

May 2014 - Volume 9, Number 5

David Garner, Editor

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

A PDF version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

► Editor's Notebook by David Garner

May's Sky

We have a full Moon on the 14th of May and a new Moon on the 28th. Mercury reappears in evening sky whereas Venus is in the eastern morning sky. Mars is past its opposition but still well placed in the evening sky. Jupiter is low in the western evening sky and sets near midnight. Saturn is at opposition on May 10th. For more details check the *2014 Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#).

► News @ RASC.ca

AstroCATS - It's This Weekend! (May 3 & 4)

by [Gary Bennett](#), Chairman, AstroCATS, RASC Hamilton Centre

The Canadian Astronomy & Telescope Show (AstroCATS) will be celebrating its 2nd year on May 3 & 4 at the David Braley Athletic & Recreation Centre, Mohawk College, in Hamilton. Hosted by RASC Hamilton Centre, AstroCATS is a full-featured Trade Show complete with international exhibitors, seminars & guest speakers, amazing door/raffle prizes, and all this for the price of a movie ticket.

Our program will appeal to beginners and experienced astronomers alike. Seminar topics range from how to choose your first telescope (or even build your own), to advanced astrophotography processing techniques. Exhibitors will showcase astronomy products rarely seen on a showroom floor and many of those will be new and upcoming products. This year we are especially well represented by CCD camera exhibitors with names like Apogee, ATIK, and Hutech. Equally impressive are Canadian inventions brought to you by Kendrick, Mallincam, Norman Fullum, and SkyShed POD. Your favorite astronomy retailers will also be there with truck loads of gear for you to take home. If REALLY BIG equipment is on your list, Mathis Instruments will be there with a mount that can take your telescope AND YOU for a ride around the sky (although their demo will only have a lowly PlaneWave telescope).

For visual observers, there will be plenty of "eye candy" on display. Everything from handcrafted Norman Fullum telescopes to the best of Solar Telescopes. Familiar "big-name" brands that will be exhibiting this year include ADM Accessories, Celestron, Meade, Vixen, Lunt Solar Systems, Mathis Instruments, and

many more.

We are also hosting a 2-day Solar "Star Party" brought to you by Lunt Solar Systems and Stephen Ramsden of the Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project (CBSA). CBSA is now an international Solar Outreach Program and last year they reached 162,023 students.

Our seminar and guest speaker program features some of the best talents on the planet. A short list includes:

- Robert Naeye, Editor in Chief, Sky & Telescope Magazine
- Terence Dickinson, Editor of SkyNews Magazine
- Wally Pacholka - Astro-Landscape Photographer Extraordinaire
- International Award Winning Amateur Astrophotographers: Damian Peach, Kerry-Ann Lecky Hepburn, Ron Brecher
- And more....

Seminars fall into 4 categories:

- Artistry & Creativity
- Beginner/Family / General Interest
- Learning (How-To)
- Celebrities

Several speakers are famous astrophotographers, but you don't need to be one to enjoy these presentations. While many of these presentations will feature images produced by these gifted people, the seminars will be a demonstration of the beauty of the Cosmos as seen through the camera. Of course, if you want to learn "how-to," there is a seminar for that too!

Our seminar program and schedule, as well as the list of exhibitors, is close to being finalized. We also hope to announce Door/Raffle Prizes that will be up for grabs. Last year we gave out over \$15,000 in prizes! Prize donors tend to surprise us at the last minute but we attempt to update our Web site as intel becomes available.

AstroCATS is a 2-day event and many of you will want to attend both days. For out-of-town guests, we have a special arrangement for overnight accommodations. A 2-bedroom suite, free parking/internet/breakfast for only \$79.95!

Tickets can be purchased at the door, but on-line ticket buyers will also receive a Free Raffle Prize entry.

For more information and updates, visit: <http://www.astrocats.ca>.

We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Call for Nominations Extended to May 10

by [Chris Gainor](#), Chair, Nominating Committee RASC

In 2013, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada made major changes to its governance structure to come into line with the provisions of the Canada Not For Profit Corporations Act. As of the Thunder Bay General Assembly in 2013, a Board of Directors is responsible for the running of the RASC, replacing the

National Council.

Under our new By-Law, the RASC Board over the past year has been made up of the executive and three Board members selected in a special election last year. In 2014, the members get to choose the entire Board of nine members in an election.

This will be the only year the entire Board will be up for election, unless an unforeseen situation should arise. Starting in 2015, three Board positions will come open every year.

In the 2014 election, the three candidates with the greatest number of votes will serve terms of three years expiring in 2017, the next three candidates will win terms of two years each expiring in 2016, and the following three candidates will get terms of one year each expiring in 2015.

This year, the RASC Nominating Committee is seeking at least nine candidates to run for the Board of directors. Members of the Society Executive will be drawn from the ranks of the new Board, and candidates for Board positions should indicate if they wish to serve on the executive and the position they wish to fill.

Our National Secretary, James Edgar, has announced that he wishes to step down from that position. The RASC Nominating Committee is therefore seeking a member interested in serving on the Board and the executive as National Secretary. While many current members of the Board have indicated that they will seek election this year, there will be at least two vacancies due to Board members leaving the current Board and not seeking election.

Here are the rules for candidate eligibility as set out in the RASC Policy Manual:

Candidate Eligibility

The Nominating Committee will ensure that candidates for the RASC Board of Directors meet the following criteria:

Be a member in good standing of the Society;

Meet the requirements for being a Board member as outlined by the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, specifically:

- be over the age of 18 at the time of the Annual General Meeting (this year, June 29);
- be an individual person (i.e. not a body corporate);
- be solvent (not bankrupt);

Have agreed to stand for election in writing;

Have the support in writing of at least 3 people, one of whom is a member of the Society; and

Have agreed to abide by the Society's Directors and Officer's Code of Conduct and indicated their willingness to sign the Society's Board of Director's agreement prior to assuming office.

Candidate's Statement

As part of the nomination process, candidates will be asked to provide a **Candidate's Statement**, including:

Their previous experience with councils and committees of the Society at both the National and Centre levels;

A suitable photograph in electronic format as well as contact information as required;

Committee work and experience outside of the Society that may be relevant to the Society; and

Their goals for the Society and how they would contribute to the Board if elected.

Anyone wishing to be a candidate should write or email the RASC Nominating Committee through its chair, Christopher Gainor. Each candidate should state that they understand the eligibility requirements and state that they meet those requirements. Candidates should agree to abide by the RASC Director's and Officers Code of Conduct. They should also indicate whether they intend to seek a position on the Executive, and if so, what position they are seeking. Candidates should also send a candidate's statement as set out above. The three supporters for each candidate should also write or email the committee. Candidates and their supporters must inform the Nominating Committee of their intention to run or support for a candidate by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Saturday, May 10, 2014.

Candidates' statements will be posted on the RASC website no later than May 15, 2014. Candidates can campaign from May 1, 2014 through June 13, 2014. Voting will take place from June 14 through June 25, 2014, and results will be announced the next day, June 26, 2014. All members of the RASC will be eligible to vote, and facilities to vote on line will be available as well as paper ballots on request from the Society Office.

The Nominating Committee will be pleased to answer questions from any member of the RASC about this election process.

More information can be found at www.rasc.ca/news/last-call-nominations-rasc-board-directors.

The Nominating Committee can be reached by mail through the Society Office of the RASC, 203 - 4920 Dundas Street W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7, or by email at cgainor@shaw.ca

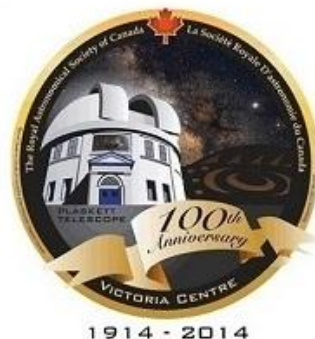
Christopher Gainor, Ph.D. Chair, Norminating Committee RASC

The 2014 General Assembly

by [Paul Schumacher](#), Victoria Centre, Co-chair of 2014 GA Organizing Committee

2014 GA : Victoria Centre : June 26 - June 29

Join the members of Victoria Centre as we celebrate 100 years of being a RASC Centre at our 2014 RASC General Assembly. To add to the festivities, we will also be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, located in Saanich, B.C.



The 2014 General Assembly will showcase the DAO, University of Victoria's new observatory located on the campus, which is our assembly headquarters, a wide-ranging scientific and cultural program for your entire family, and all this conducted against the spectacular natural beauty of Canada's West Coast. Guest Speakers include Dr Laura Ferrarese, Bob McDonald of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks*, and RASC's own Peter Broughton.

Victoria is serviced by both of our domestic air carriers and can be reached by convenient car ferry service connecting Victoria to Vancouver, B.C. and Seattle, Washington.

From on-campus accommodation at the University of Victoria to nearby hotel and RV facilities, there are many lodging options available in the Greater Victoria area for RASC members.

Registration can be made at RASC.ca.

Please join us in Victoria, June 26 to June 29 for the 2014 GA.

RASC VICTORIA CENTRE

2014 General Assembly Organizing Committee

Mark Bohlman, Co-Chair mbohlman@shaw.ca

Paul Schumacher, Co-Chair docpschu@shaw.ca

Call for Images for 2015 Calendar

by [Paul Gray](#), Observer's Calendar Editor

Astronomical images and sketches of all types are invited for consideration for publication in the 2015 RASC Observer's Calendar including: deep sky, solar system, and dramatic astronomically themed landscapes.

Images can be prime focus, piggyback, eyepiece projection, or fixed tripod; and recorded on a digital/CCD camera, film, or Webcam. Submitted images must be of sufficient quality and resolution to reproduce well at 9.5" x 12" and must be compatible with the "landscape" orientation of the calendar images. Generally, this will mean a resolution of at least 1200 pixels tall. We will also consider making a quilt or mosaic of lunar/planetary Webcam captured images (so as not to over magnify an individual image for publication).

If you already have a gallery of images on your Web site, send me the link, but please also direct me to your favourites. Both well-known and obscure objects are published in the calendar, so to avoid having the same objects used too often, I will be screening for those that may have appeared in recent years.

Please email submissions to me at snpgray@gmail.com. While I have a bottomless email box, it's best to send me jpegs first. If your image is selected, I will request a full resolution tiff version. Full resolution tiffs will be required for use in print. The deadline for submissions is 2014 April 30. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the above mentioned email address.

Asteroids with a Canadian Connection

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

A couple of new asteroids have been named to the List of Asteroids with Canadian Connections:

Asteroid (29659) Zeyuliu

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-29659>

Zeyu Liu (b.1995) was awarded best of category and first place in the 2013 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for his electrical and mechanical engineering project. He also received the European Union Contest for Young Scientists. He attends the Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Asteroid (28924) Jennanncsele

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-28924>

Jennifer Ann Csele (b.1996) was awarded first place in the 2013 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for her physics and astronomy project. She attends the Notre Dame College School, Welland, Ontario, Canada.

These are listed on the Web site, www.rasc.ca/canadian-asteroids.

RASC Membership Development News

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

The RASC Membership Development News for May 2013 is available at: [RASC Member Development News April 2014](#).

A Note from Peter Broughton

by [Peter Broughton](#), Fellow of the RASC, Past President

Ray Jaywardanha, an outstanding Canadian astronomer, has received a Fellowship award from the the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Ray Jayawardhana, Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics and Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics, University of Toronto. Ray's award is in the category Natural Sciences - Science Writing for a project entitled *Our Cosmic Selves*.

Since 1925 the Foundation has granted more than \$315 million in Fellowships to almost 17,700 individuals, among whom are scores of Nobel laureates and poets laureate, as well as winners of Pulitzer Prizes, Fields Medals, and other important, internationally recognized honours.

► Across the RASC

The Sunshine Coast Centre is 10 Years Old!

by [Kerr Cuhulain](#), Sunshine Coast Centre

Our Sunshine Coast Centre is the youngest Centre within the RASC and this summer we are celebrating our tenth anniversary at the same time that our friends in RASC Victoria are celebrating their hundredth birthday. We are sending a delegation to the 54th General Assembly in Victoria to share in the commemorations of RASC Victoria.

Our Centre is named for the coastal region of British Columbia north of Vancouver where we are situated. The Sunshine Coast Centre is a very active Centre with year round outreach activities for the Sunshine Coast area. We have monthly talks by astrophysicists with a “skies this month” feature presented by our members. We hold monthly “Astro Café” nights in Davis Bay on which we set up our telescopes for the public to view the sky, weather permitting. We run “star parties” for the public for the local Botanical Garden Harvest Festival, the Gibson’s Sea Cavalcade, the Sechelt Night Street Market, Astronomy Day, Canada Day as well as for an Astronomy in the Park session in August in Porpoise Bay Provincial Park. We are also doing viewing sessions for local communities in Halfmoon Bay, Gibsons, and for the Sandy Hook Community Association. We’ll be teaching Girl Guides about astronomy at their gathering at Camp Olave this summer. We put information on our activities and astronomy news out on our Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Google+ pages as well as our website: www.coastastronomy.ca. We’ve just entered into a partnership with Coast Cable to produce a monthly half hour astronomy show for their cable network. This is costing us nothing: Coast Cable provides the studio and camera crews, we supply the scripts and astronomers to appear in the show. This show will feature our astronomers providing information for those beginning in amateur astronomy and answering the public’s questions on astronomical topics. We are in the process of filming the episodes now and hopefully it will go on the air this summer.

Also this summer we hope to complete our new observatory and celebrate first light. This observatory, the only one on the Sunshine Coast, is situated at Sechelt airport. Through savings, generous donations and a gaming grant we came up with the funds to make this dream possible. This is a labour of love utilizing the engineering knowledge and muscle of members and generous support from community partners contributing materials and labour. The basic structure is up, the roofing material is being installed, wiring is about to be done, and we’re hoping that our 14 inch Cassegrain telescope will be installed and operational this summer. We hope to have sessions there to allow the public to see deep sky wonders.



Chris Gainor in front of the observatory as it was in February this year.

Montréal Centre Helps Enact New Light-Pollution Abatement City By-Law

by [Andrew Fazekas](#), RASC Montréal

Thanks to a new light-pollution abatement By-Law passed by the city of Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue - suburb of Montréal, this past December, it will be easier for skywatchers in the municipality to count the stars and ensure RASC Montréal's Bellevue Observatory continues to have pristine views.

The West Island borough of Ste. Anne has adopted a ground-breaking light pollution legislation on 2013 December 9 that will control public lighting to not only reduce wastage of light but also conserve energy.

The new Light Abatement By-Law (757) is the result of successful coordination between the city councillors in consultation with the Montréal Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) and lighting experts at the Québec division of the International Dark-Sky Association.

This now makes Ste. Anne one of handful of Québec municipalities and the first on the island of Montréal, leading the efforts to regulate nighttime lighting.

Currently McGill University's 600 hectare public-access Morgan Arboretum, which is home to the Centre's astronomical observatory, enjoys the darkest skies on the entire island of Montréal.

RASC Montréal and its team of volunteer astronomer members have been conducting free public stargazing parties in the park for nearly three decades.

The progressive new By-Law therefore will now help protect the stunning, clear views of the night sky (as you can see in the image below) the general public has come to expect for generations to come.



Ottawa Centre Announcements

by [Charles O'Dale](#), Ottawa Centre

Our April meeting as well as past meetings may be viewed at:

[Ottawa Centre, Monthly Meetings.](#)

Dr. Simon Hanmer's latest article on lunar geology, *Growing "Old" Polygonally* :

[Hanmer articles polygonal craters.](#)

Also look for:

[Charles O'Dale's Articles.](#)

[Position Statement on Science and Evolution.](#)

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.

© 2013 Royal Astronomical Society of Canada