

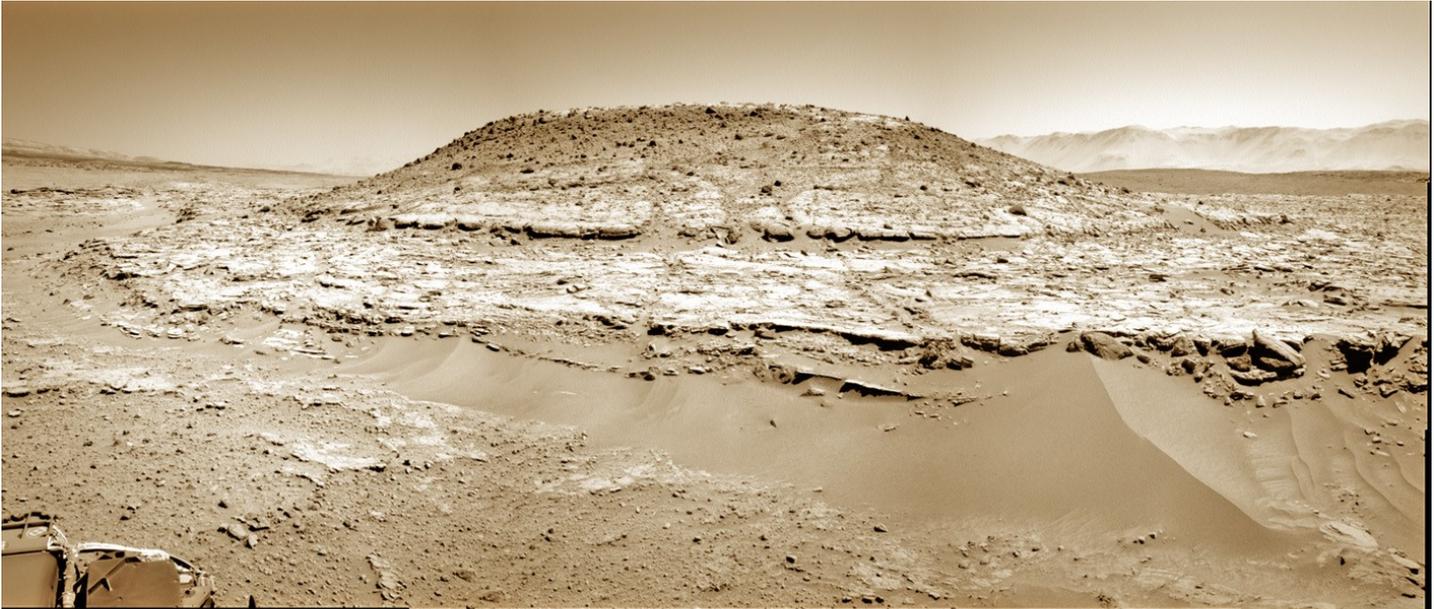


OSFS Statement

Newsletter of the **Ottawa Science Fiction Society**, April 2014,
Issue 421, Volume 40, Number 4. Founded May 1977

OSFS Supper Meeting Starting at 6:00 pm.

Wednesday, May 21, at [Colonnade Pizza](#), 280 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, ON



Curiosity & Mount Remarkable in Gale Crater

Sol 603

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Ken Kremer/Marco Di Lorenzo

Curiosity Inspects Mt. Remarkable on Mars Explanation: (continued)

Curiosity rover has chanced upon this notable 5-meter tall mound during its continuing journey around and, eventually, up 5.5-kilometer high Mt. Sharp. Unsure of the density of the surrounding layered [sandstone](#), the human team on Earth has instructed the car-sized rover on Mars to [drill into](#) a rock on the side of Mt. Remarkable to investigate. Quite possibly, water involved in creating the dense [sandstone](#) could have helped to [support ancient life](#) on the [red planet](#). [Mt. Sharp](#), the unusual central peak of [Gale Crater](#), has a similar base-to-peak height as Earth's [Mt. Everest](#).

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

website www.ottawasfs.ca
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 OSFS Logo Bruce Wright
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 Published by the Ottawa Science
 Fiction Society, Creators of Maplecon

MOVIES List submitted by Sandi Marie

Coming to Your Theatre

JUNE

Edge of Tomorrow - Jun 6

How to Train Your Dragon 2 - Jun 13

Transformers: Age of Extinction - Jun 27

JULY

Maleficent - Jul 2

X-Men: Days of Future Past - Jul 18

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes - Jul 18

Hercules: The Thracian Wars - Jul 25

Just learned that Jon Favreau has started working on a movie. What's so > special about that? The movie is Elfstones of Shannara. Almost as great > a classic as Lord of the Rings. That's pretty darned exciting to me.

Alex Binkley

Coming Events List submitted by Lloyd Penney

May 17-19 - SuperFan ComicCon, Better Living Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto. Guests: TBA. For more information, www.superfancomiccon.com.

May 23-25 - Anime North, Toronto Congress Centre + 3 hotels, Toronto. For more information, www.animenorth.com.

May 23-25 - What The Fur!?, Sheraton Montreal Airport Hotel, Montreal. Furry Cconvention with steampunk theme.

Guest: Alex Cockburn. For more information, www.whatthefur.com.

June 1 - Burlington Toy Show, Holiday Inn Burlington Hotel and Conference Centre, Burlington. Early Bird price \$10, general admission \$5. Hours: 9am-3pm. For more information, www.burlingtontoyshow.com.

June 6-8 - Bloody Words XIII, Hotel TBA, Toronto, ON. Mystery convention. Guests: Vicky Delany, For more information, www.bloodywords.com.

July 26 – Chibi Anime, Capital Region's Anine & Geek Convention, Le festival d'animation japonaise et geek, place unspecified, <http://ganime.ca/chibi-2014/>

June 6-8 - Niagara Falls ComicCon, Hotel and Facility TBA, Niagara Falls, ON. Guests: William Shatner, more. For more information, www.NFComicCon.com.

June 12-15 - SteamTopia, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Detroit-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI. Steampunk convention. For more information, see page on Facebook.

June 28 - Steam on Queen, Campbell House, Toronto. Steampunk bazaar. For more information, www.steamonqueen.ca.

June 28 - Oshawa Anime Festival/Comic Con/Toy Show, 15 Harmony Rd. N., Oshawa. \$5 admission, hours 10am-6pm. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

July 4-6 - Polar Chill 2, Holiday Inn Toronto International Airport, Toronto. Includes the 2014 Constellation Awards. For more information, www.tcon.ca.

July 11-13 - TFcon 2014, Delta Meadowvale Hotel and Conference Centre, Mississauga. Transformers toy convention. For more information, www.tfcon.ca.

July 13 - Oshawa Comic Con, 15 Harmony Rd. N., Oshawa. \$5 admission, hours 10am-3pm. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

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

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

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

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

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

August 28-31 - Fan Expo Canada, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. 20th anniversary event. For more information, www.fanexpocanada.com.

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

Sept. 7 - Oshawa Comic Con, 15 Harmony Rd. N., Oshawa. \$5 admission, hours 10am-3pm. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

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

Sept. 19-21 - RocCon 2014, Kodak's Theatre on the Ridge, Rochester, NY. Comics, gaming, SF and anime convention. Guests: Brent Spiner, Alaina Huffman, Vic Mignogna, Bonnie Piesse. For more information, www.rochesterscificanimecon.com.

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

October 3-5 - CanCon 2014, Hotel TBA, Ottawa. Literary SF convention. Guest: Jo Walton. For more information, www.can-con.org.

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

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

November 22-23 - Toronto Mini Maker Faire 2014, Toronto Reference Library. For more information, www.makerfairetoronto.com.

January, 2015 - ConFusion 41, Hotel TBA, Detroit area. Guests: Karen Lord, Dr. Cynthia Chestek, Heather Dale, Monte Cook, Shanna Germain, Aaron Thul. For more information, www.confusionsf.org.

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

August 19-23, 2015 - Sasquan/73rd World Science Fiction Convention, Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA. Guests: David Gerrold, Leslie Turek, Tom Smith, Vonda McIntyre, Brad Foster. For more information, www.sasquan.org.

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

LOC

Dear OSFen:

Here I am celebrating Star Wars Day by writing letters to science fiction fanzines. Lately, my time has not been my own...Easter, family concerns, getting ready for CostumeCon 32 in Toronto, and more. As a result, I am two issues of the Statement behind, so here are comments on issues 419 and 420.

419...I notice it says 417 on the front page. I am pleasantly amazed that Opportunity has been wandering the surface of Mars for all ten years now. If I recall, NASA said they would have been happy if the rover had survived Mars for six weeks.

We just don't do movies any more...we'd like to go, but we just can't afford them any more. Soon, I hope...

I think my most recent list is in issue 420. I hope this list has been useful for Ottawa fandom, and I found flyers for the Ottawa ComicCon at CostumeCon. In some ways, I can see fandom (or at least, what I've always seen as fandom) slowing fading away, and I do hope that a list like this strengthens what community we have left.

My loc...we did do well at the Artisans show, and we had over \$500 worth of sales at CostumeCon. We now look forward to a similar table at Anime North, where we are aiming for the same. After that, we have to have a look to see what we can do. We have no intentions of setting up a webpage or Etsy site, but we simply vend at cons, and have some fun.

420...Episode VII doesn't seem to have a proper name yet. Sounds very interesting, for Episode IV was the beginning of my involvement in fandom, but I have to wonder if Episode VII will bomb, given the fans' dislike of Episodes I, II and III? JJ Abrams, you screwed up Star Trek for me, so don't do it to me again with Star Wars.

I have seen on the CBC website Jaymie Matthews, head of astronomy with UBC in Vancouver, is trying an online fundraiser to keep the MOST satellite going. I wish him luck, for I think he will need it. That would make a great addition to issue 421.

All done for the moment...see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

GARBAGE WORLD, by Charles Platt

reviewed by Hildegarde Henderson

Garbage World was published in 1967, five years after Silent Spring and also deals with humanity's bad habits. In the asteroid belt the asteroids have been made habitable with artificial gravity and atmospheres. All but one are pleasure asteroids where finicky snobby people live who, though they wouldn't dream of visiting Kopro the garbage world, are happy to send it their trash by unmanned ships, called blimps by the Koproans. The purulent contented populace lives by scavenging and their culture is entirely shaped by garbage.

Then one day a ship from the United Asteroid Belt Pleasure Federation comes to Kopro. Two squeaky clean men climb out, gagging in horror behind their protective gear as they open talks with the uber-filthy inhabitants.

What did these poppinjays want on Kopro? How could the Koproans combat the nefarious plans of the Pleasure People? Could one of the former fall in love with one of the latter? Could toxic waste, ooze and stench doom a romance? Can wallowing in a mud pool smooth the way to erotic joy? Can a world of ick be the venue for adventure? Yes, yes and yes. Charles Platt has done it with vivid scenes and lots of humour.

I quite came to like the Koproans, crusty (and encrusted) hillbillies as they were. They had smarts and knew how to enjoy themselves in grand style. The theme I detected in the book reminded me of The Milk of Paradise by James Tiptree

Jr., although I hasten to add that that's where the similarities end.

So if this seems like your kind of cupcake that could relax you after a hard day, hunt down a copy and enjoy. Ooze icing is recommended.

Star Wars

Harlan Ellison's Acclaimed Star Trek Script Comes to Comics

Posted on Facebook by Bink Tait (thanks Bink)

IDW Will Adapt the Award-Winning Original Teleplay of "City On the Edge of Forever" As a Comic-Book

Star Trek: The Original Series episode "City on the Edge of Forever" is regarded by many (including a TV Guide poll of the "100 Best TV Episodes of All Time") as the greatest Star Trek episode of all time, but there's much more to the story than fans saw on TV. Harlan Ellison's original teleplay for "City on the Edge of Forever" was modified before the episode was filmed, but now, at long last, fans will be able to enjoy his original teleplay in the form of an all-new miniseries coming from IDW in June:

Star Trek: Harlan Ellison's City on the Edge of Forever: The Original Teleplay.

Ellison's original teleplay won both the prestigious Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation as well as the Writer's Guild of America's Award for Most Outstanding Teleplay.

For decades, legions of fans have speculated about the episode's history, but few people have read the original teleplay, which is very different from the televised version.

This comic-book miniseries, produced under the guidance of Harlan Ellison himself, now offers fans everywhere the opportunity to see a classic Star Trek episode the way no one has seen it before.

Adapting the teleplay for the comics series are writers Scott

Tipton and David Tipton, no strangers to IDW's Star Trek comic universe; interior art will be painted by J.K. Woodward, coming off the well-received Star Trek: TNG/Doctor Who maxi-series written by the Tipton brothers. Each issue of the series will feature a special cover by artist Juan Ortiz, whose artistic interpretations of every episode of Star Trek: The Original Series were recently published in an oversize hardcover collection, Star Trek: The Art of Juan Ortiz. Variant covers will be provided by movie poster artist/Star Trek: Khan cover artist Paul Shipper.

"Presenting Harlan Ellison's brilliant original script for 'City on the Edge...' has been a goal of ours since IDW first began publishing Star Trek comics in 2007," said series editor and IDW Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief Chris Ryall.

"The episode justifies its position atop 'best Star Trek episodes' lists but even it ain't nuthin' compared to what Ellison did in his original teleplay. This is truly going to be a Star Trek adventure unlike any other, even to fans who have that beloved episode memorized." Harlan Ellison says: "It was a superlative joy of my long life to have worked with Leonard Nimoy, who became my friend, and many others at Star Trek; and an equally heart-happy joy to be working with J.K. and the Tipton Bros. and Chris Ryall on this long-awaited visual of my (humbly, I say it) brilliant original 'City...'"

Star Trek's "City on the Edge of Forever" originally aired on April 6, 1967, as the penultimate episode of Star Trek's first

season. The episode is, at its most basic, a poignant love story as well as a breathtaking trip through space and time, from the future all the way through 1930s America, as Kirk and Spock race to apprehend a renegade criminal and restore the order of the universe. IGN awarded it the number-one spot in their list of the Top 10 Classic Star Trek Episodes. Further, TV Guide named the episode one of its 100 Most Memorable Moments in TV History.

The first-ever comic-book adaptation of the teleplay as Harlan Ellison originally intended it is a true publishing event. Star Trek: Harlan Ellison's Original City on the Edge of Forever Teleplay #1 (of 5) will be available in June and is under license by CBS Consumer Products TM & ©2014 CBS Studios Inc. STAR TREK and related marks and logos are trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Astrophysics:

Huge, ancient meteorite crater found in southern Alberta
Scientists have discovered a vast, ancient meteorite crater in southern Alberta near Bow City, a hamlet midway between Calgary and Medicine Hat.

Doug Schmitt, a University of Alberta researcher, says sometime between 50 million and 70 million years ago, a huge chunk of space debris at least the size of an apartment block crashed into marshy, subtropical plains near what is now the hamlet of Bow City, near Brooks, Alta.

It left a hole up to two and a half kilometres deep and eight kilometres wide. The blast would have been so intense that anything alive within 200 kilometres would have received first-degree burns.

But after eons of erosion, so little is left of the crater that it had to be discovered by accident, Schmitt said.

"It's buried," he said. "There isn't a lot to see."

Crater fully underground

A geologist was doing some routine mapping of underground layers a few metres beneath the surface when he noticed something unusual.

"He noted there was a circular kind of disturbance, but it was completely covered."

Schmitt said his lab was called in. Using seismic data from industry to create a complete image of the feature, they realized it was most likely to be an impact crater, complete with a central peak where the meteorite would have struck. The size of the object can only be estimated.

A meteorite composed mostly of iron would have had to have been between 300 and 500 metres in diameter to create that size of a crater. If the meteorite was rock, it would have had to have been a kilometre across.

Schmitt said the crater is a rare opportunity to study the floor of an impact crater "We're able to get at the lower parts of (a crater) and see how rocks have been moved around." His team is now looking for certain types of minerals that form only under certain conditions so as to confirm the crater is from a meteor impact. But he doesn't have much doubt.

"We're pretty confident it can only be a meteorite impact. It's pretty clear."

Keeping tabs on satellites and asteroids

Damaged satellites can wreak havoc on our favourite technologies, like cell phones and GPS, while giant asteroids could pose a threat to our planet. But a new Canadian telescope the size of a suitcase will help astronomers prevent close encounters of the dangerous kind. 0cm x 80cm x 40cm ' the same size as a large suitcase.

Image courtesy of the University of Calgary.

With close to 1000 working satellites, about 18,000 chunks of space junk and at least 15,000 asteroids relatively close to Earth, somebody needs to keep track of things. And that's what Canada aims to do once the Near-Earth Object Surveillance Satellite (NEOSSat) space telescope is launched, anticipated for the spring of 2012.

NEOSSat will be the world's first orbiting eye-in-the-sky '

designed to help monitor both satellites and asteroids. It will be operated jointly by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), an agency of the Department of National Defence.

Once in space, NEOSSat will spend its time in a geocentric orbit about 800 kilometres above Earth. That's similar to the altitude of the International Space Station, and not far from a variety of other satellites. It will circle Earth every 100 minutes.

Preventing satellite pile-ups

Part of NEOSSat's value is keeping track of the world's satellites ' helping to prevent them from colliding with each other or with space debris. "We'll be looking at objects that orbit anywhere from 15,000 to 40,000 kilometres above the Earth's surface," says Dr. Brad Wallace, a defence scientist at DRDC. In that range are a variety of satellites from various countries that help route communications signals (including cell phone, television and radio signals), monitor weather and ocean traffic, operate personal global positioning systems (like the GPS devices in our cars) and much more.

Cleaning up after ourselves in space

Astronomer Ken Tapping from the NRC Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics explains why orbiting junk is a messy problem.

"As a society, we have stuff happening in the background that many people don't really realize is space-connected," says Dr. Wallace. "The more you look at how space

hardware is tied in with things we take for granted, like your cell phone or GPS, you realize how important it is." Clearly, damaged satellites can create a lot of havoc.

The problem is how-to keep track of the 18,000-plus objects orbiting Earth. So far, monitoring is done through the U.S. Space Surveillance Network, which mainly uses ground-based telescopes and radars on Earth's surface. If a possible collision between satellites (or a satellite and space debris) is detected, a functional satellite can generally be given a remote-controlled nudge to get out of the way. But sometimes the control of a satellite is lost ? due to anything from a collision to a short circuit ' and this can mean trouble for other nearby satellites if it gets in their way.

"One of the most important things that satellite operators need to know is where an inoperative satellite is relative to their satellite. That's why monitoring is important," says Lauchie Scott, a defence scientist at DRDC. Canada previously played a role in monitoring satellites from the 1950s to the 1980s using ground-based telescopes, but NEOSSat has a huge advantage over them. Because it stays above the Earth's atmosphere, it's not affected by clouds or the day-night cycle, and can be used for observing around the clock.

Getting up close with asteroids

Half of the time NEOSSat will be used by DRDC for tracking satellites, while the other half it will be used by the Canadian Space Agency for tracking and studying near-Earth asteroids. In this case, "near-Earth" means objects

whose orbits periodically bring them to within about 45 million kilometres of the Earth.

The Canadian Space Agency will work with University of Calgary researchers on the Near Earth Space Surveillance mission. According to Rob Cardinal, a University of Calgary researcher on the team, there are three main reasons to observe asteroids. One is to garner scientific details about the early solar system. "Asteroids are remnants from the formation of the solar system. They're a relatively untouched sampling of the primordial solar system," he says.

Asteroids that are about 140 metres in diameter could cause local damage if one ever hit Earth, depending on where it landed, but wouldn't be catastrophic to our planet.

A second reason is to gather information about asteroids with the eventual goal of tapping them as a source of natural resources, such as iron or other metals. But that can't happen until more is understood about how individual asteroid orbits work, their size and likely composition, how solid they are, and more. Besides helping researchers answer such questions, NEOSat will study a new class of recently

discovered asteroids, called the Atiras, which orbit entirely within the Earth's orbit.

A third reason is planetary defence. "If an asteroid is going to hit us, we want to know about it beforehand with a view to avoiding such an encounter," says Cardinal. Fortunately, such an encounter is highly unlikely. He points out that devastating impacts occur at a rate of maybe once every 100,000 years.

Asteroids that are about 140 metres in diameter could cause local damage if one ever hit Earth, depending on where it landed, but wouldn't be catastrophic to our planet. It's estimated there are about 15,000 asteroids this size or larger in the near-Earth range.

"If they're larger than 1000 metres in diameter, they pose a potential global catastrophe, and there are roughly 1000 of those classified as near-Earth asteroids," Cardinal says. "While it's unlikely that any of these asteroids will hit Earth, we hope that NEOSat will give us advance warning of any close calls."