



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

203-4920 DUNDAS STREET W, TORONTO ON M9A 1B7
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ANNUAL MEETING
RÉUNION ANNUELLE

2017

Agenda

Election of the Board of Directors
Election of Auditor

ANNUAL REPORT
RAPPORT ANNUEL

2016

President's Message
Executive Director's Report
Secretary's Message
Treasurer's Report
Auditor's Report
 Balance Sheet/Statement of Changes in Net Assets
 Statement of Revenue, Expenditure
 Notes to the Financial Statements
Annual Meeting Minutes—2016
Centre Financial Reports for Fiscal 2016

RÉUNION ANNUELLE 2017—ORDRE DU JOUR

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Réunion annuelle 2017

La Réunion générale annuelle des membres aura lieu le dimanche 2 juillet
2017, de 9h à 12h EDT à Algonquin College Campus dans Ottawa, ON.

Ordre du jour

1. Procès-verbal de la Réunion annuelle 2016

(publié dans la version électronique du rapport annuel 2016 qui se trouve dans la section réservé aux membres du site Web de la SRAC (www.rasc.ca/private/minutes))

2. Rapports des Officiers

Président	(Craig Levine)	États financiers	
1ère Vice-Présidente	(Chris Gainor)	Motion pour accepter les états financiers	
2e Vice-Présidente	(Robyn Foret)	Directrice exécutive	(Randy Attwood)
Secrétaire/rapporteur	(Charles Ennis)		
Trésorier	(Colin Haig)		

3. Rapports des comités permanents

Prix	(James Edgar)	Nomination	(Robyn Foret)
Constitution	(Chris Gainor)	Observation	(Alan Whitman)
Éducation	(Andrea Misner)	Publications	(Chris Gainor)
Finance	(Colin Haig)	Réduction de la pollution lumineuse	(Robert Dick)
Collecte de fonds	(Heather Laird)	Technologie de l'information	(Denis Grey)
Histoire	(Randall Rosenfeld)	Astroimagerie	(Tenho Tuomi)
Membres et croissance	(Roland Dechesne)		

4. Rapports des autres programmes

Programme de Conférencier	(Charles Ennis)	Programme de Projets Spéciaux	(Barbara Wright)
150th Ann.	(Randall Rosenfeld)		

5. Les Résultats de Élection du Conseil d'administration

6. Élection d'un Vérificateur

7. Autres questions

8. Clôture

ANNUAL MEETING 2017—AGENDA

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Annual Meeting 2017

The Annual Meeting of members will be held on Sunday, July 2, 2017
from 9:00 to 12:00 EDT at Algonquin College Campus in Ottawa, ON.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting

(Published in the on-line version 2016 Annual Report, and located on the Members-only section on the website
(www.rasc.ca/private/minutes))

2. Reports of Officers

President	(Craig Levine)	Financial Statements	
1st Vice-President	(Chris Gainor)	Motion to approve the financial statements	
2nd Vice-President	(Robyn Foret)	Executive Director	(Randy Attwood)
Secretary/Recorder	(Charles Ennis)		
Treasurer	(Colin Haig)		

3. Reports of Permanent Committees

Astroimaging	(Tenho Tuomi)	Information Technology	(Denis Grey)
Awards	(James Edgar)	Light-Pollution Abatement	(Robert Dick)
Constitution	(Chris Gainor)	Membership & Development	(Roland Dechesne)
Education	(Andrea Misner)	Nominating	(Robyn Foret)
Finance	(Colin Haig)	Observing	(Alan Whitman)
Fundraising	(Heather Laird)	Publications	(Chris Gainor)
History	(Randall Rosenfeld)		

4. Reports of Other Committees

Public Speaker Program	(Charles Ennis)	Special Projects Program	(Barbara Wright)
150th Anniversary	(Randall Rosenfeld)		

5. Election of Board of Directors

6. Election of Auditor

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have to look twice at the calendar sometimes. That it has been a year since I took on the role of President of this wonderful organization amazes me. It's felt like it's gone by in an instant. It has been a very busy 12 months, and I hope that with the passage of a little more time and with reflection I'll be able to look back and appreciate just what an amazing time it has been. It has truly been an honor to serve the society and its membership.

This year saw the RASC family grow by one Centre, when the Yukon Astronomy Club officially joined the organization as our newest and northern-most centre. They are a very active, vibrant, and innovative collection of RASCals and I have no doubt that they will inject a lot of energy into our Society. We are now hovering around the 5,000-member mark in a period where there have been no "great comets" to stir the public's imagination and spur new membership. This speaks well of our Centres and their tireless public outreach programmes, and our staff's efforts at membership retention. The addition of a new centre only bodes well for the future.

A major focus for the Board and our Executive Director this past year has been the crafting of a strategic plan that will carry us forward for the next 5 years or more in an actionable, measurable, and accountable fashion. We took a considered approach to this planning process, taking care to get input from our many stakeholders, and contracting outside expertise with deep experience

with the not-for-profit sector to ensure that all critical areas were rigorously examined. Value to members, centres, the public, and the scientific community via outreach, and financial sustainability are among the key objective areas. For the latter item, we constituted the RASC's first Fundraising Committee, which will oversee a number of initiatives in support of our strategic plan.

Past President James Edgar was the force behind an initiative to invite His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada, to be Patron of the Royal Astronomical Society. His Excellency informed us very late in 2015 that he is pleased to accept our invitation. James was too humble to mention this in his report last year!

Our Executive Director Randy Attwood and his staff at our Toronto headquarters, Renata and Julia, must be mentioned for their hard work, diligence, and ability to juggle a great many tasks for both the Society and *SkyNews*. They are on the front line of all interactions with our membership, our vendors, and suppliers, not to mention their everyday work which is so critical for the running of the RASC and its services to centres and the membership. A sincere thanks to all of them from me for making my role that much easier.

Craig Levine
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2016 was another great year for the Society. Across the country, centres continued to run busy programs of lectures, introducing new members to the night sky, public outreach and education and expanded programs of observing and astrophotography.

We are looking forward to three major events in 2017. The Ottawa General Assembly during the Canada Day weekend will coincide with the Canada 150th Birthday celebrations. The Ottawa Centre promises a great time for all—it will be special to be on Parliament Hill the evening of July 1 for the fireworks!

The RASC's contribution to the birthday celebrations will be to hold the first ever National Star Party. On Saturday July 29th, RASC centres, astronomy organizations affiliated with the Fédération des Astronomes Amateurs du Québec (FAAQ) along with other various Canadian astronomy clubs will run public star parties on the same night—coast to coast.

Finally, we all look forward to the August 21 total solar eclipse. The Society has purchased 25,000 solar viewers for centres to distribute at their partial eclipse observing sessions. This will be a very popular event and no doubt be all over the regular and social media. Good luck and clear skies to everyone observing the event, whether you are travelling to the path of totality or viewing the partial phases from home.

We are looking forward to celebrating the Society's 150th anniversary in 2018. A working group is well into planning various activities to mark the occasion. More about these plans will be announced at the General Assembly and in the *Journal*.

We continued to build the RASC/*SkyNews* brand in 2016. An important addition was that every member received a four page RASC National Newsletter in their copy of *SkyNews*. This newsletter contains important information on RASC activities and announcements from the Board of Directors and various committees. A big thank you to Editor Dave Garner and the contributors for helping to make this happen.

Our Board of Directors are a hard working group, committed to overseeing Society business and laying out a future path for the RASC. This year they developed a new Strategic Plan which will be used to develop key areas within the Society. I want to thank the Board for making this possible.

The RASC is made up of centres and its members. Without the dedication of the hundreds of the members who volunteer their time and skills, there would be no Society. I am glad to see that most centres have awards program to recognize these contributions.

I want to especially recognize our hard working staff in the Society Office. Renata Koziol and Julia Neeser are professional and dedicated to their work. It is a pleasure to work with them day to day as they attend to the astronomical number of bits and pieces that all fit together to make a smooth-running RASC.

Randy Attwood
Executive Director

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

I've produced agendas and recorded minutes for 20 board meetings (14 in 2016) since I took office. I've also recorded minutes for the Publications Committee and the Fundraising Committee (I am a member of both committees), and B.C. Centres meetings I've attended. I've travelled twice to Calgary to participate in Strategic Planning Sessions. I've monitored and recorded many Board e mail exchanges and votes. I also served on a Board review panel for a harassment policy matter.

I've strived to keep the Society's e-mail lists up to date but this involves some chasing after information from Centres. I am hoping that recent updates to the Society's computer system will allow Centres to update their own lists to reflect the current membership of their executive boards.

The Public Speakers Fund is finally being used to capacity, although there have been some funds taken from it in recent years to subsidize General Assemblies and I've convinced the Board to stop that practice as it is not what the PSP is intended for. I've got administrator status on the Society's web site and have been adding speakers to the Speakers Directory.

I have been assisting Executive Director Randy Attwood in writing a Centres Manual and commend James Edgar and Colin Haig for their many additions and edits to this document. I have written a first draft of a Volunteers Manual and an On-Boarding Manual for

the National Board and have solicited feedback from other Board members before producing a final draft. I am hoping that all three documents will be available for distribution to Centres at the 2017 General Assembly. These will be "living documents" that Centres can add their own ideas and comments to.

I've chaired two meetings of B.C. Centres since taking office, the second meeting including the new Yukon Centre. This regional discussion has proved a useful forum for exchanging ideas and fostering support.

I flew to Whitehorse in September 2016 to assist the Yukon Centre in planning their observatory, communicating with local government and utility providers regarding light abatement, educating the public regarding light pollution, and educating elementary school youth in astronomy.

At the same time, I served as President of the Sunshine Coast Centre, hosted a third season of the Night Lights astronomy program for Coast Cable TV, appeared in APTN's Coyote Science show for First Nation Kids, wrote and hosted the 15 minute Bravo-Factual documentary Starry Nights, and published Building a Small Observatory for the RASC.

I've been busy!

Charles Ennis
National Secretary

Note: The complete Annual Report is available on-line at:
www.rasc.ca/annual-report-2016-extended

Should you encounter any problems with logging in, read this page:
www.rasc.ca/login-assistance

The extended version includes the following:
2016 Annual General Meeting Minutes
2016 Annual Reports from Centres
2017 Award Winners
2017 Centre Addresses and Executives
2017 National Council

Membership Statistics 2006-2016

Centre	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Belleville	28	33	28	31	30	31	37	26	32	35	33
Calgary	421	460	434	381	336	282	271	300	317	313	278
Charlottetown	0	0	7	13	20	19	25	24	24	22	21
Edmonton	302	294	274	277	229	235	260	257	258	255	241
Halifax	164	172	170	169	153	154	159	155	157	162	152
Hamilton	111	116	109	103	78	61	66	70	76	80	82
Kingston	67	65	72	75	66	66	74	90	98	106	125
Kitchener-Waterloo	114	126	130	109	115	106	115	116	118	104	101
London	119	124	129	110	126	104	118	97	101	104	99
Mississauga	170	179	188	168	132	123	120	127	120	103	53
C.F de Montréal	20	17	18	16	18	20	22	24	23	28	32
Montréal	135	126	117	109	110	91	87	103	107	99	105
New Brunswick	91	88	77	66	68	68	66	75	79	88	78
Niagara	88	78	73	62	69	69	71	82	97	104	101
Okanagan	133	122	124	115	106	92	116	103	88	86	85
Ottawa	358	361	343	319	325	328	370	389	410	416	396
Prince George	99	76	57	66	63	69	64	64	79	67	82
Québec	15	15	18	16	20	20	17	17	35	44	40
Regina	88	111	94	80	75	62	62	52	48	55	53
St. John's	61	58	57	58	47	44	45	48	47	52	49
Sarnia	15	14	20	12	11	15	15	19	24	25	27
Saskatoon	83	75	73	68	70	70	72	71	71	78	76
Sunshine Coast	65	69	50	43	32	38	35	32			
Thunder Bay	46	49	45	51	50	46	46	44	37	41	40
Toronto	860	904	869	782	611	573	554	502	506	610	622
Vancouver	236	254	217	198	226	228	244	251	263	256	238
Victoria	235	216	202	176	163	164	166	185	173	188	177
Windsor	106	107	96	84	90	100	96	96	98	94	89
Winnipeg	214	228	221	210	178	180	168	162	169	157	136
Yukon	44										
Unattached	413	429	431	428	446	435	434	459	530	561	512
Honorary	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	15
	4916	4981	4760	4410	4077	3908	4010	4055	4216	4347	4138

Membership by Type

Type	Number	% of Total
Ordinary	3732	76.3
Family	698	14.3
Life	295	6.1
Youth	149	3.0
Honorary	(15)	n/a

Membership by Country

Country	Number	% of Total
Canada	4676	95.6
USA	181	3.7
Other	32	.7

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Briefly, I was appointed Treasurer on January 24, 2017, after Susan Yeo stepped down from the position. We thank her for her service. Fortunately, the excellent support of RASC staff allowed the RASC Finance Committee and Treasurer to be more involved in the annual planning and year end functions, than in day-to-day operations. This made the transition less challenging than it might have been without the support of office staff.

The Finance Committee met in Calgary in mid-March, following one of the Strategic Planning Meetings. We reviewed comments and draft financials from the Auditor, Tinkham & Associates, LLP. After discussing key points, these were approved by the committee and forwarded to the Board for final approval. The Board approved the draft financials, and Tinkham & Associates provided the final 2016 year-end financials for the Society the week of May 16th, 2017, and they are attached to this report.

Results of Audit

The Auditor's cover letter highlighted several items of interest, and I encourage you to review this and contact me with any questions. The main highlight is that the Society is in a good financial state, realizing a significant improvement in our bottom line. The 2016 financial year had a net surplus of \$64,291, versus a loss of (\$47,087) in 2015. This net result is a result of reduced expense, new revenue sources, and respectable performance of our investments. The Treasurer would like to express his thanks to the members of the Finance Committee and prior treasurer Denis Grey for assisting in the transition and keeping us on track.

Our investments managed by ScotiaMcLeod performed very well, and the Auditor has some valid concerns regarding SkyNews. Although the Board feels strongly that the SkyNews Inc. investment is aligned with our mission, the Auditor has outlined areas of potential concern. Cost recovery from SkyNews for staff time, office space, and related items contributed to the RASC's results. Our new publications including the *Small Observatories* and *Explore the Universe Guide* as well as resale of *NightWatch* and the 2017 Eclipse Guide also contributed significantly to this positive financial outcome.

The Auditor also identified an error that was made and remediated. As you may know, editors of our major publications may receive an honorarium for their work. Unfortunately, staff inadvertently sent an honorarium to one of the editors who is currently serving as Past President on the Board of the Society. This money was returned to the Society. Directors of not-for-profit corporations may not receive compensation, under current legislation. The Finance committee and Board will need to develop and adopt a formal policy to prevent this sort of error in the future.

Several of the RASC committees requested budget, and did not spend as much as requested. Our staff, volunteers, and committees are usually frugal, negotiating discounts and using volunteer time. Upon analysis, the reduced expenditure may also be due to some committees achieving less than planned. For the future, we may wish to consider re-budgeting part way through the year, or following up with committees to ensure their goals are being achieved.

As a member of the Society, you approve the selection of Auditor and pay a fair portion of their services, including the audit and Annual Report to membership. This year, we feel the Auditor provided good value, and guidance, and a helpful report. We will propose that the Society continue to use Tinkham & Associates LLC.

Other Items

The Walter Helm Endowment Fund disbursed \$2031.27 under the terms of the Agreement to the Toronto Centre for the operations of the David Dunlap Observatory. It is expected that this will be the final year, and so the Trustees (David Lane, Halifax Centre; Mary Lou Whitehorne, Halifax Centre; Colin Haig, Hamilton Centre) will need to identify a new beneficiary in 2017 that meets the Fund's terms.

The Canada Revenue Agency T3 filing for The Walter Helm Endowment Fund was slightly late, due to circumstances beyond my control. No taxes were due. The CRA T3010 annual filing for RASC was completed with assistance Tinkham & Associates.

The 2017 Budget is under revision again, due to changing priorities resulting from the new Strategic Plan. We are projecting a modest loss this year, unless new fundraising programs and investment performance continues to improve.

Donations, Fees, and New Sources of Revenue

Member Fees cover related services and publications, however they do not support important programs such as the Public Speaker Program, Light Pollution Abatement, or other charitable activities. As member fees do not automatically support the fight for dark nights, or help us bring speakers to Centres who may be less able to do so, please donate today to support the work of the Society. Our new renewal process makes this much easier today.

A new Fundraising Committee started in 2016, and we hope this initiative will yield results in the latter half of 2017. Donations were up slightly in 2016 (a total of \$23,489), however this does not go very far - we can't accomplish a lot without more financial support. If you haven't done so in 2017, please make a donation, and encourage those you know to do so.

Each year, our Society endeavours to keep member costs low and provide good service. Costs continue to rise, and it may become necessary for a modest fee increase in the future. We also think that a "premium membership" may be appealing to some members, receiving additional benefits at a higher fee, allowing the society to keep regular membership fees close to today's levels. We are seeing this at many other member-supported organizations, and likely it will be a topic of further discussion.

Closing Comments

The Society's financial operations are supported by the very talented Renata Koziol at the Society Office. We want to express our support and thanks to staff, including Renata specifically. It has been a lot of work to get up to speed, and to learn the necessary skills and tasks. Our results speak volumes about the good work done by the staff and volunteers in our Society.

Best regards,

Colin Haig
RASC Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Tinkham & Associates LLP CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada/La Société Royale D'Astronomie Du Canada, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2016 and the statements of revenue and expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

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 of revenues over expenses for the year, assets or unrestricted net assets.

Qualified Opinion


In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2016 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

TORONTO, Ontario
April 5, 2017


Tinkham & Associates LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31	2016	2015
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 116,894	\$ 110,600
Accounts receivable	25,136	38,913
Receivable from SkyNews Inc. (note 5)	5,982	5,983
Inventory	31,168	26,218
Prepaid expenses	19,521	10,172
	198,701	191,886
Long Term		
Investments (note 4)	877,646	828,414
Investment in SkyNews Inc. (note 5)	212,555	211,500
Capital assets (note 6)		
Tangible assets	5,026	5,138
Intangible assets	34,379	37,425
	\$ 1,328,307	\$ 1,274,363
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 30,055	\$ 25,541
Deferred revenue		
Membership fees for ensuing years	121,181	126,248
<i>Journal</i> subscriptions	14,694	21,838
Unamortized life membership fees (note 7)	23,852	26,502
	189,782	200,129
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	601,999	564,148
Internally restricted (note 9)	536,526	510,086
	1,138,525	1,074,234
	1,328,307	1,274,363
Commitment (note 8)		
		<i>See accompanying notes to financial statements</i>
On Behalf of the Board		



 President



 Treasurer

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended December 31	Internally Restricted (note 9)	Unrestricted	2016	2015
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 510,086	\$ 564,148	\$ 1,074,234	\$ 1,121,321
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	-	64,291	64,291	(47,087)
Transfers (note 9)	26,440	(26,440)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 536,526	\$ 601,999	\$ 1,138,525	\$ 1,074,234

See accompanying notes to financial statements

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Year ended December 31	2016	2015
Revenue		
Membership fee revenue	\$ 211,842	\$ 199,452
Publication revenue		
<i>Observer's Handbook</i>	117,836	102,810
<i>Journal</i>	39,133	38,554
<i>Observer's Calendar</i>	38,706	35,473
Shipping and Handling	32,376	30,220
Educational Aids	4,420	3,212
Other Publications	17,273	3,068
	249,744	214,337
Miscellaneous income		
Donations	23,489	19,854
Other income	8,992	9,749
Promotional products	7,881	4,262
<i>SkyNews</i> (note 5)	1,055	-
	41,417	33,865
Investment Income (net)		
Gain (loss) on investments	49,877	3,021
Interest and dividends	21,017	24,592
Investment manager fees	(10,313)	(12,529)
	60,581	15,084
Total Revenue	563,584	462,738
Expenditures		
Publication costs		
<i>Journal</i>	46,856	55,216
Freight and handling costs	37,280	30,860
Cost of publications sold	32,623	25,649
<i>Observer's Handbook</i>	4,772	5,642
	121,531	117,367
Operating costs		
Office salaries and employee benefits	171,439	163,872
Membership services	85,014	71,536
Services	36,386	49,675
Travel expenses	29,677	37,258
Office expenses	37,746	30,834
Committees	15,738	26,354
Occupancy	26,500	17,818
Amortization of capital assets	17,539	14,691
Advertising and marketing	8,514	8,798
Strategic Planning	6,150	-
Cost of promotional items sold	4,773	3,392
Recovery of office salaries and rent (note 5)	(61,714)	(31,770)
	377,762	392,458
Total Expenditures	499,293	509,825
Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue) for the year	\$ 64,291	\$ (47,087)

See accompanying notes to financial statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year ended December 31	2016	2015
Cash provided (used) by operating activities		
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ 64,291	\$ (47,087)
Charges not requiring a current cash payment		
Amortization of capital assets	17,539	14,691
Amortization of life membership fees	(2,650)	(2,650)
Income of SkyNews Inc.	(1,055)	-
	78,125	(35,046)
Changes in non-cash working capital components		
Accounts receivable and receivable from SkyNews Inc.	13,778	(4,875)
Inventory	(4,950)	(6,743)
Prepaid Expenses	(9,349)	143
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,514	(7,646)
Deferred revenues	(12,211)	10,155
	69,907	(44,012)
Cash provided (used) by investing activities		
Investments (net)	(49,232)	262,566
Investment in SkyNews Inc. (net)	-	(211,500)
Purchase of capital assets	(14,381)	(18,569)
	(63,613)	32,497
Increase (decrease) in cash during the year	6,294	(11,515)
Cash, beginning of year	\$ 110,600	\$ 122,115
Cash, end of year	\$ 116,894	\$ 110,600

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Organization

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

2. Significant accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

(a) Cash

Cash includes cash on hand and deposits in financial institutions.

(b) Investments

The Society has elected to value all investments at fair value, which is based on quoted market values.

(c) Investment in SkyNews Inc.

The Society purchased 100% of the shares of SkyNews Inc., a profit oriented entity, and accordingly controls the corporation. The Society has elected to account for the investment using the equity method.

The Society purchased SkyNews Inc., a private corporation, on June 29, 2015 to further the Society’s mission. SkyNews Inc. publishes a highly regarded magazine which provides an excellent source of educational information on astronomy and allied sciences to the public. This aligns with the mandate of the Society.

(d) 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.

(e) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Cost comprises the purchase price and any directly attributable cost of preparing the asset for intended use.

A capital asset is tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that its carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized in the statement of revenue and expenses when the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the sum of the undiscounted cash flows resulting from its use and eventual disposition. The impairment loss is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of the capital asset exceeds its fair value. An impairment loss is not reversed if the fair value of the capital asset subsequently increases. As at December 31, 2015, no such impairment exists.

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

Tangible assets:	Computer hardware	3 years
	Office furniture	10 years
Intangible assets:	Software	5-10 years
	Website development	3 years, 1/2 in year of acquisition

(f) Revenue recognition

(i) 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 7. The unamortized life membership fees are being recognized as revenue evenly over 10 years to 2025.

(ii) Contributions

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.

(iii) Investment Income

Investment income is recognized on an accrual basis. The unrealized gain or loss on investments, being the difference between cost and fair value, is recognized in investment income for the year.

(iv) Subscriptions and publications

Journal subscription revenues are amortized into income over the subscription period. Publications are recognized as revenue when shipped.

(g) Contributed services

The organization is dependant on the voluntary services of many individuals. The value of donated services is not recognized in these financial statements

(h) Management estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant estimates include the impairment of accounts receivable and the useful lives of capital assets. All estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are made to the statement of operations as appropriate in the year they become known.

(i) Financial instruments

(i) Measurement

The Society initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. The Society subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost except for its investments which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the excess of revenue over expenditures for the year.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued charges.

(ii) Impairment

At the end of each reporting period, the Society assesses whether there are any indications that a financial asset measured at amortized cost may be impaired. When there is an indication of impairment, the Society determines whether a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows from the financial asset and it reduces the carrying amount of the asset to the highest of the following: i) the present value of the cash flows expected to be generated by holding the asset discounted using a current market rate of interest appropriate to the asset; ii) the amount that could be realized by selling the asset at the statement of financial position date; and iii) the amount the Society expects to realize by exercising its rights to any collateral held to secure repayment of the asset net of all costs necessary to exercise those rights. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced directly or through the use of an allowance account. The amount of the reduction is recognized as a bad debt in the statement of revenue and expenses. When the extent of impairment of a previously written-down asset decreases and the decrease can be related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the statements of revenue and expenses in the period the reversal occurs.

(iii) Transaction costs

Transaction costs are recognized in the statements of operations in the period incurred, except for financial instruments that will be subsequently measured at amortized cost. Investment management fees associated with the Scotia McLeod managed portfolio are expensed as incurred.

3. Helm Fund

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 that was to be used to support the general purposes of the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Under the terms of a 2010 court interpretation, the income of the Helm Fund is presently being applied in support of on-going public education programs at the DDO site.

4. Investments

As at December 31	2016	2015
Managed portfolio at Scotia McLeod		
Fixed income investments	\$ 414,672	\$ 390,600
Canadian equity investments	276,076	222,695
US equity investments	119,679	116,656
Cash	67,219	98,463
Accrued interest and dividends receivable (net)	-	-
	\$ 877,646	\$ 828,414

The actively managed portfolio with ScotiaMcLeod includes 13 fixed income investments (2015—13 investments) comprised of government and corporate bonds with stated interest rates ranging from 1.51% to 3.80% (2015 - 1.75% to 5.53%), maturing from June 15, 2017 to March 15, 2022 (2015 - June 1, 2016 to December 6, 2024).

The Canadian equity investments include share and trust units of 26 Canadian entities (2015—26 Canadian entities). The single largest holding is 429 shares of Toronto Dominion Bank with a market value of \$21,408 (2015—402 shares of Toronto-Dominion Bank with a

market value of \$21,804).

The U.S. equity investments include share and trust units of 33 entities (2015—31 entities). The single largest holding is 88 shares of Citigroup Inc. with a market value of \$5,230 US\$ (2015—50 shares of CVS Health Corporation with a market value of \$4,889 US\$)

The fixed income and equity investments have been recorded at market value based on information provided by Scotia Wealth Management (ScotiaMcLeod).

5. Investment in SkyNews Inc.

The Society purchased 100% of the common shares of SkyNews Inc. on June 26, 2015. The fiscal year end of SkyNews Inc. is March 31, accordingly, the net income for the period from the date of purchase to March 31, 2016 has been recognized in the financial statements of the Society in 2016. The following summary is taken from the unaudited financial statements of SkyNews Inc.

As at	March 31, 2016	June 29, 2015
Total assets	\$ 146,854	\$ 126,804
Total liabilities	244,189	225,194
Total deficit	(97,345)	(98,390)
		Period Ended March 31 2016
Total revenue		\$ 351,717
Total cost of sales		306,333
Total expenses		44,329
Net income for the period		\$ 1,055

The Society has recognized cost recoveries totalling \$61,714 (2015 - \$31,770) for office salaries and rent charged to SkyNews Inc. Included in membership services expense is \$45,153 (2015 - \$45,223) for purchases of *SkyNews Magazine* in the year which is distributed to Society members as part of their membership subscription. The Society also expensed \$5,353 (2015 - \$2,235) in advertising and marketing for advertisements in *SkyNews Magazine* and purchased inventory totalling \$Nil (2015 - \$3,388) from SkyNews Inc. These transactions were made in the normal course of operations and have been measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

6. Capital assets

		2016 Accumulated Cost Amortization		2015 Accumulated Cost Amortization
Tangible Assets				
Computer hardware	\$ 15,729	\$ 12,070	\$ 14,212	\$ 9,671
Office furniture	2,629	1,263	1,542	946
Library	1	-	1	-
	\$ 18,359	\$ 13,333	\$ 15,755	\$ 10,617
Net book value		\$ 5,026		\$ 5,138
Intangible assets				
Software	74,118	\$ 45,622	62,341	\$ 34,721
Website development	11,766	5,883	11,766	1,961
	85,884	\$ 51,505	74,107	\$ 36,682
Net book value		\$ 34,379		\$ 37,425

7. Unamortized life membership fees

	2016	2015
Life membership fees as of January 1	\$ 26,502	\$ 29,152
Deduct: Amortization to income	(2,650)	(2,650)
Balance, December 31	\$ 23,852	\$ 26,502

8. Commitment

The Society has extended its existing lease agreement for office premises extending to 2019 March 31. The minimum annual payments required under the lease, excluding an estimate of the proportionate share of property taxes, maintenance and insurance for the premises, for fiscal 2017: \$14,411, 2018: \$15,388 and 2019: \$3,908. Property tax, maintenance and insurance in addition to the base rent is estimated at \$11,000 for 2017.

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 Board of Directors related to public education and outreach. The P.M. Millman Endowment Fund was established in 1990 for the purpose of providing for the long-term growth of the Society. The Sustaining Membership Fund was established in 2009 to encourage Centres to organize and host public talks by speakers from outside their local area about astronomical related topics.

An amount equal to the investment income for the year is transferred to all funds annually on a proportionate basis. All disbursements from these funds must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Schedule 1: Internally Restricted Net Assets				2016	2015
	Sustaining Membership Fund	Ruth Northcott Fund	P. M. Millman Endowment Fund	Total	Total
Fund balance, January 1	\$ 11,894	\$ 204,641	\$ 293,551	\$ 510,086	\$ 499,336
Transferred from Unrestricted net assets:					
Interest	671	11,541	16,555	28,767	6,717
Donations	1,674	2,451	230	4,355	9,769
Expenses	(6,682)	-	-	(6,682)	(5,736)
	(4,337)	13,992	16,785	26,440	10,750
Balance, December 31	\$ 7,557	\$ 218,633	\$ 310,336	\$ 536,526	\$ 510,086

10. Financial instruments

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Society's risk exposure and concentrations.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Society is exposed to credit risk through its cash, accounts receivable and investments. Credit risk related to cash is minimal as funds are fully insured and held by credit-worthy parties. Accounts receivable are generally unsecured. The investment policy requires diversification of investments within categories, and sets limits on exposure to individual investments.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will not be able to meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due. The Society meets its liquidity requirements by ensuring adequate cash is maintained and investments are available to be converted to cash if and when required.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

Currency risk

Currency risk reflects the risk that the Society's earnings will decline due to the fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The Society has cash and investments denominated in U.S.\$ totalling \$139,254 at December 31, 2016 (2015 - \$141,090). The exchange rate used to convert US\$ assets at December 31, 2016 is \$1 US = \$1.3427 Cdn. (2015 - \$1.3840 Cdn).

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Society is subject to interest rate risk to the extent of its fixed income investments and cash on deposit with financial institutions that earn interest at market rates. The Society manages its exposure to the interest rate risk of its cash by maximizing the interest income earned on excess funds while maintaining the liquidity necessary to conduct operations on a day to day basis. Fluctuations in market rates of interest on cash do not have a significant impact on the Society's results of operations.

The primary objective of the Society with respect to its fixed income investments is to ensure the security of principal amounts invested, provide for a high degree of liquidity, and achieve a satisfactory investment return.

Other price risk

Other price risk refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from currency risk or interest rate risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all similar instruments in the market.

The Society is exposed to other price risk because of its equity investments.

Changes in risk

There have been no changes in the Society's risk exposures from the prior year.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—2016

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held Sunday, 2016 may 22 at 9:00 EDT, at Fanshawe College, London, Ontario

Board Members Attendance

James Edgar, Chris Gainor, Robyn Foret, Denis Grey, Charles Ennis, Heather Laird, Randy Boddam, Randy Atwood, Craig Levine, Susan Yeo, Colin Haig.

1. Call to Order

Chair James Edgar called the call to order at 9:02 hrs.

2. Previous Minutes

MOTION AGM16-1 Moved by McCulloch, seconded by Chris Gainor, to approve the minutes as previously distributed. No discussion. Motion AGM 16-1 was CARRIED.

3. Reports of Officers

President (James Edgar)

James Edgar welcomed the new Board and introduced them to the attendees, pointing out that he remained on the Board as a director, which had never happened before. James reported on his travels and visits to RASC Centres.

1st Vice-President (Chris Gainor)

Chris Gainor presented the 1st Vice-President's report: Chris spoke of the new B.C. Societies Legislation, which means Centres must update their By-Laws by November 2016. Chris reported that the Halifax Centre is also working on their By-Laws. Chris said we are still waiting for Ontario to proclaim their new societies act: this was passed four years ago and still appears to be two years away from proclamation. With regards to the publications committee: Chris reported that the usual publications are going through transitions and spoke about recent changes in editors and staff. Chris announced that an RASC newsletter would be inserted into the next edition of *SkyNews*. Finally, Chris reported that the Explore the Universe Guide would be coming out soon to replace the Beginner's Observing Guide.

Dave Chapman asked how Explore the Universe guide would be made available. Will it be for sale through usual outlets? Chris confirmed that the Publications Committee is not planning at this time to do an e-book and that the Observing Committee will update the certificate program.

James Edgar reported that a new NOVA program is being developed, which is based on the Explore the Universe Guide.

2nd Vice-President (Robyn Foret)

Robyn Foret presented the 2nd Vice-President's report: Robyn reported the formation of a working group for the Strategic Plan to make it actionable. Robyn reported that the Nominating Committee almost had an election, having four candidates for three positions. However, Karen Finstad stepped down due to family circumstances, so the election of directors was settled by acclamation. Robyn expressed his hope that in the future more members would step forward to serve on the national Board. Robyn made a "shout out" to all members to spread the word for people to put their names forward as candidates early.

Lauri Roche asked how many positions came available on the Board each year? Robyn replied that three Board positions came

open each year. Lauri asked what Director's positions would be open. Robyn described the process of electing Directors, who then held an election for officers of the Board.

National Secretary (Charles Ennis)

Charles Ennis presented a National Secretary's report, Karen Finstad having filed a report previously. Charles focused on the Public Speaker Program and how it was under-utilized, encouraging members to use this program to bring speakers in to their Centres.

Treasurer (Denis Grey)

Denis Gray presented the Treasurer's report, and reported that he would remain chair of the IT Committee. Denis said that part of the Annual Report is the Financial Report, and the Auditor's involvement. Denis said that the Treasurer reports to the auditor, and then Auditor reports back to the Treasurer. Last year, the Society had deficit of about \$50,000 (10% of revenues), primarily due to a drop in the Society's investment portfolio. Denis pointed out that this was a key change: although membership numbers were up and the Observer's Handbook sales up due to the U.S. dollar, the Observer's Calendar revenues were down due to not receiving the customary order from *Sky & Telescope*. One additional cost was a special edition of the *Journal* last year.

Denis reported that the biggest change last year was the acquisition of SkyNews, which cost about \$200,000. This gave the Society control over the magazine, and from a non-profit perspective this was like investing in a stock. Denis reported that the Society's investment portfolio was smaller, and that as an investment, SkyNews was not easily liquidated. However, overhead costs for the Society are now partially covered by SkyNews, such as wages for the Executive Director and staff. Denis described the relationship between SkyNews and the Society as a "strategic partnership," making it easier to work with SkyNews.

Denis spoke of the necessity to split operations into three parts: charitable, publications, and membership services. Regarding the budget for coming year, Denis expected the Society to make some surplus on membership due to the transfer to the SkyNews model, and anticipated no fee increases for the next 3-4 years. Denis expected publications to generate a small surplus, due to an aggressive plan to improve sales, the plan to deliver the Society's calendar sooner.

Denis expects a deficit in charitable funds. Denis directed members to his annual report for more details. Denis spoke of the Society's internally restricted funds as well as unrestricted funds, which form part of normal operating capital. Denis said that the changes in assets reflect general inflows and outflows. There were no questions from the floor.

MOTION AGM16-2

Moved by Denis Grey, seconded by Stan Taylor, to adopt the annual financial statements as presented for 2015.

David Lane asked: Due to our deficit in the current year, are we likely to have a deficit this year? Denis responded that he felt much better about this year, due to the slack created by SkyNews efficiency. Denis speculated that a \$10,000 deficit was possible, and considered this a "break-even budget." Denis said that if there were no surprises, the Society should do well. Denis said that he'd lowballed the investment income, and said that "as long as stocks were down" we should be okay. Denis said that changes in investment-pool income affected us last year.

Brian asked why no there had been no rate increase? Denis replied that reduced overhead by sharing costs with SkyNews had made a difference, with membership paying 40% of office admin-

istration costs rather than 60%. Society office staff were effectively working “part time” for the Society and part time for SkyNews by this staff-sharing arrangement.

A member asked: “What is the projected cost for that?” Denis replied that you could find the figures in the notes of the annual financial report, citing the cost recovery to be \$31,770.

A member asked: “Will that cover other expenses like an investment advisor?” Denis replied that we already have a financial advisor, Scotia McLeod in Halifax. Our Society pays an aggressive fee with a non-profit discount, based on the percentage of assets under management. Denis pointed out that one change with SkyNews was our assets under management were down 20%, so we pay less for management fees.

Colin Haig added that there are between 2 - 4 reviews every year, and that our financial advisors are not managing fixed assets, just managing investments. Colin pointed out that the stock market has been volatile, and that the Society paid just on investments held in equities.

Denis invited Brian to engage with the Finance Committee. Katrina asked why there had been an increase in *Observer's Handbook* income? Denis attributed this to U.S. sales with a strong U.S. dollar. Denis described this as a “One-time bonus year,” with unit sales stable but the dollar change helping.

Chair James Edgar called the question on Motion AGM 16-2. No further discussion.

Motion AGM 16-2 was CARRIED at 9:39 hours.

MOTION AGM16-3

Moved by Denis Grey seconded by Susan Yeo that our auditor be reappointed.

MOTION AGM16-3 was CARRIED.

Executive Director (Randy Attwood)

Randy Attwood presented a report on the National Office. Randy opened by saying that Denis Grey had done an excellent job, which was appreciated very much.

Randy said “Until you dig deep you don't realize the amount of work involved,” and he thanked Renata Koziol for the amount of work she does. Randy directed members to his previously submitted written report. To Randy, the highlight was the acquisition of SkyNews, which he viewed as positive. Randy announced that the final part of this transition was now underway. Randy stated: “You own part of SkyNews, I encourage you to support it.” He encouraged members to purchase gift subscriptions and to support SkyNews advertisers. “Without advertisers,” Randy said, “It would disappear quickly.”

Randy pointed out that, for the first time in history, our Society had over 5000 members, up 1000 in 4 years. Randy reported that we lose 100 members/month. “We are treading water with membership,” Randy said. Randy reported that last year we gained 850 members but lost 770.

Randy reported that we had printed 500 extra copies of the *Observer's Handbook* and sold out. Randy reported that the office always sent out samples of the *Handbook* to institutions that could become subscribers. Income from the *Observer's Handbook* last year was boosted by the U.S. exchange.

Randy promoted fundraising activity, saying that fundraising would become one of the most important committees. Randy reported that in the past the Society had been rescued by bequests, which wiped out deficits, or by years when the stock market did well. Randy said that the Society must have an active fundraising committee to support the Society's activities, pointing out that there were programs we could implement if we had the funds. Randy spoke of an updated strategic plan and financial strategic plan. Randy also spoke of the National Newsletter returning as an insert in *SkyNews*, its purpose to provide members with important information in written form, as not everyone opens the online *Journal*.

Randy hoped this newsletter would make people aware of special programs, and announced that the newsletter would appear in the next issue of *SkyNews*.

Randy reported that the recent Subaru advertising campaign had a big impact.

Randy also stated that he believed that RASC activities concerning the recent Mercury transit demonstrated the strength of our Society, resulting in the first space day on Parliament Hill.

Randy spoke about the Society's upcoming 150th anniversary in 2018, saying that a working group would be discussing this project this weekend, with Randall Rosenfeld as chair. Randy described their work on a 150th anniversary logo, and showed the attendees a prototype of that logo. Randy said that we have two years to prepare and asked the attendees to present suggestions to Randall that day. Finally, Randy thanked the Board for their work, with a special acknowledgement to office staff.

A member asked: “Why are people leaving? Are we doing exit surveys?” Randy replied that the Society does: every month we have a grace period, and office staff call to remind members of memberships coming due. Randy reported that a lot of members are forgetting to rejoin, and that the implementation of new software will allow automatic renewals, sending an email to renew two months in advance. Randy said that most who drop off are first year. Reasons for this could be financial, that they didn't get what they expected, that they couldn't make meetings, etc. Randy described members spread across twenty-nine Centres, each with varying programs. Randy said that Centres must develop programs to train newbies, which takes a special effort. Randy spoke of the need to have a working group to survey delinquent members and entice them with a prize.

A member asked: “How much do we get in donations annually? Is it about \$50,000?” Randy reported that donations average about \$20,000 annually. Randy said that when members renew, they have the ability to donate to various Society funds. Randy said that right now donations are passive, some more-so than others, and that we do not just need donations to run our organization, we need donations to fund special projects. Randy expressed our intention to identify specific projects to capture the interest of members and motivate charitable donations.

A member asked: “How did the Subaru thing come to be?” Randy reported that Subaru approached the RASC to see if their advertisement and website were correct. Subaru is now a diamond sponsor of the RASC, donating \$3000/year. Randy hoped that Subaru would advertise in *SkyNews*.

A member asked: “Would Subaru be able to support a star party?” Randy said that hopefully this advertising campaign would extend to support of such projects and would attract other big-name sponsors.

A member asked: “Did you say that the 150th logo will be made into a crest which can be distributed?” Randy said yes, but the price had yet to be established.

James Edgar pointed out that life members could contribute to the Sustaining Member Fund (which is the source of Public Speaker Program funds), or to support the Special Programs Project (Northcott Fund).

3. Reports of Permanent Committees

Awards

James Edgar reported that there were no members of the Awards Committee in attendance to report but that they had filed a report for members to review.

Education and Public Outreach

Andrea Misner presented a report for the Education Committee: Andrea said that the only thing to add to their report was the addition of Jennifer West to their committee. James Edgar pointed out that the Education Committee was re-

sponsible for the new Nova program.

Colin Haig asked: "How do you know how well we are doing with education?" Andrea replied that their program was so integrated with everything else like outreach, that it was hard to know, and that that was partly due to how many teachers were involved.

Robyn Foret spoke as Board Liaison of the Education Committee: Robyn said that there had been more teacher education conferences than ever due to the work of Lauri Roche. Robyn spoke of how RASC Centres were involved in the Canada-Wide Science Fair. Robyn suspected that the Society will identify other ways to serve the public. He added that the Moon Gazers and Star Finders program was doing well.

David Lane commented that the Society collects statistics about outreach events, and said that we should report on those numbers quarterly, perhaps in a box or sidebar in the newsletter.

Finance (Denis Grey, Chair)

Denis Grey reported on the Finance Committee, saying that the Finance Committee had been reconstituted. Denis invited Susan Yeo to talk about that, and said that there had been a review of the investment portfolio and procedures..

History (Randall Rosenfeld, Chair)

Randall Rosenfeld reported on the History Committee. Randall thanked members of his committee for their hard work. Randall told the attendees: "All activity you do is part of the story of astronomy in Canada, and matters, and becomes history. Keep it up and don't throw anything out. If you need archival advice, or if you have questions, contact us."

Information Technology (Craig Levine, Chair)

Craig Levine reported on the IT Committee, which he described as the "Whirring fans and blinking lights committee." Craig said that they were looking at the migration into cloud databases, finalizing it now. Craig said that David Lane was involved in this work. The conversion of the Society's website to Drupal 7 is now complete, having been completed by an outside contractor last year. The Society is now migrating its cell-phone system to get more services. Craig described the IT Committee goal as providing service to Centres and members. Craig described his committee has having spent a lot of time navel gazing due to government regulations. This year the IT Committee hopes to install membership software in the background that will facilitate a single sign-on and better and easier payment systems. Craig estimated \$10,000 for this long-overdue project, which would make our website easier to access with cell phone, etc. It would also make sure we have CASL compliance.

Craig also described the mail list migration into cloud. Craig expressed his concern about Centre webmasters retiring, leaving Centres in jeopardy. Craig spoke of the need for data collection. Future projects include: refreshing the Society's website to transform it from an "ordering website." Craig described the current website as containing "Too much word soup legacy info". Craig said our website must excite visitors, and must make their visit painless. Craig spoke of the need to support all our constituencies. "We have got to grow up," Craig said.

A member asked: "How does Drupal training work for members with minimal tech skills?" Craig said that the IT Committee was working on that now, and would roll out training as quickly as possible.

A member asked if it was possible to set up the website for higher priority Google search. Craig described this as a good question. Craig said that he couldn't personally answer that question, that he needed to consult with others. Randy Attwood said that Sky-News knew how to do it now after consulting, and could advise the IT Committee. Denis Grey pointed out that an "astronomy Canada" search on Google currently yields the RASC first and *Sky-News* second. Craig pointed out that the Society needs people to

write and renew content, as well as people to contribute content. Craig said the key is contributions. "Tech is fine, we can make it look gorgeous," Craig said, "But we need content."

A member asked: "Have you thought about astronomy advertising?" Craig replied that the Society is already doing that, and cited the sponsorship program. The member asked about advertising for local websites? Craig replied that "whatever you want is under your control."

A member asked: "Does the RASC have a tech team? Craig responded that we do have people with appropriate skill sets, but that volunteer time is precious. "To be more agile we invest in resources like we did last year to bring in the skill sets we need," Craig explained, "If you have such skill sets contact us."

Craig said that he hoped that when we revamped the webpage that membership renewal would be updated, especially to encourage and simplify donations. Craig Levine asked Denis Grey if Drupal would help this process? Denis replied that what was needed was not Drupal related. Craig said that he believed an iMIS update would be required to accommodate this goal, and added that the website needs to be drastically improved in this regard.

Jim Hesser pointed out that one way to think about it is that the website is the Society's largest publication. Jim asked if it would be possible for the Publishing Committee and the IT Committee to work together?

Craig Levine said that this view was correct and a good point, and that he hadn't thought about it like that. Craig thought that the Membership Committee should also be a part of this, and that there were any number of stakeholders, as it all circles back to the Strategic Plan.

Light-Pollution Abatement (Robert Dick, Chair)

Chair James Edgar advised that a representative of the Light-Pollution Abatement Committee (Robert Dick) was not in attendance but that they had submitted a report. James pointed out that Robert has been active in reviewing the *Guide to Outdoor Lighting* (GOL).

Membership & Development (Roland Dechesne, Chair)

Chair James Edgar advised that Roland Dechesne of the Membership and Development Committee was not in attendance but that a report had been submitted. James reported that Roland has been busy working with the potential new Centre in Red Deer.

Nominating (Chris Gainor, Chair)

Robyn Foret, representing the Nominating Committee said he'd already spoken to this earlier in the meeting.

Observing (Alan Whitman, Chair)

David Chapman, Deputy Chair of the Observing Committee made their report: David Chapman reports they've created a new Explore the Moon Certificate Program, which they will try to roll out this year. David described it as "Isobel Williamson Light" and reported that it has been field tested. Regarding membership retention, Chapman said that the Society does tremendous outreach, but that beginners don't fit into that—that we need to give beginners something to do. David suggested using the Explore the Universe Guide to get new members started, and said that it should be available at discount or free to new members.

Astroimaging Committee (Tenho Tuomi, Chair)

Chair James Edgar said that there was no one in attendance to represent the new Astroimaging Committee: This is Tenho Tuomi's new group, which will be putting out a new certificate program.

Fundraising Committee (Heather Laird, Chair)

Heather Laird of the Fundraising Committee referred to their report, which had been submitted. Heather told the attendees of drafting a gift acceptance policy with the assistance of RASC member Ryan Fraser. Heather said that we want to adhere to law and the CRA, which will protect us, and that we expected the

policy to be on line by July. Heather said that her committee was waiting for the upcoming September meeting to begin action on a Strategic Plan. Heather explained that members of the Fundraising Committee had been spending the last few months educating themselves to do this properly. Heather called for suggestions from the membership.

Dave Chapman reported that at a recent AAVSO meeting, he learned that they held a fundraising event every year, with a keynote speaker. He reported that AAVSO national board members donate every year.

Charles Ennis added that the Public Speaker Program could be used to help set up such a fundraising event.

A member asked about the recent discussions about funding a remote observatory? James Edgar replied that no committee had been set up for this, and that the Society was still investigating it.

4. Roll Call for Centres:

Dave Chapman pointed out that we had not yet had a roll call for Centres. James Edgar then conducted a roll call. Representatives from the following Centres were present: Bellville, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Hamilton, Kingston, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Mississauga, Centre francophone de Montréal, Montréal,

New Brunswick, Niagara, Okanagan, Ottawa, Regina, St. Johns, Sunshine Coast, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, Windsor, Winnipeg, Unattached. Not present: Prince George, Quebec, Sarnia, Yukon.

5. Other Business:

Eric Kujala reported another successful year in Ottawa webcasting astronomical events. Eric reported that his Centre also did their first remote webcast for the Mercury Transit, with another coming up for the Mars close approach. Eric asked that Centres seriously consider making webcasting more widespread, pointing out that we have great content. Eric said his Centre would help other Centres in technical matters involving webcasting.

James Edgar listed members who had passed away in the last year and asked for a moment of silence.

6. Adjournment

James Edgar adjourned the meeting at 10:55 hours EDT.

Charles Ennis

National Secretary

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

		Belleville	Calgary	Edmonton	Halifax	Hamilton	Kingston	Kitchener-Waterloo	London	Mississauga
REVENUE										
Membership	Membership Fees: Centre Fee	792	10,045	6,165	2,901	3,298	1,247	2420	2,443	3,412
	Membership Fees: Affiliate						23			
	Membership Fees: other									
	Centre Newsletter				289					
Donations / Fundraising	Donations		2,548	1,590	1,000		1,014	500		
	Fundraising							571		
Sales Revenue	Sale of Observer's Handbooks						35			
	Sale of Observer's Calendars		1,750	2,990	1,275	220	740	375	388	375
	Other Publication Sales	5	943				36			
	RASC promotional items	222	1,045				17	50		
	Other Sales		100				21	60		951
Subscription Revenue	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope									
	Other									
Events Revenue	Star Parties	691	1,460	1,370	1,815		76			
	Annual Dinner		2,320					1200		
	Astronomy Day									
	Meetings									
	Other Events					19,534				
General Assembly Revenue	General Assembly								57,061	
Miscellaneous Revenue	Interest and Dividends	2	4		80					
	Advertising		2,954							
	Observatory Site		726							
	Equipment Rentals/Loans		2,954	500				240		
	Public Services, events, outreach									
	Miscellaneous		1,241	523						
TOTAL REVENUE		1,712	25,136	13,138	7,361	23,052	3,407	5,416	59,892	4,738
EXPENDITURES										
Sales Expenses	RASC Publications		1,533	2,368	1,176	327	683	321	388	345
	Other Publications		93				73			112
	Newsletter				309		124		152	
	RASC promo items	249	479				139			162
	Other		370							132
Event Expenses	Star Parties	615	1,476	13,367						
	Annual Dinner	405	3,315	590				1,641		609
	Astronomy Day			268						
	BIYA		373			396				
	Meetings		1,480	357	245	4,731	368	282	55,534	800
	Other Events	63	2,192	925	1,416	30	1,174			
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings		1,742	394	180					
Administrative Expenses	Office Administration		582	157	484	345	367	67		247
	Equipment and Supplies		2,160	1,633	442		11	90		150
	Insurance		2,939		1,231	1,547	486	486		486
	General Expenses and Audit	2		3,576	54					
	Awards		813	100		88	51			576
	Donations		500	18,730	204					
	Advertising		3,837	1,105				1,959		
Miscellaneous Expenses	Observatory and Site Expenses		3,029	805	636	5,271		50		780
	Equipment & Supplies/Library		100	4,664		205				
	Depreciation		3,190		587	896				1,096
	Miscellaneous	14	834	7,001	106	7,249				163
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,348	31,047	56,046	7,070	21,084	3,477	4,897	56,074	5,658
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		364	-5,911	-42,909	291	1,968	-71	519	3,818	-920
ASSETS	Current assets	6,339	17,491	78,969	20,745	27,967	28,121	15,720	14,590	16,913
	Capital assets	720	28,332	100,000	14,346	104,178		3,000	32,261	
	Total assets		45,823	179,969	35,091	132,145	28,121	18,720	46,851	
LIABILITIES	Current liabilities		1,759		230	0				
	Long-term liabilities					0				
EQUITY	Net Equity		44,064	178,969	34,861		28,121	18,720	46,851	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				178,969		132,145			46,851	

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

		C. F. de Montréal	New Brunswick	Niagara	Okanagan	Ottawa	Prince George	Québec	Regina	St. John's
REVENUE										
Membership	Membership Fees: Centre Fee	4,124	1,646	1,615	2,580	6,931	1,894	477	1,382	1,404
	Membership Fees: Affiliate									
	Membership Fees: other				555	875	720			
	Centre Newsletter									
Donations / Fundraising	Donations	565	324	244	12,865	1,054	2,174		100	200
	Fundraising	100	506	202	13,100	50	12,000		9,822	
Sales Revenue	Sale of Observer's Handbooks									61
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	380	1,010	105	800	1,851	120	120	975	1,005
	Other Publication Sales			15						60
	RASC promotional items			34	352					
	Other Sales			878	231					
Subscription Revenue	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope									10
	Other									
Events Revenue	Star Parties									
	Annual Dinner				5,620	2,880				
	Astronomy Day									
	Other Events			135			1,742			
General Assembly Revenue	General Assembly									
Miscellaneous Revenue	Interest and Dividends	1,685		139	15	638				
	Advertising									
	Observatory Site			30						
	Equipment Rentals/Loans				366	678				45
	Public services, events, outreach						909		11	
	Miscellaneous	50	120	160	820	1,409	162			
TOTAL REVENUE		6,904	3,606	3,557	37,304	16,366	19,721	597	12,290	2,724
EXPENDITURES										
Sales Expenses	RASC Publications	264			546	2,566	855			944
	Other Publications								243	
	Newsletter				9					
	RASC promo items		841					201	48	
	Other			764	214		664		443	
Event Expenses	Star Parties		472	113					2,688	
	Annual Dinner		1,713		2,680	3,183				
	Astronomy Day		412							15
	BIYA									309
	Meetings		150	808	23	2,194			125	267
	Other Events	131	67	300	645	1,023				
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings		208		177					
Administrative Expenses	Office Administration		192	22	320	162	68		61	27
	Equipment and Supplies		75	460	1,052	31	696		252	90
	Insurance	1,643			486	2,022	1,220			486
	General Expenses and Audit		145	10			188		1,165	
	Awards				125	306				
	Donations			50						
	Advertising			70				5		
Miscellaneous Expenses	Observatory and Site Expenses	1,243		284	25,624	1,237	12,326		2,555	
	Equipment & Supplies/Library		100		55			34		68
	Depreciation			938		1,693				
	Miscellaneous					132	1,815	228	956	189
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		3,281	4,375	3,819	31,956	14,729	17,837	463	8,636	2,380
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		3,623	-769	-262	5,348	1637	1,884	134	3,654	344
ASSETS	Current assets	79,043		8,995	274,884	52,421	1,336		15,715	26,344
	Capital assets	24,485		15,730		11,675	117,899			
	Total assets	103,528		24,725		64,096	119,235			26,344
LIABILITIES	Current liabilities									
	Long-term liabilities					1,464	552			
EQUITY	Net Equity	103,528		24,725		62,632	119,787		15,715	26,344
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		103,528			274,884		119,235		15,715	

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

		Sarnia	Saskatoon	Sunshine Coast	Thunder Bay	Toronto	Vancouver	Victoria	Windsor	Winnipeg	Yukon
REVENUE											
Membership	Membership Fees: Centre Fee	265	2,548		1,170	17,874	5,518	4,255	2,691	4,458	2,396
	Membership Fees: Affiliate								700		3,476
	Membership Fees: other										
	Centre Newsletter					200					
Donations / Fundraising	Donations		245			16,906	277	300	1,643		75
	Fundraising		210					980	549		
Sales Revenue	Sale of Observer's Handbooks					400	153				
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	150			400	2,000	1,933	675	739	908	
	Other Publication Sales					200					
	RASC promotional items		570			2,117	588				
	Other Sales					1,669		597			
Subscription Revenue	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope										
	Other										
Events Revenue	Star Parties		18,420					690			
	Annual Dinner							1,855			
	Astronomy Day										
	Other Events					1,800					
General Assembly Revenue	General Assembly										
Miscellaneous Revenue	Interest and Dividends		254			14	5,793	11		28	
	Advertising						200				
	Observatory Site					28,437					
	Equipment Rentals/Loans					22,555					
	Public Services, events, outreach					4,804	1,478				
	Miscellaneous					10,273	253				
	Helm Fund										
TOTAL REVENUE		415	22,248	4,166	1,578	109,249	15,943	9,363	6,322	5,394	5,947
EXPENDITURES											
Sales Expenses	RASC Publications	150			262	200		510	500	722	
	Other Publications					100					
	Newsletter					5,000	622	210	200		
	RASC promo items				44	2,111	5,397			20	
	Other		501			1,500		501			
Event Expenses	Star Parties		17,825					134			
	Annual Dinner							2,685	62		
	Astronomy Day						1,059	319			150
	BIYA										
	Meetings						2,661	546	994	300	575
	Other Events		245				538	942		1,820	275
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings					500					1,300
Administrative Expenses	Office Administration		885			15,000	457	50	2		273
	Equipment and Supplies					25,000	135	101			300
	Insurance		1,376			4,500	486	500	1,942	644	875
	General Expenses and Audit				85	6,116	600			48	
	Awards					200	1,000	552		550	
	Donations		1,339								
	Advertising						262				
Miscellaneous Expenses	Observatory and Site Expenses		1,296			20,000	521	1,065	3,670	106	4,088
	Equipment & Supplies/Library					100	815	68		56	200
	Depreciation		1,339				727				
	Miscellaneous				84	809	2,174	494		283	5,653
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		150	23,468	6,454	475	81,136	17,454	8,667	7,170	4,549	15,390
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		265	-1,220	2,288	1,104	28,113	-1,511	696	-848	845	-9,443
ASSETS	Current assets	2,316	17,165	16,170	11,084	129,604	24,179	10,582	4,536	18,016	1,071
	Capital assets		25,453	29,866		353,548	351,775	43,820	80,000		17,800
	Total assets	2,316		46,036	11,084						18,871
LIABILITIES	Current liabilities					6,956	965	54,402			
	Long-term liabilities										
Equity	Net Equity	2,316			11,084		374,989	54,402	84,536		18,871
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				46,036	11,084		375,954	54,402	84,536		18,871