

# AURORAN LIGHTS

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

#6

MARCH 2012

## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!



YOU HAVE TILL MIDNIGHT MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>  
TO NOMINATE FOR THE AURORA AWARDS

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Cover: William Rotsler

**Note:** All opinions expressed in the articles are the opinions of the contributing authors (and those of the editor) and do NOT necessarily represent the official position or views of CSFFA.

## **EDITORIAL**

The previous issue of Auroran Lights came out seven months ago. Even by fannish ‘soonest’ standards, that’s a little extreme. My ill health was to blame. But my hernia operation is over and done with and I seem to be in the process of regaining my normal level of energy and creativity. Finally!

This is a last minute ‘quickie’ designed to remind people they have very little time left to nominate this years’ crop of potential Aurora Award winners.

If there are any SF genre authors or artists you enjoy, don’t just beam positive appreciation in their general direction, nominate them! And later in the year, vote for them! They’ve entertained and stimulated you, so why not reward them with a physical expression of your appreciation? They don’t just do it for the money you know. They do it for you. Thank them for what they do. Nominate!

And if you think fandom is dead, you’re wrong. There are thousands of active fans out there, hundreds putting on conventions, at least a dozen still publishing fanzines. Stop moaning and groaning about ‘the death of fandom’ and reward those who still carry the torch, who keep fandom alive. Nominate in the fan categories. Support active fans with egoboo! Inspire the newbies!

Many thanks to Bill Burns at <<http://www.efanzines.com>> for hosting.

Please send me feedback! You can reach me at: <[rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca)>

# **CSFFA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **AUORORA NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN!**



**Final nominations  
must be received  
no later than  
midnight PST  
March 31st, 2012**

## **THREE SIMPLE STEPS TO NOMINATE!**

### **STEP ONE: ELIGIBILITY**

Consider the category requirements:

#### **BEST NOVEL - ENGLISH**

(Best Science Fiction or Fantasy novel in English, over 40,000 words, by a Canadian, published in 2011.)

#### **BEST SHORT FICTION - ENGLISH**

(Best Science Fiction or Fantasy short fiction in English less than 40,000 words, by a Canadian, published in 2011)

#### **BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL - ENGLISH**

(Best Science Fiction or Fantasy graphic novel, single issue of a serial or an on-line comic in English, by a Canadian, published in 2011)

#### **BEST POETRY/SONG - ENGLISH**

(Best Science Fiction or Fantasy poem or song in English by a Canadian, published or performed in 2011)

#### **BEST RELATED WORK - ENGLISH**

(Best Science Fiction or Fantasy work not encompassed by the previous four categories such

as magazine, literary criticism, book review, critical editions, anthology, or a single-author collection released as a book in English, by a Canadian, published in 2011)

#### **BEST ARTIST**

(Best Science Fiction or Fantasy artwork or body of artwork by a Canadian, displayed or published in 2011.) This category is for both professional and amateur artists, and for both English and French artists.

**The following categories are for non-professional or fan work. Nominees are nominated for unpaid work.**

#### **BEST FAN PUBLICATION**

(Best fanzine or fan newsletter or publication either in print or by electronic means, whose content significantly relates to science fiction and fantasy, published by a Canadian at least once during 2011.)

#### **BEST FAN ORGANIZATIONAL**

(Best contributions to Canadian Science Fiction or Fantasy convention or club activities by a Canadian during 2011.)

#### **BEST FAN FILK**

(Best fan activity by a Canadian filker in areas such as album, song-writing, performance or sound engineering during 2011. Filk is fan music based on science fiction or fantasy.)

#### **BEST FAN OTHER**

(Best fan activity in the area of Science Fiction or Fantasy not encompassed by the previous three categories in areas such as: presentations, performances, APAS or fan-writing by a Canadian in 2011)

and then wrack your memory to figure out if you know of anyone who is deserving of an award. Ask around what others think to jog your memory.

Best of all go to:

<http://www.canadiansf.com/node/161>

AND (because they are not identical)

<http://friendsmerrilcontest.com/2011-can-sf/>

where eligibility lists covering all categories of the awards are maintained.

**Note:** being displayed on the above lists does NOT constitute being nominated for an award. The lists are merely incomplete databases providing some examples of individuals (and their works) who may be eligible to be nominated.

Feel free to nominate eligible candidates not included on the above lists. ALL candidates meeting the requirements are eligible.

## STEP TWO: NOMINATE

Once you have made up your mind whom or what you want to nominate, go to the official CSFFA site at:

<<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca>>,

and click on “Voting, etc.” listed in the upper right of the screen.

Now click on the ‘Register/nominate/vote’ button to arrive at the ‘CSFFA Membership login’ page. To login you must become (or be) a member.

To register as a member, go to the bottom of the page and click ‘Register.’ Membership (which also entitles you to vote on the final nominees) costs \$10 for the calendar year. Follow the instructions re payment. A society membership account number will be sent to your email address. Once you have it, go back to

<<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca>>.

And login at the CSFFA Membership page. It will ask you for your email address and society number, then pass you on to the nomination forms. You can either fill them out online or download the forms and mail them in.

NOTE: You can nominate up to three candidates in each category.

## STEP THREE: VOTE

Instructions will be provided at an appropriate time in the future. All registered members will be entitled to vote.

# 2011 WINNERS OF ENGLISH AURORA AWARDS

## BEST ENGLISH NOVEL 2010

*Watch*, by Robert J. Sawyer, Penguin Canada

## BEST ENGLISH SHORT STORY 2010

*The Burden of Fire* by Hayden Trenholm, Neo-Opsis #19

## BEST ENGLISH POEM / SONG 2010

*The ABCs of the End of the World* by Carolyn Clink, *A Verdant Green*, The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box

## BEST ENGLISH GRAPHIC NOVEL 2010

*Goblins*, Tarol Hunt, goblinscomic.com

## BEST ENGLISH RELATED WORK 2010

*The Dragon and the Stars*, edited by Derwin Mak and Eric Choi, DAW

## BEST ARTIST 2010

*Erik Mohr*, cover art for ChiZine Publications

## BEST FAN PUBLICATION 2010

No award given out in this category due to insufficient nominations.

## **BEST FAN FILK 2010**

**Dave Clement and Tom Jeffers** of Dandelion Wine for “Face on Mars” CD

## **BEST FAN ORGANIZATIONAL 2010**

**Helen Marshall and Sandra Kasturi**, chairs of Toronto SpecFic Colloquium (Toronto)

## **BEST FAN OTHER 2010**

**John and Linda Ross Mansfield**, Conception of the Aurora Nominee pins

## **2011 WINNERS OF AURORA/BORÉAL AWARDS**

Meilleur roman: **Côté, Héloïse: La tueuse de dragons** (Alire)

Meilleure nouvelle: **Côté, Philippe-Aubert: « Pour l'honneur d'un Nohaum »** (Solaris 176)

Meilleurs ouvrages: **Solaris** (Revue. rédacteur en chef: Joël Champetier)

## **FABLED FANDOM NEWS & NOTES**

## **CUFF VOTING NOW OPEN!**

The CUFF Administrators are pleased to announce the nominees for the election of the 2012 Canadian Unity Fan Fund Delegate to the When Words Collide Convention in Calgary Aug 10-12, 2012

<http://www.whenwordscollide.org/>

## **2012 Campaign Information:**

Voting is now open to select a CUFF delegate for 2012.

Canadian fans are encouraged to vote for one of our two candidates from Eastern Canada to attend When Words Collide in Calgary August 10-12, 2012 as the CUFF delegate.

The delegate is welcome, even encouraged, to stay longer than just the convention and hang out with the local fans.

Votes for this year's CUFF race must be submitted by midnight PST, April 17, 2012 (The Tuesday after Ad Astra) to either the current Delegate, Kent Pollard, or the Eastern administrator, Diane Lacey.

To vote in the CUFF race, you must be a Canadian fan who has either been active fan for two years before the close of voting (for 2012, before April 17, 2010) or be a paid, attending member of this years When Words Collide convention.

To assist in funding the selected delegate's trip, voters are asked to make a donation to the fund. The suggested donation is currently \$5.00, though you are encouraged to assist as you may.

**This year's CUFF nominees and their nominators are:**

**Nominee: Jane Garthson**

References:

West: Cindy Turner, Cliff Samuels, Dave Clement

East: Cathy Palmer-Lister, Tanya Huff, Peggi Warner-Lalonde

## **Jane's Biography and campaign information:**

I am seeking selection as the eastern Canada delegate to When Words Collide (Convention) 2012 and ask your kind consideration of this application.

I am currently Treasurer of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA), and Chair of Governance and Planning. I was part of writing the bylaws and other work to incorporate this organization, and also part of expanding the Aurora Award categories and outreach to non-traditional participants.

Since CSFFA holds its Annual General Meeting at Convention, it is important for me to be there to present financial statements to members and also to conduct the election of board members. CSFFA also holds its annual in-person board meeting at Convention. As a board member governing the Auroras, I also very much want to be present at the Aurora Awards ceremonies.

As well, I am currently the President of the Filk Society of Upper Canada, where I also chair the Audit Committee and sit on the Governance Committee. I am also on the FilKONtario ConCom, where I am currently in charge of registration and assisting with guest liaison. After FilKONtario this April, I will step down as President in order to Co-Chair FilKONtario 23, as we do not allow the positions to be combined.

I have been attending conventions as a fan since 1992, including Anticipation, ConCept, SFContario, Polaris, Ad Astra, Toronto Spec-Fic Colloquium, TorCon 3, KeyCon and VCON. I have also attended a number of American gencons and filk cons, and smaller fan gatherings when travelling on business. I have moderated or sat on panels at a number of these conventions, volunteered in various ways, been part of filk outreach panels and hosted filk circles.

Until TorCon 3, I was just an attendee and participant, but since then I've felt part of fandom, eagerly learning more about it and meeting more of the people who make fandom possible.

I participate in the Canadian ConRunners listserve and social media sites about fandom, and learned how to edit Wikipedia entries to save one fannish listing last year (as well as tracking down links to academic studies).

WWC has a reputation as a very well run and quite different con, and I would really like to learn from being there and bring this knowledge back to Ontario events. I would also be expanding my circle of friends and contacts to help with promoting the Aurora Awards. And I would write an article for the Auroran Lights newsletter to help share what I learned.

For personal reasons, attending When Words Collide is a real financial hardship. If I am chosen, I will be very grateful for the funding. I will of course be active there in the CUFF panel, and lead whatever CUFF fundraising can appropriately be done within that event. I am reluctant to propose details until I am in a position to talk to WWC as CUFF delegate. I hope to arrive at least a day ahead of the convention to have a chance to see friends and set up for CUFF fundraising.

If I am not chosen to be the delegate, but manage to attend anyway, I will help out with CUFF activities regardless as I strongly support its mission.

Also, in terms of whom I am, my day job is a leadership consultant to nonprofit organizations, and going to WWC as CUFF delegate, will also increase the number of con-runners who know they can pick my brains about governance, bylaws and more. I make my knowledge freely available as much as possible.

## Nominee: Debra Yeung

### References:

West: Fran Skene, LeAmber Raven Kensley, Leah Freedman

East: Alex von Thorn, Colin Hinz, Lloyd and Yvonne Penney

### Debra's Biography and campaign information:

For years I was a run of the mill fan, oblivious to the secret world of con-running, I was the average fan enjoying the SF & F lifestyle wandering hallways of local conventions, unaware that there were so many types of conventions and that they ran the gamut of size, style and location, across Canada, the US and world-wide.

Yes I was ‘that’ Fan; not that it was a bad thing but I was completely oblivious of the 70% of fandom I was missing.

Just about two years to the day, I answered a fan-run convention “help wanted” ad. And from that moment my fannish life exploded to include Book readings, First Thursdays, Third Mondays, the word “Squee” entered my vocabulary (often), I attended long con-com meetings where not only did work get done but no blood was spilled, I became a party maven for the first time, and learned about fannish etiquette and the all important rule of 5-3-1.

I am hooked; I have it bad, I am now a con-runner and proud to be a Fan with a Capital “F”

If selected, I will transfer that passion into being this year’s CUFF delegate,

I am primed to apply everything experienced as a CUFF Delegate and to experience everything that ‘When Words Collide’ has to offer, to connect with as many of the Western Con-runners and fans as I can; but also do what I do best, pitch in and contribute to ‘When Words Collide’.

I don’t look at being CUFF delegate as a four day experience, I see it as a yearlong mission to continue the good work already in place, I wasn’t joking when I said that two years ago my Fannish life changed, it was at that time a CUFF delegate took me under her wing and mentored me, I was challenged and encouraged to expand my horizons; I plan on following that lead and become a mentor for future fans too.

### What else can I do for fandom and CUFF?

Well for one thing, I’d make the CUFF website a permanent web presence and actively promote the fund, we aren’t quite there yet, to be honest it is still not easy to find CUFF and if you do, to understand know what it is, thanks to Diane and Ken it’s getting better.

Of course I will publish the trip report upon my arrival home.

### Voting Information:

Votes and Donations to support CUFF, can be made:

By Paypal and email via

[kentpollard@gmail.com](mailto:kentpollard@gmail.com)

By mail (including cheques payable) to Kent Pollard at 1222 Junor Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7L 7K1

Or be delivered by hand to either Administrator:

Western: Kent Pollard

Eastern: Diane Lacey

(Diane will be at Ad Astra, accepting votes)

Voting will be close April 17th (the Tuesday after Ad Astra). This will allow the successful candidate enough time to work with WWC programming and to schedule their visit.

## **Voting Method Explanation:**

As with other fan funds, C.U.F.F. uses a preferential ballot system which guarantees automatic runoffs until a majority is obtained.

You rank your choices (candidates, no preference, & hold over) in the exact order of your preference for them (#1 for first choice, #2 for second choice, #3 for third choice, & #4 for fourth choice).

If the leading first-place choice does not get a majority, the first-place votes for the lowest-ranking choice are dropped, and the second-place votes on those ballots are counted as first-place votes. This process repeats itself until one choice has a majority.

The above process is why your votes for second, third and fourth places are important.

**Note:** you may give each choice only one ranking on your ballot.

### **Hold Over Funds:**

This choice, like "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no C.U.F.F. trip this year, if none of the candidates appeal to you.

Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no C.U.F.F. trip will be held this year regardless of how many votes Hold Over Funds received on the first ballot.

### **No Preference:**

For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

### **Your Choices:**

Jane Garthson

Debra Yeung

Hold Over Funds

No Preference

If you are unable to make Paypal, cheque, or hand delivery arrangements, please do not delay sending your vote, as the current (2011) delegate will cover up to 10 donations for voters who are unable to make arrangements.

## **STATUS OF THE CANADIAN FANED AWARDS**

The first annual Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards were presented last October at VCON 36, the official venue for the CFF Awards.

The Awards were:

**Best Fan Artist:** Taral Wayne.

**Best Fan Writer:** Garth Spencer.

**Best Loc Hack:** Lloyd Penney.

**Best Fanzine:** WARP with Cathy Palmer-Lister as Editor.

and

**Life-Time Achievement:** The Unknown Faned who published Canada's first SF fanzine in early 1936 under the title: 'The Canadian Science Fiction Fan'. (Unknown because in his 1936 review of the zine Donald Wollheim neglected to mention the editor's name!)

With the exception of the last mentioned, all of the winners have received their award certificate designed by Taral Wayne.

The master copy of the award figurine 'The Faned' has been sculpted by Monster Attack Team Canada member Lawrence Prime to a design by fellow MATC member Eric Chu. The 'Faned' stands seven inches tall.

I am currently attempting to get the 'Faned' figurine replicated and sent off to the winners but have not yet succeeded in determining a method that will work or in finding anyone willing to do it. The search continues.

Last year's winners were declared by fiat.

This year I will be consulting with active fanzine fans to determine peer opinion, perhaps through an unofficial poll.

Next year I hope to have a nomination and voting procedure in place modeled after the British NOVA Awards.

## STUTTERING STRATOSPHERIC STATIC

### Letters of Comment

(Comments by the editor are in red.)

**From: Lloyd Penney, August 23, 2011**  
**Famed Aurora & Fanned-winning Loc Hack.**  
**1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2**

Dear Graeme:

Thank you for Auroran Lights 5. As I look through the ToC, I have to wonder about the article on neofans. Are there any neofans any more? Lately, I am in touch with some of the newer SF groups in Toronto (Futurecon, The Nerd Mafia), and some of them have never heard the terms 'fan', 'fandom' or 'fannish' before. Some who have are suspicious of those who use the terms. The community you and I know and enjoy may be a thing of the past sooner than we think.

The complete list of all Canadian SF awards and their winners and nominees was a daunting task to put together. I vaguely remember that the fanzine Keith Soltys and I produced some years back, TORUS, had been

nominated at least once for a Casper/Aurora, but could never find out when.

### Five years in a row: 1988 to 1992

Mike Glicksohn, rest his soul, definitely had the right idea about fandom. It is perhaps indefinable, mostly because it seems to change to avoid any definition that anyone might try to apply to it. The ideal premise behind fandom is that it is intelligence at play. It doesn't always happen that way, but so seldom do we attain the ideal. There is the old kernel of truth that many fans are generally unsocialized or unsocializable (I may be creating words here), but I would like to think that fandom as a social structure would help to socialize fans and harness their abilities so as to run conventions, clubs, etc., and form friendships, marriages and families. All sounds so wonderful, doesn't it? Remember I said this was an ideal... So much I agree with here...all I can say is that is I still agree with Glicksohn's Maxim, IF3... If Fandom Isn't Fun, It's Futile.

**I am glad to have met Glicksohn once, but I wish I had known him.**

Agreed, no Aurora for Best Fan Publication is a puzzler. Both Yvonne and I nominated a full list of Canadian zines. Yet, it seems very few others did the same. We have to do better next year, wherever the CanVention and Auroras will be. The Auroras have an admirable number of voters, but Canadian fanzine fandom must do better.

**I hope everyone reading this takes your comments to heart and nominates now!**

## TERRIBLY IMPORTANT STUFF

## COLOPHON

**Auroran Lights Issue # 6, Mar 2012, Volume 2 #1, Whole number 6, is the Fannish E-zine of the**

Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, a Federally registered non-profit society with the general mandate of promoting Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy and the specific focus of sponsoring the annual Convention and Prix Aurora Awards

## CURRENT EXECUTIVE OF CSFFA

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**PRESIDENT:** Clint Budd.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Jean-Louis Trudel

**TREASURER:** Jane Garthson.

**SECRETARY:** Diane Lacey

**ARCHIVIST:** R. Graeme Cameron

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:** Cliff Samuels, Ron Friedman, Alan Pollard, Merle Metalin (Von Thorn).

### ARCHIVE COMMITTEE:

R. Graeme Cameron (Chair), Murray Moore, Lloyd Penney, Garth Spencer, & Taral Wayne.

Since anyone can download 'AURORAN LIGHTS', the act of reading 'AURORAN LIGHTS' does not constitute membership in CSFFA or grant voting privileges in CSFFA. Therefore you don't have to worry about CSFFA policies, debates, finances, decisions, etc. Unless you want to. Active members always welcome. Easiest way to join CSFFA is to attend Convention and/or register at :

< <http://prixaurorawards.ca> >

You can download past issues (and future issues when they're posted) of 'AURORAN LIGHTS' from < <http://efanzines.com> > or contact the Editor at:

< [rgraeme\[at\]shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme[at]shaw.ca) > and ask me to email you a PDF version.

Anyone (even non-members ) may submit short articles, mini-essays, letters of comment, art fillers ( small pieces of art ) and/or cover art to the Editor at:

**R.G. Cameron, Apt 72G – 13315 104<sup>th</sup> Ave,  
Surrey, B.C., V3T 1V5.**

Or: < [rgraeme\[at\]shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme[at]shaw.ca) >

## CSFFA DETAILED INFORMATION:

For most complete and latest info go to:

< <http://prixaurorawards.ca> >

### What is CSFFA?

CSFFA is a federally incorporated non-profit society which exists to promote quality Canadian speculative fiction and the fan activity that surrounds it.

### Who can join CSFFA?

Membership in CSFFA costs \$10 per calendar year and entitles members to both nominate and vote. Membership is open to all Canadians, whether citizens or Permanent Residents, and whether living in Canada or abroad. Membership in CSFFA will be available via online registration on the Aurora website at:

< [Register/Nominate](http://Register/Nominate) >

### What are the Prix Aurora Awards?

The Prix Aurora Awards are Canada's National Science Fiction & Fantasy Awards. They are Canadian Fans' way of recognizing the best in genre creativity and activity of the previous calendar year (January 1st to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011).

This year, the Aurora Awards will be given across a broad range of professional and fan categories: Novel, Short Fiction, Poetry/Lyrics, Graphic Novel, Related Critical Works, Art, Fan Filk, Fanzine, Fan Organizational, and Fan Other. Canadian fans, through the Aurora Awards, have been promoting the best Canadian professional and amateur (fan) achievements for the past 30 years, since the first presentation in 1980.

The Aurora awards are administered by the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA), a federally registered non-profit society.