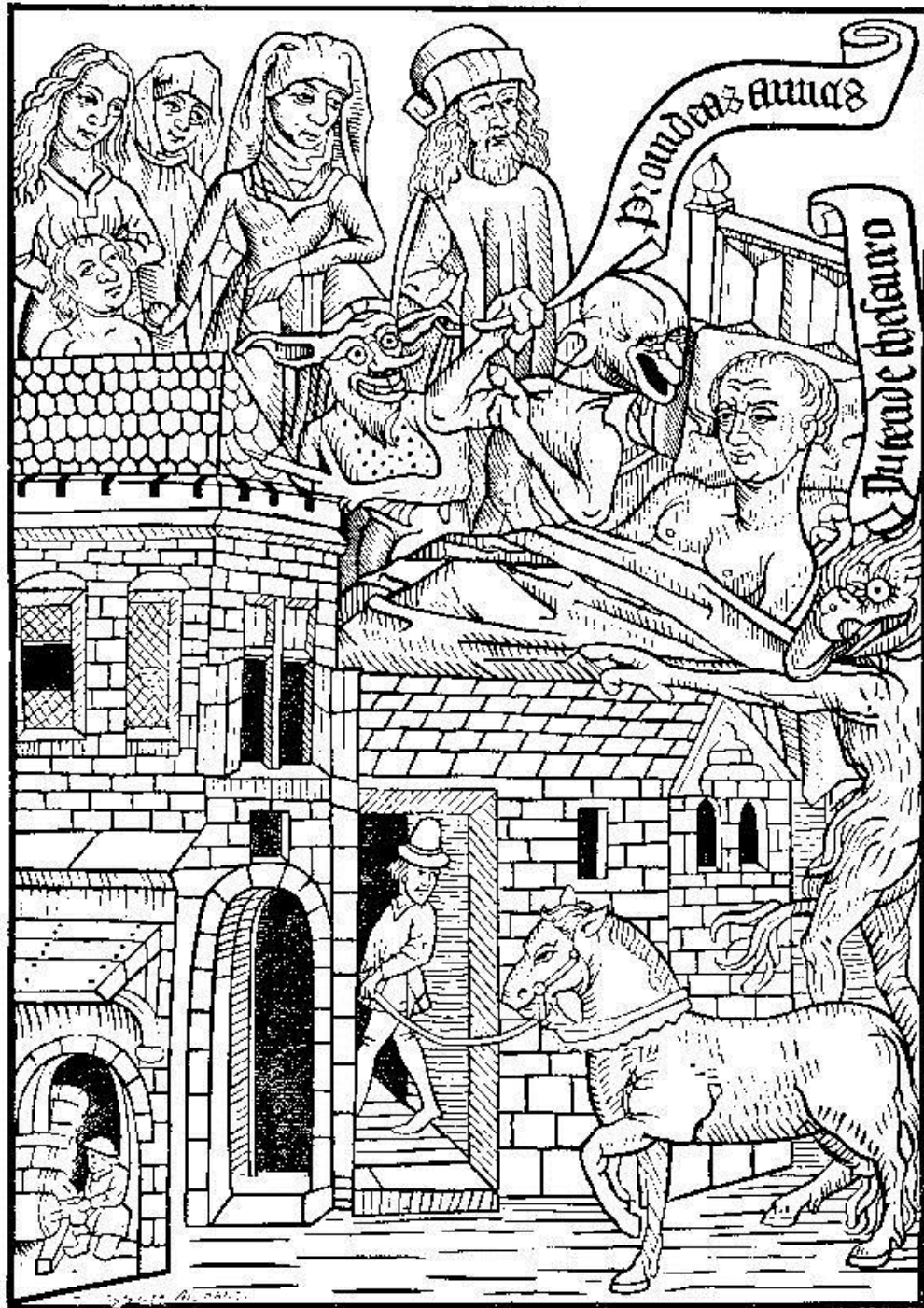


# AURORAN LIGHTS

The Official E-zine of the Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Association  
Dedicated to Promoting the Prix Aurora Awards and the Canadian SF&F Genre  
(Issue # 11 – September 2014)



YOUR EDITOR ATTEMPTING TO AWAKEN ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS ZINE

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## EDITORIAL

In the last issue I laid out my ideas in an attempt to explain my ‘vision’ of what *Auroran Lights* should be.

This is a ‘proof of concept’ issue. It’s rushed (I have time-consuming commitments to the upcoming VCON 39 I have to get into soonest), and it covers relatively few professionals in the genre (I hope to have a much wider spread next time), but I think it clearly demonstrates what I want to accomplish. In my scheme future issues will be more of the same, but with each department greatly expanded in scope, so that final publications will be at least twice the size of this one. Hopefully you approve.

I put this zine together in less than a week. The next issue will be the product of multiple weeks prowling through the internet looking for tasty tidbits of information.

More importantly, I hope professionals in the genre will send me material along the lines of what you see in these pages, particularly personal anecdotes re: writing, or at the very least point me in the direction of their and other's websites.

**Note**, now that *Auroran Lights* has been declared the 'official' newsletter of CSFFA, the Board of Directors has agreed it will NOT be eligible for an Aurora Award. I will press on with AL's mandate in as neutral a manner as possible, striving to inform rather than to impress. A good thing, methinks.

Cheers! R. Graeme Cameron

Please send me feedback! You can reach me at: < [AL-TheGraeme\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:AL-TheGraeme(at)shaw.ca) >

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### **OFFICIAL SECTION – BLAME CSFFA! (Well, just the editor I suppose.)**

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## **CSFFA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I think I'll be releasing this before the September 6<sup>th</sup> cutoff, so I'll repeat the voting instructions I presented last issue. Skip the article if you've already voted.

### **DEADLINE FOR AURORA AWARD VOTING**

Is Midnight Montreal/Toronto time, 11:00 PM Winnipeg time, 10:00 PM Calgary/Edmonton time & 9:00 PM Vancouver/Victoria time Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup>. In other words, be aware of the time zones!

First, go to < <http://prixaurorawards.ca> >

If you are not already a member, move your cursor to the Join/Nominate/Vote section at the upper right of the page and click on "Join CSFFA" and follow instructions. Membership costs \$10.00.

If you are already a member, login. Place your cursor on "Aurora Awards" in the middle at the top of the page and click on "Voters Package." You will then be able to download files pertaining to each award category, files containing nominated full or partial novels, short stories, art, MP3s, and appropriate links. The purpose of these files is to enable you to make an informed decision regarding your votes.

By accepting this package you agree not to share the works therein with anyone other than the CSFFA members in your household. Contributors to the package trust you to use it according to its sole purpose, to help you make the best choice for the Aurora Awards.

When you are ready to vote, put your cursor back on "Join/Nominate/Vote" and click on "2014 Aurora Ballot" at the bottom of the menu. Follow instructions.

Vote for what you know. You don't have to vote in every category and you don't have to vote for all the items in a category. Please remember, if you are unfamiliar with a category or its nominated works leave all boxes blank. The "No award" option is only to be used if you don't approve of one or more of the nominated items. Help reward your favourite Canadian SF&F creators! Show your appreciation! Vote now!

## AURORA AWARD CEREMONY

As host of Convention 34, VCON is also the host of the **2014 Aurora Awards Ceremony** which will be held in the **late afternoon and early evening of Saturday, October 4th** (starting about 4:45pm).

Who can attend the Aurora Awards Ceremony?

*Anyone* may attend the Aurora Awards Ceremony - even individuals without a membership for the member-only areas of the convention.

If you wish to attend without purchasing a VCON membership, show up on Saturday prior to the ceremony and visit registration. Let them know you are just there to watch the Auroras and you will be given a special Aurora Ceremony pass that will allow you to move through the member-restricted areas to get to the function room where the ceremony will be held.

After the ceremony has ended we encourage you to visit both our [Art Show Gallery](#) and the [Vendor Hall](#) which are both open to the public. Or pick up a "Saturday Evening Membership" for \$20 and check out the member-only areas for the rest of the evening.



### PRE-AURORA AWARD CEREMONY AFTERNOON TEA

In addition, prior to the ceremony itself, we (CSFFA & VCON) will be hosting an **Aurora Afternoon Tea** — a ticketed, catered event in honour of the Auroras. Guests will be able to savour finger sandwiches, light pastries, scones, fruit compote, Devonshire cream and enjoy a variety of TAZO teas or their preference of juice, pop or coffee.

The tea will start at 4pm, and the Aurora Awards Ceremony will follow immediately in the same room. Tea attendees may stay in their seats or move up to chairs set towards the front and sides of the room, leaving their table places for other Ceremony attendees to use.

**Tickets are \$32 each** and may be purchased using the form at the bottom of this page.

Additionally, since an afternoon tea should be a *refined* and *proper* event, **we encourage (but do not require) attendees to come in formal fashion from any era!**

...and we do mean ANY!

Want to show up in a gown that Lady Guinevere might wear or a doublet that Lancelot would sport at the King's Ball? Great!

Have a fancy Victorian/Steampunk outfit you're dying to show off? Go for it!

Think you know what formal attire looks like in the 25th century? We can't wait to see it!

Want to wear a fetching modern gown that caught your eye the last time you were at the mall? Sure, why not!

*Let your imagination go wild!*



## Who Can Attend the Aurora Afternoon Tea?

*Anyone who purchases a ticket* may attend the Aurora Awards Ceremony - even individuals without a membership for the member-only areas of the convention.

If you wish to attend without purchasing a VCON membership, show up on Saturday prior to the ceremony and visit registration. Tell them who you are and let them know you are just there to attend the tea and watch the Auroras. Once your tickets to the tea have been confirmed, you will be given a special Aurora Tea & Ceremony pass that will allow you to move through the member-restricted areas to get to the function room where the tea and ceremony will be held.

## Are You an Aurora Nominee?

If you are an Aurora Award nominee who **plans to attend the ceremony but does not wish to attend the tea**, please use the VCON [Contact Form](#) and let us know. We can then make arrangements to ensure that you will have a place to sit during the ceremony itself.

Food Allergies and Sensitivities – If you will be attending the Tea and have any food allergies or sensitivities please use the contact form above and tell us. We will do what we can to work with the venue so as to provide options suitable for you and to avoid food contamination.

## **Ticket Purchase Deadline: September 15, 2014**

**Due to room capacity restrictions there are a limited number of tickets available.**

Depending on how many are sold in advance there *may* be some tickets available at the door but we cannot guarantee this.

Just a reminder to everyone that no one gets free entry into the Aurora Afternoon Tea – not Aurora nominees, not GoHs, not ConCom – as VCON has to pay extra for the catering costs. There are also only 100 seats available so if you are planning to attend you should consider paying for tickets sooner rather than later.

The form to purchase them online is at <http://www.vcon.ca/convention-34/2014-aurora-awards-ceremony>

## **AURORA NOMINEE PIN PARTY**

As we go to press (always wanted to use that phrase) I can't find the information I thought I had stored in my computer. Darn.

Anyway, the important thing to note is, if you are one of those nominated for an Aurora award, that there will be a hotel room party/event sponsored by CSFFA, sometime in the evening Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, wherein nominees will receive their official nominee pin to proudly wear throughout the Con and indeed whenever and wherever they feel like wearing it. (I wear mine in the shower. No mean feat.)

Details as to time & location should be in the program book, pocket program, and posted at the con.

## **NOT A MEMBER OF VCON YET?**

Go to [www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca) to purchase a membership and/or reserve a room.

## 2014 WINNERS OF AURORA/BORÉAL AWARDS

**Note:** I published the list of winners in AL #9, but for some unfathomable reason had the year dates wrong. To help generate excitement for the upcoming English Aurora Awards, I chose to repeat the list of Aurora/Boréal Awards here; this time adding the other nominees in order to credit all the finalists who made it to the ballot.

The Aurora/Boréal Awards were announced in Montréal on May 5, 2014, as part of the 30th Boréal convention. Sponsored by SFSF Boréal Inc. and the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, they recognize the best works produced in French by Canadians in 2013 in the speculative genres as determined by a vote open to all who wish to take part.

### MEILLEUR ROMAN / BEST NOVEL

*Ariane Gélinas* for her novel **Transtaïga**, the first volume of a larger work, **Les villages assoupis** [The Sleeping Villages], published by Marchand de feuilles. She also received a \$500 prize provided by SF Canada, Canada's national association of speculative fiction professionals.

The other nominees were:

- **Le crépuscule des arcanes 1. L'ensorceleuse de Pointe-Lévy**, de *Sébastien Chartrand*
- **Malphas 3. Ce qui se passe dans la cave reste dans la cave**, de *Patrick Sénécal*

### MEILLEURE NOUVELLE / BEST NOVELLA

*Geneviève Blouin* for her novella **Le Chasseur** [The Hunter], published by Six Brumes as a standalone book.

The other nominees were :

- **Vortex**, de *Dave Côté*
- **Les mystères d'Innsmouth**, d'*Yves Meynard*
- **La légende de McNeil**, de *Jonathan Reynolds*

### MEILLEUR OUVRAGE CONNEXE / BEST RELATED WORK

**Solaris**, the oldest genre magazine in Canada. The award was accepted by *Joël Champetier*, the magazine's editor in chief.

The other nominees were:

- La revue **Brins d'éternité**
- Le recueil **Le sabbat des éphémères**, d'*Ariane Gélinas*
- La chronique **Les Carnets du Futurible**, de *Mario Tessier*

### BORÉAL AWARDS

The Boréal award for artistic and audiovisual achievement went to *Ève Chabot* for her illustrations in the magazine **Brins d'éternité**.

Indeed, the Boréal award for best fan publication was given to **Brins d'éternité**, which began the year 2012 as a fanzine and upgraded to professional status by the end of the year.

Finally, the Boréal award for the one-hour writing contest at the convention was shared between *Geneviève Blouin* for her short story **Trou noir de mémoire** [Memory Black Hole], in the professional author category, and *Dave Côté* for his short story **Brouillard** [Mist], in the rising author category.

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## UNOFFICIAL SECTION – BLAME THE EDITOR!

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## PRODOM NEWS ITEMS

### PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES & OTHER CATASTROPHES

*Robert J. Sawyer* – “My WWW trilogy of **Wake, Watch, and Wonder** -- each volume of which separately won the Aurora Award for best novel of the year -- has been optioned by Toronto's Fresh TV, with me contracted to write the pilot script and be one of the executive producers.”

*Heather Hamilton-Senter* – **Bound in Blue** – Book one of The Sword of Elements series, a YA Fantasy which reworks Arthurian Myth in a contemporary setting, has just passed 5,000 sold on Amazon. (Two Paths Publishing 2014)

*Matt Hughes* – [At the Worldcon] “We also launched, unofficially, **Of Whimsies and Noubles**, the third and long delayed Luff Imbry novella from PS publishing. The unsigned limited edition is now out and available. The signed edition will come later, once I receive the signature pages, sign them, and send them back. Next year, there will also be an omnibus edition of all three novellas, to which I will contribute a new, original Imbry story.”

“I’m a member of SF Canada, the association for Canadian SF professionals, and I’ve contributed a story to a new SF Canada feature: free online fiction by our members. I’ve supplied the first story – **Not A Problem** – which was written, tongue firmly in cheek, for the global-warming anthology, *Welcome to the Greenhouse*, edited by Gordan Van Gelder.” Here’s a link [http://northbynorthwest.com/sfcanada-wp/?page\\_id=1299](http://northbynorthwest.com/sfcanada-wp/?page_id=1299)

### AWARDS, ACCOLADES, & OTHER EXULTATIONS



*Robert J. Sawyer* awarded **Honorary Doctorate** – “In June 2014, the University of Winnipeg awarded me an Honorary Doctorate of Laws. The proposal for the degree was jointly sponsored by the Dean of Science and the past Dean of Theology, partially in recognition of "the thoughtful treatment of the science and religion dialogue" in my work. (This was my second honorary doctorate; I'd previously received one in 2007 from Laurentian University.)”

*Guy Gavriel Kay* – awarded **Order of Canada**. (Source: File 770)

Fantastist Guy Gavriel Kay and astronaut Chris Hadfield are among the latest appointments to the Order of Canada.

Established in 1967 by Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Canada is awarded for outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. There are three grades: Companion, Officer, and Member.

Canada's singing astronaut and YouTube sensation Chris Hadfield was named an officer of the Order of Canada.



Guy Gavriel Kay, appointed a member of the Order, while a young man helped Christopher Tolkien edit *The Silmarillion*, J.R.R. Tolkien's posthumously published prequel to the Lord of the Rings. Kay's own first novel, *The Summer Tree*, the beginning of The Fionavar Tapestry, came out in 1984. In 1990 his novel *Tigana* reached the Canadian bestseller list, his next book, *A Song for Arbonne*, debuted in the number-one position, and his subsequent novels have all been bestsellers.

### **FRIENDS OF THE MERRIL COLLECTION SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNERS** (April 9, 2014)

**First Place** – *Unnamed*, by **Scott Shank**, awarded \$500.

**Honourable Mention** – *The One in Green*, by **Star Spider**.

**Honourable Mention** – *The Politics of Bird Flight*, by **Barry King**.

### **SUNBURST AWARD SHORT LIST**



The Sunburst Award for Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic is a juried award to recognize stellar writing in two categories: adult and young adult. The awards are presented annually to Canadian writers with a speculative fiction novel or book-length collection of speculative fiction published any time during the previous calendar year. Named after the first novel by Phyllis Gotlieb ([1926–2009](#)), one of the first published authors of contemporary Canadian science fiction, the awards consist of a cash award of Cdn. \$1,000 and a medallion which incorporates a specially designed "Sunburst" logo. The winners receive their awards in the fall of every year.

#### **ADULT SHORTLIST:**

**Sister Mine** – **Nalo Hopkinson**, Novel, Grand Central Publishing.

**River of Stars** – **Guy Gavriel Kay**, Novel, Penguin Group Canada.

**This Strange Way of Dying** – **Silvia Moreno-Garcia**, editor, anthology, Exile Editions.

**A Tale for the Time Being** – **Ruth Ozeki**, Novel, Penguin Group Canada.

**The Demonologist** – **Andrew Pyper**, Novel, Simon & Schuster.

#### **YOUNG ADULT SHORTLIST:**

**Sorrow's Knot** – **Erin Bow**, Novel, Scholastic Inc.



**The Cats of Tanglewood Forest** – *Charles de Lint*, illustrated by Charles Vess, Novel, Little Brown Books.

**Homeland** – *Cory Doctorow*, Novel, Tom Doherty Associates.

**The Path of Names** – *Ari Goelman*, Novel, Scholastic Inc.

**Urgle** – *Meaghan McIsaac*, Novel, Dancing Cat Books.

### **HUGO AWARD WINNERS**

The winners of the 2014 Hugo Awards and John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer were announced at Loncon 3 on August 17. (Canadians, indeed anyone anywhere in the world, are eligible to be nominated.)

**Best Novel** – “*Ancillary Justice*” by *Ann Leckie* (Orbit US / Orbit UK)

**Best Novella** – “*Equoid*” by *Charles Stross* (*Tor.com*, 09-2013)

**Best Novelette** – “*The Lady Astronaut of Mars*” by *Mary Robinette Kowal*, *Tor.com*, 09-2013)

**Best Short Story** – “*The Water That Falls on You from Nowhere*” by *John Chu* (*Tor.com*, 02-2013)

**Best Related Work** – “*We Have Always Fought: Challenging the Women, Cattle and Slaves Narrative*” by *Kameron Hurley* (A Dribble of Ink)

**Best Graphic Story** -- “*Time*” by *Randall Munroe* (XKCD)

**Best Dramatic Presentation (Long Form)** – *Gravity* written by *Alfonso Cuarón* & *Jonás Cuarón*, directed by Alfonso Cuarón (Esperanto Filmoj; Heyday Films; Warner Bros.)

**Best Dramatic Presentation (Short Form)** – *Game of Thrones: “The Rains of Castamere”* written by *David Benioff* & *D.B. Weiss*, directed by *David Nutter* (HBO Entertainment in association with Bighead, Littlehead; Television 360; Startling Television and Generator Productions)

**Best Editor – Short Form** – *Ellen Datlow*

**Best Editor – Long Form** – *Ginjer Buchanan*

**Best Professional Artist** -- *Julie Dillon*

**Best Semiprozine** -- *Lightspeed Magazine* edited by *John Joseph Adams*, *Rich Horton*, and *Stefan Rudnicki*

The following non-Hugo award was presented during the Retro Hugo ceremony:

**John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer** – *Sofia Samatar* (*Award for the best new professional science fiction or fantasy writer of 2012 or 2013, sponsored by Dell Magazines.*)

### **RETRO HUGOS FOR 1938** (professional work)

**Best Novel** – *The Sword in the Stone*, *T.H. White*

**Best Novella** – *Who Goes There?* **John W. Campbell** as Don A. Stuart

**Best Novellete** – *Rule 18* (Astounding 7/38), **Clifford D. Simak**

**Best Short Story** – *How We Went to Mars*, (Amateur Science Stories 3/38), **Arthur C. Clarke**

**Best Dramatic Presentation** – *War of the Worlds* (radio)

**Editor** – **John W. Campbell**

**Pro Artist** – **Virgil Finlay**

## **BOOK SIGNINGS, LECTURES, & OTHER CONFRONTATIONS**

**The Book Launch at VCON 39** – will feature authors: **Casey J. Wolf**, **Lorna Suzuki**, **Eileen Kernaghan**, **Linda Demeulemeester**, **Katrina Archer**, **Celu Amberstone**, **Sabina Khan**, **Donald Duncan**, **Danika Dinsmore**, **Linda Williams**, **Silvia Moreno-Garcia**, **Julie McGalliard**, **Graham J. Darling**, **Virginia Carraway Stark**, **Tony Stark**, **Jennifer Lott**, **Marty Chan**, **Jane Ann McLachlan**, **Alyx J. Shaw** and ? This event will happen Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM. Authors will take 5 minute turns reading from or speaking about recent publications. During breaks they will be able to meet and mingle with each other and VCON attendees. Cash bar provided. Catered munchies will be available. White Dwarf Books (a West coast institution) will man a table selling books by the authors. (Your opportunity to buy a book and then get the author to autograph it!) Organized by **Alyx J. Shaw**, author of **The Shroud Eaters** (Torquere Press).

**Robert J. Sawyer Library Event** – “To commemorate my receipt of a Lifetime Achievement Aurora Award in 2013, the Mississauga Public Library is hosting a full-day event in my honour on Saturday, October 18, 2014 (I've been a Mississauga resident for 14 years now). Speakers: **Marie Bilodeau**, **Tanya Huff**, **Robert J. Sawyer**, **Robert Charles Wilson**. Details: <http://sfwriter.com/lnappear.htm#msfs>

## **PUBLICATIONS NEWLY UNLEASHED**

**(Five Rivers Publishing books submitted by Robert Runté)**

**The Runner and the Kelpie** – **Dave Duncan's** 3rd and final YA Fantasy in his Runner series; the adventures of a boy who serves as a messenger for his lord and King in ancient Scotland. Five Rivers Publishing.

**The Tattooed Seer** -- **Susan MacGregor's** second novel in the Tattooed Witch fantasy series of Gypsies vs the Spanish Inquisition in a parallel Earth history. (The first volume is currently nominated for Aurora Award in best novel, English.) Five Rivers Publishing

**A Touch of Poison** – **Aaron kite**, winner of the 2012 Watty Award for fantasy. Five Rivers Publishing.

**My life as a Troll** – **Susan Bohnet**, about a group of teens who get too caught up in a video game. YA fantasy. Five Rivers Publishing.

**Mik Murdoch: The Power Within** – **Mike Plested**, #2 in the Mik Murdoch: Boy Superhero series. 9 year old sets out to get superpowers and succeeds unexpectedly. (The first volume was nominated for an Aurora in the Young Adult category.) Five Rivers Publishing.

**King of Shadows** -- *Ann Marston*, #5 in the Rune Blades series. Five Rivers Publishing.

(Following Books upcoming/current from EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing)

<http://www.edgewebsite.com/>

**The Puzzle Box** – The Apocalyptic Four, an anthology where reality is transient and the puzzle box hold the key to the meaning of life.

**Urban Green Man** – *Charles de Lint*, an anthology of urban and contemporary short literature.

**The Shadow Academy** – *Adrian Cole*, about the Islands of Grand Britannia after the Plague Wars.

**The Necromancer Candle** – *Randy McCharles*, 3 fantasy tales, including **Full House** and **Merlin's Silver**.

**Elements** – *Suzanne Church*, unique characters ask "What if?" in this whimsical collection of science fiction, fantasy, and horror short fiction.

**The Braided Path** – *Donna Glee Williams*, life on a vertical world where status depends whether one is high or low on the single path connecting all.

**The Milkman**, by *Michael J. Martineck*, without government, there can be no crime. And every act is measured against competing interests, hidden loyalties and the ever-upward pressure of the corporate ladder.

**Clockwork Heart, Iron Wind Clockwork Lies, Heavy fire Clockwork Secrets** – *Dru Pagliassotti*, the winds of war whip around Ondinium's borders...

(From INNSMOUTH FREE PRESS)

<http://silviamoreno-garcia.com/blog/fractured-tales-of-the-canadian-post-apocalypse/>

**Fractured: Tales of the Canadian Post Apocalypse**, anthology edited by *Silvia Moreno-Garcia*, the Exile Book of anthology series #9. released August 2014. Amazon, Chapters, Book Depository.

Includes stories:

- No Man is a Promontory, by *Hilary Janzen*
- Persistence of Vision, by *Orrin Grey*
- The Dome of St. Macaire, by *Jean-Louis Trudel*
- Kalopsia, by *E. Catherine Tobler*
- White Noise, by *Geoff Gander*
- Edited Hansard 116, by *Miriam Oudin*
- The Body Politic, by *John Jantunen*
- D-Day, by *T. S. Bazelli*
- Matthew, Waiting, by *A.C. Wise*
- Jenny of the Long Gauge, by *Michael Matheson*
- Snow Angel, by *A. M. Dellamonica*
- Keeper of the Oasis, by *Steve Stanton*
- Manitou-wapow, by *GMB Chomichuk*
- Saying Goodbye, by *Michael Pack*
- Of the Dying Light, by *Arun Jiwa*



- @shalestate, by *David Huebert*
- City Noise, by *Morgan M. Page*
- Brown Wave, by *Christine Ottoni*
- Ruptures, by *Jamie Mason*
- River Road, by *Amanda M. Taylor*
- Last Man Standing, by *Frank Westcott*
- Dog for Dinner, by *dvsduncan*
- Maxim Fujiyama and Other Persons, by *Claude Lalumière*

(From REALITY SKIMMING PRESS) FB page <http://facebook.com/relskim>

**Cursed Dishes** – *Jennifer Lott*, Children’s picture book series Family Magic #1. Amazon & Indigo.

**Shepherds of Sparrows** – *Hal J. Frieson*, an Okal Rel novella. Amazon & Indigo.

**Hexed Hair** – *Jennifer Lott*, Children’s picture book series Family Magic #2, illustrated by *Doriano Strologo*. Amazon & Indigo.

**Loel Experiment** – *Lynda Williams*, first of the new editions of Okal Rel Universe works originally published by Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy. Amazon & Indigo.

#### (Following books/stories randomly absorbed from the Ether)

**The Leopard** – *K.V. Johansen*, part one of the Marakand series. In the days of the first kings in the North, there were seven Devils... Published June 2014 by Pyr Books.

**Her Robot Babies** – *Brent Knowles*, short story appeared in the Aug 12 issue of Perihelion SF Magazine (online).

#### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE (DON'T WE ALL?)

**Signal to Noise** – *Silvia Moreno-Garcia*’s debut novel, “a literary fantasy about love, music & sorcery” set against the background of Mexico City” will be released in 2015. Simon & Schuster, Canada.

**The Lady** – *K.V. Johansen*, Marakand Part Two, “possessed by a ghost which feeds on the dead...” is to be published by Pyr in December 2014.

*Matt Hughes* – “My archetypal thief, Raffalon, gets another workout in the upcoming September/October issue of The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction. The novelette, **Avianca's Bezel**, is also the inspiration for the cover illustration.”

**Megan Survival Story** – anthology edited by *Randy McCharles* with illustrator and world-builder *Jeff Doten*. Sometime before 2017, Reality Skimming Press. Open to submissions (see Markets).

**Impossible Love** – anthology edited by *Paula Johanson*. Sometime before 2016, Reality Skimming Press. Open to submissions (see Markets).

#### MAGAZINES (WHERE THEY KEEP THE HIGH EXPLOSIVES)

**ON SPEC MAGAZINE** – Summer 2014 #97 vol 26 no 5 <http://onspecmag.wordpress.com/>

This issue features short stories:

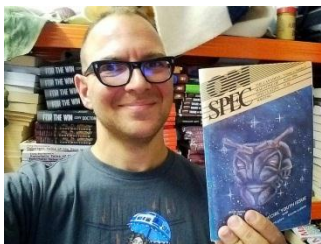
- **Bugzapper**, by *Mikey Hamm*
  - **The Glorious Aerybeth**, by *Jason Fischer*
  - **Handcrafting**, by *Anita Dolman*
  - **Snapshots of American Scenes**, by *Simon Habegger*
  - **Piece of History**, by *Karl Johanson*
  - **Traveller, Take Me**, by *Kate Heartfield*
  - **Empty Heat**, by *Agnes Cadieux*
- And guest interview by *Brent Jans* ("Fiction for an RPG Milieu: A Discussion with Amber E. Scott and Dave Gross");
  - author interview by *Roberta Laurie* ("Mikey Hamm: Of String Theory, Plane Haunts, and Hairy Slugs");
  - editorial by *Cat McDonald* ("One Third");
  - cover and interior art by *Dan O'Driscoll* ("SF&F Scenes and Settings").



### Attention On Spec Contributors!

We have a new website under construction. We're in the midst of building frenzy at the moment, always looking for the next thing to add to the site. One of the features we'd love to add is a **Contributor's Gallery**, a visual history of the many wonderfully talented writers, poets, and artists *On Spec* has had the honour to feature over the years.

So this is our call to all past contributors: **Send a photo of yourself, holding a copy of *On Spec* Magazine** (preferably the copy or copies you were in), along with about 50-75 words telling us what you're up to these days (including a link to your current site), to [onspec\(at\)onspec.ca](mailto:onspec(at)onspec.ca). Please title the email 'Contributor Gallery'. With your permission, we'll post your picture and blurb in the Gallery, so everyone can marvel at the many people who have helped *On Spec* become one of Canada's finest SF magazines.



To show you how easy it is [Cory Doctorow](#) sent us this little beauty.

### NEO-OPSIS MAGAZINE – (#24) <http://www.neo-opsis.ca/>

- **Change of Heart**, by *Guy Immega*.
- **Mutability**, by *Alison Pentecost*.
- **Why Did the Vampire Cross the Road?** by *Sarina Dorie*.
- **In Every Dream Home**, by *Vaughan Stanger*.
- **Doomsday in a Cone**, by *Leslie Lupien*.
- **Time Passeth Away Like a Shadow**, by *Andrew Bryant*.
- **Sibial in Exile**, by *Therese Arkenberg*.
- The cover of issue twenty-four is **Contrails**, by *Karl Johanson*.



- Karl's editorial is titled "New Information about a Widespread Character in Science Fiction."
- The element discussed this time in **Karl Johanson's A Walk Through the Periodic Chart** is "Potassium." Karl had inadvertently left out two "Elements Named after People," in issue 23, so they are included in this issue.
- Convention write ups this issue are for Tsukino-Con 2013, held in Victoria, BC, in February 2013. VCon 2013, held in Vancouver, BC in October 2013, and the gaming convention GottaCon 2014, held in Victoria, BC, in February 2014. ([www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca), [www.tsukinocon.com](http://www.tsukinocon.com), and [www.gottacon.com](http://www.gottacon.com))
- Reviews this issue are of **Riddick**, by Universal Pictures (reviews by **Karl Johanson** and by **Stephanie Ann Johanson**), and **Bowl of Heaven** by Larry Niven and Gregory Benford (review by **Karl Johanson**)
- This issue notes the passing of **Ann Lightbody**, mother of assistant editor and art director **Stephanie Ann Johanson**.
- *The Last Two and a half Pages* by **Karl** and **Stephanie Johanson** is titled *Science Fiction Remote Controls*. A write up on the device Jonny Sparks used to control Gigantor, and other cool SF remotes.



## **SOL RISING** – (#49)

The Friends of the Merrill Collection free (!) Sol Rising summer zine is now available! Please visit below to get yourself a copy. Online at: <http://friendsofmerril.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Sol-Rising-Issue-49.pdf>

## **WHAT THE USUAL SUSPECTS ARE UP TO**

**K.V. Johansen** – "Loncon 3 was my first Worldcon... I had a great time. I began with the SFF Masterclass... For three days, we were centred in Greenwich, in the Endeavour Room at the Royal Observatory, and you can't get much more central in Greenwich than that, right up in a former telescope dome... a number of copyedited chapters of *The Lady: Marakand Part Two* arrived for me to deal with. As my computer chose those days to have a serious crisis, once I did get it restored to functioning... I needed to do some real work. So I sat in the telescope dome at Greenwich Observatory and worked on *The Lady*. Appropriate, I suppose, since the most noteworthy architectural features of the temple of the Lady are the two domes."

**Robert J. Sawyer** – "My younger brother Alan Sawyer passed away in June 2013 from lung cancer. I took a year off from novel writing to grieve, but am now finishing up my 23rd novel, **The Philosopher's Zombie**, which will be published in hardcover simultaneously by Penguin in Canada and Ace Science Fiction in the US in November 2015."

"I am currently writing a commissioned feature-film screenplay adaptation of my novel **Triggers** for Copperheart Entertainment, Toronto; I've begun work on the third draft of the screenplay."

**Matt Hughes** – "All in all, I had a pretty good time at WorldCon in London last week... Gordon Van Gelder and I had a beer together, I exchanged a few pleasant words with George R.R. Martin, and went to dinner with the legendary Brian Aldiss (courtesy of Pete and Nicky Crowther). I had two delightful encounters: multi award-winning author Michael Swanwick came over to the PS publishing table when I was signing books to tell me I was an excellent writer, and I got to meet mega-critic John Clute and give him a copy of the Luff Imbry collection."

“I finished the last episode of **The Kaslo Chronicles**, a serialized novel that Lightspeed Magazine has been running. Down the road, once the last episode has appeared in the magazine, I’ll tidy up the narrative and self-publish it as an ebook and POD paperback.”

“I’m now about 2,500 words into another Raffalon novelette, but in this one the lead character is Cascor the former provostman turned magic-wielding private eye. As I usually do with a detective story, I started with the character encountering an unusual situation that triggers an investigation – but I have no idea who the bad guy is or how things are going to work out. Still, piece by piece, the guy in the back of my head feeds me scenes and insights, and I write 500 to 1000 words a day. By the end of the tale, it all pretty well hangs together. I am very grateful to that part of me that actually creates the work.”

## **BIZARRE BAZAAR: THE DREAMQUEST OF ASPIRING AUTHORS**

### **REALITY SKIMMING PRESS OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Lynda Williams -- "We're in incubation and start-up mode," said publisher Lynda Williams.  
"Learning the ropes and finding our comfort zone."

Reality Skimming Press is owned and operated by **Lynda Williams** and her husband **David Lott**. It is founded on the long-term goal of keeping Okal Rel books available to readers and contributors, with new expressions of the series appearing in different media, over time. The Okal Rel series was founded by a ten-novel saga published by Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy. Additional works by Lynda, and others, take place across a set of cultures and times as broad as the Star Trek Universe, united by the nature of faster than light travel technology and a shared history that continues to be fleshed out by new players.

Reality Skimming Press has two additional works in process for release sometime before 2016. The first (The Megan Survival Story) is edited by **Randy McCharles** with illustrator and world-building **Jeff Doten**. The second (Opus 7: Impossible Love) will be the first of the Opus series of Okal Rel Universe anthologies to come out directly from Reality Skimming Press, and is edited by **Paula Johanson**. Inclusion in the Megan Survival Story (set 1,000 years prior to the Okal Rel Saga, in the same universe) or the Opus 7 anthology (set anywhere/anytime in the Okal Rel Universe) is by invitation. Writers with experience of the Okal Rel Universe are welcome to inquire of the editors.

“We have a friendly agreement, with Edge, to work through a transition that will keep Okal Rel titles available via one publisher or the other until the payment for IP is complete, at the end 2016,” Williams explained. “Our first commitment is to the Okal Rel family of readers, authors and illustrators. We have started one unrelated series, with the Family Magic books. And I am interested in acquiring a suitable, second children’s series author for the same 6-9 year old age group, when I find the right person. In the meantime, anyone interested is joining the Reality Skimming mission with a series of their own, beyond 2016, should try an Okal Rel book to see if they like the kind of thing we do. Optimistic SF, intelligent space opera, heroes and ethical, societal questions raised by the changing world we inhabit explored through characters we care about, is as close as I can get in a nutshell to what sort of thing I’m talking about.”

--

Lynda Williams, author <http://okalrel.org/>

FB page <http://facebook.com/relskim>

Goodreads [http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/644584.Lynda\\_Williams](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/644584.Lynda_Williams)

Reality Skimming Blog with Richard Bartrop, Christel Bodenbender and David Lott

## **ON SPEC SOON TO BE OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS** <http://onspecmag.wordpress.com/>

For On Spec's 'Punk' theme issue.

STEAMPUNK, CYBERPUNK, BIOPUNK, and many other types of 'punk' derivatives have become popular sub-genres of speculative fiction. What classifies them as 'punk' are a number of literary devices that include:

- 1) **Setting:** specific technologies associated with particular 'ages', 'societies' and/or time frames (both the past or future) – eg. the Victorian Age often defines Steampunk (but not always). Nanotech experiments of the future may define Biopunk, (but again, not always).
- 2) **Tone:** a sense of novelty, or being on the cutting edge of that particular technology, within its time frame.
- 3) **Style:** language and/or a narrative style specific to that particular technology, reflective of the time, and/or writers of that time.
- 4) **Characterization:** wide open. Characters can reflect their time and the concerns of their place in that time, or be transplants from another time and/or genre.

Sub-genres include, but aren't limited to: Atompunk, Biopunk, Clockpunk, Cyberpunk, Decopunk, Dieselpunk, Dreampunk, Mythpunk, Nanopunk, Steampunk, Stonepunk, and others. For further definitions, this Wikipedia link on [Cyberpunk Derivatives](#) may prove helpful.

**AS OF SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> to OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, WE ARE SEEKING THE BEST OF WHAT EACH 'PUNK' SUB-GENRE HAS TO OFFER .**

We will be looking for top stories that represent their particular punk sub-genre. Furthermore, we are looking not only for the best, but what is new, what hasn't been 'punked' before. Originality is the name of the game. If you have a piece that explores the themes and technology of a new era and/or society, we want to see it. On his blog, *Terrible Minds*, Chuck Wendig [offers us a very tongue-in-cheek view](#). (If you can pull off humour, why not?) We're happy to consider everything 'punk', from the serious to the ridiculous. Surprise, delight, and amaze us!

**Word maximum:** 6,000 words. Please accompany your submission with 'PUNK THEME ISSUE' in the subject line. Estimated publishing/issue date: Spring, 2015. Please hold off on sending us your manuscripts until the submission window. (Anything sent to us before September 1st will be deleted.) Even we editors need a summer break!

Please read the [On Spec Style Sheet](#) and format your submission accordingly. If your submission deviates from the style sheet it will not be read.

Payment – ON SPEC buys first North American serial (magazine) rights to your work. We pay upon acceptance. Minimum payment for fiction is \$50 and maximum payment is \$200.

Pay rates are as follows and in Canadian dollars:

Poems (4-100 lines): \$50 plus one contributor's copy

Short-short stories (under 1000 words): \$50, plus one contributor's copy

Fiction (6000 words max.)

1000-2999 words: \$125 plus 2 contributor's copies plus a One year subscription

3000-4999 words: \$175 plus 2 contributor's copies plus a One year subscription

5000-6000 words: \$200 plus 2 contributor's copies plus a One year subscription

### **NEO-OPSIS MAGAZINE CURRENTLY CLOSED TO SUBMISSIONS**

This newsletter will carry notice of opening within a month of that event taking place.

### **EDGE SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY PUBLISHING OPEN TO SUBMISSIONS**

<http://www.edgewebsite.com/>

We are **currently seeking** high-quality novel-length **science fiction** and **fantasy** submissions of all types. We are **not interested** in young adult, horror, erotica, religious fiction, short stories, dark/gruesome fantasy, or poetry.

Manuscripts should be written in good taste and be aimed at an older (aged 20 and up), well-read, mature audience. **We prefer** novels of between **75,000 and 100,000 words**, although we occasionally accept longer works. We work with new and established authors.

We particularly like stories with:

depth and insight

great writing

original ideas

interesting characters who have believable behaviors, motives, and relationships

believable dialogue

strong plots

solid science or magic systems

unique settings

well designed, innovative alien life forms and environments, and

richly detailed and original cultures.

Please be sure that you send us the **best version** of your work. **Before** you submit your work ([see requirements below](#)), your novel should be **complete** (**not** a work-in-progress) and have already undergone **extensive editing** and revisions.

Authors who are unsure if their novel meets our requirements should send *only* a query letter indicating their doubt, a synopsis, and letter SASE to the address below.

✗ We do not accept submissions on floppy disk. They often end up arriving battered and broken.

✗ We do not accept electronic submissions. We will not open your email attachments or visit your website.

✗ We do not accept simultaneous submissions.

**Incorrect or incomplete** submissions may be rejected. **Do not send your entire manuscript until asked to do so.** If you send your entire manuscript all at once it will be rejected

## **TESSERACTS 19 SOON TO BE OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS**

(Calgary, Alberta) EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing is proud to announce that the editors for **"Tesseracts Nineteen: Superhero Universe"**, are **Claude Lalumière & Mark Shainblum**.

Submissions for the new anthology will be accepted from Canadian writers (citizens, residents, expats, etc.) starting October 30, 2014 up to February 2, 2015, 12 midnight, Pacific Time.

For this new Tesseracts volume, the editors are seeking original short stories and poems which are about and/or feature:

"Any and all permutations of the superhero genre. Superheroes! Supervillains! Superpowered antiheroes. Super scientists. Adventurers into the unknown. Costumed crimefighters. Mutant superterrorists. Farfuture supergroups. Crusading aliens in a strange land. Secret histories of covert superspies."

### **About The Editors:**

**Claude Lalumière** (<http://claudepages.info/>) has edited thirteen previous anthologies, including one previous volume in the Tesseracts series (the Aurora nominee Tesseracts Twelve: New Canadian Fantastic Fiction) and two previous superhero anthologies, including Super Stories of Heroes & Villains, which was hailed in a starred review by Publishers Weekly as "by far the best superhero anthology." In addition to being a frequent contributor to Tesseracts anthologies, he's the author of Objects of Worship, The Door to Lost Pages, and Nocturnes and Other Nocturnes.

**Mark Shainblum** (<http://www.shainblum.com/>) was born and raised in Montreal, where he and illustrator Gabriel Morrissette co-created the comics series Northguard and the bestselling humour book series Angloman, which later appeared as a weekly strip in The Montreal Gazette. Mark also collaborated on the Captain Canuck daily newspaper strip and Canadiana: The New Spirit of Canada, a webcomic.

### **About the Tesseracts anthology series:**

The Tesseracts anthology series is Canada's longest running anthology. It was first edited by the late Judith Merrill in 1985, and has published more than 529 original Canadian speculative fiction (Science fiction, fantasy and horror) stories and poems by 315 Canadian authors, editors, translators and special guests. ([MORE INFORMATION](#))

Some of Canada's best known writers have been published within the pages of these volumes including Margaret Atwood, William Gibson, Robert J. Sawyer, and Spider Robinson (to name a few).

### **Submissions:**

During the submission period, the editors will accept submissions via Submittable. The link will be available October 30, 2014.

For updates and information, please visit the information page at:

<http://www.edgewebsite.com/books/tess19/t19-catalog.html>



**Release Date:**

"Tesseract Nineteen: Superhero Universe" will be released in the spring of 2016 in paperback and eBook formats.

**GUEST ARTICLES, MINI-ESSAYS, & OTHER FROTH**

I thought I'd start with an article of my own, the better to display what sort of contribution I encourage professionals to contribute in future issues. Reviews, yes, but of publications ten years or older (to avoid suspicion of 'planted' in-house excessive promotion, not to mention any hard feelings raised if an author objects to harsh criticism of their contemporary work potentially detrimental to their reputation), also opinion pieces, nostalgic reminiscences, useful advice, and anything intriguing and entertaining.

Nothing in the way of a rant please. The purpose of AL is to celebrate the genre. Want to keep the tone pleasant, enjoyable, and encouraging. No need to air out the dirty laundry. That can be done elsewhere.

**Note:** Articles, essays, & reviews eagerly sought. 500 words maximum. Unpaid work, but lots of egoboo.

**LET'S BLAME CANLITSPECIFIC ON ITS FOUNDER  
JAMES DE MILLE, AUTHOR OF  
'A STRANGE MANUSCRIPT FOUND IN A COPPER CYLINDER'**

*By R. Graeme Cameron*

First published posthumously in 1888, the book owes nothing to the writings of Haggard and Jules Verne which appeared after De Mille's death in 1880. A satirical utopia to be sure, it was probably inspired by such books as Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, Samuel Butler's *Erewhon*, and perhaps even the essays of Lucian, the second century Roman satirist. Then again, maybe it was the product of delirium tremens, or an opiate dream, or, dare I say, a wonderful imagination?

February, 1850, Lord Featherstone's yacht lies becalmed near the Canaries. His fellow upper-class inebriates hit upon the idea of a paper-boat race toward an object bobbing up and down in the calm waters of the ocean. Said object turns out to be a metal cylinder.

*"It looks like a can of preserved meat," said the doctor.*

*"It's my belief," said Featherstone, "that it is part of the provisions laid in by Noah for his long voyage in the ark. So come, let's open it, and see what sort of diet the antediluvians had."*

Unsurprisingly, given the title of the book, the contents consist of a manuscript written by a Mr. Adam More (name implies what, the next stage of man's development?) eager to share word of his discovery of *"a land from which escape is as impossible as from the grave."*

Bored out of their skulls, and eager for a diversion, the yacht passengers settle down to take turns reading aloud to reveal the following tale:

Accidentally rowing to the South Pole (long story) Adam and his companion notice the obligatory primitive savages on the shore.

*"Shall we land?" said Andrew.*

*“Oh, no,” said I. “Don’t be hasty. The elements are sometimes kinder than men, and I feel safer here, even in this river of death, than ashore with such creatures as those.”*

Of course they land. Andrew dies, possibly to be eaten, and Adam carries on the voyage posthaste. Swept through a gigantic cave, Adam emerges into a vast sea surrounded by mountains and a civilization of sorts.

*“I was in a city built on the slope of a mountain, with its streets formed thus of successive terraces... one half of its habitations consisting of caverns, while the other half were pavilions and massive stone structures.”*

The second contact with the locals is more promising.

*“I was left alone with the beautiful Almah, who herself showed the utmost graciousness and the kindest interest in me.”*

Perilously close to Utopia? Alas, not.

*“So it is with me,” said I. “In my country we call death the King of Terrors.”*

*“Here” said Almah, “they call death the Lord of Joy.”*

Adam discovers the truth underlying her words and emotes in a manner that later inspired Joseph Conrad (not to mention Francis Ford Coppola).

*“Oh horror, horror, horror! Oh, hideous abomination and deed without a name! I could not speak. I caught her in my arms, and we both wept passionately.”*

You’ll be glad to know the yacht passengers found this excruciatingly entertaining.

## LOVECRAFT’S HEAD

*By Silvia Moreno-Garcia*



Lovecraft rears his head...again. Literally.

So a few years back there was some talk about how we should change the Lovecraft Head, that is, the World Fantasy Award into something else. Because, you know, Lovecraft was a wee bit racist. Now there is a petition asking that the award be changed into an Octavia Butler head.

While I think that people probably like Butler a lot more than they like Lovecraft, could we change it but NOT have anyone’s head? Not Tolkien’s head or Butler’s head or any other person’s head. The World Fantasy Award should be about the world and making it literally the face of any one American writer does not make me happy.

When we talked about this there were several ideas I liked. A chimera is the one that stuck with me, but it could be something more abstract. The Stoker Award is a haunted house, the Hugo Award is a rocket and the Nebula looks like cool space stuff. The Lovecraft Head has been the odd duck for a while.

Since a lot of people don't like the old Lovecraft Head I think the petition is a good sign, it shows that it is worth revisiting the award. But...

Please. Just down with the heads.

## LETTERS OF EXCORIATION

**Robert J. Sawyer** (Aug 27, 2014) – Hi, Graeme. Congratulations on the first official CSFFA issue of *Auroran Lights*, and sincere thanks for taking the initiative in this.

I tried something similar, starting 31 years ago in 1983, with my own newsletter *Northern Lights*, produced initially in conjunction with Toronto's Bakka Books. It was like pulling teeth to get pros to contribute news notes, and there was no World Wide Web back then to scour for tidbits; I hope fans and pros in this country will rally behind your effort. The archives of *Northern Lights* are here: <http://sfwriter.com/northern.htm>

Thanks for *Auroran Lights*, Graeme, and best of luck with it! Please add me to the email subscription list.

*(The Graeme – Yours was the first, indeed almost instantaneous response. Very encouraging. Thank you! I shall carry on regardless of the furies and the fates—very much in the spirit of the Cruise Director on the Titanic I should think...)*

**Linda Demeulemeester** (Aug 27, 2014) – Looks good! And thanks for the shout out!

**Eileen Kernaghan** (Aug 27, 2014) – Great! I totally approve. (How could I not love something that offers me free promotion!) And I voted. See you at VCON, Graeme.

**Melissa Mary Duncan** (Aug 28, 2014) – I read your editorial and commiserate. It can be devilishly difficult to not only be even handed but be seen to be even handed when publishing a newsletter with a national base and a staff of ...OH that guy!

Thank you, for trying the old “hopefully the right people will tell me what they are up to so I can print it in the newsletter and not seem biased” strategy.

For what it is worth, I understand the reasoning, as you have explained it in your editorial, of your editorial decisions. Thank you, for doing the work that you do. Do not forget, when one is expecting flack...wear your flack jacket. ;)

*(The Graeme – I'm fairly thick-skinned as it is. Something to do with my invincible armour of ignorance I believe. That and naïveté are superb defensive weapons.)*

P.S. I normally would not have written you back my two cents but your editorial touched a chord.

**Gregg Chamberlain** (Aug 28, 2014) -- Put me on the email list for PDFs of the *Auroran Lights*, please.

If you have few minutes to spare sometime in your own writing schedule (I wanna see that novel NEXT YEAR, dammit!), then could you also shoot me over PDFs of the back issues from one to nine?

*(The Graeme – PDs sent. You want to see my novel? So do I! Most of it is somewhere in my head at the moment. We'll see where my tendency to create unlikeable characters gets me...)*

Two suggestions for you to consider as editor-general factotum... a classifieds section might be a good idea and if a fee was charged, could be nominal one or two dollars that goes to the CFSSA. Folks could run classifieds for collections to sell, things they are looking for, crash space needs for attending cons if they are on real tight budget, etc.

*(The Graeme – I'd rather keep this newsletter totally free if at all possible. Mostly interested in it as a promotional tool celebrating the genre. Still, depending on space constraints, I might open it up to free classifieds at some point in the future. Depends on how the demand for the newsletter evolves.)*

Also maybe a section in the zine for markets, split into paying and non-paying, that would both help existing and new magazines and publishers to find product and help writers and fans with finding places for fiction.

*(The Graeme – Good suggestion. I've made a small start with this issue. Again, beginnings. Much depends on the response of the readership.)*

Otherwise, seems to me like your setup proposal is just fine.

**Cathy Palmer-Lister** (Aug 29, 2014) – I think this is a wonderful undertaking.

**Diane Walton** (Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014) – I love it! And many thanks for mentioning On Spec in the newsletter. Looking forward to more.

**Randy McCharles** (Aug 31, 2014) – Sounds great Graeme.

Regarding "What about the new rules concerning Societies and Charities?" you can mass email provided it is to an opt-in mailing list and there is an easy and obvious way to opt out at any time, such as including an opt-out link at the bottom of the email.

*(The Graeme – Well, I've asked people if they want to be on the emailing list, and certainly I will add anyone new who wants to join. I've been told I can continue to ask people to join, including a sample issue with the query, providing it is an individual email and not a mass 'bcc' mailing. How true that is I don't know. Thanks for reminding me about an opt-out link. I don't think I know how to create one. Hope a statement in the body of the email text asking people to reply with a request to stop sending them issues if they don't want to receive them will do.)*

Also a question/concern about color book covers. When people send these to you, the file size will range from 40 KB to 4000 KB and range from thumbnail to 10x the size of your computer screen. Unless you want to resize each one that comes in, you may want to request a specific size.

*(The Graeme – I might, once I figure out which size is most suitable. In any case I don't mind resizing. It's kind of fun, or, as my Grandfather used to say, "What's wrong with this boy?")*

I've attached the cover to my new book, **The Necromancer Candle**. It is 110x170 pixels (44 KB) and I believe is the one the publisher created for their online catalog. You may also wish to specify a word limit for the accompanying description. If you're going short, 20-30 words may work well. If longer, 100 words. You may wish to check how many words fit nicely beside the cover image in your PDF and go with that.

*(The Graeme – The size seems about right. You raise an interesting conundrum. Indeed any thumbnail has got to be balanced by an appropriate amount of text. But of course it*



*reduces the number of books which can be listed given space constraints. Then again, I'll probably routinely be producing 60 page newsletters in the future. This first "real" issue is an experimental juggling act done at a great rush. Eventually I'll achieve a proper balance, or so I keep telling myself.)*

**Lynda Williams** (Aug 31, 2014) – Very nice, Graeme! I'll send you Reality Skimming Press news, as well. And I think you (or we) should encourage SF Canada and any known hot spots of literary enterprise to share their news.

*(The Graeme – Absolutely! If people don't bring themselves to my attention I might miss them.)*

"My vision is a monthly newsletter reporting on the SF&F genre 'beat.' I'm hoping it will develop to the point of being a 'must read' for professionals and fans alike. To be as inclusive as possible. If anybody is miffed about being left out, all they have to do is contact me. Simple as that."

Heartily endorse the sentiments, above!

Like to invite you to use anything you find on my blogs or internet spaces. And apologize for going all "news release" on you re: Reality Skimming Press. One of my past incarnations was as a reporter. Use or shorten or otherwise adapt as it suits, of course.

*(The Graeme – I can be quite ruthless when it comes to editing out all the important stuff...)*

It is hard to distinguish "fan" from "pro" art done for the Okal Rel Universe. (I have lots of examples up at <http://facebook.com/relskim> in the album section, and there's more to be found by googling "okal rel" in image mode.) Some of the paid artists did extra stuff for fun. Some of the fan artists later were paid to do work. It's a community that's sort of iconic in terms of blurring the lines and celebrating the joy of creation and pleasure in the product, first, while doing what's appropriate and as-fair-as-feasible when there are opportunities for paid work. Some of the art was purchased by Edge originally, too, but it is all available to be used for purposes such as your newsletter since I am in process of purchasing all the rights Edge possessed. Brian and I are working through the transition in a friendly way, starting in 2013 with the last payment slated for Nov 2016. After that, I'll have a bit more breathing room, financially, to branch out with Reality Skimming Press. But it will always be a blurry place re: fan/pro overlap and community spirit celebrating the joy of the genre.

*(The Graeme – I didn't have time to check out the above album, but I certainly intend to, especially in light of your statement that I might be able to use much of it in this newsletter! What people need to know is that it is not just publishers and authors I want to showcase, but artists and illustrators as well. In particular I dream of replacing the medieval clip art on the cover with splendid examples of SF&F art that have previously been employed as book and magazine covers, much as Andy Porter used to do with **Science Fiction Chronicle** years ago. Gives the art a second exposure and adds to the reputation of the artist I do believe.)*

I just want to get my work out there and make it possible for readers to keep finding it, even if the numbers of people wonderful enough to get into Okal Rel is in the mere thousands, not the tens of thousands, or whatever number is "good enough" these days in which arena. :-) Your newsletter helped charge my batteries to keep flying.

*(The Graeme – Actually, I had begun to fall in to a rut with my fan publications. Not much of a response you see. This "semi-pro" task promises to be exciting. Lots of feedback, and the sheer excitement of hunting down tidbits of info on the web. Lots of "Aha!" moments. So my batteries are being charged too. SF&F is a truly exhilarating genre. If I can manage to convey this to the readership, manage to charge their batteries and get their cyborg hearts pumping... enthusiastic promotion is the BEST promotion methinks.)*



Wishing you joy with your novel!

*(The Graeme – A confession. As a child in the late fifties, visiting another house, I saw a shelf with a dozen tattered SF pocket books. Immediately I wanted as many myself (I have hundreds now). Later, mid-sixties, doing my Latin homework in bed and wondering how useful it was in preparing me to be a file clerk, I suddenly realized writing was the perfect way to make a living. So easy! Just lunge out of bed to the typewriter in the morning, sip coffee, type, then go back to bed. Get up later and party all day. Seemed like a plan. My goal? A shelf holding a dozen tattered paper backs with MY name on their spines. Hasn't quite worked out yet. Probably because I have so much difficulty getting out of bed in the mornings...)*

Tiny correction for future -- I live in BC not Alberta. Since Edge has been my publisher for a decade, and most people who know me met me in Calgary at cons, it's a common mistake.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FANDOM NEWS ITEMS

### FANZINES & OTHER LOST CAUSES

To begin with the October issue.

### PERSONALITIES ON PARADE

**Garth Spencer** – the first recipient of a CSFFA fan award in 1986 for “editing Maple Leaf Rag, and dedication to Canadian fandom,” is now allegedly gafiated but remains active in at least two APAE: e-APA (the monthly electronic APA distributed by email. Contact Chuck Connor at [chuck.connor@bluebottle.com](mailto:chuck.connor@bluebottle.com) to join), and Arnie Katz's TePe (Another monthly electronic APA distributed by email, if interested contact Arnie at [crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net) to inquire about joining). Both APAE are international in membership.

**Murray Moore** and **Taral Wayne** – the former consciously indifferent to electronic zines, and the latter perpetually on the verge of gafiation (been everywhere, done everything), have both been suckered into TePe by American Fan Arnie. Quite the successful recruiter is Mr. Katz.

**Murray Moore** – attended LonCon 3, the London Worldcon, and sneakily devised the simplest and easiest method of compiling a trip report. Instead of compiling notes to work up into a post-con report, he sat down at the end of each day and wrote a few brief paragraphs which he then emailed to his friends as a sort of blog. Eager faneds competed for the right to publish the complete “collection” in their zines.

**R. Graeme Cameron** – is a member of both APAE, and the hoary FAPA (the first fannish Amateur Press Association, founded in 1937—strictly a snail mail APA—contact [robertlichtman@yahoo.com](mailto:robertlichtman@yahoo.com) to join). Recently Bruce Gillespie of Australia has been courting the Graeme to join AZAPA. Four APAE? In addition to all the other stuff he does? More proof that Graeme is an idiot.

**Lloyd Penney** – remains the most active and ubiquitous fannish letter of comment writer in the world. However he and wife **Yvonne** are no longer participating in running conventions. They've settled in to the Toronto Steam Punk scene with great alacrity. Yvonne has occasionally been an extra on the set of the TV show “Murdoch Mysteries” to her extreme delight.

**Susan Walsh** – who has been attending VCON since at least VCON 2 in 1972 (Philip K. Dick GoH) and served many times on the concon, is taking a breather this year, as is daughter **Pauline Walsh** who has often been Vice-Chair or Chief programmer. Husband **Michael Walsh**, also a VCON 2 veteran (and many others, frequently serving as Toastmaster), being a lifelong journalist/movie critic well known to many SF&F professionals, will be active at VCON 39 this October, presenting two or three Elron “spoof” awards during the formal “High Tea” prior to the Aurora Awards ceremony. **R. Graeme Cameron**, presenter of the Elrons since 1989, will unveil the rest of the horrors at a separate event later in the program, probably on Sunday.

## **FAN AWARDS (YES, THEY EXIST!)**

### **2014 FAAn AWARD WINNERS** (Source: File 770 online by Mike Glyer)

The annual FAAn Awards were presented May 4 at Corflu 31 in Richmond, VA. They are open to any fan worldwide, both in nominations and voting. Canadians are frequently nominated. Lloyd Penney for his ubiquitous letters of comment, for instance.

**Best Genzine** – *Banana Wings*, edited by **Mark Plummer** & **Claire Brialey**

**Best Personal Fanzine** – *Flag*, edited by **Andy Hooper**

**Best Single Issue** – *Trap Door* #30, edited by **Robert Lichtman**

**Best Website** – efanazines.com

**Best Fanzine Cover** – *Inca 9* cover by **Harry Bell**

**Best Fan Artist or Cartoonist** – **Steve Stiles**

**Best Fan Writer** – **Andy Hooper**

**Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Award for Best Letterhack** – **Robert Lichtman**

**Lifetime Achievement Award** – **Ray Nelson**

Other honors bestowed at this weekend’s con:

**Corflu 31 GoH** (picked from a hat as is traditional) – **Gregg Trend**

**Past President of fwa** (by acclamation) – **John Nielsen-Hall** (Unc. Johnny)

Next year’s con, Corflu 32, will be in Newcastle, England. Tynecon 3: The Corflu is scheduled for March 27-29, 2015, the weekend before Dysprosium, the 2015 Eastercon at London Heathrow.

### **2014 HUGO AWARD WINNERS**

**Best Fanzine** -- *A Dribble of Ink* edited by **Aidan Moher**

**Best Fancast** – *SF Signal Podcast* by **Patrick Hester**

**Best Fan Writer -- *Kameron Hurley***

**Best Fan Artist -- *Sarah Webb***

The following non-Hugo awards also were presented during the Retro Hugo ceremony:

**John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer – *Sofia Samatar*** (*Award for the best new professional science fiction or fantasy writer of 2012 or 2013, sponsored by Dell Magazines.*)

**The Forrest J Ackerman Big Heart Award – *Vincent Docherty*.**

**First Fandom Hall of Fame – *John Clute***

**First Fandom Posthumous Hall of Fame – *John “Ted” Carnell* and *Walter H. Gillings***

**Sam Moskowitz Archive Award (*for excellence in collecting*) – *Mike Ashley***

### **RETRO HUGOS FOR 1938** (Fannish work)

**Best Fanzine – *Imagination!* *Forrest J Ackerman* et al.**

**Fan Writer – *Ray Bradbury***

**Special Committee Award – *Jerry Siegel* and *Joe Shuster* for Superman’s 1938 debut.**

### **PEGASUS AWARDS SHORT LIST**

The following Canadians on are the ballot for the Pegasus Awards, to be given out at the Ohio Valley Filk Festival on [October 25th](#) in Columbus, Ohio. These are the top international awards in filk. (Jane Garthson.)

**For Best Classic Filk Song – *I am Stardust*, the late *Lloyd Landa* (usually performed by his partner, *Karen Linsley*)**

**For Best Performer – *Copy Red Leader* (*Leslie Hudson* and *Devin Melanson*)**

Also for **Best Performer – *Stone Dragons* (*Tom* and *Sue Jeffers*)**

**For Best Writer/Composer – *Phil Mills***

**For Best Adapted Song – *TIE after TIE*, Debs & Errol (*Debs Linden* and *Errol Elumir*)**

### **2013 FANED AWARD WINNERS**

The Faneds are awarded by The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Society, a non-registered, non-existent society consisting solely of founder and administrator R. Graeme Cameron. The purpose of the Society is to promote Canadian Fanzine Fandom (or, more truthfully, to prevent it from dying out completely).

Winners receive a certificate designed by Taral Wayne, and someday—if I can ever figure out how to reproduce it—a 7’ sculpture, the ‘Faned’, featuring an astronaut blasting propelled by a pen nib rocket backpack blasting off into outer space.

Winners of the third annual Faneds were announced at VCON 38 in October 2013. They were:

**Best Canadian Fan Writer** – *R. Graeme Cameron*

**Best Canadian Fan Artist** – *Taral Wayne*

**Best Canadian Loc Writer** – *Lloyd Penney*

**Best Canadian Fanzine** – Space Cadet (*R. Graeme Cameron*)

*(And non-voted, declared by fiat, award)*

**Hall of Fame** – *Leslie A. Croutch* (Canada's most prominent fan in the 1940s & editor of **Light**)

I find these results hilarious, but they are nevertheless legit, as they are the result of a Canada-wide vote.

Here are some stats concerning the awards:

19 voters (almost twice as many as I anticipated) which equals:

151 votes awarding:

294 points to:

25 nominee positions based on:

18 actual nominees (some nominees being up for more than one category).

Note that each voter was allowed 3 votes in each category (except for one category where there were only two nominees) in order of preference. Points were awarded on the basis of vote preference: first choice = 3 points, 2nd choice = 2 points, and 3rd choice = 1 point.

Maximum number of votes a nominee could receive = 57.

Most votes any winner received = 40.

Least votes any nominee received = none.

Great and wonderful things about the voting include:

A) There is no evidence of block voting. Voting was evenly distributed across the country:

9 voters from British Columbia

6 voters from Ontario

4 voters from Quebec

B) The vote, meagre as it is (but then, so is the scope and scale of Canadian Fanzine Fanac), is truly a peer sponsored award, in that -- as far as I am aware -- almost all the voters were or are active in Canadian fanzine fandom:

8 = current, active Faneds

5 = Faneds active in the past

3 = are current contributors to zines

3 = readers.

My thanks to them as voted: Keith Braithwaite, Lindsay Brown, R. Graeme Cameron, Paula Johanson, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Steve Fahnestalk, Keith Lim, Jenni Merrifield, Murray Moore, Andrew C. Murdoch, Lloyd Penney, Yvonne Penny, Lester Rainsford, Garth Spencer, Sylvain St-Pierre, Felicity Walker, Taral Wayne, Neil Williams, Rose Wilson.

I note that 3 well-known Faneds of the past declined to vote on the grounds they were not aware of the contemporary zine scene. Fair enough.

Considering that the first Faned Awards (2011) were awarded on the basis of my personal fiat, and the second (2012) on the basis of scattered suggestions, this first actual vote is a major if incremental step forward. All things considered, I am very pleased.

### **RADICAL REFORM DECREED FOR THE FANED AWARDS**

Last year 19 people voted. Considering the size of Canada compared to the United States, this compare rather favourably with the FAAn Awards (roughly ten times as many voted for the latter).

However, 19 votes is rather meagre. Canadian fanzine fandom hasn't exactly been expanding at an exponential rate of late. What to do?

Since most of the fan artists active in Canadian zines are American, many of the letter of comments coming from outside Canada, some of writing content likewise, and there's a distinct possibility most of the readership resides in other lands, I have decided to throw open the Faned voting process to ANYONE who reads Canadian zines. The emphasis will still be focused on Canadian zines exclusively, but the vote will be open to any and all loyal readers of those zines, no matter which county they live in.

I will distribute ballot information in an upcoming issue of *The Fanactical Fanactivist* within a week, along with instructions on how to vote (email) and who can vote (certified fanzine fans who read Canadian zines).

My goal, this year, is to DOUBLE the number of votes. Staggering concept, what?

### **GUEST ARTICLES, MINI-ESSAYS, & OTHER ARGUMENTS**

**Note:** Articles, essays, & reviews eagerly sought. 500 words maximum. Unpaid work, but lots of egoboo.

Again, starting with one of my own to jumpstart the avalanche of upcoming contributions...

#### **IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES (HE SAID WITH A STRAIGHT FACE)**

*By R. Graeme Cameron*

There has never been a better time to be a fan of SF&F. The amount of "stuff" accessible is overwhelming. One is forced to pick and choose.

For instance, virtually the entire corpus of SF&F literature is available in print, stored on line, or offered for sale on Ebay, Amazon, or through online publishers and book sellers. Be it a favourite author, a particular sub-genre, or the genre as a whole, you'll never live long enough to read it all. (Well, maybe the complete works of a given author are doable.)



Another example: visual media: Ebay, Amazon, YouTube and their ilk offer a cornucopia of delights. Just the other day I watched the 1961 film **Hand of death** starring the slightly less than mobile face of John Agar. Always wanted to see that. The movie I mean. An unintentionally hilarious version of the King Midas tale.

For the completest-minded fan, this era of the world-wide-web is a golden age.

Granted, general interest SF&F clubs like the B.C. SF Association are few and far between now, but clubs and organizations devoted to specialized aspects of the genre, such as Anime, Steam Punk, Gaming, or even putting on an annual convention of some sort, are relatively new opportunities for fans to share interests in common.

It must be admitted that “traditional” fandom (that which was spawned more than 80 years ago) is on the wane. Yet you’d never know it from the sheer number of fanzines being posted at Bill Burn’s award-winning and popular web-site < [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) > Zine hobbyists and fan historians like myself keep the old traditions alive just for the fun of it.

Besides, what was once a minor literary niche followed by a few dedicated and much derided fans has exploded into the mainstream. Genre films, TV shows, and literature are now a multi-billion dollar industry, routinely enjoyed by millions of self-proclaimed fans of the genre, and by millions more who aren’t even aware they are fans, they just like the stuff.

Of course, as many authors are aware, maybe not so much the literature aspect, but one can always dream... There ARE millions of potential readers out there. Most people seldom read for pleasure. Habitual readers are a minority. True. But readers tend to be addicts. Expose them to writing they truly enjoy and they’re hooked for life. From an author’s point of view the conundrum is how to successfully promote. There are fans out there who’d love to read ALL your work, if you can but bring it to their attention and convince them to give it a try.

As for being a fan, opportunities beyond measure. A general interest fan like myself, devoted to SF&F literature, media, art, history, fanzines and convention running, is hard put to avoid drowning in the sheer volume of “stuff” available through my computer screen, a veritable maelstrom of a reverse black hole I call it. Couldn’t live without it, and that’s a good thing.

I is happy being a fan.

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

None yet, thank Ghu.

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## **COLOPHON**

**Auroran Lights** Issue # 11, Sep 2014, Volume 3 #3, Whole number 11, is the official 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**

### **The Board of Directors (Officers)**

President: **Clifford Samuels** (Alberta) Aurora awards administrator  
Vice-President: **Jean-Louis Trudel** (Québec) Boréal Liaison.  
Secretary: **Cathy Palmer-Lister** (Québec)  
Treasurer: **Wes Almas** (British Columbia)

### **The Board of Directors (Directors)**

**Clint Budd** (British Columbia) CSFFA Past president, Chair Convention 34 & Hall of Fame Jury.  
**Graeme Cameron** (British Columbia) Chair Archive Committee & Editor of Auroran Lights Newsletter.  
**Ron Friedman** (Alberta) Chair Voter's package.  
**Alan Pollard** (Manitoba) Chair Website Committee.  
**Lynda Williams** (Alberta) Chair Publicity Committee & Eligibility Lists Committee.

### **Archive Committee**

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

## **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.

**Note:** Easiest way to join is to attend Convention and/or register at: < <http://prixaurorawards.ca> >

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**Don't forget to explore your fannish heritage!** Check out < <http://cdnsfzinearchive.org> > to browse numerous Canadian fanzines from 1937 to the present (including a complete run of Auroran Lights), peruse the Canadian Fancyclopedia for fannish legends & lore, and find out the history of Canada's SF clubs and organizations.

Also many thanks to Bill Burns at < <http://www.efanzines.com> > for hosting AL as well.

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**Note:** Anyone (even non-members) may submit information, short articles and mini-essays of 500 words or less, letters of comment, art fillos and/or cover art to the Editor at < [AL-TheGraeme\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:AL-TheGraeme(at)shaw.ca) >