

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#459

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August 2011



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This Month in BCSFA

Sunday 21 August @ 7 PM:

BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. [*September meeting is Sunday 18 September 2011, same time, same location.*]

Thursday 18 August @ 7 PM:

August Book Discussion at the Grind gallery & café, 4124 Main Street (near the corner of Main and King Edward), Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be *The Birthday of the World* by Ursula K. LeGuin. [*September discussion is Thursday 22 September 2011, same time, same location.*]—**Doug Finnerty**

Friday 26 August:

'BCSFAzine' production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

President & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 604-448-8714

VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/>. The BCSFA e-mail lists are BC SciFi Assc (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/) and BCSFAnet (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcsfanet/>).

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

Neil Jamieson-Williams
swill@uldunemedia.ca

Tuesday 19 July 2011

Hello Felicity,

FYI our current issue was released yesterday. You can find it here: http://swill.uldunemedia.ca/swill@30_9.pdf.

[*Once I get back on schedule I'll review it.*]
Neil

Scott Green
sgreen@grolen.com

Monday 1 August 2011

Felicity;

Can I send you a PDF review copy of my SF/F/H poetry collection *Private Worlds A Revised Atlas*. BTW have you checked out my blog on paying markets for SF/F/H poetry www.greengenrepoetry.blogspot.com.

[*I'm not the best person to review poetry, but I'd be happy to relay your offer to my readers via the letter column.* ☺]

Craig Russell
craigrussell@mymts.net

Monday 1 August 2011

Hi Felicity,

Would you be interested in information about my 2011 Prix Aurora Award nominated novel, *Black Bottle Man*, for the *BCSFAzine*?

[*OK!* ☺]

Here is a bit of background. (I can provide more if you are interested.)

You can hear a CBC Radio review at—<http://www.cbc.ca/video/#/Shows/1221254309/ID=1902907225>.

Black Bottle Man is also a finalist for the 2011 Winnipeg Public Library's "On the Same Page." The winner is to be announced Sept. 2011. <http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/onthesamepage.asp>.

And it was a finalist for the 2011 Manitoba Book Awards—McNally Robinson Book Award for Teen Fiction. http://www.bookcentre.ca/news/manitoba_book_awards_shortlists_announced_0.

Recently the Canadian Children Book Centre selected *Black Bottle Man* as "a title of exceptional calibre for young adults." http://www.bookcentre.ca/best_books_for_kids_and_teens/2011.

Regards,
Craig Russell
Brandon, Mb.

Steve Green
ghostwords@yahoo.co.uk

Monday 1 August 2011

Hi Felicity,

Sadly, R. Graeme Cameron is wrong in his belief that *Attack the Block* is “from the makers of” *Shaun of the Dead*; the films share little other than the presence of actor Nick Frost.

[*There is one other connection; according to Wikipedia, Attack the Block was made by four companies, one of which is Big Talk Productions, who also produced Shaun of the Dead, Hot Fuzz, and Spaced.*]

My own review read: “Underwhelming British SF comedy set on a London sinkhole estate and largely featuring teenage thugs I’d be quite happy to watch being chewed up by alien invaders. To writer/director Joe Cornish’s credit, he eschews the usual CGI in favour of physical props, but it isn’t really enough to get us to care about his characters.”

[*Someone mentioned to me recently that the characters in Attack the Block reminded them of the London rioters.*]

Regards,
Steve

Lynda Williams
lynda@okalrel.org

Tuesday 2 August 2011

Hi Felicity! I’m starting a series of articles, interviews or debates on “Ethics in SF” on my blog, Reality Skimming.

I would welcome an appearance by creative SF fans, discussing the right or wrong of actions in any of their favorite SF works. Would a call for contributions, to appear in your next *BCSFAzine*, be welcome?

[*Sure! ☺*]

Lynda Williams, author

<http://www.okalrel.org/books.html>

<http://clarionfoundation.wordpress.com/tag/lynda-williams/>

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Wednesday 17 August 2011

Hi Felicity,

Great last issue, thoroughly enjoyed the movie materials. Anyone who is interested in the goode olde dayes film has to drop by archive.org and watch *Afgrunden* (1910).

I imagine it was a great shock to the audiences of the time.

[*See http://www.archive.org/details/Afgrunden_1910 for the film Dave is talking about.*]



Thanks for all the get better wishes, they seem to be working. Other than the healing twinges, I feel better than I have in years. What has really helped is the ability of the brain to rebuild itself through use. Technical jargon for it is neural plasticity. In the past it was assumed that nervous system tissue could not be repaired. This, like the contention that no rocks could fall from the sky, has turned out to be false, even though there was a lot of evidence to the contrary.



In the Blame Your Problems on Others Dept.: I was aghast at the BBC headline which blamed the riots on “whites turning into blacks.” I have long been aware of the undercurrent of human stupidity but this drags it up to the surface for all to see.

What governments and well meaning people have not noted is that any time you have to make a law to correct human behavior it is an admission of the failure of morals. In the case of riots the usual remedy by short-sighted politicians is to increase the size of the police. The other knee-jerk reaction is to crack down on the Net because it has been used for communications...*grin*.

That’s what it was built for, so people could communicate. If you dislike what is being communicated, shooting the messenger won’t solve the problem.

And believe great grandpa when he tells you people communicating is the least of our moderne age worries.

I’m glad to see Graeme is getting back in the swing of raining zines and promoting them after his savage mauling by industry.

Earl Kemp is winding down his long running project of documenting early literary history. Fortunately it is archived by Bill Burns.

Warm regards,
Dave Haren

Lloyd Penney
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Etobicoke, On.
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penneys@bell.net

Wednesday 10 August 2011

Dear Felicity:

I’ve got the .pdfed *BCSFazine* 458 you sent me...this may be a quick loc, I’ve got a big job interview this afternoon. Also, in a week, we’re off to Reno for this year’s Worldcon. As you can imagine, I’ve got a lot on my mind right now.

Sheryl, I’d like nothing better than to do audio books, but as far as I can tell, very few of them are recorded in Canada. I’d have to go to the US to do them. However, with the popularity of audio books, I might yet have the chance. And, we are definitely going to Reno. We’re doing panels, meeting up with people we’ve corresponded with, but have never met...we are expecting a great time. The TAFF 20% rule was a surprise, but John Coxon isn’t complaining, seeing that he is the ultimate winner. John’s spent some time in Toronto recently at a fannish pubnight and at a local fannish party, and now we’ll see him in Reno, too.

Michael Bertrand...con-hopping lifestyle? I suppose there’s lots of cons I’d like to get to and don’t, but I get to about six cons a year. I am lucky that there’s so many

in Toronto, and conventions in Buffalo/Niagara, Ottawa, Montreal, Rochester and Detroit are relatively close. Because of employment problems, we haven't gone to any out-of-town conventions in a couple of years. (Another reason to hope for this job I'm going for today.) Like John Purcell, I rarely watch SFTV any more. I want to, but I seldom have the time to watch it, even if it caught my interest, which it hasn't for a while.

My loc...Polaris 25 was fun and lucrative, about \$750 in sales at our dealers' tables. There were various markers all over the convention and its publications that this was its 25th anniversary convention, but nothing special for Yvonne as the founder. However, she does have a lifetime membership, so that's a reminder every year.

I hope that William Housel will send some *Bullshit!* into the ether, if it isn't already full of it. I'm always on the look for more fanzines, anyway.

I like webcomics too, but there's so many of them, I have to be careful what I go for. These days, I will go and find *Namir Deiter*, *Wapsi Square*, *Girl Genius*, *Arthur King of Time and Space*, *Orneryboy*, *Menage a 3*, *Sabrina Online*, *Zortic* and *Supermegatopia*. The *Toronto Star* website also has a lot of syndicated strips to look at, and the only one there I will go and find is *Bleeker the Electronic Dog*.

[I like Basic Instructions and This Modern World.]

A shame Greg Benford had to cancel out on VCon...Larry Niven is a good guest. I hope Greg will return for next year?

Just made the page...thanks for another fun zine, and please do keep them coming!

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Julian Castle
earthfurst@yahoo.ca

Wednesday 24 August 2011

Just noticed latest version of Google's logo.

Mouse-over for image is "112th birthday of Jorge Luis Borges."

Wikipedia says "Jorge...was an Argentine writer, essayist, poet and translator.

"His works have contributed to the genre of science fiction as well as the genre of magic realism."

Truly,
Julian



We Also Heard From: R. Graeme Cameron, Brad Foster, Taral Wayne.

Calendar

Note to print readers: underlined events have an associated URL. Links included in the PDF version at <http://www.efanzines.com/BCSFA/>.—Julian Castle

Already in Progress

29 July–1 August 2011: BC Renaissance Festival, Thunderbird Show Park, 24550 72nd Avenue, Langley, BC. 5th Annual BC Renfest. The BC Renaissance Festival is a group of dedicated performers, entertainers, actors, artisans, volunteers and vendors with the dream of establishing a permanent site Renaissance Festival here in British Columbia. Friday 29 July (½ day 12–6 PM): \$8 adults, \$6 child/senior; Saturday 30 July–Monday 1 August (full day 9 AM–9 PM): \$15 adults, \$10 child/senior.—Keith Lim

August 2011

2 August and 6 September 2011: Greater Vancouver Boardgames Meetup Group Monthly Meetup, 7 PM [location shown only to members of the Meetup group]. The games played depend on what everyone brings. If there is a game that you would like to play let it be known and we'll see if someone can bring it. Also if you have a great game to share we're always excited to try it out. \$1.—Keith Lim

4 and 18 August 2011: Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group meets alternate Thursdays 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library (program room) or Connections lounge. Open to new members, mainly sci-fi/fantasy or what have you. Contact Allan @ (604) 946-2427 or email lowson@dccnet.com for details.—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

5 August 2011: **Scott Tycholaz**'s birthday. Premiere of films *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* (SF/action; James Franco, Andy Serkis, Brian Cox, John Lithgow, Tyler Labine, David Hewlett) and *The Change-Up* (comedy/fantasy; Ryan Reynolds, Jason Bateman, Alan Arkin).

6 August 2011: **Christina Carr**'s birthday. Chinese Valentine's Day.

7–11 August 2011: SIGGRAPH 2011: The 38th International Conference and Exhibition on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques. [Venue to be announced.] Conference: 7–11 August. Exhibition: 9–11 August. Online registration will be available at <http://www.siggraph.org/s2011/> in March. “The registration fees for SIGGRAPH 2011 have not yet been determined, but they will not be substantially different from the SIGGRAPH 2010 fees.”—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

9 August 2011: Book Lovers' Day.

12 August 2011: Premiere of film *Final Destination 5* (horror; David Koechner, Tony Todd, Courtney B. Vance).

19 August 2011: Premiere of films *Fright Night* (horror/comedy/unnecessary remake; Colin Farrell, David Tennant, Anton Yelchin), *Conan the Barbarian* (fantasy/unnecessary remake; Stephen Lang, Rose McGowan, Ron Perlman), *Spy Kids: All the Time in the World 4D* (action/comedy; Jessica Alba, Joel McHale, Jeremy Piven, Danny Trejo, Ricky Gervais, Antonio Banderas), and *Griff the Invisible* (superhero).

20 August 2011: Vancouver Zombiewalk 2011, 4–7 PM at Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2H7.—Keith Lim



21 August 2011: Zombie George Romerathon!!!, 4:30 PM–11:30 PM at Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial Drive), Vancouver, BC, (604) 878-3456. The Rio Theatre & Black Dog Video invite you to recover from the Zombie Walk Weekend with a Sunday Afternoon *George Romero Marathon* featuring the *original trilogy* of his *classic zombie movies* *Night of the Living Dead*, *Dawn of the Dead*, & *Day of the Dead*. *Prize for best costume!!!* Admission is \$8 for 1 film; \$12 for 2 films; \$15 for 3 films. 5 PM: *Night of the Living Dead* (1968): A group of people hide from bloodthirsty zombies in a farmhouse. [[IMDB](#)] [[YouTube](#)] 7 PM: *Dawn of the Dead* (1978): Following an ever-growing epidemic of zombies that have risen from the dead, two Philadelphia SWAT team members, a traffic reporter, and his television-executive girlfriend seek refuge in a secluded shopping mall. [[IMDB](#)] [[YouTube](#)] 9:30 PM: *Day of the Dead* (1985): A small group of military officers and scientists dwell in an underground bunker as the world above is overrun by zombies. [[IMDB](#)] [[YouTube](#)]—Alex Chisholm

24 August 2011: **Karen New**'s birthday.

26 August 2011: Premiere of film *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark* (horror; Katie Holmes, Guy Pearce).

26–28 August 2011: Creation Entertainment's Salute to Supernatural at Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC. Special guests: Jensen Ackles & Jared Padalecki, Misha Collins.—Keith Lim

28 August 2011: Comix & Stories, 11 AM to 5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Avenue). Special guests: James Stokoe (*Orc Stain*), Brandon Graham (*King City*), Rebecca Dart (*Rabbithead*, *Battle Kittens*, *My Little Pony*). Featured creators and publishers: Robin Bougie (*Cinema Sewer*), Jesse Davidge (*Mathemagick & Mystiphsics*), Derek DeLand (*Copyright Infringers*), Do You Want To Kiss It Better? (*Play*), Trevor Frick (*Centuri Way of the Ninja*), Kim Glenie (*Emily & Zola*, *Girls' Room*), Mary Karaplis (*Tiny Vices*), Steve LeCouilliard

(*Much the Miller's Son*), Miriam Libicki (*Real Gone Girl*), Mike Myhre (*Space Jet*), Steve Rolston (*Ghost Projekt, Emiko Superstar*), Doug Savage (*Savage Chickens*), Jason Turner (*True Loves*), Albert Art, Toren Atkinson, Wai Khan Au, Ken Boesem, Carrie Q. Contrary, Jackie Klobucar, Jenna Sokalski, Critical Hit Comics, Gurukitty Studios, Visions Found, and many more. Admission: \$4. Creator tables: \$30. Publisher tables: \$50. Please note that some of the material at this show may not be suitable for all ages.—[Leonard S. Wong](#)

28 August 2011: [Creative Geeks: Magnetic Bookmarks](#), 7 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. We read! We need bookmarks! Bianca has volunteered to show us how to make magnetic bookmarks. I've had one and they are the greatest bookmarks ever. I'll confirm the date and time with Bianca and John closer to the event, but chime in if you are interested in learning.—[Keith Lim](#)

30 August 2011: Frankenstein Day.

September 2011

2 September 2011: Premiere of films *Shark Night 3D* (SF/horror; Donal Logue) and *Apollo 18* (horror/SF/conspiracy/found-footage).

3 September 2011: *Tim Burton Theme Ball!*, 9:00 PM–3:00 AM at Club 23, 23 West Cordova, Vancouver, BC. Halloween is such an amazing, well-loved holiday that it should be held twice a year, not just once! *Saturday September 3 Sanctuary proudly presents the fourth annual costume wonderland: Tim Burton Theme Ball...at Club 23 West!* The debut of this event in 2008 and follow up parties in 2009 and 2010 saw *massive* responses, and we're stepping it up even further for the *fourth* year in a row, turning the spotlight on to the creepy cast of creative chameleons that comprise the dark & alternative scene of the Vancouver nightlife. Photo gallery from the 2009 party here: [[Gothic BC](#)] Photo gallery from last year's party on Gothic BC here: [[Gothic BC](#)]... ■ *Prizes for best Tim-Burton-inspired costumes of the night!* Outrageous, fanciful, mind-bending costumes, make-up and props of all sorts not required but highly encouraged! Ideas: your favourite character from any Tim Burton movie, vintage, Victorian or fancy ballroom dress, brides & grooms, pale/undead skin, zombies, vampires, ghosts, monsters, classic Hollywood, top hats, stripes, '50s and sci-fi themes, scientists, sexy or scary aliens, circus, carnival or voodoo themed outfits, Christmas & Halloween themed outfits...winners announced every hour at 11 PM, midnight and 1 AM! ■ *Suggested movies for inspiration: Alice in Wonderland, Sleepy Hollow, Pee-Wee's Big Adventure, Charlie & The Chocolate Factory, Beetlejuice, Frankenweenie, Big Fish, The Nightmare Before Christmas, The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy, Corpse Bride, Ed Wood, Mars Attacks!, Edward Scissorhands, Sweeney Todd...* the list just goes on and on! ■ *Resident DJs Pandemonium & R-Lex* spinning only the best alternative / rock / electro / industrial / new wave



& loads of Tim Burton movie soundtrack gems! ■ *Tim Burton visuals & decorations/photo booth by Atratus* Dive head-first into a completely Tim-Burton-themed environment! ■ *Tim Burton theme burlesque performances by Rianne Aconda, Cherry OnTop* ■ *Tickets \$10 with pass/\$12 without* Click on “attending” to the event, and we’ll email you a pass right to your inbox at 2 PM day of the event, which you can print off at home, or, pick one up ahead of time from any of the many cool funky shops and retailers around town!—[Isaac Terpstra](#)

4 September 2011: **Lezli Robyn**’s birthday.

9 September 2011: Premiere of film *Contagion* (action/SF; Gwyneth Paltrow, Matt Damon, Laurence Fishburne, Jude Law, Kate Winslet, Demetri Martin, Elliot Gould, Enrico Colantoni, Bryan Cranston, Sanaa Lathan, Sanjay Gupta).

11 September 2011: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM to 5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Avenue). Special guest: Matthew Clark (*Ghost Rider, Doom Patrol*). Featuring: Ed Brisson (*Murder Book*), Derek DeLand (*Copyright Infringers*), Kim Glennie (*Emily & Zola, Girls’ Room*), Mike Myhre (*Space Jet*), Jenna Sokalski, Gurukitty Studios, and others! Dealer tables: \$55/centre; \$65/wall. Hourly door prizes! Admission: \$4.00/kids under 14; free. Comics for Classrooms: Donate a new or gently-used school-appropriate graphic novel for free admission to this show. Books collected will be donated to Vancouver schools. Follow us on Twitter at: twitter.com/vancouvercomiccon. For more information on either show: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/> or call 604-322-6412.—[Leonard S. Wong](#)

15 September 2011: **Mike Jackson**’s birthday.

15 September 2011: Reel Reads Movie Night: *Children of Men*, 6:30 PM at Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. “In the year 2027 the human population has lost its ability to procreate. Based on a novel by P.D. James, *Children of Men* stars Clive Owen, Julianne Moore, and Chiwetel Ejiofor. No registration required, admission is free.”—[Julian Castle](#)

16 September 2011: **Melissa Tookey** and **Kris Gallant**’s birthdays. Premiere of film *Restless* (drama/ghost).

17 September 2011: [Rascal’s: Steampunk Party](#), 8 PM–1 AM at WISE Hall, 1882 Adanac Street (at Victoria), Vancouver, BC, V5L 2E2. Rascals is an event geared towards the serious player with the opportunity for newcomers to the lifestyle to see and experience BDSM in all its forms.—[Keith Lim](#)

20 September, 18 October, 15 November, and 13 December 2011: Alternative Worlds Book Club, 6:30–8:30 PM at Morris J. Wosk Board Room, Level 7, Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. “Explore the diverse worlds of fantasy fiction. Registration limited to 20, begins Saturday 9 July at 10:00 AM at the Level 3 information desk. Call 604-331-3691 for more information.”—[Julian Castle](#)

22 September 2011: Vagon Poetry, 6:30 PM at Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. “Are you the best Vagon poet? Submit your absolutely worst poems to be presented slam style at our VPL/VCON Gala. Prizes in earth dollars. To enter: submit two poems to l2programs@vpl.ca by 8 September. Rules and more information: 604-331-3687. Come dressed in your best science fi/fantasy costume at the Gala. Co-sponsored by VCON: Vancouver’s Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention.”—[Julian Castle](#)

25 September 2011: Word on the Street Festival, 5:00 PM at Library Square and CBC Plaza, Georgia Street at Hamilton Street. “Join us for a jam-packed day of author readings, exhibits, performances, and all-round literary mayhem. For more information check www.thewordonthestreet.ca/wots/vancouver.”—[Julian Castle](#)

27 September 2011: Storytelling for Adults, 12:00–1:00 PM at Alma VanDusen & Peter Kaye Rooms, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street. “Join us for a series of lunchtime storytelling programs for adults. September’s theme is *Moon Explorations*. Speaker to be announced. Contact 604-331-3691 for more information.”—[Julian Castle](#)

27 September 2011: Page to Screen, 6:30 PM at Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street. “How well do classic science fiction books fare when adapted to the big or small screen? A presentation and discussion covering, among other topics, Canadian authors and shows filmed in Vancouver. Co-sponsored by VCON: Vancouver’s Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention.”—[Julian Castle](#)

VCON 30 September–2 October 2011: VCON 36 at Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, 7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC, V6X 1A3. Vancouver’s Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention. Theme: Visions of the Future: Imagining Tomorrow in Science Fiction from the Past to the Present. Guests of Honour: Larry Niven, Jean-Pierre Normand, Lisa Lassek.—[Keith Lim](#)

News-Like Matter

Notes from July BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Ray Seredin (host), Graeme Cameron (president), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Barb Dryer (secretary), Felicity Walker (editor), Joe Devoy, Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand, and Stewart Smyth.

Graeme relayed to us that Greg Benford had to cancel as Guest of Honour at VCON 36 but had asked Larry Niven to fill in for him. [See “*VCON Guest of Honour Change: Larry Niven*” by R. Graeme Cameron, [BCSFAzine #458](#).] Kathleen said she’d have to have a room party for the Order of Sean Connery.

Someone said the name “Gerald Boyko.”

Somehow we segued to nurse’s uniforms as a fetish, which reminded Graeme that in a World War I-era propaganda reel, a czarina was shown volunteering as a nurse, unaware that her uniform was also a costume used by area prostitutes.

A week before the meeting, I had slipped on some hardwood steps in my parents’ house and fallen on my elbow. Although it was, fortunately, only a minor fracture, it disrupted my life and delayed *BCSFAzine* even longer. Graeme understandingly said that “life intrudes.”

Every VCON, Ray hopes to host Saturday morning cartoons and cereal in the video room. This year, his friend Dennis had planned to convert some classic cartoons from VHS to DVD. However, the machine broke. I finally have a USB VCR [see “*Letters of Comment*” in *BCSFAzine* #454 and #455] but I haven’t had time to set it up and learn to use it yet.

Stew said that a guy who was in his voiceover class at the Vancouver Film School in 2000 was also in the pilot episode of *The Lone Gunmen*.

Kathleen submitted “Three Errata and an Enigma” [*BCSFAzine* #458].

Ray mentioned trains (something about the Long Island Train Company and *Dr. Zhivago*).

Kathleen found a DVD in the envelope of *BCSFAzine* receipts and cash. It was a copy of *Swamp Women* (1956) that I thought would be good to give to Graeme to reciprocate for the VHSes he’s given me. Someone said “Roger Corman, in color!” I said, “Well, in brown.” Graeme seemed pleased that Corman had directed it.

We discussed the season finale of *South Park*. I got the sense that it was a metaphor for the creators of the show getting tired and wanting to end the series. Someone (Fruvous?) said that they might be more interested in their new careers as successful Broadway producers.

Stew is watching *Big Love* and wonders: how old is Bill Paxton’s character? The character looks 40-ish; Paxton, the actor, is 56.

Joe explained how the Fox TV network promised *X-Files* creator Chris Carter three more projects. *Millennium* lasted three seasons, *The Lone Gunmen* lasted one season, and *Harsh Realm* lasted only a few episodes.

Ray is mad that KVOZ only shows *Hogan’s Heroes* on weekends, and on weekdays shows *America’s Funniest Videos* (current Tom Bergeron era) in its place. Ray said he’d be upset if KVOZ replaced *Hawaii Five-O* with *Little House on the Prairie*.

Ray remembered a young, unknown Shelley Long as a beauty queen on *Happy Days*. I asked if the character was high-strung. Ray said yes. The group decided that her career had gone downhill since leaving *Cheers*, but that the exception was *The Brady Bunch Movie*. (I also enjoyed *Troop Beverly Hills*.) Stew vaguely remembered that one of the stars of *Cheers* wasn’t allowed at the wrap party due to her poisonous personality (a la Suzanne Sommers being frozen out of *Three’s Company*), and wondered if it was Shelley Long or someone else.

Graeme has been reading a book about Howard Hughes that includes information taken from FBI wire-taps and memos. Hughes visited Vancouver once and stayed at the Westin Bayshore downtown. He watched *The Brain That Wouldn’t Die* (1962) seven times in a row non-stop. When he arrived at the hotel, he shocked his handlers by stepping out of the car in his dirty bathrobe and walking through the

lobby and into the elevator, which he took to his floor (he'd rented the entire floor), where he looked out the window at boats and planes, smiled, and said "I like this." He wanted to stay there and contemplate, but his people hustled him into his sealed-off, sterile, lightless, windowless room, and he reverted to his less lucid state. Graeme happened to be downtown when Hughes left, and saw him get into his limo.

Graeme said that Hughes had very few friends. One was Cary Grant, who once took him to a gay club called BB's, where he could meet Tallulah Bankhead, Marelene Dietrich, drag queens, and general Hollywood hoi polloi making deals. Hughes and Grant may have gotten along well because both had very protective mothers and both had to overcome crippling shyness.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 17 July 2011

Aurora Awards Voting Is Now Open

We thank you for your patience. After a long and arduous road the new and improved Aurora awards voting pages are now online and ready for you.

A lot has changed, for the better we hope. You will have to tell us.

Here's how to begin. First go to our membership page, <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/Membership/>, and log in. For those that registered to nominate you just have to use your email address and the society number you used before. For those that are new please click the "Register" button at the bottom of the form to sign up. We will send you your society number with a link to click to verify your account.

Once you have logged in you will see at the bottom the voting section with our "Buy Now" button. As in past years, there is a \$5.50 fee to vote. If you are a member of Convention this fee is being waived and you will instead see a "Vote Now" link at the bottom.

We hope to have all Convention members set up within the next few days but if we miss you please contact us at membership@prixaurorawards.ca and we will correct it.

For those members you will either have to email us at membership@prixaurorawards.ca and we will correct it based on current SFCOntario memberships. When we have told the system that you are a Convention member you will not see a "Buy Now" button but a "Vote Now" link. Click this to go directly to the voting ballot.

For those members that are paying you now have two ways to pay, Paypal or Credit Card. You can select the Paypal option and pay through your existing account or for those that do not have a Paypal account you can fill in the credit card information which will be processed by Paypal. Either way is quick and secure.

Once you have paid you we connect you to the new voting page. We want to thank the Hugo awards committee for loaning us the code to help us create this form. You now have a single ballot form with all nine categories. Full instructions are on the ballot—but you simply enter your ranking of who you like the best in each category starting with the number 1, using 2 for your next favourite choice and so on. You do not have to vote in all categories and you do not have to vote for all candidates in a category. The key to a good ballot is not to just put first places in but rank

the ones you feel are deserving of the award. If you don't have an opinion for a category please do not use the "No Award" field. Only use the "No Award" if you either do not like some or all of nominees.

When you are done you will click the "Submit" button. If you do not wish to vote at this time you can click the "Exit" button. The system remembers that you have paid and when you login in the future it will allow you to just go directly to the voting page. If there are errors in your submission the system will highlight those categories that have to be corrected. You must all correct all categories before your ballot will be saved.

You will get an email with your selections after you submit your ballot. Please remember that once you have submitted your ballot it is final and can not be changed.

For those that do not wish to submit online we will have a paper ballot that you can download and mail to us. Please remember, all voters must be members of CSFFA and if you are not a current member we will register you. Mail-in ballots require a lot of volunteer hours to enter the information and we would appreciate if you are able to, to please vote online.

You have had almost two months to think about your choices so now is the time for you to cast your ballots.

Yours,
Clifford Samuels
2011 Aurora Award Committee
Queries, comments to: admin@prixaurorawards.ca

Clint Budd
Saturday 23 July 2011

BCSFA Book Discussion Group Update (August)

Dear Felicity:

Here's notice of next month's book discussion.

Sincerely,

Doug Finnerty

Next book discussion is Thursday August 25 @ 7 PM. Location is "The Grind" gallery and coffee house, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. This time, we're reading *The Birthday of the World (and Other Stories)* by Ursula K. LeGuin.

September's book is *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card.

The book for October is *Ender's Shadow* by Orson Scott Card.

Doug Finnerty
Wednesday 27 July 2011

A New Zine and a New Set of Awards

This is going to a whole bunch of people...

While musing on ways to promote traditional fanzine fandom, I hit upon the idea of creating The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards (Society) as a promotional, publicity-type effort. It may or may not fly. Attached is the first issue of the house organ, meant to be a slim monthly bulletin.

As explained in the FAQ within the zine, the CFF Awards are not meant to compete with the Auroras. In fact, they should aid the Auroas in two ways, by drawing attention to the concept of “Best Fanzine” and by promoting eligibility lists re fanzine fanac (fannish activity) that may apply to the other Aurora fan awards.

In the FAQ I also explain how the CFF awards differ from both the Hugos and the Auroras.

Also note the very narrow definition of a “traditional” fanzine. The CFF Awards are very much the creature of a tiny niche fandom, and are designed to keep that niche alive!

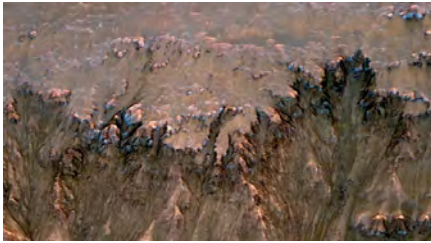
Everyone and anyone is welcome to join, not just Canadians! Anyone interested in Fanzine Fanac.

Check out http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CFF_AWARDS.

Cheers!

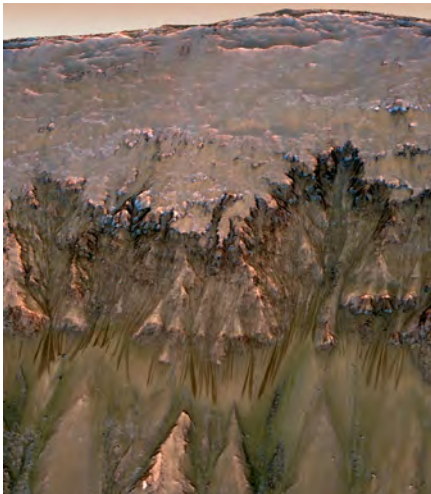
Graeme

R. Graeme Cameron
Saturday 6 August 2011



How Bad News Makes Bad Science

Shows you how bad reporting can make gibberish of science. In the first photo, the CBC website spoke of “dark streaks” that indicated the possible existence of flowing water on the surface of Mars. But, in the second photo, plucked from a NASA site, you can see that the CBC had actually cropped most of the dark streaks in question out of the photo!



Taral Wayne
Monday 8 August 2011

VCON 36 Souvenir T-Shirts and Posters Now Available for Pre-Order

Everyone loves to be able to take something special home to remember fun times, and since VCON 36 promises to be a super extra fun time, we wanted to make sure to offer our members some super extra special souvenirs to take home. The items listed below are now available for pre-order at the [VCON 36 Souvenir Shop](#).

VCON 36 T-shirts:

- Price: \$16, \$20, or \$24, depending on size.

- T-shirt art by Jean-Pierre Normand, VCON 36 Artist Guest of Honour.

- Available in two colour variations—navy blue or royal purple—and in nine sizes—Youth L (Adult XS) to 5XL.



Sample T-shirt art.



Sample poster art.

VCON 36 souvenir poster:

- Pre-order price: \$7.50

- Poster art by Jean-Pierre Normand, VCON 36 Artist Guest of Honour.

- Posters will be 11" x 17", printed on good quality poster stock

- Printed poster will include border space for getting autographs from GOHs, program panellists and fannish friends alike.

To be sure you don't go home empty handed *and* that you go home with exactly what you want, pre-order today!

[Visit the VCON 36 Souvenir Shop.](#)

Jenni Merrifield

[VCON Co-Vice-Chair & Webmaster](#)

[VCON Co-Vice Chair](#)

[VCON-Announce Mailing List](#)

Sunday 14 August 2011

VCON Writers Workshops Want YOU!

Calling All Writers!

The VCON 36 Writers' Workshop Is Looking For You!

Writing up a storm? Still not published? Find out what you need to know by joining one of three writers' workshops hosted by VCON! At each workshop participants critique each others submissions, then three published authors jump in with their professional expertise. It's fun! It's free! And you'll learn what it takes to get published!

For full details about the workshop visit:

www.vcon.ca/activities/programming/writers-workshop.

To view the Writers' Workshop FAQ, check out this VCON community forum:

www.vcon.ca/forum/convention-discussion/writers-workshops

Just 6 spaces remaining! Sign up today!

R. Graeme Cameron (Writers Workshop Coordinator)

VCON Archive

VCON-Announce Mailing List

Sunday 14 August 2011

VCON Membership Rates Go Up on Aug. 16

Just a friendly reminder to anyone who is planning to attend VCON 36 but still hasn't purchased a membership:

VCON Membership Rates will be going up again on Aug. 16.

Between now and 11:55 PM on Aug. 15, an adult weekend membership can be purchased for \$50.

From Aug. 16 until Sep. 15, an adult weekend membership will only be available for \$55.

Note that this rate increase does not affect the rates for our Membership Package Deals which will remain the same.

Student/Senior/Gamer weekend memberships are 25% off the current adult rate.

Youth (7–18) weekend memberships are 50% off the current adult rate.

Register for VCON 36 Today!

Jenni Merrifield

VCON Registrar's Assistant

VCON Registrar's Assistant

VCON-Announce Mailing List

Sunday 14 August 2011

VCON Programming Needs Your Feedback!

We, the VCON Programming team, want to focus our efforts on what you, our members, like best. How are we going to do that? We'd like you to help us!

Here's your chance to tell us what *you* would like to do at VCON!

We have created a survey designed to help us plan a collection of events and activities that match your desires, whatever they are.

Please follow the link below and answer the questions posed there. We'll take that info and integrate it with the Program Grid. This year's preliminary grid will be available in early September, but we'll be tweaking it right up until showtime.

VCON Programming Feedback Survey: <http://bit.ly/pN4TI5>

By participating, you are helping to shape events at VCON 36.

Thanks for your time!

Pauline Walsh & Danielle Stephens

VCON 36 Programming

VCON Programming

VCON-Announce Mailing List

Monday 15 August 2011

Jimmy Sangster 1927–2011

Hi folks,

In case you haven't already heard, the veteran screenwriter/director Jimmy Sangster died yesterday, aged 83. His screenplays included Hammer's classic re-launches, *Curse of Frankenstein* and *Horror of Dracula*. Although he moved into directing, it was under pressure from the studio bosses and he was never happy with the results.

Regards,
Steve

Steve Green

Friday 19 August 2011

VCON Progress Report—Is This the Year?

Is this the year?

Thinking about attending this year's VCON?

This year is going to be **bigger and better!**

More programming, more dealers, more gaming, more workshops—more everything!

VCON 36 will be huge. Last year we had 8,810 sq. ft. of space. This year, we're going to have more than twice the space: **18,815 square feet.**

Everything is getting a facelift.

Gaming—264% bigger! Did you feel cramped last year? Not anymore. We've dedicating an *entire ballroom* to gaming, and it will be open 24/7 from Friday afternoon onward. Lavish chandeliers, large windows (don't worry: there are curtains) and easy access to Hospitality to take it to the next level. Scheduled games and free play tables will be available. *Not only is gaming bigger this year, but we've added a room for PC gaming! That's right...VCON will have its own network cafe-style room for your enjoyment!*

Vendor hall—151% bigger! Once again VCON will host a Vendor Hall with a dealers room and an artists alley. This year will be bigger than ever with over double the space and one and a half times the vendors and (most importantly) five-foot-wide aisles! Vendors will include many of your old favourites like Felix and Kitty, Smiling Dragonfly Studios, and Professor Whovianart as well as new faces like Champagne Books, Evil Space Cat Productions, and Echoes of Light.

Art gallery—151% bigger! The art gallery just added another wing. See (and bid on) stunning work by local and international SF artists. Original work on display by James Ng, Kyle Miller, Melissa Duncan, Lynne Taylor Fahnestalk and our Artist Guest of Honour, **six-time Aurora winner** Jean-Pierre Normand!

Movie room—116% bigger! Beloved Uncle Victor will be back this year, taking another swing at the movie room. Want to catch that one flick you always meant to see but never got around to? Or just want to kick back and relax in good company? The movie room has you covered. A little bird tells me the contests and surprise treats will be back.



Hospitality—192% bigger! This year, Naomi Ben-Yehuda heads up the Hospitality Suite. Foods will be labelled so those with allergies or other food issues will know what they're getting themselves into. Get involved in the Cookie Contest, complete with judging in a number of categories, because everyone should have the fun of supplying the con with cookies, right? If you're interested in helping out in Hospitality, competing in the Cookie Contest, or want to tell Naomi about your food allergies or issues, look to the Hospitality Page on the website for more information.

KidCon—200% bigger! This year KidCon will have both a large, supervised space as well as a hotel suite “quiet space” where children can hang out with one another for an hour or two while parents go to a panel discussion. In addition, the Programming team is planning some special events and activities with our younger members in mind; look for notes in your program indicating both “KidCon” activities and also “family-friendly” events that everybody can enjoy. *Parents please note: Memberships for children under 13 must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. The parents and guardians of children with Youth memberships (ages 7 to 12) are not required to be in the exact same function space at all times, but they must remain at the convention site as long as the child is also on site.*

What panels can we expect to see at VCON?

We're working on the VCON 36 schedule, and it's shaping up to be really exciting! We've got **bellydancing** workshops, a Messy Mad Science workshop (bring a smock!), and a variety of large-scale games to play. The **Frankenstiffies** workshop that was so popular last year will be back; this **time with prizes!** There are lots of music lined up, as well as an intriguing array of new and familiar panelists. We're also working on a *few super secret projects* right now, so we'll tell you about those in the future.

Exciting Guests of Honour:

Larry Niven (*Author Guest of Honour*)—Equally at home in the fields of hard science and fantasy, Larry Niven has introduced fans to fascinating aliens, shown us giant artifacts, and given us a logical reason for the lack of magic in today's world. He's taken us to the Ringworld, Dante's Inferno, the Draco Tavern, and a close encounter with a Neutron Star. He's revealed the origin of the human race and shown us the future of LARPing. He created Kzinti and Pierson's Puppeteers, introduced the idea of mana as a finite resource, and left us to ponder the wince-inducing consequences of a close encounter between the Man of Steel and a woman of Kleenex. Larry Niven. Winner of the Nebula and five Hugos. A VCON GoH Emeritus from VCON 5. Please welcome him back. (**Gregory Benford**, initially announced as our Author GOH, will be unable to attend VCON this year due to an unavoidable summons from DARPA—America Needs Him. He will, happily, be among next year's Guests at VCON 37. Larry Niven was kind enough to step in as VCON 36's Author Guest of Honour. All around, this would appear to be a win-win situation.)

Jean-Pierre Normand (*Artist Guest of Honour*)—JP Normand is one of Canada's most celebrated SF artists. A six-time Aurora winner for artistic achievement, Jean-Pierre Normand dominates the Canadian SF industry. Whether you've realized it or not, you've probably already encountered his unique and wonderful style across dozens of book covers, magazines and film.

Lisa Lassek (*Media Guest of Honour*)—Lisa has made a career out of cutting vampires, space cowboys, and mad scientists. She has worked with writer-director

Joss Whedon on the Emmy-nominated series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Firefly*, the Universal feature *Serenity*, and the internet sensation *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. Other credits include the critically acclaimed series *Wonderfalls*, *Community*, and the Emmy-winning *Pushing Daisies*. Her latest feature, the horror-comedy *The Cabin in the Woods*, is due out in 2011. [Lisa Lassek is a producer and editor.—*Felicity*]

What you need to know:

VCON is going to be in the **Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel**, in Richmond, *two blocks from the skytrain station*. This is the same hotel that held our Vendors Hall, Gaming and the Video Room last year: we liked working with them so much **we booked the entire hotel all to ourselves**. So this year, it's all in the same building.

There's a **heated** outdoor swimming pool and hot tub in the hotel courtyard. We make no promises it won't be raining, but weather permitting it will be a nice place to hang out this year.

The basics:

- **What:** VCON 36, Vancouver's science fiction & fantasy convention.

- **Theme:** Visions of the Future: Imagining Tomorrow from the Past to the Present

- **Who:** Guests of Honour are Larry Niven (author), Jean-Pierre Normand (artist) and Lisa Lassek (film editor)

- **Where:** Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, 7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond, B.C., Canada

- **When:** Noon [*Friday*] September 30 to 8 PM Sunday, October 2, 2011

- **How much:** Membership is \$60 at the door for adults; or, register online for only \$55 until September 15.

- VCON will be accepting cash, VISA and Mastercard at the door.

- 25% discount for students with photo ID and seniors.

- 50% discount for youths 7–18 (youths ages 7–13 must have an attending adult member on site).

- Children 0–6 free (under supervision of an adult member).

- Special weekend "Gamer's Membership" also available at a 25% discount. (This is a restricted access pass which allows participation in the Games Room and all exhibits that are open to the public. It is designed for those who are primarily interested in this area of the convention and do not intend to attend programmed sessions or events.)

- One-day memberships will be available at the door: Adult rates: Friday \$30, Saturday \$35, Sunday \$25. (Student, senior and youth discounts also apply.)

- **Hotel rooms:** Double rooms available to VCON members at \$117 per night, including free parking. These rates will be available only until September 6, so book now. Visit the VCON Venue web page for room booking details.

- **Parking:** For members not staying in the hotel parking is \$6 a night. Free parking is included for those staying at the hotel.

Recruitment call :

We're running such a big convention this year we need **your** help to make it run smoothly.

There are still a few vacancies on the VCON Convention Committee. What we do takes a lot of work and dedication, but it's rewarding work and well worth the effort. First year ConCom members are eligible for a half-price weekend membership, a free membership the following year, reduced prices on convention merchandise, not to mention the undying gratitude of fandom across the Pacific Northwest (*or, at least, that's what we tell ourselves...*)

We've also revamped our Volunteer Perks in a big way: Among other things, **every four hours of volunteer work gets you a free one-day pass to the event**. And, yes, you can do advance volunteer work!

VCON Convention Committee vacancies:

If you are interested in joining the VCON 36 ConCom please use the VCON ConCom Opportunities Contact Form on our web site.

Hospitality Bar Coordinator—Hospitality has a vacancy for a bar coordinator. You would be responsible for dispensing drinks and recruiting staff. You must possess your Serving It Right certification and be legally able to serve alcohol at the time of the convention.

Charity Auctioneer—We need someone to come on board to run our charity auction. Your duties would include canvassing local businesses for donations and managing the auction.

Console Gaming Coordinator—Do you have what it takes to bring console gaming to VCON? We're looking for a motivated individual to bring in volunteers and hardware to run late-night console gaming. This is a self-starter role; you'll need to be able to hit the ground running.

Fundraising Coordinator—VCON does not have a fundraising department and receives no government grants. The event is paid for almost entirely by membership fees. If you have the skills to make this change, we want you!

Guests of Honour Liaison(s)—We need dependable, punctual people to be our GOH liaisons. This position involves handling the GOH's schedule, double-checking their transport and accommodation reservations, keeping them informed of what panels they are scheduled for and handling any needs they may have in a pleasant and prompt fashion.

Writer—That's right—we need a *writer*. If you can help write fliers, promotional material, contribute content to our publications lead, contribute content to our website and help the various departments in VCON produce original content, we want you!

Flyer & Poster Distribution Coordinator—We need someone to keep track of where we've put up posters, where we want to put posters, and to recruit and keep track of the people who do the distribution.

General volunteers:

If you are interested in volunteering this year, please use our Volunteer Registration Form.

Operations/Security: Help keep the convention running smoothly and safely. Experience with IT/security is an asset. (People needed all weekend, including before/after the con.)

Games Room: Help the VCON Games Coordinator run/manage the games room and gaming schedule. (From VCON opening 'til close.)

Transportation: Help get stuff to the convention, unloading/loading VCON supplies pre- and post-con (Thursday night [Sep. 30] & Monday morning [Oct. 4]).

Hospitality: Assist with food and beverage preparation, serving, and cleanup in Hospitality.

Registration: Assist with registration and help with merchandise sales (T-shirts, etc.). (During Registration hours: Fri. Noon–8 PM, Sat. 8 AM–8 PM, Sun. 8 AM–2 PM.)

Pass Control: Help make sure that people are not where they aren't supposed to be. (From VCON opening 'til close.)

Costumers: Do you have a great costume? Want to show it off? We need people we can call on to represent VCON at photo ops for press and TV, in parades, at movie openings, promotional gigs at other conventions, street fairs, etc.

Photographers and Videographers: We'd like to have a record of VCON events for our website, for YouTube, for people who missed that great panel because they were helping out elsewhere at the con. If you have a camera and are willing to put in a few hours, we want to hear from you.



Anyone available for Thursday set-up and Monday cleanup will also be appreciated.

Look for further updates to come.

We look forward to seeing you at the convention!

Visit our [Website](#)

Follow us on [Twitter](#)

Join our [Facebook Page](#)

Jenni Merrifield

[VCON Co-Vice-Chair & Webmaster](#)

[VCON Co-Vice Chair](#)

[VCON-Announce Mailing List](#)

Saturday 20 August 2011

Hugo Awards Announced

Hi Felicity!

Here are this year's Hugo Award winners, if you have room in *BCSFazine*.

Best Novel: *Blackout/All Clear* by Connie Willis (Ballantine Spectra)

Best Novella: *The Lifecycle of Software Objects* by Ted Chiang (Subterranean)

Best Novelette: "The Emperor of Mars" by Allen M. Steele (*Asimov's*, June 2010)

Best Short Story: "For Want of a Nail" by Mary Robinette Kowal (*Asimov's*, September 2010)

Best Related Work: *Chicks Dig Time Lords: A Celebration of Doctor Who by the Women Who Love It*, edited by Lynne M. Thomas and Tara O'Shea (Mad Norwegian)

Best Graphic Story: *Girl Genius, Volume 10: Agatha Heterodyne and the Guardian Muse*, written by Phil and Kaja Foglio; art by Phil Foglio; colors by Cheyenne Wright (Airship Entertainment)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form: *Inception*, written and directed by Christopher Nolan (Warner)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form: *Doctor Who*: “The Pandorica Opens/The Big Bang,” written by Steven Moffat; directed by Toby Haynes (BBC Wales)

Best Editor, Short Form: Sheila Williams

Best Editor, Long Form: Lou Anders

Best Professional Artist: Shaun Tan

Best Semiprozine: *Clarkesworld*, edited by Neil Clarke, Cheryl Morgan, Sean Wallace; podcast directed by Kate Baker

Best Fanzine: *The Drink Tank*, edited by Christopher J Garcia and James Bacon

Best Fan Writer: Claire Brialey

Best Fan Artist: Brad W. Foster

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer—award for the best new professional science fiction or fantasy writer of 2009 or 2010, sponsored by Dell Magazines (not a Hugo Award): Lev Grossman

R. Graeme Cameron
Monday 22 August 2011

Seeking Volunteers for VCON 36

Hello to all!

Just a quick note to let everyone know that we’re looking for volunteers to help out at this year’s convention. We’ve put together a great set of perks for those who help out, including a volunteers pizza party, free merchandise and the opportunity to earn a free day of attendance or credit towards a membership to VCON 37 for every four hours worked (commit to volunteer for 12 hours and you can attend the whole weekend or earn a VCON 37 membership free of charge!).

We need people to help all weekend of course, but we’re particularly interested in those willing to help out with set up and tear down before and after the convention. So much so, pre- and post-convention volunteers earn credit for 1.5× their hours worked.

If you’re interested in volunteering this year:

* Perks volunteers get and what you can do to help: <http://www.vcon.ca/involved/volunteer>.

* Register as a volunteer: <http://bit.ly/ptwT39>.

Thanks! We look forward to seeing you Sep. 30–Oct. 2!

VCON Vice-Chair

VCON Vice Chair
VCON-Announce Mailing List
Thursday 25 August 2011

Garth Spencer Creates New Group on Facebook

Join “Second Reformed Anarcho-Surrealist Party with a Hot Tub in the Back Yard So” at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/130212817075561/>.

Felicity Walker
Friday 26 August 2011

September Book Discussion

Dear Felicity:

Here's notice of the next book discussion. Any questions, comments or concerns, you know who to call.

Next book discussion is Thursday September 22 @ 7pm. It's at "The Grind" gallery and coffee house, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. This time we're discussing *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. In October, the book is *Ender's Shadow* by Orson Scott Card. November's book is *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. LeGuin.

Doug Finnerty

Saturday 27 August 2011

VCON Wants Your Stuff

Hey you!

Yes you!

VCON wants your stuff!!

VCON is a volunteer organized convention. As such, it runs entirely on the love, support, and generosity of ordinary people just like you. Without the support of our many members the convention wouldn't go very far and so we are always looking for people who want to help out in one way or another—by volunteering their time, by bestowing their money, and, sometimes, *by giving us their stuff!*

VCON needs things to use as prizes, as gifts, and as items in our silent charity auction. One way you can add your own pinch of spice to the awesome stew that is VCON is to consider donating one or more material items to the cause. Donating an item can be a far more personal action than donating money, especially as you can have a say in what your gift will be used for.

Why Give Us Your Stuff: Well, it's a chance to share the love. VCON is, above all, a cooperative of people helping each other out for the mutual enjoyment of the imagination's potential. Giving cash often seems impersonal, or like it's getting sent off into the anonymous aether. Giving time (which is also badly needed—see our [Volunteer Page!](#)) often requires a proximity or availability that isn't practical for everyone. This is a way for you to contribute something personal and tangible, that will be incorporated into the event itself or passed onto a fellow fan to be taken home and enjoyed.

What Stuff to Give Us: *Your imagination is the only limit.* Gifts, games, art, movies, books...if you think it's worthy then we can probably find a use for it.

Handcrafted items and artwork add that extra touch of character, if you're feeling inspired and your proclivity edges more towards the hands-on. Items to enchant or entertain like books, video games, board games, and art supplies, even gift certificates and cards are all wonderful as well. Please keep in mind however that these are being given as gifts and prizes to VCON members, so nothing damaged or offensive, please.

Feel free to check out this year's [Programming](#) for ideas on what to send and where your donation might go to. And don't forget that our theme this year is *Vis-*

ions of the Future! Your donation doesn't necessarily have to have anything to do with the theme, but thinking about it might give you an excellent place to start.



Where Your Stuff Goes: *Donations go to any and every aspect of VCON that needs a physical component, as appropriate.* We use donated items for the Silent Charity Auction (with 50% of the proceeds going to Aunt Leah's Youth Charity), for Swag Bags as gifts to the hardest-working volunteers, and even as prizes for game tournaments, the Cosplay Masquerade, you name it.

No, really. You can name it. *You can have as little or as much say in what we use your items for as you want.* This means that if you are set on your beautiful mosaic of the Vancouver cityscape going to the Silent Auction, then you can say so. If you don't care where it goes as long as it doesn't just become a random door prize, that's fine too. Just let us know, either by including a note specifying your wishes with a mailed-in donation, or by mentioning it in your email communication with us when you're arranging the donation.

When to Give Us Stuff: *Donations will be accepted anytime, but the sooner we receive them the better!!!!* We can accept donations during the convention, but because these donations are for events that are being planned now, it would be ideal if we received everything before the actual events get into full swing. That way, there's less last-minute scrambling and we have a concrete idea of what we have and where we can allocate it when the weekend begins.

Where to Send Your Stuff: There are two ways to donate your swag. You can either send stuff directly to our mailing address below, or you can contact us beforehand and we can arrange to have it picked up or dropped off.

If you want to mail it to us directly, please send your item to our PO box:

Attn.: Donations
Box 78069, Grandview RPO
Vancouver, BC V5N 5W1
Canada

...and don't forget to include a note specifying if there's a particular aspect of the convention you'd like your donation to go towards!

You can also email VCON about from our Donations Query Contact page to discuss your donation and arrange to have it picked up or dropped off sometime before the event. This "before the event" detail is important: while we accept donations throughout the weekend, earlier is definitely better for planning purposes!

So share a little love with your fellow fans and donate your stuff!

Some Other Words: With less than a month to go, VCON 36 is in the final stretch and things are really ramping up. This year's event is definitely going to be one of the best ever and we can't wait to unleash everything we have planned on you all.

—Jenni Merrifield
VCON Co-Vice-Chair & Webmaster

VCON Co-Vice Chair
Wednesday 31 August 2011

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (<i>Afgrunden</i> screenshot).....	Page 2
Clip art (<i>Mr. Show</i> screenshot).....	Page 3
Clip art (Google via Julian Castle).....	Page 4
<u>Alex Chisholm</u>	Page 6
<u>Isaac Terpstra</u>	Page 7
Font (Anthem Type).....	Page 9
Clip art (CBC/NASA) via <u>Taral Wayne</u>	Page 13
Jean-Pierre Normand via <u>VCON Co-Vice Chair</u>	Page 14
Font (Iconian Fonts).....	Page 16
Clip art (via Garth Spencer).....	Page 20
Clip art (Shohei Kohara/Floro Dery).....	Page 23

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- ___ You are Library and Archives Canada.