



Corflu 23 IS HAPPENING 5–8 May in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in the centrally-located Comfort Hotel Downtown. The Corflu hotel is at 15 Charles St. E., two blocks from the city's main intersection, Bloor Street and Yonge Street. Bloor and Yonge is also the intersection of the Toronto Transit Commission's two main subway lines. Getting to the con hotel from Pearson International Airport or Union Station is easy. There are lots of restaurants and shops in the very walkable vicinity.

HOTEL

Room rates are CDN\$118 [approximately US\$104] per night [King \$128, Suite \$189], single or double occupancy. Additional guests are \$10 each. Prices do not include 15% taxes. Smoking and non-smoking rooms are available. These rates are available to Corflu members before and after the convention weekend as well as for the Friday and Saturday nights of the convention. Free wireless Internet access is available in guest rooms and function space. Underground parking is available to hotel guests (including in and out privileges) on a first come/first served basis at the cost of \$17 per day plus 15% taxes.

Reserve your room either by calling the hotel at (416) 924-1222 or emailing sales@comforthoteltoronto.com and mentioning Corflu or our account number, 102798. For hotel information only, visit <http://www.choicehotels.com/hotel/CN228> (the Corflu rate is not available through the website).

HOTEL BOOKING DEADLINE

The room block expires April 4.

MEMBERSHIP

Full: US\$50, CDN\$60, AUD\$70, or £25.

Supporting: US\$15, CDN\$15, AUD\$25, or £10.

Payment: Cheques or money orders in US\$ or CDN\$ payable to 'Colin Hinz'. For fans from countries with other currencies, we'll help you avoid currency hassles by allowing you to pre-register without sending payment. You'll pay at the door, but at the pre-registration rate. Alternatively, on-line payments in any currency may be made through PayPal at this e-mail address: asfi@eol.ca and payments funded by credit card are welcome.

The at-the-door membership rate may be higher. Due to the vagaries of international mail, we recommend mailing payments no later than 10 April 2006. Payments by PayPal may be made until 1 May 2006.

PUBLICATIONS

Toronto's own Taral writes as well as draws. Corflu 23 members will receive a mimeographed copy of the Taral fanthology, Old Toys. Also, Corflu 23 is reissuing, on CD-ROM, the essential fanthology of Toronto fanwriters through the decades, TORONTO THE GHOD. There will also be a one-shot produced throughout the con, read on for details.

ACTIVITIES

Programming

We're hosting a Fan Fund auction, so if you've got fanzines, books, or "tat" (as the British describe it) to donate, please do so. We're also planning an on-stencil art demo/workshop, and luckily we've got a complete supply of the necessary museum pieces lined up, so all we'd like from you is your enthusiastic participation. We'd like to present a slideshow of faanish historica, though this being the 21st Century it's more likely we'll present pre-digitized slides using a computer and video projector. If you've got images you think would be of interest to others, please get in touch!

There's room in the schedule for more, so we're open to suggestions.

We're serious about honouring the Corflu tradition of a sports game on Sunday afternoon. A game of curling was suggested to us, but alas all of the rinks are closed by May. Bowling has also been suggested, though the nearest bowling alley is a long commute away. Which brings us to baseball, which can be played conveniently nearby and won't cost much for permit fees, but we lack the gear. We've got a few chewed-up old bats and that's it. So if baseball is to happen, we need someone to volunteer to round up the equipment from wherever it comes from. We could always resort to knurdling, though that seems more like an evening "sport" event.

Throughout the con, we'll have a computer set up for contributions to the one-shot. It will be illustrated by the results of the on-stencil art workshop, naturally enough. We'll have a proper Gestetner set-up (electrostenciller and 360 duplicator) so unless you're heading home early you'll have a chance to leave the con with some weekend fanac in your hands.

Pre- and Post-con Activities

On the first Thursday evening of each month, there's a fannish "pub night" gathering at a downtown watering hole. Presently, the pub location is a short walk from the Quality Hotel, but since the First Thursday's been known to move around on short notice, it's best to check with us regarding the location. As First Thursday often winds down by the unfannish hour of 10pm, we're planning on hosting an "afterparty" though we haven't yet sorted out the location. Again, check with us if you're getting in by Thursday.

Friday afternoon will be spent on a walking tour of some "local interest" sights. Possibilities are: Kensington Market, a functioning marketplace (and not a touristy 'village') since the late 19th Century [history, architecture, shopping, café ambience]; the Don Valley Brick Works, a decommissioned industrial site which is now a semi-naturalized park with wetlands and much fossil shale [nature walk]; the Distillery District, the former Victorian-era Gooderham and Worts site which has been preserved as a touristy arts village [history, architecture]; also a possibility is a visit to the Toronto Public Library's Merrill Collection [pulp, books, fanzines, sensawunda]. Looking for something else entirely? Suggest it and we'll see if it's available.

If you're around after the con, so are we. Jaunts to local museums, galleries and other venues are a definite possibility.

TYPOGRAPHICAL TRIVIA

This household is home to approximately 82 lettering guides, of the sort once commonly used to cut wax mimeo stencils. The chief brands are Gestetner, Speed-O-Print, A. B. Dick, and Heyer. The fonts can be roughly categorized and inventoried as:

Old English:	11	Italic:	4	Shadow:	14	Outline:	9
Script:	14	Serif:	8	Plain Sans-Serif:	17	Misc.:	5

I'm guessing that the popularity of Old English fonts was influenced by mimeography for churches and schools. What do you think? Your comments, please.

TRAVEL

Entering and Leaving Canada: Americans

U.S. citizens do not require passports or visas to travel to Canada. However, they must produce sufficient documentation to establish their identity and citizenship. The following documents are proof of U.S. citizenship; documents that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by supporting government-issued photo identification such as a driver's license:

- U.S. Passport (expired is OK)
- U.S. Certificate of Citizenship

- U.S. Certificate of Naturalization
- U.S. Certification of Birth Abroad or Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- U.S. birth certificate

(Adds Jim Caughran: “In practice, it’s my experience that the border guards are more interested in things to charge duty on than being strict about identification. Canada wants tourists.” And adds Colin: “But do you want to test the humour of the BHS when returning home?”) U.S. permanent residents who are not citizens should bring proof of permanent residence. While the U.S. will require passports from just about everyone starting Jan. 1, 2007 (air or sea travel) or 2008 (land travel), until then U.S. citizens do not require a passport to re-enter the U.S.

Entering Canada from the U.K.

British Citizens and British Overseas Citizens who are readmissible to the United Kingdom do not require visas.

GETTING TO THE CORFLU HOTEL

By Jim Caughran, on behalf of co-chairs Catherine Crockett & Colin Hinz, plus Janet Carrington, Mike Glicksohn, Hope Leibowitz, Murray Moore, Lloyd Penney, Taral, Janet Wilson, and Paul Wilson.

Las Vegas has nothing on Toronto fandom.

Here we are, all brilliant and ready to pub our ish. We’ve been ready for three hours, in fact, sitting around a table and talking about restaurants and gossiping about fans.

So here we are, ready to pub our ish. We’re at least as ready to put on Corflu. There’s a hotel. There are program ideas. There is Toronto’s First Thursday, the evening before Corflu begins.

So make your travel plans now. Act without thinking.

Public Transit from the Airport

It’s easy to get to the con hotel by public transit from the airport. There is an express bus to the subway, though don’t expect good signage for finding the bus stop—the Greater Toronto Airport Authority has a pretty lukewarm attitude towards the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). At Terminal 1, the bus stop is on the Ground Level (below Arrivals) near Entrance R. At Terminal 2, the bus stop is on the Arrivals Level, inner roadway at Pillar #17. At Terminal 3, the bus stop is on the Arrivals Level, outer roadway between Pillars C8 and C12. (If you don’t have this information with you when you arrive, there’s no need to panic. The staff at the information kiosks can point you in the right direction.)

It’s a 20 minute bus ride to the subway, at Kipling Station. From here, board any train (they’re all heading eastbound) and about 30 minutes later you’ll be at the Bloor—Yonge Station. All this for CDN\$2.75. The bus driver cannot make change, so buy a coffee if you have to break a large bill.

When you exit the train at Bloor—Yonge Station, take any of the stairs/escalators/elevators that go up to the Yonge line platforms. (Don’t take the stairs/escalator signed “Yonge St. East Side” unless you want the scenic route.) When you’re there, walk the entire length of the platform to the stairs/escalator/elevator that take you to the turnstile level. Exit the double doors, and keep left, to the Hayden St. exit. Across the street is a parking garage, and you’ll take the ‘Walkway to Charles St.’ (as signed). Once you’re through the walkway you’ll be right in front of the hotel.

Public Transit from Union Station

Follow the signs to the Subway. Take a Yonge train (“Northbound to Finch Station”) to the Bloor—Yonge Station. To get to the hotel, follow the paragraph above save for the first step, as you’re already on the Yonge line platform.

Driving Directions

If you are approaching Toronto from the west, follow the Queen Elizabeth Way (which all the locals refer to as “The QEW”) into Toronto. It will eventually turn into the Gardiner Expressway. Take the Jarvis St. exit and bear left onto the Jarvis St. North ramp. Turn left at Lower Jarvis St (which turns into Jarvis St. after a few blocks) and go 1.8 miles to Charles St E. Turn left and go 0.3 miles to the hotel.

If you're driving from eastern Ontario, follow Hwy 401 to the Don Valley Parkway. Take the Bayview/Bloor exit and follow the signs to Bloor St. Turn right onto Bloor St. Go 0.6 miles to Jarvis St. and turn left. Go 0.1 miles to Charles St. E. and turn right. Go 0.3 miles and you're at the hotel.

We've checked the directions provided by both Google Maps and Mapquest and they're sane.

PARKING INFORMATION

There is a municipal parking garage across the street from the hotel. Rates are \$1.50 per half hour, with daytime (7am to 6pm) maximums of \$10 and evening/night (6pm to 7am) maximums of \$5. There are no in/out privileges. Alternatively, if you're willing to park a short subway commute from the hotel, we can set you up with a "Temporary Parking Permit" which allows you unlimited parking on the residential streets in the con-chairs' neighbourhood. This costs \$15 for an entire week, but needs to be arranged in advance. Contact us by April 22 if you're interested.

The TTC has a number of commuter parking lots, but overnight parking is prohibited. Thus, this wouldn't be useful for out-of-town visitors.

YOUR FIRST CORFLU? By Hope Leibowitz.

Unlike Ted White, I have not been to every Corflu. That might be only a result of having missed the very first Corflu. And the second Corflu. And maybe the third. So I made Ditto my never-to-miss con.

But in spite of never having pubbed my ish, Corflu and Ditto are my two favourite conventions. They are small and friendly, as everyone fits into the con suite at most times except for some of the larger Corflus. And usually at any time some people are in their rooms or out for a meal.

Programming items can arise spontaneously to fill a gap as a group of fans suddenly start discussing a topic and everyone nearby puts in their two cents.

Dinner expeditions occur less spontaneously as people discuss the possibilities endlessly until hunger drives a sudden decision. Sometimes there are groups that suddenly get tired of the discussion and go off somewhere, only to find the rest of the fans in the same place an hour later.

And there always are a few locals who are not fanzine fans but who are interesting people anyway, and who add some local colour.

So if you have not been to a Corflu, you should have a good time and meet a few new people.

UPDATES

We'll be posting them to the official Corflu website which is at www.corflu.org. If we have urgent news, we'll be e-mailing or calling the attending members.

MEMBERS

A Don Anderson
A Sue Anderson
A Randy Byers
S Allyn Cadogan
A Catherine Crockett
A Moshe Feder
A Christopher Garcia
A Mike Glicksohn

A Colin Hinz
S Jerry Kaufman
S Robert Lichtman
A Eric Lindsay
A Frank Lunney
A Murray Moore
A Lloyd Penney
A Andy Porter

A Yvonne Rowse
A Ian Sorensen
S Suzanne Tompkins
A Jean Weber
A Ted White
A Art Widner
A Cathi Wilson
A Ben Wilson

This has been **TWENTY-THREE SKIDOO #1**, published as a progress report and information blatherfest for Corflu 23. The con Co-chairs are Catherine Crockett and Colin Hinz. We're reachable at 148 Howland Ave., Toronto, ON, Canada, M5R 3B5; by phone at (416)516-3571 (Catherine) or (416)516-8686 (Colin), or by Internet at asfi@eol.ca (Colin) and crockett@eol.ca (Catherine), and please send to both. ASFi Editions ASFi:F01V:102