

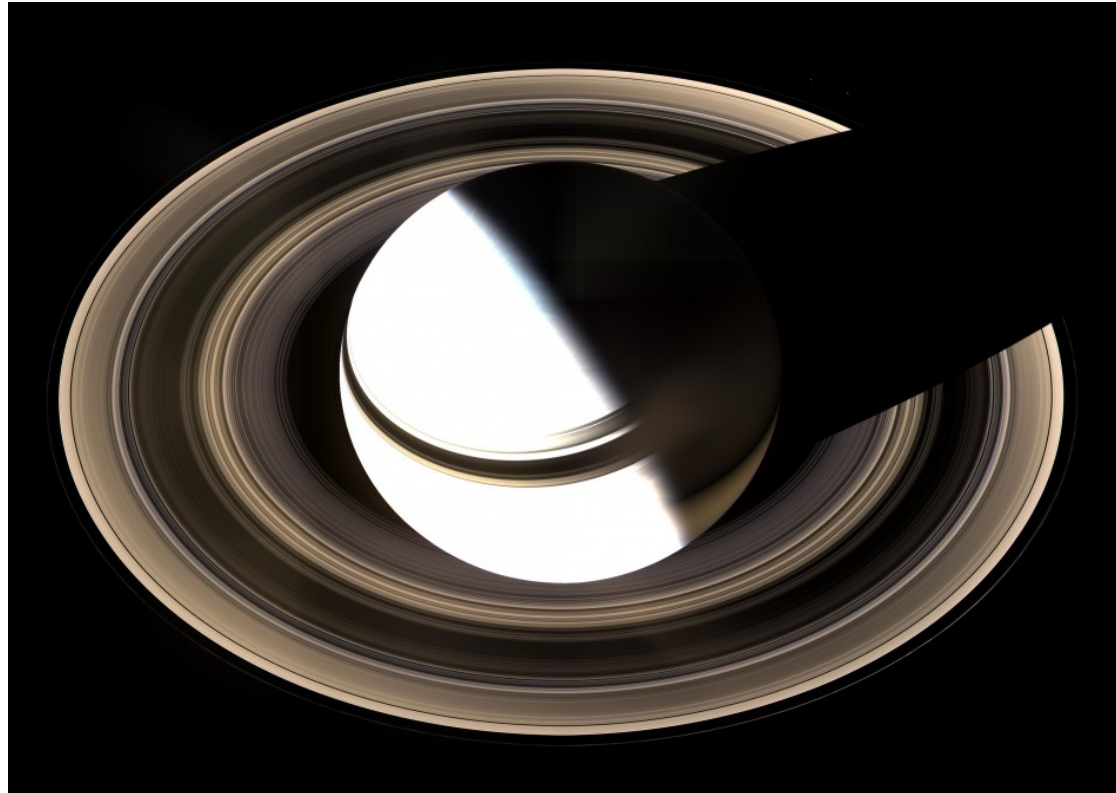


# OSFS Statement

Newsletter of the **Ottawa Science Fiction Society, July, 2014,**  
Issue 424, Volume 40, Number 7. Founded May 1977

**No dinner meetings  
in July and August.**

**Saturn's shadow on the  
rings and the ring's shadow  
on Saturn.**



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We are suspending requirements of membership dues for now, as we are not paying for meetings. The Executive will review our financial situation regularly.

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OSFS Logo Bruce Wright

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## Coming to Your Theatre

### **Dawn of the Planet of the Apes** 11 Jul 2014

A growing nation of genetically evolved apes led by Caesar is threatened by a band of human survivors of the devastating virus unleashed a decade earlier. They reach a fragile peace, but it proves shortlived, as both sides are brought to the brink of a war that will determine who will emerge as Earth's dominant species.

### **The Purge: Anarchy** 18 Jul 2014

In the sequel to THE PURGE, a young couple struggles to survive after their car breaks down just as the annual Purge commences.

### **X-Men: Days of Future Past - Jul 18**

### **Hercules** 25 Jul 2014

Haunted by a sin from his past, Hercules (Dwayne Johnson) has become a mercenary. Along with five faithful companions, he travels ancient Greece selling his services for gold and using his legendary reputation to intimidate enemies. But when the benevolent ruler of Thrace and his daughter seek Hercules' help to defeat a savage and terrifying warlord, Hercules finds that in order for good to

triumph and justice to prevail, he must once again become the hero he was and embrace his own myth. He must be Hercules.

### **Guardians of the Galaxy** 1 Aug 2014

Space adventurer Peter Quill (Chris Pratt) finds himself the object of a bounty hunt after stealing an orb coveted by a treacherous villain, but when Quill discovers the power it holds, he must find a way to rally the quartet of ragtag rivals hot on his trail to save the universe.

### **I Origins** 8 Aug 2014

Follows a molecular biologist (Michael Pitt) whose study of the human eye points to evidence with far reaching implications about our scientific and spiritual beliefs.

### **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** 8 Aug 2014

When New York City is threatened by the evil Shredder and his Foot Clan, four unlikely outcast brothers rise from the sewers and discover their destiny as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

### **Sin City: A Dame to Kill** For 22 Aug 2014

Based on the comic book by Frank Miller, the much anticipated sequel focuses on both familiar faces and brand new characters. Featuring an all-star cast, the latest installment in the Sin City franchise will

again mix special effects with black and white coloring to replicate the world of the original graphic novel.

**As Above, So Below** 29 Aug 2014

A team of explorers delve deep into the twisting catacombs that exist under the streets of Paris. When they venture into an uncharted maze of bones, they discover just what was supposed to be contained in this city of the dead. This is a journey into madness and terror that goes deep into the human psyche to reveal personal demons that come back and haunt us.

**Jessabelle** 29 Aug 2014

Following the death of her fiancé, Jessie (Sarah Snook) goes to recover at her father's old home. But after finding a gift from her deceased mother, Jessie encounters a spirit that is out to kill her.

**The Green Inferno** 5 Sep 2014

NYU freshman Justine (Lorenza Izzo), whose father works at the United Nations, joins a group of campus radicals on a trip to the Amazon jungle, in an effort to put a halt to the illegal clear-cutting that endangers the tranquil lives of an isolated Amazonian tribe. They fly to Peru and immediately get to work, tying themselves to trees and bulldozers and live-streaming themselves via their cellphones. They

seemingly succeed in their mission, but their celebration quickly turns to tragedy when their plane crashes in the jungle. They're quickly captured by the very people they were trying to protect—cannibals who engage in ritual dismemberment before eating their captives.

**The Boxtrolls** 26 Sep 2014

Beneath the charming cobblestone streets of Cheesebridge, a posh Victorian-era town obsessed with wealth, class, and the smelliest of fine cheeses, dwell the Boxtrolls. The local residents see them as foul monsters who crawl out of the sewers at night to steal children and cheese. In reality, the Boxtrolls are an underground community of quirky and lovable oddballs who wear recycled cardboard boxes. They find their necessities in dumpsters and by collecting mechanical junk. The Boxtrolls have raised an orphaned human boy, Eggs, since infancy as one of their own. When villainous pest exterminator Archibald Snatcher targets the Boxtrolls, hoping to get rid of them all in an effort to gain his ticket into Cheesebridge society, the kindhearted band of tinkerers must turn to their adopted charge and adventurous rich girl Winnie to bridge two worlds amidst the winds of change.

**Dracula Untold** 17 Oct 2014

Vlad the Impaler (Luke Evans) becomes the

mythological bloodsucker Dracula.

**Paranormal Activity 5** 24 Oct 2014

Ryan, Emily and their six-year-old daughter Leila move to Palo Alto so Ryan's younger brother Mike, who's a video game designer who lives with them, can start his new job. However, they quickly realize something is not right within their new house.

**Instellar** 7 Nov 2014

A group of scientists travel through a wormhole in outer space into another dimension. cast: Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Bill Irwin, Ellen Burstyn, Michael Caine.

**The Hunger Games - The Mockingjay part 1** 21 Nov 2014

With Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) captured by Snow and taken prisoner in the Capitol, Katniss Everdeen

(Jennifer Lawrence) reluctantly agrees to act as "the Mockingjay"—a poster child for the rebellion spearheaded by District 13. She has one stipulation however—that District 13's President Alma Coin (Julianne Moore) promises immunity to all of the past Hunger Games tributes, including Peeta, and to give Katniss the right to personally kill President Snow (Donald Sutherland) once he is captured.

**The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies** T17 Dec 2014

The conclusion of Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), the Wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellen) and the thirteen Dwarves' epic quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor from the dragon Smaug (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch).

## Coming Events

List submitted by Lloyd Penney

July 17-20 - Detcon 1, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI. North American Science Fiction Interim Convention (NASFiC). Guests: Steven Barnes, John Picacio, Bernadette Bosky, Arthur Hlavaty, Kevin J. Maroney, Helen Greiner, Bill and Brenda Sutton, Roger Sims, Fred Prophet. For more information, [www.detcon1.org](http://www.detcon1.org).

July 18-20 - Ryu-Kon 2014, Buffalo Niagara Convention Centre, Buffalo. Anime/gaming/horror/steampunk convention. Guests: Riley Schillaci, more. For more information, [www.ryu-kon.com](http://www.ryu-kon.com).

July 18-20 - ConBravo!, Hamilton Convention Centre & Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton. Gaming/cosplay convention, more. Guests: Angry Joe, DJ Cutman, more. For more information, [www.conbravo.com](http://www.conbravo.com).

August 1-3 - Condition vs. The Monsters, Four Point by Sheraton Hotel, London, ON. Furry convention. Guests: Sigil, Wolfbird, Dixie von Fur. For more information, [www.conditionfurry.ca](http://www.conditionfurry.ca).

August 14-18 - Loncon 3/72nd World Science Fiction Convention, ExCeL, London, UK. Guests: Iain M. Banks, John Clute, Malcolm Edwards, Chris Foss, Jeanne Gomoll, Robin Hobb, Bryan Talbot. For more information, [www.loncon3.org](http://www.loncon3.org).

August 28-31 - Fan Expo Canada, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. 20th anniversary event. For more information, [www.fanexpocanada.com](http://www.fanexpocanada.com).

Sept. 5-7 - Fan Events Forum, International Plaza Hotel, Toronto. Con runners' convention. More information TBA, sponsored by Anime North.

Sept. 7 - Oshawa Comic Con, 15 Harmony Rd. N., Oshawa. \$5 admission, hours 10am-3pm. For more information, [www.popculturecanada.ca](http://www.popculturecanada.ca).

Sept. 12-14 - Steampunk event, name unknown, somewhere in the GTA. More information to follow.

- Sept. 19-21 - RocCon 2014, Kodak's Theatre on the Ridge, Rochester, NY. Comics, gaming, SF and anime convention. Guests: Brent Spiner, Alaina Huffman, Vic Mignogna, Bonnie Piesse. For more information, [www.rochesterscifanimecon.com](http://www.rochesterscifanimecon.com).
- Sept. 26-28 - JemCon, Airport Hilton, Mississauga. Convention about Jem cartoons and toys. For more information, [www.jemcon.org](http://www.jemcon.org).
- October 3-5 - CanCon 2014, Hotel TBA, Ottawa. Literary SF convention. Guest: Jo Walton. For more information, [www.can-con.org](http://www.can-con.org).
- October 10-12 - Creation Salute to Supermatural, Toronto Weston Harbourcastle, Toronto. Guests: Jensen Ackles, Jared Padalecki, Misha Collins. For more information, [www.creationent.com](http://www.creationent.com).
- November 14-16 - SFContario 5, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Toronto. Guests: Robin Hobb, James Murray. For more information, [www.sfcontario.ca](http://www.sfcontario.ca).
- November 22-23 - Toronto Mini Maker Faire 2014, Toronto Reference Library. For more information, [www.makerfairetoronto.com](http://www.makerfairetoronto.com).
- January, 2015 - ConFusion 41, Hotel TBA, Detroit area. Guests: Karen Lord, Dr. Cynthia Chestek, Heather Dale, Monte Cook, Shanna Germain, Aaron Thul. For more information, [www.confusionsf.org](http://www.confusionsf.org).
- April 16-19, 2015 - FilKONtario 25. Filk convention. For more information, [www.filkontario.ca](http://www.filkontario.ca).
- August 19-23, 2015 - Sasquan/73rd World Science Fiction Convention, Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA. Guests: David Gerrold, Leslie Turek, Tom Smith, Vonda McIntyre, Brad Foster. For more information, [www.sasquan.org](http://www.sasquan.org).
- October 12-15, 2017 - Bouchercon XLVIII, Hotel TBA, Toronto. World Mystery Convention. Guests: Louise Penny, Chris Grabenstein, Twist Phelan, Gary Phillips. More information TBA.

# **THE CONSTELLATION AWARDS**

WINNERS FOR 2014

Presented at Polar Chill 2

For those who missed the Constellation Awards ceremonies  
the winners are:

## **TV CATEGORIES:**

1. Best Male Performance: Jordan Gavaris, "Orphan Black"  
("Variations Under Domestication")
2. Best Female Performance: Tatiana Maslany, "Orphan  
Black" ("Variations Under Domestication")
3. Best Series: "Orphan Black"

## **MOVIE CATEGORIES**

4. Best Male Performance: Benedict Cumberbatch, "Star  
Trek Into Darkness"
5. Best Female Performance: Sandra Bullock, "Gravity"
6. Best Movie: Gravity

## **OTHER CATEGORIES**

7. Best Technical Accomplishment: Tim Webber, Visual  
Effects, "Gravity"
8. Best Script: "Doctor Who", "The Day Of The Doctor"  
(Stephen Moffat)
9. Outstanding Canadian Contribution: Tatiana Maslany,  
Actress "Orphan Black"



## Reviews

The third of Hildegarde Henderson's light summer reads.

**Bazil Broketail** – by Christopher Rowley – 1992  
First course this month was ‘John Macoun Canadian Explorer and Naturalist 1831-1920’ Fascinating book – “Roughing’ it in a provincial park with a tent is pure luxury compared with traversing the unknown west way back when, *but*, on to my latest serving of light summer reading.

Bazil Broketail is the story of a battledragon and his dragonboy in the city-state of Marneri. It’s a perilous time when The Doom, the ancient enemy of humans and dragons is rising again after two hundred years of peace. It all begins during the great yearly celebration of Fundament Day, the day on which a powerful order of witches recasts Marneri’s protective spell. It all goes wrong of course, as the powers of evil disrupt the rite, kidnap Princess Basita, heir to the throne, and raid borderlands for human women to die in slave pens breeding imps for the armies of darkness.

Lagdalen, a witch novitiate and Relkin, dragonboy to Bazil, set out with the armies of allied cities to find The Doom and rescue humanity. Many desperate battles are lost before the remnants of the legions infiltrate The Doom’s fortress and, just barely, save the day.

It all may seem standard fantasy, but the many characters that come vividly to life complicate and enliven the events. Bazil Broketail, a wingless domesticated battledragon, becomes lost in the wilderness during a campaign and goes awol to pursue love with a wild winged dragon. A rat-batting cat saves the life of the powerful witch who is key to victory. Princess Basita is a flibertygibbet more interested in clothes and men than Queenship. Bazil and his fellow dragons, fearsome as they are, suffer from sore feet on the march and constantly dream of streams of cool soothing water. All in all, a fun and well-written book to while away a few summer hours.

**Dear OSFen:**

I have here the June issue of the Statement, number 422, and with a little bit of time on a Sunday night, I will try to whip up a quick letter of comment. Who knows what might happen? Might even be coherent...

The far side of the moon was always a mystery to many of us...there was the suspicion that the aliens had a base there, spying on us to see what we were doing, and how long it would take to destroy ourselves. Who knows, they already have the answers they were looking for, which is why we didn't find them there.

Polar Chill happened this weekend in Toronto, and was foreshortened by a vandal (not a member of the convention) who caused an electrical fire and extensive flooding to the hotel, which is now closed for repairs. Our next convention on the list is ConBravo! In Hamilton; we've met the folks who run this convention, which is a possible successor to the missing and missed Polaris, so we plan to go down for the Saturday of the convention, July 19, and see what the con is all

about. Might be a good place to be a vendor, too.

Steam on Queen was a great time, and we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. If you'd like to see pictures, go to my Facebook page, and there is an album of about 40 pictures. The costumes in such an event are so creative, and I get a chance to create my own costumes, too.

Anyway, time to get ready for work in the morning, so I will wind it up. Thank you for this issue, and I always look forward to the next.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

# **Astronomy:**

## **BEYOND THE BLUE DOT**

Ken Tapping, 24th June, 2014

Throughout our history we have lived in a world of expanding horizons. Once, long ago, the edge of our existence was the next village. That was our universe. Then it was the shore of the ocean. Eventually it was the whole world. It took most of our history for us to realize our world is just one small object among many in a universe that is immeasurably large. This impression is brought across vividly in pictures taken by spacecraft in the outer Solar System, which shows the Earth as a blue dot, almost lost in the Sun's glare. Another picture, taken by one of the rovers exploring the surface of Mars, shows a dot in the sky after sunset: our Earth as the "Evening Star".

In the first half of the 20th Century our vision of the "Universe" was our Milky Way galaxy. Now we see galaxies like ours out to the limits of our vision: billions of them, each containing billions of stars. When we measured the distances and speeds of galaxies, we found our universe is expanding. If the universe is expanding we immediately get the idea that it was once a lot smaller than it is now. One of the protagonists of this idea was Monseigneur George Lemaitre, who suggested that billions of years ago

everything there is, including space and time itself, was all condensed into one small lump, called by some, appropriately, the Primaeval Atom. This then started to expand, leading to the universe we see around us today. Fred Hoyle, an opponent of this idea, called it derisively "The Big Bang": Ironically that name stuck.

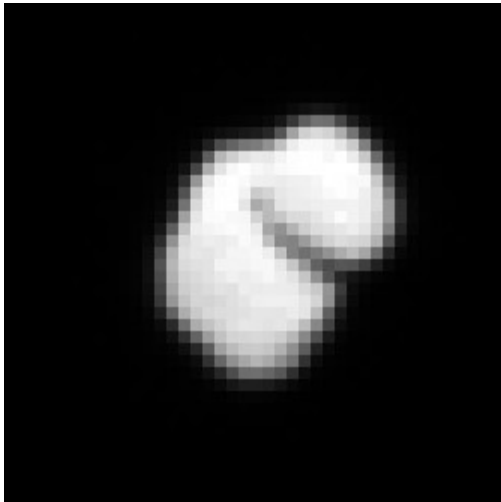
We are now pretty sure this is how the universe started. We have picked up and mapped the residual radiation from the point soon after the Big Bang, when the universe had cooled and expanded enough to change from an unbelievably hot fog to the transparent space we see today. This happened almost 14 billion years ago. A reasonable picture is that the universe started very small and then started to expand in some steadyish manner, leading to the still-expanding state it is in today. However, there is a lot of evidence that this is not the case. There seems to have been a short period at the beginning when the universe, for a tiny fraction of a second, expanded extremely quickly. The expansion then slowed and things settled down into the trend that continues today. By carefully mapping that remnant radiation from the beginning, we can see the ripples and irregularities, caused by that rapid inflation, which triggered the formation of the first stars and galaxies. For us the idea of there being a "beginning of time", which coincides with the Big Bang, is a rather uncomfortable one, and raises the question of what, if anything was going on before that.

There is an idea that has been around for some years, which is gaining some credence on the basis of recent observational results. It suggests there exists some sort of multidimensional cosmic foam, with universes forming, expanding and dissipating in it, rather like what we see in the foam of a particularly luxurious bubble bath. This marks another expansion in our horizons, to beyond even the limits of what we call the universe. Many people visiting our observatory have raised the point that since “universe” by definition comprises everything there is, how can there be more than one? The answer is simple; the problem is us. After all, it was not really that long ago when we thought our world was everything. In addition, some of those visitors have commented that it must be hard to feel comfortable with cosmic distances and time-scales, rather as an ant might have problems visualizing Canada. However, we have the consolation that we have always to some extent worried about “the unknown”, out there beyond the horizon. That too is part of our nature.

<more next page>

## The dual personality of comet 67P/C-G

—This week's images of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko reveal an extraordinarily irregular shape. We had hints of that in last week's images and in the unscheduled previews that were seen a few days ago, and in that short time it has become clear that this is no ordinary comet. Like its name, it seems that comet 67P/C-G is in two parts.



What the spacecraft is actually seeing is the pixelated image which was taken by Rosetta's OSIRIS narrow angle camera on 14 July from a distance of 12 000 km.

A movie shows the comet after the image has been processed. It is important to note that the comet's surface features won't be as smooth as the processing implies. The surface texture has yet to be resolved simply because we are still too far away; any apparent brighter or darker regions may turn out to be false interpretations at this early stage.

But the movie, which uses a sequence of 36 interpolated images each separated by 20 minutes, certainly provides a truly stunning 360-degree preview of the overall complex shape of the comet; an irregular shaped world. Indeed, some people have already likened the shape to a duck, with a distinct body and head.

*[The movie, which lasts only about 5 seconds, covers about 12 hours real time. The spin rate is about two turns per earth day. Ed.]*

Although less obvious in the 'real' image, the movie of interpolated images supports the presence of two definite components. One segment seems to be rather elongated, while the other appears more bulbous.

Dual objects like this – known as 'contact binaries' in comet and asteroid terminology – are not uncommon.

Read more at: <http://phys.org/news/2014-07-dual-personality-comet-67pc-g.html#jCp>