

FELLOWSHIP AWARD – ROBYN FORET

The award of *Fellow of the RASC (FRASC)* is created to acknowledge the work of long-serving members. It recognizes those outstanding members who have made extraordinary contributions to the Society over the long term, much of which service has been rendered at the national level.

This is a major, and senior, national award. It is intended to be the Society's most senior award and the highest honour the Society can pay to a member.

Robyn Foret first made a significant mark in the Calgary Centre in 2000 by becoming a key volunteer at the weekly Friday night public stargazing sessions held on the observing deck at the Science Centre. In 2003 he took on the role of volunteer coordinator for the observing deck and morphed it into volunteer coordinator for all public outreach events, a role he continues to this day. Robyn signed on in 2001 as one of the 'instructors' of the Youth Group.

Robyn was not only the overall coordinator and host for Calgary-hosted RASC General Assembly 2018 planning Committee, he hosted organizing meetings at his work office and arranged for the famous Calgary Stampede Pancake Breakfast Team to provide a true 'western' welcome for delegates.

Robyn worked to get an Alberta Government gaming license to participate in the public casinos run by provincial not-for-profit organizations. Each casino has allowed the Calgary Centre to earn thousands of dollars for honoraria for public speakers, purchasing equipment for public outreach and, most significantly, for a new public observatory within the City of Calgary. Robyn has done almost all the legwork to win support from the City, choose a location, hire a team to design the building and lobby the provincial government and donors to bring this project forward.

Robyn has been awarded the Calgary Centre's President Award for meritorious service twice, in 2011 and 2017. He also garnered a RASC National Service Award in 2019. Robyn has been the President of the Calgary Centre twice, in 2014-2016 and in the current term (2023-2025). He has served in other roles on the Calgary Centre executive.

At the National level, Robyn Served as Chair of the Education and Public Outreach Committee before joining the Board of Directors in 2014. In eight years on the Board, he served on various committees and as first and second vice-president before serving as National President in 2020 to 2022. During those two years, the Society faced numerous challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, including staff changes and the need to move the National Office. During that time, Robyn took on the job of managing production of the RASC's Night Sky Almanac, a role he continues to the present day.

Nominated by: Roland Deschesne, Dr. Chris Gainor