



THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA, LONDON CENTRE

LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

2003 Service Award Citation

I would like to recommend Dave McCarter of the London Centre for the service award. Mr. McCarter has been interested in astronomy since he was a kid in Halifax, but did not join the society until 1994, at which time he joined the London Centre.

Shortly after joining Mr. McCarter became active in the centre as both an observer and our observers group chairman. Mr. McCarter has been a particularly active and inspiring leader in this area, and has taken our observing activities from almost non-existent to a large, active group of observers in an extremely short period of time. This is quite an accomplishment considering most members at the time Mr. McCarter joined were "armchair astronomers".

Mr. McCarter has since served, as Vice President and the chair of the amateur telescope makers, as well as being our current President, while retaining his Observers Group Chair status. Mr. McCarter has also put in his fair share of time as a "web page slave".

Mr. McCarter has also inspired a great increase in public star nights, including a semi-annual public star night at the Pinery Provincial Park. Public star nights are also carried on at Rondeau Provincial Park and various locations around London, and annually at Algonquin Provincial Park on his holidays. Mr. McCarter did a superb job as president through our recent holding of the GA, not the easiest task in the world.

At the moment, Mr. McCarter is working hard at getting an observatory finished at a local members farm to the North of London. He, with the help of others, is also pursuing a second observatory site at Fingal Wildlife Management Area. In his spare time Mr. McCarter grinds mirrors as well.

So far, Mr. McCarter has been awarded the London Centre 1997 amateur of the year award. He has also earned a Messier certificate in 1995, and a membership certificate in 2001.

Mr. McCarter's many accomplishments and spirited drive have greatly boosted both the number of memberships that we have in the London Centre, and more importantly, greatly increased the fun had by all. It is my humble opinion that Dave McCarter is very deserving of this award.

Submitted by London Centre executive