

Service Award – Roland Dechesne (Calgary Centre)

I would like to nominate Roland Dechesne for the National Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the Calgary Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada over many years.

Roland has been a member of the RASC since 1977 and has twice served as president of the Calgary Centre. He is currently Past President and Chair of the Membership Committee. Roland's efforts and commitment to the Society have been numerous, consistent, of high quality and with excellent follow-through. He has initiated, developed and maintains the Calgary Centre's presence on social media including Facebook, Twitter and the Calgary Meetup Group. He is a regular public speaker at RASC and University of Calgary sponsored public events as well as at many events hosted by other organizations.

Roland consistently tweaks and challenges his knowledge base through frequent research and literature reviews and regularly incorporates these in his talks. His latest public address contrasted bird themes of the night sky with the effects of light pollution on birds. He has been an active member of council for many years, frequently taking a leadership role in initiating new ideas and offering suggestions on overall policy and procedure. He was a key person in helping to create public star nights in the community of Vulcan, Alberta. He has done and continues to do extensive research on Light-Pollution Abatement.

Over the last several years he has researched roadway lighting laws in both Canada and in the US. He has often taken the lead in helping to develop responsible lighting policies along with communicating light-pollution issues with individuals, communities, local and regional governments. Most recently, he met with a city alderman at this latter's request to discuss lighting issues in Calgary. He has provided assistance to both the Lethbridge Astronomical Society and Waterton Lakes National Park with developing responsible lighting protocol. Roland's multi-level engagement with astronomy has been consistent for well over 10 years and has had a significant positive impact on the RASC as a whole. He continues to show a passion and a reach for excellence in all that he undertakes.

Andrew Jones
President, Calgary Centre

Service Award – Fred Smith (St. John's Centre)

Fred Smith is a long-time member of the St. John's Centre and has been an Executive Committee member for more than 15 years, including several years as President with an attendance record at public and executive meetings of more than 97%. Fred has always been the liaison between the St. John's Centre and Memorial University which benefits us with meeting, parking, equipment storage space and speakers. He is a frequent speaker, media contact and liaison with other groups. He was a key player in obtaining funds and with the committee formed to propose creation of the "Universe Centre," a provincial observatory/planetarium/meeting centre. He was Co-Chair of the organizing committee for the 1994 General Assembly and a significant member of the organizing committee for the 2004 General Assembly (while a committee member of the 2004 Canada-Wide Science Fair). He helped write a hosting manual for the Canada-Wide Science Fair, has served on the organizing committee for CWSF and judges for the RASC award at the regional and Canada-wide fair. He is a valued member of the St. John's Centre Executive and frequently called upon to perform a variety of tasks, without fail.

Fred has given much of himself for the advancement of astronomy at the local and provincial level. He is a deserving candidate for the RASC Service Award.

Richard Newman
President, St. John's Centre

Service Award (citation #1) – James Edgar (Regina Centre)

It is my pleasure and honour to nominate James Edgar, Regina Centre, for the RASC Service Award. The Service Award recognizes the contributions of members who, at either the National or Centre levels, have made a significant contribution to the life and vitality of the Society. It is given in recognition of outstanding service, rendered over an extended period of time, where such service has had a major impact on the work of the Society and/or of a Centre of the Society.

I believe that James amply qualifies for recognition in this regard. He has for over ten years been an active and involved member of the Society, especially at the national level. Over the years that I have known James, he has served the RASC in many ways:

- He joined the RASC in 2000 and has not looked back for even a moment.
- Since 2001 he has served as pre-production proof-reader for both the Journal and the Observer's Handbook. More recently he has been a proof-reader for the Observer's Calendar.
- Since 2006 he has competently filled the crucial role of Journal production manager and advertising coordinator.
- For many years he has coordinated and overseen the production and printing of the Society's Annual Report.
- For a number of years he has served the Society through active participation on the Awards, Constitution, Finance, Publications, Board Pilot, and Executive committees.
- For several years he has moderated and coordinated the RASC's various email distribution lists and worked to maintain and update the Society Web site.
- From 2004 to 2007, he served as National Recorder. From 2007 to present, he has served as National Secretary (which now includes the Recorder duties). In this role he has completed extensive updates and revisions to the RASC Manual as well as many other Society documents and files.
- Through James' work the RASC has a newly invigorated Public Speaker Program, which James promotes and administers successfully.
- At the local level he writes a regular astronomy column for Saskatchewan newspapers and conducts extensive school and community astronomy outreach programming.
- James has been a stalwart of our national committee structure, keeping committees working cooperatively and progressively toward the goals and objectives of the Society. Somehow he manages to keep everyone in touch with everyone. Remarkably, he knows who is doing what, when and where. And he does it all with patience, grace, warmth, and humour.

James Edgar has, over his eleven years of active membership, participated actively in all aspects of national RASC business, working long and enthusiastically to promote the RASC, to encourage participation in Society activities, in sharing knowledge with others, and in the public awareness of science in general and astronomy in particular.

The RASC owes much of its special character to its blend of amateur and professional expertise, and to its ability to present accurate and exciting science to the public. James has made a substantial and sustained contribution to the Society, and is deserving of this award. Therefore, I am pleased to nominate James Edgar for the RASC Service Award.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Whitehorne, President, RASC

Service Award (citation #2) – James Edgar (Regina Centre)

The RASC Regina Centre wishes to support the recommendation of conferring the Service Award upon James Edgar as previously put forward by National President Mary Lou Whitehorne. The award was designated for those who "have rendered substantial service of a well-defined nature to the Society and/or a Centre over a period of at least ten years, or more. Such service should have had a major, constructive impact and would involve a very substantial

and continued commitment on the part of the nominee.” We can think of no better candidate amongst our ranks for recommendation of this award than James Edgar.

In addition to his contributions to our national society, which alone are significant, the RASC Regina Centre has also benefitted from James’ association in the following ways:

Since joining on April 1, 2000, James has contributed for over a dozen years,

- Serving as National Rep.
- Performing his own outreach program in Melville along with Saskatchewan Parks, in particular Good Spirit Provincial Park
- Speaking several times over the years to the RASC Regina Centre
- Always extending a warm handshake and greeting not to mention bringing new members into our ranks
- Contributing his monthly “Skies” article to our centre website, a column which also appears in over twenty local papers and publications across Saskatchewan.

While all of this is significant, the fact is that role models inspire future volunteers to give their time freely to our society. We consider James Edgar a friend and devoted RASC Regina Centre member who possesses the qualities which attract newcomers to join, become involved and he inspires others to step forward completing the circle of volunteerism.

Therefore we are pleased to nominate James Edgar for the RASC Service Award to be awarded at the 2012 General Assembly in Edmonton, Alberta.

Sincerely,
Shane Ludtke, President, Regina Centre