

SIMON NEWCOMB AWARD – DR. CHRIS GAINOR

The Simon Newcomb Award is intended to encourage members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to write on the topic of astronomy for the Society or the general public, and to recognize the best published works through an annual award.

Dr. Chris Gainor FRASC Ph.D has long been a supporter and close follower of the Canadian and international space programs. As a historian, he has written several books and articles about various aspects of the exploration of space.

His first book was *Arrows to the Moon: Avro's Engineers and the Space Race*. This book is a thorough look at how Canadian engineers supported the Apollo manned lunar landing program. In 1959, when the Avro Arrow program was cancelled, NASA hired over 30 Avro Arrow engineers and moved them to Virginia. They ultimately worked on the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs.

Chris has written several important articles on the history of space exploration. He is currently the Editor of *QUEST: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly*. This excellent publication features in-depth articles on the history of the space program.

The fact that NASA hired Dr. Gainor to write a book about the history of the Hubble Space Telescope—*Not Yet Imagined: A Study of Hubble Space Telescope Operations*—clearly demonstrates that Chris has the respect of a space historian.

In addition, he has written numerous other books:

Canada in Space: The People & Stories Behind Canada's Role in the Exploration of Space (2006)

Who killed the Avro Arrow? (2007)

To a Distant Day: The Rocket Pioneers (2008)

The Bomb and America's Missile Age (2018)

From the *RASC Journal*:

Amateur Astronomers and the *Hubble Space Telescope* (2021)

Apollo Geological Training in Canada, 1970–1972 (2022)

The Apollo 11 Astronauts Visit Canada (2022)

Canadian Visits of Early Spacefarers (2022)

The Canadian Astronomy Data Centre: Canadian Astronomy and the Beginnings of Big Data (2023)

For all of the above, and especially for the book *Not Yet Imagined*, we believe Dr. Chris Gainor is most deserving of the Simon Newcomb Award 2024.

Nominated by: J. Randy Attwood, FRASC James Edgar, FRASC