards Ballot for Corflu 28, voting Deadline February 4th, is now available on the Corflu website:

<http://corflu.org/FaanBallot2011.pdf>

FANATIC FANNICHE FANACTIVITY

Editors note: this is a small beginning for what is intended to be a Canada-wide ‘gossip’ column reporting on what Canadian fans are up to on an ongoing basis. If you have any info about yourself or your club/convention you would like to see in this column please email me at < [rgraeme\[at\]shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme[at]shaw.ca) >.

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

* **Garth Spencer**, award winning fan historian and fanzine editor/publisher is threatening to revive his fhistorian fanac with particular regard to Canadian fandom of the 1970s and 1980s. Expect multiple publications soonest. And hopefully, articles for AURORAN LIGHTS, what with his being a newly minted member of the CSFAA Archive Committee.

Also, **Garth Spencer** recently put an end to his Royal Swiss Navy gatherings. This was a Discordian oriented group dedicated to exploring the implications of bizarre trends in modern life and politics. Garth declared that “*What I wanted to do was to attract new people, and start discussions that stuck to one idea and worked out all the consequences, as some good SF stories do.*” To this end, in order to “*attract old friends and new*” he intends to start up “*a mock-serious Imperial Anarcho-Fascist Party.*” I like the Imperial aspect. After all, Nero was Emperor at the age of 18, and here I am near 60 years of age still waiting for the groundswell of popular support that would make ME Emperor of Canada. Garth’s new ‘movement’ could be the catalyst I’ve been waiting for!

* **Ed Beauregard**, one of the original founders of the University of B.C. SF Fen student society, the British Columbia SF Association and VCON reports that he is greatly enjoying his recent retirement. Former BCSFAzine editor and VCON 20 Chair **Steve Forty** remains happy to have retired two years ago. No wonder I joined in. It’s the latest fannish trend!

* **R. Graeme Cameron**, also an award winning fan historian and fanzine editor/publisher has not only, upon retirement, revived his personal zine SPACE CADET and convention zine WCSFAzine (on behalf of the West Coast SF Association) but has initiated AURORAN LIGHTS on behalf of CSFFA and volunteered to do the program book for VCON 36. He also intends to do further research for the benefit of his online CANFANCYCLOPEDIA, further organize the BCSFA archive, the WCSFA archive, and the CSFFA archive, as well as develop solo rules for tabletop miniature war gaming and build a gazillion plastic models. A busy lad is the Graeme. Current & back issues of SPACE CADET & WCSFAzine are online at < <http://www.efanzines.com> > as are the files of his CANFANCYCLOPEDIA.

* **Toren Atkinson**, frequent member of the VCON ConCom and always a member of the Lovecraft homage band “DARKEST OF THE HILLSIDE THICKETS’ (which performed at VCON 25) announces Cthulhupalooza II: Son of Cthulhupalooza, 6:30 PM–12 AM at Rickshaw Theatre, 254 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC 18 February 2011: “*The first Cthulhupalooza included a Rock Band contest, a screening of the HPLHS’ The Call of Cthulhu film, and a live*

performance by the Darkest of the Hillside Thickets. This year we will have more films, more diversity, and another live show by the Thickets + Scythia folk metal; many Lovecraftian short films from all around the world; the worldwide release of the new Thickets video for "20 Minutes of Oxygen" by Mike Jackson of Steam-Powered Films; live sacrifice to Cthulhu of burlesque dancer Little Miss Risk; Cthulhu Cake Competition with prizes from our sponsors; the announcement and screening of the winner for Thickets' fan-made video contest; vendors & other guests of a Cthulhuesque nature. If you have a film you'd like to submit or an idea for a performance or activity at this year's Cthulhupalooza, please contact the Second Level Wizards" < info@secondlevelwizards.com >. As a huge Lovecraft fan, I couldn't resist including this item. Sounds like a blast!

* **The VCON Committee** has announced Dr. Gregory Benford as Author Guest of Honour, and acclaimed artist and illustrator Jean-Pierre Normand as Artist GoH for the upcoming VCON 36. Also signed, as Media GoH, is producer and film editor Lissa Lasseck (Firefly, Serenity, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, etc.). The convention venue has been confirmed. It will be the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Richmond. See < <http://www.vcon.ca> > for details.

* **Ed Hutchings**, a member of BCSFA and VCON since the very beginning, I deeply regret to report is undergoing treatment for Leukemia at Vancouver General Hospital. Debbie Miyashita states: "He is currently in Jimmy Pattison (VGH) on the 11th floor, room 440 and LOVES to have visitors! Needs visitors! His mind, eyesight and hearing are excellent and he's BORED! He's on the wait list for first available bed in a long term care facility so he can be cared for AND receive medical intervention. Please pass the word. Ed needs our company - our comfort - our support - and our encouragement right now."

* **Al Betz** (Corresponding Secretary for Mr. Science, 1991 winner of the Fan Achievement Other award), according to Editor Felicity in BCSFAzine, "is ailing. Ed Beauregard writes that Al has kidney failure and is on dialysis three times a week. If you would like to visit him, he is in Surrey Memorial Hospital, 13750 96th Avenue, in the renal unit in 5 West (AKA East 52), Room 18." For all fans of Mr. Science (and for everyone who knows Al) this is distressing news indeed.

ONTARIO:

* **Murray Moore**, former CUFF winner and well known fanzine collector/publisher/editor has, being recently retired, decided to undertake organizing and cataloguing his vast fanzine collection. The Graeme, for one, is eager to exchange 'want' lists. (And receive articles for AURORAN LIGHTS, Murray now being a member of the CSFFA Archive Committee.)

* **Alex von Thorn** hopes to make it out to VCON this year, and looks forward to B.C. fans attending SFContario.

* **Taral Wayne** is a prolific fan-writer these days, most often appearing in the pages of THE DRINK TANK, a frequently published American fanzine by living legend Christopher Garcia. Taral has the interesting habit of emailing his latest articles among friends and fan acquaintances to harvest their opinions and views on same before he submits them to a publisher. Taral is very meticulous at choosing the zine most appropriate to the nature of his article. A very professional approach. On extremely auspicious days I am able to talk him into letting ME publish an article. He knows I am keen on reprinting 'historic' articles, hence 'FAN 1982'. Plus any NEW articles on Canadian fannish history. I look forward to more articles from him, especially now that he is a member of the CSFFA Archive Committee.

* **Lloyd Penney**, in the latest issue of BCSFAzine (#452) writes: "I first floated the idea of a national newszine in the tradition of Canadian Fandom, New Canadian Fandom and Maple Leaf Rag more than a decade ago... Now, I don't think there is enough community between Canada's fannish cities for people in Ottawa to care about what's going on in Regina, for instance. I'd like to hope I'm wrong." As editor of AURORAN LIGHTS, which is meant in part to fill such a role, I too hope Lloyd is wrong. Lloyd goes on to say: "Also, any news-gathering service would be better served by a regularly updated website.... this is what's happened with File 770, Mike Glycer's Hugo-winning fanzine which is now largely supplemented by a website updated most days." I envision AURORAN LIGHTS as a monthly encapsulation, a snapshot as it were, of what is happening, is about to happen, and in fact did happen long ago, in the Canadian fan community. Hopefully this is of interest to contemporary fans. (P.S. I hope for articles from Lloyd since he too is a brand new member of the CSFFA Archive Committee.)

QUEBEC:

MonSFFA, the Montreal group, has been "approached this month to assist with a group putting on a theatre production homage to the old alien invasion movies" writes Cathy Palmer-Lister. This is in reference to Philippe Gobeille, who is

seeking “expert input on the zeitgeist of 1950s sci-fi/horror movies for an upcoming stage play, for which he is artistic director.”

MonSFFA is also planning to complete “the last of the voice work required for our on-going old-time radio project.” The Montreal club seem like a very media savvy group indeed.

And finally, MonSFFA has sold out its 2011 MonSFFA calendar within a few weeks of its publication! It apparently featured “the creative output—artwork, costumes and props, scale-model spaceships, etc.—of a selection of talented MonSFFen while serving as a fund-raiser for our association.” A second print run has been published and is also expected to sell out quickly.

FRENETIC FANZINE REVIEWS

By R. Graeme Cameron

ONE SWELL FOOP #1 - Nov 2010 – Editor: Garth Spencer

First thing to notice, the unusual page size. Roughly 6 inches by 9. It’s a brand new perzine as Garth states: “This journal of recreational insanity supersedes *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*, which followed *Sercon Popcult Litcrit Fanmag*, which followed *The World According to Garth*, which followed *Scuttlebutt*, as I recall.” Perzines all, which is to say, personal musings on this and that. Or at least an expression of personal interests, like & dislikes.

Or as Garth puts it: “Following some observations from Taral Wayne I will go back to entertaining people as a theme for my fanzine. For my part I am entertained by playing with ideas; are you?”



He starts off with ‘Monkey Minds’ in which he unveils the campaign planks for his proposed “*Imperial Anarcho-Fascist Romantic Surrealist Party with a Hot Tub in the Backyard (Inc.)*” For instance, instituting an elective Polish monarchy is old hat, unless he’s talking about electing a Polish King of British Columbia? THAT would be radical! I also sorta like establishing a combination of Welsh and Chinook jargon as the new official language. Would definitely make it more difficult for invaders to assimilate us methinks.

He has a number of other proposals, including a Fannish one advocating that every fan work up their own individual crank theory. One suggestion of his, that “*economics functions for us moderns as astrology did for the medievals*” makes a great deal of sense. It could well be the basis of a modern religion, or at least a cult. This is the way Garth’s mind works. He is constantly throwing out off-the-cuff bizarre-sounding theories which, as often as not, appear to be close to the truth or maybe TOO close to the truth to be comfortable. Garth is well worth reading for this sort of thing.

This is followed by a letter column titled ‘Sound and Fury’ which, as this is the first issue, contains letters commenting on the last issue of his previous zine ‘THE ROYAL SWISS NAVY GAZETTE’ #21. The ubiquitous Lloyd Penney makes an interesting observation:

“Old fan group records will be kept by those within the club who care about the club’s history, and that individual is probably an old fan in his 60s or 70s. Once that person is gone, who will look after the club’s history? I suspect no one, because it will seem too much like work. Some people have come forward to transcribe old club records, to the benefit of all, but I can’t help but feel that keeping these records as a computer file leaves these records as fragile, and easily lost. I know that no format is permanent, but I think all these records should be kept as both printed and saved to disk, each acting as the other’s failsafe. Also, a club executive position of club archivist should be a necessity. (Hello, Graeme!)”

I can't remember when I took over the BCSFA archives, but it was at least 15 years ago, maybe longer. Got it written down somewhere... hmmm. Certainly the fanzine portion, over 3,000 issues of various titles, was a boon to my research on Canadian fandom. The BCSFAzines on hand had huge gaps, but a combination of trade and outright purchase enabled me to come close to completion. Of the 452 issues so far published I think I'm only missing the first issue, which was a single typewritten sheet of paper. Not bad. I wonder how complete the newsletter files are for clubs like the Ottawa SF Association, to name one.

Anyway, Lloyd raises an interesting point. What happens to the three filing cabinets and multiple shelves stuffed with records and zines belonging to BCSFA/WCSFA when I die? I'm 59.5. I like to think, now that I'm retired, that I have at least 10 good years in front of me before I need to hand the archive over to someone else. Maybe 20 years if I'm lucky. What will fandom be like in 10 or 20 years time? Will it even still exist in ANY form? Hence my hidden agenda for 'AURORAN LIGHTS'. I want to inspire one of you, gentle readers, to follow in my footsteps and take over the archive, some day....Nah. I'm kidding. What I want, as mentioned elsewhere, is to become Emperor of Canada. A VERY reasonable goal.

Next comes an article Garth and Russ Quick originally wrote for the program book of VCON 35 'Steampunk from Alchemy to Zeppelins'. It's rather informative, being an A to Z compilation of such comments as:

"E is for Engineer: A good deal of 19th century "scientific romance" blurs the distinction between scientific research, technology development, engineering and invention, and for that matter, how the distinction is blurred between scientists, engineers, and fabulously rich industrialists. The actual histories of Britons and Americans in these professions ought to show how separate and uncooperative they were." Very insightful.

Next follows 'Towards a Current Fanzine Index' which lists 156 fanzines from around the world, but only 14 of them are Canadian, namely: 'BCSFazine', 'IMPULSE', 'WARP', 'NEW TOY', 'NEW IDEA', 'NOVOID', 'SPACE CADET', 'OPUNTIA', 'THE ORIGINAL UNIVERSE', 'THE OTTAWA SF STATEMENT', 'UNDER THE OZONE HOLE', 'THE UNDERGROUND PRESS', 'VOYAGEUR', and 'WCSFAzine'. He left out my 'CORUSCATING CONUNDRUMS' and naturally 'AURORAN LIGHT'. He wonders if several of them are current or on hiatus. Me too. But at least Canadian fanzine/clubzine fandom isn't quite dead yet. Still in there kicking.

Lastly Garth fields several musings in a column titled 'Reinventing Myself' in which he resolves to be less negative about things. Good advice for everyone actually. To my mind the real world is extraordinarily heartless and cruel, which is why I much prefer fandom. Even at its worst, fandom is mostly just silly, and at its best, it's a fantastic and wonderful hobby. Which is something I intend to repeatedly stress in this zine.

I believe 'ONESWELLFOOP' is available at < <http://www.efanzines.com> >. If not, contact Garth at < [garthspencer\[at\]shaw.ca](mailto:garthspencer[at]shaw.ca) > and ask him to email you a copy in exchange for a promise to email back a letter of comment. Keep the promise!



IMPULSE # Vol: 14, No: 9 - Nov-Dec 2010 – Editor: Keith Braithwaite

The monthly Montreal SF Club newsletter, a single sheet that packs in a lot of information. This is a very active club! The November 21st meeting, for instance, held in a hotel facility, was scheduled to last six hours! It included a lecture by Sylvain St-Pierre on "the more bizarre technologies to be found in the annals of science fiction", another talk with the subject of the origins and connections of signs and symbols in legends and mythologies (a meaty subject indeed!), a showing of one of the remastered enhanced original Trek TV series, AND a planning session to work out the schedule for the coming year.

The previous October session included a talk by Marquise Boies on the history of Edmond Hamilton's 'Captain Future' Character in various media, and then a presentation by Alice Novo and Berny Reischel on the use of SF in television advertising.

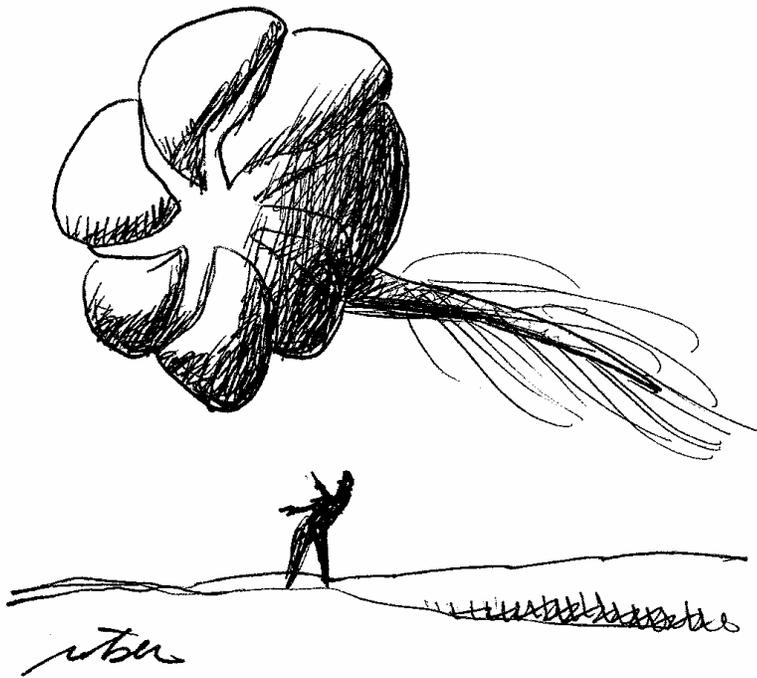
For their Christmas festivities they planned a Scores restaurant dinner followed by an evening at 'The Not So Privateer Bar' (the club's 'official' watering place), with items such as a charity donation food and toys basket and several raffles, one exclusively to reward those members who had volunteered services above and beyond mere membership.

For many years it has seemed obvious to me that MonSFFA is the largest and most active SF club in Canada. Kudos to them! 'Impulse' is well worth perusing if only to gain a clear understanding of what an active living club actually does to keep membership exciting and attract new members!

Keith Braithwaite is the editor of 'Impulse'. His handiwork (including back issues) is available free on the club website at: < <http://www.MonSFFA.com> >. Note: the club also publishes the hefty 'WARP' with many articles, I think on a quarterly basis. I will review the latest issue in the next 'AURORAN LIGHTS'.

BCSFAzine # Vol: 39#1, No: 452 – January 2011- Editor: Felicity Walker

The British Columbia Science Fiction Association is Canada's oldest functioning SF club, founded in 1970 (unless you count the University of B.C. club, which – though founded in 1968 as the UBC SFFen – has periodically undergone periods of dormancy, only to rise again like a Phoenix. However, I am not sure if it still exists at this time.). The club holds monthly meetings in member's homes, and a monthly book discussions hosted by Doug Finnerty at the Grind Gallery & Café. January's, for instance, was to be 'BLACK EASTER' by James Blish (one of his best novels). However, it is the monthly BCSFAzine that the club is most noted for.



Issue #452 is typical of Felicity's excellent work. It begins with a hefty letters column including the likes of the ubiquitous Lloyd Penney (of course!), Ken Wong, Garth Spencer, and US fan Dave Haren. Under the traditional fannish phrase "We also heard from" (meaning there was no room or time to include them) are listed others who wrote in, including Christina Carr, Jane Fancher, Brad Foster, Guy Lillian, and Fran Skene. A healthy LoC (letters of comment) column is a clear indication of healthy reader interest!

Next follows a January & February calendar featuring 42 mostly local events and happenings of note, everything from local group meetups to member's birthdays to movie premieres, all fully described rather than merely mentioned. This followed by 'News-Like Matter' including items like an obituary for Anne Francis (1930-2011) who played 'Altaira' in the classic SF film (and my personal favourite SF film) 'FORBIDDEN PLANET', and the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund race.

A particularly amusing item is a photo of sunspots on the sun, one of which appears to resemble the Canadian flag! In that it was submitted by noted artist and illustrator Tara Wayne, I had certain suspicions about the veracity of this picture, but it turns out it's a genuine NASA photo, and the 'flag' is actually the international space station passing across the face of Sol!

Under the heading 'Collected News of 2010' Felicity writes: "These items have accumulated in my "Add to BCSFAzine" file over the year. I might as well use them up now before it gets any later." Her notes include many items of interest to comics and anime fans.

Then we come to the sort of thing BCSFAzine is particularly noted for, namely essays and articles by members, or in this issue, a 'guest' article by author Joseph Picard, this being part three of his VCON 35 convention report. Here's a brief sample:

“After getting some directions, I found my way to the SFCanada party that I was now nearly a year and half an hour late for. It was held in someone’s private room, and it was pretty packed. I got in far enough to get an all-right look around; to see what was going on, and that was about it. The ages were varied, but at 34, I was the kid in the room. No biggie, I know how to talk to grown-ups.”

“Topics wandered all over..” [but he was most impressed by “... a singing performance by an actor/writer who had been in a stage production of...Beauty and the Beast? Erk...probably not. It was a humorously sexist wedding proposal song. The whole room was impressed and amused. He had used a version of the song to propose many a year ago, and this night’s performance was (if I heard right) an anniversary demand from his wife.”

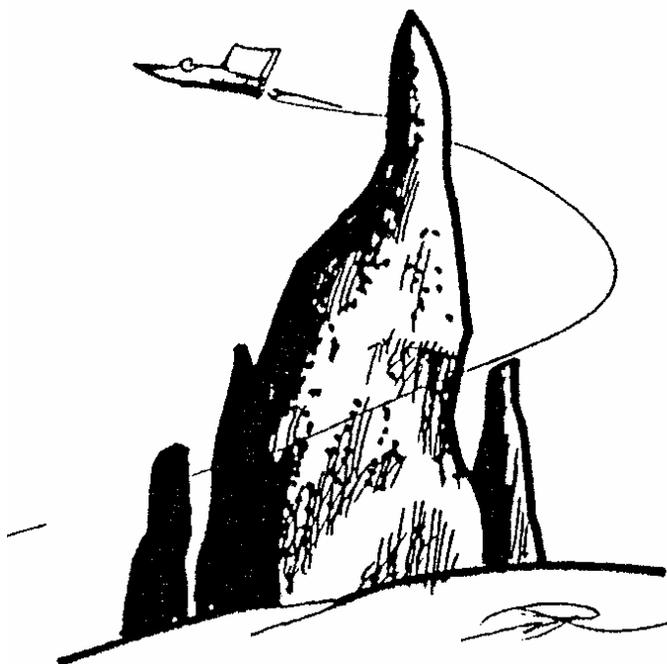
[Actually, he may have been even more impressed by:] *“A lady I’d not met before (Sandra Wickham) was modeling her new bustier nearby, talking about how she could manage to work it into an everyday outfit. It was plenty sharp. I jumped in (not into her bustier, you pervs) and gave my two cents. I knew she was going for an everyday usage, but told her that a character I was working on might wear such a thing as a phony Gypsy fortune teller. I went on to describe the tall neckline collar as I gestured to her neck, then down to her legs as I went on about a long, flowing, layered, latticed skirt. She said she could model for some illustrations some time. Haha. Ha?”*

Just in case you ever wondered what really went on at an SF Canada room party (which is exclusive to published authors who are members of SF Canada). Hmm, sounds a lot like your typical fannish room party, to tell the truth.

There’s almost always one or two good essay/articles in every issue of BCSFAzine. Sometimes more. And I occasionally contribute an ‘Upcoming Nifty Film Projects’ column reporting the latest rumours of SF&F films planned for production, as well as my ‘Ask Mr Guess-It-All’ column very much in homage to the classic writing of Mr Science.

BCSFAzine is well worth reading. Contact Felicity at < [felicity4711\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:felicity4711[at]gmail.com) > to request an email copy in exchange for trade, a submission (article or art) or a letter of comment. Back issues available at < www.efanzines.com >.

CORUSCATING CONUNDRUMS #2 – May 2010- Editor: R. Graeme Cameron



This be the second published collection of my ‘Ask Mr Guess-It-All’ columns which I first publish in my perzine ‘SPACE CADET’, the society zine ‘WCSFAzine’, and frequently in BCSFAzine. I quote two examples:

Mr. E.M. of Skookumchuk, British Columbia, asks:
IS MOTHER NATURE REALLY OUR MOTHER?

MR. GUESS-IT-ALL: Absolutely! Unfortunately, not even she knows who our father is.

To the best of her recollection, it was one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. She can’t decide which one, since she went to bed with all of them at the same time. She describes the experience as “rough but fulfilling.”

Occasionally lawyers working on behalf of the Human race have gone to Mount Olympus (where the orgy in question originally took place by the way) to demand the Gods force the Four Horsemen to take a DNA test to determine paternity.

Interestingly enough, every time this happens a major war breaks out. Far be it for Mr. Guess-It-All to suggest this ‘co-incidence’ implicates one of the Four Horsemen in particular...

In any case, Mother Nature has done a terrific job as a single mother. There’s really no need to identify our father. Not if we know what’s good for us.

Ms. T.Q. of Capel Curig, Wales, asks:

DID HANNIBAL REALLY CROSS THE ALPS WITH 37 ELEPHANTS?

MR. GUESS-IT-ALL: Yes indeed! Though I fear the traditional account, written by the victorious Romans, left out a few embarrassing facts they'd rather future generations knew nothing about.

The celebrated elephants in question were not live animals, but life-sized elephant-shaped hot air balloons leftover from the annual Moloch parade in downtown Carthage. The sight of these contraptions bobbling about in the air above the Carthaginian army as it deployed in the plains of the Po valley so discombobulated the Romans that Hannibal easily defeated them at the battle of Lake Trasimene.

However the Romans were nothing if not practical, and when Hannibal's war elephants floated over Rome to drop nasty, sharp, pointed things on the hapless civilians below, vast flocks of wicker-work hot air Dormice soaked in flaming naphtha were released and quickly rose into the air to horrific effect on the elephant fleet. This so discouraged the Carthaginians that they packed up and sailed away back to Africa, where they were eventually defeated by Scipio Africanus.

This is why, for many centuries afterwards, the deliciously tasty barbecued Dormice available at most Roman snack bars were known as "Carthaginian Crisps."

Note: the two back issues of 'CORUSCATING CONUNDRUMS' are available at < www.efanzines.com > as will be future back issues. You just have to scroll down quite a bit to find them.

STUTTERING STRATOSPHERIC STATIC

LETTERS OF COMMENT

(Comments by the editor are in this colour.)

(All opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CSFFA.)

From: Well, obviously nothing yet. This space is reserved for you!

No, wait a minute. I sent out working copies to a number of people for comments. Taral and Garth were the first to respond in depth. So here are two LoCs commenting on this very issue! Time warp!

FROM: TARAL WAYNE - Jan 30/2011

Thanks for the sneak peak.

One thing that I have to comment on right off is that the new zine looks exactly all your old zines. Are you in love with that look? The next page is the same. It looks like the contents page of every other zine you do. I'm not saying it's a bad look -- it's certainly practical, but I can't get over the fact that you do things the same way again and again and again. Do you never want to try something different?

In a word... No. Not if it costs me time. But mainly -- I thought it was readily apparent -- it's because I have all the artistic sensibility of a brick. For example, in terms of art & illustration, I know what I like when I see it, but all I can personally manage to 'create' are lively stick figures. I'm not an artist. Nor am I good at layout. I've developed a 'style' which pleases me, and I'm sticking to it. In a way it's my signature.

Besides, I've never been one to judge a magazine (fannish or professional) by its appearance, I'm only interested in content. To me the style of my zines is simply the template into which I pour content, which includes both writing and art contributed by others, plus some writing of my own. You might say I've evolved a system of production that caters to my strengths AND to my weaknesses.

I also hope you haven't taken on more assignments than you can handle. If you're still doing WCSFazine as well as Space Cadet, this makes three somewhat similar fanzines. Why three zines and not one zine done three times as often?

Time will tell. But – editor intrusion to the contrary – only one zine is a perzine. ‘AURORAN LIGHTS’ promotes the Aurora awards and the CSFFA in general, but in theme and content targets the fannish readership with articles on Fannish history (excluding conventions). ‘WCSFAzine’ promotes the VCON conventions, and also targets a fannish readership, but the content is largely restricted to the subject of conventions past and present. ‘SPACE CADET’ is my personal zine and reflects my personal tastes, with musings on films, books, personal fannish experiences and general fannish phenomena. To me the three zines are quite different from one another in purpose and content. Three zines with three separate ‘missions’ so to speak. Combining them into one zine would be unwieldy , and probably take me forever to get an issue published.

Note on the Auroras -- I hope the new category for filking means that filk won't be eligible for any of the other three fan categories. It wouldn't seem fair for filkers to have two chances at an award when everyone else has one.

I think this is a false issue. For example, to my mind, ANY fanzine is eligible for the fanzine award if it has an appropriate level of SF&F content. The nature of the zine is incidental. However, that is my personal opinion as a fan. Truth is, your question is legitimate. Others may be wondering the same. Though I am a member of the CSFFA Board, I am not on the Aurora Awards Committee, and that means my opinion is not the ‘official’ answer/explanation, it is only my opinion. I will present your question to the Awards Committee and print the certified genuine official response in the next issue. Part of the purpose of this zine is to clarify such matters to the satisfaction of all, or at least attempt to do so.

You mention I most often appear in Drink Tank. That depends on how you look at it. I've certainly appeared in more issues of DT than any other zine. But, then, there simply **are** more issues of DT than any other current zine except perhaps John Hertz's Vanamond. But I only appear in about one issue in two. On the other hand, I've appeared in almost every one of the last several Banana Wings, Askances and File 770s.

Awarding the Aurora at the Primedia con was an awful weird choice. Of course, they asked for it. But as a media con it was hit or miss whether many of Toronto's fan community would attend. Obviously, Rob Sawyer would, since he was asked to preside over the awards. Lloyd & Yvonne Penney would, because they go to everything... drawing the line only at Scientologist weddings as I understand. But I suspect that most of the die-hard SF fans here feel as little need to attend media, Trek or comics cons as I do. It isn't as though attendance is free. Of course, there's an actual SF con in town that should be holding the Aurora ceremonies next year, so that caveat is a dead issue now.

I don't think it's an issue at all. To me a media con, or an anime con as another example, is simply a SF&F con focused on a particular field or vehicle of SF&F manifestation. A Trek con is particularly specific, but SF&F nevertheless. A comics con is perhaps a tad general, but most comics deal with a fantasy topic of some kind, be it super heroes or alternate history or whatever. Even Furry cons reflect a form of fantasy if nothing else. Lloyd and Yvonne are lifelong SF&F fans so it makes perfect sense for them to attend a media con, even one for which they were NOT up for any awards. I think it's a matter of taste. I, personally, am a generalist. I love, or at least appreciate, ALL forms of SF&F. But if other people's personal hobby interest is focused on just one area of SF&F, say comics or Trek, I don't have a problem with that. They're still fellow fans in my eyes, still part of the SF&F community. But then I'm a generalist, so OF COURSE I'd say that. Others may beg to differ.

You gave One Swell Foop, Garth's new zine, a lengthy and careful review, but you failed to address the central issue that Garth himself defines. Did he entertain anyone with his new approach? Did he entertain *you*? You never actually said. Describing the contents of a zine in review is good, and allowing yourself to reflect on them is fine as well, but the bottom line is judging the fanzine for how well it does what it sets out to do.

I'm not so sure there is a bottom line, but your point is well taken. Rather than revise the review I'll give my judgment here. The answer is a qualified yes. Given that Garth's fundamental concept of entertainment is a freewheeling exchange of ideas, I think he succeeded. ‘ONE SWELL FOOP’ entertained ME. But I don't think it would ‘entertain’ ALL fans. Garth's style of humour tends to be very desiccated and somewhat elusive to many, but is always interesting. I don't think the zine was as big a change from his past editorial approach as he was hoping for, but it's a start, a beginning.

I think I mentioned earlier that the tiny grey "Canadian flag" on the sun's surface was actually the International Space Station. It was photographed from Earth during the recent eclipse of the sun by the moon. It wouldn't have been funny if I had just airbrushed the flag in, but *finding it by accident* was something else again.

FROM: GARTH SPENCER - Jan 30/2011

Dear Graeme,

/Auroran Lights/ #1 was fascinating, especially the parts where you quoted me. :)

There has been a repeated query on Canadian Conrunners, asking where to find CUFF archives online. You may want to tell these people, as soon as you know yourself.

I will. Trouble is, I don't think there are any definitive CUFF archives anywhere, let alone on line. We need a website devoted to CUFF. But I don't know how to set up or maintain web sites. I would certainly contribute to such a site were someone to create it. Or show me how to do it. I wouldn't mind maintaining a website devoted to CUFF if only I knew how.

Interesting how consistently upbeat your CSFFA coverage is. Much of the history I accumulated about the inception of the Awards was downbeat - maybe I overdo that, but I think at some point some plain speaking will be called for.

Not if it's about past controversies. I suspect that you, as a fhistorian (fannish historian), believe people are capable of learning from other people's past experiences. I don't. Not just because I tend to be more cynical than you are, but because I believe people don't care about things they don't care about. I also believe you can't MAKE people care about things they don't care about.

Point is, 'AURORAN LIGHTS' is a PROMOTIONAL tool, so of course it's going to be 'upbeat' from its very inception. Past controversies are mere footnotes (in my opinion). I want to reveal Canada's fannish heritage, to expose the deep roots of contemporary fandom, to help develop a sense of place-in-time in the situational awareness of as many fans as possible. To do this I want to CELEBRATE the history of Canadian fandom (and a fascinating history it is too), and by so doing, ENCOURAGE people to CARE about 'their' past, the very origin and beginnings of their favourite hobby.

In truth we have the same goal, to educate fans about the history of fandom. I just have my own way of going about it.

Mind you, some people regard the history of CUFF I wrote some years back as 'downbeat', maybe even disrespectful. Personally I thought it was hilarious. But that's just me.

Couple of corrections: /One Swell Foop/ is three words (**corrected!**), and the revised fanhistory project is not a concentration on specific decades; it is a reorganization of material into regional, rather than chronological narratives - which is how the damn thing started out - and a reposting to a Wikispaces account, where other people can add and amend the material as they see fit.

I now see that my fanhistory material runs out and comes to a stop at the beginning of the 1990s. I have a lot of work to do on the 1990s and 2000s.

It was good to see some early material supplied in /Auroran Lights/, such as the first two Halcons.

Yours, Garth

TERRIBLY IMPORTANT STUFF

COLOPHON

CSFFAzine Issue # 1, Feb 2011, Volume 1, Number 1, Whole number 1, is the Fannish E-zine of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, a Federally registered non-profit society with the general mandate of promoting Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy and the specific focus of sponsoring the annual Convention and Prix Aurora Awards.

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Anyone (even non-members) may submit short articles, mini-essays, letters of comment, art fillers (small pieces of art) and/or cover art to the Editor at:

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What is CSFFA?

CSFFA is a federally incorporated non-profit society which exists to promote quality Canadian speculative fiction and the fan activity that surrounds it.

Who can join CSFFA?

Membership in CSFFA is free of charge, and is open to all Canadians, whether citizens or Permanent Residents, and whether living in Canada or abroad. Membership in CSFFA will be available via online registration on the Aurora website at [Register/Nominate](#)

What are the Prix Aurora Awards?

The Prix Aurora Awards are Canada's National Science Fiction & Fantasy Awards. They are Canadian Fans' way of recognizing the best in genre creativity and activity of the previous calendar year (January 1st to December 31st 2010).

This year, the Aurora Awards will be given across a broad range of professional and fan categories: Novel, Short Fiction, Poetry/Lyrics, Graphic Novel, Critical Works, Art, Fan Filk, Fanzine, Fan Organize, and Fan Other. Canadian fans, through the Aurora Awards, have been promoting the best Canadian professional and amateur (fan) achievements for the past 30 years, since the first presentation in 1980.

The Aurora awards are administered by the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA), a federally registered non-profit society.