

RASC Announcement

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

The *Observer's Calendar* features spectacular astro-images taken by amateur astronomers. Produced each year by volunteers, the monthly grids have information on rise and set times, lunar phenomena, conjunctions, eclipses, meteor showers, historical events, star party dates, and more!

The 2013 *Observer's Calendar* will be ready for shipping in early October. The RASC National Office is now taking pre-orders.

Place your order by calling 1-888-924-7272; by email at mempub@rasc.ca, or visit the RASC estore at www.rasc.ca

RASC Member's Price \$15.95 plus S&H and applicable taxes.
Limited Quantities. Order [your copy](#) today!



RASC Membership Development News!

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

Did you read the [September issue](#)?

On 2012, September 17 we launched **RASC Membership Development News**, a monthly newsletter. The newsletter will be a forum to share marketing methods, communication ideas, and membership development activities to continue to better serve and build RASC membership.

To keep our mission and vision alive, we need to actively recruit new members and take active steps to retain members. If you would like to suggest or contribute content, contact Deborah Thompson at the RASC National Office at [Deborah Thompson](#).

RASC Member Feedback

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

In order to serve you better and improve member value, we are asking for your assistance by answering a survey, which should take approximately five minutes to complete.

We value your feedback. From the survey respondents, we will draw for three special RASC prizes:

1. RASC T-shirt + the 2013 Observer's Calendar
2. RASC T-shirt + the Beginner's Observing Guide
3. RASC T-shirt + Toque

Best of luck!

Deadline for survey completion is Friday, October 12.

Thank you!

Discover the Universe – online workshops for teachers

by [Julie Bolduc-Duval](#), Coordinator

We are pleased to announce our new astronomy workshops for teachers. These online workshops, which will run from November 12th to 30th, will be offered in French and English to teachers across Canada. We will cover astronomy concepts linked to school curricula (gr. 5-9) and will present interesting activities for teachers to do in class. Our goal is that at the end of the workshop, teachers will feel more confident sharing the wonders of astronomy with their students.

Please distribute this information to your contacts, especially teachers, school boards and teachers' associations in your area. All our workshops are free!

To register and to find more information, please visit www.discovertheuniverse.ca.

Discover the Universe / À la découverte de l'Univers is offered by The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, the Canadian Astronomical Society and the Fédération des Astronomes Amateurs du Québec, with additional funding from NSERC-PromoScience.

Great World Wide Star Count

by [Roland Dechesne](#), Light-Pollution Abatement Committee

Help collect data on the night sky's brightness by participating in the Great World Wide Star Count.

Using charts of the constellation Cygnus that are available here:

www.windows2universe.org/citizen_science/starcount/GWWSC2011_ActivityGuide.pdf you can gauge the amount of sky glow, a form of light pollution, wherever you travel. There is also a French version of the document (dated for 2010) at

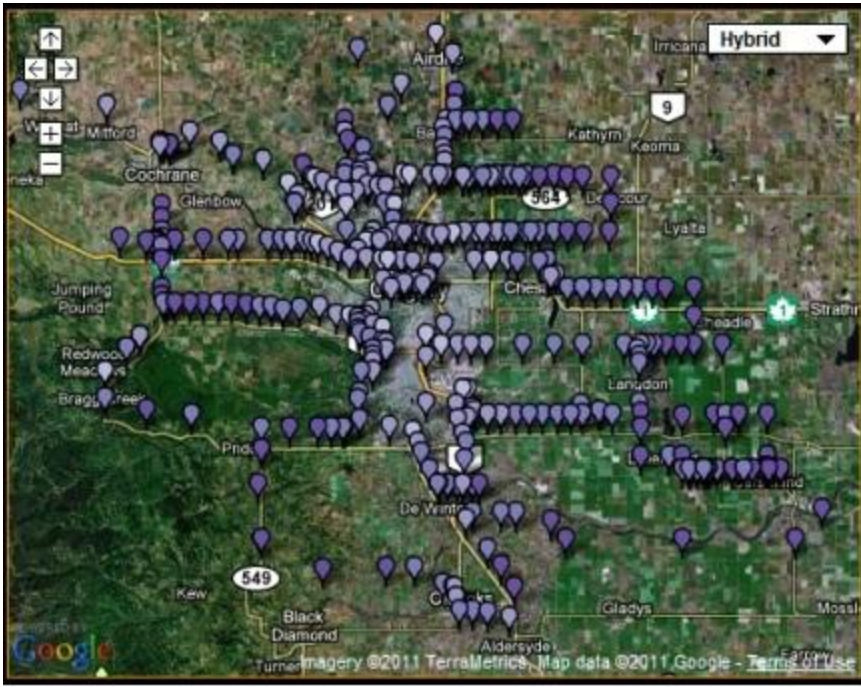
www.windows2universe.org/citizen_science/starcount/GWWSC2011_ActivityGuide_FRENCH.pdf

Your collected data can then be uploaded to the Great World Wide Star Count Web site:

www.windows2universe.org/citizen_science/starcount/.

The period from October 5 through 19 is chosen to avoid having the Moon brightening up the sky. Ideally, you could collect data at each observing event you participate in and then also collect star count info on your way home and again, once you've arrived at home. This way, you can map out the sky brightness of a large area around your home.

I am particularly interested in systematically gathering data around and within some of the parks that the RASC has recognized as, or is considering for, 'Star Park' or 'Dark Sky Preserve' status. Or, try to get transects of towns and smaller cities. Last year RASC Calgary created this map:



If everyone in the society took a moment to collect just half a dozen data points during the two weeks of the campaign, we could easily have a very useful trove of information.

➤ Across the RASC

Niagara Centre Brings Back 'Stargazing in the Vineyard'

by [Philip Downey](#), Secretary, RASC Niagara

The Niagara Centre relaunched one of its most well-known events last weekend. Stargazing in the Vineyard is a very popular starnight that we put on at Stonechurch Vineyards in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario.

We did this event frequently in the early and mid-2000s, but hadn't done it in the past few years. After being asked many times by the public when we were coming back, we organized our return.

The event coincides with the end of the Niagara Wine Festival, a celebration of the fall grape harvest. It's a fun and exciting time in this area, with the harvest in full swing. (It's not just grapes -- apples, pumpkins and squash are all ripe for picking too.)

Unfortunately, it was a very cloudy night. Even the full Moon was having a hard time shining through the clouds, so there was no viewing of the stars or planets. Despite this, we still had 90 people show up for two one-hour astronomy presentations in Stonechurch's event hall.

The winery provided wine for tasting, BBQ sausage and other snacks for sale. They also lit a bonfire in the vineyards, which was enjoyed by all. Even on a cloudy night, it's still possible to have a successful star night.

➤ Bulletin Photo of the Month

M31 from Nutwood Observatory

by [Brian McGaffney](#), Kingston Centre

M31 taken over two nights at the Nutwood Observatory on September 5th and 6th.

Data, LRGB+Ha ; 12 hrs total using a W.O. 132 with SBIG 6303e with Astrodon filters. Plus 20 hrs .



➤ The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

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



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

203 – 4920 Dundas St W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7 CANADA

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

Member Service: nationaloffice@rasc.ca

Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca

The *Bulletin* of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
is a benefit of membership in the Society.

© 2012 Royal Astronomical Society of Canada