



February 2017 - Volume 12, Number 2

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

Next year the RASC celebrates its 150th anniversary. Be sure to follow plans for the celebration on the 150th anniversary page <http://rasc.ca/2018>

2016 Annual Report

A note to Centre Treasurers and Secretaries – the initial deadline for submitting Centre activity and financial information for the 2016 Annual Report is 2017 April 3. We invite Centres to include photos of Centre activities to be considered for publishing in the Extended Annual Report.

2018 Observer's Calendar

It is not too early to start thinking about submitting photos for next year's *Observer's Calendar*.

Northern Star

A book about pre-eminent Canadian astronomer John Stanley Plaskett will be published this year. Titled NORTHERN STAR, it was written by historian and Society Past President Peter Broughton and will be available in early June. The book was made possible with financial support from the Society.

National Star Party July 29

To celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary, the Society is planning for the first time ever, a National Star Party.

On Saturday July 29, all Society Centres and non-RASC astronomy organizations and clubs are encouraged to hold a star party – from coast to coast to coast!

The first-quarter Moon as well as the planets Jupiter and Saturn will be perfectly placed for early evening observing. Special handouts to mark the occasion will be produced and distributed to all participating groups.

Total Solar Eclipse – Monday August 21

The first total solar eclipse to be widely observed in North America since 1979 will take place this August. The eclipse will be total along a path spanning the continental United States. Hundreds of RASC members have already made plans to observe this event somewhere along the path.

The eclipse will be partial across all of Canada. There will be great interest in the eclipse. Issues of *SkyNews* starting with the March/April issue will cover all aspects of observing and photographing the eclipse.

The Society plans to support Centres that will be holding public observing sessions of the partial phases. Solar viewers have been ordered and will be provided to all Centres.

Astrocats 2017

The Canadian Astronomy Telescope Show and Canadian Astrophotography School, sponsored by the RASC Hamilton Centre will be held May 6-7 at the John Tonelli Sports Centre Milton, Ontario

For more information visit www.astrocats.ca/

SkyNews Gift Subscriptions

It is not too late to give a subscription to *SkyNews* to a friend, family member or anyone interested in astronomy. All RASC members received emails over the holidays

with a link to a web site where subscriptions to *SkyNews* could be purchased for only \$17!

Super Sale

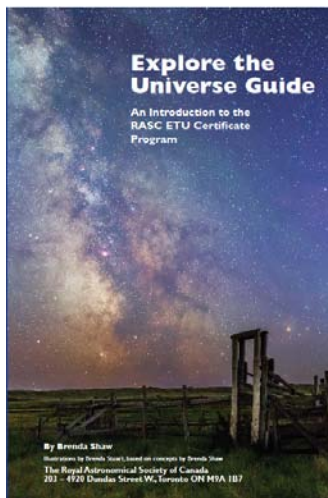
Many RASC publications and promotional items are for sale this month:

***Observer's Calendar 2017* SALE PRICE \$8.95**



A beautiful calendar showcasing RASC members' astro images with information on what's up in the sky tonight. A perfect gift for the beginner and a must-have for the experienced observer. **Grab one before they're gone!**

***NEW* Item: *Explore the Universe Guide* PRICE \$17.95**



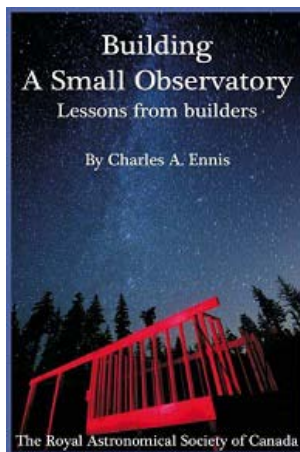
If you are just starting out in astronomy, the ETU Guide is for you. This illustrated book answers questions about astronomical coordinates, constellations, eclipses, the Moon, major and minor planets, comets and more. **It's the perfect guide to start learning your way around the sky.**

Member favourite: RASC Hoodie



Our popular hoodie is back. **Get the RASC Hooded Sweatshirt (Navy), and keep warm while you observe!** Hoodie available in sizes: **S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL**. Email mempub@rasc.ca for size requests. **Price:** 49.99. Crest sold separately.

Building A Small Observatory PRICE \$17.95



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! **Order one for \$17.95 from our eStore.**

Please note the Society Office is closed on February 20 for Family Day.

The Starry Nights Exhibit

by [Paul Klauninger](#), RASC Ottawa Centre

The RASC-Ottawa Centre is buzzing with preparations for this year's RASC General Assembly. Holding the GA in Ottawa this year, coincident with Canada's 150th birthday celebrations, makes this a truly special occasion. One Centre project in particular promises to provide a rare opportunity for members of our Society, and at the same time, bring our love of astronomy into the limelight for the public. Through the extensive efforts of members Janet Tulloch and Gordon Webster, we have been granted the opportunity to organize a display of astronomical art at a prestigious venue with broad audience exposure, the Shenkman Centre for the Arts in Orleans, Ontario. The Starry Nights project will be a visual arts exhibition containing works solely created by RASC members and will run from June 27 to July 25.

Such a unique opportunity offers us the chance to do more than just show some of the spectacular works created by Canadian amateur astronomers. It will allow us to:

- Bring an appreciation of dark skies as part of our Canadian heritage to a broader public. This is especially significant nowadays, as increasing light pollution minimizes such opportunities for more and more city dwellers.
- Sensitize and educate a new and broader audience to richness of the night sky ... it is so much more than the Moon and a few stars! The Shenkman venue reaches children at summer camps, as well as audiences who attend the centre for art performances and to view the other galleries located there.
- Introduce the idea to the public that the creation of astronomically themed works (and astrophotography in particular) are legitimate art forms. This is particularly significant, since it can help to bridge the perceptual gap between science and art. Many complex theories of modern physics underlie our present understanding of the Universe, and as such, can be intimidating for most. Works of art transcend language, and in addition to being inspirational, can also be highly instructional. It is true that a picture really can be worth a thousand words!
- Offer the exhibited works for sale to the public attending the Shenkman Centre. If a work is purchased, a 15% commission goes to the ARTicipate Endowment Fund and the balance to the artist.

The opportunity to submit a work for this exhibit is open to all RASC members in good standing, and all submissions must have been created/imaged from within Canada.

Entry details can be requested by email at: RASC2017ArtExhibit@gmail.com. While

there is no fee to submit entries for initial consideration (only two submissions allowed per artist please), accepted exhibitors will be required to pay a \$10 administrative fee and must cover the costs associated with printing and properly framing their works, as well as shipping to and from the Shenkman Centre, if required.

The Starry Nights exhibit will contain 40 to 60 works selected from all the submitted entries. It's your chance to shine! Send us your best work for consideration and good luck to all!

Call for Exhibitors – Appel pour les exposants

by **Janet Tulloch**, RASC Ottawa Centre

The City of Ottawa and The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Ottawa Centre

presents

En collaboration avec la Ville d'Ottawa, la Société royale d'astronomie du Canada –
Ottawa-Centre présente

Starry Nights

**An exhibition of the night sky
Une exposition du ciel nocturne**

**LaLande + Doyle Exhibition Space
Shenkman Arts Centre, 245 Centrum Boulevard, Lower Level**

**Espace d'exposition LaLande + Doyle
Centre des Arts Shenkman, 245, boulevard Centrum, niveau inférieur**

**June 27 to July 25, 2017
Du 27 juin au 25 juillet 2017**

**Open to all RASC members/Ouvert à tous les membres de la SRAC
For entry details please contact/**

Pour plus d'information, veuillez communiquer avec:

RASC2017ArtExhibit@gmail.com

By March 31, 2017
Au plus tard le 31 mars 2017

Final deadline for all entry materials/Date limite pour tous les documents de participation:

April 30, 2017/30 avril 2017



TTY 613-580-2401

2017 General Assembly – Ottawa, June 29 to July 3

by [Brian McCullough](#) and [Tim Cole](#), 2017 GA Committee, Ottawa Centre



RASC Ottawa Centre is pleased to offer an outstanding lineup of activities for delegates and spouses taking part in the 2017 General Assembly, and we look forward to seeing you here in Ottawa. Is there really any other place to be than the nation's capital during our 150th birthday?

The following schedule of activities and more information can be found at <http://ottawa.rasc.ca/content/2017-general-assembly-ottawa>

Thursday, June 29

- 3:00 p.m. – Residence check-in and GA registrations desk open
- Evening – Hospitality suite open

Friday, June 30

- Welcome
- ***Keynote Address: Ken Hewitt-White***
- National Council Meeting (concurrent all day)
- Algonquin Radio Observatory—Brendan Quine
- Moving Clusters—Glenn LeDrew
- Astronomy Workshop
- Downtown in the Afternoon Tours
- BBQ on Campus
- Evening Star Party & Diefenbunker Tour

Saturday, July 1 – CANADA 150 DAY!

- Meteor Workshop—Pierre Martin
- The Solar System: a Geological Perspective on Current Controversies—Simon Hanmer
- Moon sketching (Lunchtime group activity)
- ***Ruth Northcott Lecture & Reception with Dr. Eric Steinbring***
- Public Outreach Event
- Starry Night Documentary Video with Charles Ennis
- Panel Discussion
- CANADA DAY Celebrations on Parliament Hill
- Quiet Canada Day on Campus with Carmen Rush

Sunday, July 2

- Annual General Meeting / Spouse's Tour (concurrent)
- Speakers Corner
- Talk TBD—Carmen Rush

- Talk TBD—Rick Wagner
- Astro-Desserts: recipes for astronomy themed goodies—Kelly Jordan
- August 21 Total Solar Eclipse—Alan Scott
- History of Predicting Solar Eclipses—Ron MacNaughton
- ***Group Photo & RASC Awards Banquet with Speaker Dr. Nadine Manset***

Monday, July 3

- 11:00 a.m. Residence checkout
- Holleford Crater tour with Chuck O'Dale

Call for Images 2018 RASC Observer's Calendar

by **Paul Gray**, RASC *Observer's Calendar* Editor

Astronomical images and sketches of all types are invited for consideration for publication in the 2018 RASC *Observer's Calendar* including: deep sky, wide field, Solar System, astronomical sketches and dramatic astronomically themed landscapes.

Images can be prime focus, piggyback, eyepiece projection, or fixed tripod; and recorded on a digital/CCD camera, film, or webcam. Submitted images must be of sufficient quality and resolution to reproduce well at 9.5 x 12 and must be compatible with the "landscape" orientation of the calendar images. Generally, this will mean a resolution of at least 3825 x 3028 pixels for the print ready tiff. We will also consider making a quilt or mosaic of lunar/planetary webcam captured images (so as not to over magnify an individual image for publication).

If you already have a gallery of images on your website, send me the link, but **please also direct me to your recent favorites**. Both well-known and obscure objects are published in the calendar, so to avoid having the same objects used too often, I will be screening for those that may have appeared in the past 3 years.

Please email submissions to me at [snpgray \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:snpgray@gmail.com). While I have a bottomless email box, it's best to send me jpegs first. If your image is selected, we will request a full resolution tiff version. Full resolution tiffs will be required for use in print. The deadline for submissions is March 31. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the above mentioned email address.

RASC 2018 – Get Culturally Connected

by **R.A. Rosenfeld**, RASC Archivist

One of the highlights of IYA2009 was the local initiatives exploring cultural astronomy, which offered community experiences that were the fruit of creative partnerships between astronomical groups and arts organizations. Many members of the RASC took part in making those projects a success, and enjoyed others as audience members. The RASC 2018 Working Group would like to encourage Centres to consider undertaking cooperative projects marrying astronomy with the arts. This will offer an opportunity in 2018 to introduce aspects of astronomy to new audiences, and enrich our own experiences. And now is the time to reach out to possible partners in your community.

We have created a resource for embarking on such projects, which will go live later this week. It includes project ideas, and a model letter to be used in approaching organizations, and contacts for advice.

Visit www.rasc.ca/cultural-connections-resources.

A Lesson about Light Pollution

by **Robert Dick**, Chair, LPA Committee

Everyone is talking about it. “It’s inevitable.” More than one Centre has given up on promoting better lighting policies in their city, and around their favourite observing sites. They will be the last generation in their community to have reasonable skies around their accessible observing sites.

In the 1960s some communities gave up trying to limit air and water pollution, until the federal government realized it was bad. They forced cities and companies to do the right thing. Meanwhile, the communities that gave up died early with debilitating ailments, and so did their children.

We are told, “City officials have our best interests in mind. We are obviously on the wrong side of the issue.”

Well some of us in Canada, and the RASC don’t consider LP to be inevitable. We are

using our knowledge, contacts and outreach skills to reduce LP. The “colour temperature” of LEDs has fallen from 6500K to 3000K in less than 10 years and the illumination levels of some cities have been halved. The conversion to bright white-light luminaires has been delayed. This didn’t just happen, it was promoted.

Those in our LPA Committee know it requires persistent teamwork, and we need your help. When the effort is made, the results are good. When Centres leave it to the city officials or a single person, it’s not so good.

I ask all readers of the Bulletin to encourage/coerce their Centres into communicating to their governments the need to reduce the impact of urban lighting. We know how to do it. The LPA Discussion List has talented people to help with your “pitch” to the city, make “common sense” arguments and how to maintain your influence against the omnipresent lighting promoter.

We have heard from members and entire Centres that said they just didn’t have time. Then two years later, they were asking for help after it was too late. And, it was too late for them. Don't let it be too late for you, or your community.

Education and Public Outreach Committee Report

by **Andrea Misner**, Chair, Education Committee

Check out our website at <https://www.rasc.ca/education-public-outreach-committee> for all our latest developments.

For educators who are looking for resources to improve their astronomical teaching you can also visit www.discovertheuniverse.ca/ or www.decouvertedelunivers.ca/ for more information on workshops.

Currently we are putting the final touches on partial and total solar eclipse brochures, and we have more projects in the works.

If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see from the EPO committee you can contact me at andrea.misner@7oaks.org

CASCA Winter Solstice Newsletter

by [Eric Briggs](#), RASC, Toronto Centre

The Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie has published its Winter Solstice 2016 newsletter *Cassiopeia*. This issue continues to grapple with Canadian astronomers' plans for the Thirty Meter Telescope, as the prime site in Hawaii is weighed against the alternate location for the large telescope on La Palma.

CASCA recently reinvigorated the Westar Lectureship series, and to operate the Westar lectures in tandem with teacher training seminars offered by the CASCA-sponsored *Discover The Universe Program* for public education and outreach in astronomy.

The Centre for Research in Astrophysics of Québec (CRAQ) is announcing its second Summer School, which will be held on June 12-14 in Montréal, Québec. This year's topic will be "Exoplanet atmospheres."

<http://casca.ca/?p=8012>

Astroimaging Certificates

by [James Edgar](#), Past President RASC

These are the Astroimaging Certificate winners since the program inception at the London General Assembly in 2016, ordered by received date.

Name	Centre	Category	Pictures submitted	Zenfolio
Bruce Hamilton	Halifax	Wide-field	18	
W. Ken Jackson	Vancouver	Wide-field	21	
Mervin W. Graf	unattached	Wide-field	20	yes
Luca Vanzella	Edmonton	Wide-field	24	yes
Robert Lewis	Niagara	Solar System	9	
Jeff Donaldson	Halifax	Deep-Sky	12	
David M.F. Chapman	Halifax	Wide-field	17	yes
Tenho Tuomi	Saskatoon	Wide-field	20	yes
James Edgar	Regina	Wide-field	16	yes

Art Cole	Halifax	Solar System	16	yes
Blair MacDonald	Halifax	Deep-Sky	19	
Michael R. Gatto	Halifax	Wide-field	17	yes
Stuart Heggie	Toronto	Deep-Sky	12	yes
John Mirtle	Calgary	Wide-field	20	yes
Tony Schellinck	Halifax	Solar System	18	yes
John Mirtle	Calgary	Deep-Sky	12	yes

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Once a winner is approved, and the submitter agrees to share, the submitted images and shooting details are placed on a gallery at <http://rascastroimaging.zenfolio.com/> Feel free to browse around at the winning images. We have some very creative imagers out there!

All RASC members with a camera are encouraged to make application for one of the three certificates: Wide-field, Solar System, or Deep-Sky. Guidelines for entries are at www.rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate.

Asteroids with a Canadian Connection

by [Eric Briggs](#), RASC, Toronto Centre

The following have been added to the list of asteroids with Canadian connections:

(175152) Marthafarkas = 2005 ET37

Discovered at Vail-Jarnac on 2005-03-03 by T. Glinos and D. Levy.

Martha Farkas (b. 1959) is one of Canada's most experienced amateur astronomers. Farkas prefers traditional visual observing of solar system and deep sky objects using small telescopes. She is an active participant in Ottawa area astronomy events and an enthusiastic promoter of the Adirondack Astronomy Retreat. [Ref: Minor Planet Circ. 103027]

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/175152>

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 offering companies the distinction of becoming a 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. 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 www.rasc.ca/observing.



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