



OSFS Statement

Newsletter of the **Ottawa Science Fiction Society**, September 2014,
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One of the ships of the Franklin Expedition.

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We are suspending requirements of membership dues for now, as we are not. The Executive will review our financial situation regularly.
 website www.ottawasfs.ca
 executive exec@ottawasfs.ca

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OSFS Supper Meeting Starting at 6:30 pm. Monday, Sept 29th Colonnade Pizza 280 Metcalfe Street

Editor's Blather: On Monday, Sept 29th at the Colonnade Pizza 280 Metcalfe Street, we'll discuss possible events for the coming months. We'll also warm up for Can-con convention the following weekend. Need to read more about it?

Check out www.can-con.org

So they have finally found one of the ships of the Franklin Expedition. As archaeological artifacts go it is in pretty fair condition. It was sunk deep enough to avoid ice damage other than losing the masts. Bit surprising that everything from the deck up is missing so cleanly yet the deck beams seem mostly intact.

Harper may be right in pushing for a territorial claim but if it really is The Northwest Passage then it is probably just as international as The Straits of Magellan, the nationality of the surrounding islands notwithstanding.

OSFS Sep 2014

++**MARVEL**

Agents of SHIELD

Premiere party

The OTTAWA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY invites you to join us for a party to celebrate the second season premiere of



**Where: Patty Boland Pub
101 Clarence Street
Ottawa, ON**

**When: 23 September 2014
700 PM/1900 hrs.**

Note: This gathering is NOT sponsored by CTV, BellMedia, ABC, Marvel, Disney, SHIELD or HYDRA.

HYDRA agents attend at their own risk.



We have the Dining Room from 7:30 until they close. Since the show isn't on until 9pm, there will be lots of time to have dinner and socialize. And yes, the room is accessible.

Yes- Now is the time. I have also printed out a few copies at Staples and will take them to The Charlatan social at Carleton U tomorrow. They invited a few of us previous staffers. I think they call it 'grandfathering". Dwight W.

Dear Friends,

The purpose of this message is to invite you to a meeting to establish an organizing committee for Prose in the Park (PiP), a new initiative for a major open-air literary festival/book fair in Ottawa in 2015.

We have set up the following website to explain the proposal in detail <http://deuxvoiliers.wix.com/prose-in-the-park> . Here is, however, a summary of the project initiative.

The proposed PiP venue is the Parkdale Park in Hintonburg (between Parkdale and Hamilton streets and just north of Wellington Street West).

PiP will be a tented literary festival/book fair with the main authors events taking place on the covered stage in the park. The date of PiP is yet to

be determined but notionally it would be on one Saturday from late Spring to the end of Summer 2015. We hope to attract 2000 book lovers, 60-70 local authors; 10-15 out-of-NCR authors (e.g., from Montreal, Toronto, Kingston, and Perth); 10-18 publishers. The Ottawa public library, NCR-based bookstores, literary online and print magazines, literary festivals, reading series and national/provincial writers organizations with members in the NCR would also be invited.

Venue: Second Floor of the Carleton Tavern, 223 Armstrong.

Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014, Time: 3 pm

Cheers, Ian Shaw

Outreach Director, Ottawa Independent Writers

Coming to Your Theatre

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.

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. 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.

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

Sept 17-21, Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF)

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, www.rochesterscifianimecon.com.

Sept 20-21 – OLMC Gem and Mineral Show, Nepean Sportsplex

Sept. 26-28 - JemCon, Airport Hilton, Mississauga. Convention about Jem cartoons and toys, www.jemcon.org.

Sept 27-28 - Unplugged III, Chestnut Conference Centre, Toronto. Anime convention. Guests: Johnny Yong Bosch, Barbara Radecki, Caitlyn Medrek, Anthony 'Antfish' Sardinha, www.unpluggedexpos.com, Facebook and Twitter.

Sept 28 -3 pm, meeting to organize Prose in the Park (PiP), Second Floor Carleton Tavern, 223 Armstrong.

Sept 28 - 11th Annual Canadian Action Figure Expo, Delta Meadowvale Hotel and Conference Centre, Mississauga.

Guest: Larry Hama, www.actionfigureexpo.com.

Oct 3-5 - Can-Con 2014, Ottawa. Literary SF, Sheraton Downtown, Guest: Jo Walton, www.can-con.org.

Oct 4 - Hamilton Comic Con, Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton. Guests Lou Ferrigno, Verne Troyer, Julie

Newmar, Austin St. John, Trish Stratus, Garrett Wang, Ken Osmond, www.hamiltoncomiccon.com.

Oct 10-12 - Creation Salute to Supermatural, Toronto Weston Harbourcastle, Toronto. Guests: Jensen Ackles, Jared Padalecki, Misha Collins, www.creationent.com.

Oct 17-19 - Genrecon, Holiday Inn Guelph Hotel and Conference Centre, Guelph, www.genrecon.com.

Oct 30 - Nov 2 - Youmacon 2014, Detroit. Anime convention, www.youmacon.com.

Nov 7-9 - Hal-Con 2014, World Trade & Convention Centre, 1800 Argyle Street, Halifax

Nov 14-16 - SFContario 5, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Toronto. Guests: Robin Hobb, James Murray, www.sfcontario.ca.

Nov 22-23 - Toronto Mini Maker Faire 2014, Toronto Reference Library, www.makerfairetoronto.com.

Jan16-18, 2015 - Back to the ConFusion/ConFusion 41, Dearborn Doubletree Hotel, Detroit. Guests: Karen Lord, Dr.

Cynthia Chestek, Heather Dale, Monte Cook, Shanna Germain, Aaron Thul, www.confusionsf.org.

Jan 23-25, 2015 - GAnime, Palais de Congrès, Gatineau, QC. Guests: Doug Walker, John Lang, www.ganime.ca,

@ganime on Twitter.

April 10-12, 2015 - Ad Astra 2015, Sheraton Parkway North, Richmond Hill, ON. SF literary convention. Guests: Anne Bishop, more, www.ad-astra.org, Facebook.

April 16-19, 2015 - FilKONtario 25. Filk convention. www.filkontario.ca.

May 22-24, 2015 - Anime North 2015. , www.animenorth.com.

Aug 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. www.sasquan.org.

Sometime in early 2017 - CostumeCon 35, somewhere in Toronto-Hamilton area. Information to com

Oct 12-15, 2017 - Bouchercon XLVIII, Hotel TBA, Toronto. World Mystery Convention. Guests: Louise Penny, Chris Grabenstein, Twist Phelan, Gary Phillips.

A WORLD OF ANIMATION IN THE CAPITAL

OIAF OTTAWA, – From September 17-21, Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF) audiences will feast their eyes on the edgiest, most innovative animation the world has to offer.

Now in its 38th year, the OIAF is an event that unites artists, industry professionals, students and the public for a unique experience that can be compared to no other. The OIAF returns this year to treat its audiences to another slate of Canadian and International animation gems.

As an industry leader, the OIAF has welcomed a slew of animation legends such as Norman McLaren, Frederick Back, Chuck Jones, John Lasseter, Richard Williams, David Silverman (The Simpsons), Henry Selick, and Peter Lord every year since 1976. This year is no exception as the festival's roster includes a star-studded list of animators such as David O'Reilly (Her), Tom Warburton (Code Name: Kids Next Door), Ron Clements and John Musker (The Little Mermaid, Aladdin), and Oscar-winner, Torill Kove (The Danish Poet).

Directors from major studios such as the Walt Disney, Laika, the National Film Board of Canada, Pixar, Cartoon Network, and Nickelodeon, will also be in attendance for talks, workshops as well as the The Animation Conference (TAC).

Highlights of the event this year include:

- 5 short film competitions featuring the world's latest and

greatest animation.

- 5 feature films that will be battling it out for the Grand Prize. Among them is the acclaimed Canadian animation documentary, Seth's Dominion.

- Superstar animation and video game (Mountain) creator David O'Reilly will be in town for a one-on-one talk with Chris Robinson and a retrospective screening of his work. He will be available for interviews during his stay.

- Pioneers of Animation: Walt Disney Animation Studios is a wide-ranging tribute to the world's most famous animation studio highlighted by an anniversary screening of The Little Mermaid (introduced by the directors) and screenings of classic Disney short films selected by Leonard Maltin and Jerry Beck.

- LAIKA studio will be joining us for a special Behind The Scenes look at their new film The Boxtrolls. Be sure to visit animationfestival.ca or download our app for all the latest updates and information!

The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF) is one of the world's leading animation events providing screenings, exhibits, workshops and entertainment since 1976. OIAF is an annual five-day event bringing art and industry together in a vibrant hub, with a total attendance of 28,000 artists, producers, students and animation fans from around the world.

OIAF 14 runs from September 17-21 at the Bytowne

Cinema, National Gallery, Arts Court, Chateau Laurier, St. Brigid's, the Ottawa Little Theatre, and Silvercity. For more information about the Ottawa International Animation Festival as well as media passes, visit www.animationfestival.ca. Festival at (613) 232-8769 or media@animationfestival.ca. Adina Pestritu, The Ottawa International Animation

Festival
www.animationfestival.ca
OIAF: September 17-21, 2014
Canadian Animation Directory: www.animationdirectory.ca
Toon Apprentice Site for kids and teens:
www.toonapprentice.ca

LOC

Dear OSFen:

Many thanks for Statement 425. I hope I am not too late to contribute, work has been keeping me quite busy these days, but that is definitely a good thing. Let's see if I have something to say.

Yvonne and I will be attending the Fan Events Forum this coming weekend, and will go to the Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition the Saturday only the following weekend, but as steampunk vendors, we will be going to Genrecon in Guelph in October. We may have some more conventions we will go to as vendors, such as Frostcon in January 2015. That's as convention I must add to the next list of events I send.

Also coming up this fall, unfortunately the same weekend as SFContario 5, is the new Toronto International Book Fair, November 14-16. We have memberships to both. We've recently picked up the final book in Lev Grossman's Magicians trilogy, The Magicians' Land, and Grossman will be at the Toronto International Book Fair to sign copies. Looking forward to both events that weekend. I haven't read John Baxter's Confessions of a Book Addict,

but I would like to. I still remember adventures in book stores, especially in large used book stores, with the musty smell and the discovery of amazing books. I also remember in my earliest fannish days discovering fandom, and yes, it is pre-Internet, meeting up with people with similar interests, and a few of those people, I am still in touch with. I see the benefits of a Kobo or Kindle, but a book has character and history, and I will love them forever.

My letter...the Murdoch Mysteries weekend and the Coldwater Steampunk Festival weekend came and went, and both were spectacular. The MMS weekend saw Yvonne dressed as Queen Victoria, and in Coldwater, we were in steampunk finery, just like thousands of people there. Coldwater is a great little village, and we'd like to come up again, just to see it and enjoy it.

Done for now...I am way behind in my correspondence! Thank you, Grant, for this one, and I will look for the next. Yours, Lloyd Penney.

REVIEWS

On Ralph Centennius and Reducing Ontario's Debt

In 1883 pseudonymous Ralph Centennius described a 1983 high tech Canada with great northern cities and rocket cars that could travel from Toronto to Victoria in fifty minutes. Even more amazing is his vision of a tax free Canada with the government conducting normal operations on the interest and dividends of its savings and investments and appealing for donations for extra projects. Inspired by this, Michael McKenny has decided to help pay off Ontario's debt by selling some books (such as Hardy Boys and Tom Swift Jr., plus one Tom Swift Sr.) and other items, including a button which says in Russian "Volgograd September 8-14, 1991 International Science Fiction Convention." Everything raised goes to pay down Ontario's debt. If you interested contact Michael at 231-4311.

Oh, yes. I also have 65 of the 88 US Civil War cards that came out in 1962 during the centennial of the US Civil War.

Very Best Wishes,
Michael McKenny <honghsien@gmail.com>

"After all, the Stone Age didn't end because there were no more stones around." (heard on Deutsche Welle Radio)

The Crown Jewels by Walter Jon Williams – 1987

Taking a break from a re-romp through 'The Arrogance of Humanism' by David Ehrenfeld, I picked up 'The Crown Jewels.' The only other title I'd ever read by Walter Jon Williams was 'Lethe,' one of my all-time favourite short stories, so when I saw his name on the book table at the May sale at First Baptist, I was keen to try something else he'd written.

Humanity has been conquered by the Khosali, conquerors both experienced and enlightened. A mixed society has evolved in which both species can flourish and humans have taken on many Khosali expressions and mannerisms which Williams doesn't explain; he just uses them. When humans extend greeting by sniffing each others' ears or laugh by lolling their tongues, you know you're on alien ground.

Williams has a light touch as he portrays his cast of characters with skill and humour. In the first scene the characters are introduced at a glittering ball where they dance 'Pilgrimage to the Cinnamon Temple', a dance of welcome that changes partners continually and we meet the characters as they meet each other.

Introductions sound like the age of chivalry, as the Khosali

have imposed a strict hierarchy on their subjects.

Our hero Drake Maijstral, a registered thief who robs with style, is hired to steal a vial that holds within the fate of the Khosali empire. He is only one of a cast of delightful and eccentric characters that we meet throughout the story.

‘The Crown Jewels’ was a pleasure to read; not deep but clever and sparkling. The ending, however, caused me some confusion. To smuggle the precious vial off-planet, it was camouflaged with two dummy vials. Once again ‘The Cinnamon Temple’ is danced, as a farewell dance this time. As the characters meet and part, the vials are passed around for several pages of dancing, and for this reader (and others too, according to comments online) it was impossible to keep it all sorted out. I just accepted that the right vial got to the right place.

This little cupcake was light and fluffy, but Cordon Bleu delicious.

Hildegarde Henderson

Naming Jack the Ripper

Author: Russell Edwards

Jack the Ripper named as Aaron Kosminski, Polish immigrant.

Suspect's DNA found on shawl of London prostitute slain in 1888

New DNA evidence proves that a 23-year-old Polish immigrant was Jack the Ripper, according to a book about 19th-century London's notorious serial killer.

Aaron Kosminski, who had been considered one of the prime suspects at the time of the slayings, was identified as the killer following DNA testing of the bloodstained shawl of Catherine Eddowes, one of the Ripper's victims, according to Russell Edwards, author of Naming Jack the Ripper.

“I’ve got the only piece of forensic evidence in the whole history of the case,” Edwards told Britain's Press Association. “I’ve spent 14 years working on it, and we have definitively solved the mystery of who Jack the Ripper was. Only non-believers that want to perpetuate the myth will doubt.”

A forensic analysis conducted by Jari Louhelainen, a senior lecturer in molecular biology at Liverpool John Moores University and an expert in historic cold-case forensic research, determined that Kosminski's DNA was on the shawl that was purchased in an auction by Edwards in 2007. DNA proved a 'perfect match'

"Using cutting-edge techniques, Dr. Louhelainen was able to extract 126-year-old DNA from the material and compare it to DNA from descendants of Eddowes and the suspect, with both proving a perfect match," according to Britain's Daily Mail, which interviewed both Edwards and Louhelainen and first revealed details about the discovery. Jack the Ripper was linked to at least five deaths of prostitutes in the Whitechapel district of London's East End in 1888. The victims had their throats slashed and some of their internal organs removed. But some believe the Ripper could be responsible for several more killings. Kosminski, a Polish Jewish immigrant, had landed in London after fleeing persecution from his country, controlled by Russia at the time. He was 23 when the murders took place, and living with his two brothers and a sister in Greenfield Street, near where the third victim, Elizabeth Stride, was killed, Edwards wrote in the Mail. Kosminski, said to have been a barber at the time of the murders, was one of six prime suspects. But police never

had enough evidence to arrest him for the crimes. Instead, suffering from mental illness, he spent his life in a series of asylums, eventually dying in one institution from gangrene.

"No doubt a slew of books and films will now emerge to speculate on his personality and motivation. I have no wish to do so," Edwards said. "I wanted to provide real answers using scientific evidence, and I'm overwhelmed that 126 years on, I have solved the mystery." But not everyone is convinced the new evidence conclusively proves Kosminski is the killer. Richard Cobb, who runs Jack the Ripper conventions, told the Times of London that the shawl has been openly handled by "loads of people." "My DNA is probably on there," Cobb said. "What's more, Kosminski is likely to have frequented prostitutes in the East End of London. If I examined that shawl, I'd probably find links to 150 other men from the area."

Rather like the arguments around the Shroud of Turin. Ed

ASTROPHYSICS

Mars 2020 rover's RIMFAX radar will 'see' deep underground

NASA's next Mars rover will be able to detect ice and stream beds buried dozens of metres below its wheels, thanks in part to a Canadian scientist.

Rebecca Ghent, an associate professor of earth sciences at the University of Toronto, will help develop the Radar Imager for Mars' Subsurface Exploration (RIMFAX), as part of a team led by David Paige at the University of California, Los Angeles. The device was one of seven tools chosen by NASA for the Mars 2020 Rover from 58 proposals.

It will give the Mars rover something akin to X-ray vision so it can "see" right through rocks and dirt, and spot features buried underground.

"The most important thing about it is it gives us information in the third dimension, in the vertical dimension," Ghent said. "That's something we don't often have in planetary observations."

Until now, most observations of Mars have come from orbiters and rovers that can see only the surface of the planet. At best, NASA's current rover mission, Curiosity, has been able to drill several centimetres into the ground. RIMFAX is a ground-penetrating radar device that will be

able to peer dozens of metres into the ground, looking for buried sand dunes, lava flows, stream channels and salt layers, which may help scientists understand the geological processes that shaped the Red Planet.

Ghent said industries such as mining use similar technology to check the integrity of ice roads in the Arctic, or even to look for cracks in buildings.

The technology works by sending radio waves into the Earth and using an antenna to "listen" for reflections as the waves bounce off different layers underground, similar to the way sonar works. The "sound" and timing of the reflections is affected by density, grain size and conductivity of the subsurface layers, as well as their depth.

By scanning the radar back and forth over a surface, the Mars rover will be able to generate a 3D map of the layers underneath it, Ghent said.

It will also be able to follow surface structures such as old lava flows that slope into the ground to see how deep they go.

Ghent is currently testing the conductivity and electrical properties of different minerals and other materials to see how they will affect the radar signals at different depths.

That will help scientists interpret the data from the Mars rover, which is set to be launched in 2020.

Ghent is also working on the antenna that the researchers hope to test on Earth – at a site that's dry and rocky like Mars – during next year's field season.

She has already done some tests in Canada's High Arctic, during a trip to Eureka on Elsmere Island in 2010. At that time, she had already started thinking about the possibility of using ground-penetrating radar on Mars.

"Mars is thought to have layers of subsurface ice, and I've been curious for a long about ways we could improve ways to detect and characterize those using radar," she said.

In the Arctic, melting permafrost can generate sinkholes that expose subsurface layers around them. That makes them a perfect testing ground for the radar – researchers can scan from on top of the layers and compare the signals they receive with what they see in the exposed cross-section of layers.

Ghent was invited to work on the RIMFAX team because

she had worked with Paige on a device on NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission, and had done radar work with fellow RIMFAX team member Lynn Carter.

NASA announced the seven instruments for the next Mars rover at the end of July.

Ghent said she heard her team's proposal was accepted just minutes before the news conference: "I was just really excited."

The goal of the Mars 2020 rover is to gather information and test technologies that will help pave the way for human exploration of Mars. Its toolkit includes devices that will make oxygen from carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and provide detailed weather measurements, including the size of the dust particles blowing around the Red Planet.

Rosetta probe's landing site on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko picked

Scientists at the European Space Agency have announced the comet landing site for the Rosetta spacecraft.

They have chosen what they hope is a smooth area on the smaller head of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, a spot named "J".

The Rosetta spacecraft has been in orbit around the comet since the beginning of August and the aim is to land the Philae lander on it on November 11 this year.

But picking the right spot has proved pretty tricky.

But Stephan Ulamec, manager of the Philae lander project, said even with that site "the risk is high."

For one, scientists don't know how hard the comet's surface is, or how active it will be on Nov. 11. Like all comets, 67P's icy body has begun to fizz and spray matter as it nears the sun.

Another problem is that the comet has just 1/100,000th the gravity of Earth, so the 100-kilogram h, so the 100-kilogram lander will have to use harpoons and screws to avoid bouncing back into the void.

Add to this the fact that the lander was designed 15 years ago, before ESA even knew which comet it would be aiming for.

Still, there will be no dress rehearsal, said Rosetta flight director Andrea Accomazzo: "Time has come to make it happen." Rosetta is a spacecraft on a 10-year mission to catch a comet. Launched in 2004, the spacecraft arrived at its target on Aug. 6, 2014.

The \$1.9 billion Rosetta mission blasted off from Earth on March 2, 2004. The spacecraft finally arrived at the comet this past Aug. 5, when it was between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

The comet is quite irregular in shape being described by some observers as resembling a duck.

The gravitational attraction is such that the lander, after separating from the Rosetta spacecraft, will effectively weigh about 1 gram. Ed.

→ PHILAE'S LANDING SITE

