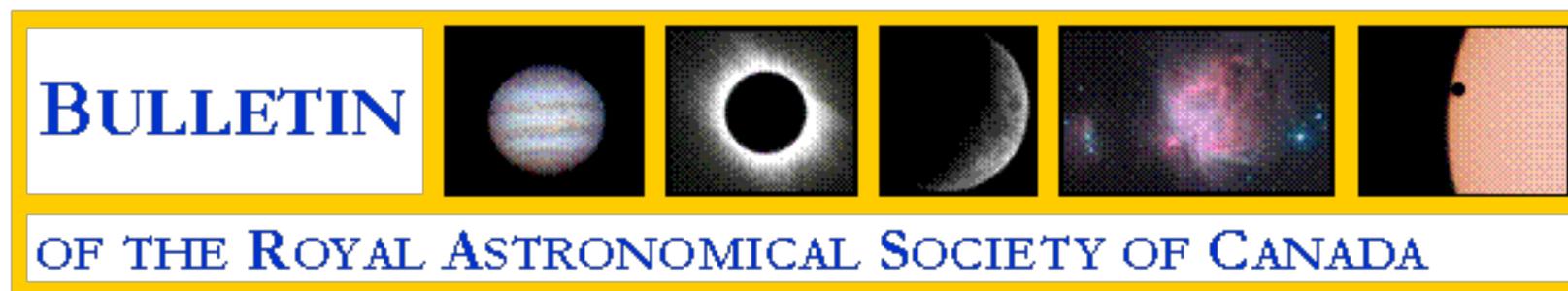


# 2007-11



November 2007 - Volume 2, Number 11

Denis Grey, Acting Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at [bulletin@rasc.ca](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca) [1].

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

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## Astronomy Rendezvous on November 17th

The 7th Annual Fall *Astronomy Rendezvous* will take place on November 17 this year and once again be located at Université de Moncton. Held in conjunction with the Annual meeting of the New Brunswick Centre, the event is comprised of several talks, door prizes, a raffle draw and swap session.

This year the talks begin at 11:00 a.m. with the following speakers scheduled: **Bob Hawkes** (Mt Allison University), **Damien Lemay** (RASC Past President), **Guy Nason** (Toronto Centre) and **Paul Gray** (RASC Observing Chair). Final topics with biographies and abstracts will on the New Brunswick Centre website at [www.nb.rasc.ca/](http://www.nb.rasc.ca/) [2]

## New Server Hosts RASC Website

Effective 2007 November 1, the Society has a brand new Web server installed at St. Mary's University. The new server, which replaces an obsolete unit that was no longer supported, will allow the Society more flexibility in hosting our own Web-based programs and services.

ITC Committee Member and 1st Vice President David Lane noted that "the new server provides us with a lot of flexibility going forward". In particular, David noted that a new search engine for the RASC website, an updated eNews engine and new database applications will be added to the site over the next few months. The Society can now more directly manage and configure the server without worrying about potential impacts on the St. Mary's University computing environment. The Society will continue to receive the benefits of having its new server housed by St. Mary's University providing security, bandwidth and

## On-line Survey Achieves Stellar Response

The Society's Board Pilot Committee recently commissioned a national member survey using the on-line survey tool "Survey Monkey". Of approximately 3,600 members who had an e-mail address fully 41% (1,507) members responded which is a tremendous response rate. Board Pilot Committee Member Denis Grey commented that the response reflects the "passion and affection that many members feel towards the Society". Results of the survey will be made available to all members on the RASC Web site shortly. Look for an announcement on the RASC eNews of the availability of the survey results.

## Mississauga Centre Member offers Clear Sky Clock Gadget

Brian Gibson, a member of the Mississauga Centre has developed a Clear Sky Clock sidebar gadget for Windows Vista users. It is available for download (free) from the [Windows Live Gallery](#) [3]. It is featured in the New Product Showcase of the November 2007 issue of Sky & Telescope magazine. Complete details are available in an article published on the popular [Cloudy Nights](#) [4] website. Over 1200 amateurs have downloaded the gadget to-date.

## Seven Centres Gear Up for Fall Astronomy Day

As an experiment in 2007 the Astronomy League encouraged astronomy clubs to try a second Astronomy Day in the Fall on September 15. Mixed results were achieved as the event conflicted with many Centre activities and the summer slowdown that many Centres experience prevented proper organization and planning. Nevertheless seven RASC Centres officially participated: le Centre francophone de Montréal, London Centre, Mississauga Centre, Montreal Centre, Prince George Centre, Québec Centre and Toronto Centre. Astronomy Day will be back in the spring on 2008 May 10. Find out more about this fall's edition at [www.rasc.ca/news/FallAstroDay2007.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/news/FallAstroDay2007.shtml) [5].

## Time to Think About RASC Awards!

The deadline for the RASC's National Awards program is rapidly approaching on 2007 December 31. Here is an outline of the awards and their criteria:

- - **Chant Medal** - The Chant Medal is awarded based on a significant body of work of lasting value to the astronomical community and is named after C. A. Chant who was a noted astronomer at the University of Toronto and helped to found the David Dunlap Observatory there.
  - **Ken Chilton Prize** - Established in memory of Ken Chilton, this prize is awarded for a specific piece of astronomical research or work carried out or published recently.
  - **Service Award** - The Service Award, established in 1959, is awarded to members of the RASC who have made significant contributions at either the National and/or Centre levels.
  - **Simon Newcomb Award** - The Simon Newcomb Award was established in 1979 for excellence in astronomical writing by an RASC member.

Nominations for awards should be sent to the RASC Awards Committee at [awards@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:awards@lists.rasc.ca) [6]. For more information on the Awards nominations see [www.rasc.ca/rasc-awards](http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-awards) [7].

## ► The Journal of the RASC

### Own the Back Cover

Your photo - in full colour - could grace the back cover of the Journal in February, April, or June next year. We are pleased to announce the first ever JRASC photo contest, in recognition of the growing capability of the RASC membership and the establishment of the new RASC Astroimaging Group.

Photos must be submitted on or before **2007 December 31**, conform to the normal requirements (300 dpi in final size) of the Journal's graphical standards ([www.rasc.ca/journal](http://www.rasc.ca/journal) [8]), and be accompanied by a description of the object, the photographic details, and non-exclusive permission to reproduce in the Journal. Images must be in digital form, but may include sketches, paintings, film photographs, and drawings, provided they are converted to a digital format before submission.



The competition will award "the back page" to submissions in three categories: **deep-sky images**; **wide-angle photographs** that include at least a part of the landscape; and scenes of **Centre outreach activities**. Winners will be expected to provide a short bio prior to publication. Images submitted may be published at other times and places in the Journal, with credit to the owner. Please send submissions to [editor@rasc.ca](mailto:editor@rasc.ca) [9].

## ► Across the RASC

### Winnipeg Centre Honours Contributions

The Winnipeg Centre announced on October 31 that Stan Runge and Jay Anderson have won their new Service Award [10] and Achievement Award [11] respectively. Congratulations to both of these deserving individuals.

### Former Secretary Norman Green

Hamilton Centre member and former National Secretary Norman Green passed away on 2007 September 11. A winner of the Society's Service Award and National Secretary for many years, Mr. Green made a major contribution to the Society's efforts in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

## Dunlap Observatory Officially Up For Sale

As expected, the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto officially approved a proposal to declare the David Dunlap Observatory "surplus to academic requirements" on 2007 October 31. This means that the observatory facility, which includes Canada's largest optical telescope, will be divested by the University at some point in the future. A complete article outlining the situation and prospects for the DDO, written by Mississauga Centre President Randy Attwood, was published in the November/December issue of SkyNews.

## Handbooks on their Way

The 2008 Edition of the Observer's Handbook has been distributed to the bulk of RASC members. In order to receive the 2008 edition, your membership must not expire prior to 2007 November 1. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please visit [www.rasc.ca/join](http://www.rasc.ca/join) [12] or the RASC eStore at [www.store.rasc.ca](http://www.store.rasc.ca) [13].

## ► The Sky this Month

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## Holy Holmes!

Everyone is talking about and taking pictures of the spectacular outburst of Comet 17/P Holmes. Now larger than Jupiter the comet's coma has been visibly expanding from night to night, and it is an easy object in Perseus for the unaided eye.

## ► Dates to Remember

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- - **November 17, 2007** - [Astronomy Rendezvous 2007 \(RASC New Brunswick\)](#) [14]
  - **November 18, 2007** - [Board Pilot Committee Meeting \(Teleconference\)](#) [15]
  - **November 24, 2007** - [National Council Meeting \(Teleconference\)](#) [16]
  - **December 31, 2007** - [National Awards Application Deadline](#) [17]
  - **December 31, 2007** - [Centre Projects Fund Application Deadline](#) [18]
  - **February 20, 2008** - [Total Lunar Eclipse \(Most of Canada\)](#) [19]



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**Links:**

- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] <http://www.nb.rasc.ca/>
- [3] <http://gallery.live.com/liveItemDetail.aspx?li=48917ad4-e1a9-4121-8713-bd4e0716a035>
- [4] <http://www.cloudynights.com/page/articles/cat/user-reviews/books-software/windows-software/clear-sky-clock-gadget-for-windows-vista-r1659>
- [5] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/fall-astronomy-day-2007-report>
- [6] <mailto:awards@lists.rasc.ca>
- [7] <https://www.rasc.ca/rasc-awards>
- [8] <http://www.rasc.ca/journal>
- [9] <mailto:editor@rasc.ca>
- [10] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/stan-runge-awarded-winnipeg-centre-service-award>
- [11] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/jay-anderson-awarded-winnipeg-centre-achievement-award>
- [12] <https://www.rasc.ca/join-us>
- [13] <https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc>
- [14] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/lineup-astronomy-rendezvous-2007>
- [15] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/rasc-members-elected-board-pilot-committee>
- [16] <https://www.rasc.ca/council>
- [17] <http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-awards/>
- [18] <http://www.rasc.ca/fund/centreprojects.shtml>
- [19] <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEmono/TLE2008Feb21/TLE2008Feb21.html>
- [20] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>
- [21] <http://www.rasc.ca>