

# Laval's "Wonder Woman" Paola Rojas a star at Montreal Comiccon



**Mike Cohen**

For years I have read and heard about Montreal Comiccon, a pop-culture fan convention that showcases artists and products from entertainment genres like Sci-fi, Horror, Anime, Gaming in all its forms, and, of course, comic books.

For the 2014 edition at the Palais des congrès I decided to go check it out myself. There is a true "wow" factor when you first walk in, see the massive crowds, exhibits and people dressed up like their favorite comic book characters. There were no shortage of celebrities, with the likes of Hulk Hogan (wrestler), George A. Romero (*Night of The Living Dead*), Matt Smith (*Doctor Who*), Billy Boyd (*Lord of the Rings*) Carl Weathers (*Rocky*) Danny Glover (*Lethal Weapon*), Patrick Stewart and Jonathan Frakes (*Star Trek the Next Generation*), Julie Benz (*Dexter*), Stephen Amell and Katie Cassidy (*Arrow*), Lena Heady (*Game of Thrones*), Robert Englund (*Nightmare on Elm Street*) and Traci Lords (*Zack and Miri*). To get an autograph or photo of any of these stars you must line up and pay \$40 and up.

As I walked through the exhibit hall I saw so many interesting average folks in elaborate attire. One such individual was



Paola Rojas (left) strikes a pose with some friends.

the gorgeous Paola Rojas, a 22-year old resident of Laval who works part-time at the Cinéma Colossus. She loves attending these conventions and on this occasion she was dressed up as super heroine Wonder Woman. Every second person asked if she would stop and pose for a picture.

"The only 'pose' people asked me for

was to make it look like I was cutting their throat with my sword, which I kind of found funny since it made me look more like a villain than a heroine," Paola stated. "I love cosplay."

"Cosplay?" I asked myself. "What is cosplay?"

Well I learned a new word over the weekend as cosplay is short for costume

play, a performance art in which participants called cosplayers wear costumes and fashion accessories to represent a specific character or idea that is usually identified with a unique name. Cosplayers often interact to create a subculture centered on role play.

As for Wonder Woman, Paola said: "She has been my favorite heroine in the DC universe since I was little. I chose the version of injustice because it looks really awesome and I found it interesting that it is different from the typical design she's used to."

While Paola, boyfriend Cedrik and some friends spent all three days last weekend at Comiccon along with countless thousands of others, she has also been to Otakuthon for the last eight years. This is Quebec's largest fan-run festival promoting Japanese animation (anime), Japanese graphic novels (manga), related gaming and Japanese pop-culture. Last summer she travelled to Gatineau for G-Anime, another convention focusing on Japanese animation.

For Paola, this all remains a fun hobby. She will return to school in the winter and study to become a makeup artist.

*Have something to share? Email me at [mcohen@thesuburban.com](mailto:mcohen@thesuburban.com) or leave a message at 514-484-9203, ext. 307. Follow me at on Twitter @mikecohencl and at <http://blog.thesuburban.com>.*

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