



June 2018 - Volume 13, Number 6

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

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

Editor's Corner

by [David Garner](#), *Bulletin* Editor

I'm sure many of you know James Edgar and his many contributions to the RASC. You may have also heard that James Edgar has undergone major heart surgery. James, we wish you all the best and hope that you get well soon! James can be reached at [James Edgar](#).

News from the Society Office

by [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director

RASC Archive Open House: May 12

A Success!

Over 50 people attended the RASC Archive History Centre Open House on Saturday May 12! Thank you to all our members who came out to join us in the celebration.

Local Member of Parliament James Maloney attended and announced that the RASC would receive funding for two summer students this year. The students will

carry our various administrative assignments to enhance fundraising and RASC Centre public outreach activities.



MP James Maloney (Etobicoke Lakeshore) addresses the visitors. RASC President Colin Haig and Executive Director Randy Attwood are on either side of Mr. Maloney.

National Star Party – Saturday, 2018 September 15

The 2017 National Star Party held last July was the first ever – it was extremely successful with thousands of Canadians participating, celebrating Canada's 150th birthday.

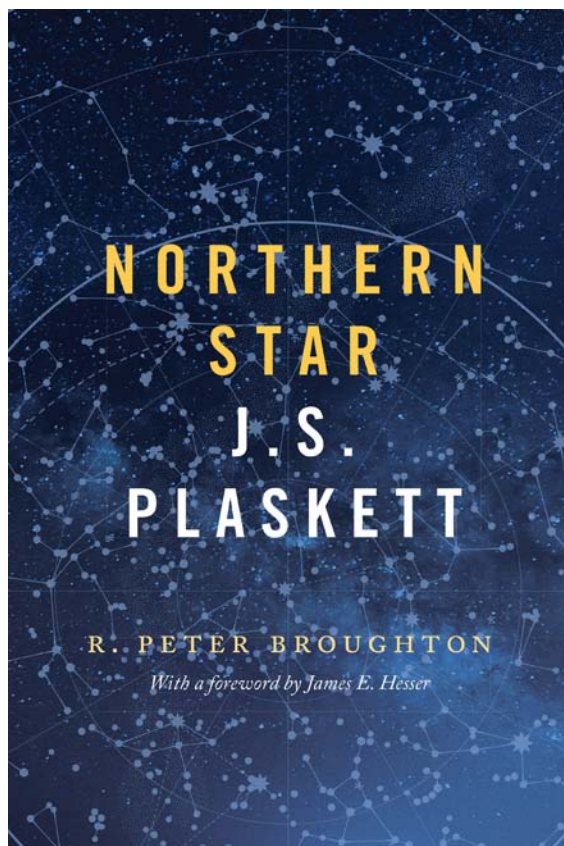
To celebrate the Society's 150th, we are scheduling a National Star Party for Saturday, September 15. The date was chosen because on that evening the

Moon, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars will all be perfectly placed in the evening sky. As well, a date later in the summer is easier to manage for Centres at higher latitudes – it gets dark earlier.

We are planning to produce information sheets on observing these planets to hand out at the event. The Observing Committee is producing Mars observing info sheets as well.

Northern Star: By Peter Broughton \$90.00

Get your copy today: a beautifully-imaged, 400+ page hardcover book. *Northern Star* is the first full-scale biography of major Canadian astronomer John Stanley Plaskett. Broughton's accessible and engaging prose combined with rich illustrations illuminates Plaskett's achievements and motivations, and the social, political, economic, and religious milieu surrounding them.



General Assembly 2018

by GA Committee 2018



RASC GA 2018:
Register now at rascga2018.ca
June 28 - July 1: Calgary, AB

This year's RASC General Assembly happens in Calgary, a vibrant city set in a breathtaking natural landscape. The scenic Bow River runs through the city, with the foothills of the Rockies on the near horizon, meeting the vast skies of the prairies. As a backdrop for striking sunsets, noctilucent clouds, and aurora, it's almost cinematic. The heart of the new west is the perfect setting to experience the RASC's brand of astronomy at the GA.

Astronomy played a part in putting Calgary on the map, and if you're interested in exploring the intriguing astronomical and geological features of the region, you won't want to miss the post GA tours - on Monday July 2, the Cretaceous / Tertiary Boundary and **Tyrrell Museum Badlands Tour**, on Tuesday July 3, the

Martian Analogues in the Canadian Rocky Mountains Tour, and on Wednesday July 4, the **First Nations Stone Cairn Site Tour**. Space is limited, so sign up early!

As a GA delegate, you'll experience fabled western hospitality including a **Calgary Stampede pancake breakfast** on Saturday June 30, included with registration (a week before the official opening of the Stampede!). And, if you're staying in the region, why not plan on attending the Stampede, July 6-15?

The GA is fast approaching, and **group rates at Hotel Alma for the General Assembly are in place until end of day on Monday, June 4**. Regular room rates will apply to any bookings past that date.

All program details, and registration and accommodation booking instructions can be found at: <https://rascga2018.ca/>.

We hope to see you at the GA!

RASC Fundraising

by **Lisa Di Veto**, RASC Fundraising Consultant

It's been a real privilege working with RASC over the past few months and learning more about the numerous and outstanding events and activities offered by the Society and Centres. You may know a new project has recently been announced; the RASC Robotic Telescope! In celebration of its 150th anniversary, the Society has initiated a special project to purchase and operate a 16-inch remote, automated telescope housed in an observatory in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. This is a pristine, dark sky site with excellent observing conditions that will provide year round access to telescope images and data through a program now being developed. There is however a cost and members will be asked to kindly consider contributing to the annual site fee, maintenance and programming expense. Please visit

https://secure.rasc.ca/RASC/Fundraising/Give_Now_Robotic_Telescope.aspx and donate to this important project.

RASC is also actively seeking funds from foundations and government agencies in support of our charitable initiatives. We're applying for a grant from a federal fund; New Horizons for Seniors which awards up to \$25,000 to charities serving those 55 years of age and older. Application information has been shared with Centres that are registered charities. This grant is for select project costs related to program delivery for seniors.

As previously announced, the National Office has been awarded Canada Summer Jobs funding for the wages of two students employed in June and July. They'll assist with marketing, membership and fund development assignments. Other funding requests are pending; many will enhance the support RASC currently offers Centres and will allow us to serve members better.

We're also in the process of improving donation information and updating website content. Members may choose to support the Robotic Telescope project mentioned above, contribute to where the need is greatest, give to astronomy education or arrange a legacy gift. Options to make monthly gifts, donate stocks or make bequests have been introduced.

The RASC Fundraising Committee is in the process of reviewing fund criteria and gifting opportunities so we may best define how donors may designate their gifts. If you have any questions or need more information about supporting RASC or your Centre, please don't hesitate to contact me at ldiveto@rasc.ca or 519-754-1803.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to hearing from you!

RASC 150th Imagining the Skies

RASC 2018 Working Group

by [Randall Rosenfeld](#), RASC Archivist

Throughout Canada amazing photographers and creative artists abound. Why not join in a celebration of our beautiful skies through active imaging? What better way for us to mark the 150th anniversary of the Society than by submitting our astronomical images, as well as encouraging friends,

neighbours, co-workers, and others of all ages and levels of experience, to participate?

Plan to go out in 2018 and embrace the inspiration of astronomical phenomena by recording what you see of the visible cosmos!

If you've ever wanted to try astrophotography or astronomical sketching, now's the time. You need nothing more than the smart-phone you carry, or the pencil in your pocket. The art of capturing realistic images of celestial phenomena has been practiced in the RASC since its founding, with each generation imaging space anew through the filter of the astrophysics of their day, using available technologies. If they could do it, so should we! If your tastes run to transforming what you see in the eyepiece to represent celestial phenomena in the graphic, plastic, and textile arts, indulge them by submitting your work to Imagining the Skies. Whether you are a budding novice, or a seasoned expert, we want your images in our sesquicentennial contest!

When visiting Imagining the Skies, remember to vote for your favourites in each category throughout the year. Votes for the most popular images will be announced quarterly. Check out the novice submissions, as well as those from more experienced imagers—and vote often!

For more details, visit <http://imaginingtheskies.ca/>.

For more details on the full range of programming for RASC 150, visit <https://www.rasc.ca/2018>. New material is added monthly.

Observing News

by [Dave Chapman](#), Chair, Observing Committee

In May 2018, RASC awarded the following observing certificates: Explore the Universe to Chris Cottle of RASC Calgary; The Finest NGC Objects (GoTo) to Charles Ennis of RASC Sunshine Coast; and Messier Catalogue (Traditional) to Rod DeVries of RASC Calgary. In the first five months of this 150th Anniversary year, RASC has awarded 10 observing certificates—keep them coming!



In anticipation of this summer's close Mars opposition, a new page has been added to the Special Projects section of the RASC Observing web site www.rasc.ca/mars-2018-opposition. There you will find several downloadable resources on observing and drawing Mars, including an observing form, courtesy of Denis Fell. We will be adding to those resources as items are produced.

On Twitter, please follow @RASC using the hashtag #RASCobserving for announcements of earned observing certificates and special observing opportunities.

You Just Might be a Casual Observer

by [Blair Stunder](#), Prince George Centre

On the lighter side, actual activities that have taken place at the Prince George Centre.

- If you open your eye-piece case and a moth flies out, you need to do more observing.
- If you can't remember which way your wedge mounts/points, you need to do more observing.
- If you mount your Red-Dot finder on your scope backwards, you need to do more observing.

- If you feel more comfortable setting up your scope in the daylight, you need to do more observing.
- If you have ever placed your OTA on your mount backwards, you need to do more observing.
- If it's taking you longer than normal to set up your scope, you need to do more observing.
- If you say, I'm more familiar with the Fall Sky and it's now late Spring, you need to do more observing.
- If the last date showing on your hand controller is at least six months old, you need to do more observing.
- If you can't remember that last time you viewed the sky, you need to do more observing.
- If you can't remember what that little thing-a-magingy is in your gear case is for, you need to do more observing.

Many thanks to the Observatory Deck Gang for their help on this, your actions have been an inspiration.

Montreal Centre Upcoming Events

by **Carl Jorgensen**, Secretary, Montreal Centre

Saturday, June 2, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Montreal Centre members Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum , 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Observing afterwards (weather Permitting).

Wednesday, June 6, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum.

Observatory will be open, but you can also bring your own telescope or binoculars (weather permitting).

Saturday, June 9, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members offsite observing at Thompson Park, 726 Rue Main, Hudson (weather permitting).

Wednesday, June 13, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum. Observatory will be open, but you can also bring your own telescope or binoculars (weather permitting).

Saturday, June 16, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members offsite observing at Woody – Woods, 45 Rang Saint Antoine, Saint-Chrysostome (weather permitting).

Wednesday, June 18, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members observing at the Morgan Arboretum Conservation Center. The Bellevue Observatory will be open, but you can also bring your own telescope or binoculars (weather permitting).

Wednesday, June 20, 7:00 – 9:30 pm: Members Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum. Observatory will be open, but you can also bring your own telescope or binoculars (weather permitting).

Saturday, June 23, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Montreal Centre Public Event “Saturn Night” presentation on Saturn, 8:00 pm at the Morgan Arboretum. Observing afterwards (weather Permitting).

Wednesday, June 27, 7:00 – 9:30 pm: Montreal Centre Library Clubhouse at the Isabel K Williamson Library (Rm H-355), John Abbott College, 21275 Rue Lakeshore, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Saturday, June 30, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum. Observing afterwards (weather Permitting).



MAS
Minnesota Astronomical Society

ALCON 2018
July 11–14 Minneapolis–St. Paul

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alcon2018.astroleague.org

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Dr. Pamela Gay, Dr. Phil
Plait, Bob Berman, Bob
King, many more

Thank You to our Sponsors!

by **Julia Neeser**, RASC Marketing Coordinator

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www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors.





What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the **Northern Skies** section of the RASC website. Thanks to Gary Boyle for keeping us all in the know.



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