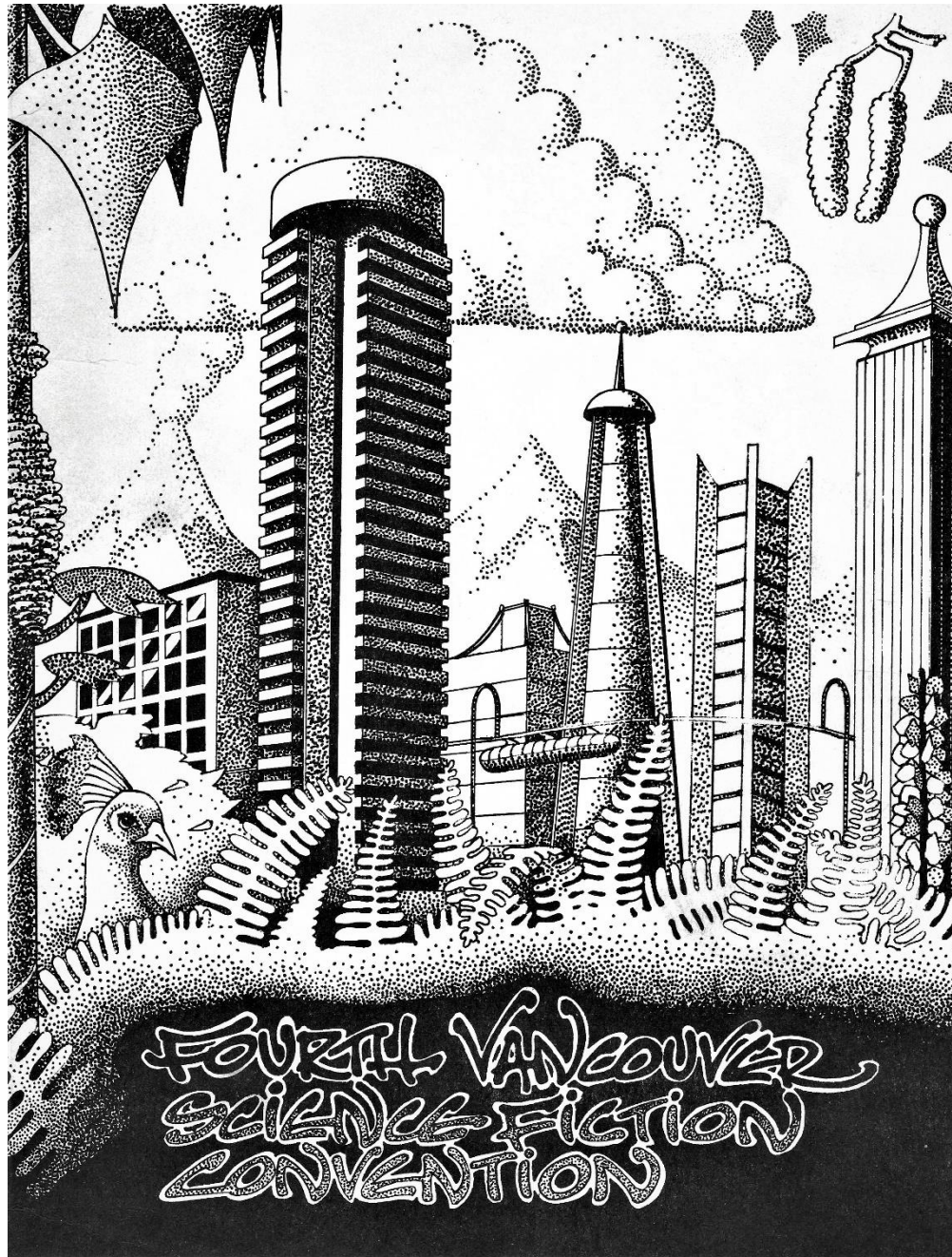


BCSFAZINE

Newsletter of the West Coast Science Fiction Association

(Formerly the Clubzine of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, the Social Branch of WCSFA)

(Issue #554 – June 2023)



Cover of the VCON 4 Program Book 1975

CURRENT WCSFA EXECUTIVE

President: Position vacant
Vice-President: Divya Kohli
Treasurer: Kathleen Moore
Organizing Secretary: Katherine Shadwick
Members at Large:
Scott Betson
Jenni Merrifield
Kona Lynn Sankey
Marcie Lynn Tentchoff

NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER VOLUNTEERS (From BCSFA—the social branch of WCSFA):

Newsletter Editor: R. Graeme Cameron
Volunteer at Large: Garth Spencer
VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty
Keeper of the Book of F.R.E.D.: Ryan Hawe
Life-Time Members:
Tim Hammell
Al Betz (deceased)
Fran Skene
Steve Forty

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COVER ART: VCON 4 program book.



EDITORIAL: THE GOD-EDITOR SPEAKS!

President Joseph Bardsley has resigned from the WCSFA Executive. There is no official response from the Board, other than the fact that a Board Meeting has been scheduled for mid-July. There has been a certain amount of discussion online between Board Members but nothing to make public as yet. Since I am not a member of the Board it is not my place to reveal what is being discussed. If and when any WCSFA “press release” becomes available, I will pass on the information.

Cheers! The Graeme

To submit articles, artwork, or letters of comment, contact God-Editor R. Graeme Cameron at: < the.graeme.bcsfazine@gmail.com >

FANNISH NEWS AND RESOURCES

By Garth Spencer and R. Graeme Cameron

An unofficial luncheon meetup, hosted by Garth Spencer, will take place on Sunday, June 25th, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at the Café Artigiano on Main Street. Topics to be discussed? WCSFA, VCON, and whatever else takes the attendees' fancy.

The Café Artigiano is located at 4010 Main Street at King Edward Avenue in Vancouver. The simplest way to get there is to take the Skytrain to the Main Street/Science World station and then take the Main Street bus up Main Street to King Edward.

The Café serves a variety of European style coffees, bakery goods, and light lunches. I believe there are at least a couple of tables with outdoor seating.

The Infamous CUFF Turkey readings (to raise funds for CUFF) will take place at Pemmi-con. CUFF Winner Garth Spencer, R. Graeme Cameron, Murray Moore, and TAFF Winner Sandra Bond will be among those taking turns reading excerpts from excruciatingly bad science fiction novels while volunteers bravely act out the scenes described. Frantic audience members bid to stop the proceedings. Saboteurs bid to keep them going. Always a lot of fun.

Voting has begun for the Aurora awards!

To quote from the CSFFA Newsletter:

Voting is open for CSFFA members. You have until 11:59 pm EDT on July 29th, 2023, to submit your ballot. Remember, vote for what you know. You do not have to vote in all categories, and you do not have to rank all nominated works.

We use a ranked or alternate voting method. To vote, sort your choices from 1 (your favourite) to 5 (your least favourite). For full details about this and how votes are tabulated, go to our about voting method page,

<https://www.csffa.ca/about/aurora-awards-voting-method/>

Unlike our nomination process, when you submit your ballot, it will be locked, and

you will NOT be able to make any changes or return to it another day. Do not start to vote until you are sure you know everything you wish to vote for.

We are using the same voting form that we used last year. It is easy to use. Each category allows you to move your selections either with your mouse or finger (if you have a touch screen) on most devices. Move your choices above the voting line which says, “No pick underneath this line will be counted”. As you do this your choice will show you what its ranking is. If you make a mistake, you can move your choice to a different position or back below the voting line.

For your ballot to count you must click the “Send Ballot” button at the bottom of the form. This will lock and submit your selections. Do NOT submit your choices until all of your selections are arranged. This must be done at the same time since you will not be able to return to edit or add to your ballot once it has been submitted. If you close the form before you submit all of your choices, they will be cleared and not saved, and you will have to start again.

So, download and read the nominated works that are in our voters’ package. When you are done, go to our online voting form and rank all of your choices. When you’ve done this for all the categories that you’re interested in, click the “Send Ballot” button at the bottom of the form to lock and submit them.

Join us for our online awards ceremony at 7 pm EDT on August 19th to find out who takes home this year’s trophies. We will be live streaming on both Facebook and YouTube.

To vote (or register to vote) go to <https://www.csffa.ca>

Don’t forget to check out the voter’s package of nominated works you can read!

YOUR MONTHLY CORUSCATING CONUNDRUM

By R. Graeme Cameron

Mr. NHF of Fraser Mills, B.C., asks:

SCIENTISTS SAY THE RED GIANT BETELGEUSE HAS SHRUNK 15% THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. IS THIS A PROBLEM?

Mr. Guess-It-All: No. Scientists forgot to mention it is merely a symptom of Newton's 13th law of the conservation of matter: "*As the universe expands, everything within it shrinks.*" Nothing to worry about.

As a point of interest, it's only about 40 years ago the Earth had shrunk enough to make Globalization economically feasible, with all the resultant collapse of cultural identity and economic chaos we have come to expect as a matter of course.

Consequently, the Biden administration is funding NASA to develop the technology to mine the atmospheres of Jupiter and Saturn of 17 trillion tons of Nitrogen to be injected into the centre of the Earth to swell it back to a pre-globalization diameter and render routine contact between nations impossible, thus allowing every country to become self-sufficient and culturally unique once again.

It should be noted that the proposal by the previous Trump Administration to save the taxpayer some money by utilizing the cheaper alternative of mining Hydrogen from the atmospheres of the gas giants and injecting THAT into the molten core of the Earth was rejected by NASA on the grounds it was not necessary to swell the Earth THAT fast since the resultant expanding-debris field would probably destroy the Moon as well. Republicans dispute the science behind this decision.

A LOOK BACK AT VCON 4 – 1975

(Source: The Canfancyclopedia)

By R. Graeme Cameron

1975 - (Feb 21-23) - VCON 4:

Guest of Honour: ROBERT SILVERBERG. Venue: Sheraton Landmark Hotel, Vancouver. Attending: 600.

CONCOM: *Chairman* - Mike Bailey; *Treasurer* - Vicki Bushell; *Registrar* - Gary Walker; *Programming* - Ed Beauregard; *Publications* - Nick Grimshaw; *Publicity & Art* - Allan Dikson; *Hucksters* - Ken Wong; *Films* - Ed Hutchings; *Recordings* - Al Betz; *Elron Awards* - Brent McLean.

Sponsored by BCSFA, the British Columbia Science Fiction Association. Three days of single-track programming in the ballroom, with separate rooms for art show and dealers, plus hospitality suite.

FIRST VCON to feature a separate room for film showings (in addition to those shown in the ballroom), **FIRST** to have an art auction, **FIRST** to have a dance, and **FIRST** to broadcast videos on the hotel's closed circuit TV. **FIRST VCON** attended by William Gibson. Famed comic artist Vaughn Bode also dropped by to promote his book **DEADBONE**.

FRIDAY (Feb 21/75 – Vcon 4) began with:

- a showing of **FORBIDDEN PLANET**;
- followed by **OPENING CEREMONIES**
- and then **THE IMPERIAL COSTUME BALL** featuring the Free Air Ensemble, SCA dancers and the Synergy Lady Dancers, at which an antlered Bill Broxon got into trouble with his live snake. Lord High Reveller was Allan Dickson.

SATURDAY (Feb 22/75 – Vcon 4) events included:

- **SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE LARGE SCALE STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE** by Gregory Fahlman;
- **TRIUMF: SOME FACTS AND FALLACIES** by J. Brewer & T. Masterson;
- a **NON-HUMAN INTELLIGENCE** discussion;
- **JOANNA RUSS AND THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN SF** talk by Doug Barbour;
- **PROPAGANDA IN SF** by Crawford Kilian;
- a **BANQUET** with **ELRON AWARDS** presented by Brent McLean,
- followed by **A READING BY ROBERT SILVERBERG**;
- and the showing of several films, including **BAMBI MEETS GODZILLA**.

SUNDAY (Feb 23/75 – Vcon 4) events included:

- **THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF FANZINE EDITING** moderated by Mike Bailey with panelists Susan Wood, Elinor Busby & Frank Denton;
- **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** by Silverberg in which he announces he's quitting writing SF (he did in fact quit for several years);
- **SCIENCE FICTION IN THE YEAR 2000** panel with authors Mildred D. Broxon, F.M. Busby, Michael G. Coney & John Park;
- Van VOGT'S 'THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER' -- 1984 REVISITED by Jerry Wasserman;
- and concluded with **SCIENCE FICTION AS THE DREAM AND NIGHTMARE OF PROGRESS** by Prof. Mason Harris.

A LOOK BACK AT THE CANADIAN UNITY FAN FUND

(Source: The Canfancylopedia)

By R. Graeme Cameron

C.U.F.F. Stands for “Canadian Unity Fan Fund.” CUFF was created in 1981 by Toronto fan Bob Webber, inspired by the American/British TAFF, or 'Trans Atlantic Fan Fund' which was founded in 1953. TAFF was designed to foster personal communication between British and American fandom. CUFF aimed to overcome geographical barriers to a unified Canadian fandom by bringing a Western fan to an Eastern convention, and—in alternating years—an Eastern fan to a Western convention. Since 1988 that has usually been “Convention” where the Auroras (formerly Caspers) are handed out. The East/West boundary is defined by the Ontario/Manitoba border.

Winners are expected to publish a—preferably humorous—trip report afterwards, and to serve as Administrator for a year, their task: to generate publicity, raise funds through voting fees and mail auctions of fannish goodies like rare fanzines, liaise with the target convention, encourage nominations, and conduct the actual mail-in election to determine the next winner.

CUFF WINNERS:

1981 - Michael S. Hall of Edmonton - attended **Torque 2** in Toronto.

1988 - Taral Wayne of Toronto - attended **Keycon 5/Convention 8** in Winnipeg.

1989 - Robert Runte of Edmonton - attended **Pinekone 2/Convention 9** in Ottawa.

1990 - Paul Valcour of Nepean - attended **Conversion 7/Convention 10** in Calgary.

1992 - Linda Ross-Mansfield of Winnipeg - attended **Wilfcon/Convention 12** in Kitchener.

1996 - Rene Walling of Montreal - attended **Conversion 13/Convention 16** in Calgary.

1997 - R. Graeme Cameron of Vancouver - attended **Primedia/Convention 17** in Toronto.

1998 - **Lloyd & Yvonne Penney** of Toronto - attended **Con*cept 98/Convention 18** in Montreal.

1999 - **Garth Spencer** of Vancouver - attended **InCONsequential II/Convention 19** in Fredericton.

2000 - **Sherry Neufeld** of Saskatoon - attended **Toronto Trek 2000/Convention 20** in Toronto.

2001 - **Murray Moore** of Mississauga - attended **VCON 26/Convention 21** in Vancouver.

2002 - **Colin Hinz** of Toronto - attended **Con-version 19/Convention 22** in Calgary.

2003 - **Lyndie S. Bright** of Winnipeg - attended **Torcon 3/Convention 23** in Toronto.

2005 - **Brian Davis** of Fredericton - attended **Animethon 2005** in Edmonton.

2007 - **Peter Jarvis** of Toronto - attended **VCON 32/Convention 27** in Richmond.

2008 - **Lance Sibley** of Toronto - attended **Keycon 25/Convention 28** in Winnipeg.

2009 - **LaAmber Kensley** of Winnipeg - attended **Anticipation 67th Worldcon /Convention 29** in Montreal.

2010 - **Diane Lacey** of ? - attended **Keycon 27/Convention 30** in Winnipeg.

2011 - **Kent Pollard** of Saskatoon - attended **SFContario 2 / Convention 31** in Toronto.

2012 - **Debra Yeung** of Toronto - attended **When Words Collide / Convention 32** in Calgary.

2015 - **Travers Milo** - Unable to travel.

2015 - **Paul Carreau** of Calgary - attended **SFContario 6 / Convention 35** in Toronto.

2019 - **Fran Skene** of Vancouver - attended **Can-Con 2019 / Convention 39** in Ottawa.

2023 - **Garth Spencer** of Vancouver - will attend **Pemmi-con** in Winnipeg.

A LOOK BACK AT C.U.F.F. TRIP REPORTS

(Source: The Canfancylopedia)

By R. Graeme Cameron

It is a tradition among fan fund winners to write up an account of their trips so that other fans can share vicariously in their experiences. In 1952 Walt Willis even wrote an account of his trip to America BEFORE going, titled: "Willis Discovers America (Or Why Magellan Sailed Completely Around It)." Part of the tradition demands wry humour. Another part of the tradition calls for copies to be sold to raise funds for the next winner. Generally, CUFF has lived up to this tradition.

1981 - Michael Hall: Published a brief account, more a con report than a trip report, in #2/3 of NEW CANADIAN FANDOM (June-Sept 1981):

"I ran into the Pro Guest of Honour, Tom Disch, late Saturday night, while he was in the process of forming a new religion..."

1988 - Taral Wayne: To the best of my knowledge Taral never wrote a trip report, though he apparently thought it would be a good idea. Writing in #1 of his fundraising CUFFzine titled CUFF-LINK, distributed with #7 of Michael Skeet's MLR (July-Aug 1988), he commented: *"I can always get an article published, somewhere, eventually. But I'd like to see a tradition begin, of the CUFF winner writing a short piece for the Canvention which will also serve as his trip report."* He did write a speech detailing the history of CUFF which he hoped to deliver at Canvention 8, but he was never given the opportunity. Fortunately, it was published in full in #13 of MLR (July-Sept 1989):

"...two weeks before the deadline for nominations, there still weren't any... So much for the open, above board, democratic way of running a fan fund... there was always the closed-door, smoke-filled room full of SMOFs approach. In the original tradition of 1981, CUFF was fixed... Once again there was no final ballot, no candidates, nor a vote. But by god you've got a winner whether you want one or not!"

1989 - Robert Runte: Published his CUFF report in #7 of his perzine I'M NOT BORING YOU AM I? circa Nov/Dec 1989, consisting of 8 pages of impressions and musings. As he put it: *"While we're establishing traditions here, I thought I'd borrow one from TAFF and DUFF, and produce the first CUFF trip report."* In it he quotes his banquet CUFF speech in full, but first describes a bit of a problem:

“Realizing somewhat belatedly that I would probably be called on to speak, I wrote a few notes on the general theme of ‘Fandom is a Family’ and awaited my turn. I was somewhat dismayed to hear Michael Skeet give his speech on the theme ‘Fandom is a Family’ a couple of minutes ahead of me, and so switched to a few brief comments on ‘The Purpose of CUFF.’ I was therefore definitely dismayed to hear the MC explaining ‘The Purpose of CUFF’ as he introduced me. I ended up extemporizing something on the ‘Ecology of Fandom’ theme.”

1990 - Paul Valcour: Elected to drive from Ottawa to Calgary but got creamed by a heavy metal object falling from a truck ahead of him: *“Black Beauty had to eat the damn thing. The transmission and bell housing were destroyed; the gas tank was severely ruptured; the stick shift and console was no more; and I had an ashtray in the ceiling of my car.”* Fortunately, he was unhurt. He described his trip to the convention in #1 of his perzine LONG DISTANCE VOYEUR (Dec 1990) along with some very significant musings on the nature of CUFF and the direction it should take. He then promised:

“The next LONG DISTANT VOYEUR will form a rough draft of my CUFF trip report... The main trip report is going to be a fanzine... may contain photographs... will contain copies of gathered memorabilia. Cartoon illustrations are planned as well...”
Unfortunately, due mostly for burn-out reasons, neither a second issue of LDV nor the planned trip report ever appeared.

1992 - Linda Ross-Mansfield: Alas, I have no information as to whether or not Linda wrote a trip report, but she did eventually publish THE CANADIAN UNITY FAN FUND - A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CONCEPT AND SPIRIT OF THE FUND in V7#4 of her husband John Mansfield’s con-newszone ConTRACT (Jul-Aug 1995), which is a valuable snapshot of the state of CUFF at that time:

“We have used as our guide, the rules of both other existing fan funds (ie. TAFF & DUFF), but since CUFF is still in its infancy, and has a smaller financial base than its sister funds, it does not run an election until funds have reached a reasonable quantity to cover the cost of airfare and some accommodation. It usually takes a couple of years to build the fund up again to such a point.”

1996 - Rene Walling: I know of no trip report. Perhaps he thought there was no point. I remember that in a 1997 phone conversation he sadly stated that he was able to raise only 50¢ for CUFF while attending the Convention meeting. Depressing.

1997 - R. Graeme Cameron: I published my 9-page (six point type!) THE 1997 CUFF TRIP REPORT in Issue #10 of my perzine SPACE CADET in October 1998. It included

13 tiny, photo-reproduced photos of well-known Canadian fans at Primedia, like Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, Mike Glicksohn, Dennis Mullin, Brian Davies, John Mansfield, & Larry Hancock, plus pros Robert Sawyer, Jean-Louis Trudel, & Artist Jean-Pierre Normand. One reader commented: *"I couldn't recognize the people pictured and I KNOW most of them personally!"* Ah, the perils of cheap photocopying.

A very personal account. *"I should mention that I'm wearing two badges, the first of which states 'THE 1997 CUFF WINNER,' and the second of which reads 'THE GRAEME, EDITOR OF SPACE CADET.'" People in the con suite lean forward to read my badges and forever after seem to back off and keep their distance. Hmm. Oddly, no one throughout the entire convention asks me what CUFF stands for or what SPACE CADET is all about. Hmmm."*

"Jean-Pierre greets me as I enter his room. It is very crowded with people everywhere... he sells me a print (out of a limited edition) of his artwork showing the Titanic about to strike Godzilla's fins. It's beautiful. I especially like the deep blue of the water which well emphasizes how cold the scene is... Pleased by my response, he hauls his portfolio from underneath the bed. He does the kind of hard-edged, photo-realist art I like... I find his attention to detail with old sailing ships and aircraft (albeit posed in fantasy or SF situations) to be fantastic... I suggest he expand his market by contacting the various aviation and marine history prozines in the States. He seems intrigued. Inspired by my interest, Jean-Pierre pulls out his photo collection showing his many SF models. Hordes of them. Shelf after shelf of assorted monsters and spaceships. I am impressed that he has so many. He is impressed that I recognize and can name most of them. We get along hugely well." (Note: Jean-Pierre wins the Aurora for ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT at Primedia.)

"I tentatively produce my working copy of INCOMPLETE GUIDE TO CANADIAN FANZINES 1937 TO 1998 (an early printed version of this website). Mike Glicksohn leafs through the pages. 'I didn't know there were so many,' he comments. Gives me a thrill to hear him say that. If one of the most important Faneds in the history of Canadian zinedom is impressed by the amount of research I'm doing and the results I'm coming up with, then surely I must be on the right track."

"Run into Larry Hancock in the hall. 'Oh, by the way,' he says, 'did you know that Convention is planning to leave it to the CUFF winner to organize next year's Convention?' My jaw hits the floor. Always a kidder, is Larry Hancock."

1998 - Lloyd & Yvonne Penney: Wrote PENNEYS UP THE RIVER and other CUFF Stories, publishing it in December of 2000. Contains illustrations by Teddy Harvia & Brad Foster. My favourite is by Harvia depicting two robots, the one with the maple

leaf saying: *"Allow me to download to you the entire history of the Canadian Unity Fan Fund,"* and the other commenting *"Sure, I have a nanosecond or two to spare."*

The 25-page report is in itself an excellent promotional vehicle for CUFF. The first few pages are devoted to their growing awareness of the history behind CUFF, with some very nice compliments directed my way as then CUFF administrator, and their slowly dawning acceptance of their candidacy.

By page 11 they've won and are underway, flying to Montreal from Toronto (due to time constraints and taking advantage of a 2-for-1 seat sale). The hotel is straight out of Kafka, what with the staff having been on strike for nearly three years and a sign in the bathroom *reading "The base of this bathtub is threatened with a non-slip product for your safety."* Lloyd comments: *"That'll teach THAT bathtub... and we can all rest easier at night."*

Not to mention the surreal episode at the masquerade where *"one of the entries was Andrew Gurudata, dressed as.... Lloyd Penney, tacky shirt, Bill Shatner diction and all. He didn't get many points from Yvonne (grin), and I heckled him from the audience. He would have been disappointed if I hadn't."* (It should be noted that Lloyd is notorious for his signature extremely LOUD Hawaiian shirts at conventions. Where he finds them is an ongoing fannish mystery.)

Lloyd and Yvonne are attending Con*cept98/Boreal98/Canvention 18. Con*cept GoH is Robert J. Sawyer, of whom Lloyd writes: *"I remember how busy he was at our school, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, especially in his year as the editor of the school's literary magazine, the White Wall Review, and he hasn't changed all that much, now that he's the most successful SF writer in the country."*

On the subject of Yves Meynard, Boreal GoH, Lloyd notes: *"Yves Meynard is schmoozing with the Francophone members of the Boreal part of the convention. Boreal was, at one time, a stand-alone convention in Quebec, focusing exclusively on Quebec French language SF. It shares space with Con*cept now because according to that year's Boreal Chairman Claude Mercier, it can't survive by itself anymore. Boreal attracts an attendance of about 40, down from about 300 in its heyday. The appeal of literary SF seems to be in trouble in many places."* Sigh. Still true.

And as for Fan GoH Forrest J. Ackerman, Lloyd writes: *"And then there's Forry. I have the chance to chat with him a little bit... I got the impression he was tired... but 4SJ is in his early 80s now. Anyway, Forry is everywhere, spreading good cheer among the denizens of the convention. I'm sure there's a lot of kids gaming in the*

darker rooms, wondering who the hell the old man is, but that's okay... those who should know do know, and Forry is doing his job in fine style."

Lloyd and Yvonne do their utmost to promote CUFF, and Lloyd storms out of a tempestuous CUFF business meeting tired of the *"slimy politics"* and the *"carping criticism,"* but all in all *"No regrets though... We didn't go to Montreal to add our names to an illustrious list of CUFF winners, but to go see people and be with friends. In that, we succeeded admirably. Mission accomplished."*

The report concludes with a list of winners to date, "A Brief Explanation of the Concept and Spirit of the Fund" penned by former CUFF winner Linda Ross-Mansfield in 1995, a detailed financial statement, and a touching tribute to an old friend of theirs, fanartist Joe Mayhew who passed away in 2000, which includes a photo of him and one of his last illustrations, the latter showing two aliens reading a fanzine, one of them commenting: *"This isn't a real Earth fanzine; there's no Loc from Lloyd Penney."*

1999 - Garth Spencer: Titled his CUFF report WHAT I DID ON MY OCTOBER VACATION. He's quite intrigued about attending inCONsequential II/Canvention 19 in Fredericton, New Brunswick, writing: *"I have some outspoken opinions about regional fandoms like the Maritimes... It was curiously difficult to get word on Maritimes fanactivity, or indeed to get word to them, for years at a go... I still perceive them as low-profile, barely visible... In short, there are hurdles to overcome and not a little work to do."* Not least is the fact he can only get a flight to Halifax and must bus for six hours to get to Fredericton. GoH is Tanya Huff, MC Robert J. Sawyer, and Artist GoH Donna Barr of "Desert Peach" fame.

"Evening events were pretty much limited to the consuite... there were no room parties... It is of interest to note that inCONsequential's consuite is a "dry" consuite. Apparently, this is a general policy for Maritime conventions, ever since Halcon 10. (The story I got is that Maritime Fandom experienced a phase when university students discovered their cons, and perceived them as a cheap place to get drunk and weird. Also, Maritime fans are generally concerned to present their fandom as a safe place to bring kids.) I commented that other cons in North America have similarly found reason not to serve alcohol."

Garth has brought numerous chapbooks on CUFF, Maritime fanhistory, the Auroras & Canvention, to hand out in an effort to stimulate interest in fannish history and communication. By the time he gave a CUFF presentation on Sunday he found *"to my dismay all the historical chapbooks had gone, so I extemporized on fannish fanzine fandom, fan funds, the history of the Canadian Fan Fund, and the*

topic of *Getting the Word Out*.” It’s a good sign of interest that all his chapbook freebies had been snapped up, and that a dozen people showed up for his 10:00 AM presentation. Not bad for a convention of only about 80 attendees. Especially considering that no one showed up for the Saturday slave auction, or the Kingcon SF Society presentation. So, kudos to Garth for stirring things up and getting people interested.

One sour note: *“I’m not really proud of my exhibition of temper... I was really appalled at the CSFFA (Canadian SF & Fantasy Awards) meeting, and kept saying so, heatedly. But Robert Sawyer, and Tanya Huff, and Patricia Evans all assured me that meetings usually are slow (this one lasted three hours), and inefficient, even in professional associations and conferences. I guess it’s just as well, for me and for you, that CUFF is not run by a committee.”* Famous last words. Currently, circa late 2007, CUFF is being run by an ad hoc committee of 11 former CUFF winners, including, ironically enough, Garth.

The trip report is rounded out with a financial statement and an alphabetical glossary *“intended to fill in some context, if you are unfamiliar with the fans or writers at inCONsequential, or with Canadian fandom, or with this fan fund. Anything I haven’t explained here has yet to be explained to me.”*

2000 - Sherry Neufeld: I do not know if a trip report was ever written.

2001 - Murray Moore: Produced an absolutely delightful report titled A TRIP REPORT FOUND IN A PLAIN MANILA ENVELOPE describing his visit to Vancouver’s VCON 26 and continuing on to Seattle to meet with fans there. Cover art by Craig Smith shows “Adamski”—style UFOs hovering over the Seattle Space Needle. The interior is enlivened by 2 art fillos by Craig Smith and no less than 25 by Cumberland fanartist Scott Patri. Carolyn Clink contributes colour photos showing Murray with Vancouver fans Garth Spencer, Fran Skene, Steve Forty, Clint Budd, as well as writers Rob Sawyer, Candace Jane Dorsey & Donna McMahon. To top it off, an index is included, so those who met Murray at the con can immediately look up the pages wherein he gives his impression of them.

The 22 pages of the report itself are easy on the eye. Murray took notes throughout, and the report is written up in diary form as a series of wry observations rather than a continuous narrative which nevertheless captures the spirit of the con, the character of the attendees and the nature of the setting. Plus, a lot of interesting quotes:

“Al Betz recalls an idea that never got off the ground: ‘Stone Lake is in the middle of the Golden Gate Park (in San Francisco). People drive their remote-control boats on it. I wanted to make a remote-control dirigible and drop bombs on the boats.’”

“To make Ice Cream using liquid Nitrogen, Al Betz is wearing oven mitts, a red and white plastic helmet, and a white lab coat with red trim. ‘I have on occasion hidden a hot dog wiener in a glove finger, put the glove in liquid nitrogen, and then smashed that finger with a hammer. The tricky part is to remember which finger I want to hit.’”

“Frank Johnson describes becoming the maker of the Aurora Award Sculptures. In conversation with Robert Runté in a bar in Alberta. ‘Just like that I said I’ll build it.’ Robert: ‘There’s 10 of them.’ Me: ‘Oh.’ Frank signed the base for 2001. ‘It’s the polish that’s the grind. I don’t know how people do it for a living.’”

Note: The title of Murray's report is a takeoff on the most important Canadian SF novel published in the 19th century: James de Mille's A STRANGE MANUSCRIPT FOUND IN A COPPER CYLINDER (published 1888), a utopian satire set in a lost world. Rather appropriate, what? They don't call the West coast "The Land of the Lotus Eaters" for nothing you know!

I know of no CUFF Trip published since.

ARRGH! Is the CUFF Trip Report tradition dead? ARRGH!

I assume Garth will write a trip report about his CUFF antics at Pemmi-con. Looking forward to it.

A LOOK BACK AT ZORYANY SHLYAH SPEAKS!

(Published in BCSFAzine #210 November 1991)

By Boris Sidyuk and Alexander Vasilkovsky

(Reprinted in solidarity with the Ukrainians resisting the Russian invasion)

From: Boris Sidyuk, Kurchatov St. 18-287, kiev 252156, USSR.

Dear Graeme and the rest. Well, I have something to say about Elephants:

Oh, Elephants,

I like to see your charming flights,
You're an adornment of the sky,
Oh, Elephants, wow, elephants...
(And so on)

I've read a lot of zines yet and I have to say the following: I don't want to offend others of fanzines, but BCSFAzine is the best I've ever read. Certainly, you are one of the leading fanzines in fandom zines movement. Thanking to you, I am continuing to make myself to study English. It's very useful to me as a beginning editor-in-chief of our future fanzine. By this time we have several materials—arts, articles and fiction. The most difficult problem is translation into English. I hope this problem will be solved. We do want that our English edition would keep as good as Russian or Ukrainian. Well, you may also contribute your materials into our zine.

A few questions:

- 1) What does APA mean? What and how it works?
- 2) What does Mr. Science think about Synchro-Energizers?
- 3) What does the Graeme say when he's angry?

Good SF&F to you, *Boris Sidyuk*.

THE GOD-EDITOR RESPONDS:

M – 1) APA stands for Amateur Press Association. An APA consists of a number of people who contribute X number of copies of their writing to a central editor who then collates the material and redistributes the resulting APAzine to the membership. It's a kind of correspondence club. As memberships can run from 10 to 100 people the size of some APAzines is astounding. The first known genre APA was FAPA (Fantasy APA) founded in 1937 by Donald Wollheim (subsequently a famous and influential professional writer, editor, and publisher.)

M – 2) I don't know. I've passed your question on to Mr. Science and hopefully he will reply next issue.

M – 3) "ARRRGH!" ... usually.

Thank you for your kind comments about BCSFAzine. Not everyone is in complete agreement with your opinion, but no matter what format BCSFAzine may evolve into, its editor will always have the luxury of receiving material from a fine group of fan writers.

May I congratulate you and Alexander on the quality of your English. Though at times the idiom is a trifle unique, I have never had any difficulty in understanding your meaning. And certainly your English is infinitely better than my Ukrainian (alas, I speak not a word).

We eagerly look forward to seeing the first issue of your zine. *RGC*.

P.S. I like your poem!

From: Alexander V. Vasilkovsky, 31 August, 1990
8 Zankovetskaya St., Apt. 13, 252001, Kiev-1, Ukraine, USSR

Dear Graeme,

Thanks for sending me BCSFAzine #206. It was nice to see my letter printed in your zine, but I was ashamed to see some errors printed in its language.

It was nice to find an article about the Soviet Lunar Mission in pages 12-13. I haven't known any technical details of the Mission before reading the article. I will look forward for further parts.

By the way, it was not necessary to send zines and books by air mail. It is really expensive in the USSR as well. Seamail will be quite enough. Of course, it will be slower, usually 2 or 3 months in transit to USSR, but I've received #206 sent from Vancouver on July 9 by seamail as recent as August 27 (I am sorry for the belated reply).

Thinking what I can send you, I realise that there's almost nothing of the kind you want. But I have found an interesting item—the map of Kiev in 10-13 centuries. Middle ages are of interest to many fantasy fans, so I am sending you a copy of the map. By the way, I've read in a review that one of the main characters in recent Poul Anderson's novel, *A BOAT FOR MILLION YEARS*, is from 10th century Kiev. The map is based on archaeological researches, and it was updated in 1988 according to recent discoveries. The map as well may be used as a poster. Unfortunately, there was only Ukrainian edition, so I've written the names of the churches and other buildings in English spelling. Please write if you'd like to have more copies.

This December we'll have a dark jubilee—750 years ago Kiev was totally ruined by Sata Khan, a son of Chingiz Khan, and 99% of Kiev inhabitants were killed or sold as slaves. Only 2,000 people remained of about 200,000 living in Kiev in 1240. (There were only 80,000 in Paris at that time.) So it goes.

There are also some books here about the Soviet Space Program, but they are too special, and all of them are in Russian. During the coming months a book about past, present, and near future of the Soviet Space Program will come out here in English. I've already ordered several copies to send to Harry Andruschak, and I'll be able to buy more for your organization. Please write how many copies do you need. There is an excellent magazine, SCIENCE IN THE USSR, distributed in the USA (and maybe Canada) by OMNI. The articles on the Soviet Space Program are frequent in it. In exchange OMNI is distributed here with small Russian-language supplement.

And about books. Good news was printed in BCSFAzine #206! At last we'll have a copy of THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE! Great thanks in advance. And I've heard great things about HYPERIAN and its sequel. We all look forward for these books. By the way, if you'll look after your book aid to our club, please follow the trilogies and serials in order to make them complete sometime.

About conventions. Your organization have a great experience of organizing conventions. Next year we'll organize STARTREKON'91 here in Kiev, so we'd like to know all about the functions of GoHs, Toastmaster, convention executives and so on. It's better to use someone's positive experience than to start everything from zero point. If someone in your association would like to visit Kiev in 1991, let me know, and we'll start to cut the red tape inevitable with our bureaucrats. The actual days are Friday 4 October 91 to Sunday 6 Oct 91. STARTREKON'91 in the USA now (in FANDOM DIRECTORY, I suppose) and brief info about it will be published in SF magazines in late 1990 or early 1991. This year we can't afford inviting foreign guests because of financial problems.

Maybe that's all for now. Thank you for your excellent zine and I hope to hear from you again. Best wishes to you all, *Alexander*.

P.S. Do not mistake the flag on the postage block with MIR station with Iraq, it is Syrian. Iraqi flag has three green stars on it. The block is devoted to Soviet/Syrian space flight in 1987. But who will let that bandit Hussein to come out in space?

THE GOD-EDITOR RESPONDS:

Everything I have sent has been airmail, but I guess the post office ignores this.

Your letter of September 10 arrived much earlier than the above. I hope you will soon receive MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE, A CASE OF CONSCIENCE, and HYPERIAN, which I have sent as promised in #208. In addition, I have recently sent you the following:

- VANCOUVER: GATEWAY TO THE PACIFIC.
- JUPITER PROJECT by Gregory Benford.
- BURNING CHROME by William Gibson.
- THE JEHOVAH CONTRACT by Victor Korman
- THE WINDWHALES OF ISHMAEL by Philip Jose Farmer.
- BCSFAZINE #200.

The Kiev map was extremely interesting. Also, Mr. Science, Sidney Trim, and myself would be pleased to receive copies of the Soviet Space book you mentioned. And I will see what material can be sent about running conventions. I haven't written the letters I promised to send you and Boris but hope to do so soon. All the best to your club members, *The Graeme*.

BLAZING AMAZING:

(Source: Amazing Stories (online) Magazine – October 11, 2013)

By R. Graeme Cameron

HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN FAN AWARDS, OR: THE FANNISH ART OF SELFLESS SELFISHNESS

CFA or CFFA? There be the question...

It began with a pleasant conversation with a fan:

FAN: "Why don't you take your giant ego and stick it in that trophy of yours?"

ME: "What trophy?"

FAN: "The six-foot gilded trophy you plan to award yourself someday."

ME: "Great idea! Thank you."

I jumped right on that soonest in typical fannish fashion.

So, a few years later (5:40 am, Nov 24th, 2004 to be precise) I was idly thinking as I idly bathed in my non-gilded bathtub, when an idle thought occurred to me: Americans have the 'Faan Awards' to celebrate and promote SF fanzine fandom, the British have the 'Nova Awards' for the same purpose, why not create the 'CanFaan Awards (CFA)' for Canadians?

A quick four years later (2008) I came up with five categories:

- Best Fan Writer.
- Best Fan Artist.
- Best Fan LocHack (Letter of comment writer).
- Best Fanzine.
- Hall of Fame.

I knew I would have to start small, with an organizational committee consisting solely of me, but how to generate publicity, how to generate interest? If I failed to do that the reputation of the awards wouldn't extend much further than my epidermis.

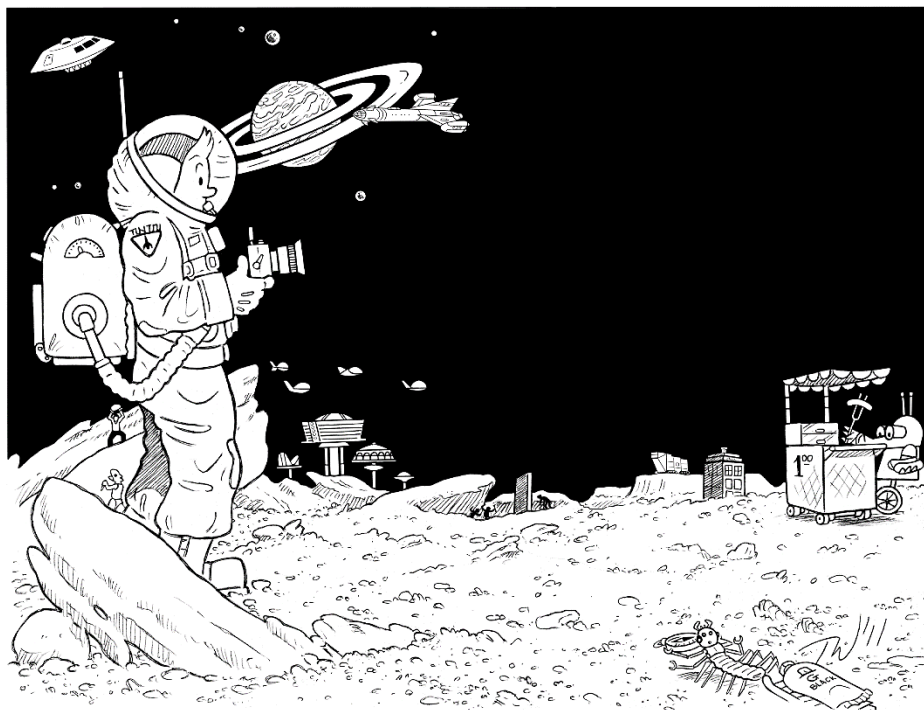
"Hmm, not such a bad idea," I thought. "Why not go all the way to the ultimate in simplicity and efficiency? Why don't I just glad-hand MYSELF each and every CanFaan award? Every year a bigger and better trophy, each gaudier and more elaborate than the one before? Sooner or later Canadian Fen would be so annoyed they'd start pubbing their own ish in droves to compete with me and deny me victory, thus confirming the viability of the awards. I LIKE this concept... no visible flaws... seems perfectly logical...hmm..."

My brain went into overdrive. In a sudden outburst of energy over a 48-hour period in August 2011, I founded:

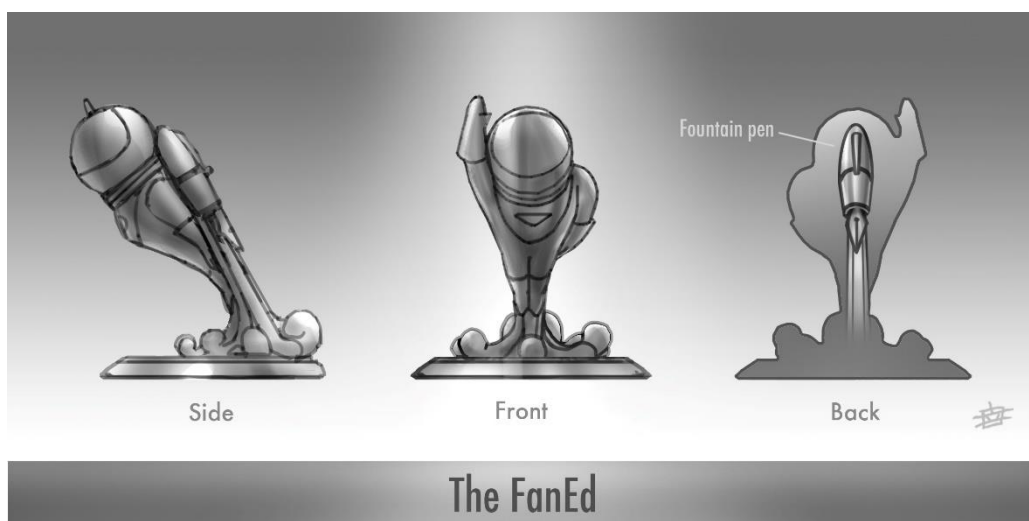
- 'The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards' or 'CFFA' ('fanac' is fannish slang for fannish activity),
- the 'Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society' or 'CFFAS' (a non-registered, non-existent Society),
- a CFFA Facebook site (since abandoned),
- a CFFA Yahoo site (since abandoned),

– and a new fanzine titled ‘The Fanactical Fanactivist’ (since abandoned). Slan I’m good!

By September I had talked Taral Wayne, a Hugo nominated and Rotsler Award winning Canadian fan editor and fan artist into designing the CFFAS certificate to be given to every winner (see example).



By September I had talked Eric Chu, a member of M.A.T.C. (Monster Attack Team Canada) into designing the actual award, the ‘Faned’ (see diagram).



By September I had talked Lawrence Prime of M.A.T.C. into sculpting the actual physical master of the 'Faned' based on Eric Chu's design (see photos).



September 2011 was a very productive month. Slan I'm good!

Then there was the little matter of the awards, to be presented at VCON 36 in October that same year. Obviously not a lot of time to send out nomination forms and ballots and such.

So, I didn't.

I declared a few obvious choices the winners by fiat. Saves a lot of fuss and muss that does.

2011 CANADIAN FANZINE FANAC AWARD WINNERS:

Best Fan Artist: Taral Wayne

Best Fan Writer: Garth Spencer

Best LocHack: Lloyd Penney

Best Fanzine: WARP, Cathy Palmer-Lister editor.

Hall of Fame: The Unknown Faned

Taral for his decades of legendary fanac, Garth for *his* decades, including the winning of the first Fan Achievement Aurora in 1986, Lloyd for his avalanche of locs, Cathy for the club-member interactive clubzine for the Montreal SF Association, and 'The Unknown Faned' for publishing Canada's first SF fanzine in early 1936 under the title 'The Canadian Science Fiction Fan.' (Unknown because in his 1936 review Donald Wollheim neglected to mention the editor's name!)

I didn't win anything because dozens of fans said it would be gauche of me to award myself a Faned.

"And what's wrong with that?" I replied. "Seems okay to me. Worth doing. Why not?"

But I gave in. Sigh.



The second year's awards marked a significant step forward. I asked assorted fen whom they thought should win. It constituted an informal vote with a number of nominees in each category. The awards went to those who received the most recommendations. The result:

2012 CANADIAN FANZINE FANAC AWARD WINNERS:

Best Fan Artist: Scott Patri

Best Fan Writer: Taral Wayne

Best LocHack: Michael John Bertrand

Best Fanzine: SWILL, Neil Williams editor.

Hall of Fame: Nils Helmer Frome

Scott for his primitive yet feistily fannish illos, Taral for his excellent essays, Michael for his thoughtful locs in BCSFAzine, Neil for his provocative questioning of fandom (at the same VCON presentation he won the WORST FANZINE Elron Award for his use of the Pud-Monkey font), and Nils, the first known Canadian faned for his SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES published in 1937.

I received one more suggestion for Best Fan Writer than Taral, and tied with Neil for Best Fanzine, but once again the ugly demons of

humility and humbleness were forced upon me by fellow fen concerned for my reputation. Ghu dang it, I wish they'd stop that!

Sadly, no actual statue of the 'Faned' has ever been presented, because I cannot figure out how to duplicate the thing. Every suggestion put forth so far seems to demand far too much money or far too much talent on my part to ever be feasible.

Mind you, I was told about a feminist adult shop in town that crafts dildos to order, and there is a certain superficial resemblance... but I have yet to muster the courage to walk in and inquire... besides, not sure I want the Faneds to vibrate anyway... but if the price is cheap enough... hmm...

I presented the third annual CFFAS 'Faned' Awards at VCON 38.

And this time it was the product of an honest-to-Ghu nation-wide vote! Huzzah! And genuinely representative of the entire Canadian fannish nation with the votes split evenly between the East (Ontario/Quebec) and the West (Alberta/British Columbia). No less than 90% of those voting were past or present Faneds, fan artists and fan writers, thus making the faneds a true peer approval award. I couldn't be happier. The CFF Awards have matured!

"How does the voting work?" you ask.

Each category has up to 10 nominees. Each voter gets to vote up to three choices in each category by order of preference: first choice, second, third, with first counting for 3 points, second for 2, third for 1 point. Them as gets the most points in a given category wins.

"Wait a minute," you say. "What if the winner is everybody's second choice? What if no-one's first choice wins?"

My answer: "Tough. I like to keep things simple. Them as gets the most points wins. Period."

"So... how many people voted?"

"Ah... well... including myself?"

"Yes."

"Ummmm ... nineteen."

Dead silence.

Be fair. Canada's population is about 10% of the USA, so on a per capita basis the CFFA voting stats are comparable to the American FAAN Awards... I think... maybe even better...

Best of all, the results this year are hilarious.

2013 CANADIAN FANZINE FANAC AWARD WINNERS:

Best Fan Artist: Taral Wayne

Best Fan Writer: R. Graeme Cameron

Best LocHack: Lloyd Penney

Best Fanzine: SPACE CADET, R. Graeme Cameron editor.

Hall of Fame: Leslie A. Croutch (1940s/50s editor of LIGHT)

I won twice? Don't blame me! Couldn't help it. I was voted in!

Quietly pleased and humbly proud I is. (Wrote that with a straight face too.)

Oh, and the weekend previous to VCON 38 the Aurora Awards were announced. My SPACE CADET was up for a BEST FAN PUBLICATION Aurora Award. I lost. Sigh. Oh well.

You get out of fandom what you put in. I got mine...

And now, to catch up to date, years after I stopped issuing the "Faneds," here is the list for the:

2014 CANADIAN FANZINE FANAC AWARD WINNERS:

Best Fan Artist: Brad Foster

Best Fan Writer: Taral Wayne

Best LocHack: Brad Foster

Best Fanzine: BROKEN TOYS – Taral Wayne, editor.

Hall of Fame: Fred Hurter Jr. (1940s editor of CENSORED)



Awarded in 2014, it is for Fanac during the year 2013, which is why 2013 appears on the certificate.

Brad Foster is American but was eligible because of his artwork and LoCs in Canadian zines.

About 25 Canadian fen voted this time, though the last award was by fiat.

And the list for the final year. I can't seem to find any data pertaining to the results, but I do remember it was the result of a nationwide vote with about the same number of voters who voted the previous year..

2015 CANADIAN FANZINE FANAC AWARD WINNERS:

Best Fan Artist: Taral Wayne

Best Fan Writer: Dale Speirs

Best LocHack: Lloyd Penney

Best Fanzine: BCSFAzine – Felicity Walker, editor.

Hall of Fame: Joseph “Beak” Taylor, (1940s editor of EIGHT-BALL & CANADIAN FANDOM)



Again, certificate awarded in the year after the year of fanac shown on the certificate.

Why did I stop? Whole idea was to promote Canadian zinedom and trigger a renaissance. The entire time the number of zines was dropping. It finally dawned on me that, apart from a couple of clubs and a few diehard perzine

editors, there was zero fannish interest. It wasn't even a sub-niche of fandom anymore. Fandom at large knew nothing and cared less. Largely true, even today.

Clubs in Montreal, Windsor, and Vancouver still publish clubzines more or less on schedule, though BCSFAzine is really just on my initiative (so far). Taral Wayne, Dale Speirs and Garth Spencer are the only individuals I am aware of still publishing perzines. I did publish a single issue of GREAT GALLOPING GHU! a year ago but have yet to produce a second issue.

Canada's population recently gained one million citizens over the past year (mostly through immigration) and is now 40 million strong (we're almost as populous

as California!), but only about a dozen people are majorly involved in pubbing their ish. Not enough to sustain an awards set-up. Possibly not even enough to guarantee there will still be Canadian fanzines a decade from now. A fine fannish tradition may be on its last legs.

Used to be, fen were excited to receive zines in the mail and felt compelled to send off LoCs in response, even knowing it would take a week or two to get to its recipient and their response, in their next issue, probably wouldn't be issued for two or three months at least. Somehow, it was all very exciting.

Well, Taral has been complaining about the lack of LoCs for around three decades. Sending out a zine is comparable to tearing it up and burning the scraps, for all the reaction it gets.

Of course, I have no right to complain. Here I am, a known zine-advocate, and I think I've only written one LoC over the past year. My excuse is pretty much the universal one. I'm too busy doing other stuff that has a higher personal priority and a greater claim on my time, like writing, reviewing, and publishing zines, most of which is done on a semi-pro basis rather than as fanac.

As a writer, I know that it is futile to depend on interaction with readers to "prove" how popular your writing is. Most habitual readers, reading being their principal hobby, read, enjoy, and move on to the next wondrous text. That's it.

So, every writer, be they fannish or professional, needs to fantasize about the nature of the readers they assume exist somewhere out there beyond infinity. Without delusional thinking, writers suffer writer's block. I'm lucky. I write to please myself. Consequently, I always satisfy my intended readership. How cool is that?

FELICITY'S "COLLECTING VHS" B-MOVIE REVIEW

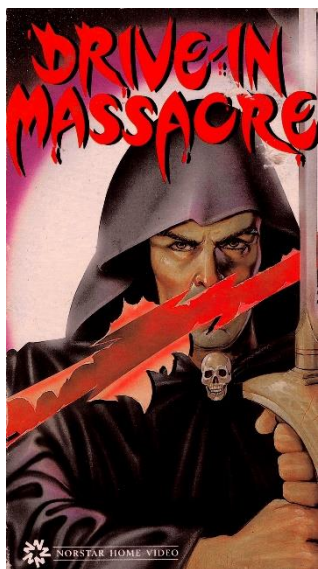
DRIVE-IN MASSACRE – 1976

By Felicity Walker

Directed - by Stu Segall.

Written by - "John Goff" (John F. Goff), "Buck Flowers" (George "Buck" Flower), and "Godfrey Daniels" (Stu Segall).

Starring - “Jake Barnes” (John F. Goff), “Michael Alden” (Bruce Kimba), “Newton Naushaus” (Robert E. Pearson), Douglas Gudbye, and “Norman Sherlock” (Norman Sheridan).



Something's being slashed at the drive-in movie theatre, and it's not ticket prices—it's couples making out in their cars. Mike Leary (Barnes) and John Koch (Alden), a matched pair of world-weary, heavy-set homicide detectives, investigate and learn that the drive-in was built on the former site of a carnival. And the manager, Austin Johnson (Naushaus), and groundskeeper, Charles Garmi (Gudbye), were in the sword-handling act at the carnival. The owner (who we're told is on vacation and whom we never see) keeps the sword collection from the act in the office/projection booth and allows both Johnson and Garmi access to it for sentimental value—so Leary and Koch can't rule Johnson and Garmi out as suspects yet.



Johnson is constantly angry and hates working at the drive-in. He takes it out on the customers and on the mild-mannered Garmi (or “Germy,” as Garmi says his friends call him, although Johnson also calls him “Germy” as a put-down). Johnson is a burly man with a shaved head and a prominent cross pendant—I kept expecting to find out he was a former wrestler turned preacher. Garmi is short and thin and resembles Larry the woodsman from “Newhart” (1982). His fashion sense—toque, untucked work shirt, rolled-up jeans, and black

boots—was probably meant at the time to make him look like a sad-sack, but oddly enough has been cool since the mid-1990s.



The detectives find they don't have much to go on. Johnson's angry and Garmi's weird but neither seems like the killer type, and there's no evidence against either of them. During questioning, Garmi tells the police there's a young man who regularly goes to the drive-in to watch people have sex in their cars. The cops enlist Garmi to jot down the man's license plate next time, and through that they find he's Orville Ingelson (Sheridan), a

compulsive voyeur and pornography collector, but not the killer: a search of his

house finds no weapons, and lab tests show the blood-stained sheets in his car trunk are from when he accidentally hit a dog, just as he claimed. Plus, when Ingelson returns to the drive-in (after promising he wouldn't), the slasher kills him too.

Another dead end is the machete-wielding maniac (an uncredited cameo by co-writer Flower) chasing a girl through a warehouse. He turns out to be an escaped mental patient and the girl is his daughter. She's therefore upset that the police shot him, although come on, he was about to kill her.

[Spoiler warning begins here.]



With resources for the investigation running thin, and denied official permission for a stake-out by their captain (an uncredited cameo by director Segall), Leary and Koch stake out the theatre anyway, with one of them in drag so they appear to be a couple and can maybe trick the killer into attacking them. (Well, that's /their/ story.) Garmi, recently fired by Johnson, storms over to the office/projection booth to collect his last paycheque and share of the sword

collection. The detectives see the silhouettes of Johnson and Garmi fighting but when they arrive they find both men slashed to death. The mysterious killer has escaped, and we'll never learn his identity. It doesn't seem to be someone we should have guessed from earlier clues. It's just a random psycho, and we know this because...

...at this point the movie stops itself for an emergency announcement that there's been a wave of slashings at drive-ins everywhere, and the killer is in our theatre right now! Remain calm! Finish your snacks and leave in an orderly fashion! This must mean the movie was actually shown at drive-in theatres. It doesn't make as much sense on home video, but it's enjoyably corny so I'll allow it. We can use our imaginations.

[Spoiler warning ends here.]

The VHS box art for the movie is 1980s-looking, even though the film is from 1976. This is not surprising since VCRs weren't really a thing until the 1980s. The distributor, Norstar Home Video, may also have been hoping to sneak it into the slasher-movie crowd of the early 1980s. Imagine you're at the video store (I miss

video stores!) and you see this movie on the shelf, resting comfortably between a “Don’t” film and the “Friday the 13th”s. With the 1980s cover art, it would fit right in.

Meanwhile the production values of the movie itself are also surprisingly good. It’s clearly low-budget but it doesn’t look unprofessional, just pleasingly gritty, as befits a 1970s police procedural. Everything is clearly visible—not always a given in the 1970s, when a lack of lighting in night scenes was in vogue even in A-movies. I guess the filmmakers figured that if you’re going to set your horror movie at a drive-in theatre, then a lot of the story is going to happen at night, so you’d better make sure your audience can follow it. The only unclear part is the climactic fight between Johnson, Garmi, and the killer. If it hadn’t been for Wikipedia’s summary of the plot I wouldn’t have known that Johnson and Garmi were killed by an invisible third party rather than killing each other.



The acting is also agreeably low-key. It feels like not all the actors were professional thespians but they still did a good job of not seeming stiff or unnatural. It’s a good thing the two detectives are interchangeable in story terms, as they look and act very similar to each other. They both seem to have been extruded from the same Play-Doh Fun Factory using the Joe Don Baker template. Even their captain looks a lot like them, but thankfully they gave him a mustache so it didn’t look like there were three of the same guy. Also, if I hadn’t looked up the credits

online and found out the cast were working under pseudonyms, I wouldn’t have recognised that one of the cops was played by John F. Goff. He lost a lot of weight between this movie and his scene in “They Live” (as the alien businessman buying a newspaper, which is where I know him from). You have to give the detectives credit, though— there’s a chase scene through the suburbs and they run very well for chunky guys in their 40s. I’m fat and in my 40s, and I can’t move like that. For that matter I don’t think I could have in my 20s either.

Like the cops, the story moves at a pretty good clip. Despite its simple premise and limited number of locations it never lagged or made my attention wander. Marginal genre content--horror, but not supernatural; there might be some SF movies playing at the drive-in but we only hear them described—but I’ll give this a hearty recommendation as a B-movie experience.

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS AND EVENTS

By Garth Spencer

JUNE 2023

June 23-25: **Washington State Summer Con** - Puyallup, WA – see <https://www.wasummercon.com/>

June 24: **Vancouver Retro Gaming Expo**, a celebration of retro gaming, Anvil Centre, 777 Columbia St, **New Westminster**, BC. This all-ages licensed event celebrates retro gaming, complete with numerous vendors, tournaments, guests, music, panels, gaming, and more. We can be reached at vancouvergamingexpo@gmail.com. More information at <https://www.vancouvergamingexpo.com/>.

June 23-25: **Fairyblossom Festival: Midsummer Games** - Pe Ell, WA see <https://fairyblossomfestival.com/>

June 24-25: **All's Faire** (family-oriented medieval recreation) at Thurston County Fairgrounds, Lacey, WA – see <https://allsfaire.org/>

June 25: **Fan Meetup** in **Vancouver**, BC – An unofficial luncheon meetup, hosted by Garth Spencer, will take place on Sunday, June 25th, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at the Café Artigiano on Main Street. Topics to be discussed? WCSFA, VCON, and whatever else takes the attendees' fancy.

The Café Artigiano is located at 4010 Main Street at King Edward Avenue in Vancouver. The simplest way to get there is to take the Skytrain to the Main Street/Science World station and then take the Main Street bus up Main Street to King Edward.

The Café serves a variety of European style coffees, bakery goods, and light lunches. I believe there are at least a couple of tables with outdoor seating.

JULY 2023

July 7-9: **KuroNekoCon** in Spokane, WA. See <https://kuronekocon.com/>

July 20-23: **NASFiC 2023/Pemmi-Con** will be held in the Delta Hotels Winnipeg and the RBC Convention Centre, in Winnipeg, MB, since Worldcon is overseas. Guests of Honour will be Julie Czerneda, **Waubgeshig Rice** (an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation), **Nisi Shawl** (a writer, editor, and journalist, and author of the novel *Everfair* in 2016), John Mansfield (Fan Guest of Honour), Philip

Currie (Canadian palaeontologist and museum curator), Lorna Toolis (Ghost Guest of Honour), **katherena Vermette** (a Red River Métis (Michif) writer who has worked in poetry, novels, children's literature, and film), and Toastmaster Tanya Huff. * Contact via <https://main.pemmi-con.ca>; **Pemmi-Con**, 73 Worthington Ave, WINNIPEG, Manitoba, CANADA R2M 1R6, **US Agent**, Pemmi-Con, 11614 S Mulberry Lane, Jenks, OK 74037, USA.

AUGUST 2023

Aug. 4-6: **When Words Collide 2023**, Calgary, AB – the **last** When Words Collide – see <https://www.whenwordscollide.org>

Aug. 11-13: **Everfree Northwest 2023** in Bellevue, WA. See <https://everfreenw.com/>

Aug. 12-13: **Ani-Medford 2023** at The Expo (Jackson County Fairgrounds), Central Point, OR (NEW LOCATION!); see www.ani-medford.com, www.facebook.com/animedford, or Instagram @ani_medford

Aug. 18-20: **Anime Revolution** at the **Vancouver** Convention Centre. Anime convention. See <https://summer.animerevolution.ca/>

SEPTEMBER 2023

September 15-17: **Edmonton Expo 2023** at the Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton, Alberta: [Edmonton Expo 2023](https://edmontonexpo2023.com)

OCTOBER 2023

Oct. 7: **Meadowlark Comic Con** in Grants Pass, OR. See <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meadowlark-comic-con-2023-tickets-474857480507>

Oct. 13-15: **Portland Retro Game Fest** in Portland, OR. See <https://retrogamingexpo.com/>

NOVEMBER 2023

Nov. 10-12: **Orycon 43** returning to the Holiday Inn Portland-Columbia Riverfront; see <https://www.facebook.com/orycon/> (rather than www.orycon.org)

OOK! OOK! SLOBBER! DROOL! (LETTERS OF COMMENT)

Note: Annoying comments by God-Editor [*are in brackets*] immediately after introduction of topic in question. This, a feeble attempt to create the illusion of a conversation in a fanzine lounge or a hospitality suite in the interests of conviviality.

From: **Felicity Walker** – (May 28, 2023)

Letter of Comment on BCSFAzine #553

Today I learned of a fighter-jet video game called G-LOC: Air Battle (1990), which has the helpful subtitle “Loss of Consciousness by G-Force.” So LOC can also mean “loss of consciousness”! No wonder it takes so long for me to write them!

“Editorial: The God-Editor Speaks!”: I like the idea that “by stubbornly insisting on living our life day after day we are temporarily defeating entropy”! There’s an Australian B-movie called Dead-End Drive-In (1986) which begins with the hero, a scrawny teenager, starting an ambitious exercise regimen despite being told by his family that it’s hopeless. No matter what they say to discourage him, he just replies, “Nope! I’m building up!” Sometimes I think of that scene when I need to stop discouraging myself.

“The Life Cycle of the Science Fiction Club: A Case Study of Activity Patterns in Avocational Subcultures”: Great premise, riveting reading. It had the same condensed view of sweeping historical trends that I liked in Isaac Asimov’s first Foundation book. “2023 Postscript”: Feels like dark times. The world has less need of fandom, and between the pandemic and downward mobility I’m not able to attend conventions.

“Fannish News and Resources”: I remember Les Shewchuk from the UBC SFS. He must have only been a few years older than me, though when you’re only 18 that feels like a lot—like a whole generation! Everyone older than you appears much more worldly and authoritative. The older you get the more you realise you’re practically the same age. A pleasant memory of Les: one day he gave me a lift somewhere and he had a Roxette tape playing in his car. In his opinion they had a perfect sound. The theme for the names of the functionaries for VCON 23 is great, and I love his bio.

“A Look Back at VCON 3–1974”: What exactly was Fanweb? Those panels sound great too.

[I remember looking at the “Fanweb” terminal but I forget what I saw. It may have been connected to another terminal somewhere else and people could exchange text messages, but I doubt it considering it was early days before the internet. I suspect it was a simple bulletin board. Even that may be too sophisticated a concept for those primitive days. Still, pretty sure there was a keyboard. People weren’t feeding it punch cards. Title clearly implies fans using the computer to communicate in some fashion.]

“Claude Degler—The Cosmic Clod”: Glad I read this. I’d always thought Degler’s concept of the “organizations federated under his umbrella organization” was pretty clever (similar to the praise in “Blazing Amazing: How Not to Be a Cosmic Clod or: The Cosmic Circle Complete”) and wanted to give him a pass on being socially awkward. But evidently there’s a lot of other, worse stuff I didn’t know.

[He was more than socially awkward. He was a delusional fantasist more than happy to abuse “traditional” fannish hospitality and seems to have been something of a compulsive liar.]

“Fans Are Slans”—not all of us are above-average specimens but we still get persecuted just the same. Relatedly, when my friends I were watching the series *Forever Knight* (1992) and it would get to the last credit, for executive producer Jon Slan, we would laugh because the “Slan” part was set in a much larger, bolder, more jagged font, like it was mad at you. “Join SLAN!!!”

“The Origin of the Great Fannish God Ghu”: I wonder if the Krang mentioned here was the inspiration for the name of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1987) supervillain. Maybe the writer who created the character, David Wise, knew about fannish religions!

“Rawhead Rex (1986)—Movie Review, or Why ‘Give Me That Old Time Religion’ Should Not Be Sung in Ireland”: Good review! Makes me want to check out the movie, and serves as an inspiration for a reviewing style to aim for in my next review. One minor correction: I think it’s Clive Barker, not Clive Baxter, who wrote the short story and first draft of the movie script. At least once he started directing the movies he wrote, like *Hellraiser* (1987), *Nightbreed* (1990), and *Lord of Illusions* (1995), they couldn’t keep him off the set!

[You are correct. I meant to write “Clive Barker.”]

“Ook! Ook! Slobber! Drool! (Letters of Comment)”: Re: the speed of social media vs. the speed of zines: I’m trying to imagine zines as a kind of app young people would use through their phones. I remember in the late 1990s my friend Joseph Devoy received a zine on floppy disk, which took advantage of the technology to incorporate sounds along with the usual text and images. So, like that, but more so.

From: **Garth Spencer** – (June 2, 2023)

Dear Graeme,

Two days after the deadline, I am submitting my LoC on BCSFAzine #553.

[But this is being published weeks after the deadline, so you are in luck.]

Like you, I find myself experiencing sudden lapses in the energy level required to maintain my fanac. Maybe I am overextended.

Like you, I tried to acquaint BCSFAzine readers with the entertainment value of fan activity, i.e., having fun and doing neat stuff. I still await feedback on how to motivate fans. Probably John McBain’s leadership style in ESFCAS, as described by Robert Runté, is the model of motivation we could adopt. Onward.

Les Shewchuk’s passing was an unpleasant surprise – I saw him as a bit younger than me, so of all people, he was the last one I expected to pass on. But I had the same sense of surprise when Warren Oddsson passed on.

[Warren dropped dead from a heart attack doing exactly the same job I was doing, albeit in a different warehouse working for a different company. This was a major factor in my decision to retire early. I didn’t want to meet the same fate.]

Good to see the FAAn and Aurora Awards news, and the retrospective on previous VCONs. Seeing this and other material in the revived BCSFAzine is timely, as it helps me cross-check and complete the draft Canadian fanhistory now in preparation. My working title is “The Propellor Toque.”

[I like your working title.]

I have to confess my attempt to promote and to host the May WCSFA meeting was a bust. Kathleen Moore frankly found it badly executed – we were the only two people

to show up. Clearly I am missing a step or two. Now I have to do something better in June, and here I've missed the deadline for your June issue. *Sigh*

[No, you didn't. In the sense I'm ludicrously late in getting this out. Don't know if there's enough time for readers to notice the announcement of the next meetup, but I've put it in twice in this issue.]

It was curious to read the short history of Claude Degler and his Cosmic Circle obsession. In one of his fanhistory volumes, the late Harry Warner Jr. pointed out that there was already a latent, popular feeling that fans were somehow one step ahead of mundanes—which was even alluded to in a convention speech by Robert Heinlein—so Degler was not quite creating his Cosmic Circle out of left field.

[True, the concept of fans being mentally superior to mundanes was widespread, but, of course, total nonsense. And as Lovecraft pointed out, the "science" advocated was mostly naïve pseudo-science and just a form of wishful thinking bundled together with standard pulp adventure fisticuffs and gunplay. Degler carried the wishful thinking about the nature of fans to absurd lengths. Fortunately, the teenage fans of the era and the genre they loved rapidly improved and matured.]

Oh yes, Great Ghu the Grandfather Ghod, and other satirical fannish ghods. Will you continue to tell the story of other ghods, like Roscoe, the patron of all faneditors everywhere? That would be amusing.

Your movie reviews got me to thinking. Are there any horror/fantasy/ostensibly science-fiction movies where the monster is a mild-mannered, almost Spockian gentlebeing, and his awkward encounters with humans show them up as violent paranoid lunatics? What, then, is the job of any NASA/FBI/Interpol investigator, RCMP constable, or highway patrolman – to put the monster into protective custody, maybe? What kind of report is the monster going to make, to the spirit world or the underworld or Beta Lyrae 6? And (just to be Canadian) does the monster fall under provincial or federal jurisdiction? Onward.

[I think the 1951 film THE MAN FROM PLANET X is probably the first film to portray a friendly alien who is mistreated and forced to defend himself. As for the role of the police, I recall a local writer contacted the Vancouver police and asked them what they would do if an alien spaceship landed in Stanley Park. Their response? Throw up a perimeter, block all traffic, keep people out, stand by, and let the politicians and/or military handle it.]

In response to Elizabeth Buchan-Kimmerly, I have to confess that there are any

number of SF clubs, and other vaguely SFnal clubs in Greater Vancouver, mostly listed on the student union websites of Vancouver-area universities ... none of which responded to my attempts to contact them; not even a peep from the UBC SF Society. (Or maybe they're only active in the fall/spring terms?)

[I regard trying to rope in other clubs as wasted effort. In my opinion what WCSFA needs is dedicated volunteers eager to help WCSFA realise WCSFA goals. A matter of recruiting individuals, not clubs.]

Diane Walton's letter, and your reply, depress me a little. Perhaps I want to relive my youth, but it does nothing for me to realize that the kind of fannish social milieu I enjoyed is gone, I am probably not going to be welcome in a similar milieu today, and my contributions are not likely to be welcome either. I thought when I entered BCSFA I had left that sort of thing behind; oh, foolish me! Making up my own little world and diving into it looks better all the time.

From: **Lloyd Penney** – (June 8, 2023)

Dear Graeme:

Sorry to take so long on responding to this issue of BCSFAzine (#522), but time has been at a premium, and I am too old to pull all-nighters. Some fast comments will follow this opening paragraph, with any luck...

A con flyer from the past...good to see someone is keeping these. I tried, but just couldn't keep doing it. I have all the Ad Astra programme books, except for one...there was one year they announced their date very late, and we were already going to a steampunk convention in Michigan. The actual con flyers didn't seem important at the time...

With the absence of conventions (of our interest) to attend, fandom is one foot in the grave. I see many conventions in our area, but they are usually anime, comics, gaming, Trek, or other media, and some of what is listed are ren faires or pirate festivals. We need a fannish convention, perhaps even a relaxicon, with something to do for all, if we can. Right now, most of us are being relegated to passive consumers, away from being active participants, and I am not sure we can change that.

[At my age, with reduced physical and mental stamina, passive fanac is appropriate. The last VCON I attended, VCON 42, I just sat back and watched a few

panels. Mostly I sat in the hall conversing with old friends. I didn't even bother to take pictures. I was living in the moment. That's all that mattered. Had a good time.]

Historical articles always work when we tire of trying to figure out our futures. I'd have to wonder what Nils Helmer Frome would think of us all today. I wonder how he would have operated a 'radio service' out of his bedroom? I do indeed have the Colombo book on Croutch, and I have read it several times.

The Writers Guild of America statement on AI...they seem to be against it, and I have to side with them, especially being an editor-in-chief. When we get SF stories submitted to Amazing, I give them to our sterling band of readers, and they tell me what's good. When I edit those stories, I put them through a plagiarism detector app, and an AI detector app. If the readings are low, they are good, but there have been a few where the readings are high, so either they've ripped off huge scads of copy from other stories, or some or most of the story was AI-generated. We are looking for the best original stuff.

[I'm amazed at the amount of posts I've seen online by people claiming they're only interested in the product and don't give a damn about human creators. They seem to claim that art and music and literature should be free, because "anybody" can do it, so screw the people who want to be paid. Sad.]

I have probably said as much in a previous letter, but we just can't make it to Pemmi-Con in Winnipeg next year. The finances just will not allow for it. However, 2024 may be an interesting year for us. There are two major conventions happening in 2024, just down the Queen Elizabeth Way from us...next year's NASFiC will be held in Buffalo (yet to be decided, but the Buffalo bid is unopposed), and next year's World Fantasy Convention will be held in Niagara Falls, New York. Yvonne and I are planning to explore both these events to enjoy and promote Amazing Stories. Still lots of plan, and I suspect we won't be able to afford to stay at both event all days of the event, but we will see what can be done.

Have you heard anything more about this year's When Words Collide in Calgary being the last one? I haven't seen much about CanCon in Ottawa, but that doesn't mean it's not happening. I need to look further into that.

[Oh, this year's When Words Collide will definitely be the last one. However, there's apparently strong interest on the part of one or more professional organizations to start up something similar within a year or two. Not a done deal yet, but my sources are upbeat and positive pending further developments.]

Personal note...the end of May and start of June were eaten up by momentous events and celebrations. Near the end of May was Anime North, Toronto's giant anime convention, and Yvonne was ably in charge of the voluminous Vendors' Hall, where she had sold and managed more than 500 tables of anime and other merchandise. The final day of the convention just happened to be our 40th wedding anniversary, so after the con, we took a day off to catch our breath, and then headed off to the great city of Kingston, Ontario, for four days of doing as we pleased. We fell in love with the city, with great parks, tours, and fun things to do and see. We returned just this past Saturday and got back in the swing of things. More plans for fun are on the way.

Thanks for this issue, and I will try to be a little more timely the next time.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any inquiries or questions on any club matter, contact The Graeme at: < wcsfa.bcsfa.vcon.information@gmail.com > and I will pass the inquiry on to the appropriate Board Director for a response. 66

To submit articles or letters of comment, contact God-Editor R. Graeme Cameron at: < [The Graeme](#) >

Interested in tons of back issues, go to: < <https://efanzines.com/BCSFA/> > or to < <https://efanzines.com/BCSFA/> >

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For news about BCSFA go to: < [BCSFA Facebook Page](#) >

For news about WCSFA go to: < [WCSFA Facebook Page](#) > but bear in mind it has been inactive since 2021. It may be revived soon.

For the Discord site about VCON go to: < [VCON Discord Page](#) > or < [The Ghost of VCON Discord Page](#) >

For the Discord site about BCSFA go to: < [BCSFA Discord Page](#) >

For the Discord site about WCSFA go to: < [WCSFA Discord Page](#) >
