

IYA membership survey comments results

(Prepared by Debra Ceravolo – November 2007)

398 members submitted comments for ideas for the IYA. Most were general comments, some more specific. 63 commented just to say, no comment. A handful responded wanting ideas from National as well as help and materials. Some mentioned to update the website to inform the Centres. A few others wanted to keep their IYA Centre plans to themselves. A few were negative and didn't want the RASC to do anything but fix the finances.

General Responses with a few specific ideas

39 responses relating to Light Pollution Abatement:

- Campaign to turn off all lights during full Moon all year
- Lobby government for lights out events
- Create a display downloadable for Centres
- Feature a dark sky preserve each month somewhere in Canada

34 responses relating to involvement with schools:

- Contests, school visits
- National robotic telescope use for kids
- Educate teachers with downloadable material
- Reach disadvantaged kids and adults
- Have an astronomy related art show, get art galleries involved
- Have an astronomy conference for kids
- Send posters to schools
- Produce a comic book on the history of astronomy
- Observe the sun with welders glasses

- Small telescope kits

26 responses relating to public outreach, sidewalk astronomy

- Simple material to hand out
- 24 hour star party
- Single national public event
- Public displays
- Traveling exhibit
- Have a kit for public events
- Distribute a list of all events
- Free star charts
- Give away green lasers

19 responses relating to media attention:

- Do a special on CBC
- Lots of radio coverage
- Promotions on local cable companies
- Get celebrity involvement
- Promote 400 years of astronomy
- Promote 15th billionth anniversary of the birth of the universe
- Monthly article in Canadian newspapers
- Discovery Channel programming

Comment from Discovery Channel- (Someone should look into this further!)

“Given the content, the RASC could have a far greater media presence in Canada and abroad. Happy to help strategize if of use and if this comes up from a mandate perspective in 08/09”

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Other single ideas submitted:

- Save the DDO and other old observatories (7 responses)
- A world wide star count
- Send old publications to third world countries
- 400th anniversary buttons

- Ben & Gerry's 'Jupiter' ice cream with Jupiter's colours
- An online robotic telescope showing a continuous feed of Jupiter and its moons
- Discounted membership rates for 2009
- A publication or documentary of Canadian achievements (3 responses)
- A tuque with 1609-2009 and Galileo on it.
- Commemorative crest
- Free admissions for observatories and museums
- An anthology of photos from the RASC calendar
- Lottery for a trip on a sub-orbital flight, space station or the 2009 solar eclipse trip
- A book spanning 400 years of astronomy
- Planispheres for McDonalds kids meals
- The Observers Handbook cover design