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Thursday, July 20, 2023

2024 NASFiC Site Selection

Voting to select the site of the 2024 NASFiC is open on Thursday Noon to 6 PM and Friday 10 AM to 6 PM in the Exhibit Hall. All members of Pemmi-Con can vote on the site selection, subject to paying a CA\$40/US\$30 Advance Supporting Membership (voting) fee, which makes you a member of the 2024 NASFiC regardless of who wins the election. The results of site selection voting will be officially announced at the NASFiC WSFS Business Meeting on Saturday morning at 10 AM in Charleswood B (Delta).

Masquerade Desk Hours

The Masquerade Desk is on the second floor of the Delta, across from Registration, and will be open Thursday and Friday from noon to 5 PM. Someone will be at the desk the whole time.

Play the Best Pinball in the World

Pinball machines are now up and running in the Kildonan room of the Delta, including Godzilla, currently ranked #1 by pinball fans on Pinside. We also have Star Trek (ranked #10), Star Wars, and The Mandalorian.

Bill Laubenheimer

We are deeply saddened to hear that Bill Laubenheimer passed away suddenly, in Winnipeg for Pemmi-Con. Bill had a brilliant creative mind, and a gentle and cheerful soul. He will be much missed. Condolences to Carole Parker and their many friends.

Freya's Festive Fundraiser Friday

FREE cat videos! Two Bite Brownies! Custom badge ribbons! Cool merchandise! And NINE amazing raffle prize packs, including a William Shatner autographed photo, a Steampunk rocket lamp, and much more!

Join us on Friday from 1 PM to 4 PM in Assiniboia A, to celebrate the 10th birthday of Laurie E. Smith's kitty, Freya Silvertoes!

We will be welcoming you with music, entertaining you with videos, and offering some amazing incentives to donate.

It is our pleasure to be raising money for Nimbus, our "focus cat" at the Winnipeg Pet Rescue Shelter. Nimbus has high medical bills and the need for future care. With your help, we aim to erase his vet bills completely, and to raise some money toward paying the medical costs of another deserving kitty.

So mark your convention calendar and plan to attend this great event! Let's eat brownies, buy beautiful swag, win prizes, and HELP A CAT IN NEED!

— Freya Silvertoes and Laurie



Nimbus

What to See in Canada

The very first panel of the day turned into a lively history lesson and Q&A session. The panelists Gillian Clinton, Robert J. Sawyer, and Tommy Kucera answered questions covering a broad range of topics such as:

Twenty-five percents of Canadians who live in Canada and fifty percent of Canadians in Toronto all came from other places.

The pros and cons of Canadian foods such as bison, pemmican, poutine, and indigenous restaurants were discussed.

Places to visit include: the Winnipeg Fringe Festival (on until the 30th), the Forks, Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Manitoba Museum, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and the new Canadian Museum of Human Rights.

Quebec language laws do not allow apostrophes so you will see Tim Hortons not Tim Horton's. MacDonald's and other fast food restaurants get around this by using a maple leaf in place of their apostrophes. In addition, all Quebec signs must be in French so you will see PFK, (Poulet Frit Kentucky) in lieu of KFC on your favourite chicken fast food establishment sign.

Canada has two seasons: winter and road work.

Overheard at the Convention

"So were they any good?"

"I don't know, I didn't go. But I heard they did a full set and three encores, so probably."

The Continuous Urban Bean

Got late night cravings? Urban Bean in the Delta Hotel is open 24/7 with drinks, coffee, chips, candy and light snacks!

Winnipeg Art Gallery – Qaumajuq

With a stunning array of collections with a focus on Canadian artists, the Winnipeg Art Gallery has been a fixed point of the local arts community since 1971 – a sister site to the Centennial Concert Hall and the Manitoba Museum. However, in 2021 a bold new facility opened on the campus grounds – Qaumajuq – displaying the world's largest collection of historical and contemporary Inuit art. The new facility is integrated directly with the existing building on all floors, allowing visitors to transition back and forth as they wish. The museums are open 11 AM – 5 PM Tuesday to Sunday. Admission is \$18. A café on-site serves light lunch and snack fare.

The Moose Writes Back

I was dismayed to read in *Mooseletter* #0 that Pemmi-Con is using MooseJourney and MooseGPT software instead of employing members of the moose community. Ever since the swamps around Winnipeg, prime moose habitat, were drained, moose have depended on the gig economy to get by. Acting in wildlife movies is not lucrative, but it kept us alive. Now these jobs are going away because of software. Without our images and voices, the software could only generate silly cartoons. (About which, the less said, the better.) We assert our rights to our performances and demand appropriate compensation. It is also concerning that name of the convention is a play on "pemmican," a food made from moose. The moose community takes this very seriously.

— Robert the Moose, Representative,
Wildlife Guild of America, Local 204

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