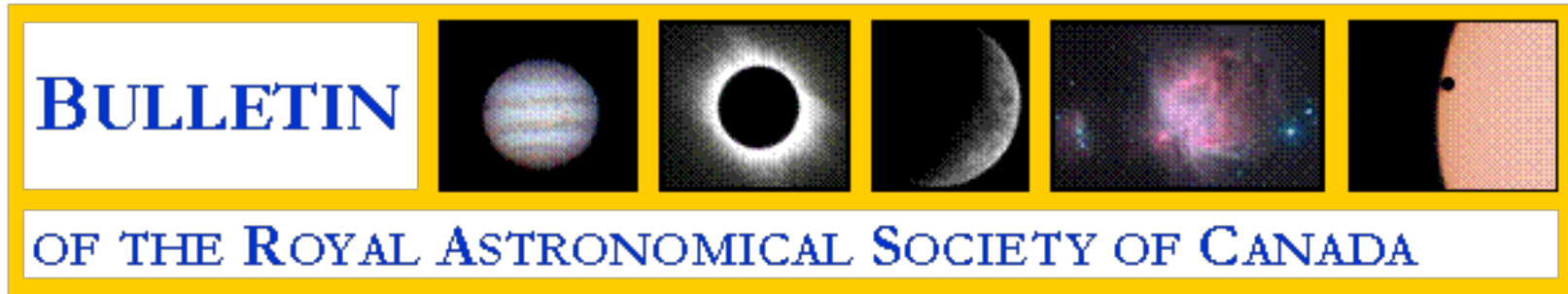


2008-11



November 2008 - Volume 3, Number 11

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

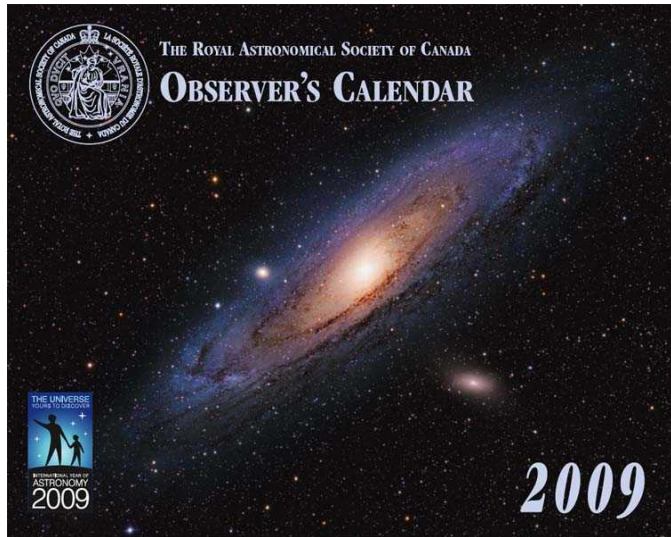
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► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

Executive Secretary Appointment

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce that Interim Executive Secretary, Jo Taylor, has been appointed Executive Secretary, effective mid-October of this year. Congratulations Jo! We are lucky to have Jo cheerfully handling the many things that need to be done all-at-once-and-right-away at our busy national office. The past year has been challenging and chaotic in many respects, and Jo has met every challenge with competence, skill and humour.

2009 Observer's Calendar Now Available



Get them while they're hot! The 2009 version of the Observer's Calendar is even more beautiful with spectacular images from our own astro-imaging members. The monthly grids are packed with astro-info including rise and set times, planet visibility, conjunctions, eclipses, meteor showers, Moon phases, historical anniversaries, star party dates, and more! They make great gifts for friends, family, home, office, cottage, observatory, and favourite teachers. In short, everybody should have one! To order yours, click [here](#) [2].

David H. Levy Comet Hunter Telescope

In collaboration with Canadian astronomer **David H. Levy** (Honorary President, Kingston Centre and Montreal Centre), Explore Scientific has developed a rich-field telescope specifically to aid comet hunting. According to Scott Roberts, President of Explore Scientific, "Our company shares David's dream. So we embarked on a project to co-design a telescope with Levy that will help support [Sharing the Sky](#) [3] through the sale of the product." The Maksutov-Newtonian design and "durable Enhanced Multilayer Deposition (EMD™) coatings with a multicoated Maksutov corrector lens and enhanced coatings on the primary and secondary mirrors, deliver bright, high-transmission images across the visual spectrum." Each Comet Hunter special edition telescope will come with a certificate signed by David Levy. Details can be found [here](#) [4].

Light Pollution Gets the Cover Treatment

National Geographic magazine's November 2008 issue features an excellent article on light pollution. It is fully illustrated, well written, and is supported with lots of background information. It's good news to see this issue profiled in an internationally recognized publication such as this! Check it out [here](#) [5].

Wanted: Eager Beavers Who are Not Afraid to Get Creative



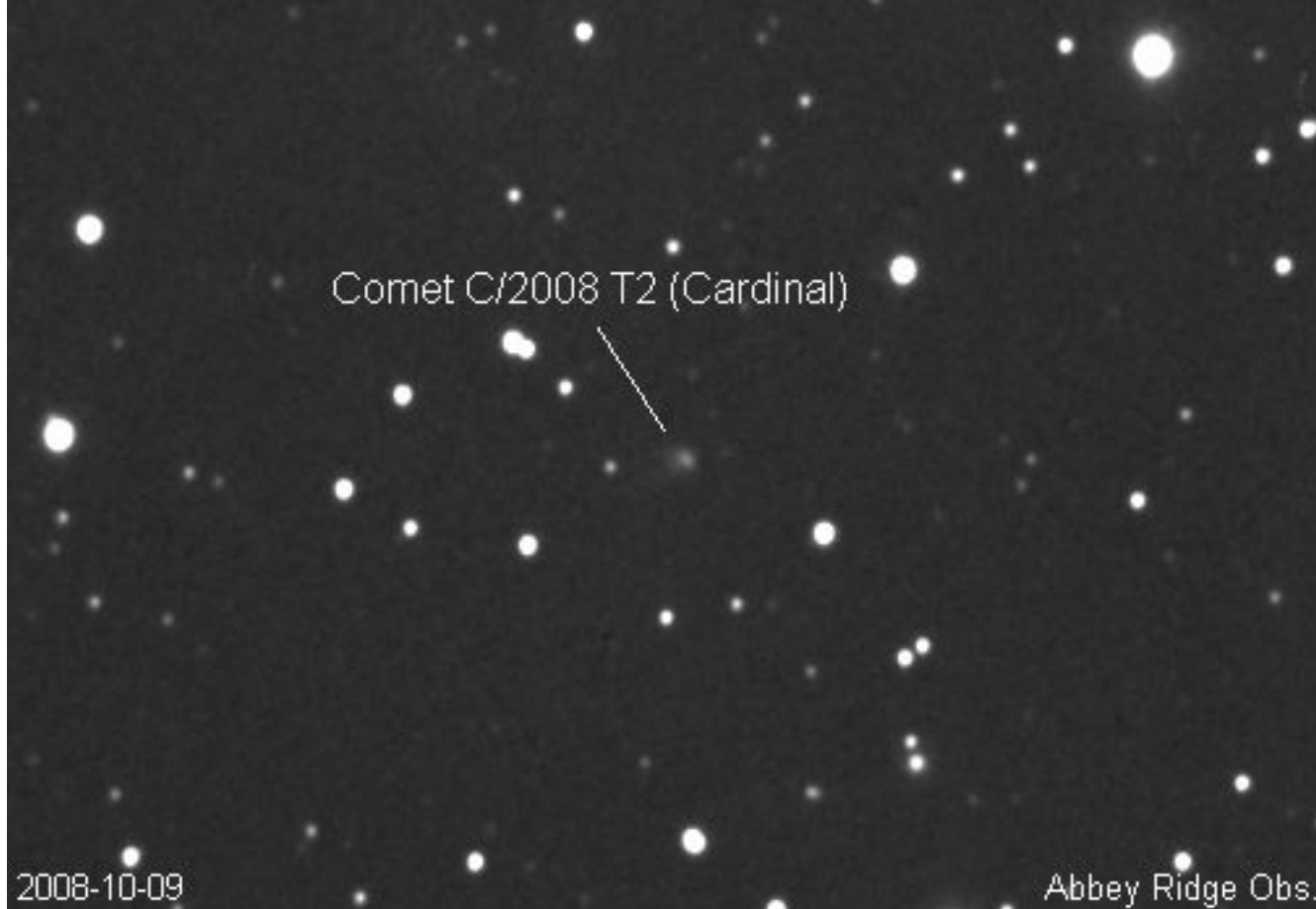
Your Society needs you, your energy, and your creative skills! IYA2009 is coming fast and there's lots to do. Apart from all the fun things that will happen during IYA, we still need quick-thinking astronomers to beaver away in the background, keeping the RASC lights on and the engines ticking over. Would you like to hone your Web skills with us? Maybe you would enjoy tackling marketing and promotions, or helping to coordinate a group of like-minded volunteers? Make your mark by contacting 2VP [Glenn Hawley](#) [6] or 1VP [Mary Lou Whitehorne](#) [7].

2009 Total Solar Eclipse

by **Ralph Chou**, 1st VP, Toronto Centre The RASC Toronto Centre invites you to join our expedition to view the total solar eclipse of 2009 July 22 from Wuhan, China. This eclipse has the longest duration of totality of this century, being part of the same Saros cycle as the eclipses of 1973 and 1991. The Wuhan area has the best chance of a clear sky along the track of this eclipse, with the eclipse occurring in mid-morning. Our tour includes visits to the Beijing and Shanghai astronomical observatories, as well as the Beijing Imperial Observatory dating to the 1600s. The tour is being organized by Bestway Tours and Safaris, which ran our successful expedition to Libya in 2006. For more information, click [here](#) [8], or contact [Ralph Chou](#) [9].

Comet C/2008 T2 (Cardinal)

On October 14, information arrived that **Rob Cardinal**, an astronomer at the University of Calgary's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory, had discovered a 16th magnitude comet.



This is the second time (**Vance Petriew**, 2001 August 18, Saskatchewan Summer Sky Party) in the past decade that a comet has been discovered by a Canadian observer using a Canadian telescope. Details of Comet C/2008 T2 (Cardinal) can be found [here](#) [10].

Comet C/2008 T2 (Cardinal) - photo by **David Lane**

► International Year of Astronomy 2009

Galileo Lecture Series (GLS) Application

by **Kim Breland**, Program Manager IYA2009



During 2009, the International Year of Astronomy, ten of Canada's most active and articulate leading researchers will be available for high-impact public lectures on topics of forefront astrophysics. Two goals for the GLS are to introduce the excitement and reach of modern astronomy to non-traditional audiences and to provide a legacy for the host and the greater community. The Galileo Lecturers all have repeatedly demonstrated that they can make forefront research accessible and can engage the audience in a fun, stimulating manner. Applications for a Galileo Lecturer will be ranked, in part, on the degree to which the planned event can be weaved into a broader cultural setting. To ensure that the lecture itself can reach an even greater audience, a host must commit to audio recording the event for later distribution in a podcast. We actively encourage smaller venues to combine resources with other potential partners in their

vicinities to jointly submit an application for a Galileo Lecturer. For information on the application process, please contact Kim [here](#) [11] or through the IYA2009 [Web site](#) [12].

IYA2009 Celebrated in Song by AstroCappella

The song "Shoulders of Giants" was commissioned by the Johannes Kepler Project for the International Year of Astronomy 2009. It celebrates Galileo's first glimpse of the heavens through his telescope, and the astonishing pace of discovery ushered in by his observations. It is sung by the Chromatics, a group that has gained fame for bringing physics to life through music and humour for many years. To hear the song, and learn how you can use it for your IYA2009 events, see [here](#) [13].

► Across the RASC

Astronomy Nova Scotia

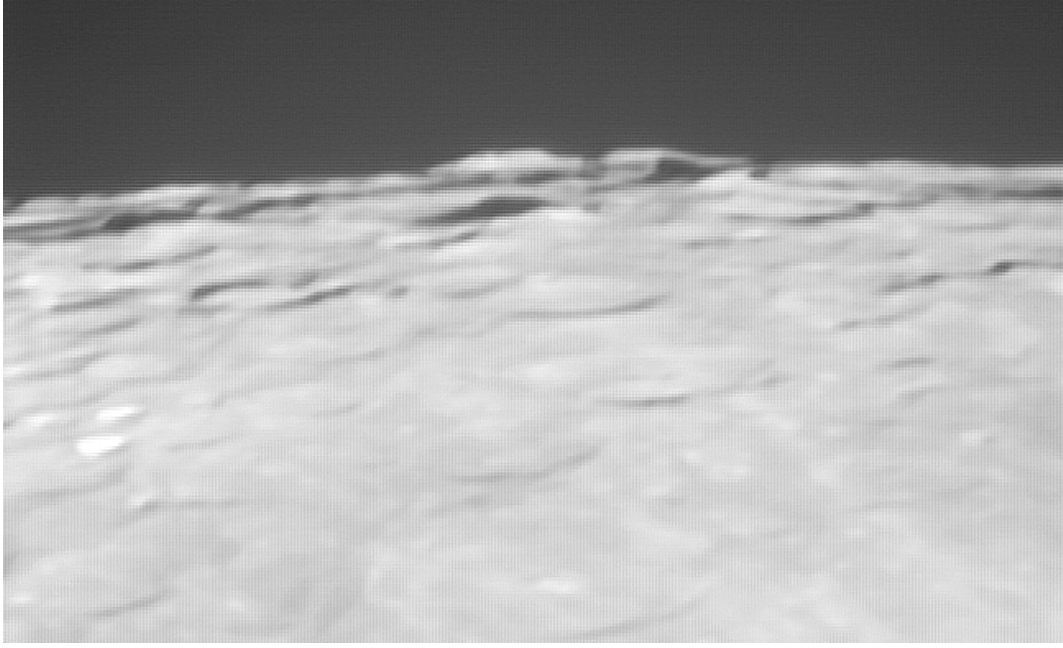
by **Dave Chapman**, Halifax Centre The new Astronomy Nova Scotia [Web site](#) [14] is a one-stop shop for all things astronomical in Nova Scotia. Hosted by Saint Mary's University's Department of Astronomy & Physics and jointly managed with RASC Halifax Centre, we are currently using the site to promote the International Year of Astronomy 2009 in Nova Scotia. As we plan and implement public IYA events, they will be added to the site. The pages are still somewhat in development, but we could not wait to tell folks. It is planned that the site will be maintained after IYA 2009 as a "legacy" project.

Astronomy Fair to Hit Toronto in January

The Toronto Astronomy Education Network, an alliance of educators, enthusiasts and astronomy-related businesses is pleased to announce that a special Astronomy Fair will be held in Toronto at the Ontario Science Centre on January 10th. This all-day event will feature booths from the RASC, University of Toronto, York University and many other members of the astronomy community. Astronomy presentations by leading researchers and enthusiasts will be going all day long. Best of all, admission is FREE! If you are planning to be in Toronto in January, plan to stay and take part in this special celebration that will kickoff the International Year of Astronomy in the GTA. For more details, or for exhibit information, please contact [Denis Grey](#) [15], RASC Toronto.

► Bulletin Photo of the Month

Past the Pole



farside comes into view midmonth as the orbital geometry of our sister Selene allows us to peek "under" her south side. It's not just that the Moon is riding high above the ecliptic on the night of the 12-13th that makes this special, the Moon is also full. However, instead of there being no shadows at all, there's a whole series of them to be seen when you boost the power for a closer look at the south pole. With the Sun standing over the lunar prime meridian, all shadows are cast due south.

A view of the south pole (south up) - webcam video and Registax, by **Alister Ling**.

The two flat tops hills on the limb are well onto the lunar farside.

bumps that are casting them, creating a fantastic 3-D effect. It's a bit like watching waves race towards the beach from the vantage of a helicopter!

Because of our favourable viewing angle, we see the shadows receding behind the

The best view is certainly on the 12-13th, but if you get a chance, check it out the nights before and after, when the shadows will be pointing southwest, then southeast.

This libration of the Moon is properly termed "optical libration," because the up/down and side to side motion is a result of our changing vantage point as the Moon orbits the Earth. The true wobbling of the Moon's axis or "physical libration" is so much smaller you would need precise observations to properly measure it.

► [The Sky this Month](#)

[What's New in the Sky](#)

Readers are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) ^[16] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

► [Dates to Remember](#)

- ○ **2008 November 16** - National Council Meeting

- o **2009 January 10** - Canadian IYA Launch
- o **2009 January 10** - Astronomy Fair, Toronto
- o **2009 April 2-5** - 100 Hours of Astronomy
- o **2009 July 16-26** - Total Solar Eclipse Tour, China



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Links:

- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] <http://www.rasc.ca/observers-calendar/>
- [3] <http://www.sharingthesky.org>
- [4] <http://explorescientific.com/sharingthesky/index.html>
- [5] <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/light-pollution/klinkenborg-text>
- [6] <mailto:glennhawley@shaw.ca?subject=I'm an Eager Beaver>
- [7] <mailto:mlwhitehorne@hfx.eastlink.ca?subject=I'm an Eager Beaver>
- [8] <https://www.rasc.ca/system/files/private/2009TSE.doc>
- [9] <mailto:ralph.chou@sympatico.ca?subject=2009 Solar Eclipse Tour>
- [10] <http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/iau/Ephemerides/Comets/2008T2.html>
- [11] <mailto:iya2009@live.com?subject=Galileo Lecture Series>
- [12] <http://www.astronomy2009.ca>
- [13] <http://www.astrocappella.com/IYA/shoulders.shtml>
- [14] <http://www.astronomynovascotia.ca>
- [15] <mailto:denis.grey@sympatico.ca?subject=Astronomy Fair>
- [16] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>
- [17] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>
- [18] <http://www.rasc.ca>