

# AURORAN LIGHTS

The Fannish E-zine of the Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Association  
Dedicated to Promoting the Prix Aurora Awards and the history of Canadian Fandom

#7

July 2012

## ATTENTION CANADIAN FANS!



YOU HAVE TILL 11:59.59 PM MONDAY  
TO VOTE FOR THE AURORA AWARDS!

# 2012 Prix Aurora Award Nominations

Time to vote for the English Professional and the Fan Aurora Award finalists for 2012! All works and activities were done during 2011 by Canadians. All ballots must be received by July 23, 2012, 11:59pm PDT.

We wish all our nominees the best of luck!

**FIRST:** Go to <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca>

**SECOND:** Register/become a member of CSFFA. This costs ten dollars. Click the 'Voting etc.' button, then hit the 'Register/Nominate/Vote' button. Fill in info and follow instructions. You will be emailed your society number.

**THIRD:** If already or newly registered, **Vote!** Go to 'Voting etc.' and click on the register/nominate/vote button. Log in with your email address and society number. Follow instructions.

**OPTIONAL:** Check out our [Voter's Package](#) This contains sample material from the nominated works, in some cases the entire work in question. At this late stage a quick perusal is the best you can accomplish, but it will confirm or trigger your voting choices. Well worth the effort if you have the time.

**AT THE VERY LEAST:** read the following information on the nominees. This info was compiled and posted online at the Prix Aurora site by Ron Friedman, Cliff Samuels, and one or more volunteers whose names I regret I cannot recall at this late date but whose work is much appreciated.

Cover Art Credit: Taral Wayne

# Best Novel – English



Enter, Night

by Michael Rowe, ChiZine Publications  
[www.michaelrowe.com](http://www.michaelrowe.com)

Michael Rowe was born in Ottawa in 1962 and has lived in Beirut, Havana, Geneva, and Paris. An award-winning journalist, and literary nonfiction writer, he is the author of *Writing Below the Belt*, a critically-acclaimed study of censorship, erotica and popular culture, as well as the essay collections *Looking for Brothers* and *Other Men's Sons*. His essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in the *Globe & Mail*, *National Post*, *The Advocate*, and *The Huffington Post*, as well as *CFQ*, *The Scream Factory*, *All-Hallows*, among many others. For 17 years he was the first-tier Canadian correspondent for *Fangoria*. He has won the *Lambda Literary Award*, the *Randy Shilts Award*, and the *Spectrum Award*, and has been a finalist for the *National Magazine Award*, the *Associated Church Press Award*, and the *International Horror Guild Award*. As the creator and editor of the critically acclaimed horror anthologies *Queer Fear* and *Queer Fear 2*, he was hailed by Clive Barker in 2002 as having "changed forever the shape of horror fiction." He is married and lives in Toronto. *Enter, Night* is his first novel.



Eutopia: A novel of Terrible Optimism

by David Nickle, ChiZine Publications  
[davidnickle.blogspot.ca/](http://davidnickle.blogspot.ca/)

David Nickle lives and works in Toronto, where he covers municipal matters for the Toronto Community News group of newspapers. His fiction has been published in magazines, anthologies and

online, and been adapted for television. In 1997, he and Edo Van Belkom won a Bram Stoker Award for their short story “Rat Food.” In 1993, he and Karl Schroeder co-wrote “The Toy Mill” and won an Aurora Award for short form work in English. In 1997, they published *The Claus Effect*, an expansion on that story. It’s available from EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing. Some of his stories are collected in *Monstrous Affections*, published in 2009 by ChiZine Publications. In 2010, *Monstrous Affections* was awarded the Black Quill Reader’s Choice Award for best dark genre collection. His novel *Eutopia: A Novel of Terrible Optimism*, was released by ChiZine Publications in the spring of 2011.

[Read the first Chapter](#)



Napier’s Bones

by Derryl Murphy, ChiZine Publications

[derrylmurphy.blogspot.ca](http://derrylmurphy.blogspot.ca)

*Napier’s Bones* is Derryl Murphy’s first novel but third book. His collection of ecoSF titled *Wasps at the Speed of Sound* was published in 2005 and his novella *Cast a Cold Eye*, co-written with William Shunn, in 2009. He has another collection, *Over the Darkened Landscape*, coming out in November of this year. His short stories “Body Solar” and “Mayfly” (co-written with Peter Watts) and his SF review column for the *Edmonton Journal* were previously nominated for the Prix Aurora Award. Derryl lives in Saskatoon with his wife and sons, and can be found on Twitter as @derrylm.



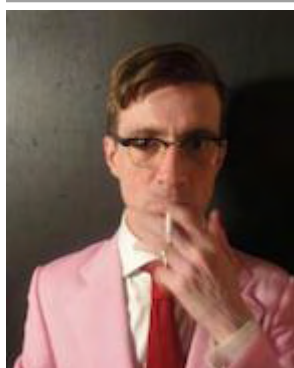
The Pattern Scars

by Caitlin Sweet, ChiZine Publications  
[caitlinsweet.com](http://caitlinsweet.com)

Caitlin Sweet's first fantasy novel, *A Telling of Stars*, was published by Penguin Canada in 2003. Her second, *The Silences of Home*, was published in 2005. Between them, they were nominated for Aurora Awards, a Locus Best First Novel Award, long-listed for the Sunburst Award, and ranked in the top 5 of SFSite's Best Novels of 2005.

For a few years she was deluded enough to think that she might write some epic trilogies. Eventually she returned to her senses and wrote a stand-alone novel, *The Pattern Scars*, which was published in fall 2011 by ChiZine Publications. In spring of 2012 it won the CBC Bookie Award in the Science Fiction, Fantasy or Speculative Fiction category.

When not writing (which, sadly, is most of the time), Caitlin is an administrative assistant with the Ontario Government, and a genre writing workshop instructor at U of T's School of Continuing Studies.



Technicolor Ultra Mall

by Ryan Oakley, EDGE  
[thegrumpyowl.com](http://thegrumpyowl.com)

Ryan Oakley's consumerist dystopia *Technicolor Ultra Mall* has been called "Heath Ledger's Joker crossed with Fox News and Snow Crash" and the writing "hellish, brilliant, stellar and profane." When not working on novels, he has kept a blog, *The Grumpy Owl*, since 2005, and tweets under @thegrumpyowl. *Toronto Life* has called him one of Toronto's 12 Most Stylish People and he is internationally recognized for his anarcho-dandyism.



Wonder

by Robert J. Sawyer, Penguin Canada  
[sfwriter.com](http://sfwriter.com)

Robert J. Sawyer has won the Hugo Award (for Hominids), the Nebula Award (for The Terminal Experiment), the John W. Campbell Memorial Award (for Mindscan), the Seiun Award (for Illegal Alien) and the Audie Award (for Calculating God). The ABC TV series FlashForward was based on his novel of the same name.

[Read the Opening Chapters](#)

## Best Short Fiction – English



The Legend of Gluck

by Marie Bilodeau, **When the Hero Comes Home**, Dragon Moon Press  
[mariebilodeau.blogspot.ca/](http://mariebilodeau.blogspot.ca/)

Marie Bilodeau is an Ottawa-based science-fiction and fantasy author. Her space fantasy novel, *Destiny's Blood*, was nominated for the 2011 Aurora Awards and won the Bronze Medal for Science-Fiction in the Foreword Book Awards. She is also the author of the *Heirs of a Broken Land*, a fantasy trilogy described as “fresh and exciting” by Robert J. Sawyer, Hugo award-winning author of *WAKE*. Her short stories have appeared in several magazines and anthologies, including the recent *When the Hero Comes Home*, edited by Ed Greenwood and Gabrielle Harbowy.





## The Needle's Eye

by Suzanne Church, **Chilling Tales: Evil Did I Dwell, Lewd I Did Live**, EDGE  
[www.suzannechurch.com](http://www.suzannechurch.com)

Originally from Toronto, Suzanne Church lives in Kitchener, Ontario with her two teenaged sons. She writes Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror because she enjoys them all and hates to play favourites. When cornered she becomes fiercely Canadian. Her short stories have appeared in Cicada and On Spec, and in several anthologies including Chilling Tales: Evil Did I Dwell — Lewd I Did Live and Tesseracts 13 & 14.



## Turning It Off

by Susan Forest, **Analog**, December 2011  
[susanforest.speculative-fiction.ca/](http://susanforest.speculative-fiction.ca/)

Winner of The Galaxy Project, juried by Robert Silverberg, David Drake and Barry Malzberg (Rosetta Books, November, 2011) for her novella, "Lucy", Susan Forest is a writer of science fiction, fantasy and horror. Her recent sales include, "Turning it Off" (Analog, December, 2011), "The Most Invasive Species" (Analog, April, 2012), "Rent in Space" (Analog, upcoming), "To Go Home to Leal" (Beneath Ceaseless Skies, upcoming) and "7:54" (OnSpec, upcoming). Other works have appeared in Asimov's Science Fiction, Analog Science Fiction and Fact, Tesseracts Ten, Tesseracts Eleven, Tesseracts Fourteen, AE Science Fiction Review, OnSpec and Legacy Magazine. In August of 2012, her first collection, Immunity to Strange Tales, will be launched by Five Rivers Chapmanry Press. Susan's YA novel, The Dragon Prince, was awarded the Children's Circle Book Choice Award and her story, "Back" was a finalist for the 2009 the Prix Aurora Award.



## One Horrible Day

by Randy McCharles, **The 2nd Circle**, The 10th Circle Project  
[www.the10thcircle.com](http://www.the10thcircle.com)

Randy McCharles has been active in Calgary's writing community for many years with a focus on dark, humorous (and often both) fantasy. In 2009 he received Canada's most prestigious award for SF & F, the Prix-Aurora Award, for both short fiction and fan organization. In 2005 he co-chaired the Calgary Westercon, and in 2008 chaired the international World Fantasy Convention. In 2010 he conceived When Words Collide, chaired its very successful inaugural year (2011), and is chairing again for 2012. Randy is a long-time member of IFWA, the Imaginative Fiction Writers Association, and in 2009 was published in Year's Best Fantasy 9 (David Hartwell and Katheryn Kramer, ed). He is a regular contributor to the 10th Circle Project (available as eBooks from Amazon.com) and has several stories available in print from Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing.



## To Live and Die in Gibbontown

by Derek Kunsken  
[eastblockirregulars.wordpress.com/](http://eastblockirregulars.wordpress.com/)

Derek Kunsken is a writer living in Ottawa after a number of years overseas working for the government and for NGOs. His fiction has appeared in Beneath Ceaseless Skies, Black Gate, On Spec, sub-Terrain and several times in Asimov's Science Fiction. He is a founding member of the East Block Irregulars, an Ottawa-area writers group working in science fiction, fantasy and horror, and is a member of SFWA. His Asimov's story "To Live and Die in Gibbontown" is not safe for work as it involves unrestrained monkey name calling and features questionable visa scams.



# Best Related Work – English



Fairytale CD

by Heather Dale, AmphisMusic  
[www.heatherdale.com/](http://www.heatherdale.com/)

Heather Dale is now (and has been for a while) a full-time touring musician, whose original songs explore legends, mythology, history and fantasy. She and her partner Ben Deschamps are cheerful, adventurous, free-spirited people who spend most of each year traveling on concert tours, sharing their music with ‘modern dreamers’ from all walks of life. They fuse the Celtic folk tradition with a healthy mix of world music and rock influences.

[Listen to clips](#)



The First Circle: Volume One of the Tenth Circle Project

Edited by Eileen Bell and Ryan McFadden  
[www.the10thcircle.com/](http://www.the10thcircle.com/)

Eileen Bell: I am a woman who lives in Alberta — two strikes against me — and I’m trying to become a professional writer. I write paranormal mystery/ romance (apparently) in many different forms — novels, novellas, short stories and flash fiction. I’ve had some success having some of these published, so yay for that! Am also working on an ebook series (we are calling it a “serialized shared world ebook experience) that will take all of my time until March 2013. Wish me luck.

Ryan McFadden: I am an Aurora-award winning fantasy/SF author in London, Ontario. My novella Dues Ex Machina was one of the four Aurora-winning stories of Women of the Apocalypse, (this site is full of those exploits). The Apocalyptic Four are planning our next project: The Puzzle Box. My other writing credits include stories in Alienskin, Chicago Overcoat, Afterburn SF, Sinister Tales, as well as a finalist in the \$1500 JFJK contest.

---



## Neo-Opsis

Edited by Karl Johanson

[www.neo-opsis.ca](http://www.neo-opsis.ca)

Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine editor Karl Johanson greatly enjoys working with all the people responsible for the magazine, most notably his wife Stephanie Ann Johanson, Neo-opsis' assistant editor, art director, co-owner and article and review writer. Karl is also a former co-editor of the four-time Aurora winner Under the Ozone Hole. Karl has worked for Sanctuary Woods Multimedia, Disney Interactive and North Star Games, doing writing, design and testing on close to 200 computer games. Karl's recent publication credits include Sci Phi Journal, On Spec magazine and Stitches: The Magazine of Medical Humour.

---



## On Spec

Published by the Copper Pig Writers Society

[www.onspec.ca](http://www.onspec.ca)

In 1989, a small group of Edmonton writers formed The Copper Pig Writers Society in order to fill a niche in Canada. At the time, there was no paying market for literary works that the major American SF & Fantasy magazines deemed to be too “alien” for their audiences.

English-speaking Canadian SF writers were frustrated with having to “Americanize” their stories for

the paying markets. We knew there was an audience hungry for thoughtful, intelligent (often unconventional) SF and Fantasy with a uniquely Canadian perspective. After selling out our initial print run of a test issue filled with stories sent to us by invitation, we began receiving inquiries as to when the “next one” would appear. That was nearly twenty years ago!



Tesseract Fifteen: A Case of Quite Curious Tales

Edited by Julie Czerneda and Susan MacGregor

<http://www.edgewebsite.com/books/tess15/t15-catalog.html>

Julie Czerneda: Since 1997, Julie E. Czerneda has turned her love and knowledge of biology into science fiction novels and short stories that have received international acclaim, multiple awards, and best-selling status. A popular speaker on scientific literacy and SF, in 2009 Julie was Guest of Honour for the national conventions of New Zealand and Australia, as well as Master of Ceremonies for Anticipation, the Montreal Worldcon. She’s busy writing short stories as well as her next novel, having finished her first really big fantasy, *A Turn of Light*, to be published by DAW March 2013. Most recently, Julie was guest speaker at the U. of South Florida’s symposium on Women Writers of SF, and co-edited *Tesseract Fifteen: A Case of Quite Curious Tales* with Susan MacGregor. (No matter how busy, she’ll be out canoeing too.) For more about Julie’s work, visit [www.czerneda.com](http://www.czerneda.com) or visit her on Facebook or Goodreads.

Susan MacGregor: Susan has been an editor with *On Spec* magazine since 1991. Her published work has appeared in *On Spec*, *Northern Frights*, and other magazines. In 1998 her anthology *Divine Realms* was published through the Ravenstone imprint of Turnstone Books. Her most recent book *The ABC’s of How NOT to Write Speculative Fiction* was published in 2006 by the Copper Pig Writer’s Society.

## Best Poem / Song – English



## A Good Catch

by Colleen Anderson, **Polu Texni**, April 2011

[colleenanderson.wordpress.com](http://colleenanderson.wordpress.com)

Colleen Anderson writes in various genres and has over 100 published stories and poems appearing in magazines and anthologies, including *Evolve*, *Horror Library Vol. 4*, *Chizine*, *Prairie Fire*, *Talebones*, *Descant*, *ON Spec*, and *Amaranth Review*. She has a BFA in creative writing and has won the Jerry Jazz Musician fiction contest and placed second in the Crucible poetry competition, plus several honorable mentions in the Year's Best anthologies, the Rannu competition and the Science Fiction Poetry Association's contest. She is an editor with Chizine Publications and freelances as a copyeditor. Her chapbook of speculative verse *Ancient Tales, Grand Deaths and Past Lives* is available through Kelp Queen Press.



## Ode to the Mongolian Death Worm

by Sandra Kasturi, **ChiZine**, Supergod Mega-Issue, Volume 47

[sandrakasturi.com/](http://sandrakasturi.com/)

The Co-Publisher at ChiZine Publications, Sandra Kasturi is a poet, writer, and editor, as well as co-creator of a kids animated TV series. In 2005, she won ARC magazines annual Poem of the Year award. She is the poetry editor of *ChiZine: Treatments of Light and Shade in Words* and the Co-Publisher of ChiZine Publications. Sandra has written three poetry chapbooks and has edited the poetry anthology, *The Stars As Seen from this Particular Angle of Night*. Her work has appeared in various magazines and anthologies, including *Prairie Fire*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *TransVersions*, *On Spec*, *Taddle Creek*, several of the *Tesseract* series, *2001: A Science Fiction Poetry Anthology*, and *Northern Frights 4*. Her cultural essay, *Divine Secrets of the Yaga Sisterhood* appeared in the anthology *Girls Who Bite Back: Witches, Slayers, Mutants and Freaks*. Sandra is a founding member of the Algonquin Square Table poetry workshop and sporadically runs her other imprint, Kelp Queen Press. She managed to snag an introduction from Neil Gaiman for her first full-length poetry collection, *The Animal Bridegroom* (Tightrope Books). She is represented by the Anne McDermid Agency, and is currently working on her first novel, a mythological noir. She enjoys single-malt scotch, red lipstick, and Viggo Mortensen.

---



## Skeleton Leaves

by Helen Marshall, Kelp Queen Press  
[www.manuscriptgal.com/](http://www.manuscriptgal.com/)

Helen Marshall is an author, editor, and self-proclaimed bibliophile. Her poetry has been published in The Chiaroscuro, Paper Crow, Abyss & Apex and the long-running Tesseract anthology series. In 2011, she released a poetry chapbook entitled Skeleton Leaves from Kelp Queen Press that was jury-selected for the Preliminary Ballot of the Bram Stoker Award and nominated for a Rhysling Award. Her collection of short stories Hair Side, Flesh Side will be released in November, 2012.

[Watch the trailer here](#)



## Skeleton Woman

by Heather Dale and Ben Deschamps, **Fairytale CD** AmphisMusic  
[heatherdale.com](http://heatherdale.com)

Heather Dale is now (and has been for a while) a full-time touring musician, whose original songs explore legends, mythology, history and fantasy. She and her partner Ben Deschamps are cheerful, adventurous, free-spirited people who spend most of each year traveling on concert tours, sharing their music with ‘modern dreamers’ from all walks of life. They fuse the Celtic folk tradition with a healthy mix of world music and rock influences.

[Listen to a clip](#)



## Zombie Bees of Winnipeg

by Carolyn Clink, **ChiZine**, Supergod Mega-Issue, Volume 47  
[www.sfpoet.com](http://www.sfpoet.com)

Carolyn has always lived in Canada, always written poetry, and always been afraid of bees. She won the Aurora Award in 2011 for her poem “The ABCs of the End of the World.” There were bees in that poem, too.

[Read it here](#)

# Best Graphic Novel – English



## Goblins (Webcomic)

by Tarol Hunt  
[www.goblinscomic.com/](http://www.goblinscomic.com/)

Tarol Hunt first tried to place his comics on the internet as a child in the 80's. Discovering that this would be an almost impossible task until the internet was invented, he tried again in 2005 with much greater success. As a child, Tarol drew scores of comics, mostly involving Dungeons & Dragons. He was inspired by other comics like Elfquest, Heavy Metal Magazine and Dragon Magazine (well you know, the back of Dragon Magazine... where the comics were).





## Imagination Manifesto, Book 2

by GMB Chomichuk, James Rewucki and John Toone, Alchemical Press

[www.alchemicalpress.com](http://www.alchemicalpress.com)

GMB Chomichuk is a Canadian writer, teacher, mixed media artist, graphic novelist and proud Winnipegger. He won the Manitoba Young Writers Award when he was 15. He won the Manitoba Book Award for Best Illustrated Book in 2011 for his graphic novel serial The Imagination Manifesto. He is the founder of Alchemical Press and is always on the lookout for literary oddities. He puts words and pictures together. Some people call that alchemy. He calls that comics. You can follow him on twitter @gmbchomichuk and see some of his work in progress at [www.comicalchemy.blogspot.com](http://www.comicalchemy.blogspot.com). [www.alchemicalpress.com](http://www.alchemicalpress.com) <http://www.nerdsraging.com/news/gmb-chomichuk/> Join the fight. Make comics.

---



## Weregeek (webcomic)

by Alina Pete

[www.weregeek.com](http://www.weregeek.com)

Alina was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. To survive the harsh Canadian winters, she took to doodling funny animals on any available surface in her feeble attempts to stay warm. After high school, Alina took classical animation courses and went to the University of Saskatchewan in pursuit of her BFA (which remains uncompleted). She followed this up with a 3-D animation certificate, just for good measure. Alina is a firm believer in overkill.

# Best Artist



Janice Blaine

for “Cat in Space”, the cover art for Neo-Opsis, Issue 20  
[www.paintersblock.com](http://www.paintersblock.com)

Janice Blaine is a professional commercial artist working out of Calgary. Throughout her career, she has worked on a wide variety of projects, ranging from pre-production animation to design & illustration of children’s books. Her illustrations have appeared on the covers of numerous magazines and books. She currently works as the Production Manager at EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, as well as the Commercial Artist for The Financial Guides. Her personal work is fuelled by a passion for storytelling and a love of nature.



Costi Gurgu

for cover art for Outer Diverse, Starfire.  
[illustrationcostigurgu.wordpress.com](http://illustrationcostigurgu.wordpress.com)

Costi Gurgu is an art director, illustrator and writer living in Toronto with his wife. He worked as the art director of Playboy Magazine, the French fashion magazine—Madame Figaro, and the women life-style magazine—Tabu. Costi was also the art director and illustrator of ProLogos Imprint, where he designed their visual identity and illustrated some of the book covers.

As an author, Costi has published three books and over fifty short stories in Romania, Poland, Hungary, Denmark, England and North America. He has won twenty-four awards for his fiction. His latest sales include the Danish anthology “Creatures of Glass and Light”, the DAW Books anthology

“Ages of Wonder”, and the Wildside Press anthology “The Third Science Fiction Megapack”.  
He is a SFWA member.

---



Erik Mohr

for cover art for ChiZine Publications

[erikmohr.com](http://erikmohr.com)

Erik Mohr enjoys playing Lego with his kids on sunny Sunday mornings, goes for long runs, loves camping and canoeing, purposely gets lost in design bookstores and art galleries, enjoys challenges such as baking cookies in toaster ovens and building complicated folded and glued paper toys.

---



Dan O'Driscoll

for “Deep Blue Seven”, cover art for On Spec magazine

[www.djostudio.com](http://www.djostudio.com)

In 1989, a small group of Edmonton writers formed The Copper Pig Writers Society in order to fill a niche in Canada. At the time, there was no paying market for literary works that the major American SF & Fantasy magazines deemed to be too “alien” for their audiences.

English-speaking Canadian SF writers were frustrated with having to “Americanize” their stories for the payinDan O'Driscoll is a freelance illustrator based in Calgary, Alberta. For Dan, art has always been a medium of exploration, allowing him to give visual form to imaginary worlds and share them with others. Working in illustration has also allowed him to explore and interpret worlds that exist in the minds of other creative people. The resulting works have been featured in magazines and books in both Canada and the United States.

“My favorite examples of my own art are the pieces that feel like they are part of a story. I enjoy well-told stories, but not being a writer, I cannot create them. I can, however, create the worlds that they happen in, and through my work, perhaps open a window on a story in progress.”

---



Martin Springett

for Interior art for “The Pattern Scars”, ChiZine  
[www.martinspringett.com](http://www.martinspringett.com)

Martin Springett was born in Crayford, Kent, England, in 1947. He studied art (that is he learned to play the Guitar) for two semesters at the Brassey School of Art in Hastings, Sussex. He emigrated to the West Coast of Canada in 1965, but returned to the UK in 1973 to pursue music in various bands. He spent time in Germany, and toured through Europe.

While in London Martin started to illustrate and design record covers for Columbia records. Upon his return to Vancouver, Martin carried on with music and illustrated various books and magazines. In 1978 he moved to Toronto, maintaining activity in every area where illustration is required. He released his own album, “The Gardening Club”, in 1983.

## Best Fan Publication



BCSFAzine

Edited by Felicity Walker  
[efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm](http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm)

Felicity lives in Richmond, British Columbia. She has been consciously publishing zines since 2003. Her previous works are BCSFAZINEzine, This Is What Happens When You Don't Eat Your Vegetables, Drawings of the Vancouver Goth Scene, and Ish. She has edited BCSFAzine since 2009.



## Bourbon and Eggnog

by Eileen Bell, Ryan McFadden, Billie Milholland and Randy McCharles, 10th Circle Project.  
[www.the10thcircle.com/bourbon.php](http://www.the10thcircle.com/bourbon.php)

Eileen Bell: I am a woman who lives in Alberta — two strikes against me — and I'm trying to become a professional writer. I write paranormal mystery/ romance (apparently) in many different forms — novels, novellas, short stories and flash fiction. I've had some success having some of these published, so yay for that! Am also working on an ebook series (we are calling it a “serialized shared world ebook experience”) that will take all of my time until March 2013. Wish me luck.

Ryan McFadden: I am an Aurora-award winning fantasy/SF author in London, Ontario. My novella Dues Ex Machina was one of the four Aurora-winning stories of Women of the Apocalypse, (this site is full of those exploits). The Apocalyptic Four are planning our next project: The Puzzle Box. My other writing credits include stories in Alienskin, Chicago Overcoat, Afterburn SF, Sinister Tales, as well as a finalist in the \$1500 JFJK contest.

Billie Milholland: First published in non-fiction (Harrowsmith magazine, Western Producer People magazine and weekly newspapers in Alberta and British Columbia); then short fiction (in Canadian magazines & produced on CBC Radio Anthology); then novellas (a Time Travel Romance & one of four novellas in “Women of the Apocalypse” – Aurora winner 2010). Now working on an ebook, collaborative project with thee other writers: “The 10th Circle Project”.

Billie lives with her husband, daughter, granddaughter, a large family of dust bunnies and two imperious cats. Now and then they hold her feet to the fire and the rest of her close to the ground, where all good stories begin. She is known as Weed Woman by participants of her Medicinal Plants & the Edible Wild workshops; Dendrite Diva by participants in her creativity courses and River Rat by watershed stewards.

Like many writers she has had more jobs than she's owned shoes (she's fond of shoes), but the single thread tying all of her exploits together is her irrepressible sense of story and obsessive urge to tell some.

Randy McCharles: Randy McCharles has been active in Calgary's writing community for many years with a focus on dark, humorous (and often both) fantasy. In 2009 he received Canada's most prestigious award for SF & F, the Prix-Aurora Award, for both short fiction and fan organization. In 2005 he co-chaired the Calgary Westercon, and in 2008 chaired the international World Fantasy Convention. In 2010 he conceived When Words Collide, chaired it's very successful inaugural year (2011), and is chairing again for 2012. Randy is a long-time member of IFWA, the Imaginative Fiction Writers Association, and in 2009 was published in Year's Best Fantasy 9 (David Hartwell and Katheryn Kramer, ed). He is a regular contributor to the 10th Circle Project (available as eBooks from Amazon.com) and has several stories available in print from Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing.

---



In Places Between: The Robin Herrington Memorial Short Story Contest book

Edited by Renée Bennett

[www.writtenword.org/in\\_places\\_between/](http://www.writtenword.org/in_places_between/)

Renée Bennett lives and writes in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She's had her work appear in such diverse places as CBC Radio, Realms of Fantasy, and Year's Best Fantasy, and she sincerely hopes this continues.

---



Sol Rising

Edited by Michael Matheson

[michaelmatheson.wordpress.com](http://michaelmatheson.wordpress.com)

A native of Toronto, Michael Matheson is a writer, freelance editor, and sometime lecturer. A submissions editor with Apex, a book reviewer for ChiZine as well as the Globe and Mail and Innsmouth Free Press, he is also the editor of the Friends of the Merrill Collection outreach publication Sol Rising, and was contest administrator for the 2011-2012 (Inaugural) Friends of the Merrill Short



Story Contest. He has fiction published or forthcoming in multiple venues including Aoife's Kiss, the Lovecraft eZine, and the anthologies Future Lovecraft, Chilling Tales 2, and multiple volumes of the Stupefying Stories anthology series. More information for the Friends of the Merril Short Story Contest can be found at <http://friendsmerrilcontest.com>, and issues of Sol Rising can be read for free online at [http://www.thefriendsofthemerril.org/sol\\_archive.html](http://www.thefriendsofthemerril.org/sol_archive.html).

---



Space Cadet

Edited by R. Graeme Cameron  
[efanzines.com/SpaceCadet/index.htm](http://efanzines.com/SpaceCadet/index.htm)

The Graeme was born in 1951, raised in Ottawa and Toronto, and has lived in the Vancouver area since 1968. He recently retired from the distasteful task of earning a living and is now devoting his second childhood entirely to fannish activities. He attended his first SF convention in 1968, and joined the B.C. SF Association in 1970 (he is currently President of BCSFA). He is also the former 'God-Editor of BCSFAzine (#193 to #268), the 1997 Canadian Unity Fan Fund winner and 1998 CUFF Administrator, Administrator of the Elron Awards since 1989, a twelve-times Aurora nominee, a two-time Aurora Award winner (2001 & 2010), Archivist for BCSFA, CSFFA, CFFAS, WCSFA & VCON, and Editor & Publisher of 'SPACE CADET', 'THE CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA', 'WCSFAZINE', 'THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST', 'THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN', 'AURORAN LIGHTS', 'CORUSCATING CONUNDRUMS', 'THE FRENETIC FANAC REVIEW' & 'ENTROPY BLUES', as well as founder and administrator of the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society. He considers this perfectly normal behaviour and SF Fandom the best hobby ever invented.

## Best Fan Filk



Tom and Sue Jeffers  
(Stone Dragons)

for Concert at FilkOntario  
[www.stonedragons.ca](http://www.stonedragons.ca)

The Stone Dragons came to life at Stonehenge, that circle of mystery and magic. They manifest as a filk duo, who perform a mix of their original material along with humorous and topical songs by others. From their lair high above Toronto they have flown to perform at Balticon, Duckon, Confusion, OVFF, Anticipation and at the Bhigg House in Winnipeg where they opened for Heather Dale. Tom and Sue Jeffers are delighted to share their joy of music.

[Video from another con-concert](#)



Phil Mills

for Body of Work, including songs written for FAWM and 50/90  
[filk.philmills.ca/2011.html](http://filk.philmills.ca/2011.html)

I've been a music fan for as long as I can remember. Well before encountering filk or even hearing the term, I was interested in songs that used fantasy and science fiction settings, just as I was interested in books that treated those subjects. The change that came with acceptance into the filk community was the transition from consumer to participant. Filk gave me a reason and an opportunity to express the words and music that I had previously only heard inside my head.

During 2011, I participated in two events that would result in most of my song production for the year. The first of these was FAWM, the February Album Writing Month, in which the goal was to write 14 new songs in 28 days. I finished the month with 16 new filk songs. From July through September, I participated in a related challenge called 50/90, attempting to write 50 songs in 90 days. I ended with 32, of which 29 were decidedly filk material. Apart from that, a couple of other original songs and a scattered few parodies rounded out the most prolific writing year I've had yet.

---



Cindy Turner

for Interfilk concert at OVFF  
[shaddy.livejournal.com](http://shaddy.livejournal.com)

On a dark and stormy afternoon, wolves howled as Cindy entered the world. She's pretty much been making people bay at the moon ever since.

A geek and a nerd long before these things were fashionable, Cindy has been a die-hard science fiction fan since childhood. While the other kids were watching Romper Room, she cut her teeth on Lost in Space and ST:TOS. One day, while looking for Star Trek books in the library, she discovered the existence of other science fiction. Heinlein, Ellison, L'Engle and McCaffry all led to deeper levels of addiction. A true SF junkie, she reads voraciously, ever in search of the next fix.

Cindy runs the filk track for VCON, and has been involved with putting together the songbook and running hospitality for Conflkt since its inception. When not actively convention planning, she amuses herself by cooking up fanfics about Sexy English vampires and Stargate personnel. When inspiration strikes, she adds music, stirs vigorously and bakes up a filk.

## Best Fan Organizational



Andrew Gurudata

Chair of the Constellation Awards committee

Andrew Gurudata has been organizing various conventions, fan clubs, and other fandom activities in Montreal and Toronto since 1991. This includes having been the president of Montreal's Doctor Who fan club for 4 years and having chaired Toronto's annual "Toronto Trek" science fiction convention (now known as "Polaris") four times. He's also a fandom DJ who has been DJing dances since 2006 at

conventions such as “Ad Astra” (Toronto), “ConCept” (Montreal), “FutureCon” (Toronto), and one “WorldCon” (Montreal) – And he was even a guest DJ on an episode of the TV series “Ed and Red’s Night Party”. For the past six years, Andrew has been proud to be in charge of taking The Constellation Awards – Canada’s only awards celebrating excellence in science fiction film and television – from a vague idea to a reality. In his spare time, Andrew wonders what on earth “spare time” means.

---



Peter Halasz

Administrator of the Sunburst Awards

Peter has enthusiastically collected, promoted, and even occasionally written about Canadian SF&F for over 25 years. In fact, if you’re not careful, he’s as likely as not to talk your ear off about it.

He is one of the founders of the Sunburst Award and is also one of the three founders who still remain active as administrators. Peter confides that he has plans for those administrators who are taking a leave.

---



Helen Marshall and Sandra Kasturi

Chairs of the Toronto SpecFic Colloquium

Helen Marshall: Helen Marshall is an author, editor, and self-proclaimed bibliophile. Her poetry has been published in *The Chiaroscuro*, *Paper Crow*, *Abyss & Apex* and the long-running *Tesseract* anthology series. In 2011, she released a poetry chapbook entitled *Skeleton Leaves* from Kelp Queen Press that was jury-selected for the Preliminary Ballot of the Bram Stoker Award and nominated for a

Rhysling Award. Her collection of short stories *Hair Side*, *Flesh Side* will be released in November, 2012.

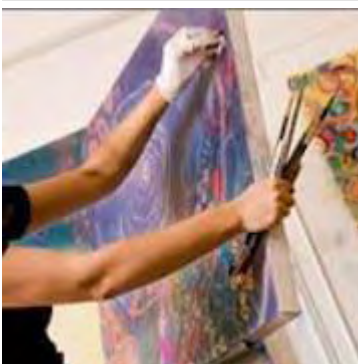
Sandra Kasturi: The Co-Publisher at ChiZine Publications, Sandra Kasturi is a poet, writer, and editor, as well as co-creator of a kids animated TV series. In 2005, she won ARC magazines annual Poem of the Year award. She is the poetry editor of ChiZine: *Treatments of Light and Shade in Words* and the Co-Publisher of ChiZine Publications. Sandra has written three poetry chapbooks and has edited the poetry anthology, *The Stars As Seen from this Particular Angle of Night*. Her work has appeared in various magazines and anthologies, including *Prairie Fire*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *TransVersions*, *On Spec*, *Taddle Creek*, several of the *Tesseract* series, *2001: A Science Fiction Poetry Anthology*, and *Northern Frights 4*. Her cultural essay, *Divine Secrets of the Yaga Sisterhood* appeared in the anthology *Girls Who Bite Back: Witches, Slayers, Mutants and Freaks*. Sandra is a founding member of the Algonquin Square Table poetry workshop and sporadically runs her other imprint, Kelp Queen Press. She managed to snag an introduction from Neil Gaiman for her first full-length poetry collection, *The Animal Bridegroom* (Tightrope Books). She is represented by the Anne McDermid Agency, and is currently working on her first novel, a mythological noir. She enjoys single-malt scotch, red lipstick, and Viggo Mortensen.



Randy McCharles

Founder and Chair of When Words Collide (Calgary)

Randy McCharles has been active in Calgary's writing community for many years with a focus on dark, humorous (and often both) fantasy. In 2009 he received Canada's most prestigious award for SF & F, the Prix-Aurora Award, for both short fiction and fan organization. In 2005 he co-chaired the Calgary Westercon, and in 2008 chaired the international World Fantasy Convention. In 2010 he conceived When Words Collide, chaired its very successful inaugural year (2011), and is chairing again for 2012. Randy is a long-time member of IFWA, the Imaginative Fiction Writers Association, and in 2009 was published in *Year's Best Fantasy 9* (David Hartwell and Katheryn Kramer, ed). He is a regular contributor to the 10th Circle Project (available as eBooks from Amazon.com) and has several stories available in print from Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing.



Rose Wilson

Organization of Art Show at V-Con (Vancouver)

---



Alex von Thorn

Chair of SFContario 2 (Toronto)

Alexander von Thorn has worked on many conventions in Toronto, including Ad Astra, FilkOntario, Toronto Trek, Anime North, Bloody Words, Pandemonium, Primedia, World Horror Convention, Torcon III, Mensa Canada Annual Gathering, and the International Space Development Conference. He has worked on a dozen Worldcons, three NASFiCs, and other conventions in Chicago, Seattle, and elsewhere. He is currently bid chair of the Spokane in 2015 Worldcon Bid, Webmaster for Chicon 7, publications director for Westercon 65, and program director for Duckcon 21. He has won the Aurora award for fan writing and done game design work for TSR, Victory Games, and Steve Jackson Games. He managed The Worldhouse game store in Toronto in the '80s and early '90s, helped manage a technical support team for Verizon, and is presently an independent web developer and project management consultant.

## **Best Fan Other**



Lloyd Penney

Letters of Comment

[lloydpenney.livejournal.com/](http://lloydpenney.livejournal.com/)



Lloyd Penney is a native and resident of Toronto, and found the fun and insanity of fandom in late 1977 through a Star Trek club in Victoria, British Columbia. Even earlier than that, he discovered, through his mother, the science fiction anthology, finding the collections of Carr, Gold and Wollheim, plus the novels of Asimov, Bradbury, Clarke and so many more.

He moved to Toronto for higher education, and found fandom there, too. He joined TAPA, the local amateur press association, and the Ad Astra SF convention committee, and for the next 30 years held positions, like dealer room chief, planning head and eventually chairman. He has also been on committees for other conventions in Toronto (chaired a Smofcon), Ottawa, Buffalo, Rochester and other places, and has been connected with various Worldcon bids, including British bids, and even the Yugoslavian bid in 1993, but especially the Toronto in 2003 Worldcon bid. He has now retired from concom positions, and now finds it amazingly easy to say no.

He's been involved with clubs, cons, and special projects and displays, was a member of the Star Trek Welcommittee for 15 years, and was involved in costuming and masquerade fandom also for about 15 years, but his major interest now is in fanzines, and the letter columns within, where he has been for about 30 years. He's written a number of articles and book and fanzine review columns over the years, but the local is where he's been the longest.

Lloyd has won two Aurora Awards and five FAAn Awards over the years, and was nominated for a Hugo Award in the category of Best Fan Writer in 2010.



Peter Watts

“Reality: The Ultimate Mythology” lecture, Toronto SpecFic Colloquium  
[www.rifters.com](http://www.rifters.com)

Peter Watts is the author of the so-called “Rifters trilogy”; an obscure video-game novelization; and the semi-obscure semi-hit Blindsight, which was nominated for a s\*\*\*load of awards (even winning a couple) and which somehow ended up as a core text for a smattering of undergraduate neuropsych and philosophy courses despite an unhealthy focus on space vampires. Watts’ work is available in 17 languages; he is especially popular in Poland, for reasons which remain unclear. He probably owes at least part of his 2010 Hugo (for the novelette “The Island”) to fan outrage over an unfortunate altercation with armed capuchins working for the US Department of Homeland Security, but he’s okay with that. The following year he decided to play the Sympathy card, by nearly dying of flesh-eating disease contacted during a routine skin biopsy. That strategy also worked insofar as “The Things” made the finals for a bunch of other prizes and even won a couple (including the Shirley Jackson Award). Watts is hard at work on The Next Horrible Thing to catapult him towards future trophies, perhaps for his upcoming novel Echopraxia.



Taral Wayne

Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards art  
[taralwayne.deviantart.com](http://taralwayne.deviantart.com)

“When it comes to fanzines, there isn’t too much I haven’t done at one time or another — I’m a fanartist and have been nominated for the Hugo 11 times. I also write prodigiously for fanzines. I even publish one now and then, under the titles New Toy and Broken Toys. Last year I published a one-shot trip report for the 2009 Montreal Worldcon, to commemorate being the Fan Guest of Honour that year. I’ve also won the Rotsler, a juried award for fan art and, this year, the first Canadian Fanzine Fanac Award for Fanartst. And I was the second CUFF delegate, back in 1987. Perhaps oddly — I’ve been in fandom since 1972 — I’ve never been nominated for an Aurora. A good selection of my fanzines can be downloaded free from — <http://efanzines.com/Taral/>. “

Designed by [Elegant WordPress Themes](#) | Powered by [WordPress](#)

## COLOPHON

**Auroran Lights** Issue # 7, July 2012, Volume 2 #2#2, Whole number 7, is the Fannish E-zine of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, a Federally registered non-profit society with the general mandate of promoting Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy and the specific focus of sponsoring the annual Convention and Prix Aurora Awards

**VOTE!**