

**TORONTO.  
IS THERE ANYWHERE ELSE?**





# TORONTO



## IN '73

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Canada

It was all because of Fan Fair II.

The Montreal in '74 bid had lost its hotel to another convention. Yet Canadian fandom knew that it could put on a good worldcon-- and wanted the chance to prove it. The second Toronto Fan Fair had been a success. Toronto, in the midwest zone, was eligible to bid in 1976-- or in 1973. So in September of 1970, Canadian fandom foregathered in the traditional smoke-filled room to make plans. "But have you considered.... But what about.... But we'll have problems with...." objected Peter Gill, who almost singlehandedly ran Fan Fair II and who knows plenty about the problems of convention-running. "Yes" we replied, having considered the problems: backing by other fan groups (none outside of Canada); money (enough); convention and related experience (plenty); enthusiasm (boundless); determination (fierce); and other assets (a great convention city, lots of willing workers, closeness to many major fan centres, and plenty of ideas about what makes a worldcon not merely a good con but the greatest con ever).

The Toronto in '73 bid was born.

Now your Toronto in '73 Committee is working to bring you that greatest-ever convention. We have a hotel for you: Toronto's Royal York. It's the largest convention hotel in the British Commonwealth, with 1600 rooms-- and at least 800 of those are guaranteed for all our fannish guests. The Royal York staff are accustomed to all sorts of gatherings: the Shriners, the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party leadership convention, and even the 1970 Grey Cup celebration, Canada's national football jamboree. After that, you can be sure they can cope with any situation calmly, and will treat fans courteously. Most important, the Royal York has guaranteed us sole use of the convention floor. In addition, the hotel is located in the heart of Toronto, close to the train and bus stations, and to the major freeway exits, while the airport limousine stops at the door.

Plan to bring your family up to Canada for Toronto in 73. Enjoy a vacation here. You won't want to leave the hotel and risk missing our exciting programme; but before or after the convention, explore Toronto. A century and a half ago it was "muddy York", a British garrison town and pioneer settlement-- and its past lives on in Black Creek Pioneer Village, in stately homes, and in its very own castle! The modern British link is economic, which means shops full of British fantasy and science fiction books not available in the United States (C.S. Lewis, anyone?), as well as fine British china, woolens, leather goods and teas.

Now, 1971 presents "swinging Toronto" with live theatre (two large, glamorous theatres and two intimate, experimental theatres are only a short walk from the Royal York), nightclubs and coffeehouses, boutiques and sidewalk cafes, the McLaughlin Planetarium and the Ontario Science Centre where you're supposed to play with the exhibits, the Spaced Out Library developed entirely for science fiction fans, and above all, BOOKSTORES, with the best selection of science fiction in Canada.

And isn't our beautiful, futuristic City Hall a great setting for a science fiction movie?

Toronto is not an ordinary big city. It has parks, trees, a clean, safe subway, a downtown core that's alive and inviting at night-- and which you can explore safely.

In many ways, Toronto seems to have never outgrown the smalltown friendliness of muddy York. Oh no, you won't be stared at on the street if you're wearing convention, not conventional, clothes; but you will be given help if you're lost or a stranger. Ten minutes walk from the hotel will take you to such simple, small-city delights as the St. Lawrence farmers' market, or the romantic ferry to Centre Island with its farm animals and beaches. Or hop on a trolley to enjoy the candy floss and prize cows at the Canadian National Exhibition, Canada's largest fair. Close by, you'll discover Ontario Place, a multi-million-dollar Expo-like complex on the lake, waiting to entertain you.

In Toronto, you can even see a social theory come to life. Canada is a mosaic of different cultures, not a melting pot. Tune in to a French radio station, watch Hindu monks in saffron robes chanting on the street, buy an Italian or Chinese newspaper, explore many cultures in the Kensington Market-- and please, experience the restaurants. Fans have a reputation for loving good food, so we think you'll enjoy visiting our city, where fine cuisine may be Canadian, French, Italian, Chinese-- or Greek, East Indian, Spanish, West Indian, Japanese, southern soul-style, Ukranian, Hungarian, German, or even Korean. Oh, and of course, Jewish. Toronto is the bagel capital of Canada.

So please, accept our invitation, and come up to Toronto in '73: in Canada, the nearby foreign country where you can speak the language, drink the water, understand the money, use your credit cards-- and where the fannish faces are friendly and familiar.

Who are the members of your Toronto in '73 Committee?

Science fiction fans, of course, whether we're part of First Fandom or of the Canadian Fannish Renaissance. Convention fans, too, dedicated to putting on the best Worldcon ever: in Toronto on the 25th anniversary of Torcon, Canada's first, but not last, World Science Fiction Convention.

What is our background?

Why not let the members of your Committee speak for themselves?



John Millard

"Became a reader of 'pulp fiction' in the early 1930's; everything...detective, westerns, science fiction etc. First became acquainted with organized Fandom while attending the CHICON in 1940. Have been hooked ever since. Helped organize the Galactic Roamers and the Michifans Conferences of the 1940's. Spent the war years in the Royal Canadian Air Force and attended a war time convention in London, the EASTERCON of 1944.

First post-war con was the PHILCON in 1947, where we picked up the bid for the TORCON of 1948 fame. Have been attending Worldcons and regional cons off and on ever since. Most recently was very active in FAN FAIR II of August 1970..."

Don Hutchison

"Don Hutchison has been reading and collecting sf for over twenty years. A member of Toronto's first sf group, he served as a committee member on the Torcon, the Sixth World Science Fiction Convention. In 1948 he and a high school friend published and edited MACABRE, a humor-slanted genzine which was but one of the victims of the post-Torcon slump.

"During the middle 50's, pragmatic factors and a perverse reaction to the so-called Great SF Boom drew him into gaffiation but sometime in 1963 Don surfaced for a fannish reincarnation. Since then he has attended a number of World and regional conventions and was a committee member on Toronto's two well-received Fan Fair regionals. Over the years Don has contributed to such diverse fanzines as TRUMPET, YANDRO, LUNA and ENERCUMEN, and during 1964 and 1965 was the regular film columnist for SCIENCE FICTION TIMES. He is presently writing a fanzine review column for OSFIC as well as a series of definitive articles on the great pulp heroes for THE NEW CAPTAIN GEORGE'S WHIZZBANG. He is the current president of the Ontario Science Fiction Club."

Ken Smookler

"I was born in Windsor about 41 years ago, give or take a decade, and for the first 13 years of my life didn't even know what Science Fiction was. Then, in the traumatic summer of 1942, somebody handed me a copy of Super Science Stories at camp and I was hooked. From S.S.S. I went on to hard stuff and I have been a subscriber to A.S.F. and Analog for about 20 years and to Galaxy since it started. I missed Torcon I, but was relatively inactive in the Windsor Club at that time and heard about it. Accordingly, and with practically no delay, I went to the next convention that I could get to, Tricon in Cleveland in 1966, Nycon III in 1967 and the odd regional convention in between then and now. I was the first president of the Ontario Science Fiction Club and had part of a hand (Peter Gill had the rest of the hand and most of the arm as well) in setting up Toronto Fan Fair I in 1963. I even managed to participate in Fan Fair II which was held in August of 1970. At one time I helped Peter edit OSFIC but, ever since he learned to spell and picked up a little grammar, I was able to give up that job."

Peter Gill

"My introduction to science fiction fandom, if you don't count rapping about Ray Bradbury on my mother's knee, came in the fall of '66 when, in response to a three line newspaper ad, I found fandom. Or rather, fen. People who had actually gone to sf conventions in the United States and returned to spread 'the word'.

"Being the only one of the group with access to both a typewriter and a mimeo, I started publishing newsletters and then graduated to fanzines - a scant month before I actually saw someone else's 'zine. True to a tradition as yet unknown to me, I started publishing exactly three weekd later than promised, but I've never looked back, or at a calendar, since.

"Since those long ago days I've managed to continue publishing and acting as OSFiC's secretary-treasurer while tossing myself half-heartedly into a mad whirl of convention going, or, more to the point, convention planning.

"In 1968 I was supervisor of the sf portion of Toronto's Triple Fan Fair, while at the same time acting as co-ordinator of the three areas involved. My effort for 1969 was being on the committee which ran the marathon two-week event known as the Rochdale College Summer Festival, a science, science-fiction, rock and rap session. I was Chairman of Toronto's 1970 Fan Fair, sponsored by the Ontario Science Fiction Club, and am presently dividing my time between secretarial duties for the club, publishing OSFiC and working on the 1971 Secondary Universe Conference Committee...while anxiously awaiting that fateful Saturday in Boston."

Mike Glicksohn

"After a childhood steeped in English comics, the BBC's 'Journey Into Space' and 'The Goon Show', I finally discovered fandom when I attended the Tricon in 1966, having read about it in 'Famous Monsters of Filmland'. Although very much on the fringe of things, I was impressed enough to be one of four people to start the Ontario Science Fiction Club in December of that year. Soon the club magazine OSFiC began to appear and I tasted the heady thrill of seeing my name in print. I was hooked. I subscribed to fanzines and went to Nycon III and went on to help run the first Toronto Fan Fair. My locs began to appear in such prestigious fanzines as CRY and SFR and that year the Baycon became my third con.

"In 1969, having abandoned school, I started attending regionals, starting with Boskone (where I really met my future wife for the first time) and Lunacon plus the first Pghlange, then hitching out for the Westercon and back for Phillycon plus, of course, St. Louiscon, where I was fortunate enough to be a Worldcon Art Show judge. My campaign to become the Canadian Harry Warner was temporarily delayed by my infamous Phillycon hair-cutting party and abortive trip to Mexico, but in 1970 I returned to Canada, began publishing my own fanzine ENERGUEN and helped organize and run the second Toronto Fan Fair. My veritable Niagara of locs was interrupted long enough for me to marry, at which time I became a member of the Toronto in '73 Committee in order to have something to do with my evenings. And so it stands: six issues of my own 'zine, two issues of LOW DOWN, a non-denumerable number of locs, two conventions run and 17 attended. Now if only I could find out what FIANOL meant..."



Susan Glicksohn

"Since my sweetie always used to amaze his mundane friends by declaring that he could never marry a non-fan, it is fortunate that, in the fall of 1966, Richard Labonte and Tolkein fandom both hit Carleton University. To relieve the tedium of the long, grey concrete tunnels connecting the long, grey university buildings to protect the grey-faced mole-like Carleton students from the elements, some Tolkeinities began chalking Elvish comments and witty slogans like "Sauron is alive and hiding in the tunnels" on the walls. Others, such as I, retaliated with "Aslan is coming". Then It Happened: scrawled notes in a vile script, saying "Are you interested in science fiction? Call Richard at..." Too late, I realized that that shy, mild-mannered, clean-shaven, white-shirted young gentleman in the corner of our newspaper office, who did all the work and never spoke to anyone, was the infamous Richard Labonte, Secret Master of Canadian Fandom. I was enslaved...

"Perhaps my brain was already weakened by a precocious addiction to Lucky Starr and the Pirates of the Asteroids. At any rate, like a will-less zombie, I submitted to ~~requests~~ requests to write for Ham and Low Down; attended (goshwow) the Toronto Triple Fan Fair in 1968; became classified as the English Department's resident nut when I quit presenting briefs demanding the establishment of an sf course, and instead went out and organized one; wrote an Honours paper on Asimov and Stapledon; and was finally talked into loading up Daisy the Dusseldorf Dumptruck and trundling off to Boskone VI to actually meet The Good Doctor. 'Remember Mike, the hairy guy from Toronto? He wants to come too, ok?' said Richard... And today I got a three page loc on the first issue of my personal-zine Aspidistra. Sensawonder!"

Richard Labonte

Momentous events, or chains of events, are oft-times initiated by highly unlikely figures. Thus it was that quiet, unassuming, super-straight Richard Labonte set in motion the tidal wave of the new Canadian Fannish Renaissance in the fall of 1966 by co-establishing the Carleton University SF Club (ACUSFOOS) and publishing the first issue of HUGIN & MUNIN--then a clubzine, but by its seventh and, alas, final issue, a promising genzine.

In his early fannish days, Richard was active in the N3F and wrote fanzine reviews for COSIGN as well as numerous locs, while constantly reinforcing his position as Secret Master of Canadian Fandom. In 1968, he conceived and published the first LOW-DOWN, a collection of reviews and comments on the Hugo nominees as a service to those unable to locate the original sources. LOW-DOWN 2 followed in 1969 and only a communications gap with Germany prevented the appearance of #3 last year. And recently, the new 1971, hipper, bearded, and decidedly different Richard Labonte published the first issue of PORT-O-SAN TIMES--a personalzine pondering the merits of dope, politics and rock. While molding the form of Canadian fandom, Richard has himself been altered.

In addition to both Toronto Fan Fairs and the KingCon, Richard has attended numerous eastern regionals plus the St. Louiscon and was Chairman of the "Montreal in 74" bid until loss of the hotel forced its withdrawal. He has also run student newspaper conferences, published a weekly newspaper and is currently President of the Carleton University Students' Council, with a quarter of a million dollars at his disposal.



Rosemary Uilyot

"Rosemary," Michael said, stepping over Gar Stevens, at the annual OSFiC Christmas party, "have you written your autobiography for me yet?"

"What autobiography?" I asked innocently, spilling Dubonnet all over my new dress.

"The one you were supposed to give me today, dear. And remember, tell the truth for once. All of fandom must know that you started out as a Trekkie."

"That's not true! I'd been reading Ray Bradbury for years. Hell, I'd even read some Isaac Asimov! And I'd been a horror movie fan since I was twelve. Whaddaya mean I started out as a Trekkie?! You're a bastard, Michael!"

"You weren't aware of fandom, though, until you and Alicia got involved in the STAR TREK thing. And besides, I heard you with my own personal ears tell Harlan Ellison that DANGEROUS VISIONS was the first sf you'd ever read. Isn't that the truth?" he declared, crossing his arms and spilling rum all over his lovely wife Susan.

"Well...yes, I guess so," I muttered.

"Good; now that that's settled, write it out and bring it over to me quickly then."

I snarled at them all, got up, fell over Gar, spilled my Dubonnet into Michael's rum and fell in an ungraceful heap at Susan's feet. Some days it doesn't pay to get out of bed.

Andy Porter

Born in 1946 and active in fandom since 1961, Andy Porter has attended more than 50 conventions including 5 Worldcons. In 1967 he was secretary of the NYCon 3. He is publisher of the magazine for convention committees, CONVENTION. Other publications have included SFWeekly (200+ issues) and ALGOL (16 issues). He has been a member of 6 apas and is currently retired to FAPA, the Elephant's Graveyard. He is US agent for Ethel Lindsay, John Bangsund and 2 British SF Conventions; other activities include collecting SF, fanzines and comics; railroadiana, transit, astronomy and drawing.

Andy earns his living in magazine production, supplementing his income (he works with fans Sam Moskowitz and Arnie Katz) as Assistant Editor of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction and Ad Manager for 5 Worldcon's worth of program books. In addition, Andy is firmly committed to eating and sleeping, and collecting paperback editions of Dick Geis novels.

John Douglas

"First con was Lunacon 69. Next came Lunacon 70 followed by Fredcon, Pghlange, Fan Fair II and Philcon. This year I'll attend as many as I can (a) afford and (b) find time for. I've been published in EMERGUMEN and will soon (?) appear in OSFiC. Have been attending OSFiC meetings for a year now and am running in the next elections for the club executive. Helped organize Fan Fair II as General Committee Member and superstar collator. Am taking the RIA accounting course, which is why I volunteered to be Treasurer of the bid."