

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#470

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July 2012



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. *BCSFAzine* solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, PNG, or PSD format, and offers printed contributors' copies as long as the club budget allows.

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This Month in BCSFA

Sunday 22 July @ 7 PM:

BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. *Note: this meeting is one week later than usual.*

Friday 27 July:

'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, 778-895-2371

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

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster Garth Spencer). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

John Purcell

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Tuesday 10 July 2012

Good evening, Felicity! Actually, that should be “good morning” since it is now 12:10 AM as I write this, but who’s quibbling? A LOC is a LOC, no matter what time of the day or night it is produced. Pub an ish, get a LOC, life is good.

Say, it is encouraging to see just how busy you folks up in Vancouver are, especially with a wonderful line-up for V-Con #37 coming on strong in not too many months. Here is hoping it goes well. With Connie Willis and Greg Benford headlining your guest list, you folks have a great start.

Nalini Haynes’ LOC, especially her comment about filking, deserves a response from me. Even though I’m a musician and have played my guitar at many a Minicon or Minn-Stf music party (the Minneapolis, Minnesota crowd), I have never really been one for filk music. I am glad that Nalini now has had some exposure to it. In my experience, filking—essentially, folk songs devoted to science fiction and/or fantasy related material—is an acquired taste. Some of it I like very much; Margaret Middleton, a long-time Little Rock, Arkansas fan and a master filksinger and compiler/chronicler/editor of filk music collections, is one of the better practitioners of filking that I have ever heard. If Nalini really wants to learn a lot—and boy, do I mean “a lot”—about filk music and its history, Margaret is the go-to person.

As for filk videos on YouTube, all Nalini has to do is get on YouTube.com and enter in “SF filk songs” and she will find tons of good examples. The ones by Bill Mills, who is very active in producing these, are quite good, as are the ones by Joe Bethancourt and Frank Gasperik, two gentlemen I have had the pleasure of knowing and playing music with. Go for it, Nalini. The more you browse and search, the more you will learn and come to appreciate what filk songs are all about. It is not really my personal cup of tea, but I understand its place and certainly accept it as part of the science fiction fandom culture. It is one of those things that make fans who and what they are.

[*Thanks for the help!*]

The comments about Project Gutenberg in some of the LOCs are dead on. I have downloaded many classic—and not so classic—SF and F novels from Project Gutenberg, even the run of *Astounding Stories* available there (February 1930 through December 1931), and all of these are now stored on my Nook. Every once in a great while I actually even read some of the stories from those old issues of *Astounding*, and all I can say it is truly astounding at how some of them got published in the first place! But, that was the style back then, and the field was new and growing. Bottom line here is that Project Gutenberg is a great place to go for old books and magazines. Fascinating material stored there. I have found a wealth of non-fiction material, too, such as a personal memoir of a Civil War veteran. Incredibly interesting reading.

Well, it is getting late and time for me to get to bed. Thank you for posting the zine to efanazines.com, Felicity, and I look forward to seeing more from the Great Northwest. Have a good time at V-Con and in all your other goings-on up there.

All the best,

John Purcell

“In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress.”—John Adams (1735–1826)

Dave Haren
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Tuesday 17 July 2012

Hi Felicity,

I have been lagging while debating what seems to be relevant this month.

Lloyd, I don't know the Palm OS but most SD cards are FAT32 and should plug right into an e-reader with an SD slot. I hear comics are going to ebook formats (Fantagraphics) so a good colour-capable unit might be worth waiting for. Oh and happy birthday.

I'm doing computer game testing on *Struggle for the Galactic Empire* from Decision Games. The boardgame version has been out for a couple of years. It is a solitaire SF game done by Joe Miranda, one of the industry's more prolific designers.

The player functions as the decision-making center for an existing empire which responds to a variety of external and internal threats. It never is the same as any previous game. This makes it hard to get into the mindset but it does offer rewards that simpler games lack.

I've been reading Eric Flint—*1632* and *1633*, the beginning of his series about a time-travelling section of modern USA dropped off in Thuringia during the Thirty Years' War. That led me to read Schiller for an overview of the conflict. I did notice a glitch over the potato but desiring omnipotence from an author is silly. It's fun stuff but requires some suspension of your view on people. However it is a cracking good set of tales, full of action and characters who were real movers and shakers on the world stage.

I had known something about the era due to Ian Weir's historical background materials on the 19 and the 45, and the alchemists around the Empire when Rudolph the Second was in charge. The whole conflict is usually framed in a binary fashion and quickly glossed over as Catholic versus Protestant. A little digging turns up a large number of conflicting interests, and hardly clear-cut ones.

[*What are the 19 and the 45?* ☺]

Jane Fancher and CJ Cherryh have new materials up on Closed Circle which Lynn Abbey is reworking. Their on-going adventures are too many to try to recap. [Wave Without a Shore](#) has all the details.

RA Wilson fans should drop by the [Overweening Generalist](#) blog. The latest is a [rundown of thoughts on John B. Calhoun's work](#). He's the guy who kept trying to build rodent utopias and was never successful. All he achieved was to make his furry victims into a mimicry of modern city dwellers.

[That was a fascinating article! When I have time I definitely want to read more of that blog. Also, of "The Secret Sun" (<http://secretsun.blogspot.ca/>). So many distractions!]

The overly curious should pop over to archive.org and type [manlypalmerbox in the search engine](http://manlypalmerbox.in).

I just caught an epic medical tale about aspirin therapy dramatically reducing cancer risk and other ailments' risks, plus those who have problems with aspirin are those with *H. pylori*. It's the bug that causes ulcers also.

I hear Montreal is about to be the gayest city on Earth. Details at Boing Boing.

[It took a lot of digging, but I think this is what you mean. It's not easy to find things on Boing Boing!]

Check out the Rube Goldberg setup on the newest Mars shot due to try landing first week in August.

[What did you find Rube Goldbergian about it?]

Warm regards,
Dave Haren

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Wednesday 18 July 2012

Dear Felicity:

I've got both the latest issue of *BCSFazine*, 469, here with me, plus the .PDF I downloaded from what you e-mailed to me. They are different sizes, wonder why? (Ah, changes in the calendar.)

I will try my best to get this LOC done ASAP for you.

A transporter beam...ah, if only. Let's all go to Scotty's place. He's got all the technical journals, and the scotch, too. There's a comment on Disney as well, and I spotted online the announcement that Disney Pixar are now working on *Finding Nemo 2*.

My letter...Polaris 26 has come and gone. We were only there for the Saturday, but it was still a good time. Polaris 27 will change format to a relaxicon in July 2013, and the committee will be staging a big *Doctor Who* convention in November 2013. After that, no word, so Polaris 26 was the last convention in its three-day media SF con format. I expect Hobbystar and Wizard World will attempt to fill the gap Polaris will leave.

Any reports on the Mini Maker Faire on June 23rd?

[No. I've got to mingle more, or send reporters like Amos Iu to do so, and solicit reports on events.]

Our next one won't be until next year, and I think that was because they chose an excellent but expensive place to set up. I hope they will find someplace cheaper in 2013 so we won't have so long to wait until the next one.

I see tomorrow as I write the BC RenFest starts for four days of piratical fun. Wish I could be there to scare Captain Charity, sorry Chris, you will all do great! I hope all will go out to support the Faire.

We've dreamed about those green-skinned Orion women ever since we saw *Star Trek* in its original run. (Okay, since I saw it in its original run; I am seriously dating myself here.) Of course, that goes back to some of the bad SF movies of the '40s and '50s, where aliens were automatically some colour we weren't, like green or blue. (*Trek* eventually graduated to the facial appliance of the week, but it sometimes did come across as a little cheesy, but how else do you indicate that a particular person is an alien?)

(I can tell you did the .PDF first, and then reduced it down to fit into the paper fanzine. The paper fanzine has 30 pages, but you list José Sanchez' artwork as being on page 44. Picky, picky me.)

[*I was kicking myself, as I caught the same mistake only after I'd gotten the paper copies back from the printer. And after all that proofreading!*]

Anyway, I am done for the moment, and many thanks for the issues as they come. Stay cool this summer (it hit 36°C in Toronto), and see you with the next one.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

We Also Heard From: Michael Bertrand, R. Graeme Cameron, Doug Finnerty, Brad Foster, William Graham, Stewart Smyth, Garth Spencer, and 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

1–3, 6–10, 13–17, 20–24, and 27–30 June *and* 1, 4–8, 11–15, 18–22, and 25–29 July *and* 1–5, 8–12, 15–19, 22–26, and 29–31 August 2012: The History of Video Games in BC, 12–5 PM at New Westminster Museum and Archives, 302 Royal Avenue, New Westminster. “Take part in this all-ages exhibition highlighting the history of video games, from *Pong* to more recent titles created for devices like the iPhone. Admission by donation.”—Keith Lim

21–23 and 25–30 June *and* 2–7, 9–14, 16–21, 23–31 July *and* 1–5 August 2012: Xanadu—Arts Club Theatre Company, 2–5 PM [4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, and 25 July and 1 and 4 August], 7:30–10:30 PM [3, 10, 17, and 31 July] and 8–11 PM [2–7, 9–14, 16–21, 23–31 July and 1–5 August] at Arts Club Theatre Company, 1585 Johnston Street (next to the Granville Island Public Market), Vancouver. “[...] Based on the Universal Pictures film. [...] You have to believe it's magic! Take a magical ride to a world where fantasy, romance, and shiny satin jumpsuits reign! A beautiful Greek muse descends from Mount Olympus in an impenetrable disguise of leg warmers and an Aussie accent to help mortal Sonny realize the greatest artistic achievement of all time: to open a roller disco! Featuring the cult classics ‘Suddenly’ and ‘Xanadu,’ this musical is ‘Magic’ on roller skates! *Special performances*: Thursday Talk July 5, 8 PM [?] (nibbles at 6:30 PM and an engaging evening talk at 7 PM [?])

at the Granville Island Stage). Talk Back Tuesday July 10, 7:30 PM (discover how actors get into character and where directors get their inspiration at our post-show Q&As).”—[Keith Lim](#)

29 June–1 July 2012: [LANcouver 2012](#), 5 PM–12 AM at Richmond Olympic Oval, 6111 River Road, Richmond. “Metro Vancouver’s PC Gaming Event. 200+ BYOC Seat LAN Party & Gamer Gathering. eSports | Special Events | Seminars & more! LANcouver is a three-day gaming event. It’s a BYOC LAN party and tournament which means you’ll need to bring your own computer along with its monitor, keyboard, mouse and other accessories. What is a LAN party? For many years, gamers all over the world have gathered together at events to celebrate their love for PC hardware, video games and competitive gaming. LAN parties range from small casual gatherings of friends to giant week-long events with thousands of participants. LANcouver is probably the region’s oldest organized LAN party. We first started hosting events in 2004 on Metro Vancouver’s North Shore. The event returned in 2011 after a hiatus and was re-established as an annual gathering of gamers. We had a few hiccups in 2011 but thanks to many changes and some new sponsors, we are ready to rock 2012 with the best LAN party ever seen in Metro Vancouver! Richmond Olympic Oval is the new venue for LANcouver 2012. This gigantic facility has over 200,000 square feet of courts, rinks and activity space. The venue is easily accessible by transit, car, and bike. We recommend carpooling as a cheap and green way to get to and from LANcouver. Buying a three-day BYOC pass gets you a seat in the BYOC area as well as entry in to any of the tournaments, events, panels, competitions, and anything else going on at LANcouver. Single-day passes are not available since all of the tournaments take place over the entire weekend. Weekend spectator passes are also available for just \$10, and get you entry to the event, main stage casting area, sponsor booths, panels, seminars, and more (but not competitions or tournaments). Other awesome features include panels, seminars, special competitions (like wall sitting, keyboard toss, and a couple of new secret ones), vendor booths, sponsor booths, special presentations and demos, a live DJ and more! You can only experience LANcouver by being here—join us this Summer for an event you’ll never forget!”—[Keith Lim](#)

July 2012

July is National Anti-Boredom Month and International Zine Month!

1 July 2012: [Steveston Salmon Festival](#), 6:30 AM–5 PM, Steveston, Richmond. Watch for VCON float in parade (10 AM–12 PM)! Volunteer wanted to store styro-foam boulders from float afterwards.

1 July 2012: [Lust in Space Fetish Fashion Gala](#), 9 PM–12 AM at Celebrities Nightclub, 1022 Davie Street, Vancouver. “Barbarella meets Rocky Horror meets The Matrix...an evening of camp, vamp & cyber...take a journey to the stars and get lust in space! Explore different worlds populated by randy robots, masochistic mutants, sex-crazed space sasspots, alluring aliens, astronauts & science fiction characters of all types...at the next Restricted Entertainment fetish fashion show

*gala & long weekend party extravaganza! Long weekend party fashion show art. Dancing costumes photography. With a fun, sexy twist...Doors 9 PM // Show 11 PM // Dancing: All damn night! \$14 at door, plainclothes. \$12 online tickets. \$10 advance at local retailer, or at door in sci-fi or fetish costume. * Please note that this is not a fetish-only event! Fetish-oriented outfits are highly encouraged, but are not mandatory and any and all are invited to attend. Cameras are most welcome as highlighting the amazing fashions of the evening from both the stage show and the attendees is a big part of this party, so dress to excess and show yourself off! Restricted Entertainment presents its fourth over-the-top fashion show gala and party extraordinaire, this time featuring runway fetish & fashions, art & photography, glamour photo booth and stage performances...all inspired by the infinite possibilities of the world of *science fiction*, crossed with fun & sexy themes and imagery! *Exclusive runway fashion performances by Vancouver's most twisted & tantalizing designers: Trunk Show by Misty Greer; Suze666; Hypershine; Priape; Lace Embrace; Atelier. Giger burlesque & fetish drag by: Little Miss Risk & Mantra MMX! Electro/'80s/alternative dancefloor mania with: DJ Pandemonium (Sin City/Sanctuary/Glamour Trash); DJ R-Lex (Sin City/Sanctuary/Glamour Trash). Prizes for best sci-fi/fetish outfits. We have some amazing prizes for our best outfit winners...including a pro photo shoot with Dark Stars Photography! Glamour photo booth & roving party photographers. Onsite body painting by Glitter Machine. Sci-fi themed costumes & makeup highly encouraged!* (But not mandatory—all sci-fi and dancing fools are welcome, regardless of dress!) *Costume & outfit ideas: steampunk/gas-masks/goggles/spacesuits; futuristic military/bounty hunter/Mad Max/Road Warrior; Star Wars/Star Trek/sci-fi movie characters; classic '50s monsters/Elvira/Frankenstein; mad scientists/lab coats/wigs/antennae; anything glow in the dark/LEDs; metallic textures/robots/astronauts; body paint/mutants/aliens; anime/tentacles/space creatures; leather/latex/rubber/fetish; rope light/circuits/wiring/tubes; '50s B-movie sci-fi cheese/Rocky Horror Picture Show...Suggested movies/TV shows for inspiration: Blade Runner/Barbarella/Akira/Star Wars; The Matrix/Metropolis/Alien/Terminator; Planet of the Apes/The Fifth Element/A Clockwork Orange; Mad Max/Predator/Logan's Run/Starship Troopers; Tron/X-Men/Robocop/THX-1138; The Rocky Horror Picture Show/War of the Worlds; Plan Nine from Outer Space/Earth vs. the Flying Saucers; Steamboy/Doctor Who/Firefly/Serenity; Battlestar Galactica/Ghost in the Shell...*”—Restricted Entertainment/Isaac Terpstra and Keith Lim*

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 July and 5, 12, 19, and 26 August 2012: Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, 295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Sunday afternoons: they are made for relaxing, cups of warming beverage, and most especially board games. Thus, *Sunday board games!* Cuppa Joy’s large tables, usually unoccupied space and laid-back attitude suits this purpose perfectly. Bring board games, friends, and of course your lovely selves! If anyone has any board game requests, feel free to post them in the comments and I will try to accommodate. You can also post less specific requests (e.g. ‘games that take eight players,’ ‘games that don’t involve math,’ ‘games about farming’) and I’ll see what I can do. Happy Sunday!”—Keith Lim

2 July 2012: **Arnie Katz**’s birthday. World UFO Day.

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 July *and* 6, 13, 20, and 27 August 2012: Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Painting miniatures can be fun, challenging, and sometimes even outrageous. Feel free to come by the store to paint, share tips, or maybe even learn a thing or two about the craft, nay artform, that is miniatures painting. There are some paints available to use, and brushes, as well as primer. Warmachine figures will likely be the name of the game for most, but anything is welcome.”—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 July *and* 6, 13, 20, and 27 August 2012: Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 July *and* 7, 14, 21, and 28 August 2012: Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Feel free to come by anytime from 5 PM to about 10 PM to play a game or two. There are hundreds of open games for playing, or feel free to bring your own. Parking out front is a buck thirty-five an hour (free after 6 PM), or there is a parkade a block away (buck an hour), across Columbia and down by the river. We are located two blocks northeast of the New Westminster Skytrain Station, at Columbia and Begbie. There is a Waves coffee shop in the same building. Go uphill on Begbie to Clarkson, and the store is to the right. Tuesday is also the Buck a Slice special feature at Fresh Slice Pizza just down the street. Have a good day.—Kirby”—Keith Lim

3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, and 31 July *and* 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, and 30 August 2012: Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. “Vancouver Hack Space provides a physical space where every creative type can gather to share ideas, equipment, and opinions. We aim to create a 24/7 brain gym where members can show up and work on personal projects, consult with friends, and learn new tricks. More than just a studio space with tools, we focus on sharing all sorts of knowledge within a friendly and collaborative atmosphere. At this point most of our members are hardware and software engineers, many of whom share an interest in microcontrollers, robotics, electronic music, and art. We welcome anyone with skills to share or an interest in learning. Come to our open nights and check it out!”—Keith Lim

4 and 18 July *and* 1, 15, and 29 August 2012: Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Wednesday is the new Monday! And by that I mean, we’re switching our every-other-week, weeknight games to Wednesdays, so that I can actually attend! Also popular opinion (i.e. I asked a couple of people) seems to agree—Wednesdays are superior. Some come on down to Cuppa Joy, grab a pint and a samosa, and play some *board games!* *Wednesday Wednesday Wednesday!*!”—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 July *and* 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 August 2012: Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meetup, 7:30–9:30 PM at the Grind & Gallery Coffee Bar, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Cloudscape Comics Society is a community of comic creat-

ors in Vancouver, BC who together publish and distribute quality graphic novel anthologies, as well as host comic workshops and other related events. Here enterprising comic artists come together to network, develop their ideas, and help each other perfect their craft. Everyone is welcome to the weekly evening meet-ups on Wednesdays, starting at 7:30 PM in the back room of the Grind and Gallery Coffee Bar.”—[Keith Lim](#)

4, 11, 18, and 25 July *and* 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 August 2012: [Vancouver Hack Space Kaizen Night AKA Hack the Space](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver.—[Keith Lim](#)

5 July 2012: [Lifehack Freebie Day](#). Get a free e-copy of Joseph Picard’s *Lifehack* from Kindle at [amazon.com](#).—[Joseph Picard](#)

5 and 19 July *and* 2, 16, and 30 August 2012: 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 Lawson](#) (on [Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group](#))

6 July 2012: Premiere of film *The Amazing Spider-Man* (superhero; Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone, Rhys Ifans, Denis Leary, Martin Sheen, Sally Field, C. Thomas Howell, Stan Lee).

6 July *and* 17 August 2012: [Trumpeter Tabletop Games Society Game Night](#), 7–8 PM at Bonsor Community Centre, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby (beside Metrotown Centre). \$4 for members; \$6 for non-members.—[Keith Lim](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 July *and* 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 August 2012: [Fontana Friday—BC Browncoats](#), 6:30–7:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby.—[Keith Lim](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 July *and* 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 August 2012: [Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games](#), 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue (½ block west of MacDonald Street), Vancouver. “In our stores, it’s *open gaming* any time we’re open, so stop in with a friend and try a game! Both of our locations have 7–8 tables and plenty of seating. Space may be limited during tournaments—scheduled events take precedence over open gaming tables. We have about 100 open board games for playing in the store. Playing is *free* except for some tournaments.”—[Keith Lim](#)

7 July 2012: [MiniComi 2](#), 10 AM–5 PM at University of British Columbia (UBC) Student Union Building (SUB) Ballroom. “MiniComi is a one-day artists’ market inspired by those in Japan (e.g. Comiket). Columbia. Artists will bring a wide variety of items for sale. This may include self published comics, doujinshi (fan comics), doujinSoft (we’re hoping), prints, pins, jewellery, plushies and many other creative

things. Like Comiket in Japan, cosplay is most welcomed! Free admission.”—Keith Lim

7 July and 11 August 2012: Video Game Play Days, 1–3 PM at New Westminster Museum and Archives, 302 Royal Avenue, New Westminster. “See the video games your parents used to play: our History of Video Games Play Days will feature some of the greatest (and worst!) console games, on the original equipment. Consoles available for play will include the Atari 2600, Intellivision, Nintendo Entertainment System, Sega Genesis, Sega Dreamcast, early home Pong systems, and many more. Space is limited. All ages.”—Keith Lim

7 July 2012: Pipe This!—A Burlesque Benefit, 7:30 PM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway, Vancouver. [*Fundraiser to stop the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline.*] Minimum donation: \$20. ClubZone.—Shannon Waters via Cormorant Hadoken Russball

7, 14, 21, and 28 July and 4, 11, 18, and 25 August 2012: Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come in anytime on Saturday afternoon until 7 PM and play any of the many open games there are here at the store.—Kirby”—Keith Lim

7 July–1 September 2012: Mansions of the Sun, 7:30 PM Saturdays at H.R. MacMillan Space Centre [*no address given on website*], (604) 738-7827, info@spacecentre.ca, <http://www.spacecentre.ca/>. “Are you truly a Scorpio? Discover what astronomers see when they look at the 13 zodiacal constellations...and how those constellations differ from your astrological sign. (Age: 12+.)”

8 July 2012: **Aaron Harrison**’s birthday. Video Games Day.

8 July 2012: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver. “Admission: \$4 (kids under 14: free). Dealer tables: \$55/center; \$65/wall. 604-322-6412. Special guests: Gabriel Hardman (*Secret Avengers*, *Betrayal of the Planet of the Apes*, *Hulk*), Corinna Bechko (*Betrayal of the Planet of the Apes*, *Heathentown*), Ed Brisson (*Murder Book*, *Acts of Violence*), Jason Copland (*Murder Book*, *Kill All Monsters*), Jillian Lerner (*The Peerless Prodigies of P.T. Barnum*), Albert Art, Monster Attack Team Canada, Don King, Beth Wagner, Gurukitty Studios, and others! Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/vancomicon>. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>. 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.”—Leonard Wong

8 July 2012: VCON Community Picnic, 4–8 PM at Trout Lake/John Hendry Park, 3300 Victoria Drive (@ East 15th Avenue), Vancouver, at the gazebo. “We’re inviting all our attendees, volunteers, and friends to join us for a free community picnic at Trout Lake. There’ll be boardgames, frisbee, hotdogs (veggie option available!) and

drinks. We're also going to do some volunteer training, talk about some great news about VCON, and we'll have cut-rate passes available. If you want to get involved helping plan things, or just hang out with some cool geeks, it's a great time to come out. Forecast says it should be sunny! Come out and have fun! If you like, you can RSVP by [Facebook](#) or by [email](#), or just show up on the day!"—[J. Cunningham, VCON Director of Operations](#)

9 July 2012: [Pushing Your Story Forward](#) workshop by mystery author [Robin Spano](#), 10 AM–12 PM at Richmond Public Library (Boardroom), 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond. "To register, visit any branch of Richmond Public Library, call 604-231-6413, or register online at <http://www.yourlibrary.ca/watson.cfm> [*dead link*]. Quote program #549." "Spano brings her experience as an established author to show writers the tools to get their story started or moving along. Participants will get hands-on experience with practical exercises to accomplish this goal. Feel free to bring some examples of your work to share and discuss."—[Richmond Review](#) via [Bill Marles to Richmond Writers' Network Facebook Group](#)

10 July 2012: Science Fiction and the Religious Imagination, 7 PM at Epiphany Chapel, 6030 Chancellor Boulevard, UBC. "Public lecture explores the themes of a new research collaboration that examines the intersections between religious thought and literature and science-fiction film and fiction. More information at 604-822-9427 or shannonl@vst.edu. Admission free with goodwill offering."—[The Georgia Straight](#)

10 July and 14 August 2012: [Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch](#), 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, 100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver. "Second Tuesday of every month. In the Victorian tradition of conversation in coffee houses, this casual monthly event is open to everyone who wants to just get together and meet up with other local steampunks. Whether you're new to steampunk or well-seasoned, young or old, silly or serious, please feel free to drop by. We can discuss whatever folks want, plan nefarious plots, or just relax, hang out, and get to chat with one another. Costumes welcome but not required—dress as you feel comfortable! I will be at least steamily accessorized, since I have to work immediately beforehand. The only requirement for us to have this space is that everyone should purchase something at the coffee house. They offer teas, coffee, hot chocolate, and various cold beverages, as well as some baked goods."—[Keith Lim](#)

12 July and 9 August 2012: [Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup](#), 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*] "Second Thursday of every month. This is the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting and is shared with the general public at no charge. Please be advised that RASC Vancouver's monthly lectures will be held at different locations throughout 2012. The location of each meeting will be posted in advance, along with details of the speaker and topic. We meet at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month, with astro-coffee, cookies, and juice served after the presentation. Please join us for interesting and informative lectures on all aspects of astronomy and space-science, along with stimulating conversations!"—[Keith Lim](#)

13 July 2012: Embrace Your Geekness Day. Premiere of films *Ice Age: Continental Drift* (computer animation/furry; Joy Behar, Peter Dinklage, Nick Frost, Queen Lati-fah, Denis Leary, John Leguizamo, Jennifer Lopez, Nicki Minaj, Ray Romano, Wanda Sykes, Alan Tudyk) and *Red Lights* (horror; Sigourney Weaver, Robert De Niro, Cillian Murphy).

13 July 2012: Movies Under the Stars: 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), 8 PM at Plan-etarium, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre [*no address given on website*], (604) 738-7827, info@spacecentre.ca, <http://www.spacecentre.ca/>. “A Stanley Kubrick sci-fi classic of humans in search of monoliths in outer space that affect human evolution.”

14 July 2012: J-Fest 2012, 10 AM–6 PM at Douglas College, 700 Royal Avenue, New Westminster. “J-Fest returns this summer as the first event by new Anime Evolution organizer the Vancouver Anime Convention Society! Admission is \$10. Children six and under are free when accompanied by a paying adult. We’re still working on the events, so please feel free to give us some suggestions for things you’d like to see there! Please send your suggestions to jfest@animeevolution.com. Additional information may also be found here: Website; Forums.”—Keith Lim



*Not to be confused
with Geeks after dark.*

14 July 2012: Geeks After Dark: A Wretched Hive of Scum and Villainy, 6–10 PM at the Cellar Nightclub, 1006 Granville Street, Vancouver. “‘GAD Episode VII: A Nude Hope’ (or ‘The Empire Dry-Humps Back’...or ‘Return of the Nude Guys’). It is a period of geek pride. Rebel nerds, striking from an under-ground nightclub, have been making *win* happen against the evil hordes of ‘normal’ people. During their celebration spies have managed to steal secret plans to a new ultimate weapon, *Star Wars* themed burlesque and dancing, an evening of entertainment possessing enough power to destroy the entire planet. Join your hosts, Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi, as they make sure they can keep their people safe and restore a sweet funky groove to the galaxy...*It’s Star Wars as only Geeks After Dark can do it!* Join our lovely performers, our amazing sponsors, and our magnificent hosts in a night of madness that’ll make you forget about at least one of the three prequel movies. Featuring the other worldly performances of: Chai Tea and Flash LeFox, Reese Kay, Tawdry Audrey, Misty Meanor, Riannaconda. Stage kitty duties by Madeline Masquerade. Sponsors, as usual, are Gamedeals Video Games, Gotham Collectibles, and Golden Age Collectables. Hokey geek puns and flashy shows are no match for a good costume at your side so don your Rebel refinery or suit up your Sith and head down to the Cellar nightclub...and may the force be with you *always*. Tickets: [\$]10 (in costume) and [\$]12 (in street clothes).”—Geeks After Dark via Cormorant Hadoken Russball

16 July 2012: **Dennis Kristos**’s birthday.

19 July 2012: [*Premiere of local independent film Mop King, originally scheduled for this date, has been postponed until the film is completed.*] [Trailer](#). [Facebook](#). [Official website](#).—[Bill Marles](#)

19–22 July 2012: [BC Renaissance Festival](#), 9 AM–8:30 PM and/or 12–6 PM [?] at Thunderbird Show Park, 24550 72nd Avenue, Langley. “Our Faire is 4.5 acres of pure fun! Four stages offer variety entertainment all day long. In addition, we dazzle you with a fully armored joust, the King and his glittering Court, amazing arts and crafts, delicious food, fine spirits, music, dance, parades, rides and games. Join us for a day of play! Ticket prices for the 2012 season: \$18 at the gate for adults, \$10 for seniors (+65), \$10 for children 5–12 (children under 3 are free) and \$17 for youth (13–18). All entertainment shows, the Joust, the ongoing story line, and everything going on within our gates are covered in the ticket price.”—[Keith Lim](#) and [Greg Cairns](#)

20 July 2012: **Julie McGalliard’s** birthday. Moon Day. Premiere of film *The Dark Knight Rises* (superhero; Tom Hardy, Christian Bale, Liam Neeson, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Anne Hathaway, Gary Oldman, Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine, Matthew Modine, Tom Conti, Troy Polamolu, Ben Roethlisberger).

20 July and 17 August 2012: [Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic](#), 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello, for Friday night Magic we will be running a limited Draft FNM. Cost is three booster packs plus \$2, starting at 6:30 PM. Also feel free to come by for some casual Magic: The Gathering from 6–9 PM. Feel free to use the house decks if you just want to try out the game. Don’t forget to check out [our Facebook page](#).”—[Keith Lim](#)

20 July and 17 August 2012: [IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting](#), 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Second Floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. “Club meetings are held on the third Friday of every month (with very few exceptions such as if the third Friday falls on Good Friday or is too close to Christmas—check schedule). Doors open at 7 PM. Meetings officially run from 7:30–9:30 PM.”—[Keith Lim](#)

21 July 2012: [Astromini-Con Vancouver](#). [*No address or time given on flyer or website.*] “Four games over the course of a day. 24 players. \$30. 1500 points. Forge-world and specialty armies are all welcome. Every table with its own scenario and objectives. Best overall, best sportsman, best army, best appearance, best general, best terrain, best single miniature, best army list.”

21 July 2012: [Saturn-5 Saturday: Rockets](#), 12:30–3:30 PM at H.R. MacMillan Space Centre [*no address given on website*], (604) 738-7827, info@spacecentre.ca, <http://www.spacecentre.ca/>. “It’s another go-around to get some firsthand experience with Newton’s laws of motion and blast off some pop bottle rockets (please bring your own two-litre plastic pop bottle if you want to take your rocket home). Free with admission.”

21 July 2012: The Summer Festival, 1–6 PM at Simon Fraser University Convocation Mall, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby. “The Summer Festival is an annual event hosted by the Altered Reality Club, SFU’s club for anime, cosplay, and gaming. Modelled after matsuri festivals in Japan, we’ll be delivering a day filled with carnival-style games, entertainment, artist and vendor booths, and food stalls. Participate in these fun activities for raffle tickets which can win you either one of several door prizes, or the exciting chance to smash a watermelon on-stage! Attendance is absolutely *free*. If you have cosplays or yukata, we highly encourage you to wear them! Join our Facebook event! [1] [2] Unfortunately, no free parking will be available, but stalls are available under the Convocation Mall. We highly recommend coming by transit! To get to the Burnaby campus, try taking the 144 from Burnaby or the 135 from Vancouver. Otherwise, simply take the SkyTrain to Production Way station and hop on the 145 from there.”—Keith Lim

21 July and 18 August 2012: Vancouver Comic Jam, 8–9 PM at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2404 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Vancouver Comic Jam is generally held the third Saturday of the month. In cases of long weekends or other conflicting dates, the jam may move to the second or third Saturday. For up to date information, join the VCJ Facebook group or follow us on Twitter. *Who can come?*: Anyone who is of legal drinking age is invited. *How much?*: No admission fee. There is a \$5 minimum purchase per person required by the Wallflower. They provide their full menu to order from and alcohol galore: beer, wine, highballs and shots. *There will be a gratuity of 18–20% added to all bills because we are a large group*. Bring your own pencils/pens. Paper is provided. If you’re drawing with markers that bleed through paper, be sure to either bring a drawing surface or place extra sheets of paper under the paper you’re drawing on.”—Keith Lim

21 [?]-22 July 2012: WCP GT 12 at Army, Navy, Air Force Legion at 5896 Fraser Street (at 43rd Avenue), Vancouver. “Cost: \$55. Contact wcpgt12@wcp-vancouver.com. This is our eighth year! Warhammer Fantasy at 2500 Pts! Complete rules at http://indygt.wcp-vancouver.com/.” Friday [?] 6:30–10 PM; Saturday 9:30 AM–12:00 AM; Sunday 10 AM–5 PM [+]. [*No indication on flyer or website what this event is. Wargaming?*]

22 July 2012: **Evahn Thorsen**’s birthday.

27 July 2012: Premiere of films *The Watch* (SF/comedy; Jonah Hill, Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Billy Crudup, Will Forte, R. Lee Erney) and *Ruby Sparks* (romance/comedy/fantasy; Antonio Banderas, Alia Shawkat, Steve Coogan, Annette Bening, Elliott Gould, Aasif Mandvi, Wallace Langham).

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

MACINTOSH LC
"CAPTAIN PLANET"
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY
"COUNT DUCKULA"



27 July 2012: Geeks After Dark Presents: Fifty Shades of Grey Episode II! Crap and Double Crap, 8 PM at Gamedeals Video Games, 407 Columbia Street, New Westminster. “You came, you saw, you gave very positive feedback, so we’re diving once more into the breach with a second helping! GAD hosts Tyler and Cam will be back, reading the best that popular fiction in 2012 has to offer, E.L. James’ erotic opus *Fifty Shades of Grey*! Graduate student Anastasia Steele, having tended to her sickly roommate, has driven to Seattle to meet enigmatic billionaire

Christian Grey, as well as with three nameless blonde women and one black guy. Despite not being a journalist or knowing anything about the man (except what he looks like, based on the layout of his office building), she will delve deep into his psyche as he delves deep into whatever she’s got going on... Tyler will be reading Christian Grey while Cam will be reading Anastasia Steele. We will be putting up a best-of video with clips of our favorite parts, but remember—you *really* do have to be there. Except for the parts read in Episode I, neither host has read the book so every page will bring a new surprise. Their reactions will continue to be *extra* fresh. Tickets will be available at the door, \$10 for regular clothes or only \$5 if you come wearing your sexiest sweatpants (we will accept PJ pants, yoga pants, or even jeggings). Don’t want to come casual? We’re also offering \$5 at the door for anyone in any fetish wear (short rubber skirts, leather suits, corsets, lingerie and lace, *really* sex it up). It’s our sleepy or sexy discount! Anyone who attended Episode I will know why. We will be bringing back our voice baskets as well as the *make it worse* lunchbox of shame (so remember to keep some money for show influencing bribery). As always, 100% of the bribes will go to help GAD with buying costumes and putting on more shows and events, so please keep on supporting your nerd community and those that want to make it better—or at least, weirder. Some lucky attendee will also be walking away with a nicely ‘adult’ prize from Erin’s Goody Drawer. Check out Erin’s website at <http://www.erinsgoodydrawer.com/> for more! Make sure to tell your friends, because this really isn’t something you should keep to yourself. We will be making a list of audience participation guidelines to make this our *most interactive show ever* (Yay!) so keep an eye on this space for details. As always, we will book another show as soon as we hit 1200 likes, so tell all your friends about how great we are, share the crazy stuff we put up from time to time, and leave comments on our business—we like hearing what you have to say! *See you there!*”—Geeks After Dark via Cormorant Hadoken Russball

27 July 2012: Movie Under the Stars: Star Trek (2009), 8 PM at Planetarium, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre [*no address given on website*], (604) 738-7827, info@spacecentre.ca, <http://www.spacecentre.ca/>. “This sci-fi film is the prequel to the original *Star Trek* series (1966–1969).”

28 July 2012: **Robin Bougie** and **Adam Charlesworth**’s birthdays.

28 July and 25 August 2012: Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come by anytime on Saturday from noon until midnight and play any of the many

open games there are here at the store. The event is perfect for any of those more epic games we have at the store that you've been wanting to try or for any you might own but can rarely find the time/space/players to accommodate. Besides a couple of local coffee joints, there are a bevy of nearby eating establishments, and we will probably order some supper at around 6 PM. Hope to see you there.—Kirby & Critty”—Keith Lim

31 July 2012: **Felicity Walker** and **Michael Barrick**'s birthdays.

August 2012

3 August 2012: Premiere of film *Total Recall* (action/SF/unnecessary remake; Kate Beckinsale, Bryan Cranston, Colin Farrell, Bill Nighy, Jessica Biel, Ethan Hawke, John Cho, Bokeem Woodbine).

5 August 2012: **Élisabeth Vonarburg** and **Scott Tycholaz**'s birthdays.

6 August 2012: **Christina Carr**'s birthday.

9 August 2012: Book Lovers' Day.

10 August 2012: Movie Under the Stars: *The Right Stuff* (1983), 8 PM at Planetarium, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre [*no address given on website*], (604) 738-7827, info@spacecentre.ca, <http://www.spacecentre.ca>. “A film adapted from Tom Wolfe's book that looks into what it took to become an astronaut.”

10–12 August 2012: Dragonflight XXXIII at Bellevue Hilton [*no address given on flyer*]. “RPG, board games, miniatures, LARPs, RPGA, war games, auction, movies.”

11 August 2012: Geeks After Dark: Aim to Misbehave, 6–10 PM at the Cellar Nightclub, 1006 Granville Street, Vancouver.—Geeks After Dark via Cormorant Hadoken Russball

17 August 2012: National Black Cat Awareness Day. Premiere of films *ParaNorman* (animation/comedy/fantasy/horror; John Goodman, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Jeff Garlin, Tempestt Bledsoe) and *The Odd Life of Timothy Green* (comedy/fantasy; Jennifer Garner, Ron Livingston, David Morse, Dianne Wiest, Common, M. Emmet Walsh).

17–19 August 2012: Anime Revolution at Vancouver Convention Centre [*no address given on flyer*]. “[...] A brand new three-day convention. [...] We cater to a wide range of activities, exhibits, panels, and performances. These include art, animation, comics, costuming, cultural displays, dance, gaming, musical performances, and others. Our goal is to provide people of all ages with entertainment, education, and cultural exchange. [...] We hope to see you there!” Guests: Vincent Corazza (Tuxedo Mask—*Sailor Moon*), Sugar Beard (Chibi Moon—*Sailor Moon*), Jessica

Nigri (cosplayer/spokesmodel), Sarah Edmonson (Lori—*Transformers Cybertron*), Katie Griffin (Ray Hino—*Sailor Moon*), Sam Logan (*Sam & Fuzzy*), Noah Antwiler, Doug Walker [*That Guy with the Glasses—Felicity*], Fighting Dreamers Productions, Mark Nguyen, Inufanne, Susan Roman [Heavy Metal, Rock & Rule, Robocop (TAS), Maxie's World, X-Men (1992)—*Felicity*], Ron Rubin [C.O.P.S., X-Men (1992)—*Felicity*], & more! Events: speed dating, cosplay café, console wars. Contests: Revolution Idol, cosplay contest, swimsuit contest (19+). Exhibits: anime viewing room, artists' alley, exhibitors' hall. [Facebook](#). [Twitter](#).

17–19 August 2012: [RCW 139 at Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville Hotel](#) (FKA Radisson Plaza Hotel), 90 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario. [Due South *fan convention*.]—[Garth Spencer](#)

17–19 August 2012: [Imperial Hobbies' Customer Appreciation Sale](#), 11 AM–9 PM (Friday), 10 AM–5:30 PM (Saturday), and 12–5 PM (Sunday) at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond, 604-273-4427, orders@imperialhobbies.ca.

18 August 2012: [Saturn-5 Saturday: Mars Rovers](#), 12:30–3:30 PM at H.R. MacMillan Space Centre [*no address given on website*], (604) 738-7827, info@spacecentre.ca, <http://www.spacecentre.ca/>. “In this session, we'll be celebrating the Mars rover *Curiosity*'s successful (hopefully) landing on Mars. Free with admission.”

18 August 2012: [Vancouver Zombiewalk \(New Route\)](#), 3–5 PM at Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver. “*Less than one year* and counting until the infection spreads again, and the undead hordes shamble through Vancouver in search of brains...and of course give people a bloody good scare!”—[Keith Lim](#)

18 August 2012: [Vancouver Zombiewalk \(Old Route\)](#), 4–7 PM at Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver. “This is a flash mob! An event of zombie revolution! *Important*: I am not taking any responsibility or ownership of the walk or anyone's actions during the walk. We start [at] *Vancouver Art Gallery*; we end on the far beach, by the concession stand off Davie/Sunset Beach. *No one owns the walk. Be safe! Monitor each other. Respect the community and each other!* Don't mess up private property or cars passing by. *Don't damage the walk route or the vehicles or each other! Ham it up. Play up your inner zombie for cameras!* (But don't touch the cameras.) *Respect and obey the Vancouver Police Department!* Drink *lots of water*. If you have a group, a cause you want to promote, a night, an event, a store to [*promote*], *don't just hand out flyers or tickets*. Set up water stations, volunteer to help co-ordinate...do it for the *freedom for zombies to walk!* If you have a night, T-shirt, after-party, put it out...as long as it is living-dead positive/*fun* positive! *Be respectful of children!* It can be terrifying if they aren't old enough to understand what is going on. If a child looks frightened, leave them alone and move on! *Spread the word like a zombie virus!*”—[Aaron Harrison](#)

19 August 2012: [Board Game Swap Meetup](#), 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Every third Sunday of the month a swap meet will be held where gamers can sell or trade any board games they would

like to get rid of. RSVP for the event and you can list what you are looking to sell, or what you would like in trade. Use the message board to propose trades or list items for sale. Board Game Warriors can be a neutral site for meeting and doing transactions during store hours.”—[Keith Lim](#)

23 August 2012: Chinese Valentine’s Day.

24 August 2012: **Karen New**’s birthday. Premiere of films *The Apparation* (horror) and *Robot and Frank* (comedy/SF; Frank Langella, James Marsden, Liv Tyler, Susan Sarandon, Peter Sarsgaard, Jeremy Sisto).

24 August 2012: [Movie Under the Stars: *Spaceballs* \(1987\)](#), 8 PM at Planetarium, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre [*no address given on website*], (604) 738-7827, info@spacecentre.ca, <http://www.spacecentre.ca/>. “Canadians Rick Moranis and John Candy are hilarious in this Mel Brooks spoof of popular sci-fi classics.”

24–26 August 2012: [Cos & Effect](#), 6 PM–12 AM at University of British Columbia, 6138 Student Union Boulevard, Vancouver. “Cos & Effect is an annual costume, cosplay, and alternative fashion convention. [...] It is owned and produced by IRL Events, and made possible with the support of the diverse geek and sub-culture communities of BC. Our convention’s content is targeted towards people 16–30 years old, although most of our content is appropriate for all ages. All 18+ or 19+ content is clearly marked, and IDs will be checked before entry. Our goal is to provide a fun and creativity fueled convention, featuring tons of original panels and events not available anywhere else. Unleash your creativity!”—[Keith Lim](#)

26 August 2012: **Sarah Stierch**’s birthday.

26 August 2012: Comix & Stories, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver. “A day of alternative and small press comics, zines, artwork, and culture.”—[Leonard Wong](#)

30 August 2012: Frankenstein Day.

31 August 2012: Premiere of film *The Possession* (horror; Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Agam Darshi, Grant Show, Rob LaBelle, Matisyahu).

News-Like Matter

Notes from June 2012 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (president), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, and Stewart Smyth.

Ray started to say that “with Ray Bradbury dead, Ray Harryhausen is the last...” and then forgot what came next. Graeme suggested, “...the last of the Harry-

hausen/Bradbury/Ackerman trio?” Graeme said the three knew each other when they were teenagers. Long before you could buy realistic scary rubber masks in stores, Harryhausen would make them and the three would go to the movies, put the masks on halfway through, and then make weird noises until the people in front of them turned around, and were scared by the masks!

Graeme said that Isaac Asimov hated good weather because people would phone and want to do things—he wanted to stay home and write, so he liked bad weather. I like bad weather because it’s not too hot, not too bright, and has ambience.

Stewart said that Red Robinson,¹ although Canadian, was drafted into the US Army because he had lived long enough in the US. Continuing with more fun facts, Stewart added that Alexandre Dumas was black (Joe added: both *père* and *fils*) and Canada invented Kraft Dinner. Graeme said, “I love Kraft Dinner.” I thought Graeme said “Lovecraft Dinner”!

Graeme’s mom was friends with Robinson. Robinson used one of Graeme’s photos in his memoirs, but forgot to credit Graeme. Stewart and Graeme compared stories about why the Beatles once told Robinson to get off the stage. Graeme had heard it was because Robinson’s intro was getting too long and self-promoting; Stewart had heard that Robinson refused to wear his glasses on stage and so was wandering around bumping into things during the performance.

Stewart remembered some pranks Robinson pulled when he was a teenage radio DJ—reporting a beached whale in English Bay to get people to come to an event (20,000 showed up); impersonating Jimmy Stewart on the phone to his boss while the real Jimmy Stewart was in town (both his boss and Jimmy Stewart warned him not to do it again).

Kathleen arrived and donated \$70 to the BCSFA bank account. Thanks, Kathleen!

My notes say something about accents: British, Southern (US), Scottish, Chaucerian, Shakespearean. This somehow led to Alexander Pope’s poem “The Rape of the Lock,” and in particular, the word “rape” in the title. I thought it was ironic hyperbole; Kathleen pointed out that the original meaning of the word “rape” was “seizure,” so the title also works on a literal level, as “The Seizure of the Lock.”

Graeme asked whether, throughout history, royal families needed translators, since they all spoke each other’s languages. Someone replied that royals sometimes didn’t speak the language of their own subjects—a language of diplomacy, such as French, being used far more often in meetings with other heads of state. Ray added that an episode of the 1960s *Batman* show used actual Russian as a fictional language, including Russian swear words. This upset Russia.

1 Famous local broadcaster and entrepreneur.

I vaguely remembered Dracula (Leslie Nielsen) and Van Helsing (Mel Brooks) shouting at each other in ostensible Transylvanian, but really Yiddish, in *Dracula: Dead and Loving It* (1995). [Subsequent research cannot confirm this.—*Future Felicity*] Stewart recalled that Breck (the shampoo people) once came out with a laundry detergent called Dreck, but received letters (“Sacks and sacks of letters,” added Joe) and had to change it.

Ray mentioned trains again (this time SkyTrain, and also buses).

Felicity Walker
Sunday 17 June 2012

Ernest Borgnine, 1917–2012

Ernest Borgnine, actor, died today, aged 95. Won an Oscar for the lead role in *Marty* (1955). Genre roles include *The Devil's Rain* (1975), *The Ghost of Flight 401* (TV movie, 1978), *The Black Hole* (1979), *Escape from New York* and *Deadly Blessing* (both 1981), and *Alice in Wonderland* (1985), as well as the short-lived TV series *Future Cop* (1976–77), famously sued by Harlan Ellison.

Steve Green
Sunday 8 July 2012

Free New SF Novel

A friend of mine from high school wanted to give back to SF so he wrote a novel which he posted on the Internet for free. He hopes you post your comments on greencomet.org. I liked the story, and got into it more as the story went on. If you would like to read it and critique it, here is the address:

<http://greencomet.org/>

Steve 40

Steve Forty to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group
Wednesday 11 July 2012

Aurora Awards: Local Fans Nominated

Hi everybody,

If Vancouver's fan community wanted to get together and make a splash there's an opportunity...this year there are six out of the ten Auroras that have folks from Vancouver & area nominated for them:

Best Fan Filk—Cindy Turner

Best Fan Organizational—Rose Wilson

Best Fan Publication—*Space Cadet* (Graeme Cameron)

Best Fan Publication—*BCSFazine* (Felicity Walker)

Best Graphic Novel—*Goblins* (Tarol Hunt)

Best Poem—“A Good Catch” (Colleen Anderson)

The deadline for voting is Monday, July 23rd; you need to be a member of CSFFA to vote but it can all be done through the one portal: <http://www.prix.aurorawards.ca/Membership/>. (If you're not a member, scroll down a short distance to “Become Society Member.”)

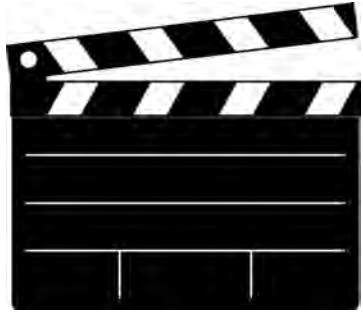
If this could be circulated to the WCSFA/VCON list and 10% of them voted we could hold a shiny-new-Auroras presentation to a proud bunch of Vancouver fans at VCON this fall! Please circulate this to your own lists if you agree that there's no harm (and lots of pride) in supporting our own.

Clint Budd
Friday 13 July 2012

Richard D. Zanuck (1934–2012)

Richard D. Zanuck, US movie producer, died 13 July, aged 77. Films include *Cocoon* (1985), *Chain Reaction* (1996), *Deep Impact* (1998), the *Planet of the Apes* remake (2001), *Reign of Fire* (2002), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005), *Alice in Wonderland* (2010), *Dark Shadows* (2012) and *Hidden* (due 2013).

Steve Green
Friday 13 July 2012



Walking Dead Escape: Zombie Obstacle Course in San Diego

Zombie obstacle course (i.e. people are in a real-life obstacle course trying to avoid actors pretending to be zombies) that was in San Diego on July 12–14: <http://www.thewalkingdeadescape.com/>.

Have watched two related videos:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQkPWY-6HA0>: “The Walking Dead: Escape—Survivor Perspective Highlights” (run/dodge/climb-through with some parts edited out; uploaded by <http://www.youtube.com/user/gamespot>).
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MloAWjphPY>: “The Walking Dead Escape: Interview with Robert Kirkman” (2m 16s long; unlisted video uploaded by <http://www.youtube.com/user/SkyboundComics> found via <http://www.skybound.com/skybound/2012/7/12/the-walking-dead-escape-interview-with-robert-kirkman.html>). I didn't think much of the interview, but maybe some of you will like it.

EarthFurst to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group
Wednesday 18 July 2012

THE SURVIVORS!

What to Do When the Chips Are Down

Taral Wayne

[*This article was previously published in The Drink Tank #264, edited by Chris Garcia.*]

The other day my toilet exploded. Not in a huge, spectacular fireball, like in the movies. But there was a bang and the chips flew in different directions.

There were no casualties. Nonetheless, it was very disconcerting, since I was sitting on it at the time.

At this point, I should mention that it was a wooden toilet seat and cover. I had enjoyed the warm, organic pleasure of natural wood for many years, ever since coming across a discarded seat in a trash heap. No more plastic for me. Cold one day, sweaty the next, plastic seats are for public washrooms; not the home. The old seat had been assembled with care, the wood fitting tightly and polished luxuriously, like the dashboard of a 1934 Duesenberg. But after years of sitting pleasure, the brass work turned as green as jade and had corroded through. My improvised hinges came to naught, so I had to buy a replacement. \$40 was a lot of money, though, even for quality.

Wal-Mart's wooden seats were under twenty bucks. It showed. There were gaps between the wooden pieces that looked like the trench on the Death Star. I imagined nano-sized X-Wing Fighters peeling off and diving in. Despite the glaring imperfection, the replacement felt *almost* as good as the Rolls Royce of toilet seats that had previously given me so much pleasure.

Until the day it exploded.

None of the pieces were broken, fortunately. The glue had simply failed and two pieces had come apart. They were tongue and groove type construction, and—with a little straightening—I was able to fit them together again. A new toilet seat was just about last on my list of things to spend money on, after all. I only had Elmer's White Glue around the house, but I remembered from somewhere that carpenter's glue was pretty much the same thing. White glue dries quickly, but I let it sit for twelve hours, just to be sure. I figured I had no pressing need for it any sooner.

Next day, I removed and replaced the brass brackets. They had been poorly positioned, and didn't fit over the ends of the tube very well. Under duress, the tube sometimes slipped out of place and the hinge became unhinged.

It was finally time to bolt the seat to the bowl. That's when I discovered that one of the plastic nuts that held the bolts had cracked. You could tighten it so far, but no farther. One turn more, and it slipped and was looser than before. The result was



a toilet seat that shimmied from side to side while you sat. Most unsatisfactory. I needed to buy a new pair of nuts.

No jokes about that, please.

There are hardware stores, and there are hardware stores. Some are Home Improvement Centers, and are very little smaller than the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. They have so many rows of folding garden chairs, lawn hoses, sprinklers, plastic tubing, copper pipes, electrical wire, rubber mats, circular saw blades, drill bits, screws, nails, sandpaper, tarpaper, taps, sockets, brackets, chain saws, routers, gasoline generators, propane torches, picture frames, bathroom tiles, and house paint that 26 letters of the alphabet are insufficient. Footsore, the consumer wanders from aisle AAT to KBB in search of a “slip-fastening, circular Babbitt clamp.” Or is it an “adjustable screw-grip, stay collar” he wants? Nor is he sure whether 7/8 inch is the same as 17.5 mm. (It isn’t.) The hired help doesn’t know either and only waves you in the vague direction of Sector G, North-Northeast corner of the complex. She was hired last week.

Instead, I went to the neighborhood hardware, and happily discovered that hardware stores were *meant* to be old fashioned. A guy in a red shirt, who had run the store since 1966, looked in some boxes and gave me a single, chrome plated nut. Cost? Ten cents. Cash on the barrelhead.

I twirled the nut home with my fingers, then finished the job of tightening with a kitchen knife. Perfect fit. And a perfect sit.

Now, whenever nature calls, I can relax on the job with a sense of security, and leisurely browse through the collection of exotic catalogs I keep in the bathroom for that purpose. An antique, hand painted, hand carved mahogany replica of the U.S.S. *Olympia*? Only \$1999? Too costly, even if it *was* made in 1919. A table lamp in the shape of a woman’s leg, as seen in *A Christmas Story*? Tempting, at only \$49.95, but a *shade* tacky. How about an ex-Soviet diving helmet for only \$899? Naw...I think I’ve had enough brass for the time being.

Taral Wayne

Monday 20 September 2010

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (<u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 20 (top), 22
Clip art (Pat Boyette).....	Page 20 (bottom)
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