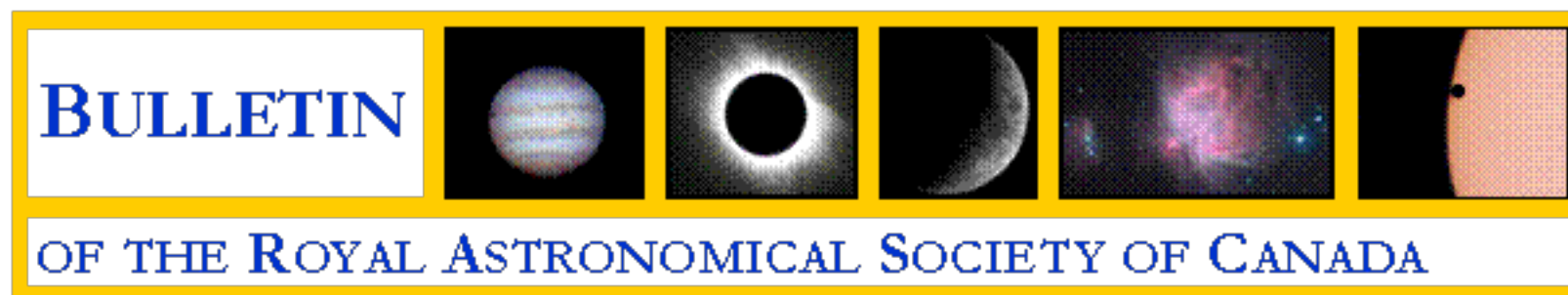


2008-03



March 2008 - Volume 3, Number 3

Denis Grey, Acting Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

Member: ~FULL_NAME~, RASC ID: ~ID~

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

2008 General Assembly - Registration Now Open!

The 2008 General Assembly will be hosted by the Hamilton, Mississauga and Toronto Centres and will be held on the campus of York University in Toronto. This year's theme "**Astronomy Night in Canada**" is meant to help focus our efforts on the [International Year of Astronomy](#) [2] coming up in 2009, when up to 365 "astronomy nights" can be held across the country. The IYA is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase astronomy for our friends, families, and communities, and we hope this year's GA will help to bring the incredible talents and resources of our Society to bear on this international festival of astronomy.



Registration is now open at [/ga-2008](#) [3]. This year's early-bird registration deadline is **April 30** and regular registration will be available until **June 15**. News and updates are available www.rasc.ca/news/ga2008 [3].

This year's GA is being held in partnership with the **Department of Physics and Astronomy at York University**. In addition to helping us with logistics and event management, the department will also be providing tours of their campus observatory facilities and participating in the GA program. As Canada's National Astronomy Convention the General Assembly is open to everyone and anyone who is interested in astronomy, and there will be excellent speakers as well as social opportunities to enjoy. Plan now to

attend from 2008 June 28-30!

Call for Papers for 2008 General Assembly

The General Assembly is a unique opportunity for RASC members from across the country to present their results, programs, insights and accomplishments. Members are invited to "take to the ice" to share their insights with the assembled delegates. We are looking for your paper and poster proposals - come out and share your astronomical insight and experience with the Society. For more information go to www.rasc.ca/news/CallforPapers.shtml [4].

Call for Nominations

The three presidential positions (**President, 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President**) plus the Secretary must be filled by election or acclamation at the RASC Annual Meeting on 2008 June 30. Names of candidates must be presented to the Secretary at least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting by the RASC Nominating Committee or by a private nomination supported by the signatures of five members of the Society.

You are invited to send suggestions for these positions for the Nominating Committee's consideration. Please send any suggestions by email, no later than **2008 April 30**, to: PJedicke@fanshawec.ca [5]

Get Ready for Astronomy Day

While it may seem hard to believe Spring Astronomy Day 2008 is coming up on **Saturday 2008 May 10**. Now is the time for Centres to get event planning underway. This year's Astronomy Day is especially significant in that it will 'spring board' the RASC into the [International Year of Astronomy 2009](#) [6].

Below you will find links to information to help your Centre put on a terrific Astronomy Day event as well as a list of upcoming Astronomy Day dates to help your Centre start planning for future Astronomy Day's. Please note, like last year, there is a fall Astronomy Day planned this year for Oct 4 as well.

Please be sure to forward your events to the Education Committee via [Brian Battersby](#) [7], so they may be added to the Education Committee's web page. This will allow all the Centres to see what each other is doing and may give your Centre more and better ideas. Networking is what National is all about after all!

- RASC Astronomy Day Resources: www.rasc.ca/astroday/resources.shtml [8]
- RASC Centre Education Resources: www.rasc.ca/education/other/index.shtml [9]

Bulletin Seeks Editor

The *Bulletin* of the RASC is a monthly e-publication that highlights news and items of interest to members of the Society. Now in its third year of publication, the *Bulletin* is prepared in HTML and forwarded to the entire membership of the Society, normally in the first five days of each month. Applications are now being sought for the position of Editor for the *Bulletin* beginning with the April or May 2008 issue. As Editor you will identify and gather news items as well as solicit contributions from Centres, the Society's National Council, Committees and staff. Lengthy submissions will be cross-posted to the RASC News site

and contributions will be consolidated and edited down to fit into a maximum of 1,500 words.

The successful candidate will have 3-5 hours a month to devote to this role, excellent editing skills along with a strong grasp of HTML. This is an opportunity to work with many members of the Society and make an important contribution to the flow of information between the Society and its membership. Distribution of the publication will be managed by National Office. If you are interested in finding out more about this position please contact Denis Grey, Acting Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

► Across the RASC

Mississauga Milestone

On February 22, the Mississauga Centre celebrated its 100th meeting (62 meetings as the Mississauga Astronomical Society and 38 as the RASC Mississauga Centre). Original members Randy Attwood and Chris Malicki talked about the formation and history of the club, including some highlights from the last 100 meetings. At the end of the meeting, council and members presented a special award of appreciation to founder and President, Randy Attwood.

Near-Perfect Eclipse Night Across Canada

A rare crystal clear and cold night greeted most of the country on February 20th as the last total lunar eclipse until 2010 occurred across all of North America. Star parties were organized by many Centres and brought many astronomy fans together for this excellent event. Here are some highlights reported to the Bulletin:

Stan Sammy, President of the **Niagara Centre**, reports that members of the Centre met at the Fairview Mall parking lot in St. Catharines, ON. The public were invited to come out and view the eclipse as well as observe Saturn and Mars, along with a few globular clusters. Even though the we were unable to have the lights turned off in the parking lot, viewing was quite good. Sammy noted that "I was quite surprised that with the cold temperatures(-16) and a steady wind, we had a fairly large crowd who stayed and viewed the entire eclipse". At times the crowd grew to over 40 hardy souls. For viewing we had a couple pairs of binoculars, an 8" dobs, 8' on an EQ mount, 15" dobs, and a 16" Lightbridge. The public were enthralled moon as it went through its phases of the Eclipse, and observing the spectacular Saturn and some of its moons.

The **Toronto Centre** hosted a major star party at the Ontario Science Centre with approximately 450 persons attending including 200 for a special "pre-eclipse" meeting that highlighted what people could expect from the eclipse. Over 25 telescopes and binoculars were available for the public to view through during the event.

Ron Baran of the **Montreal Centre** reports that their outing at the Morgan Arboretum was a great success for all. They had a wonderful turnout of participating members who brought along scopes and binoculars for all to share. The public who was on the site for the Arboretum's activities and the people who specifically came to share the eclipse experience, were all without a doubt were impressed by the friendship and the welcome that was offered by our members. Many questions were asked and many new discoveries were made. Many saw the WOW planet (Saturn) for the first time, and that was the general response by those seeing the rings of Saturn with their own eyes and not just in a photograph. Many were delighted to be able to recognize Saturn and Mars while watching our own planet's shadow in play on our moon. Congratulations to everyone who made this cold winter eclipse outing a success.



Montreal Centre members show off the Moon, Photo by Ron Baran

► The Sky this Month

Messier Marathon Month

March is Messier Marathon Month. Scoring all 110 Messier Objects from Canada in one night is a very difficult challenge - how high can you go? Check out the Messier Certificate observing resources at www.rasc.ca/messier [10] to learn more about the Messier catalogue and to download handy finder charts and other resources prepared by RASC members. While you are checking out Messier's catalogue consider joining Doug Bates (Kitchener-Waterloo), Charles Banville (Victoria), John Bohdanowicz (Toronto), Kim Hay (Kingston), Donald A. Kelly (New Brunswick), Graeme Stemp-Murlock (Unattached), Richard Stankiewicz (Unattached) and Maryanne Weiler (Kitchener-Waterloo) who all earned their Messier Certificate from the RASC in 2007.

► Dates to Remember

- - **2008 March 29** - Board Pilot Committee Meeting (Toronto)
 - **2008 March 30** - National Council Meeting (Toronto)
 - **2008 April 30** - National Nominations Deadline
 - **2008 May 10** - Astronomy Day 2008
 - **2008 June 26** - Board Pilot Committee Meeting (Toronto)
 - **2008 June 27** - National Council Meeting (Toronto)
 - **2008 June 28-30** - RASC General Assembly at York University, Toronto, ON
 - **2008 June 30** - RASC Annual Meeting at York University, Toronto, ON



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

136 Dupont Street, Toronto ON M5R 1V2 CANADA

Tel: (416) 924-7973 Fax: (416) 924-2911

Member Service: mempub@rasc.ca [11]

Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca [12]

The *Bulletin* of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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Links:

- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/un-declares-2009-international-year-astronomy>
- [3] <https://www.rasc.ca/ga-2008>
- [4] <http://www.rasc.ca/news/CallforPapers.shtml>
- [5] <mailto:PJedicke@fanshawec.ca>
- [6] <http://www.rasc.ca/education/iya/index.shtml>
- [7] <mailto:brianbattersby73@yahoo.ca>
- [8] <https://www.rasc.ca/astronomy-day-resources>
- [9] <http://www.rasc.ca/education/other/index.shtml>
- [10] <https://www.rasc.ca/observing/messier-certificate>
- [11] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>
- [12] <http://www.rasc.ca>