



# THE 2020 VIRTUAL GA OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

*The Stars Belong to Everyone*

NOW A VIRTUAL GA 



**DATE**

June 7th, 2020



**VENUE**

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/rascanada](https://youtube.com/c/rascanada)



## ABOUT THE RASC VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

### ***The Stars Belong To Everyone!***

– Helen Sawyer Hogg, Honorary RASC member, Companion of the Order of Canada

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) normally gathers annually to meet, exchange the latest astronomical accomplishments of its members, and celebrate the achievements of its award winners. The *General Assembly*, or “GA,” is an excellent opportunity for members of the RASC and the public, from across the country, to gather and strengthen the bonds of community.

2020 has not been a normal year and the GA is now an online Virtual GA because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Virtual GA is hosted by the RASC Vancouver Centre and will be live streamed on the [RASC YouTube channel](#) on June 7th 2020 from 11 am to 2 pm with several talks and speakers lined up in the [schedule](#).

A [GA Lite](#) series of talks on the weekends of June 13&14 and June 20&21 has also been scheduled to make June a month of virtual astronomy.



**RASC Virtual General Assembly 2020**

**Youth outreach program featuring talks from Canadian Space Agency Astronaut Joshua Kutryk, Sara Seager, and Bob McDonald**

**Sunday, June 7, 2020 from 11:00AM-2:00PM PDT. Live streamed on the RASC YouTube Channel**  
[youtube.com/c/rascanada](https://youtube.com/c/rascanada)

*Updates to be provided at: [ga2020.rasc-vancouver.com](https://ga2020.rasc-vancouver.com)*





We hope to see you in YouTube at [www.youtube.com/c/rascanada](https://www.youtube.com/c/rascanada) on June 7th!

Contact us via email at [ga2020+info@rasc-vancouver.com](mailto:ga2020+info@rasc-vancouver.com) if you have any questions.



contact: [ga2020+info@rasc-vancouver.com](mailto:ga2020+info@rasc-vancouver.com)







## VIRTUAL GA SCHEDULE June 7th 2020, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

 Watch the recorded sessions on  [YouTube](#) in the [RASC Virtual GA 2020 playlist](#)

The list of talks and speakers is shown below. All talks are on June 7th, 2020 and the times shown are Pacific Daylight Time. (UTC -7:00), conversions to other Canadian timezones are: +1 to Mountain, +2 to Central +3 hours to Eastern, +4 to Atlantic, +4.5 to Newfoundland.

The talks are free, open to the public, and family friendly. Each talk will be approximately 45 minutes, including questions, so there is time for a short break between the sessions. Watch the live stream on the RASC YouTube channel.



 During the Virtual GA, visit our [Door Prize](#) page and enter your name for a chance to win!

 Want more? a [GA Lite](#) series of talks on the weekends of June 13&14 and June 20&21 is now scheduled.  
<https://ga2020.rasc-vancouver.com/schedule-galite/>

11:00 am PDT

Message from the Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable [Julie Payette](#).  
Opening remarks including an Indigenous welcoming from Dave Seaweed.



Photo: Sgt Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall  
© Her Majesty The Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (2017) /  
© Sa Majesté la Reine du Chef du Canada représentée par le Bureau du secrétaire du gouverneur général (2017)

11:15 am PDT

Youth outreach with Canadian Space Agency Astronaut [Joshua Kutryk](#).



Kutryk was selected by the Canadian Space Agency to undergo training as an astronaut as part of the 2017 CSA Group. Kutryk relocated to Houston, Texas in 2017 to start the two-year NASA Astronaut Candidate Training Program. The program includes scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in International Space Station (ISS) systems, simulated extravehicular activities (EVAs, or spacewalks), robotics, physiological training, flight training, Russian language courses, and sea and wilderness survival training. Kutryk completed the two-year Astronaut Candidate Training Program and obtained the official title of astronaut in January 2020.

12:00 pm PDT

**Speaker:** [Sara Seager](#), Astrophysicist and Planetary Scientist at MIT

**Topic:** An Update on NASA's TESS Exoplanet Mission



Dr. Seager is a Canadian-American astronomer and planetary scientist known for her work on extrasolar planets and their atmospheres, including looking for possible chemical combinations of gases in a exoplanet's atmosphere that could signal the presence of alien life. The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is the next step in the search for planets outside of our solar system, including those that could support life.

1:00 pm PDT

**Speaker:** [Bob McDonald](#), Host of CBC's Quirks & Quarks

**Topic:** What if Everything We Know Is Wrong?




An historical look at how science has changed our view of the universe, proving that the way we see it with our five senses is wrong. And there is still a great deal we haven't figured out.

Bob McDonald is one of Canada's best-known science journalists, bringing science to the public for more than 40 years. In addition to hosting Quirks & Quarks, the award-winning science program with a national audience of nearly 500,000 people, McDonald is also a science correspondent for CBC Television's The National and Gemini-winning host and writer of the children's series Head's Up. McDonald has also authored five bestselling science books, and contributed to numerous textbooks, magazines, and newspapers, including The Globe and Mail. His latest offering is the best selling book, "[An Earthling's Guide to Outer Space](#)".

1:45 pm PDT

[Door Prize](#) Draw and Closing Remarks

Reminder: the RASC Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 3:00 pm PDT on Sunday June 7th, 2020.

 The meeting is open to all RASC members. The meeting will take place virtually, via Zoom. Please follow this [link](#) for the agenda and how to register.

<https://rasc.ca/annual-general-meeting-2020-information>

contact: [ga2020+info@rasc-vancouver.com](mailto:ga2020+info@rasc-vancouver.com)







## GA LITE SCHEDULE / More Virtual Astronomy



A series of astronomy webinars scheduled on the two weekends, June 13&14 and June 20&21, following the [Virtual GA](#). The talks are free, open to the public, and family friendly.

Times shown are Pacific Daylight Time. (UTC -7:00), conversions to other Canadian timezones are: +1 to Mountain, +2 to Central +3 hours to Eastern, +4 to Atlantic, +4.5 to Newfoundland.

Attendance to the webinars is limited to 100 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Coming soon to the [RASC Vancouver Channel](#) on  **YouTube**



Watch the recorded sessions on YouTube in the [RASC GA Lite 2020 playlist](#): videos from "GA Lite – Part 1" are there now, others will be uploaded by the end of June or early July.

### Saturday June 13th - start time has changed to 1:00 pm!

Join Zoom webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81319216916?pwd=WtLHVElRjJWaWJNeExCaWJ4clNHdz09>

- 1:00 pm Ian McLennan, RASC Vancouver – Planetariums Update
- 1:30 pm Marina Miller, RASC Vancouver – Making your centre more environmentally friendly
- 2:00 pm Matthew Cimone, RASC Vancouver – Jewel of the Cosmos: Diamonds in Space, Diamonds of Sierra Leone
- 2:30 pm Charles Ennis, RASC Sunshine Coast – Building a small observatory

### Sunday June 14th

Join Zoom webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87211890811?pwd=WlJsRTVra21xWkR1MmxjaEJkdTJWdz09>

- 11:00 am Chris Gainer, RASC President, Randall Rosenfeld, RASC Archivist, and Peter Broughton, RASC – What's the Point of the History of Astronomy
- 11:30 am Frasier Cain, the Universe Today – Satellite Megaconstellations and Astronomy
- 12:00 pm Tim Yaworski, RASC Saskatoon – Shoot for the Stars: Astrophotography for Beginners (1 hour)

### Saturday June 20th

Join Zoom webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86814525014?pwd=ZjRzSWloUmVaT2U1YmticoF2bml5dz09>

- 11:00 am Aaron Boley, co-director of the [Outer Space Institute](#) at UBC – Space Policy/Debris
- 11:30 am Scott McGillvery, RASC Vancouver – How to put your centre on TV.
- 12:00 pm Michelle Kunimoto, UBC Grad Student – How I Discovered 17 Potential Exoplanets
- 12:30 pm Jess McIver, UBC Astrophysicist – Recent Advances in Gravitational Wave Astronomy

### Sunday June 21st

Join Zoom webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85055277087?pwd=NHZ6NHNwZyszMW4xZzJaUVNOVWVTQT09>

- 11:00 am Robert Conrad & Andrew Krysa, RASC Vancouver – A failsafe guide to charting and starhopping to any astronomical object (1 hr).
- 12:00 pm Sharon Odell, RASC Ottawa – The National Heritage of the Dominion Observatory & RASC Preservation Committee
- 12:30 pm [Kurtis Baute](#), Science Communicator and Creator – Why Earth Is Smaller Than You Think

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## CODE OF CONDUCT

The RASC Virtual General Assembly 2020 provides a safe environment for everyone. All participants must adhere to the following policies.

### Anti-Harassment Policy

This policy applies to and protects all members, guests, staff, contractors, exhibitors and others (collectively, "Participants") who attend or participate in any meeting or other activity of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (the "RASC" or the "Society"). It is the policy of the RASC that all Participants in the Society or Centre meetings and other activities will enjoy an environment free from all forms of harassment and discrimination. This includes being free from retaliation for making a complaint or participating in an investigation of a complaint made under this policy. The RASC is committed to providing an atmosphere that encourages free expression and the exchange of ideas. In pursuit of that principle, the RASC is dedicated to equality of opportunity and treatment for all Participants, regardless of sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, national or ethnic origin, religion or religious belief, age, marital status, disabilities, or any other characteristic that is not related to scientific merit. These are collectively referred to in the policy as "Protected Characteristics". Harassment, sexual or otherwise, is misconduct that undermines the integrity of the RASC and is disruptive of Society activities. Such misconduct is prohibited, and violators of this policy will be subject to discipline.

#### Definition of Harassment and Discrimination

Harassment and discrimination is denigrating or hostile conduct that is directed to or is based on Protected Characteristics of an individual or group, and that can reasonably be expected to cause humiliation or embarrassment. It includes, but is not limited to, the following: epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, threatening, intimidating, bullying or hostile acts, denigrating jokes, and display or circulation of written or graphic material containing any of the foregoing content. As is set out in Section G of this policy, retaliation and bad faith complaints are also violations of this policy and are prohibited.

#### Definition of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment means verbal or physical behaviour of a sexual nature that a person knows or ought reasonably to know is unwelcome, including sexual advances or requests for sexual favours. Behaviour and language that are welcome or acceptable to one person may be unwelcome or offensive to another. Consequently, individuals must exercise good judgment to ensure that their words and actions are respectful of others.

#### Emergency Action

If, in the opinion of the Board of Directors of the Society, a serious emergency situation occurs where:

- (i) there is good reason to believe that there has been a violation of the anti-harassment policy, and
- (ii) the nature or consequences of such apparent violation are sufficiently serious as to warrant immediate action, then the Board of Directors of the Society, as appropriate, may take immediate action for the purpose of preventing a further violation or further serious harm. Such action, which will be considered preventive and precautionary rather than disciplinary, may include
  - (i) an order that the Alleged Offender not engage in specified conduct,
  - (ii) removal of an Alleged Offender from a Centre or Society event, or
  - (iii) such other action as may be necessary in the circumstances.

Before taking such action, if it is reasonable and possible in the circumstances, the Alleged Offender will be informed of the alleged violation of the policy and given the opportunity to present their version of events and their arguments as to whether emergency action should be taken.

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