

SHOOTING MY CUFFS #12, March 2024

Another newsletter about the Canadian Unity Fan Fund

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My Modest Proposal

My proposal to promote fannish fandom met with as many people who knew what it meant as people who didn't. I guess this fan fund will carry on if enough senior fans like me support it, and will not carry on if enough seniors don't. Show of hands, please?

Plan for 2024

Pending a digital show of hands, in 2024 I am building up CUFF funds again, and will report—quarterly—on where they stand.

Meanwhile, I have asked some Canadian conventions if they would be interested in hosting a CUFF delegate...in 2025. I am indebted to several fans, such as LeAmber Kensley and Cathy Palmer-Lister, for adding to my contacts.

Let me repeat my query to conventions here, for everyone who hasn't received it yet:

“Dear Chair and Committee,

“The Canadian Unity Fan Fund is rebuilding its funds this year, and will seek a candidate in 2026 to represent western Canadian fandom at an eastern Canadian convention. As CUFF administrator, I am inquiring about your plans for 2026, and whether you would be interested in hosting a CUFF delegate at your convention that year?

“Nomination and voting schedules for potential CUFF delegates will depend upon the dates of the hosting convention.

“The duties of a CUFF delegate include

“Attending the convention, taking part in programming, and reporting on the event to fellow fans

“Raising funds for the next year’s delegate

“Administering the process to select the next year’s fan delegate (with the assistance of other Canadian fans)

“Promoting Canadian genre-related media and fan activities

“Naturally, this means the hosting convention include the CUFF delegate in programming panels, allocate some space for the delegate to display fundraising items for sale, and dedicate times for the delegate to host a CUFF Auction and a CUFF Turkey Reading. (The Turkey Reading is a participatory event where some attendees read some REALLY BAD science fiction and fantasy, for the entertainment of an audience. Audience members can then bid on whether to continue or to stop the reading; bidding starts at 50 cents and can go significantly higher. Audience members are also invited to act out the scenes being narrated.)

“Previous hosting conventions have provided CUFF delegates with a convention membership and a hotel room for the duration of the convention, while the fan fund covers their air fare to and from the convention.

“If this proposition meets with your approval, please contact me at garth.van.spencer @ gmail.com to discuss it further. If your convention is not interested, please contact me anyway just so that I know that.”

See What’s Going On

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE CANADIAN SF AND FANTASY AWARDS

“All members of the CSFFA can now place their nominations for this year's Aurora Awards.

“I did. It's easy. And quick. Why not do it now before you forget about it and wind up putting it off to the last minute or maybe even missing it?

“Granted, you have **till 11:59 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, April 09, 2024** to get it done but if you get it done now you can pat yourself on the back for a whole month!

“You have extensive eligibility lists to choose from. I'm sure you'll spot your favourites right away.

“You'll be choosing in ten categories:

“Best Novel

“Best YA Novel

“Best Novelette/Novella

“Best Short Story

“Best Graphic Novel/Comic

“Best Poem/Song

“Best Related Work

“Best Cover Art/Interior Illustrations

“Best Fan Writing/Publication

“Best Fan Related Work

“If you are a member (if you aren't, anyone can join for just \$10.00 CAD; Only criterion, you must be Canadian) go to “<https://www.csffa.ca> and place your nominations.

“It's fun, I tell you. Loads of fun!”

(R. Graeme Cameron, Mar. 5, 2024)

NEW WEBSITE COMING

For a few years I have been threatening to revamp my personal website as a local/regional fannish information resource. In the last month I buckled down to creating and updating the content for the component pages.

Similarly, I want to include updated lists of current fan activities, ranging from clubs and cons to podcasts and fan websites.

It is a little daunting to realize how long I have let this go, and how much I have to review and correct. For one thing, I have to reinstate my Vancouver CommunityNet webspace. For another, I have a *lot* of outdated links to update.

So, in the meantime, I have created groups on MeWe, and on Facebook, and on Discord titled “Across the Fandomension,” stocked with the provisional fan information I have now. Already people are responding to point out how outdated some of it is. My most up-to-date, if not complete, information is about conventions in Canada. With this issue I am showing the progress I still have to make on repositories for fannish publications and memorabilia.

(Garth Spencer, Mar. 8, 2024)

Upcoming Conventions

At this date, I have found out the following upcoming Canadian conventions:

March

March 15-17: Toronto Comicon 2024, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON. See <https://fanexpohq.com/comicontoronto>

March 29-31: Anime Ottawa 2024, EY Centre, Ottawa, ON. <https://animeottawa.com>

April

April 25-28: Calgary Expo 2024, Stampede Park, Calgary, AB.
<https://fanexpohq.com/calgaryexpo>

May

May 24-26: Anime North 2024, Toronto Congress Center / Delta Hotels by Marriott
Toronto Airport & Conference Centre, Toronto, ON. <https://www.animenorth.com>

June

June 14-16: Scintillation, a small literary convention being held at the Holiday Inn
Chinatown in Montreal, Quebec. See www.scintillation.ca.

July

July 27-28: Pretty Heroes 2024, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto, ON. See
www.facebook.com/prettyheroes/

August

August 22-25: Toronto Comicon 2024, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON.
<https://fanexpohq.com/fanexpocanada/>

September

September 20-22: Edmonton Expo 2024, Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton, AB. See
<https://fanexpohq.com/edmontonexpo/>

November

Nov. 1-3: Can*Con in Ottawa, ON. See <https://can-con.org>

Nov. 8-10: Hal-Con Hal-Con Sci-Fi & Fantasy Convention, in Halifax, NS. See
<https://hal-con.com>

Canadian Unity Fan Fund Order Form

c/o Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman St., Vancouver, BC V5S 3H7

garth.van.spencer@gmail.com

CATALOG: [\(3\) Canadian Unity Fan Fund \(CUFF\) | Achtung! The newly-updated August fan publications catalog and order form are now posted here | Facebook](#)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE CANADIAN UNITY FAN FUND.

To (Name): _____

Address/Email: _____

Item & price	Quantity	Total
Total:		

Do you have any suggestions for items you think should be available to promote CUFF?
