

2010 Award Citations

- **Service Award, Bryan Kelso** (Okanagan Centre)
- **Service Award, Guy Mackie** (Okanagan Centre)
- **Service Award, Barry Matthews** (Ottawa Centre)
- **Service Award, Curt Nason** (New Brunswick Centre)
- **Service Award, James Tisdale** (Okanagan Centre)

Service Award, Bryan Kelso (Okanagan Centre)

Bryan Kelso served the Vancouver Centre as Treasurer, and then served for many years as the Okanagan Centre's Treasurer. He wrote both Centre's bylaws, a major chore requiring a great deal of attention to detail. He served as the Okanagan Centre's National Council Representative in 2005-07, and has served on the national Finance Committee. He continues to serve on Okanagan Centre's Council, and is chairman of a committee about to begin a review of the Centre's bylaws. He has handled purchases and sales of national RASC merchandise in Kelowna and Vernon for many years; attends outreach events in the Vernon area; and is an occasional speaker at meetings in both Vernon and Kelowna. Bryan and his wife Verna have hosted travelling speakers from elsewhere in Canada in Vernon. He was a significant member of the organizing committee for the 2005 General Assembly, and he was heavily involved in the design of the buildings at the Okanagan Observatory.

Service Award, Guy Mackie (Okanagan Centre)

Guy Mackie served a three-year term as President of the Okanagan Centre during which time he shaped the Centre into its present structure; several terms as vice-president, both before and after being president; and he has mentored, reminded, and pushed succeeding presidents. He obtained speakers for monthly meetings in Kelowna for many years, and has been a frequent speaker himself. Guy founded the Centre's hugely successful outreach program in 2001 (see the Journal front cover image and article in the April 2002 issue), administered that program through 2005, and mentored the 2009 outreach director. Guy still participates in the majority of the Centre's outreach events (the Centre held 130 outreach events in 2009). Guy has led an astronomy discussion group within the Society for Learning in Retirement for a great many years. In addition to his several articles in the Journal, he has been published in Sky&Telescope and Night Sky magazines, and he is one of the most accomplished visual observers and sketchers in Canada. Guy has been on the Mount Kobau Star Party (MKSP) organizing committee and obtained the door prizes for that annual event for at least a decade; he concurrently served as MKSP registrar for several years; and he concurrently served as the registrar at the 2005 RASC General Assembly. He started and has operated the Centre's telescope rental program (at first using his own telescopes) for about a decade. Mr. Mackie is the Director of the Centre's new Okanagan Observatory, an extremely ambitious project involving 15 hectares of land leased from the province in the mountains east of Kelowna, several buildings (most still to be constructed), several telescopes including a just-finished 25-inch Newtonian, and coordination with other agencies including professional astronomers at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus.

Service Award, Barry Matthews (Ottawa Centre)

Barry Matthews has been a RASC member in good standing for the better part of four decades. He has occupied various roles in the Society - local, national, official, and even un-official - at times heading endeavours, but more often labouring cooperatively in the background to further our organization, which he sees as integral to Canadian astronomy in a changing world. Barry has never pursued his astronomical interests through the RASC to become a 'primary' eclipsing others in his avocation.

Barry's most widely-known service to the RASC was his pivotal role in the early 1970s in reviving the then-nearly-defunct Halifax Centre (Broughton, Looking Up 1994, 245). Prof. Fr. Burke-Gaffney, S.J., a key figure in the original founding of the Halifax Centre in 1955, was always happy to acknowledge Barry's leadership in re-establishing what is now one of the most vital centres of the RASC. Barry also had a hand in the Centre's then-newsletter. He was very much 'the right man at the right time.' One of the young amateurs attending the initial meeting to revive the Halifax Centre was an Acadia student named David H. Levy.

Due to career demands, Barry had to relocate back to Ottawa soon after his work in Halifax, and while a member of the Ottawa Centre he was a regional news editor (late 1970s to the early 1980s) of the National Newsletter (predecessor to the current eBulletin), and frequently served as an Ottawa Centre Representative on National Council. At the Centre level Barry functioned as Recorder, Librarian, Lunar and Solar co-ordinator, and Centre councillor. Apart from fulfilling his 'titled' duties, he also acted as a mentor to many of the younger Ottawa Centre members, giving them observing advice, answering questions on making and adapting equipment, and encouraging and materially supporting their astronomical projects - notably, Ken Hewitt-White's 1970s DSO guide 'A Midsummer-Night's Dream.'

Barry gave early encouragement to a prominent and innovative Canadian professional telescope maker who now enjoys a world-wide reputation. Barry's mentoring was at least as important as anything he did while wearing an official hat. A fine example of Barry's toiling quietly in the background to ensure the success of a cooperative venture, was his work on the indexing of the Ottawa Centre's library. The project was Stan Mott's, but due to Stan's increasingly poor health, Barry and his late first wife took on and finished the actual work.

After a career in the Canadian Navy, and then a civilian telecommunications career, Barry successfully 're-tooled' himself as a scientific optician, with a large practice maintaining, servicing, and making optical scientific equipment for government, university, college, and school labs throughout Eastern and Northern Ontario and Western Quebec, as well as for private observatories. He is well-known for providing ATM advice gratis to amateurs, and he was able to put his professional experience to good use when helping to fashion the Ottawa Centre's two 40cm mirrors.

Latterly, Barry has been the chair of the Society's History Committee. Under his genial aegis, the former Library and Historical Committees were successfully amalgamated, a long-sought solution was found to ensure the preservation of the RASC library at the Canada Science and Technology Museum, and the formation of a RASC Rare Book Collection within the RASC Archives at National Office. The successful exhibition of historical astronomical art drawn from the RASC Archives, 'Astronomical Art and Artifact,' which premièred at the 2008 GA, and has travelled to numerous Centres, could

not have been curated, catalogued, and mounted without Barry's support of those who worked to make it a reality. Kingston Centre's Walter MacDonald's excellent work digitizing the Society's historical publications was initiated under Barry's watch, and has continued. Finally, Barry was one of the prime movers in the creation of the History Committee office of RASC Archivist.

Barry's commitment to amateur astronomy, although chiefly manifested through his RASC involvement, is not confined to our Society. He has been a member of the Lunar and Double-Star sections of the British Astronomical Association, the Herschel Society, the Webb Society, the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, and the Antique Telescope Society. As an observer Barry's tastes are wide, but his most systematic work and first love is in double stars, and selenology, both befitting someone with an interest in the history of astronomy.

Service Award, Curt Nason (New Brunswick Centre)

Curt Nason has been the mainstay of the New Brunswick Centre as well as the Saint John Astronomy Club. Curt developed an interest in astronomy as a youth, looking at the night skies in the pitch-black darkness in McAdam, New Brunswick. His interest was rekindled at St. Mary's University in Halifax, where he took courses in astronomy and astrophysics.

Curt was a member of the original group, who in 1999, met to strategize the process of applying for a RASC Centre in New Brunswick. Curt was also instrumental in the development of its By-laws. He has been involved in the growth and development of the Centre since its inception in 2000 as the Moncton Centre - representing all New Brunswick RASC members. It was later renamed the New Brunswick Centre. He has held the position of 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, councillor and was editor of the Centre's newsletter 'Horizon' from the first year of the Centre in 2000, a position he held until 2007. Whether as part of the Centre executive or in the background, Curt has been influential in the advancement of the New Brunswick Centre. His knowledge of the By-laws & history of the RASC, as well as astronomy, has enabled him to provide sage advice and a wealth of expertise to the business of the Centre and to its members. He has never hesitated to volunteer to give presentations or for various tasks and activities to help grow the Centre and members' knowledge - being able to make the most complex topics something all members can comprehend and appreciate. He has been a consistent, dependable and valued member of the Centre. Curt encourages people interested in astronomy to join RASC, where they will have the opportunity to learn and meet others who share their interest.

For the past twelve years (1998-2010), Curt has submitted the 'Astrocryptic' for the journal, providing both frustration and fun for RASC members. In addition, he produced 50 science-related cryptics, called 'Puzzled by Science?', for another organization. He has written innumerable articles for the Centre's newsletter since 2000, as well as writing a monthly column for the province's daily newspaper (The Telegraph Journal), and has been a font of information when interviewed by the media on astronomical topics and events. Curt also summarizes the monthly astronomy highlights in a calendar format and shares it with anyone interested in astronomy. This has always assisted in 'What's Up' presentations as well as kept members aware of key events each month. In 2009, Curt was the IYA representative for New Brunswick and was diligent in

encouraging members to develop activities and events. He kept all members apprised of IYA status locally and at the national level and engaged local city leads to work as a team to support IYA marketing and initiatives. He set an example for 'bringing astronomy to the people' - including always having his telescope in his car to take to work and setting up his equipment at many stores & malls to engage the public with ad hoc sidewalk astronomy events. Curt has inspired many members to be more involved with public outreach. He has himself contributed an enormous amount of personal time to public observing during 2009, bringing the mystery of the heavens a little closer to the general public.

Curt has spent a significant amount of time since 2000, with public outreach, presentations and speaking at public events, at schools, to service clubs, various local adult and youth clubs, the New Brunswick Museum, provincial and national park activities, including arranging for public observing sessions at the local nature park - anytime, anywhere and everywhere there is an interest. Since 2003, he has taught basic astronomy courses at the local New Brunswick Community College. Curt is also the backbone of the local Saint John Astronomy Club - giving presentations, organizing and planning activities and the business of the club. Curt believes that bringing the basics of astronomy to people is the foundation of kindling an interest in the science. His perspective is "provide the opportunity and they will come," and so his focus is on observing & allowing everyone time at the eyepiece. After so many years, he says he still gets a thrill on hearing the oohs and aahs when someone experiences their first view of the night sky.

Curt has a passion for astronomy. His commitment to it as well as sharing it with others is absolute. Curt has given much of himself for the advancement of astronomy at the local and provincial level. He is a deserving candidate for the RASC Service Award.

Service Award, James Tisdale (Okanagan Centre)

James Tisdale was a founding member of the Okanagan Centre's predecessor club in 1980 and has been an active participant in all of its activities for 30 years, including regular participation in outreach events and being an occasional main speaker at Kelowna meetings. For many years Jim and his wife Bitten have hosted most of the visiting speakers and national presidents from elsewhere in Canada. He was the Centre's National Council Representative in 2000-2002 and served on the national Awards Committee then, and for years afterwards. Jim was the Chairman of the 2005 General Assembly held at the Okanagan Centre, and he hosted and chaired monthly meetings of the organizing committee for two years preceding the GA. His efforts resulted in what Bonnie Bird declared to have been 'one of the best GAs' (and it was one of the first GAs that generated a profit turned over to the national RASC's finances). He chaired the Okanagan Observatory project's site selection and then land acquisition committee, which involved endless negotiations with two levels of government bureaucracy, both provincial and regional district (equivalent to a county in other provinces). He donated a 5-inch Astrophysics apochromatic refractor to the Okanagan Observatory. Dr. Jim Tisdale served as Okanagan Centre President in 2007 and 2008, and remains on the Centre council.