

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER
October 1975



Comet Kobayashi-Berger-Milon (1975h). Toronto Centre President Jack Newton obtained this photo of the Comet on Aug. 4, 1975 from a site 6 miles north of Newmarket, Ontario. Jack exposed for 15 minutes on TRI-X film at the focus of his 12.5 inch f/4.6 trailer mounted reflector. The film was developed for 5 minutes in D 19.

The Art of Comet Hunting

Over the years we have heard of many techniques for discovering comets, those elusive wanderers from the depths of our solar system. One method above all stands out, that of serendipity!

On the night of Friday July 11, a star party was scheduled at the Ottawa Centre's North Mountain Observatory, about 30 miles south of the city. The weather was unsettled, with thundershowers interspersed with clear patches. Knowing Murphy the way we all do, most of the members stayed home. Not so for Art Fraser, however. As he only lives a short distance from the site, in Vernon, Ontario, he drove out to use the 16-inch f/5 Newtonian. What did he find? Cloud.

Not to be daunted, he took out his 7 × 50 binoculars to pass the time until it cleared a bit better. A hole in the clouds was travelling over Delphinus, just south of the Milky Way. He followed it down to the constellation of Equuleus and found ... a large fuzzy patch, not unusual with the number of Messier objects in the area. With the experience he had acquired in observing though, he knew of no object closer than M15 ... ah, yes, there it was nearby. What was the object then? Could it possibly be ... perhaps ... a comet? But how absurd! It was about 3 times the apparent size of M15 and about 6th magnitude. No doubt the old edition of Norton's Atlas had left something out!

There was no time to get a second look. The clear patch closed up completely in about 15 minutes. Several hours later, at 02:00 EDT, Art headed home after having tried unsuccessfully to locate someone to confirm his sighting.

About 10:30 the following morning he phoned Cathy Hall, Chairman of the Observer's Group. She recommended checking the SAO Star Atlas at North Mountain and getting hold of the telephone number for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, kept in the IAU circular box in the clubhouse. She then tried to trace down any information as to the identity of the object. Our librarian, Stan Mott, replied that no new IAU circulars had reached him. Dr. Lloyd Higgs replied that no new comets were known by the National Research Council. Doug Welch looked up the coordinates of the object in the complete NGC catalogue. There were no galaxies, nebulae or small clusters above magnitude 13 nearby. Rolf Meier reported that no periodic comets were in that area. Art phoned back later that day with word that there was nothing at the object's position on the SAO Star Atlas.

At 17:30 EDT on Saturday, July 12, Art phoned the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory using their collect line: Suspected comet ... found by Mr. Art Fraser of Vernon, Ontario ... at 00:30 EDT on Friday July 11/12 1975 ... position $2^{\circ}07' + 10^{\circ}30'$... used 7 × 50 binoculars and 16" f/5 Newtonian at North Mountain Observatory of the Ottawa Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada ...

That night Art met Cathy Hall, Doug Welch and Rolf Meier at the observatory. It was completely overcast. At 22:40 a small clear patch appeared and started to drift ... the object was seen through the hole between Equuleus and Delphinus at about $20^{\circ}57.5' + 13^{\circ}20'$. Fifteen minutes later it was completely overcast. At Art's place in Vernon another collect call was put through to the Smithsonian.

Sunday dawned still badly overcast. More telephone calls were made. Dr. Fred Lossing recommended getting in touch personally with someone at the Smithsonian as taped messages would probably not be decoded on the weekend. Dr. Ian Halliday tried to locate the phone number of Dr. Brian Marsden which was finally obtained through the switchboard at the Smithsonian. Art could not get through to him so he talked with Dr. Frances Wright instead. She said she lived across the road from the observatory and would locate the tapes and reply.

At 20:00 the Smithsonian contacted Art Fraser. The object was definitely a comet, discovered on July 2 by a Japanese comet hunter named Kobayashi. Dr. Wright sent congratulations for an independent discovery and recommended continuing reports to the Smithsonian. News of the discovery was relayed to a number of Observers Group members and, in spite of the complete cloud cover, a handful headed out to North Mountain. Our batting average was incredible. Again came a little hole in the cloud; coordinates were quickly taken, and 10 minutes later it was completely overcast.

Monday morning brought news that Berger had found the comet from California on July 5 and Milon from the central U.S. on July 7. The formal name became Comet Kobayashi-Berger-Milon, 1975h. Shortly after came news from Dr. Brian Marsden, via Dr. Lorne Avery of the National Research Council, that perihelion should be on

September 5 at a distance of 4 A.U. with estimated magnitude of 4.5. The orbit is parabolic with an inclination of about 81° .

The Ottawa Centre has since been observing and plotting the comet every clear night. Photography is being carried out by many members. Coordinates are being relayed directly to the Algonquin Radio Observatory in order that they may view the comet with their radio dish. As of August 5, the comet was approximately magnitude 4, just below the handle of the Big Dipper.

What will the comet do after perihelion? We hope it will remain visible for those in the northern hemisphere and perhaps gain another magnitude and a tail longer than the 1° it has at present. Whatever it does though, it remains a reminder of the role serendipity plays in amateur astronomy. Just think ... if it had been perfectly clear on Friday July 11 perhaps the comet would not have been found! Congratulations Art! It is constant observing and perseverance even on the not-so-exceptional nights that bring out the most rewarding discoveries in astronomy today.

CATHY HALL
Chairman, Observers Group
Ottawa Centre

Independent Sighting of a New Comet (1975h) by a Saskatoon Amateur Astronomer

To Mrs. Lillia Wilcox, an active member of the Saskatoon Centre, goes the unique honor of spotting a new comet without prior knowledge that this comet, Comet Kobayashi-Berger-Milon (1975h) had been found and reported on 12 days earlier by a Japanese astronomer.

This comet, the eighth found in 1975, was noticed by Mrs. Wilcox during a regular Saturday evening meeting of the active Saskatoon amateur astronomers at Mr. Patterson's residence where he has his own observatory. This group of amateur astronomers was looking for faint nebulous objects (usually referred to as Messier Objects) with their binoculars when Mrs. Wilcox located a nebulous cloud in the constellation Delphinus. A check of several star atlases by members of the group showed no known object at that location. At this time, no one realized this was a comet but its location was recorded for further checking. On Sunday evening it was again observed by several members of the group and it was noticed that its location had changed, having moved about 3 degrees in a north-westerly direction. Once again its location was recorded and it was suspected this was a comet. On Monday July 14, Mr. Patterson checked all the latest records available to that date at the University and no new comet was listed that fit the location. On Monday night, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Malby recorded an accurate location and found the comet had moved nearly 4 degrees still in a north-westerly direction. Two photographs were taken (although it should be noted that it is extremely difficult to get a good picture of such a nebulous object). Knowing now that this was a comet, a telegram was dispatched early Tuesday to the Smithsonian Observatory in Cambridge, Mass. reporting an independent comet sighting and giving the three recorded positions. Later in the day, new information was received confirming that this was a comet that had been reported for the first time ten days previous. While this meant that Mrs. Wilcox's name would not be listed as the first observer, the three recorded positions will help to establish a more accurate orbit for the comet.

Reprinted from Saskatoon Centre's *Newsletter*

Comet and Nova Search

One of the most relaxing aspects of observational astronomy is the search for new comets. The sky can be searched by either individuals or by groups and there are a number of ways of going about this.

In one program the sky has been divided into over four hundred areas, each of which measures about ten degrees of arc on a side. You are given one or two of these areas and it becomes your job to care for it well, for it is your own private piece of sky. First you reproduce from an atlas a chart of all the stars in your area down to sixth or seventh magnitude. On your first night of observation, check each star in your area.



Officers at the head table for the Society's Annual Meeting in Halifax were: Executive Secretary, Rosemary Freeman; National Secretary, D. J. FitzGerald; Acting Recorder, Ralph Chou; National President, J. D. Fernie and National Treasurer, Cyril Clark.
Photo by Harlan Creighton.

this may take about fifteen minutes but after a few checks you get to know your area quite well and a two-minute check on each clear night will then suffice.

If you have a fair knowledge of the constellations, you could check the "dome" (the whole sky) down to about third magnitude. If you complete this search every clear night and if you are lucky with the weather, there is a chance that sooner or later a nova will hail you.

Checking the "twilight horizon" (the horizon near the sun during dusk or dawn) could eventually yield a comet. A careful glance at the immediate "sun vicinity" – in daylight – if repeated every day – could prove fruitful as well for a bright comet that suddenly appears from behind the sun.

Although each of the above suggestions provides opportunities for finding comets or novae, the chances that you will ever find one are extremely slim. But each method has been successful at one time or another. Comet 1910a was discovered in broad daylight as it made a surprise appearance near the sun, and Comet Mrkos was discovered in a bright horizon shortly after sunset one evening in 1957.

Comet hunting with a telescope is not so simple but for the more serious comet hunter, under a dark sky, this method has the best chance for success. A wide field eyepiece and lots of patience do well for this work. Check the sky in your field for hazy patches which might be comets, then move on to an adjacent field. Sooner or later you will spot a patch of fuzz, but don't panic, for the sky is full of comet pretenders like galaxies, star clusters and nebulae. A good atlas will quickly tell you if you are looking at one of these.

Reprinted from Montreal Centre's *Skyward*

Halifax Hosts Exciting General Assembly

Friday, June 27, 1975 was a warm, brilliantly sunny day in Halifax, Nova Scotia – a perfect welcome to the delegates of the first R.A.S.C. General Assembly ever to be held in the Maritimes. From about noon on, Dr. Peter Reynolds and his organizing committee were busy welcoming incoming guests. Each was provided with an attractive and useful convention package, including a copy of *Nova Notes*, the Halifax Centre's excellent newsletter. Our name tags were adorned with a tiny replica of the Nova Scotia emblem. Soon, most of the ninety-five official delegates plus their families were comfortably settled in one of St. Mary's University's residences. In all, fourteen Centres were represented, including every Centre from Winnipeg and west. In the east, St. John's Centre was also represented and the Halifax Centre was out in force.

As it turned out, the delegates were to experience one of the finest General Assemblies on record.

The first item on the agenda was a meeting of the National Council that afternoon. Time was also available to view the many fine displays, which included contributions from Toronto, Halifax, St. John's, and Centre d'Astronomie de Montreal.

At dinner time, many of the delegates went downtown to sample the fine cuisine in some of Halifax's seafood restaurants. A group consisting of Mary Grey (Ottawa), Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schaffer (Hamilton), Del Stevens (Winnipeg), unattached members Louis Duchow and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Sundell joined Torontonians Morris Altman, Rosemary Freeman, Jack Newton and Harlan Creighton for a superb feast at "The Five Fishermen." Here, we discovered that happiness for Del Stevens was a fresh, two-pound Nova Scotia lobster, cooked to perfection.

By 8:00 pm, the Assembly was well under way with a delightful wine and cheese party, sponsored by the University. Here, many old acquaintances were renewed and new friendships made. Afterwards, a Members' Slide Show was held. Highlights included two films by Jon Buchanan of the Ottawa Centre – one on the 1974 Stellafane gathering and the other on the May, 1975 lunar eclipse. Other contributions were from members of the Toronto, Halifax, Winnipeg and Calgary Centres. The evening concluded with an observing session in the well-equipped Burde-Gaffney Observatory and, of course, the usual residence parties.

Saturday dawned clear and warm. After breakfast, most delegates attended an excellent papers session, which began after Dr. W. A. Bridgeo, Dean of Science at S.M.U., extended an official welcome. However, we were sorry to learn that Dr. Owen Gingerich of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory was unable to be present to deliver an invited paper due to an unfortunate death in his family. In his place, Profes-

sor Ed Kennedy, a long-standing member of the Society and a former National President spoke on “Astronomy 300 Years Ago – A Salute to the Greenwich Tercentenary.” Other papers included:

“Rotation of the Sun: An Elementary Science Experiment” by William Silvert, Department of Physics, Dalhousie University, and Halifax Centre.

“Image Quality in Amateur Instruments” by Robert Pike, Chairman of the Centre’s Observations Committee, Toronto Centre.

“Photometry for the Amateur” by B. Paton and C. Purcell, Department of Physics, Dalhousie University, and Halifax Centre.

“Where and When Did It Fall?” (The Iron Creek Meteorite) by F. John Howell, Calgary Centre.

“A Suggested Experiment for Colour Astrophotography” by Randall C. Brooks, Dept. of Astronomy, Saint Mary’s University, and Halifax Centre.

“Tides, Tidal Power and Cosmology” by Dr. Christopher Garrett, Department of Oceanography, Dalhousie University.

“Henry Fitz Jr. (1808–1863)” by Norman Sperling, Duncan Planetarium, Princeton Day School, New Jersey.

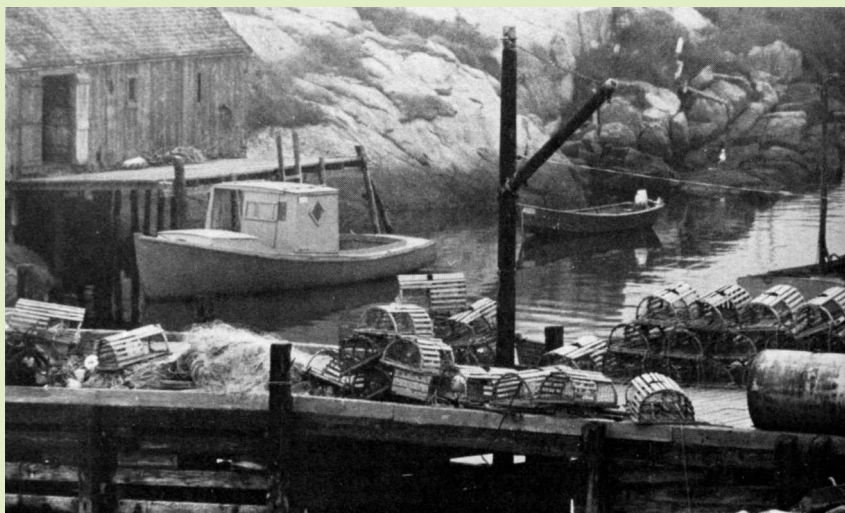
“Solar Eclipse Expedition of 1860 to Northern Manitoba” by J. E. Kennedy, Department of Physics, University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatoon Centre.

“The Philately of Nicholas Copernicus” by R. M. Cunningham, Halifax Centre.

“Goth Hill Radio Observatory, 1948–1971” by A. E. Covington, Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, and Ottawa Centre.

“Astronomical Alignments of the Nine Ladies Stone Circle” by Douglas R. Gies, Toronto Centre.

“Reincarnation of the 15-inch Equatorial from the Dominion Observatory to



Peggy’s Cove. Photographed by Ralph Chou.

National Museum of Science and Technology” by Mary W. Grey, National Museum of Science and Technology, and Ottawa Centre.

“Reanalysis of W Corvi” by Walter P. Zukaikas, Department of Astronomy, Saint Mary’s University, and Halifax Centre.

During the afternoon, a bus tour of Halifax was arranged for those who did not want to attend the second Session for Papers. Everyone was back, however, for the Society’s Annual Meeting, the Minutes of which will appear in the *Journal*.

At 7:00 pm, the hungry delegates boarded buses for a short trip to the Chateau Halifax, site of a reception and banquet tendered by the Province of Nova Scotia. The menu featured Fresh Fruit Cocktail, Fresh Nova Scotia Salmon, and a parfait for dessert. At the conclusion of the dinner, the Honourable Glen Bagnell, Nova Scotia Minister of Tourism, welcomed us officially to the province and announced that all delegates would receive a special certificate and membership card attesting to our membership in the Order of Good Time of the Province of Nova Scotia.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Society’s Service Award to Mr. D. J. FitzGerald, our National Secretary. Since joining the Society in 1956, “Fitz” has played an important role in the affairs of both the Toronto Centre and the National Society. His generous devotion of many hours on our behalf has helped to bring a great deal of pleasure to many people, and has made the Society a stronger organization. Congratulations, Fitz!

A second highlight was the following announcement by Dr. Roy Bishop, President of the Halifax Centre:

Many of you know Father Burke-Gaffney of St. Mary’s University. Over the past 35 years he has held various positions at St. Mary’s, including Dean of Engineering, Dean of Science, and Professor of Astronomy. During the same period he has come to be regarded by Nova Scotians as the unofficial “Astronomer Royal” of this province. Tonight I wish to announce the appointment of Father Burke-Gaffney as the Honourary President of the Halifax Centre. Unfortunately he is unable to be here tonight, but after speaking with him earlier this week about the Assembly, I can assure you that he is here in spirit if not in body.

Later, Dr. Bishop spoke briefly about the significance of the General Assembly to Nova Scotia:

This General Assembly is, historically and astronomically, a special event for this province. However, although it is the first assembly to be held on the east coast, it is not the first event of astronomical significance for Nova Scotia. A few days ago I discovered that there are 8 items of astronomical significance related to Nova Scotia. Also, as a Nova Scotian, I cannot resist taking a couple of minutes to talk about this province by listing these 8 items:

1. The largest local manifestation of the curvature of spacetime on the third planet occurs in Nova Scotia. In the Minas Basin, some 80 kilometers from Halifax, the largest tides on Earth occur. (Many of you heard Chris Garrett’s paper earlier today concerning this phenomenon.)
2. Dr. C. S. Beals, the Dominion Astronomer for 18 years and a past president of both the R.A.S.C. and the American Astronomical Society, was born at Canso, Nova Scotia.
3. Simon Newcomb, one of the leading astronomers in the world at the turn of the century, was born in Wallace, Nova Scotia.
4. Dr. Donald MacRae, Director of the David Dunlap Observatory and Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at the University of Toronto, was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

(Now I would caution you that the remaining four items are somewhat different in nature from the preceding four.)

5. In terms of latitude, Nova Scotia is the most favourably located part of Canada for astronomy. It extends to within two degrees of the State of California. (It is true that the southern tip of Ontario extends slightly further south, but because of light pollution associated with overdevelopment of that area, only the brighter stars, such as the Sun, can be observed from that part of Canada.)



Left: U. of Toronto's Dr. Don MacRae casts an anxious glance at the Bluenose II's overhead rigging. Right: Ottawa Centre members Welsh (L) and Meier (R) explore the Bluenose II. Photo by Ralph Chou.

6. Stars rise first over this part of Canada. (However, Newtonian mechanics exacts a penalty for being on the leading edge of a land mass in the northern hemisphere – the coriolis effect ensures that the water off our coast is cold, and cold water on rare occasions has been known to produce fog and cloud in Nova Scotia.)
7. During the past 6 years, Nova Scotia has experienced two total solar eclipses. An average of one eclipse every 3 years is two orders of magnitude more favourable than the average for all other localities on Earth.
8. This is the only province with an astronomical touch in its name. Most novae fade after a year or less, but Nova Scotia has been increasing in magnitude for 350 years. I need hardly add that it has brightened by at least one magnitude with the General Assembly this weekend.

And so a tired, but happy group of members boarded the buses for the trip back to the Campus and some well-needed rest.

Sunday was one of those “rare occasions” referred to by Dr. Bishop when fog and cloud invaded Nova Scotia. Nonetheless, a sunny group of delegates boarded buses at 9:00 am for a drive along the south-east coast to famous Peggy’s Cove, where ample time was allotted delegates to explore and photograph one of Canada’s most famous fishing villages. Here, a few members feasted on lobsters while one individual from Ottawa ate seaweed. All but one managed to make the buses back to the University. Rolland Noel de Tilly of the Centre d’Astronomie de Montreal was so engrossed in his lobster, that he was completely unaware of the departure of the buses. Fortunately, Toronto’s Jack Newton and Rosemary Freeman, who had driven to Peggy’s Cove, were able to save M. de Tilly a long walk.

After another unforgettable (!?) meal in the University cafeteria, the delegates left for another tour. Some boarded the *Haligonian II* for a cruise around Halifax Harbour, while others were treated to a cruise on the *Bluenose II*, an exact replica of the famous Canadian racing schooner that held the International Fisherman’s Trophy for twenty years, and is pictured on the back of the Canadian dime.

Those who sailed on *Bluenose II* found the trip a chilling, but pleasant experience. However, all were disappointed when the main sail was not put up “because of the number of people on board.” Brigitte Schaffer, a Hamilton Centre member who lives in Kenora, Ontario, provides the following description of the voyage:

As it was slightly on the cool side and most people were a wee bit under-dressed, it was soon apparent that not all the human popsicles could cram into the crew’s kitchen even if we used the sardine position. Someone forgot to bring the Navy Rum, so we all gulped down gallons of coffee. We were not attacked by pirates or sea devils, although the occasional sea gull came mighty close.

The real sailors, however, stayed on deck, some keeping warm in a variety of ways. For instance, former National President Malcolm Thompson of Ottawa demonstrated his version of a sailor’s dance!

Shortly after returning to the University, delegates were sampling a delightful buffet dinner. Afterwards, we adjourned to a lecture hall for one of the scientific highlights of the Assembly, an address by Dr. Donald A. MacRae, Director of the David Dunlap Observatory of the University of Toronto, and a long-standing member of the Toronto Centre. Dr. MacRae gave a fascinating, illustrated report on progress of the new Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope project – a fitting finale to an exciting General Assembly.

The Society’s sincere thanks are extended to Dr. Peter Reynolds, and his hard-working organizing committee, for their hard work on our behalf; also to Dr. Roy Bishop and all the members of the Halifax Centre for their warm hospitality. Everyone who attended found the 1975 Assembly one of the most enjoyable ever.

See you in Calgary in 1976!

A Brief History of the Halifax Centre

“It is a pleasure to record that a new centre has been formed in the city of Halifax. For years it has been a matter of regret in the Council that the Society has never been represented in any city in the Maritime provinces so that the event is doubly welcome.”

This was the introduction of the Halifax Centre to the RASC given in the *JRASC*, 76, 49, 1955. The Centre had previously been known as the Nova Scotia Astronomical Society and when they became affiliated with the RASC on 15 January, 1955 there were 30 members. The original group had been in existence since 1951 and although I do not have substantiating information, I am sure that their Honourary President, Rev. M. W. Burke-Gaffney, had more than a little to do with the formation of the N.S.A.S.

Astronomical interest in the Maritimes goes back a long time and, in fact, the first professional astronomer and first observatory were located in the region. Dr. Wm. Brydone Jack established an observatory on the campus of the University of New Brunswick in 1851 and by telegraph link with Harvard University (then the 'prime meridian' for North America) determined the longitude of Fredericton and other places in New Brunswick – the first time the method had been attempted. The observatory and transit instrument are still extant. J. E. Kennedy, now of the University of Saskatchewan, was Director of the observatory in the 1950's and has written numerous articles on Jack and his observatory. These may be found in the *Journal*.

Another astronomer of great note, Simon Newcomb, was born and educated near Pugwash, N.S. However, he determined at an early age (18) that Nova Scotia was no place for astronomical investigations and left for the U.S. where he was to become Director of the U.S. Naval Observatory for many years. He is, of course, well known for his mathematical solutions to many problems of motions of stars and planets.

These are not the only two who have become astronomers from the Maritimes. One of the Dominion Astronomers, C. S. Beals, came from Canso, N.S. and obtained his Bachelor's degree from Acadia University. Dr. Donald MacRae, Director of the David Dunlap Observatory and head of the Astronomy department at the University of Toronto, was born in Halifax.

The Halifax Centre has gone through 4 phases. The activities of the first four years as the N.A.S.A. are not known to the author except that they produced their own newsletter from their own equipment. The stimulus for the group came in great part from Fr. Burke-Gaffney and from several other active members.

The second phase from 1955–65 corresponds with the operation of the planetarium of the Nova Scotia Museum of Science. It was the meeting place for the Society during this period and the planetarium sparked much interest in the general population (numerous people still enquire about it) which spilled over to the Centre in the form of more members and greater activity. Donald Crowdis was both the Museum Director and a councillor of the Centre and through his efforts the Department of Education purchased a Spitz Model A-1 complete with sun-moon-planet co-ordinates, meridian, and geocentric earth projectors. It can be said that this was the focal point of astronomical interest in Halifax for 10 years.

Unfortunately the Museum of Science was replaced by the Nova Scotia Museum and the new facility was neither equipped with space for the planetarium nor the interest in astronomy on the part of the people directing its operation. From 1965–69 the Halifax Centre ceased to exist – phase 3. By the way, to my, Fr. Burke-Gaffney's and others' chagrin, the planetarium is stored in a barn at Mount Uniacke – the infidels!

Fortunately Barry Mathews lived in Halifax at that time and, as a result of his enthusiasm and energy, the Halifax Centre began its fourth phase with renewed vigour. Barry's stay was short, however – Ottawa being the lucky recipient of his talents – but the impetus given by him was sufficient to keep the Centre going. In January 1972, the Rev. M. W. Burke-Gaffney Observatory opened at Saint Mary's University and our Centre is climbing in interest and numbers at least in part because of its existence. Five thousand people had an opportunity to see and use the 16" Ealing telescope in the first year of operation. More than 1500 waited in line to catch a glimpse of Kohoutek, all of which goes to show that the interest is definitely here. Late in 1973 the Halifax Junior Astronomy Club was formed by the Centre with an overwhelming response by the young people. And I guess the final touch thus far in phase 4 is General Assembly 1975 – our 20th year as a Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

News Briefs

New RASC insignia Crests Available

Newly designed crests containing the Society's insignia are now available. Two styles are available, one with a dark blue background and the other light blue. Order yours today either through your Centre's Secretary or the National Office. The cost is \$5 each and the crests can be dry-cleaned on any blazer or jacket.

Smog and Telescope

Do you feel weak and jaded when it comes to doing astronomy? Is it too much effort to drag out the old telescope. Are your astronomy books just gathering dust on the shelf? Then you need *Smog and Telescope!*

The editors of the *National Newsletter* extend their hearty congratulations to the geniuses responsible for that refreshing and delightful publication.

You haven't seen a copy? If you write to The Editors, *Skyward*, Montreal Centre, RASC, P.O. Box 1003, Station B, Montreal, Que. H3B 3K5 you just might be able to beg, borrow, or bribe away a copy.

Member Wins Canada-Wide Science Fair

Congratulations to Mr. Jamie Matthews of Chatham, Ontario on his success at the Canada-Wide Science Fair held at Jonquière, Quebec in May. Mr. Matthews' project dealt with his studies of lunar occultations using an 8-inch f/6 Newtonian reflector and was judged the best project related to Astronomy. He was awarded a prize of \$50, donated by the Society.

Rapport du Président

Monsieur Benoit Drolet, qui avait été élu président en juin dernier, a dû démissionner au cours de l'année. Nous le remercions pour son dévouement et pour tout ce qu'il a apporté au Centre de Québec depuis plusieurs années.

Étant donné que d'autres directeurs présentent des rapports, celui du président porte sur des aspects généraux.

Subventions

Il est maintenant impossible d'obtenir, comme auparavant, des subventions directement de certains ministères. La meilleure façon de procéder est de s'adresser à la Fédération Québécoise du Loisir Scientifique. Votre président a assisté à la deuxième assemblée générale annuelle, tenue à Montréal le 26 avril 1975. La Fédération offre des services, les montants disponibles étant d'abord répartis suivant les secteurs d'activités. Il y a en particulier le secteur d'Astronomie.

Puisqu'il y a plusieurs sociétés de la région de Québec qui ont déjà adhéré à la Fédération, il y a dans le budget de 1975-1976 un montant prévu pour l'ouverture d'un bureau régional à Québec.

Lors d'une réunion de l'Exécutif du Centre de Québec, le 7 mai 1975, il a été résolu d'adhérer à la Fédération Québécoise du Loisir Scientifique. Des demandes de service et projet particuliers devront être soumises au cours de l'été et de l'automne.

Étant donné que la Fédération recommande le regroupement des sociétés membres, il y eut à Trois-Rivières, le 8 mars 1975, une réunion des Sociétés d'Astronomie. On a proposé de former l'Association des groupes astronomes amateurs avec possibilité d'incorporation. Une assemblée générale de fondation aura lieu à l'été. Étant donné une invitation tardive, aucun représentant du Centre de Québec n'a pu assister à la réunion tenue à Trois-Rivières le 8 mars 1975.

Bulletin

Le Bulletin a paru dix fois au cours des douze derniers mois. Il y eut aussi un numéro spécial sur les Météores, préparé par Raymond Roberge, et portant particulièrement sur les Perséides. En plus des annonces concernant les conférences et les soirées d'observation, le ciel du mois, la page du trésorier, la page du bibliothécaire, les réponses des questions sur l'Astronomie, les nouvelles astronomiques, la page des petites annonces, il y eut des articles spéciaux, une chronique mensuelle et des résultats d'observation. Soulignons par exemple:

- Observation des Perséides à l'Observatoire du Collège de Lévis, par A. Tardif.
- Chronique mensuelle sur les Constellations, par Damien Lemay. Cette chronique paraît régulièrement depuis octobre 1974.

- De l'antimatière darts l'Univers, par R. Mailhot.
- Événement astronomique unique, par P. Marmet. Il s'agissait de l'occultation d'une étoile par Eros.
- Instruments et techniques d'observation, par A. Tardif.

Nous remercions tous ces auteurs pour leur contribution et nous les invitons à continuer à fournir des textes pour la prochaine saison.

Le Bulletin contient aussi, à l'occasion, la page de l'Exécutif concernant les politiques, les décisions, les activités nouvelles et des pages d'informations diverses. De plus, le Bulletin de juin va contenir le procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle et les rapports des directeurs.

Lors d'une récente reunion de l'Exécutif il a été proposé d'offrir un abonnement au Bulletin mensuel au coût de \$5.00 pour dix numéros. Les abonnés recevront les numéros spéciaux et l'Almanach Graphique sans avoir à faire une demande spéciale. Cet abonnement va débiter en septembre 1975.

Objectifs pour 1975–1976

Les cotisations sont le recrutement, l'augmentation des revenus, l'ouverture de la Tour Martello, les demandes de subventions pour l'Almanach Graphique et des projets spéciaux.

Les cotisations sont fixées par la Société-mère et il faut lui envoyer 60% . Il reste assez peu pour nos activités locales. C'est pourquoi nous pensons qu'un abonnement au Bulletin pourrait nous apporter quelques revenus supplémentaires.

Pour les soirées d'observations nous avons la possibilité d'aller à l'Observatoire de Monsieur Yvon Dufour ou à l'Observatoire du Collège de Levis.¹ Toutefois, pour l'observation de la lune et des planètes, la Tour Martello est encore certainement un endroit à utiliser. Depuis quelques années, nous avons négligé de la faire peut être au point de perdre nos droits acquis. Il faut donc faire des démarches pour ouvrir de nouveau la Tour Martello.

L'Observatoire de la Tour Martello, facilement accessible à la population de Québec, a reçu pendant plusieurs années de nombreux visiteurs de la ville et de la région. Il y aurait sans doute intérêt à préparer un projet de rénovation et de le présenter à la Fédération Québécois du Loisir Scientifique.

L'Almanach Graphique, dont l'édition de 1975 est la 31 ième constitue une activité unique pouvant intéresser toutes les sociétés d'Astronomie de la province. Il faut donc obtenir des subventions pour ce projet en insistant sur la portée provinciale de cette réalisation. Monsieur Robert Mailhot est responsable de la préparation et de la publication de l'Almanach Graphique pour 1976.

Je remercie les membres actuels de l'Exécutif et tout autre membre du Centre de Québec qui ont aidé à faire connaître nos activités. Je suis certain que les membres du prochain exécutif vont faire les efforts particuliers pour réaliser les objectifs mentionnés et sans doute pour en ajouter d'autres au cours de la prochaine année.

JEAN PIERRE BERNIER
Centre d'Astronomie

Le 1er juin 1975.

¹Il faut aussi mentionner une visite annuelle a l'observatoire de l'Université Laval à St-Elzéar.

(This report was received too late to include in the *Supplement*, so it is being printed here.—Ed.)

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