

## Candidate's Statement

### **Michael Watson ~ Incumbent Director and Second Vice-President**

Hello to my fellow RASC members. I am currently finishing my first three-year term as a Director of the Society, and I am hoping for your vote at the upcoming election to serve for a second term.

While many of you may know me as an avid astrophotographer and observational astronomer, I have also been involved for many years in the governance of the Society and hope to continue that service. I am a civil trial lawyer by profession, and an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School at York University in Toronto, and have also taught trial practice law at Notre Dame University in Indiana and l'Université de Moncton in New Brunswick.

For those of you who do not know me at all or very well, here are some of the positions that I have held, activities in which I have been involved, and Society awards that I have received since I joined the RASC in 1970; yes, 1970, 51 years ago!



- Currently Director, Second Vice-President, and legal counsel for the Society
- Principal drafter of the Society's By-law in the 1980s
- Recipient of the Simon Newcomb, Service, President's, and Fellow of the RASC awards
- Principal or co-organizer of several solar eclipse expeditions

If re-elected, I intend to continue my work in revising the Society's By-law No. One and the Policy Manual, as part of the Board's ongoing efforts to modernize and rationalize its operations and governing documents.

I am very pleased and grateful to have received support for my candidacy, including the following from former Society President Colin Haig (quoted with his permission):

"I have known Mr. Watson for perhaps 25 years, first as an amateur astronomer, and later by working with him on RASC committees such as Finance, and then later, on the Board of the Society. Michael possesses a keen mind, sensitivity, perception, and fairness, combined with a passion for the science of Astronomy. Michael is one of Canada's top legal minds, bringing insight and good guidance to bear on matters both pragmatic and more philosophical. During my term as Society president, he could be relied on to approach any issue with delicacy, balance, and wisdom. He is well-respected for his ability to propose effective solutions and to present viable alternative approaches. He is an asset to any organization and would serve the Society well on the Board for any role."

I thank you for your consideration of my candidacy, RASC members, and I ask you to vote for the candidates of your choice at the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the Society on June 27. I'll see you (virtually, of course) then!