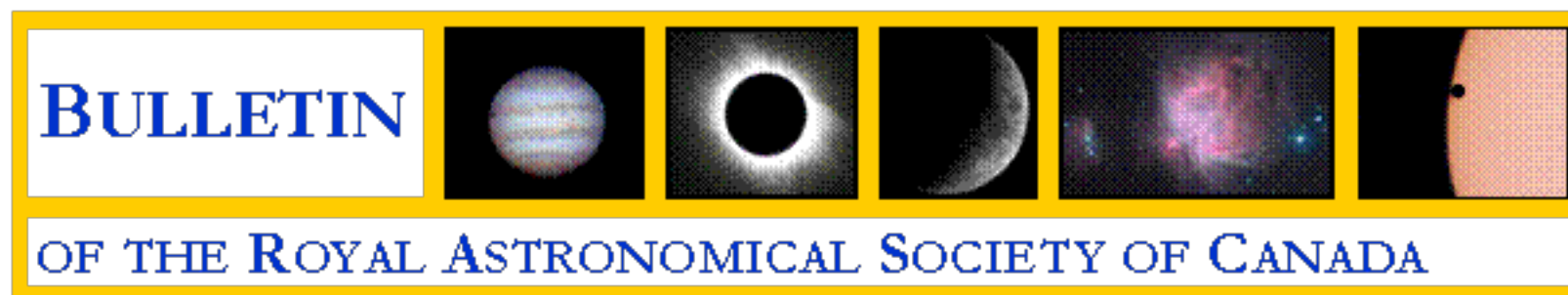


2009-08



August 2009 - Volume 4, Number 8

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~

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

[General Assembly & Saskatchewan Summer Star Party](#)

by **Richard Huziak** and **Kathleen Houston**, SSSP Registrars Hello everyone! Greetings from the General Assembly/Sask Summer Star Party - Aug 13 - 16, 2009! Well, it is 2 weeks to go to the first-ever RASC General Assembly held at a Dark-Sky Preserve, or a star party, for that matter, and [here's the poop](#) [2]! **Editor's Note:** There is a **lot** of information... click the link! You know you want to!

[Essential Annual Report](#)

by **James Edgar**, RASC National Secretary

The notice of the Society's annual meeting (to take place on August 16) including the proxy form and the Essential Annual Report has been emailed to all members with an email address in the membership database and mailed to those without. The Essential Annual Report contains all those things that the Society's By-laws require that we send to you. The Extended Annual Report, in colour and with activities from each Centre, will be available on-line very soon!

This information is on the RASC Web site [here](#) [3]. When prompted, use the username "rasc" and password "galileo."

Committees Seek Applicants

The Education Committee is looking for two individuals who are strongly motivated in Education, and like to see projects get done to help support the public and our Centres in their educational activities. If you or someone at your Centre would like to join the RASC Education Committee, please have them contact [Kim Hay](#) [4] by **August 5**. The Observing Committee is looking for some new self-motivated individuals who have a desire to maintain and update observing programs, the Web site, and pursue new ideas. If you or someone at your Centre has an interest in the RASC Observing Committee, please contact [Paul Gray](#) [5] by **August 10**.

Looking Up Now Available

by **Randall A. Rosenfeld**, RASC Archivist

Looking Up, the thoroughly researched and entertainingly written "official" history of the RASC, is now available again. Long out-of-print, and difficult to obtain used, the book has been digitized in its entirety as an initiative of the History Committee working with **Walter MacDonald** of the Kingston Centre, and this year's recipient of a RASC Service Award. *Looking Up* covers the story of the RASC from its pre-history in the later 19th-century up to 1994, and is profusely illustrated. The author, **R. Peter Broughton**, a long-time RASC member and past president of the Society, is a recognized authority on the history of astronomy in Canada.

Prof. Don Fernie, noted Canadian professional astronomer, wrote "If you count yourself a Canadian astronomer, this book is part of your heritage; you will be pleased to have it on your bookshelf." Now you can have *Looking Up* on your computer! Get it [here](#) [6]

► [Across the RASC](#)

Apple iPhone/iPod Touch "SkyCharts" Web App Available

Brian Gibson, a member of the Mississauga RASC Centre, has developed a Clear Sky Chart web application for Apple iPhone/iPod Touch users. It is available (free) from the [Apple Web Apps Site](#) [7]. It is currently the featured web app in the Weather category as well as one of the top ten most popular. More details are available on Brian's Web site [Anything Binary](#) [8]. This tool provides similar functionality to the [Windows Vista ClearSkyClock](#) [9] sidebar gadget that he released in 2007.

Calgary Centre's new Roll-Off Roof Observatory Building Grand Opening



In 2008, the members of the RASC Calgary Centre voted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their Centre, and the 25th anniversary of their Wilson Coulee Observatory by approving the construction of a Roll-Off Roof Observatory Building. Designed by then President **Larry McNish**, the large 8x18-ft structure allows up to 4 scopes to use the building simultaneously.

In addition to the curved and sloped powered rolling roof (which allows polar alignment when open), the upper half of the south-facing wall is divided into four independent sections which can be manually folded down to provide an unobstructed southern view. The building is expected to provide a haven for astrophotographers and visual observers who want to get out of the wind, especially on cold winter nights. On June 27 IYA2009, the Calgary Centre inaugurated its new Roll-Off Roof Observatory building at its annual June Bar-B-Q. The history of the building project with construction photos can be seen [here](#) [10].



Canada Day on the Sunshine Coast

by **Bill Clark**



Canada Day on the Sunshine Coast was bright and sunny. There were 32 Floats in our parade and our Galileo Telescope received a big cheer from the crowds lining the route. The "eyepiece" on our 20-Foot Scope was made from a one-gallon coffee tin, and halfway into the tin we had positioned a photo negative of Jupiter with a small light bulb behind it. Many of the kids who looked into the eyepiece rushed back to their parents to tell them that they had just seen planet Jupiter in the "Big Telescope." Great Fun was had by all.



► International Year of Astronomy 2009

Moon for all Mankind



by **Kim Hay** In the spring of 2009, the IYA Executive Committee was contacted on a project that was taking place called "Moon for all Mankind" from the Malta IYA group. We were recently sent the final document, with the following links from the coordinators and contributors for the project. **Leonard Ellul-Mercer, Gordon Caruana Dingli** - [International Year of Astronomy 2009 Malta Committee](#) [11]; [Animation on YouTube](#) [12]; [Link to images on IYA site](#) [13]. The YouTube video is spectacular, and very moving. The Canadian contribution to sections 21 and 23 was submitted by **John McDonald** of the Victoria Centre. The image was taken on 2009 June 4. Read the story [here](#) [14]. Canada can be proud to be part of this project. Over 40 countries participated.

Astronomy on YouTube

by **Ron Jerome**, IYA Coordinator, Vancouver Centre Part 4 of Vancouver Centre's SUPERnova series is on our [Web site](#) [15]. This issue is particularly fun as it features the youngest member of our Centre, **Ronan Kerr**. He is 12, and has been a budding amateur for 4 years. He won his 12" DOB at the Merritt

Star Quest last year. In Episode 4 of SUPERnova, **Gary Seronik** takes us on a tour of the Moon, Ronan shows kids what they need to know to begin observing, and Discovery plays the celestial harp: Lyra. We can provide the codes for anyone who wants to imbed it in their Web site.

Canadian \$30 IYA Coin

Astronomy fans, nature lovers, and coin collectors alike will be impressed by the Royal Canadian Mint's Sterling Silver [IYA collector coin](#) [16]. As a tribute to the global celebration of the field of astronomy four centuries after Galileo Galilei recorded his pioneering observations that revolutionized human understanding of our universe, this beautiful coloured coin features an observatory surrounded by outer-space icons such as a galaxy, a comet, and the planet Saturn. These shimmering objects stand out against the coloured background of a starry night sky appearing blue on the horizon and gradually darkening to black. This eye-catching design is the work of Toronto artist **Colin Mayne**. The obverse features the portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The IYA souvenir coin is limited to a mintage of 10,000 and is available for \$89.95 CDN. This coin is certified to be sterling silver with a weight of 33.75 grams and a diameter of 40 millimetres.

► [The Sky this Month](#)

What's New in the Sky

Readers are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) [17] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

► [Bulletin Photo of the Month](#)

Honorary Degree Ceremony for Dr. Robert Thirsk

On July 8, the University of Calgary (Dr. Thirsk's alma mater) awarded the distinguished Canadian an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. The highlight of the ceremony was an interactive, live videocast from Bob aboard the



International Space Station where he is a member of Expedition 20/21.

More pictures from the degree ceremony can be seen [here](#) [18].

On July 19, **Larry McNish** set up his NexStar 8 telescope and his laptop with Satellite Tracker software, and the Thirsk family members and their friends in Calgary were able to watch the ISS, with **Bob Thirsk** and **Julie Payette** on board, pass overhead at 100 power. The Solar panels and main structural components were clearly visible.

Dr. Thirsk - live in space! Photo by Larry McNish, Calgary Centre

► Dates to Remember

- - **2009 August 13-16** - RASC General Assembly 2009 [19], Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park
 - **2009 August 13-16** - Saskatchewan Summer Star Party [19], Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park
 - **2009 August 14-18** - Manitoulin Star Party [20], DSP in Gordon's Park, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
 - **2009 August 20-23** – Starfest 2009 [21], River Place Park, Mount Forest Ontario.
 - **2009 August 21-23** - Nova East Star Party [22], DSP in Smileys Provincial Park, Nova Scotia
 - **2009 September 15-20** - Northern Prairie Starfest [23], Black Nugget Lake, Alberta
 - **2009 September 17-20** - Huronian Star Party [24], Duntroon, Ontario
 - **2009 September 19-20** - Alberta Star Party [25], Starland Recreational Area, Alberta
 - **2009 September 25-27** - Fall 'N' Stars [26], Vanderwater Conservation Area, Thomasburg, Ontario
 - **2009 October 17** - Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Reserve Dedication [27], Muskoka, Ontario



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Member Service: nationaloffice@rasc.ca [28]

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SSSP 2009

General Assembly & Saskatchewan Summer Star Party

by Richard Huziak and Kathleen Houston, SSSP Registrars

Hello everyone! Greetings from the General Assembly/Sask Summer Star Party - Aug 13 - 16, 2009!

Well - it is 2 weeks to go to the first-ever RASC General Assembly held at a Dark-Sky Preserve, or a star party, for that matter, and here's the poop!

We have 306 people registered as of July 14 - this alone will make it the largest SSSP ever, and we still have a month of later registrants to go! Our larger attendance will put a strain on our facilities, but we will do our best to make things run smoothly. Currently registrants from 9 provinces, 1 territory and a few US states are making plans to be with us!

If you haven't registered yet, it is about time that you did! If you intend to walk-in last minute, you will likely not have the Friday Social or Saturday banquet available since there are only 50 tickets left for each - likely will be gone within the next 8 days. Plan to get your mail-in registrations to us by the August long weekend, or if you will decide later than that, just wait to pay at the star party, since organizers will be on site by August 11 or 12. Drop in participants are always welcome.

The [Website](#) [19].

The accommodation situation remains the same - we are short resort hotel/cabin/condo rooms - same as we were a year ago - so if you are holding onto a room you won't use or are willing to double up, please let me know so we can fill some of our waiting list. If you need to stay under a roof and haven't booked yet, then you will need to stay in Maple Creek, 20 minutes away. You should also book for the 2010 SSSP soon - we will have a room shortage then, too, since they are still renovating the cabins. 2011 onward will have the full contingent of rooms available. If you are camping - no problem - the Meadows campground is huge. Bring your own table, though - always chronically short of picnic tables up there. There are only about 48 powered sites.

Winery Tour - we have room for about 18 more people, and the tour will not conflict with the

National Council close-out meeting, so NC members can either leave with the main tour or catch up soon after if you want to go! Sign up now!

Moon at GA/SSSP 2009 - we planned this star party with the 3rd quarter moon in the sky during the first night as not to conflict with Starfest and their organizers who are attending our GA/SSSP. So come on time and stay after the official GA/SSSP dates to enjoy dark skies of the Cypress Hills DSP. Even though we will have some moon to start, you will be treated to an occultation of the Pleiades by the moon on Aug 13/14 - watch the stars wink out on the bright edge and reappear on the dark edge. You will have to be set up on the S side of the Meadows to see this, since it occurs low in the sky.

- **2009 August 12-13** - Perseid Meteor Peak (Bruce McCurdy will give a meteor clinic on Friday, Aug 14) Last Quarter Moon
- **2009 August 13-14** - Jupiter at Opposition Waning Moon Occults the Pleiades
- **2009 August 16-17** - Neptune Opposition
- **2009 August 19-20** - New Moon

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Source URL (retrieved on 2015/08/10 - 09:32): <https://www.rasc.ca/bulletin/2009-08>

Links:

- [1] [mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca?subject=Bulletin Mail](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca?subject=Bulletin%20Mail)
- [2] <https://www.rasc.ca/bulletin/2009-08/sssp>
- [3] <https://www.rasc.ca/governance/annualreports>
- [4] [mailto:cdnspooky@persona.ca?subject=Education Committee](mailto:cdnspooky@persona.ca?subject=Education%20Committee)
- [5] [mailto:snpgray@nb.sympatico.ca?subject=Observing Committee](mailto:snpgray@nb.sympatico.ca?subject=Observing%20Committee)
- [6] <https://www.rasc.ca/looking-up-book>
- [7] <http://www.apple.com/webapps/weather/skycharts.html>
- [8] <http://anythingbinary.com/>
- [9] <http://gallery.live.com/livItemDetail.aspx?li=48917ad4-e1a9-4121-8713-bd4e0716a035>
- [10] <http://www.calgary.rasc.ca/rolloff/index.htm>
- [11] <http://iya2009malta.page.tl/The-moon-for-all-mankind.htm>
- [12] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlln_LXV_J8&fmt=18
- [13] http://www.astronomy2009.org/resources/multimedia/images/detail/iya2009_moon_mankind/
- [14] <https://www.rasc.ca/system/files/private/MFAM.doc>
- [15] <http://rasc-vancouver.com/blog/2011/01/11/supernova-episodes-1-6/>
- [16] http://www.mint.ca/store/product/product.jsp?itemId=prod650001&rcmeid=van_astronomy
- [17] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>
- [18] <http://calgary.rasc.ca/thirsk/index.htm>
- [19] <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/starparty.html>
- [20] <http://gordonspark.com/wp-content/uploads/2014-MSP-Brochure.pdf>
- [21] <http://www.nyaa.ca/index.php?page=sf09/sf.home09>
- [22] <http://halifax.rasc.ca/ne/>
- [23] <http://edmontonrasc.com/northern-prairie-star-party/>
- [24] http://www.hsp-ssaa.ca/HSP-SSAA_1/Welcome_To_The_HSP_and_SSAA_Website.html
- [25] <http://calgary.rasc.ca/asp2009.htm>
- [26] <http://rascbelleville.ca/fallinstars/>
- [27] <http://muskokaconservancy.org/protected-properties/>
- [28] [mailto:nationaloffice@rasc.ca?subject=Request for Info](mailto:nationaloffice@rasc.ca?subject=Request%20for%20Info)
- [29] <http://www.rasc.ca>