



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



ANNUAL REPORT
RAPPORT ANNUEL

2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Secretary's Message	6
Auditor's Report	7
Annual Meeting Minutes—2009	14
Annual Reports from the Centres	17
Centre Treasurers' Reports for Fiscal Year 2009	38
Officers and Councils of the Centres—2010	41
2010 Award Winners	45
2009 Certificates	45

Edited by James Edgar and Jo Taylor
Translations by Hugues Lacombe
Proofread by James Edgar
Layout and design by Catherine Berry

Front Cover Photograph

IYA2009 Treasures—the special publications of the RASC for that special year: posters, Mary Lou's New Telescope, astronomy-themed trading cards, Become a Sidewalk Astronomer, and Star Finders.

—Photo by Dave Lane

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA—2010

RASC Web Site: www.rasc.ca
RASC eStore: www.store.rasc.ca
National Office: 203-4920 Dundas Street W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7, Canada
Phone: (416) 924-7973 Fax: (416) 924-2911
Email: nationaloffice@rasc.ca
Office hours: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
National Office Manager: Jo Taylor nationaloffice@rasc.ca
Membership & Publications Co-ordinator: Irina Mosquera mempub@rasc.ca

Officers

Honorary President:	Dr. Jim Hesser	James.Hesser@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
President:	Dave Lane	dlane@ap.stmarys.ca
1st Vice-President:	Mary Lou Whitehorne	mlwhitehorne@hfx.eastlink.ca
2nd Vice-President:	Glenn Hawley	glennhawley@shaw.ca
Secretary / Recorder:	James Edgar	jamesedgar@sasktel.net
Treasurer:	Mayer Tchelebon	mayertch@yahoo.com
Past President:	Scott Young	sdymts.net
Journal Editor:	Jay Anderson	editor@rasc.ca
Observer's Handbook Editor:	Patrick Kelly	patrick.kelly@dal.ca
Beginner's Observing Guide Editor:	Leo Enright*	(*deceased 2009 August 11)
Observer's Calendar Editor:	David Lane	dlane@ap.stmarys.ca

2009 - 2010 Committees

Awards:	Peter Jedicke	pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca
Constitution:	Patrice Scattolin	scattol@videotron.ca
Education:	Kim Hay	cdnspooky@persona.ca
Executive:	David Lane	dlane@ap.stmarys.ca
Finance:	Mayer Tchelebon	mayertch@yahoo.com
History:	Barry Matthews	opticks@sympatico.ca
Information Technology:	Ryan May	ryanmay@telus.net
Light-Pollution Abatement:	Robert Dick	rdick@ccs.carleton.ca
Membership and Promotion:	Randall Rosenfeld	rosenfel@chass.utoronto.ca
Nominating:	Glenn Hawley	glennhawley@shaw.ca
Observing:	Chris Beckett	cabeckett@gmail.com
Publications:	Mary Lou Whitehorne	mlwhitehorne@hfx.eastlink.ca
Green Laser Pointer	Randall Rosenfeld	rosenfel@chass.utoronto.ca

Centre Representatives on Council

Belleville:	Don Town	Ottawa:	Barry Matthews
Calgary:	Robyn Foret	Ottawa:	Charles O'Dale
Calgary:	Greg King	Prince George:	Robert Nelson
Charlottetown:	Mike Critchley	Québec:	Pierre Desrosiers
Edmonton:	Mike Noble	Regina:	Christopher Beckett
Edmonton:	Luca Vanzella	St. John's:	Richard Newman
Halifax:	Pat Kelly	Sarnia:	Joe Clements
Hamilton:	Andy Blanchard	Saskatoon:	Rick Huziak
Kingston:	Brian Hunter	Sunshine Coast:	Bill Clark
Kitchener-Waterloo:	Paul Schumacher	Thunder Bay:	Rob Kushneriuk
London:	Craig Levine	Toronto:	Charles Darrow
Mississauga:	Randy Attwood	Toronto:	Tony Horvatin
C. F. de Montréal:	Patrice Scattolin	Toronto:	David Parfett
Montréal:	Frank Tomaras	Vancouver:	Bruce McDonald
New Brunswick:	Tim Doucette	Vancouver:	Cameron Widen
Niagara:	Andrew Beaton	Victoria:	Chris Gainor
Okanagan:	Alan Whitman	Windsor:	Greg Mockler
Ottawa:	Rob Dick	Winnipeg:	Mike Stephens

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

International Year of Astronomy (IYA) took place throughout 2009, and the RASC, its Centres, and its members pulled out all the stops in providing many opportunities for Canadians to experience a "Galileo Moment." These Galileo Moments were about providing opportunities for Canadians to make a personal discovery, learn something new about, or be enlightened somehow by astronomy, often for the first time. Delivery was through local events, such as public observing, lectures, exhibitions, planetarium shows, and visits to school and youth groups.

We worked in partnership with the Canadian Astronomical Society and the Fédération des Astronomes Amateurs du Québec. We also worked with and assisted many other organizations, such as public parks, cultural institutions, and public libraries. The outcomes were truly amazing, as illustrated by some of the statistics from the year:

Reported Galileo Moments	1,931,439
Reported Events held	3,589
Promotional posters printed	13,500
Astronomy trading cards printed	700,000
Mary Lou's New Telescope books printed	23,000
Star Finders printed	265,000
Sidewalk Astronomer Booklet printed	24,000
Canada Post IYA stamps printed	6,000,000
Royal Canadian Mint IYA silver coins made	10,000
New Dark-Sky Preserves designated	4

We are also grateful for the generous donations received from our members that were used to fund part of the printing and distribution costs for IYA-inspired educational materials. These materials were developed by our members and were given away free at IYA events. The creators of these materials will be awarded the Ken Chilton Prize at the upcoming General Assembly in Fredericton.

The national programme was also financially supported by the Trottier Family Foundation, the University of Calgary, and Lumec Inc., and by in-kind donations from many other individuals and organizations. In addition, many volunteers were able to spend a significant amount of time on IYA activities during their work days, due to the understanding and generosity of their employers (whether they were aware of it or not!).

For more details, see the article printed in the April 2010 issue of the Journal. A very detailed final report is just about ready for release as I write this (mid-May). By the time you read this, it should be located at www.rasc.ca/iya

Even though the odometer has rolled from 2009 to 2010, it is difficult to tell that IYA is over. The momentum built in 2009 continues in 2010. If what I see in my local area holds true across the country, many of the programmes started for IYA continue at nearly the same pace as last year.

IYA was not the only thing that kept us hopping during 2009. There were many other issues that had to be dealt with, not only in keeping our increasingly complicated Society running, but also in resolving long-standing issues or in helping to secure our future. In particular:

- the sale of our Dupont Street property closed and we moved into a new leased office space in March. The new space is working out well for us.

- the Life Member Programme was wound down – current Life Members will be retained, but no new Life Members will be permitted.
- the development and implementation of iMIS, our new membership, product sales, and donation administration software, was completed – this software, among many other things, allows new members to join on-line and existing members to renew on-line automatically with essentially no involvement of our staff. I encourage all members to renew on-line, as this will save us money or allow us to redirect staff time to more productive tasks.
- we decided to change our investment management strategy for our long-term assets, from one that previously invested only in bank deposits and guaranteed investment certificates to one that is invested in a mix of equities and bonds, managed by a manager (without investment decisions being made by volunteers).
- it was decided recently that the RASC will hire its first Executive Director. This position will be in addition to our current full-time National Office Manager and part-time Membership and Publications Coordinator. The daily work that has been required by the Executive Committee to run the Society has burnt out too many volunteers, and there are very few new members willing and able to commit the 10-20 hours per week that have been required. Many important larger, long-term issues are being ignored. This new position will provide high-level management of the RASC's operations and also assist the Executive and National Council to move the Society forward.

In the past year I was able to visit eight Centres, four in British Columbia (including our newest Centre—Sunshine Coast) and four in Ontario. I thank all the hosts who treated me well during these travels.

This is my last report to you as president, as my term ends in early July. It has certainly been a challenging but rewarding experience being your president for the last two years, and being a vice-president for the prior four years. Many positive outcomes have taken place during this period that I have led or had a hand in. The Society is in a better, if not more stable, place than it was six years ago.

I thank my executive colleagues, and my predecessor Scott Young, for their service and guidance and Jo Taylor for her work at the National Office, which has been a particularly stressful place over the last few years with all the "change" and other challenges. And, finally, I thank Denis Grey for the countless hours he has spent proposing, developing, and implementing our new iMIS administrative computer system.

I wish my executive colleagues, the National Council, and, in particular, incoming President Mary Lou Whitehorne, best wishes in directing the Society through future challenges and opportunities as they bring us to our natural next level. While I intend to somewhat fade away, I will be available to support my successors in any way that I can.

Dave Lane
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our finances took a substantial turn for the better in 2009. First, the sale of our building brought about \$470,000 to our coffers, single-handedly doubling our equity to just under \$1 million. We have a long-term lease on new premises at a very attractive rate. Our staff will be able to concentrate on member services, rather than building and tenant maintenance.

The twin deficits of 2007 and 2008 were turned into a large surplus in 2009. Various factors contributed to this happy state of affairs.

Our publication sales were helped by one large order from Edmonton Centre, in connection with the IYA (International Year of Astronomy). Investment returns were helped by a market turnaround, which helped our mutual funds. Our IYA public outreach programme benefitted from larger-than-expected IYA-specific donations, as well as the cost-sharing of production of some of the educational materials. Together, we were able to fund a larger programme with a smaller outlay of our own funds.

And, still speaking of IYA, we have continued to receive a grant from CASCA to fund the placement of an IYA coordinator, which began in 2008, and ended in January 2010. The financial statement shows this item as a donation income, offset by IYA expenses.

Our membership revenues show a large increase from 2008, reflecting the implementation of the fee increase approved at the 2008 GA. This increase was required to make our membership self-sustaining, a requirement of charities by the CRA. We are happy to report that, despite the increase, our membership dropped by less than 4 percent, which affirms the good value of our product.

Meanwhile, the iMIS system implementation continued throughout 2009, and was wound down by the spring of 2010. The costs of implementation have been funded from our Endowment Fund.

In 2009, the RASC reached a new milestone: \$500,000 in gross revenues, excluding the proceeds of the sale of our building. Under generally accepted accounting principles, this mandates that our furniture and equipment be capitalized and amortized over their useful life, retroactive to the date of acquisition. The statements for 2009 reflect this, and 2008 has been restated for consistency with 2009.

Going back to our investment performance (the markets helped our mutual funds), they only comprise 5 percent of our investments. The balance is held in GICs and savings products, and the returns on these have been, well, rock-bottom, in tandem with the low-interest-rate policies being pursued around the world.

As a result, we have decided to hire an outside portfolio manager to manage most of our investible assets. We are now looking for various firms with expertise in the management of endowments. The intent is to have the manager select the appropriate instruments that would provide a balance of growth and income, based on investment parameters set by your Executive, and reviewed on an annual basis. It is expected that this measure will provide a boost to our general revenues, which would enable us, among other things, to hire an Executive Director for the RASC (a more detailed discussion is provided elsewhere in this report).

As always, we wish to express our gratitude to those who have contributed their talent and resources to make the RASC what it is today.

Mayer Tchelebon

Treasurer

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The year 2009 saw our Society settle down into a comfortable, normal atmosphere. There were no great burning issues that needed immediate attention, nor were we stressed to the point of exasperation—how nice!

We had a bit of difficulty finding a person to fill the role of the so-called MemPub Clerk, but have resolved that issue with the hiring of Irina Mosquera. She is capable and fits in well with our goals and chores. Her official title is now Membership and Publications Co-ordinator.

Speaking of official titles, Jo Taylor is now the National Office Manager. It's not a change of personnel—just a change of title to be more in keeping with the job requirements. Thanks to both of our employees for helping us with all they do, and especially for making us look good!

It is a few months now since IYA2009 ended, but the feeling

Membership Statistics 2000-2009

Centre	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Belleville	26	32	35	33	32	29	26	N/A	N/A	N/A
Calgary	300	317	313	278	302	323	321	315	315	310
Charlottetown	24	24	22	21	20	19	20	16	18	15
Edmonton	257	258	255	241	261	267	271	262	249	222
Halifax	155	157	162	152	171	197	214	196	186	172
Hamilton	70	76	80	82	91	91	113	114	122	109
Kingston	90	98	106	125	128	110	132	145	146	152
Kitchener-Waterloo	116	118	104	101	127	127	133	114	106	95
London	97	101	104	99	112	115	119	118	115	115
Mississauga	127	120	103	53						
C.F de Montréal	24	23	28	32	32	30	40	39	36	38
Montréal	103	107	99	105	109	108	121	116	106	102
New Brunswick	75	79	88	78	75	70	59	62	46	29
Niagara	82	97	104	101	114	123	117	109	97	91
Okanagan	103	88	86	85	83	85	92	87	70	61
Ottawa	389	410	416	396	447	469	500	480	457	431
Prince George	64	79	67	82	75	40	43	42	25	N/A
Québec	17	35	44	40	39	38	38	45	50	63
Regina	52	48	55	53	47	53	59	56	47	30
St. John's	48	47	52	49	51	44	54	54	45	47
Sarnia	19	24	25	27	27	32	26	27	27	31
Saskatoon	71	71	78	76	70	67	73	70	73	76
Sunshine coast	32									
Thunder Bay	44	37	41	40	39	41	43	39	38	32
Toronto	502	506	610	622	748	841	889	886	775	792
Vancouver	251	263	256	238	267	291	313	292	294	275
Victoria	185	173	188	177	186	192	200	188	200	159
Windsor	96	98	94	89	105	122	125	120	107	102
Winnipeg	162	169	157	136	132	140	136	114	105	99
Unattached	459	530	561	512	538	591	610	575	552	558
Honorary	15	15	14	15	15	14	14	13	13	13
Total	4040	4216	4347	4138	4443	4655	4901	4688	4420	4230

of euphoria continues. It was a great year and a great way to let people know about our hobby and the pleasures of viewing sky phenomena. When we first started thinking in 2008 about what our goals would be, having one million Galileo Moments seemed pretty “far out.” But, now that the year is done, and having attained over two million of those precious moments, what comes to mind is “Wow! What a year!!”

Some RASC members weren't able to be involved with or continue with our collective efforts—they passed away in 2009. We extend our condolences to the families and friends of the following deceased Members: Laurence Anderson (Charlottetown); Leo Enright, Paolo Maffei (Kingston); Bill Hydromako (Saskatoon); Chelva Elankian (Toronto); James M. McLeod (Winnipeg).

James Edgar
Secretary

Membership by Type

Type	Number	% of Total
Ordinary	3594	89.3
Life	328	8.2
Youth	103	2.5
Honorary	(15)	n/a

Membership by Country

Country	Number	% of Total
Canada	3777	93.5
USA	220	5.4
Other	43	1.1

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Tinkham & Associates LLP CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

D C Tinkham, B Comm, CMC, FCA
Associates
P J Brocklesby, BBA CA
L Link, BBA CA
M Tkachenko, BBA, CA
O B File, Ba, CA
D J L Edward, BA CA

2842 Bloor Street West, Suite 300
Toronto Ontario Canada M8X 1B1
Telephone (416) 233-2139
1 (877) 283-3305
Facsimile (416) 233-1788
associates[at]tinkhamca.com

To the Members of
THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

We have audited the balance sheet of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada as at December 31, 2009 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, 2009 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

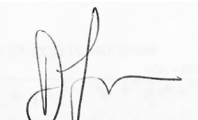
TORONTO, Ontario
April 14, 2010

Tinkham & Associates LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS


BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31	2009	2008
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 81,760	\$ 344,425
Short-term investments (note 3)	415,277	283,474
Accounts receivable	73,940	74,684
Inventory	21,032	21,941
Prepaid expenses	9,845	12,728
	601,854	740,019
Long Term		
Investments (note 4)	593,754	-
Capital assets (note 5)	15,879	\$ 16,742
	\$1,211,847	756,761
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 61,919	\$ 93,937
Deferred revenue		
Membership fees for ensuing years	98,601	102,820
Journal subscriptions	14,439	10,063
Unamortized life membership fees (note 4)	39,563	66,405
	214,522	273,225
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	644,841	90,365
Internally restricted (note 9)	352,124	393,171
	996,965	466,795
	\$1,211,487	\$ 740,020
Commitment (note 8)	<i>See accompanying notes to financial statements</i>	

On Behalf of the Board



President



Treasurer

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Internally Restricted (schedule 1)	Unrestricted	2009	2008
Year ended December 31				
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 393,171	\$ 90,365	\$ 483,536	\$ 538,244
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year		513,429	513,429	\$ (8,575)
Transfers (Schedule 1)	(41,047)	41,047	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 352,124	\$ 644,841	\$ 996,965	\$ 483,536

See accompanying notes to financial statements

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Year ended December 31	2009	2008
Revenue		
Membership fees	\$ 176,791	\$ 144,375
Publication revenue		
Journal	37,290	34,476
Observer's Handbook	97,247	97,828
Beginner's Observing Guide	5,868	10,194
Observer's Calendar	46,815	54,141
Skyways	12,425	941
Shipping and Handling	30,704	27,179
International Year of Astronomy	30,646	15,051
Other	1,017	259
	262,012	240,069
Miscellaneous income		
Donations	83,279	63,941
Investment Income	24,667	(1,462)
Rent	-	8,112
Promotional products	8,542	4,434
Other income	178	297
	116,666	75,322
	555,469	459,766
Expenditures		
Publication costs		
Journal	47,614	50,276
Annual report	1,691	1,805
Cost of publications sold	33,127	32,573
Observer's Handbook	20,034	16,812
Beginner's Observing Guide	501	1,532
Observer's Calendar	13,377	15,004
Skyways	3,207	-
	119,551	118,002
Operating costs		
Office salaries and employee benefits	63,631	74,468
Membership services	71,939	73,496
Office expenses	54,864	56,418
Services	39,403	57,053
Committees	14,150	17,406
Travel expenses	16,090	14,232
Cost of promotional items sold	4,911	3,612
International Year of Astronomy	102,812	82,475
Amortization of Capital Assets	2,841	2,505
Occupancy	24,772	15,595
	395,413	399,755
	514,964	517,757
	40,505	(54,708)
Gain on sale of land and building	472,924	-
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 513,429	\$ (54,708)

See accompanying notes to financial statements

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2009 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.

The Society is trustee of an endowment fund created by Mr. Walter J. Helm (a former Royal Astronomical Society of Canada member) who passed away 1960 June 5. In his will he provided a bequest to the Society (after heir John Helm died in 1961) that was to be used by the Society to support the general purposes of the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) in Richmond Hill, Ontario. With the sale and closing of the DDO in 2008, it is no longer operating as a research observatory. The Society is presently seeking a legal interpretation of the will and the options it has for using income from the fund to support research in astronomy generally, which is stated in the will in the event the observatory was "destroyed." Pursuant to a legal opinion obtained by the Society, the endowment fund is excluded from the accounts of the Society. Total assets of the fund under administration by the Society are \$172,189 (2008 - \$0).

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) 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 organization changed its accounting policy for capital assets in the current year. The organization met the exemption criteria for small not-for-profit organizations and carried the assets in the accounts at a nominal value in prior years. Commencing in 2009, the organization no longer qualifies for this exemption and has therefore retrospectively recorded these assets at cost and calculated and recorded amortization thereon, based on the estimated useful lives of the assets. Information was not available to support the original cost of the property sold in 2009 as well as the library, that which remains, and accordingly, these assets are included at a nominal amount.

The effect of this change on the prior year figures is an increase to capital assets in the amount of \$16,740, opening unrestricted net assets has been increased \$13,458, amortization expense recorded \$2,505, office expense reduced \$5,788.

Amortization has been determined using a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives as follows:

Computer hardware - 3 years

Software - 10 years

Office furniture - 10 years

(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. The organization previously offered life memberships to members. Life memberships received in prior years were credited to unamortized life membership fees liability account, as per Note 6. Five percent of the life membership fund is transferred at the beginning of each year to membership fees revenue.

(e) Revenue recognition

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

(f) Publications

RASC 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

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognized at fair value and their subsequent measurement is dependent on their classification as described below. Their classification depends on the purpose, for which the financial instruments were acquired or issued, their characteristics and the Society's designation of such instruments. Settlement date accounting is used.

<u>Financial Instrument</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Cash	Held for trading
Investments	Held for trading
Receivables	Loans and receivables
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	Other liabilities

(i) New accounting pronouncements

Effective for fiscal years beginning on or after 2008 October 2, CICA handbook Section 1000 has been amended to focus on the capitalization of cost that truly meets the definition of an asset and de-emphasis the matching principle.

Effective for fiscal years beginning on or after 2010 January 1:

CICA handbook Section 4400 has been amended for the treatment of net assets invested in capital assets and for the presentation of revenues and expenses;

CICA handbook Section 4460 establishes disclosure standards for not-for-profit organizations that choose to classify their expenses by function and allocate expenses from one function to another.

The organization has applied all of the above new accounting standards at the beginning of its current fiscal year. The financial statements have been retroactively adjusted to remove the category of net assets invested in capital assets on the balance sheet and statement of changes in net assets. The other pronouncements have no impact on the organization's financial statements.

3 Short-term investments

	2009	2008
Mutual fund investments with Scotia McLeod	Market	Market
Ivy Canadian Fund	\$ 21,353	\$ 20,365
MacKenzie Cundill Value	10,057	8,774
Scotia Canadian Dividend	22,375	17,754
Savings Accounts		
Manulife Investment Savings account	125,202	76,581
Altamira High Interest Cash Performer account	118,104	-
Dundee Investment Savings account	118,186	-
Guaranteed investments certificates		
Scotia McLeod, matured 2009 June 6, 3.10% interest	-	81,413
TD Mortgage Corp, matured 2009 June 24, 3.25% interest	-	81,354
	\$ 415,277	\$ 286,241

4 Long-term investments

	2009	2008
Guaranteed investments certificates		
ING Direct, matures 2011 March 5, interest compound at 3.00%	256,180	-
Bank of Nova Scotia, matures 2011 April 4, 2.15% interest	126,995	-
HSVC Bank Canada, matures 2011 April 4, 2.3% interest	127,135	-
Scotia Mortgage Corp, matures 2011 June 9, 2.05% interest	83,444	-
	\$ 593,754	\$ -

4. Capital Asset

	2009	2008
Guaranteed investments certificates		
ING Direct, matures 2011 March 5, interest compound at 3.00%	256,180	-
Bank of Nova Scotia, matures 2011 April 4, 2.15% interest	126,995	-
HSVC Bank Canada, matures 2011 April 4, 2.3% interest	127,135	-
Scotia Mortgage Corp, matures 2011 June 9, 2.05% interest	83,444	-
	\$ 593,754	\$ -

5. Capital Assets

		2009	2008
Computer hardware	4,093	2,922	3,108
Software	17,580	3,816	17,580
Office furniture	993	50	-
Library	1	-	1
Land and building	-	-	1
	\$ 22,667	\$ 6,788	\$ 20,690
		\$ 15,879	\$ 16,742

6. Unamortized life membership fees

	2009	2007
Life membership fees as of January 1	\$ 69,900	\$ 73,573
Deduct: Amortization to income	(3,495)	(3,679)
Balance, December 31	\$ 66,405	\$ 69,900

7. 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.

8. Commitment

The Society has entered into a lease agreement for office premises for a 3 year term commencing 2009 March 1, and ending 2012 February 28, with an option to renew for a further 3 year term. The minimum annual payments required under the lease, excluding an estimate of the proportionate share of property taxes, maintenance and insurance for the premises, in aggregate and for each of the next three fiscal years is as follows:

2010	\$ 7,515
2011	7,835
2012	1,316

9. Internally restricted net assets

The Society 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 equal to the investment income for the year is transferred to all funds annually on a proportionate basis.

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 and was wound up in the current fiscal year. The Centre Projects Fund was established in 2005, and was used to encourage and facilitate the development of its member Centres, however, it, too, has been wound up, with the money being transferred to the new Public Speaker Programme Fund. 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. Finally, the Public Speaker Programme Fund was established this year to encourage Centres to organize and host public talks by speakers from outside their local area about astronomical related topics.

All disbursements from these funds must be approved by the National Council or are administered by trustees who are appointed by and responsible to National Council.

Schedule 1: Internally Restricted Net Assets

December 31, 2009							2009	2008
	Public Speaker Programme Fund	W. Feibelman Fund	Centre Projects Fund	Life Membership Fund	Ruth Northcott Fund	P.M. Millman Endowment Fund	Total	Total
Fund balance, January 1	\$ -	\$ 41,145	\$ 7,104	\$ 41,611	\$ 91,590	\$ 230,004	\$ 393,171	\$ 437,868
Transferred from Unrestricted Net Assets								
Interest	176	565	-	-	2,263	5,684	8,688	(1,103)
Donations	2,746	-	-	-	491	166	3,403	3,409
Expenses	-	(6,081)	-	-	(1,250)	(4,196)	(11,527)	(47,003)
Transfer	7,104	-	(7,104)	-	-	-	-	-
Close Fund	-	-	-	(41,611)	-	-	(41,611)	4,109
	10,026	(5,516)	(7,104)	(41,611)	1,504	1,654	(41,047)	(44,697)
Balance, December 31	\$ 10,026	\$ 17,346	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 93,094	\$ 231,658	\$ 352,124	\$ 393,171

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—2009

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

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held Sunday, 2009 August 16, at 09:00 CST in the Wapiti Room of Cypress Park Resort Inn, Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan.

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 CST by the Chair, RASC President Dave Lane, who welcomed members, delegates, and guests to the 2009 Annual Meeting and thanked the Saskatoon Centre for hosting the 2009 General Assembly. This was greeted by a round of applause.

After introducing the Executive Committee, President Lane called the roll of Centres - 17 Centres were represented; plus several Unattached Members and guests were present. There were approximately 54 Members in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION AM0901

Moved by Richard Wagner, seconded by Frank Tomaras, that the Agenda as presented be approved.

MOTION AM0901 was CARRIED

2. MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING.

MOTION AM0902

Moved by Stan Runge, seconded by Jim Low, that the Minutes of AM 2008 as presented in the Annual Report 2008 be approved.

MOTION AM0902 was CARRIED

3. REPORTS

3.1 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

(Dave Lane) Indicated that IYA was extremely successful to date, and he congratulated all the volunteers who have helped out in all the various ways that has occurred.

After explaining the issues we had with our former tenant, plus the decision to sell the former National Office, he summarized his written report from the Annual Report 2008.

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

(Mary Lou Whitehorne) No report.

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

2nd Vice-President (Glenn Hawley) No report.

SECRETARY/RECORDER

(James Edgar) James called out the names of deceased members from 2008, including announcing the recent passing of Leo Enright.

TREASURER

(Mayer Tchelebon) Mayer commented briefly on his written report, advising that we will be formulating an overall investment strategy for Council's approval. The Financial Statements are

published in the 2008 Annual Report.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

(Jo Taylor) Jo advised that the National Office is working very well, especially with the new location. There have been some staff turnovers, but a newly hired clerk (Su Martin) appears to be fitting in quite nicely.

4. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

AWARDS

(Peter Jedicke) No report.

CONSTITUTION

(Patrice Scattolin) No Report

EDUCATION

(Kim Hay) Kim said that IYA was very busy and that Education Committee was going to focus on materials for teachers in the future. Dave Lane explained that he and Kim sat on the national IYA Committee, and that the intent is to keep many of the IYA2009 activities going for 2010.

EXECUTIVE

(Dave Lane) Dave told the people gathered that we on the Executive Committee experimented last year with a working retreat in Halifax, and we have plans to do that once more this coming October.

FINANCE

(Mayer Tchelebon) No report

HISTORICAL

(Barry Matthews) Dave Lane told about the decision to transfer our library to the Canada Museum of Science and Technology. Mary Lou Whitehorne said that the museum was very pleased with our contribution to their collection.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION

(Randall Rosenfeld) Dave Lane explained in Randall's absence that the committee had stagnated in the past few months, with Denis Grey stepping down as chair and having no leadership for some time. However, a new chair and some new members coming onto the committee promises to revitalize their activities.

NOMINATING

(Glenn Hawley) Glenn said he has been busy getting new members for the various committees. Dave Lane reported that we had just approved the appointment of a new Honorary President in Dr. Jim Hesser of the NRC. This was greeted by a hearty round of applause.

OBSERVING

(Paul Gray) Paul spoke about the observing pins distributed to Centres; he also said that certificates were not being used very much by Centres. A question arose about an Astroimaging Certificate, and it was explained that the previous committee lapsed because of inactivity. Dave Lane asked people to step forward to work on such an effort, if the interest is there.

PROPERTY

(Mayer Tchelebon) Mayer explained that the committee in 2008 was very active in selling the old National Office and seeking a new location, but that there is no longer a need for such a committee, at least with that same level of activity

PUBLICATIONS

(Mary Lou Whitehorne) Mary Lou said that our publications were going along smoothly, with the exception of the work being done on a sixth edition of The Beginner's Observing Guide, which stalled with the recent passing of Leo Enright. She said Sky & Telescope had ordered 800 each of the Observer's Handbook and Observer's Calendar. A question arose about a family membership to avoid having duplicate copies of publications coming to a home. The response was that the logistics of looking after who should and who should not receive single copies was too difficult administratively. Peter Jedicke said the issue had arisen in years past, and previous Councils felt that we shouldn't have family memberships.

Dave Lane said that numerous recent informal discussions shows that the matter should be readdressed in the near future, and that Council will discuss ways to do implement such a programme.

5. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

(Patrice Scattolin) Patrice told about a few issues that have occurred recently with our computer server; mostly a matter of housekeeping, following up after a security breach that required moving our files to a new server.

LIGHT-POLLUTION ABATEMENT COMMITTEE

(Robert Dick) Dave Lane said that the committee has been very active, with the recent approval of five new Dark-Sky Preserves, part of our IYA2009 initiative.

6. MOTIONS

MOTION AM0903

6.1 Corrective Motion regarding Amendments to By-Law #1 at the 2008 Annual Meeting

Moved by Frank Tomaras, seconded by Kim Hay, that the definitions previously contained in By-Law #1 section 1.01, which were accidentally omitted from MOTION AM0804, and as this was not the intent of the membership in approving MOTION AM0804, they are to be retained.

MOTION AM0903 was CARRIED by Special Resolution

Amendments to By-Law #1

Changes required to Wind Down the Life Member Program

MOTION AM0904

Moved by Ryan May, seconded by Raymond Auclair, that the following paragraphs, relating to Life Membership, in By-Law #1 be changed to read as follows:

- Article 3.02 (4) A life member is a member who, prior to the year 2009, paid the then-current life membership fee, or a member upon whom the Council has conferred life membership in recogni-

tion of specified meritorious service to the Society or to a Centre. A life member shall not pay any annual membership fee referred to in Article 3.05(1), however he or she may be required to pay a fee to the Centre, referred to in Article 3.05(2), to which they are attached. (amended, July 1993, July 1999, June 2008, August 2009)

- Article 3.05 (1) The annual Society membership fees shall be determined from time to time by ordinary resolution of the Council and of the Society. The Centre affiliation incentive shall be determined from time to time by ordinary resolution of the Council. No fee shall be payable for honorary membership in the Society. (amended, July 1993, February 2006, June 2008, August 2009)

- And that Articles 3.05 (4) and (5) be deleted.

[As information, those two articles read:

(4) A member who becomes a life member is not entitled to a refund of any fees paid previously for the current year or for the previous years. (amended, July 1999)

(5) Each Centre is entitled to receive for its own use from the Society on or before 1 March in every year an amount, in respect of every life member attached to it as of the previous 31 December, equivalent to the Centre affiliation incentive for an ordinary member. (amended, July 1999, June 2008)]

MOTION AM0904 was CARRIED by Special Resolution

7. ELECTION OF AUDITOR

MOTION AM0905

Moved by Mayer Tchelebon, seconded by Raymond Auclair, that Tinkham and Associates be appointed as Auditor of the RASC.

MOTION AM0905 was CARRIED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to the question from Ron Warren about what would happen should a Centre implement a By-Law different than National By-Laws, Dave Lane said that there is a move underway to re-define sample Centre By-Laws so that they conform with the National By-Laws. Stan Runge asked whether Centres opting out of membership services at the National level was concern. Dave Lane responded that the one such Centre (Toronto) is just now going into a trial period using the iMIS fee-collection and membership-renewal features that will eventually lead to them opting into the fee-collection agreement with National. Christine Kulyk asked about the disbursement quota on spending for charitable activities, wondering who in the Society had responsibility to ensure fulfilment, determine and report the amount. Dave Lane explained that the Society is obligated to spend 80 percent of the money collected for which we issued tax receipts. Mayer Tchelebon explained that we have no difficulty showing that we comply with spending requirements because we annually only issue receipts for about \$20,000, while we spend considerably more than that on charitable activities. Kevin Kell asked that the amounts be shown on-line or in the Annual Report. Dave Lane said we would provide an on-line link to the CRA's Web site, where those details are shown.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION AM0906

It was moved by JohnMcDonald, seconded by Ryan May that the meeting adjourn.

MOTION AM0906 was CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 CST.

Respectfully submitted,

James Edgar

Recorder

APPENDIX “A”

Deceased Members—2008 January 1 to December 31

Haro Degroot (Belleville)
Cam Fahrner (Calgary)
Don Brown (Edmonton)
Reg Henderson (Halifax)
James Fawns (Mississauga)
Lewis Smith (Niagara)
Kenneth Perins, Russell Surtees (Ottawa)
Walter Essar, William Hydomyko (Saskatoon)
Robert James Kilgour, Otto Skalicky (Toronto)
George Ball, Dr. J. Climenhaga, Blair Pellatt (Victoria)
James Meredith (Windsor)
Donald Hume, Firmin Michiels (Winnipeg)

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE CENTRES

BELLEVILLE CENTRE

No report submitted

CALGARY CENTRE

The Calgary Centre of the RASC had a very busy year with IYA2009. In partnership with the Telus World of Science (TWoS) and the University of Calgary's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory (RAO) numerous public events were held. A new web site was developed, astronomycalgary.com, in conjunction with TWoS, outlining all the public events held in Calgary during 2009. Locally, the Calgary Centre shared our enthusiasm for astronomy with over 125,000 people.

Past-President Larry McNish officially opened the new the new roll-off roof observatory at the Wilson Coulee Observatory (WCO) commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Calgary RASC Centre as well as the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the WCO.

Membership

At the end of December, the Centre had 306 members, down from 323 the previous year.

General Meetings

General meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at TWoS, and featured the following speakers and topics:

- January Dr. Phil Langill, director of the U of C's RAO, presented his "Stump the Astronomer" talk, fielding questions ranging from black holes, gravitational waves, types of galaxies, and the gravitational effect of the Moon. Dr Langill answered those questions with prepared slides and his unique style of freehand sketches.
- February Rob Cardinal, Systems Developer for the NEOSat Mission, Department of Geophysics, U of C, presented a talk entitled "Preparing for NEOSat - Canada's Next Space Telescope is Dedicated to Near-Earth Space Surveillance." Near-Earth Space Surveillance (NESS) is dedicated to the detection of new near-Earth asteroids, potentially hazardous asteroids, and inside Earth orbiting objects. Using his new software, Mr. Cardinal was able to find a new comet, C/2008 T2 Cardinal, and a new asteroid 2008 WL64.
- March The first public presentation of the multi-dimensional "Galileo Live" show was given to RASC members only. The presentation used the voice of Galileo's daughter and live-actor version of Galileo on stage to tell the story of how the telescope revealed a new Universe. After the show, show writer and producer, Alan Dyer said that the music was composed specifically for the show, and he presented working models of Galileo's original telescope.

- April The annual Peter Sim Lecture featured Dr. Phil Plait with his presentation "Bad Astronomy." This was one of the best attended events with standing room only at TWoS. Dr. Plait explained bad science using balancing an egg on end to various Hollywood movie clips.
- May Dr. Alan Hildebrand and Ellen Milley (M.Sc. candidate) from the University of Calgary presented the results from the recent meteor fall at Buzzard Coulee near the Saskatchewan-Alberta border
- On 2008 November 20. The speakers offered a presentation showing the location, search, and results of their investigation. The fall has recovered the largest number of meteorite fragments in Canada.
- June Annual year-end Bar-B-Que and informal meeting at the Wilson Coulee Observatory. The highlight was the aforementioned new roll-off-roof observatory.
- September Dr. Laura Ferrarese, staff astronomer at the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, Victoria, B.C., presented "Black Holes: A 90-Year Journey." Black holes have no size but large mass and the laws of physics do not apply. Black holes are not cosmic vacuum cleaners and there is no evidence of worm holes. Hubble and other instruments indicate that there is a large black hole at the centre of our galaxy.
- October "Tales of the Total Solar Eclipse, July 22, 2009." Don Hladiuk had a PowerPoint presentation from their location south of Shanghai, China. Glenn Hawley presented a video of the eclipse. Alan Dyer had a presentation from a cruise ship south of the Cook Islands. All groups had threatening weather but good planning, or careful sailing that allowed all groups to see the total eclipse.
- November Election night. Mini presentations by various RASC members including a poem by Brian Fenerty: Don Hladiuk reviewed recent NASA launches and Larry McNish did a retrospective of the year's events.

Public Education

IYA2009 presented numerous opportunities for our volunteers to introduce astronomy to the public. The Calgary Centre continued to provide volunteers to run telescopes on the observing deck at the TELUS World of Science on Friday nights.

The Calgary Centre also supplied volunteers with telescopes and speakers for the University of Calgary Rothney Astrophysical Observatory open houses held monthly from April to October. Attendance was phenomenal with guests overflowing all available parking and flowing onto adjacent municipal roads.

In conjunction with the Telus World of Science and the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory, a new Web site, astronomycalgary.com was created to provide a single listing of all astronomy-related events in the Calgary area.

In conjunction with the Siksika (Blackfoot) Nation, two outreach programs were presented at the Blackfoot Crossing Centre highlighting native star lore. Also, the comet discovered by Rob Cardinal, a member of the First Nation, was observed.

Calgary Centre member, Don Hladiuk, who presents "Sky Highlights" on the CBC radio Eye-Opener program, celebrated 25 years on CBC with an early morning observing session.

Two public star observing parties were held at Fish Creek Park. Clouds and cool weather reduced public participation, but presentations were enjoyed by all that attended.

Group tours of WCO are in constant demand, and the NOVA (New Observers to Visual Astronomy) program has drawn many newcomers.

The Calgary Centre participated in the Mayor's Environmental Expo with our Light-Pollution Abatement display, and discussing responsible lighting and general astronomy topics with the attendees. The Centre participated in many other light-pollution projects including: 100 hours of astronomy, dark-skies awareness night, sky-quality measurements and March 28 Earth Hour.

Volunteers with telescopes participated in Globalfest (fireworks display) and Zoo Lights New Year's Eve.

Other Activities

The Calgary Centre has three special events: The Annual Awards Banquet in January, a Bar-B-Que at the Wilson Coulee Observatory (WCO) in June, and the New Members night at the WCO in November.

The Calgary Centre either hosted or participated in several star parties. The StarBQ hosted in July and held at the Eccles Ranch Observatory site brought out many members to enjoy clear skies and roast pig. The August Alberta Star Party held at Starland County Park near Drumheller drew over 70 members for a talk and clear skies.

The Observer Group meets monthly at the WCO on the Saturday of the new Moon. The NOVA group meets the proceeding Friday where new observers learn about telescopes, observing and learning the night sky, planning an observing session, and tips on hopping around the constellations. Non-members are encouraged to attend a couple of sessions to find out what observational astronomy is all about and to use the "telescope for lend" program before making a major financial investment. The telescope-for-lend program was again well received with the seven telescopes booked most months.

Centre members hold a youth education program twice a month at the Telus World of Science.

Uncle Phil continued his telescope-building classes. One of our members placed second in Sky and Telescopes competition for the best travel scope.

The monthly newsletter, The StarSeeker, was published nine times. A decision to publish the newsletter electronically was made at the end of the year.

The Telus World of Science has been one of the main areas of focus for the Calgary Centre, hosting the monthly meeting, public observing program, and providing room for the youth program. TWoS will be relocating to a new site north of the Calgary Zoo. The new building design has been completed and construction has started with the expected opening in 2012. The Calgary Centre hopes to continue to enjoy the mutually beneficial arrangement that has existed in the past.

Respectfully submitted;

Patrick Matsalla
Secretary

Highlights through the year December 2008 - December 2009

- December 2008: Christmas Party—Papa Joe's
- Review of highlights from the last 20 years of RASC Charlottetown—Clair Perry, Earl Wannacought—statistics, newspaper articles, and photographs
- February 24—Comet Viewing Wednesday, February 24, at President's home
- Mayans and Venus—Mike's presentation Feb 2008—slides and discussion about the wonders of the science developed by the Mayans
- Earth Hour March 28—Tea Hill outreach—in partnership with Town of Stratford. Club members set up four scopes—to see Saturn and bright DSOs. Town of Stratford supporting with use of Tea Hill Park, cookies and hot chocolate. Radio and TV interviews helped attract approximately 300 visitors—each family given a Star Finder and IYA Astronomical Object trading cards.
- Ambassador Outreach to schools—Mark Walker and Brian Gorveatt developed and presented a workshop to grade-6 students at local schools. Students given Star Finders and IYA Astronomical Object trading cards.
- Dark Matter lecture attended by club members Friday, March 20
- Astronomy Day outreach—April 4 Charlottetown Mall. Approx. 200 walks through
- Solar Telescope Purchase Discussion & Vote. Moved/seconded and passed in May 17th meeting scope and tripod purchased = \$650 +\$75. Lecture by Richard Miller—positioning a solar telescope, April 18
- Addition to the Web site—adding new events and member icon. Sharing astro-loan button to track dates and member list of borrowers, adding news events, adding member special viewing events
- Farewell to Lawrence Anderson (d. 2009) June 21
- Inaugural Event—Club Summer Camp at Cabot Park June 20—rained out
- Astronomy Club Bar-B-Que July 17/18 at Stanhope Beach
- Greenwich outreach August 1—clear sky, good attendance, bad mosquitoes. Solar viewing in the afternoon, Sky Talk and demo with Mike, four scopes on the lawn gave everyone the opportunity to view the sky through different scopes
- Nova East August 21-23—23rd year—it is the oldest and largest Star Party—sponsored by the Halifax Centre of RASC and Minas Astronomy Group—Mike Critchley attended and reported at October 18 meeting
- Outreach IYA for RASC Charlottetown at UPEI—September 27-40 guests attended. The Geography of Space with Mike Critchley, The Galileo Legacy with Michelle Coutreau, followed by a demonstration of various types of scopes
- Pacific Eclipse with Mark Walker—October 18- slide presentation of his family trip to the south east Pacific to see the solar eclipse
- Christmas Party December 6 at Papa Joe's.

Mike Critchley
National Representative

2009 International year of Astronomy proved to be a busy year for the Edmonton Centre; and for the volunteers it took to make the events as successful as they were.

A special Thanks to all too many to list.

Club meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at the Telus World of Science (11211-142 Street) and are open to the membership and the public.

The following is a brief list of some of the club's activities and the guest speakers that were at the meetings: (Note: Our Stardust Newsletter is available at each of the meetings and on-line)

January 12	AGM/Elections/Awards
February 9	Dr. Robert Smith, University of Alberta (Guest Speaker) (February 28 Winter Lights Festival)
March 9	Dr. Chris Heard (Guest Speaker) (Mar 7 Winter Lights Festival)
April 13	Club Star BUST meeting (April 2-5 100 Hours of Astronomy)
May 11	Regular Meeting Members night
June 8	Regular meeting Last one for summer break
September 14	Regular meeting 1st one back from summer break (Sept 15-20 NSP Northern Prairie Star Party Tofield) (Sept 6 Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve Party Under the Stars) Elk Island Park
October 12	Regular Meeting (GMAW) George Moores Astronomy Workshop Oct 16-18 Guest Speaker Stephen J. O Meara
November 9	Tony White Meteorites of Alberta (Guest Speaker)
December 14	Regular Meeting
Note: Aug	(No meeting Club held Casino Aug.3/4)

Regular monthly club Council meetings were held as follows: January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, September 28, October 26, and November 23. No meeting December 2009)

The Edmonton Centre participated in the Stars Up, Lights Down Photo Competition in conjunction with Edmonton Centre light-pollution abatement committee and the City of Edmonton.

In addition to the regular club meetings, Edmonton Centre hosts an informal Observers Meeting time & places vary the meetings prove to be a lot of fun and most interesting topics.

Edmonton Centre encourages members and the public to join the astronomers at the dark-sky site Black Foot Staging Area about 50 km from Edmonton, to observe the night sky. Observing sessions are weekends closest to the new Moon.

Donna-Lee May
Secretary

The Halifax Centre of the RASC had perhaps its busiest and most successful year in 2009, particularly in promoting astronomy to the public with all of the International Year of Astronomy events. The IYA Committee and many Centre volunteers rose to the challenge and worked in partnership with Saint Mary's University, Dalhousie University, the Halifax Discovery Centre, the Minas Astronomy Group, and the Halifax Planetarium in hosting and supporting the many programmes and activities.

While this year the Halifax RASC had many successes, it also had some personal losses. Our long-time member and friend, Clint Shannon, passed away in 2009. Clint received the National Service Medal in recognition of outstanding service at the Halifax Centre over the 17 years he had been a member. We also lost a friend and fellow observer Scott Clarke, who was killed in a boating accident. Both of these fine people will be missed.

General Meetings

Monthly meetings are held generally on the third Friday of each month, except for the summer, providing ten monthly meetings. The meetings are held in facilities provided by Saint Mary's University. The Centre's library cart containing a selection of books on astronomy subjects is available to members at each meeting. The Halifax Centre this year hosted a series of speakers who gave interesting and informative presentations which included:

January	Dr. David Tindall "History of the Halifax Planetarium" and Quinn Smith "Tour of the Planetarium and the 1950s Spitz Star Projector"
February	Dan Falk "In Search of Time"
March	"The Halifax Centre Unplugged"—brief talks by 5 members
April	"Mark Dryden and His 25-Inch Obsession Telescope" along with "Optics of the Galilean Telescope" by Dave Chapman
May	Doug Pitcairn took us on "The Search for Another Home World"
June	Professor Robert Hawkes taught us much about "Observing Meteors: The Top 3 Lists" September—Blair MacDonald on his always interesting and informative "Adventures in Astrophotography" presentation
October	fun and games with Pat Kelly's "Who wants to be a Gazer" game show
November	Roy Bishop with "The Galilean Telescope"
December	following the AGM, from Hugh Thompson on the "Thirty Meter Telescope"

Nova East Star Party, Smileys Provincial Park

Our Nova East Star Party was cut short this year by Hurricane Bill. The event normally runs for three days, this year on August 21, 22, and 23, but because of the closure of Smileys Park by the province in advance of this tropical storm, we had to abandon our best-laid plans on Saturday afternoon (August 22). Prior to this evacuation, we were fortunate enough to have enjoyed a conversation with Dr. Robert Thirsk aboard the International Space Station. The event was made possible through the ARISS (Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station) project and was spearheaded locally by Centre member Wayne Harasimovitch. Dr. David Turner also was able to give his presentation "Everything You Wanted to Know About the North Star but Were Afraid to Ask."

NOVA Program

This fall saw the beginnings of our NOVA (New Observers to Visual Astronomy) Program. The NOVA Program is the educational program originally developed by the Prince George Centre. The initiative is led locally by Councillor Sean Dzafovic in the hour before each monthly meeting. Sean provides a series of lectures/presentations on various aspects of astronomy – all designed for the beginning observer.

Newsletter

Nova Notes, the newsletter of the Halifax Centre published five issues again in 2009 and will continue in 2010. The newsletter reports on each monthly meeting and provides a summary of meeting presentations; it includes articles of astronomical interest to the membership.

International Year of Astronomy and Public Outreach

The Nova Scotia “Galileo Moment” count was over 12,000. This is no easy feat given the number of cloudy nights in Nova Scotia. The Astronomy Nova Scotia Web site (www.astronomynovascotia.com), hosted by SMU Astronomy & Physics, is a great success in announcing all astronomy activities in Nova Scotia to the public.

Supported by the membership the Halifax Centre has participated in over a dozen library talks, four major displays at malls, dozens of sidewalk astronomy outreach programmes, many “astronomers in classroom” events, telescope clinics, and two astronomy cafes. In the past year, the Centre has greatly increased the visibility of astronomy, the importance of responsible lighting, on a person to person basis and through the media of internet, local cable TV and radio.

The Halifax Centre has assisted and continues to assist Parks Canada with their application to have Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site declared a Dark-Sky Preserve (DSP) following the national guidelines. www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ns/kejimikujik The DSP will ensure an accessible core zone will exist in the Park, unspoiled by artificial light and sky glow. There will also be a public outreach component with facilities to help park visitors interpret and enjoy the night sky and to learn about the importance of natural skies. There is a long-range plan to include an observing area within the park, possibly with an enclosed telescope. It is hoped to include native star lore along with scientific information about the sky. www.astronomynovascotia.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=106:mikmaq&catid=1:news&Itemid=50 This assistance will carry on in 2010 with the goal of having DSP status attained for Canada’s Parks Day in July 2010.

Goals for 2010

The Halifax Centre has committed to carry on many of the public outreach programs provided in 2009. The Executive Council has renamed the IYA Committee as the Public Outreach and Education Committee and plans, with the dedication of its members, to continue the sidewalk observing sessions, library talks, mall displays, to provide presenters for the planetarium, and to maintain the Astronomy Nova Scotia Web site, which provides easy access to all astronomy event information.

Chris Young

Secretary

HAMILTON CENTRE

The Hamilton Centre of the RASC had quite the year in 2009. From participating in the International Year of Astronomy, to rebuilding the Observatory, producing the first of a semi-annual series of astronomy workshops and lectures in Burlington, and revamping the monthly meetings, the Hamilton Centre achieved a lot with relatively few resources.

January	Brady Johnson of KW Telescope on the KWIQ Guider
February	Mike Reid of McMaster University—How Stars Form
March	Mike Fich of the University of Waterloo—Far Infrared and Sub-Millimetre Astronomy
April	Dave McCarter of London Centre
May	Ray Carlberg of the University of Toronto
June	William J. McCallion Planetarium at McMaster University
September	Members’ night: Report on Observatory renovations; Gary Coldwell’s astrophotos; Steve Barnes’ visit to another solar eclipse; Glenn Kukkola refurbishment of the Ford Scope
October	Annual meeting held at the recently refurbished Observatory; reports of the Officers; Fautley Award given to John Williamson
November	Phil Mozel of the Ontario Science Centre
December	Brady Johnson of KW Telescope

In 2009, the Hamilton Centre re-instituted our Sidewalk Astronomy evenings. This came about initially because we were approached by the people who run Discovery Landing at Spencer Smith Park in Burlington to see if we’d be interested in offering some programming in conjunction with the International Year of Astronomy. After a bit of discussion, we committed to a twice-yearly series of four workshops/lectures/observing sessions on Friday evenings. One series in the fall and another in the spring. As well, we were to hold a series of sidewalk-astronomy events on a number of Fridays near first-quarter Moon. Despite being frequently clouded out, the summertime Sidewalk Astronomy events were very successful. The public enjoyed views of the Moon and planets through telescopes as varied as 60-mm refractors, 3-inch Dobsonians, 4-inch Apos, 10-inch Dobs, and 12-inch SCTs. Mark Pickett was the main stalwart in this area, and he did a fabulous job.

When we were presented with the opportunity to do the same thing with Westfield Pioneer Village near Rockwood for four nights in December, we jumped at the chance. Again, Mark Pickett stepped forward, and on two occasions (the others being clouded out) estimates that over a thousand people looked through his or Ed Mizzi’s telescope.

The workshops were enormously successful. The people at Discovery Landing were astonished and overjoyed with the demand. The four nights were divided into Introductory Visual Astronomy; Choosing a Telescope; How we measured the Universe, along with How to use a Planisphere; and finally, Putting together a GalileoScope. After each of the four sessions, there was observing. The reviews of the workshops by the participants were uniformly highly positive.

KINGSTON CENTRE

This led to another major change. For a decade, the Hamilton Centre had been meeting at the Hamilton Steam and Technology Museum, which we had been paying for. Discovery Landing offered their site to us as long as the meetings were open to the public, which was not a problem, as they always had been open. So, starting in January 2010, the Centre's monthly meetings will be held in Burlington.

Finally, the single biggest problem that we faced in 2009 was the refurbishment of the observatory. Due to a number of decisions made almost 30 years ago when it was built, our observatory warm-up room was found to be infested with mould. The more we examined the problem, the larger it became, to the point where we actually closed it down. This mostly affected the meeting room, warm-up room, and library, as the big telescope had been moved out the year before into the roll-off Chilton Building. Several members in protective gear cleared it out, and we hunted for a solution.

One of the main reasons why we had a mould problem in the first place was vandalism. We'd had a couple of windows broken, and it was a few days before this was discovered, during which we'd had a number of heavy rainstorms. Another major cause was that some idiot had taken a shotgun and blasted a hole right through the plywood dome. Again, this was not noticed for a while. This led to the insulation getting soaked, and the mould really took hold.

Someone had the idea of getting in touch with our insurance company, to see if any of the repairs were covered. Due to the shotgun blast, the answer was "Yes," the insurance company would replace the dome. After getting a number of quotes, we settled for cash with them; which then gave us the money to completely gut the building and rebuild the roof. We decided not to install a new dome, but instead put up a roof that can later be modified to roll off, or have a hatch put in it.

Despite having the observatory site looking more like a construction/destruction site for far longer than we'd hoped, or wanted, the renovations were completed a year after we realized we had a major problem. Our annual meeting was held there in October, with the membership having their first real opportunity to view the renovations.

All in all, it was a busy year for the small, but highly effective board, and with the move of our meetings to Discovery Landing, a new meeting structure, more sidewalk astronomy, a refurbished 17.5-inch scope, and the workshops, the Hamilton Centre is enjoying a healthy renaissance.

With grateful thanks to John Williamson, Mark Pickett, Gary Colwell, and Andy Blanchard,

Roger Hill
President

We currently have a total of 101 Society members: 92 Regular members, 2 Youth members, and 7 Life members.

Except for July and August, 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 9	Kim Hay & Stephan Courteau "International Year of Astronomy"
February 13	Dr. Gregg Wade "Large Programs at the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope"
March 13	Frank Roy "The One Metre Initiative: A New Major Observatory in Canada"
April 10	Dr. Wolfgang Rau "The Search for Dark Matter: A New Role for SNO"
May 8	Marcus Leech "Amateur Radio Astronomy"
June 12	Members' Night featuring short presentations by Kevin Kell, Leo Enright, Leslie Roberts, Steve Manders, and Doug Angle.
September 11	Members' Night featuring short presentations by Brian Hunter, Walter MacDonald, Kevin Kell, Mark Kaye, and Doug Angle.
October 9	Members' Night featuring short presentations by Leslie Roberts, Kevin Kell.
November 13	Annual General Meeting
December 11	Raymond Francis "A Perspective of Space Programs Beyond North America"

The Kingston Centre offered public observing for Astronomy Day. Displays and public observing were offered at the charity event, "Relay for Life." Members also gave presentations at several area schools, local clubs, and offered public observing at the Charleston Lake Star Party. As well, a prize was contributed to the area Science Fair.

International Year of Astronomy events were held in conjunction with Queen's University and the Royal Military College.

Our monthly public observing sessions were held at the Queen's University Observatory, in partnership with the Queen's University Physics Department.

The Fall 'N' Stars 2009 star party, hosted jointly with the RASC Belleville Centre, was once again a great experience for all who attended.

In the fall, we started offering our newsletter *Regulus* mainly in electronic form, with a paper copy sent to only those members requesting it.

Work continues on a Remotely Operated Telescope.
Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hart
Secretary

The Kitchener-Waterloo Centre held monthly meetings, with the exception of July & August (when we take our summer vacations). Each meeting consisted of general business items, as well as informative presentations by our members, and always included a guest speaker who informed us on a specialized topic. We also held regular monthly meetings, year-round, of our “Stargazing 101” Observing Group. This group consists of new and experienced members of the club, as well as members of the public, who are interested in more observing-related activities. These meetings consist of general observing tips (presented by experienced members), “What’s Up This Month” presentations, and organized observing sessions at our Conestoga Lake Conservation Area observing site.

We were involved in many Community Outreach events in 2009:

- several Grade 6 in-school sessions per month during the school year, supplemented by evening star parties for the children and their teachers and families (as weather permitted);
- Scout/Cub/Brownie/Girl Guide Astronomy workshops and observing sessions were held at various meeting locations in K-W, as well as at weekend camps.
- Adult sessions – 10 were held in various locations, and were well attended

At all of these outreach events, we distributed the RASC Planispheres – which were an immediately useful tool for all participants.

We held an Astrophotography/Astrosketching contest for Centre members; all submissions were viewed and voted on by members present at a regular monthly meeting, and the winners were announced at the Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony (held in February 2010). At this dinner, we also announced the creation of a new award (actually, a renamed award): The Ray Koenig Award For Meritorious Service. This award is named in memory of a very influential member within the K-W Centre, who passed away a few years ago. The first recipient will be presented with the award at the March 12 General Membership meeting.

IYA was a large part of our activities last year:

- We held monthly “Sidewalk Observing” sessions at a local Chapters Bookstore;
- We held Star Parties at Waterloo Park, inviting the public and, when the weather cooperated, we had a large group of visitors join in;
- We joined in with the University of Waterloo Astrophysics Dept. on several occasions, promoting and assisting at Astronomy/Observing Seminars & an Open House;
- We also held seminars for members and Conservation Area campers at our Conestoga Lake observing site.

Lastly, we have greatly upgraded our Centre’s Web site (kw.rasc.ca/) and we maintained our quarterly newsletter (*Pulsar*) electronically within this Web site.

Phil Lacasse
Secretary

London Centre was extremely busy during 2009. Our meetings were all well attended and, thanks to the work of Honorary President Peter Jedicke, we were usually assured of an interesting guest speaker. Public outreach has always been a priority for London Centre, and many events were attended by Centre members. Find below a breakdown of the club activities through the year, latest first.

Centre Meetings

December 19: At our Christmas meeting, we were addressed by Dr. Wayne Edwards, Western, whose talk titled “The Great Siberian Meteor: Tunguska 100 Years Later” was followed by a slide presentation about the November 20 Buzsard Coulee bolide and recovery efforts.

November 21: Our monthly meeting was back at Fanshawe College, where our guest was former astronaut and Western Engineering Professor Dr. Bjarni Tryggvason, who presented a wonderful slide show and moderated a spirited Q&A session with the fascinated Centre members. Quite a few members of the Space Society of London were in attendance as well as a few “civilians,” who remarked upon their luck at being present for this engaging presentation.

Also at this meeting we held the annual Centre Council elections. The current executive all agreed to stand and there were no further nominations. Therefore, the members present voted to return the current executive for 2010.

President—Dave McCarter
Vice-President—Patrick Whelan
Treasurer—Bill Gardner
Secretary—Rick Saunders
National Representative—Craig Levine

October 17: We held our monthly meeting at the Physics and Astronomy building of the University of Western Ontario, where Dr. Peter Brown gave a quick update on Earth-impacting asteroid 2009 TC₃, and then Dr. Robert Jedicke of the Institute for Astronomy at University of Hawaii gave a rousing talk on “Killer Asteroids.” After the talk, the University held a “meet and greet,” while we finished conducting club business.

September 19: Our first fall monthly meeting at Fanshawe College featured Dr. Els Peeters from the Physics and Astronomy Dept. at Western. She delivered a well received talk on the spectroscopy of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons.

July 18: For our July monthly meeting, Ed Hitchcock of the Toronto Centre gave a lively and well received talk on how to do astronomy on a tight budget.

June 20: Our monthly meeting received a well reasoned light-pollution discussion from Dan Taylor, Windsor Centre member.

May 16: Our monthly meeting featured Dr. Geoff Gaherty, winner of the RASC’s Chant Medal in 2008, who provided a talk on Chant Medal winners past and present.

April 18: At our regular monthly meeting, Western Associate Professor, Dr. Randy Kissack, thrilled the group with an animated and passionate presentation on the heady days of NASA’s X-15 experimental aircraft programme.

March 21: Member Richard Gibbons began our monthly meeting with a short illustrated biography of Arthur C. Clarke. Our guest of honour, Dr. J.R. Percy of the University of Toronto, gave a

presentation on the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009), science/astronomy education, and outreach.

February 15: At our monthly meeting, President Dave McCarter made a brief presentation on the upcoming lunar eclipse. Peter Raine told us about his trip to Florida for the Orange Blossom Special star party. Amanda Papadimos, an under-graduate from Western, introduced the Space Society of London science club that she is helping to start at the university, she asked if we could help out in some way. Rick Saunders presented a simple image timer. Jon Gunning advised us that he was taking the St. Thomas Photography Club out to Fingal for the lunar eclipse, and asked for members to share their telescopes. Note: we were blessed with clear skies for the eclipse, the event was well attended by members, photographers, and their children.

January 18: For our monthly meeting, we had member presentations on Comets Holmes and Tuttle, and George Leatherdale discussed the usefulness of his new Meade MySky.

Outreach

Listed below are the star parties and other events that London Centre members attended through the year. Not separately listed, but richly deserving recognition, is the Centre's participation in Exploring The Stars, an astronomy outreach programme run each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening from September to May by graduate students at the Hume Cronyn Observatory on the campus of the University of Western Ontario. Centre members volunteer their time, set up their telescopes on the observatory's roof patio, and operate the Cronyn's 25.4-cm f/17 refractor to give members of the public an opportunity to observe and ask questions. Centre members are also instrumental in their support of the Saturday night Cronyn open houses from June 7 to August 30, setting up their telescopes on the observatory front lawn and roof patio, and operating the observatory's refractor.

October 8: Despite clouds and rain, 16 visitors, including youth and adults, showed up for a star night at Landon Public Library, 167 Wortley Road, London. London Centre members Dave McCarter, Richard Gibbens, and Bob Duff attended. Dave made a digital-slide presentation on telescopes and astronomy. Bob set up his 20.3-cm Dobsonian telescope at the front of the room. The presentation was well received with good questions from the group.

October 6: Some 70 children and adults enjoyed an evening of stargazing at Byron Northview Public School. London Centre members, Bob Duff and Dave McCarter, brought their telescopes and Dave made an outdoor digital-slide presentation, pointing out celestial objects in the sky with his green laser pointer. There was a high pass of the International Space Station, and people enjoyed viewing the Moon, Jupiter, M57, and M31. One additional telescope was set up by a teacher, and two other telescopes were brought by parents.

October 4: We met the Sparta Beavers for a Star Night at Fingal. About twenty adults, Beavers, Cubs, and siblings were on hand to view the Moon, Jupiter, Venus, a bright pass of the International Space Station, various bright stars, and deep-sky objects. Many thanks to London Centre members Dave McCarter, Dan Tremblay, Craig Levine, Marcus Stevens, Mike Hanes, Greg Andres, and Bob Duff.

August 30: Grundy Provincial Park Star Party. Dave McCarter gave an illustrated talk to about 350 campers and answered questions before providing views through his 25.4-cm Dobsonian telescope.

August 23: Twelfth Annual Pinery Star Party. Under threat of rain and thunderstorms, several London Centre members set up scopes at the Pinery amphitheatre. Peter Jedicke began his astronomy talk, only to have the event cancelled due to the danger

of nearby lightning. London Centre members arrived at the local Tim Horton's a lot earlier than planned.

August 2: Killarney Star Party. Bill Gardner provided a well attended illustrated talk and observing session to campers.

August 2 and 3: The Eighth Annual Quai du Vin star party was held. On both nights, fantastic skies greeted the many public attendees, who enjoyed a spirited slide show and viewing through many club telescopes.

June 10: Centre members provided a well attended star night for students at North Middlesex District High School in Parkhill, which also included children from four neighbouring elementary schools.

May 31: Centre members provided a star night at Camp Orenda for Girl Guides and Brownies (120th and 49th Brownies, the 85th Pathfinders, and 13th Sparks), which, together with their leaders, totalled 75 people.

May 23: Centre members provided an observing session for about 450 Boy Scouts at Camp Timken, southwest of St. Thomas.

May 17: The London Centre turned out in force to attend to an Astronomy Day display at the Cherryhill Mall.

May 10: Six London Centre members provided a star night with hazy skies for the campers at the Springwater Conservation Area, south of Aylmer.

April 14: Centre members Peter Raine and Bob Duff provided a star night under clear skies to St. John's Ambulance Cadets in the parking lot of St. John's Ambulance. This was preceded by an informal indoor talk by Bob Duff.

March 27: London Centre member Bob Duff provided commentary for digital images presented by a Cub Leader to the 31st B Pack Cubs at Calvary United Church and answered questions about astronomy and space exploration.

March 4: London Centre member Bob Duff spoke to the 80th Westmount Cubs in the Jean Vanier School gymnasium and answered questions about astronomy.

February 25: Centre President Dave McCarter gave a slide presentation before 22 students and their teacher at John Paul II High School.

January 21: Diamond Aircraft gave London Centre members a tour of their composite-aircraft manufacturing facilities in London.

Other

August 16: The only London Centre member to directly observe the partial lunar eclipse was Dave McCarter, and he was in Pompeii to do it. The eclipse was particularly dark.

August 7 to 10: Starfest. About 20 London Centre members took part in this year's astronomical gathering.

March 29 was the night of our Annual Banquet at Tony's Restaurant on Springbank Dr., and Calgary Centre member Glenn Hawley, an experienced umbraphile, spoke about some recent eclipse experiences.

The planning is ongoing for the Centre's observatory at the Fingal dark-sky site. The warm-up room is almost complete and already being used by members to make deep-winter observing a bit more comfortable.

Rick Saunders

Secretary

MISSISSAUGA

CENTRE

The Mississauga Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada originated as the Mississauga Astronomical Society (MAS) in April 2003 and joined the RASC on 2006 May 19. Summaries of the meeting are posted in the archives of the Centre Web site.

Meetings of the Mississauga Centre take place approximately every second Friday at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) thanks to the sponsorship of Dr. John Percy and Dr. Ulrich Krull. The eight Speaker nights featured these excellent presentations:

- February 6 Dan Falk—In Search of Time
- March 6 Ivan Semeniuk—The Astronomy of the Invisible
- April 3 Kaitlin Kratter—The Birth of Stars and Stellar Families
- May 8 Christine Clement—Helen Sawyer Hogg, a 20th-Century Caroline Herschel
- June 5 Randy Attwood—The Apollo 11 Landing and How It Nearly Failed
- September 11 Paul Delaney—From Galileo to Hubble: the Rise of the Telescope
- October 9 Terence Dickinson—A 60-mm Refractor in the Atacama and Other Astro-Adventures
- November 6: Dr. Roberto Abraham—From Cosmic Dawn to the First Planets: the Rise of Complexity

At Member nights, Mississauga Centre members had an opportunity to give talks on a variety of topics. The constellation talks continued featuring Perseus, Taurus, the Plough, Virgo, Ursa Minor, Scutum. Lyra, Cygnus, and Ophiuchus. A new series of talks, "Astronomy in the News," was started by James Crombie in September. Roy Swanson continued his series on "The Sky Next Month." There were travel talks on astronomy in Italy, Mount Wilson in California, the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, and observing from the Atacama Desert. Imaging and equipment presentations discussed the Meade ETX LS6 telescope, astrophotography with a DSLR camera, 3-D stereoscopy, and department-store telescopes. There was discussion about the International Year of Astronomy, Starfest, and partnership of the Centre with the Earthshine Organization. There were talks about the grazing occultation of Maia, Einstein's equation, the Mayan calendar, the 30th anniversary of the 1979 February 26 solar eclipse, black holes and dark matter, aliens, Omega Centauri, "How Far is Up," the Tomatosphere project, the book "The Deniers" about global warming, meteors, light-pollution abatement, and the IYA coin. Videos were shown of the centre of the galaxy as imaged by the European Southern Observatory, the Hubble Space Telescope repair mission, the launch of Marc Garneau, as well as a presentation and video about contacting the International Space Station via ham radio.

2009 was the International Year of Astronomy. The Mississauga Centre was active in public outreach helping people to achieve their Galileo moment, i.e. their first experience of a new astronomical observation. Members of the Centre conducted observing events with Brownies and Cubs, at the UTM film night in August, at several schools, at sidewalk astronomy sessions in Oakville, downtown, Mississauga, Brampton, and Streetsville, with the Oakville Historical Society at two of their events (August and December), as well as during Astronomy Day.

Riverwood is a public garden and nature preserve in the City of Mississauga. The Riverwood Conservancy has a mandate to educate and preserve this area. Thanks to the efforts of our president, Randy Attwood, Riverwood has also become an astronomy educational centre. This function has been taken over by the Earthshine

and Astronomy Organization, which has a mandate to promote astronomy and space science in the western Greater Toronto Area. The Mississauga Centre entered into a partnership, Earthshine, to assist with public observing at Riverwood by providing volunteers and other support. Riverwood has thus replaced the previous city observing that used to be done at Saddington Park.

Dark-sky observing was again organized by William Callahan at the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park. Cloudy skies interfered with a number of sessions at both Riverwood and at the Forks, but there were a number of successful observing nights where many people experienced their Galileo Moment. Mississauga Centre members also had an observing weekend at the Carr Observatory near Collingwood on June 13 - 14, and they had a large contingent at the annual Starfest in August, plus representation at the Algonquin Adventure in September.

The Centre newsletter was restarted in 2009 thanks to the efforts of Sheila Stephenson and Randy Attwood.

At the end of 2009, the Mississauga Centre had 133 regular members, 2 affiliate, 7 associate, totalling 142 (compared to 132 one year earlier).

Chris Malicki
Secretary

CENTRE FRANCOPHONE

M^{DE} MONTRÉAL

Trente-trois conférences ont été présentées en 2009, au local du Centre des Loisirs St-Mathieu, dont sept par du personnel du Département de physique de l'Université de Montréal et huit présentations du ciel du mois par Hugues Lacombe. De février à octobre, la Société a également organisé sept 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 (25-26 juillet) s'est tenue la 28^e 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-Président

M^{DE} MONTRÉAL

CENTRE

Things have gone smoothly for this fourth year (2009) that the Montréal Centre has been at John Abbott College. The monthly meetings were well attended and we had numerous interesting talks and lectures. The Montréal Centre's equipment storage area has now been sorted out and we are re-activating the Centre's Telescope Rental Programme.

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.

The Montréal Centre received an open invitation from Vanier College to present talks and lectures at their facilities. Vanier is located closer to the city and its location is very popular especially with many of our members who use Public transportation. The Montréal Centre is now scheduling numerous lectures at Vanier; statistics showed that the talks are very well attended.

The Montréal Centre also participated in the IYA 2009 activities. In general, the weather in Canada was not very co-operative for the 2009 observing season, however, the Montréal Centre officially recorded 2586 Galileo Moments.

On Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 02, the Montréal Centre in collaboration with The Montréal Planetarium held a two-day Astronomy Day / IYA events celebration.

The Montréal Centres Annual Townsend lecture was held on Saturday, November 06, at the Vanier College. Geoff Gaherty presented his lecture on "Cosmic Birdwatching." It was an interesting and informative experience for all the Montréal Centre members that attended.

There were 21 Members Only Observing sessions scheduled in 2009 plus Monthly Public Observing Events and IYA presentations to the public. Our Centre was invited and we participated in both the Earth Day celebrations and in the Westmount Family Day activities.

Here is a summary of the Montréal Centre's lectures for 2009. Unless otherwise noted, our meetings and lectures are on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m.

- February 5 John Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue
Andrew Fazekas—Kicking Off the International
Year of Astronomy 2009
- March 5 Vanier College
Alan Robins—Space Station Robotics
- May 7 John Abbott College
Special Movie Presentation: Mars in 3-D by David
Shuman and Paul Simard
- June 4 John Abbott College
Bruno aul Stenson—The Apollo 11 Landing
- September 3 John Abbott College
Seeing vs. Montréal Weather
CJAD's premier meteorologist and weathercaster,
Ed Cowell
- October 1 John Abbott College
Marc Ricard—Astrophotography
- November 12 John Abbott College
2009 Annual General Meeting
- December 3 John Abbott College
Luis Eguren—Astro-imaging
- December 5 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

*Director of Observational Activities
National Council Representative*

NEW BRUNSWICK CENTRE

As has been the case for the past few years, the New Brunswick Centre was very busy in 2009. As it was International Year of Astronomy, many activities took place throughout the year, in addition to the regular yearly events.

We continue to hold our general meetings on the third Saturday of every month (no meetings in July and August), with a business meeting every second month, or as necessary. The meetings are rotated between the four main cities in the province: Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, and Miramichi. Our membership has decreased slightly, to 71, and feedback seems to indicate it is due to the fee increase and some members feeling they were too "old" to renew.

We had two focuses for our Centre this year—planning for the 2010 GA and IYA activities—both kept us extremely busy.

While the Centre worked as a whole to hold IYA events, each unit/club carried out their own plans for activities. Each region held special Astronomy Day activities, both spring and fall, although the weather was very uncooperative. Astronomy displays, poster displays, members giving talks to the public, as well as both adult and children's clubs and organizations, holding observing sessions, providing brochures and information to the public, giving telescope demonstrations, etc., at malls, farmers' markets, schools, various organizations, museums, and libraries, were only some of the activities. All our Galileoscopes were given away as a promotion or bought by members. We held our annual COW (camping observing weekend) and Bar-B-Que at Mactaquac Provincial Park with public outreach. The "100 Hours of Astronomy" was a washout—literally, as it rained the entire time.

Three main events were held in 2009: an "Astronomy Fair" at "Science East" in April in Fredericton, consisting of general astronomical displays & posters, telescopes, and the inflatable mobile planetarium, which is always a great hit with kids and adults alike. Science East continued to draw people through its doors for astronomy activities, and accounted for 7800 people. In Saint John, there were public presentations held at the New Brunswick Museum throughout April, a display of various astronomical items and equipment, as well as a Solar System display, the inflatable planetarium, and observing sessions. The most successful event, the one that garnered the most numbers for the year, was held in Moncton – a week-long celebration of astronomy called "Stars and Stuff." This involved collaboration between the Moncton Museum, the city of Moncton, members of the Moncton RASC unit, and the Beauséjour Observing Club. Many activities were organized during the week, such as an astrophotography session, a telescope clinic, and nightly observing sessions, with members from each of the units participating. Numerous presentations took place, including two by Dr. John Spray and Dr. Robert Hawkes on meteorites, in conjunction with the meteorite display "Riding with Meteorites," which had been set up at the museum for a three-month period. The entire week was a grand success, connecting with 12,100 people; there are already plans to hold another fair this year.

Our dedicated work for IYA2009 produced 202 events and 28,041 Galileo Moments—2.3 percent of the national total.

Don Kelly, a member from Fredericton and our Education chair, had written the book "Mary Lou's New Telescope," which was published (in both English and French) in time for IYA. Don spent many hours travelling around the province giving talks and readings, holding book signings, and giving copies of the book to libraries and schools. Don touched thousands of people during

the year with his efforts. The education committee used the IYA resources—the star finders, astronomy collector cards, and “Becoming a Sidewalk Astronomer” booklets—for public outreach province-wide. Information on the IYA resources was given to the New Brunswick Dept. of Education Learning Specialist and Learning Consultant.

Chris Weadick, our LPA chair, has been very busy with LPA projects. He had been involved in the development of the RASC Star Finder, which was handed out at every astronomy event in the province. He was involved with the “Sky Metre Project” and the “Dark Sky Requirements” committee. Chris also spent a great deal of time travelling to various cities giving talks on light pollution. He has been very proactive in connecting with New Brunswick Power, the Department of the Environment, and the municipalities in his area regarding light-pollution issues and solutions. Chris also gave a presentation at the Moncton “Stars and Stuff,” which was very well received. Chris has given much effort and time to LPA activities and promotion—he continually updates the RASC members on any new issues, successes, and ideas or suggestions for bringing the issue into the public domain. Another example would be with “Earth Hour,” which he actively promoted to all Centres. Currently, he, along with Paul Gray, James Ayles, and Detlef Rudolf, is pursuing the establishment of Urban Sky Parks in the capital region of the province. He also updates the “Save Our Skies” Web site, which he and Ted Dunphy worked to develop. Chris updated the “Responsible Lighting” brochure and is working on a “Dusk to Dawn” brochure in preparation for Earth Hour. Ted Dunphy designed a car sticker for LPA. Interestingly, there were more hits on the “Save Our Skies” Web site after the sticker was put out. Steve Tompkins, one of our members, built two “light-pollution boxes” and there are plans for a third. These are used for public education on light pollution, showing the difference between shielded and unshielded lighting. Chris is working with Dr. James Whitehead on the database and Web-site information for the “All Sky Camera” for New Brunswick. Dr. Whitehead is our sponsor/collaborator, in conjunction with NRC, to move the site over to a national database.

Our IYA representative, Curt Nason, kept all members apprised of events and the number of Galileo Moments in the province, in each city, and at each event, always exhorting us on to greater efforts.

Paul Gray continued to produce the Horizon newsletter, which we are considering offering electronically. It continues to contain articles and astrophotographs from various members.

Tim Doucette, our computer whiz, is our new Webmaster, and he has revamped the RASC-New Brunswick Web site.

We have a library of DVDs and books, which is always being expanded by Ted Dunphy, our librarian.

Our big triumph was the establishment of two Dark-Sky Preserves in the province—Kouchibouguac National Park and Mt. Carleton Provincial Park. There was a lot of media hype and positive government involvement, along with a lot of time and work devoted by Paul Gray to make this happen. We are hopeful to add another provincial park to the DSP list. As was mentioned earlier, we are now exploring the possibility of establishing USPs in the province, as well.

We are now building up to the biggest event in our Centre’s history. The New Brunswick Centre is turning ten this year, and, to celebrate, we are hosting the General Assembly. It is a tremendous amount of work, but excitement and enthusiasm is running high, to make this the best GA ever. We can’t wait to welcome the RASC family to our “home.”

The year by the month:

Each general meeting consists of an update by President Peter Jensen on “Astronomy News & Views”—what’s new in astronomy around the world, plus news on any RASC events. One of our members gives a presentation on “What’s Up”—observing for the month; as well as a few other talks by various members: constellation of the month, Handbook talk, as well as a “show and tell” section of the meeting—time to show off new toys, books, etc. After each meeting, we get together for supper.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| January | Astronomy News, DSP update, “What’s Up,” IYA plans, Astrophotography (processing using levels and curves), a game of Astro Bingo, Paul showed some of his astrophotos. |
| February | Talks given included: “What’s Up” for observing in February; “Observing the Young Crescent Moon”; “Solar System Geometry”; a Handbook talk; Astronomy News; “Mooning”—talk on the moons of the Solar System. |
| March | “What’s Up”; Astronomy News; “How to Do A Messier Marathon”; “Where the Heck Are We?”—Our Place in the Universe. |
| April | Astronomy News; Fredericton All-Sky Camera; LPA activities; review of the New Brunswick Museum event in Saint John. |
| May | Astronomy News; “What’s Up”; IYA update; update on DSP planning; a presentation of astrophotos; talk on the final servicing mission for the Hubble Space Telescope, with DVD. |
| June | Astronomy News; “What’s Up”; Duration of a Solar Eclipse; All-Sky Camera update; constellation of the month. |
| July | no meeting. Held the annual COW (camping-observing weekend) & Bar-B-Que, along with some public outreach. |
| August | no meeting. Some members went to observing weekends at Mt. Carleton and/or Nova East. |
| September | No meeting, as the “Stars and Stuff” festival took place in Moncton and many members were very occupied with this. |
| October | This month we held our AGM at Mt. Allison University in Sackville. This was also in conjunction with the official opening ceremony of MAGO (Mt. Allison Gemini Observatory). Astronomy News & Views; Update on IYA; Final Review of the DSPs in the province; “What a Long, Strange Trip It’s Been”—a talk on the journey from the big bang to now; on super clusters of galaxies; Dr. Ian Shelton gave a talk on the David Dunlap Observatory—its history, current status & possible future; there was a demonstration of the new Web site; a brief talk on the Saskatchewan GA, with a showing of the video of our GA 2010 presentation. We had a “Chinese Auction” and a 50/50 draw. We then attended the opening ceremony for the MAGO, listening to speeches from the Dean of Mt. Allison, the mayor, our RASC-New Brunswick President Peter Jensen, and Dr. Robert Hawkes, who worked long and hard for this achievement. |
| November | Astronomy News and Views; preview of the activities and events for the year ahead; “What’s Up”; a talk on the Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program; a talk on the Sikhote-Alin meteorite. |
| December | Astronomy News and Views; “What’s Up”; Gibeon Meteorite; and Galileo talk. |

June MacDonald
Secretary

NIAGARA CENTRE

The International Year of Astronomy was very busy for the Niagara Centre. We held plenty of public events and classes at a wide variety of venues throughout Niagara, including schools, museums, libraries, and conservation areas, as well as city, provincial, and private parks. The efforts were led by our President, Brian Pihack, and Vice-President/IYA Coordinator, Stan Sammy. They were indefatigable in planning, booking, hosting, and attending the many events, which greatly exceeded a typical year.

Most of our events now feature astronomy-themed talks and slideshows indoors and telescopes outdoors. Even if it is cloudy or raining, we are still able to have a starnight, and the presentations have good attendance.

One of our best nights of the year was at Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls, on September 25, where almost 20 members were thrilled by the bright flashes of the Grimsby meteorite entering Earth's atmosphere.

The club will be celebrating its 50th anniversary as an RASC Centre in the fall. The club was founded in 1958 and joined the RASC in 1960.

The club's second observatory at the Chippawa Creek Conservation Area, our local dark-sky site, was completed. Only minor details remain. This year we plan to install a Meade 12-inch SCT, along with a GOTO mount and astrophotography equipment.

We continue to hold our monthly meetings at the Niagara Falls Public Library, with a wide variety of professional and amateur guest speakers.

A new executive will be elected in October 2010.

In 2009, our Centre's membership declined from 100 to 80, despite having about 10 new members. Therefore, we lost about 30 members. We attribute this to the increasing cost of membership and difficulties with the renewal process. We anticipate further declines as membership dues increase.

Niagara Centre speakers list 2009

January	Stan Sammy "International Year of Astronomy"
February	Richard West "Extrasolar Planets"
March	Philip Downey "Globe at Night"; Stan Sammy "International Year of Astronomy"
May	Ian Shelton "The DDO Observatory"
June	Olga Moreira "Asteroeismology"
November	"Celestial Navigation"
December	Brigitte Chiki "Behind the Scenes at Johnson Space Center"

Philip Downey
Secretary

OKANAGAN CENTRE

Our 2009 goal, during this International Year of Astronomy, has been primarily focused on the Okanagan Observatory site and outreach. While experiencing many frustrating moments, the Okanagan Observatory has succeeded in making great headway

during the past year. To quote member Guy Mackie:

"Like homeless pioneers we staked our land, shaped it to our needs, built roads, and set up our first structure. We built a 25" telescope that holds the promise of inspiration for both our members and the larger community. The purposeful beating heart of our enterprise is the program. Regular open nights not only meet our public mandate, but more importantly brings together the OC members in a common goal. For members attending public nights there is the benefit of camaraderie, sharing personal accomplishments, developing skills in communicating with the public, and picking up observing skills from fellow members. For members playing an active role in planning and fulfilling our vision there is the benefit of being part of a philanthropic enterprise whose legacy (for the OC and the Okanagan) will always bear the mark of their input."

In the second year of hosting an active Astronomy Outreach programme at Okanagan observatory, we installed and equipped a utility shed called the Power Utility Palace, or PUP, on site. This building has a warm room and equipment storage for our weekly on-site outreach activities throughout the good-weather months. The Building Committee worked very hard throughout the year in designing this project and putting in the hard labour necessary for construction.

In 2009, we hosted over 120 outreach nights that were open to the public free of charge; 31 volunteers gave 680 hours of their time hosting 8200 guests at these events. Our largest event was first light with our 25-inch club-built telescope.

Honourable mentions for help throughout the year include:

Colleen O'Hare with assistance from Guy Mackie and many other club members in Kelowna and Vernon for leading numerous outreach activities at Walmart, local schools, senior centres, Boy and Girl scouts, etc., as well as many Friday evenings at the Okanagan Observatory site.

Guy Mackie, Grant Rice, and Frank Stariha for working tirelessly to raise funds for the Observatory project.

Hugh Pett who virtually single-handedly organized the construction of the PUP with physical assistance from many club members.

Dave Gamble in leading his team to the completion and unveiling of the 25-inch telescope. Jupiter and his moons never looked so good.

2009 List of meeting speakers

January	Colleen O'Hare—Men on the Moon
February	Archie Christie—Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity.
March	Alan Whitman—A Voyage through the Southern Constellations
April	Richard Christie—Dust Bunnies—A Cosmic Dust Tail
May	Dave Gamble—Astro-Imaging #3 Image Processing
June	Guy Mackie—Visual Observing including tools and instruments
September	Andrew Bennett—Solar Phenomena
October	Dave Lane—Abbey Ridge Observatory
November	Alan Whitman—Solar Eclipse in China
December	Guy Mackie—ET and Contact

Grant Rice
Secretary

The year 2009 has been a landmark one for the Ottawa Centre, as well as for the RASC and for amateur astronomy as a whole. Designated the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) by UNESCO, in honour of the 400th anniversary of the first use of the telescope for celestial observations by Galileo Galilei, this year has seen a colossal increase in interest in astronomy from the public and from numerous organizations. The Ottawa Centre rose to the IYA outreach challenge in a significant way.

The number of IYA-related events in the National Capital Region supported by our members this year is almost too high to count. Major highlights include the Music of the Spheres concert held in partnership with the Tafelmusik baroque ensemble to a sold-out crowd (March 6); International Astronomy Week and the Dr. Michael Hoskin lecture co-hosted by the Canada Museum of Science and Technology (April 28 - May 3); the Galileo Lecture "Cosmic Dawn and Monster Telescopes" delivered by Dr. Roberto (Bob) Abraham (June 6); the Italian Week event hosted by the Italian-Canadian Youth Formation Centre in honour of Galileo (June 20); interacting with countless members of the public, particularly the young, at the Science FunFest hosted by Natural Resources Canada (October 18); and hosting two well attended public star parties at the Diefenbunker in Carp in September and October. For these efforts the Ottawa Centre owes a great deal of gratitude to our many dedicated volunteers, including our outreach co-ordinator Mike Moghadam, whose organization skills and enthusiasm helped make it possible.

While it's fair to say that IYA has generated a lot of interest in astronomy from the public, it must be said that we still have some work ahead of us as a Centre in terms of converting this interest into active memberships. As of 2008 December 31, Ottawa Centre membership stood at 400, which includes 3 youth and 38 Life Members. As of 2009 October 31, the number actually fell to 398 members, including 2 youth and 37 Life Members. Of 29 Centres in Canada, this is still the second highest membership, but we would obviously like to see this number increase for the strengthening and continuity of our organization.

The year 2009 has been an important one for the Ottawa Centre itself, with a number of key issues debated and voted upon at Council. These have included measures to reduce our annual operating expenses without sacrificing the level of service that our members expect, such as minimizing printing and mail-out costs for our monthly AstroNotes newsletter, through the introduction of a paper-copy fee, while encouraging subscription to the electronic version, and eliminating highly under-utilized resources such as the Centre phone lines. This year the Ottawa Centre Council took part in the detailed discussion at the National level on the continuation of benefits for existing Life Members, following the cessation of the life-membership option. The Ottawa Centre Council supported the motion put forward by the Toronto Centre Council to divide the remainder of the life-membership fund among the 29 centres proportionally by size, and for each Centre to take on responsibility for continued delivery of RASC services to existing Life Members. The Council feels that this is the best approach to honouring the commitment of the RASC to existing Life Members, and that the one-time cash infusion in addition to economy measures, such as those indicated above, will put the Centre in an excellent position to continue this commitment.

The main opportunity we have for our members, Life or otherwise, to get together is of course our Centre meetings, which

are held on the first Friday of each month at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. The attendance at our monthly meetings typically approaches or exceeds 150. I take this occasion to extend a special thank you to our Meeting Chair for this past year, Atilla Danko, who kept the show rolling with many fascinating talks from our Centre members. From our member sky images, to monthly observing challenges, to building of backyard observatories, to summaries of the latest science, Atilla juggled them all, and for that we owe him our sincerest appreciation. I also extend a special welcome to Bill Wagstaff, who has graciously stepped forward to become our new Meeting Chair for 2010. We have enjoyed Bill's talks on various subjects over the past few years, such as model rocketry. Each one of our Meeting Chairs brings a special flavour to these monthly events, and we very much look forward to witnessing Bill's artistic expression. Many thanks are due to those others who help the meetings happen: Chris Teron, our Secretary who is also our meeting slide-master; Richard McDonald, who has kindly stepped into Chris' shoes when he has been unavailable; Tim Cole and all those who have helped keep the projector running in the back room; and Eric Kujala, our meeting video recorder. A special thank you goes as well to Art and Anne Fraser, who have given their time and effort for quite some years in keeping us fed, carbonated, and (in some cases) caffeinated at each meeting through their hospitality table.

Our Centre Annual Dinner was held on November 14, and was attended by 70 members and guests. Our speaker this year was Dr. René Doyon from the Université de Montréal, principal investigator for the Canadian science team on the James Webb Space Telescope, who gave a talk entitled "First Images of Exoplanets." Vice-President Al Scott organized the event as well as the invitation and transportation for our guest speaker. Eric Kujala graciously volunteered to videotape the event.

Our annual picnic was again hosted by Linda and Rolf Meier, on October 10.

The Centre's Fred Lossing Observatory (FLO) in Almonte saw a change in management this year, with Director Al Seaman stepping down after many years of dedicated service in this role. Bryan Black took over as Director earlier this year. Bryan and a group of Centre members known as the Friends of FLO have made several significant repairs and improvements to the site this past year, including re-installing the cabling to the telescope controller, replacing the observatory door and gable flap, increasing the size of the interior bookshelf, and general site maintenance. It is recognized that the site will eventually require substantial effort to halt the gradual subsidence of the building. The Council will continue to monitor this situation, and to provide support where possible and required.

Estelle Rother has continued in her role as manager of the Stan Mott library. A number of older books in storage were offered to Centre members for a donation, to relieve storage space.

Richard McDonald has continued in his role as manager of our Web site; he also took on a role as manager of the Centre mailing lists. The new Centre Web service, initiated last year, continues to save our Centre a substantial amount of money.

Our Treasurer, Hans Brouwer, has had another busy year managing Centre finances. Our audit report from the years 2007/2008 is near completion and will be posted on the Centre Web site, when available. Several cost-cutting measures implemented by Council are beginning to show fruition, and more are anticipated in the coming year.

This year the "Paul Comision Observer of the Year Award" was presented to Bob Olson. The Astronotes article of the year was awarded to Chuck O'Dale for his article "Geological Effects of Bolide Impacts on this Planet" in the October 2009 edition.

In response to an application from the 2008 Council, a National Service Award was given to Al Seaman for his management over the years of our Fred Lossing Observatory as well as his many contributions to other Centre projects, including SMARTScope and the Centre Web site and mailing list. The award was presented to Al in person at the November meeting.

Paul Harrison
President

PRINCE GEORGE CENTRE

A lunar marathon was held on the May 1-2 Astronomy Day weekend. Using the Williamson Lunar Certificate booklet as a guide, viewing lists and lunar surface maps were drawn up for both evenings. This well attended event was a grand success and the viewing deck was filled with members, their telescopes, and the public.

RASC PG Centre membership is widespread, and members traveled from Fort St. John, Burns Lake, Fort St. James, and Williams Lake to take part in this much-anticipated event. It was wonderful to be able to visit, chat, renew acquaintances with members that hadn't been seen in a while, and review some of the new equipment members had recently acquired. Most impressive of all were the binoviewers, which offered unparalleled and spectacular lunar views.

The weather on Friday was perfect for viewing—cloudless skies, good seeing conditions, relatively warm, and bugless. Saturday wasn't quite as good, there was thin cloud earlier in the evening, seeing wasn't as steady, and the mosquitoes made their first appearance of the year. However, everyone persevered and all were rewarded later in the evening with improved conditions.

As this event was advertised on the Centre Web site, about 20 non-members showed up over the weekend; they were impressed with all the activity and willingness of club members to share what they were viewing in their telescopes. The main scope was pressed into service and utilized extensively to afford the public close-up views of various lunar-surface features.

Seasoned veterans were able to help the newer members set up their telescopes. Those without their own telescopes were able to use the club scopes, and the public was encouraged to use some of the available club equipment. It was gratifying to hear the odd "AHA, I found it!" as viewers worked their way through the lists of objectives.

So enthusiastic were the participants, some attending on both evenings, that another lunar observing evening will be scheduled for March 2010.

Other events of note this year included:

- Sidewalk astronomy nights held at the Pine Centre Mall.
- Dome repair. This major project involved fabricating a new ring for the dome, which required the removal of the dome from the building. A big "thank you" to the many volunteers who made this happen.
- Community Science Celebration exhibit was held May 30 at the College of New Caledonia.
- A lecture given by Dr. Luc Simard on September 11 put an exclamation mark on our IYA events.
- We had 30 Open Houses and Tours with 775 visitors to the observatory.

Denise Stoltz
Secretary

QUÉBEC CENTRE DE

L'année 2008-2009 fut très active au Centre de Québec.

Plusieurs sorties publiques ont eu lieu. Une visite dans une cabane à sucre a permis à 75 personnes de jeter un coup d'œil dans nos télescopes. Plusieurs soirées dans le stationnement du Domaine Maizerets à permis de rencontrer plus de 150 personnes durant l'année. Nous aurions sûrement pu doubler ce nombre si plusieurs semaines du mois de juillet ont été perdues dû à la météo.

Stéphane Dumas à lui seul a donné 20 présentations dans les écoles de la région de Québec rencontrant ainsi plus de 500 élèves. Quelques belles soirées à l'observatoire de St-Nérée, dont une porte ouverte pour les voisins a été très appréciée.

Toutes nos activités dépendent de nos bénévoles, et comme dans la plus part des clubs, 90% du travail est fait par 10% des membres. Je prends donc cette occasion de remercier tous ceux qui ont aidé la réalisation de toutes ces activités de l'année internationale de l'astronomie.

Pierre Desrosiers
Représentant national

REGINA CENTRE

The Regina Centre had another very active year in 2009 (IYA), providing both nighttime and daytime public events that were very well received and attended. The Centre's fund-raising campaign was again successful thanks to the continuing recycling programme operated by Vance Petriew, and by a Tupperware sale organized by Shane Ludtke.

Members of the Centre continued to volunteer their time to help with improvements to our dark-sky site at Davin, which included the dismantling of the storage shed.

Ross Parker is reaching the end of history project on the Regina Centre. Ross hopes to have the history book completed in time for the Centre's Centenary in 2010.

Although the weather was not always co-operative the Regina Centre's members provided many public observing sessions throughout the year and in a variety of locations, provincial parks, schools, and city fairs. All of these events were well attended by both Centre volunteers and, most importantly, the public. The Centre's public viewing sessions were very well received and enjoyed by both public and the volunteers who provided their scopes and knowledge to the events.

Centre members initiated a bi-monthly solar-viewing session, which took place in our local park (Wascana); this event was named Solar Sundays and its aim was to introduce the public to viewing our Sun during the day. Another event known as Lunar Lunatics was held once a month outside the Science Centre; its aim to provide the public with views of the Moon. Both these events attracted many people to the scopes and were well attended. Several impromptu side-walk viewing sessions were set up, attracting much public interest and giving many people a chance to take their first look through a telescope.

The Regina Centre kicked off their year in January with an IYA2009 opening event that was attended by more than 200 people; this event continued with a year of public events.

Following is a brief outline of some events the Regina Centre took part in or organized:

- International Year of Astronomy Kick off—January 10
- Scouts Observing—February 3
- Members Appreciation Night—February 13
- Messier Marathon— March 28
- Astronomy week
- Astronomy Day (Chapters Book Store during the day and the Science Centre in the evening)—May 2
- Wings over Wascana Nature festival
- Science Centre appreciation night
- Canada Day—July 1
- Saskatchewan Summer Star Party (Cypress Hills) The Regina Centre set up a Father Kemble display & sold shirts August 13-19
- Buffalo Pound Provincial Park
- Lumsdon Beach
- Regina Beach Public Observing—September 18
- Regina Centre Star-B-Q—September 19
- W.S. Hawrylak School—October 22
- Echo Valley Provincial Park
- Kalium Observatory operated public astronomy nights on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

This is to name but a few of the events the Regina Centre was involved in. There were also several visits to schools and city fairs, inter-woven with the above events. Members of the Centre also gave short astronomy-related presentations at many of these events, which included some video presentations.

The Regina Centre's observatory at the Science Centre continued to be very well attended by Scout/Cub and school parties, as well as by the public.

2009 saw the Regina Centre initiate a new Web site, which includes links to many astronomy-related sites for the public to view.

Our monthly meetings were well attended by members and on several occasions non-members, some of whom have since joined the Regina Centre. Presentations at the meetings were varied with several very interesting guest speakers.

The Regina Centre continues with its outreach programmes and public viewing nights, handing out free astronomy magazines and literature to the public to spark an interest, and hopefully to encourage some to take up this fascinating hobby of ours. Our Centre's members are happy to provide education and the chance to allow others to look at the heavens through their scopes, and of course to enjoy the wonders of the Universe in private at our dark site or wherever they can set up their telescopes.

Peter MacKinnon
Regina Secretary

ST JOHN'S CENTRE

The St. John's Centre have continued our activities in astronomy and public outreach and education. Our regular meetings have attracted an average audience of 22. The Centre membership has varied between 47 and 49 members over the year. As of three days before our AGM, we had 43 Regular Members, 3 Life members, and 1 Associate member.

Here is a summary of our meeting year:

January	The 1860 Eclipse Expedition to Northernmost Labrador Speaker: Dr. Derek H. Wilton
February	IYA Presentation Speaker: Greg Baggs
March	Free Astronomy Software Speaker: Greg Baggs
April	An Upgrade to the Twillingate Astronomical Observatory Speaker: Simon Dawson
May	Spring Galaxies / Do We Need Dark Energy, Explaining a Recent Idea Speaker: Chris Stevenson
June	Light Pollution Speaker: Jerry Ennis
September	DVD by Tyler Nordgren: "Stars Above, Earth Below: Astronomy and Space Exploration in America's National Parks."
October	Doug Grouchy gave a brief presentation of his binocular stabilizer. AGM
November	Astronomical Seasonal Gifts Speaker: Members. DVD of "Hawaiian Starlight: Exploring the Universe from Mauna Kea." This video was produced by the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFHT) as a project that was part of IYA2009.
December	Annual Social

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

Garry Dymond continued his shows in the planetarium at the Marine Institute. This year saw increased ties with the GeoCentre. In addition, Centre members helped out at school science fairs as judges. We have continued to support three science fairs in the province, each with a prize presented by our Centre. The 100 Hours of Astronomy, held at the GeoCentre, was probably the highlight of our public activities. The Centre provided displays, posters, pictures, and we took part in a live Webcast.

We held the Butterpot Star Party in the summer, and one other summer event for the public at Butterpot Provincial Park. Several more visits were made to the Park by members for Centre observing sessions. The planispheres we bought from the National Society turned out to be very useful for gifts at public events. The Trader Cards were also very popular. For IYA2009 we became involved with the Newspapers in Education (NIE) programme, with several members writing brief articles aimed at school children. We have had 14 published so far. This programme is national in scope, as any newspaper can pick up an NIE article.

This was so successful, we plan to continue into the next year. This year both International Astronomy Day and Fall Astronomy Day were postponed several times, and in the end had to be cancelled. Such are the problems with organizing outdoor events in Newfoundland!

Dealing with Centre governance, we have begun requiring Certificates of Conduct for volunteers at our events, in line with other organizations that deal with children. The executive is looking at getting Director's Insurance, and after investigating over the summer will have a good option available to the next executive.

Finally, it should be noted we are still looking at long-term plans for some sort of scaled-back observatory at Butterpot.

Good luck and clear skies

David Bourgeois

Secretary

SARNIA CENTRE

Sarnia Centre meets monthly to discuss RASC business and Astronomy. Our club is small, with roughly 25 members. Randi Mathieu has been publishing a monthly club newsletter, and during meetings we have Sky Tour presentations so members are aware of night sights.

For International Astronomy Day, Sarnia RASC manned a mall display during the day and planned a public Star Party that evening, which was clouded out. We had a "make-up" event in the fall which, with an enthusiastic turnout of 75-100 people.

Sarnia RASC was well represented at a local daytime event called "Hobbyfest," where local groups set up displays to share their hobbies. We displayed small scopes, and answered general questions. One member, Charlie Barbera, also displayed his impressive meteorite collection.

Club members continue to promote astronomy in our community. Ralph De Jong started writing *Night Lights*, which is published monthly in the local newspaper. In it he discusses astronomy for visual or binocular viewing. Chris Charbonneau gave a well received presentation to Corrunna Cubs.

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

Clearest Skies!

Marty Cogswell

Secretary

SASKATOON CENTRE

2009 was a banner year for the Saskatoon Centre. Members were called on to work twice as hard and become much more involved as in the past. This was because three huge undertakings converged - The International Year of Astronomy and the club's decision to host the 2009 GA at Cypress Hills, during the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party.

Barb Wright, our president, began the year by encouraging us to become involved as we prepared to host all three of these events.

Our first opportunity came on March 28, when the Centre Mall in Saskatoon announced it would be shutting off its outdoor lighting in honour of Earth Day. Our members seized on the moment to set up telescopes in the parking lot and hand out IYA materials in the entrance of the mall. Clear skies cooperated and participants got a real eye opener when the lights came back on, to show how prevalent light pollution can be.

The first of two major IYA-sponsored events, the "100 Hours of Astronomy," began at Fairhaven School. Over 200 parents and their children came out to hear Rick Huziak talk about the Buzzard Coulee Meteorite, and Ron Waldron talk about how to get started in amateur astronomy. This was followed by hot chocolate and viewing through a half-dozen telescopes provided by our members. Sky conditions were ideal. Each participating family took home an envelope filled with IYA materials and information on how to become involved in amateur astronomy in Saskatoon. The event was so successful, the attendees prepaid to order 150 Galileoscopes.

The 100 hours celebration continued the next two days and nights—at Lakewood Civic Centre in the evening, at the Saskatoon Farmer's Market during the day, and finally in the evening at the Beaver Creek Conservation Area. IYA materials continued to be distributed throughout all these events.

In May, Events Coordinator Patricia Gakis arranged for us to set up telescopes at the Relay for Life sponsored by the Saskatoon Heart and Stroke Foundation. Many participants took time between their walks to come and gaze through telescopes set up on the periphery of the walking area. Again, sky conditions were excellent.

With the snow melting, many of our members were invited to hunt for meteorites at Buzzard Coulee, near Lloydminster. A rather large meteorite had fallen there the previous November. Many members participated and were successful in finding pieces of the fall.

As summer solstice approached, observing activities took somewhat of a backseat as members began planning in earnest for the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party and 2009 General Assembly.

Delegates and members for the GA began arriving at Saskatoon airport and were shuttled to Cypress Hills in a 15-passenger van by member Chris Martin. Although the weather for the entire weekend turned out to be the worst in the history of the SSSP, all attendees were treated to a dynamic programme of talks, tours, displays, and presentations. Centre members did an outstanding job of putting a "silver lining" in the cloud-covered sky by being excellent hosts for this joint event. Much credit must be given to our president, Barb Wright, and her committee of volunteers for both the planning and the execution.

In August, our newsletter editor, Christine Kulyk, put out a special edition of the newsletter to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Centre, which was founded in November 1969.

On September 2, many of our members were on hand to attend the opening of an astronomy art exhibition in the gallery at the Frances Morrison Library in Saskatoon. Entitled "Celebrating the Night Sky," the exhibition was prepared by member Kathleen Huziak with the help of exhibits from Centre members and others. The exhibition remained on display throughout the rest of the month.

Hot off the heels of this event, our members began to prepare for the second of two major IYA events, Galilean Nights, held on October 22-24. We celebrated by holding our annual Sleaford Open House for the public. Despite cloudy weather, more than 100 people showed up to view the facilities and learn about astronomy, through guided tours of the facilities and through Star Talks given by members Ron Waldron and Mike Clancy.

Throughout the year, our members, led by Rick Huziak and his Light-Pollution Abatement Committee, made significant progress championing the cause of light-pollution abatement in Saskatoon and throughout the province of Saskatchewan. One of the major accomplishments this year was the establishment of Grasslands National Park as a Dark-Sky Preserve. Ron Waldron continued to give regular Star Talks to legions of teachers and students attending Brightwater Environmental Camp; Mike Clancy and other members attended at a variety of Provincial Park locations; and Larry Scott sponsored monthly observing nights for all of our members at Sleaford, 50 km east of Saskatoon, where our Centre has most of its permanent observing facilities.

As IYA ended, Ellen Dickson reported that our activities during the year had resulted in just under 6000 people experiencing the joys of astronomy and perhaps their own personal “Galileo Moment.” In all, our members should be proud of their activities and accomplishments during this very special year in astronomy.

Ron Waldron
Secretary

SUNSHINE COAST CENTRE

January 10 IYA2009 Kick-Off Extravaganza
This was an exciting way to kick off International Year of Astronomy. The Sechelt Library showcased its newly acquired astronomy books, and club members were there in full force, with slide shows, displays, colouring contests for the kids, membership information, and more. Hundreds of families and children were able to check out the telescopes and reading materials!

February 27 IYA2009 Lecture: “Exploring The Cosmos Using Radio Waves” by UBC Professor Emeritus Bill McCutcheon at Chatelech High School in Sechelt

March 27 IYA2009 Lecture: “Exploring The Binocular Universe” by writer and author Gary Seronik at the Sechelt Legion Hall.

March 28 Earth Hour 2009 Public Observing at Snickett Park on the waterfront in downtown Sechelt.

April 4 100 Hours Of Astronomy. Outreach/Display at Gibsons Public Library followed by evening viewing at Winegarden Park in Gibsons.

April 24 IYA2009 Lecture: “The Big Bang, Black Holes, Life And All That” by Dr. Marcello Pavan of TRIUMF at the Sechelt Legion Hall

May 2 International Astronomy Day At Trail Bay Mall in Sechelt. We had numerous scopes on display as well as astrophotographs.

May 29 SUPERnova—3 short astronomy films. By RASC Vancouver Centre member Tyler Gamsby at Chatelech High School in Sechelt

June 19 IYA2009 Lecture: “Galileo Galilei, His Life, His Times, His Legacy” by club member Mike Bradley

July 1 Canada Day Parade Float. Club director Debra MacWilliam came up with a brilliant idea to help raise local awareness for the Centre—to participate in Sechelt’s annual Canada Day parade—and she led the planning and

organization for our memorable appearance, which honoured the 400th anniversary of Galileo’s discoveries. Club member Lyle Seeton engineered and designed a gigantic replica of Galileo’s first scope, which was decorated and assembled by several club members. Director Gary Little donned cape and a feathered flat cap to portray the scientific genius, and accompanied the float through the streets of Sechelt, much to the delight of the masses.

July 18 B.C. Parks Day. Members Debra & James MacWilliam set up two scopes in Porpoise Bay Provincial Park for park visitors to enjoy.

July 19 Club Social Bar-B-Que. This event was held at the home of the club Vice-President.

July 23 Kids Book Reading of *Mary Lou’s New Telescope* at Sechelt Public Library

July 23 Sechelt Night Market. This was our first opportunity to try out our brand-new solar telescopes made possible by a generous grant from the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation. Hundreds of people gather every week in the summer to visit and shop at the Night Market. Many of them enjoyed their first “safe” viewing of the early evening Sun!

July 25 Sidewalk Astronomy at Winegarden Park in Gibsons.

August 29 5th Annual Astronomy In The Park
At beautiful Porpoise Bay Provincial Park, Sechelt, British Columbia. Hundreds of people, children and adults, enjoyed our new solar telescopes; the kids made astro crafts and listened to a reading of *Mary Lou’s New Telescope* by club director Debra MacWilliam. In the evening, astronomer Bill Burnyeat treated us to a lively presentation of “Small Telescope Users.” Galileo Moments were enjoyed by all after the lecture when many telescopes were available to view the night sky.

September 25 IYA2009 Lecture: “Global Warming, What We Really Know and Don’t Know about Climate Change” By Dr. David Helfand at Roberts Creek Community Hall. A huge crowd turned out to hear this thought-provoking talk by this Professor of Astronomy at Columbia University in New York and Acting President of Quest University Canada in Squamish, B.C.

October 14 Davis Bay Community Association Presentation
A video presentation hosted by club member Daniel Sklazeski.

October 24 Fall Astronomy Day And Galilean Nights
To celebrate IYA and International Fall Astronomy Day. This event was held at Sunnycrest Mall in Gibsons.

Regular club business meetings were held on: January 30, February 27, May 19, October 16, November 27.

Executive meetings were held on: January 20, February 17, March 10, April 7, May 23, June 23, September 29, November 17, December 16.

Linda Smith
Secretary

THUNDER BAY

CENTRE

A very busy IYA 2009 has flown by, and now our Centre IYA coordinator, Dave Gallant, who so diligently set up a myriad of activities, can enjoy some respite.

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 on the second Tuesday of the month at Confederation College. The attendance at meetings was always sufficient to generate questions and to stimulate excitement about the gifts given by astronomy. The group finds common purpose and common interest in the gatherings. The Coffee Committee provided coffee, tea, and goodies for each meeting; this continues to be a highlight of the meeting as the members get to talk with each other on a wide variety of topics.

The group is continuing to move forward on service to its members and one of the most recent advancements has been the club Web site. Dave Gallant superintended the site development through all of its stages. This will be a valuable tool for staying in touch with the proceedings of our local Centre as well as linking to related sites. The site can be viewed at the Thunder Bay RASC Yahoo Group.

The meeting format has remained much the same over the year until the last monthly meeting in 2009, when the group agreed to start the meetings a half hour earlier than previously. The provision of this change was to continue to ensure that members enjoy an opportunity to communicate with one with another at the general meeting as well as allowing members travelling a significant distance to return home earlier.

The “Naked Eye to Deep Sky” talk with Ted Bronson has been a regular presentation at every general meeting, and Dave Gallant has recently introduced the “Monthly Lunar Feature.”

Regular Features: '08-09

This month's sky lineup—Binocular highlights
Naked Eye to Deep Sky
IYA2009 (International Year of Astronomy) Updates and Activities

Presentations:

Large Hadron Collider—Bruce Miron
How to Choose Your First Telescope—Doug Stuart
Myths and Misconceptions (Astronomy)—Dave Gallant
Green Flash (& Mercury/Jupiter photos)—Glenn Stronks
Atmospheric Effects on Observing Sessions—Lionel Catalan
Dawn Mission to Vesta and Ceres—Rob Kushneriuk
Telescope Modifications to 10-inch Dobsonian—Dave Gallant
Extreme Optics and the Search for Earth-Like Planets—Rob Kushneriuk
International Space Station—Dave Gallant
Galileo and His Discoveries—Bob McLean
Music of the Spheres—Colleen Gibson
The Demise of Pluto as a Planet—Ted Bronson
Super Sized Nova—Bruce Miron
Kepler Mission—Ed Essex
How to Colour Balance CCD Images—Randy McAllister
Lunar Features—Ted Bronson, Dave Gallant

Public Outreach

Observing Session, Planetary Conjunction (2008 December 1)—The Centre hosted about 40 people who came out to Marina Park to

view the grouping of the Moon, Jupiter, and Venus. The members came equipped with telescopes, binoculars, and cameras. Even though the seeing was bad, most appreciated this impressive gathering of familiar celestial objects.

Thunder Bay Public Library—Ted Bronson, Dave Gallant, and Bob McLean were engaged with the local library to give a series of monthly talks – April, May, and June as part of IYA.

Central Canada Outdoor Show (2009 February 27-March 1)—The Centre hosted a booth, as well as offering viewing (Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday). Dave Gallant coordinated our involvement with this event. Ted Bronson gave an astronomy talk. Ed Essex, Glenn Stronks, Rob Kushneriuk, Brigitte Schaffer, and Bob McLean also volunteered. The public was treated to views of the Moon, Venus (it does have phases), and some solar prominences through the solar telescope. An estimated 600 people stopped by the booth during this 3-day event.

Spring Yard and Garden Show (April 3-5)—Displays and presentations at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition (CLE) Grounds were a huge success, with a seemingly endless stream of people at the booth every day. Many showed interest in the IYA2009 concept.

100 Hours of Astronomy (April 2-5)—Unfortunately, the weather was not fully cooperative for this event. However, on Saturday, April 4, about 250 people came to Hillcrest Park to view the Moon and Saturn through telescopes and binoculars provided by Centre members.

Lakehead Choral Group Concert (April 29)—This fine group presented a concert entitled “Come the Skies” at St. Agnes Church. The Centre had a booth and telescope display set up in the church lobby, where we provided literature and talked to members of the audience and choir. The planned viewing session after the concert was cancelled due to overcast conditions.

Viewing Sessions, Hillcrest Park (May 1-2)—Many members brought out their telescopes to view the Moon and Saturn. It was good to see that some of the public brought out their equipment as well to seek advice on set-up and use. The weather was spotty, but about 80 people attended over 2 evenings.

International Astronomy Day (May 2)—The Centre set up an information booth and display at Intercity Mall. There were interesting conversations ranging from the ethereal pool of fire to what that bright “star” was in the morning. In all, 60 Galileo Moments were recorded.

Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Trade Show and Exposition (May 7-9)—Again, this large event provided an opportunity to meet the public at our booth. Centre members answered many questions and handed out much IYA2009 material.

Family Day (May 30)—The event was held at the Waverley Resource Library, where 70 kids and adults participated in a variety of activities. These included Solar System on a tape/planet scales, crater making, popper rockets, colouring, find the constellation, make a constellation, decorate a telescope, solar viewing, and a telescope workshop.

Summer Programme

Quetico Park (July 17-18) Dave Gallant gave a presentation of the IYA video “Eyes on the Skies” to about 10 campers at the French Lake campground. Telescope observing was nearly impossible because of the clouds of mosquitoes, but Dave managed to point out the ISS/Shuttle to the happy campers, and he did a laser-pointer tour of the sky.

Church Bible Camp, Loon Lake (July 21)—About 70 staff and kids, ages 8-13, gathered to hear Ted Bronson's PowerPoint

presentation “Our Amazing Universe: Yours to Discover.” Bob McLean assisted with the event, as energy levels were high. Many interesting questions were fielded, some quite surprising in scope. Cloudy skies precluded any viewing.

Kakabeka Falls Park (August 1)—Ted Bronson gave a talk about general observing, which was attended by 40 campers and staff. The planned observing session after the talk was clouded out.

Neys Park (August 1-2)—On the first evening, Dave Gallant gave talks focusing on the Solar System and IYA2009 to an audience of about 40 people. The following evening, the video “Eyes on the Skies” was shown to 40 people. The weather allowed only one-half hour of lunar observing.

Quetico Park (August 21-23)—This was the 23rd Annual Star Weekend at the park. Ted Bronson, Bruce Miron, and Dave Gallant participated in this event. Each evening a talk was done for the campers. The presentation topics included “Our Amazing Universe: Yours to Discover” (Ted Bronson) and “Astronomy Myths and Misconceptions” (Dave Gallant). The viewing highlights were Jupiter and M13.

A little autumn...

Sleeping Giant Provincial Park (September 5-6)—The topic for the 5th was General Astronomy. The 6th was a presentation of the IYA video, “Eyes on The Skies.”

Star Party and Social (September 18)—The star party and social was hosted by Janell and Andy Buchholz at their home. Clear skies and good food prevailed, with good viewing and good fun.

Star Gazing in Dorion (September 19)—Forty people from a community 70 km east of Thunder Bay attended talks on what we could expect to see in the sky that evening (Ted Bronson) and “400 Years of the Telescope” (Bob McLean). Everyone was treated to pristine skies and viewed many celestial objects, including a 4-minute pass of the ISS, under the guidance of Dave Gallant, Ted, Bob, and John Ross.

Guest Speaker, Galileo Speaker Series (October 22)—Chris Pritchett, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Victoria, gave an excellent and memorable talk entitled “Supernovae and the Mystery of Dark Energy.” The presentation was attended by over 100 enthusiastic people of all ages at Lakehead University. Members of the audience kept Chris busy with many thoughtful and far-reaching questions.

Consortium Aurora Borealis (November 21)—A concert was held at St. Paul’s United Church, featuring chamber music, jointly celebrating the 350th birthday of English composer Henry Purcell and the 400th anniversary of Galileo turning his telescope skyward. Centre members Maureen Nadin and Bob McLean gave readings on Galileo and Newton (Purcell’s contemporary), accompanied by PowerPoint images provided by Dave Gallant. Astronomy-related displays were set up for the audience, and Ted Bronson and Rob Kushneriuk attended the information table. Observing after the concert was cancelled due to fog.

Notable Member Achievements

Maureen Nadin of our Centre received the second prize in the over 18-years RASC-sponsored writing competition for IYA2009. Her essay is entitled “The Square Kilometre Array: Scanning the Skies for Life, where it began, where it exists and what it all means.”

Certificates

Deep-Sky Challenge: Doug Stuart
Explore the Universe: Ted Bronson, Ed Essex, Ray Miller, Doug Stuart
Messier: Robert Breckenridge, Ted Bronson, Doug Stuart
Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing: Ted Bronson

New Initiatives

The Centre is presently evaluating two potential sites for a club observatory.

Ian Neely
Secretary

TORONTO CENTRE

2008-2009 was one of the most active and a very historical year for the Toronto Centre. Unfortunately, just into the beginning of the fiscal year, the Centre’s President Denis Grey had to step down for personal reasons, and Ralph Chou, 2nd Vice-President, stepped into the role. Denis is to be thanked for his many contributions to the Centre as president and we wish him well in his future endeavours.

The year 2009 being the International Year of Astronomy, the Toronto Centre helped kick off the celebrations by participating in the Toronto Astronomy Festival held at the Ontario Science Centre. This no-charge exhibition was attended by over 1500 members of the public, who were treated to exhibits from well over 20 astronomy-related institutions, manufactureres, retailers, government agencies, and, of course, our Toronto Centre display and crew were proudly on hand. Toronto Centre members were also involved in these all-day special presentations and workshops:

Denis Grey—What’s up in 2009

Peter Hiscocks—Bringing the Stars to the City

Dr. Ralph Chou—Solar observing in Galileo’s footsteps

Various Members of the Centre—Observing the Night Sky without a Telescope

Dietmar Kupke—Using a DSLR for Astrophotos

In conjunction with IYA2009, the world-renowned baroque orchestra and chamber choir, Tafelmusik, presented a concert series, The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres, and on May 4 at the CNE, the Toronto Centre participated in a fund raiser for Tafelmusik. Telescopes were set up in the courtyard of the Liberty Grand, and over a hundred attendees of the gala were treated to views of the Moon and Saturn.

The Public Education Committee had a busy year by hosting 59 presentations for 4222 children and adults, which included 3 presentations and 3 different star parties for schools, and 13 special-interest groups with a beginner’s-observing theme. The committee also held presentations for 1 Sparks, 6 Brownies, 10 Guides, 3 Beavers, 5 Wolf Cubs, and 1 Scouts group, and held 7 presentations for the public in libraries and other locations around the Greater Toronto Area; Francois van Heerden even did 15 presentations with star parties at various provincial parks, including Algonquin. During the summer, a presentation and star party was held at the Carr Astronomical Observatory (CAO) for the L.E. Shore Memorial Library of Thornbury. The Centre also set up its display at the 29th Ad Astra Convention, co-hosted 5 star parties at the Ontario Science Centre, including participating in “Earth Hour” on March 28. The Education Committee continues to host the NOVA (New Observers to Visual Astronomy) programme at the Ontario Science Centre, with 90 precipitants in total for the fall and spring sessions. Congratulations and thanks to Leslie Harvey and the many volunteers who delivered all of these programmes.

This year’s recipients of the gold medal of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Toronto Centre, are Rachel Ward,

who is currently studying star formations for an M.Sc. at McMaster University, and Serguei Ossokine, who joined a one-year joint M.Sc. programme in Astronomy and Physics at the University of Toronto this past September. The recipients of this year's astronomy prize at the Toronto Science Fair were Nancy Hui and Min Che of Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute, for their project entitled "Depletion of Earth's Magnetic Field."

Despite the bad weather this year, members managed to get in plenty of observing and imaging. The Observing Committee continues to coordinate several monthly observing programmes including dark-sky, city, and solar observing sessions. Two successful asteroid occultations were observed by members this year on August 31 and September 2.

The Toronto Centre's 2009 solar-eclipse excursion to China was enjoyed by over 18 participants. The ten-day tour had various sight-seeing stops, including The Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, and even the Beijing and Shanghai Observatories. On eclipse day in Wuhan, our eclipse chasers awoke to clouds, and after some quick strategic planning and a bit of "polite" discussion by Ralph with the tour guide and bus driver, the gang was off on a high-speed run to clear skies south of Wuhan. With less than ten minutes to spare and under a large expanse of blue sky, the bus pulled into the tiny Hamlet of Tian Pu Cun, where they were able to observe totality in clear skies, one of only a few groups in eastern China to do so. Congratulations to the tour group and to Ralph for pulling off another one.

Two Astro Expeditions were held this year: one to the 2009 NEAF (Northeast Astronomy Forum and Telescope Show); and a second to Kennedy Space Centre to see the launch of STS127, although the launch was scrubbed. The participants had a memorable trip. Thanks to David Parfett and Katrina Ince-Lum for organizing the trips.

The CAO had very good usage, with volunteer supervisors on site every clear weekend to open the facility. A very successful Mississauga Centre weekend was hosted on the weekend of June 13, and an imaging workshop weekend was hosted on September 12-13. Work parties were scheduled throughout the year to provide constant maintenance and upgrades to all the facilities. One such project being completed was the installation of a standby propane generator that will automatically start up when the power fails. This will prevent plumbing freeze ups and allow us to continue operations of our programmes until power is restored. This addition proved itself quite useful for several members this past summer, when power was cut for over five hours after a tornado downed transmission lines nearby.

On May 23, 85 members and guests attended the 11th Annual CAO Open House and Awards Picnic; there was also a good showing of people from the NOVA programme and even several folks from the Mississauga Centre. Attendees were treated to a pot-luck Bar-B-Que, a talk and demonstration on remote observatories by Paul Mortfield, model rocket launches, fireworks and bonfire; a grand time was had by all. This year's award recipients were the Observatory Park Working Group—the Andrew Elvins Award; Paul Mortfield and Stef Cancelli—the Ray Thompson Award; Adam Clayson—the Jesse Ketchum Award; Geoff Gaherty—the Ostrander-Ramsey Award; Katrina Ince-Lum—the H.A. Winearls Award; and Bob Chapman—the Bertham Topham Award.

Adam Clayson and Leslie Harvey are to be thanked on the continuing high quality of *Scope*. The newsletter has been published on time and on budget with excellent coverage of Centre events, and well written and informative articles supplied by many members. Over 300 members subscribe to *eScope*, a password-protected PDF file.

Tom Luton has been organizing the Centre's library at the CAO in preparation of an online searchable catalogue of books; the Centre was also the recipient of a large collection of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Society. Tom continues to manage the very successful loaning of DVDs of past speaker-night lectures recorded at the OSC.

The Centre held the 12th Annual Algonquin Adventure star party from September 18-20th; over 70 members and guests were treated to clear skies and cold temperatures in a gorgeous dark-sky environment. Special thanks to Robert and Lillian Chapman for organizing and hosting the traditional event.

Ivan Semeniuk organized our lecture meetings series.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| October 1 | Kaitlin Kratter, University of Toronto: "Sweating the Small Stuff: why we should care about leftover rocks, ice and space dust." |
| October 29 | Christine Clement, University of Toronto (Emeritus): "Helen Sawyer Hogg—A 20th-Century Caroline Herschel" |
| November 26 | Dan Falk: "In Search of Time" |
| January 21 | David Lafreniere, University of Toronto: "Breakthrough in Hunt for Exoplanets: First Direct Images." |
| February 18 | Dr. Sabine Stanley, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, University of Toronto: "Mars: A Magnetic History." |
| March 18 | Dr. Jonathan Sievers, Research Associate, Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics: "Cosmology and the Cosmic Microwave Background." |
| April 15 | Dr. René Breton, Post-doctoral Research Fellow Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics University of Toronto: "Testing General Relativity with Eclipsing Pulsars." |
| September 30 | Christine Wilson, Professor McMaster University: "ALMA: Imaging the Invisible Universe." |

This year's joint meeting with the Royal Canadian Institute on February 1 was addressed by Dr. Doug Welch of McMaster University, who spoke on "Echoes of Historical Supernovae."

Members'-night programmes organized by Paul Markov included various astronomy-related topics, such as making your own star-chart templates, Bolivia's Southern Skies Star Party, building your own cloud monitor, using the Carr Astronomical Observatory; various equipment reviews were also presented. Eric Briggs, Brenda Shaw, and Blake Nancarrow continued the tradition of the monthly presentation of "The Sky this Month." We also had a presentation from Jim Pollack of the Astronomical Society of Victoria, Australia, regarding the restoration of the great Melbourne reflector.

Blake Nancarrow and his Information Technology crew continue to maintain and make improvements with the club's computers, projectors, and related hardware, plus updating and improving the club's Web site.

The Light-Pollution Abatement Committee under the stewardship of Peter Hiscocks, held various meetings with the City of Toronto LPA Committee, working on a light-pollution guideline.

Membership in the Toronto Centre stood at 455 regular, 80 life, 13 youth, 8 affiliate, 102 associate, for a total of 658; of these, 47 members are CAO pass holders, 308 are receiving *eScope*, and 384 are on the Yahoo group.

Now, the historic portion: after The David Dunlap Observatory was shut down and sold in 2008, the Toronto Centre was able to negotiate an agreement this year with the new owners to assume operations of the observatory. After many long hours of preparing the facility, the Centre hosted its first public night on July 18 to a

sold-out audience, our Honorary President Dr. Roberto Abraham was the speaker for this night, and he gave an engaging talk “The Origin of the Galaxies.” The other public talks given throughout the year were:

- July 25 “40 Years since Apollo” by Randy Atwood,
President RASC Mississauga Centre
- August 8 “A Mars Update” by Prof. Paul Delaney, Director,
Division of Natural Sciences, York University
- August 22 “The Story of the Dunlap Observatory” by Dr.
John Percy, Professor Emeritus, Department
of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of
Toronto
- August 29 “Why the Universe isn’t Boring” by Dr. Roberto
Abraham, Professor of Astronomy, University of
Toronto
- September 12 “Evidence for Supermassive Black Holes” by Dr.
Michael De Robertis, Professor of Physics and
Astronomy, York University
- September 26 “Rejuvenating the Hubble Space Telescope:
Canadarm’s Crucial Role” by Michael Hiltz,
Canadarm Programme Manager, MacDonald
Dettwiler and Associates

Along with these public-evening programmes, two special programmes were hosted: one for the Perseid meteor shower, and the other for the Richmond Hill Blackout Challenge. Since its first public night, over 1200 visitors experienced the new DDO. The media has been using the DDO for evening and morning newscasts, and The Weather Network continues to tape Andrew Yee’s monthly astronomy segments, giving the facility country-wide exposure.

None of the programmes or DDO operations could have been possible without the tireless effort of many Toronto Centre members giving freely of their time to prepare the facility, working logistical components of the programmes, and setting up their telescopes to provide celestial views to visitors. We averaged just over 20 volunteers each night, with over 850 volunteer hours devoted to the public programmes alone.

This and all of the Centre’s other achievements of the past year would not be possible without countless hours of volunteer work on the part of the membership. The Centre acknowledges the contributions of; Eric Briggs, Dr. Ralph Chou, Dr. Geoff Gaherty, Denis Grey, Leslie and Costas Harvey, Ed Hitchcock, Tony and Grace Horvatin and family, Isaac Kravec, Shawn Lee, Mickey Milankov, Phil Mozel, Blake Nancarrow, Guy Nason, David Parfett, Brenda Shaw, Diane and Rajesh Shukla, Geoff Brown, Dietmar Kupke and Millie Rejakovich, Gilles and Nicole Gaudette, Katrina Ince-Lum, David Parfett, Karen and Paul Mortfield, Stef Cancelli, Pat and Savio Gallo, Phil and Lora Chou, Ian Wheelband, Erik and Sue Kralik, John Leblanc, Bob Dorcas, Tom and Nick Luton, Joel and Joan Parkes, Scott Masterton, aka “Galileo,” Tim Hunter, Peter Hiscocks, Sara Poirier, John Bohdanowicz, and many others.

In closing, I also thank Carruthers, Shaw and Partners Architects, and Rod Ends Mechanical Ltd. for the use of their offices for Council meetings; I also wish to thank the Ontario Science Centre for its continued hospitality in providing the facilities and audio/visual support for our meetings and public events. On behalf of the council, I thank all members for continued trust and support of our work.

Charles Darrow
Secretary

2009 was an extraordinarily productive year for RASC Vancouver Centre, with particular effort devoted to major initiatives and activities in connection with the 2009 International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009). To this end, we partnered with other like-minded organizations within our region, including the B.C. Institute of Technology (BCIT), Metro Vancouver Parks, Simon Fraser University (SFU), the University of B.C. (UBC), and the Vancouver Telescope Centre.

Major initiatives this year included (but were not limited to):

- Established the SUPERnova YouTube series. These videos are each roughly ten minutes long, on a variety of astronomical themes, both amateur and scientific. The videos have been produced for the Vancouver Centre by Tyler Gamsby and are hosted by Eric Dunn. Four episodes had been released by year’s end, and a fifth was in production
- Establishment of an annual Martha Ellen Pearse Award, for winners of a B.C. student science fair, in the amount of \$500—first award presented to Claire Longcroft
- Funding commitment from the Martha Ellen Pearse Fund in support of RASC speakers at B.C. and Alberta RASC Centres
- Funding support for SFU IYA2009 programme to donate telescopes to grade-school classes
- Funding support for a series of five special BCIT IYA2009 planetarium shows for schools during spring break
- Continuing and revitalized LPA initiatives, including contact with area municipal councils, BC Hydro, and media outlets
- Continuing development of the Anthony Overton Memorial Observatory (AOMO), including spring work party for painting and cleaning, acquisition of a new computer and software, and considerable progress in quantity and quality of imaging
- Established partnership with Metro Vancouver Parks, and co-operated with them on an August star party at Aldergrove Lake
- Established ongoing series of events at the Silk Purse Arts Centre in West Vancouver
- Continued publication of the *NOVA* Newsletter
- Distribution of Centre membership cards
- Installation of a Sandia All-Sky Camera at SFU
- Conducted on-line membership survey
- Acquisition of a Coronado solar telescope

In addition to our regular monthly series of public lectures (listed below), major public events this year included (but were not limited to):

- Astronomy Day, May 2—extensive programme of talks, displays, and activities
- AOMO open house, June 13
- Roundhouse Vancouver on-going series of talks and star parties
- Burnaby Lake Symphony Concert, July 12, post-event star party
- NRC’s Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics event at Richmond Public Library, July 29, astrophotography booth
- Perseid Meteor Shower at Aldergrove Lake, August 11
- Regular North Shore observing events at Ambleside Park
- Regular Friday/Saturday public observing schedule at the GMSO
- Member participation in many SFU astronomy workshops and evening star parties
- Chapters bookstore display

- Numerous Sidewalk Astronomy activities at many community locations
- Promoted participation in GLOBE at Night 2009 and Earth Hour
- Regular lending of telescopes to members

During 2009, Council passed a variety of business motions, most notably in support of our observatory and our many public outreach activities. These motions do not begin to reflect the huge amount of work that occurs within the various functional areas of Council and the operating committees.

For 2009, we enjoyed the following guest speakers at our regular monthly meetings, at the May Astronomy Day event, and at the September Paul Sykes Lecture:

January 10	Special Saturday talk to kickoff IYA2009—Dr. Jaymie Matthews (UBC), “What if Galileo had a space telescope?”
February 12	Dr. John MacDonald (MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates)—“The Radarsat-2 Project.”
March 12	Dr. Howard Trottier (SFU)—“Galileo Galilei’s Renaissance Window on the Cosmos.”
April 9	Dr. Christian Marois (DAO)—“Direct Imaging of Multiple Planets.”
May 2	Special Saturday talk for Astronomy Day—Dr. Aksel Hallin (University of Alberta), “The Sudbury Neutrino Observatory.”
May 14	Roger Bailey, “Timelines”—All about Sundials.
June 11	James Black (Fraser Valley Astronomical Society)—“Stellar Evolution.”
July 9	Chris Purton (Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory)—“Looking at the Milky Way.”
August 13	Harvey Dueck (RASC Vancouver Centre)—“How high is the sky? How big is the Universe?”
September 10	Members’ Night—“What I did on my summer vacation.”
September 27	Paul Sykes Memorial Lecture—Dr. Neil Turok (Director, Perimeter Institute), “What Banged?”
October 8	Dr. Gaelen Marsden (UBC)—“BLAST: Probing the star-formation history of the Universe from a balloon.”
November 12	Dr. Ingrid Stairs (UBC)—“A Brand-New (In Every Way) Millisecond Pulsar.”
December 9	Vancouver Centre AGM.

Howard Trottier
Secretary

VICTORIA CENTRE

In addition to our usual events, outreach, and observing, this year was made doubly busy by activities associated with the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009). At last count, RASC Victoria Centre volunteers had participated in, or organized, over 145 days of outreach events associated with IYA. Our IYA goal for the year was to elicit 20,000 “Galileo Moments” (the “Aha” reaction one suffers when seeing Saturn through a telescope for the first time) with the public attending, or walking by, our events. By our most recent count of these reactions, we have met that goal.

Victoria Centre Observatory (VCO)

Although our observatory was substantially completed in August 2008, work there has continued, both on the building and the

equipment inside. We have added a Tele Vue 5-inch (127-mm) refractor to the mount alongside the Meade 14-inch SCT, and have obtained a QSI 583 CCD camera for use in the observatory. As far as the building is concerned, we have added a large observing pad to the outside to make room for members and telescopes, and have added an extension to the observatory building to house the club’s 20-inch Dobsonian reflector. This gives us the ability to view through the 14-inch scope, or image with either that scope or the 5-inch refractor, and at the same time wheel the 20-inch scope out onto the pad for deep-sky viewing, all the while leaving room right outside the observatory door for a half-dozen additional scopes and observers.

We continue with our plans to make the VCO remotely available.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings and Functions

Our full schedule of regular meetings has continued, with regular meetings held the second Wednesday of each month except July, August, and November. The highlight of each meeting is a speaker, usually a professional astronomer, but often something a bit more esoteric, such as an expert in the history and design of sundials.

Victoria Centre Council meetings are held the first Wednesday of alternate months except for July and August. Members are always invited to these meetings.

Astronomy Café is held Monday nights, except during the summer months, and gives members a chance to gather, drink coffee, welcome new members, and talk astronomy. Programmes and presentations are common.

The New Observers Group has continued yet another year under the dark skies of the Highlands just outside Victoria. This group meets the fourth Friday of every month for an introduction to the night sky.

The Active Observers Group, meets at the VCO for regularly scheduled sessions twice a week, the day depending upon the time of year (summer - Monday and Friday; all other - Friday and Saturday) for observing and imaging sessions. These sessions are hosted by our “members-in-charge” (MICs), who have a “code and a key” and are responsible for announcing the sessions, keeping an eye on the weather, opening and closing the grounds and the VCO, and keeping a head-count. This year we added 4 new MICs to our group of 10, giving us a total of 14.

International Year of Astronomy Activities

This year has brought with it a host of outreach and public activities. These are some of the highlights:

The year began with the “kick-off” of IYA2009 in Victoria, with members at booths and displays at area malls (and with telescopes aimed at tiny pictures of Saturn on far walls), and continued with another kick-off at the Centre of the Universe, a family event with telescopes on the deck and aimed at the Sun and Venus.

Next up were a month of exhibits at the Bay Centre and at Victoria Airport, with displays on huge monitors (the From the Earth to the Universe, or “FETTU” exhibits) showing everything from Hubble images, to drawings of planets by local third graders, to images taken by Victoria Centre members (all of February).

March displays and functions included a tour of Ross Bay Cemetery (with commentary about those residents connected to astronomy), and members and a table at Alex Goolden Hall for an Early Music Society performance of *Lucidarium* (a recreation of the performances of itinerant Italian musicians during Galileo’s time).

April saw our members at Sun Day, at an Earth Day Celebration, and best of all, at our own “100 Hours of Astronomy Marathon,” held in front of the Royal British Columbia Museum, with displays,

members, and telescopes, day and night, for 100 straight hours!

May featured Astronomy Day, a joint event held at the Centre of the Universe, again on the deck with solar telescopes, and the “Beaveree,” at Camp Barnard, Sooke, with a display and solar observing for little astronomers.

June kicked off with what seemingly has become an annual event, Night Sky Viewing at the Fairfield Community Centre, held for children and parents from the neighbourhood. This is our second year for this event. Also in June: tables and volunteers at the IMAX theatre, while the computer-animated film *Cosmic Voyage* played, tables and volunteers at the Theatre Inconnu for a performance of a play about Danish Astronomer Tycho Brahe and mathematician and mystic Johannes Kepler, and tables and volunteers at Buccaneer Days, and at Beaver Lake for Solstice Day.

July events included Sidney Day, at Memorial Park Society grounds, and the Strawberry Festival at Elk/Beaver Lake.

August highlights were Victoria Symphony Splash - again with volunteers and telescopes, and visits to four Gulf Island Provincial Parks by our members to make night-sky presentations.

In September, we presented viewing and astronomy-related conversation at the Saanich Fair. We had a table and volunteers at the excellent NRC-CNRC open house, held at the HIA on observatory hill. We had tables and volunteers at Metchosin Days. We held a second instalment of the event at Fairfield Community Center. Plus, we held night-sky viewing at Butchart Gardens, setting up an array of telescopes for Garden visitors in a field just off one of the paths that skirts the dahlias.

October saw our participation in more activities: A month of weekends at Mayfair Mall with the splendid FETTU exhibit, tables, handouts, a Galileo telescope replica, and volunteers. A table and volunteers at a performance of the Early Music Society presentation of music of the 17th century, images, and narration by Dava Sobel, author of *Galileo's Daughter*.

Most Victoria Centre IYA events and activities were organized by member Sid Sidhu, our IYA “coordinator,” with help from Sherry Buttner and Lauri Roche. Special thanks to them. The amount of work done by our volunteers was nothing short of amazing.

Thanks also for help and support from University of Victoria Department of Astronomy (UVic) and from the National Research Council of Canada (NRC)...without the help of people from these organizations, our IYA success this year would not have been possible.

Observing Activities

This year saw two scheduled observing events.

Our first annual Messier Marathon was scheduled for the new moon weekend of March 28, with a “practice session” to be held March 25. The “practice session” drew nine observers, and began with a spectacular fly-by of the ISS and Space Shuttle. Most of the nine stayed well into the night, and Charles Banville, certainly one of our most tenacious observers, bagged 89 Messiers. It turned out that the weather did not cooperate with our plans for the 28th. So, the “practice” became the “event.” We hope for better luck next year. Our site presents special challenges, not the least of which is the dim, orange glow of Victoria, above which the Messier Marathoner must find the objects normally seen in summer.

A second first was the first-ever Island Star Party, hosted by us at the Victoria Fish and Game site in partnership with the Cowichan Valley Star Finders Astronomy Club. Excellent weather and two excellent speakers (Geoff Steeves, Ph.D., a professor of physics at UVic and astronaut hopeful, and Gary Seronik, astronomy writer) brought out the participants—the event was a great success,

enabling us to (very nearly) break even financially. This was the first time that the two groups have held a joint star party.

Other Activities

National representative Chris Gainor, along with several other members of Victoria Centre, attended the 2009 General Assembly held at Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan, at the same time as the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party. All agreed that the weather was terrible, and that there was little observing that could be done, however it was well organized and everyone enjoyed the events, despite the weather.

Committee activities have continued as before, with the activities of the Technical Committee and the Light-Pollution Abatement Committee leading the way—the Technical Committee because of the needs of the VCO, and the Light-Pollution Committee (with its excellent set of cards) because of the needs of IYA.

The school programme has again enjoyed great success, thanks to Lauri Roche and Sid Sidhu. At last report, there were over 20 new bookings following return to school in September.

Details on all of our activities can be found on our superb Web site, victoria.rasc.ca, which was developed and is maintained by member Joe Carr.

Nelson Walker
Secretary



RASC Windsor Centre typically has about 100 paid up members. We hold nine monthly meetings and have two annual social events. The meetings featured guest and member speakers. One meeting featured three members acting out “The Galileo Play.” Our Hallam Observatory near Comber Ontario houses a 14-inch Celestron telescope installed on a Software Bisque mount. It features a 10x20-foot warm room, 10-foot diameter Ash dome, and a large outside deck. A vital observatory human-relief facility is owned by the Centre and serviced by contract.

The observatory is used year round by members who pay an additional fee for access. Once a month it is publicized and opened to the public. It is also used (by appointment) to host groups interested in astronomy. Scouts, Guides, and sometimes school groups are typical. Some members do public-education talks at schools and libraries; there is also a small informal group interested in astrophotography.

In 2009, members introduced large numbers of people to the wonders of astronomy via local IYA2009 events. Light-pollution reduction is frequently a part of our presentations. Working with local building authorities, we were able to have highly objectionable light fixtures at a new truck stop only 3 km distant changed to full-cut-off type, returning a portion of our sky to a modicum of darkness.

RASC Windsor Centre traditionally participates in “Earth Day” by setting up telescopes, astronomical photos, and light-pollution reduction displays. The year 2010 will be the 65th anniversary of founding by Cyril Hallam, remembered in the name of our observatory.

David J. Panton
Secretary

The Winnipeg Centre enjoyed another year of robust growth, sustained member enthusiasm, and expanding public outreach. New members are announced at virtually all of the monthly meetings and longer-standing members are branching out into more challenging astronomy. Twenty members are in the process of acquiring various observing certificates, especially now that observing pins are available to celebrate the achievement.

Spring 2009 was a wet one, and the Centre's observatory was flooded once again, this time for about five weeks. The adjoining Warm Room escaped the water by only a few centimetres; after the 1997 flood, its floor was elevated by four feet for just such an event. As a result, cleanup was relatively easy and quick and the observatory was back in action quickly after the water subsided. However, the situation for spring of 2010 looks discouraging again and there has been considerable discussion about moving to a higher location not far away.

During the year, the Centre conducted meetings on the second Friday of each month at St. John's College on the University of Manitoba campus. June's meeting was the annual barbeque, held at a private house because of the flooding at Glenlea. The observatory site saw a small but steady use through the year, with monthly "Members' Nights" on the second Saturday of the month. IYA activities kept the membership busy through the year, with monthly events at Oak Hammock Marsh, a special IYA dinner at Fort Whyte Centre, several spontaneous monthly sidewalk astronomy sessions at Assiniboine Park during the first-quarter Moon, four days of telescope presentations at the Italian Pavilion

during "Folklorama," and numerous small presentations to groups around southern Manitoba.

Located 20 minutes north of Winnipeg, the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is an ideal location for comfortable observing. On a clear transparent night, the sky can get impressively dark, easily revealing detail in the Milky Way and providing a good vantage point to observe DSOs and brighter celestial fare. The Centre has a fully equipped theatre for presentations, and a roof-top observing deck. All extraneous lights are turned off, so eyes can dark-adapt. On cold winter nights, we can duck back into the darkened rooftop foyer to warm up. Should the night cloud over, the theatre provides an alternative for showcasing astronomy-related presentations and media. Winnipeg's intrusive light dome to the south provides a good opportunity for broaching light-pollution abatement.

The highlight of the year was the annual Spruce Woods Star Party held at a provincial park an hour to the west of Winnipeg in mid-August. About 40 members turned out for the 3 days and nights of observing, and 150 campers in the park were treated to talks on astronomy and a look through a telescope. Supper was held at the Buckhorn Ranch nearby. The weather was very cooperative, and a faint aurora graced the northern sky for an hour on Saturday night. The informal astrophotography group had an active year, dividing clear skies between "the Pit," the "Dukes of Hazzard Road," and Glenlea observatory.

Late in the year, the Winnipeg Centre took on the commitment to host the 2011 General Assembly. The GA will come on the 100th anniversary of the Centre, and is a fitting time to renew our membership in the RASC.

Jay Anderson

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

		Belleville	Calgary	Charlottetown	Edmonton	Halifax	Hamilton	Kingston	Kitchener-Waterloo	London
REVENUE										
Membership	Membership Fees: Centre Fee	766	9,242	510	5,389	3,266	2,047	2,170	2,816	2,344
	Membership Fees: Associate		60				80	15		
	Membership Fees: Affiliate									
	Membership Fees: other		13					23		
	Life Membership Payout Received		1,298		1,020				464	
	Centre Newsletter									
Donations / Fundraising	Donations		969	20	162			317	216	
	Fundraising		6,350		74,073			229		
Sales Revenue	Sale of Observer's Handbooks					210		80		214
	Sale of Observer's Calendars		1,367	374	660	392	56	304	868	285
	Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides		30			47		20	.	
	Other Publication Sales									
	RASC Promo Items		1,125					32	35	
	Other Sales						98	56	184	
Subscription Revenue	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope									
	Other									
Events Revenue	Star Parties	109	2,730			4,812		944		
	Annual Dinner		2,190				1,000			960
	IYA Event									
	Astronomy Day			471						
	Other Events				4,580					
General Assembly Revenue	General Assembly									
Miscellaneous Revenue	Interest and Dividends	2	7		125	28		203	52	
	Advertising		125					120		
	Observatory Site		70						217	
	Equipment Rentals/Loans		604		135				427	
	Miscellaneous			175	40	10		10		
TOTAL REVENUE		877	26,180	1,550	86,184	8,765	3,281	4,523	5,279	3,803
EXPENDITURES										
Sales Expenses	Observer's Handbook					1,041				
	Beginner's Observing Guide			20		23				
	Observer's Calendar		1,493	323	1,045	180		585	941	
	Other Publications									116
	Newsletter		3,696		2,824	1,474		705		288
	RASC promo items		1,973			1,173				
	Other			72				15	371	
Event Expenses	Star Parties		1,270			2,905		822	274	
	Annual Dinner	170	3,057				960		1,097	1,167
	Astronomy Day			181			220	181	127	
	IYA Event				4,118	2,590		2,178		177
	Meetings		216		541	226	300	210	79	
	Other Events	220	536	98	8,798				43	48
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings		463		268			200		
Administrative Expenses	Office Administration		178		239	201	124	70	161	
	Equipment and Supplies		57			26				738
	Insurance		2,721			1,087	1,252			
	General Expenses and Audit	2		216		27		447		
	Awards	25	5,100	200	382	100				
	Donations				14,793					
	Advertising				4,388			36		
Miscellaneous Expenses	Observatory and Site Expenses		5,877	884	6,985	29	2,321	28	350	97
	Library							52	155	
	Depreciation		2,595							
	Miscellaneous	92	791	41	3,025	31		63	147	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		509	30,023	2,035	47,406	11,113	5,177	5,592	3,745	2,631
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		368	-3,842	485	38,778	-2,348	-1,896	-1,069	-1,534	1,172
ASSETS	Current assets	3,658	22,094	1,573	181,453	12,302	16,826	21,683	13,012	14,557
	Capital assets		1,027	2,500		17,000	95,987	21,250	30,000	61,532
LIABILITIES					5,420	2,640				

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

		Mississauga	C. F. de Montréal	Montréal	New Brunswick	Niagara	Okanagan	Ottawa	Prince George	Québec	Regina
REVENUE											
Membership	Membership Fees: Centre Fee	2,425		3,072	1,267	1,991	3,005	7432	1,886	925	1,385
	Membership Fees: Associate	20				53					
	Membership Fees: Affiliate	22									
	Membership Fees: other	69									
	Life Membership Payout Received	371				278	185				278
	Centre Newsletter										
Donations / Fundraising	Donations	68		638		207	11,488	250	300	15	225
	Fundraising	1,091			39	483	18,242		8,000		2,771
Sales Revenue	Sale of Observer's Handbooks									100	40
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	488		235	1,175	354	795	2,245	794	300	420
	Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides					45	180				
	Other Publication Sales										
	RASC promo items	247			226	228	242				
	Other Sales	40		78		570			554		
Subscriptions	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope										
	Other										
Events Revenue	Star Parties				145						7,697
	Annual Dinner							2,370			
	IYA Event										1,191
	Astronomy Day										
	Other Events						996				
General Assembly Revenue	General Assembly										
Miscellaneous Revenue	Interest and Dividends			686		94	21	871			
	Advertising										
	Observatory Site							595	1,797		
	Equipment Rentals/Loans				710		185	230			
	Miscellaneous			216		43	1,500	652	74		
TOTAL REVENUE		4,841		4,925	3,562	4,346	36,839	14,645	13,405	1,340	14,007
EXPENDITURES											
Sales Expenses	Observer's Handbook									179	30
	Beginner's Observing Guide						250				
	Observer's Calendar	540		384	731	284	588		537	72	331
	Other Publications				75						
	Newsletter			1,025	253	151	82	3,173			
	RASC promo items	256				368	602				
	Other	203			905	176				52	5,680
Event Expenses	Star Parties				189	70				30	164
	Annual Dinner				134			2,959			146
	Astronomy Day							373			
	IYA Event										324
	Meetings			1,024	104	382	34	268		145	
	Other Events	850			787				1,339		333
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings			581	169						
Administrative Expenses	Office Administration			41		40	1,044	796	536	405	1,658
	Equipment and Supplies			41		806	6,631		216		22
	Insurance						1,608	3,472	3,212		455
	General Expenses and Audit	422		432		51					602
	Awards										66
	Donations							150	100		
	Advertising							190	60		298
Miscellaneous Expenses	Observatory and Site Expenses				86	621	38,321	1,052	7,369	237	478
	Library				250		112		235	251	
	Depreciation	168			59			9,432			
	Miscellaneous	483		1,282	33	1,534		37	117		410
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		2,922		4,810	3,775	4,483	49,272	21,902	13,721	1,371	10,997
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		1,919		-101	213	-137	-12,433	-7,257	316	-31	3,010
ASSETS	Liquid assets	9,200		93,970	3,825	9,045	26,083	35,176	9,785	855	9,101
	Capital assets	204		26,767	64	20,561	48,000	43,552	82,280		72,762
LIABILITIES		2,640						2,418	279		

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

		St. John's	Sarnia	Saskatoon	Sunshine Coast	Thunder Bay	Toronto	Vancouver	Victoria	Windsor	Winnipeg
REVENUE											
Membership	Membership Fees: Centre Fee	1,205	456		254	850	8,944	5,555	3,975	2,044	3,604
	Membership Fees: Associate	10					465				
	Membership Fees: Affiliate						207				
	Membership Fees: other									610	
	Life Membership Payout Received			2249		93		1,203			
	Centre Newsletter										
Donations / Fundraising	Donations			3769		1,075	8,188	1,021	50	1,699	173
	Fundraising	561			2,350				44,651	1,014	2,270
Sales Revenue	Sale of Observer's Handbooks						195				
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	600	144		204	750	2,697		675	430	1,539
	Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides						600	816			
	Other Publication Sales										
	RASC promo items						1,216				
	Other Sales			1048		450	250	288			
Subscription Revenue	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope						800			293	
	Other										
Events Revenue	Star Parties			30,722							1,424
	Annual Dinner								1,750		
	IYA Event				1,102						400
	Astronomy Day							271			
	Other Events	767						89			
General Assembly Revenue	General Assembly										
Miscellaneous Revenue	Interest and Dividends	2	50	551	60	2	1,344	7,656		2	80
	Advertising			450				25			
	IObservatory Site						8,097				
	Equipment Rentals/Loans										
	Miscellaneous		2,000			306	16,408	239		787	
TOTAL REVENUE		3,145	2,650	38,789	3,970	3,526	49,411	17,163	51,101	6,879	9,490
EXPENDITURES											
Sales Expenses	Observer's Handbook						590				
	Beginner's Observing Guide										
	Observer's Calendar	439	131		228	549	2,301	637	274	417	1,222
	Other Publications	368					1,163				
	Newsletter					71	2,108	534			405
	RASC promo items		128				1,139				
	Other	461	225	742		975		323			
Event Expenses	Star Parties	80		26,443			1,169		2,350		1,495
	Annual Dinner				105				2,209	100	43
	Astronomy Day		42					1,224	257	50	9
	IYA Event				758		746	1,000	11,668	100	250
	Meetings	97			202		1,138	1,517	115	1,157	340
	Other Events			1,865			170	411	225	225	
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings		675			183					
Administrative Expenses	Office Administration		1,484		280		4,934	301	25	39	175
	Equipment and Supplies								112		258
	Insurance			1,084					500		969
	General Expenses and Audit					70	5,950		112	67	
	Awards	213					609	1,253			250
	Donations										
	Advertising				394		1,473	4,059			
Miscellaneous Expenses	Observatory and Site Expenses			366			22,191	287	23,254	2,361	300
	Library						112		160		75
	Depreciation			825			18,033	1,842			
	Miscellaneous	1,279		10		447		947	300	636	107
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		2,937	1,201	32,819	1,967	2,295	63,826	14,335	41,559	5,152	5,898
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		208	1,449	5,970	2,003	1,231	-14,415	2,828	9,542	1,727	3,592
ASSETS	Current assets	24,250	1,844	38,602	13,101	3,295		364,277	9,975	5,105	10,473
	Capital assets			17,737	1,828			15,499	67,850	80,000	80,000
LIABILITIES				0				1,213			

OFFICERS AND COUNCILS OF THE CENTRES—2010

BELLEVILLE CENTRE

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

President: Greg Lisk
Vice-President: David Cotterell
Treasurer: Garth Penn
Secretary: Joanne Burns
National Representative: Don Town
Webmaster: Les Dempsey
Newsletter Editor: Les Dempsey
Observing Chair: Greg Lisk
Events Co-ordinator: Andrew Mason
Librarian: Antonina Vasilieva

CALGARY CENTRE

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

Honorary President: Dr. David Fry
President: Roland Dechesne
First Vice-President: Andrew Jones
Second Vice-President: Katherine Peterson
Secretary: Patrick Matsalla
Treasurer: Dick Lowndes
National Representatives: Greg King
Robyn Foret
Past President: Larry McNish
Webmaster: Larry McNish
Librarian: Carole Benoit
Councillors: Victor Barbu
Carole Benoit
Greg Bridger
Blair Colborne
Robyn Foret
Glenn Hawley
Jack Milliken
Jason Nishiyama

CHARLOTTETOWN CENTRE

c/o Brian Gorveatt
316 North Queen Elizabeth Dr
Charlottetown PE C1A 3B5
(902) 394-4057
www.rasc.ca/charlottetown
rasc_charlottetown@xfer.s5.com

President: Mike Critchley
Vice-President: Mark Walker
Secretary: Ann Greyborn
Treasurer: Brian Gorveatt
National Representative: Garth Arsenault
Past President: Clair Perry
Webmaster: Brian Gorveatt

EDMONTON CENTRE

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

Council Executive
Honorary President: Dr. Douglas Hube
President: Sherry Campbell
Past President: Krista Stefan
Vice-President: Peter Hall
General Secretary: Donna-Lee May
Treasurer: Mark MacDonald
National Representative: Mike Noble
Luca Vanzella
Public Education Director: vacant
Fundraising Coordinator: Franklin Loehde
Observing Group Director: vacant
Councillors: Harris Christian
Sheldon Helbert
Chris Meerveld

Internal Comm. Officer: Ross Sinclair
Observing Group Director: vacant
Membership Secretary: Massimo Torri
New Member Advisor: Murray Paulson
Editor: Michael Ward
Web Site Co-ordinator: Ross Sinclair
Library Co-ordinator: Wally Anhorn
Ass't Fundraising Co-ord.: Harris Christian
Equipment Co-ordinator: Ross Sinclair

HALIFAX CENTRE

PO Box 31011
Halifax NS B3K 5T9
(902) 827-5977
halifax.rasc.ca
halifax@rasc.ca

Honorary President: Dr. Roy Bishop
President: Richard Vanderberg
1st Vice-President: Wes Howie
Secretary: Chris Young
Treasurer: Ian Anderson
National Representative: Pat Kelly
Librarian: Robert Bussieres
Observing Chair: John Liddard
Nova Notes Editor: Quinn Smith
Councillor: Paul Heath
Councillor: Sean Dzafovic

HAMILTON CENTRE

c/o Mr. A. Blanchard
2266 Lakeshore Road West
Oakville ON L6L G8
(905) 689-0266 (observatory)
www.hamiltonrasc.ca
secretary@hamiltonrasc.ca

President: Roger Hill
Treasurer: Gary Colwell
Secretary: Andy Blanchard

Editor: Mark Pickett
Webmaster: Will Grey
National Representative: Andy Blanchard

KINGSTON CENTRE

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

Honorary President: Dr. David Levy
President: Susan Gagnon
Vice-President: vacant
Secretary: Steve Hart
Treasurer: Kevin Kell
National Representative: Brian Hunter
Librarian: David Maguire
Newsletter Editor: Walter MacDonald
Past President: Kevin Kell

KITCHENER-WATERLOO CENTRE

133 Weber Street North, Suite #3-127
Waterloo ON N2J 3G9
(519) 623-4865
kw.rasc.ca
pclarke0184@rogers.com

President: Wayne Joslin
Past President: Paul Schumacher
1st Vice-President: Marv Warkentin
2nd Vice-President: Steve Holmes
Secretary: Phil Lacasse
Treasurer: Peter Clarke
Astronomy Day/Star Party Co-ordinator: Cari Gerow
Equipment Mgmt & Publications: David Garner
Membership: Peter Clarke
National Representative: Paul Schumacher
Web Site Maintenance: Brian Hollander

LONDON CENTRE

PO Box 842 Station B
London ON N6A 4Z3
www.rasc.ca/London
www.astro.uwo.ca/~rasc
dmccarter@sympatico.ca
pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca

Honorary President: Peter Jedicke
President: David McCarter
Vice-President: Patrick Whelan
Secretary: Rick Saunders
Treasurer: Bill Gardner
National Representative: Craig Lavine
Webmaster: Rick Saunders
Librarian & Outreach Co-ordinator: Robert Duff
Observers' Chair: Peter Raine
ATM Chair: Mike Hanes
Councillor: David L. Clark

MISSISSAUGA CENTRE

PO Box 98011
2126 Burnhamthorpe Rd W
Mississauga ON L5L 5V4
www.mississauga.rasc.ca
inquiries@mississauga.rasc.ca

President: Randy Attwood
Vice-President: Leslie Strike
Secretary: Chris Malicki
Treasurer: Vic Cooper
National Representative: Randy Attwood

CENTRE FRANCOPHONE DE MONTRÉAL

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

President: Michel Boucher
Vice-President: Patrice Scattolin
Secretary: Serge-Antoine
Melanson
Treasurer: Patrice Scattolin
National Representative: Patrice Scattolin

MONTRÉAL CENTRE

PO Box 1155 Station B
Montréal QC H3B 3K9
www.rascmontreal.org
info@rascmontreal.org

Honorary President: Dr. David Levy
President: Bettina Forget
Vice-President: Ron Baran
Secretary: Kevin Kembal
Recording Secretary: Richard Latulipe
Treasurer: Gordon Krip
Librarian: Lloyd Coffin
Director of the Observatory: Chris Novak
Director of Observational Activities:
Frank Tomaras
National Representative: Frank Tomaras
Webmaster: Bettina Forget
Directors Without Portfolio:

David Brown
Richard Latulipe
Ariele Wagner
Past President: Andrew Fazekas

NEW BRUNSWICK CENTRE

c/o Peter Jenson
70 Ian Street
Saint John NB E2J 3K7
www.nb.rasc.ca

President: Peter Jensen
1st Vice-President: Curt Nason
2nd Vice-President: Marc Arsenault
Secretary: June MacDonald
Treasurer: Emma MacPhee
Councillors: James Ayles
Adrien Bordage
Ted Dunphy
Chris Weadick

Past President: Paul Gray
Web-site Chair: Tim Doucette
Newsletter Editor: Paul Gray
Light-Pollution Chair: Chris Weadick
Equipment Chair: Eldon Rogers
Library Chair: Ted Dunphy
Education Chair: Don Kelly

NIAGARA CENTRE

PO Box 4040
St Catharines ON L2R 7S3
www.astronomyniagara.com

President: Brian Pihack
Vice-President: Stan Sammy
Secretary: Philip Downey
Treasurer: Dave Stremlaw
National Representative: Andrew Beaton
Board of Directors: Darlene Marano
Glen Pidsadnick
Joyce Sims
Darlene Sloggett

Beginner's Workshop Co-ordinator:
Stan Sammy
Public Relations: Brian Pihack
Stan Sammy
Dark-Skies Chairman: Wayne Liebau
Librarian: Darlene Sloggett
Observatory Director: Les Marczy
Members' Observing Coordinator:
Mark Roberts

Public Observing Coordinator:
Stan Sammy
Amateur Telescope Makers Group:
Glen Pidsadnick
Annual Banquet Ticket Sales:
Joyce Sims
CCD Camera Director: Glen Pidsadnick
Web Site Co-ordinator: Bill Macsween
Whirlpool Editor: Darlene Marano
Hospitality: Pat Sammy

OKANAGAN CENTRE

285 Terai Court
Kelowna BC V1X 5X6
www.ocrasc.ca

Elected Officers:

President: Alan Whitman
Past President: Greg Dean
Vice-President Kelowna: Hugh Pett
Vice-President Vernon: Jerry Thompson
Secretary: Grant Rice
Treasurer: Zoli Boda
Outreach Kelowna: Colleen O'Hare
Director of Telescopes: Guy Mackie
Webmaster: Andrew Bennett
Membership Director: James M. Tisdale
Directors at Large: Bryan Kelso
Dennis Krause
Frank Stariha
James M. Tisdale

OTTAWA CENTRE

PO Box 33012
1363 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa ON K2C 3Y9
(613) 830-3381
www.ottawa.rasc.ca

President: Paul Harrison
Vice-President: Al Scott
Secretary: Chris Teron
Treasurer: Hans Brouwer
Councillors: Yves Demers
Stephen Nourse
Carmen Rush
Meeting Chair: Bill Wagstaff
Past President: Charles O'Dale
National Representatives: Robert Dick
Barry Matthews
Charles O'Dale

Council Appointed Positions

Stan Mott Librarian: Estelle Rother
WebMaster: Richard McDonald
AstroNotes Editor: Debra Ceravolo
F.L.O. Director: Byron Black
SMARTScope Leader: Doug George
Light-Pollution Abatement: Gary Boyle
Public Outreach: Mike Moghadam
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/pgrasc
pgcentre@yahoo.com

President: Gilbert Self
Vice-President: Maurice Sluka
Secretary: Glen Harris
Treasurer: Brian Battersby
National Representative: Brian Battersby
Past President: Brian Battersby
Webmaster: Brian Battersby
Members at Large: Patrick Byrne
Hugh Kennedy
Robert (Bob) Nelson
Trevor Padgett
Wayne Sanders
Blair Stunder
Jim D. Toews
Jim Van Doren
Doug Wayland

CENTRE DE QUÉBEC

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

Président: Guy Campeau
Vice-Président: Stéphane Dumas
Trésorier: Pierre Desrosiers
Représentant national: Pierre Desrosiers
Secrétaire: Stéphane Dumas
Responsable des observations: Steve Lévesque

REGINA CENTRE

PO Box 20014
Regina SK S4P 4J7
(306) 751-0128
www.astronomyregina.ca
info@astronomyregina.ca

President: Shane Ludtke
Vice-President: Shawn Drew
Secretary: Peter MacKinnon
Treasurer: Paul Meyer
National Representative: Chris Beckett
Past President: Vance Petriew
Webmaster: Shawn Drew
Librarian: Ross Parker
Finance: Kevin Gallant
Kalium Observatory and
Millennium Telescope: Ron Haughey
Darryl Dormuth
Davin Deep-Sky Observatory: Dave Barrie
Equipment Director: Alden Foraie

ST. JOHN'S CENTRE

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

President: Chris Stevenson
Vice-President: Doug Grouchy
Secretary: David Bourgeois
Treasurer: Joe English
National Representative: Richard Newman
Past President: vacant
Webmaster: Craig Peterman
Librarian: Fred Smith
Observing Director: vacant
Equipment Director: Randy Dodge
Education Director: Shawn Martin
Membership Director: Gary Case
Park Observatory Liaison: vacant

SARNIA CENTRE

c/o Marty Cogswell
6723 Pheasant Lane
RR1 Camlachie ON N0N 1E0
web.me.com/richardweatherston/
Sarnia_RASC/Welcome.html

President: Ralph De Jong
Vice-President: Randi Mathieu
Secretary: Martin Cogswell
Treasurer: John (Marty) Webster
National Representative: Joe Clements

SASKATOON CENTRE

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

President: Barb Wright
Vice-President: Jeff Swick
Past President: Garry Stone
Secretary: Ron Waldron
Treasurer: Norma Jensen
Newsletter Co-Editors: Christine Kulyk
Tenho Tuomi
National Representative: Rick Huziak
Councillors:
Events Co-ordinator: Patricia Gakis
Fundraising Co-ordinator: open
Membership Co-ordinator: Mark de Jong
Observing Co-ordinator: Larry Scott
Sleaford Observatory Site Co-ordinator:
Darrell Chatfield
SSSP Co-ordinator: Barb Wright
Councillors at large: Jim Young
Les Dickson
Librarian: Darrell Chatfield

Photographer/Archivist: George Charpontier
Meeting Room Co-ordinator:
Graham Hartridge

New and Distant Members: James Gorkof
Publications Sales Co-ord: Bruce Brandell
Webmaster: Gord Sarty

SUNSHINE COAST CENTRE

Box 577
Sechelt BC V0N 3A0
www.coastastronomy.com
scacexec@freelists.org

President: Debra MacWilliam
Past President: Bill Clark
Vice-President: Bette Chadwick
Secretary: Linda Smith
Treasurer (acting): Debra MacWilliam
National Representative: Bill Clark
Director, Membership: Gary Little
Director, Equip & Library: Dan Sklezeski
Director, Observing: James MacWilliam
Directors: Neil Sandy
Lyle Secton

THUNDER BAY CENTRE

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

Executive Positions:
President: Bob McLean
Vice-President: Doug Stuart
Secretary: Ian Neely
Treasurer: Bridgitte Schaeffer
National Representative: Rob Kushneriuk
Past President: Randy McAllister

Appointed Positions:
IYA Co-ordinator: Dave Gallant
Membership: Ted Bronson
Programmes/Media: Ted Bronson
Newsletter Editor: Bruce Miron
Webmaster: Randy McAllister
Librarian: John Bakkelund

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. Roberto Abraham
President: Dr. B. Ralph Chou
1st Vice-President: Charles Darrow
2nd Vice-President: Ivan Semeniuk
Secretary: Eric Briggs
Treasurer: David Parfett
Recorder: Rajesh Shukla
Past President: Guy Nason
Past President: Tony Horvatin
Councillors: Geoff Brown
Sara Poirier
Brenda Shaw
Paul Mortfield
Leslie Harvey
Tim Hunter
Dietmar Kupke
Scott Masterton
Peter Hiscocks

National Representatives: Charles Darrow
Tony Horvatin
David Parfett
National Alternates: Katrina Ince-Lum
Dietmar Kupke
Public Affairs Co-ordinator: Karen Mortfield
Information Technology: Blake Nancarrow

VANCOUVER CENTRE

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

President: Jason Rickerby
Vice-President: TBD
Past President: Pomponia Martinez
Treasurer: Bruce MacDonald
Secretary: Howard Trottier
National Representative: Cameron Widen
Director of Telescopes: Bob Parry
Merchandise: Doug Montgomery
Librarian: William Fearon
Membership: Suzanna Nagy
Nova Editor: Gordon Farrell
Webmaster: Robert Reppel

VICTORIA CENTRE

2093 Byron Street
Victoria BC V8R 1:8
(250) 508-3192
www.victoria.rasc.ca
treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca

President: John McDonald
1st Vice-President: Lauri Roche
2nd Vice-President: Sherry Buttner
Treasurer: Li-Ann Skibo
Secretary & Recorder: Nelson Walker
Librarian: Charles Banville
Telescopes, LPA: Sid Sidhu
Past President: Joe Carr
National Representative: Chris Gainor
Skynews Editor: Scott Mair
Membership Co-ordinator: Dirk Yzenbrandt
New Members Liaison: Bruno Quenneville
Webmaster: Joe Carr

WINDSOR CENTRE

c/o Greg Mockler
1508 Greenwood Road
Kingsville ON N9V 2V7
www.rascwindsor.net

Honorary President: Dr. William Baylis
President: Paul Pratt
1st Vice-President: Tina Chichkan
2nd Vice-President: Peter Bondy
Secretary: David Panton
Treasurer: Greg Mockler
National Representative: Mike Mastronardi
Past President: Dr. Pierre Boulos
Librarian: Rick Marion
Aurora Editor: Steve Mastellotto
Light-Pollution Abatement Director

Observatory Director: Dan Taylor
David Panton
Director of Public Education: Randy
Groundwater
Webmaster: Steve Mastellotto
Councillors: Dan Anzovino
Randy
Groundwater
Sue Iihola
Steve Pellarin
Paul Preney
Ken Roung
Donna Ronconi
Ken Roung
Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu
Joady Ulrich

Appointed Positions:

Light-Pollution Abatement: Dan Taylor
Recording Secretary: David Panton
Past President: Steve Mastellotto

WINNIPEG CENTRE

PO Box 2694
Winnipeg MB R3C 4B3
www.winnipeg.rasc.ca
rasc@winnipeg.rasc.ca

President: Peter Toth
Vice-President: Kris Keller
Secretary: Scott Young
Treasurer: Jay Anderson
National Representative: Mike Stephens
Past President: Ron Berard
Webmaster: Paul Trudel
Librarian: Fred Wood
Councillors: Kevin Black
Ralph Croning
Ed Rajfur
Roger Todd
Gail Wise
Observatory Director: Ray Andrejowich
Observatory Bookings: Kevin Black
Winnecentrics Editor: Gail Wise
Gallery Administrator: Ron Berard

2010 AWARD WINNERS

Ken Chilton Prize

Brian Battersby
Ted Dunphy
Paul Gray
Kim Hay
Marc Keelan-Bishop
Don Kelly
Rémi Lacasse
Dave Lane
Damien Lemay
Ron Macnaughton
Chris Weadick
Jennifer West

Service Award

Guy Mackie (Okanagan)
Bryan Kelso (Okanagan)
Jim Tisdale (Okanagan)
Barry Matthews (Ottawa)
Curt Nason (New Brunswick)

Chant Medal

(not awarded)

The Plaskett Medal

Dr. Helen Kirk
(University of Victoria)

Simon Newcomb Award (not awarded)

2009 CERTIFICATES

MESSIER CERTIFICATE

Nelson Walker (Victoria)
Ralph DeJong (Sarnia)
Anthony MacDonald (Ottawa)
Jeff Donaldson (Halifax)

Quinn Smith (Halifax)
Hughes Lacombe (CF de Montréal)
Keith Johnstone (Calgary)

NGC CERTIFICATE

Christopher Novak (Montréal)
Mark A. Croom (Unattached)
Charles Banville (Victoria)

EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE CERTIFICATE

Colette Fortier (New Brunswick)
Mark A. Croom (Unattached)

DEEP SKY CHALLENGE

(none issued)

ISABEL WILLIAMSON LUNAR OBSERVING CERTIFICATE

Ken Backer (Mississauga)

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)
- 2009 Dr. Geoff Gaherty (Toronto)

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.

- Peter Ceravolo (Ottawa)
- Paul Boltwood (Ottawa)
- Jon Buchanan (Ottawa)
- Glenn LeDrew (Ottawa)
- 2005 Attila Danko (Ottawa)
- 2008 Ed Briggs (Toronto)
- Debra Ceravolo (Ottawa)
- Peter Ceravolo (Ottawa)
- Lou Cox (Ottawa)
- Steve Gauthier (London)

- Doug George (Ottawa)
- Paul Gray (New Brunswick)
- Walter MacDonald (Kingston)
- Jack Newton (Victoria)
- Ajai Sehgal (Ottawa)
- Jennifer Tigner (Victoria)
- Dave Toth (London)
- 2009 Brian Battersby (Prince George)

- 2001 Michael Boschat (Halifax)
- 2002 Vance Petriew (Regina)
- 2003 Doug George (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)
- 2008 Adam Muzzin (University of Toronto)
- 2009 Catherine Lovekin (Saint Mary's University)

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)
- 2001 John Rousom (London)
- David G. Turner (Halifax)
- 2002 (Not awarded)
- 2003 David McCarter (London)

- 2004 David Clark (London)
- Jim Failes (Okanagan)
- Art Fraser (Ottawa)
- Guy Nason (Toronto)
- Stan Runge (Winnipeg)
- 2005 J. Randy Attwood (Toronto)
- Dr. Robert Garrison (Toronto)
- 2006 Ted Bronson (Thunder Bay)
- Mark Kaye (Hamilton)
- Kevin Kell (Kingston)
- 2007 Dr. Rajiv Gupta (Vancouver)
- Bruce McCurdy (Edmonton)

- 2008 Dennis Grey (Toronto)
- Leslie Harvey (Toronto)
- Tony Horvatin (Toronto)
- 2009 Clint Shannon (Halifax)
- Robert Duff (London)
- Kim Hay (Kingston)
- Richard Huziak (Saskatoon)
- Walter MacDonald (Kingston)
- Al Seaman (Ottawa)
- Patrice Scattolin (CF de Montréal)
- Alan Whitman (Okanagan)

SIMON NEWCOMB AWARD

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

- 1994 Michael S.F. Watson (Unattached, Canada)

- 1999 Terence Dickinson (Toronto)
- 2001 Dan Falk (Toronto)
- 2002 Dr. David Levy (Kingston)
- 2003 Alister Ling (Edmonton)
- 2004 Mary Lou Whitehorne (Halifax)
- 2006 Dr. Warren Finlay (Edmonton)
- 2007 Alan Dyer (Unattached, Canada)
- 2008 Gary Seronik (Victoria)
- 2009 James Edgar (Regina)

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE RASC

Dr. Ralph 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. Allan R. Sandage (United States)
Dr. Audouin Dollfus (France)	Dr. Patrick Moore (United Kingdom)	Dr. 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. (Jim) Peebles (United States)	Dr. R. Brent Tully (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
2005-2010	Robert Garrison
2010-	Dr. James Hesser

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
2005-2007	Stan Runge
2007-	James Edgar

Treasurers

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES—2000 TO 2010

The following Centres hosted the General Assembly from 2000 to 2010:

2000	Winnipeg	2005	Okanagan
2001	London	2006	Ottawa
2002	Montréal	2007	Calgary
2003	Vancouver	2008	Toronto, Mississauga and Hamilton
2004	St. John's	2009	Saskatoon
		2010	New Brunswick

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

2011	Winnipeg
2012	Edmonton