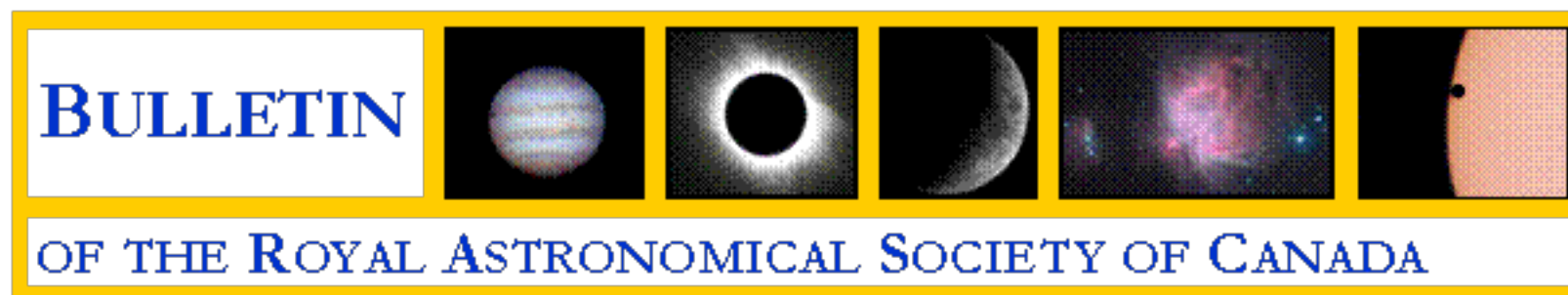


2008-06



June 2008 - Volume 3, Number 6

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

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

► [Editor's Notebook](#)

by Ian Levstein

[Bulletin Video/Photo of the Month](#)

You might notice a new feature this month! RASC members have taken some wonderful videos and photos and the *Bulletin* will try to feature one each month. If you would like your astrovideo/photo featured, simply [email](#) [1] the Editor.

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

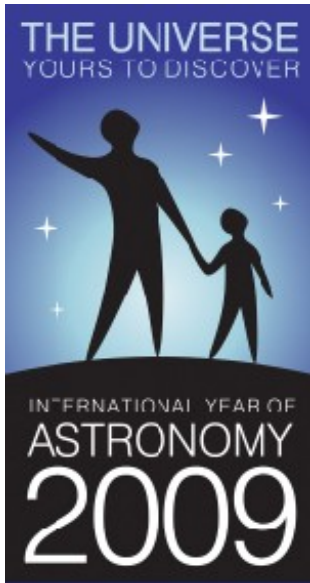
[Registration Deadline for 2008 General Assembly Approaching](#)

The next registration deadline for the 2008 General Assembly is Monday, **June 16** at midnight PDT. After this date "On-site" registration fees will apply until the final closing date of **June 25th**. Act now to get your registration in. Remember - if you can't attend the whole GA, you can register for Saturday, Sunday or Monday only. Take advantage of Central Canada's last GA until at least 2011! Full program details are now available [here](#) [2].

Membership & Promotion Seeking Members

The Membership and Promotion Committee was established in 1993, and has a mandate to help promote the Society both to its members and to the community at large. The MAP Committee is also responsible for the Society's *eNews* and *Bulletin* communication vehicles, our regular advertisements in SkyNews magazine, the Society's promotional items, and program and membership surveys. The MAP committee also undertakes a number of *ad hoc* projects each year designed to help build the Society. Current MAP Committee Chair, **Denis Grey**, will be stepping down at the 2008 General Assembly and, with the International Year of Astronomy coming up in 2009, this is an excellent time for members with leadership and communication skills to consider helping out with this important committee. If you have experience with marketing communications, writing, editing, or the emerging area of "social networking", please consider joining this team for our big year in 2009. For more information, please contact [Denis Grey](#) [3]

Get Informed and Excited About IYA2009



by **Kim Hay** - Chair, Education Committee **Ron Jerome** of the Board Pilot Committee, recently represented the RASC at the CASCA Annual Meeting. The meeting was held in Victoria, BC on 2008 May 20-23. Ron gave a great presentation to over 200 professional astronomers regarding the IYA2009 commitment and projects that the RASC is undertaking. The RASC also prepared and displayed a poster-paper at the conference. Further, there was a presentation by **Remi Lacasse** of the FAAQ, regarding their commitment to the IYA2009. The presentation given by Ron Jerome, and a slimmed down version of the RASC poster-paper are located both [here](#) [4] and on the [Canadian IYA Web site](#) [5]. The large poster will be on display at the 2008 RASC General Assembly in Toronto later this month. Come and be part of the excitement at the GA, and learn what the RASC will be doing during the IYA2009. The following are our partners in IYA2009:

[CASCA Canadian Astronomical Society](#) [6]

[FAAQ: Site de la Fédération des Astronomes Amateurs du Québec](#) [7]

RASC Hires International Year of Astronomy Programme Manager

by **Mary Lou Whitehorne**, 2nd VP The RASC, in partnership with CASCA (through a generous grant from the Trottier Family Foundation), has hired a Programme Manager for the 2009 International Year of Astronomy (IYA). Starting 2008 May 1, Kim Breland is working 30 hours per week from her home office on all things IYA. She will be working under the direction of Dr. Jim Hesser, Director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, who is leading the IYA efforts in Canada. Together, with lots of help from others, they will be responsible for overseeing and coordinating all aspects of Canada's IYA2009 day-to-day activities, working closely with the IYA2009 Canada Committee established by the CASCA, FAAQ, RASC, and others. Among the many things Kim will be doing, fund raising, public education, and outreach are key activities. This involves supporting the successful planning, delivery, documentation and reporting on approved IYA activities and events. She will oversee and coordinate specific IYA goals, for example, the Galileo Moment, image displays, special events, aboriginal activities, participation by professionals, universities, and other organizations. Additionally, she will coordinate the development,

design, production and distribution of materials, such as IYA 2009 bookmarks, "hockey" cards, Star Finder, Astronomy Kit, etc. to be used as tracking and/or outreach tools. Kim will also develop mechanisms to evaluate new proposals for IYA activities, based on budget constraints, funding opportunities, and other considerations. The executive committee anticipates that Kim will attend the upcoming General Assembly and participate in some of its IYA-related events. This will be a perfect opportunity for RASC members to meet Kim and to learn more about the many IYA celebrations and events that are planned for 2009. Please join me in welcoming Kim aboard, and in supporting this joint effort between Canada's astronomy organizations. 2009 is promising to be a great year for astronomy in Canada!

► Across the RASC

ALA Honours Member's Web Site



The American Library Association has selected "Marc's Observatory" as one of its [Great Web Sites for Kids](#) [8].

Produced by **Marc Keelan-Bishop**, a children's illustrator and educator, and a member of both the Toronto and Belleville RASC centres, [Marc's Observatory](#) [9] is an educational Web site devoted to astronomy for children.

This honour is bestowed on only a limited number of Web sites per year. Other astronomy Web sites on the list include NASA, Discovery Channel,

Hubble, and the SETI Institute.

Montreal Centre Celebrates Astronomy Day



by **Frank Tomaras** Another Astronomy Day has come and gone and this one was a great success. We were all very busy at Chapters with literally hundreds of people stopping by our displays, checking out our scopes, and chatting with our volunteers.

The weather co-operated, and we had Solar observing with the Centre's 70mm Coronado and, in the evening, the weather held and we had clear

skies for our sidewalk star party in front of Chapters. We made a great impression on both kids and adults during the daytime and many families came back for an encore in the evening - specifically to have a peek through our scopes.



As our display area was right in the center of the store, it was impossible for people not to see us. The Centre's 14" LX-200R was in full display along with **David Brown's** 10" reflector and 8" SCT, **Bruno Paul**



Stenson's 8" reflector, Kevin Kimball's reflector, and Frank Tomaras' 3" f/15 refractor.

We had a small color poster of the Andromeda Galaxy displayed on a far wall up on the second floor of the store. We pointed some instruments



to the poster and people got an idea of what the galaxy looks like through a telescope. Everyone enjoyed that and it was a lot of fun.

David Brown's Meteorite collection and microscope setup was a huge success and kids and adults alike marvelled at this unique collection of space rocks. **Andrew Fazekas** did his very popular Hourly Astronomy presentations. Outside, **Constantine Papacosmas** manned the Centre's Coronado. Many thanks also to **Ron Baran** and **Santiago Lopez** for helping us out with the Centre's display table. It was indeed a very busy day for all of us, and it was a great success because of everyone's hard work - it showed off the best of what our Centre is all about. A big "Thank You" to all members who participated.

Bulletin Video of the Month



This month's offering is a 2 satellite flyby video clip. First Metop A and then SL-16 R/B pass by Arcturus. RASC member **Kevin Fetter** took this video on April 17. Click [here](#) [10] to see the 30-second clip.

Details of Metop A can be found [here](#) [11].

Details of SL-16 R/B can be found [here](#) [12].

► The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

Readers are encouraged to check out the **Northern Skies** [13] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

► Dates to Remember

- - **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
 - **2008 July 4-6** - Star-B-Q 2008, Calgary Centre
 - **2008 July 4-8** - Stargazing Manitoulin
 - **2008 July 25-27** - CAFTA 2008, C.F. de Montreal
 - **2008 August 8-10** - 2008 Butterpot Star Party, St. Johns Centre
 - **2008 August 8-12** - Manitoulin Star Party
 - **2008 August 28-31** - 2008 Saskatchewan Summer Star Party
 - **2008 August 29-31** - RASCals Star Party, Victoria Centre
 - **2008 August 29-September 1** - Nova East Star Party
 - **2008 October 4** - Fall Astronomy Day 2008



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 [14]

Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca [15]

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Links:

- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] <https://www.rasc.ca/ga-2008>
- [3] <mailto:map20008@rasc.ca>
- [4] <http://www.rasc.ca/education/iya/>
- [5] <http://www.astronomy2009.ca>
- [6] <http://casca.ca/>
- [7] <http://www.faaq.org>
- [8] <http://www.ala.org/gwstemplate.cfm?section=greatwebsites&template=/cfapps/gws/displaysection.cfm&sec=27>
- [9] <http://www.marcsobservatory.com>
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