

THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST

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

#6

November 2011



COVER CONSIDERATIONS

The cover 'fillo' by Taral Wayne (and it should be clear to all by now that my cover policy dictates using very simple yet striking pieces which normally occupy a quarter of a page at best, but which possess extraordinary impact when blown up beyond the artist's original intentions) is titled "Why Dinosaurs went extinct."

Alas, a common conception of fanzine fans is that we are aging dinosaurs pursuing a nearly extinct hobby. In fact, many consider us to be BOBS (Boring Old Bastards) best to be avoided. There are all sorts of negative connotations current among contemporary fans.

I, of course, am notorious for insisting we BOBs should stop being BOBs and promote ourselves as contemporary fans engaged in a fascinating niche fanac worth a second look by those unfamiliar with what we do.

Still, we are dogged with the dinosaur tag, so much so that even many within zinedom regard my one-man crusade as a futile attempt to 'Jurassic Park' zinedom.

'Tosh', I say. I approach the task with all the reproductive fervour of a T-Rex. (Hmm, that doesn't read quite right...) At any rate, note how cheerfully confident our cover Rex appears. He obviously considers what he is doing well worth the effort. A strenuous effort yes, but with gratifying reward no matter what the outcome.

Why should I deny myself similar accomplishments?

(Hmm... still doesn't read quite right...)

THE FANED NEARLY DONE!

Lawrence Prime informs me he is nearly finished sculpting the Faned Figure. A little bit more detail, a 'wet' polish, and it's ready to reproduce (just like the cover).

At some point in the near future I will meet with him to admire his handiwork and, just possibly, suggest additional details to be added, bearing in mind he's willing to do a little extra work to enhance the figure if required.

I suspect I will be quite pleased to accept what he has accomplished and take delivery as soon as possible. Then comes the imponderable quest for a reasonably inexpensive means of Faned reproduction. I haven't a clue what to do.

Ideally one of those 3-d plastic drafting gizmos but I know of none such available locally. I renew my plea for suggestions and ideas. Anyone know of a cheap and reliable commercially available service?

LETTERS OF COMMENT

The Graeme's comments are in dark Blue.

From: Chris Garcia, October 16th, 2011
Hugo winning Faned of DRINK TANK

I have a great fondness for the Novas, being the only non-Brit to have won one, and it's a solid format for a smaller, more localized set of awards. The FAAn Awards, while a wonderful set and impressive when you look at how they seem to attract voters with a very strong knowledge and love of Fanzines, are quite variable, much like CorFlu itself.

You won your Nova for JOURNEY PLANET in 2010, along with co-editors James Bacon, Claire Brialey, & Pete Young. I must say, dashed clever of you to spread your talent worldwide to ensnare local awards. Brilliant strategy!

Brings up an important point: should foreign contributors win for work – writing, art, co-editing, etc. – in Canadian zines? I think it would be churlish not to allow this, especially since winning by popular vote (if that is what happens) would reflect the quality of what they have brought to Canadian zines. And the whole purpose of the CFF Awards is to promote Canadian zines.

On the other hand, the CFF Award Certificates actually state "Best Canadian Fanwriter" and so forth. If a non-Canadian fanwriter wins, the certificate would have to be readjusted to read accordingly. Yet isn't the purpose of the CFF Awards to promote Canadian fan artists, fanwriters and faneds as well as Canadian zines? One heck of a conundrum here. Must ponder this while the CFFA remain subject to fiat. What do you, the readers, think about all this?

I love the cover and the statues look awesome!

Chris

From: Kent Pollard, Oct 20, 2011
Current C.U.F.F. Winner & Administrator
C.U.F.F. = Canadian Unity Fan Fund

Thanks, Graeme.

And by-the-way, thanks for all the work you've done on the fanzine awards. I think your retirement might just be the best thing that ever happened to fanzines in Canada.

Just about the best thing that ever happened to ME at least. But seriously, thank you. I do what I can.

**From: Lloyd Penney, August 26, 2011
Famed Aurora & Faned-winning Loc Hack.
1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2**

Dear Graeme,

I've got two issues of The Fanactical Fanactivist here, and I know issue 5 came out just before issue 4, but I prefer to make comments in order...

4...The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards...I thank you kindly for your consideration, and for this award. I look forward to its arrival. Both you and Taral have sent me a .jpeg of the certificate, and it is great artwork. Doing this awarding of awards by fiat certainly does have its challenges, but its benefits, too. Now that I have won for Best Letterhack, how many years am I now ineligible? I remember you'd tossed around one or two or more years, but wasn't sure if you'd made a decision. My congratulations go out to Taral and Garth and Cathy. I know that Cathy is mightily pleased with this, especially after another stressful and busy Con*cept.

Still haven't made up my mind. However, I lean toward just the one year. Should be a reasonable compromise between winners feeling penalized for winning and competitors feeling they don't stand a chance. A one year ineligibility at least guarantees some variety in the awards listings. Yeah. I have made up my mind. Let's make it one year and one year only.

Jinnie Cracknell has the right idea. There are many ways to communicate in modern fandom, but I believe fanzines to be the most time-honoured and permanent. Yes, it is slower than say e-mail or Facebook or Twitter, but it seems less ephemeral, and the backup of a .pdfed copy can serve to make the writing and layout last longer than the paper might.

I've taken to printing archive copies of my zines on the same paper I use for the CFFA Certificates. It is acid free and contains 25% cotton. Keep it warm and dry and it'll last for centuries. I get mine at the University of B.C. where anyone writing a thesis is required to use it. A mildly megalomaniacal quest for immortality.

I remember when Cheryl Morgan's zine Emerald City won a Hugo for Best Fanzine. She caught a blast from many older fanzine fans because she didn't have a letter column in her zine. I didn't mind; I sent her locs anyway, and she'd often respond, but never printed my locs. I have no expectation that anyone will ever print my locs, and I am pleased when they do, but Cheryl told me her design for the zine didn't include a local, and as the faned, that was her choice. The hostility she endured drove her out of

fanzine fandom and into semi-pro publications, where she has won three Hugos, I believe.

I have to confess locs are usually the first thing I read in a zine. Something very alive and personal about locs. But not to worry faneds, when I read a zine I read everything. Just not necessarily in sequence.

Under the ten 'bits of business'...the eleventh bit could be the fact that Tintin's backpack looks like a duplicator.

Well yes, but in my brief intro I mention I had asked Taral to create an image utilizing an astronaut figure with a mimeo for a backpack. The ten 'bits of business' refer to ten extra 'bits of business' apart from the mimeo.

5...a question about the trophy...will it be plaster or plastic? If it's plaster with a coat of paint or some liquid plastic, it might be very difficult to dust or keep clean.

At this point I have no idea what the replicant Faneds will be made of. Vaguely hoping it's a material I can paint, so the different awards will be differentiated by different colours, say copper for Fanwriting, bronze for Fan Artist, steel for Fanzine, chrome for Loc Hack, or some such like.

Also thinking a stand to mount them on would be nice, say wood of some sort, with a little inscription, but Ghu knows what that would cost. Something I'll be looking into. The main thing is to figure out how to reproduce the Faned from the master!

I hadn't noticed the similarities between the SFFs and the Novas, but when pointed out... I've also never seen a list of Nova winners, nor the rules of administration and nomination. There may have been the assumption by some of us (guilty) that the administration of the CFFs may have been modeled after the FAAn Awards.

In truth I'd been toying with a Canadian version of the FAAn awards in the back of my mind for years (just looked it up – came to mind exactly at 5:40 am, Nov 24th, 2004 as I was lying in my bathtub daydreaming) but I never really investigated how they function. The Nova rules seem better suited for mutation to our needs, especially since the Fanzine Activity Achievement Awards has changed its name to Fan Activity Achievement Awards and now includes websites, blogs & other electronic writings, and thus becomes less relevant as a role model.

A very good list of British fanzines...I am pleased to say that I receive most of these titles. I keep getting told that in the past, British fandom would put a hundred or more titles out for the general fannish public in Britain and

around the world. There's no reason why we can't try to build those current numbers up again.

Ahhh.... Are you saying we should try to build the number of British fanzines up to past levels? I'm not that ambitious!

I think I am done now...I am sure you are working on the next issue. I wish you could be at the CanVention coming up in about three weeks, but we will be thinking of you. Take care, and as always, many thanks. Have a great Hallowe'en!

I had a quiet Hallowe'en. At my age that's a great Hallowe'en!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

**From: Neil Jamieson-Williams, August 7, 2011
Faned of Swill @ 30.
Dundas, Ontario**

Hi Graeme,

A shorter LoC this time around...

"SPACE OPERA BLUES? Tell me more! You've perked up my fan historian ears. Don't believe you've mentioned that before."

A long time ago and very pre-Swill, published in 1977 and early 1978. This was a perzine that included some original fanfic, with an emphasis on, of course, space opera. For the fan historian notes, the big question is whether or not it is a Canadian fanzine? I spent most of 1977 in the UK and Space Opera Blues was published there; so written by a Canadian residing in the UK.

Good enough for me! A Canadian fanzine written in exile!

The zine ran three issues and the primary content was the serialisation of a novelette that I think I titled, Llangoed Rising -- or something like that. Other than the fiction, there would be an editorial and an endnote and in the second issue a review of the comic book/SF store in Cardiff (that is, the one that I had discovered).

The plot of Llangoed Rising concerned the emergence of transformative psychic abilities among the colonists on the planet Llangoed. The colonists were the descendants of Welsh Neo-Druids. While this all sounds really serious, it wasn't. The story was a kind of dark comedy with the main characters being a space trader and an official from the Colonial Office -- the transformation of the colonists is seen through their eyes.

That's all I recall of the story. Kind of a John Grimes meets Bill the Galactic Hero with a couple of dashes of Witches of Karres and a very small pinch of Childhood's End.

Oh yes, the story wasn't very good. The non-fiction in the zine discussed the issue of the decline in space opera as far as I can remember. I think it had a circulation of about 60 and the major distribution would be via the comic store in Cardiff and to friends and acquaintances in Ystrad Mynach (a village about 18 kilometres north of Cardiff) where I was residing.

Here is my faned history:

1974

RETICULUM

- member of an editing collective at Secondary School (Lester Rainsford and Andrew Hoyt were part of the collective)
- fanfic fanzine
3 issues

1975

SIRIUS

- faned
- re-publication of some Reticulum stories and some new material
- 2 issues

1977 - 1978

SPACE OPERA BLUES

- faned
- perzine and fanfic
3 issues

1979

DARK SPACES

- co-faned
- fanfic fanzine
- Only involved for the first two issues when the zine was a mix of original fanfic and Trek fanfic. I left when it went all Trek fanfic. The remaining editor changed the name, though I can't remember what she changed it to.

1981

SWILL

- faned
- perzine
6 issues

1982 - 1983

BCSFazine

- faned
- Clubzine
- (for which I was nominated for an Elron Award as Worst Fanzine Editor)12 issues

1983

DAUGHTER OF SWILL, MOTHER OF SCUM

- faned
- perzine
3 issues

1984

RIMRUNNER LOG

- faned
- perzine devoted to the works of A. Bertram Chandler
one issue

2001

SWILL ONLINE

- faned
- perzine
one issue

2011

SWILL @ 30

- perzine
3 issues and counting

Thank you for the run down. This is precisely the kind of info I want for the Canfancylopedia. Will add it to my working files shortly.

All the best,
Neil

Below is my current (albeit old) Canfancylopedia article on the first version of what is now the CFF Awards. This is how I conceived them:

CanFAAn AWARDS

This idea came to me at 5:40 am, Nov 24th, 2004, as I lay soaking in my bathtub prior to getting dressed and going to work. The Americans have the HUGO Awards, and we Canadians have the AURORAS. The Americans have the HOGUs, and we have the ELRONS. The Americans have the FAAn Awards, and we have... why not the CanFAAns?

The FAAn Awards are peer group awards for Fanzine Activity Achievement. Why not have a Canadian equivalent? This is not meant to compete with the Auroras, any more than the FAAn Awards compete with the HUGOS. Both the HUGOS and the AURORAS are open to any SF fan to vote on, but the FAAn Awards are open only to those known to be active in fanzine fandom. Sort of like the difference between the HUGOS (open to all), and the NEBULAS (Only SF writers can vote), a peer group award.

NOTE: granted, the FAAn awards are open to all fen regardless of nationality, and Canadians do win (as witness Lloyd Penney receiving best loc writer in 2009), and

likewise the Hugos are open to all authors, but just as the Auroras are open only to Canadian authors and fen, I feel the CanFAAns should be strictly for Canadians. Like the Auroras, the CanFAAns would be intended to bolster and enhance Canadian fanac within Canada.

Of course, there may not be enough active fanzine fans in Canada to make the awards viable, but I refuse to believe that. After all, I can think of at least three here in Vancouver alone. Besides, even if only a dozen or two dozen people vote, it's a kind of census of active fanzine fanac, a way of bringing these people together & into contact, and mostly, a means of advocating fanzine fandom, focusing attention on it, maybe even recruiting new active participants. Hmm. One way of Cdn fanzine fandom to develop a fenaissance in the 21st century.

So, off the top of my head, here are some possible award categories:

- Best Fan Writer.
- Best Fan Artist.
- Best Fan LocHack.
- Best Fanzine (Paper, and/or 'fixed' paper version hosted on web).
- Best Fanzine (Website only).

Something like this is by definition small scale, can perhaps be handled by a single O.E. (so to speak) but 'sponsored' by a committee of active fen. No rush, but a concept to be considered and perhaps experimentally tried within a year or two. What do you think?

In February of 2008 Lloyd Penney commented: *"I think the CanFAAns would be a viable award if there were more of us to participate and vote. Instead, it would look like we were glad-handing each other, handing ourselves awards for our fanzine efforts. To see any level of viability, perhaps we need a list of Canadian fanzine fans so we know who we're dealing with, and how far we can go..."*

To which I replied: *"...your idea of a few people glad-handing one another is positively inspirational! How far can we go? Why not go all the way to the ultimate in simplicity and efficiency? Why don't I just give MYSELF each and every CanFaAn award? Glad-hand myself a trophy? And every year a bigger and better trophy, more and more gaudy and elaborate? Sooner or later other Canadian Fen would be so pissed about this they'd start pubbing their own ish in droves in order to compete with me and deny me victory.... I LIKE this concept... no visible flaws... seems perfectly logical...hmm..."*

To which I add: Once again the awards are described as being purely for Canadians. Yet many non-Canadians contribute to Canadian zines. Declare them honorary Canadians? No, that would be silly. Separate awards? No, suspect I can't afford more than four Faned figures a year (lifetime achievement winners

don't get one, or at least, not as long as they are deceased – once living zinesters begin winning I'll have to award 5 figures a year). So the puzzle remains. To award or not to award?

THE CFF AWARDS RULES

(This is a first stab at reworking some of the Nova Award rules to suit the CFF Awards)

The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards (the Faneds) celebrate fanzines, fanzine writing, fanzine artwork, fanzine loc writing and lifetime fanzine activity produced by Canadian science fiction and/or fantasy fans.

The Faneds shall be announced at VCON, the convention organised annually by the West Coast Science Fiction Association (a registered non-profit society).

The categories shall be "Best Canadian Fan Artist", "Best Canadian Fan Writer", "Best Canadian Letter Hack", "Best Canadian Fanzine", and "Lifetime Achievement".

A trophy and an awards certificate shall be supplied in each category by the CFFA committee, for presentation at the awards ceremony at VCON (with the exception of certificate-only for lifetime achievement if the winner is long deceased – the certificate being deposited in the CFFA archive maintained by the CFFA Society).

The trophies shall be presented by Richard Graeme Cameron, CFFA Administrator, or by someone designated by him, or by his successor, or by someone designated by his successor.

In the event of a tie, the joint recipients will each receive a trophy. However, in the event of a single award with multiple winners (example: co-editors), trophy or trophies will be awarded at the discretion of the administrator.

In the event that VCON should not be held in any given year, the CFFA Society will carry out nominating and balloting procedures using established criteria and deadlines. Winners will be notified by e-mail and post, with the full results publicised through fanzines and electronic noticeboards. Certificates and trophies will then be mailed to the winners.

For the purposes of the Faneds, a fanzine shall be defined as an amateur publication primarily (but not exclusively) concerned with science fiction and / or fantasy, fans of science fiction and / or fantasy, and / or related subjects, copies of which may be obtained in exchange for other such publications, for letters of

comment, or for contributions. In the event that eligibility is unclear, the decision of the Administrator shall be final.

The "Best Fanzine" category shall be open to any fanzine published in Canada, provided at least one issue has been published the preceding year. In cases where a fanzine has two or more editors, at least one must be Canadian.

Electronic fanzines ("e-zines") shall be eligible in the "Best Fanzine" category, provided each issue is a distinct entity and a printed copy is available for download. In the event of controversy the Administrator's decision on eligibility shall be final.

The "Best Fan Writer" category shall be open to any Canadian who has contributed a piece of writing to an eligible fanzine published in the preceding year.

The "Best Fan Artist" category shall be open to any Canadian who has contributed a piece of artwork to an eligible fanzine published in the preceding year.

The "Best Fan Letter Hack" category shall be open to any Canadian who has contributed a letter of comment to an eligible fanzine published in the preceding year.

The "Lifetime Achievement" category shall be open to any Canadian who has contributed significantly to the development and evolution of Canadian fanzines during his or her fannish career.

TO SUM UP

Next ish, voting rules. Comments on the above?

Cheers! The Graeme

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

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Cover Art: Taral Wayne