

Pemmi-Con

The 15th North American Science Fiction Convention • Winnipeg • 20-23 July 2023

Progress Report 1 • March 2023





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Pemmi-Con Co-Chair*
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Welcome to Our Progress Report

A message from half the chair...

As you may be aware, a NASFiC has a short runway from winning site selection to hosting the convention. And there is much to do! For you, our members, we are striving to create an event that touches on many of your genre interests, and I think we're making progress.

While Pemmi-Con will be of modest size, our committee and staff are making every effort to cram those four days in July with amazing programming, events, shopping opportunity, and tons of fun. We look forward to hosting you, and showing off our wonderful home city, Winnipeg. We want you to leave us having enjoyed a good old-fashioned science fiction convention in the heartland of Canada.

See you July 20–23, 2023..

Linda Ross-Mansfield, Pemmi-Con Co-Chair

Land Acknowledgement

At Pemmi-Con, we acknowledge we are gathered on Treaty 1 Territory and that Manitoba is located on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk Nations.

We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

The Delta Hotels Winnipeg

The Delta Hotels Winnipeg (formerly the Crowne Plaza), at 350 St. Mary Avenue, is across the street from the RBC Convention Centre, connected by skyway. The skyway system connects to many other buildings downtown.

Parking at the hotel is currently CA\$20 per day, and includes in-and-out privileges. The garage clearance is 1.8 meters (for large vehicle options, contact the hotel). Offsite parking at RBC Convention Centre is CA\$25 daily.

If you have questions, please contact our hotel liaison (info@pemmi-con.ca), call the hotel at 1-844-294-7309, or see our Hotel page at <https://main.pemmi-con.ca/hotel/>.

Guest Room Rates

Delta Hotels Winnipeg offers the following guest room rates to Pemmi-Con members. Rates are in Canadian dollars, and are available Monday 17 July through Tuesday 25 July 25. The current tax rate is 17.25%.

Guest room, 1 King bed CA\$144 / night + taxes
Guest room, 2 Queen beds. . . CA\$164 / night + taxes

For guest room descriptions and photos, see the hotel website at <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/ywgdw-delta-hotels-winnipeg/rooms/>.) Please see <https://main.pemmi-con.ca/hotel/> for further information on booking a room at the Pemmi-Con rate.

If you need an accessible room, please contact our Accessibility team at access@pemmi-con.ca.

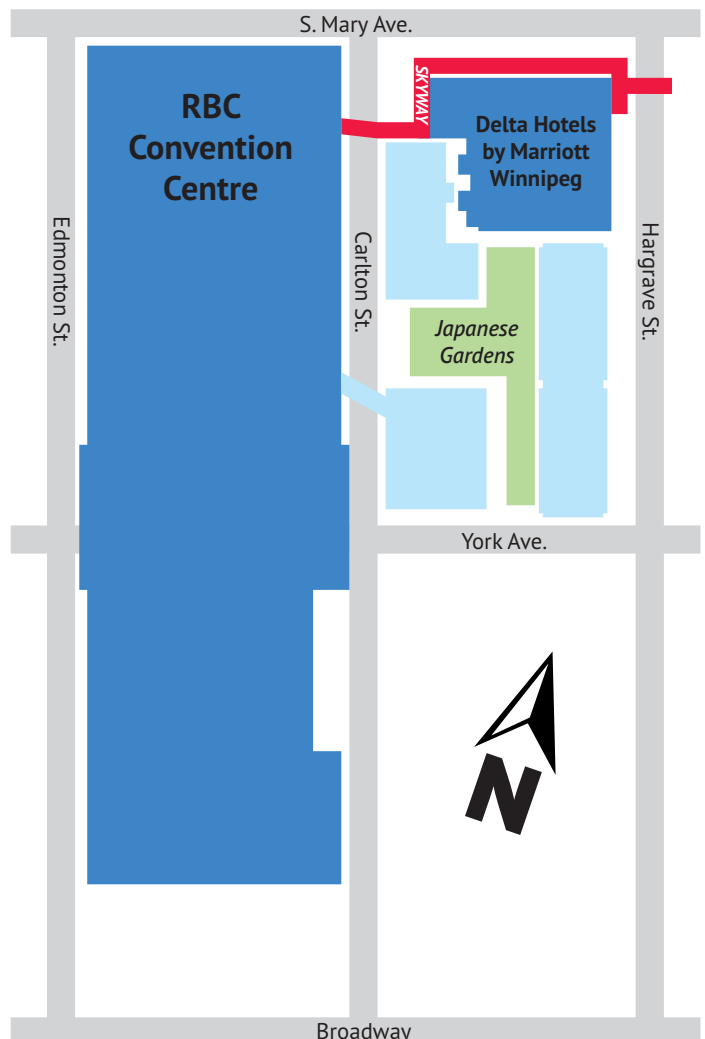
Are you interested in hosting a social event during Pemmi-Con? Please contact us (info@pemmi-con.ca), and we will get in touch with you when party/hospitality suite information is available.

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

We have been pleasantly surprised by the demand for hotel rooms and are working with the Delta to expand our room block. Please keep an eye on the website for further developments, or email us at info@pemmi-con.ca



Delta Hotels Winnipeg – Entrance and Skyway
350 St. Mary Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3C 3J2
<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/ywgdw-delta-hotels-winnipeg/overview/>





RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg
375 York Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3C 3J3
www.wcc.mb.ca

Volunteering

Pemmi-Con is not-for-profit and is 100% staffed and run by volunteers. Everyone on the committee is a volunteer, and we hope you will join us. There are roles for everyone, from new fans to wizened SMOFs.

We are actively recruiting volunteers prior to and at the convention. All volunteers **attending** the convention will need to purchase a membership. (If you cannot attend Pemmi-Con, there are still tasks that need to be done prior and we would love to have help from those who wish to do so.) Please fill out our volunteer form at <http://rebrand.ly/Pemmi-ConVolunteer> and we will be in contact with you within a few weeks. We look forward to hearing from you!

The RBC Convention Centre

Pemmi-Con will be in the Delta Hotels Winnipeg and the RBC Convention Centre, which are across the street from each other, connected by skyway. This indoor walkway system also connects to the historic Portage and Main intersection and stops off at numerous hotels, restaurants, and attractions.

Located in the heart of downtown Winnipeg, the Convention Centre provides visitors with a fully accessible environment. Free wireless internet is available in the facility, as well.

The RBC Convention Centre (formerly known as the Winnipeg Convention Centre) hosted ConAdian, the 1994 World Science Fiction Convention. A major renovation, completed in 2016, expanded the convention centre to two blocks, connected by a spacious third floor with views of downtown.



Dealers, Art Show, Static Exhibits, and Fan Tables

by Angela Jones, Exhibits Division Head

We are mostly staffed – however, we have openings and are ready to welcome new (and seasoned) volunteers! In particular we are looking for someone to head Static Exhibits, plus people to assist with creating displays for that area. (Graphic arts skills would be very welcome.)

Through our Static Exhibits, Pemmi-Con will tell attendees about our Guests of Honour. Additional planned exhibits include descriptions and memorabilia of past Worldcons and NASFiCs, plus other subjects of interest to our members.

Area Heads are working on FAQ, Rules, and Information pages on the Pemmi-Con website at main.pemmi-con.ca. We intend to have these items online in mid-March.

We hope you are looking forward to visiting the Exhibits Hall to see wonderful things during Pemmi-Con.



Attend a Fan Funds Auction!

by Murray Moore, Communications Division Head

Fannish travel funds such as TAFF (the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund), DUFF (the Down Under Fan Fund), and CUFF (the Canadian Unity Fan Fund) strengthen connections across SF fandom by enabling a well-known fan to attend a major science fiction convention in another country or region. These funds exist solely through the financial support and generosity of fandom, and raise money by holding Fan Funds Auctions at conventions.

We invite you to attend such an auction at Pemmi-Con and exchange your cash for quality merchandise and unique items, including fanzines, books, art, jewelry – or something even more esoteric. For instance, Fan Funds Auctions have sold “Tuckerizations” (an in-joke or homage practice named for Wilson “Bob” Tucker’s habit of naming characters after his friends) and custom “flash fiction”. (One high bidder asked Michael Swanwick to write a brief story about not himself but about his dog.)

TAFF (Trans Atlantic Fan Fund) representative “Orange Mike” Lowrey reports that a group of Hearts card players jointly won a Tuckerization offered by David Weber. The group members appeared in a Honor Harrington novel, on the condition that they all be dead by the last page, preventing any of their characters becoming so popular that fans of the series would ask Weber to write about them again.

For more information, please see:

- TAFF (taff.org.uk)
- CUFF (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6119342503/>)
- DUFF (<https://downunderfanfund.wordpress.com/>)

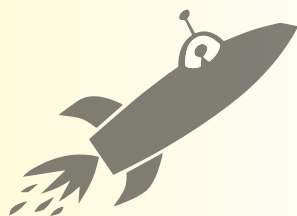
Answers and Etc. During Co-Chair Q & A

During a recent public Zoom session with Fan Fund delegates, Pemmi-Con Co-Chair Linda Ross-Mansfield answered questions.

- The con hotel (Delta Hotels Winnipeg) is the party hotel.
- Mini-fridges are standard in Delta Hotels Winnipeg sleeping rooms.
- In July, in Winnipeg (a city in a Prairie province), the humidity is not unpleasant but afternoons can be hot. The average high temperature in Winnipeg in July is 27°C/ 80°F.
- Temperature in Manitoba is measured in Celsius: 20°C = 68°F.
- Programming will be hybrid (audience in the programme room as well as online).
- Members flying from Australia or New Zealand can arrive in Winnipeg via a US airport or Vancouver’s airport. Those considering train travel from Vancouver are too late (the popular tourist trains are sold out). Four members of Pemmi-Con, however, are travelling by train, north, to Churchill, on Hudson Bay, to see beluga whales.
- Foreign ATM cards will work in Canada!

“Ask the Librarian” Booth

While you're at Pemmi-Con, check out our “Ask the Librarian” booth. Our Ghost Guest of Honour is Lorna Toolis, former head librarian for 30 years at the Merrill Collection, the premier SF&F research collection in the world. We hope to have free books for fans at the booth (at-con donations welcomed), so be sure to come pick up your next great read!



NASFiC Site Selection

Pemmi-Con members can vote on the city (and committee) that will host the 2024 NASFiC. Site Selection voting will take place online in advance of Pemmi-Con, and in person during Pemmi-Con.

As of the 2024 NASFiC bid filing deadline, Buffalo in 2024 (<https://buffalonasfic2024.org/>) is the only bid in this race. Write-in bids are allowed.

NASFiC voting will open to Pemmi-Con members soon. Our members who wish to vote will pay an Advance Supporting Membership fee. This money will be passed along to the winning bid and give the voter a supporting membership in the 2024 NASFiC. Voting tokens will be available for purchase through our Registration site, and checks will also be accepted.

Programme Planning & Progress

Jannie Shea, Programme Division Head

This 15th edition of the North American Science Fiction Convention will be a “big tent” affair, offering an art show, exhibits, events and multiple tracks of programme covering a broad range of interest areas within our genre. This is the first NASFiC hosted in Canada, and attendees can expect themes, voices and flavours *Canadiennes* in almost every aspect of the convention.

Programme planning is well underway for four days of talks, panels, workshops, gaming, readings, autographings, small group events, and film performances. We will have a masquerade on Saturday night!

Thank you to all who have given us programme suggestions. We continue to collect your ideas on our online survey form at

<https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/cansmof/en/pemmi-con/surveys/psuggestion-copy-1674877718>

Want to volunteer to participate as a programme participant? Later this month we will post a link to our brief programme participant volunteer form – watch for the announcement on our website! To help us stay on the right side of privacy law in Canada, we ask that you use this form to volunteer and confirm that it is ok to contact you.

All programme participants, either on in-person and/or hybrid programme items, must be virtual or attending members of Pemmi-Con.

Explore the works of our honoured Guests, and (if you are so inclined) follow them on social media. If you'd like to update your knowledge of the Canadian SF community, check out the Canadian SF area on our website at <https://main.pemmi-con.ca/canadian-sf/>.

“World Science Fiction Society”, “WSFS”, “World Science Fiction Convention”, “Worldcon”, and “NASFiC” are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

Pemmi-Con is sponsored by Cansmof Inc., a Canadian Not-for-Profit organisation, started in 2007. Our first event was Anticipation, the 67th Worldcon in Montreal in 2009.

Accessibility Policy

Pemmi-Con is dedicated to ensuring accessibility to our convention for people with both visible and invisible disabilities.

Pemmi-Con is proud to report that both the Delta Hotel Winnipeg and the RBC Centre meet the requirements of [The Manitoba Accessibility Act](#) in full. The RBC Centre's [Commitment to Accessibility](#) is posted on its Facility Information page, while the Delta Hotel Winnipeg's [Accessibility Information](#) is accessed from near the bottom of their main page.

Pemmi-Con will arrange with local providers of mobility scooters, wheelchairs, or other forms of assistance based upon requests from members. Whilst we will make these bookings for members, members will be asked to pay for items themselves.

If you have a need for large print, text to speech, or other language needs, please contact us at access@pemmi-con.ca with your specific needs, so that we can source these. Should the cost be prohibitive, we will try to find suitable alternatives.

If you require a personal support animal, or individual carer, please advise us of this in advance. Both the Delta Winnipeg Hotel and the RBC Centre welcome service animals.

Canada permits both emotional support animals and Registered Support Dogs. Emotional support animals are required to have a letter from your medical professional (GP or Psychology) stating the mental or emotional health reasons you require the animal, as well as a full description of said animal (name, breed, size, colour). This letter also permits such an animal to be transported in the cabin of planes. Almost all airlines require advance booking stating this need as they only have a limited number of seats for Emotional Support Animals. In many cases, this seating restriction includes Registered Support Dogs, who will be required to have been certified as trained for specific support duties.

Canada does allow pets across the border from the US who are both microchipped and have a current Rabies vaccination. However, it is the responsibility of the members to learn if their pet is permitted at their choice of hotel.

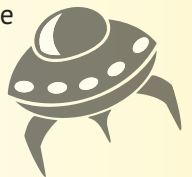
COVID Policy

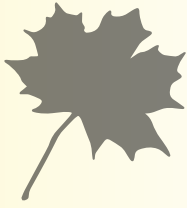
While various countries modify their COVID policies for travel, Pemmi-Con wishes to ensure that everyone has a safe convention. To this end, we will be requiring all attendees to be vaccinated and to mask when indoors or in crowded spaces. The exception will, of course, be if you are currently eating or drinking. Walking through a crowd with your meal or with a drink in your hand does not qualify for an exemption. Your vaccination status will be verified at Registration at the convention. If you do not provide it at Registration, you will be refused entry to the convention.

Please ensure that your vaccination is not more than one year prior to the convention and not less than two weeks before the first day of the convention. If you have a medical exemption from wearing a mask (and these are extremely rare), we would request that you provide your **Doctor's letter showing you are exempt**. We are well aware that there are individuals whose own health will prevent them from being vaccinated, but we do expect these individuals to remain masked, and to provide **medical evidence** that they cannot have the vaccine.

Please note that it is the responsibility of each member to keep current with any change to travel regulations put in place by Canada or by the country from which they are travelling.

Any queries, please contact covid@pemmi-con.ca.





Membership Info

Terry Fong,
Registration Pre-Con

Pemmi-Con memberships will soon increase in price, for everyone except First Nations and First Responders. The current Adult Attending rate is CA\$150.

Pemmi-Con has over 450 attending members, residing in seven countries (including our first member from Japan). Membership statistics are available at <https://reg.pemmi-con.ca/registration/membership-analysis>.

You can also view an almost-complete list of our members at <https://reg.pemmi-con.ca/memberships/membership-listing>. The online list comprises the names of our members who have given Pemmi-Con permission to list them.

If your name is missing from the membership list, you have not given Pemmi-Con permission to publicly list your name. To change that, [log-in to your member account](#) – or [email us](#) at reg@pemmi-con.ca and give us your permission to make your name visible.

If you wish to transfer your Pemmi-Con membership, please:

1. [send us an e-mail](#), and
2. have the receiving person register online at <https://reg.pemmi-con.ca/memberships>.

The registration team will handle the rest of the logistics.

Used Books (and Music) in Winnipeg

by J Grant Thiessen

New books are available everywhere, so I will only report on used book shopping in Winnipeg.

AREA 1 (*within a few blocks of the Convention Centre, easy walking distance*)

Probably the best bookstore within a few blocks is [Bison Books](#) (424 Graham Ave.), which is noted for its antiquarian, Canadiana, and literature. They may not have much science fiction.

I haven't been in [Book Fair](#) (340 Portage Ave.) in years. Book Fair used to have a decent selection of science fiction paperbacks; now the store appears to be more into comics.

AREA 2 (*the Exchange District, approximately twice the walking distance of Area 1*)

Go three blocks east to Donald St., then turn north, crossing Portage Ave. One block north of Portage, Donald turns into Princess.

On the first block of Princess is the city's largest [Goodwill Thrift Store](#). Quality and quantity of inventory varies week to week. There is a large selection of books on the main floor. On the second floor is a selection deemed to be more desirable books. Everything is very reasonably priced.

Shift another block east, and explore the area. A number of bookstores and thrift stores are clustered in a three-block area, including [Prairie Books](#) at 100 Arthur St., [Red River Books](#) at 92 Arthur St. (large selection of sf paperbacks), and, for music, [Into the Music](#) at 245 McDermott (Winnipeg's largest, most eclectic, selection of vintage vinyl).

But watch the signs: while only several square blocks, bookstores and thrift shops pop in and out of existence throughout the Exchange District.

AREA 3 (*farther out*)

There are bookstores and thrift stores throughout the city, but for the rest of them you need transportation.

One of the best bookstores in the city is [Burton Lysecki Books](#) (527 Osborne St., currently only open Saturdays),

3.4 km south of the Convention Centre. While not extraordinarily large, it has carefully curated stock in almost uniformly excellent condition. Books range in age from centuries-old to recent paperbacks.

A couple of blocks south of this is [Nerman's Collectibles](#), which makes for a nice two-stop book-shopping trip. The quality of the material is not as uniformly crisp as Burton's; however Nerman's has much more in the way of older paperback collectibles, also usually a little cheaper than Burton's.

Going west on Portage Avenue, you will need to travel 11 km to reach [Globo Sapiens](#) bookstore (3096 Portage Ave.). Globo Sapiens has a nice selection of reasonably priced paperbacks, and nice collectible children's books. Continuing along Portage, very near the Perimeter Highway which circles the city, you will find [Cover to Cover](#) (3737-B Portage Ave.), which, as well as having a large selection of paperbacks, is a significant seller of comic books. Very reasonable too.

Mysteries? Give [Whodunit](#) (163 Lilac St.) a try. This specialty store sells only mysteries, new and used.

For interesting flea market experiences, try [Thirsty's](#) (1111 Ellice), or [Mulvey Market](#) (421 Mulvey (just off Osborne, on your way to Burton Lysecki and/or Nerman's).

AREA 4 (*exploring the city*)

The shops listed above are not the only ones in Winnipeg. If you are interested in more thrift stores, Winnipeg has five [Value Village](#) stores, lots of [Salvation Army Thrift Shops](#), [Goodwill Industries](#), and various [MCC's](#) (thrift stores run by MCC: Mennonite Central Committee), as well as a number of independents, most notably [D'Arcy's ARC Thrift Store](#) (1076 Main St.); Darcy's has a nice selection, and all proceeds go to Animal Rescue.

Other bookstores include the [Selkirk Book Exchange](#) (442 McGregor), [Prairie Sky](#) (871 Westminster), [Black's](#) (300 River Ave.), [Thyme Cafe and Books](#) (268 Tache), etc.

I wanted to recommend a couple of my other favourites, like Zed Books, Greenfield Books, and Black Letter Books, but they appear to be permanently closed. Such is the nature of the business.

Please check on the internet to make sure all of the places I have mentioned are open when you want to go there, as the owners really do set their own, eclectic hours.

News & Notes

Do you live in Winnipeg?

You can help us distribute our flyer. Contact Laurie E. Smith (laurie.smith@pemmi-con.ca).

Follow Pemmi-Con on Social Media



<https://twitter.com/WinnipegIn23>



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069752712607>



<https://www.instagram.com/pemmicon/>



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAXAp8W8rOKB_vOOUvl-jLO



<https://www.twitch.tv/winnipegworldcon2023>



[Mastodon - coming soon](#)

Visit Winnipeg's First Cat Lounge and Thrift Shop

Annie's Attic (anniesattic.ca) is located at 1560 Main Street, a 10-minute bus ride from Pemmi-Con's hotel and convention centre. "Come enjoy a variety of cat-themed treats, and spend quality time with feline friends and fellow feline-lovers alike, all in support of D'Arcy's ARC (Animal Rescue Center)!"

Pemmi-Con At A Glance

When 20 – 23 July 2023

Where Delta Hotels Winnipeg and the RBC Convention Centre (location of the 52nd World Science Fiction Convention in 1994), Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Guests of Honour

Philip John Currie	Waubgeshig Rice
Julie E. Czerneda	Nisi Shawl
George Freeman	Lorna Toolis
John Mansfield	katherena vermette
Tanya Huff, Toastmaster	

About NASFiC The North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) is held in years when the World Science Fiction Convention is hosted outside of North America. (The 2023 Worldcon will be in Chengdu, China.) The 2023 NASFiC site was selected by a vote of the members of the 2022 Worldcon. Pemmi-Con will be the 15th NASFiC.

Memberships Attending members (Adult, Indigenous & First Responders, Teen, Child) may attend the convention in person, receive all convention publications, and (for a fee) may vote in 2024 NASFiC site selection. Supporting members may receive all convention publications and (for a fee) vote in 2024 NASFiC site selection. (If you voted in NASFiC site selection at Chicon 8, you are automatically a Supporting member of Pemmi-Con and can upgrade to an attending membership by paying the difference.)

Registration You can purchase or upgrade your membership online at reg.pemmi-con.ca.

Membership Rates as of 20 March 2023

Please note: We anticipate a rate increase soon.

Attending Adult	CA\$ 150
Attending Adult (Voted)	CA\$ 110
Convert Supporting to Attending Adult	CA\$ 110
Indigenous Peoples & First Responders*	CA\$ 95
Attending Teen (Ages 13–19 on 20 July 2023)	CA\$ 85
Attending Child (Ages 7–12 on 20 July 2023)	CA\$ 50
Supporting	CA\$ 40

Children ages 0–6 are admitted free with a parent who is an attending member. (These children must be registered, and must be in care of a parent at all times.)

The price of a Virtual-only membership is still to be determined. Please let us know your interest for this membership level by emailing reg@pemmi-con.ca and we will notify you when this option becomes available. Alternatively, you may purchase a supporting membership and upgrade to a virtual membership by paying the difference between the current virtual rate and the amount paid for a supporting membership.

**Verification required at badge pick-up. The rate for Indigenous Peoples & First Responders will not change.*

Membership List A list of current members who have elected to have their membership published as of January 21, 2023 is available at <https://reg.pemmi-con.ca/memberships/membership-listing>.

main.pemmi-con.ca

Special thanks for their help in promoting Pemmi-Con:

Neo-Opis Science Fiction Magazine (<http://www.neo-opsis.ca/>)

On Spec: The Canadian Magazine of the Fantastic (<https://onspec.ca/about-on-spec/>)

Polar Borealis (<https://polarborealis.ca/>)

Special thanks for their sponsorship:

