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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » Peter G. Brown

Peter G. Brown

has been at Western University as student and faculty member since 1991. Peter's presentation will take place on [Saturday afternoon](#).

He is Canada Research Chair in Meteor Astronomy and co-Director of the Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration. His work on meteorite falls such as Peekskill (1992), St. Robert (1994), Tagish Lake (2000) and Chelyabinsk (2013) is widely cited in scientific papers. He won the RASC/CASCA Plaskett Medal for his Ph.D. thesis in 2001, on the topic of "Evolution of two periodic meteoroid streams: The Perseids and the Leonids," and was one of very few scientists included in Maclean's Magazine's "Top 100 Young Canadians to Watch in the 21st Century." Read the Maclean's article dated 2000-01-01, in Volume 112, Issue 52, if you have an account/subscription with them.

Peter's home page is [here](#).





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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » Charles Ennis

Charles Ennis

is President of the RASC Sunshine Coast Centre in British Columbia. He has interviewed dozens of amateur astronomers who built their own small observatories, and is preparing a book profiling these observatories that will be available from the RASC.

Charles will give a presentation on [Sunday afternoon](#). Charles' home page is [here](#)



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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » [Jeremy Hansen](#)

Jeremy Hansen

Canadian Space Agency Astronaut Jeremy Hansen grew up in southwestern Ontario and has been interested in flying and space exploration since he was 12 years old. In 2009, he was selected to become one of two Canadian astronauts from a pool of over 5,300 candidates. Delivering the opening remarks at GA2016/AstroCATS, Jeremy will share his experiences as an astronaut at 09:00 on Saturday morning.

[Jeremy Hansen's official biography and video profile](#)



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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » [Ann Hornschemeier](#)

Ann Hornschemeier

is the 2016 Helen Sawyer **Hogg Memorial Lecturer**. This signature event will take place on [Saturday afternoon](#). Ann is Chief Scientist for NASA's [Physics of the Cosmos](#) program at the Goddard Research Center. She received her Ph.D. from Penn State University in 2002, held a Chandra Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University from 2002-2004, and specializes in studies of X-ray emission from star formation in galaxies at cosmologically interesting distances. The Hogg Lecture is

All the X-ray binaries in the Universe:

X-ray Emission from Normal and Starburst Galaxies Near and Far

There has been a lot of excitement recently about the role X-ray emission from galaxies plays in the early heating of the primordial gas out of which the first galaxies formed. That gas is called the early universe Intergalactic Medium (IGM). Understanding X-ray emission from normal and starburst galaxies may have significant impact on what we know about structure formation in the Universe. Much of this X-ray emission arises from the stellar-mass black holes and neutron stars that result after the death of massive stars; we observe these as luminous X-ray binary systems. In this lecture we will learn about the latest results on this "post-mortem" view of star formation via high energy observations from space.





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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » Hubble Telescope artifact

Hubble Telescope artifact

In 2014, the European Space Agency/Hubble Telescope had an international competition called *Ode to Hubble*, to mark the 25th anniversary of the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope. Two Nova Scotians, Halley Davies and Martin Hellmich (an RASC Halifax Centre member) won the Under-25 category! Their prize included an actual piece of the HST which was brought back from one of the repair missions. They were not able to display their prize at the General Assembly in 2015, so it will be in London for AstroCATS/GA2016

See their prize-winning video [here](#). Note that Halley and Martin have also won the RASC Simon Newcomb Award in 2016 for this project.

Read about their competition victory [here](#).



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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » Robert Jedicke

Robert Jedicke

is a Canadian astronomy researcher working at the [Institute for Astronomy](#) of the University of Hawaii. Jedicke's expertise is analysing observations and theoretical dynamics of the population of asteroids in the solar system, particularly mini-moons near Earth's orbit. Recently, his search for mini-moons took him to the control room of the Subaru telescope on the summit of Mauna Kea, where he had an observing run with an 8-metre telescope.

Robert will give a public lecture about the mini-moons on [Thursday evening](#), 2016-05-19, and also a more focussed presentation on [Saturday morning](#) about his recent work on the long-term disintegration of asteroids and comets.

He graduated from Western University, where his contributions included 4 seasons on the Mustang football team's offensive line. His studies continued at the University of Toronto and at Fermilab near Chicago, and he completed his Ph.D. in particle Physics with an investigation into charmed quarks. Then he was an observer and researcher at the Spacewatch Project in Arizona as well as software developer for a high-tech firm until 2002. Since moving to Hawaii, he has contributed to the Nice Model, which describes the statistical characteristics of the small bodies of the solar system, and has his name on dozens of scientific papers. Much [in demand as a "celebrity scientist"](#), he has been a life member of RASC Niagara Centre since 1978.

Robert's home page is [here](#)



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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » David H. Levy

David H. Levy

is probably the most experienced observer you will ever meet, and Canada's best-known amateur astronomer. Born in Montreal, Levy lives near Tucson, Arizona. Levy has hunted for comets since 1965, and his successes include Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9, which crashed into Jupiter in 1994. He has won the RASC Chant Medal, the G. Bruce Blair Medal of the Western Amateur Astronomers, the Amateur Achievement Award of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the Edgar Wilson Award of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and an Emmy Award in the "Individual Achievement in a Craft, Writer" category for the documentary "3 Minutes to Impact." He has written dozens of books and hundreds of articles, and his 50 years of observing logs have been digitized to make them [available on the RASC's website](#). David and his wife Wendee founded the [National Sharing the Sky Foundation](#) to promote astronomy awareness.

At GA2016 / AstroCATS, David will participate in the Teacher's Workshop on [Thursday afternoon](#), where he will deliver a rousing summary of the event, and also give a talk on [Saturday afternoon](#).

David's home page is [here](#)



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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » Ron Macnaughton

Ron Macnaughton

is a long-time RASC member who chaired the IYA Star Finder project and served a term as chair of the RASC Education Committee. Ron taught high school physics in Ontario for 3 decades.

His presentation on [Sunday afternoon](#) is "How David Thompson Explored Canada's West." David Thompson used 18th century knowledge of astronomy to explore and map Western Canada using a sextant, compass, two watches and various tables. He's been called the "greatest land geographer who ever lived."





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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » Stan Metchev

Stan Metchev

has been a faculty member at Western University since 2013, where he is Canada Research Chair in Extrasolar Planets. Formerly, Stan was in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Stony Brook University on Long Island. He is building a high-precision photometric system using small telescopes. His research involves extrasolar planets, weather phenomena on brown dwarfs and circumstellar debris disks, the extrasolar analogs of the solar system main asteroid belt and Kuiper belt.

Stan will give a presentation on [Saturday afternoon](#). His home page is [here](#).





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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » the ExCore Planetary Surface Rover Platform

the ExCore Planetary Surface Rover Platform

is a project of [Ontario Drive and Gear \(ODG\)](#), funded by a grant from the [Canadian Space Agency](#). ODG is building a functional, small, four-wheeled planetary rover platform with skid-steering, a fully passive & manually lockable suspension, a basic power system and power & mechanical interfaces to accommodate small exploration surface mobility (ESM) payloads.

ODG will exhibit some of their current hardware and designers will be on hand to answer questions.

Read an article about their work [here](#).





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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » Tina Pollmann

Tina Pollmann

is a physicist, originally from Germany, who studies dark matter with the DEAP-3600 experiment, located 2000 metres underground at SNOLAB in Sudbury, Ontario. She is a post-doctoral fellow at Laurentian University. In her research, she looks for evidence that Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs) can help explain dark matter.

Tina will give a presentation on [Saturday morning](#).





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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » [Erika Rix](#)

Erika Rix

is a celebrated astro-sketcher and columnist for Astronomy magazine. She has written three books on sketching the most popular targets for amateur astronomers. She will lead a workshop [on Friday](#) and give a solo presentation [on Saturday](#).

Erika's home page is [here](#).



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Randall Rosenfeld

R.A. Rosenfeld is the Archivist of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, a position he has held since its creation in 2008. He has published articles on various astronomical artifacts (with a particular interest in the graphic records of observations and how they were made) in a variety of journals. He is a contributor to the second edition of Springer's *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers* (2014). In 2012 he was the recipient of the RASC's Simon Newcomb Award, and the RASC's President's Award, and the IAU named Asteroid 283990 Randallrosenfeld (2004 SG2) in his honour. He has twice won high standing in the Annual Griffith Observer Writing Contest (2008 & 2013). *Music of the Spheres* is the subject of his 2016 Peter Sim Memorial Lecture. He is a member of the Heritage Committee of the Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie (CASCA), and is involved with several professional early-music ensembles.

Randall will give a presentation on [Sunday afternoon](#).





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[Home](#) » [Presenters](#) » Michael S.F. Watson

Michael S.F. Watson

joined the RASC in 1970, was a member of the Toronto Centre for many years, and is now an unattached life member. He is well known across the RASC, as past national Treasurer and Second Vice-President, as well as former legal counsel to the Society, and recipient of the [Service Award](#) and the [Simon Newcomb Award](#).

Michael has been expedition leader or co-leader for several solar eclipse expeditions, and is a long-time astrophotographer, having started in the old film days of the 1970s. His favourite observing sites are in Australia, which he has visited on astronomical trips half a dozen times starting in 1983. Michael's presentation will be "An Astrophotographic Tour of the Southern Skies," on Sunday afternoon at 14:30 in room R1020.



