

BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#512

\$3.00/Issue

January 2016



In This Issue:

This and Next Month in BCSFA.....	0
About BCSFA.....	0
Letters of Comment.....	1
Calendar.....	6
News-Like Matter.....	13
One Man's Canned Fish (Tara Wayne).....	17
Art Credits.....	18

BCSFAzine © January 2016, Volume 44, #1, Issue #512 is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization. ISSN 1490-6406.

Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or Apartment 601, Manhattan Tower, 6611 Cooney Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 4C5 (*new address*).

BCSFAzine is distributed monthly at White Dwarf Books, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5; telephone 604-228-8223; e-mail whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each. *Cheques should be made payable to "West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA)."*

This and Next Month in BCSFA

Sunday 17 January at 7 PM:	January BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 22 January:	Submission deadline for February <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 29 January:	February <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Friday 19 February:	Submission deadline for March <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 21 February at 7 PM:	February BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's.
Friday 26 February:	March <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

WCSFA Social Committee Chairman/Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBD

Treasurer/Supporting *BCSFAzine* Production Donor: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor/Supporting *BCSFAzine* Production Donor: Felicity Walker, 604-447-3931 (*new number*)

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_sci_fi_assoc/). 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.*]

Clint Budd
clintbudd@dccnet.com

Saturday 13 February 2016

Hi Felicity,

Page 19 of issue #511 states: "Convention 36: Hal-Con 2016 in Halifax will be the host for Convention 36 in 2016."

In fact: Convention 36 will be hosted by When Words Collide 2016 in Calgary, Alberta, August 12–14, 2016 at the Delta Calgary South, Calgary, Alberta.

Convention 37 will be hosted by Hal-Con in 2017.

This is on our website.

Clint Budd

CSFFA President

[*I have relayed this to news item writer Garth Spencer.*]

Taral Wayne
taral@bell.net

Sunday 14 February 2016

In idle moments, I sometimes speculate whether or not BCSFA will continue to exist in any meaningful way when the time comes that nobody will edit *BCSFAzine*. Or will five or six septuagenarian members continue to turn up for monthly meetings... in which dental adhesive is more often the topic of discussion than up-and-coming new authors?

Fortunately, I don't have many idle moments.



I've been watching as Graeme Cameron set himself up for what could possibly be quite a fall. Yet he seems optimistic, and one can't help wish him luck. His theory seems to be that the world needs a place for aspiring young Canadian SF writers to get "published." And that's where I begin to have problems with Graeme's thinking. Is this really being "published"? To me, the concept involves three related ideas...first, that an editor,

with a proven track record for selecting professional quality work, has read the story and judged it worthy. Secondly, that the editor is so sure of this that he is willing to pay good money to the author for the rights. If writers ever give in to the temptation to write "just for the love of it," the profession will cease to be a "profession"...with all that entails. Finally, the work must be exposed to readers, which means more than just a URL that a reader might discover by accident. An entire system exists to funnel readers toward the material they most likely want to read. Most material that is

“published” in contemporary digital formats might as well be impressed in cuneiform on a clay slab, buried in Mesopotamia, for all the readers who will ever see it.

In other words, for Graeme’s *Polar Borealis* to really do much good, it must meet those standards of “publication.” And I’m very skeptical that Graeme can do it on a shoestring budget, and with the same relatively unsophisticated publishing software that I use for *Broken Toys*. I’m not certain how successful, realistically speaking, that even well-known “magazines” like *Clarke’s World* or *Pulp Literature* are, that have years of experience and reputation behind them. A genre cannot survive on critical acclaim and insider approval alone...it needs thousands and thousands of commonplace readers! What exactly, will *Polar Borealis* do to find those readers, and make them acquainted with the “magazine’s” contributors?



Late last year, I had a short story of my own that appeared in a dark fantasy collection by OldStyleTales Press (*The Yellow Booke II*). I wasn’t paid. I have not seen whatever reviews the collection inspired. I don’t know how many people ever read the damn thing. Have any other publishers beaten on my door to solicit my manuscripts? Not yet. Do I feel “published”? Not so I’d go bragging around Rob Sawyer about it...

So I am, reluctantly, more than a little skeptical about *Polar Borealis*.

Of course, Graeme can fall back on, “I was only enjoying myself.” However, I don’t know if that adequately describes the motives of people who write science fiction or fantasy, who hope to kick off a career.

Tonight I noticed that the lid was missing off one of my plastic containers on the balcony. I went out in shorts and t-shirt, and barefoot, to look for the lid. I’m on the 21st floor of a building, with a pigeon net, so where on earth could a plastic lid almost two feet long disappear to? It turned out that the strong gusts of wind tonight must have popped the lid off the container, and blown it over the balcony railing—because I found the fool thing wedged between the edge of the concrete balcony and the pigeon net. With the aid of a toy claw I was able to lean over the metal railing and pull the lid within reach of my other hand. I replaced the lid and rearranged the stack so that a container with a tighter lid was on the top. Then I went in. It was 25 below, (minus 12° F), but...*meh*.

That’s when you know you’re Canadian. Or maybe from Michigan or Minnesota.

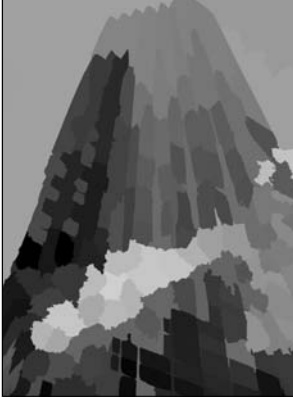
Did you know that the lead singer from Herman and the Hermits (Peter Noone) was a child actor on *Coronation Street* before he sang for the band? Or know that the band was named Herman and the Hermits because the producer noticed a resemblance between Noone and Sherman, from *The Rocky & Bullwinkle Show*? Also amusing, the band’s greatest hit, “I’m Henry VIII, I Am,” was inspired by a 1910 English music hall act. Noone’s Irish grandfather used to sing it around the house when he was a lad. Herman’s Hermits rivaled the Beatles in their day, and were in fact the number-one selling rock act in the US in 1965. Got all that straight? Has it

driven all memory of Donald Trump out of your mind for now? Good...I see my work here is through.

[I remember my father listening to "I'm Into Something Good" when I was growing up. I like "Can't You Hear My Heartbeat."]

Lloyd Penney
1706-24 Eva Road,
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 2B2
penneys@bell.net

Wednesday 27 January 2016



Future Reichstag fire venue.

Dear BCSFen:

Thank you for *BCSFazine* 511. It's only been a few days since it arrived in my e-mail, but I am getting truly caught up with things, and I only have a few zines in my *in* box. Let's see what there is to say...

I remember years ago when some faneds would put down others who expressed appreciation for their zines, and ignore those who offered articles, and who would often shred the article when it arrived unbidden. Glad to say those days are long ago gone, but then, articles are in demand for zines with a limited number of readers.

Sheckley's social commentaries were biting and well-written, but these days? "The policeman whirled, firing three warning shots into the crowd of bystanders"? That's not satire, that's relatively frequent modern news. This is why it is increasingly difficult to tell satire news from real news.

Why does America support IS in so many ways? War is industry, and profitable industry, at that, and I would suspect that an end to this war would mean small bonuses for overpaid CEOs, and we can't have that, can we? And, as I have seen many say, Justin Trudeau's honeymoon with Canadian voters continues, mostly because of the vileness of Harper and his cronies, who continue to act in racist and sexist manners in the Parliament.

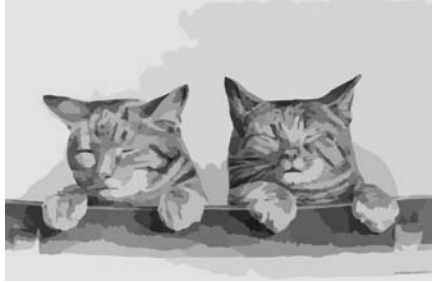
John Purcell, no matter if I am working or not, we are going to England. We have paid for many things up front, all our hotels are arranged, the airline tickets are bought, tickets are purchased for special displays and events. The only two episodes of *Murdoch Mysteries* Yvonne appears in are the last two episodes of season 6. Of course, we'd like to appear in more, but the opportunity to appear in the episode was a special prize that I had won, and given to her.

[*Fun fact: Murdoch Mysteries star Yannick Bisson was a voice actor in Maxie's World (1987), one of this month's "Random Nostalgia" items. He played Ferdie.*]

My LOC...five Republican clowns are left, and they should scare most voters if they don't scare them already. Congratulations to local fandom on the revival of the FRED, a valuable opportunity to socialize. Pubnights have replaced parties in what's left of local fandom here, and we know of at least five pubnights, and I am sure there are more somewhere.

[Kudos to Garth Spencer for suggesting we revive FRED and to Michael Bertrand for reviving and running it. (One kudo each.)]

John Herbert does indeed have three Aurora Awards, and he has discovered their true purpose...cat organizers. I read earlier today that the young actor who played Harry Potter's abusive cousin, Dudley, is actually the grandson of Patrick Troughton, the second Doctor, and he'd like the opportunity to play the Doctor in the future, and carry on a family tradition. Good luck to him...



Has anyone heard from Paul Carreau, this year's CUFF winner? I haven't, and I know not of anyone who has. I hope Paul will prove my skepticism wrong with a report and some fund-raising. It's near the end of the working day for Yvonne, so she will be home soon, and I'd better get something ready for dinner. Take care, and see you with the next issue.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Steve Green

Friday 12 February 2016

ghostwords@yahoo.co.uk

[COA: steve.green@ghostwords.co.uk]

Hi,

Please accept my apologies for this bulk e-mail, but I shall be suspending this Yahoo account shortly in favour of my new address—steve.green@ghostwords.co.uk—and would invite you to update your contact details accordingly.

Might I also take this opportunity to bring a few new endeavours to your attention?



Ghostwords TV is a new fortnightly vodcast, available via YouTube. Our first show includes an interview with British horror author Ramsey Campbell, plus news, reviews and special offers. You can view it—and subscribe for free to the channel—at <https://youtu.be/sAjHtRWotJE>.

[I watched the first few minutes and liked it. I look forward to watching the whole thing with the roommates at Fanhattan Tower.]

Rose of Eibon has just complemented its reviews and news coverage by launching its own range of horror-themed T-shirts, which you can check out at <http://store.roseofeibon.co.uk/> (please note we're only taking UK orders at present).

Thanks for your time.
Kind regards,
Steve

Carolyn Clink
carolyn@sfwriter.com

Saturday 20 February 2016

Hi, Felicity & Garth,

It's been three years since Rob's last book, but his new one comes out in March.

Rob will be in Vancouver with *Quantum Night*, his new novel, on Wednesday, March 30. The book launch event is from 6 PM–8 PM at:

Cottage Bistro,
4470 Main Street,
Vancouver
V5V 3R3

White Dwarf will be on hand to sell books to those who choose to buy one.

He's only in town for one night—so come out and see him! Should be fun!

—Carolyn

Michael Bertrand Saturday 27 February 2016
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Hey there BCSFAns!

It's February 27th as I am writing this, which means we are almost all the way through the long gray grind that is February. For the shortest month of the year, it can sure seem long.

Re: John Purcell contemplating dire measures in *Askance*:

I totally get where you are coming from. The urge to deliberately piss people off in order to force them to pay attention is quite familiar to me. There are days when I am tempted to just strip naked and take a stroll around the block, just to get a reaction. Primarily from the police, but still. Seeing people's reactions would be fun while it lasted.

Based on past attempts to draw attention, though, people would just ignore me.

Re: Dave Haren railing against “upgrades”:

I agree that sometimes, the world of computing suffers from the effects of “the designer effect,” where things are redesigned not to make them better, but to make them *different*. Designers fall in love with the “beauty” of their design and assume everyone will be as delighted by their work as they are. Functionality becomes a very low priority as their love affair with themselves takes over and they are compelled to make something more “theirs.”

That's why I would love to start a tech company called It Just Works.

Re: Lloyd Penney and American clown politics:

I feel like referring to Donald Trump as head clown is a deep and grievous insult to clowns.

Clowns have more dignity.

That's enough of me for one month. I will see you next ish, folks!



We Also Heard From: Spider Robinson and Dave Haren.

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

Recurring

5, 12, 19, and 26 January and 2, 9, 16, and 23 February 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 January and 2, 9, 16, and 23 February 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

5, 12, 19, and 26 January and 2, 9, 16, and 23 February 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

6, 13, 20, and 27 January and 3, 10, 17, and 24 February 2016 (*Wednesdays*): Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting, 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of Memorial South Park's Fieldhouse, located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 41st Avenue), Vancouver.—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

7 January and 4 February 2016 (*first Thursday*): Wordplay: A Free Writing Prompt Group with Facilitator Alan Girling, 7–9 PM at the Network Hub, #205–810 Quay-side Drive, New Westminster.—Alan Girling

13 and 27 January and 11 and 25 February 2016 (*alternate Thursdays*): Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group, 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library, 6100 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, in Program Room or Connections Lounge.—Allan Lawson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

7 January and 4 February 2016 (*first Thursday*): Drop-In Drawing for Adults: Pick Up a Pencil, 6–9 PM at Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond.

7, 14, 21, and 28 January and 4, 11, 18, and 25 February 2016 (*Thursdays*): Thursday Hobby Build Nights, 6–9 PM at Ages Three and Up Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—A3U Gundam

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 January and 5, 12, 19, and 26 February 2016 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 January and 5, 12, 19, and 26 February 2016 (*Fridays*): Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 January and 5, 12, 19, and 26 February 2016 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 January and 6, 13, 20, and 27 February 2016 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 January and 6, 13, 20, and 27 February 2016 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 January and 7, 14, 21, and 28 February 2016 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 January and 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 February 2016 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 January and 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 February 2016 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

12 January and 9 February 2016 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

12 January and 9 February 2016 (*second Tuesday*): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—large private room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver.—Keith Lim

6 and 20 January and 3 and 17 February 2016 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

14 January and 11 February 2016 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*]—Keith Lim

14 January and 11 February 2016 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

9 January and 13 February 2016 (*second Saturday*): Teen Manga and Anime Group (former name Teen Manga Advisory Group), 3:30–5:30 PM at Harvey Southam Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. Free.—Julian Castle

20 January and 17 February 2016 (*third Wednesday*): Richmond BC Writers' Club Critique Night, 7–8:30 PM at Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch, Unit 8200, 11688 Steveston Highway, Richmond.—Richmond BC Writers' Club

15 January and 19 February 2016 (*third Friday*): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, second floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

16 January and 20 February 2016 (*third Saturday*): Vancouver Comic Jam, 8 PM–late (sometimes ends when Wallflower closes at 1 AM) at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

17 January and 21 February 2016 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

30 January and 27 February 2016 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

January 2016

January is National Hobby Month.

1 January 2016: **Jens Haeusser** and **Marlon Richmond**'s birthdays.

5 January 2016: **Garth Spencer**'s birthday.

5 January 2016: Times Past Entertainment at Maple Ridge Christmas Parade, 6 PM at Haney Place Mall, between 224 Street and 226 Street on Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge. “Hay fans and fantastic people! Last year we were part of the market. This year we will be in the parade and, if the weather does well, we'll drop into the park after and say hello and pose for pictures. Join in on the fun! Watch the parade and search for a gift or two in the market. Meet Santa and write him a letter. Facebook. Maple Ridge Christmas Festival.”—Christina Carr

6 January 2016: **Eileen Kernaghan**'s birthday.

8 January 2016: **Ursula Hitler**'s birthday. Premiere of films *The Forest* (horror) and *The Masked Saint* (action/wrestling/superhero; Roddy Piper, Patrick McKenna).

9 January 2016: **Steve Fahnstalk**'s birthday.

10 January 2016: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver.

15 January 2016: Premiere of films *Norm of the North* (computer animation; Rob Schneider, Heather Graham, Bill Nighy, Colm Meaney, Gabriel Iglesias, Charles Adler, Jess Harnell, Candi Milo) and *Moonwalkers* (comedy/conspiracy; Ron Perlman).

15–17 January 2016: RustyCon 33 [at Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center, 17620 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington].—Garth Spencer

16 January 2016: Appreciate a Dragon Day.

17 January 2016: Vanpla Meeting, 1 PM at 木: Ki Tea House Cafe, #105–6888 Royal Oak Avenue, Burnaby.—Mentor Wang

19 January 2016: **Stewart Smyth**'s birthday.

20 January 2016: **Nancy Kress**'s birthday.

21 January 2016: **Emily Stremel**'s birthday.

22 January 2016: Premiere of films *The 5th Wave* (SF; Chloë Grace Moretz, Ron Livingston, Liev Schreiber), *The Boy* (horror; Jim Norton), *Synchronicity* (SF; Michael Ironside), and *Monster Hunt* (fantasy/comedy).

22 January 2016: Pirate's Haven and Enchanted Encounter Meet and Greet, 6–9 PM at Coming Home Cafe, 753 Sixth Street, New Westminster.—Christina Carr

23 January 2016: Get Out of Your House and Build! January Edition, 1–5 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway, Burnaby. “Another chance to spend Saturday surrounded by toys, model kits, and like-minded builders! Don't be afraid to build in public! Join us! Newcomers are always welcome!”—Stan Hyde

24 January 2016: Pirate Encounter Meet and Greet 2, 6:30 PM at at Coming Home Cafe, 753 Sixth Street, New Westminster.—Christina Carr

25 January 2016: **Ryan Hawe** and **Isaac Terpstra**'s birthdays.

26 January 2016: **Paul Carpentier**'s birthday.

29 January 2016: Premiere of film *Kung Fu Panda 3* (computer animation; Jack Black, Bryan Cranston, Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie, JK Simmons, Jackie Chan, Seth Rogen, Lucy Liu, David Cross, Kate Hudson, James Hong, Wayne Knight, Al Roker, Fred Tatasciore, Jean-Claude Van Damme).

29 January 2016: All Star Wrestling New Years Wrestlelutions, 6:45 PM at Cloverdale Fairgrounds, Alice McKay Building, 6050 176 Street, Surrey.

February 2016

3 February 2016: **Alan Girling**'s birthday.

3 February 2016: BC Renaissance Festival Audition/Meet & Greet/Form Pickup, 6 PM at Coming Home Cafe, 753 Sixth Street, New Westminster.—Christina Carr

5 February 2016: Premiere of films *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* (horror/action/romance; Charles Dance) and *Southbound* (SF/horror; Dana Gould).

6 February 2016: **Melanie Erin**, **Lin Aylward**, and **Bill Marles**'s birthdays.

7 February 2016: BC Renaissance Festival Meet & Greet/Form Pick Up, 3:30 PM at Coming Home Cafe, 753 Sixth Street, New Westminster.—Christina Carr

10 February 2016: **Kevin King**'s birthday.

10 February 2016: BC Renaissance Festival Audition/Meet & Greet/Form Pickup, 5 PM at the Rustic Rooster, #5-5723 176 Street, Surrey.—Christina Carr

12 February 2016: Premiere of films *Deadpool* (superhero; Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin, Leslie Uggams, Stan Lee) and *Zoolander № 2* (comedy; Olivia Munn, Christine Taylor, Kristen Wiig, Ben Stiller, Benedict Cumberbatch, Justin Theroux, Milla Jovovich, Will Ferrell, Owen Wilson, Susan Sarandon, Billy Zane, Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Kiefer Sutherland, Jerry Stiller, John Malkovich, Fred Armisen, Kyle Mooney, Anna Wintour, Lenny Kravitz, Naomi Campbell, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Sting, Kate Moss, Susan Boyle, Beck Bennett, Tommy Hilfiger, Matt Lauer, Katy Couric, MC Hammer, Christiane Amanpour, Hal Yamanouchi, Skrillex, Jim Lehrer, Don Lemon).

12–14 February 2016: Tsukino-Con 2016 at Engineering and Computer Science Building, University of Victoria, Victoria. “Annual anime convention [...] Panels, contests, fashion show, cosplay, anime viewings, video games, board games, artists, vendors and so much more. Special guests include: Japanese voice acting guest Ken-sho Ono, who has appeared in a number of anime series and is best known for his performances in *Kuroko no Basket* (Tetsuya Kuroko); Josh Grelle, English voice actor on *Soul Eater* (Ox Ford), *Initial D: Fourth Stage* (Itsuki), and of course his most popular role, *Attack on Titan* (Armin Arlet); [and] Sarah Williams, LA-based voice actress on *Madoka Magica* (Sayaka Miki), *Sword Art Online* (Lisbeth), and *League of Legends* (Jinx). Tix. More guests posted on the site.”

13 February 2016: Gunpla/Gundam Showcase at Tsukino-Con, 11 AM–1 PM at Tsukino-Con, Finnerty Road, Victoria. “At Tsukino-Con 2016 this year, we will be hosting a Gunpla showcase where attendees will be able to show off their favorite

Gundam models of all shapes and sizes. Everything from HG to PG, this event is surely going to be one mecha extravaganza. So come on down, meet some like-minded builders and appreciators of this epic series. After all, Gunpla is freedom!”—[Travis Doucette](#)

13 February 2016: [Sugar Spread Launch and Coloring Contest at the Blim!](#), 8–11 PM at Blim, 115 East Pender Street, Vancouver. “Vancouver zine icon, illustrator and smut journalist Robin Bougie has created a brand new adult coloring book—and it’s *adults only!* That’s right, it’s designed for solid, maximum coloring pleasure to excite and delight your senses. [...] Help Robin celebrate the launch of this brand-new limited edition (only 1000 printed) professionally printed coloring book at the awesome Blim retail store and artspace on Valentine’s Eve (that’s the night before Valentine’s Day!) where there will be a coloring contest with cool-ass prizes. There is no cover charge, beer and drinks will be available, and there will be tables for you to sit at if you wish to do some coloring! There will also be some crayons, markers and pencil crayons available to use, but not a whole lot of them, so it is recommended that you bring your own from home just to be safe. We’d hate to run out, and that way you can be rest assured that you’ll have all the colors you need to create a rainbow masterwork! [...]”—[Robin Bougie](#)

15 February 2016: **Liana Kerzner’s** birthday.

19 February 2016: Premiere of film *The Witch* (horror/mystery; Julian Richings).

19 February 2016: [BC Renaissance Festival Open Auditions/Meet/Form Pickup](#), 6–9 PM at Coming Home Cafe, 753 Sixth Street, New Westminster.—[Christina Carr](#)

19 February 2016: IPMS Annual Swap Meet, 7 PM at Bonsor Centre, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—[Miguel Bastarrachea](#)

20 February 2016: [Gundam Hobby.ca Open House](#), 10 AM–4 PM at [Gundam Hobby.ca](#), #1150–1368 Kingsway Avenue, Port Coquitlam. “February Open House. Open house for customers shopping. Table for anyone want to hang out to build.”—[Mentor Wang](#)

20 February 2016: [Warmachine Tournament: Love Machine!](#), 10:30 AM–5:30 PM, at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond. “Entrance fee \$10.00 for prize support. Eight spots open so pre-register. Two × 35 Pts lists. 45-minute death clock. Divide and conquer in effect. Normal character restriction in effect. For any questions please contact [Chris](#) here at the store.”

20 February 2016: [Fun Promotions Pop Culture Swap Meet](#), 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “Admission \$3; kids under 12 free. Please call 604-521-6304 or e-mail funpromo@shaw.ca.”

20 February 2016: [HeroClix: Worlds Finest Sealed](#), 12:30–5:30 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond. “Contact: [Manny](#).”

20 February 2016: Get Out of Your House and Build: February Edition, 1 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway, Burnaby. “It’s time to crawl out of the darkness of your model-building room and into the light of the toy store! Don’t be afraid to do it in public! Join us! *Your toys want to go! Why don’t you go too!*”—Stan Hyde

20 February 2016: All Star Wrestling, 6:45 PM at Tzeachten Hall, 48555 Promontory Road, Chilliwack.

21 February 2016: BC Renaissance Festival Open Auditions/Meets/Form Pickup, 3:30–6:30 PM at Coming Home Cafe, 753 Sixth Street, New Westminster.—Christina Carr

23 February 2016: Teen Pizza & Games, 5–7 PM at George Mackie Library, 8440 112th Street, Delta. “Imperial Hobbies in Richmond is bringing some of their popular and crazy cool games to the George Mackie Library. Come out during the evening to play *Cloud 9*, *Dominion*, *Carcassonne*, *Ultimate Werewolf* and other new and exciting games. Free pizza and refreshments will be provided. This program is for teens 12 to 18 years. Contact: Chris.”

24 February 2016: Wednesday Night Board Gaming, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond. “Open board gaming in a non-competitive, fun atmosphere with a great group of players. Ages 18 and up please. Knock on front door as store will be closed. For more information please contact Chris here at the store.”

25 February 2016: **Alyx Delamonica**’s birthday.

26 February 2016: Premiere of films *Gods of Egypt* (fantasy/adventure; Gerard Butler, Geoffrey Rush, Rufus Sewell, Bryan Brown), *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: Sword of Destiny* (fantasy/action; Michelle Yeoh, Jason Scott Lee), and *The Last Man on the Moon* (science documentary/history; Eugene Cernan, Christopher Kraft, Jim Lovell).

26 February 2016: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 5–8 PM at McGill Library, 4595 Albert Street, Burnaby. “Want something to do during an evening? Do you love to play board games? Are you between 12 and 19 years old? Then come to the library for a fun night of gaming and free pizza. Pizza and games compliments of Imperial Hobbies & the Library. Registration is required. Contact: Chris.”

26 February 2016: BC Renaissance Festival Open Auditions/Meet/Pick Ups, 6–9 PM at Coming Home Cafe, 753 Sixth Street, New Westminster.—Christina Carr

26 February 2016: All Star Wrestling, 6:45 PM at Cloverdale Fairgrounds, Alice McKay Building, 6050 176 Street, Surrey. Facebook. “Doors open at 6:45 PM. First match 7:30 PM. ASW Cruiserweight Title 2/3 falls—RCW Commonwealth Cham-

pion Cobra Kai vs. Cougar Meat Kid Collin Cutler (champion). ASW Trans Canada Title 2/3 Falls—Adam Ryder (champion) vs. Don Ceiver. Cruiserweights Collide—Matt Xstatic vs. The Pro Nick Price. Grudge Match—Damon James vs. Gama Singh Jr. *Six Man Tag Team Action*—Team USA: Azeem the Dream & Christopher Ryseck & Avarice (champions) vs. Team Rush Hour: The Great Kasaki & Mr. India & Sinn Bodhi. Girls Gone Wrestling—Bambi Hall vs. The Q.T. Quinn Taylor. Meet the wrestlers after the show at Boston Pizza Guildford. Tickets \$20 front row plus GST. \$15 general admission plus GST.”—Verne Siebert

27 February 2016: **Sharkbyte LePirate**’s birthday.

28 February 2016: **Swill VileFen Press**’s birthday.

28 February 2016: Vancouver Comic Show, 11 AM–5 PM at Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. “7,772 sq. feet! Door prizes! ATM! 10 minute walk from Broadway Skytrain! Food concession! Ample free parking! General admission \$5; kids under 13 free! Contact info: 1-855-881-9991 (toll free).”

News-Like Matter

Notes from December 2015 BCSFA Meeting/Dinner

In attendance were Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand, Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, William Graham, Ray Seredin, Stewart Smyth, and Sidney Trim.



The December meeting/dinner was at ABC Country Restaurant, Richmond, on the third Sunday (Sunday 20 December 2015), at 6 PM.

There were cards to sign—birthday cards for Teresa Spanics and Barb, and a Christmas card for Barb. Kathleen noticed that “the members who picked out the birthday cards for Barb and Teresa, quite independently, chose the same design.”

We talked about *Personal Services* (1987), a film directed by Terry Jones about the madam (Julie Walters) of a fetish brothel.

I’d recently re-watched the mini-series *V* (1983) and noticed an oddly stage-play-like scene. After a little research I discovered that it was in fact taken from a Bertolt Brecht play.

I saw some James “Amazing” Randi debunking videos on YouTube. One was with James Hydrick, a “kung fu” psychic.¹



1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlfMsZwr8rc>.—Future Felicity



The gospel music on ABC's sound system reminded us of Creflo Dollar. We wondered what awaits him in Hell. Someone suggested an economy class airplane seat.

Julian is dog-sitting, and the dog's name is Adrian.

I tried to imagine a gender-flipped version of the trope where a straight boy thinks he's attracted to another boy but is relieved to find out it's only a tomboy girl. Would a straight girl be worried that she's attracted to another girl but be relieved to find out it's only a feminine boy?

We wondered how to explain Andrea Martin to someone too young to remember *SCTV* (1976). Suggested answers: *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (2002) (Aunt Voula); *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (1993) (Ishka—Quark's mom).

This led to the Filmmation *Star Trek* (1973) episode "Beyond the Farthest Star." The Enterprise is mapping stellar remnant Questar M-17 and is caught in its "hypergravity" which is caused by its "negative mass." At first I thought a star that had cooled and stayed intact might be all iron, but Kathleen said it would be denser than iron if it exhibited "hypergravity." Joe summarised the bad science in that series: "We're going to the centre of the galaxy where the Big Bang originated and magic still works."² Sid said that Filmmation could do good work if they wanted to—their *Flash Gordon* was done by a fan.

I'd recently watched the *Starship Troopers* anime (1988). Sid said that there was a *Lensman* anime.³ I remembered seeing the English dub on the shelf in video stores.⁴ I'd been warned against it. I also have a few issues of the comic adaptation by Tim Eldred. It seems OK, but then I've never read the books so I wouldn't know if it's faithful. Sid said if you read the books, don't read the prefaces; they give everything away.



A distinguished panel of judges whose crotches are apparently cold.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 20 December 2015

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

"MAXIE'S WORLD"
AMIGA SYSTEM FONT "TOPAZ"
JEREMY "JERRY" HORNE FROM "TWIN PEAKS"
LITTLE CAESAR'S "MEATSA! MEATSA!" AD⁵
3L DIET COKE BOTTLES

2 However, we still love the animated *Star Trek*.—Future Felicity

3 (1984).—Future Felicity

4 I miss video stores.—Future Felicity

5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhOeHZ7mmM4>

Notice of West Coast Science Fiction Association 2016 AGM

Date	Saturday, March 12, 2016
Start Time	2:00 PM—doors open 1:30 PM for sign-up, sign-in, and proxy registration
End Time	4:00 PM—clean-up volunteers may stay until 4:30 PM
Location	Bonsor Recreation Centre (next to Metrotown), Multi-Use Room #2

All current members in good standing of the West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA), and all registered VCON 40 Volunteers, Programming Participants, Fan/Club Organization Reps, and Media/Press Pass Invitees are invited to attend our 2016 Annual General Meeting. Details for the date, time, and location are noted above.

[...]

WCSFA is the non-profit organization responsible for running VCON, Vancouver's premier science fiction, fantasy and games convention since 1971. Our mandate is to promote the importance of and to foster and encourage interest, involvement, and participation in Science Fiction and Fantasy in British Columbia through the coordination and promotion of community events.

See below for details of membership qualifications, planned AGM agenda, and Board contacts for further queries.

Best Regards,

Kathleen Moore: secretary@wcsfa.org

Secretary,

West Coast Science Fiction Association

Special Note About Memberships

Complimentary day or weekend VCON 40 memberships issued to volunteers, program participants, fan/club organization representatives, and media/press invitees *did not* include membership in WCSFA. These valued event participants are being notified of the WCSFA 2016 AGM at the request of the WCSFA 2015 President, Jenni Merrifield. If you had one of these VCON complimentary membership types, but no other VCON 40 membership, you are still welcome to attend the WCSFA 2016 AGM. You will have to purchase a \$5 WCSFA voting membership if you wish to vote at the AGM, or to run for office as a WCSFA director.

You *are* already a WCSFA member in good standing if

(A) you had *any other type* of paid or complimentary membership for VCON 40 (including a GOH Emeritus membership, a Saturday Evening Pass, a Youth membership, or a membership attached to a Vendor Hall or Artist Alley table), *or*

(B) you have purchased a membership for VCON 41, *or*

(C) you have paid the \$5 WCSFA membership fee at any time after February 28, 2015,

and you do not currently owe any debts to VCON or WCSFA.

Note that WCSFA voting memberships purchased at the 2015 AGM (2015 February 28th) will expire immediately before the 2016 AGM.

If you are not already a member in good standing, you may purchase a VCON 41 or WCSFA 2016 membership through the VCON 41 Eventbrite event;

see the vcon.ca website for details. You may also purchase a membership on-site at the AGM, during the “sign-in and sign-up” period between 1:30 PM and 2:00 PM.

If you are not sure whether you have a current WCSFA membership, please contact the WCSFA Secretary (secretary@wcsfa.org) or the VCON 40 Treasurer (treasurer@vcon.ca), preferably before March 11th, to check your status. Please provide a phone number for reply, if possible.

All members aged 13 and older who are in good standing are also voting members of WCSFA and are eligible to vote in the 2016 AGM elections for the WCSFA 2016 Board and for the chair of VCON 42, which will be held in October 2017. Members who are 19 and older are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.

Note that proxy voting *is* allowed for members who are unable to attend in person. Instructions on how to set up a proxy vote can be found online here: <http://bit.ly/1gNRJdO>

Planned 2016 AGM Agenda

- (1) Call to order
- (2) Adoption of the rules of order
- (3) Consideration of 2015 financial statements
- (4) Reports of the Directors (*brief!*)
- (5) Any Special Business arising from the Directors’ reports
- (6) Election of the Convention Committee Chair for VCON 42 in 2017
- (7) Election of directors for 2016:
 - (a) President
 - (b) Vice President
 - (c) Treasurer
 - (d) Secretary
 - (e) Archivist
 - (f) Members at Large(Elected 2016 President takes over remainder of meeting, once elections

are complete)

- (8) Closing Remarks (*brief!*)
- (9) Adjournment

Board Contacts for Queries About the AGM Etc.

For additional information, please feel free to contact either of the following:

- Kathleen Moore (2015 WCSFA Secretary)—secretary@wcsfa.org
- Susan Walsh (2015 WCSFA Vice President)—vicepresident@wcsfa.org

Join the WCSFA Board of Directors

WCSFA is looking for individuals 19 years of age or older interested in serving as a member of the 2016 WCSFA board of directors. Positions to be elected at the 2016 AGM are:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Archivist
- Member(s) at Large

We encourage anyone who is interested in being more involved with our society to consider running for a position. Board meetings are usually held quarterly, at a time and location determined to be convenient for a majority of Board Members.

West Coast Science Fiction Association (Secretary)

Saturday 20 February 2016

One Man's Canned Fish

Taral Wayne



By now, most of my readers will be familiar with Steven, the source of so many of my stories. In fact, it's about time that some of you have begun to suspect that there *is no* Steven, and that I made him up.

And I would have, too, if I had thought of him. Unfortunately, while I'm the sort of person who could invent a

Steven, I'm not so good at inventing the stories he tells me. So I'm sorry to disappoint any skeptics out there who don't believe Steven really exists. I assure you, he really *does*. Some of his stories are a little less believable than others, though.

And, inevitably, some of his stories are a little shorter and a bit less pointed. They can't all have a supreme "touché moment."

I made note of this one about a week ago. It's about Steven's father, a nice old man I met a number of times. We had little common ground between us because Rocco Baldassarra spoke rather limited English. The old gentleman had come to Canada to make a new life, and had more than justified this country's faith in its immigration policies. Mr. Baldassarra raised two daughters and a son—the risible and Puckish Steven—bought a large four bedroom home in Little Italy and built his own business from the ground up. He had been a carpenter in the old country and he custom-made furniture and retail fixtures in this one. All the shelves in the Royal Ontario Museum's gift shop were the work of Rocco Baldassarra's workshop. When I first encountered him in the street, I recognized him by the remarkable resemblance of the father to the son. Unfortunately, I'll never know whether or not Steven owes his splendid sense of humour to his father.

Mr. Baldassarra retired from business a number of years ago, the beginning of a slow decline for the man. He had nothing much to get him out of the bed in the morning, and the task of looking after the household largely passed from him to his son. The old man's health began to fail. I'm sorry to say that he passed away three or four years ago.

Steven told me a number of stories about his father, including one of an incident when he was getting the worse of an argument with Steven's mother. It was one of those issues that are commonly life-or-death in a marriage—the household budget. Specifically, the high cost of groceries, as illustrated by some cans of tuna that Mr. Baldassarra declared were outrageously expensive.

Not so, insisted the redoubtable Mrs. Baldassarra. They were exactly the same price as any can of tuna would be. Everyone knew the cost of living was steadily going up, if they only had eyes to see!

Nonsense, he replied. Why, anyone *half* as clever as he was could save substantially by smart shopping.

Oh, so? She said. I'd like to see you try, Mr. Smarty Pants! Go on...find me tuna fish that costs less than this!

(This conversation took place entirely in Italian, you understand, so I am necessarily translating the exact words in a very loose fashion—without gestures.)

The upshot was that Mr. Baldassarra left the house determined to show the truth of his case. He would prove he could be a more frugal shopper than any woman. Women, after all, are apt to be a trifle careless with money, since it was their *husbands* who had to earn it.

Some time later, Mr. Baldassarra returned home with a triumphant air. He had found a tremendous bargain in canned tuna, and to prove it he brought home a full bag of small, round cans with brightly printed labels. Mrs. Baldassarra held up one of the cans with an incredulous scowl, examined the label, and then her expression slowly changed into a smirk. Her laugh was short and victorious.

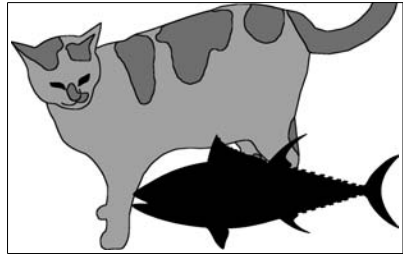
Mr. Baldassarra was mystified. What was so funny? He went out to buy tuna. Here was tuna. Not at *more* than a dollar each, but at a bargain *49 cents* a can! Why was his wife not begging his pardon for ever doubting him, but instead *laughing* at him?

It fell to Steven to explain, of course. Holding up one of the cans of tuna, he showed his father where the label read “tuna.” Then he asked his father why he thought there was a picture of a *cat* on the label as well...

“Because cats like tuna, *naturally!*” his father retorted. How can you argue with an answer like *that*?

Now, if the family had owned a cat, a little creative bullshitting might have saved the day for Steven’s dad. But when his mother served dinner that night, everyone at the table knew who won the argument. For at least one of the family, the meatballs tasted mighty like crow.

Thereafter, Mr. Baldassarra stuck to shopping for fan belts and men’s cologne.



Taral Wayne

Thursday 22 November 2012

Art Credits

<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (screenshots).....	Pages 1–2, 4 (left), 13, 14 (right)
Clip art (via <u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 3, 4 (right), 5, 14 (left), 18
<u>Taral Wayne</u>	Page 17