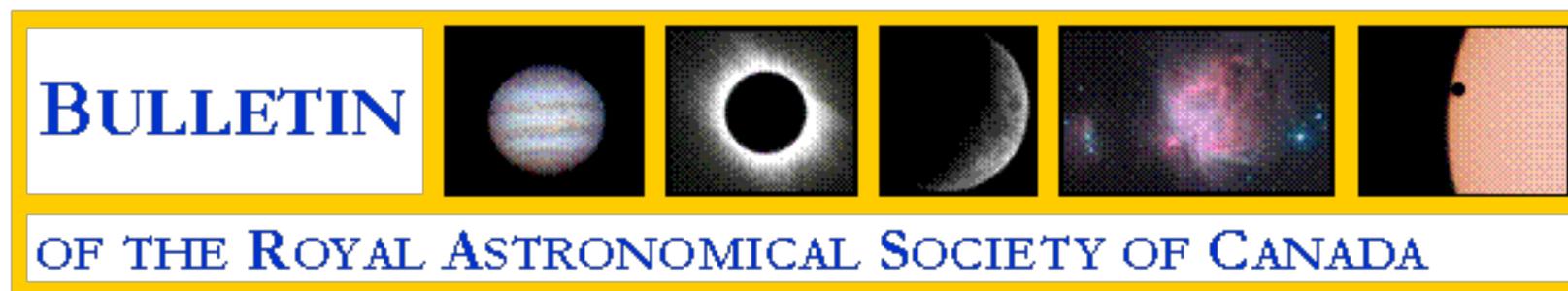


## 2008-02



February 2008 - Volume 3, Number 2

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].

Member: ~FULL\_NAME~, RASC ID: ~ID~

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

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### 2008 General Assembly - Registration Opens Soon!

The 2008 General Assembly will be hosted by the Hamilton, Mississauga and Toronto Centres and will be held on the campus of York University in Toronto. This year's theme "**Astronomy Night in Canada**" is meant to help focus our efforts on the [International Year of Astronomy](#) [2] coming up in 2009, when up to 365 "astronomy nights" can be held across the country. The IYA is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase astronomy for our friends, families, and communities, and we hope this year's GA will help to bring the incredible talents and resources of our Society to bear on this international festival of astronomy.



This year's early-bird registration deadline is **April 1** and regular registration will be available until **June 15**. Registration will open by mid-February and will be announced on the RASC eNews. The official GA Web site is at [www.rasc.ca/ga2008](http://www.rasc.ca/ga2008) [3].

This year's GA is being held in partnership with the **Department of Physics and Astronomy at York University**. In addition to helping us with logistics and event management, the department will also be providing tours of their campus observatory facilities and participating in the GA program. As Canada's National Astronomy Convention the General Assembly is open to everyone and anyone who is interested in astronomy, and there will be excellent speakers as well as social opportunities to enjoy. Plan now to

attend from 2008 June 28-30.

## Call for Papers for 2008 General Assembly

The General Assembly is a unique opportunity for RASC members from across the country to present their results, programs, insights and accomplishments. Members are invited to "take to the ice" to share their insights with the assembled delegates. There are four ways that you can participate:

- - **Panel Discussions** - Where appropriate the panel discussion format will be used to highlight topics of interest to the entire General Assembly. Please put forward your suggestions for topics and panellists to the organizing committee.
  - **Paper Sessions** - A 20 minute presentation to the entire assembly on either Saturday or Sunday of the General Assembly
  - **National Members' Night** - A more informal series of short talks from members across the country is scheduled for Saturday evening.
  - **Poster Sessions** - Posters will be displayed in the same room where Friday and Saturday evening events are planned. Posters can highlight research, Centre programs or other activities. Presenters will have an opportunity to highlight their poster for 5 minutes as part of the National Members' Night (Saturday).

If you have an idea or a program suggestion that does not easily fit into the categories noted above then please contact the General Assembly organizing committee at [ga2008@rasc.ca](mailto:ga2008@rasc.ca) [4] and we'll work with you to elaborate it. Deadline for paper proposal submissions is **2008 April 30**.

## National Treasurer Appointed

National President Scott Young announced the appointment of **Mayer Tchelebon** of the Toronto Centre to serve as the Society's Treasurer, replacing Alan Whitman who stepped down from the position last fall. Mayer is a professional accountant with extensive experience in the financial affairs of not-for-profit organizations, having served as treasurer of two other NFPs. He also worked as a budget analyst for a large city in the GTA before "semi-retiring" a few years back. Mayer is looking forward to the challenge of the position and he will become a regular contributor to National Council as well as the Finance and the Board Pilot Committees in his new role.

In accordance with the Society's bylaws, Mayer was appointed between Council meetings by the Executive rather than at the next meeting of Council, since work needs to begin immediately on the Society's year-end statements. Mayer is appointed to serve out the remainder of the previous term, which means his term will expire at the GA in 2010.

## Call for Nominations

Are you a leader? Do you want to see the RASC grow and excel into the future? Do you want to contribute to that success? Here's your chance to make a real difference in our Society by getting involved in the issues that matter!

The three presidential positions (**President, 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President**) plus the Secretary must be filled by election or acclamation at the RASC Annual Meeting on 2008 June 30.

Names of candidates must be presented to the Secretary at least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting by the RASC Nominating Committee or by a private nomination supported by the signatures of five members of the Society.

You are invited to send suggestions for these positions for the Nominating Committee's consideration. Please send any suggestions by email, no later than **2008 April 30**, to: [PJedicke@fanshawec.ca](mailto:PJedicke@fanshawec.ca) [5]

The duties associated to these positions are specified in the Society's bylaws, which are available in the password-protected portion of the RASC Web site.

## ► The Journal of the RASC

### Highlights of the February Journal

The February Journal is now available for download at [www.rasc.ca/journal/currentissue.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/journal/currentissue.shtml) [6]. Here is a rundown of this month's highlights:

- Roy Bishop's short history of the Observer's Handbook
- A short feature on the new Dark-Sky Reserve at Mont-Mégantic, QC, plus the 2007 September 19-21 Light Pollution Abatement Conference, by Robert Dick, Yvan Dutil, and Dan Taylor
- An admirer's fond farewell to Gertrude Jean Southam by Dan Collier
- Alister Ling describes his first double-star discovery; and
- Rick Stankiewicz writes about spotting Ceres



In addition to the entire stable of regulars, each with their own column, we showcase some glorious images in a full-colour centrefold - a new regular feature!!

And last, but not least, a column describing the unique character of the fonts used in the Journal - a special feature by our layout professional, Brian Segal.

## ► Across the RASC

### Sarnia Centre Featured

The Sarnia Centre has been working with *Sarnia Observer* to publish a monthly column for its readers, titled "Night Lights." The first came out on 2008 February 1. "Night Lights" is designed for the general public, who will be using only their eyes or a pair of binoculars to view the heavens and is intended to give readers a basic understanding of what they are seeing. This is also one way the Sarnia Centre is trying to promote local interest in astronomy (and hopefully the RASC). Check out their new column at [www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/2008-02\\_NightLights.gif](http://www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/2008-02_NightLights.gif) [7].

# Lunar Eclipse Star Parties This Month

This month's total lunar eclipse offers excellent viewing prospects for almost every Centre of the Society and is the last visible until 2010. Many Centres are planning special events to share this month's eclipse with the general public. Here are a few reported:

- - The **Centre francophone de Montreal** is staging a public event in Montreal at the Parc-nature de l'Île-de-la-Visitation.
  - The **Toronto Centre** will be hosting their regular meeting as well as lunar eclipse viewing in the Omnimax at the Ontario Science Centre starting at 7:30 p.m.
  - The **Thunder Bay Centre** will be hosting a public lunar eclipse viewing at Hillcrest Park, starting at 8:00 p.m. They will also be hosting a booth at the Central Canada Outdoors show that takes place at the Golf Dome, from February 22-24. They will be setting up scopes outside during the evenings weather permitting.

## ► The Sky this Month

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### February Skies

Gary Boyle's [The Sky This Month](#) [8] for February features **Gemini**, the shuttle Atlantis and the lunar eclipse.

## ► Dates to Remember

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- - **2008 January 31** - Centre Annual Reports due to National Office
  - **2008 February 10** - Board Pilot Committee Meeting (Teleconference)
  - **2008 February 20** - [Total Lunar Eclipse \(Most of Canada\)](#) [9]
  - **2008 March 29** - Board Pilot Committee Meeting (Toronto)
  - **2008 March 30** - National Council Meeting (Toronto)
  - **2008 April 30** - Nominations Deadline
  - **2008 June 28-30** - RASC General Assembly at York University, Toronto, ON



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The *Bulletin* of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

is a benefit of membership in the Society.

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**Links:**

- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/un-declares-2009-international-year-astronomy>
- [3] <https://www.rasc.ca/ga-2008>
- [4] <mailto:ga2008@rasc.ca>
- [5] <mailto:PJedicke@fanshawec.ca>
- [6] <https://www.rasc.ca/jrasc/recent>
- [7] [https://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/2008-02\\_NightLights.gif](https://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/2008-02_NightLights.gif)
- [8] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/sky-month-february-2008>
- [9] <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEmono/TLE2008Feb21/TLE2008Feb21.html>
- [10] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>
- [11] <http://www.rasc.ca>