

# THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST

The Fannish E-Zine of the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society Dedicated to Promoting Canadian Fanzine Fandom

#10

December 2012



## COVER CONSIDERATIONS

Yes, you may be a winner... if your names happen to be contained within the following press release:

*“R. Graeme Cameron presented the Elron Awards at VCON 37 Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2012. The Elrons are fandom’s oldest ongoing spoof awards, predating the Hogus and Black Holes. And the winners are:*

- Avro Arrow Fen, for nearly convincing the Canadian Federal Government to revive the Arrow project cancelled more 60 years ago.

- Dutch Birdman ‘Jarno Smeets’ for not choosing the more obvious solution to manned flight, i.e. cloning giant Pteradactyls to ride on.

- Professor Parker for wasting effort creating artificial yet living Jelly Fish when more calamari is what’s needed.

- James Cameron for funding Parker’s experiments in order to seed the bottom of the ocean (hence deep dive project) to grow a fleet of killer jellyfish so that he really can become ‘King of the World.’

- The Mars Expedition One ‘Reality Show’ Project, for cheapening a cherished dream (Colony on Mars) yet still making it possible... maybe...

- Disney Execs re *John Carter* flick, for sabotaging their own film with lousy promotion.

- The geeks who programmed the copyright ‘bots which cut short the livestream broadcast of the 2012 Hugo ceremony.

- *Swill* by Vile Fen Press, for Worst Fanzine.

- And, of course, John Norman for 40+ years of genuine swill.

*Next, Cameron presented the winners of the 2012 Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards (‘Faneds’) for achievements in 2011:*

- Best Fan Artist: **Scott Patri**

- Best Fan Writer: **Taral Wayne**

- Best Loc Hack: **Michael John Bertrand**

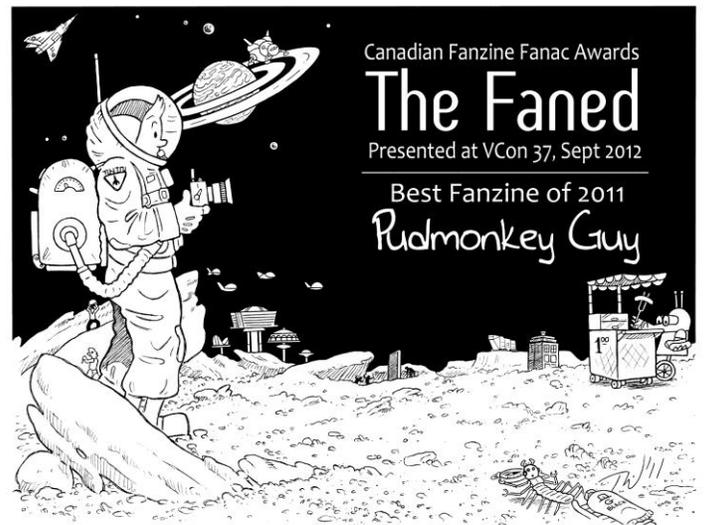
- Best Fanzine: *Swill* by VileFen Press (Editor Neil Jamieson-Williams)

- Hall of Fame: **Nils Helmer Frome** (Editor of *SupraMundane Stories* circa 1937)

*Only Canadians are eligible for the Faneds, designed to promote Canadian SF&F fanzine fandom and its heritage.”*

I include the Elrons to let people know the Elrons are still being awarded (first time was at VCON 1 in 1971!) but also because you’ll note SWILL won a ‘Worst Fanzine’ Elron (because of Neil’s use of the Pud- Monkey font) as well as a ‘Best Fanzine’ Faned (because of the quality of the content). I am quite pleased with myself for coming up with this combo, the first time anyone or anything won both an Elron AND a Faned in the same year (indeed, announced at the combined presentation). How cool is that? Both awards well deserved methinks.

Below is a spoof version of the Best Fanzine Award Taral did for fun:



## THE FANED NEARLY NOT!

I knew it would happen eventually. The bulk of my inheritance I slammed into an annuity to give me a living wage in combo with my Union Pension and my Canada Pension. The remainder was ‘mad’ money to spend on fun stuff, like a really big TV and other assorted new items of furniture. Alyx and I did well by this. Now we’re back to living on a fixed income.

What this means is I do not currently have money to spend on duplicating the 'master' Faned sculpture and distributing it to current & past winners. Let's see, the two Hall of Famers are deceased, so that leaves 8 owing to winners and one each to the designer, Eric Chu, and the sculptor Lawrence Prime, or 10 in all.

Of course, as luck would have it, I have not yet found a means to duplicate nor a person or organization to do the duplication. Mind you, I haven't followed up on all of the leads I've been given so there remains the possibility of a happy solution at some point in the future.

Besides, as time goes by the technology of 3-d printers may advance (and costs fall) to a level where I can indulge in a sudden flurry of retroactive awarding of Faneds to the winners. When this will happen I have no idea. In the meantime I might have to resort to a cheap substitute, like a framed picture of the Faned sculpture to hang on the wall beside the Faned Certificate. Or maybe a mug with a photo of the Faned printed on one side and the certificate printed on the other (though come to think of it, that sounds expensive).

The best compromise could well be an object with an imprint of the Faned sculpture but without wording. That way a bunch could be made in sufficient numbers to hand out over a number of years, but personalized by the separate certificate awarded along with it. Hmmm. Maybe.

In that I have not yet solved the problem, everyone can be forgiven for thinking that it will never be solved. But I assure you that deep down in my faanish heart I am firmly committed to coming up with something soonest!

## **THE FUTURE OF THE FANED**

It's fair to say that some fen believe the Faneds have no future. For that matter, some apparently believe the Faneds do not properly exist even now inasmuch as they are purely the product of my feeble brain and do not in any way constitute the collective will of Canadian zinedom.

Actually, come to think of it, there are some who believe that Canadian zinedom doesn't even exist, therefore how can there be awards dedicated to celebrating a non-existent fandom?

Pish and tosh I say. Canadian zinedom is about as strong as it has ever been, at least compared to most years. To be generous, the average year probably saw three or four zines being published, with maybe a dozen active zinesters occasionally scribbling away, drawing, or publishing. We've always been a tiny collective on the verge of extinction. I see no reason to despair at our current lacktivity. We're actually doing pretty well all things considered.

Nevertheless, the current zine scene in Canada can best be described as a scrapbook of individual effort rather than a 'movement' of any sort. Thus my creation and administration of these awards is just another individual contribution to a very personal phenomenon and consequently fits right in to the spirit of things. Or to put it another way, the Faneds are at least as worthy (in terms of right to exist) as any of the current zines themselves.

We are a small hobby of dedicated individuals pursuing the fanac for the fun of it. The few clubzines are a focus of sorts for small numbers of fen, and a few zines (this one, for example, and SWILL for another) follow particular and/or unique agendas, but in general we're just a bunch of individuals doing our own thing.

Consequently I have no hesitation in stating I will go on awarding the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards for years to come whether or not anyone lends them any credence and even if they fail to live up to their objective which is, of course, my objective.

And that objective is?

To promote awareness and appreciation of Canadian SF zinedom to the point of attracting converts to the hobby and expanding the number of zines being published.

Fat chance you say? I cannot currently point to any individuals who have entered zinedom because of the awards, nor to any zines produced as a result of my promotional efforts. Not yet anyway. I admit that.

But fen are talking, there's a dialogue of sorts developing, I like to think there's a heightening cohesion of purpose among the active zinesters, like to think there are potential newbies hovering on the edge of our fanac, that SOMETHING is happening. Or about to happen.

On the other hand, if viewed as the ‘official’ awards for zinesters, awards endowed with prestige and significance, awards reflecting the ‘importance’ of Canadian zinedom, as if I was intending something as ‘big’ as the Auroras right from the get go... then of course the Faneds are to be judged a failure, a ludicrous and preposterous steaming pile of tripe and hype, the product of a solitary ego, etc., etc.

Ahh, hell no. Like I say. Currently the Faneds are just me and my ‘brilliant’ promotional vision. A one man crusade to promote and encourage my favourite hobby. I have no great expectations. The Faneds may never become anything of note. But you never know. Until you try.

It’s not just promotion. There’s also intent to express peer recognition. To give zinesters an emotional boost to learn their creative efforts are recognized.

Granted, the first year was by fiat, in part because I decided to go ahead with it perilously close to VCON 36 and really had no time to approach fellow zinesters and get things organized beyond my own efforts.

For this year I promised to consult with as many fen as would bother to participate and take their views into account before declaring winners by partial fiat. I did that, which brings me to:

## **EVOLUTION OF THE FANED**

This year’s Faneds were not the product of a vote. I doubt that next year’s will be. Though I do anticipate greater participation by Canadian zine fen. That’s my goal at least. At some point more than one person might join the CFFAS. At some point the CFFAS rules (based on the Nova Awards) may begin to function. At some point an actual committee could take the reins out of my hands. Time will tell.

In truth I think matters will progress very slowly, almost imperceptibly. Might not get into actual voting for another 5 to 10 years. The awards themselves may not ‘arrive’ as a prestigious entity for 20 years. Hmm... One can dream...

A very few zinesters responded to my request for suggestions. Nevertheless, a fair number of names were forthcoming, as listed below by category:

## **SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED**

### **BEST FAN ARTIST:**

**Scott Patri** (2), Adam Smith (1), Taral Wayne (2) [not eligible since won last year- will qualify again next year].

COMMENT: Scott gafiated a while back (as far as I can tell), and his art was primitive (amateur) as opposed to ‘trained’, but undoubtedly feistily faanish in spirit, and given that I still use the backlog of art he left with me, I figure he qualifies. Consider it a sort of lifetime contribution award.

### **BEST FAN WRITER:**

R. Graeme Cameron (3), Neil Jamieson-Williams (2), Rodney Leighton (1), Cathy Palmer-Lister (1), Murray Moore (1), Garth Spencer (2), **Taral Wayne** (2).

COMMENT: Since I’m the guy awarding the Faneds I figure it would be rather gauche of me to give myself one while it is still determined by fiat. Once more people get involved and a consensus approaching a sort of vote is reached, then maybe. Meanwhile Taral has been fantastically prolific as an essay writer for zines world-wide so he fully deserves this one.

### **BEST LOC HACK:**

**Michael John Bertrand** (1), R. Graeme Cameron (1), Cathy Palmer-Lister (1), Murray Moore (1), Lloyd Penney (3) [Not eligible since won last year – will qualify again next year], Garth Spencer (1), Taral Wayne (2).

COMMENT: Since Lloyd isn’t eligible, and Taral has already won the above award, I figured Michael deserved this year’s Faned because of his wonderfully entertaining locs in BCSFAzine.

### **BEST FANZINE:**

BCSFAzine (Felicity Walker)-(1), DOMINION DISPATCH (Adam Smith)-(1), FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST (R. Graeme Cameron)-(3), ONE SWELL FOOP (Garth Spencer)-(1), OPUNTIA (Dale Speirs)-(1), SPACE CADET (R. Graeme Cameron)-(2), **SWILL** (Neil Jamieson-Williams)-(3).

COMMENT: Again I disqualify myself, which leaves Neil as the clear favourite .

## HALL OF FAME:

Al Betz (1), Gina Ellis (1), **Nils Helmer Frome** (1), Mike Glickson (2), Taral Wayne (1).

COMMENT: All of these people deserve to win, but I went with Nils because his SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES is the first Canadian zine to win a wide reputation among North American fen (way back in 1937), and promoting the heritage of our zinedom is as important to me as promoting the zines we currently publish.

OVERALL COMMENT: Of course the numbers are mind-bogglingly small. But the main point is: this time there ARE numbers. Last time it was just me. This time I asked for consultation, and I got consultation. Limited consultation, but consultation nonetheless. Start small. Build small. Slowly grow.

## LETTERS OF COMMENT

**The Graeme's comments are in dark Blue.**

**From: Murray Moore, August 7, 2012**  
**Faned of 'Aztec Blue'**  
**Mississauga, Ontario**

Hello! Graeme.

I earlier gave you the e-mail address of an Australian member of ANZAPA who is experimenting making 3-D objects.

You could investigate the local chapter of the Maker movement. I think someone there would know/be making 3D objects. Alas you have missed the opportunity to attend this year's Vancouver Maker Faire.

**I suspect the shipping costs from Australia would be prohibitive. Still, I might inquire. The second suggestion you list above I may well look into.**

Or buy a cheap disguise and enter your local Adult shop. Go on: you know you will get an article from the visit.

**The Women's adult shop on Commercial Drive which manufactures its own dildos is indeed a potential candidate. They currently have an ad on local TV featuring a zombie marriage proposal in which the male zombie presents a dismembered hand wearing a wedding ring. Kinda cute. Still don't know if I have enough guts to walk in and inquire about custom dildos in the form of an SF Award... wouldn't need to be battery operated...**

**From: Lloyd Penney, August 9, 2012**  
**Famed Aurora & Faned-winning Loc Hack.**  
**1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2**

Dear Graeme:

Many thanks for issue 9 of The Fanactical Fanactivist...a great Taral illustration. A non-Imperial walker, perhaps? Wouldn't want to buy new shoes for it. More inside, I am sure...

Now comes the tough part, to see who should get the CFF Awards this year. I think this is the problem most of us foresaw...seeing how few of us there are, and thinking who should get what without thinking we're just rearranging the few names.

**Well, we start with a few names, inspire others to get involved, to join us in our hobby, and soon there will be more names, more participation, and more votes. That's my theory anyway.**

For Best Fan Artist...there aren't many, if any, other Canadian fan artists who are in fanzines regularly. I know of people like Lar deSouza and Larry Stewart, whose fan art can be seen online or at art shows...I even whipped up some cartoons to give to John Purcell (Askance) some years ago, but I honestly cannot think of anyone else to consider for this category.

**Ahh, but do either Lar or Larry submit art to fanzines? That's what they'd need to do to qualify for the award. If they do, I would eagerly seek their art for my zines. For that matter, you drew toons for John? Any chance you could send some doodle-type fillos my way? Don't have to be brilliant art as such, suitably faanish would do wonderfully.**

Lifetime Achievement...I would heartily recommend Taral. Not only has he been prolific with his artwork, but the last few years, he's been as

prolific with his writing, and which of us still around has been a Worldcon FanGoH? Only him.

**Taral sometimes gives the impression he thinks Canadian zinedom is dead and buried, yet he constantly betrays his alleged 'jaded' outlook with an incredible outpouring of well-written, entertaining essays and the occasional very nifty piece of art. Indeed, certainly deserving of recognition for this, hence the award he wins this time.**

I wish we had a Canadian Fanzine Hall of Fame. What do you think of that idea? It's a way to remember our Canadian fanzine forbearers.

**The first year I called it the 'Lifetime Achievement' Award. I've switched it to 'Hall of Fame' which perhaps makes it a little more obvious the award is meant to celebrate the heritage aspect of Canadian zinedom. Your wish is granted. By fiat.**

A good local...I haven't had the time to see what I'd want to put in my own fanzine, but the idea is still there, and every so often an idea presents itself, and I write it down. Maybe in 2013, who knows? I'd like to at least attempt it.

**Now that you have achieved full employment at long last I gather the prospect of putting out your own zine is even more remote than hitherto. But should you begin to pub your ish you can fill it with personal essays and your own art. This would greatly expand the likelihood of winning further Faneds in the future!**

The Convention starts tomorrow in Calgary...good luck to both of us, seeing we're both on the Aurora ballot. These days, I have enough support to get on the ballot, but not enough support to actually win it. I haven't won one of these pointy trophies since 1997, 15 years ago. Fingers are crossed for this time. Take care, and I am sure I have another one of your zines to respond to, and I will, soon.

**Well, we were both on the ballot and neither of us won. Better luck to both of us next time! In any case, always an honour and a delight to be nominated!**

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

## TO SUM UP

All the works and people eligible for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual CFF Awards to be presented next year are defined by fanac committed this year, and this year is drawing to a close.

Given that the awards won't be handed out till early October, it's reasonable to suggest that Canadian fen spend the first half of next year mulling over possibilities, reviewing this year's fanac, and leaving the subsequent months prior to October open to sending your suggestions/nominations/votes to me at the email address below.

I hasten to point out that 'voting' is open not only to the fen who produce the zines and the work printed within, but (of course!) to the people who read the zines in question. So, while the number of people eligible to win is currently somewhat constrained, the number of people eligible to vote is many times larger.

Consequently I advocate that active zinester fen begin promoting themselves to their readers as soon as they dare, or at the very least frequently refer to the Faneds in their fanac with suitably strong hints that their readers should get involved in the voting.

I will compile lists of those eligible and, who knows, maybe even create an 'official' ballot for the 2013 Faneds.

Cheers! The Graeme

You can contact me at < [rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) > or R. G. Cameron, 13315 104th Ave, Apt 72G, Surrey, BC, Canada, V3T 1V5

## COLOPHON

**The Fanaetical Fanactivist** #10, December 2012, Volume 2, Number 3, Whole Number 10, is the Fannish E-Zine of The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society, a non-registered, non-existent society, administered by R. Graeme Cameron (its sole member), with the general mandate of promoting Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Fanzine Fandom and the specific focus of sponsoring the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards.

Cover Art: Taral Wayne