



THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA



ANNUAL REPORT
RAPPORT ANNUEL

2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Council	3
President's Message	4
Secretary's Message	5
Treasurer's Report	6
Auditor's Report	7
Annual Meeting Minutes—2006	12
Annual Reports from the Centres	15
Centre Treasurers' Reports for Fiscal Year—2006	38
Officers and Councils of the Centres—2007	41
2006 Award Winners	46

Edited by Bonnie Bird
Proofread by James Edgar
Layout and design by Catherine Berry

Front Cover Photograph

*Perseus rising through light pollution from Ottawa in NNE, 90 km away.
Robert Dick's Observatory, Rideau Ferry, ON, May 27, 2006*

—Photo by Robert Dick

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA—2007

RASC Web Site: www.rasc.ca
RASC eStore: www.store.rasc.ca
National Office: 136 Dupont Street, Toronto ON M5R 1V2, Canada
Phone: (416) 924-7973 Fax: (416) 924-2911
Email: nationaloffice@rasc.ca
Office hours: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Executive Secretary: Bonnie Bird nationaloffice@rasc.ca
Membership & Promotion Co-ordinator: Jo Taylor mempub@rasc.ca

Officers

Honorary President:	Dr. Robert Garrison	
President:	Scott Young	scyoung@manitobamuseum.ca
First Vice-President:	David Lane	dlane@ap.stmarys.ca
Second Vice-President:	Mary Lou Whitehorne	mlwhitehorne@hfx.eastlink.ca
Secretary / Recorder:	James Edgar	jamesedgar@sasktel.net
Treasurer:	David Clark	davidclark@rogers.com
Past President:	Peter Jedicke	pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca
<i>Journal</i> Editor:	Jay Anderson	editor@rasc.ca
<i>Observer's Handbook</i> Editor:	Patrick Kelly	patrick.kelly@dal.ca
<i>Beginner's Observing Guide</i> Editor:	Leo Enright	tcorbor@frontenac.net
<i>Observer's Calendar</i> Editor:	David Lane	dlane@ap.stmarys.ca
Librarian:	Dr. Robert Garrison	garrison@astro.utoronto.ca

2006 - 2007 Committees

Awards:	Peter Jedicke	pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca
Constitution:	Randy Attwood	randy.attwood@rogers.com
Education:	Garry Dymond	gdymond@nl.rogers.com
Executive:	Scott Young	scyoung@manitobamuseum.ca
Finance:	David Clark	davidclark@rogers.com
Historical:	Barry Matthews	opticks@sympatico.ca
Information Technology:	David Lane	dlane@ap.stmarys.ca
Light-Pollution Abatement:	Robert Dick	rdick@ccs.carleton.ca
Membership and Promotion:	Denis Grey	denis.grey@sympatico.ca
Nominating:	Peter Jedicke	pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca
Observing:	Chris Fleming	chrisfleming1@sympatico.ca
Publications:	David Lane	dlane@ap.stmarys.ca

Centre Representatives on Council

Belleville Centre:	Donald Town	Ottawa Centre:	Debra Ceravolo
Calgary Centre:	Dean Huxley	Ottawa Centre:	Robert Dick
Calgary Centre:	Susan Yeo	Prince George:	Alan Whitman
Charlottetown Centre:	Garth Arseneault	Québec Centre:	Pierre Desrosiers
Edmonton Centre:	Roy Ramdeen	Regina Centre:	Vacant
Edmonton Centre:	Patrick Earl	Sarnia Centre:	Richard Weatherston
Halifax Centre:	Pat Kelly	Saskatoon Centre:	Les Dickson
Hamilton Centre:	Roger Hill	St. John's Centre:	Doug Grouchy
Kingston Centre:	John Hurley	Thunder Bay Centre:	Dave Gallant
Kitchener-Waterloo Centre:	Christopher Beckett	Toronto Centre:	Cathy Carr
London Centre:	Gary Hinks	Toronto Centre:	Charles Darrow
Centre Francophone de Montréal:	Patrice Scattolin	Toronto Centre:	Geoff Gilmour-Taylor
Mississauga Centre:	Ian McGregor	Toronto Centre:	Tony Horvatin
Montréal Centre:	Mina Reyes	Vancouver Centre:	Doug Montgomery
New Brunswick Centre:	Paul Gray	Vancouver Centre:	Jason Rickerby
Niagara Centre:	Joe Otonicar	Victoria Centre:	David Lee
Okanagan Centre:	Bryan Kelso	Windsor Centre:	Tim Bennett
Ottawa Centre:	Gary Boyle	Winnipeg Centre:	Jennifer West

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Writing the President's Message for the Annual Report is one of the "perks" of this job. It's a chance to reflect on the Society over the last year and highlight some of the amazing accomplishments of our members. It's a daunting task, especially given the busy year 2006 was. Here goes...

The Society completed its 116th year in 2006, and the *Journal* of the RASC celebrated its 100th volume. Despite the long history and tradition we have built up, the Society has also been looking forward to the future, adapting to the changing environment and looking at new ways to accomplish our mandate: "the promotion of astronomy and allied sciences." Whether through its publications, through public celebrations of Astronomy Day, through Centre activities, or through the dozens of public telescope sessions held across the country every year, the RASC is keeping the tradition of amateur astronomy alive in Canada.

A new addition to the RASC family in 2006 was our 28th Centre—Mississauga. This group was born of the Mississauga Astronomical Society, boasts 75 members, and an active program of meetings and activities. I've visited Mississauga Centre a few times, as they tend to have meetings the night before a National Council meeting—very convenient!

During 2006 I managed to get out and visit several Centres. This is one of the true pleasures of the office—every Centre does things a little differently, and there's always something to learn. I hit Edmonton, Windsor, Toronto, and Mississauga Centres with a talk entitled, "Pluto versus the Ice Dwarves: Conflict at the Ragged Edge of the Solar System." Later in the year I managed a whirlwind tour of the mainland Maritimes, visiting Halifax, Charlottetown, and the Moncton (now New Brunswick) Centres. Along the way, I met many new friends and learned a lot about what these Centres are facing. There are some local issues, but many of the problems Centres are fighting are remarkably common: cloudy skies, light pollution, and waning numbers of volunteers. Yet I came away feeling that the RASC is as vibrant and exciting at the local level as it has been throughout my two decades as a member. If you ever need a boost of enthusiasm, visit a nearby Centre or come to the General Assembly, and you'll feel rejuvenated!

The Society made some significant changes in the way it does things in 2006. Perhaps the largest was the implementation of the "PED *Journal*," the combination Print-and-Electronically-Delivered *Journal* that allows members to receive the publication either in hard copy or electronically. While this was in part a response to deal with the high cost of printing the *Journal* and the high cost of membership services in general, it has also allowed the *Journal* to benefit from the advances of technology in the 100 years since the first *Journal* rolled off the presses.

Journal Editor Jay Anderson and rest of the *Journal* team have been doing some great work on the content side, and have made great strides in improving our Society's periodical, building on the hard work of previous editors. Our *Journal's* 100th volume contained a great mix of articles and columns, and I highly recommend the RASC *Journal* to anyone with an interest in astronomy in Canada — the print version is well worth the additional subscription fee!

The year 2006 was also good financially for the Society, after several years of deficit. We managed to post a surplus even though a deficit was forecast, after several previous deficit years. Some of this was due to effective cost-containment on the expense side, coupled

with higher-than-expected publication sales and some large donations. While it would be premature to say we're out of the woods completely, I think it's safe to say we're on the right path.

Also in 2006, Council managed to quantify an elusive number, almost as hard to pin down as the Hubble constant: the "cost of membership." This is the cost the Society incurs to provide a member with their membership benefits. While it sounds like it should be easy to determine, the cost of membership has been the bane of many Finance Committees. Some benefits are easy to quantify—every member gets an *Observer's Handbook*, so that cost is included. But where do things like staff salaries, liability insurance, and award costs go? After much debate, Council now has a number to work with: the "cost of membership" is about \$45 per member. Since the Society only collects \$33 per member, other revenues must cover the imbalance. In past years, the high publications revenues have subsidized this deficit, but as sales decline this becomes a losing proposition. The PED *Journal* helped stave off the issue for a year or two, but it will have to be dealt with eventually. This is work for next year.

In 2006 the Society presented Service Awards to three members for their outstanding contributions to the Society: Ted Bronson of the Thunder Bay Centre, Mark Kaye of the Hamilton Centre, and Kevin Kell of the Kingston Centre. Ed Madjen of the Victoria Centre was awarded the Chant Medal, and Dr. Warren Finlay of the Edmonton Centre was awarded the Simon Newcomb Award. These folks are the latest in a series of members whose accomplishments have been recognized by the Society through the awards program.

The 2006 General Assembly was hosted by the Ottawa Centre, and they did a great job of running the Society's annual convention. For me it was a particularly significant place to begin my term as President. Way back in 1990, when I was just a kid, I attended my first GA ever - in Ottawa. I had a great time, and realized that the RASC was even larger than the great group of folks in my home Centre of Winnipeg. I started coming to GAs, eventually joined National Council as Winnipeg Centre's rep, made friends all over the country, and eventually found myself writing the President's report for this year's annual report. (The stay in Ottawa was doubly significant from a personal perspective, since I got engaged at the National Art Gallery the day after the GA ended!)

The Society is a volunteer organization, and a lot of things we take for granted wouldn't happen without the time and dedication of a huge number of people. The national Executive puts in a lot of time running the day-to-day stuff and dealing with the (surprising number of) issues that arise between meetings of Council. Thanks to Dave Lane, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Dave Clark, and Stan Runge for the many hours of work and thousands of emails they handled in the last half of 2006. The Society's staff, Bonnie Bird and Jo Taylor, keep the National Office running and the Executive on track, and the various committees, National Council Reps, and other volunteers make everything happen. At the Centre level, everything from meeting planning to public outreach to paperwork is all done by volunteers - make sure you thank them next time you see them.

Clear skies for the coming year!

Scott Young
President

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

As a novice in the role of the Secretary of the RASC, I'm somewhat overwhelmed by the immense talents of my recent predecessors, Stan Runge and, before him, Kim Hay. Thanks to them and to our Executive Secretary, Bonnie Bird, for unstintingly guiding me in the many facets of my new job.

I reflect back on Stan's report from last year, where he described his first notion of the National Office as "distant and uncaring." In fact, National Office is a pair of warm, caring people — Bonnie Bird and Jo Taylor. They are the glue that holds our Society together. If you are feeling a bit low, give either of them a call and you'll be sure to feel better when you hang up.

On the other hand, there is more to this Society than an office in Toronto. It is a great body of dedicated amateur and professional astronomers, who mostly are interested in looking at ancient photons. Some of them are also dedicated to the smooth running of the Society — give your National Representatives and Executive Committee members a pat on their collective backs for a job well done!

In spite of the attentive guidance of National Council, membership numbers continue to decline. Reversing this trend may be more difficult than finding the cause; but we are attempting to find out what contributes to the slow erosion, and will try to reverse the flow.

Finally, on behalf of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, I extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of the following members whom we have lost during the past year. They are: Walter Robert Alan (Okanagan), George R. Ball (Victoria), Kenneth M. Boyce (Okanagan), Michael A. Burnie (Toronto), William J. Caine (Vancouver), R.T. Heaps (Unattached), Gert Rudolf Jahnce (Montreal), Andre Lorenzetti (Toronto), Donald A. MacRae (Toronto), Lewis J. McQueen (Unattached), Brian Moulder (Unattached), Dale Searle (Toronto), Marc Verschuere (Vancouver), and Peter Williams (Ottawa).

James Edgar
Secretary

Centre	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Belleville	33	32	29	26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Calgary	278	302	323	321	315	315	310	270	267	272
Charlottetown	21	20	19	20	16	18	15	N/A	N/A	N/A
Edmonton	241	261	267	271	262	249	222	217	166	152
Halifax	152	171	197	214	196	186	172	157	164	137
Hamilton	82	91	91	113	114	122	109	79	65	45
Kingston	125	128	110	132	145	146	152	176	136	152
Kitchener-Waterloo	101	127	127	133	114	106	95	80	51	32
London	99	112	115	119	118	115	115	78	65	49
Mississauga	53									
C.F de Montréal	32	32	30	40	39	36	38	46	46	33
Montreal	105	109	108	121	116	106	102	105	113	108
New Brunswick (was Moncton)	78	75	70	59	62	46	29	N/A	N/A	N/A
Niagra	101	114	123	117	109	97	91	83	72	60
Okanagan	85	83	85	92	87	70	61	53	40	35
Ottawa	396	447	469	500	480	457	431	394	298	246
Prince George	82	75	40	43	42	25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Québec	40	39	38	38	45	50	63	36	50	51
Regina	53	47	53	59	56	47	30	27	31	18
St. John's	49	51	44	54	54	45	47	36	41	39
Sarnia	27	27	32	26	27	27	31	19	10	12
Saskatoon	76	70	67	73	70	73	76	77	75	54
Thunder Bay	40	39	41	43	39	38	32	37	31	17
Toronto	622	748	841	889	886	775	792	723	720	687
Vancouver	238	267	291	313	292	294	275	271	229	233
Victoria	177	186	192	200	188	200	159	148	144	126
Windsor	89	105	122	125	120	107	102	94	71	66
Winnipeg	136	132	140	136	114	105	99	106	97	77
Unattached	512	538	591	610	575	552	558	476	413	357
Honorary	15	15	14	14	13	13	13	14	15	15
Total	4138	4443	4655	4901	4688	4420	4230	3802	3410	3071

Membership by Type

Type	Number	% of Total
Ordinary	3657	88.7
Life	349	8.5
Youth	117	2.8
Honorary	(15)	n/a

Membership by Country

Country	Number	% of Total
Canada	3823	92.4
USA	262	6.3
Other	53	1.3

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Annual General Meeting at the Calgary GA will be my last meeting as Treasurer of the RASC. After two years on the Finance Committee, and three years as Treasurer, my ability to contribute meaningfully at the National level has ended.

During my three years as Treasurer, I insisted that the financial woes of the Society were not the property of the Treasurer or Finance Committee, but that of Council. Budgets are no longer the sole responsibility of the Treasurer. Instead, they are the combined efforts of all Committees and National Office. Reports from the Treasurer are no longer glimpses into a black-magic world of finance, they are simply reports on how the Society is faring under the decisions made by Council. One aspect of this approach does not sit well with many on Council. I have refused to take a leadership role in proposing revenue-gaining and cost-saving measures; I have always believed that these are best proposed and championed by the appropriate Committee or Council member. The Treasurer's interest is on the resulting bottom line. However, there are those that would rather see the Finance Committee and Treasurer propose suites of measures that would improve our financial picture. Whether or not Finance Committee reclaims that role is now left to the discretion of our incoming Treasurer.

When I took on the position of acting Treasurer in 2003, the Society had already begun its slide from significant surplus to large deficits. Although we continue to budget deficits, Council, National Office, and Committees have taken messages of financial gloom to heart, and have taken the necessary actions to turn these recent deficit budgets in actual surpluses. I can claim no ownership for the significant financial accomplishments of others; I can only hope that my message helped spur those efforts.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know and work with some truly great folk who served on National Executive, at National Office, or on our various committees. These people truly love the

Society; I could only wish that I could have attacked the Treasurer's responsibilities with the conviction that matched theirs. We would all like to think that these people are tireless, but they are not. The personal and professional costs of leading a Society this size are significant. At some point, personal or Centre interests will take over, and these iconic figures move on. A small core of a dozen or so folks then spreads itself a little thinner, and the Society's business continues. This is simply not sustainable. The next time you are tempted to speak out on the direction or motivation of National, I would urge you to step up and get involved, begin to truly understand the commitment and sacrifice of these people, play your part in reducing their load, and take the opportunity to leave your mark on the Society.

This is truly an interesting time to get involved with the Society. Governance change is being discussed, a total replacement of our administrative systems is in the works, exciting new publication and membership programs are on the go, and our newly revitalized Web presence is soon to be augmented with Web-based administration and membership services. As RASC members we have a choice — we can pout and reminisce on how the Society used to be, or we can rally behind the courageous few who have a vision for this Society, and who are willing to shoot for that vision. Even if that direction is not the one you yourself would take, it is better to move on than to watch the RASC slip into total irrelevance through inaction.

My very best wishes go out to the leadership, wherever the coming years take the Society; and I thank you all, Executive, Council, Bonnie, Jo, and the membership for your support during my time as Treasurer.

Dave Clark
Treasurer



RASC National Executive 2007: L to R: Dave Lane, Stan Runge, Mary Lou Whiteborne, David Clark, Scott Young.—Photo by Denis Grey

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Tinkham & Associates LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

D C Tinkham, B Comm, CMC, FCA

Associates

P J Brocklesby, BBA CA

L Link, BBA CA

M Tkachenko, BBA, CA

O B File, Ba, CA

D J L Edward, BA CA

2842 Bloor Street West, Suite 300

Toronto Ontario Canada M8X 1B1

Telephone (416) 233-2139

1 (877) 283-3305

Facsimile (416) 233-1788

associates[at]tinkhamca.com

To the Members of

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

We have audited the balance sheet of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada as at December 31, 2006 and the statements of revenue and expenditures, and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives revenue from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenue, excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures, assets or unrestricted net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the donation revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2006 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

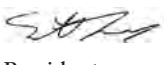

TORONTO, Ontario

March 8, 2007

Tinkham & Associates LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31	2006	2005
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 28,344	\$ 38,504
Short-term investments (note 3)	592,008	390,956
Accrued interest receivable	13,438	10,356
Accounts receivable	44,956	56,825
Inventory	35,513	47,442
Prepaid expenses	16,336	19,749
	730,595	563,832
Long-term		
Investments	-	150,000
Accrued interest receivable	-	6,144
	-	156,144
Capital assets		
Office building, furniture, equipment, library (nominal value)	1	1
	\$ 730,596	\$ 719,977
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 17,557	\$ 30,251
Deferred revenue		
Membership fees for ensuing years	91,355	98,163
Jounal subscriptions	14,744	20,239
Unamortized life membership fees (note 4)	73,579	76,031
	197,235	224,684
Net Assets		
Invested in capital assets	1	1
Unrestricted	85,242	71,539
Internally restricted (note 6)	448,118	423,753
	533,361	495,293
	\$ 730,596	\$ 719,977
On Behalf of the Board	<i>See accompanying notes to financial statements</i>	
		
President	Treasurer	

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Invested in Capital Assets	Internally Restricted (schedule 1)	Unrestricted	2006	2005
Year ended December 31					
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1	\$ 423,753	\$ 71,539	\$ 495,293	\$ 451,937
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	-	-	38,068	\$ 38,068	\$ 43,356
Transfers	-	24,365	(24,365)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 1	\$ 448,118	\$ 85,242	\$ 533,361	\$ 495,293

See accompanying notes to financial statements

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Year ended December 31	2006	2005
Revenue		
Membership fees	\$ 140,557	\$ 143,046
Publication revenue		
Journal	32,851	33,595
Observer's Handbook	115,368	123,893
Beginner's Observing Guide	11,297	14,656
Observer's Calendar	52,755	54,866
Skyways	6,788	4,789
Explorons l'astronomie	3,972	1,097
Other	501	313
	223,532	233,209
Miscellaneous income		
Donations	62,513	50,598
Grants	-	21,238
Interest on investment	21,684	15,364
Rent	16,159	15,973
Promotional products	7,482	5,522
Other income	332	4,157
	108,170	112,852
	472,259	489,107
Expenditures		
Publication costs		
Journal	68,344	82,371
Annual report	3,445	3,506
Observer's Handbook	37,975	36,418
Beginner's Observing Guide	8,490	10,450
Observer's Calendar	31,172	30,289
Skyways	5,357	4,667
Explorons l'astronomie	743	20,244
Other	42	75
	155,568	188,020
Operating costs		
Office salaries and employee benefits	56,341	66,350
Membership services	121,950	86,739
Office expenses	26,310	24,045
Services	34,667	34,364
Committees	9,520	9,541
Travel expenses	17,373	27,734
Building	12,462	8,958
	278,623	257,731
	434,191	445,751
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 38,068	\$ 43,356

See accompanying notes to financial statements

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2006

1. Organization

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is a Canadian corporation without share capital and a registered charitable organization, incorporated for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting astronomy and related sciences. The organization is not subject to income taxes pursuant to exemptions accorded to registered charities in the income tax legislation.

2 Significant accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada financial statements in conformance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the reported amounts of revenue and expense during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from such estimates.

(a) Basis of accounting

These financial statements were prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis recognizes revenues as they become available and measurable; expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable as a result of receipts of goods or services and the creation of a legal obligation to pay.

(b) Investments

Short-term investments are carried at the lower of cost (including accrued interest) and market on an individual basis. Long-term investments are carried at cost.

(c) Inventory

Inventory is comprised of publications and promotional items for re-sale and is carried at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

(c) Capital assets

The office building, furniture, equipment and library of the Society are carried in the accounts at a nominal value. The cost of additions to and replacements of capital assets are expensed as they are incurred.

(d) Membership fees

Members' fees are recognized as revenue for the fiscal year in which the membership primarily falls. Accordingly, fees received for ensuing years are recorded as deferred revenue. Life memberships are credited to deferred revenue when received. Five percent of the life membership fund is transferred at the beginning of each year to membership fees revenue.

(e) Revenue recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

(f) Publications

R.A.S.C. Journal subscription revenues are amortized into income over the subscription period.

(g) Contributed materials and services

The organization is dependant on the voluntary services of many individuals. Since these services are not normally purchased and because of the difficulty in estimating their fair market value, these services are not recorded in these financial statements

(h) Financial instruments

The organization's financial instruments consist of cash, short term investments, accrued interest receivable, accounts receivable, investments, and accounts payable and accrued charges. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from its financial instruments. Due to the short term nature of the financial instruments and current pricing, book values approximate fair values.

3 Short-term investments

Short-term investments are comprised of cash on hand of \$87,008 (2005 - \$290,956) with a variable rate of interest and guaranteed investment certificates of \$505,000 maturing March 7, 2007 to June 14, 2007 and bearing interest from 3.75% to 5.00% (2005 - one guaranteed investment certificate maturing February 14, 2006 and bearing interest of 3.60%) .

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Unamortized life membership fees

	2006	2005
Life membership fees as of January 1	\$ 76,031	\$ 74,826
Add: Life membership fees received in the year	1,350	4,946
Deduct: Amortization to income	(3,802)	(3,741)
Balance, December 31	\$ 73,579	\$ 76,031

5. Statement of cash flows

A statement of cash flows is not presented because it would not provide any additional useful information.

6. Internally restricted net assets

The Board of Directors has internally restricted certain funds. The Ruth Northcott Fund was established in 1969 and funds are used for a variety of specified purposes as approved by the Board of Directors. The P.M. Millman Endowment Fund was established for the purpose of providing for the long-term growth of the Society. An amount calculated using the rate of inflation for the previous year is transferred to this fund annually.

The Life Membership Fund was established as a result of a change in accounting policy to conform with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles in 2005. The Centre Projects Fund, established in 2005, is used to encourage and facilitate the development of its member centres. In addition, the Board of Directors has segregated a significant donation received in the year from the Estate of the late Walter Feibelman into a separate fund in 2005.

All disbursements from these funds must be approved by the Board of Directors. See schedule 1 attached for details of the continuity of these funds.

Schedule 1: Internally Restricted Net Assets

						2006	2005
	W. Feibelman Fund	Centre Projects Fund	Life Membership Fund	Ruth Northcott Fund	P.M. Millman Endowment Fund	Total	Total
Fund balance, January 1	\$ 27,951	\$ 1,335	\$ 40,877	\$ 87,294	\$ 266,297	\$ 423,753	\$ 376,617
Transferred from Unrestricted net assets:							
Interest	1,132	54	3,311	3,982	-	8,479	13,034
Donations	7,841	2,332	-	411	1,882	12,466	31,619
Expenses	-	-	(2,044)	(279)	-	(2,323)	(1,694)
Inflation adjustment	-	-	-	-	5,743	5,743	4,177
	8,973	2,386	1,267	4,114	7,625	24,365	47,136
Balance, December 31	\$ 36,924	\$ 3,721	\$ 42,144	\$ 91,408	\$ 273,922	\$ 448,118	\$ 423,753

Schedule 2: Publication Revenue and Direct Expenses

	2006					
	Observer's Handbook	Beginner's Observing Guide	Observer's Calendar	Other Publications	Promotional Items	Total
Revenue	\$ 115,368	\$ 11,297	\$ 52,755	\$ 11,260	\$ 7,482	\$ 198,162
Cost of goods sold	23,527	5,582	18,418	5,157	4,562	57,246
Distribution costs	9,671	1,039	7,529	482	-	18,721
Labour costs	2,952	909	2,182	461	-	6,504
Other	1,825	960	3,042	42	-	5,869
	37,975	8,490	31,171	6,142	4,562	88,340
Profit	\$ 77,393	\$ 2,807	\$ 21,584	\$ 5,118	\$ 2,920	\$ 109,822

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—2006

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 2006-05-21 in the Azrieli Theatre 101 at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario.

The meeting was called to order at 08:47 edt by the Chair, RASC President Peter Jedicke, who welcomed delegates to the 2006 Annual Meeting and thanked the Ottawa Centre for hosting the 2006 General Assembly. This was greeted with a warm round of applause.

President Jedicke called the roll of Centres. 24 Centres were represented (Belleville, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Kingston, London, Mississauga, Centre Francophone de Montréal, Moncton, Montreal, Niagara, Okanagan, Ottawa, Prince George, Québec, Regina, St. John's, Sarnia, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, Windsor, and Winnipeg), plus several unattached members and guests were present. There were approximately 100 members in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was suggested by Andreas Gada that items 6 and 7 on the proposed agenda be reversed. The Chair agreed that it would be so arranged. The agenda was adopted as revised.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2005 ANNUAL MEETING AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 2006-02-11

MOTION AM0601

It was moved by Tim Bennett, seconded by Don Town, to accept the minutes of the 2005 Annual meeting as posted on the Society Web site.

MOTION AM0601 was Carried

MOTION AM0602

It was moved by Barry Matthews, seconded by John Hurley, to accept the minutes of the 2006 Special Meeting as posted on the Society Web site.

MOTION AM0602 was Carried

3. REPORTS:

3.1 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

President Peter Jedicke reported that he visited many Centres during his period in office. He claims the record for having attended 59 Centre functions.

1st VICE-PRESIDENT

Scott Young warmly thanked President Peter Jedicke for his activities during the past two years. The 1st Vice-President's report is actually the Publications Committee report submitted to National Council.

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

Dave Lane reported on some of his activities, thanking everyone for their assistance while he was training to be 1st Vice-President.

SECRETARY

Stan Runge advised of an error appearing in the Annual Report, where the Edmonton Centre was reported as having 562 members in 2002 (briefly appearing as one of the largest Society Centres), when in fact there were 262 members.

He named all the members who had passed away in the last year, pausing for a minute of silence to honour their passing (attached as Appendix "A").

TREASURER

David Clark explained the financial report, congratulating National Council for taking charge of the looming deficit and taking steps to get rid of it. He told of recent activities following the adoption of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Society deficit now stands at approximately \$4,000. A forecast for 2006 and (for the first time) on into 2007 indicates we are facing a significant deficit of about \$20,000. Even though we are on the right track to resolving this issue, we have much work to do. The cost accounting method of accounting allows us to properly track all our publications and promotional items costs, and our profitability on those items.

MOTION AM0603

It was moved by David Levy, seconded by Gary Boyle, to accept the financial report as presented.

MOTION AM0603 was CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Bonnie Bird remarked that National Office was running well, saying that Jo Taylor is a welcome addition to the National Office staff. She gave warm thanks to some special people in the Society: President Peter Jedicke, David Clark, Dave Lane, Denis Grey, and Scott Young. Her remarks were followed by a warm round of applause.

RECORDER

There was no report.

4. STANDING COMMITTEES

AWARDS

In the absence of Dr. Rajiv Gupta, President Peter Jedicke spoke. He will present the awards at tonight's banquet.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Randy Attwood described the ongoing work of the committee to ensure By-Laws were in line with the legal requirements.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mary Lou Whitehorne advised that she would be leaving the committee along with two other members, but that it will continue to be a vibrant and active committee in the upcoming years.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Peter Jedicke reported that the committee's activities were ongoing on a daily basis, with emails and conference calls among the members to keep the Society day-to-day activities on an even keel. The big challenge last year was hiring Jo Taylor at National Office and preparing for the Special Meeting in February this year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Clark talked about the initiatives to change Society investments. He also thanked Bonnie Bird for all her continuing help.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Barry Matthews spoke about the work of the committee. He advised that the plaque presented to Memorial University of Newfoundland at the 2004 GA is soon to be erected in St. John's to commemorate the 1761 observation of the Transit of Venus.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Dr. Bob Garrison reported that there is a surplus of books at the National Library. The committee is seeking ways to reduce the size of the library.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Denis Grey reported on the success of the Sustaining Membership program. It has been well received and has helped in a very positive way in reducing the Society deficit. He spoke also of the success of the eNews initiative, which has been instituted since early in February. Denis advised that a new Sponsorship Program will be initiated this year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In Dr. Rajiv Gupta's absence, President Peter Jedicke advised that the deliberations of the Committee have resulted in filling all the positions of the Society.

OBSERVING COMMITTEE

In Chris Fleming's absence, President Peter Jedicke advised that he had spoken to Chris and reports that the committee is alive and well and the certificate program continues.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

In Bob May's absence, Bonnie Bird reported that the tenant quarters at National Office were being renovated, replacing the major appliances about \$500 under the budgeted amount. She also advised that the back yard needed attention and will be looked after this summer.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Scott Young reported that the publications of the Society were in good hands with the appointment of three new Editors; Dave Lane for the *Observer's Calendar*, Pat Kelly for the *Observer's Handbook*, and Jay Anderson for the *RASC Journal*. He warmly thanked Kim Hay for her volunteer work to produce the 2005 Annual Report. This was greeted with a warm round of applause.

Dave Lane spoke about the significant changes to the *Journal* since it has become an electronic publication, has a new editor, and contains new material relevant to our amateur activities.

JOURNAL EDITOR

Jay Anderson advised that the December 2006 *Journal* will be the 100th Anniversary Issue. Jay invited Society members to send him some memories for inclusion in the Anniversary *Journal*.

5. SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

ASTRONOMY DAY CO-ORDINATOR

Bruce McCurdy thanked members for all their activities during this year's Astronomy Day. He reported that he will now be a part of the Education Committee and agreed to continue as coordinator for one more term.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Dave Lane spoke about the big project upcoming, which is replacement of the MPA system. He said Denis Grey and Charles Darrow were working closely with him to hire a professional consultant to guide us toward the completion of this project. Likely this change will now occur in 2007, given that the time remaining in 2006 is rapidly waning and a consultant has yet to be selected.

LIGHT-POLLUTION ABATEMENT COMMITTEE

Rob Dick spoke briefly about the activities of his committee and the successes of the recent past in changing the way local and regional governments approach their lighting requirements. There is still much work to do, but we continue to make headway in our efforts.

7. MOTION TO INCREASE SOCIETY FEES

MOTION AM0604

It was moved by Scott Young, and seconded by Patrice Scattolin, that the life membership fee of the Society be increased from \$1100 to \$2100 effective immediately and that this amount be interpreted as Canadian dollars for members with addresses in Canada or as US dollars for members with addresses outside of Canada.

Scott Young spoke about the reasons for the motion, which is essentially to discourage any more life members until the Society can address the problems associated with the funding and liabilities for the approximately 350 life members.

Some discussion ensued.

MOTION AM0604 was Carried.

MOTION AM0605

It was moved by Gary Boyle, and seconded by Ted Bronson, that the annual membership fees of the Society be changed as follows:

- Ordinary members - increased from \$55 to \$59 with the Society portion equal to \$37 and the Centre portion equal to \$22; and

- Youth members - increased from \$34.25 to \$36.75 with the Society portion equal to \$23.05 and the Centre portion equal to \$13.70.

The new fees shall become effective at a date determined by the Council, except no earlier than January 1, 2007. These fees are to be interpreted as Canadian dollars for members with addresses in Canada or as US dollars for members with addresses outside of Canada.

Considerable discussion ensued.

MOTION AM0605 was Carried.

6. MOTION TO AMEND BY-LAW #1

MOTION AM0606

It was moved by Denis Grey, and seconded by Joe Otonicar, that Bylaw 4.08(1) be amended to the following:

(1) Every Centre is entitled to be represented on the National Council by one member of the Centre for each two hundred voting members of the Centre or portion thereof, which representatives are known as "National Council Representatives." The number of National Council Representatives to which a Centre is entitled during a year shall be determined from the highest number of members of the Centre as of the end of any calendar month during the previous year, according to the membership records of the Society. A new Centre shall be entitled to one National Council Representative for the year in which it becomes a Centre.

There were some members who asked for clarification, and some discussion ensued.

MOTION AM0606 was Carried by special resolution.

Nominations for elections of officers results in the following being named by acclamation:

President	Scott Young
1st Vice-President	Dave Lane
2nd Vice-President	Mary Lou Whitehorne
Secretary	Stan Runge

Scott Young took over a meeting chair. Past President Peter Jedicke presented President Scott Young with a special sweatshirt bearing the Society Logo, indicating that he was the 58th President of the Society.

9. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Dave Clark spoke about the need to perhaps look for a new firm to act as auditor, mainly because the existing auditors have been at it for a considerable time.

MOTION AM0607

It was moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by Paul Gray, that Tinkham and Associates be appointed as auditors.

MOTION AM0607 was CARRIED

10. OTHER BUSINESS

2007 GA Presentation

Roland Dechesne invited all to Calgary for the 2007 General Assembly, which will be a joint meeting with the American Association of Variable-Star Observers (AAVSO) and the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO). He promised a Thursday

Council meeting so that all could attend talks and participate in tours. Roland will make a presentation at this evening's banquet.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION AM0608

It was moved by Don Town, and seconded by Joe Otonicar, to adjourn.

MOTION AM0608 was CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 est.

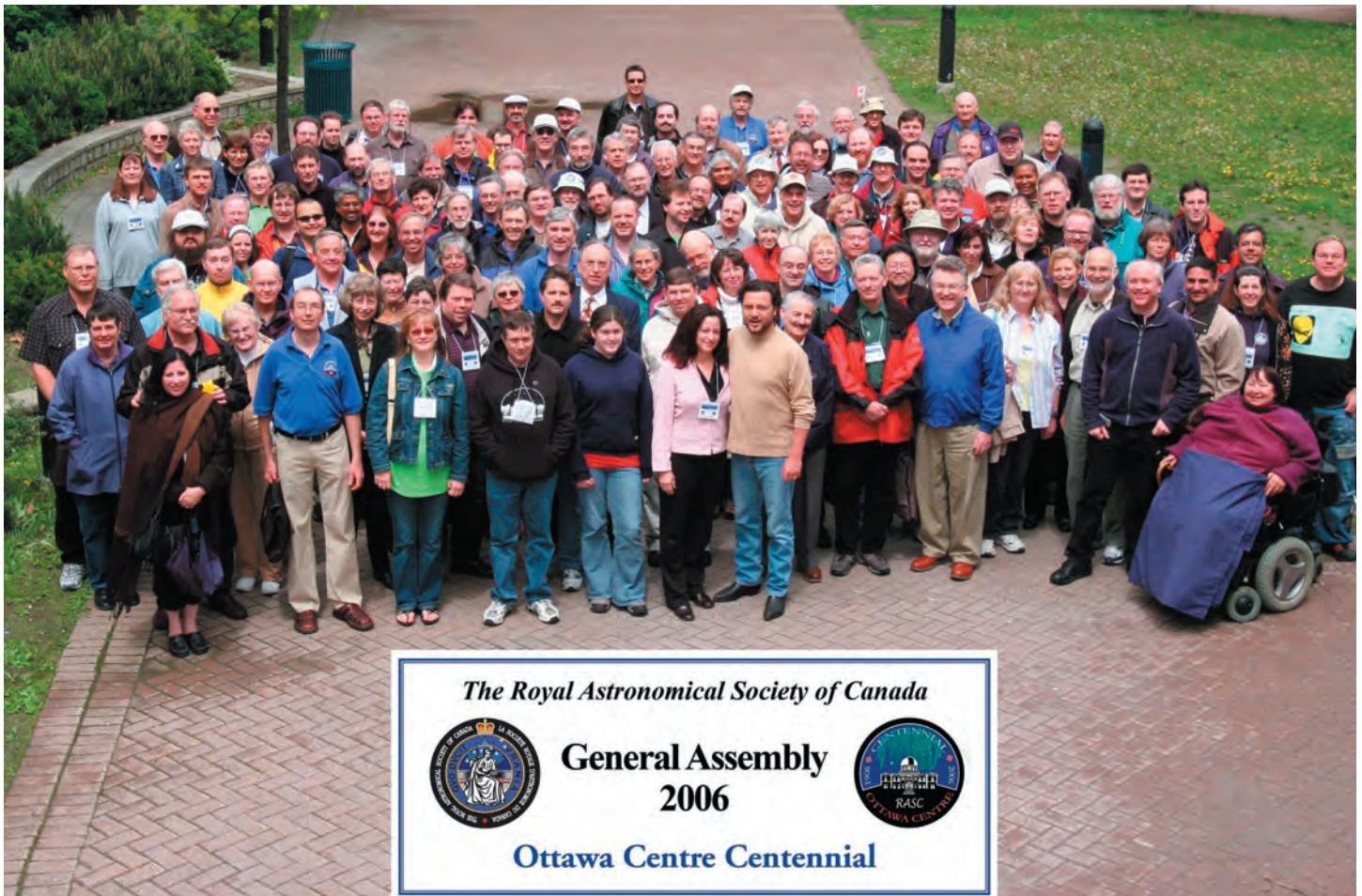
Respectfully submitted,

James Edgar

Recorder

Appendix "A"

Mr. William Campbell (Ottawa),
Mr. Alan Cook (Victoria),
Dr. J. Keys (Unattached),
Mr. M. Nash (Unattached),
Mr. Russ McLeod (Winnipeg),
Mr. C.R. Molson (Ottawa),
Mr. Clyde Edward Sears (Hamilton),
Mr. Frank Smith (Toronto),
Mr. Paul J. Sykes (Vancouver),
Mr. John Sylvestre (Montreal),
Mr. Glendon Tays (Moncton),
Mr. J.P. Wilson (Halifax).



—Photo by Doug George and Chris Teron

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE CENTRES

BELLEVILLE CENTRE

- January No observing reports due to weather.
Dave Cotterell, "Limiting Magnitudes"
Don Town will attend special February 11 RASC meeting in Toronto to discuss reducing National's deficit
Joe Shields presented an example of his handcrafted observing chairs.
Club observing night January 28
- February Peter Jedicke, RASC President, "Sudbury Neutrino Observatory"; Larry Hum, "Drake Equation, Part 1"
Club observing night February 17
- March Don Town's report from RASC meeting in Toronto three weeks ago
Larry Hum, "Drake Equation, Part 2"
April 1 - occultation of Moon and Pleiades
- April Club-built telescope awarded as first prize in local Science Fair; second prize, SkyNews subscription.
Centre will be setting up Astronomy Day display May 6 with public observing in the evening.
Greg Lisk to speak on Astrophotography to local photography club April 26.
Centre Hastings School request for observing session may be tied in with a ham radio link they are setting up with ISS in September - set it up to coincide with Centre's observing session for April 21/22.
Observing challenge - "Red Jr." - Jupiter's smallest/newest spot.
- May Club observing night May 26/27.
Greg Lisk, "Canes Venatici"; Bill Broderick, "Evolution of the Universe"
- June Don Town reports on recent RASC Ottawa Centre's General Assembly.
Arlyne Gillespie, "David Florida Lab" in Ottawa and Ottawa Centre's "Smart Scope"; Carl McDonald, "Neptune"
Observing with Scouts June 3rd, Observing night - June 23/24
- July Greg Lisk, "Reactions in Stars"
Bon Echo weekend - July 21-22-23
Observing reports.
- August Bob Minden-Hall, "NASA Shuttle Launch Video"
Observing night - Perseids Meteor Shower August 11/12
Starfest - August 24-27 - 8 members attending.
- September Greg Lisk, "Uranus & Neptune" and Greg's meteorite collection.
Star-B-Q - September 9
Fall 'n' Stars Star Party - September 22-24
- October Dave Cotterell, "Occultation of Asteroid Phocaeda and Mallincaam images"
Observing night October 21
- November Antonina Durham, "Micro-organisms in Space"; Arlyne Gillespie, "Astronaut Chris Hadfield's Visit to Madoc School" Ten students talk to astronauts aboard ISS.
Observing challenge - Mercury transit
Observing night - Leonids Meteor Shower - November 17/18
Election Results:
President Greg Lisk;

- Vice President Dave Cotterell;
National Rep. Don Town;
Secretary Joanne Burns;
Treasurer Garth Penn;
Observing Chair Greg Lisk;
Webmaster Les Dempsey and Bob Mindenhall;
Events Coordinator Andrew Mason,
Joseph Shields, David Pianosi;
Newsletter Richard Brain;
Librarian Antonina Durham

- December Observing challenge - "Asteroid 7 Iris"
Greg Lisk, "Astrophotography"
Observing Night - December 15/16
Christmas Dinner - December 9

Joanne Burns
Secretary

CALGARY CENTRE

Calgary Centre had another busy year with interesting presentations at general meetings and many public-education events.

General Meetings

General meetings were held on the third Thursday of the month and featured the following speakers and topics:

- January John Mirtle gave a very interesting presentation on his 20 years as an astrophotographer. His talk covered using basic film, hypered film, cold cameras, Schmidt cameras, and modern CCD cameras and included many spectacular astrophotos.
Also in January RASC President Peter Jedicke gave a special lecture on "Neutrinos and Astronomy." The



The Calgary Centre's Responsible Lighting Display—set up at the Visitor Centre in the town of Elkwater in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (and Dark Sky Preserve); taken when members of the Calgary RASC LP Committee visited Cypress Hills, Alberta on Saturday, July 29, 2006 to present information on the Dark Sky Preserve and to hold a "Sky Night" for the residents of Elkwater. —Photo by Larry McNish

- talk provided a general introduction to neutrinos, the history of the solar neutrino problem, and highlights of his visit to the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory.
- February Steve Rothfels, meteorologist for CFCN TV, talked about the impact of air stability on clouds and transparency. He also talked about climate change in Calgary over the last 50 years.
- March Annual Peter Sim Lecture: Eric Donovan, of the University of Calgary Physics and Astronomy department, gave an overview of the THEMIS (Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms) project that will involve simultaneous observations of aurora by five satellites to be launched in 2007 and 20 ground stations across Canada and Alaska
- April Roland Dechesne gave a talk on spiral galaxies. He described the structural components of the galaxies and the rotational dynamics that are detected using Doppler shifts.
- May Andrew Lowe gave a talk entitled "Asteroid Discovery and Follow-Up using the Internet." He showed examples of asteroid discovery using trails on DSS plates, and using the blink method on short exposure images from the NEAT CCD archive. He also described his current search method using a real-time remote telescope in New Mexico.
- September Several speakers presented pictures of the solar eclipse in March 2006. Alan Dyer was in northern Libya, Jeff Zambori was in southern Libya, and Don Hladiuk led a large group tour in Turkey, and Ken From observed the event in northern Nigeria.
- October Iain Robertson presented "Earth, Sun, and Black Brant - Canada's Early Space Program." He described the early history of aurora studies in Canada and a summary of the Black Brant rocket program and the engineering challenges associated with designing the instruments carried by the rockets.
- November Larry McNish showed a time lapse movie of the observing deck at the RAO taken at the Mercury transit event and another time lapse movie of an impressive aurora display taken at the Alberta Star Party. Also, Roland Dechesne gave an interesting presentation on measuring sky glow in the Calgary area. He described the Sky Quality Meter he has been using to take measurements and showed the results overlaid on a map of the region.

Membership

At the end of November the Centre had 289 members (17 Life, 239 Ordinary, and 33 Youth).

Public Education

Calgary Centre continued to provide volunteers to run the telescopes on the observing deck at the TELUS World of Science on Friday nights. Volunteers also worked on the deck for the special Saturn week event.

Calgary Centre also supplied volunteers with telescopes for the University of Calgary Rothney Astrophysical Observatory Open Houses held monthly from May to September, which were well attended by the public.

Centre member Don Hladiuk appears on the CBC Radio Eye-Opener show the first Tuesday of every month presenting Sky Highlights for the month. Don also led a solar-eclipse expedition to Turkey in March.

Our two annual public star parties held at Fish Creek Park within the city, one in March and the other in October, were very well



Members and guests of the Calgary Centre enjoying our annual Members' Bar-B-Q at the Centre's Wilson Coulee Observatory June 17, 2006. The dome housing the Centre's C14 and one of the two radio telescope dishes at the WCO can be seen at either end of the hot-dog fixin' table. —Photo by Larry McNish

attended again this year. Even though skies were cloudy for both events, several hundred people attended each one and enjoyed the slide shows, light-pollution abatement display, crater-making demonstrations, and telescopes on display.

Several groups came out for tours of our Wilson Coulee Observatory, and on most nights the skies were clear enough to show them a few objects in the C-14 telescope.

We once again participated in the Mayor's Environmental Expo and set up our Light-Pollution Abatement display.

The Rothney Astrophysical Observatory of the University of Calgary invited the RASC to share their display space at Spruce Meadows during a major show-jumping event in July. We set up our display board and discussed astronomy and light-pollution abatement with many interested people who stopped by the display area.

Several members attended an event in the Alberta side of the Cypress Hills Dark-Sky Preserve in July and gave talks on light pollution and what was up in the night sky.

Six members with telescopes visited with over a hundred Cubs and Scouts at Camp Gardner in September and showed them many objects in a beautifully clear sky.

Members of the Centre joined volunteers from the Telus World of Science and the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory at the RAO for the Mercury transit across the Sun in November. A dozen telescopes were set up and hundreds of visitors got to see Mercury during the first few hours of the event.

Other Activities

Special events for members included the Annual Banquet in January, a BBQ/Garage Sale at the Wilson Coulee Observatory (WCO) in June, and New Members' night at the WCO in November.

The Observing Group held monthly meetings at the WCO and there were many fine presentations and discussions. After several years of being clouded out, the weather cooperated for most of the Messier Marathon event this year.

The NOVA group for new observers held several sessions at the WCO and was well attended on nights with clear skies.

Centre members teach the Beginner, Intermediate, and Senior Youth Group classes that are held twice a month at the Telus World of Science from September to May.

Two annual star party events, the **Star-B-Q** in June, and the **Alberta Star Party** in late September, were held at the Eccles Ranch Observatory in central Alberta.

Elections were held in November to elect the new Calgary Centre council.

The Centre newsletter, *The StarSeeker*, was published nine times and sent to all members.

Calgary Centre will be hosting Astronomy Roundup 2007 from June 28 to July 1, 2007. This event includes the RASC 2007 General Assembly and meetings of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO) and the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO).

Jack Milliken
Secretary

CHARLOTTETOWN CENTRE



Charlottetown Centre members at Astronomy Day display at the Charlottetown Mall. —Photo by Clair Perry

Regular monthly meetings

These are held at the University of Prince Edward Island with the exception of the summer months and December. All meetings are open to the public and usually have a Sky Overview and “What’s Up,” a talk about the latest news in astronomy. Other presentations during the year included: Constellation of the month; Display and demo of homemade telescopes; Star Life and Death; Hubble update and slide show; Stargazing in Ontario; Halley’s Comet 20th anniversary; and various astronomy videos.

Highlights in 2006

The Centre participated in the Jack Frost Children’s Winter Festival by setting up telescopes, mainly for viewing Saturn. The feedback was extremely positive. One person couldn’t believe what he was seeing and thought that there must be a projector in the telescope!



Brian Gorveatt and Laura Whelan viewing display at Astronomy Day. —Photo by Clair Perry

Astronomy Day was celebrated May 13 with a display at the Charlottetown Mall including sunspot viewing outside. We also had held a raffle for a Skywatcher telescope.

In August we held our annual Astronomy Night at Greenwich National Park held during the St. Peter’s Blueberry Festival. This event was very well attended by visiting tourists and locals in the area. The program included: Hubble Images; Solar System Scale; Meteorites; The Ecliptic; The Full Moon Illusion; and an August Sky Overview video, and night sky observing on the grounds afterwards.

Scott Young visited our Centre in November and gave a wonderful talk on Pluto versus the Ice Dwarves.

Michelle Cottreau
Secretary

EDMONTON CENTRE

In 2006, the Edmonton Centre made a giant stride in preserving the night sky and at the same time educating the public about the importance of dark skies. The Dark Sky Preserve Committee of the Edmonton Centre worked tirelessly with the Government of Canada and the Alberta Government toward the establishment of a dark-sky preserve in north-central Alberta. On September 3, 2006 these efforts culminated when the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve was officially dedicated at a ceremony at Elk Island National Park. 63 volunteers helped stage the ceremony that was attended by about 2000 visitors. See www.rasc.ca/news/bhdsp.shtml for words and pictures.

The Black Nugget Lake Observatory committee continued its efforts in conjunction with Beaver County for an observatory at Black Nugget Lake. A 10-year sub-lease for an observing area has been signed, and the observing area has been cleared and graded.

The Observatory Planning Committee continued in their quest to make the Centre’s Observatory (at the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton) more disabled-person friendly and to outfit the Observatory with equipment to ensure that the public will continue to enjoy a wide variety of observing experiences. Acquisitions include:

- Meade LX-90 telescope with pier
- Observatory re-wiring for electrical, co-axial cables, and

Ethernet cables

- Digital Setting Circles for the 7-inch Starfire telescope
- Mount for the Solar Max H-Alpha Telescope

Now that all telescopes are pier-mounted, the Observatory has more telescopes than ever before but also more space than ever to accommodate visitors.

Astronomy Days were held May 5-6, 2006. On the Friday night (the 5th), about 100 people observed at the Centre's Observatory and two sidewalk sessions. Although the Saturday night had poor skies, an indoor session at the Telus World of Science - Edmonton was attended by uncounted people passing-by. Over 20 volunteers from Edmonton Centre participated.

The Centre once again staged a very successful George Moors Astronomy Workshop April 21-23, 2006. Sixty-two people participated and although the Friday night was cloudy, the Saturday night provided great observing for all. Workshop presenters included:

- Dr. Jaymie Matthews, UBC spoke on "A Suitcase Full of Starlight," Canada's MOST Telescope"
- Sherry Campbell spoke on Sketching at the Eyepiece
- Krista Stefan spoke on Mythology and Time
- Larry Wood and Luca Vanzella held a Collimation Clinic
- Orla Aaquist gave a Teacher's Session on how to teach astronomy in the classroom
- Adrian Liggins spoke on rocketry

After a year-long effort by the By-Laws Committee and significant deliberations and work by the Edmonton Centre Council, the Centre now has a set of new by-laws. I mention it here because this was a significant and time-consuming initiative. If any Centre is contemplating such an endeavour, after giving their head a shake, if they have questions, they should feel free to contact the undersigned. Guest speakers at Edmonton Centre meetings were as follows:

January 9th, 2006 Peter Jedicke (National President), "Neutrinos and Astronomy"

February 13th, 2006

Chris Gainor, "Arrows to the Moon"

March 13th, 2006

Dr. Jamil Ragep, "New Perspectives on the Connections Between Islamic Astronomy and Copernicus"

April 10th, 2006

Marilyn Peckett, "Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve"

May 8th, 2006 (Members' night)

Dave Roles, "Solar System" multi-media presentation; Mike Hoskinson, "Asteroid occultation timing and related equipment"; Bruce McCurdy, "Observing the Young Moon"

June 12th, 2006 (Members' night)

Sherrilyn Jahrig, "Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve"; Dave Robinson, "Black Nugget Lake Observatory"; Wayne Malkin, "Art With an Allen Key"; Mike Noble, "Photo essay on Comet P73 Schwassmann-Wachmann 3"; Murray Paulson, "Mercury and the very young Moon"

September 11th, 2006 (Members' night)

Bruce McCurdy: "Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve declaration on September 3, 2006"; Mark Zalcik, "Noctilucent cloud season for 2006"

October 16th, 2006 (Members' night)

Wayne Malkin, "A wiki for the Astrophotography Group"; David Roles, "Mars, Saturn, Clouds and Noctilucent Clouds"; Bruce McCurdy, "The 2006 Lunar Standstill"; Massimo Torri, "An Ultra-Short Introduction to Webcam Astrophotography and Registax"

November 13th, 2006

Scott Young (National President), "Pluto vs. the Ice Dwarves: Conflict at the Ragged Edge of the Solar System"

December 11th, 2006 (Dark Sky Preserve Night)

Marilyn Peckett and Roger Reilander, "Overview of the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve"; Wendy Walker, sang "Dance Between The Stars"; Wayne Malkin: Slideshow remembering the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve declaration ceremony, accompanied by songs performed by Bob Jahrig; Ted Ritzer and Massimo Torri, "Use of Web Conferencing Technology at Alberta Parks to Share the Night Sky"; Rick Huziak, "The Importance of Dark-Sky Preserves"

Submitted by

Luca Vanzella
General Secretary

HALIFAX
CENTRE

2006 saw another successful year for the Royal Astronomical Society - Halifax Centre. Throughout the year we enjoyed many well attended observing sessions at our observatory in St. Croix, hosted many public outreach sessions including (but not limited to) our annual Astronomy Day event (hosted by Ron Mills and many capable volunteers), and had another successful Nova East star party. Details of these events and some other interesting tidbits, planetesimals, and space dust from the Halifax Centre are as follows.

In October 2004 a request was made for members to submit proposals to the Executive Council for a suitable way to use the money the Halifax Centre received as part of the Dr. Bill Thurlow bequest. In January 2006, after reviewing and discussing the received requests, a decision was made by the Executive Council to purchase a pair of 100-mm binoculars and a Vixen alt-azimuth fork mount. The binoculars are stored at our observatory in St. Croix and are available for members to use at St. Croix, to borrow for short periods of time, or for use at public outreach programs. The members of the Halifax Centre would like to thank the late Dr. Bill Thurlow and the Thurlow family for such a generous bequest. These binoculars will be enjoyed by many a Centre member in a way that I know would have made Bill happy.

Thanks to the Nova East Committee, many volunteers, and exceptionally great weather, our Nova East star party held at Smileys Provincial Park on August 25, 26, and 27 was a stellar success again this year! The evenings saw wonderfully clear skies that allowed astronomers and members of the public to enjoy observing well into the wee hours of the morning. The special guest speaker for Nova East 2006 was Dr. Roy Bishop who opened the festivities on Friday evening with his informative and entertaining talk on Voyages in Space Time; via Unaided Eye, Telescope, Rocket, and Imagination. On Saturday afternoon we were treated to a series of workshops; A Naturalist Universe (Patrick Kelly, Sherman Williams, Dr. Richard Stern), Welcome to Refractorland (Chris Beckett, Ron Mills), Newtonianville (Gary Weber, Darrell Dewolf, Michael Chritchley), and Compound Telescope City (Blair MacDonald, Darren Talbot, Dr. Larry Bogan). Sunday saw the annual favourites, Bannock and Coffee Breakfast, hosted by Gary Weber and the Milky Way Bannock Bakers, Nova East Nine Planet Challenge (golfing event) hosted by John Jarvo, and the Flotsam and Jetsam Sale hosted by Darren Talbot. A great time was had by all!

In the spring of 2006 our Centre Secretary, Andrea Misner, graduated from the St. Mary's University B. Sc. (major Astro-Physics, minor English) program (congratulations Andrea). Andrea announced that she would be furthering her education at the

University of Maine at Fort Kent and would subsequently be stepping down as our Centre Secretary in August. Beginning with the September Executive Council meeting, Centre Councillor Wesley Howie stepped in to fill the Secretary position.

In October, Centre President Craig Levine announced that he also would be leaving Halifax to pursue career interests in London, Ontario. Our first Vice-President, Paul Evans, stepped in to officiate the November and December Executive Council Meetings.

During 2006 the Halifax Centre enjoyed informative, engaging, and entertaining talks from the following speakers (included are those who were slated as “main” speakers only).

- Dr. Roy Bishop (January), The Mad Idea (about Dr. Bishop’s trip to Northern Chile)
- Dr. Ian Short (March), What Heats the Chromosphere and Corona of the Sun
- Dr. Dave Turner (May), Stellar Evolution as an Observational Exercise
- Pat Kelly (October), Ancient and Not-So-Ancient Astronomy in Ireland

- Daniel Majaess (December), Research Under Goliath’s Slayer
- Dr. Larry Bogan (December), Construction of a Personal Observatory Building

Late in 2006 the Executive Council Nominating Committee (Paul Evans, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Wesley Howie) began the task of finding nominees for the 2007 Halifax Centre Executive Council. With Craig and Andrea moving on to bigger and better and with other Executive Council members not wishing to re-offer for another term, the task was a daunting one. But, thanks mostly to Paul and Mary Lou, we end the 2006 year with a vibrant and capable slate of nominees for the year 2007.

The 2006 Executive Council of the Royal Astronomical Society – Halifax Centre would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Halifax Centre members at large for their participation in and contribution to the events and proceedings that made 2006 a successful year. Here’s looking forward to 2007!

Wesley M. Howie
Secretary



Nova East is the annual star party hosted by the Halifax Centre and two other Nova Scotia astronomy clubs: Minas Astronomy Group of Wolfville and Nova Central Astronomy Club of Truro. Nova East is held each August at Smileys Provincial Park near Windsor, NS. —Photo by Roy Bishop

HAMILTON CENTRE

- January Cliff Burgess, “Are we alone?” and an explanation of the Drake Equation of the probability of extraterrestrial life. Before the guest speaker, there was a members’ “Show & Tell” centred on explaining “what to do with that telescope you got for Christmas.”
- February Stephen Bickerton, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy of McMaster University, “The Detection of Kuiper Belt Objects Using the Method of Stellar Occultations.”

- March Members’ night and tour of the Hamilton Steam Museum.
- April Dr. Doug Welch, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy of McMaster University, “Light Echoes from Ancient Supernovae.”
- May Les Marczi, a member of the Niagara Centre, gave a talk on deep-sky imaging with DSLR’s, and also showed some pictures of the total solar eclipse in Egypt from earlier in 2006.
- August There was no general members meeting, however the regular weekly “ATM” meetings were restarted at the observatory for general and technical discussion. On this occasion Peter Ashenhurst presented preliminary drafts of the roll-off roof replacement for the observatory’s dome

- September Members' night with pictures from summer activities.
- October Annual meeting and election of Board of Directors
- November Pamela Klaassen, a graduate student at McMaster University, "Fat Babies in Microwaves," using radio astronomy to look through intra galactic dust to look at star formation areas
- December Mark Kaye gave the second half of his presentation "The Home Made Observatory."
- Annual Dinner
Guest speaker was Ian Brewster from Apogee Books. His topic was based on his book, "The Simple Universe." We had a silent auction that raised several hundred dollars as well as giving out many door prizes, enough for everyone.

Victor Grimble
Secretary

KINGSTON CENTRE

We currently have a total of 127 Society members: 115 Ordinary members, 3 Youth members, and 9 Life members. As well, we have 2 Associate members and 1 Affiliate.

Regular Meetings were held on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Theatre A or D, Stirling Hall, Queen's University.

- January 13 Walter MacDonald, "A Dome on a Home: The Story of Winchester Observatory"
- February 10 Members' night featuring short presentations by Diane Torney, Doug Angle, Joseph Benderavage, Kevin Kell.
- March 10 Dr. Bryce Bennett, "Copernicus, Kepler, and the Mystery of the Analemma"
- April 14 Peter McMahon, "Marshmallows on Venus: A backpacker's guide to wilderness stargazing" (We also held a Special Meeting to approve updated RASC-KC By-Laws.)
- May 12 James Silvester, "Solar Astronomy and the Pic du Midi observatory"
- June 9 Dr. Douglas Welch, "Revolutions Amateur and Professional Optical Astronomy in the 21st Century"
- July 14 Guy Nason, "IOTA: the International Occultation Timing Association" (held in Chernoff Hall Auditorium)
- August 11 Annual "MarkFest" BBQ at Mark Kaye's.
- September 8 Members' night featuring short presentations by Hank Bartlett, Kevin Kell, Guy Nason, Doug Angle, Ken Kingdon, Brian Hunter, Leslie Roberts.
- October 13 Members' night featuring short presentations by Brian Hunter, Ken Kingdon, Leo Enright, Kevin Kell, Steve Manders.
- November 4 2006 "Big-Bang-Quet" Annual Awards Banquet: Dr. Ross Kilpatrick, "Gustav Klimt and the Stars: A Dionysian Iconography for The Kiss"
- November 10 Annual General Meeting
- December 8 David Kirsh, "Extra-Solar Planets: From Formation to Detection"

Along with Astronomy Day, in 2006 the Kingston Centre offered displays and public observing at two charity events; "The Sky is the Limit Festival" and the "Relay for Life." Kingston Centre members

held several combined presentations and observing sessions at the Little Cataraqui Conservation Area. Members also gave presentations at several area schools. One Centre member volunteered to act as a judge, and an award and a prize were contributed to the area Science Fair.

Our monthly public observing sessions were held at the Queen's University Observatory, in partnership with the Queen's University Physics Department. We continued scheduling our private observing sessions, at various dark-sky sites, using the "floating date" method.

In 2006, we held two nine-week sessions of our "Observational Astronomy for the Novice" course.

The Fall 'n' Stars 2006 star party, hosted jointly with the RASC Belleville Centre, was a great experience.

In 2006 RASC-KC made an application for Federal Charity Status, but it is still being processed.

Our ATM group has begun work on a 16-inch telescope. Also, the loan of a "RoboDome" has let us begin work on setting-up our Meade LX200 as a Remotely Operated Telescope.

The 2007 Executive for the Centre is: President: Kim Hay; Vice-President: Arlyne Gillespie; Secretary: Steve Hart; Treasurer: Kevin Kell; National Representative: John Hurley; Librarian: David Maguire; Newsletter Editor: Joseph Benderavage

Steve Hart
Secretary

KITCHENER-WATERLOO CENTRE

The Kitchener-Waterloo Centre of RASC has developed a multi-faceted approach for its activities:

- Monthly meetings of the general membership are held on the second Friday of every month, at Wilfred Laurier University, from September to June (even we get a vacation during the summer!). These meetings feature a guest speaker and related discussions, as well as regular Club business.

- A group of members dedicated to observation basics, which we call Stargazing 101, also meets once a month, on a different evening and at a separate location (usually at a local Community Room), and discuss observing techniques, frequently followed by travel to nearby dark places for practical astronomical observing.

- Regular Educational Outreach sessions with school-aged children, encompassing classroom instruction and discussion by our Outreach Director, followed (as skies allow) by a star party at the school location.

- "On-demand" sessions with Scout Troops and Cub Packs.

- K-W RASC members provide outreach to the specific needs of the Scouting environment. These workshops are usually conducted in conjunction with weekend camping events, and are designed to result in the participants earning their Astronomy achievement badge.

- An annual photography contest, open to all members; the entries are judged by all members present at the meeting following the close of the contest.

- An annual dinner party, allowing members to interact in a social environment. This is also where we conduct our awards ceremony, celebrating the winners of the photo contest as well as the recipients of various RASC observing certificates.

During 2006, K-W RASC also was faced with a dilemma: the land adjacent to the location of our Observatory, S-W of Kitchener, is being purchased by CP Rail, with the intent of creating a marshalling yard right there. As this will seriously impact our ability to use the location, not to mention serious light pollution and ground vibration potential, we have been forced to take steps to find and develop a new observing site.

The K-W Executive immediately struck a Committee to determine the best plan of action. This "Relocation" Committee returned its findings to the Executive and then presented the options to the general membership. The process will continue during 2007, as we have a time limit of June 2007 to, in essence, vacate the premises.

The Executive is dealing with all pertinent issues, including decommission and demolition options for the two domes and associated outbuildings at the existing site, as well as trying to line up a new, reasonably nearby / accessible site for our members to use both their own equipment and the Centre's equipment.

The 2007 K-W RASC Executive is President: Dave Garner; first Vice-President: Paul Schumacher; second Vice President: Brian Hollander; Secretary: Phil Lacasse; Treasurer: Peter Clarke; Past President: Mike Burns; National Representative: Christopher Beckett; Webmaster: Kate Baker; Librarian: Sergio Mammoliti. Other positions are as follows:

Educational Outreach Director: George Peer; Scouting Outreach Director: Phil Lacasse.

Clear Skies!

Phil Lacasse
Secretary

LONDON CENTRE

London Centre, as usual, was very active in promoting astronomy in 2006, through its public events calendar, including many exciting lectures presented by guest speakers at our regular meetings and via many public outreach activities. Thank you especially to those members who organized these events and who participated in them. Your love of astronomy inspires others, especially children, to engage more actively in science and astronomy-oriented activities. The highlights of our year include the following:

On January 20th we held our monthly meeting at which Dr. Pierre Boulous from the Windsor Centre discussed the lives and work of Cassini and Huygens, the two early astronomers who did work on Saturn, discovered the Cassini Division in the rings, and all that good stuff. We also talked about upcoming events like comets and RASC meetings.

On February 17th we held our monthly meeting, at which Ray Kahn of Kahn Scopes talked about the evolution of the telescope market, showed some really nice and affordable toys, and answered questions. Peter Jedicke and Gary Hinks told us about the evolution of the *Journal* and showed how to sign up for the electronic version.

On February 25, London members Rick Sanders, Mike Costa, Elias St. Brice, and Dave McCarter waited patiently for the snow streamers to abate and provided an observing session to about 20 girls and their parents and leaders from the 85th Brownies at Orenda Girl Guide Camp. We were able to thrill them with views of Saturn, Mars, M45 (the Seven Sisters) and the Orion Nebula. We

gave sky tours using green laser pointers to point out several constellations, including the Big Dipper, Cassiopeia, Perseus, Taurus, Orion, and Canus Major. They particularly loved seeing spots on Betelgeuse and watching Sirius twinkle! We drove home in another heavy streamer. Great job!

On March 14, Harold Tutt joined Rick Saunders at Frontierland, Camp Sylvan, for an observing session with about twenty scouts and their leaders. After an introduction to the winter/spring constellations Rick focused mainly on a great view of Saturn while Harold provided views of the Orion Nebula and the Pleiades star cluster. They joined the scouts after the observing session for hot chocolate and cup cakes.

On March 17, we held our monthly meeting at the Cronyn Observatory and Howard Plotkin spoke about the Dresden Ontario Meteorite and his recent attempts to locate additional pieces of the July 11, 1939 fall. He also brought the first piece recovered from the field for people to hold and admire. Phil McCausland then gave a short talk on the re-entry of the Stardust capsule and showed slides and video describing their infrasound and seismic research on the shock waves produced by hyper-velocity objects entering Earth's atmosphere. After the meeting, people gathered at a local eatery for more talk and green beer.

On March 23, Dr. Don Brownlee, Department of Astronomy at University of Washington, Principal Investigator of the Stardust Science team, co-author of "Rare Earth," and member of the Kepler Planet Finder science team, talked about the early results of the Stardust Mission at UWO, Science Centre, Room 55. Afterwards we wandered over to a small reception where discussions continued.

On March 29, London Centre members Peter & Dianne Jedicke and Mike & Eva Hanes had perfect conditions for the solar eclipse in the Mediterranean Sea north of the Libya-Egypt border.

On April 21, we held our monthly meeting at which cartographer Phil Stooke discussed his soon to be published "Atlas of Lunar Exploration." Peter Jedicke and Mike Hanes showed pictures and video of their eclipse experiences, Dave Clark and Dave McCarter discussed comet viewing opportunities with 73P, and Rob Duff described plans for Astronomy Day.

On May 6, International Astronomy Day, the RASC London Centre together with McKittrick's Photo/Visual hosted a day-long event at Cherryhill Village Mall. Astronomy day organizer Rob Duff was joined by David Clark, Harold Tutt, Richard Gibbens, Peter Jedicke, and other London Centre Members, who set up their telescopes and a photo display and talked to many interested people. John McKittrick had telescopes and large binoculars on display from his store.

On May 9, London Centre member Harold Tutt gave an Astronomy Presentation for the students of Faith Christian Academy in St. Thomas. Later that evening Steve Imrey and Dave McCarter joined Harold in the Academy parking lot for an observing session. Even though the lights of the fields immediately to the west were pouring out megawatts of light, and the sky was hazy to cloudy, the intrepid observers were able to find the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars. Later Dave actually thinks he spotted the core of the comet 73P-C very near Vega, although that observation is largely unconfirmed.

On May 12, London Centre held our Annual Banquet at Michael's on the campus of UWO. Thirty three members and guests were present for the sumptuous repast. President David McCarter presented this year's Member-of-the-Year Award to Robert Duff, for his long-standing and continuing contributions to the Centre. Dr. David H. Levy was our Guest of Honour, and later in the evening we wandered over to the Cronyn Observatory for a wonderful illustrated talk.



Rob Duff was named London Centre Member of the Year, and presented a certificate at the annual Banquet by Centre President David McCarter. —Photo by Peter Jedicke

On May 17, Harold Tutt drove to Monsignor O'Neil School in Tillsonburg and presented Bill Gardner's PowerPoint show to four classes of Grades 5 & 6 students, approximately 120 children. The children were well-behaved and, by the questions they asked, seemed to be interested most in Galaxies and Black holes. The presentation was held in the school gym, the equipment was operated by a student and all Harold had to do was point out the objects with his laser pointer and shout "next." A great time was had by all.

On May 19, we held our monthly meeting. Our Guest of Honour was Dr. Alan Boss, Carnegie Institution of Washington, and member of the NASA Kepler mission: A Search for Terrestrial Planets. Dr. Boss spoke about planet formation and the technology used to search for and find extra-solar planets. Jon Gunning and Glen Spooner showed astroimages they took at the Texas Star Party.

On May 26, Harold Tutt and Dave McCarter set up telescopes at the Springwater Conservation Area and showed about 25 Brownsville Girl Guides, their parents and leaders the planets Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars, as well as many deep-sky objects. A wonderful and bright meteor was seen streaking south in a trail of flame, and a few satellites were seen slipping silently through the sky.

On May 27, London Centre members Rick Saunders, Everett Clark, Harold Tutt, Dave McCarter, Peter Jedicke, Rob Duff, and Dan Tremblay set up telescopes at Longwoods Conservation Area for a Public Star Party. Dave presented an illustrated star talk about the objects amateur astronomers observe, and then everyone walked over to the telescopes for several hours of good views. We were treated to a Jupiter moon-shadow transit, and very stable seeing for the rings of Saturn and globular cluster M13. The skies were a bit milky so the Virgo Galaxy cluster was difficult to see.

On May 30, Harold Tutt gave a Star Talk to about 25 people at the Westmount Branch of the London Public Library. After the talk Harold and Peter Jedicke set up telescopes and showed the Moon and Saturn through thin clouds.

Every Saturday evening from June 3rd to August 26th London Centre members set up their telescopes on the front lawn and roof patio of the Hume Cronyn Observatory on the campus of the University of Western Ontario to help with the Summer Open House. Each evening 50 or more visitors enjoyed the illustrated

talk given by UWO faculty or graduate student, talked stars and telescopes with our members, and when the skies were clear they were treated to many celestial objects, the favourite being Jupiter and its moons.

On June 10, Dave McCarter, Harold Tutt, Ross Blakey, Steve Imrie, Chris Fleming, Dan Williams, and Dave Nopper were given a wonderful behind the scenes tour of the David Dunlap Observatory in Richmond Hill by Observatory technician Heide DeBond. We spent time in the extensive library, offices, and two domes on the roof of the administration building. Then we toured the main dome which houses the mighty David Dunlap 188-cm f17.9 English mount telescope. When the skies cleared we looked at brilliant Jupiter, and later the telescope was pointed at M57, the Ring Nebula.

On June 14, Peter Jedicke and Dave McCarter provided an Observing Session for 35 children and parents of the Shedden-West Lorne Home Schooling Group at Fingal. The skies were perfectly clear and we were able to find Jupiter shortly after sunset. Then the eagle eyes of the children spotted Saturn and Mars, making it easy for Peter and Dave to point their telescopes. As it got dark the children were given laser guided tours of constellations and several named stars were pointed out. Later M13, the Hercules globular cluster, and M57, the Ring Nebula were shown. We observed a moon shadow transiting Jupiter and saw a brilliant but short meteor just over Polaris. Just before the last family left, we were treated to a magnitude-5 Iridium flare in the western sky! A wonderful night was had by all.

On June 16, we held our monthly meeting, at which Peter Jedicke discussed the possibility of applying for a Trillium grant to support our outreach activities. Everyone has something to contribute and the ideas flew fast and furious.

On July 14, we provided a slide talk at Quai du Vin winery south east of St. Thomas. London Centre members Peter and Diane Jedicke, Mike Costa, Dave and Angela Clark, Dave Nopper, Elias St. Brice, Richard Gibbens, Dave McCarter, and several guests brought out telescopes, but due to the clouds and mist they didn't get used. A small but appreciative audience listened to Dave McCarter give a talk on near space and the grander objects that amateurs observe.

On July 15, we provided a second night (see next point for the first night!) of astronomy, while Rob Quai provided the wine, cheese, and fresh-baked bread at Quai du Vin winery on Fruit Line Road. Peter Jedicke gave the illustrated talk to an audience of about 200, while Ross Blakey, Bram Bontje, Faye Bontje, John Bontje, Nancy Bontje, Everett Clark, Mike Costa, Donna Costa, Richard Gibbens, Jon Gunning, Mike Hanes, Gary Hinks, Ingrid Hutchinson, Steve Imrie, Dianne Jedicke, Peter Jedicke, Dave McCarter, Fraser McCrossan, Dave Nopper, Joe O'Neil, Tristan O'Neil, Arthur Oslach, Penny Poole, Jenny Shaw, David Smith, Harold Tutt, and at least one guest had their telescopes ready to show off the night sky. Observations carried on until well after moonrise about 1:00 a.m. We saw almost every deep-sky object available, lots of meteors, several dozen satellites, and a lot of smiles on peoples' faces (although it was really dark so many of the smiles are inferred from happy voices).

On July 21, we held our monthly meeting, at which Dave McCarter gave his "Tour of the Milky Way" presentation, showing how to star hop to many fine Messier objects and Barnard's Star. Faye Bontje was presented her Messier Certificate.

On July 29, we held our Tenth-Annual Pinery Astronomy Presentation and Star Party. London Centre members Bram Bontje, John Bontje, Nancy Bontje, Everett Clark, Eric Clinton, Bill Gardner, Richard Gibbens, Dianne Jedicke, Peter Jedicke, Dave McCarter, Fraser McCrossan, Dave Nopper, Penny Poole, Peter Raine and girlfriend Sherry, John Rousom, Darle Rousom, Rick Saunders,

and one guest observer set up their telescopes around the amphitheatre at the Pinery Provincial Park. Heavy clouds threatened to prevent observing, but as the star talk by David McCarter began the crescent Moon appeared and later Jupiter was also visible, creating long line-ups at the telescopes during the talk. The clouds had all but vanished by observing time and everyone was able to enjoy the treasures of the sky. The Milky Way arched across the sky, satellites glided silently north and south and bright meteors created excitement now and then. The audience was estimated at between 700 and 750. Many people attending have done so for several years. Everyone had a fabulous time, and several people said that this observing experience was the highlight of their summer.

On July 31, London Centre members John Rousom, Harold Tutt, Dave Clark, and Everett Clark provided an observing session at Camp Orenda Girl Guide camp for about 40 girls and their leaders. When clouds appeared Dave Clark gave an astronomy talk. This was followed by an amazing thunder and lightning show, which we hope everyone enjoyed and survived. Fraser contributed this story as typical of the night: "I was lined up on the Moon early in the evening, and one woman was looking through the eyepiece. I asked her if she saw it okay, and she replied "Yes, I saw the disk." She didn't sound impressed. I checked the focus and found that it had been knocked way off by one of her kids, so I asked her to look again. "Oh wow!" she said, "it's so clear, you can see the craters!" I had similar experiences all night, always from adults. Many of them didn't expect to see much of anything and were very surprised to see such clarity and detail. I wonder how many have only experienced department-store telescopes and have very low expectations?"

We had really dark skies Monday evening, August 21, for the McCully's Hill Farm Star Party, just outside the town of St. Mary's, organized by Elias St. Brice in cooperation with the St. Mary's Public Library. There was a good crowd of adults and children with an estimated 100 people showing up. Taking part that evening were London Centre members Peter Jedicke, John Rousom, Harold Tutt, Gary Hinks, Elias St. Brice, and Rob Duff. We observed the planet Jupiter and a number of deep-sky objects, including the orange and blue double star Albireo, the Ring Nebula, the globular cluster M13 in Hercules, and the Andromeda Galaxy, to mention a few. Peter Jedicke gave us all a tour of the constellations using his green laser pointer, explaining that the Milky Way was the plane of our galaxy seen edge on. We also saw the International Space Station pass overhead and several bright meteors!

On August 24, London Centre President Dave McCarter gave an astronomy presentation to about 450 fellow campers at Grundy Lake Provincial Park, north of Parry Sound. The skies were perfectly clear and there is no light pollution there, apart from misaimed flashlights, so the talk was followed by several hours of avid observing, introductions to the Milky Way, unaided eye sightings of M31 and M33, the passing of many satellites including the ISS and Cosmos I, and many brilliant and speedy meteors.

On August 26, London Centre members assisted with the Public Observing Session at UWO Cronyn Observatory, our last summer Saturday of a terrific season. UWO astronomy professors and graduate students gave an illustrated astronomy talk and, when weather allowed, they opened the observatory dome to observe through the large 25-cm refractor. London Centre members set up their telescopes on the front lawn and rooftop terrace and gave visitors some great views around the night sky.

From August 24 to 27, about 25 London Centre members braved poor weather to enjoy the social aspects and interesting talks of the Starfest Astronomical Convention, held each year at the River Place Campground. Astronaut Story Musgrave gave some inspiring talks and signed photographs. It is known that at least one London

Centre member bought a new telescope, resulting in several days of cloud and rain.

On August 29, London Member Dave McCarter and camp naturalist Lucy provided an observing session and Q&A for the campers at Grundy Lake Provincial Park. About 150 campers of all ages arrived on the Poplar Beach where three telescopes were set up. Everyone had questions and everyone wanted to look at the astronomical views. The observing continued until the wee hours.

On September 15, we held our first monthly meeting of the new observing year. Dave McCarter spoke about the role of members in the club, and encouraged everyone to share their enthusiasm and knowledge, to take part in observing and public outreach activities. Our many summer activities were reported upon. Rob Duff then presented the "Exploring the Stars" Astronomy Outreach Program at the University of Western Ontario and asked members to volunteer to assist. Organized by UWO graduate student Alyssa Moldowan, "Exploring the Stars" offers public group nights twice a week incorporating animated presentations, group activities, and observing sessions. London Centre members contributed both content and time to all these activities. Later Peter Brown gave a short PowerPoint presentation about the program and answered further questions. Peter Jedicke spoke about following the Pluto debate in Prague on the live web cast. Joe O'Neil delivered a new German equatorial mount for the draw, and talked about the shift in the astronomy marketplace to the high-quality telescopes and eyepieces coming out of China. Then Patrick Whelan showed a short piece of video shot at Starfest regarding Pluto's change of status, and Jon Gunning showed a video shot at Starfest in 2005 that discussed how that star party has become the premier amateur astronomy event in Canada.

On September 26, we held the fifth annual slide show and star party for Northview Elementary School on Commissioners Road, west of downtown Byron. About 40 grade-six students and 20 parents turned up, and by the time the slides were done the skies were mostly clear, so lots of observing happened.

On September 28, Peter Jedicke provided an astronomy presentation to patrons at the Westmount Public Library. David Clark, Dave McCarter, Rob Duff, and Elias St. Brice provided the after-talk star gazing and observing the Moon with telescopes in the parking lot adjacent to the Library.

On October 3, Dave McCarter provided views of the Moon through a small refracting telescope and a large Newtonian telescope to the grade-one students, their parents, and teachers of Clara Brenton Public School.

On October 19, the first of a series of St. Mary's Astronomy Club meetings was held at the St. Mary's Public Library. David McCarter gave seven very attentive young people a talk about the Milky Way. These meetings are being organized by the St. Mary's Public Library in conjunction with London Centre member Elias St. Brice. For more information, visit their web page.

On October 20, at our monthly meeting, Alex Brett, author of the novels Cold Dark Matter and Dead Water Creek, discussed her interest in writing science mystery novels. In particular, she discussed interesting cases of scientific fraud and the effect upon honest investigative science and research.

On November 8, several London Centre members were able to take advantage of breaks in the constant cloud cover to observe the Transit of Mercury. The tiny circular disk of Mercury was complemented by a massive sunspot that had just recently moved onto the disk.

On November 17, we held our monthly meeting where Dr. Martin Houde, assistant professor UWO, spoke about the challenges and benefits of Submillimetre Astronomy: The Last Frontier. Dust

and complex organics emit short-wavelength radio waves that allow astronomers to peer into the dark recesses of the galaxy.

On December 9, several London Centre members dug out their driveways (London had 63 cm of snow on December 8th) and set up a mall display at Cherry Hill Mall, with the assistance of John McKittrick of McKittrick's Digital and Video. In attendance were David Clark, Rob Duff, Gary Hinks, Peter Jedicke, Dave McCarter, Don MacKenzie, John Rousom, Dave Rubenhagen, Rick Saunders, Elias St. Brice, and Harold Tutt.

A complete listing of past London Centre activities, can be found on the [London Centre Web page](#). OK, so it does not include most of our Fingal observing sessions. If it did, the list would be four-times as long! Work continues on our warm-up room at Fingal Conservation area, thanks largely to the perseverance of President Dave McCarter. In spite of a few bullet holes by vandals, the warm-up room has progressed to near completion!

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid Hutchinson-Young
Executive Secretary

MISSISSAUGA CENTRE

The Mississauga Astronomical Society was founded by Randy Attwood in April 2003 with the mandate to advance astronomy and allied sciences to the people of Mississauga and surrounding communities. After a busy three years, the membership voted in February to approach the National Council of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and apply to become the 28th Centre of the Society, namely, the Mississauga Centre. On the Victoria long weekend, the General Assembly of the RASC unanimously approved Mississauga as the 28th Centre.

Through the efforts of various Centre members, the logo was redone, new name tags and golf shirts with the Mississauga Centre

logo produced (done by Terry Hardman), the Web site updated (thanks to Randy Attwood and Tony Blazis), proper links made to the National Society, a post office box established (by John Marchese), a press release put out (by Randy Attwood), an article written in the Mississauga News, and a DVD lending library created. Betty Robinson and Kari Ross produced an online newsletter. The Mississauga Centre also sponsored the Clear Sky Clock for Mississauga.

As of December 1, there were 48 members of the Mississauga Centre. Meetings took place on average every two weeks, on a Friday at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (the Erindale campus), a central location obtained through the help of Dr. Percy of University of Toronto Mississauga. The meetings are open to everyone. Meetings generally alternate between a dedicated speaker's night, and members' nights where the members give a variety of shorter presentations.

Members' nights, moderated by Randy Attwood or Phil Mozel, were held on May 26, where the Mississauga Centre was announced, June 23, July 14, August 11, September 22, October 20, and November 17. Members gave presentations on Starfest, astro-imaging, building of personal observatories, a lifetime of comet observations, variable-star observing, an interactive astronomy session, observing atmospheric phenomena, building a Dobsonian telescope, book reviews, astronomy education, transits of Mercury, the Antikythera mechanism, precession, a theory of Easter Island (aliens visiting?), the sky next month, videos of space missions and the ISS, and other topics.

Speakers' nights, moderated by Randy Attwood, were as follows:

June 9	John Gawrow, "Observing our Atmosphere"
September 8	Ray Carlberg of U of T, "The Thirty Metre Telescope Project"
October 6	Paul Delaney, "Our Changing Solar System"
November 3	Scott Young, "Pluto vs. the Ice Dwarves"
December 8	Phil Mozel, "Astronomy Writing for Fun and more Fun"

Submitted by

Chris Malicki
Secretary



Members of the Mississauga Centre celebrate becoming the newest (28th) Centre of the RASC at its September 8, 2006 meeting at the University of Toronto at Mississauga. —Photo by Randy Attwood

Trente-deux conférences ont été présentées en 2006, au local du Centre, dont six par du personnel du Département de physique de l'Université de Montréal.

De février à octobre, la Société a également organisé 10 soirées d'observation pour le public montréalais, la plupart au Parc-nature de l'île-de-la-Visitation, et notamment à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de l'astronomie. La soirée du 26 août a eu lieu au Parc-nature-de-la-Pointe-aux-Prairies.

Au cours de l'été s'est tenue la 26^e édition du Concours annuel de fabricants de télescope d'amateurs (CAFTA).

Des ateliers d'astronomie ont été offerts à des élèves dans les écoles, notamment par André Gendron et Hugues Lacombe.

Tout au long de l'année plusieurs membres se sont rendus au terrain de la Société à St-Valérien pour y faire de l'observation du ciel profond ou de l'astrophotographie.

Le Conseil d'administration a tenu quatre réunions au cours de l'année.

Thirty-two conferences were presented in 2006 at the CFM facilities. Six of those were given by personnel from the University of Montréal's Physics Department.

From February to October, CFM also organized ten Public Events for Montrealers, mainly at the Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation. One of these events was held on International Astronomy Day. The August 26 event was held at the Parc-nature-de-la-Pointe-aux-Prairies.

During the summer, the 26th edition of the Concours annuel de fabricants de télescope d'amateurs (CAFTA) was held.

Presentations in schools were given by CFM members, notably by André Gendron and Hugues Lacombe.

Throughout the year CFM members made use of the Centre's observing site in St-Valérien-de-Milton for deep-sky observations and astrophotography.

CFM's Executive Committee met four times during the year.

Hugues Lacombe
President

Things have gone smoothly this first whole year (2006) that the Montreal Centre has been at John Abbott College. The monthly meetings were well attended and arrangements are being made to "move-in" to the storage room. Students of Library Technology at John Abbott are cataloguing the Centre's books and arranging them so that the library will be accessible to the membership soon.

The I.K. Williamson Observatory at McGill was closed definitely and keys have been returned to McGill, ending a long relationship. Most usable equipment, furniture, and books excluded from our new library were sold to members.

Astronomy Day was held inside Chapters Book Store. It rained all day, but in the evening it cleared out and an observing site was set up in the parking lot. There were quite a few telescopes. Attendance couldn't have been better. All is set to have Astronomy Day again at Chapters.

The Centre received a donation of a new telescope from David and Wendee Levy, a 14-inch Meade telescope and plans are underway to install it at the Morgan Arboretum situated a few miles north of John Abbott College. McGill's approval of site pending, we would like to start building this summer.

As always, we gathered at the Arboretum during the summer and fall with an Introduction to Astronomy talk before observing. However, the weather this year did not cooperate. Most nights were cloudy.

One of the members, Bettina Forget, had the idea and took on the responsibility of organizing a group to observe the Moon and complete the I.K. Williamson Lunar Observing program. They have had regular monthly meetings to compare notes and observe, if possible. Attendance has been very good, and the organizer and hostess is superb in her leadership.

As we enter 2007 the Board of Directors has had major changes. Several members who have been on the Board of Directors for a long time have left: Carole Talbot, Bill Strople, and Mark Bratton. David Shuman and Paul Simard have stepped down from the executive committee but are giving continuity to the Board. The new Board is very enthusiastic and busy with many projects. Things are looking very positive for our new year.

Mina Reyes
Secretary

(previously Moncton)

The past year was another year of growth for the Moncton Centre. With the rotation of meetings between the cities of Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John plus smaller monthly meetings in a couple of those cities, we have about 20 RASC meetings a year! At year end a new group was forming and interested in becoming a "Unit" of the Centre in Miramichi! We look forward to holding a couple of meetings there next year and supporting our local members in getting the group up and running.

The first major event of the year for our Centre was Astronomy Day which was celebrated under cloudy skies. In Fredericton we set up our display again at the Boyce Farmers' Market where some 2000 people strolled through on Saturday morning. Although we could not see the Sun, many interested people stopped to talk and ask questions. Ted Dunphy's hands-on "make your own meteorite impact" was a hit with children of all ages! In Moncton members sat up at the new Dieppe Market. They had a great time speaking to everyone who stopped by, distributed lots of information, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Solar System, and even signed up a few new members! In Saint John, an ambitious schedule of activities was set for Astronomy Week. Public observing was planned for every clear evening at Saints Rest Beach, and there was limited viewing on four nights. Our Astronomy Day mall display featured the Light Pollution Box, on loan from Ted Dunphy, and the 20-inch

Big ASS (Ashland Stargazing Society) scope. Don Clendenning and Steve Tompkins proudly described their handiwork to visibly impressed shoppers. For Sunday we hosted a public telescope clinic but only one person took up our offer.

Mid-July brings us to the end of the bug season and time for our star party. This year it has finally taken a name and we would like to invite all who are in the region in July to come to the Dam Star Party. It is located in Mataquac Provincial Park just across the head pond from the Mataquac Power Dam. The park is home to 400 campsites and is usually full although they allow us to use one of the large open fields, so space is never an issue. The party is geared more to bringing astronomy to the public, and observing nights are usually well attended with over 300 or so people lining up to see the views. Part of the Dam Star Party is the club BBQ, which always has lots of food and is a good time. A few door prizes, solar observing, and rocket launches provide fun for all.

In August our members head out and seek out other star parties, with some traveling to Nova East in Nova Scotia, Astro Atlantik in New Brunswick, and even Starfest in Ontario. Again the Centre is growing and the diehards are looking for their "fix." We even saw a record number of members from our Centre attend the Ottawa GA with four, and plans are that we may double that for this year's GA in Calgary.

Fall brings us our big event of the year, our sixth Annual Astronomy Rendezvous. This is a full-day event starting with our Annual Meeting in the morning, followed by the first speaker, Dr. James Whitehead of St. Thomas University. Lunch (more food) keeps people on site and allows time for our members to meet the various speakers of the day. After lunch three speakers completed the afternoon of talks. It was President Scott Young, 1st V-P David Lane, and a past president, Dr. Roy Bishop, who wowed us all! Their subject matter can be found below in the list of talk topics for this past year.

Our big news is that at our Annual Meeting we voted to change our name to become the New Brunswick Centre! Every indication is that by the time you are reading this it will have been approved by National Council in March. This has been long wanted from the day the Centre was formed as we are truly a regional Centre as you see from how we operate in multiple cities.

Meetings always include a What's Up Review, and most often a constellation-of-the-month presentation. Below is a list of the main topics and speakers for the past year at the main monthly meeting.

January (Moncton)

Paul Gray, "Mirror Cleaning Demo and Eyepiece Cleaning Workshop"

February (Fredericton)

Dr. James Whitehead, "Fireballs and All-Sky Camera Projects in NB"
 Ted Dunphy, "Sketching at the eyepiece"
 Paul Gray, "March Madness - Messier Marathon Time"

March (Moncton)

Shawn McHatten, "Folded Newtonian"
 Paul Gray, "Messier Marathon Primer"
 Paul Gray, "Dark Nebulae"

April (Saint John)

Peter Jensen, "Star Clusters"
 Curt Nason, "Who's Who in the Handbook"
 June McDonald & Candace MacAfee, "Hubble Space Telescope"

May (Moncton)

Shawn McHatten, "Folded Newtonian"
 Ted Dunphy, "Light Pollution"
 Tim Doucette, "Comet 73P/Schwassmann-Wachmann"
 Emma MacPhee, "Asteroid Apophis"

Paul Gray, "RASC Resources"
 Paul Gray, "Eyepieces, Exit pupils"

June (Fredericton)

Dr. Ian Short, SMU, "Sun's Chromosphere and Corona"
 Paul Gray, "General Assembly report"
 On-site tour by Dr. Edwards - Willian Brydone Jack Observatory Tour

September (Moncton)

Chris Weadick, "Field of View Spreadsheet"
 Curt Nason, "RA and Dec"
 Fundy Sky Extravaganza (Observing Report)
 Paul Gray, "Sky Quality Meter"

November (Moncton - Astronomy Rendezvous)

Dr. James Whitehead, "All-Sky Camera Network in NB"
 Scott Young, RASC President, "Graphite and Starlight"
 Dave Lane, RASC 1st V-P, "ECU - Earth Centered Universe"
 Dr. Roy Bishop, Former RASC President, "Observatories of the Atacama"

December (Fredericton)

Chris Weadick, "Explore the Universe Program Review"
 Emma MacPhee, "Astro Quiz"
 Paul Gray, "Meteor Showers and Observing"

Submitted by

Paul Gray
President



The Centre continued with its mandate of bringing astronomy to the public. Once a month, specific beginners' programs are presented to the public. These sessions are held at the public library, and have been well received.

Once a month the Centre hosts beginner classes at the local high school. These classes are for students of the high school and their parents. As of late the classes have been expanded to include instruction for teachers, who teach astronomy to their respective classes. After a two-hour session the group is brought into the planetarium and the realization of the night sky becomes complete. A growing number of grade-six classes have had members come in to talk about astronomy.

Public star nights at local parks are in evidence once a month. As well, star nights have been conducted at local provincial parks and conservation areas. Every three months, on average, our Centre can be found at Stonechurch Vineyards putting on a public star night with two hour-long presentations in the star theatre. By becoming regular voices on several radio programs, and through features in the local paper, the public is readily made aware of the events of the Niagara Centre.

The annual banquet, held on April 4, was enjoyed by all. Terence Dickinson was the key-note speaker. Other notable events included the Solar Filter Workshop (20 April), International Astronomy Day (5 May), and Niagara Centre Star-B-Q (22 July).

Our second observatory is nearing completion; when finished it will be fully equipped for astroimaging on a serious scale.

The reins were passed over to a fresh executive October 19, 2006.

President/Beginners' Workshop, Stan Sammy; Vice-President/Public Observing Coordinator, Michael Panucci; Secretary, Andrew Beaton; Treasurer, Dave Stremlaw; National Representative, Joe Otonicar; Past President/Public Relations/Beginners' Workshop, Brian Pihack; Webmaster, Jim Holiko; Librarian, Darlene Sloggett; Dark Skies Chairman, Wayne Liebau; Observatory Director, Les Marczi; Members' Observing Coordinator, Mark Roberts; Whirlpool Editor & Publisher, Philip Downey; Hospitality, Patricia Sammy; Board of Directors: Darlene Marano, Joyce Sims, Glen Pidsadnick, Bill Macsween; President's Council: John Vanderbrugge, Ray Evoy, Denis Maheu, Dan Frigault.

Andrew Beaton
Secretary

OKANAGAN CENTRE

Public Outreach remains a strong feature of the Okanagan Centre in 2006. Astronomy was introduced to numerous school classes, church groups, the Girl Guides, and summer youth-club classes.

Sidewalk Astronomy was held during the first quarter to full Moon phase monthly, in the mall parking lot in front of Chapters, to start the year off, then moved to the parking lot of Wal-Mart. Sidewalk Astronomy was also set up in front of Earl's in Vernon.

A big night for sidewalk astronomy, was setting up in the parking lot of the movie theatre at the opening of movies. Halloween also was a fun night to dress up and show off the Moon. Even though the weather was very cold, many people stopped by to have a look at the Moon.

International Astronomy Day started off the day with a booth set up in the shopping mall, as well as telescopes set up in the parking lot. When the weather cooperated with us, there were many solar flares observed. The event was well attended this year even though the evening observations were cut short due to the weather — overcast, cold, and windy.

Mount Kobau Star Party was another success this year although viewing was occasionally limited due the smoke drifting in from the forest fires in the northern United States.

Our inventory of club scopes increased this year with a solar telescope that can be rented out by members. We also have in our inventory a 24-inch Zerodur mirror.

A special committee has been formed to coordinate the task of obtaining land and a building to house this mirror in an observatory.

Member David Player received the RASC's Finest NGC Certificate.

The list of presentations to our monthly meetings is as follows:

January	Peter Jedicke, "Neutrinos & Astronomy"
February	Dr. Richard Christie, "Sunspots"
March	Hugh Carter, "Astrology in the Astronomy Class"
April	Neil Campbell, "Solar Eclipse - Viewed from Turkey"
May	Dave Gamble, "Astroimaging Round Table"
June	Dave Collins, "Comets, Asteroids, & Meteorites"
September	Colleen O'Hare, "Lesser Known Names"
October	Jayanne English, "Cosmos versus Canvas"
November	Jim Kanester, "A Visit to the Paris Observatory"

Dorothy Player
Secretary

2006 marks an exciting and successful year for the Ottawa Centre as we celebrated our 100th Anniversary as the first Centre of the RASC. To help commemorate this, centennial products, such as golf shirts, t-shirts, mugs, and pins, were made with a newly designed centennial logo and sold throughout the year at Centre meetings.

A highlight of the year was the General Assembly 2006 held in May, on the Victoria Day weekend. This was a great success and the Ottawa GA Committee of 28 volunteers is to be congratulated for a fine job of hosting this huge event. The four-day GA included 18 guest speakers, a public lecture, four off-site tours, a barbecue, a wine and cheese reception with live classical music, and a banquet with a five-foot Centennial cake. A great time was had by all.

The Ottawa Centre is proud to have the second-highest membership in the country out of 28 Centres. Our membership stands at 349 regular members, 8 youth members, and 39 lifetime members, for a total of 396. We also have the highest turnout at our monthly meetings, with attendance frequently exceeding 150. The Ottawa Centre is also known for having a high concentration of advanced amateur astronomers and astroimagers.



The Ottawa Centre's 100th anniversary was celebrated at the 2006 General Assembly.—Photo by Denis Grey

Our popular Centre meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. The Meeting Chair, Chuck O'Dale, continues the exciting format with an invited guest speaker each month, as well as short talks by members in the first half of the evening. Chuck begins each meeting with a presentation of impressive astrophotos submitted by Ottawa members, which are also available on our Centre Web site. This year we have had the pleasure of listening to several great presentations: Dr. Richard Herd, National Meteorite Collection; Dr. Jan Viezer, cosmic influence on our climate; Bob Warren, Canadian technology in the Apollo project; Dr. Blyth Robertson, Canadian pioneering in impact structure research; Paul Harrison, Ancient Astronomy in Peru; Dr. Christian Veillet, Director of the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope; Dr. Richard Gattinger, Earth IR space-imaging technology; Dr. Martine Simard-Normandin, Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope visit; Alan Boyce, Telescope Diaries from South America, and Dr. Gordon Osinski, Life and Impact Structures, Canadian Space Agency.

The Annual Dinner, which was held on the November 10, also commemorated the Centre's 100th anniversary. This year, we were privileged to hear Dr. Peter Watson, Professor at Carleton University, speak on Dark Matter / Dark Energy. Dr. Watson dressed as a Victorian gentleman and entertained everyone with his account

of the science at the turn of the century, and how things have changed with the understanding of energy. Guests again left with a bounty of door prizes, thanks in particular to donations by Meade Telescopes, Focus Scientific, Imaginova, and the RASC Ottawa Centre. Centennial Pins were given to each person who attended the dinner.

The Centre's star-party coordinator, Alain Beaudoin, organized six public events this year—the weather only cooperated at three! Other events were in support of the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology such as Astronomy Day, Halloween night, and Winter Solstice.

The Centre's Fred Lossing Observatory (FLO), managed by Al Seaman, continues to be well used by members, with a total of 27 paid up "keyholders" who have full access to observatory equipment. In addition, numerous other members use FLO as a dark site to set up their own equipment. Overall usage seems to be down a bit, at least partly due to an unusual amount of bad weather this year. There were no noteworthy equipment problems this year, and maintenance work was largely limited to the usual routine things: grass and tree trimming in the summer, and snow clearing in the winter. Again, the site was accessible throughout the winter. The FLO site was also surveyed in detail and a site map prepared, a preparatory step for future improvements.

The SMARTscope team has been working steadily towards the goal of initiating Web-based imaging operations at the Pett Observatory. The primary objective during this time has been to make the observatory equipment operate reliably. SMARTscope has now been operated remotely on a number of evenings, with good pointing accuracy and good focus. It was demonstrated in live operation at the November Centre meeting. The session was very successful, with the targets being selected by the audience and then quickly imaged onto the auditorium screen. The next step is to complete software configuration to allow for Web-based operation. Initially, a Web-based scheduling tool will be developed to allocate slots for different observers. Over time, the Web interface will see improvements, and the transition will be made to have the observatory available for a wider range of users and purposes. There has been a tremendous effort over this past year by the SMARTscope team with significant contributions of Tim Cole, Daryl Corbett, Al Seaman, and team leader Doug George.

The Stan Mott Book Librarian, Richard Kicksee, has been busy this year with the weeding of old books and magazines to make room for new up-to-date publications. A complete inventory was completed and surplus books sold. The money raised was put towards new acquisitions. Also, Richard has been making changes and improvements to the old cataloguing system and hopes to have an extensive catalogue available on the Centre's Web site with the ability to see all books available, and to reserve a publication.

In the awards department, Brian McCullough won the Observer-of-the-Year Award, presented at the annual dinner; and the Astronotes article-of-the-year award went to Chuck O'Dale for his two-part article on Searching for Impact Structures.

Finally, it is with great sadness to announce the passing of Centre member, Peter Williams, who passed away on June 10, 2006 at his home in Phoenix, Arizona. Peter was the founding member of the Centre's SMARTscope project. Peter, with his enthusiastic nature and passion for astronomy, is missed by all who knew him.

Debra Ceravolo
President

Collaborating with the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) for the first time, our Centre offered an Armchair Astronomy course and our third NOVA course. Attended by 12 people, Armchair Astronomy introduced participants to the very basics of astronomy and was very well received. Another 18 people attended the NOVA course. We have found, as have other Centres offering some form of NOVA course, that this is an effective way to increase membership. The dilemma we now face is how to retain these new members when their memberships expire.

B.C. is in the midst of a Pine Beetle attack on its forests. As a result, we have been removing infested trees from our property, with the problem that we are now affected by light pollution from passing vehicles and the rural neighbourhood.

Great success has been realized in our efforts to canvass local businesses for donations to help upgrade our aging infrastructure and main telescope. Centre members are now in the midst of updating the 24-inch telescope drive and replacing the dome's worn bearings. Our ultimate goal is to give the 24-inch scope Go-To capability. The dome shutters will soon be motorized, and dome rotation linked to the movement of the telescope.

Manning a booth twice a year in the city's Recreation Market at a local mall, along with advertising in newspapers and radio, continues to be the most effective method of informing the public about astronomical events and the Centre's existence.

When weather permits, meteor showers are well attended. As an example, over 120 people attended the Orionids this year, while poor weather and the Moon phase prevented any view of the Perseids. 1160 man-hours directly related to tours, lectures, Pro D days, special viewing events, and open houses were spent hosting nearly 1100 visitors to the observatory. This keeps a small, dedicated core of Centre members very busy.

Data from Radio-SkyPipe, a program that captures meteor activity in graph format, and Radio Jove which monitors radio emissions from Jupiter, continues to be accumulated, with the R-SP data published to our Web site every 15 minutes.

As all our efforts were focused on outdoor activities in the city core, as opposed to hosting the event at our observatory and classroom facility, poor weather prevented us from participating in Astronomy Day this year. We did however open our facility to viewing the Mercury transit. Because the event occurred mid-week and during the day, public attendance was virtually non-existent, but the hosts did have an opportunity to witness the transit.

Several members are continuing to work towards earning the I.K. Williamson Lunar Certificate, as well as the Messier Certificate. The Messier Marathon held in March was an excellent time to find some of the deep-sky objects. Other members focus on astrophotography, spectrometry, and asteroid and comet observations.

Our efforts to dramatically improve the functionality and user friendliness of our prime telescope for both image gathering and visual use, discovering ways to retain our existing members and interest others in joining our Centre, canvassing different sources for financial assistance, and just pursuing our own personal astronomical interests and goals will keep us all busy in the coming year.

Glen Harris
Secretary

Encore une fois cette année, le Centre de Québec a été impliqué dans plusieurs activités. Le Centre a organisé dix conférences, soit les premiers mercredis des mois de septembre à juin. Les sujets étaient tous variés et très intéressants. En voici la liste: L'histoire des télescopes, les éléments chimiques dans l'Univers, la radio-astronomie, la magnitude des comètes, la Lune, les perséides, l'optique des télescopes, les aurores boréales, le Système Solaire, et la plus grosse gaffe d'Einstein (cosmologie).

En ce qui a trait aux soirées d'observations organisées par le Centre à l'Observatoire Alphonse Tardif de St-Nérée, l'année 2006 aura été une année décevante sur ce point. La mauvaise température aura eu raison des belles nuits étoilées.

À l'occasion de la journée internationale de l'astronomie du 6 mai 2006, une activité pour le public a été organisée à l'Arboretum du Domaine de Maizerets.

Quelques soirées d'observation pour le public dans le stationnement du Domaine de Maizerets ont été organisées par le Centre.

Le Centre a organisé pour ses membres trois ateliers dont deux sur la photographie numérique et un sur l'observation en hiver.

Pour une deuxième année, le Centre a participé au début du mois de juillet au Festival d'astronomie populaire du Mont-Mégantic en y tenant un kiosque.

Finalement, il y a eu le traditionnel party hot-dog organisé pour les membres en juillet.

Voici la composition de l'exécutif pour l'année 2006-2007: Président - Stéphane Dumas ; Vice-Président - Guy Campeau ; Secrétaire - Daniel Tardif ; Trésorier - Pierre Desrosiers ; Représentant national - Pierre Desrosiers .

Daniel Tardif
Secrétaire

Club members of the Regina Centre had a successful and productive year in 2006. A sample of activities included informal observing sessions while enjoying the club's dark-sky observing site east of Regina at Davin, organizing and attending the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party, promoting the positive effects of responsible lighting vs. light pollution, as well as various public-outreach and education events. Unfortunately, efforts to have a Messier Marathon were again clouded-out this year.

Following the success of having the Cypress Hills designated a Dark-Sky Preserve, the Cypress Hills Inter-Provincial Park sent a formal letter expressing thanks to Regina Centre member Vance Petriew, as well as Richard Huziak from Saskatoon Centre and Bob King from Calgary Centre, for all their efforts. A great example of various Centres working together to achieve a common goal!

The Saskatchewan Millennium Telescope, located in the Kallium Observatory in Regina, under direction of Ron Haughey and other dedicated volunteers, continued to provide scheduled public viewing nights as well as private events. Member telescopes were

setup at the Saskatchewan Science Centre in Regina on occasions to show the night sky. On a busy Canada Day, enthusiastic volunteers from the club set up a number of telescopes to view the Sun through various solar filters, ensuring both fine views and safety.

On International Astronomy Day, club members again set up an exhibit and telescopes at the Southland Mall in Regina, which again was quite popular with a steady stream of people stopping by throughout the day to ask questions and talk about astronomy. When the sky permitted, we were even able to show sunspots by pointing through the mall's skylights.

In continuing our association with the Cypress Hills Inter-Provincial Park and its Dark-Sky Preserve a couple of club members traveled to Cypress Hills in the spring to give a crash course in astronomy, caring for a telescope, and hosting public viewing events for an enthusiastic group of park interpreter staff. Following this the park staff, equipped with a new 10-inch Dobsonian telescope and some 20x80 binoculars, hosted public viewing nights throughout the summer and into the fall at the Bald Butte lookout, an awesome location.

Members of the Regina Centre continued to work on restoring Father Lucien Kemble's observatory at our dark-sky site. With a fresh coat of paint, and a new pier poured, it is almost ready to go again!

August of 2006 saw the 10th annual Saskatchewan Summer Star Party (SSSP) held in the beautiful Cypress Hills. The star party was a great success through the efforts of the Regina and Saskatoon Centres members, who work hard to organize and host this superb event. Weather and viewing conditions were again spectacular. Star party highlights included a presentation on First Nations astronomy, a teleconference with a rain-drenched crew at Starfest in Ontario, as well as recognition of the people who had attended all ten SSSPs. A Saskatchewan Cable Network crew filmed the event and made a very good short film entitled Living Night Skies - The Saskatchewan Summer Star Party. This is available as a streaming video through the SCN.sk.ca Web site in the online, 15 minutes of fame section (season 1, episode 14).

Although we are not a large club, we have many enthusiastic members who continue to make observing and astronomy a fun time. At the same time we are building friendships while sharing our experience and experiences. We look forward to a 2007 filled with clear and starry nights.

Alden Foraie
President

For the St. John's Centre, the year began with some "Snow Shoe Astronomy." Doug Grouchy helped organize this event with the City of St. John's, involving snow-shoeing, natural history, and star-gazing with our green laser pointer. Doug provided the star-gazing portion of the event at regular intervals during the two-hour hike (the ISS was visible, as well).

The Centre again took part in International Astronomy Day. There were about 40 or so visitors, and our Web site now contains a number of pictures of the event. Unfortunately, clouds covered most of the event. The new location at the Fluvarium, combined with the bad weather, may have accounted for an unexpected drop in numbers.

Our annual Star-B-Que was held at Butterpot Provincial Park. The event was rained out. However, there were some breaks in the daytime cloud, during which our latest Centre telescope, the Coronado Personal Solar Telescope, proved to be popular. We later had another event at the Park for the public as a make-up. The skies were mostly clear, and many objects were viewed.

Garry Dymond continued his shows in the planetarium at the Marine Institute. He runs four shows a week from September to June for many different kinds of groups — mainly the Scouting movement takes part. We would like to thank an anonymous donor for helping out with this program.

Garry also ran a beginners' astronomy course at Memorial University of Newfoundland. A total of 15 people took part, and of these, 14 participated in 3 observing sessions.

Our Centre received national approval on January 8, 1966. To celebrate, we had an anniversary meeting. Randy Dodge and Garry Dymond, long-time members, spoke about the founding of the Centre and our history.

Finally, there have been some preliminary meetings about building a Centre observatory, and we have approved a new constitution as of November, yet to be forwarded for National approval.

Here is a summary of our meeting year:

January	Christmas "Show & Tell." Telescope Workshop.
February	Chris Stevenson, "Pluto and the KBOs"
March	Starry Night DVD Excerpts.
April	Dr. Phil McCausland, "Listening to the Stardust Re-entry - with an Ear to the Ground"
May	David Lane, "AROSS: Chasing Bacon with the Abbey Ridge Observatory Supernova Search!"
June	Randy Dodge and Garry Dymond, "Centre 40th Anniversary"
September	Reports on Summer Activities.
October	Annual General Meeting
November	New Centre Constitution and video on Super-Massive Black Holes.
December	Annual Social. Dr. Phil McCausland, "Meteorites at the University of Western Ontario"

Summaries of all these talks can be found on our Web site at <http://www.sji.ca/rasc>.

Good luck and clear skies!

David Bourgeois
Secretary

SARNIA CENTRE

Sarnia Centre meets monthly to discuss RASC business and astronomy. To help members keep current with what's up in the sky, Marty Cogswell and Ralph Dejong have been providing enlightening & entertaining monthly "Sky Tour" presentations. We also have special topic presentations from club members, a couple of examples being:

Richard Weatherstone speaking on "Why You Should See a Solar Eclipse"; Richard related his experiences as having attended four eclipses over the years, the most recent being seen from the Libyan desert in 2006.

Richard Weatherstone & Marty Cogswell's presentation on Digital Astrophotography.

For International Astronomy Day, Sarnia RASC had a mall display

and hosted a public star party. Weather co-operated nicely and we had a chance to look at Spring sky objects along with brighter fragments of Comet Schwassmann-Wachmann.

Club members have been busy promoting astronomy. In March, Marty Cogswell & Chris Charbonneau presented an Astronomy Talk to a local Cub group. In July and August, the Lambton County Libraries had an astronomy reading program for young people. In association, Sarnia RASC held astronomy presentations and sky tours at seven different library locations. These were all well attended with 20 to 40 children and adults at the sessions. The presentation covered the planets and their motions, along with other celestial objects. Fortunately most evening skies were clear for viewing, and the audience enjoyed looking at what was visible. Thanks to Marty for preparing the show and to Chris Charbonneau, Marie Fisher, Jose Ordenes, and Ralph Dejong for hosting the sky tours.

We're looking forward to clear skies & warmer weather so we can get out to our observing site.

Marty Cogswell
Secretary

SASKATOON CENTRE



Yannis Pabatouroglou and Stan Shadick proudly showing off the Saskatoon Centre's newly acquired 16" Meade LX200 which was purchased from the Toronto Centre in the Fall of 2006. It has been temporarily installed in the University's Sleaford roll-off observatory until a new building at the joint Sleaford site can be prepared.—Photo by Ron Waldron



Saskatchewan Summer Star Party 2006 was put on by the Saskatoon and Regina Centres at the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and Dark-Sky Preserve August 24-27.—Photo by George Charpentier

This has been another year full of activities. There has been increased use of the Sleaford Observatory by our members, as a group of keen observers has developed spontaneously and continues to frequent the site, as weather permits.

Astronomy Day this year saw another strong response by volunteers to operate the display, but only limited interest by the public.

The SSSP 2006 was a resounding success. There were 270+ registrants, who were treated to a pristine sky on the Friday night of the star party.

Our display at the November hobby show again aroused only moderate interest by the public but was well attended by volunteers.

A highlight of the year was the purchase of our Meade 16-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. This has been set up in the University of Saskatchewan roll-off observatory, and once good weather permits, adjustments will be further refined.

We all look forward to another year of interest and anticipation as the Universe continues to slowly unfold before our eyes.

Al Hartridge
Secretary

THUNDER BAY CENTRE

The year 2006 turned out to be an eventful and a very busy time for our Centre. Membership has increased over the past year. Our activities were diverse and more members became involved in club administration, operations, and presentations.

With their wide range of experience and expertise, our members conducted many of the presentations at Centre meetings. Topics covered a wide variety of astronomically related themes. Subjects included: “Binocular Types” (Randy McAllister), “Motions of Earth in Space” (Ted Bronson), “Nature of Telescopes” (Rob Kushneriuk), “Exploration of Venus” (John Bakkelund), “Construction Techniques of a Hybrid Observatory” (Lionel Catalan), “Deep-Sky Objects and Their Classification” (Doug Stuart), “Night-Sky Targets Each Month” (Dave Gallant), “Finderscopes” (John Bakkelund), Basic Imaging (Randy McAllister), and “Information from Starlight” (Rob Kushneriuk). Other presentations at our meeting included:

“Turkey Solar Eclipse” (Ted Bronson), “Requiem for Planet Pluto” (Ted Bronson), and “2006 Transit of Mercury” (Ted Bronson).

Our Centre hosted three guest speakers this year. Peter Jedicke, RASC President, presented the topic “Neutrinos and Astronomy” in January. Our second speaker was geology professor, Dr. Steven Kissin, whose presentation was “Meteorite Composition and Impact Sites” at our March meeting. Our third speaker for 2006 was astronomy professor Wolfe Wall. His presentation was “Stellar Evolution and Characteristics - Part II” at our April meeting.

Astronomy Day was held on May 6 with an exhibit at Chapters book store. Centre members had telescopes and equipment on display, along with photographs and literature. Numerous questions and comments were received concerning our Centre and astronomy in general.

This year the Thunder Bay Centre hosted two major Stargazing Weekends at Provincial Parks. These events were held at:

Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park (July 29) - The event was attended by around 65 campers and interested stargazers at the outdoor amphitheatre. Ted Bronson started with a talk on the topic “Space, Time and Our Place in the Cosmos.” After the talk, Centre members set up telescopes and binoculars for a sky tour. Mostly cloudy skies allowed only brief peeks at Jupiter and some stars. The clouds of mosquitoes tended to discourage many people from attending the observing session.

Quetico Provincial Park (August 11/12) - A milestone was reached this year at French Lake, Quetico Park, as we hosted our 20th annual astronomy weekend.

The weekend started off on August 11th with an evening presentation at the Learning Centre of Ted’s “Space, Time and Our Place in the Cosmos.” Around 35 people attended this session. After the talk, a sky tour was conducted by Centre members at the pavilion parking lot under very clear skies. With the area lights turned off, the legendary Quetico sky revealed itself to all. Some Perseid meteors were seen along with the many constellations, stars, Jupiter, and various deep-sky objects.

In the afternoon on August 12, Ted Bronson gave a talk entitled “Our Dynamic Sun” at the Learning Centre. Following the presentation, members with solar-filtered scopes had their instruments set up for daytime observing. A few clouds were a nuisance but numerous clear spots allowed good views of sunspots, filaments, and prominences.

The evening presentation by Dave Gallant was a talk on the Perseid meteor shower. Meteors and their origins, as well as the best times to view meteor showers, were covered in the talk to an audience of around 30 people. Unfortunately the skies were overcast that night so the meteors could not be seen.

Centre members organized and participated in community astronomy presentations and public observing sessions. The Saturn observing session at Hillcrest Park on February 10 was very well attended.

The final event of the year was a Christmas social at the Bronson residence on December 3. Our experiences of the past year were shared along with anticipation towards a successful 2007 for the Thunder Bay Centre.

Ted Bronson
Past Secretary

Edward Essex
Secretary

TORONTO CENTRE

2005-2006 was one of the busiest years in the history of the Toronto Centre. One of the highlights was the announcement on August 1, 2006 that the Centre would receive a grant of \$52,400 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The money will be used to make the E.C. Carr Astronomical Observatory (CAO) more accessible to persons with limited mobility and disabilities, and to make the CAO more interactive during public-education events held at the facility. The 16-inch telescope has been replaced by a C-14 on a Paramount ME robotic mount; the 16-inch scope was sold to the Saskatoon Centre. The new telescope has been installed and should be fully operational next spring. When completed, the telescope will be much more suitable than its predecessor for both CCD imaging and group educational presentations. Work on the ramps and deck needed to make the residence building accessible has been delayed by bad weather, but is expected to be completed next year. The team that prepared the successful grant application included Geoff Brown, Ralph Chou, Charles Darrow, Denis Grey, Dietmar Kupke, and Tony Horvatin.

There was plenty of observing this year. In March, 24 members and friends of the Toronto Centre visited Libya to observe the total solar eclipse from the Jalu oasis. After the eclipse, 14 participants joined organizer, Ralph Chou, on a week-long tour of Italy, which included visits to the Vatican Observatory, the Museum of the History of Science in Florence, and the University of Padua. Other Centre members travelled with other groups to sites on the Mediterranean coasts of Libya and Egypt, as well as Turkey. We congratulate Eric Briggs, who was named a co-discoverer of Supernova 2006cq in May. Guy Nason reports that three asteroidal occultations were successfully observed, for a total of over 28 seconds of occultation time. The CCD-imaging group continues to be very active although its latest workshop was clouded out.

The Observational Activities Committee now has four regularly scheduled observing events every month. In addition to the Deep-Sky and City Observing sessions, a Solar Observing program is held at Winston Churchill Park on the first Saturday each month, coordinated by Katrina Ince-Lum. John Grieco and Anthony Pullano have organized a New Members' Observing Program, which is run in conjunction with the City Observing sessions.

Thanks to the efforts of member Karen Cilevitz, the Centre submitted ten proposals for naming asteroids to Minor Planet Centre 643, a private observatory, which has discovered several asteroids. Three proposals have been forwarded to the Committee for Small Body Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union. Two are of particular interest to the Toronto Centre as they are for co-orbital asteroids which would be named for life member Dr. John Percy, and his wife Dr. Maire Percy.

The Toronto Centre's astrophotography exhibit won the "Best in Show" prize at the 2006 General Assembly in Ottawa. The exhibit included 27 astrophotos professionally laid out and mounted on the Centre's new display unit. The prize was a SKYnyx 2.0 astrovideo camera from Lumenera Corporation. The camera is now available to members through the telescope loan program. Photographs submitted by Bill Braithwaite, Eric Briggs, Stef Cancelli, Ralph Chou, Adam Clayson, Brian Gibson, Stuart Heggie, Patrick McDonald, Joel Parkes, Richard Sowards, and Serge Th  berge were selected by Denis Grey, Dietmar Kupke, and Paul Mortfield. The production team included John Ginder, Kirsten Vanstone, and Andy Schuh, with Denis Grey as project coordinator. The graphic design, layout, and printing were handled by Vaughan Dragland. Charles Darrow and Scott Masterton handled the logistics of transporting the exhibit to the General Assembly.

Ivan Semeniuk and Kirsten Vanstone organized this year's lecture meeting series.

October 5, 2005	Dr. Douglas Welch, McMaster University, "The light and times of the Sky Quality Meter"
November 2, 2005	Dr. Edward Thommes, University of Toronto, "The Formation of Planetary Systems"
November 30, 2005	Randy Attwood, "Return to the Moon - Back to the Future?"
January 4, 2006	Robert Godwin, "Edison's Conquest of Mars"
February 1, 2006	Paul Mortfield, "The Sun and Space Weather"
March 1, 2006	Peter Jedicke, "Neutrinos and Astronomy"
March 29, 2006	Dr. Michael DeRobertis, York University, "Super-massive Black Holes"
April 26, 2006	Dr. Allison Sills, McMaster University, "When Stars Collide"
September 6, 2006	Dr. Peter Brown, University of Western Ontario, "The Southern Ontario Meteor Network: Status and First Results"

This year's joint meeting with the Royal Canadian Institute on October 30, 2005 was addressed by Dr. Ray Jayawardhana of the University of Toronto, who spoke on "New worlds in the making: Origins of planets and brown dwarfs."

The fall of 2005 also marked the Centenary of the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics of the University of Toronto. The Toronto Centre participated in the celebration at the Cosmic Frontiers series of four lectures in Convocation Hall of the University.

Members' Night programs organized by Paul Markov included presentations on a variety of astronomical equipment, building backyard and on-house observatories, Dr. Helen Hogg, the 1780 solar eclipse over Qu  bec City, astronomical software, astroimaging, the total solar eclipse in Libya, Egypt, and Turkey, the David Dunlap Observatory, wilderness stargazing, the 2006 General Assembly, radio astronomy, First Nations astronomy, and remote-control telescope systems. Eric Briggs continued to present his regular contribution, "The sky this month."

The Public-Education Committee had its busiest year on record with 90 presentations on its schedule. Many people visited the Toronto Centre's booth at the Hobby Show, and our members continued the tradition of bringing their telescopes to the David Dunlap Observatory's public nights during the summer. Although there were only five school presentations this year, the Commit-



The Toronto Centre celebrated the successful installation of a new C14 on a Paramount ME at their E.C. Carr Observatory in August 2006.—Photo by Denis Grey

tee presented badge programs for 3 Pathfinder, 21 Girl Guide, 30 Brownie, 2 Sparks, 6 Beaver, and 18 Wolf Cub and Scout groups, and spoke to five special-interest groups. Displays were set up at two events organized by the University of Toronto Astronomy and Space Exploration Society and at the 25th Ad Astra Convention. Program presentations were delivered to two Guide Area Day events and one gathering of retired Guide leaders. In August, an astronomy presentation and star party were held at the CAO for the L.E. Shore Memorial Library of Thornbury. There were three star parties at the Ontario Science Centre marking International Astronomy Day, the third anniversary of the August Blackout and the Halloween Star Party. Two workshops for members were held at the CAO - 20 members attended Stargazing for Beginners and 10 attended the Variable-Stars Workshop. Congratulations and thanks are due Leslie Harvey and the many volunteers who delivered these programs.

Charles Darrow has taken on management of the Centre's property and archives. A new inventory has been prepared and location of all assets is being tracked. The telescope loaner program is administered by John Bohdanowicz. Four telescopes and one CCD camera are available for loan. Twelve members borrowed instruments in the last year.

Phil Chow, Denis Grey, and Leslie Harvey are to be congratulated on the continuing high quality of *Scope*. Phil took over as Editor with the June/July issue. The newsletter has been published on time and on budget, with excellent coverage of Centre events, and well-written articles supplied by many members. About 200 members subscribe to *eScope*, which is available as a password-protected PDF file.

The Toronto Centre's internet presence was managed by Andy Schuh and Rajesh Shukla, who operated the Web site and list server. A members-only page has been set up to archive *Scope*, and CAO bookings are accessed through this secure page. Over 300 members participate in the list server and Yahoo group.

Membership in the Toronto Centre stood at 612 regular, 17 youth, and 82 life, with 120 associates, for a total of 831 members in 2006. With the establishment this summer of the Mississauga Centre, several members have transferred to the new Centre. Most have chosen to maintain their links to this Centre by becoming affiliate members.

The CAO was well used this year, with volunteer supervisors on site every clear weekend to open the facility. The Tony Horvatin Observatory (THO) is now fully operational, as is the new observing pad between the THO and the Geoff Brown Observatory. The all-sky camera of the Meteor Physics Group at the University of

Western Ontario has been refurbished, and is back on-line now that our high-speed internet connection has been re-established.

Seventy members and guests, and 20 youth and leaders of the 153rd Toronto Scouts, attended the Annual Open House and Awards Presentation at the CAO in May. This year's award recipients were Ralph Chou, the Bert Winearls Award; Diane Shukla, the Andrew Elvins Award; Andy Beaton, the Bertram J. Topham Award; Ian Wheelband, the Jesse Ketchum Award; and Bill Dodd, the Ostrander-Ramsay Award for Astronomical Writing. Citations were published in the June/July 2006 issue of *Scope*. Geoff Brown spoke on the Centre's Libyan eclipse expedition, and Doug George of Ottawa Centre spoke on automating an observatory. We thank Charles Darrow, Rod Ends Mechanical Ltd., and Imaginova Canada for providing prizes for this year's raffle

The 103 members who attended the 9th Annual Algonquin Adventure in September had to cope with wildly varying weather conditions. Thanks are due Bob and Lillian Chapman for organizing this event, which was sold out once again.

This year's recipient of the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Toronto Centre is Jaime Coffey, who is now studying for a M.Sc. in planetary astronomy at the University of British Columbia. The recipients of this year's astronomy prize at the Toronto Science Fair were Frank Zhao and Jacob Thompson of Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute for their project "Project Constellation - an Astrophysical Simulator."

All of the Centre's achievements would not be possible without countless hours of volunteer work on the part of the membership. The Centre acknowledges the contributions of Geoff Brown, Geoff Gilmour-Taylor, Geoff Gaherty, Leslie Harvey, Dietmar and Millie Kupke, Jim Low, Denis Grey, Paul Markov, Ostap Mojsiak, Ian Donaldson, Dave Sage, David Parfett, Lucy Winnicki, Rajesh and Diane Shukla, Andy Schuh, John Bohdanowicz, and many others. Special thanks are due Bob and Lillian Chapman for their work on the Annual Algonquin Adventure, and to Andy Schuh and Guy Nason for their work with the Observational Activities Committee.

In closing, I wish to recognize Past President, Steven Spinney, who is retiring from Council as of this Annual Meeting. His contributions to the business of the Toronto Centre over the past 20 years are much appreciated. Thanks are due to Carruthers, Shaw and Partners Architects, and to RBC Private Counsel Inc. for the use of their facilities for Council meetings, and to Parks Ontario for the use of the parking lot at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park for Deep-Sky Observing West sessions. I also wish to thank the Ontario Science Centre for its continued hospitality in providing the facilities and audiovisual support for our meetings and public events. On behalf of the Council, I thank all members for your continued trust and support of our work.

B. Ralph Chou
Secretary

In 2006 the Vancouver Centre continued to offer high-quality speakers, who addressed topics of interest to all levels of expertise in the membership. We wish to once again thank Barry Shanko for his efforts and hard work to arrange these visits.

In January, Jason Rickerby showed us pictures and astroimages taken during his visit to Mt. Kobau. Dr. David Crampton, from the Herzberg Institute for Astrophysics, talked about the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT) soon to be constructed in Vancouver.

In February, Craig Breckenridge talked about "Observatories I Have Known."

In March, Dr. Paul Hickson, UBC Astronomy, gave us an interesting insight into the technical problems associated with placing a liquid-mirror telescope on the Moon.

In April, Dr. Chris Pritchett, Uvic Astronomy, explained to us how Supernovas can be used to measure the expansion of the Universe.

In May, Brett Gladman, UBC Astronomy, announced how his team had discovered a Kuiper Belt Object named "Buffy" that challenged current theories about the Solar System.

In June, Dr. Jeremy Heyl, UBC Astronomy, revealed "The Secret Life of Neutron Stars and Magnetars."

In July, Chris Gainor, Victoria Centre, gave details of some of the science that was conducted during the Apollo Missions to the Moon.

In August, Chris Blake, UBC Astronomy, explained how the largest ever 3-D map of the Universe was created.

In September, Bill Ronald and Gill Biderman gave us a talk and showed us pictures of eclipses.

In October, Tony Moffat of "BRIGHT Project," spoke to us about the nano-satellites ability to measure the variability of massive stars.

In November, the Vancouver Centre celebrated the 75th Anniversary of its formation. Held at the Space Centre, the event was well attended by many members. A special colour edition of *Nova* was produced to mark the occasion. Special thanks to all the volunteers that helped with the catering, phoning, and preparation of displays in the foyer of the Space Centre. The Vancouver Centre was most fortunate in receiving a donation of \$200,000 from the estate of a former member, Paul Sykes. A cheque was presented at the 75th Anniversary meeting, and an address was given by Ron Jerome to commemorate the life of Paul Sykes. Lee Johnson also spoke about the history and early members who helped in the initial formation and running of the Vancouver Centre. The Centre members were saddened by the passing of one of their long-time members, Treasurer Mark Verschuren. Mark had also been a contributor to *Nova* magazine. He will be greatly missed.

On a brighter note, the Centre was pleased to complete the agreement with Chris Graham to allow us access and operation of the robotic telescope in New Mexico. A control centre has been set up in the Gordon MacMillan Southam Observatory (GMSO) and procedures for imaging and operation are being formulated. The first colour and black-&-white images were taken this summer and processed for publication in *Nova*. Special thanks are due to Chris for his generous involvement in the project.

The Vancouver Centre was most fortunate this year to host a visit in May by Carolyn Porco, the team leader for the Cassini Space Probe. Carolyn's interesting address was accompanied with

amazing pictures of Saturn and its moons. A very memorable visit indeed!

The Centre also participated in many other events including: Sidewalk Astronomy; Astronomy Day; Merritt Star Quest; Sechelt Astronomy Club Public Day; Perseid Meteor Shower; and numerous talks and visits to schools and youth groups by Craig Breckenridge. Special thanks once again to Pomponia Martinez for keeping the committee supplied with excellent refreshments. The Centre wishes to thank all the volunteers that gave so much of their time this year to ensure the success of all these events, including the operation of the telescope at the GMSO. Without the generous support of these volunteers, many of the events that we take for granted would simply not happen.

Discussions with the Space Centre regarding our future tenancy are still on-going.

Brian Morse
Secretary

VICTORIA CENTRE

The Victoria Centre and its members have enjoyed an active, successful 2006.

Annual Events:

This year the RASCALs Star Party was held May 26 to 28 at the Victoria Fish and Game Association. Events included:

- presentations by Dr. Patrick Côté and Dr. Brenda Matthews, both from the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, Victoria
- a workshop on digital astrophotography by David Lee and Joe Carr
- a swap meet and door prizes, including a pair of Celestron 20x80 binoculars!

For six years now we have held Star Parties and they have all been great successes!

The Summer Picnic was held at Pearson College Observatory on August 19, where members enjoyed good food, great company, and perfect weather, allowing for fantastic observing from the darkest skies available in the Capital Region.

Regular Events:

Regular Meetings were held every second Wednesday of the month, except July, August, and November, at the University of Victoria. Bruno Quenneville organized an interesting series of speakers and arranged for two members' nights to see what members have been up to. Astronomy Cafe is an informal get-together every Monday evening. The events were hosted by Bruno Quenneville and John McDonald, and a new record of 17 in attendance early in the year suggested that it was time for a new location with more space. For the remainder of the year, Astronomy Cafe was held at Fairfield Community Centre (N48° 24' 56" W123° 20' 50" 23m elevation). The site offers a good viewing field, washroom facilities, handicap access, parking, nearby bus service, and a room adapted for society services with the capacity to host astronomy-related public events.

The New Observers Observing Group hosted by Sid Sidhu ran the fourth Friday of each month at 8:00 p.m., under the dark skies of the Highlands. It continues to be very popular. Bill Almond hosted a few astroimaging events this year and described digital

photography. A good portion of the remainder of the year was spent refurbishing and upgrading the Almond Observatory, which is now ready for the long winter nights and hopefully some clear skies. Our Active Observers have enjoyed many viewing opportunities this year at Observatory Hill. The site offers magnitude 4.0 to 4.5 skies under favourable conditions and is within a 15-minute drive from most suburban areas of Greater Victoria. The Victoria Centre is proud of the long-standing relationship with the National Research Council and the "Centre of the Universe."

Our members have been particularly busy this year taking many fine astrophotographs, mainly using digital cameras. Some 125 photographs of celestial objects were posted to the Victoria Centre Web site, as well as 6 sketches. Our members are finding new ways to "observe," and they find it easy to communicate these observations to the rest of the Centre through digital photography and the Internet.

Public-Outreach Programs:

The Victoria Centre has celebrated International Astronomy Day since 1997. We are very fortunate to have developed a relationship with the Royal BC Museum to celebrate Astronomy Day each year on museum grounds. This year's theme was "Capture the Experience"; activities on May 6 included: poster displays; an ecliptic calendar; a telescope-making workshop; astrophotography displays; ask the professional astronomer desk; a scale model of the solar system; Star Lab Tour Through Space and Time; a comparison of a model of Galileo's telescope with a modern off-the-shelf one; as well as an arts-and-crafts area for children - always a popular event, with a telescope as a door prize. The festivities concluded with night-sky viewing at the Centre of the Universe. Great fun was had by all involved.

The Centre of the Universe is the public interpretative Centre at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. Dedicated Victoria Centre volunteers joined the friendly staff for Public Observing included Saturday Star Parties from April through October, Stargazer Sundays in July and August, Holiday Star parties, and special events such as Astronomy Day. At Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, Bill Weir maintains the long established link between the Victoria Centre and the school's astronomy program. The program focuses on viewing skills, the uses of astronomical telescopes, imaging and learning about the night sky. All RASC members are welcome at any time to use the school's observatory facilities.

The School Telescopes Program is offered free of charge to the local schools, Scouts, and Girl Guides clubs. It involves PowerPoint presentations in a classroom setting, and night-sky viewing for the children and adults. In the past year we were able to share the excitement of the night sky with 500 school-aged children. The Sidewalk Astronomy program with Blaire Pellatt and Victoria Centre members brings the opportunity for celestial observing to the public on an informal basis. This year viewing sessions were held on the grounds of the Oak Bay Branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library. Morning sessions focused on the Sun in white light and through an H-alpha filter, and during evening sessions the public often stayed for an hour after the library closed. Bill Weir also set up at the Metchosin fire hall during the Halloween bonfire, a great opportunity when many people were outside at night.

Sidewalk Astronomy can be especially rewarding when you can help people see a familiar object like the Moon through new eyes and hear a little voice repeating excitedly as they walk away hand-in-hand with their parents, "I saw the Moon, I saw the Moon, I saw the Moon...."

Committees

This year the Light-Pollution Abatement Committee focused on maintaining a dialogue with local municipalities to convince au-

thorities to regulate outdoor lighting. In addition, the Victoria Centre has collected quantitative data by taking sky brightness readings at various locations around Greater Victoria, with the hope that this data will aid us in convincing decision makers of the seriousness of the problem. This is an ongoing issue requiring patience and persistence by the committee.

The Membership Committee reported 185 members were registered as of the end of September 2006, and several visiting and new members from other Centres were welcomed at monthly meetings and observing events. The Victoria Centre maintains an extensive library of 600 books and periodicals. The library space is limited, so the Librarian, along with some dedicated members, has continued with its thorough review of the library's assets. Some books date back to 1834 and may have historic value, but in the age of high-tech gadgetry may have no current astronomical interest. Eventually we will have to make a collective decision regarding disposal of these old books.

Equipment

The Centre purchased a Meade 8-inch LX90 Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope, and a Skywatcher HEQ 5, for public-outreach programs. Eyepieces and solar filters were also added to the inventory. Members in good standing often borrow the Centres' scopes when they were not in use for public outreach events.

Awards

The Chant Medal was established in 1940 by the Society in appreciation of the late Prof. C.A. Chant for furthering the interests of astronomy in Canada. Ed Majden received this award on May 21, 2006 for his work on meteor spectra. Ed has led the way with innovation and perseverance to advance the field, and showed that professional-amateur collaboration can contribute to scientific research. Several awards were presented at the Annual Christmas Dinner and General Meeting held in November.

The Newton-Ball Award named for Jack Newton and George Ball for their outstanding service to the Centre recognizes a member for his or her personal dedication to activities past or present that have benefitted all members of the Victoria Centre. This year the award was presented to Bruno Quennville. In his position as Centre Vice-President, Bruno has played many roles: New Member Liaison, Astronomy Cafe host, coordinator of the RASCALS Star Party, Astronomy Day & School Telescope Volunteer, principal negotiator with NRC for the Centre's "Licence to Use Land Agreement," and outreach astronomer to so many members and non-members alike. His non-stop cheerful attitude and never-failing support and enthusiasm for astronomy have benefitted the people of Victoria in so many ways. Without him, many of our new members (in particular) would not have discovered the excitement that astronomy presents to us all, as members of Victoria Centre.

The Ernie Pfannenschmidt Annual Award for Amateur Telescope Making was presented to John McDonald, for his outstanding achievement in constructing various optical and electronic devices for use in amateur astronomy.

The Award for Astrophotography certificates were presented in five categories as follows:

- for Tripod Widefield—Malcolm Scrimger for his photograph of the Milky Way and Telescope Silhouette at Pearson College, August 19, 2006
- for CCD Deep-Space Imaging—Les Disher for his image of NGC 6992/5, Veil East, September 24, 2006
- for Digital SLR Camera, Galaxy—Joe Carr for his image of the Andromeda Galaxy M31, M32, and M110, August 18, 2006
- for Digital SLR Camera, Nebula—Charles Banville for his image of the North America Nebula, July 2, 2006
- for Digital SLR Camera, Deep-Space Widefield—John Mc-

Donald for his image of M8 (Lagoon), M20 (Trifid) and M21, June 27, 2006

Special Awards included: The Astronomical Observations and Sketching Award—Bill Weir for his achievement in observing and documenting the Mars, M44, and Saturn conjunction, June 10, 2006.

The Award of Excellence was presented to Guy Walton for re-designing and constructing his 16-inch Truss Dobsonian Telescope and the Award of Innovation was presented to Alex Schmid for re-activating and imaging with a water-cooled CCD camera.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Victoria Centre members who volunteered for the many events, committees, and programs that made this year a success. This year certificates were presented to:

- David Griffiths, for his continued support as Victoria Centre Treasurer and Special Events Coordinator
- Alex Schmid, for his continued support of the Skynews Newsletter team.
- Sandy Barta, for her continued support of the Astronomy Day event and as Volunteer Team Coordinator
- Scott Mair, for his outstanding leadership as Victoria Centre President 2005 - 2006 in public outreach and media relations.

Meeting Schedule for 2006

January 11	Members' Night:- Brian Robilliard, Cliff Caprari, Bill Weir, David Lee
February 8	Dr. David Anderson, NRC/HIA, "Adaptive Optics"
March 8	Roger Bailey, "Zarbula's Sundials"
April 12	Kim Venn, "Chemical Evolution of Local Group Galaxies"
May 3	Dr. Carolyn Porco, "Adventures in the Promised Land: Cassini Explores Saturn, Titan, and the Fountains of Enceladus"
June 14	Dr. Chris Onken, "Widespread Influence of Supermassive Black Holes"
September 13	Members' Night: Joe Carr, "2006 Solar Eclipse"; member's astrophotographs
October 11	Florin Diacuhave, "Is this year 2006? Calendars and Time Reckoning from Antiquity to the Present"
November 4	Annual General Meeting and Dinner: Gary Seronik, "Adventures in Amateur Astronomy"
December 13	Dr. Eric Steinbring, NRC/HIA, Li-Ann Skibo, Secretary Victoria Centre, "Astronomy in Canada's High Arctic, Long Nights and Clear Skies"

Li-Ann Skibo
Secretary

WINDSOR
CENTRE

For the Windsor Centre, 2006 was a year of change amid consistency. Change involved new people being elected as officers for almost all of our Centre's executive positions. Consistency, in that continued support and enthusiasm for astronomy and the Windsor Centre, was given by its members.

Steve Mastellotto served three consecutive years as President of our Centre and did an outstanding job fulfilling his responsibilities

in that essential office. Dr. Pierre Boulos is our new President for 2007 and we wish the best for him in filling his duties therein.

An extra special "Thank you" goes to Scott Young for his visit as Society President to our Centre, and the fine presentation that he gave. A sincere "Thank you" is expressed to Steve Mastellotto for his diligent work as Centre President.

Also genuine thanks are given to all other people who have helped to bring about the successful efforts in support of the Windsor Centre and its goals related to astronomy, including education in the community.

The Windsor Centre held nine membership meetings, three council meetings, two socials and one public display. Membership meetings were as follows:

January 17	Steve Pellarin, "Cassini Mission to Saturn-Continued"
February 21	Steve Mastellotto, "Digital Astrophotography"
March 21	Dan Taylor, "The Revolution in Variable-Star Cartography"
April 18	Dr. William Baylis, University of Windsor, Department of Physics, "The total Eclipse of the Sun of 2006"
May 16	Steve Pellarin, "Pilgrimage to the Modern Sky Temples of the American Southwest"
June 20	Dr. Pierre Boulos, University of Windsor, Department of Computer Science, "The Arabic Sky"
September 19	Walter MacDonald, "A Dome on a Home"
October 17	Scott Young, Society President, "Pluto versus the Ice Dwarves"
November 21	Donna Ronconi, Steve Mastellotto, and Randy Groundwater, "Assembling and Using a New Telescope"

C. Joady Ulrich
Past Secretary

WINNipeg
CENTRE

The Winnipeg Centre used the past year to consolidate its projects and build a stronger organizational structure. Outreach programs were at the forefront, with further development of the Spruce Woods Star Party in September, participation in Pi Kinewabum Anonguk in April, a booth at the Manitoba Air Show, and a good Winnipeg turnout at the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party. Hundreds of Winnipegers were treated to a look at the Sun, a display of club resources, and a trip to the night sky during Astronomy Day. Winnipeg did its part nationally as well, with three National Council members in the Centre.

The Observatory

Glenlea Observatory escaped flooding this year in spite of a heavy snow pack and a quick melt that brought the Red River to the doorstep of the warm room and observatory — in fact, the river made it into both buildings by an inch or two. Fortunately, the warm room is on four-foot-high scaffolding and the Centre's telescope is housed on the second floor of the observatory building. Nevertheless, power was out for a month in the spring, and a small cleanup was needed to freshen-up the buildings for use.

Star Parties and Expeditions

A small number of Centre members helped search (unsuccessfully) for fragments of a June 2 fireball. The fireball was widely observed and heard across southern Manitoba but no pieces of the interplanetary drop-in were found. A larger number of members travelled far and wide from cloudy Manitoba to view the November Mercury transit.

The Spruce Woods Star Party continues to grow slowly, with 30 or 40 members braving the early September weather to get a look at dark night skies for the first time since early June. The weather did cooperate — glorious nights with only some occasional thin cirrus clouds. The biggest problem, but also an opportunity for photography, came at a higher level in the atmosphere when a bright aurora on the third night disrupted serious astrophotography. A public presentation and star party was a part of the activities. Spruce Woods Provincial Park is an easy drive west of Winnipeg, and Park authorities are now anticipating further cooperation with the Winnipeg Centre in years to come.

Further afield, the usual Winnipeg Centre cohort attended the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party in the Cypress Hills. It is a longer drive, but the opportunity to meet with other prairie observers in a spectacular setting is a strong temptation for many in the Centre. Four members also drove south to the Chiricahua Mountains in Arizona for some intensive deep-sky observing and photography. The 3400-km trip takes 33 hours non-stop, from Winnipeg's Perimeter Highway to the Desert Inn of Willcox. Various members have been making this spring pilgrimage for over seven years.

Outreach

Led by new President Ron Berard, the Centre once again participated in Pi Kinewabum Anonguk (Come, Look at the Stars!) in April, at the invitation of the Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre and the Rolling River First Nation. After a late-afternoon look at the Sun and a BBQ supper, participants were treated to a performance by the Standing Eagle Drum Group, a laser tour of the stars, a view of the International Space Station, and a late-night telescopic tour of the planets and stars.

Astronomy Day continues to be an important annual outreach activity with a mall display and solar observing at Polo Park Mall followed by a well-attended public observing session at the Forks in the evening. In addition, the Centre held a public observing event in Whiteshell (Ontario) in the thick of the summer camping season, and a small number of events were provided on request for such organizations as the Fort Whyte Centre, local schools, and the Winnipeg Planetarium.

In June, six Centre members attended the two-day Manitoba Air Show in Portage-la-Prairie, manning a club booth and enjoying the flight displays. The Air Show afforded an opportunity for members to attract others to astronomy; there was wide interest in a view of the Sun between the cloud and showers. Later in the year, Centre representatives made a presentation on light pollution to the Portage City Council. On a lighter side, Winnipeg Centre provided prizes (calendars) for a local radio station's contest.

Respectfully submitted

Jay Anderson

Secretary

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR—2006

		Belleville	Calgary	Charlotte-town	Edmonton	Halifax	Hamilton	Kingston	Kitchener-Waterloo	London
REVENUE										
Membership	Membership Fees (Regular)	1,036	4,748	462	8,012	3,123	1,606	3,045	2,104	2,921
	Membership Fees (Youth)		575	18			67			
	Membership Fees (Basic surcharge)		2,111				939	725	955	
	Membership Fees (Special surcharge / Associates /Affiliates)	25	315				60	39		
	Life Membership Grants		396		242	484	66	198	110	
Donations / Fundraising	Donations	75	1,687	55	270	435	5,898	772	70	635
	Fundraising / Sponsorships / Grants		6,200	450	84,722		670	316	428	57
Educational Activities / Materials							85	5,765		
Interest and Dividends			11		13	71		153		
Publication Sales	Sale of Observer's Handbooks					639	15	165		
	Sale of Observer's Calendars		1,757	300	1,130		60	788	290	
	Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides		143					40		
	Other Publication Sales							168		
Subscriptions	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope				4			-2		
	Other									
Product Sales	RASC promo items		765					203		
	Other items									
Advertising										
General Assembly	Events									
	Star Parties	768	1,357			314				
	Annual Dinner		1,490				1,265	800		909
Observatory site or equipment rentals / loans			539		192		696			
Miscellaneous			1,121		469					669
TOTAL REVENUE		1,904	23,215	1,285	95,054	5,066	11,427	13,175	3,957	7,438
EXPENDITURES										
Library								27		
Publications	Newsletter		2,563		3,039	1,188	50	1,264		263
	Observer's Handbook							160		772
	Observer's Calendar		1,305	231	1,079		122	705	277	
	BOG									
	Other Publications							17		
Events	Meetings				57	360	240	305		144
	Star Parties	685	859							
	Annual Dinner	180	1,750				992	969		909
	Astronomy Day						100	63		
	Other Events	166	188	92	15,510					250
Product Expenses	RASC promo items		1,038		351			825		
	Other items	37		23						
Advertising								45		
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings			111	1,573					
	Speaker Travel Assistance				1,499					
Equipment and Supplies				27		7	268		1,409	
Office Administration		1	652		346	173	600	233	123	111
General Expenses and Audit		21	5		482	25		483		
Educational Activities					2,931	138		4,633	526	
Insurance			2,907			1,326	1,225			
Awards and Donations			127	200	751	654		137	499	
Observatory and Site Expenses			1,663		4,358	97	4,090	768	553	4,610
Depreciation										
Miscellaneous			3,108	103	593	859			12	32
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,090	16,165	787	32,569	4,827	7,687	10,634	3,398	7,091
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		814	7,050	498	62,485	239	3,740	2,541	558	347
ASSETS	Liquid assets	2,601	21,665	0	139,792	12,090	11,613	21,330	8,160	11,526
	Capital assets	210	98,475	0	0	21,870		22,910	55,000	33,975
LIABILITIES					694					

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR—2006

		Mississauga	New Brunswick*	C. F. de Montréal	Montreal	Niagara	Okanagan	Ottawa (not available)	Prince George	Québec	Regina
REVENUE											
Membership	Membership Fees (Regular)	189	2,076	2,482	2,060	2,276	1,589		1,325	1,180	946
	Membership Fees (Youth)					68	55			32	27
	Membership Fees (Basic surcharge)				926	410	144				172
	Membership Fees (Special surcharge / Associates /Affiliates)	54				60				712	
	Life Membership Grants		20	22	298	66	44			100	66
Donations / Fundraising	Donations	90	45	543	295	170	1,331		480		573
	Fundraising / Sponsorships / Grants		929	150		465	103				5,106
Educational Activities / Materials											
Interest and Dividends											
Publication Sales	Sale of Observer's Handbooks			1	905	116		3			
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	305	455	75	390	411	558		321	225	120
	Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides					29	15				
	Other Publication Sales										
Subscriptions	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope					1,130					
	Other										
Product Sales	RASC promo items		558			334	77				178
	Other items	316		445		284	356				
Advertising				240					120		
General Assembly											
Events	Star Parties										952
	Annual Dinner					4,010					
	Observatory site or equipment rentals / loans			93		85	300				
Miscellaneous				92	7,708	125			2,410		
TOTAL REVENUE		954	4,083	4,143	12,582	10,039	4,590	0	4,656	2,249	8,170
EXPENDITURES											
Library			98	79					458		
Publications	Newsletter		242	419	262	270	207		25		80
	Observer's Handbook					32			633		15
	Observer's Calendar		731			284	461			266	102
	BOG	421									
	Other Publications									102	
Events	Meetings	275				378				92	
	Star Parties									73	
	Annual Dinner		120			3,800					
	Astronomy Day		25			30					
	Other Events				765						
Product Expenses	RASC promo items		446			242					
	Other items		25								3,221
Advertising									119		
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings		400		122		292				
	Speaker Travel Assistance		271				474			81	
Equipment and Supplies					781	3,162	429				
Office Administration			139	2,264	209	161	630		63	806	1,293
General Expenses and Audit			8			21	553		270		248
Educational Activities									680		
Insurance				810					1,400		442
Awards and Donations			325	166							
Observatory and Site Expenses				147		153	3,685		9,547		1,207
Depreciation				380	26,165						
Miscellaneous		125	100		663	1,389	91		1,657	72	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		821	2,930	4,265	28,967	9,922	6,822	0	14,852	1,492	6,608
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS											
		133	1,153	-122	-16,385	117	-2,232	0	-10,196	757	1,562
ASSETS	Liquid assets	3,038	4,474	3,935	70,734	9,400	4,733		8,000	1,865	5,636
	Capital assets		1,125	10,825	26,052	24,500	8,400		75,000	3,000	72,941
LIABILITIES		1,673		41							

* (formerly Moncton)

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR—2006

		St. John's	Sarnia	Saskatoon	Thunder Bay	Toronto	Vancouver	Victoria	Windsor	Winnipeg
REVENUE										
Membership	Membership Fees (Regular)	988	531	2,542	912	11,480	4,208	4,330	3,723	2,574
	Membership Fees (Youth)	14				380	96			96
	Membership Fees (Basic surcharge)	180					571			
	Membership Fees (Special surcharge / Associates /Affiliates)	31				230				
	Life Membership Grants	66			22	1,892	374		88	66
Donations / Fundraising	Donations	600	10	371	37	16,575	225,455	4,975	174	35
	Fundraising / Sponsorships / Grants			1,923			565			
Educational Activities / Materials		1,136				3,517			302	
Interest and Dividends		3		541		2,610	1,235		3	46
Publication Sales	Sale of Observer's Handbooks	162								
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	555	180		265		964	390	456	995
	Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides	96					288		18	
	Other Publication Sales			1,335			16			
Subscriptions	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope					5,985				
	Other									
Product Sales	RASC promo items					3,710	138			
	Other items						30		16	
Advertising							40			
General Assembly										
Events	Star Parties			14,017				990		635
	Annual Dinner							1,290		
Observatory site or equipment rentals / loans						3,540			645	
Miscellaneous		4				16,179	11		286	
TOTAL REVENUE		3,835	721	20,729	1,236	66,098	233,991	11,975	5,711	4,447
EXPENDITURES										
Library							222	77		
Publications	Newsletter			772	152	4,234	881	448	210	1,125
	Observer's Handbook	240							96	
	Observer's Calendar	201	111		277		803	325	469	
	BOG	452					301		85	904
	Other Publications					2,018	16		101	
Events	Meetings	128			221			198	1,098	150
	Star Parties	464		11,275				835		703
	Annual Dinner							1,674	127	
	Astronomy Day	37	43		17		971	1,366	50	
	Other Events	41		1,048		5,741	1,277	811	109	
Product Expenses	RASC promo items						127			
	Other items			575		5,516	76		300	
Advertising							736			
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings						1,233	937		545
	Speaker Travel Assistance				138		767			228
Equipment and Supplies		833					107	4,092		23
Office Administration				130		2,655	93			16
General Expenses and Audit						2,575	828	120		23
Educational Activities			50	341						
Insurance				766					1,409	938
Awards and Donations		57			150	4,000	115	442		250
Observatory and Site Expenses			64	745		16,386	24,726		1,906	75
Depreciation				817		17,642	1,000			
Miscellaneous		324	6	399	66	2,950	154		1,843	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		2,777	274	16,868	1,021	63,717	34,433	11,325	7,803	4,980
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		1,058	447	3,861	215	2,381	199,558	650	-2,092	-533
ASSETS	Liquid assets	6,410	500	20,847	1,348	127,876	226,982	5,352	5,449	4,000
	Capital assets	0		16,393		379,535	11,918		75,000	1
LIABILITIES				72		5,350	928			

OFFICERS AND COUNCILS OF THE CENTRES—2007

BELLEVILLE CENTRE

c/o Greg Lisk
11 Robert Dr
Trenton ON K8V 6P2
www.rascbelleville.ca
webmaster[at]rascbelleville.ca

President: Greg Lisk
Vice-President: David Cotterell
Secretary: Joanne Burns
Treasurer: Garth Penn
National Representative: Donald Town
Past President: Carl McDonald
Webmaster: Les Dempsey
Webmaster in Training: Robert Mindenhall
Events Coordinator: Andrew Mason
Events Coordinator: Joseph Shields
Newsletter Editor: Richard Brain
Observing Chair: Greg Lisk
Librarian: Antonina Vassilieva-Durham

CALGARY CENTRE

c/o TELUS World of Science Calgary
PO Box 2100 Station M Location 73
Calgary AB T2P 2M5
http://calgary.rasc.ca

Honorary President: Dr. David Fry
President: Larry McNish
First Vice President: Anna Bortolotto
Second Vice President: Ryan May
Secretary: Jack Milliken
Treasurer: Keith Johnstone
National Representatives: Susan Yeo
Dean Huxley
Past President: David Brown
Webmaster: Larry McNish
Librarian: Susan Yeo
Councillors: Dean Huxley
Steve Donaldson
Glenn Hawley
Blair Colborne
Greg Bridger
Roger Nelson
Robyn Foret
Brian Fenerty

CHARLOTTETOWN CENTRE

c/o Brian Gorveatt
316 North Queen Elizabeth Dr
Charlottetown PE C1A 3B5
(902) 394-4057
http://xfer.s5.com/rasc
brian.gorveatt[at]pei.sympatico.ca

President: Giselle Deziel
Vice-President: Mark Walker
Secretary: Michelle Cottreau
Treasurer: Brian Gorveatt
National Representative: Garth Arsenault
Past President: Roger Vail
Webmaster: Brian Gorveatt

Librarian: Walter Lane
Program Chair: Clair Perry

EDMONTON CENTRE

c/o TELUS World of Science Edmonton
11211-142 St
Edmonton AB T5M 4A1
www.edmontonrasc.com
contact[at]edmontonrasc.com

Honorary President: Doug Hube
President: Krista Stefan
Immediate Past President: Orla Aaquist
Vice-President: Sherry Campbell
Secretary: Luca Vanzella
Treasurer: Mark MacDonald
National Representative: Roy Ramdeen
Public Education Director: Orla Aaquist
Fundraising Coordinator: Franklin Loehde
Observing Group Director: Paul Campbell
Councillor at Large: Bruce McCurdy
Councillor at Large: Sheldon Helbert
Councillor at Large: Andrew Soon
Councillor at Large: Harris Christian
Internal Comm. Officer: Michael Ward
Observing Group Director: Paul Campbell
Membership Secretary: Massimo Torri
New Member Advisor: Pat Abbott
Web Site Administrator: Howard Gibbins

HALIFAX CENTRE

PO Box 31011
Halifax NS B3K 5T9
(902) 827-5977
http://halifax.rasc.ca/
halifax[at]rasc.ca

Honorary President: Dr. Roy Bishop
President: Paul Evans
First Vice-President: Gary Weber
Second Vice-President: Alex LeCreux
Secretary: Wes Howie
Treasurer: Pat Kelly
National Representative: Pat Kelly
NOVA NOTES Editor: Quinn Smith
Observing Chairman: Tony McGrath
Librarian: Gilles Arsenault
Webmaster: David Chapman
Councillor: Paul Heath
Councillor: Jim Dorey
Past President: Craig Levine

HAMILTON CENTRE

576 - Concession 7E
(corner of 7E and Milborough Town Line)
PO Box 1223
Waterdown ON L0R 2H0
(905) 689-0266 (observatory)
www.hamiltonrasc.ca
secretary[at]hamiltonrasc.ca

President: John Williamson
Vice-President: Steve Barnes
Treasurer: Andy Blanchard
Secretary: Victor Grimble
National Representative: Roger Hill
Recorder: Roger Hill
Orbit Editor: Harry Pulley
Curator: Mark Kaye
Director at Large: Rob Bodner

KINGSTON CENTRE

PO Box 1793
Kingston ON K7L 5J6
(613) 377-6029
www.rasc.ca/kingston
kingston[at]rasc.ca

Honorary President: David Levy
President: Kim Hay
Vice-President: Arlyne Gillespie
Secretary: Steve Hart
Treasurer: Kevin Kell
National Representative: John Hurley
Librarian: David Maguire
Newsletter Editor: Joseph Benderavage
Past President: Peggy Hurley

KITCHENER-WATERLOO CENTRE

305 - 20 St George St
Kitchener ON N2G 2S7
(519) 576-5301
http://cobalt.golden.net/~kwastro
kw-rasc-sec[at]sympatico.ca

President: Dave Garner
1st Vice-President: Paul Schumacher
2nd Vice President: Brian Hollander
Secretary: Phil Lacasse
Treasurer: Peter Clarke
Past President: Mike Burns
National Representative: Christopher Beckett
Webmaster: Kate Baker
Librarian: Sergio Mammoliti
Educational Outreach Director: George Peer
Scouting Outreach Director: Phil Lacasse

LONDON CENTRE

PO Box 842 Station B
London ON N6A 4Z3
www.astro.uwo.ca/~rasc/home.html
dmccarter[at]sympatico.ca

Honorary President: Peter Jedicke
President: David McCarter
Vice-President: Patrick Whelan
Secretary: Ingrid Hutchinson
Treasurer: Bill Gardner
National Representative: Gary Hinks

Past President: John Rousom
Librarian: Robert Duff
Webmaster: Dave McCarter
Editor: Patrick Whelan

MISSISSAUGA CENTRE

PO Box 98011
2126 Burnhamthorpe Rd W
Mississauga ON L5L 5V4
www.mississaugaastronomicalsociety.ca/
rasc_mississauga[at]rogers.com

President: Randy Attwood
Vice-President: Ian McGregor
Secretary: Chris Malicki
Membership Secretary: John Marchese
Treasurer: Vic Cooper
National Representative: Ian McGregor
Webmaster: Robert Anderson
Council: Terry Hardman
John Marchese
Betty Robinson
Jim Jackson
Leslie Strike

CENTRE FRANCOPHONE DE MONTRÉAL

CP 206 Station St-Michel
Montréal QC H2A 3L9
(514) 201-3889
www.lasam.ca
info[at]lasam.ca

President: Michel Boucher
Vice-President: Patrice Scattolin
Secretary: Serge-Antoine Melanson
Treasurer: Patrice Scattolin
National Representative: Patrice Scattolin
Administrator: François Chevrefils
Administrator: Hernan Rivera
Webmaster: David Boucher
Alternate Representative: Hugues Lacombe

MONTREAL CENTRE

18455 Meloche St
Pierrefonds QC H9K 1N6
www.rascmontreal.org
pmsimard[at]videotron.ca

President: Andrew Fazekas
Vice-President: Chris Novak
Secretary: Mina Reyes
National Representative: Mina Reyes
Treasurer: Brian Pritchard
Recording Secretary: Bruno Paul Stenson
Director of the Observatory: Frank Tomaras
Director of Observational Activities: Bettina Forget
Librarian: Lloyd Coffin
Director Without Portfolio: Mario Di Carlo
Director Without Portfolio: Gregg Abramovich
Director Without Portfolio: Paul Simard
Past President: David Shuman
Honorary President: David Levy

NEW BRUNSWICK CENTRE

c/o Paul Gray
1068 Kingsley Rd
Birdton NB E3A 6G4
www.rascmoncton.ca

President: Paul Gray
1st Vice-President: Curt Nason
2nd Vice-President: June MacDonald
Secretary: Mandy Bregg
Treasurer: Emma MacPhee
National Representative: Paul Gray
Councillors: Gerry Allain
Adrien Bordage
Ted Dunphy
Don Kelly
Past President: Shawn McHatten

NIAGARA CENTRE

PO Box 4040
St Catharines ON L2R 7S3
http://rascniagara.com

President/
Beginners' Workshop: Stan Sammy
Vice-President/
Public Observing Coordinator: Michael Panucci
Secretary: Andrew Beaton
Treasurer: Dave StremLaw
National Representative: Joe Otonicar
Past President/
Public Relations/
Beginners' Workshop: Brian Pihack
Webmaster: Jim Holiko
Librarian: Darlene Sloggett
Dark Skies Chairman: Wayne Liebau
Observatory Director: Les Marczi
Members' Observing Coordinator: Mark Roberts
Whirlpool Editor & Publisher: Philip Downey
Hospitality: Patricia Sammy
Board of Directors: Darlene Marano
Board of Directors: Joyce Sims
Board of Directors: Glen Pidsadnick
Board of Directors: Bill Macsween
Presidents' Council: John Vanderbrugge
Presidents' Council: Ray Evoy
Presidents' Council: Denis Maheu
Presidents' Council: Dan Frigault

OKANAGAN CENTRE

PO Box 20119 TCM
Kelowna BC V1Y 9H2
(250) 764 1227
www.ocrasc.ca
ridebike[at]okanagan.net

President: Jim Tisdale
1st Vice President: Dave Collins
2nd Vice-President: Wayne Willett
Secretary: Grant Rice
Treasurer: Zoltan Boda
National Representative: Bryan Kelso
Education Co-Ordinators:
Kelowna: Colleen O'Hare
Vernon: Hugh Carter
Councillor: Archie Christie
Councillor: James Kanester

Webmaster: Grant Rice
Focus Editor: David Player
Librarian: Colleen O'Hare
Directors:- Youth: Jim Tisdale
- Telescopes: Guy Mackie

OTTAWA CENTRE

PO Box 33012
1363 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa ON K2C 3Y9
www.ottawa.rasc.ca

President: Chuck O'Dale
Vice President: Paul Harrison
Secretary: Chris Teron
Treasurer: Stephen Nourse
Councillors: Yves Demers
Roman Dzioba
Al Scott
Meeting Chair: Brian McCullough
Past President: Debra Ceravolo
National Representatives: Gary Boyle
Debra Ceravolo

Rob Dick
Richard Kicksee
Richard McDonald
Paul WefersBettink
AstroNotes Editor: Al Seaman
F.L.O. Observatory Director: Doug George
SMARTScope Leader: Gary Boyle
Light Pollution Abatement: Alain Beaudoin
Public Outreach: Art and Anne Fraser
Hospitality: Art Fraser
Membership: Art Fraser
Ted Bean Telescope Library: Al Scott

PRINCE GEORGE CENTRE

7365 Tedford Rd
Prince George BC V2N 6S2
(250) 964-3600
www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/
pgcentre[at]yahoo.com

President: Gilbert Self
Vice President: Maurice Sluka
Secretary: Glen Harris
Treasurer: Robert (Bob) Nelson
National Representative: Alan Whitman
Past President: Brian Battersby
Webmaster: Hugh Kennedy
Members at Large: Jim Arnold
Hugh Kennedy
Fae Mooney
Blair Stunder
Jim D. Toews
Doug Wayland

CENTRE DE QUÉBEC

2000, Blvd Montmorency
Québec QC G1J 5E7
(418) 660-2815
www.sracquebec.ca
info[at]sracquebec.ca

Président: Stéphane Dumas
Vice-Président: Guy Campeau
Secrétaire: Daniel Tardif
Trésorier: Pierre Desrosiers
Représentant national: Pierre Desrosiers

REGINA CENTRE

PO Box 20014
Regina SK S4P 4J7
(306) 751-0128
www.regina.sk.ca
info[at]ras.sk.ca

President: Alden Foraie
Vice President: Vance Petriew
Secretary: Shane Ludtke
Treasurer: Paul Meyer
National Representative: Vacant
Past President: Lorne Harasen
Webmaster: Vance Petriew
Librarian: Shane Ludtke
Centre Newsletter: Chris Anderson
Kalium Observatory and Millennium
Telescope: Ron Haughey
Chris Anderson
Davin Deep-Sky Observatory: Dave Barrie

ST. JOHN'S CENTRE

c/o Randy Dodge
206 Frecker Dr
St John's NL A1E 5H9
www.sji.ca/rasc/
rasc[at]sji.ca

President: Garry Dymond
Vice-President: Mike Crawford
Secretary: David Bourgeois
Treasurer: Joe English
National Representative: Doug Grouchy
Past President: Chris Stevenson
Webmaster: Craig Peterman
Librarian: Fred Smith
Observing Chair: Robert Babb
Equipment Officer: David Caruk
Education Officer: Gary Case
Membership Officer: Randy Dodge

SARNIA CENTRE

www.sarnia.com/groups/astro/

President: Christian Charbonneau
Vice-President: Jose Ordenes
Secretary: Martin Cogswell
Treasurer: Brendan Flemming
National Representative: Richard Weatherston
Past President: Marie Fisher
Webmaster: Richard Weatherston

SASKATOON CENTRE

PO Box 317 RPO University
Saskatoon SK S7N 4J8
(306) 857-4707
www.usask.ca/psychology/sarty/rasc
stonesw7[at]sasktel.net

President: Garry Stone
Vice-President: Barb Wright
Secretary: Al Hartridge
Treasurer: Norma Jensen
National Representative: Les Dickson
Webmaster: Gord Sarty
Librarian: Bruce Brandell

Newsletter Editors: Tenho Tuomi
Ken Maher
Memberships: Mike Clancy
Observers Group: Larry Scott
Events co-ordinator: Jeff Swick
Fundraising: Darrell Chatfield
Distant Members: James Gorkoff

THUNDER BAY CENTRE

286 Trinity Cres
Thunder Bay ON P7C 5V6
(807) 475-3406
www.tbrasc.org
astronomer[at]tbaytel.net

President: Randy McAllister
Vice-President: John Bakkelund
Secretary: Ed Essex
Treasurer: Lora Barbisan
National Representative: Dave Gallant
Past President: Ted Bronson
Webmaster: Ed Kuchel
Librarian: John Bakkelund
Dark-Sky Preserve: Maureen Nadin
Light Abatement: Randy McAllister
Membership: Ted Bronson
Programs: Ted Bronson
Media: Ted Bronson

TORONTO CENTRE

c/o Ontario Science Centre
770 Don Mills Rd
North York ON M3C 1T3
(416) 724-7827 [416-724-STAR]
www.rasc.ca/toronto
Ralph.chou[at]sympatico.ca

President: Denis Grey
V-P Finance: Ralph Chou
2nd Vice-President: Kirsten Vanstone
Treasurer: Joseph Kratz
Council Secretary: Cathy Carr
Occultation and Variable-Star Observational
Activities Planning: Guy Nason
Membership Secretary: Ralph Chou
Council Recorder: Geoff Gilmour-Taylor
Members' Night Co-ordinator: Paul Markov
Education Committee: Leslie Harvey
Scope Editor: Phil Chow
Carr Astronomical Observatory Coordinator
CAO Bookings and Scheduling: Deitmar Kupke
Webmaster: Blake Nancarrow
National Representatives: Cathy Carr
Charles Darrow
Geoff Gilmour-Taylor
Tony Horvatin
Alternates: Katrina Ince-Lum
Dietmar Kupke
Guy Nason

VANCOUVER CENTRE

1100 Chestnut St
Vancouver BC V6J 3J9
(604) 738-7827
www.rasc.ca/vancouver

Honorary President: John MacDonald
President: Pomponia Martinez
Vice President: Brian Morse
Secretary: Jason Rickerby
Treasurer: Bruce MacDonald
National Representative: Doug Montgomery
National Representative: Jason Rickerby
Past President: Ron Jerome
Webmaster: Simon Johnson
Librarian: William Fearon
Director of Telescopes: Bob Parry
Immediate Past President
and Education Chair: Ron Jerome
Membership: Suzanna Nagy
CAROp Chair: Wayne Lyons
Nova Editor: Gordon Farrell
Webmaster: Simon Johnson
Speakers: Barry Shanko
LPA Chair: Chris Dolman
CGRT Chair: Craig Breckenridge
Public Relations: vacant.
Honorary President: John MacDonald
Trustee: Sally Baker
Trustee: Karl Miller

VICTORIA CENTRE

333-1900 Mayfair Drive
Victoria BC V8P 1P9
(250) 744-9981
www.victoria.rasc.ca
president[at]victoria.rasc.ca

Honorary President: George Ball
President: Joe Carr
Vice-President: Sid Sidhu
2nd Vice-President: John McDonald
Secretary: Li-Ann Skibo
Treasurer: David Griffiths
National Rep.: David Lee
Past President: Scott Mair
Webmaster: Joe Carr
Librarian and Telescopes: Sid Sidhu
Skynews Editor: Scott Mair
New Members Liaison: Sandy Barta
Members at Large: Bill Almond
(Centre Historian)
Jim Hesser
Ed Maxfield
Chris Gainor
Blair Pellatt
Colin Scarfe
Dave Bennett
Sandy Barta
Norm Willie

WINDSOR CENTRE

c/o Ken Garber
2831 Alexandra Ave
Windsor ON N9E 2J8
www.mnsi.net/~rasc
rasc[at]mnsi.net

Honorary President: Dr. William Baylis
President: Dr. Pierre Boulos
1st Vice-President: Paul Pratt
2nd Vice President: Tina Chichkan
Secretary: David Panton
Treasurer: Ken Garber
National Representative: Tim Bennett
Alternate NCR: Steve Mastellotto
Past President: Steve Mastellotto
Aurora Editor: Ken Garber
Assistant Editor: Dan Anzovino
Librarian: Rick Marion
Light Pollution Abatement Director:
Dan Taylor
Observatory Director: Peter Bondy
Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater
Webmaster: Steve Mastellotto
Councillors: Dan Anzovino
Rev. Harry Brydon
Mike Mastronardi
Steve Pellarin
Paul Preney
Art Rae
Donna Ronconi
Ken Rounq
Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu
Tom Sobocan
Robin Smallwood

WINNIPEG CENTRE

PO Box 2694
Winnipeg MB R3C 4B3
www.winnipeg.rasc.ca
rasc[at]winnipeg.rasc.ca

President: Ron Berard
1st Vice-President: Gail Wise
2nd Vice-President: Tim Kennedy
Secretary: Jay Anderson
Treasurer: Mike Stephens
National Representative: Jennifer West
Past President: Lindsay Price
Webmaster: Gord Tulloch
Librarian: Fred Wood
Councillors: Marlene Wallace
Stephen Smyth
Ralph Croning
Nicole Choptain
Ken Metcalfe
Peter Toth
Winnicentrics Editor: Gail Wise
Observatory Director: Ray Andrejowich
Observatory Bookings: Kevin Black

2006 AWARD WINNERS

Service Award	Ted Bronson (Thunder Bay), Mark Kaye (Hamilton), Kevin Kell (Kingston)
Chant Medal	Ed Majden (Victoria)
Ken Chilton Prize	(not awarded)
The Plaskett Medal	Lauren A. MacArthur (University of British Columbia)
Simon Newcomb Award	Dr. Warren Finlay (Edmonton)

MESSIER CERTIFICATE

Faye Bontje (London)	Les Dempsey (Belleville)
Ted Bronson (Thunder Bay)	Les Dickson (Saskatoon)
Robert Casgrain (Edmonton)	Tom Luton (Toronto)
Lynn Chetwynd (Toronto)	Jack Milliken (Calgary)
Michael T. Clancy (Saskatoon)	Gilbert Raineault (Winnipeg)
Adam Clayson (Toronto)	Roger Vail (Charlottetown)

NGC CERTIFICATE

Andrew Beaton (Toronto)
J. David Cotterell (Belleville)
Ray Drouillard (Windsor)
Michael McAllister (Toronto)
David Player (Okanagan)

EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE CERTIFICATE

Chris Anderson (Regina)	Brian Hollander (Kitchener-Waterloo)	Kenneth Maher (Saskatoon)
Paul Grey (Moncton)	Kevin Kell (Kingston)	Maryanne Weiler (Kitchener-Waterloo)

ISABEL WILLIAMSON LUNAR OBSERVING CERTIFICATE

Bruce McCurdy (Edmonton)	Christopher Fleming (London)
--------------------------	------------------------------

Below is a list of former winners of the Chant Medal, Ken Chilton Prize, Plaskett Medal, Service Award, and Simon Newcomb Award. For names before 1990, please refer to "Looking Up - A History of the RASC" by Peter Broughton.

CHANT MEDAL

The Chant Medal of the Society was established in 1940 in appreciation of the great work of the late Professor C.A. Chant in furthering the interests of astronomy in Canada. The medal is awarded not oftener than once a year to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada on the basis of the value

of the work carried out in astronomy and closely allied fields of original investigation.

1993	Mary Lou Whitehorne (Halifax)
1995	Paul Boltwood (Ottawa)
1996	David Lane (Halifax)

1998	Bertus (Bert) Rhebergen (Hamilton)
2001	Richard Huziak (Saskatoon)
2002	Dr. Roy Bishop (Halifax)
2006	Ed Majden (Victoria)

KEN CHILTON PRIZE

The Chilton Prize was established in 1977 by the National Council of the Society in remembrance of Ken E. Chilton, an active member of the Hamilton Centre. The prize is awarded annually to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada in recognition of a significant piece of astronomical work carried out or published recently.

1990	Doug George (Ottawa)
1995	Paul Gray (Halifax), David Lane (Halifax)
1996	Raymond Thompson (Toronto)
1997	Heather T. Cameron (Halifax)
2001	Michael Boschat (Halifax)
2002	Vance Petriew (Regina)

2003	Doug George (Ottawa), Peter Ceravolo (Ottawa), Paul Boltwood (Ottawa), Jon Buchanan (Ottawa), Glenn LeDrew (Ottawa)
2005	Attila Danko (Ottawa)

PLASKETT MEDAL

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Canadian Astronomical Society together present an award in recognition of the pivotal role played by John Stanley Plaskett in the establishment of astrophysical research in Canada. The award is made to the graduate from a Canadian university who is judged to have submitted the most outstanding doctoral thesis in astronomy and astrophysics in the preceding two calendar years. An award need not be made every year.

1991	Paul Charbonneau (Montréal)
1992	Eric Poisson (Alberta)
1993	Pierre Brassard (Montréal)
1994	Grant Hill (Montreal)
1995	Michael Richer (York)
1996	Gordon Squires (Toronto)
1997	Alain Beauchamp (Montreal)
1998	Dean McLaughlin (McMaster)
1999	Stéphane Charpinet (Montréal)

2000	Alexei Razoumov (British Columbia)
2001	Peter Brown (Western)
2002	Edward W. Thommes (Queen's)
2003	Tracy Webb (Toronto)
2004	Jo-Anne C. Brown (Toronto)
2005	Christian Marois (Montréal)
2006	Lauren A. MacArthur (British Columbia)

SERVICE AWARD

The Service Award was established in 1959 and takes the form of a bronze medal presented to members who have performed outstanding service to a Centre or to the National Society. Below is a list of recent winners of the Service Award.

1990 Mary Grey (Ottawa)*
1991 Don Hladiuk (Calgary),
Ian McGregor (Toronto)
1992 Jean-Marie Frechette (Québec),
Michael Watson (Unattached,
Canada)
1993 Eric Clinton (London),
David Tindall (Halifax)
1994 Randy Dodge (St. John's),

Garry Dymond (St. John's),
Mel Rankin (Edmonton)
1995 Ron Gasbarini (Niagara),
Patrick Kelly (Halifax)
1996 Sidney Lee (Calgary)*,
Robert Venor (Montreal)*,
Abbe Alphonse Tardif (Québec)
1998 David Lane (Halifax),
Roger Hill (Hamilton),
Sandy Ferguson (Saskatoon)
1999 John Mirtle (Calgary),
Ralph Chou (Toronto)
2000 Phil Johnson (Calgary)
2001 John Rousom (London),

David G. Turner (Halifax)
2002 (Not awarded)
2003 David McCarter (London)
2004 David Clark (London),
Jim Failes (Okanagan Centre),
Art Fraser (Ottawa Centre),
Guy Nason (Toronto Centre),
Stan Runge (Winnipeg Centre)
2005 J. Randy Attwood (Toronto),
Dr. Robert Garrison (Toronto)
2006 Ted Bronson (Thunder Bay),
Mark Kaye (Hamilton),
Kevin Kell (Kingston)
*deceased

SIMON NEWCOMB AWARD

This award was instituted in 1978 to recognize literary ability among non-professional members of the Society.

1994 Michael S.F. Watson (Unattached,
Canada)
1999 Terence Dickinson (Toronto)
2001 Dan Falk (Toronto)

2002 David Levy (Kingston)
2003 Alister Ling (Edmonton)
2004 Mary Lou Whitehorne (Halifax)
2006 Dr. Warren Finlay (Edmonton)

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE RASC

Dr. F.M. Bateson (New Zealand)
Dr. R.B. Baldwin (United States)
Dr. David L. Crawford (United States)
Dr. A. Dollfus (France)
Rev. Robert Evans (Australia)

Dr. Owen Gingerich (United States)
Dr. Stephen W. Hawking (United Kingdom)
Dr. Jean Meeus (Belgium)
Dr. Patrick Moore (United Kingdom)
Dr. Jay Pasachoff (United States)

Dr. P.J.E. Peebles (United States)
Mr. Leif Robinson (United States)
Dr. A.R. Sandage (United States)
Mr. William Sheehan (United States)
Dr. Carolyn Shoemaker (United States)

PAST ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE RASC

Below are lists of former Honorary Presidents, Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers of the RASC. For names before 1990, please refer to "Looking Up - A History of the RASC" by Peter Broughton.

Honorary Presidents

1989-1993 Ian Halliday
1993-1997 Alan Batten
1997-2001 Jack Locke
2001-2005 Roy Bishop
2005-2009 Robert Garrison

Presidents

1990-1992 Damien Lemay
1992-1994 Peter Broughton
1994-1996 Doug Hube
1996-1998 Doug George
1998-2000 Randy Attwood
2000-2002 Robert Garrison
2002-2004 Rajiv Gupta
2004-2006 Peter Jedicke
2006-2008 Scott Young

Secretaries

1987-1993 David Tindall
1993-1996 Randall Brooks
1997-1999 Raymond Auclair
1999-2005 Kim Hay
2005-2007 Stan Runge

Treasurers

1989-1991 Karl Miller
1992-1994 Terry Hicks
1994-1998 Rajiv Gupta
1998-2004 Michael Watson
2004-2006 David Clark

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES—1990 TO 2006

The following Centres hosted the General Assembly from 1990 to 2003:

1990 Ottawa
1991 Vancouver
1992 Calgary
1993 Halifax
1994 St. John's
1995 Windsor

1996 Edmonton
1997 Kingston
1998 Victoria
1999 Toronto
2000 Winnipeg
2001 London
2002 Montreal
2003 Vancouver

2004 St. John's
2005 Okanagan
2006 Ottawa

The following Centres will host the General Assembly in the future:

2007 - Calgary
2008 - Toronto



THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

136 Dupont Street, Toronto ON M5R 1V2
Telephone: (416) 924-7973 • Fax: (416) 924-2911
Email: national.office@rasc.ca • Web Site: www.rasc.ca
