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

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ANNUAL REPORT  
RAPPORT ANNUEL

2007

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Front Cover Photograph

*Group photo, General Assembly, 2007, Calgary, Alberta*

*—Photo by Jessica Smith*

# ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA—2007

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**RASC eStore:** [www.store.rasc.ca](http://www.store.rasc.ca)  
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**Membership & Promotion Co-ordinator:** Jo Taylor [mempub@rasc.ca](mailto:mempub@rasc.ca)

## Officers

**Honorary President:** Dr. Robert Garrison  
**President:** Dave Lane [dlane@ap.stmarys.ca](mailto:dlane@ap.stmarys.ca)  
**First Vice-President:** vacant  
**Second Vice-President:** Mary Lou Whitehorne [mlwhitehorne@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:mlwhitehorne@hfx.eastlink.ca)  
**Secretary / Recorder:** James Edgar [jamesedgar@sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net)  
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**Observer's Handbook Editor:** Patrick Kelly [patrick.kelly@dal.ca](mailto:patrick.kelly@dal.ca)  
**Beginner's Observing Guide Editor:** Leo Enright [tcorbtor@frontenac.net](mailto:tcorbtor@frontenac.net)  
**Observer's Calendar Editor:** David Lane [dlane@ap.stmarys.ca](mailto:dlane@ap.stmarys.ca)  
**Librarian:** Dr. Robert Garrison [garrison@astro.utoronto.ca](mailto:garrison@astro.utoronto.ca)

## 2006 - 2007 Committees

**Awards:** Peter Jedicke [pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca](mailto:pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca)  
**Constitution:** Patrice Scattolin [scattol@videotron.ca](mailto:scattol@videotron.ca)  
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**Executive:** David Lane [dlane@ap.stmarys.ca](mailto:dlane@ap.stmarys.ca)  
**Finance:** Mayer Tchelebon [mayer@tch@yahoo.com](mailto:mayer@tch@yahoo.com)  
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**Publications:** Dave Lane [dlane@ap.stmarys.ca](mailto:dlane@ap.stmarys.ca)

## Centre Representatives on Council

<b>Belleville:</b>	Don Town	<b>Ottawa:</b>	Rob Dick
<b>Calgary:</b>	Susan Yeo	<b>Prince:</b>	Brian Battersby
<b>Calgary:</b>	Ryan May	<b>Québec:</b>	Pierre Desrosiers
<b>Charlottetown:</b>	Garth Arseneault	<b>Regina:</b>	Ross Parker
<b>Edmonton:</b>	Alister Ling	<b>Sarnia:</b>	Marie Fisher
<b>Edmonton:</b>	Roy Ramdeen	<b>Saskatoon:</b>	Les Dickson
<b>Halifax:</b>	Pat Kelly	<b>St. John's:</b>	Mike Crawford
<b>Hamilton:</b>	John Williamson	<b>Sunshine Coast:</b>	Dave Thompson
<b>Kingston:</b>	John Hurley	<b>Thunder Bay:</b>	Dave Gallant
<b>Kitchener-Waterloo:</b>	Christopher Beckett	<b>Toronto:</b>	David Parfett
<b>London:</b>	Craig Levine	<b>Toronto:</b>	Charles Darrow
<b>C. F. de Montréal:</b>	Patrice Scattolin	<b>Toronto:</b>	Geoff Gilmour-Taylor
<b>Mississauga:</b>	Ian McGregor	<b>Toronto:</b>	Tony Horvatin
<b>Montréal:</b>	Frank Tomaras	<b>Vancouver:</b>	Doug Montgomery
<b>New Brunswick:</b>	Paul Gray	<b>Vancouver:</b>	Jason Rickerby
<b>Niagara:</b>	Joe Otonicar	<b>Victoria:</b>	Chris Gainor
<b>Okanagan:</b>	David Player	<b>Windsor:</b>	Mike Mastronardi
<b>Ottawa:</b>	Gary Boyle	<b>Winnipeg:</b>	Mike Stephens
<b>Ottawa:</b>	Debra Ceravolo		

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"May you live in interesting times...." I've never understood, until this year, why the Chinese consider this to be a curse. 2007 was an "interesting" year for the Society, and 2008 will see many changes in the way the Society operates. Some of these changes will be by choice, but many are required by changes in the federal regulations governing the operation of charitable groups such as ours. The Society will emerge from this transition stronger and better prepared for the 21st century, but it has definitely taken a toll on the dedicated volunteer core that makes up the Society's National Council, and in particular the Executive and members of the Board Pilot Committee.

In a nutshell, the regulations regarding how Canadian charities must conduct business have changed, and the Society was slow to keep up. There are issues surrounding the transfer of funds from the Society to independent chapters (Centres) that aren't registered charities. There are also complications involving the handling of life membership funds and transferring the Centre portion on to the Centres. The way we used to do things is no longer allowed, and so the Society must adapt. Included with this Annual Report are some important By-Law changes, which are required to bring the Society back into compliance with the new regulations. I urge every RASC member to read the materials and vote to support the By-Law changes requested by Council.

This issue has highlighted the importance of the role of the Society's Council. Council isn't just made of Centre reps who are there to be watchdogs over the "them" of National—Council is the Society's Board of Directors, and it's their job to manage the Society. That's a big investment of time and effort. Make sure you thank Centre reps for their efforts on your behalf. (And if you don't know about what's going on at the national level, ask your Centre rep—it's their job to make sure their Centre members are kept informed.)

The charitable issue seemed like a crisis on its own, but in reality it is just a symptom of the true crisis facing our Society—the "volunteer deficit," which many people have identified but no one has yet solved. We face this problem at the Centre level as well, but nationally a lack of volunteers can spell disaster.

Consider the following: while we have two dedicated and hard-working staff (Bonnie Bird and Jo Taylor) who handle the office, the Society's business is run on a day-to-day basis by the Executive Committee. The five members of the Executive are the volunteer CEOs of a national not-for-profit charitable corporation, which also is a half-million-dollar publishing business—\*and\* the best astronomy club in the country (perhaps the world). A typical Executive member spends two years as 2nd Vice-President (in charge of membership), two years as 1st Vice-President (in charge of publications), and then two years as President. On a day-to-day basis, these folks have to work a few hours a \*day\* in order to do the job justice—and that's to maintain the status quo and deal with the various crises that erupt on their own. Add to that an ambitious agenda to try to modernize the RASC's governance and plans to improve the Society's outreach capability in preparation for the International Year of Astronomy, and it becomes a full-time job. It is unreasonable to assume we can find people who can take six years away from family, career, and real life to help run the RASC. It's not sustainable, and if we keep trying to do it "the old way," we're going to drive away some of our most dedicated and talented volunteers—because even these folks have their breaking point.

This issue was recognized last year, and the Board Pilot Committee (BPC) was created as a way to increase the volunteer pool. The BPC adds seven more people to the Executive to help deal with the business of the Society. While it had a few problems out of the gate (as

any new process does), I feel that this step is essential to keeping the Society running effectively. However, the BPC is largely made up of the same folks who were Committee Chairs or Council reps in the first place. We've essentially given busy people more work, rather than bringing in more people to help share the load.

We all recognize that much of the value of the RASC occurs at the Centre level. I grew up in the Winnipeg Centre, cut my teeth on its loaner telescopes, learned public speaking and science education as a Winnipeg Centre member, before I ever knew about the national dimension of the Society. When I went to my first General Assembly (1990 in Ottawa), I realized that there were folks across the country who were doing the same sorts of things. I realized that the Society publishes the Observer's Handbook, the most respected of its kind in the world. This isn't just a book that I get for free as an RASC member—we MAKE it, and make it available to the world. We also publish a Journal, and for over 100 years we have been the largest group bringing the wonders of astronomy to Canadians. I realized I was a part of a much greater thing than I had realized. I also realized I needed to do my part to keep it going.

If you feel, as I do, that the RASC has a value beyond your local Centre meeting, I urge you to volunteer at the national level. Become a Centre rep, join a Committee, run for the BPC, talk to the Executive and see what projects need doing, and then do one. We often have people send us ideas of what we should be doing to promote astronomy or improve the Society—as if there were an army of folks with no idea what to do, just waiting for someone to come up with something! Don't say, "You should do this...." Tell Council, "I will do this...."

We're coming up to International Year of Astronomy in 2009, and the RASC is playing a leadership role in the Canadian effort. The 2008 GA has an IYA theme, and as the year approaches there will be more hype and more resources available, but the real magic of IYA will happen between a person and a telescope. The "Galileo moment," I started calling it, because it's really about the moment of discovery when looking through a telescope for the first time. The first view of Saturn's rings is a discovery—it doesn't matter at all that they've been discovered before by others. Personal discovery of the cosmos is what IYA is all about, and it's what the RASC is uniquely suited to provide to Canadians. We hope that over one-million Canadians will have a "Galileo Moment" in 2009—and that some of those folks will want to join the RASC.

Finally, as many of you know, our Executive Secretary Bonnie Bird is retiring this July, after 12 years of service to the Society. Bonnie has been the kind voice of National Office through three different membership systems and a bunch of changes, and has always handled the job with dignity and a friendly demeanour that made things run smoothly. Thanks, Bonnie, for all your work in bringing the Society forward. Enjoy your retirement!

By the time you read this, my time as President of the Society will have already come to an end. I will always treasure my time on the Executive, due to the great people I've worked with, the amazing experiences the Society has provided me, and the many close friends I've made. Your current Executive is a great group of people who care deeply about the welfare of the Society, and have worked long and hard to navigate some "interesting" waters. Thanks, Dave, Mary Lou, James, and Mayer for all your work—the Society owes you all a debt of gratitude that few truly appreciate.

Clear skies,

**Scott Young**  
*President*

# SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The year 2007 saw ups and downs as in any venture—we prefer to remember the high points. Some of them include: the creation of a trial expanded executive called the Board Pilot Committee (BPC); a fantastic General Assembly in Calgary—they raised the bar for other Centres to strive for; a start to planning for the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009); the *Journal* production team met and sometimes exceeded the printing and distribution schedule; and the first enquiries came from the nascent Sunshine Coast Centre, our 29th!

I thank our two employees at National Office, Bonnie Bird and Jo Taylor, for their unflagging support. They keep the Society together and on the right track.

Membership numbers held steady, and even grew slightly, for the first year in recent history – see the chart below. Next year's IYA activities are the perfect springboard to give that extra impetus to growing our hobby and public outreach. We encourage you to keep the momentum going.

Lastly, it is not only customary but essential that we honour our deceased members. On behalf of the Society, I extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of the following members who passed during 2007; they are: Douglas G. Baker (Calgary); Dr. F. Bateson (Honorary); John F. Bulger (Toronto); J. Grant Carscallen (London); Norman Davidson (Unattached); Fred Davis (Saskatoon); Arlyne Gillespie (Kingston); Rev. Norman Green (Hamilton); Richard W. Hart (Edmonton); Robert James Kilgour (Toronto); Ray Koenig (Kitchener-Waterloo); Marvin R. Lang (Vancouver); Dr. Clement McCulloch (Unattached); Stan A. Mott (Ottawa); Lance Olkovich (Vancouver); Rev. Dunstan Pasterfield (Regina); Brooke Patton (Toronto); G. Peron (Montréal); Bruce Pippy (Winnipeg); Andrew H.C. Schuh (Toronto); Dr. Alexis Troc (Unattached); James F. Wright (Vancouver).

**James Edgar**  
*Secretary*

Centre	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Belleville	35	33	32	29	26	N/A	N/A	N/A
Calgary	313	278	302	323	321	315	315	310
Charlottetown	22	21	20	19	20	16	18	15
Edmonton	255	241	261	267	271	262	249	222
Halifax	162	152	171	197	214	196	186	172
Hamilton	80	82	91	91	113	114	122	109
Kingston	106	125	128	110	132	145	146	152
Kitchener-Waterloo	104	101	127	127	133	114	106	95
London	104	99	112	115	119	118	115	115
Mississauga	103	53						
C.F de Montréal	28	32	32	30	40	39	36	38
Montréal	99	105	109	108	121	116	106	102
New Brunswick	88	78	75	70	59	62	46	29
Niagra	104	101	114	123	117	109	97	91
Okanagan	86	85	83	85	92	87	70	61
Ottawa	416	396	447	469	500	480	457	431
Prince George	67	82	75	40	43	42	25	N/A
Québec	44	40	39	38	38	45	50	63
Regina	55	53	47	53	59	56	47	30
St. John's	52	49	51	44	54	54	45	47
Sarnia	25	27	27	32	26	27	27	31
Saskatoon	78	76	70	67	73	70	73	76
Thunder Bay	41	40	39	41	43	39	38	32
Toronto	610	622	748	841	889	886	775	792
Vancouver	256	238	267	291	313	292	294	275
Victoria	188	177	186	192	200	188	200	159
Windsor	94	89	105	122	125	120	107	102
Winnipeg	157	136	132	140	136	114	105	99
Unattached	561	512	538	591	610	575	552	558
Honorary	14	15	15	14	14	13	13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>4347</b>	<b>4138</b>	<b>4443</b>	<b>4655</b>	<b>4901</b>	<b>4688</b>	<b>4420</b>	<b>4230</b>

## Membership by Type

Type	Number	% of Total
Ordinary	3866	89.2
Life	338	7.8
Youth	129	3.0
Honorary	(14)	n/a

## Membership by Country

Country	Number	% of Total
Canada	4019	92.5
USA	279	6.4
Other	49	1.1

# TREASURER'S REPORT

It was a pleasure to assume the Treasurer's position effective 2008 February 01. I look forward to being part of the many changes now under way at the RASC.

Our financial results for 2007 were impacted by two new items: the purchase and implementation costs of our new membership database system (iMIS), and the legal fees incurred to obtain advice on our charitable status and activities. Both of these will impact 2008 results as well. However, one will yield both increased efficiencies and significant staff savings in the future, and the other will enable the Society to comply with CRA's charity regulations with a minimal impact to its mandate, so it is money well spent. The iMIS costs are funded from the Endowment Fund, in accordance with its mandate and previous instructions from National Council.

Speaking of CRA's charity regulations, we have submitted our voluntary disclosure in April 2008 regarding our past practices. At this time it is impossible to determine our potential liability, if any. Therefore, we have not made any provision for such in the 2007 financial statements

Until recently, our funds were invested in low-yielding savings accounts and GICs. To increase investment income, we have decided to invest up to \$300,000 of our funds in a selection of mutual funds. On the \$100,000 actually invested, we unfortunately lost 7.9% due to the economy, which impacted the total income from investments in 2007. We will continue to monitor our investment performance, making changes where appropriate.

Our net income from publications did not vary significantly from the previous year. We received the benefit of a full year of savings

from moving the *Journal* online. We've spent some of those savings in more advertising for our publications. I wish to remind our members that the "profit" from our publications is due to the generosity of those who contribute both content and manpower at no cost to the Society. As such, there is no certainty that the profit will continue at current levels, or even exist in the future, should we have to pay for some of these services.

That profit, while it lasts, will be spent on activities which fulfill the Society's mandate, and not to subsidize membership fees. In this vein, we are moving towards a self-sustaining membership model, where the membership services are funded entirely from membership fees.

We will also need to address the Life Member Fund. Like a pension plan, it has to be sufficiently funded to service all Life Members. That is not the case here; thus, we will have to take remedial actions, not unlike those of a pension plan.

Because of the changes and challenges presently facing the Society, 2007 was a very busy year for the Finance Committee. I thank the members of the Finance Committee for their valuable contributions to the work of the Society.

Your executive has worked hard, and will continue to do so to implement the various changes mentioned above. These are interesting times for the RASC, and I am very grateful to be part of it.

**Mayer Tchelebon**  
*Treasurer*

# 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*

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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, 2007 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, 2007 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

TORONTO, Ontario

April 21, 2008

Tinkham & Associates LLP  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

# BALANCE SHEET

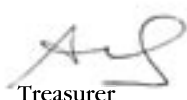
As at December 31	2007	2006
<b>Assets</b>		
Current		
Cash	\$ 358,959	\$ 115,352
Short-term investments (note 3)	292,091	505,000
Accrued interest receivable	4,727	13,438
Accounts receivable	56,366	44,956
Inventory	29,887	35,513
Prepaid expenses	13,374	16,336
	<b>755,404</b>	<b>730,595</b>
Capital assets		
Office building, furniture, equipment, library (nominal value)	1	1
	<b>\$ 755,405</b>	<b>\$ 730,596</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 55,888	\$ 17,557
Deferred revenue		
Membership fees for ensuing years	90,124	91,355
Jounal subscriptions	14,707	14,744
Unamortized life membership fees (note 4)	69,900	73,579
	<b>230,619</b>	<b>197,235</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Invested in capital assets	1	1
Unrestricted	86,917	85,242
Internally restricted (note 6)	437,868	448,118
	<b>524,786</b>	<b>533,361</b>
	<b>\$ 755,405</b>	<b>\$ 730,596</b>

On Behalf of the Board

*See accompanying notes to financial statements*



President



Treasurer

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Invested in Capital Assets	Internally Restricted (schedule 1)	Unrestricted	2007	2006
Year ended December 31					
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1	\$ 448,118	\$ 85,242	\$ 533,361	\$ 495,293
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	-	-	(8,575)	\$ (8,575)	\$ 38,068
Transfers	-	(10,250)	10,250	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 1	\$ 437,868	\$ 86,917	\$ 524,786	\$ 533,361

*See accompanying notes to financial statements*



# STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Year ended December 31	2007	2006
<b>Revenue</b>		
Membership fees	\$ 140,646	\$ 140,557
Publication revenue		
Journal	28,469	32,851
Observer's Handbook	96,565	102,593
Beginner's Observing Guide	13,500	9,654
Observer's Calendar	48,335	43,216
Skyways	1,769	6,276
Explorons l'astronomie	2,366	3,810
Shipping and Handling	25,657	24,631
Other	619	501
	<b>217,280</b>	<b>223,532</b>
Miscellaneous income		
Donations	51,689	62,513
Grants	5,374	-
Interest on investment	12,500	21,684
Rent	16,239	16,159
Promotional products	7,126	7,482
Other income	4,201	332
	<b>97,129</b>	<b>108,170</b>
	<b>455,055</b>	<b>472,259</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Publication costs		
Journal	46,794	68,344
Annual report	2,914	3,445
Cost of publications sold	37,358	42,405
Observer's Handbook	16,233	14,448
Beginner's Observing Guide	5,586	2,908
Observer's Calendar	16,866	12,754
Skyways	1,296	591
Explorons l'astronomie	144	353
Other	42	42
	<b>127,400</b>	<b>145,290</b>
Operating costs		
Office salaries and employee benefits	61,938	56,341
Membership services	107,807	132,228
Office expenses	58,664	26,310
Services	43,472	34,667
Committees	32,319	4,958
Travel expenses	14,505	17,373
Cost of promotional items sold	4,963	4,562
Building	12,462	12,462
	<b>336,230</b>	<b>288,901</b>
	<b>463,630</b>	<b>434,191</b>
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ (8,575)	\$ 38,068

*See accompanying notes to financial statements*

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2007 December 31

## 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. Cost is determined on an average cost basis.

### (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. The total cost of capital assets expensed in the current year is \$14,057.

### (d) Membership fees

Membership fees received in the first half of the year are recognized during the current year. Those received in the second half of the year are recorded as deferred revenue and recognized in the following year. New life memberships received are credited to Unamortized life membership fees liability account, as per Note 4. Five percent of the life membership fund is transferred at the beginning of each year to membership fees revenue and five percent of the internally restricted net assets (Life Membership Fund) is transferred to Unrestricted net assets.

### (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 Society has adopted the recommendations of the CICA Handbook Section 3855, Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement and Section 3861, Financial Instruments: Disclosure and Presentation effective January 1, 2007. Cash, short-term investments, accrued interest receivable and accounts receivable are classified as held for trading and measured at fair value. Mutual funds are marked to market at the end of the year, and the appropriate gain or loss is recorded for the year. Accounts payable and accrued charges are classified as other financial liabilities and measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method. There is no adjustment required to opening unrestricted net assets as a result of the change in accounting policies for financial instruments.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

	2007		2006
	Cost	Market	Market
Mutual fund investments with Scotia McLeod			
Ivy Canadian Fund	\$ 25,000	\$ 24,181	\$ -
MacKenzie Cundill Value	12,500	11,769	-
Scotia Canadian Dividend	25,000	24,255	-
Trimark Canadian Endeavour	25,000	20,368	-
Brandes Global Balanced	12,500	11,218	-
	\$ 100,000	\$ 92,091	\$ -
Scotia McLeod guaranteed investment certificates			
Matures June 6, 2008, bearing interest at 4.28%		\$ 100,000	
Matures June 22, 2008, bearing interest at 4.35%		\$ 100,000	
Royal Bank guaranteed investment certificates			
Matures June 14, 2007, bearing interest at 3.75% - 355,000			\$ 355,000
Matures March 7, 2007, bearing interest at 5.00%			\$ 150,000
		\$ 292,091	\$ 505,000

## 4. Unamortized life membership fees

	2007	2006
Life membership fees as of January 1	\$ 73,579	\$ 76,031
Add: Life membership fees received in the year	-	1,350
Deduct: Amortization to income	(3,679)	(3,802)
Balance, December 31	\$ 69,900	\$ 73,579

## 5. Statement of cash flows

A statement of cash flows is not provided as the required cash flow information is readily apparent from the other financial statements.

## 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 National Council. 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 National Council has segregated a significant donation received 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.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Schedule 1: Internally Restricted Net Assets

						2007	2006
	W. Feibelman Fund	Centre Projects Fund	Life Membership Fund	Ruth Northcott Fund	P.M.Millman Endowment Fund	Total	Total
Fund balance, January 1	\$ 36,924	\$ 3,721	\$ 42,144	\$ 91,408	\$ 273,921	\$ 448,118	\$ 423,753
Transferred from Unrestricted net assets:							
Interest	689	69	1,573	4,273	-	6,604	8,479
Donations	3,532	2,657	-	646	1,585	8,420	12,466
Expenses	-	(2,034)	(2,106)	41	(25,284)	(29,383)	(2,323)
Inflation adjustment	-	-	-	-	4,109	4,109	5,743
	4,221	692	(533)	4,960	(19,590)	10,250	24,365
Balance, December 31	\$ 41,145	\$ 4,413	\$ 41,611	\$ 96,368	\$ 254,331	\$ 437,868	\$ 448,118

# ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—2007

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

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 2007-07-01 in the Ballroom of the McEwan Building at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta.**

The meeting was called to order at 13:30 mdt by the Chair, RASC President Scott Young, who welcomed members, delegates, and guests to the 2007 Annual Meeting and thanked the Calgary Centre for hosting the 2007 General Assembly. This was greeted with a warm round of applause.

President Young called the roll of Centres. 22 Centres were represented (Belleville, Calgary, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Halifax, Kingston, London, Centre Francophone de Montréal, Montréal, New Brunswick, Okanagan, Ottawa, Prince George, Quebec, St. John's, Sarnia, Saskatoon, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, and Winnipeg); plus several unattached members and guests were present. There were approximately 100 members in attendance.

### **1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING.**

There being no objections, the Chair approved the Minutes of AGM 2006 as presented in the Annual Report 2006.

### **3. REPORTS:**

#### **3.1 OFFICERS**

##### **PRESIDENT**

President Scott Young gave a brief overview of his past year of activities.

##### **1st VICE-PRESIDENT**

Dave Lane said that he is halfway through his term and looking forward to the new Board Pilot Committee. He said he would report on the rest of his activities at the Publications Committee and IT Committee reports.

##### **2nd VICE-PRESIDENT**

Mary Lou Whitehorne reported on some of her activities; she is deeply involved in the Society investments.

##### **SECRETARY/RECORDER**

James Edgar thanked his predecessors for paving the way toward entering the job of Secretary.

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 that he was in the final few hours of his term, making room for the incoming new Treasurer. He particularly thanked both Dr. Rajiv Gupta for creating the spreadsheets for the Society finances and Bonnie Bird for all her assistance in keeping the records accurate.

President Scott Young thanked Dave for his diligence during his term and wished him well in the future.

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Bonnie Bird remarked that National Office was still standing! She explained for people who have never been there that the building is a townhouse, containing books, the library, the working office, and the top two floors are rented as an apartment. She also spoke about the work done by Jo Taylor. She thanked Denis Grey for his ongoing work at National Office, toward the new membership software, changing accounting records, and on the renewed Web site. She thanked Dave Lane for all his help at National Office; she also thanked the Executive. Bonnie particularly thanked the Society for allowing her to work there.

### **4. STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **AWARDS**

Past President Peter Jedicke spoke briefly saying that there were two Service Awards and the Simon Newcomb Award being presented at the Awards Ceremony.

#### **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

In Randy Attwood's absence, President Scott Young described the ongoing work of the committee. He encouraged any members who wanted to help out with the re-writing of the Society By-Laws, that now was an opportune time to step forward.

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

In Garry Dymond's absence, President Scott Young said that Garry dropping off the Committee meant that there would be a new slate of members on the Committee later in the day.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President Scott Young said there was no further report.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

David Clark said there was no further report.

#### **HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

Barry Matthews spoke about the work of the committee, particularly that the plaque commemorating the transit of Venus in St. John's, Newfoundland was finally erected on the monument at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. The RASC paid for the plaque.

#### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

Dr. Bob Garrison reported that the Society library is becoming more and more difficult to maintain, that there is a serious lack of space, and that work is ongoing to reduce the volume of stored books.

#### **MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE**

Denis Grey reported that it has been a busy year for the Committee, with ongoing work being done to improve the Web site; the rollout of the eBulletin to act as a monthly newsmagazine; the eNews site is thriving. Surveys are ongoing to try to determine why membership numbers gradually dwindle.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Past President Peter Jedicke advised that he is looking for people who excel in their Centre, and who are interested in becoming part of the national scene.

## OBSERVING COMMITTEE

In Chris Fleming's absence, President Scott Young explained the work of the Committee, and the certificate programs. He named Don Kelly of the New Brunswick Centre as the newest recipient of the Explore the Universe Certificate; Don was also awarded the Messier Certificate. The double announcement was greeted by a warm round of applause.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Dave Clark said there was no formal report. He went on to say that a similar townhouse to the Society National Office building in Toronto recently sold for approximately \$600,000.

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Dave Lane reported that half of the Society's activities are involved with the management of our various publications. He encouraged the gathered members to spread the word about the Journal and actively support the printed version.

## JOURNAL EDITOR

Jay Anderson advised that the recent improvements to the Journal are not all his doing, that the Associate Editors have doubled in the past year and he gave a lot of credit to them. He asked for members to send contributions to him about things happening in their Centres.

Dave Lane challenged members to increase the number of Journal downloads on the Web site by a factor of two over the next year. He also went on to say that the Observer's Handbook is well ahead of schedule; that we are constantly challenged by changes in the US dollar; the Observer's Calendar is coming along well, and is almost ready for printing.

Dave advised about the coffee cup being developed to commemorate 100 editions of the Observer's Handbook next year.

He reported on the initiative to re-fresh and publish Warren Finlay's book "Concise Guide to Deep-Sky Objects." This project still needs a volunteer who will spearhead the work necessary to bring the project to fruition.

It was pointed out that Jay Anderson celebrated his birthday on the previous day, which was greeted by a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday."

## 5. SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

### ASTROIMAGING COMMITTEE

In Dietmar Kupke's absence, President Scott Young explained the evolution of the new Astroimaging Certificate; and that the Committee had fulfilled their mandate. This meant that the Committee would dissolve immediately.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Dave Lane spoke about revamping the Society Web site, and asked for a volunteer to become a Web Team leader. The replacement of the MPA system with a new computer system has taken a lot of energy, but is progressing well. He said the new system will improve functionality, so that members can access their own account, update their personal data, order from the eStore, and it will reduce some of the paperwork and improve workflow at National Office.

### LIGHT-POLLUTION ABATEMENT COMMITTEE

Rob Dick spoke about what has resulted by opening up the LPA list to all members - the volume of emails has increased dramatically and increased peoples' awareness.

## 6. Nominations for election of officers result in the following being named by acclamation:

Treasurer - Alan Whitman (Prince George)

This was greeted by a warm round of applause.

## 7. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

### MOTION AM0701

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

MOTION AM0701 was CARRIED by Special Resolution

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

Centre Projects Fund

Patrice Scattolin, one of the Trustees of the fund, described the process for application and awarded three cheques as follows:

Hamilton Centre - \$375.00

New Brunswick Centre - \$566.01

Winnipeg Centre - \$1093.00

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION AM0702

It was moved by Guy Nason to adjourn.

### MOTION AM0702 was CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 15:00 mst.

Respectfully submitted,

James Edgar

Recorder

## APPENDIX "A"

Deceased Members

May 2006 to June 2007 (Alphabetical List)

Mr. Walter Robert Alan (Okanagan)

Mr. Douglas G. Baker (Calgary)

Mr. George R. Ball (Victoria)

Dr. F. Bateson (Honorary)

Mr. Michael A. Burnie (Toronto)

Mr. John F. Bulger (Toronto)

Mr. William J. Caine (Vancouver)

Mr. J. Grant Carscallen (London)

Mr. Norman Davidson (Unattached)

Mr. Fred Davis (Saskatoon)

Mr. Richard W. Hart (Edmonton)

Mr. R.T. Heaps (Unattached)

Mr. Gert Rudolf Jahncke (Montréal)

Dr. Ray Koenig (Kitchener-Waterloo)

Mr. Marvin R. Lang (Vancouver)

Mr. Andre Lorenzetti (Toronto)

Mr. Donald A. MacRae (Toronto)

Mr. Lewis J. McQueen (Unattached)

Mr. Brian Moulder (Unattached)

Mr. Bruce Pippy (Winnipeg)

Mr. Andrew H.C. Schuh (Toronto)

Mr. Dale Searle (Toronto)

Mr. Peter Williams (Ottawa Centre)

# ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE CENTRES

## BELLEVILLE CENTRE

January	David Cotterell receives NGC certificate Greg Lisk - "Telescope Designs"; "Antikythera Mechanism" David Cotterell and Bill Broderick - "Beginner Astrophotography"
February	Guest speakers: Kim Hay and Kevin Kell - "Saskatchewan Summer Star Party" Greg Lisk - "Comet McNaught"
March	Speaker: David Cotterell - "Florida Winter Star Party" Observing Night - March 16/17 Club bus trip to Ontario Science Centre and U of T Telescope - March 24
April	Guest speaker: Mark Coady - "Reclaiming Our Night Skies" Astronomy Day - April 21 at Bayview Mall, Belleville Observing night - April 13/14
May	Speaker: Greg Lisk - "Sky & Telescope's <i>Pocket Sky Atlas</i> " Observing night - May 11/12 or May 18/19
June	Guest speaker: Terence Dickinson - "Astrophotography" Observing night - June 15/16
July	Speaker: Antonina Vasilieva - "Gliese 58/c" Speaker: David Cotterell: - "Texas Star Party" Observing night - July 20/21 Bon Echo camping weekend - July 13-15
August	Speaker: Greg Lisk - " <i>Observer's Handbook</i> " Several members attended Starfest 2007 Observing night - August 17/18
September	Speaker: Greg Lisk - "Starfest 2007 & Bancroft Gemboree" Fall 'n' Stars Star Party
October	Speaker: Greg Lisk - "Ethos Eyepiece" Speaker: Antonina Vasilieva October 19/20 - Public observing
November	Centre election Guest speaker: Les Dempsey - "Astronomical Sketching" Speaker: Greg Lisk - "SkyPod" Comet 17/P Holmes Observing night - Nov. 17/18
December	Speaker: Greg Lisk - "Comet 17/P Holmes" and "Camera T-Ring" Club's Christmas dinner - Dec. 1 Observing night - Dec. 14

**Joanne Burns**  
Secretary

## CALGARY CENTRE

Calgary Centre had another very busy year that included hosting the annual General Assembly of the RASC in June and dozens of successful public events.

### Astronomy Roundup 2007

This very successful event, held from 2007 June 28 to July 1, included the RASC 2007 General Assembly and the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO) and the 96th Spring Meeting of the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO).

Activities included several workshops (Imaging, Fireball Investigation, and Introduction to Scientific Observing), tours (a trip to the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory, a tour of the University of Calgary Meteorite Lab, the Tyrell Museum Badlands tour, and the Looking for Mars in the Canadian Rockies tour), social events (Roundup Reception, Murphy Night, and Awards Banquet), and many presentations, talks, and posters on a wide variety of topics.

Special invited speakers included Dr. Jaymie Matthews—"One Little Telescope, So Many Stars: An Update on the MOST (Microvariability and Oscillations of STars) Telescope"; Dr. Tracey DeLaney - "Peering into the Explosion: Using Stellar Archaeology to Unlock the Mysteries of Supernovae"; Ray Villard—"The Hubble Space Telescope's Legacy"; Dr. Michael Wilson—"Medicine Wheels and the Skyscape: Sacred Sites of Plains First Nations"; and Dr. Eric Donovan—"Using the Aurora to Study Space."

There was also a meeting of the National RASC Council, the annual General Assembly meeting of the RASC, and a number of ALPO and AAVSO specific meetings.

There were 206 registered delegates, and attendees came from as far as New Zealand and Belgium. The organizers received lots of very positive feedback on the event, and there was a profit of \$6,767.67 with \$3,743.90 going to National and \$3,023.77 remaining with Calgary Centre.

General meetings were held on the third Thursday of the month at the TELUS World of Science Calgary and featured the following speakers and topics:

January	Alan Dyer talked about the development of the planetarium show in "Is There Anyone Out There?," which was a co-production by the planetaria in Calgary, Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Montréal, followed by a screening of the show.
February	Don Hladiuk gave a short presentation on his trip to see the 2006 September 9 launch of the Space Shuttle Atlantis. This was flight STS-115 that carried a new truss segment to be installed on the ISS, and Canadian astronaut Steve MacLean was a crew member. Jack Milliken gave a presentation on the Explore the Universe observing certificate program. He reviewed the basic requirements of the program and then showed a number of sketches he had made to record his observations. Glenn Hawley previewed the tour to China for the solar eclipse in 2008 August. Using Google Earth

- he showed the itinerary from Shanghai to Xian, Dunhuang, and eventually Yiwu for the eclipse.
- March** Annual Peter Sim lecture: Noted science fiction author Robert J. Sawyer talked about whether advancements in science made older science fiction obsolete and provided constraints for modern authors. His own view is that the science fiction author's job is not merely to write a drama based on extrapolating from known scientific facts but rather to write the most entertaining story that can't be contradicted or excluded by contemporary science at the time of writing. He gave an entertaining talk referring to many classic science fiction works and read passages from *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells and some of his own work.
- April** Jason Nishiyama gave a short presentation on his radio astronomy projects. He is using a dish at the WCO to produce an 800-Mhz map of the sky, and he reviewed the equipment and procedures he is using to produce the map. Recently he has started a 40-Khz solar survey project that listens to the D layer of the ionosphere and detects solar flares and coronal mass ejections from the Sun. He showed some of his results and the correlation with Coronal Mass Ejection data from the LASCO instrument on SOHO. Dr. Phil Langill of the University of Calgary, Director of the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory, reviewed a radio astronomy project at the 21-cm wavelength that detects atomic hydrogen. He showed pictures of the equipment used and described how the rotational speed of the Milky Way Galaxy was measured by detecting the tangential velocity of gas clouds in the arms of the Galaxy.
- May** Dr. Alan Hildebrand, Associate Professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Calgary, spoke about the Prairie Meteorite Search program. It is estimated that about 35 objects larger than 3 kg fall in Canada every year, and there may be as many as 70,000 meteorites larger than 3 kg on the prairies. The Prairie Meteorite Search program was started a number of years ago to visit prairie towns and invite people to bring in unusual rocks for analysis and possible identification as meteorites. The program has been a very productive way to find meteorites, and Alan showed several pictures of meteorites found by the program and had a number of meteorites available for people to examine after his talk.
- September** Roland Dechesne gave the main talk, titled "Panspermia: Is Life Everywhere?" He talked about the possibility of the elementary building blocks of life moving between planets and between star systems and used examples of compounds detected in comets, and types of bacteria found in harsh environments on Earth to help understand the topic.
- October** Don Hladiuk gave a presentation on his trip to Florida to see the launches of the STS118 Shuttle mission and the Phoenix Lander mission to Mars. The Phoenix Lander is a replacement for the Polar Lander mission that failed a number of years ago, and is scheduled for a landing in May 2008. Don talked about Canadian contributions to the mission including an instrument on the lander to measure wind speed and direction. Don had excellent pictures of the launches and described how he set up his camera in a converted mailbox with timers to get the pictures.
- November** Larry McNish gave a brief presentation on the accessories he uses to take astrophotos with his Celestron NexStar 8 telescope. He showed pictures of various T-Rings, diagonals, and focal reducers and the field of view resulting from different combinations of the accessories. A number of members showed pictures of Comet 17P/Holmes, which had a significant outburst event in late October.

### Membership

At the end of December the Centre had 313 members (16 Life, 267 Regular, and 30 Youth), up from 278 at the same time last year, an increase of 12.6%.

### 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.

Calgary Centre also supplied volunteers with telescopes for the University of Calgary Rothney Astrophysical Observatory Open Houses held monthly from April (on International Astronomy Day) through October, which were very 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.

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 attended again this year. About 500 people attended in March and about 250 in October as skies were somewhat clear for both events this year. Visitors had great views through about a dozen telescopes and enjoyed the slide shows, light-pollution abatement display, and crater making demonstrations inside the Environmental Learning Centre building.

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

We once again participated in the Mayor's Environmental Expo and the Spruce Meadows National Equestrian event, setting up our Light Pollution Abatement display and discussing responsible lighting and general astronomy topics.

Members of the Centre joined volunteers from the TELUS World of Science Calgary and the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory at the RAO for the Lunar Eclipse event in August. About a dozen telescopes were set up, and amazingly, about 70 enthusiastic people showed up for a 3 a.m. event on a weekday. The sky was perfect for the entire night, so the view of the eclipse was excellent, and many great pictures were taken.

### Other Activities

Special events for members included the Annual Awards Banquet in February, a barbecue 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. Once again the Messier Marathon event was clouded out this year, but a Messier+ Marathon event held in October had excellent skies.

The NOVA group for new observers held monthly formal sessions at the WCO and was well attended with at least one new attendee at each meeting. Presentation topics included eyepiece designs, aligning finder scopes, planning and logging an observing session, observing Solar System objects, observing deep-sky objects, and tips on hopping around several of the main constellations.

Centre members teach 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 July and the Alberta Star Party in early September, were held at the Eccles Ranch Observatory site in central Alberta.

Elections were held in November to elect members to several positions on the Calgary Centre council.

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

In 2008 the Calgary Centre will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary and also the 25th Anniversary of the Wilson Coulee Observatory. A number of project proposals to commemorate the anniversaries were suggested by members, and a selection will be made early in the year.

**Jack Milliken**  
*Secretary*

## CHARLOTTETOWN CENTRE

2007 was another great year for the Charlottetown Centre.

Our regular meetings continue to be held at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) the third Sunday evening of every month. These meetings are advertised in the local newspaper (The Guardian) and on our website.

Our meetings often have a Sky Overview presentation and Roger's ever popular What's Up, in which he talks about the latest astronomy news. This year a new highlight to each meeting was the RASC Explore the Universe Certificate Program. The program was arranged into nine modules (matching the season), which were presented one at a time during our monthly meetings. It remains to be seen how many certificates will come from this initiative!

Other interesting talks over the year included the following: "Astronomy and the Origin of the Elements," "The Iridium Idiom: The Flair of Flares," "Irish Eyes on the Sky," "Lunar Eclipse Roundup," "Infrared Astronomy," "Astrophotography and the Terra Rouge Observatory," "Sputnik Remembered," and "A Primer on Comets."

Outside our regular meetings we had many other significant events.

- The Jack Frost Winter Festival in February was again a great success for the local families who braved the cold and patiently lined up to get a glimpse of Saturn.
- Our Astronomy Day display and raffle at the Charlottetown Mall continues to be of interest to the public.
- The annual presentation in August at the Greenwich National Park, during St Peter's Blueberry festival, was nearly cancelled due to a wicked thunder/lightning storm. One especially eager family was determined to stay, so the presentations went as planned despite the flickering power and raging storm outside.
- Our public viewing sessions continue and are conducted in partnership with the University of Prince Edward Island Department of Physics, using their new Meade RCX400 14" telescope.
- The summer BBQ and Christmas party were well attended and enjoyed by all.

**Michelle Cottreau**  
*Secretary*

## EDMONTON CENTRE

In 2007, the Edmonton Centre carried on with business and astronomy as usual. Two of the Centre's special-interest groups, the Observer's Group and the Astrophotography Group, were quite active throughout the year.

Most of the Centre's public outreach takes place at the Centre's Observatory (at the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton). Cornelia Blunk, the deck activities coordinator, has been doing a wonderful job organizing the volunteers. Recruiting volunteers for the observing deck is an ongoing struggle.

The Observatory Planning Committee continued in its quest to make the Centre's Observatory 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

- MallinCam video camera and related video equipment to enable handicapped visitors to view astronomical objects;
  - New "planet" cards to give to young visitors;
  - Self-guiding spectrograph and CCD camera with accessories;
  - Portable equatorial mount for Coronado Solar Telescope.

Dave Robinson, the outreach coordinator, and his various recruits visited about a dozen groups this year, including Cubs and Brownies, schools, and parks groups. Some of these visits included a presentation to the Canadian Mental Health Association—Edmonton Region, Safari Night at Edmonton's Valley Zoo, and videoconference lessons to Grade-6 classes in the Grande Yellowhead School district in collaboration with Grant MacEwan College.

The Edmonton Centre continues to participate with Relay for Life, Edmonton Regional Science Fair, Earth Day, Astronomy Day, and the Northern Prairie Starfest.

The Black Nugget Lake Observatory committee continued its efforts in conjunction with Beaver County for an observatory at Black Nugget Lake.

With casino proceeds courtesy of the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Commission, the Edmonton Centre was able to finance several deserving astronomically related initiatives:

- Prepaid Remote Telescope Access Pilot trial for Alberta K-12 schools;
- Publication support of the book *The Meteorites of Alberta* by Tony Whyte;
- Support of the 2007 University of Alberta Space Exploration Symposium;
- Establishment of an endowment at the University of Alberta for an Undergraduate or Graduate Scholarship in Astrophysics.

The Edmonton Centre Dark-Sky Preserve activities included the First Anniversary Celebration of the declaration of the Beaver Hills Dark-Sky Preserve (BHDSP) on September 2 at Elk Island National Park, featuring a great day and evening of outdoor astronomy and indoor presentations in the theatre. Another great event was the October 27 Hallowe'en celebration that featured special presentations on creatures of the night and Astronomy. In March, Sherrilyn Jahrig presented a session on dark-sky preservation entitled "Written in the Stars" at the Parks Conference "Benefits Beyond Boundaries" in Canmore, Alberta. Public Education Director, Orla Aaquist, spoke to the DSP issues at many events, including a well-attended (200 people) special presentation at

Miquelon Lake, also adjacent to the BHDSP. Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel presented the RASC with a letter endorsing the BHDSP initiative, connecting the issue with city efforts to reduce light pollution and save energy.

The position of Dark-Sky Preserve Coordinator was created to work in conjunction with the Light-Pollution Abatement Director to maximize awareness for responsible lighting practices in the Edmonton region. The Edmonton Centre is now concentrating on contact with stakeholders peripheral to the BHDSP to actively increase areas suitable for public stargazing and amateur astronomy.

Speakers at Edmonton Centre meetings were as follows:

January 8	Martin Connors and Mark Zalcik: "Noctilucent Clouds and the Athabasca University Geophysical Observatory and Robotic Telescope"
February 12	Mike Hoskinson: "The 2007 January 26 Asteroid Occultation by 372 (Palma)"
March 12	Alister Ling: "Time-lapse Movies of the January 3-4 Quadrantids, the Crescent Moon Setting, and the 2007 December 12 Geminids"
April 9	Lucky Luca (Vanzella): "Show and Telescope, 40-mm Telescoping Brass Spyglass." Ore Quest led the mutinous Council and the membership in a rousing rendition of The Last Astronomer Pirate (lyrics by Edmonton Centre Council, music by the Arrogant Worms)
May 14	Gil Self (Prince George Centre): "The Little Centre That Could"
June 11	Randy Shelaga: "Mars Analogue Research Studies — An Overview"
September 10	Massimo Torri: "Moonwalk! The Imbrium Basin"
October 15	Bob Drew: "Show and Telescope 20-inch F4 Alt-Az Newtonian Telescope"
November 12	Wayne Malkin: "Show and Telescope, Losmandy G-11 with Pentax 5-inch, f/6.4 and 4-inch f/4 Refractors"
December 10	Dr. Carlos Lange (University of Alberta): "The Instrument Suite on the Phoenix Mars Lander Project."

**Luca Vanzella**  
*Secretary*

## HALIFAX CENTRE

2007 saw another successful year for the Halifax Centre. Throughout the year we enjoyed many well-attended observing sessions at our observatory in St. Croix, hosted public outreach sessions, including (but not limited to) our annual Astronomy Day event (public observing hosted by Gilles Arsenault in Clayton Park and Gary Weber in Cole Harbour with 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: the Centre established an active Light-Pollution Abatement Committee; member and former Centre President Dave Lane was honoured with the prestigious 2007 Discovery Centre Science Champion Award for his devotion to the promotion of science and technology to the public; the Centre conducted a membership survey and gathered many useful comments and ideas from

members to help the Centre plan for the future; Quinn Smith completed his first year as Nova Notes Editor doing a terrific job of filling the very large shoes of Michael Gatto, our previous editor of seven years.

Thanks to the Nova East Committee and many volunteers, our Nova East Star Party, held at Smileys Provincial Park on August 17, 18, and 19, was once again a stellar success! While not the driest Nova East, it was a fine event nonetheless. The theme of the weekend was the Moon. The special guest speaker was Catherine O'Connell-Cooper, from the Planetary & Space Science Centre at University of New Brunswick, who opened the festivities on Friday evening with her interesting and wide-ranging talk on the Moon.

After the Astronomers' Breakfast on Saturday, Paul Heath and Chris Beckett began their presentations ("Light-Pollution Issues" and "Astronomy and the Weather"). The afternoon talks saw the return to the lunar theme. Presenters John Jarvo, David Chapman, and Roger Vail spoke on a variety of lunar topics ("Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program," "Observing the Lunar X," and "A Primer on Lunar Photography"). Larry Bogan finished the evening with a presentation on building an observatory. Observing began around midnight under clear skies. At least some attendees were still going at dawn. Sunday began with the Bannock Bakers hard at work, followed by a Flotsam & Jetsam Sale and solar observing.

During 2007 the Halifax Centre enjoyed informative, engaging, and entertaining talks from the following speakers:

January	Dr. Andrew MacRae, "Robot Geologists from Mars"
February	Members Night: Dr. Roy Bishop, "Guided Astrophotography on a 0.3-kg Equatorial Mount"; Mike Gatto, "Dobsonian Construction"; Gary Weber, "Fan Configurations"
April	Dr. Roy Bishop, "Some Neat Things About Telescopes"
May	Dave Lane, "The Abbey Ridge Observatory: A Robotic Research Observatory"
June	Calum Ewing, "Catching Beams of Light"
September	Members Night: Blair McDonald, "Air and Space Museum"; Pat Kelly, "Astronomy Stamps"; Gilles Arsenault, "How I Stopped by Pluto on the Way to Philadelphia"
October	Dr. Marcin Sawicki, Galaxies: "Structure Formation in the Universe from First Light to Red-Shift Zero"
November	Dr. Roy Bishop, John Liddard, and Blair MacDonald: "Digital SLRs for Everyday and Astronomical Use"
December	Annual General Meeting; Light-Pollution Abatement Presentations by members of the Light-Pollution Committee (Paul Heath, Quinn Smith, Gilles Arsenault, and Paul Evans)

Late in 2007 the Executive Council Nominating Committee (Paul Evans, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Wesley Howie) began the task of finding nominees for the 2008 Halifax Centre Executive Council. Changes to the Executive Council included Wes Howie (Secretary) and Alex Lecreux (2nd V-P) switching positions and John Liddard joining the Council as Observing Chair. Our thanks go to Tony McGrath for his service in the Council as the previous Observing Chair. Gratitude also goes to Dave Chapman for his ongoing contribution as Webmaster.

The 2007 Executive Council of the Halifax Centre extends our sincere thanks to the Halifax Centre members at large for their participation and contribution. We also acknowledge Saint Mary's University for their continued support through hosting our monthly meetings.

**Paul Evans**  
*President*

- January Malcolm Park of the North York Astronomical Association shared a multimedia presentation with stunning photos of the solar eclipse in Egypt, 2006. He also shared his completion of Mercury, Venus, lunar, and Earth transits of the Sun. On January 25, many were on hand to view the Werner X on the Moon.
- February Doug Welch: "Coming Down from the Mountain - The Changing Nature of Professional Astronomy." Observational astronomy has evolved dramatically in the last decade. The spectacular increase in instrumental capability and complexity (and the associated cost!) has resulted in the emergence and dominance of new modes of observing. The Gemini Observatory has been at the forefront of the effort to maximize the scientific efficiency of its large telescopes. In this talk, he described what has been gained and what has been lost in the process.
- March Cancelled due to winter storm. Many viewed Asteroid 2006 VV2 going past stars in real time through the Trillium telescope.
- April Andreas Gada, "The Trials, Tribulations & Triumphs of an Eclipse Chaser," talked about his passion from 1979 to today. He also talked about his next adventure to Mongolia in 2008. Astronomy Day was celebrated with a very successful Open House at the Observatory.
- May Stuart Heggie of the Toronto Centre, "Beginner Astrophotography," discussed simple camera-on-tripod through piggyback camera/lens shots to some basic prime focus.
- June Wayne Parker displayed his new Personal Observatory Dome. New piers and floor were installed in the Chilton Building.
- September Following tradition, this was a members' night.
- October The Annual meeting to elect the new Board of Directors.
- November Cathy McWatters spoke on cosmic rays. Cathy has been a professional planetarium operator for many years giving talks around Ontario to schools and groups. It was a hands-on presentation creating home-made radiation detectors.
- December Mel Blake spoke on binary stars with emphasis on research being done at DDO. Mel was currently working at DDO and became Planetarium/Observatory Director at the University of Northern Alabama in 2008.

**Paul G. Brandon**  
*Secretary*

We currently have a total of 122 members: 111 Ordinary, 1 Youth, 9 Life members, and 1 Associate member.

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 12 Members' Night featuring short presentations by Susan Gagnon, Kevin Fetter, Hank Bartlett, Kevin Kell, and Walter MacDonald.
- February 9 Members' Night featuring short presentations by Kevin Kell, Kim Hay, Doug Angle, and Walter MacDonald.
- March 9 Members' Night featuring short presentations by Susan Gagnon, Kevin Fetter, Walter MacDonald, and Doug Angle.
- April 13 Dr. Judith Irwin: "Smog and the Galactic Environment: The Discovery of PAHs in Galactic Halos"
- May 11 Dr. Terry Bridges: "Extrasolar Planets: From Hot Jupiters to Earth-like Systems"
- June 8 Mark Coady: "Reclaiming Our Night Skies: Fighting Light Pollution"
- July 13 Walter MacDonald: "Astro Imaging"
- August 17 Annual "MarkFest" Barbecue at Mark Kaye's cottage.
- September 14 Laura Gagne: "Sex and Violence in the Night Sky"
- October 12 Dr. Ross Kilpatrick: "Klimt's Kiss and the Corona Borealis"
- November 9 Annual General Meeting
- November 16 2007 "Big-Bang-Quet" Annual Awards Banquet; Dr. Brian Hunter: "Hermonceux Castle and Observatory"
- December 14 Members' Night featuring short presentations by Kevin Kell, Kevin Fetter, Doug Angle, and Walter MacDonald.

For Astronomy Day 2007 the Kingston Centre offered displays and public observing. Members also gave presentations at several area schools and offered public observing at the Charleston Lake Star Party. In addition to a member who volunteered as a judge, 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

In 2007, we held one nine-week session of our "Observational Astronomy for the Novice" course.

The Fall 'N' Stars 2007 star party, hosted jointly with the RASC Belleville Centre, was once again a great experience for all who attended.

In 2007, RASC-KC received Federal Charity Status.

Our ATM group continued work on a 16-inch telescope. Also, work continued on setting up our Meade LX200 as a Remote Operated Telescope using a loaned "RoboDome."

**Steve Hart**  
*Secretary*

In 2007, the Kitchener-Waterloo Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (KW-RASC Centre) struggled with the necessity of decommissioning our observatory site, as CP Rail bought out the entire valley adjacent to our location to build a marshalling yard with many tracks and floodlighting. This, of course, was entirely at cross-purposes to our needs, and so we finally decided to close operations at the site. Since then, the KW-RASC Executive has been trying to find a solution to the problem of developing a relatively nearby location for all our members to use safely when observing. So far, we have found a few temporary locations, but we have also had the misfortune of having the adjoining neighbours decide to build new structures right where they would interfere with the safety of our members. The search continues.

In July of 2007, The Kitchener-Waterloo Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada became incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the Province of Ontario. We continue to be known as the KW Centre of RASC.

We also organized several star parties during the year, but we were frustrated by the weather time after time. Our Community Outreach and Scouting Outreach programs flourished during the year, as our School Outreach coordinator, George Peer, gave presentations for many schools in the K-W area. Our Scouting Outreach coordinator, Phil Lacasse, presented multiple sessions to Cubs during the historic CCJ'07 (there had never been a Jamboree for Cubs in Canada, prior to 2007), celebrating 100 years of Scouting. This event attracted some 600 Cubs and their Leaders to Everton Scout Camp for a week in July/Aug 2007.

KW-RASC participated in the Spring 2007 Astronomy Day celebrations with static displays inside two Chapters bookstores in the area supported by several members who set up their telescopes outside the stores for active observing. The two locations were busy, and we spoke with a lot of local citizens during our display times. Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange similar displays for the Fall 2007 Astronomy Day.

**Phil Lacasse**

*Secretary*

2007 was a "full and rich" year for the London Centre. We were once again fortunate to be able to show our hospitality to a number of knowledgeable and captivating guest speakers at our monthly meetings as outlined below.

December 14 We held our monthly meeting (shifted from December 21 due to the holidays). Our honored guest was Peter Gural of Science Applications International Corporation, who delivered a presentation on several years of chasing the Leonid meteors. Mr. Gural developed the software and equipment that several teams used on the ground and in an airborne observatory with image intensifiers to automatically determine the number of meteors visible.

November 16 We held our monthly meeting, at which occultationist Guy Nason discussed observing the motion of an asteroid across a star, using timing to determine the size and shape of this far off object. Dave McCarter reviewed images of Comet 17P Holmes. As well, the annual elections were held to choose the 2007-8 Centre Executive.

October At our October monthly meeting, Dr. Jan Cami, Assistant Professor, UWO, gave an informative talk about the Diffuse Interstellar Bands (DIBs), a common name for a set of hundreds of absorption lines that are detected from the near-UV to the near-IR in the spectra of so-called reddened stars—meaning there is a lot of interstellar material between us and the star. The first of these bands was detected as early as 1922, yet as of today, not one single line is identified with a carrier, which makes the DIBs the longest standing problem in astronomical spectroscopy.

September 21 We held our first monthly meeting of the new year at Fanshawe College. Dave McCarter provided the continuation of a tour that he, Dave Rubenhagen, and Mike Hanes took in late May of Arizona and California. They visited the Riverside Telescope Makers Conference, Mount Palomar, JPL, Mount Wilson, the Grand Canyon, Lowell Observatory, Meteor Crater, and the Petrified Forest before heading home. Bill Gardner started a stampede when he put the new 2008 RASC calendar up for sale. Later we spent some quality time at Kelsey's on Oxford E.

August 28 Early on the morning of August 28, several London Centre members enjoyed watching the total Lunar Eclipse, low in the western skies. Peter Ceravolo got it right when he called it a Cheshire Cat grin, which slowly faded into invisibility as the sky grew brighter with the approaching dawn.

August 12-13 On the night of August 12-13 a large crowd of London Centre members and family met at Fingal to watch the Perseid Meteor Shower. The Moon was new, so the skies were perfect, except for the thunderstorm at midnight, which forced observers and equipment into their cars for about an hour. Once the rain stopped and the skies cleared, meteor observing carried on until the beginning of twilight.

August 9-12 From August 9 to 12 London Centre members attended Starfest 2007, presented by the North York Astronomical Association. Imagine 850 amateur astronomers with large telescopes and camping gear under clear skies. We enjoyed dark skies, making new friends and sharing stories with old friends, buying astronomical goodies, and just generally having a great time at the best Star Party in North America. Several London Center members won prizes at the draw, and all came home happy.

July 20 On July 20 we held our monthly meeting with at least 22 telescopes and twice that number of members at the

Quai Du Vin Estate Winery under transparent skies with about a hundred guests. We repeated the event the next night with an even better turnout. Peter Jedicke gave a slide talk. Our members included Harold Tutt, John Bontje, Faye Bontje, Mike Costa, Ron Sawyer, Rick Saunders, Steve Imrie, Richard Gibbens, and at least a couple of others. Rob Quai laid out wine and cheese after midnight on Saturday, and we were all gone by 01:30.

June 15 At our June 15 monthly meeting, London Centre members Dave McCarter, Mike Hanes, and Dave Rubenhagen presented their report of the Astronomy Tour of a Lifetime, their two week visit to major observatories in the southwest US. They did so much that their talk was limited to their first four days when they visited Kitt Peak, The Sonora Desert museum, Pima Air & Space Museum, David Levy, Jack Newton at Sky Village, Mount Graham Visitors Centre, Starizona Astronomy Store, Kitt Peak again, Steward Observatory Mirror Lab, and Mount Hopkins. And that was just the start!

May 18 We held our monthly meeting, at which observing opportunities and other club activities were discussed.

May 5 We held our Annual Banquet at the Mandarin Banquet Hall. There was certainly enough to eat!

April 20 We held our monthly meeting, at which Dave McCarter showed slides of the recent Moon/Venus conjunction and some of the more obvious objects to observe with a small scope at this time of year. Dave then introduced Rick Saunders, who spoke about the ongoing upgrade and re-engineering project that is his telescope mount. You can check out his Web page for all the details and so much more! Then Craig Levine talked about the eyepiece/telescope monogram in the Observer's Handbook and fingered Peter Jedicke to prepare a Handbook talk for the next month. What were the odds that it would be about Globular Clusters? Further topics were the plans for the July meeting, see above, and for the Calgary General Assembly.

March 16 We held an abbreviated meeting because of the passing a day earlier of one of our members, Sherry Hominsky. Many members instead attended the visitation, and as Sherry requested, members then gathered at Kelsey's to celebrate her memory.

February 16 Dave McCarter reviewed further images of Comet McNaught. He showed images of winter objects currently in need of observation. Craig Levine then showed his portable weather station, a Kestrel 4000, that can monitor and record for later analysis all the important weather indicators while you are out observing. Rick Saunders discussed his continued progress with maximizing his telescope and took us on a Web tour of some of his recent projects.

January 19 We held our monthly meeting. Comet McNaught was making quite an impression, and some fantastic photos showing an extensive tail above the western horizon were shown.

In the area of outreach, London Centre members were busy in 2007. Many local groups and organizations invited us to provide talks and observing sessions.

October 27 Star night for the 57th London Pathfinders at Camp Orenda was cancelled due to rain.

October 26 Peter Jedicke, Bob Duff, and Dave McCarter took part in the Cronyn Observatory Open House. Alyssa Moldowan, Coordinator of the Exploring the Star program, gave an illustrated astronomy talk to about 26 very interested people. After questions, Dave gave the tour of the large refractor and answered more questions. Even though it was raining, everyone had a good time.

October 20 We held a successful Star Night at Fingal

Wildlife Conservation Area for the London Devillettes Girl Hockey Association Pee Wee BB team. In addition, a group of army cadets enjoyed the views through the telescopes and showed a good deal of knowledge about the night sky.

October 13 We held a very successful Star Night at Fingal Wildlife Conservation Area for the London Fifth Young Single Adults Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The skies were absolutely clear and dark, and everyone had a great time.

October 8 Peter Raine gave a slide show and talk to about 25 young people at the London Fifth Young Single Adults Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 615 Baseline Road E, London.

September 19 In the evening, Dave McCarter gave a slide presentation to a small group of keen beginning observers and their parents at the main branch of the London Public Library. London members Joe O'Neil, Fraser McCrossan, Harold Tutt, Peter Raine, and Bob Duff set up both refracting and reflecting telescopes and provided views of the Moon and various stars in the London Rotary Reading Garden. Peter Jedicke and Richard Gibbens assisted. The heavy light pollution, high buildings, and hazy skies hindered more adventuresome observations.

September 15 London Centre set up a mall display at Cherry Hill Mall for Fall Astronomy Day, in cooperation with McKittrick Photo/Video, who provided three telescopes from their store. We had the usual assortment of pamphlets, magazines, and textbooks to show. Also, one of McKittrick's employees gets a kick out of making paper models, so we had miniature versions of the spacecraft Galileo, Cassini, Magellan, New Horizons, MER, etc. suspended in front of photos of the planets where they explored. Marc Stevens brought a photo album of his latest impressive astrophotography. Along with Marc Stevens and Rick Saunders, other London Centre members who met the public included Harold Tutt, Dave McCarter, and Richard Gibbens.

September 8 London Centre members Peter Raine, Bob Duff, Dave McCarter, Harold Tutt, Richard Gibbens, and Peter Jedicke visited University of Western Ontario's Perth Hall student residence, ready to set up telescopes and share the sky with students celebrating the end of Frosh Week. Unfortunately cloud moved in, and the intrepid observers were obliged to set up a textbook, opened to a photograph of a barred spiral galaxy, some distance away as a suitable telescope target. Perhaps a dozen or so students came over to the observing area and had an enjoyable chat with the astronomers. Nobody was fooled by the substitute galaxy!

August 22 Bob Duff provided a well-received planetarium tour at the London Regional Children's Museum to eight children aged 10-12 years using the museum's Sky Lab equipment.

August 15 On this day (and again on the 22nd), a star party planned for McCully's Hill Farm in St. Mary's was cancelled due to poor weather prospects.

August 18 London Centre presented the Eleventh Annual Pinery Provincial Park Astronomy Presentation and Star Party, to which over 800 campers and day visitors were drawn in spite of the completely overcast skies. Dave McCarter gave the illustrated talk "Observing the Universe," while Dave Clark, John and Faye Bontji and family, Steve and Chrissie Arenburg, Harold Tutt, Richard Gibbens, Peter and Dianne Jedicke, Mike Costa, and Mike Flegel answered questions and showed off their telescopes. Dave Clark literally roped in people to demonstrate the scale of the Solar System, including non-planet Pluto.

July 22 London Centre provided an observing session for Girl Guides at Camp Orenda, Chapindale Site. Bob Duff set

up his 15-cm Dobsonian-Newtonian, and Harold Tutt used his 80-mm Stellarvue refractor. Peter Jedicke brought the venerable C5. There were about 50 youngsters from the Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders on hand, and we received plenty of positive reactions from them. We showed them Venus in twilight, then the Moon and Jupiter. Between the bright moonlight and them heading off to their tents for lights-out rather early, that just about filled the allotted time. Many of them were very keen to learn a constellation or two and some star names, so the laser pointer was at least as busy as the telescopes. Also they asked a lot of darned good questions, so hopefully we were able to inspire a few of them. We spent a little time hunting for Comet LINEAR, but we weren't willing to wait for moonset and Harold's battery was fading, so we gave up on that.

July 18 Bob Duff provided a Star Lab presentation at the London Regional Children's Museum for 10 to 15 campers, aged 10-12 years, taking part in a space day camp.

June 21 Dave McCarter, Rick Saunders, and Bob Duff provided an astronomy talk and observing session at Camp Sylvan to 30 Grade 6 students and 6 adults (teachers and parents). We started with a high pass of the ISS and the shuttle Atlantis, then viewed the Moon, Saturn, Venus, and Jupiter, plus a few deep-sky objects.

May 25 The observing session at Camp Timken Scout/Cub camp was cancelled due to inclement weather.

April 26 We provided a star talk at the Beachville Public School, organized by Tracy and Jeff Harrison. Jeff had his telescope ready, but heavy rain cancelled the observing session for about 35 students and parents. Peter Jedicke gave a well-received illustrated talk.

April 25 We provided an astronomy talk and short observing session at the main branch of the London Public Library. Dave McCarter gave an illustrated talk to about 35 children and parents, while Bob Duff and Harold Gibbons waited in the Rotary Reading Garden for the clouds to clear. When the talk was over, the sky did part enough to see the Moon and Saturn, and those who took advantage of Bob's telescope were very pleased with their high power views.

April 21 We provided a Star Night at Longwoods Conservation Area. Dave McCarter gave a short slide presentation and talk and answered many questions. London Members Bob Duff, Harold Gibbons, Craig Levine, Stan Podeszwa, Pete Raine, Rick Saunders, Harold Tutt, and two non-members participated. The waxing Moon, Venus, Saturn, plus several galaxies and globulars were observed to the delight of the guests.

London Centre thanks the Elgin Stewardship Council for their on-going support in providing a dark-sky observing site at the Fingal Wildlife Management Centre. This year saw the completion of our warm-up room at the site, and we are planning to put a permanent observatory on the site in the future.

The London Centre lending library continues to grow under the oversight of Robert Duff. The monthly newsletter, *Polaris*, is garnering more articles thanks to Patrick Whelan.

London Centre members were partnered with University of Western Ontario in their Exploring the Stars program for the public and in providing expertise and equipment for the Cronyn Observatory open houses through the summer.

This year also saw the launch of a new Centre web site at [www.astro.uwo.ca/~rasc](http://www.astro.uwo.ca/~rasc).

**Rick Saunders**  
*Secretary*

The year 2007 was very successful for the Mississauga Centre due to opportunities for outreach, observing, and education. In addition to many meetings, the Centre enjoyed a substantial rise in membership, from 58 to 117.

For the first public outreach event, the Centre participated in International Astronomy Day on April 21. Approximately 60 people came out to the Mississauga Central Library for a lecture. After the lecture, approximately 90 people looked through 12 telescopes set up by members and enjoyed views of Venus, Saturn, the Moon, and the ISS. The second Astronomy Day, on September 15, also at the Mississauga Central Library, attracted 150 members of the public to observe through members' telescopes, an event reported by the Mississauga News. On April 4, three members showed Venus and Saturn to students at the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School in Mississauga. On October 29, two members brought telescopes for students to observe Comet Holmes and to teach them to recognize constellations.

In the spring, Randy Attwood, Ian McGregor, and Bob Anderson held an observing course for members. Three people earned the RASC's "Observe the Universe" certificate.

Under the direction of William Callahan, an active observing committee was established. On a number of Friday and Saturday nights, members observed from the relatively dark skies at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park or from Saddlington Park on the Lake Ontario shoreline in Mississauga. In addition, members attended Starfest and the Manitoulin Star Party in August and the Toronto Centre's Algonquin Star Party in September. A Mississauga Centre Yahoo group was set up on the Internet; it is maintained by John Marchese. With most members signed up, communication is tremendously facilitated for short-term observing plans, discussion about objects visible in the sky, and general news of interest. A few telescopes and binoculars were available for loan to members, and there are active plans to acquire a new telescope(s) in 2008.

Although cloudy weather for the March lunar eclipse prevented observing, the August 28 eclipse was successfully seen by a group of 24 members in the early morning at Erin Meadows Community Centre. The Yahoo group was a tremendous help in coordinating observing plans for this event. A CTV camera crew was on hand, and the eclipse and eclipse observers were featured on the evening news. In addition, Vic Cooper and Randy Attwood had pictures of the eclipse published in *SkyNews*.

The production and marketing skills of Terry Hardman have resulted in the appearance of colourful astronomical name tags, caps, toques, shirts, decals, and other promotional items carrying the attractive Mississauga Centre logo. This has helped the Centre financially and given the members a visible presence. John Marchese coordinated the welcome and information package for new members. The Centre also continued to financially support the Clear Sky Chart for Mississauga.

In the autumn, the news broke that the David Dunlap Observatory will be sold by the University of Toronto to private developers. Mississauga Centre President, Randy Attwood, and Toronto Centre President, Denis Grey, set up a fundraising committee to raise \$50,000 to develop a feasibility plan to save the DDO. Through the tireless efforts of Randy, the Mississauga Centre is proud to report that its members have raised over \$2,000 in support of this cause.

Meetings of the Mississauga Centre are held approximately every two weeks on Friday evenings at the University of Toronto

at Mississauga (thank you to Dr. John Percy and Dr. Ulli Krull). In return, the Centre is planning to help the University with public outreach.

Mississauga Centre meetings are open and free of charge to the general public. In 2007, 21 meetings were held: 10 with invited speakers and 11 with presentations by members. Detailed summaries of meetings are posted in the archives of the Centre Web site.

Speakers' nights were as follows:

January 12	Norman Murray: "Dust and Feedback in Infrared Galaxies"
February 9	Ian McGregor: "The Stars Above, Darkness Below" Randy Attwood: "Chasing the Moon's Shadow"
February 23	Tom Bolton: "The Origin of the Moon"
March 9	Peter Broughton: "History of Astronomy in Canada, 1608-1900"
April 13	Marshall McCall: "The Chemistry of Naked Galaxies"
May 11	Peter Brown: "Fall and Recovery of the Tagish Lake Meteorite"
September 14	Randy Attwood: "Astronomy Toronto"
October 12	Maria Short: "The Challenge of Space Design"
November 16	Ken Money: "Special Presentation on Humans and Spaceflight" (Bob Anderson made a special poster for the event)
December 14	Ian Shelton: "The David Dunlap Observatory"

The members' nights featured talks about space missions (e.g. New Horizons), book reviews, history of astronomy, travel with astronomy themes, dark matter, and the TV set for "Falling Star," about the Columbia disaster. Emphasis was put on observing, with talks about astroimaging and astrophotography (especially by Bob Anderson), building items for observing, binoculars, telescope collimation, observing courses, star parties, observing for beginners, observing the Moon and the eclipse of August 28, Earth satellites, the southern sky, and Comet Holmes. Roy Swanson presented monthly features about happenings in the current sky.

The Mississauga Centre with the Toronto and Hamilton Centres will co-host the 2008 General Assembly at York University from June 27 to July 1 with the theme of "Astronomy Night in Canada." The GA will launch and hatch plans for the International Year of Astronomy (2009). The Mississauga Centre extends a cordial invitation to the RASC membership to attend the GA.

**Chris Malicki**  
*Secretary*

CENTRE FRANCOPHONE  
DE  
**MONTRÉAL**

Trente-deux conférences ont été présentées en 2007, au local du Centre, dont six par du personnel du Département de physique de l'Université de Montréal et 10 présentations du ciel du mois.

De février à octobre, la Société a également organisé 8 soirées d'observation pour le public montréalais, la plupart au Parc-nature de l'île-de-la-Visitation et l'autre eu lieu au Parc-nature-de-la-Pointe-aux-Prairies.

Au cours de l'été (20-22 juillet) s'est tenue la 27<sup>e</sup> édition du Concours annuel de fabricants de télescope d'amateurs (CAFTA) au Parc des Îles de St-Timothée.

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

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

**Patrice Scattolin**  
*Vice-President*

**MONTRÉAL**  
CENTRE

Things have gone smoothly for this second year (2007) that the Montréal Centre has been at John Abbott College. The monthly meetings were well attended, and we had numerous interesting talks and lectures. Montréal Centre Librarian, Lloyd Coffin, and his wife, Linda Jean, did a fantastic job on cataloguing and arranging the Montréal Centre's Library in its new location at John Abbott College. The Montréal Centre's Library is now open to our membership.

The Montréal Centre participated in both International Astronomy Day activities - 2007 April 21 and Sept 15. We had over 3000 visitors, and everyone was well rewarded with hourly astronomical presentations, childrens' activities, meteorite displays, etc. We had solar observing during the day and observing of the Moon and planets during the evening as well.

On Friday November 30 Montréal Centre members were treated to a VIP tour of the Headquarters of the Canadian Space Agency in St. Hubert, Quebec. Here we were shown the areas where the CanadArm is designed, built, and tested. It was an incredible experience for all the Montréal Centre members that attended.

The Montréal Centre is currently working with McGill University and the Morgan Arboretum to build a Community Centre Observatory, which, when completed, will hold the Montréal Centre's Meade 14-inch RC Telescope.

Here is a summary of the Montréal Centre's activities for 2007

Unless otherwise noted our meetings and lectures are on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the Penfield Building, Room P204, John Abbott College, 275 Lakeshore Road Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec.

February 1	Public Lecture, Members' Meeting Speaker: Prof. Bob Rutledge: "The Enthusiastic High Energy Astronomer"
March 1	Public Lecture, Members' Meeting Speaker: Pierre Tournay: "The Spring Sky"
April 5	Public Lecture, Members' Meeting Speaker: René Doyon: "Searching for Extra-Solar Planets with Ground- and Space-based Telescopes"
April 21	International Astronomy Day, Chapters bookstore, Point Claire Shopping Centre, 12 noon - 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Activities: hourly presentations, kids' activities, solar observation, stargazing and telescope displays
April 22	The Painted Universe, Atelier Bettina Forget, 460 rue Ste- Catherine West, 933, Montréal. Activities: creating a communal space-themed artwork in an artist's studio
May 3	Public Lecture, Members' Meeting Speaker: Bruno Paul Stenson: "This Astronomy Is for the Birds"

- May 19 Public Stargazing  
Speaker: Andrew Fazekas: "The Sky Tonight"  
An astronomy presentation was followed by telescope stargazing at Morgan Arboretum Visitor's Centre Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue at 8:00 p.m.
- July 14 Members Only STAR-B-QUE, Chris Novak's place  
For years now Chris has held his annual Members' Star-B-Que at his home southwest of Montréal
- August 18 Members Only Starparty, Woolly Woods Observatory  
Woolly Woods is the Montréal Centre's out-of-town observing site; only one hour from Montréal, this site offers fairly dark skies, and the observatory houses the Centre's Celestron C14 SCT Telescope.
- August 11 Public Stargazing  
Speaker: Andrew Fazekas: "The Sky Tonight"  
An astronomy presentation was followed by telescope stargazing at Morgan Arboretum Visitor's Centre Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue at 8:00 p.m.
- September 6 Public Lecture, Members' Meeting  
Speaker: Andrew Fazekas: "Aurora Season Approaching!"
- September 15 International Astronomy Day, Point Claire Shopping Centre, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. Activities: hourly presentations, kids' activities, solar observation, stargazing and telescope displays
- October 4 Public Lecture, Members' Meeting  
Speaker: Nicole Buckley, CSA: "Oil and OSTEO in Orbit: Space Science to Meet Earth Challenges"
- October 27 Public Stargazing Night  
Speaker: Andrew Fazekas: "The Spooky Skies of Hallowe'en"  
An astronomy presentation was followed by telescope stargazing at Morgan Arboretum Visitor's Centre, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue at 7:00 p.m.
- November 1 Public Lecture, Members' Meeting  
Speaker: Alain Berinstain, CSA: "The Maple Leaf on Mars: The Phoenix Mission"
- November 10 Members Only Starparty, Cathy Palmer-Lister's place. Cathy Palmer-Lister hosts an annual starparty at her cottage near Lachute, only a one-hour drive north of Montréal
- November 15 RASC Montréal Centre Annual General Meeting, John Abbott College, Penfield Building, Room P204 at 8:00 p.m.
- November 30 Tour of the Canadian Space Agency Headquarters, St-Hubert, Quebec, at 7:00 p.m. (sharp!)  
This was an amazing tour—greatly enjoyed by all Montréal Centre members who attended.
- December 6 Public Lecture, Members' Meeting  
Speakers: RASC Montréal Centre members: "Telescope Workshop"
- December 8 RASC Montréal Centre Christmas Party: Every year Montréal Centre members get together to eat too much food, loudly sing every song in the Beatles' repertoire (and the occasional Christmas carol) and participate in Bettina's Astro Quiz.

## Frank Tomaras

National Council Representative



The New Brunswick Centre has had a busy year as usual. Early in the year, March 10, to be exact, our name changed officially to the Royal Astronomical Society-New Brunswick Centre. This change more accurately represents the diversity of our group and how our members are spread throughout our small province. We held a contest for a new center logo, and our winning crest, seen above, reflects the history of New Brunswick and our connection with the heavens.

Our membership has continued to grow; we number 88 as of the end of 2007 December, which is an increase of 12.8% over our number at the end of 2006.

We hold our meetings on the third Saturday of every month (except for the two summer months), with a business meeting every second month or as necessary. We rotate the location of the meetings among Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, and our newest "unit," Miramichi, which is flourishing. Usually the meetings consist of a "What's Up" by one of the group, relating significant occurrences in the sky during that month, plus various topics by our members and guest speakers.

Our Centre newsletter, *Horizon*, has a new editor, Emma MacPhee, as of last winter and has continued to grow in content and popularity. Many of our members contribute by sharing their knowledge, expertise, and observing experiences, as well as sketches and photographs.

We purchased a solar telescope for the club, with the help of grant money from the National Council. This has been a great "toy" for our members to borrow, as well as being a wonderful tool for public outreach. It has gone to several star parties and other public events, including a school astronomy day where close to 500 students and staff viewed the Sun. Our club also has an RASC library with books belonging to the club, which can be borrowed by any member.

For International Astronomy Day 2007, each club held its own public outreach activities. We had our scopes out for viewing morning and night, put up displays, sold raffle tickets on telescopes, and handed out advice and brochures. We estimate we had a combined number of approximately 1500-2000 people stop by our displays.



Many of our club members volunteer their time doing public education with schools and young people's organizations.

We are encouraging our members to pursue the various observing certificates, especially the Explore the Universe certificate, an effort being led by Chris Weadick. He has extended a challenge for as many of our members as possible to complete this certificate by the end of 2009.

Another exciting project is the possible development of a new dark-sky preserve at Mt. Carleton Provincial Park in northern New Brunswick. We are in talks now, presenting the advantages of making the park a dark-sky preserve and offering advice on how to make it happen. This is something we are very excited about. Depending on which crown land is included, the dark-sky preserve would be approximately 29,000 to 51,000 hectares. Hopefully it will be confirmed in the spring/summer of 2008.

Several of our members attended the General Assembly in Calgary. This was our largest contingent to attend a GA. It was a wonderful conference. Some went on to stay at Jack Newton's Astronomy B.& B. afterward.

Our year by the month was as follows:

January	Tim Doucette: "Catching Sky Light" ;Donald Kelly: "Southern Hemisphere Constellations"February Curt Nason: "What's Up"; Shawn McHatten: "Deep Space Network of Communications Satellites with Videos"; Adrien Bordage: a report on Dr. Whitehead's talk on "All Sky Cameras"; Paul Gray: "Puckett Supernova Search Team"; Curt Nason: "Double/Multiple Star Systems"
April	Ted Dunphy: "Observing in Comfort"; Paul Gray: "Upcoming Summer Star Party Preview"
May	Our first meeting in Miramichi, NB. Paul Gray: "RASC Information and Observing Certificates"; Curt Nason: "What's Up?"; Emma MacPhee: "My Beginnings on the EU and Messier Certificates"
June	Dr. Janine Rogers: "The Structure of the Universe: Poetry & Cosmos in David Levy's More Things in Heaven & Earth - Poets & Astronomers Read the Night Sky"; Curt Nason: "Nearest Stars"; Paul Gray: "Dark Nebula"
July	DAM Star party at Mataquac Dam July 20-22. Great success once again, with 44 people attending the Club BBQ. One of 2 telescopes raffled off.
August	Members attended one or the other of two other star parties - Nova East in N.S. or Astro Atlantik in Carleton Provincial Park.
September	Paul Gray: "Summer Star Parties Review"; Gerry Allain: "Rage at the Gage: High Power Rocket Launches at CFB Gagetown, N.B."; James Fougere: "How He Built His 'Dreamline Observatory'"
October	Catherine O'Connell Cooper: "Mining the Moon"; Curt Nason: "What's Up?"; Ted Dunphy: "Christopher Columbus"; Outreach by Shawn McHatten and Curt Nason
November	Our Annual General Meeting and "Fall Astronomy Rendezvous," Nov.17. Damien LeMay: "Observatoire de Rimouski" (his observatory in Rimouski, how he built it and set it up, plus he showed astrophotographs); Paul Gray: "Observing Programs of the RASC"; Bob Hawkes: "How Do Meteors Burn Up, and Why Should You Care?"; Guy Nason:; "Fun & Science in Your Own Backyard" (observing from your backyard).We had displays, merchandise for sale, and a catered lunch, raffled off the second of the scopes, and held a group supper after the meeting. A great

time as usual!

December Curt Nason: "What's Up"; Ted Dunphy: "Atsiodus"; Paul Gray: "Update on Mt. Carleton as a New Dark-Sky Preserve"; George Jones: "The Void"; Curt Nason: "Dressing for Winter Observing"; "RASC Idol," various of our talented members gave it their all, singing their astronomical versions of songs.

Our year has been a busy but rewarding one, and we look forward to the challenges presented in public outreach and the excitement of "keeping our eyes on the skies."

### June MacDonald

*2nd Vice-President*

## NIAGARA CENTRE

During the year the Niagara Centre had a full palette of events that proved to be challenging and quite rewarding.

Our General meetings were held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Niagara Falls Library. We met from September to June; all 10 meetings were educational and informative. The average number of attendees per meeting was 50 members.

### Astronomy for Beginners:

The Niagara Centre's outlook is to make astronomy easily understood by everyone; in order to fill this mandate, a workshop entitled "Astronomy for Beginners" is held on the same night as our General meeting and runs for approximately 45 minutes prior to the meeting. The public is invited to attend these workshops without charge.

We also run an in-depth workshop by the same name, "Astronomy for Beginners," for members only. This session is held on the first Thursday of each month at the AN Myer High School in Niagara Falls. The class is two hours long, followed by a session in the planetarium. All teachers of the District School Board of Niagara are invited to attend these workshops at no charge.

### Members' Observing nights:

The Niagara Centre holds one members' observing night each month, at our observatory site at the Chippawa Creek Conservation Authority.

### Public Observing Nights:

Our monthly Public Observing Nights are another example of popular events hosted by the Niagara Centre. Of these public observing nights the most popular was "Stargazing in the Vineyards." Sponsored and co-hosted by a local winery, the public was invited to view through the telescopes set up in the vineyard, as well as view an A/V presentation by one of our members.

During 2007, we also held public nights at [1] Firemans Park in Niagara Falls, [2] The City of Welland Public Library and City Hall, [3] Port Colborne Historical Museum, [4] Rock Point Provincial Park, [5] Chippawa Creek Conservation Authority Campgrounds in Wellandport, and [6] the Fairview Mall in St Catharines.

### Astronomy Presentations for Students of All Ages:

The Niagara Centre has been making Astronomy presentations to grade-school students and high-school students, as well as other groups such as seniors, special interest groups, and Scouts. During the period January to December, we estimate that the Niagara

Centre has made astronomy presentations to more than 1000 students and to more than 200 members of special groups and Scouts.

#### Other Events:

In addition to all of the above-mentioned events, the Niagara Centre held its annual STAR-B-Q on July 14th. A group of about 25 members also attended Starfest. There were a few events that the Niagara Centre members were unable to observe due to cloud cover; however, the partial lunar eclipse on August 28th was observed under clear skies.

#### Membership:

Our membership is holding steady with just over 100 members. As with all other clubs, we seem to acquire new members at each of our public outreach programs throughout the year.

#### Darlene Marano

*Secretary*



2007 was another banner year for the Okanagan Centre. Our plan of building a public observatory moves forward with a number of exciting goals reached. Our Outreach Program continues to reach out to our community, providing opportunities for school children and the public with observing sessions and classroom visits. During the past year, the Outreach Program volunteers have donated over 500 hours to bring 70 events to well over 7000 guests. Colleen O`Hare of Kelowna and Hugh Carter of Vernon have made this happen. We continue to offer telescopes for rent to our members, and a telescope is available for free to non-member juniors.

It has been a very busy year for our Okanagan Centre both here and in Vernon, and we look forward to 2008.

#### Some Events Our Members Participated in:

We participated in 18 Sidewalk Astronomy events in parking lots at the Chapters bookstore and WalMart and the Harry Potter book release at Chapters; volunteering as Night Sky Guides at the Cancer Relay; Girl Guide camp night; Alan Brooks Nature Centre; the Komasket Music Festival; and the Free the Fuzz Special Olympics event. We participated in 14 other events with community groups.

#### Observatory Goals Reached:

We finished our business plan outlining the role the Observatory will have in our Outreach Program. This information is available at [www.okanaganobservatory.ca](http://www.okanaganobservatory.ca). Our members donated hundreds of skilled volunteer hours to the plans and design of the 24-inch telescope and observatory buildings. We acquired a Crown land lease on a 12-hectare dark site 30 minutes from town, and we have license to occupy the land.

We started work on our 24-inch telescope with the help of a grant from the Central Okanagan Foundation and many public and member donations. We held two fundraising raffles. The public and media response has been fantastic. Congratulations to our Media and Communications team.

#### Telescope Rentals:

We have made personal visits to members and non-members to help them overcome technical and operational hurdles in

learning to use a telescope. We have accepted the donation of a green laser pointer to the rental equipment inventory and announced its availability to the membership, and I have polled the membership on possible future acquisitions to supplement the rental inventory.

Our regular monthly meetings held at Okanagan College\*:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| January   | Kelowna: Dr. Marc Adams, "NRAO on Latest Developments for Telescopes Being Built in Chile"   |
| February  | Kelowna: Bryan Kelso, "Building His Backyard Observatory"  |
| March     | Kelowna: Colleen O`Hare, "Interstellar Medium - Stuff between the Stars"   |
| April     | (combined meeting) Kelowna: Dr. Ray Jayawardhana, "Formation and Early Evolution of Stars, Brown Dwarfs, and Planets"                |
| May       | (combined meeting) Vernon: Dr. Ryan Ramson, "Gravity Probe B - Testing Relativity"   |
| June      | Kelowna: David Player, "Texas Star Party Report"   |
| September | Kelowna: Dr. Roland Kothes, "Dying Stars and Their Graveyards"   |
| October   | Kelowna: Dr. Dan Vollick, "Modern Cosmology— Mass Tells Space How to Curve. Space Tells Mass How to Move"                            |
| November  | Kelowna: Sally Kilburg, "Photographic Journey of South Africa including South Africa Large Telescope Observatory and Comet McNaught" |
| December  | Kelowna: Hugh Pett, "Developing SMARTscope"  |

\*Special thanks also to Richard Christie, our liaison with Okanagan College in helping with national and international speakers, our meeting rooms, and all of the A/V equipment needed to run our meetings.

#### Grant Rice

*Secretary*



The RASC Ottawa Centre membership stands at 416, which includes 7 youth members and 38 lifetime members. Of 28 Centres in Canada, this is the second highest membership.

Our Centre meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. The attendance at our monthly meetings frequently approaches or exceeds 150. Our new Meeting Chair, Brian McCullough, has introduced a new meeting format with more involvement of Observers Group type of activities. The meeting's astrophoto presentations are accompanied by a description of the particulars by the member submitting the image. These images are also available to see on our Centre Web site. Brian has succeeded in emphasizing the accomplishments of our "Amateur Astronomers" (who in my opinion are very close to being "Professional Astronomers"!) A monthly "Observers Challenge" is part of the meeting format, and our meetings have also involved rocket launches! Various astronomical presentations by members and guests are also included in Brian's meeting format. Brian also re-launched "recorders notes" for our meetings.

Our Centre Annual Dinner was held on November 16 and was attended by 73 members and guests. Our speaker this year was Chris Jones, the author of "Too Far from Home," which documented the life of the astronauts who were stranded on the ISS immediately

after the shuttle Columbia disaster. His presentation style and material was very well received, a very entertaining evening! The door-prize donations were from Focus Scientific, the RASC Ottawa Centre, and various members. Member donations included software, RASC coffee cups and a telescope. A special thank you to our Vice-President, Paul Harrison, for organizing the event.

The Centre's star-party coordinator, Alain Beaudoin, organized many public events this year. In spite of the weather, we had at least three successful Pinhey's Point Star Parties. At one of them we had 10 or 11 telescopes with up to 25 participants. Other events were in support of the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology and included Astronomy Day, Comet Holmes, and Winter Solstice, in which we have had some success in previous years.

Member Mike Earl organized successful star parties at the Mill of Kintail with over 10 telescopes involved and with about 20 to 30 people attending.

Our Centre participated in International Astronomy Day on Saturday April 27 at the Museum of Science and Technology of Canada. The program included demonstrations and displays within the museum and the use of several telescopes outside the museum. The Sun and daytime planets were observed by the public during the day, followed by an evening's display of the sky by our members with their telescopes. This year we were joined by the Ottawa Carleton Educational Space Simulation from Lisgar Collegiate Institute. They had various science and astronomy demonstrations that complemented our involvement. We received a very sincere "thank you" from the museum for our efforts.

Our members also participated at the University of Ottawa for their fall homecoming event on September 27 to 30. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate for observing, but our members were on hand to give an astronomy presentation.

Our annual picnic was again hosted by Linda and Rolf Meier. It was a beautiful day that concluded with a clear evening for observing. The ISS and shuttle were visible for our event that evening. We even had some geology mixed in with astronomy to complement the day's activities.

The Centre's Fred Lossing Observatory (FLO), managed by Al Seaman, continues to be well used by members. A total of 24 "keyholders," who have full access to observatory equipment, are registered. In addition, numerous other members use FLO as a dark site to set up their own equipment. 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. The site is accessible throughout the winter. The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (our landlord) has cut down many of the encroaching trees that have been restricting our horizon, and this has greatly improved conditions.

The SMARTScope team has been working to improve the reliability of the observatory and equipment. Improvements were made to the dome, including the addition of a new dome controller. A new focuser was installed, which provides much greater focus range than the original. This was necessary because the focus change over temperature was significantly larger than the range of the original focuser, leading to problems with the automation. It also provided a more robust attachment for the camera. A new computer has also been installed; however, the 8-port serial adapter used to communicate with much of the equipment has failed and is currently being replaced. Once that is replaced we expect to commence initial Web observing operations.

Richard Kicksee has had a successful year highlighting our library to members during and after our monthly meetings. Our library is named in the memory of Mr. Stan Mott, who had managed

the library for many years. This year it was revealed that Mr. Mott had bequeathed a substantial grant to the Ottawa Centre RASC from his estate. The Ottawa Centre RASC council decided to allot this money to our library in Mr. Mott's memory.

Upon the retirement of Mike Earl as the Webmaster, and after deliberations by Council, Richard McDonald is the new manager of our Web site. Mike Zeidler will be keeping the image section of the Website up-to-date, and Joseph Morgan will be adding new articles as members input them.

After many years of being our Treasurer and professionally managing our finances, Steven Nourse had requested that we find a replacement before his well-earned retirement. Our search for a qualified member who would "volunteer" for the job took several months. As of this fall we are pleased to accept Hans Brouwer as our new Treasurer. Hans and Steve did a very professional "turnover" of the Treasurer portfolio, and we are very fortunate to have Hans give us his expertise for the foreseeable future.

This year the "Paul Comision Observer of the Year Award" was awarded to Glenn LeDrew.

This year the "Astronotes Article of the Year Award" was awarded to Richard Alexandrowich.

The Council approved the granting of special Centre appreciation awards to our Secretary, Chris Teron, and our past treasurer, Steven Nourse, for their much-appreciated Centre achievements.

The council is also applying to the National Council to grant a Service Award to Al Seaman for his management over the years of our Fred Lossing Observatory.

Finally, because the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is "dedicated to the advancement of astronomy and allied sciences," the Ottawa Centre RASC has posted a position statement, approved by the council in April of this year, to affirm the central importance of scientific theories in science education. Our statement reads in part "The RASC Ottawa Centre and its publications will not promote any non-scientific explanations of the nature of the universe." The complete position statement may be seen on the Centre's Web site at [www.ottawa.rasc.ca/science/index.html](http://www.ottawa.rasc.ca/science/index.html).

**Chris Teron**  
*Secretary*

In the chilly temperatures of January and February, the first of many upgrades to the 24-inch telescope was conducted. The main counterweight was removed, and after much grinding of the shaft, a new declination gear was slipped on. A local company graciously provided a crane and operator to help with the removal and reinstallation of the counterweight.

The dome bearings, originally installed in 1992, were beginning to show signs of wear, so they were replaced with new units manufactured by one of our members. This is the first step in motorizing the movement of the dome. The dome flange was also straightened out, as the action of the wind on the dome over the years had seriously warped its surface.

Our spring Messier Marathon was held on March 17. For the first several hours, skies were very clear and transparent. Six members and seven guests were present through the night. The guests thoroughly enjoyed the views of the Orion Nebula, Saturn, Andromeda Galaxy, and several other sights. A high thin cloud began to obscure the view around 1:30 a.m., so those remaining called it a night.

In addition to the computers at the observatory, several members of the Centre and other interested people are using their own personal computers to process data for SETI, Einstein, and Rosetta. The team is named PG Data Crunchers, and at last count 33 computers were involved.

Two PG Centre members, Todd Johnson and Gregory Mohammed, were presented with the Explore the Universe Certificate this year.

Our Centre, in collaboration with the Prince George Symphony Orchestra, started off the symphony's concert season with Gustav Holst's "The Planets Op. 32." We supplied the visual accompaniment while the orchestra performed the music. As each movement depicting a particular planet was played, spectacular images of the planet were projected.

As has been done in previous years, the PG Centre participated in the March and September Recreation Markets, held at a local mall. Members operated the booth, answering questions and handing out literature.

On Sept 15, Astronomy Day was held during the evening at the observatory. Cloudy weather prevented the use of telescopes, so the few people who did attend watched a couple of videos from our library and were shown around our facility.

An ongoing aggravation at open houses and tours has been the effect headlights have on night vision. Plans have been implemented to provide parking at the front of the property and limit parking near the viewing deck to members only. To that end, one of our members arranged to have the trees and brush cleared by inmates of the Prince George Youth Containment Centre. The resulting slash piles have since been burned, and we are now awaiting the involvement of a local contractor to remove the stumps and do a rough grade of the new parking area. We'll then have fill placed, relocate the fence, etc.

The appearance of Comet 17P/Holmes caused a lot of excitement amongst our members. A few have taken images, and our newest members, some who had never peered through a telescope prior to joining the Centre, were simply amazed, their enthusiasm becoming infectious.

On the viewing deck, one of the most effective ways we have found to engage the public in using a telescope is to point to an object with the laser pointer, and after giving a brief overview on how to aim and focus the Dobsonian telescopes, allow them to find the object.

Due to the popularity of the telescopes available for loaning out to Centre members, and how enthused members of the public become when given the opportunity to use them at our open houses and tours, we have purchased a 6-inch Dobsonian and an additional 4.5-inch Dobsonian telescope.

We wound up the 2007 viewing season with a potluck on December 12th. Fifteen members enjoyed each other's company and a broad selection of tasty food.

2008 will see the PG Centre hosting the fourth session of NOVA, focusing on a Dark-Sky initiative, working towards completion of the modifications to the main telescope, finishing the parking lot expansion, and improving the safety of our facility.

**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 ce qui a trait aux soirées d'observations organisées par le Centre à l'Observatoire Alphonse Tardif de St-Nérée, l'année 2007 aura été une année décevante sur ce point. La mauvaise température aura eu raison des belles nuits étoilées. Seulement trois sorties ont eu lieu, dont une pour les voisins de l'observatoire.

Cependant, plus d'une dizaine, de soirées publiques d'observation, dans le stationnement du Domaine de Maizerets ont été organisées par le Centre. Toujours très populaires c'est soirées ont accueilli environ 20 personnes à chaque occasion.

Nous avons tenu 4 soirées-conférences gratuites pour les non-membres. La dernière en liste était sur l'histoire de l'astronomie au Québec.

À l'occasion de la journée internationale de l'astronomie du 2007 avril 21, une activité pour le public a été organisée à l'Arboretum du Domaine de Maizerets. Nous étions aussi présents au magasin le Naturaliste pour une journée porte ouverte.

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

**Pierre Desrosiers**  
*Représentant National*

2007 was an active year for the Regina Centre. We were extremely busy providing public educational events. A quick breakdown of our public events is seven night observing sessions, three solar observing sessions, two astronomy fairs, and one public presentation, without any observing cancelled due to poor weather. During our public events, we were able to bring our hobby to approximately 1400 people! Another big success in 2007 was our fund raising, largely due to the Office Recycling program organized and operated by Vance Petriew. Throughout the year we also had a number of club members help to maintain and improve some club facilities. Ross Parker has started a club history project, which the entire membership is looking forward to reading when completed.

Our main activity, and one that many members enjoy, in 2007 was providing public exposure and education. The Regina Centre was able to have a very ambitious year, providing public observing sessions due to a large number of volunteers. When we provide a public observing session, we often incorporate an educational presentation. The weather was not always perfect, but our presence and knowledge was always enjoyed. An example was one evening at Buffalo Pound; it had clouded over shortly after setting up our telescopes. Jupiter was barely visible to the naked eye, even if you knew where to look, but people were still amazed at the view through our telescopes (even though all you could make out was the disc, no cloud bands or moons). The breakdown of our public observing sessions is as follows:

March 29	Lakeview & Massey Schools
April 2	Winston Knoll School
April 5-12	Astronomy Week
April 21	Astronomy Day (Southland Mall during the day and the Science Centre during the evening)
May 11	Friends of The Wascana March Nature Festival
July 1	Canada Day (Wascana Park)
July 21	Echo Valley Provincial Park
July 27	Moose Mountain Provincial Park
August 9-12	Saskatchewan Summer Star Party (Cypress Hills)
August 17	Buffalo Pound Provincial Park
September 15	Regina Centre Club Star-B-Q (Davin dark site)
September 19	Sunrise Public Library

We started providing Astronomy fairs to elementary and high schools in 2006 and continued this in 2007 by providing two more astronomy fairs. We typically have 5 to 6 presentations around 10 minutes each. We loop these presentations throughout the evening. The participants move from presentation to presentation. We have a number of interactive displays set up to help educate the public about astronomy. There are 3 to 5 telescopes set up outside for visual observing. Our astronomy fairs were very well received, and we look forward to organizing them again in 2008.

A number of club members found some spare time to help improve some of our facilities. Our dark site, Davin, had some dying trees. Members preformed some maintenance that will help to hold moisture in the ground to allow the young trees to grow. As a part of the office recycling program, bookshelves were put in place at our club office in the Science Centre. These bookshelves house our extensive astronomy library while making the books more accessible to the membership.

The summer ended with another very successful SSSP. The weather was not that good for Thursday and Friday; however, it is always nice and relaxing in the beauty of Cypress Hills. We

set up some telescopes on Saturday for solar observing and were able to show many people a couple of small Sun spots. It was a windy Saturday evening, but the skies were clear, and the seeing conditions were fairly good. The SSSP was very well attended.

The last event of the warm weather observing season was our club barbecue at our dark site by Davin. The food was excellent, camaraderie was great, and the observing conditions were very good. A good time was had by all who attended, and we were treated to some amazing views of the night sky.

Our last event was a presentation/public observing at the Sunset Library in Regina. The presentation was able to fill all of the chairs and was enjoyed by young and old. The weather did not cooperate, but we set up two telescopes indoors and let the public look through the eyepiece at posters we set up at the end of the hallway. Another well-received event!

2007 was a great year for our club. In addition to all of the events listed above, we were able to enjoy the night skies with our own telescopes on a number of evenings throughout the year. There were many nights that members met at Davin to spend the evening tracking down faint fuzzies.

**Shane Ludtke**  
*Secretary*

The St. John's Centre has continued our activities in astronomy and public outreach and education. Our regular meetings have attracted an average audience of 25 or more. The Centre stood at 52 active members as of the end of December.

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, although mainly the Scouting movement takes part. In addition, Centre members helped out at school science fairs. For the first time, the Centre donated an astronomy prize to four regional science fairs in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Work continues on setting up a Centre observatory. We have formed an Observatory Committee to explore possible situations.

Here is a summary of our meeting year:

January	Speaker: Bill Kavanagh, "General Relativity and Black Holes"
February	Speaker: Dr. Rick Goulding, "A Stick in the Ground: The Mystery of Sundials"
March	Speaker: Dr. Steve Shorlin, "Magnetic Star? How Peculiar!"
April	Planetarium Meeting: Garry Dymond gave the Centre a show
May	Show and Tell. Seven members held forth on various topics: John Carter: "Global Warming" Randy Dodge: "Solar Projector, etc." Tim Caruk: "Adapting a Camera" Ben Llewellyn: "New Astronomy Books" Robert Babb: "Sky Next Month" Fred Smith: "Newfoundland Science Fairs and Other Sundry Topics" Chris Stevenson: "Spectroheliograph and Poncet Mount"
June	Speaker: Garry Dymond, "To Catch a Shooting Star: Fireball Networks"
September	Member Night. Members spoke on various subjects: Ben Llewellyn: "Neptune Observations" Randy Dodge: "MyTelescope.com, Facebook, General Assembly" Robert Babb: "Centre's Summer Activities" Garry Dymond: "Improvements in Imaging Technology over the Decades"
October	AGM
November	Randy Dodge spoke on astronomical gifts available for Christmas; Fred Smith spoke on school scopes the province is buying, and the development of an Astronomy curriculum
December	Annual Social

Summaries of all the talks can be found on our Web site at [www.sji.ca/rasc/](http://www.sji.ca/rasc/).

The Centre's activities were busier than usual. The Butterpot Star Party (formerly called Star-B-Que) was clouded out this year, but members had fun making solar filters. We had several makeup sessions for the general public at Butter Pot Provincial Park. In addition, members met at our observing site at the park.

## Major Sessions:

January 31	Telescope basics primer and Observers Program overview
May 23	Imaging, Image Processing, Constructing a Barn Door Tracker
July 20-22	Butterpot Star Party. This was rained out. There were sessions on telescope basics, types of telescopes, and types of mounts
August 2, 6	Observing at Butter Pot
August 10	Camp Delight. Lots of members helped entertain the kids on Salmonier Line, a cancer-patient camp
August 12	Perseid Meteor Shower session at Butter Pot
August 18	Butterpot Star Party makeup event at the Comfort station. We invited park patrons to view the skies with us
September 2	Butter Pot event
September 8	Butter Pot event
September 15	International Astronomy Day on Signal Hill

There were between 75-100 visitors for International Astronomy Day. A total of 11 scopes were available for viewing, plus Gregg Baggs provided a scope with a live feed to a TV. Joe English's shorter scope proved popular with the kids. Due to the building and parking lot lights, the site was not the darkest but proved adequate to our needs. Popular views of the sun were also provided with the Centre's Coronado PST.

Good luck and clear skies!

**David Bourgeois**

*Secretary*

Sarnia Centre meets monthly to discuss RASC business and astronomy. During moonless nights in warm weather we meet at our rural site for observing. A number of new members are actively working on Messier list items while some experienced members are tracking down Hershel 400 items. Randi Mathieu has been publishing a monthly club newsletter, and during meetings we have Sky Tour presentations so members are aware of night sights. At one meeting this past year we had a special guest speaker, Denis Grey from Toronto Centre, who spoke on Asteroid Occultations.

For International Astronomy Day, Sarnia Centre had a mall display during the day and hosted a public Star Party that evening. We had fantastic weather and a turnout of over 200 people to

observe spring sky objects. The crowd patiently queued to look through club members' scopes while being entertained with stories of constellation folklore and sky object identification via a green laser pointer.

Sarnia RASC was well represented at a local day time event called "Hobbyfest." We, along with many other local groups, set up displays to share our hobbies. Included in our report are a few photos of this event.

Club members continue to promote astronomy locally. In October, Marty Cogswell made a presentation to a Brownies group.

We look forward to another year of fellowship with our common interest in Astronomy.

Clear Skies!

**Marty Cogswell**  
*Secretary*



*Charlie Barbara displaying bis meteorite collection.*



*Chris Charbonneau assisting with Solar observing.*



*Chris Charbonneau and Jose Ordenes staffing RASC display.*

# SASKATOON

CENTRE

This has been another exciting year for the Saskatoon Centre with the purchase of our 16-inch Meade SCT. This has been temporarily housed in the University of Saskatoon's roll-off observatory at Sleaford. A permanent home is now in the planning stages. The observers' group remains enthusiastic and uses the Sleaford site on a regular basis, weather permitting.

Astronomy Day was better attended this year with the relocation of our display to the Saskatoon Farmer's Market, where a much more interested crowd was encountered. The raffle of a quilt, painting, and computer monitor was well received by the public, providing needed funds for our club's operation.

The 2007 Saskatchewan Summer Star Party was very well attended with close to 280 registered. The weather was not as cooperative as hoped for, but not too many seemed to mind with good lectures and other events to help fill in the time.

Rick Huziak continues the quest for light-pollution abatement and has had some pleasing results. Our membership remains quite stable at nearly 80 strong.

We look forward to another promising year.

**Al Hartridge**  
*Secretary*

# THUNDER BAY

CENTRE

The last year has gone by very quickly as one cloudy night seemed to follow another. We held ten meetings, including our Annual meeting in October. As usual we took July and August off and started up again in September. Meetings were held on the second Tuesday of the month in room 379 of the Shuniah Building, Confederation College. Attendance at meetings averaged 19 members, little over half of our 37 in-town members (44 total). The Coffee Committee provided coffee, tea, and goodies for each meeting, and continues to be a highlight of the meetings as the members get to talk with each other on a wide variety of topics.

We held five public outreach sessions (detailed later in this report), all of which went well, had great participation from the public, and good participation from Society members. The Yard and Garden show was particularly well received and well put together by the members. The March Lunar eclipse had the biggest crowd at one time with over 400 people showing up and long lines to view Saturn.

The meeting format changed only slightly over the year with the following highlights.

#### Regular Features:

- Gadget corner
- This month's sky line up
- Deep sky objects
- Constellation review
- In the News
- Swap Meet

#### Presentation Topics:

- "Why Stars Are Different Sizes"
- "The Multipurpose Backyard Observatory"
- "Deep Sky Nebulae"
- "German Equatorial Mounts"
- "Lunar Cycles"
- "Rebuilding Telescopes"
- "Dobson Motorized Platform"
- "Meteor Showers"
- "Fourier Analysis"
- "Weather Patterns and Their Effect on Clear Skies"
- "Calendars and Their Effect on Observing"
- "Transient Lunar Phenomenon"
- "Comets"
- "August Lunar Eclipse"
- "Equatorial Mount and Software Control"
- "Slate Island Meteor Impact"
- "Imaging with Hydrogen-Alpha Filters"
- "Aurorae"

#### Presenters:

- Ted Bronson
- Dave Gallant
- Randy McAllister
- John Bakkelund
- Edward Essex
- Lora Barbisan
- Dr. Lionel Catalan
- Doug Stuart
- Robert Kushneriuk

#### Public Outreach:

##### Yard & Garden Show

We were at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition (CLE) for the 2007 Spring Yard and Garden Show from March 30 to April 1. For three days several hundred people stopped by our booth with a large number of people showing an interest in joining the Society. The weekend was well attended by the Centre members as well, with lots of members showing up to work in the booth. The weekend was, on the whole, a huge success. We had a good cross section of people stopping by, from the very young to the very old, single men and women, couples, families, and some moms or dads bringing their sons and/or daughters to see the wonders of our booth. Several claimed to have telescopes gathering dust or laundry and were looking for help to set them up.

##### CLE

The CLE was August 8 to 12 this year. Ted Bronson, Randy McAllister, Edward Essex, Maureen Nadin, Dave Gallant, Rob Kushneriuk, Bob MacMaster, and Bruce Miron all showed up to help set up and run the display. We were in the Heritage Building, along with many other children's activities. Our display went over well as we were visited by a large number of kids and adults. A particular favorite was Ted Bronson's daily draws for Sticker Books and looking through the telescope at the scale pictures of Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter. A number of adults stopped by to say that they had a telescope and wanted help in one form or another. Some indicated an interest in attending our meetings.

##### Quetico Park

Yet another weekend under the dark skies of Quetico has come and gone. On the weekend of August 11-12, Ted Bronson and Dave Gallant made the annual trek to Quetico to impart some of their wisdom to the interested campers. On August 11 Ted presented his general astronomy talk (The Solar System and Beyond) for the 21st time to a small crowd of only about 10 or so. We were disappointed



in the numbers, considering that the campground was pretty full, but the show went on. Ted gave his talk and entertained a few questions; Dave set the scopes up in the parking lot, and Ted came after his talk, along with our one family of interested campers. We looked at several regular summer targets and were treated to a number of Perseid meteors. Surprisingly there were 30 or so people who came out Sunday night. After the talk there were a number of families that came out to watch the meteor shower on the beach. It was another clear night. There were not a lot of meteors in the early evening—20 or so per hour.

### March Lunar Eclipse

Several members arrived at Hillcrest Park around 18:00 EST to prepare equipment to observe and photograph the Moon, as well as give interested observers a chance to view other celestial objects such as Saturn, Venus, the Orion Nebula, and the Pleiades. By 18:40 we had 375-400 people at Hillcrest anxiously waiting for the Moon to rise. Carefully searching the sky just above the eastern horizon with binoculars, we saw a coppery coloured crescent of the Moon shortly before 19:00 EST. The Moon was about to come out of totality. It must have been the twilight sky background along with haze that obscured the total eclipse of the Moon from our view as it rose. As the Moon began to move out of the Earth's inner shadow, it was much easier to spot. By now enough darkness had fallen in the east, allowing the coppery colour of the portion of the Moon remaining in the umbral shadow to show up quite nicely, especially in binoculars and telescopes. As the eclipse wound down there were still a quite a few observers interested in having a look at the Moon, Venus, and Saturn through members' telescopes and binoculars. By 21:00 the Park was quiet once again.

### Astronomy Day (2007 April 21)

This year our displays and demonstrations were held at Chapters bookstore. Although the general attendance was not as good as at the Garden Show, we still had a modest turnout of interested people at the Chapters bookstore location and a good turnout of society members.

### Local Guest Speakers

Graham Sanders: "Weather Patterns and Their Effects on Clear Skies" Bill Addison: "Slate Island Meteor Impact"

### New Initiatives

This Year the Thunder Bay Centre has begun work on an observatory. An agreement has been reached for land use, and we have started fundraising and design work for the project. We submitted a request for funding to the Thunder Bay Foundation but were not successful. Our Gift Card fundraiser is going well and has netted the club \$300, with calendar sales adding another \$300 towards the budgeted \$4000. It is hoped that the observatory will be up and running by the fall of 2009.

### Edward Essex

*Secretary*

It was another busy year for the Toronto Centre, with a wide range of public and membership events.

The Public Education Committee had another strong year. The Committee held five school presentations and presented at six campsites with a beginner observing theme for the public. Committee members also held presentations for a Sparks group, 18 Brownies, 16 Guides, 2 Pathfinders, 2 Beavers, and 8 Wolf Cubs-Scouts groups. Most of these were held at their meeting place or campsite. Two were hosted at the E.C. Carr Astronomical Observatory. In total, the Public Education Committee conducted 59 presentations for 1800 children and adults. The materials used have been made available for use by the rest of the Society and promoted at the 2007 RASC General Assembly in Calgary.

Over 8000 people attended the Hobby Show, in which the Toronto Centre participated once again this year. Other public events included the Ad-Astra convention for science fiction, fantasy, and comic book fans and the "Word on the Street" held at Queen's Park, which attracted about 100,000 people.

The Public Education Committee also hosted a "Stargazing for Beginners" workshop at the E.C. Carr Astronomical Observatory (CAO). Despite the clouds, the attendees and volunteers had an enjoyable, educational time.

Overall, the Education Committee assisted with 8 other events for a total outreach of 4500 persons in 2006-07 (not including the Hobby Show and the Word on the Street).

Congratulations and thanks are due to Leslie Harvey and the many volunteers who delivered these programmes.

I wish to inform the Centre of the following members who passed away in the past year:

John F. Bulger, West Hill  
 Michael A. Burnie, Willowdale  
 Andre Lorenzetti, Mississauga  
 Donald A. MacRae, Toronto  
 Brooke Patton, Thornhill  
 Andrew H.C. Schuh, Thornhill  
 Dale Searle, Toronto

Of the passings in 2007 perhaps the largest impact was felt due to the loss of Andrew Schuh, Toronto Centre Councillor, Centre Webmaster, and Observational Activities Coordinator. Andy's expertise and wit will be sorely missed by Council, the Observational Activities Committee, and the Toronto Centre's Yahoo group members, to name a few. The Centre has truly lost a great contributor and friend.

Kirsten Vanstone assembled a wide-ranging series of lecture meetings. They were as follows:

- September 6 Dr. Peter Brown, University of Western Ontario: "The Southern Ontario Meteor Network: Status and First Results"
- October 4 Robert J. Sawyer: "Astronomy in Science Fiction"
- October 18 Scott Young, RASC National President: "Pluto versus the Ice Dwarfs: Conflict at the Ragged Edge of the Universe"
- November 29 Dr. Roberto Abraham, University of Toronto: "The End of the Cosmic Dark Ages"
- January 17 Dr. Michel Fich, University of Waterloo: "Submillimetre Astronomy"
- February 14 Philip Mozel, Ontario Science Centre: "Astronomy Writing for Fun and ...More Fun"

March 14 Denis Grey: "The Origin of the Earth's Moon"  
 April 11 Terry Dickinson  
 May 9 Stuart Heggie and Paul Mortfield: "CONTACT: A Celebration of Astrophotography"

This year's joint meeting with the Royal Canadian Institute was not held because of scheduling difficulties. This tradition will be renewed in 2008.

Members' Night programmes organized by Paul Markov included monthly presentations by Eric Briggs on "The Sky This Month," as well as presentations on a variety of observing equipment and aids, astronomical sites in Arizona and Mauna Kea, radio telescopes and radio astronomy, the Advanced Observer's programme at Kitt Peak, telescope construction, a special night for new members, observing variable stars, the history of Canadian astronomers, homemade observing chairs, and occultation reports, to name a few!

Weather permitting, the Observational Activities Committee (OAC), headed by Guy Nason since April, coordinated several monthly observing programmes, including Dark-Sky Observing Sessions at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park and Long Sault Conservation Area; a City Observing Session at Bayview Village Park; and a Solar Observing Session at Winston Churchill Park in Toronto. Attendance for these events varied, but averaged about 10 to 12 members and friends.

Together with the Education Committee and the Ontario Science Centre (OSC), the OAC co-produced the following public events at the OSC:

- Hallowe'en Star Party on 2006 October 28
- International Astronomy Week Star Parties 2007 April 16 to 22
- Summer Star Party on 2007 July 6
- 4th Annual Anniversary of the Great Blackout Star Party 2007 August 17.

Phil Chow is to be congratulated on stepping into his new role as editor and maintaining the continuing high quality of *SCOPE*. The newsletter is now being delivered to members in print and electronic form in roughly equal numbers. This past year included 11 new contributors to *SCOPE*, with topics spanning observing reports, articles of a technical nature, and book and equipment reviews, as well as excellent coverage of Centre events and well-written articles. There is never a shortage of material to publish!

Thank you to Blake Nancarrow, who has provided technical and administrative support for the Toronto Centre's Internet presence since May 2007.

Membership in the Toronto Centre stood at 510 regular, 11 affiliate, 10 youth, and 80 Life Members, with 110 associates, for a total of 721 members in at the end of September 2007.

The Carr Astronomical Observatory was well used this year, and visitors included some members of the RASC National Council, the RASC Board Pilot Committee, the L.E. Shore Public Library of Thornbury, and several Boy Scout troops. The 10th Annual CAO Open House and Awards Presentation on 2007 May 12 was well attended and was rewarded with clear dark skies until the early morning. This year's award recipients were Andy Schuh, the Bert Winearls Award for service to the Centre; Scott Masterton, the Andrew Elvins Award for public education; Eric Briggs, the Bertram J. Topham Award for observing; Stefano Cancelli and Paul Mortfield, the Ray Thompson Award for astronomical imaging; and Guy Nason, the Ostrander-Ramsay Award for Astronomical Writing.

Work on the Interactive and Accessible CAO Project, funded by the Centre and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, was largely completed in the past year. The new C14 telescope has been

installed and mounted on the Paramount ME, and the Coronado PST solar telescopes and the T-Max 60 H-alpha filter have been put into use. The major capital improvements — particularly the accessibility deck at the CAO—were undertaken with only a few minor items to complete in 2008.

There are many members who have contributed their time and talents to the continued operation of the CAO. We especially acknowledge the support of Ralph Chou, Geoff Brown, Tony Horvatin, Charles Darrow, Dietmar Kupke and Millie Rayakovich, Ian Wheelband, Leslie and Costas Harvey, Gilles and Nicole Gaudet, Joel and Joan Parkes, and Denis Grey in furthering the educational, maintenance, and development of the CAO.

The 10th Annual Algonquin Adventure from 2007 September 7 to 9 had 99 attendees on 37 campsites at Mew Lake campground. Thanks are due Bob and Lillian Chapman for organizing this event.

Ralph Chou has been busy organizing several more solar eclipse expeditions. He is planning to offer expeditions to western China for the August 2008 eclipse, as well the July 2009 total eclipse in central and eastern China and the 2010 total eclipse over the South Pacific.

David Parfett escorted seven Toronto Centre members to the North Eastern Astronomy Forum in Suffern, New York on 2007 April 24 and 25. He is planning another trip to NEAF in 2008 and also hopes to organize a trip to Florida for the launch of STS-123.

John Bohdanowicz administers the telescope loan programme, which has added a rich-field refractor to its inventory. Charles Darrow reorganized and updated the Centre's property database, which facilitates tracking of our assets at the CAO and those used in our many activities, including those bequeathed to the Centre, plus several assets that have been purchased as part of the Interactive and Accessible CAO project.

This year the Toronto Centre was pleased to award two Gold Medals to outstanding graduates of local astronomy programmes. The winners were Xiaoying Xu, of the University of Toronto and Sarah Sadavoy, of York University.

The recipient of this year's astronomy prize at the Toronto Science Fair was Jane Zhang of Lawrence Heights Middle School for her project entitled "Why the Sky Is Blue."

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, Ralph Chou, Geoff Gilmour-Taylor, Geoff Gaherty, Leslie Harvey, Tony Horvatin, Katrina Ince-Lum, Joe Kratz, Dietmar Kupke and Millie Rayakovich, Jim Low, Denis Grey, Paul Markov, Ostap Mojsiak, Guy Nason, David Parfett, Sara Poirier, Brenda Shaw, Rajesh and Diane Shukla, Kirsten Vanstone, John Bohdanowicz, and many others.

Thanks are also due 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 thank the Ontario Science Centre, Sara Poirier in particular, for their 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.

**Catherine Carr**  
*Secretary*

2007 brought another interesting roster of speakers to Vancouver Centre. While we had several last-minute changes to our Speaker's schedule, everything worked out. Special thanks to Barry Shanko and other members, who have maintained the quality program of speakers that we continue to enjoy at Vancouver Centre.

In January we were hoping to have Ray Villard with us, but this was one of those times when things did not work out. Craig Breckenridge came to the rescue with a short talk on GoTo telescopes.

February brought Jason Rowe to talk about Stellar Atmospheres.

For March, John Chapman presented a detailed proposal for Mining the Moon, developed from the perspective of the Earth-bound mining industry, bringing to mind the mining joke "Earth First! We'll mine the outer planets later!"

Bringing a different discipline to enrich our Speaker Program, our April presenter was Dennis Danielson, expounding on the life of Georg Joachim Rheticus, one of the first teachers of the Copernican Revolution.

In May, Dr. Levon Pogolian enriched our understanding of the Universe with a talk entitled "How We Know What We Know, What We Do Not Know, and What We Can Hope to Know about Our Universe."

June brought Mel Bartels to speak on a topic on which he is considered a leading authority: "Amateur Telescope Making."

Our first annual Paul Syke's Memorial Lecture occurred in July at Simon Fraser University, and relieving our suspense from January, Ray Villard brought us the latest and greatest from the Hubble Space Telescope.

For August, Eric Dunn brought us up -to date with what's going on in the Solar System.

In September, Dr. Ingrid Stairs explained how neutron stars can and are used for "Putting Einstein to the Test."

For those who missed the Mount Kobau Star Party, Gary Seronik presented his talk "Binocular Highlights" at our October meeting.

November was anticipated to bring Dr. Ed Krupp up from Griffith Observatory, but unfortunately airline scheduling conspired against us. Craig Breckenridge came to the rescue, sharing with us some of his great lunch-hour talks that he has developed for Dynamic Structures, highlighting various wonders of the night sky.

Outside of the monthly meetings, Council and volunteers have been busy with some new and ongoing projects such as CAROp, CGRT, the Nova Program, and Astronomy Day, and even providing breakfast at the top of Mount Kobau. All of this happened in addition to our regular meetings and staple schedule of public outreach events, such as Sidewalk Astronomy evenings, GVRD events, Messier Marathons, etc.

This year RASC Vancouver Centre continued to broaden our scope of activities, and when planning, has been seeking input from various astronomy-minded businesses and institutions within our community. As an example, we have successfully increased our interaction with the local universities and colleges. SFU is assisting us with the CGRT project, and Langara will be facilitating an upcoming NOVA Program. Both UBC and SFU have been generous with a ready supply of interesting speakers. In autumn

2007, with the assistance of the Vancouver Telescope Centre, we conducted our first NOVA Program class.

Overall 2007 was another great year for Vancouver Centre, and I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed their time to improving our club and outreach programs. If you haven't pursued club activities beyond the monthly meetings, I would encourage you to take advantage of all that we have going on and to get involved.

**Jason Rickerby**

*Secretary*

The Victoria Centre experienced another successful year due to the outstanding dedication and tireless efforts of its many members. These efforts along with the participation of many community partners allow the centre to offer a variety of special and regular events, as well as an extensive outreach program.

### Special Events

The RASCALS Star Party took place on August 24-26 at the Victoria Fish and Game Association and included daily door-prize draws, three presentations, a swap meet, and, most importantly, solar and nighttime viewing. A picnic at Pearson College hosted by Mark Wheen was on September 1, which gave members a chance to see how Mark is upgrading the Evans Vanderbyl 20-inch Newtonian.

### Regularly Scheduled Events

Regular meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month except July, August, and November at the University of Victoria. Sid Sidhu organized an exciting series of speakers. Astronomy Café is an informal weekly event that attracts both members and newcomers for discussion and coffee at the Fairfield Community Centre. On clear nights, the local school grounds provide an opportunity for urban observing and letting passersby have a look through a telescope. In cloudy weather, the focus is inside, and there have been several informal presentations on topics ranging from optics and observing to the techniques of image processing and space. The café is known to local businesses that sell telescope equipment, and their customers are frequently directed to the café to get help with their new equipment. Those who show up get excellent help from those present and sometimes decide to join RASC as a result. The New Observers Observing Group was hosted by Sid Sidhu and continued this year to run every fourth Friday of the month at 8:00 p.m. under the dark skies of the Highlands.

### Outreach Programs

The School Telescope 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 wonders of the night sky with over 2500 school-aged children. We were also delighted to participate in the 100th-anniversary celebrations for the Annual Beaver at Camp Barnard. Shoreline Community School partnered with the Victoria Centre this year to offer an adult-education astronomy course. Due to its success, the course will be offered again next year.

## Public Observing

A Sunday Sun Day, which was a solar observing event, was held on June 17 at the Gonzales Observatory in Gonzales Hill Regional Park, hosted by Scott Mair for the CRD Parks. Victoria Centre members also volunteered their time, making their telescopes available for the public-observing events at The Centre of the Universe - NRC/HIA/DAO. These evening sessions start at the beginning of April and end at the end of October. At Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, Bill Weir maintains the long-established link between the Victoria Centre and the schools 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. Sidewalk Astronomy events were hosted by Blaire Pellatt at the Oak Bay Library on a few evenings and a few Saturday mornings this year. Each session was eagerly attended by many young library patrons, who experienced views of lunar craters at night and H-alpha views of solar activity during the day. In addition, two educational displays were constructed and mounted in the Oak Bay Library, featuring International Astronomy Day and Light Pollution. Bill Weir set up on Hallowe'en, holding on to the candy until the kids took a look through the eyepiece at COMET 17P/Holmes. Other individuals set up in their own driveways, where views of the night sky served as a starting point in discussing issues of light pollution.

International Astronomy Day was celebrated in Victoria on Saturday, April 21. Although the weather did not cooperate, Astronomy Day was still a great success here in Victoria! The inside exhibits at the Royal British Columbia Museum during the day included an "Ask an Astronomer" booth, telescope viewing, solar observing, telescope making, Astro-kids activities, tour the Solar System session, astrophotography, and live music inspired by the stars with June Bugg and the Ugly Brothers. Later at the Centre of the Universe, a special presentation was given, "Phoenix: An International Mission to Mars," by Dr. Victoria Hipkin, as well as telescope tours and planetarium shows.

## Farewell to Friends

It is with great sadness that we say a final goodbye to a few members this year. George R. Ball passed away on 2007 January 19. He was a Life Member of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and an Honorary President of the Victoria Centre. He enjoyed sharing his extensive knowledge with any and everyone who asked of him. Henk Meursing would have been in his 94th year this past March and was highly involved for many years with light-pollution abatement. His wish was that his 8-inch Celestron telescope with solar filters and eyepieces be donated to the RASC Victoria Centre to be used for the school programs. A plaque will be affixed to the telescope recognizing the donation. George and Henk will be missed by all of us.

## Committees

The Light-Pollution Abatement Committee was busy advocating, through local print media, the need for regulation that will encourage installation of quality street lighting. We have provided comments to Saanich Council regarding a new development proposal in the Blenkinsop Valley, and Oak Bay council was approached regarding lighting issues at Cattle Point, one of the Centre's observing sites. Our messages to fight light pollution have focused on not only saving the night sky but also saving energy. This worldwide issue and long-term struggle will require efforts from all of us in finding some innovative solutions.

## Victoria Observatory Project

Victoria Centre has embarked on an ambitious project to build, equip, and run an observatory atop Observatory Hill, on the site of the National Research Council's Dominion Astrophysical Observatory and the Herzberg Institute (NRC/HIA). The NRC has agreed to contribute \$5000 to our Observatory Project for 2007 and will provide telephone, ADSL Internet, and electrical services at no cost to us on an ongoing basis. The NRC and Victoria Centre have also agreed to build a 10x14-foot SkyShed on this site. The Victoria Centre has purchased a Software Bisque Paramount ME robotic mount, which will give us a superb tracking platform upon which to build our robotic telescope. Victoria Centre was awarded a \$10,000 grant by the B.C. Gaming Commission, and the bulk of this amount will be spent on the observatory project. In addition, every member was contacted by telephone over the summer of 2007 to appeal for funds for our share of the observatory infrastructure. We have exceeded our goal of \$10,000. Thank you everyone! Having an observatory on this site is a milestone for the Victoria Centre.



*Victoria Centre's Observatory under construction. Roof sheathing starts - Nelson Walker, Charles Banville and Malcolm Scrimger*

## Donations and Membership Committee

Equipment donated to the Victoria Centre included an 8-inch Celestron telescope with solar filter and eyepieces for the School Telescope Program by Mrs. Meursing, a Nikon D80 DSLR Camera by Allan Nattress, and a 6-inch Dobsonian telescope by Scott Mair, along with the construction of a storage cupboard by Sid Sidhu for Astronomy Café. Equipment purchases included a Software Bisque Paramount ME robotic mount.

The Victoria Centre's Library is maintained at the University of Victoria. This year, new volumes were acquired by selling the older books no longer of benefit to members, while other volumes were generously donated by members.

The Membership Committee this year began looking at alternate membership categories and group memberships.

## Community Partners

The RASC Victoria thanks the National Research Council/Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics/Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, the B.C. Gaming Commission, the University of Victoria, Pearson College of the Pacific, the Royal B.C. Museum Corporation, Capital Regional District Parks, and all the Victoria School Districts. With your support we have brought astronomy to many sectors of the community and many citizens of British Columbia.

## Awards

The Newton-Ball Award was named for Jack Newton and George Ball for their outstanding service to the Centre. The award 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 Newton-Ball Award was presented to David Lee. The RASC Victoria Centre Awards for Astrophotography were presented to Charles Banville for a wide field image, John McDonald for an image of a dark nebula, and Guy Walton for an image of galaxy M31. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Stephen Courtin for his participation in the Centre's Public Outreach Program.

## Meeting Schedule for 2007

January 10	Dr. Mark Adams: "Three Radio Astronomy Futures: EVLA, ALMA and SKA"
February 14	Dr. Chris Pritchett: "Supernovae and the Mystery of 'Dark Energy'"
March 14	Dr. John McDonald: "Full Circle: The Physics and Astronomy Connection"
April 11	Dr. Julio Navarro: "The Hierarchical Formation of the Milky Way"
May 9	Russ Robb: "Search for Transiting Extrasolar Planets"
June 13	Dr. Gregory Poole: "The Role of X-ray Astronomy in Modern Cosmology"
September 12	Dr. Marla Geha: "Life Cycle of Stars: Formation, Adulthood, and Death"
October 10	Dr. James Graham: "Planetary Debris Disk Observations with the Keck and Hubble Telescopes"
November 17	Annual General Meeting and Dinner; Brian Bornhold: "NEPTUNE Canada Regional Cabled Observatory"
December 12	Jim Stilburn: "Telescopes for Amateur Astronomy"

Thank you to all the speakers, partners, members, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made 2007 so successful.

## Li-Ann Skibo

*Secretary*

# WINDSOR CENTRE

Dr. Pierre Boulos, Windsor Centre's new president, led us capably through an interesting year featuring many events. Nine monthly meetings were held at our new meeting place, the Knights of Columbus hall in Maidstone, Ontario. The meetings featured the following topics:

January	Paul Preney: "Using Computer Programs to Simulate Astronomical Events"
February	Juliana Grigorescu: "The Fascinating Magnetism"
March	Dr. Dennis Tetrault: "Planetary Geology"
April	Dr. William Baylis: "A Brief History of Life on Earth"
May	Terry Coloumbe: "Mine Site Selection on the Moon"
June	Paul Pratt: "Night Bird Watching"
September	Steve Pellarin: "Comet McNaught"
October	Mike Mastronardi: "The Farmer's Almanac and Mayan Astronomy"
November	Pierre Boulos: "Year in Review"; annual elections

Three Council meetings were held at various members' homes. There were two social events, our annual June picnic at our observatory and our December Social. Rain or shine, monthly public open-house events were held at our observatory save December's, which was wiped out by a snow storm. The transit of Mercury was observed by members fortunate enough to be at the observatory when clouds briefly cleared.

Members set up displays on Earth Day and at the University of Windsor on Astronomy Day. Light-pollution control is a major feature of our displays. Some set up telescopes in Point Pelee National Park to participate in a "Birding and Stars" event. In February four members led by Steve Mastelotto attempted to see and record Omega Centauri across frozen Lake Erie.

Talks were given to groups through the year by several members. Groups such as Cubs, Scouts, and Girl Guides were taken to the observatory for special presentations. Randy Groundwater and Steve Pellarin handled many of these events. One event featured about 150 men, women, and children members from the Windsor Mosque on a special visit to our observatory. Randy also taught a basic astronomy course to a group of seniors.

Dan Taylor's diligent and continuing efforts to promote light-pollution control measures have resulted in building-code changes in Windsor and one other local community, with others to follow if Dan's efforts prove fruitful. A new Princess Auto store changed its obtrusive lighting to FCO types after members reported non-compliance to the City.

Windsor Centre's Achievement Award was presented to Peter Bondy in appreciation for his keen enthusiasm and fund-raising work toward construction, equipping, and additions to our observatory, named for founding member Cyril Hallam.

Membership hovered in the area of 90 through 2007 and is currently on the rise.

## David J. Panton

*Secretary*

The Winnipeg Centre enjoyed a year of strong growth in 2007, with membership climbing steadily through the year. Much of this seems to be due to word-of-mouth advertising, though several successful public events and the appearance of Comet Holmes helped get the word out. Meetings were well attended through the year, with some of them crowding the meeting room's capacity of 100.

Several years of reducing membership fees and absorbing increases mandated by the Society finally took their toll, and the Centre had to tackle a gradually falling surplus and increasing expenses. Two major solutions were implemented — distributing the newsletter *Winnicentrics* on line and putting up a voluntary donation box beside the coffee and cookies at the monthly meetings. These had the immediate effect of eliminating the annual deficit, turning it around to a small surplus. To rebuild reserves, the Centre organized a raffle of an 8-inch Orion Dobsonian telescope, selling over 900 tickets and raising over \$2000 for the treasury. At the end of the year, the Centre was in excellent economic health and looking at projects to make the RASC experience more enjoyable for the members.

Meetings covered an eclectic list of astronomical topics, from gravitational lenses to astrophotography to weather satellites, and the Members' Observing Night on the Saturday following each meeting brought an increasing number of armchair astronomers under the nighttime sky. This year the Winnipeg Centre had its first-ever awards night: awards were handed out to Stan Runge and Jay Anderson for their activities over the years.

### The Observatory

The Centre's observatory site at the University of Manitoba's farm near Glenlea seemed to increase in popularity through the year as more members took up observing and photography. The Warm Room was most popular, as most members bring their own scopes to the site rather than using the 12-inch Meade in the observatory. There was no threat of flooding in the spring, and so only regular maintenance was needed at the site. The Glenlea Observatory was also the site of the traditional June Barbecue, observed this year without the usual attendance of the mosquito clan.

### Star Parties and Expeditions

The Spruce Woods Star Party (SWSP), held at a provincial park situated two hours west of the city, enjoyed a wet but successful (financially, anyway) time again this year. Alternative activities were planned to take up the cloudy and wet periods, and the skies did part enough to allow a little observing. The SWSP was held in the second weekend in September to take advantage of the young Moon. The SWSP is usually held on the Labour Day weekend when the park is full of campers. Because of the bright Moon this year, the Centre elected to go on the following weekend, but several members travelled to Spruce Woods on the Labour Day weekend to give presentations and a sky show.

Harry Potter also became a part of the Centre's activities. A local bookstore organized a "Harry Potter" night at the zoo, and the Centre was invited to show the sky to the assembled children and parents before the book went on sale at midnight. It was a huge success — several thousand people — and more than one Hagrid or Dumbledore. Skies were not the best, but Jupiter and the Moon did oblige.

Birds Hill Park, to the north of the city, is a favourite nearby observing site for Centre members, especially when an aurora is

expected. This year it was Comet Holmes that drew us northward in several spontaneous observing sessions that expanded into campfires, wiener roasts, and an assortment of goodies. While it was mostly members who attended, a few unsuspecting members of the public were treated to a look through some really big telescopes when the instruments were set up.

Once again, for about the seventh year running, several members made the long drive to Arizona to do a little springtime observing in the Chiricahua Mountains. For the most part, the weather cooperated, making the more southerly items in the Herschel 400 a little easier to collect.

The Saskatchewan Summer Star Party attracted a dedicated set of Winnipeg Centre members to the Cypress Hills again this year, though smoke from Wyoming forest fires put a bit of a damper on the trek. The weather was better than expected, however, as storm systems seemed to clear the area in time for nightfall.

### Outreach

Astronomy Day was a popular outing for members — our primary "show-off" event of the year at a local mall. The observing session planned for the evening was not so successful, however, as Mother Nature had cloaking ideas. Several members attended the Manitoba Air Show in Portage-la-Prairie, staffing a club booth and enjoying the flight displays. The local Variety Club contacted us about a presentation at the Variety Club Kids Camp at Breerton Lake, and several members were able to offer their help. They were rewarded with food and housing and the fun of participating in a family event.

Centre members also volunteered to help at 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. Club telescopes are always popular at the event, which also features rocket launches and plenty of entertainment and food. Centre members also attended and made a presentation to Winnipeg City Council at a public meeting to discuss new city by-laws; the by-laws now have significant lighting restrictions and limits on "light trespass."

### Jay Anderson

*Secretary*

# CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR—2007

		Belleville	Calgary	Charlottetown	Edmonton	Halifax	Hamilton	Kingston	Kitchener-Waterloo	London
<b>REVENUE</b>										
Membership	Membership Fees (Regular)	1,107	6,976	518	5,073	3,023	2,758	2,294	1,897	2,703
	Membership Fees (Youth)		430							
	Membership Fees (Basic surcharge)		4,500				91	518	870	
	Membership Fees (Special surcharge / Associates / Affiliates)		40	20			30	15		
	Life Membership Grants		374		242	484		198	110	
Donations / Fundraising	Donations				90	687	1,407	364	347	200
	Fundraising / Sponsorships / Grants		3,725	576	50		441	387	369	67
Educational Activities / Materials								1,050		
Interest and Dividends				2	134	98		404		
Publication Sales	Sale of Observer's Handbooks					294	60	40		193
	Sale of Observer's Calendars		1,050	311	870	792	50	665	1,010	261
	Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides		30			256		20		
	Other Publication Sales					20		251		
Subscriptions	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope									
	Other									
Product Sales	RASC promo items		1,665			1,456		33		
	Other items		1,750							
Advertising			25							
General Assembly			3,024							
Events	Star Parties	206	844					1,789		
	Annual Dinner		1,664				900	870	1,540	30
Observatory site or equipment rentals / loans			1,062		75					
Miscellaneous			332		311	30	244	30	2,518	250
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>1,313</b>	<b>27,491</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>6,845</b>	<b>7,140</b>	<b>5,981</b>	<b>8,928</b>	<b>8,661</b>	<b>3,704</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>										
Library			113		1,957	126		275		
Publications	Newsletter		4,361		3,024	1,167		1,049		255
	Observer's Handbook					255	14	50		878
	Observer's Calendar		-450	264	1,424	535	112	540	771	
	Beginner's Observing Guide					214		235		
	Other Publications			17				178		
Events	Meetings		224		90	288	360	90		
	Star Parties	94	739			153		1,385		
	Annual Dinner	165	1,788				803	1,490	2,163	
	Astronomy Day			62				343	147	
	Other Events	456	540	79	1,466					
Product Expenses	RASC promo items	20	1,123			144		256		
	Other items	37	466		1,383					
Advertising					1,068		136		138	
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings	400	91	311	581					150
	Speaker Travel Assistance		492		411					
Equipment and Supplies				67	15,949		200		114	
Office Administration			2		442	174	230	230	23	117
General Expenses and Audit			61	764	982	25		621		
Educational Activities				43	783			1,279	529	
Insurance				1,272		1,043	1,645			
Awards and Donations					200	1,853	191	318	860	57
Observatory and Site Expenses				2,154		8,161	66	5,296	509	1,392
Depreciation										
Miscellaneous				1,142	478			90	342	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>1,235</b>	<b>14,862</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>39,574</b>	<b>4,381</b>	<b>8,796</b>	<b>8,938</b>	<b>6,479</b>	<b>1,457</b>
<b>SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>12,629</b>	<b>-51</b>	<b>-32,759</b>	<b>2,759</b>	<b>-2,815</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>2,247</b>
ASSETS	Liquid assets	2,666	36,501	2,196	107,278	11,281	8,538	21,320	10,285	12,598
	Capital assets	210	20,243	0	0	38,212	100,000	20,950	38,950	59,573
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					<b>909</b>					

# CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR—2007

		Mississauga	C. F. de Montréal	Montréal	New Brunswick	Niagara	Okanagan	Ottawa	Prince George	Québec	Regina
<b>REVENUE</b>											
Membership	Membership Fees (Regular)	1,718	2,249	2,089	1,839	1,895	1,990	8,336	2,342	1,156	1,077
	Membership Fees (Youth)	3				69					41
	Membership Fees (Basic surcharge)			793		344	331			547	196
	Membership Fees (Special surcharge / Associates / Affiliates)	38				120					
	Life Membership Grants	60	22	93		66	44	858		88	66
Donations / Fundraising	Donations	376	526	290	718	806	10,985	875	1,215	58	151
	Fundraising / Sponsorships / Grants				566	215		446	8,000		10,209
Educational Activities / Materials											
Interest and Dividends											
Publication Sales	Sale of Observer's Handbooks		28	1,087		164	4	155			
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	455	85	320	1,050	295	633	1,760	100	285	480
	Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides					43					
	Other Publication Sales										
Subscriptions	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope					1,114					
	Other										
Product Sales	RASC promo items				757	251	120			92	
	Other items	1,134	3			101	319	970			
Advertising			240								
General Assembly					250			400			
Events	Star Parties										4,453
	Annual Dinner				60	1,670		2,065			
	Observatory site or equipment rentals / loans		93				295	1,302			
Miscellaneous			40			282		250	3,700		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>3,774</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>4,672</b>	<b>5,240</b>	<b>7,434</b>	<b>14,721</b>	<b>17,417</b>	<b>15,357</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>16,673</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>											
Library			46				86			119	
Publications	Newsletter		446	347	264	175	309	3,211	589		
	Observer's Handbook					37					15
	Observer's Calendar	245		645	232	232		1,799		202	135
	Beginner's Observing Guide					68					
	Other Publications										
Events	Meetings	650			186	440		621		75	
	Star Parties				231	24				46	3,721
	Annual Dinner				314	1,594		2,317			
	Astronomy Day				35			157			
	Other Events							-6,683			4,700
Product Expenses	RASC promo items				1,296	66	638				110
	Other items	863			617	140			993	18	
Advertising					67			424	473		
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings			351	334		165	263			
	Speaker Travel Assistance				293		82			255	
Equipment and Supplies					1,158	1,263		666	1,362		
Office Administration			2,032			42	998	945	126	870	1,592
General Expenses and Audit		575		101		47	253		25		
Educational Activities									90		
Insurance			469				1,000	3,201	1,479		446
Awards and Donations				200	29						
Observatory and Site Expenses			198			300	5,965	606	2,728		1,200
Depreciation			506					8,305			
Miscellaneous		60	74	1,284	90	2,402	60	4	4,438	6	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>2,393</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>2,928</b>	<b>5,146</b>	<b>6,829</b>	<b>9,556</b>	<b>15,836</b>	<b>12,303</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>11,809</b>
<b>SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS</b>		<b>1,381</b>	<b>-485</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>5,165</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>3,054</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>4,864</b>
ASSETS	Liquid assets	4,191	3,941	73,567	0	0	0	36,627	12,702	2,398	10,046
	Capital assets	0	10,319	26,052	0	0	8,023	53,085	78,580	0	77,394
LIABILITIES			25	762				2,210			



# CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR—2007

		St. John's	Sarnia	Saskatoon	Thunder Bay	Toronto	Vancouver	Victoria	Windsor	Winnipeg
<b>REVENUE</b>										
Membership	Membership Fees (Regular)	1,034	565	2,337	1,062	25,190	4,776	4,782	1,488	3,130
	Membership Fees (Youth)						151			
	Membership Fees (Basic surcharge)	188					651			
	Membership Fees (Special surcharge / Associates / Affiliates)	3								
	Life Membership Grants	66			22	1,804	374		88	66
Donations / Fundraising	Donations	435		848	7	13,853	27,368	8,230	1,154	365
	Fundraising / Sponsorships / Grants			3,282	345	16,674	1,066	11,000		1,093
Educational Activities / Materials		972		40		2,731	871			
Interest and Dividends		3	134	386		3,168	8,415		2	74
Publication Sales	Sale of Observer's Handbooks						823		20	
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	575	195		570		1,205	392	431	1,439
	Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides						170			
	Other Publication Sales								24	
Subscriptions	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope					5,625				
	Other									
Product Sales	RASC promo items						20			
	Other items	69		1,919		5,322				
Advertising										
General Assembly										
Events	Star Parties			14,043		1,470		1,520		705
	Annual Dinner							1,420		
Observatory site or equipment rentals / loans						2,730			830	
Miscellaneous			500	176			75		962	203
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>3,345</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>23,030</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>78,567</b>	<b>45,965</b>	<b>27,344</b>	<b>4,999</b>	<b>7,075</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>										
Library						3,985	106	235		38
Publications	Newsletter			1,013	257	2,482	663		238	482
	Observer's Handbook						782		81	
	Observer's Calendar	351	174		705		998	314	316	922
	Beginner's Observing Guide	127					155			
	Other Publications					8,735			15	
Events	Meetings	194			75		15	200	1,242	267
	Star Parties	492		11,666				1,151	155	662
	Annual Dinner							1,606	100	
	Astronomy Day	33	42		164		613	1,244	50	
	Other Events						285			
Product Expenses	RASC promo items				21		12			
	Other items			783	424					
Advertising							486	26		
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings						426	125		444
	Speaker Travel Assistance						2,012			
Equipment and Supplies		109	30		456			135	1,092	22
Office Administration						9,590	335	43	21	225
General Expenses and Audit			36	10	90	4,065		206		
Educational Activities				134			368		1,431	
Insurance				1,002						946
Awards and Donations		150						245		350
Observatory and Site Expenses				769		12,262	27,690	14,617	1,378	300
Depreciation				837		16,965	1,000			
Miscellaneous			51	206		15,113	47		804	40
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>1,456</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>16,419</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>69,216</b>	<b>35,993</b>	<b>20,147</b>	<b>6,923</b>	<b>4,698</b>
<b>SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS</b>		<b>1,889</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>6,610</b>	<b>-186</b>	<b>9,351</b>	<b>9,972</b>	<b>7,197</b>	<b>-1,924</b>	<b>2,377</b>
ASSETS	Liquid assets	19,807	0	25,862	1,236	97,566	235,909	12,550	3,626	7,460
	Capital assets	0	0	17,987	0	406,711	22,398		77,000	1
LIABILITIES						205,796	362			

# OFFICERS AND COUNCILS OF THE CENTRES—2008

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Whirlpool Editor: Philip Downey  
Hospitality: Pat Sammy

## OKANAGAN CENTRE

PO Box 20119 TCM  
Kelowna BC V1Y 9H2  
www.ocrasc.ca

Elected Officers:  
President: Jim Tisdale  
Vice President Kelowna: Dave Collins  
Vice-President: Vernon: Wayne Willett  
Secretary: Grant Rice  
Treasurer: Zoli Boda

National Representative: David Player  
Directors Kelowna: Greg Dean  
Archie Christie  
Directors Vernon: Jim Kanester  
Bryan Kelso

Appointed Directors:  
Webmaster: Grant Rice  
Newsletter Editor: David Player  
Librarian: Colleen O'Hare  
Public Education Directors:  
Kelowna: Colleen O'Hare  
Vernon: Hugh Carter  
Director of Telescopes: Guy Mackie  
Focus Newsletter Editor: David Player  
Outreach Directors:  
Kelowna: Colleen O'Hare  
Vernon: Hugh Carter

## 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: Hans Brouwer  
Councillors: Yves Demers  
Carmen Ruch  
Al Scott  
Meeting Chair: Brian McCullough  
Past President: Debra Ceravolo  
National Representatives: Gary Boyle  
Debra Ceravolo  
Rob Dick

Stan Mott Librarian: Richard Kicksee  
WebMaster: Richard McDonald  
AstroNotes Editor: Paul WefersBettink  
F.L.O. Director: Al Seaman  
SmartScope Leader: Doug George  
Light Pollution Abatement: Gary Boyle  
Public Outreach: open  
Hospitality: Art and Anne 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/pgcasc  
pgcentre[at]yahoo.com

President: Gilbert Self  
Vice President: Maurice Sluka  
Secretary: Glen Harris  
Treasurer: Robert (Bob) Nelson  
National Representative: Brian Battersby  
Past President: Brian Battersby

Webmaster: Brian Battersby  
Members at Large: Jim Arnold  
John Ascah  
Hugh Kennedy  
Gregory Mohammed  
Trevor Padgett  
Blair Stunder  
Jim D. Toews  
Doug Wayland

## CENTRE DE QUÉBEC

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

Président: Stéphane Dumas  
Directeur des observations: Stéphane Dumas  
Vice-Président: Guy Campeau  
Trésorier: Pierre Desrosiers  
Représentant national: Pierre Desrosiers  
Secrétaire: Daniel Tardif  
Secrétaire du conseil: Pierre-Paul Leblanc  
Directeur des conférences: Daniel Allaire  
Bibliothécaire: Jean Chaisson  
Éditeur: Sebastien Pouliot  
Conseiller: Robert Corbeil  
Conseiller: Agathe Caron

## 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: Ross Parker  
Past President: Lorne Harasen  
Webmaster: Vance Petriew  
Librarian: Shane Ludtke  
Finance: Robert Brann  
Kevin Gallant

Kalium Observatory and  
Millennium Telescope: Ron Haughey  
Darryl Dormuth  
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: Doug Grouchy  
Vice-President: Randy Dodge  
Secretary: David Bourgeois  
Treasurer: Joe English  
National Representative: Mike Crawford  
Past President: Garry Dymond  
Webmaster: Craig Peterman  
Librarian: Fred Smith  
Observing Director: Robert Babb  
Equipment Director: Chris Stevenson  
Education Director: Garry Case

## SARNIA CENTRE

c/o Marty Cogswell  
6723 Pheasant Lane  
RR1 Camlachie ON N0N 1E0  
www.sarnia.com/groups/astro

President: Ralph De Jong  
Vice-President: Christian  
Charbonneau  
Secretary: Martin Cogswell  
Treasurer: Brendan Flemming  
National Representative: Marie Fisher  
Past President: Christian  
Charbonneau  
Richard  
Weatherston  
Randy Mathieu  
Webmaster:  
Newsletter:

## SASKATOON CENTRE

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

President: Garry Stone  
Vice-President: Barb Wright  
Secretary: Al Hartridge  
Treasurer: Norma Jensen  
Past President: Ron Waldron  
Newsletter Co-Editors: Tenho Tuomi  
Ken Maher  
National Representative: Les Dickson  
Councillors:  
Events Co-ordinator: Jeff Swick  
Fundraising Co-ordinator: open  
Membership Co-ordinator: Mike Clancy  
Observing Co-ordinator: Larry Scott  
Sleaford Observatory Site Co-ordinator: Darrell Chatfield  
SSSP Co-ordinator: Barb Wright  
Councillors at large: Jim Young  
Les Dickson  
Non-executive Councillors:  
Librarian: Darrell Chatfield  
Photographer/Archivist: George Charpontier  
Meeting Room Co-ordinator:  
Graham Hartridge  
New and Distant Members: James Gorkof  
Webmaster: Gord Sarty

## SUNSHINE COAST CENTRE

Box 577  
Sechelt BC V0N 3A0  
www.coastastronomy.com

President: Bill Clark  
Vice-President: Neil Sandy  
Treasurer: Debra macWilliam  
Secretary: Pat Robinson  
National Representative: David Thompson  
Directors at Large:  
Constitution & By-laws: David Thompson  
Library & Equip Loan: Danny Sklazeski  
Pubic Relations: Bette Chadwick  
Membership & Library: Gary Little  
Affiliated Web Site: James MacWilliam  
Astrophotography: James MacWilliam

## 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: Bridgitte Schaeffer  
National Representative: Dave Gallant  
Past President: Ted Bronson  
Appointed Positions:  
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

Honorary President: Dr. Ian Shelton  
President: Denis Grey  
1st Vice-President: Dr. B. Ralph Chou  
2nd Vice-President: Kirsten Vanstone  
Secretary: Charles Darrow  
Treasurer: David Parfett  
Recorder: Geoff Gilmour-  
Taylor  
Past President: Guy Nason

Councillors: Katrina Ince-Lum  
Geoff Brown  
Sara Poirier  
Brenda Shaw  
Anthony Pullano  
Leslie Harvey  
Tim Hunter  
Dietmar Kupke  
Scott Masterton

National Representatives: Charles Darrow  
Geoff Gilmour-Taylor  
Tony Horvatin  
David Parfett

National Alternates: Katrina Ince-Lum  
Dietmar Kupke

### VANCOUVER CENTRE

c/o HR Macmillan Space Centre  
1100 Chestnut St  
Vancouver BC V6J 3J9  
<http://qp.pcis.com/QuickPlace/rascvan/Main.nsf>

President: Pomponia Martinez  
Vice President: Brian Morse  
Past President: Ron Jerome  
Treasurer: Bruce MacDonald  
Secretary: Jason Rickerby  
National Representative: Doug Montgomery  
National Representative: Jason Rickerby  
Director of Telescopes: Bob Parry  
Merchandise: Doug Montgomery  
Librarian: William Fearon  
Membership: Suzanna Nagy  
CAROp Chair: Wayne Lyons  
Nova Editor: Gordon Farrell  
Webmaster: Gabe Mastey  
Speakers: Barry Shanko  
LPA Committee: Chris Dolman  
CGRT Committee: Craig Breckenridge  
Trustees: Sally Baker  
Karl Miller

### VICTORIA CENTRE

3970 Cherilee Crescent  
Victoria BC V8N 1R9  
(250) 477-3865  
[www.victoria.rasc.ca](http://www.victoria.rasc.ca)  
[treasurer\[at\]victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:treasurer[at]victoria.rasc.ca)

President: Joe Carr  
Vice-President: Sid Sidhu  
2nd Vice-President: John McDonald  
Secretary: Li-Ann Skibo  
Treasurer: Martin Shepherd  
National Representative: Chris Gainor  
Past President: Scott Mair  
Webmaster: Joe Carr  
Librarian: Charles Banville  
Telescopes: Sid Sidhu  
Skynews Editor: Scott Mair  
New Members Liaison: Bruno Quenneville

Members at Large: Bill Almond  
(Centre Historian)  
Sandy Barta  
Dave Bennett  
Jim Hesser  
David Lee  
Ed Maxfield  
Bruno Quenneville  
Colin Scarfe  
Malcolm Scrimger  
Dirk Yzenbrandt

### WINDSOR CENTRE

c/o Ken Garber  
2831 Alexandra Ave  
Windsor ON N9E 2J8  
[www.rascwindsor.com](http://www.rascwindsor.com)

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: Mike Mastronardi  
Past President: Steve Mastellotto  
Webmaster: Steve Mastellotto  
Librarian: Rick Marion

Councilors: Dan Anzovino  
Len Dick  
Randy  
Groundwater  
Mike Mastronardi  
Steve Pellarin  
Paul Preney  
Ken ROUNG  
Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu  
Tom Sobocan  
Joody Ulrich

Appointed Positions:  
Honorary President: Dr. William Bayliss  
Director of Observing: open  
Director of Public Education: open

Librarian: Rick Marian  
Aurora Editor: Ken Garber  
Recording Secretary: David Panton  
Light Pollution Abatement: Dan Taylor  
National Representative: open  
Webmasters: Steve Mastellotto  
John Berube

### WINNIPEG CENTRE

PO Box 2694  
Winnipeg MB R3C 4B3  
[www.winnipeg.rasc.ca](http://www.winnipeg.rasc.ca)  
[rasc\[at\]winnipeg.rasc.ca](mailto: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: Mike Stephens  
Past President: Lindsay Price  
Webmaster: Gord Tulloch  
Librarian: Fred Wood

Councillors: Marlene Wallace  
Kris Keller  
Kevin Black  
Nicole Choptain  
Peter Toth

*Winnicentrics* Editor: Gail Wise  
Observatory Director: Ray Andrejowich  
Observatory Bookings: Kevin Black

# 2006 AWARD WINNERS

<b>Service Award</b>	Rajiv Gupta (Vancouver), Bruce McCurdy (Edmonton),
<b>Chant Medal</b>	(not awarded)
<b>Ken Chilton Prize</b>	(not awarded)
<b>The Plaskett Medal</b>	Frédéric Grandmont (Université Laval)
<b>Simon Newcomb Award</b>	Alan Dyer (Unattached)

## MESSIER CERTIFICATE

Charles Banville (Victoria)  
Doug Bates (Kitchener-Waterloo)  
John Bohdanowicz (Toronto)  
Kim Hay (Kingston)  
Donald A. Kelly (New Brunswick)  
Richard Stankiewicz (Unattached)  
Graeme Stemp-Murlock (Unattached)  
Maryanne Weiler (Kitchener-Waterloo)

## NGC CERTIFICATE

Douglas Angle (Kingston)  
Donna-Marie Bonnett (Toronto)  
Pat Browne (Ottawa)  
Jnani Cevvel (Edmonton)  
Lynn Chetwynd (Toronto)  
Harold Healy (Toronto)  
Dean Huxley (Calgary)

Daniel LeBlanc (New Brunswick)  
Tom Luton (Toronto)  
Emma MacPhee (New Brunswick)  
Gilbert Raineault (Winnipeg)  
Mike Stephens (Winnipeg)  
Andrew Wareing (Toronto)

## EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE CERTIFICATE

Kirby Alguire (Unattached)  
Avramopoulos Anastasios (Greece)  
Ken Baine (Toronto)  
David Brown (Calgary)  
Larry Burnett (Ottawa)  
William Callahan (Mississauga)

Rob Davidson (Unattached)  
Brent Gratias (Saskatoon)  
Jack Jackson (Mississauga)  
Terra Jentsch (Winnipeg)  
Todd Johnson (Prince George)  
Donald A. Kelly (New Brunswick)

Camille LeBlanc (New Brunswick)  
Jack Milliken (Calgary)  
Gregory Mohammed (Prince George)  
Leslie Strike (Mississauga)

## ISABEL WILLIAMSON LUNAR OBSERVING CERTIFICATE

None for 2007

*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 2000, 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.*

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.*

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.*

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)  
2007 Frédéric Grandmont (Université Laval)

## 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.*

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| 2000 | Phil Johnson (Calgary)   | Stan Runge (Winnipeg Centre)  |
| 2001 | John Rousom (London),<br>David G. Turner (Halifax)   | 2005 J. Randy Attwood (Toronto),<br>Dr. Robert Garrison (Toronto)                 |
| 2002 | (Not awarded)  | 2006 Ted Bronson (Thunder Bay),<br>Mark Kaye (Hamilton),<br>Kevin Kell (Kingston) |
| 2003 | David McCarter (London)  | 2007 Rajiv Gupta (Vancouver)<br>Bruce McCurdy (Edmonton)                          |
| 2004 | David Clark (London),<br>Jim Failes (Okanagan Centre),<br>Art Fraser (Ottawa Centre),<br>Guy Nason (Toronto Centre), |   |

## 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,<br>Canada) | 2003 Alister Ling (Edmonton)       |
| 1999 | Terence Dickinson (Toronto)                 | 2004 Mary Lou Whitehorne (Halifax) |
| 2001 | Dan Falk (Toronto)                          | 2006 Dr. Warren Finlay (Edmonton)  |
| 2002 | David Levy (Kingston)                       | 2007 Alan Dyer (Unattached)        |

## HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE RASC

- |                                       |   |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Dr. R.B. Baldwin (United States)      | Dr. Stephen W. Hawking (United Kingdom) | Mr. Leif Robinson (United States)     |
| Dr. David L. Crawford (United States) | Dr. Jean Meeus (Belgium)                | Dr. A.R. Sandage (United States)      |
| Dr. A. Dollfus (France)               | Dr. Patrick Moore (United Kingdom)      | Mr. William Sheehan (United States)   |
| Rev. Robert Evans (Australia)         | Dr. Jay Pasachoff (United States)       | Dr. Carolyn Shoemaker (United States) |
| Dr. Owen Gingerich (United States)    | Dr. P.J.E. Peebles (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

- 1997-2001 Jack Locke  
2001-2005 Roy Bishop  
2005-2009 Robert Garrison

### Presidents

- 1998-2000 Randy Attwood  
2000-2002 Robert Garrison  
2002-2004 Rajiv Gupta  
2004-2006 Peter Jedicke  
2006-2008 Scott Young  
2008- Dave Lane

### Secretaries

- 1999-2005 Kim Hay  
2005-2008 Stan Runge  
2007-2008 James Edgar

### Treasurers

- 1998-2004 Michael Watson  
2004-2006 David Clark  
2007 Alan Whitman  
2008-2009 Mayer Tchelebon

## GENERAL ASSEMBLIES—2000 TO 2007

*The following Centres hosted the General Assembly from 2000 to 2007:*

- |      |           |      |            |
|------|-----------|------|------------|
| 2000 | Winnipeg  | 2004 | St. John's |
| 2001 | London    | 2005 | Okanagan   |
| 2002 | Montréal  | 2006 | Ottawa     |
| 2003 | Vancouver | 2007 | Calgary    |

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

- 2008 Toronto  
2009 Saskatoon

