

THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST

The Fannish E-Zine of the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society Dedicated to Promoting Canadian Fanzine Fandom

#1

August 2011



OOPS! I DID IT AGAIN!

By R. Graeme Cameron

In November of 1983 legendary fan Garth Spencer wrote: “*This week I went mad and invented another Fanzine.*”

Possibly I have outdone him. Over the last 48 hours I have created ‘The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards’, set up a ‘Canadian Fanzine Fanac awards’ Facebook site, set up the ‘CFF Awards’ Yahoo Group,

< http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CFF_AWARDS >

and begun work on this (possibly) monthly bulletin called ‘The Fanactical Fanactivist.’ Sigh. Is there no end to this madness?

First of all, right off the bat, some might question the choice of a prominent (albeit deceased) American Fan artist (William Rotsler) to grace the cover of this, the first issue of a Zine dedicated to promoting Canadian Fanzine Fandom.

I don’t know why. Canadian Zinedom is merely a subset of world Zinedom and not a fanatically xenophobic medley of raving nationalists. Some of the best writing and art in Canadian Zines comes from contributors outside the country. Consequently the CFF Awards and this Zine are not ‘anti’ anything, they just happen to be focused on the local, national scene in an effort to inspire more Canadians to participate. If the long term result is a more active Canadian Zinedom, all Zinedom will benefit.

Ah yes, what will the long term results be? Or the short term results for that matter? As I write I am the only member of both the Facebook and the Yahoo sites. If the situation remains the same as the days go by, no problem. If it stretches out to weeks, or even months, and still I’m the only enthusiast involved...

Let me put it this way. In the end, will I win an Aurora for this unexpected push to promote zinedom? Or will I get an Elron?

Will I succeed? Or will I fail?

It’s not up to me. It’s up to you.

Which is to say, up to Canadian Fen.

It strikes me that Canadian Zines tend to be produced in isolation, almost as if the other Zines and the other Fan groups do not exist. This combo-act of Awards, Facebook

site, Yahoo group and Zine is designed to create a hub of contact for Canadian Zinedom, a central source of information and communication, a veritable beehive of enthusiastic, fervid, Fanzine endeavour, a mighty, shining catalyst lighting up the universe, a scintillating coruscating.....hmmm.....

Makes me wonder, am I simply the new Claude Degler? Probably. Oh well.

Meanwhile, just to clarify matters a little, here is my first version of the FAQ posted at the Yahoo site (in the files section).

CONCERNING THE CANADIAN FANZINE FANAC AWARDS

Q) What does ‘Canadian Fanzine Fanac’ mean?

A) It means all Canadian Fannish activity (‘Fanac’) to do with the creation and publication of Canadian Science Fiction Fanzines.

Q) Who are the awards for?

A) For all those Canadian Fans active in the field: publishers, editors, artists, writers and other contributors who produce and publish Canadian SF Fanzines.

Q) What is the purpose of the awards?

A) To honour and celebrate these contributors, and to draw attention to this niche Fandom in the hope more fans will adopt Fanzine Fandom as their hobby and/or particular special interest in Fandom.

Q) How is this award different from the Hugo Fan Awards?

A) The Hugo Fan Awards honour Fanzine Fandom worldwide, whereas the CFF Awards are concerned with just the Canadian subset of Fanzine Fandom. A National Award, as opposed to an International Award. This is not in order to compete with the Hugos, but to promote the survival and growth of fanzine fandom within Canada.



Q) How is this award different from the Aurora Fan Awards?

A) First, the Aurora Fan Awards cover the broad spectrum of Canadian Fannish Activity, whereas the CFF Awards are strictly devoted to Fanzine Fanac.

Second, the 'Best Fan Publication' category of the Aurora Awards covers all forms of written fannish communication including modern concepts like blogs, live journals, websites and such, whereas the CFF awards pertain only to traditional SF Fanzines.

Q) What is a traditional SF Fanzine? (In terms of the purpose of these Awards.)

A) A form of written communication definable as an individual issue of a printed amateur (non-professional) fannish magazine demonstrably devoted at least in part to any aspect of the SF&F genres, available to anyone on request or in exchange for subscription, paid membership (of club), Zine trade, contribution or letter of comment, published at least once a year in hard copy paper format and/or in a fixed, unchangeable and identical electronic E-Zine version of said definable issue, posted on the internet to be available for download.

Another way of looking at it is to think of the paper version as 'the magazine that comes in the mail' and the electronic E-Zine version as 'the identical magazine available at the local library.'

Q) What types of written SF are not eligible?

A) SF Blogs, live journals, websites, and other such interactive electronic formats. Also the type of Fanzine known as an APAzine because it has a closed limited-number membership and is not available to non-members. (Another way of putting it: an APAzine has a fixed circulation level excluding all fans outside the membership, whereas all other Fanzines, even Clubzines, possess an 'unlimited' circulation potential open to all.)

Q) What does a traditional SF Fanzine normally contain?

A) Editorials, columns, articles, essays, book reviews, film reviews, genre news, cover art, 'filler' art, convention reports, meeting minutes, letters of comment, and myriad other things subject only to the imagination of the contributors.

Q) Is there more than one type of traditional SF Fanzine?

A) Absolutely! There are three basic types of traditional SF Fanzines. (Note that letters of comment columns and contributed art pieces can often be found in all three types.)

PERZINES are Fanzines filled with reflections & essays by the editor commenting on his/her life and interests.

GENZINES can contain aspects of a Perzine, but mostly consist of 'guest' articles & essays by contributors.

CLUBZINES normally contain the contributions of club members centred on the purpose of the club and also function as newsletters reporting on club activities, upcoming club events, etc.

Q) Does Fanzine Fandom exclude all other niche Fandoms in terms of subject matter?

A) Absolutely NOT! Fanzine Fandom is the art of creating Fanzines, but the contents reflect any and all subjects across the entire field of Science Fiction (and Fantasy) genre Fandom, based on the particular interests of the editor and/or members/contributors. A Clubzine might be devoted to Media Fandom for instance, or a Genzine to Convention organizing, or a Perzine to literary reviews. Indeed, many traditional SF Zines devote considerable space to non-SF&F subjects like politics or personal catastrophes. However, to be eligible for the CFF Awards a Zine must clearly and obviously be devoted in a significant degree to some aspect of the SF&F genres.

Q) What do Winners of the CFF Awards receive?

A) Two things. A certificate detailing the award (currently being designed by well known fan artist Taral Wayne) and a figurine called 'The Faned' (which has yet to be designed, sculpted and reproduced, but decisions are pending).



Q) When and where will the CFF Awards be presented?

A) Annually, at VCON (Vancouver's general interest SF&F convention first held in 1971) beginning this year with the upcoming VCON 36 on Sept 30th to Oct 2nd.

Q) How are the winners chosen?

A) For this year **2011**, R. Graeme Cameron, having created the awards on short notice only two months before VCON, will chose the winners by personal fiat primarily as a publicity ploy to jumpstart the Awards and attract attention to them. Rest assured the winners will be credible by virtue of their accomplishments.

By **2012** the winners will be chosen at the very least by peer discussion and much polling.

By **2013** it is hoped the Awards will have matured to the point where a Fanzine Fandom-wide vote can pick winners from lists of finalists.

Q) What's to prevent the same people winning year after year?

A) A winner in any given category is automatically rendered ineligible in that category for the following year, but is still eligible for any other category where applicable.

Q) What are the CFF Award categories?

A) There are five:

1) Best Fan Artist (*cover art, 'filler' art, in any format, i.e. cartoons, illustrations, paintings, computer art, photo collage, etc.*),

2) Best Fan Writer (*editorials, columns, articles, convention reports, essays, etc.*),

3) Best LocHack (*letter of comment writer*),

4) Best Fanzine (*Any type, as long as it meets the requirements of the above stated definition of a traditional SF Fanzine*), and

5) Hall of Fame (*Essentially a life-time achievement award for the early pioneers of Canadian SF Fanzine Fandom.*)

Q) How big a deal are the CFF Awards?

A) Not very. At the moment it's just a one man crusade to expand and enliven a relatively obscure and distinctly old-fashioned niche Fandom. But I'm inclined to believe there are newcomers out there who will be attracted to SF Fanzine Fandom precisely because it isn't trendy, or modern, or the latest fad. People like me, who enjoy a leisurely at-your-own-pace kind of hobby, and who enjoy sharing it with others of the same mind.

To put it another way, creating and crafting your own zine is a lot more like playing chess than playing a video game. Which do you prefer, video games or chess? While uncounted zillions of people play video games, there remain plenty of people who enjoy the quiet challenge of a chess game. Consequently I genuinely believe there are lots of potential Zinesters currently unaware of our niche Fandom who need but be introduced to the joys of Zinedom to transform into Zinedom Fanactivists.

In short, the CFF Awards are only of marginal interest now, but could become a very big deal indeed, at least to fellow Fanzine enthusiasts.

Q) Are there enough SF Fanzine Fans currently active to justify the existence of the CFF Awards? Enough zines?

A) I think so. At least for the first few years. Canadian Fanzine Fandom has never been huge, but I'm glad to say that currently there are at least 12 or more Zines being published, which is actually above average for a given year. (American Zinedom features more than a hundred!)

I will be creating eligibility lists (of this year's potential nominees for next year's Awards) and posting them on this site. That will illustrate how healthy (or decrepit) Canadian Fanzine Fandom is these days.

Of course the whole purpose of these Awards is to stimulate growth by attracting newcomers in terms of both readers and contributors. With any luck the eligibility lists will increase in size year after year.

Q) Are you open to information regarding published Zines and their contributors?

A) Absolutely! I know there are Zines out there I've missed hearing about. Once I've posted my first stab at eligibility lists, read them through and if there are any Zines or people I've not listed, please forward the appropriate information to me and I'll add them.

Q) Can I copy the eligibility lists and distribute them to potential voters?

A) Absolutely! The more the essential information is disseminated the better!

Q) What about French Language Canadian Zines and contributors?

A) Not being able to speak, read or write French, I know next to nothing about French Language Zines & contributors. (I also studied Latin. Failed that too. Sigh.) But of course the CFF Awards are open to ALL Canadian zines and contributors. So please, forward the appropriate information!

Note: Just as the CFF Awards are intended to compliment rather than compete with the Aurora Awards, they are also intended to compliment the Prix Boréal. In other words, it is my hope that promotion and publicity enhancing the CFF Awards will also benefit both the Aurora and Boréal Awards.

Q) Who the heck are you anyway?

A) An old time Fan been active since 1970. Currently:

- President of the B.C. SF Association (BCSFA).
- Archivist for BC SF Association.
- Archivist for the West Coast SF Association (WCSFA), the Registered Society which puts on VCON.
- Archivist for the Canadian SF&F Association (CSFFA), the people who maintain the Aurora Awards.
- Publisher/editor of AURORAN LIGHTS on behalf of CSFFA.
- Publisher/editor of WCSFAzine on behalf of WCSFA.
- Publisher/editor of THE SPACE CADET GAZETTE on behalf of myself.
- Publisher/editor of THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST on behalf of the CFFA Society.
- Creator of the online CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA.
- Former Canadian Unity Fan Fund Winner (1997)

- Two time Aurora Award winner, including 'fanzine' for WCSFAzine (2010).

- And, uh, oh yeah, write a column called 'Ask Mr. Guess-It-All', occasionally appear in public as 'Moog The Magnificent' (worst standup comic in the Solar system), and am co-creator & performer (along with Stan G. Hyde) of the infamous 'Sex Life of Godzilla' lecture/skit. Just your average fan.

STATE OF THE ART

Off the top of my head, the following zines are being published in Canada currently:

AURORAN LIGHTS – 'Clubzine' of The Canadian SF&F Association, published out of Surrey. Faned: R. Graeme Cameron.

BCSFAZINE – Clubzine of the British Columbia SF Association, published out of Richmond. Faned: Felicity Walker.

THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST – 'Clubzine' of the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society, published out of Surrey. Faned: R. Graeme Cameron.

IMPULSE – Clubzine (more of a newsletter) of the Montreal SF&F Association, published out of Montreal. Faned: Keith Braithwaite.

ONE SWELL FOOP – Perzine published out of Vancouver. Faned: Garth Spencer.

OPUNTIA – Perzine published out of Calgary. Faned: Dale Speirs.

OSFS STATEMENT – Clubzine of the Ottawa SF Society, published out of Ottawa. Faned: Grant Duff.

THE SPACE CADET GAZETTE – Perzine pubbed out of Surrey. Faned: R. Graeme Cameron.

SWILL – Perzine published out of Toronto. Faned: Neil Jamieson-Williams.

THE VOYAGEUR – Clubzine of the USS HUDSON BAY published out of Toronto. Faneds: Georgina & Roy Miles.

WCSFAZINE – 'Clubzine' of the West Coast SF Association, published out of Surrey. Faned: R. Graeme Cameron

WARP – Clubzine of The Montreal SF&F Association, published out of Montreal. Faned: Cathy Palmer-Lister.

And those are just the ones I know for sure are continuing to be published.

I hear that Colin Hinz will publish a new issue of **NOVOID** before the end of the year.

And that Taral Wayne intends to publish his collected **SAME AS IT EVER WAS** columns in a special one shot title not yet known to me.

And what about Jeff Boman's perzine **THE ORIGINAL UNIVERSE**? Is it still being published?

Or the French language zines like:

- Guillaume Voisine's «**Brins d'Éternité**»?
- François-Bernard Tremblay's «**Clair/Obscur**»?
- Fancis Hervieux's «**MensuHell**»?
- Jonathan Reynolds, Guillaume Houle and Fred Proulx's «**Nocturne**»?

Are they still published? I've never seen any of the above French language Zines. I don't even know if they are eligible under the criteria established by the 'official' definition of a traditional Fanzine as described in the FAQ above. I sure would like to know.

What else is in the loop? What else is being published? What else is going on? I want to know!

And now I'll take a stab at individuals active this year and thus eligible for the **2012 'Best Fan Writer' CFF Award category**.

Michael Bertrand – Essays & articles in BCSFAzine.

R. Graeme Cameron – Editorials, reviews, columns, articles, essays in BCSFAzine, WCSFAzine, Auroran Lights, Space Cadet & Fanactical Fanactivist.

Grant Duff – Editorials in OSFS Statement.

Neil Jamieson-Williams – Editorials, articles & essays in Swill.

Cathy Palmer-Lister – Editorials & book reviews in WARP.

Lloyd Penney – Convention report in WARP.

Joseph Picard – VCON 35 report (3 parts) in BCSFAzine.

Kent Pollard – Convention report in (next issue of) WCSFAzine.

Ray Seredin – Media column & articles in BCSFAzine.

Dale Speirs – Editorials, essays and articles in Opuntia.

Sylvain St-Pierre – Film reviews in WARP.

Garth Spencer – Editorials, reviews, columns, articles, essays in One Fell Swoop.

Felicity Walker – Editorials & articles in BCSFAzine.

Taral Wayne – Essays in BCSFAzine, One Swell Foop, and Auroran Lights.

Not bad for a start. There must be others!

TO SUM UP

I suppose my primary purpose at the moment is to encourage various groups of Fanzine Fans to interact with each other, not just through their Fanzines, but via the Facebook and Yahoo sites I've created. Get an ongoing dialogue started.

That in turn, being a relatively immediate phenomenon, may attract newcomers to the discussion, and they, upon learning what has been done, what can be done, may ultimately be inspired to jump in either by contributing to existing zines or crafting one of their own.

So let me hear from you! Give me info!

Cheers! The Graeme

You can contact me at < rgraeme@shaw.ca > or

R. G. Cameron, 13315 104th Ave, Apt 72G, Surrey, BC, Canada, V3T 1V5

COLOPHON

The Fanactical Fanactivist #1, August 2011, Volume 1, Number 1, Whole Number 1, is the Fannish E-Zine of The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society, a non-registered society, administered by R. Graeme Cameron, with the general mandate of promoting Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Fanzine Fandom and the specific focus of sponsoring the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards.