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We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*.
Email them to the Editor, David Garner at
bulletin@rasc.ca

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

News from the Society Office

by [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director

[RASC Tours:](#)

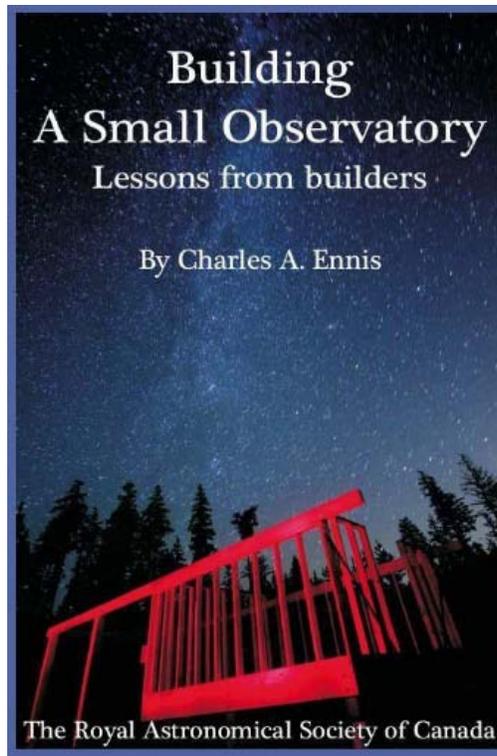
Arizona Astronomy Tour scheduled for September 2016!

After a successful trip to astronomy and space exploration sites in southern California last November, we are planning a five-day trip to Arizona in September to visit the following amazing astronomy sites: Kitt Peak National Observatory, Mount Lemmon SkyCenter, Lowell Observatory, Arizona Meteor Crater, with sightseeing in Sedona and Canyon de Chelly. Please check out the [website and PDF brochure](#) here!

If you are interested and want more information please contact Executive Director Randy Attwood at the National Office: execdir@rasc.ca

***NEW* Item: [Building a Small Observatory for sale on eStore:](#)**

This book is the result of interviews with 140 small observatory owners in 10 countries to discover what it takes to fund, build, and operate a small observatory. As a planning guide, it will help you maximize your chances of successfully creating a trouble free installation, and help find the best site and equipment. Learn from the experience of those who went before you. Don't make the mistakes that others have made! *Pricing: \$17.95 + shipping and taxes.*



CASCA Announcement:

The University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, and Brandon University are hosting the annual general meeting of the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) in Winnipeg, with science sessions (including several prize lectures in astronomy and astronomy education) from May 31–June 2. This year, we are pleased to be able to invite RASC members to attend the conference, at the same conference rate as CASCA members: \$330 (late registration fees will be waived). We are especially honoured to host a public lecture on the evening of June 1 by Dr. Art McDonald from Queen’s University, recipient of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics.

The entire meeting, including the conference banquet, will take place at the historic Fort Garry Hotel, close to the Forks tourist area and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. We have negotiated a special hotel rate of \$154. Rooms are still available at this rate, but **must** be booked by April 29, using reservation group code **10R7V1**.

Annual General Meeting of CASCA 2016

May 30–June 2 (Science sessions May 31–June 2) Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg
Hosted by: the Universities of Manitoba, Winnipeg, and Brandon

<http://astro.physics.umanitoba.ca/casca2016>

Important dates:

29 April 2016: Hotel registration deadline (at the conference rate)

20 May 2016: Late registration deadline

30 May 2016: Welcome reception

31 May 2016: CASCA banquet

01 June 2016: Art McDonald public lecture

02 June 2016: Tour of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

More details and the preliminary program can be found at the meeting website:

<http://astro.physics.umanitoba.ca/casca2016>

For questions and inquiries, please contact us at

casca2016@physics.umanitoba.ca

Large Slide Holder/Viewer Table and Storage available: **FREE!!!**

Please contact execdir@rasc.ca for information. Available immediately for pick-up at 4920 Dundas St. W, Toronto.



Please note: The Society Office will be closed on **Monday May 23, 2016** for Victoria Day. **We hope to see you at the GA!**

Galaxies Merge in London, Ontario

by [Peter Jedicke](#), RASC, London Centre

This month we bring together the two most important events in Canada for amateur astronomers: AstroCATS and the RASC's 2016 General Assembly. Catch them both from May 19 to May 23! Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen will open the AstroCATS telescope show and NASA scientist Ann Hornschemeier will deliver the Helen Sawyer Hogg Memorial Lecture. Also on hand will be David H. Levy, Astronomy magazine's Erika Rix, asteroid specialist Robert Jedicke, meteor expert Peter Brown, dark matter explorer Tina Pollman and the RASC's own Randall Rosenfeld, Michael Watson, Ron Macnaughton and Charles Ennis. Don't miss the annual delights of the Welcome Reception and the gala banquet as well as a barbecue *Pig Out Under the Stars* at London Centre's Fingal observing site. Plenty more programs and presentations are on tap at <https://events.rasc.ca> so sign up today! Deadlines are almost upon us. It will be a memorable good time and you'll be talking about it for years to come.



The President's Corner

by **James Edgar**, RASC President

The electronic *Observer's Handbook*

Attention all you Observers!

The electronic version of the *2016 Observer's Handbook* is available to RASC members for the same low price as last year \$10 for the data file, plus an activation code good for two installations. The electronic version is available at www.drmz.net/rasc/DRMZ/OH2016.drmz

A **Javelin** reader is required to access the file, plus payment must be made before obtaining the activation code. To arrange payment and get the activation details, contact the Society Office either by email at mempub@rasc.ca, or call during the day **1-416-924-7973**.

The Javelin software has recently been upgraded to conform to the latest versions of Windows and Mac, plus it is suitable for iPads, iPhones, and Android devices.

The 2017 Total Solar Eclipse Bulletin and *2016 Observer's Handbook*

The 2017 Eclipse Bulletin and *2016 Observer's Handbook* are available on the eStore: [Order yours today!](#)

RASC Observing Certificate Program

The RASC offers six observing certificate programs to promote active observing. By successfully completing these programs, members are eligible for an official certificate from the RASC. Observing certificate programs are a great way to challenge yourself, learn more about the night sky, and get the most out of our challenging and rewarding hobby.

- [Explore the Universe Certificate](#)
- [Messier Certificate](#)
- [Finest NGC Certificate](#)
- [Isabel Williamson Lunar Certificate](#)
- [Deep-Sky Gems](#)
- [Deep-Sky Challenge](#)

For more information see <http://rasc.ca/certificate-programs>

Society Election Information

by **Robyn Foret**, RASC 2nd Vice-President & Chair, Nominating Committee

To all Members, regarding the Board of Directors election, the campaign period has ended. As noted previously, there are 3 Director's positions open for election with 4 Candidates standing for election.

Karen Finstad, our dedicated and diligent Secretary, having completed 2 years of her 3 year term, has advised that due to urgent family matters, she cannot complete her term and will be stepping down as of the 2016 General Assembly.

Karen has contributed immensely to the Board, to the National Council and to the Society in General. She has created a sustainable model that her successor can step in to with relative ease, has delineated the Board Secretary's role from that of the National Council, and has offered thoughtful and critical analysis and insight into every Board decision over the past two years. We on the Board will miss her presence and wish her and her family nothing but the best.

If you have the opportunity to do so, please be sure to thank Karen for her hard work on your behalf.

This does of course have an impact on our 2016 Election to the Board. With Karen stepping down, I hereby acclaim all four candidates to the Board and hereby advise all RASC Members that the election is cancelled.

Congratulations to Charles Ennis, Chris Gainor, Craig Levine and Susan Yeo on your appointments. We welcome you to the RASC Board of Directors and on behalf of the entire Membership, thank you in advance for your service to the Society.

May 9, 2016 Transit of Mercury Brochure Available for Download

by **Roland Dechesne**, Membership and Development Committee

Are you hosting a public viewing event or just want to read up on the circumstances of the transit of Mercury? A brochure is available here:

http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/Observing_and_Understanding_The_Transit_of_Mercury_May_2016.pdf

Other brochures, useful for public events, are available at this location:

<http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/index.htm>

Ottawa Centre - Transit of Mercury Public Viewing

by **Geoff Gaherty**, Ottawa Centre

The Ottawa Centre is planning a large public transit of Mercury observing event on the front lawn of Parliament Hill. We have nearly 30 volunteers signed up bringing close to 25 solar scopes. We have been planning it for a month and we have approval for us to set up our scopes on the lawn of Parliament Hill. All are welcome.

Thank You to our Sponsors!

by **Julia Neeser**, RASC Marketing Coordinator

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are now offering companies the distinction of becoming a charter sponsor of the RASC, Canada's pre-eminent amateur astronomy organization. This offer is available only to those industry leaders who recognize the value in being associated with the amateur astronomy community.

<http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors>.



What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the **Northern Skies** section of the RASC website. Thanks to Gary Boyle for keeping us all in the know. Julia Neeser creates "The Solar System" monthly with data from James Edgar's "Skies" newspaper articles at <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>.



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