

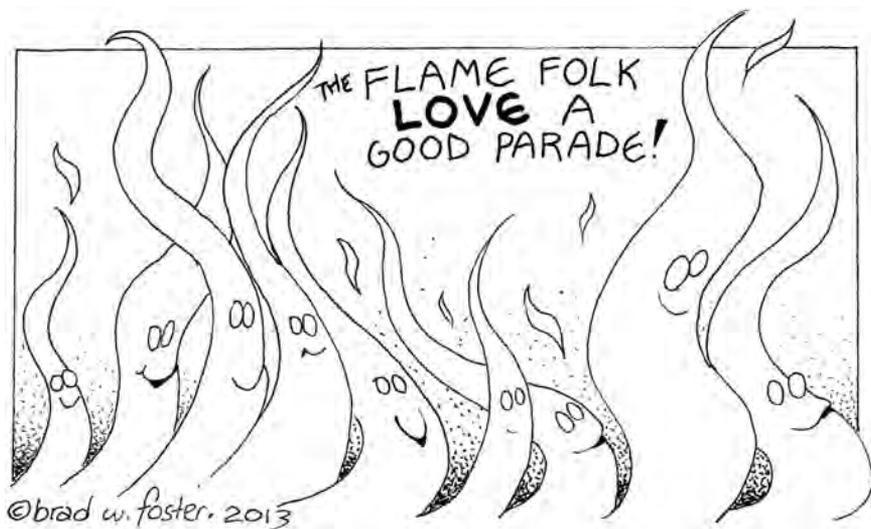
# BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#483

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August 2013



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at [felicity4711@gmail.com](mailto: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 and Next Month in BCSFA**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sunday 18 August @ 7 PM:    | August BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. |
| Friday 23 August:           | Submission deadline for September <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).                                  |
| Friday 30 August:           | September <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).   |
| Sunday 15 September @ 7 PM: | September BCSFA meeting.   |
| Friday 20 September:        | Submission deadline for October <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).                                    |
| Friday 27 September:        | October <i>BCSFAzine</i> 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/](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.*]

**Dave Haren**  
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Thursday 11 July 2013

Hi Felicity,

I'm a reader of SF, and I realized that I don't read hoping to become dumber. The stereotype of "literature of escape from reality" is just so much hogwash perpetuated by people who never looked beyond a pulp cover or cheesy movie poster. While it is convenient to have a horde of people who can show up to work and do a boring job with marvelous accuracy, it is also more interesting to have people who suddenly realize they can fly in space, plumb the ocean depths, roam the jungles or probe the machinery of life. This has been tagged sense of wonder, pioneer spirit and other high sounding phrases. It is just what happens when you read and learn something that removes the bars holding you away from a more interesting life. Getting older has a tendency to make you start thinking you know everything you need to know. Nothing could be farther from the truth, it just means you are trying to fit in with the boring masses whose entertainment is designed to make them become dumber.

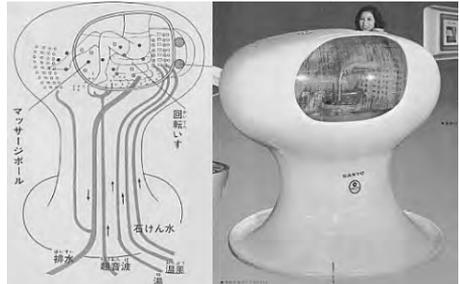
A horrible occurrence recently points to the need to be smarter by increasing the range of knowledge beyond a narrow specialist focus. Apparently a fire crew fighting a fire (their area of expertise) shut down a railroad locomotive (something they are not aware of as a technology). What happened next was tragedy with repercussions far beyond fire departments and railroads. In the world we have built there are a million things that can do this on larger or smaller scales every day. The only thing that might save us is spending some time reading "what if" material and becoming smarter about the world we live in.

I'm still laughing about the last issue. Invisible faery clipart and footnotes too, this is getting to be pretty high class stuff. One of Games Workshop (GW to those who read footnotes) notables from antiquity showed up here without his trademarked hirsuteness. The miniatures are kind of steampunkish and worth a look.

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/922026722/dark-skies-in-the-land-of-the-empires>

An updated version of this<sup>1</sup> appears to have been marketed to nursing homes. I wondered how the average denizen of a nursing home was supposed to climb up into that thing unless they didn't show the crane used to lift them.

[*Good point! Maybe they also sell a stairs attachment. Or the device goes in rooms with recessed floors.*]



1 Image at right.



*“The Edmonton Swastikas—a Canadian women’s ice hockey team. Circa 1916.”*

It turns out that if you shape rust into a nano-sized cauliflower in water it will give off hydrogen gas if you shine sunlight on it.

I’m still waiting for someone to build the one that breaks the cellulose bond and reattaches it forming sugar out of cellulose.

Before you say that solves all of the world’s problems—food, fuel, clean water—you might want to take a wider look at the world’s problems. We can solve all of them without gee whizz nano-tech by a simple act of collective will power. Just

refrain from making them worse and encourage others to do the same. Look at Snowden. Security guard tells the world what spooks are doing, then some meddling loon stirs up every Indio in North and South America by tampering with the only Indio with real power and international presence. So now the problem has become worse not better. First do no harm should be the motto of everyone.

*[Who stirred up the Indios?]*

Yeah, I know, Pollyanna should let us meddle with others with impunity and shut up about a better world... *grin*.

I also have a question for Fans at large. Tanith Lee wrote a book about the French Revolution. Does anyone know the title? Her website seems to be frozen in time.

*[Is it The Gods Are Thirsty: A Novel of the French Revolution?]*

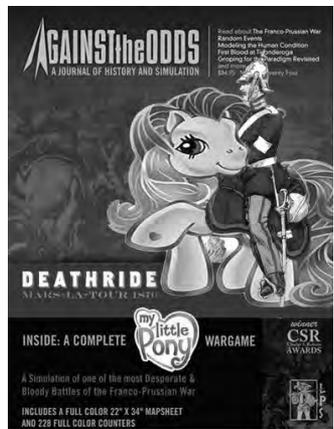
I heartily applaud the SFWA controversy and the divestiture of the Con from dubious connections. If this seems obscure read a few fanzines, find out what you’re missing, or ask Graeme. He knows a lot about things.

*[I looked it up online. I sort of wish I hadn’t.]*

Vegas spends all its money on touristy glitter so there’s not much left for the elegance of a Toronto. If you think of it as a carnival run by crooks you won’t be far off the mark. Most American cities have lost whatever charm they possessed as the crap construction industry exploded after World War Two. It is far more noticeable when everything is new (built in the last decade).

The problem with living by (in/next to) water is when it decides to rise into your area. We have a river here that created millions of acres of nice flat farm land, so people moved onto it. Having spent years and millions of dollars it might be under control now. If the levees fail you’ll see 10% of the food on Earth drown. This is viewed as a non-problem until the waters start to rise.

Graeme has done a nice job with the zine site. Far too many think that a batch of convoluted links obscured by artsy fartys popups and coloured daubings are how to pass information with a comp. Just because it is possible doesn’t make it a good idea. The rules should be, is it easy to find the information, is it easy to read the information, and is it easy



to retrieve the part you need from a site. The rest is usually garish fluff of dubious provenance. The comp is a black box akin to the philosophers' stone of alchemy, but just because it can do anything doesn't mean you have to do everything with it in every instance.

I'm including a coloured PDF which doesn't need to be added but it should be seen if not believed.

*[There are two files attached that have to be seen to be believed, one in colour, though neither are PDFs. I've included them all. ☺]*

Warm regards,  
Dave Haren

**Lloyd Penney**  
1706-24 Eva Road,  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9C 2B2  
[penneys@bell.net](mailto:penneys@bell.net)

Wednesday 17 July 2013

Dear Felicity:

After the big rainstorm, the resultant flooding and power outages, and a trip to the repair shop for the computer, finally I can whip up a LOC. Here's comments on *BCSFazine* 482.

I am not sure there are any Games Workshop stores left. There used to be a number of them in Toronto, but to the best of my knowledge, they are mostly gone. I am not a gamer, so I wouldn't be aware of any gaming conventions in Toronto.



I am a little surprised that John Purcell knew of *The Maple Leaf Rag*; I wasn't sure how many copies of that fine newszine crossed the border. John must have seen my own reportorial essays and LOCs in that zine. It's interesting to see how far back we both go. Thanks for your good wishes on my birthday and our anniversary, John.

Sheryl...there seem to be KTF analogues everywhere in popular culture. There's Simon Cowell and Gordon Ramsey who make a good living being nasty bastards in entertainment and cooking respectively. In Canada, we have Don Cherry and Kevin O'Leary in hockey and finance. No one wants to be on the end of their sharp tongues, but too many seem to want to watch them shred others.

*[Kevin O'Leary reminds me of a more heavyset George Wyner.]*

My LOC...nothing new has happened, but Yvonne and I will be attending the *Murdoch Mysteries* Experience in early August. Through events like this, we've met most of the cast, and we've met *Murdoch* creator Maureen Jennings. There should be about 180 people at this event, and people are coming in from the US, the UK and Belgium, not to mention Canadians from coast to coast.

As the conventions are listed in the calendar, we're once more reminded that the demise of the Polaris series of conventions has left a sizable hole in the fannish calendar. Some local fans have decided to go to San Diego for the big comicon, on as I type, I believe.

If I am able to find the originals of any zines I've worked on in the past, I will scan them and see if someone can .PDF them for Graeme's website. I will check with Keith Soltys to see if he has files from *Torus*.

Time to go, time to send this off, and time to think of hitting the sack. Many thanks, and see you with the next issue.

Yours,  
Lloyd Penney

**Michael Bertrand**  
[fruvousfox@gmail.com](mailto:fruvousfox@gmail.com)

Wednesday 24 July 2013



Yay me, I remembered to write a LOC, and only had to be bugged about it like...twice! Trust me, for me, that is a memory feat of Kreskin proportions.

Heya BCSFAns! It's your award-winning interLOCutor bombarding your grey matter with twittering weirdness once more.

On the personal front, I have continued to make a video of at least 60 seconds in length every single day. Today's vid was number 47 in the series, which means that I am something like 78 percent done.

I have no idea what I will do when I am finished.

Dave Haren, I do not agree that every group sees themselves as the real humans and everyone else as sad wannabees. That is definitely the tendency, of course, and every group will have members that confuse the subjective and the objective in thinking the group they like (the one with them in it) must also be the best in the whole darn world.

I do believe in the "monkey space" theory, however, which states that human beings have room for around 100–150 "people" in their minds, and those people are the real people in their lives, and everyone else has to be an abstraction because we simply do not have enough empathy slots for modern life.

One last note: I really enjoyed Joseph Picard's writing style. The first paragraph knocked me for a loop in the best way possible. The ghost of Asimov indeed!

That's my space for this month, folks. Tune in next month for whatever the hell I do next.

**We Also Heard From:** R. Graeme Cameron, Lynda Williams.

### **RANDOM NOSTALGIA**

**IBM PCJR  
EXPO RAILINGS  
MACINTOSH CLASSIC  
JEHLI NASSAL--SNOWBOARDER-IN-TRAINING  
SHOGLIN WARRIORS  
JOSE DELBO**

## Calendar

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

### Already in Progress



1 June–31 August 2013: [Teen Manga Character Design Contest](#). “Share your love of manga with VPL’s Teen Manga Advisory Group!” Eligibility: residents of the Lower Mainland between the ages of 12 and 18 years old. Enter for chance to win prizes. “Create your own manga character in one page of artwork. Tell us their story in 700 words or less.” Drop off your entry at your local branch or e-mail your entry to [teens@vpl.ca](mailto:teens@vpl.ca). Please visit <http://teens.vpl.ca/> for full contest details. For more info call Children’s Library at 604-331-3663.—[Julian Castle](#)

24 June and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 July and 5, 12, and 19 August 2013: *Under the Dome* TV series [sci-fi/horror; Stephen King, Brian K. Vaughan (*Y: The Last Man*)] on CBS.—[Julian Castle](#)

15, 22, and 29 June and 6, 13, 20, and 27 July and 3 August 2013: *Zero Hour* TV series (drama/conspiracy). IMDB has in fantasy genre. On Global and ABC. Ten previously unaired episodes of cancelled series.—[Julian Castle](#)

27 June–3 August 2013 (Monday to Saturday): [Avenue Q](#) (puppet musical) at Granville Island Stage, 1585 Johnston Street (on Granville Island), Vancouver. Monday and Tuesday 7:30 PM; Wednesday 2 PM and 8 PM; Thursday and Friday 8 PM; Saturday 2 PM and 8 PM. Approximately 2 hours 15 minutes including intermission. Special performances: Thursday Theatre Talks July 4, 6:30 PM; Talk Back Tuesday July 9, 7:30 PM; [VocalEye](#) live audio description (for blind or visually-impaired) Thursday, July 11, 8 PM. Box office by phone: 604-687-1644 Monday–Saturday 10 AM–8 PM and Sunday noon–5 PM. Box office at theatre: Monday–Saturday 10 AM–6 PM and Sunday noon–5 PM. Box office email: [boxoffice@artsclub.com](mailto:boxoffice@artsclub.com). Tickets: Zone A \$59; Zone B \$49; Zone C \$29.—[Julian Castle](#)

11 July, 8 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November and 12 December 2013: [Teen Manga Advisory Group](#), 4–5 PM at Teen Library, Level 2, Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. For teens aged 12–18. “Do you love manga? Come tell us what the library should have on our shelves and meet other manga enthusiasts.” For more info call Children’s Library 604-331-3663. Free. [Alternate URL](#).—[Julian Castle](#)

## August 2013

1–5 August 2013: Castles in the Sky: The Return of Studio Ghibli (animation) at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. “This major retrospective...was...our most popular large-scale series in years—when we first presented it in December... And we’ve added two additional Ghibli features to the 14 we screened the first go-round.” Films: *Castle in the Sky*, *The Cat Returns* (semi-spin-off of *Whisper of the Heart*), *From Up on Poppy Hill*, *Howl’s Moving Castle*, *Kiki’s Delivery Service*, *My Neighbour Totoro* (never released in North America), *My Neighbours the Yamadas*, *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* (Miyazaki’s debut), *The Ocean Waves* (never released in North America in any format), *Only Yesterday*, *Pom Poko*, *Ponyo*, *Porco Rosso*, *Princess Mononoke*, *Spirited Away* and *Whisper of the Heart* (sole feature directed by Yoshifumi Kondô before his sudden death at age of 47). “Annual \$3 Cinémathèque membership is required.” Adult tickets: \$11 single-bill; \$14 double-bill; \$108 ten double-bill passes. Senior/student tickets: \$9 single-bill; \$12 double-bill; \$88 ten double-bill passes.—Julian Castle

1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29 August and 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 24, 26 September 2013: 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

2 August 2013: Premiere of films *300: Rise of an Empire* (action/fantasy), *The Smurfs 2* (computer animation; Anton Yelchin, Sofia Vergara, Neil Patrick Harris, Christina Ricci, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Alan Cumming, Hank Azaria, Katy Perry, Fred Armisen, JB Smoove, Mario Lopez, George Lopez, Jonathan Winters, Jon Oliver, Lil’ Wayne), and *Europa Report* (SF; Sharlto Copley, Neil deGrasse Tyson).



2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 August and 6, 13, 20, and 27 September 2013 (*Fridays*): Fontana Friday—BC Browncoats, 6:30–7:30 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 August and 6, 13, 20, and 27 September 2013 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 August and 7, 14, 21, and 28 September 2013 (*Saturdays*): [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](#)



4 August 2013: [BC Superfriends at Vancouver Pride 2013](#), 12–3 PM at Downtown Vancouver, 1130 West Pender Street—Unit 325, Vancouver. “The BC Superfriends will be hosting Vancouver’s first cosplay and geek float at the 2013 Pride Parade. Parade walkers will include cosplayers from different geek groups around Vancouver, including the Vancouver Gaymers, Cos & Effect, the Ghostbusters of BC, VancouFur, West Coast Geeks Versus Nerds, and MasterGeek Theatre. We have limited walker spots, so this is an invite only event! Stay tuned for our IndieGogo campaign for a chance to be part of this exciting Vancouver first!”

4, 11, 18, and 25 August and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 September 2013 (*Sundays*): [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](#)

4–7 August 2013: [Dynamation! A Tribute to Ray Harryhausen \(1920–2013\)](#) at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* on 4 August @ 6:30 PM, 5 August @ 4:30 PM, 6 August @ 6:30 PM and 7 Aug @ 8:30 PM. *Jason and the Argonauts* on 4 August @ 8:15 PM, 5 August @ 6:30 PM, 6 August @ 8:15 PM and 7 August @ 6:30 PM. Box office opens 30 minutes before first film of day. All ages welcome! Cinémathèque membership (\$3) required for those 18+. Regular tickets: \$11 single-bill; \$14 double-bill. Senior/student tickets: \$9 single-bill; \$12 double-bill. Website unclear what youth ticket price is (probably regular price).—[Julian Castle](#)



*Aah! Terminators!*

5 August 2013: **Scott Tycholaz** and **Élisabeth Vonarburg**’s birthdays.

5, 12, 19, and 26 August and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 September 2013 (*Mondays*): 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

5, 12, 19, and 26 August and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 September 2013 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. [*See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for description.*]—Keith Lim

6 August 2013: **Christina Carr**’s birthday.

6, 13, 20, and 27 August and 3, 10, 17, and 24 September 2013 (*Tuesdays*): 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

7, 14, 21, and 28 August and 4, 11, 18, and 25 September 2013 (*Wednesdays*): 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 creators 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

7, 14, 21, and 28 August and 4, 11, 18, and 25 September 2013 (*Wednesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Kaizen Night AKA Hack the Space, 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. [*See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for description.*]—Keith Lim

8 and 22 August and 5 and 19 September 2013 (*alternate Thursdays*): “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](mailto:lowson@dccnet.com) for details.”—[Allan Lowson](#) (on [Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group](#))

8 August and 12 September 2013 (*second Thursday*): [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](#)



9 August 2013: Book Lovers’ Day. Premiere of films *Elysium* (SF/action; Matt Damon, Jodie Foster, William Fichtner), *Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters* (fantasy; Sean Bean, Stanley Tucci, Anthony Head), and *Planes* (computer animation; Val Kilmer, Julia Louis-Dreyfuss, Teri Hatcher, Brad Garrett, John Cleese, Anthony Edwards, Stacey Keach, Cedric the Entertainer, Sinbad, Gabriel Iglesias, Carlos Alazraqui, Brent Musberger).

11 August 2013: Final season of *Breaking Bad* TV series resumes (drama; about chemistry teacher who becomes a criminal) and premiere of *Talking Bad* (talk-show; live after-show discussing latest *Breaking Bad*) on AMC.—[Julian Castle](#)

12 August 2013: **Lynda Ciaschini**’s birthday.

13 August 2013: **Alex Curylo**’s birthday.

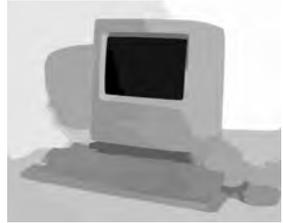
13 August and 10 September 2013 (*second Tuesday*): [Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch](#), 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver. “Second Tuesday of every month. In the Victorian tradition of conversation in coffee houses, this casual monthly event 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](#)

14 and 28 August and 11 and 25 September 2013 (*alternate Wednesdays*): [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

15 August 2013: Support Our Captain for the Order of Leviathan. “We feel our captain deserves all the love in the world. Her dedication to us is well received. Her courage to face so much is constantly present. She is up for the top 10 of *Mutiny Magazine’s* Order and she could use your help. This is the final round of the contest and it is decided by votes. She needs your help getting inducted into the Order. Please take a moment to vote for her. This is how. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.485022978254041.1073741826.221157847973890&type=1> Scroll down and click on her picture (Christina Carr—Charity Ann Rackham). It’s the one in the centre of the banner we use for this event. Click on the picture so it shows separated on your screen then click like on the picture. You have now voted. *Then* share this on your pages and with your friends. The more votes the better. PS: She doesn’t know about this yet but she will when we ask her to invite her whole friends list. That’s another way to invite people to vote. Invite your whole friends list to the event. Video Pirate Resume we created for her. And last year’s second place win Talk Like a Pirate Day video.”—Jade Dragon Pirates

16 August 2013: **Thomas Phinney’s** birthday. Premiere of films *Kick-Ass 2* (action/comic adaptation; Chloë Grace Moretz, Jim Carrey, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, John Leguizamo, Yancy Butler) and *jOBS* (biography; Ashton Kutcher, Dermot Mulroney, Lukas Haas, Matthew Modine, JK Simmons, Lesley Ann Warren, Ron Eldard, Kevin Dunn, James Woods, Nelson Franklin, Robert Pine).



16 August and 13 September<sup>2</sup> 2013: Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. Open gaming; seven to eight tables. “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

16 August 2013 and 20 September (*third Friday*): 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

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2 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

16–18 August 2013: Anime Revolution at Vancouver Convention Centre, 999 Canada Place, Vancouver. Events, shopping, community, cosplay. “Three days of entertainment!!” “Exhibits: vendor hall; artist alley; anime viewing. Events: cosplay cafe, console wars, speed dating. Contests: Revolution Idol, cosplay contest, swimsuit contest. Anime Revolution is the largest and fastest growing Anime Convention in Vancouver, BC. We celebrate the culture of Japan and cultural exchange over three fun filled days of activities, panels, and performances. These include art, animation, comics, costuming, cultural displays, dance, gaming, musical performances, and much more.”

16–18 August 2013: Customer Appreciation Sale at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

17 August 2013: Celebrating Life, Andrew Style, 4 PM at circle of stones, Trout Lake, John Hendry Park, corner nearest East 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Victoria Drive, Vancouver. Memorial for local fan and VCON volunteer Andrew Brechin, who passed away Thursday 15 August 2013. “I’m going to Trout Lake on Saturday, by the circle of stones, to drum and to dance and wear something wacky and celebrate Andrew because he was the type of person who inspires such living. I expect I’ll be there from about 4 PM onwards and likely until after dark if anyone wants to join me (could you imagine fire dancing after dark?). I’d suggest wearing something colourful, bringing a drum, drink, and food to share. And if it were possible to create a toilet-shaped paper boat with a paper chthulu on it to light on fire and send it out into the lake as a proper send off, gods know I would do that too. I just don’t have that kind of skill. Just putting it out there for anyone else who feels a need to celebrate him and is looking for a way. Please share this invite as widely as you like.”—Saturn Darkhope



*Andrew up late in Hospitality at VCON 36, October 2011, Richmond. People kept asking him if he was dressed as Arthur Dent. He said no; he’d just woken up. ☺*



17 August 2013: National Black Cat Awareness Day.

17 August 2013: Zombiewalk Afterparty—House of 1000 Zombies, 9 PM–2 AM at Waldorf Hotel, 1489 East Hastings Street, Vancouver. “A night of zombie themed club chaos! Three rooms of DJs & dancing. Zombie burlesque stage shows. Half-time gore show. Zombikini contest. Zombie photo booth. Prizes for best zombie outfits. Zombie makeup booth. Zombie visuals & movies. Tickets \$12 advance or in zombie outfit, \$15 at door. Zombiewalker discount: use the promo code VAN-WALKER for \$2 off advance online tix. Advance tickets at Millenium or online at <http://www.wantickets.com/houseof1000zombies>. Watch the crazy promo video

*here*. For five years now it's been the official after party location for the Vancouver Zombiewalk...join us once again at Vancouver's longest running all-alternative night for our annual ode to *zombies, zombies, and more zombies!* This year we're staging a 100% venue takeover of the legendary *Waldorf Cabaret*—the oldest surviving Tiki Bar in North America!"—[Isaac Terpstra](#)

17 August and 21 September 2013 (*third Saturday*): [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](#)

**VANCOUVER 24 HOUR MINI-COMIC DAY** 17–18 August 2013: [Vancouver 24 Hour Mini-Comic Day](#), 12 PM Saturday–12 PM Sunday at South Memorial Park's Fieldhouse at 5955 Ross Street (Ross & 41st, located inside the park), Vancouver. "Join the Cloudscape crew in drawing, writing, and printing an 8 page mini-comic in a 24 hour period at the Cloudscape headquarters. Printing facilities available on location. Contact Colin Upton at [colinupton@telus.net](mailto:colinupton@telus.net) for more information."—[Julian Castle](#)



17–18 August 2013: [Astronomi-Con Vancouver](#) at UBC, Gage Towers, Isabel MacInnes Lounge, 5959 Student Union Boulevard. "1500 points, six games. Warhammer 40,000."

18 August and 15 September 2013 (*third Sunday*): [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](#)

18 August 2013: [E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial](#) (1982 film), 1 PM at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. "New 35 mm print restores the original 1982 release version of the film." A [Cinema Sunday](#) event: all ages welcome. Box office opens 30 minutes before first film of day. Tickets: \$6 youth under 18 years; \$9 adult. No membership required.—[Julian Castle](#)

21 August 2013: Richmond Writes Out Loud Open Mic Night, 7–8:30 PM at Village Books & Coffee House, 12031 First Avenue, Suite 130, Steveston, Richmond. “Do you write? Do you want feedback? A place to test your material? Then come on out to a Richmond Writes Out Loud (RWOL) open mic! At RWOL events, we try to create a welcoming and constructive atmosphere so that everyone from beginners to professionals can present their efforts in a comfortable and laid back environment.”—Richmond Writes Out Loud

23 August 2013: Premiere of films *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* (fantasy/action; CCH Pounder) and *The World's End* (SF/comedy; Simon Pegg, Martin Freeman, Nick Frost).

24 August 2013: **Karen New**'s birthday.

26 August 2013: **Sarah Stierch**'s birthday.

31 August and 28 September 2013 (*last Saturday*): 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

## September 2013

4 September 2013: **Lezli Robyn**'s birthday.

6 September 2013: Read a Book Day. Premiere of *Riddick* (SF/action; Vin Diesel, Karl Urban, Dave Bautista, Bokeem Woodbine, Raoul Trujillo).

8 September 2013: International Literacy Day.

11 September 2013: **Ziv Kowarsky**'s birthday.

12 September 2013: National Video Games Day.

12 September 2013 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford. “Meetings held second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM from September to June (July & August have no meetings—summer break).”—Keith Lim

13 September 2013: Premiere of film *Insidious: Chapter 2* (horror; Patrick Wilson).

15 September 2013: **Mike Jackson**'s birthday.

16 September 2013: **Melissa Tookey**'s birthday.

19 September 2013: **Randy Byers**'s birthday. International Talk Like a Pirate Day.

22 September 2013: **Peter Kuper**'s birthday.

25 September 2013: National Comic Book Day.

27 September 2013: Premiere of film *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2* (computer animation; Anna Faris, Neil Patrick Harris, Will Forte, Andy Samberg, Kristen Schaal, Terry Crews, Bill Hader, Benjamin Bratt).

30 September 2013: **Chris Eliopoulos**'s birthday.

## News-Like Matter

### Mel Smith, 1952–2013

Mel Smith: British writer, director, comic actor; died 19 July 2013, aged 60 (suspected heart attack). Movie appearances include *Morons from Outer Space* (1985), *The Princess Bride* (1987) and *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* (1989). In the sitcom *Colin's Sandwich* (1988–90), he played a struggling horror writer. He and comedy partner Griff Rhys Jones became millionaires when they sold their production company Talkback.

Steve Green

Saturday 20 July 2013

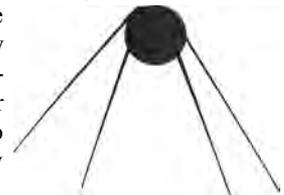
### Notes from July 2013 BCSFA Meeting

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

Barb's arm cast was off. She can't quite straighten out her arm yet. The same thing happened to me after I fell on my elbow.

Graeme reported that his website, Canadian Science Fiction Fanzine Archive (<http://www.cdnsfzinearchive.org>), has about 48,000 hits after only one month!<sup>3</sup>

Graeme brought an extra book about Sputnik that he no longer needed: *Sputnik—The Shock of the Century* by Paul Dickson. Fruvous accepted it. Fruvous had previously read *Space* by James Michener, in which Wernher von Braun's problem was that he was a tinkerer, who built first and then tested, instead of doing as much theory as possible beforehand.



Graeme said that in the early 1930s, well before World War II, William Lyon Mackenzie King was afraid Japan would attack Canada and Britain would not come

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3 52,517 hits as of Friday 26 July 2013.—Future Felicity

to our aid, so with private, nontransparent funding from Timothy Eaton and other captains of industry, he started the project that created zed gas. It was colourless, odourless, and a single drop would kill a man in seconds. German and Russian spies managed to steal the formula.



Relatedly, Graeme said that off the coast of Scotland there's an island where they tested anthrax, and it's still off-limits today. Graeme said that there are all sorts of things from the preparation for the war, from the war, and from after the war that continually being declassified, which is why it's worth keeping up with new history books. All sorts of things that we thought were true turn out to be myths.

Graeme's birthday was coming up soon (Thursday 25 July 2013). He'll be 62. I said I was not looking forward to being 40 on Wednesday 31 July 2013. The general reaction was "Forty? That's nothing!" Fruvous said that he'd just turned 40 and it was no big deal. I must have been youngest person at the meeting (just barely).

We talked about the George Zimmerman verdict, and the difference between it and the case of Marissa Alexander, another Floridian who was sentenced to 20 years for firing warning shots in self-defense. She attempted to cite the "stand your ground" law, but to no avail. I said that it was "a failure of..." and then I trailed off, at a loss for words. Fruvous suggested "...civilization?" That sounded about right. Fruvous thought that the media would like Zimmerman to be the new Bernhard Goetz.

Somebody (Fruvous?) noted that his prediction of whether there would first be a black, female, or gay US president had turned out wrong (he had guessed female)—although, he added, there may already have been a gay president, without the public knowing it. One possible candidate is Abraham Lincoln, who, apparently like all great men of history, was a wild man in his youth.



Fruvous relayed some science news: there are three kinds of tears. The first happens all the time without us realizing it, and is routine eye moisturizing. The second is triggered by irritation. The third is caused by sadness, and is actually chemically different than the first two—it contains stress hormones. "We're literally releasing our emotions," Fruvous said. He went on to add that humans are the only

animal that cries tears for sadness. I remembered that my family's first cat, Toby, whom we adopted from an acquaintance who was moving to a new apartment building that didn't allow pets, cried (including tears) as we drove him to his new home. I think he knew somehow that he was leaving his previous owner for good.

This led to more cat stories. Our first two cats (Toby and Scotty) could tell when my father was coming home from work, even though it wasn't at the same

time every day, and about five minutes before he arrived, they would climb on the back of the living room sofa and look out the front window. We thought they might be able to distinguish the sound of his car engine from a few blocks away.



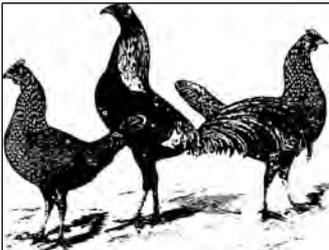
*I think it was this episode.*

Ray said that there was a piano at his elementary school that was so warped and out of tune that it sounded like a female cat. One day they opened the window to cool the room and all the tomcats in the neighbourhood showed up, meowing. This reminded Fruvous of a James Herriott story about prescribing a male poodle a hormone lotion for his skin condition, with the side effect that he had the scent of a female dog in heat. Once when I was 15, I was in my room, singing the background music from an episode of *GI Joe* (1983), and from down the hall my father shouted “*What are you doing to that poor cat?*”

My current cat, Nero, has shown signs of intelligence. We have to put books over the windows in the library because he has figured out how to use the latches to open the windows. When I’m shaking a Temptations treat out of its bag and it gets caught on the Ziploc edge, Nero bats at the side of the bag with his paw to shake the treat loose. He can count: he’s used to getting three treats, and if you only give him two, he looks at you expectantly. And when I pointed at a treat on the bed that he couldn’t see from the floor, he looked to where I was pointing, not just at my hand!



Ray said that he once had chickens in his backyard, all hens, and when they’re all hens, one hen starts to act like the rooster. I said it sounded like a women-in-prison film. Fruvous thought that Ray’s factoid about hens would be good for an anthropomorphic cartoon chicken parody of WIP films.<sup>4</sup>



“Uh uh.” “Cicero.” “Lipschitz.”

Graeme said that the closest DNA relative to the *Tyrannosaurus rex* is a species of chicken in Austria. This reminded me of the *Andy Barker, PI* (2007) episode “Three Days of the Chicken,” in which Andy’s alektorophobic mentor Lew Staziak says of chickens: “They’re *prehistoric* for God’s sake!” Someone (Ray?) said that one of the problems of raising backyard chickens is keeping them from flying away. Kathleen said that wet chickens can’t fly. That made me think of the turkey promotion episode of *WKRP in Cincinnati* (1978). “As God is my witness, I thought turkeys could fly” is a great line, but for me, the “sweet spot”<sup>5</sup> is “Turkeys are hitting the ground like sacks of wet cement!” Someone (Stewart? Graeme?) nailed it when

4 There’s even two precedents for animated avian WIP parodies: the *Duckman* (1994) episode “Aged Heat 2: Women in Heat,” which even features the phrase “hen pen,” and the Canadian (you can really tell from the animation) short *Penguins Behind Bars* (2003).

they pointed out that turkey death is sad, but Les Nessman<sup>6</sup> describing it like the Hindenburg disaster is hilarious.

Graeme said that his mother worked at CJOR. Once, the station experimented with having DJs who don't talk on the air, and can therefore be paid less. Graeme was one of these. He said that he just played records and acted as controller for Pat Burns and Chuck Cook.



*"It gets pretty strange after that."*

Graeme was trying to remember the name of an old TV show that was the Canadian equivalent of *Tom Corbett, Space Cadet* (1950). He said it was something like "*Star Command*" and James Doohan was in it. It wasn't *Jason of Star Command* (1978), despite the title and the presence of Doohan, because that was a couple of decades too late. [IMDB says it was *Space Command* (1953).—*Future Felicity*]



*(The thing it was the Canadian equivalent of.)*

Graeme said that it had two sets: an office representing the command centre, and the interior of the ship. Doohan even played a Scottish engineer! It was live, so there were no retakes, leading to lines like "What we're dealing with here is a dead galaxy—uh, star." In one episode, they come across an alien ship, and have no way to determine if it's hostile. They can't communicate with it because then it might find and attack Earth. So they destroy it!

On the topic of bullies, Graeme said that in his school, there was one kid named Mikey who, one year, organized all the non-bullies into a huge gang of about 50 or 60 kids. They would travel the school in military formation, and for that year at least, they were untouchable.

Felicity Walker  
Sunday 21 July 2013

### 'On Spec' Magazine 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Anthology Scheduled for 2014

On Spec website says a new project for 2014 "is our partnership with Calgary, Alberta book publisher Tyche Books, to produce a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue for *On Spec!* ... We are going to be busy selecting our favourite stories from *On Spec's* past, and getting in touch with the writers..."

Tyche's website says: "2014 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *On Spec Magazine*, 'Canada's Magazine of the Fantastic'... Tyche will be publishing a retrospective anthology of *On Spec* to celebrate their silver jubilee... Authors will be notified in due

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5 As I've taken to calling my favourite part of any comedy piece. Example: "We've lost our lease! Can't find it! Don't care!" is the sweet spot of the *Almost Live!* (1984) sketch "Roscoe's Oriental Rug Emporium" (Saturday 13 November 1993).

6 For Garth: "Five-time winner of the Buckeye Newshawk Award!" *And* the coveted Silver Sow!

course if their story or poem has been selected, and the table of contents will be announced this fall.

“Attention writers: if you have ever had a story published in *On Spec*, and you have since changed your contact information, now would be a good time to let *On Spec* know how to find you. You can reach them at: [onspec@onspec.ca](mailto:onspec@onspec.ca).

“*The On Spec Retrospective Anthology* is tentatively scheduled for a summer 2014 release.”

Julian Castle

Thursday 11 July 2013

### **Mick Farren 1943–2013**

Just coming in: Mick Farren, musician and dilettante SF author, died 27 July, aged 69. Details to follow.

Steve Green

Sunday 28 July 2013

### **Karen Black (1939–2013)**

Karen Black: actress, died Thursday aged 74. Early roles included an unwilling defender of Earth in *The Invaders* (1967), before *Easy Rider* (1969) and *Five Easy Pieces* (1970) earned her Hollywood attention. Among her subsequent appearances were *Ghost Story* (TV, 1972), *Trilogy of Terror* (TV movie, 1975, with Black playing four roles), *Capricorn One* (1977), *The Last Horror Film* (1982), *Deadly Nightmares* (TV, 1985), *Faerie Tale Theater* (TV, 1985 & 1987), *Invaders from Mars* (1986), *Worlds Beyond* (TV, 1987), *It's Alive III: Island of the Alive* (1987), *The Invisible Kid* (1987), *Zapped Again!*, *Haunting Fear*, *Mirror Mirror*, and *Twisted Justice* (all 1990), *Children of the Night* (1991), *Plan 10 from Outer Space* (1995), *Dinosaur Valley Girls* and *Children of the Corn: The Gathering* (both 1996), *The Hunger* (TV, 1997), *Light Speed* and *Invisible Dad* (both 1998), *Soulkeeper* (2001), *House of 1000 Corpses* (2003), and *Nightmare Hostel* (2005).

Steve Green

Friday 9 August 2013

### **CSFFA Legal Changes**

Due to a new federal law, we are required to rewrite our society's bylaws and file new Articles of Continuance. We have posted the drafts on our website, with additional information, and would like feedback from all interested members. Our intention is to have a final version available to be voted on at the AGM at Can-Con in Ottawa this October. <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/about-us/new-federal-non-profit-act-changes>

You can either email us or post your comments on our blog for the article.

The AGM this year will take place on the Saturday morning, October 5, 2013 at Can-Con. The awards banquet will be on the Sunday so we have moved the AGM one day earlier.

The full agenda for the meeting will be posted on our site in early September along with the updated Proxy form.

Clifford Samuels  
CSFFA President

Aurora Awards Admin  
Thursday 15 August 2013

## ‘Red Planet Blues’ Book Launch Report: Part 2

Joseph Picard

Jenni and I arrived at the target destination, on B1 of the library. Oddly, most of the library was dedicated to lending out books. Pfft. It was a serviceable venue, but not as glam as what I’ve seen of other launch locations for Robert J. Sawyer across the country. Next book, I’ll have to invite him to launch from my gala ballroom.

We were early, but a tidy lineup was already there, nabbing up books, and getting signatures from Rob, camped in the corner. Jenni told me she didn’t have much time, and true to her word, she bought a book, had a quick chat with a couple of people, and vanished.



*It’s just like that, but mine is even more imaginary!*

I took this time for my dose of vitamin T(aurine).

Vending the books were the good people from White Dwarf Books, who have been a pillar of the Vancouver sci-fi scene for ages. They’re also often on hand serving book-vending purposes around VCON quite often.

After getting my copy, and getting Rob to sign it, making sure not to monopolize him at all while more people waited, I receded to the opposite end of the vending table, where I might stay in earshot of any bits of wisdom that might happen to come from the experienced author.



*I am the keeper of knowledge! All you nerds will bow before me, and gimme your cash!*

Heck, a notable part of why I wanted to go to this event was to see how it all went down. I’ve done signing events myself, I’ve done readings, but being a hack, I had no claims of doing it right. I was kind of near the tail end of the line mind you, and I had to tell a couple people that I wasn’t in line; that I was just loitering. Being a chatty SOB, I ended up in small conversations with random people in and about the lineup. I mentioned to one guy that I write, and found myself giving him my card.

*Bad Joe, bad.* You’re not here to self promote. No more cards! So I behaved.

A total surprise, one of the teachers from my daughter’s pre-school appeared. My daughter’s in kindergarten now, we briefly talked about her.



*Today’s “being awake” was brought to you by Monster: Assault.*

Around this time, Steve Fahnstalk showed up. Always good to see him. I usually see him at VCON. Oh, and good ole FB.

7:00 neared, and Rob politely told the lineup that he had to go up front, and that he'd be doing more signings after everything.



*No more signings!  
Make it stop!*

At the front, Rob was announced by...arg, I've forgotten her name. She works at the library, and is head of events or something like that. Rob took the podium, and hid his chocolate milk behind the book.

Rob commented that dinosaurs, chocolate milk, and pizza are his favourite things. A glance at his library will speak

much of dinos. No pizza or chocolate milk books?? WTF?

After a little chatter about the new book (did he do the reading now, or later? I choose to say now...), he read us a poem from the front of the book that modified an olden gold rush era poem. He then read us a section involving a naked woman running around, a teeny little bomb, and a McGuffin. If they ever make a movie of *Red Planet Blues*, this scene will rival anime in the department of unabashed boob bouncing.



*It might be hard to tell from my vantage point (Why didn't I exploit my wheelchair and sit up front?), but the chocolate milk eventually escaped.*



*Character developments!  
Two of them!*

A fun little scene, which promised to lead to treasure hunting and rival entrepreneurs galore. Rob's scene. Not the one above. I couldn't help notice that Rob's reading voice was much more animated than the voice in my head when I read. Even when I read his stuff. Mind you, it was a largely comedic scene. Heartfelt applause from the audience followed the reading.

Also introduced was Shoshana Glick. Aside from being an editor, Sho' is also known due to her name being used in Rob's WWW trilogy. If you Google her name, you get half of the results being her real self, and half talking about Rob's version. She came to the table as an interviewer.

She would ask one question, and Rob would use that as a springboard to talk for quite a while. An interesting talk, but when he finished, ready for the next question, Sho' seemed a little shellshocked, and the audience had a bit of a giggle, presumably at the ratio of small question to *big answer*.

Things wrapped up, and applause given. Rob retreated to his signing station, and the lineup reconstituted itself. When they were all signed, he went on to a short stack to be signed for people who couldn't make it to the event, or copies to be stocked in White Dwarf's store perhaps. I didn't want to interrupt. When the fellow from White Dwarf was free, I asked him about stocking my books in the store. I'd

meant to ask for ages. Brick and mortar stores have never been a priority for me, but White Dwarf is special. We traded info, and it was a good first step.

I was about to pack my books away, then I thought, “Hey, I should give my three books to Rob to read!” then I thought, “No, dummy, he’s flying around, the last thing he needs is to jam three more books into his luggage.” Some of those thoughts must have come out of my mouth, and Rob told me to send him eBooks. Well alright then! It’s been done, and I await reports of him vomiting, and/or getting a restraining order.

My books and Rob’s book secured in my chair’s storage, I began my trek home. Not wanting to pull out my shiny new book on the SkyTrain, I read my own stuff. I read my own books on and off. Partly to visit my characters, partly out of vanity, and partly to see things I’d change. Not to change them (other than typos), but to see the kinds of things I’m prone to do, and think about other ways I could have done them better.

But then I realized I was reading them the way Rob was doing his reading. Bluaha, creepy! My head, get out! Thankfully it wasn’t too hard to retune my inner reading voice.

I was almost at the end of reading *Dracula* back home. Rob’s voice for a “light hearted funny scene” would not serve Bram Stoker.

Well, I finished reading Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* tonight. I might be whining about it next post. On the plus side, my reading time is now free and clear for sinking my teeth into *Red Planet Blues!*

G’nite, folks!



*I’m going to suck!*

Joseph Picard

Ozero Blog

Saturday 6 April 2013

## Zines Received

‘Opuntia’ #255 (October 2012). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.



“Mailing Comments on FAPA #300”: *Edgar’s Journal*: Dale writes that “the magic goes away” when a fandom gets too large and everyone doesn’t know everyone else, like a village with more than 500 people. I’ve seen this in other subcultures and wonder what the solution is. Divide and specialize into smaller fandoms? Look for new territory? Become hyperlocal? (Readers, I would like to hear your thoughts on this.)

“Arctic Pest Control”: Reviews movies *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (1953) and *The Deadly Mantis* (1957). I like Dale’s line “Every expense was spared in making this movie.”



“Seen in the Literature”:

- “The Short Story Just Got Shorter: Hemingway, Narrative, and the Six-Word Urban Legend”: Dale says that the urban legend that Ernest Hemingway wrote the six-word story “For sale: baby shoes, never worn” was repeated by Arthur C. Clarke in an essay “The Power of Compression.” I’d like to read that essay.

- “Social Selection and Peer Influence in an Online Social Network”: “ ‘The one type of preference that does spread among Facebook friends, classical/jazz music, may be especially contagious due to its unique value as a high status cultural signal.’ ” In the 1980s/1990s it bothered me and others that in the 24<sup>th</sup> century of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (1987), the only music anyone listens to is classical or, if they’re *really* edgy, jazz. We understood that this was to avoid the cognitive dissonance of something that was new to us (heavy metal, funk, rap, punk) being old to the characters<sup>7</sup>, but it seemed like they were depriving themselves of a lot of great culture.<sup>8</sup> On the other hand, in *Star Trek: Voyager* (1995), we had Lt. Paris, who liked the mid-20th century; in *Star Trek: First Contact*<sup>9</sup> (1996), Zefram Cochrane listens to Steppenwolf; and in *Star Trek: Enterprise* (2001), we had our first non-orchestral theme song, with bland, MOR pop...and that turned out to be even worse.

Also: “FAPA: 75 Years and 300 Mailings”; “Letters to the Editor”; “Zine Machines in Cowtown”; “Book Reviews.”

## Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u> .....	Cover
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u> ).....	Pages 1–2
Clip art ( <u>Clker.com</u> ).....	Pages 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 (bottom)
Clip art (screenshots).....	Pages 4, 7, 14, 16 (top), 17, 21 (bottom), 22
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (photo).....	Page 11 (top)
<u>Felicity Walker</u> [photos (vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u> )].....	.....
.....	Pages 11 (bottom), 16 (middle)
Vancouver 24 Hour Mini-Comic Day (flyer) (via Julian Castle)....	Page 12
Clip art (via <u>Joseph Picard</u> ).....	Pages 19, 20 (top, bottom), 21 (top)
<u>Joseph Picard</u> (photo).....	Page 20 (middle)

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7 Mozart, Mendelssohn, Motörhead.  
 8 Which they also do by ignoring TV and film.  
 9 Or as it should have been called, *Star Trek VIII: First Contact*.