



Happy holidays to all of you, our cherished members! It's the time of year that many of us welcome the cold, clear observing sessions with open arms. [Send us pictures of your favourite winter observing outfit!](#)

Looking for a gift for that special space nerd in your life? Look no further! Check out our gift guide below.

If you have a story, event or item you'd like included in the next Monthly Bulletin, [please reach out!](#)

Letter from our Executive Director



Phil Groff with new Montreal Centre President Katherine Dulong, at the November 20th Montreal RASC Library Night.

Greetings Members of The RASC,

It's hard to believe that I've already been with you for two months, and that the end of 2019 is in sight. I've had a chance to travel to a few more centres and met a lot more individuals. I am continually amazed by the warmth and good humour I'm greeted with by all the members I've encountered, and even more so by the incredible dedication of the volunteers that make this society possible. I thank you all for everything you contribute to the life of the RASC.

I've also had the opportunity to do my first observing, since joining the society in October. It was in the parking lot of John Abbott College, on the evening of November 20, after attending the meeting of the RASC Montreal Centre. Under the skillful tutelage of Youth Outreach Coordinator, Jenna Hinds, and RASC Archivist, Randall Rosenfeld, I was able to observe both the Orion Nebula, and the Pleiades, through Jenna's binoculars, despite intrusive streetlights. I look forward to sharing similar great experiences with you as I plan to visit every centre within my first year.

As this year draws to a close, I am very excited about the plans we are developing for 2020. In addition to our ongoing committee to support centre events and individual observing, we have a few new programs and opportunities on the horizon. At long last, the Robotic Telescope, which has been serving as an amazing tool for youth outreach, as well as conducting some great preliminary scientific observations, and astrophotography will become available to the membership at large. We will also begin displaying some of the recent acquisitions for the Dorner Telescope Museum, through SkyNews and our websites, while of course welcoming member visits to our home office for a more personal tour. Finally, we will begin to search in earnest for a new permanent home for the national office—one that will better house the growing museum, our archives, our staff, and hopefully provide space for education and outreach activities. We'll share relocation options as they develop.

You may notice that the January/February 2020 edition of SkyNews has undergone a few changes. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Chris Gainor who acted as interim Managing Editor for this issue and worked tirelessly alongside Paula Blacklock, Laurel Aziz and Isabelle Santiago for the past several weeks.

Finally, 2020 will see changes to our aging software platform to improve centre and member access to online accounts.

I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season, with clear skies and good weather so that we can all enjoy the longest nights of the year!

Cheers,
Phil Groff
Executive Director - The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

RASC Gift Guide 2020

Find the perfect gift for the space nerd in your life!



Holiday Book Bundle
Looking for a gift idea that's out of this world? Head to our online store and save big on our Holiday Bundle! Explore the Universe, The Solar Observers Handbook, and Ojibwe Sky Star Map Constellation Guide for the low price of \$37.70!
\$37.70

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\$319 binoculars and telescope adapter

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The Gift of Membership
We love our astronomy community. What could be a better gift than inviting your friends and family to join? [Contact Adela](#) to give the gift of a RASC membership this holiday season. Prices vary. Please [check here](#) for prices.

[Buy Gift Membership](#)



RASC Pop Socket
Pop sockets are perfect for propping up your phone while observing. Stick the RASC pop socket on the back of your phone case to make it easier to hold, prop it up, and show everyone your support for your favourite astronomy organization!
\$11.75

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Welcome Allendria and Isabelle!



We are delighted to introduce the new Managing Editor of SkyNews, Allendria Brunjes, who joins us for the March/April issue. With about 15 years' experience in digital and print journalism, she has been a hard news and feature writer as well as a photographer and designer all around the world. Her résumé includes stints at the Athabasca Advocate, the Toronto Star and ScribbleLive, working to make digital products better everywhere she went.

She has had a life-long interest in the sky, and she enjoys reading about exoplanets, writing about meteors and looking through other people's telescopes at star parties. In her spare time, she is a glider pilot, kayaker, tuba and banjo player and occasional belly dancer.

We would also like to introduce the new graphic designer of SkyNews, Isabelle Santiago. Isabelle is an award-winning graphic designer based in Toronto. Before coming to SkyNews she worked in advertising and digital product design, and then went on to open an independent design practice. She's excited to be a part of the team!



We are excited by the new energy and new perspectives that Allendria and Isabelle are bringing to SkyNews and [SkyNews.ca](#).

Awards Nominations

Would you be excited to win a major prize? Of course you would! Here's your chance to give your RASC colleagues that same feeling of recognition for their accomplishments.

The RASC Awards Committee is accepting nominations for research projects, writing, astronomy education, services to the Society or its Centres and to organizations, individuals and municipalities for their work in reducing light pollution in Canada.

Take the time to think back on the people who helped you advance in astronomy, perhaps people who are no longer as active as they once were, and the newcomers who have made significant contributions in the past 12 months.

Find details on individual awards [here](#). To submit a nomination, please email awards20000@rasc.ca.

Please send in your nominations by December 31, 2019.

[Submit a nomination](#)

The RASC in the news

Nov. 18
Saint John astronomers launch weekly stargazing livestream

Nov. 18
Star light, star bright: Rare designation sought to keep Kelowna park dark

Nov. 11
"You've got to wait 30 years if you didn't... see it today"
Astronomers get up-close look at Mercury Transit

Nov. 1
Look up Red Deer - it's the International Space Station

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