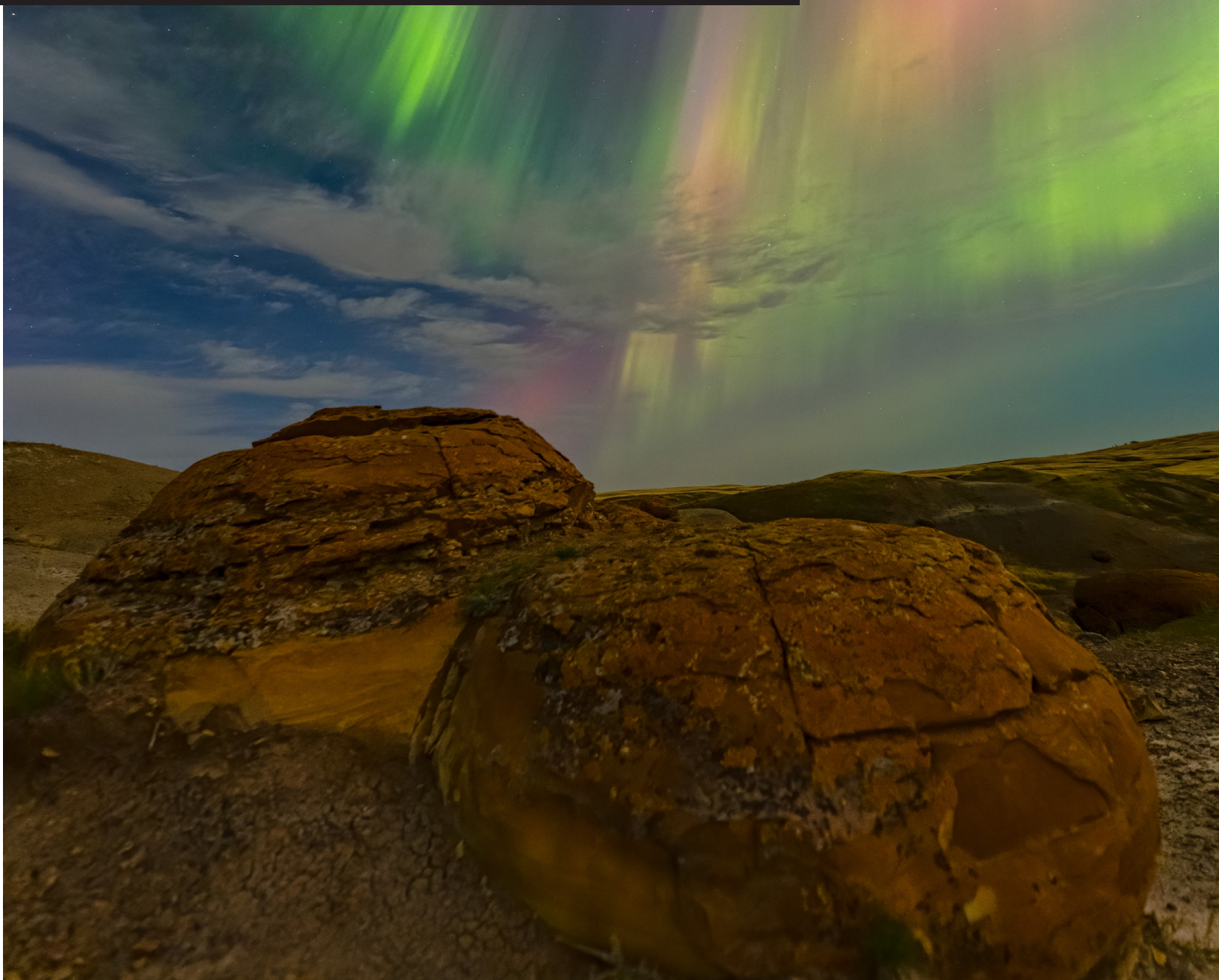




**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL
SOCIETY OF CANADA**
**LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE
D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

2025

**Annual Report
Rapport Annuel**



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The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – as of June 2025

| | |
|---|--|
| RASC Web Site | rasc.ca |
| RASC eStore | secure.rasc.ca/RASC/Store/StoreMain.aspx |
| National Office | 203-489 College Street, Toronto ON M6G 1A5, Canada |
| Phone | 416-924-7973 |
| Email | nationaloffice@rasc.ca |
| Executive Director | Jenna Hinds |
| Finance and Office Manager | Nawed Asif |
| Membership and Publications Coordinator | Kerry Zentner |
| Communications Coordinator | Reem Khalifeh and Ashley Northcott |

Officers

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| President | Brendon Roy | novationheart@hotmail.com |
| First Vice-President | Betty Robinson | brstype@rogers.com |
| Second Vice-President | Eric Briggs | ebriggs733@gmail.com |
| National Secretary | Randy Attwood | attwood@rasc.ca |
| Treasurer | Michael Watson | Michael.Watson@gowlingwlg.com |
| Director | Viktor Zsohar | zsohar@gmail.com |
| | Dennis Lyons | dennis.lyons.3@gmail.com |
| | Susan Gagnon | sgagnonkrasc@gmail.com |
| Past President | Michael Watson | Michael.Watson@gowlingwlg.com |

Editors

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Journal Editor | Nicole Mortillaro | editor@rasc.ca |
| Observer's Handbook Editor | James Edgar | james@jamesedgar.ca |
| Observer's Calendar Editor | Chris Beckett | calendareditor@rasc.ca |

2025 Committees

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Astroimaging | Kimberly Sibbald |
| Awards | Michael Watson |
| Constitution | Brendon Roy |
| Editorial Board | Chris Gainor |
| Education and Public Outreach | Karim Jaffer |
| Finance | Michael Watson |
| History | Randall Rosenfeld |
| Inclusivity and Diversity | Charles Ennis |
| Information Technology | Vacant |
| Light-Pollution Abatement | Bob King |
| NextGen | Ivan Tockovski |
| Nominating | Board of Directors |
| Observing | Emma MacPhee |

Annual General Meeting 2025 - Agenda

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA



203-489 College Street, Toronto ON M6G 1A5
Phone 416-924-7973
mempub@rasc.ca

Annual General Meeting 2025

The Annual Meeting of members will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 13:00 EDT (10:00 PDT) by Teleconference.

Agenda

1. Call to Order - Approval of the Agenda (13:00 EDT)
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting (13:05 EDT)

Published in the on-line version 2024 Annual Report, and located on the members-only section on the website (www.rasc.ca/agm-2024)
3. Report of the President (13:10 EDT)
4. Report of the Executive Director (13:25 EDT)
5. Report of Officers (13:35 EDT)

National Secretary/Recorder (Eric Briggs)
Financial (Michael Watson, Jenna Hinds)
6. Presentation and Approval of Audited 2024 Financial Statements (13:45 EDT)
7. Reports of National Council and Permanent Committees (14:00 EDT)

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| National Council (Judy Black) | Inclusivity and Diversity (Charles Ennis) |
| Astroimaging (Kimberly Sibbald) | Information Technology (Vacant) |
| Awards (Charles Ennis) | Light-Pollution Abatement (Bob King) |
| Education (Karim Jaffer) | NextGen (Ivan Tockovski) |
| Editorial Board (Chris Gainor) | Observing (Emma MacPhee) |
| History (Randall Rosenfeld) | |
8. Reports of Other Committees (14:45 EDT)

Dorner Telescope Museum (Randall Rosenfeld)
9. Election of Directors (14:55 EDT)
10. Approval of By-Law Amendments (15:15 EDT)
11. Election of Auditor; Proposed: Fruitman Kates LLP (15:30 EDT)
12. Other Business (15:40 EDT)
13. Adjournment (16:00 EDT)

RASC 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
 La Société royale d'astronomie du Canada
 Minutes of the Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 22nd, 2025 at 13:00 EDT.

1. Call to Order

Chair and President Michael Watson called the meeting to order at 13:00 EDT.

He welcomed all members to the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Society.

Mr. Watson began with a land acknowledgement:

“The RASC acknowledges that the head office of the Society, which is located in the city of Toronto a dozen km from where I am located, is on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.”

Mr. Watson asked members to include with their on-screen names the Centres they are associated with. Jenna Hinds, Executive Director, described how the webinar would be run and the rules of the webinar.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion AM2025-01 (Dennis Lyons / Lauri Roche)
 Motion to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

Mr. Watson introduced the members of the RASC

Board of Directors:

Brendon Roy, First Vice President, Thunder Bay Centre

Betty Robinson, Second Vice President, Mississauga Centre

Eric Briggs Secretary, Toronto Centre

Viktor Zsohar Director, Yukon Centre

Randy Attwood, Director, Mississauga Centre

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting

Motion AM2025-02 (Andy Blanchard / Betty Robinson) Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting as published in the 2024 Annual Report subject to minor revisions for clarity.

Motion carried.

Mr. Briggs reported that Windsor Centre member David Panton's name is misspelled in the minutes under the Secretary's report.

3. Report of the President

Mr. Watson suggested that members refer to his report in the Annual Report.

As Mr. Watson completes his second year as President, he spoke of the financial challenges the Society faced in 2022 and 2023. He thanked the members of the Board, the members of National Council, and the office staff for helping return the Society to a more stable financial position. The Board reviews the financial reports at every Board meeting to identify any warning signs. The Board reports on these reviews at meetings of National Council. The Board meets monthly. The March and October meetings are all-day meetings.

This past year, a Board Director resigned. The Board appointed Dennis Lyons to the Board.

Mr. Watson talked about benefits of membership in

the Society. He pointed out the many benefits behind the scenes: publications, insurance for Centre public outreach events, online discussion forums, and the ability of Centres to use the Society's Zoom account.

There is also the benefit to interact with others who have the same appreciation of the night sky.

Since membership fees pay for only 40% of Society expenses, the Society depends on grants and donations to support its operations.

Mr. Watson thanked Ms Hinds for her dedication and unceasing hard work to make the RASC operate as smoothly as it does. As President, Mr. Watson meets with Ms Hinds every Friday morning to review issues and preview upcoming events. The Society could not run properly without her.

4. Report of the Executive Director

Ms Hinds thanked Mr. Watson for his kind words. She said she loved the job and meeting many people, and that he has been a great leader as President.

She reported that she had visited several Centres recently to report on what has happened in the Society. She complimented the Board for rectifying the financial problems of the past few years.

Ms Hinds asked members to read her report in the Annual Report in which there are reports on the recent solar eclipse from members and the various Centre eclipse expeditions.

Ms Hinds thanked the volunteers at the Centre and National levels. Many members worked on promoting the recent solar eclipse.

She mentioned that she believes the RASC's value

reaches beyond what we provide to members. She mentioned the Observer's Handbook and the Observer's Calendar. The Observer's Handbook has a fairly significant impact in the United States. The RASC is large enough to affect and support astronomy in this country and beyond.

She said that the RASC is on a mission to share astronomy with Canadians.

Mr. Watson reminded everyone what the purposes of the Society are. He provided a screen share of the statement of purposes from the 1968 letters of patent:

"To stimulate interest and to promote and increase knowledge in astronomy and related sciences"

5. Reports of the Officers

Secretary's Report

National Secretary (Eric Briggs): Mr. Briggs directed attention to the changes in policies and By-law amendments in the Secretary's Report in the Annual Report.

He read out a list of the members who had passed away the previous year. The list of names appears in his report in the Annual Report. He asked for a moment of silence.

6. Presentation and Approval of the Audited 2024 Financial Statements

Mr. Watson and Ms Hinds presented the audited financial statements for 2024 (page 13 in the Annual Report).

Mr. Watson pointed out the following: the investments are significantly higher; the Net Assets are made up of Restricted and Unrestricted funds, and Net Assets are up over the past year.

In the Statement of Operations, both Revenue and Expenses were down. The Society essentially broke even last year. Ms Hinds noted how members helped a lot with their donations in 2024.

Motion AM2025-03 (Dennis Lyons / John Hurley) Motion to approve the audited Financial Statements as published in the Annual Report. Motion carried.

7. Reports of National Council and Permanent Committees

National Council

(Judy Black, chair): Ms Black thanked the members of National Council for all the work they put in this year. She thanked Charles Ennis, the National Council Vice-chair, and Adrianna Stone, Recorder. The National Council held six meetings in 2024.

Astro-Imaging Certificate Committee

Kimberly Sibbald: no report.

Awards

Charles Ennis:

The Award winners are listed in the Annual Report.

Education and Public Outreach Committee

(Karim Jaffer): Mr. Jaffer reported an active year for the committee. The NOVA revisions are being evaluated. Seasonal observing activities are being developed. Citizen science workshops are also being developed. Student astronomy club support materials are on the RASC website.

Editorial Board

(Chris Gainor): Mr. Gainor reported that the Editorial Board is working on defining succession plans for those working on publications. He acknowledged the members of the publications team: James Edgar, Nicole Mortillaro, Chris Beckett, and Robyn Foret.

A biography of Helen Sawyer Hogg is in the final stages of production.

History Committee

(Randall Rosenfeld): no report

Inclusivity and Diversity Committee

(Charles Ennis): no report.

Information Technology Committee (Vacant)

A new version of the website is in development.

Light Pollution Abatement Committee

(Bob King): Mr. King thanked the Board and the Executive Director for their support of the committee. He highlighted some of the accomplishments of the committee over

the past 20 years, such as working with the International Dark Sky Association. The Certificate of Merit has been redone so that Centres can recognize local groups for LPA efforts.

NextGen Committee

(Ivan Tockovski): no report.

Observing Committee

(Emma MacPhee): no report.

Mr. Attwood reported that the reference in the Policy Manual to committees needs work. There needs to be clarification in the process of forming committees, including attracting new members to committees. It is hoped that committee chairs will be invited to attend Board meetings during the year to report on their activities.

8. Reports of Other Committees

Dorner Telescope Museum

(Randall Rosenfeld): no report.

9. Election of Directors

Victor Zsohar (Yukon Centre), Eric Briggs (Toronto Centre), and Andrew Blanchard (Hamilton) were elected as Directors of the Board.

Susan Gagnon (Kingston Centre) has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board.

10. Approval of By-Law Amendments

Motion AM2025-04 By-law Amendment Motion 1

Replace “annual general meeting” and “AGM” with “annual meeting” and “AM” throughout the By-Law. Passed by special resolution.

Motion AM2025-05 By-law Amendment Motion 2

Replace “1st Vice President” and “2nd Vice-President” with “First Vice President” and “Second Vice-President” throughout the By-Law. Passed by special resolution.

Motion AM2025-06 By-law Change Motion 3

Grace Period Article 3.3 Renewal and Termination of Membership

Passed by special resolution.

Motion AM2025-07 By-law Change Motion 4

Changes to Article 5.1 Change name of Annual Meeting

Passed by special resolution.

Motion AM2025-08 By-law Change Motion 5

Changes to Article 8 – National Council

Passed by special resolution.

11. Election of Auditor; Proposed: Fruitman Kates LLP

Motion AM2025-09 (Don Town / Bill Weir) Elect Fruitman Kates LLP as Auditor. Motion carried

12. Other Business

Ron Macnaughton thanked the RASC volunteers.

Dennis Lyons recognized Ms Hinds and the office staff and thanked them for their work.

Mr. Attwood recognized former RASC National Presidents attending the Annual Meeting: Chris Gainor, Mary Lou Whitehorne, and Damien LeMay.

He also recognized the work that Mr. Watson has done for the Society. He thanked the outgoing President on behalf of the members of the Society.

Michael Watson said it was a pleasure to work with the office staff and the members of the Board.

13. Adjournment

Motion AM2025-10 (Judy Black / Chris Gainor) to adjourn. Motion carried.

Randy Attwood
National Secretary

President's Report 2025-2026

Fellow amateur astronomers,

I am pleased to present the President's Report for the 2025–2026 reporting period.

I would like to begin with the most important part of this message—you, the members. You are among the most extraordinary group of people I have had the privilege to know. We often speak of “six degrees of separation” between individuals around the world; within this organization, I find that number is, at most, three. The talent, enthusiasm, knowledge, and capabilities brought together under the banner of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada are truly remarkable, all united by a shared passion for the night sky.

This year, one of my key priorities has been strengthening connections with organizations whose goals and ambitions align with those of the Society. As we often say, we all share one sky—and this must be more than a slogan. It must guide our actions. With that in mind, I have reached out to several organizations in recent months to build relationships and explore opportunities for collaboration to our mutual benefit. The response has been very positive, and, much like a farmer sowing seeds in the spring, I am confident these efforts will bear fruit in the months and years ahead.

Finances

The financial position of the Society has improved over the past year. The budget process, spearheaded by Treasurer Michael Watson, has been refined and strengthened over the past several years. As a result, our forecasting for both the current and future fiscal years has significantly improved.

This progress has enabled us to better understand the strengths and challenges of the Society's financial position while maintaining cost control.

It is clear, however, that the Society will need to develop additional sources of revenue. Addressing this will be an important priority, both now and in the years ahead.

New Auditors

At the last Annual Meeting of the Members, and with the direction of the Board and approval of the membership, a new auditor was appointed to fulfill the statutory obligation of independently reviewing the Society's finances.

As part of this transition, the Society has also taken the opportunity to improve the audit process.

The audit will now be conducted in two phases, which is expected to reduce overall costs.

The transition has proceeded smoothly, thanks in large part to the professionalism and expertise of

Fruitman Kates and the staff of the National Office.

Dorner Telescope Museum

Progress has been made over the past year to move this project closer to realizing its original vision.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to those who have worked diligently behind the scenes—most notably Randall Rosenfeld—for advancing this initiative. When completed, the Dorner Telescope Museum will provide a unique opportunity to share the history of telescopes and related equipment in a Canadian context. I hope that all RASC members, regardless of location, will have the opportunity to engage with and benefit from this important project.

The Fight Against Light Pollution

The Society's Light Pollution Abatement Committee continues to work diligently to preserve the night sky. Over the past year, several new dark-sky sites have received RASC certification. In addition, we have seen growing interest from organizations and communities seeking guidance on how best to protect their night skies.

Momentum on this issue has clearly shifted in our favour. It is now up to all of us to carry this forward—by increasing awareness and fostering a broader appreciation of why protecting the night sky matters to society as a whole.

I have had the pleasure of working with the Committee over the past few years, and they are truly an exemplary team that all members can be proud of. Recently, the Committee hosted a conference for RASC members and Centre representatives focused on light pollution. It was an outstanding event, where members shared ideas, success stories, and strategies for advancing this important work. The conference sparked meaningful and ongoing discussions about the role the Society can and should play in protecting the night sky.

Looking Ahead

This coming year will be a period of transition for both staff at the National Office and volunteers in several key roles across the Society.

Change presents opportunity—an opportunity to try new approaches, explore new directions, and continue to evolve.

I see these changes as a chance to move the Society forward as we navigate the evolving landscape of the 21st century. With new roles and needs emerging, there are also new opportunities for members to become involved and contribute.

Finally, as you may be aware, Jenna Hines, our Executive Director for the past several years, will be leaving us to pursue new opportunities. We extend our sincere thanks for her tremendous contributions

during what have been challenging years, and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

With all that lies ahead, I remain optimistic about the future.

There is much work to be done, but it will be well worth the effort if we continue to come together—under dark skies—to explore and appreciate the wonders above us.

Brendon Roy

President

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Secretary's Report

The Board of Directors met once a month in 2025, with weekend meetings in March and September. National Council met six times in 2025.

An updated version of Policy C11: National Council Terms of Reference was approved by the Board in December.

Congratulations to the Windsor Centre, which celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2025. An anniversary banquet was held in November, with David Levy as the guest speaker.

Members were saddened to learn of the passing of former RASC Executive Secretary Bonnie Bird. Bonnie worked at the National Office on Dupont Street from 1996 to 2008. Many members got to know Bonnie at the annual southern Ontario star party Starfest, which is run by the North York Astronomical Association.

The Society lost a long-time friend, Dr. Fred Espenak, in 2025. "Mr. Eclipse," as he was known, produced online information and publications previewing upcoming solar and lunar eclipses. Dr. Espenak had provided this information for publication in the Observer's Handbook since 1985.

We offer condolences to the families of members who passed away in 2025:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Richard Armstrong | Toronto Centre |
| Jon Buchanan | Ottawa Centre |
| Kevin Curry | Ottawa Centre |
| Phil Goheen | Calgary Centre |
| Gary Hinks | London Centre |
| Bruce McCurdy | Edmonton Centre |
| Dr. W. John MacDonald | Victoria Centre |
| Karl Miller | Vancouver Centre |
| Jack Newton | Victoria Centre |
| David Parson | Halifax Centre |
| Sid Sidhu | Victoria Centre |
| Fred Smith | St John's Centre |
| Cameron Sutherland | Prince George Centre |
| Isaak John Thiessen | Saskatoon Centre |
| Mark Tovey | London Centre |
| Sue Weedon | National Member |
| Steve Wilton | Toronto Centre |

Submitted by Randy Attwood

National Secretary

Treasurer's Report

As you will see from the audited financial statements for 2025, the Society did not do quite as well in revenue minus expenses in 2025 as it did in 2024, incurring a small loss of \$6,520 compared with a profit of \$8,258 in 2024. But the loss amounted to less than 1% of total revenue for the year. For comparison, I have assembled in the table below the RASC's profit and loss figures for the last 20 years, together with some notes explaining certain extraordinary events.

As you can see, the Society earns a profit in about half of all years, and incurs a loss in the other half. Removing the extraordinary receipts (bequests, loss on SkyNews in 2022, the entire extraordinary loss in the dark year of 2022, and the gain on the sale of the Society's land and building in 2009), on average over the last 20 years the Society has incurred a loss of about \$33,000 per year.

| Year | Profit or (Loss) |
|------|---|
| 2025 | (\$6,250) |
| 2024 | \$8,254 |
| 2023 | \$255,027 (incl. \$451,853 single bequest in externally restricted fund) |
| 2022 | (\$982,952) (incl. \$202,308 loss on SkyNews ceasing operations) |
| 2021 | \$1,105,031 (incl. \$1 million single bequest) |
| 2020 | \$24,459 |
| 2019 | (\$117,170) |
| 2018 | (\$137,018) |
| 2017 | (\$43,318) |
| 2016 | \$64,291 |
| 2015 | (\$47,087) |
| 2014 | \$11,188 |
| 2013 | \$57,087 |
| 2012 | (\$9,771) |
| 2011 | \$45,027 |
| 2010 | \$20,105 |
| 2009 | \$513,429 (incl. \$472,924 gain on sale of land and building) |
| 2008 | (\$54,708) |
| 2007 | (\$8,575) |
| 2006 | \$38,068 |

The Society is, financially, a much larger organization that it was even a decade ago. In 2015, total revenues amounted to not quite \$463,000; in 2025 they were more than \$770,000, an increase of two-thirds!

In my view, and in the view of the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee, the biggest concern for the Society is not in controlling expenses. Over the past several years we have tamed what used to be runaway expenses by eliminating unnecessary staff, significantly reducing or eliminating committee and travel expenses, and ridding ourselves of the robotic telescope and the (regrettably) money-losing SkyNews magazine.

Rather, the major challenge for the RASC is in revenue generation. In common with many other – even most –not-for-profit organizations, the RASC has been steadily losing members year by year and struggles to maintain existing sources of revenue at historic levels, let alone to find new sources of revenue. And sales of the Observer's Handbook and of the Journal are not where we would like them to be. Membership fees account for only 39.5% of total revenue, and publications generate an additional 31% (of which 25% is eaten up by the cost of producing those publications). The third major component of our revenues is donations, which last year accounted for 22% of total revenue, with close to zero associated expenses. Clearly membership fees and revenue from our publication are not nearly enough to cover the Society's required expenses. We are, unfortunately, largely dependent for our continuing financial well-being on unpredictable donations, year after year.

The Board is always thinking of new sources of revenue, and looks to the National Council and the Centres for revenue-generating ideas to keep us financially healthy. Every member of the RASC can assist in this persistent quest for new revenue.

On the asset side, the RASC is in what I consider to be quite a secure position. In addition to a very healthy bank balance of more than \$500,000 (a significant portion of which will be placed in revenue-generating investments in 2026), our short- and long-term assets total more than \$2.4 million. Of this amount, about \$636,500 is held in the restricted Dorner Telescope Museum fund and is therefore not available for general use by the Society. Additional amounts of \$280,345 and \$372,025 are held in the Ruth Northcott and Legacy Funds, which are internally restricted by Board of Directors policy for certain specific uses and not for general operations. This does leave the Society, however, with more than \$1.1 million in unrestricted and therefore available funds in the event of future financial difficulties.

Looking at the Society's overall financial status, I am satisfied that we are on the right path, and I am hopeful and perhaps even confident that we can weather the current worldwide financial instability and continue into a fiscally healthy future.

I have very much enjoyed working on the challenges of the Society's finances over the last several years as a member of the Board of Directors, and in various offices including as Second and First vice-President and as RASC President. And I want to thank the Board and also the Society's staff for all of the work that they put into keeping the Society's financial ship on an even keel. Recognition and thanks are due to our experienced and knowledgeable Finance and Office Manager Nawed Asif, who among other things has completely revamped the annual budget-making into a more carefully thought out and rigorous process.

Any finally, my report would not be complete without extending the Board's and the Society's thanks to Executive Director Jenna Hinds, without whose enthusiasm for and encyclopedic knowledge of how the RASC operates the Board would have been at a serious disadvantage over the three years of her tenure. Jenna has recently departed her management position in the Society, and we wish her clear skies and thank her for all that she has done for us.

Quo Ducit Urania,

Michael Watson, FRASC, Treasurer

Membership statistics as at June 2025

| Centre | Membership |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Belleville Centre | 29 |
| Calgary Centre | 455 |
| Centre francophone de Montreal | 17 |
| Edmonton Centre | 230 |
| Fraser Valley Centre | 20 |
| Halifax Centre | 135 |
| Hamilton Centre | 145 |
| Kingston Centre | 62 |
| Kitchener-Waterloo Centre | 161 |
| London Centre | 76 |
| Mississauga Centre | 242 |
| Montreal Centre | 144 |
| National | 259 |
| New Brunswick Centre | 73 |
| Niagara Centre | 62 |
| Okanagan Centre | 85 |
| Ottawa Centre | 398 |
| Prince George Centre | 54 |
| Regina Centre | 69 |
| Sarnia Centre | 14 |
| Saskatoon Centre | 61 |
| St. John's Centre | 60 |
| Sudbury Centre | 27 |
| Sunshine Coast Centre | 44 |
| Thunder Bay Centre | 25 |
| Toronto Centre | 571 |
| Vancouver Centre | 173 |
| Victoria Centre | 200 |
| Windsor Centre | 89 |
| Winnipeg Centre | 229 |
| Yukon Centre | 30 |

In addition to our Canadian and American members, the RASC has members from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and the UK!

Audited Financial Statements

Docusign Envelope ID: 559EBB82-061D-461A-8D15-8E33CC75240D

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA / LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Financial Statements
Year ended December 31, 2025

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada /
La Société Royale D'Astronomie Du Canada

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada / La Société Royale D'Astronomie Du Canada** (the "Society"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Society, in common with many not-for-profit organizations, derives revenue from various sources, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenue, excess of revenues over expenditures, assets and net assets.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Other Matter

The financial statements of the Society for the year ended December 31, 2024 were audited by another auditor who expressed a qualified opinion on those financial statements on May 1, 2025 due to the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the completeness of revenues.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

FK LLP, CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

1055 Eglinton Ave. W, Toronto, ON M6C 2C9 T: 416-920-3434 www.FKLLP.ca

An independent member of DFK International.

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Independent Auditors' Report, continued

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ◆ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ◆ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- ◆ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- ◆ Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ◆ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Toronto, Canada
May 14, 2026



Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Statement of Financial Position
As at December 31, 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 (Restated) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current | | |
| Cash | \$ 563,952 | \$ 461,690 |
| Accounts receivable | 35,517 | 68,107 |
| Public service body rebate receivable | 5,398 | 12,251 |
| Helm fund receivable (Note 4) | 2,522 | 56,502 |
| Inventory | 37,641 | 45,123 |
| Prepaid and sundry assets | 28,403 | 28,705 |
| | 673,433 | 672,378 |
| Long-term | | |
| Investments (Note 5) | 1,682,484 | 1,355,063 |
| Capital assets (Note 6) | 9,021 | 38,361 |
| Collections (Note 7) | 66,494 | 65,787 |
| | 1,757,999 | 1,459,211 |
| | \$ 2,431,432 | \$ 2,131,589 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 71,467 | \$ 42,672 |
| Deferred revenue | | |
| Membership fees for ensuing years (Note 8) | 149,858 | 144,951 |
| Journal subscriptions (Note 8) | 42,415 | 21,821 |
| Deferred contributions - Dorner Fund (Note 9) | 52,360 | 25,200 |
| Unamortized life membership fees (Note 10) | - | 2,651 |
| | 316,100 | 237,295 |
| Commitments (Note 11) | | |
| Net assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 591,952 | 575,237 |
| Dorner Fund (Note 9) | 871,010 | 643,452 |
| Internally restricted (Note 12) | 652,370 | 675,605 |
| | 2,115,332 | 1,894,294 |
| | \$ 2,431,432 | \$ 2,131,589 |

Approved on behalf of the board

_____ President

_____ Treasurer

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

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**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Statement of Operations
For the year ended December 31, 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Membership fees | \$ 304,987 | \$ 290,793 |
| Publication sales | 237,217 | 260,994 |
| Donations | 170,912 | 97,302 |
| Fair value adjustment of investments | 33,201 | 53,845 |
| Miscellaneous | 17,300 | 112,010 |
| Investment income | 8,772 | 12,014 |
| | 772,389 | 826,958 |
| Expenditures | | |
| National operations | 371,824 | 304,695 |
| Publications | 190,941 | 223,768 |
| Member services | 157,560 | 215,041 |
| Programming | | |
| Centre support and public outreach | 35,823 | 69,652 |
| Light pollution prevention | 13,283 | - |
| Youth outreach and education | 7,880 | 3,011 |
| General assembly | 1,598 | 1,996 |
| Telescope museum | - | 537 |
| | 778,909 | 818,700 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures | \$ (6,520) | \$ 8,258 |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

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**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Statement of Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended December 31, 2025

| | Dorner Fund | Internally Restricted | Unrestricted | Total |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| For the year ended December 31, 2025 | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 643,452 | \$ 675,605 | \$ 575,237 | \$ 1,894,294 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures | - | 8,772 | (15,292) | (6,520) |
| Fair value adjustment of investments | 227,558 | - | - | 227,558 |
| Transfers | - | (32,007) | 32,007 | - |
| | <u>\$ 871,010</u> | <u>\$ 652,370</u> | <u>\$ 591,952</u> | <u>\$ 2,115,332</u> |

**For the year ended December 31, 2024
(Restated)**

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 446,600 | \$ 634,464 | \$ 608,120 | \$ 1,689,184 |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures | - | - | 8,258 | 8,258 |
| Fair value adjustment of investments | 196,852 | - | - | 196,852 |
| Transfers | - | 41,141 | (41,141) | - |
| | <u>\$ 643,452</u> | <u>\$ 675,605</u> | <u>\$ 575,237</u> | <u>\$ 1,894,294</u> |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

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**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended December 31, 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 (Restated) |
|--|------------|--------------------|
| Cash flows from (used in): | | |
| Operating activities | | |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures | \$ (6,520) | \$ 8,258 |
| Adjustments for | | |
| Amortization of capital assets | 29,340 | 20,527 |
| Amortization of life membership fees | (2,651) | (2,650) |
| | 20,169 | 26,135 |
| Change in non-cash working capital items | | |
| Accounts receivable | 32,590 | (22,410) |
| Public service body rebate receivable | 6,853 | (9,635) |
| Helm fund receivable | 53,980 | - |
| Inventory | 7,482 | 5,183 |
| Prepaid and sundry assets | 302 | 8,338 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 28,795 | (63,740) |
| Deferred revenue | 25,501 | 13,213 |
| Deferred contributions | 27,160 | 25,200 |
| | 202,832 | (17,716) |
| Investing activities | | |
| Investments | (99,903) | (89,527) |
| Purchase of items for collections | (707) | (6,629) |
| | (100,610) | (96,156) |
| Increase (decrease) in cash | 102,222 | (113,872) |
| Cash, beginning of year | 461,690 | 575,562 |
| Cash, end of year | \$ 563,952 | \$ 461,690 |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA / LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2025

1. **General**

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada / La Société Royale D'Astronomie Du Canada (the "Society") is a Canadian corporation without share capital and a registered charitable organization, incorporated for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting astronomy and related sciences.

Pursuant to the Income Tax Act (Canada), the Society is classified as a not-for-profit organization and therefore, is not subject to income tax.

2. **Correction of prior period error**

During the year, management identified an error in the 2024 financial statements related to the accounting treatment of unrealized changes in the fair value of investments held for endowment as part of the Dorner Fund.

In 2024, the unrealized change in the fair value of investments held for endowment was reported as a deferred contribution, instead of as a direct increase to the endowment fund balance as required under Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

The comparative financial statements have been retroactively restated to correct this error, resulting in a reclassification between deferred contributions and Dorner Fund net assets of \$196,852 at December 31, 2024.

3. **Significant accounting policies**

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The significant policies are detailed as follows:

(a) **Revenue recognition**

Membership fees and contributions

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for membership fees and contributions.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, provided that the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related activities are carried out and expenditures are incurred.

Endowment contributions, where donors have restricted the original contributions to be maintained in perpetuity, are recognized as direct increases in endowment net assets. Income earned on endowment funds is restricted in use pursuant to the donor's instructions and is recorded in deferred revenue until the related expenditure is incurred.

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA / LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

3. Significant accounting policies, continued

(a) Revenue recognition, continued

The Society previously offered life memberships to members. Life memberships received in prior years were credited to unamortized life membership fees liability account, as described in note 8. The unamortized life membership fees are being recognized as revenue evenly over 10 years to 2025.

Investment income

Investment income is recognized on an accrual basis. Changes in the unrealized gain or loss on investments, being the difference between cost and fair value, is recognized in income for the year. Investment income related to the Dorner Fund is restricted, and is deferred until those restrictions are met, and then recognized directly in the fund.

Subscriptions and publications

Journal subscription revenues are amortized into income over the subscription period. Publications are recognized as revenue when shipped.

(b) Inventory

Inventory is comprised of publications and promotional items for re-sale and is measured at the lower of cost and net realizable value, with cost being determined using the weighted average method. The cost of inventory comprises all purchase and transportation costs included in bringing the inventory to its present location and condition. Net realizable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less any applicable variable selling costs.

Inventory is written down to net realizable value when the cost of inventory is not estimated to be recoverable. When the circumstances that previously caused inventory to be written down below cost no longer exist or when there is clear evidence of an increase in net realizable value because of changed economic circumstances, the amount of the write-down is reversed.

(c) Investments

The Society has elected to value all investments at fair value, which is based on quoted market values.

**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

**Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2025**

3. Significant accounting policies, continued

(d) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Cost comprises the purchase price and any directly attributable cost of preparing the asset for its intended use. The Society provides for amortization using the straight-line method at rates designed to amortize the cost of the capital assets over their estimated useful lives. The annual amortization rates are as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tangible assets: | | |
| Computer hardware | Straight-line | 3 years |
| Office furniture | Straight-line | 10 years |
| Leasehold improvements | Straight-line | 15 months |
| Intangible assets: | | |
| Software | Straight-line | 5 years |
| Website development | Straight-line | 3 years, 1/2 in year of acquisition |

(e) Impairment of long-lived assets

The Society tests for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable. Recoverability is assessed by comparing the carrying amount to the projected undiscounted future net cash flows the long-lived assets are expected to generate through their direct use and eventual disposition. When a test for impairment indicates that the carrying amount of an asset is not recoverable, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent carrying value exceeds its fair value.

(f) Collections

Collections are capitalized in the Society's statement of financial position, but not amortized. Collections consist of a library and the Dornier Telescope Museum. The library is recognized at a nominal value. The museum collection is recognized at cost as items are purchased. Costs incurred to maintain these collections are expensed as incurred.

(g) Allocation of common expenses

The Society allocates a number of its expenses by function: national operations, member services and certain programming. The cost of each function include an allocation of the costs of personnel, fundraising and computer and IT costs.

Personnel costs are allocated based on the number of hours spent on each function; fundraising expenses are allocated primarily to national operations as the majority of costs relate to general fundraising activities. Smaller portions are allocated to member services and public outreach for expenses related to fundraising for Centres and communications with members. Computer and IT costs are allocated based on the estimated usage of technology by each function.

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA / LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

3. Significant accounting policies, continued

(h) Contributed materials and services

Volunteers contribute their time without monetary compensation. The Society receives donated materials and supplies for their operations. Because of the difficulty involved in determining the fair value of contributed materials and services, they are not recognized in the financial statements.

(i) Financial instruments

Measurement of financial instruments

The Society initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value. The Society subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for its investments, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of operations for the year.

Financial assets recorded at amortized cost include cash, accounts receivable, and Helm Fund receivable.

Financial assets recorded at fair value include investments.

Financial liabilities recorded at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in the statement of operations. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the statement of operations.

(j) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the statement of financial position date and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIETE ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

4. Helm Fund receivable

The Society is trustee of an endowment fund created by Mr. Walter J. Helm (a former Royal Astronomical Society of Canada member) who died on June 5, 1960. In his will, he provided a bequest to the Society, the clear income from which was to be used for the general purposes of the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Under the terms of a 2010 Ontario Superior Court order, and a court-approved agreement between the Society and the Toronto Centre of the Society, as revised by a September 2024 agreement between the same parties, the net income of the Helm Fund is used by the Toronto Centre of the Society for its ongoing operations at the DDO.

The fair value of the total assets of the Helm Fund under administration by the Society at December 31, 2025 is \$970,561 (2024 - \$1,032,272) and is excluded from the Society's financial statements as the Society is not the legal owner or beneficiary of the Fund.

5. Investments

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Managed portfolio at Scotia McLeod | | |
| Fixed income investments | \$ 319,283 | \$ 298,066 |
| Canadian equity investments | 1,120,755 | 852,948 |
| U.S. equity investments | 171,034 | 161,848 |
| Cash | 63,412 | 34,201 |
| Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate | | |
| RBC, matures April 8, 2025, 4.00% interest | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| | \$ 1,682,484 | \$ 1,355,063 |

The fixed income portfolio is comprised of government and corporate bonds with stated interest rates ranging from 1.55% to 5.71% (2024 - 1.55% to 5.22%), maturing on dates ranging from July 15, 2026 to June 2, 2030 (2024 - March 4, 2025 to June 11, 2029).

The Canadian equity investments is comprised of share and trust units of 43 Canadian entities of which the single largest holding is 7,000 shares of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce with a market value of \$871,010 (2024 - share and trust units of 41 Canadian entities of which the single largest holding is 7,000 shares of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce with a market value of \$636,510). The 7,000 shares of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce are held in the Dorner Fund.

The U.S. equity investments is comprised of share and trust units of which the single largest holding is 27 shares of Alphabet Inc. with a market value of USD \$8,451 (2024 - 17 shares of Microsoft Corp. with a market value of USD \$7,166).

The fixed income and equity investments have been recorded at market values based on pricing information provided by Scotia McLeod.

**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

6. Capital assets

| | 2025 Cost | 2025 Accumulated amortization | 2025 Net | 2024 Net |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Tangible assets | | | | |
| Computer hardware | \$ 10,582 | \$ 10,582 | \$ - | \$ 951 |
| Office furniture | 3,466 | 2,772 | 694 | 1,039 |
| Intangible assets | | | | |
| Software | 67,648 | 60,774 | 6,874 | 32,013 |
| Website development | 8,716 | 7,263 | 1,453 | 4,358 |
| | <u>\$ 90,412</u> | <u>\$ 81,391</u> | <u>\$ 9,021</u> | <u>\$ 38,361</u> |

7. Collections

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dorner Telescope Museum | \$ 66,493 | \$ 65,786 |
| Library | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>\$ 66,494</u> | <u>\$ 65,787</u> |

During the year the Society spent \$707 (2024 - \$6,629) on additions to the Dorner Telescope Museum.

8. Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue represents funds received in the current year that relate to a subsequent period. The changes in deferred revenue are as follows:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Membership fees | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 144,951 | \$ 136,168 |
| Add: Amounts received in the year | 307,095 | 324,224 |
| Less: Amounts recognized as revenue in the year | (302,188) | (315,441) |
| | <u>\$ 149,858</u> | <u>\$ 144,951</u> |
| Journal subscriptions | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 21,821 | \$ 17,391 |
| Add: Amounts received in the year | 72,849 | 48,922 |
| Less: Amounts recognized as revenue in the year | (52,255) | (44,492) |
| | <u>\$ 42,415</u> | <u>\$ 21,821</u> |

**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

9. Dorner Fund

In 2023, the Society received a bequest of 7,000 common shares of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, with a value of \$446,600, to be invested and held in a restricted perpetual fund, the income of which shall be used solely for the purpose of supporting the activities of the Dorner Telescope Museum, as determined by the director of that museum.

The deferred contributions balance represents investment income earned in the fund which has not been allocated against museum-related expenditures.

10. Unamortized life membership fees

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|----------|----------|
| Life membership fees, beginning of year | \$ 2,651 | \$ 5,301 |
| Deduct: amortization to income | (2,651) | (2,650) |
| Balance, end of year | \$ - | \$ 2,651 |

11. Commitments

The Society is committed to leases for office space and the Dorner Telescope Museum, which expire in December 2031. The approximate future annual payments, excluding HST, are as follows:

| | | |
|------|----|---------|
| 2026 | \$ | 63,504 |
| 2027 | | 65,448 |
| 2028 | | 67,392 |
| 2029 | | 69,336 |
| 2030 | | 71,280 |
| 2031 | | 73,224 |
| | \$ | 410,184 |

12. Internally restricted net assets

The Society has internally restricted certain funds. The Dorner Telescope Museum Fund was established in 2021 for the purpose of assisting with the costs of maintenance of the Museum (note 7). The Ruth Northcott Education Fund was established in 1969 and funds are used for a variety of specified purposes related to public education and outreach. The RASC Legacy Fund was established in 1990 for the purpose of providing for the long-term growth of the Society.

An amount equal to the investment income for the year is transferred to the Northcott and Legacy funds annually on a proportionate basis. All transfers from these funds must be approved by the Board of Directors.

**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

12. Internally restricted net assets, continued

| | Dorner Telescope Museum Fund | Ruth Northcott Education Fund | RASC Legacy Fund | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Opening balance | \$ 23,235 | \$ 280,345 | \$ 372,025 | \$ 675,605 | \$ 634,464 |
| Transferred from (to) unrestricted net assets: | | | | | |
| Investment income | - | 3,770 | 5,002 | 8,772 | 42,682 |
| Expenses | - | - | - | - | (1,541) |
| Transfers | (23,235) | (3,770) | (5,002) | (32,007) | - |
| Balance, end of year | \$ - | \$ 280,345 | \$ 372,025 | \$ 652,370 | \$ 675,605 |

13. Donations and grants

No bequests were donated, and no grants were received in 2025 or 2024.

14. Cost allocations

Personnel, fundraising and computer and IT costs were allocated as follows:

| | Personnel | Fundraising | 2025 Computer and IT | Personnel | Fundraising | 2024 Computer and IT |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| National operations | \$ 124,686 | \$ 968 | \$ 2,932 | \$ 54,419 | \$ 692 | \$ 2,753 |
| Members services | 78,548 | 121 | 5,866 | 117,936 | 86 | 5,505 |
| Centre support and public outreach | 27,783 | 121 | 2,932 | 63,002 | 86 | 2,753 |
| Light pollution prevention | 13,143 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | \$ 244,160 | \$ 1,210 | \$ 11,730 | \$ 235,357 | \$ 864 | \$ 11,011 |

15. Related party transactions

During the year, the Society received approximately \$43,000 (2024 - \$17,000) of donations in the normal course of operations from parties related by virtue of the fact that they are members of the Society's board.

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and have been valued in these financial statements at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA / LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2025

16. Financial instruments

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Society's risk exposure and concentrations.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a transaction will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. The Society is mainly exposed to credit risk through its accounts receivable. The Society reduces its exposure to credit risk by performing credit valuations and creating an allowance for bad debts when applicable. The Society maintains strict credit policies and limits in respect to counterparties.

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will not be able to meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due. The Society is mainly exposed to liquidity risk through its accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and meets its liquidity requirements by ensuring adequate cash is maintained and investments are available to be converted to cash if and when required.

(c) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, whether the factors are specific to the instrument or all instruments traded in the market. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

(d) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Society has cash, investments and accounts receivable denominated in United States dollars totaling USD \$303,782 at December 31, 2025 (2024 - USD \$145,039).

(e) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Society is subject to interest rate risk to the extent of its fixed income investments and cash on deposit with financial institutions that earn interest at market rates. The Society manages its exposure to the interest rate risk of its cash by maximizing the interest income earned on excess funds while maintaining the liquidity necessary to conduct operations on a day-to-day basis. Fluctuations in market rates of interest on cash do not have a significant impact on the Society's results of operations.

The primary objective of the Society with respect to its fixed income investments is to ensure the security of principal amounts invested, provide for a high degree of liquidity, and achieve a satisfactory investment return.

**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA /
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA**

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

16. Financial instruments, continued

(f) Other price risk

Other price risk refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from currency risk or interest rate risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all similar instruments in the market.

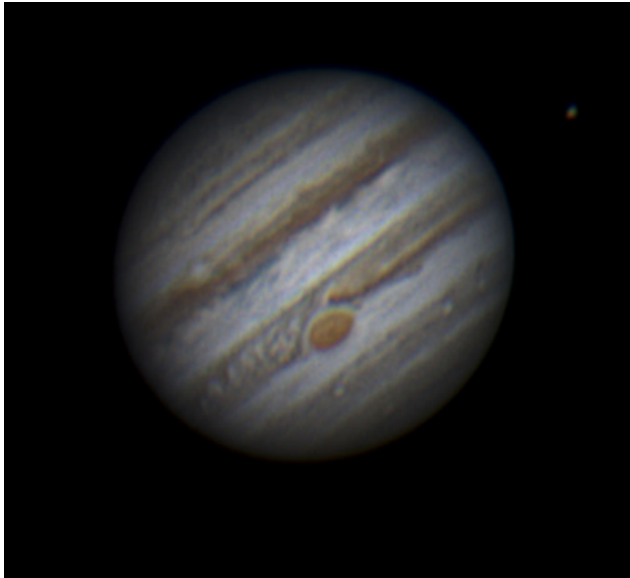
The Society is exposed to other price risk because of its fixed income and equity investments.

17. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

Reports of Permanent Committees

ASTRO-IMAGING COMMITTEE REPORT



2025 Images: Kevin Kell – Solar System Application image “Jupiter Stacked”

Terms of Reference:

The RASC Astro-imaging Committee continues to evolve and expand its reach across Canada, fostering collaboration and sharing expertise among astroimagers of all levels. Building on the strong foundation and momentum from 2024 and prior years, our nationwide focus remains on advancing the art and science of astroimaging while providing mentorship, education, and support to newcomers and enthusiasts at every stage.

Host winning portfolios at:

<https://rascastroimaging.zenfolio.com/imagegalleries>.

Membership

Our committee comprises dedicated members committed to nationwide coverage:

Western Canada:

Kimberly Sibbald (Chair) & Luca Vanzella

Central Canada: Andrea Girones

Eastern Canada: Fiona Morris & Jason Dain

This diverse team continues to lead efforts in promoting astroimaging through RASC electronic media, social media engagement, local club presentations, and online platforms

2025 Objectives/Projects and Results/Activities:

In 2025, the committee built further on the mentorship-driven approach established in recent

years. We continued to prioritize not only technical skills but also community support, knowledge sharing, and accessibility. Key highlights from the past year include:

Mentorship and Education: Ongoing provision of constructive feedback on submitted works, promotion of learning resources, and encouragement of skill development through critiques and guidance.

Outreach: Active engagement via social media, RASC centre meetings, online forums, and the Zenfolio gallery to showcase member achievements and inspire participation.

Community Building: Strengthened efforts to connect experienced imagers with beginners, supporting a more inclusive environment for all levels of astroimagers across Canada.

2025 Metrics

Deep Sky: 3 certificates awarded to: Chris Church, Peter Boytang, Sean Perdue

Solar System: 2 certificates awarded to: Kevin Kell, Sean Perdue

Wide-Field: 1 certificate awarded to: Sean Perdue

*Congratulations to Sean Perdue for achieving all 3 certificates!

2025 Challenges

The committee encountered familiar but persistent challenges in 2025:

Lack of Awareness and Education: Many potential astroimagers remain unaware of the certificate program and the joys of the hobby. Continued expansion of outreach—via workshops, tutorials, social media campaigns, and events—is crucial.



2025 Images: Sean Perdue – Wide Field Application image “Starlink Train”

Time and Commitment: The steep learning curve and time demands of astroimaging can deter newcomers. Bolstering mentorship programs and peer support networks helps address this.

Cost of Equipment: Equipment expenses remain a significant barrier. Promoting affordable entry-level setups, rental options, and second-hand resources continues to be a focus for greater accessibility.

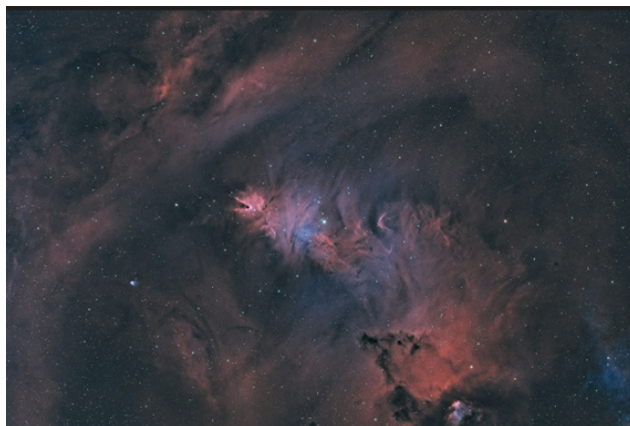
2026 Plans/Focus

Looking ahead to 2026, the committee will prioritize these initiatives:

Enhanced Knowledge Exchange: Further facilitate technique sharing, webinars, and resource libraries for seasoned and emerging astroimagers.

Structured Mentorship Programs: Expand mentorship circles and pairing systems to connect members with aligned interests, goals, and regional proximity.

Accessibility Improvements: Continue advocating for low-cost entry points, equipment sharing/



2025 Images: Chris Church – Deep Space Application image “NGC 2264 Cone Dark Nebula”

rental programs through centres, and beginner friendly guides to reduce financial hurdles.

By advancing these priorities, the committee aims to foster an even more vibrant, supportive, and inclusive astroimaging community within the RASC, encouraging more members to pursue and achieve certificates while pushing the boundaries of Canadian astronomical imaging.

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

| | Recipient | Nominating Centre | Nominated by | Date Received | Citation Received |
|-----|---|---------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Malcolm Park Service Award | Kingston | Kim Hall Roger Hill | Dec 10 | Yes |
| 2. | Rylan Wakeman Young Astronomer Award | Niagara Falls | Robert Lewes Jeanette Bax | Dec 15 | Yes |
| 3. | Jeff Booth Service Award | Toronto Hamilton | Ed Mizzi Arnold Brody | | Yes |
| 4. | Matteo Statti Young Astronomer Award | Hamilton Missis- sauga | Jane Tumbin Kirby Alguire | Dec 5 Dec 30 | Yes |
| 5. | Judy Black Service Award | Halifax | Tony McGrath Mary Lou Whitehorn | Nov 11 | Yes |
| 6. | Richard Corbet Service Award | Sunshine Coast | Charles Ennis Richard Bolt | Dec 4 | Yes |
| 7. | Judy Anderson Service Award | Winnipeg | Scott Young Tracy Knolwes | Jan 5 | Yes |
| 8. | Northern Star Documnetary Team- Nick Versteeg Bob McDonald Chris Gainor Aizick Grimman Quilak Award | Victoria | Victoria Centre Council The Friends of the Dominion Astro- physical Observa- tory | Dec 31 | Yes |
| 9. | Glen Harris Service Award | Prince George | Malhar Kendukar Gil Self | Jan 26 | Yes |
| 10. | Dennis Lyons President’s Award | Winnipeg | Brendon Roy President | | Yes |

**Malcolm Park – Kingston Centre
Service Award
Member: 12 years**

No stranger to the Astro-Photography world, with an image on the back cover of the 2026 Observers Handbook of M16 also images in the Nicole Mortillaro's book Night Sky Almanac, to his own website where he sells his images, has multiple postings to Instagram, Facebook and many more platforms

With a remote telescope hosted in San Pedro de Atacama Chile he images the Southern wonders and studies the sky for Asteroids with ID number X15. Not forgetting the Northern skies, he images an also chases Aurora's and weather storms

A member of the RASC since 2014 but with being with Kingston since April 2020, he has always stepped up and helped out where he could.

Always spearheading projects with presentations and connections. Reaching out to Peter Cerevolo to assist in discussions on a mirror project for the RASC Kingston Centre, to creating an Astro-photography 101 class via ZOOM that helps others who are interested in doing Astro-photography. There have been over thirteen sessions, and special guest speakers, Kerry-Ann Lecky Hepburn and Ben Law. It has been a very well presented program with so much information and teachings.

He was the Vice President from 2022-2024 and when asked to become the President he agreed, and is still the President of the Kingston Centre. He was one of the key people to help steer the Board through the administration process of the By-laws and ONCA government paperwork, not an easy job.

The latest project has been to help spearhead and bring together a donation of the 25" Obsession Attila Danko telescope for outreach work, in connection with the Lennox and Addington Dark Sky Preserve. Plans are underway for minor fixes and the County of Lennox & Addington will be building a storage facility for the Telescope of use in the spring of 2026.

He was also past President and VP of the NYAA, and is a primary person in helping to organize Canada's largest Star Party- Starfest.

Nominated by:
Kim Hay - Kingston Centre
Roger Hill - Kingston Centre

**Rylan Wakeman – Niagara Falls Centre
Young Astronomer Award**

Rylan and his family have been members since 2018. At the beginners meetings (held immediately before the Centre regular meetings) Rylan was

always an enthusiastic participant. When questions were asked to the group, you could count on Rylan to have the correct answer. Our Beginners group leader stepped down in the summer of 2024 and Rylan volunteered to take over, doing a great job. He purchased a Seestar50 smart telescope and now is an astrophotographer as well, sharing his photos and experiences in our centre newsletter.

Rylan started his studies in September of this year at the University of Waterloo in the department of Physics and Astronomy.

Our Centre Executive feels he is most deserving of this award !

Nominated by:
Robert Lewis – Niagara Centre
Jeanette Bax – Niagara Centre

**Jeff Booth – Toronto Centre, Hamilton Centre (Associate Member)
Service Award
Member: 11 years**

Jeff Booth is the epitome of a RASC member and what the RASC stands for. I (Ed Mizzi) have known Jeff for several years, but I also know that he was active for decades before we met.

To preface, I will tell you that I have never witnessed Jeff turn down a request for help, whether it be for an individual member (or member of the public), an organization, his Centres, the CAO and the RASC in general. Below is a summary of some of Jeff's many attributes, gifts, talents, etc.

1. Sidewalk Astronomy: Jeff has always made himself available to the public, in many locations. Not only does he offer a plethora of knowledge about the night sky, he gets excited when he is able to share naked eye, binocular and telescope views of celestial objects.
2. Guest speaking: I have heard Jeff speak on several occasions, about a variety of astronomy related topics, from astrophotography to current events to space phenomena, such as the Aurora Borealis. He knows how to capture an audience's attention and interest.
3. Slide presentations/workshops: Jeff knows how to create excellent slideshows that complement his talks and provide pictures that help the audience understand the topic. When he is involved in workshop sessions, he leads by example and, as a good teacher, he allows the student to experiment and learn through trial and error, all the while being available as a guiding hand.
4. Observatory outings: I know that Jeff has been involved with the Toronto Centre's CAO in the Blue Mountains, in many capacities. He thinks nothing

of spending days on site helping with maintenance, construction and being an ambassador to visitors.

He has also assisted with the Hamilton Centre's Observatory where we have regular outings.

5. Monthly meetings: I cannot speak for the Toronto Centre but Jeff attends my Hamilton Centre's monthly meetings, always wanting to learn more from fellow members and guest speakers. And always willing to help members with questions about the cosmos or telescopes.

6. Helping others buy a first telescope: Jeff and I have actually worked together at times, helping people search for their first telescope or one for a child. Whenever I need an opinion or advice for a member or member of the public, Jeff is my go-to person. He has owned and/or used many different telescopes so he can advise based on decades of experience.

7. Helping others buy an imaging rig: Jeff is an excellent astrophotographer. Not only has he produced eye-candy type images, he has helped others get into the hobby by making himself available and helping suggest equipment. I have personally been the recipient of Jeff's expertise. He helped me construct my backyard observatory, set up my equipment and teach me how to use capturing and processing software. And he is the ultimate troubleshooter.

8. Outreach to schools, clubs, libraries, Girl Guides & Boy Scouts, etc. I doubt that there is a type of group that Jeff has not spoken with. He makes his talks and visits age appropriate and I'm sure he has hardly ever turned down a request.

9. I have also witnessed Jeff's passion for astronomy and for unselfishly sharing with others.

I have observed comets, eclipses and other events alongside Jeff, sometimes at the most ungodly hours of the night. If there are others around, he turns our sessions into teaching moments, sharing his encyclopedic knowledge with those around us.

To conclude: Through the RASC, I have met many, many amateur astronomers and I have yet to meet one who was not generous with their expertise and time. Jeff epitomizes that generosity but adds a passion that is difficult to describe. He has often quipped to me, saying..., Ed, it's not so much about the end result, it's about the journey. He lives that mantra, but takes so many others along with him in his journey. NB The Seconder, Arnold Brody, has agreed with the above.

Nominated by:

Ed Mizzi – Hamilton Centre

Arnold Brody - Toronto Centre

Matteo Statti – Hamilton Centre, Mississauga Centre (Associate Member)

Matteo Statti Young Astronomer Award

It is with great enthusiasm that we nominate Matteo Statti for the prestigious The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Young Astronomer Award for 2025. Matteo is a 4th-year Astronomy and Astrophysics student at York University with a passion for telescopes and plans to pursue a PhD in astronomical instrumentation. Matteo's dedication to the field of astronomy, coupled with his exceptional contributions to public outreach and research, make him a standout candidate for this honour.

Matteo has been an active and invaluable member of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Hamilton Centre for multiple years. His passion for sharing the wonders of the universe has shone brightly through his involvement in numerous outreach events, where he has inspired countless individuals of all ages to look up and explore the cosmos through his antique telescope. Additionally, Matteo has delivered engaging and insightful presentations at the Hamilton Centre's monthly club nights, showcasing his ability to communicate complex astronomical concepts with clarity and enthusiasm.

Beyond his work with the Hamilton Centre, Matteo has extended his contributions to the Toronto and Mississauga RASC Centres where he is a regular attendee of MRASC meetings and observing sessions and a frequent supporter of MRASC public outreach observing at Riverwood Conservation in Mississauga. These activities further demonstrate his commitment to fostering a vibrant astronomical community.

Matteo is also a member of the RASC National History Committee and, since 2022, has worked as a curatorial assistant at RASC National for the future Dorner Telescope Museum. Matteo collects, restores and builds telescopes. His personal telescope collection includes over 20 antique, vintage and modern telescopes. He has built a 6" 3D printed reflector telescope and is currently building a 16" Dobsonian telescope that he plans to enter at Stellafane in 2026.

His involvement with both the David Dunlap Observatory (accepted into the 2025 Dunlap Institute Summer School for Radio Astronomy) and the Alan I. Carswell Observatory has further solidified his reputation as a dedicated and skilled young astronomer, actively contributing to the advancement of public education and research in astronomy.

Matteo's academic and research pursuits are equally impressive. For the past 4 years, Matteo has worked as an astrophysics researcher studying eclipsing binary stars for Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, quasar research for York University.

In 2023, he attended the Antique Telescope Convention in Italy, where he deepened his appreciation for the history and evolution of astronomical instrumentation. Most recently, Matteo travelled to Sejong University in Seoul, South Korea, to further his research on quasars, showcasing his drive to expand his knowledge and contribute to cutting-edge astrophysical studies on an international scale.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Matteo was recently awarded the RASC Hamilton Student Astronomer of the Year award for 2025, a testament to his dedication, hard work, and impact within the astronomical community.

Matteo Statti exemplifies the qualities of a young astronomer who is not only passionate about the science of the universe but also deeply committed to sharing that passion with others. His contributions to research, education, and outreach make him a deserving candidate for the Young Astronomer Award for 2025. I am confident that Matteo will continue to make significant contributions to the field of astronomy and inspire future generations of stargazers and scientists alike.

Nominated by:

Jane Tumbin, Victor Abraham – Hamilton Centre
 Kirby Alguire, Allan Connery – Mississauga Centre

**Judy Black – Halifax Centre
 Service Award
 Member: 13 years**

It is with great pleasure that we nominate Judy Black for a Service Award in recognition of her exceptional and sustained contributions to Halifax Centre and to the Society as a whole.

Judy has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership, organization, and dedication. She has served as both a driving and unifying force within the Centre, playing a pivotal role in the planning and execution of events and ensuring that every activity is conducted with efficiency and professionalism.

Judy’s contributions to the Halifax Centre’s administrative framework have been particularly significant. She has worked tirelessly to develop and maintain comprehensive records, as well as clear documentation of processes and procedures. Because of her efforts, the Centre’s policies are current, accessible, and invaluable to the Board of Directors. Her diligence has established a foundation of continuity, transparency, and accountability that benefits the RASC Halifax Centre today and will continue to do so well into the future.

Judy has served the Halifax Centre in several key leadership roles, including:

- President (2020–2022)

- National Council Representative 2021-2025
- Secretary (2024–present)

In every capacity, Judy has exemplified collegiality and integrity. She fosters an atmosphere of cooperation and goodwill, and she consistently leads by example. If something needs doing, Judy is always among the first to volunteer—whether leading an initiative or supporting others. When she says, “I’ll look after that,” everyone knows the task will be completed promptly and to a high standard.

As National Council Representative, Judy has strengthened the connection between Halifax Centre and the broader Society. Through her thoughtful engagement and clear communication, she has helped not only Halifax Centre but all Centres participate more effectively in consultation with the National Council and ultimately the National Board of Directors.

Judy’s approach to leadership is forward-looking and constructive. She does not dwell on past challenges but instead focuses on opportunities for growth and collaboration. Her inclusive leadership style and ability to build strong teams have been major contributors to the ongoing success of RASC Halifax Centre.

For her exceptional service, commitment to excellence, and lasting impact on the operations and spirit of RASC Halifax Centre, we are proud to nominate Judy Black for a RASC Service Award. Her dedication and professionalism exemplify the highest standards of volunteer service within the Society.

Nominated by:

Tony McGrath – Halifax Centre
 Mary Lou Whitehorn – Halifax Centre

**Richard Corbet – Sunshine Coast Centre
 Service Award
 Member: 35 years**

Since joining our Centre, Richard Corbet has been a valuable and active volunteer, generously contributing his time, extensive knowledge, experience, and analytical skills, likely rooted in his engineering background, in a variety of ways. The following are examples of Richard’s contribution to facilitate outreach, promote membership and raise funds.

Since 2018, he has written a monthly astronomy article for the local Sunshine Coast’s Coast Reporter newspaper, the primary media outlet for our 30,000-person community. Club members often hear friends referring to the Coast Reporter articles in conversations, indicating that Richard’s articles have raised the profile of the club, astronomy and related issues. Richard’s articles have become a

key medium for outreach and awareness-building for the Club. Importantly, Richard is the “go-to” person for youth-oriented outreach events, as he communicates effortlessly with young people. This has been a contributing factor to the number of both youth and adults who visit the Observatory for night sky viewing.

Richard regularly volunteers at our outreach events, and people come forward asking to see “the guy that writes those astronomy articles”. One often finds him surrounded by visitors at observing sessions as he answers questions and entertains them with astronomical knowledge. Physical disabilities don’t hold him back.

Since 2020, Richard has presented a “Skies This Month” PowerPoint at our monthly meetings, complete with Stellarium simulations, photos, and easy-to-understand scientific information. These presentations are recorded, edited, and posted to our Center’s YouTube channel. Many club members find this information useful for planning their observing focus for the time periods covered by Richard. On occasion, Richard has included some fascinating explanations of atmospheric conditions and how these affect observing as well as his own calculations of terrestrial body movements, which exemplify his knowledge and skills in astronomy.

Richard is the “go to” for youth-oriented outreach events since he communicates so effortlessly with young people. Physical disabilities don’t hold him back. One usually finds him surrounded by visitors at observing sessions as he answers questions and entertains them with astronomical knowledge. I know from his stories that he’s been doing this work for other RASC Centres that he hung out with before our Sunshine Coast Centre was founded in April 2008. Richard is currently serving as a Director-at-Large on our Centres Executive. I know from his stories that he has been doing this voluntary work for other RASC Centres that he was involved with before our Sunshine Coast Centre was founded in April 2008.

We believe that it is time that Richard’s hard work and significant contributions to the Sunshine Coast and beyond, in effective awareness building of astronomy on a voluntary basis be recognized, and we wish to nominate him for the RASC’s Service Award.

Nominated by:
Charles A. Ennis, Sunshine Coast Centre
Richard Bolt, Sunshine Coast Centre

**Judy Anderson – Winnipeg Centre
Service Award
Member: 11 years**

We would like to nominate Judy Anderson of the Winnipeg Centre for the Society’s Service Award. Judy has been a stalwart member of the Winnipeg Centre for decades, and in recent years has been one of the Centre’s most dedicated volunteers. She is currently in her third consecutive term as Vice-President, during which she worked on writing and revising the Centre’s new Bylaws as head of the Centre’s Bylaw Committee. Judy has served in nearly every Centre Council position over her RASC career, often for multiple terms, and edited the Centre’s newsletter “Winnicentrics” when it was still printed on a Gestetner machine and mailed out.

For nearly a decade she has booked the featured speakers and local segments for the Winnipeg Centre’s meetings, the quality of which attract RASC members from across the country via the Centre’s live-streamed meetings. She has held the Centre together through many lean times in terms of volunteerism through her example and her sheer determination. She cares deeply about the Winnipeg Centre and deserves the Society’s highest recognition for her efforts to keep the Winnipeg Centre a vibrant community of amateur astronomers.

Nominated by:
Scott Young, Winnipeg Centre
Tracy Knowles, Winnipeg Centre

**The Northern Star Documentary Team-
Nick Versteeg, Bob McDonald
Chris Gainor, Aizick Grimman
Victoria Centre
Qilak Award**

The Northern Star documentary dramatizes and popularizes a crucial milestone in the history of Canadian Astronomy and the person behind it: The creation of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, and John Stanley Plaskett, the farm boy from Ontario who became successively a photographer, engineer, and Canada’s first astrophysicist. This documentary production tells how Canada moved to the front ranks of astronomy and the exploration of space. Skilful narration and cinematography brings to life the story of Canadian astronomy, supported by interviews with key science popularizers and key scientists across the country, including Canadian astronauts.

Producer/director Nick Versteeg was inspired to create this documentary when he read Peter Broughton’s 2018 biography of Plaskett. Versteeg has explored a number of topics in a career that has

spanned more than four decades, and he decided to create this documentary after discussions with Broughton and astronomers.

To make this documentary, Versteeg embarked on the difficult work that goes into such a production. This includes obtaining financial support from a variety of private and government sources. A key supporter was Vancouver Island's employee-owned television station, CHEK, which gave Versteeg and DV Productions a broadcast license for the show. He then assembled a team to make Northern Star a reality, starting with famed author and science journalist Bob McDonald, who narrated the documentary. He then brought author and space historian Chris Gainor on board to create a script, along with top cinematographer Aizick Grimman who directed filming.

Once the funding was in place, the team worked with skilled filmmakers and actors to tell the story of John Plaskett, the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory and Canadian space exploration. In June 2025, Northern Star was premiered on CHEK television in its original two-hour format, and a shorter one-hour format version has also been created. Talks are going on to show this documentary on television networks around Canada.

Few Canadians know the story of astronomy and astrophysics in Canada, and our leading role the exploration of space with telescopes on the ground and in space. Northern Star tells this story in an impressive and accessible form.

The Victoria Centre of the RASC, as approved by the current Council, and the Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory are proud to nominate the Northern Star documentary team for the 2026 Qilak Award.

The Northern Star documentary team are worthy awardees for the Qilak Award, as popularizing both key events in the history of Canadian Astronomy and their long-term impact.

Nominated by:

The Victoria Centre of the RASC, as approved by the current Council, and the Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory are proud to nominate the Northern Star documentary team for the 2026 Qilak Award

Glen Harris – Prince George Centre Service Award

Member: since 2001

On behalf of the Prince George Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, we are pleased to nominate Glen Harris for the RASC Service Award in recognition of his outstanding and long-standing service to the Centre and the broader astronomical

community.

Glen has been an active and dedicated member of the Prince George Centre since July 25, 2001, contributing more than two decades of sustained volunteer service. Throughout this time, he has played a vital role in nearly every aspect of the Centre's operations, offering both technical expertise and steadfast leadership.

One of Glen's most significant contributions has been his work in building and grounds maintenance, ensuring that the Prince George Observatory remains safe, functional, and welcoming for members and the public alike. In addition, Glen had taken responsibility for managing all electronics associated with the Centre's 24-inch telescope, a complex and critical role that requires advanced technical knowledge and commitment.

Glen had also served the Centre with distinction in executive leadership roles, acting as Treasurer and Secretary for the past ten years. In these positions, he provided stability, sound governance, and dependable administrative support, enabling the Centre to operate efficiently and focus on its mission.

Beyond infrastructure and governance, Glen had been deeply involved in public outreach and education. He has regularly supported open house events and observatory tours, taught RASC N.O.V.A. courses, and delivered numerous presentations that have helped inspire interest in astronomy among audiences of all ages and experience levels.

Most notably, Glen had been a key contributor to the Prince George Observatory's 24-inch Robotic Telescope Project, where his technical skill, problem-solving ability, and dedication have been instrumental in advancing the project toward successful implementation.

Glen Harris's exceptional service, sustained commitment, and wide-ranging contributions exemplify the values of volunteerism, excellence, and community engagement that the RASC Service Award is intended to recognize.

Nominated by:

Malhar R. Kendurkar, Prince George Centre
Gil Self, Prince George Centre

Denis Lyons – Winnipeg Centre President's Award

I am pleased to select Denis Lyons, member of the Board of Directors and of the Winnipeg Centre, as the recipient of this year's President's Award.

Denis is being recognized for his leadership in overseeing the development of the Green Laser Pointer Program, as well as for his work with Transport Canada and Parks Canada in creating

a new and innovative initiative. This program is designed to certify National Parks staff in the proper use of green laser pointers and in compliance with applicable regulations.

Through this work, Denis has helped establish a program that directly supports the Society’s stated mandate and values. It also breaks new ground by demonstrating how the Society can generate revenue from non-traditional sources, while challenging the long-standing cultural reluctance to seek compensation for services that provide clear and tangible value.

DORNER TELESCOPE MUSEUM

Work continued on producing more artifact labels, and interpretive panels, along with maintenance of a few of the older panels. This was all fairly routine.

Earlier in the year the Director, with Mississauga Centre member Matteo Statti, cleaned the objective of the 4.5-inch Brashear “Bracebridge” refractor (DTM 8.20190807), and that of the William Banks (Bolton, Lancs) refractor (DTM 119.20250623, also a new acquisition this year). There were some hair-raising moments during the procedures, but the “technicians” benefitted from the generous assistance over Zoom of Bart Fried, a world expert on Brashear’s optics, and one of the Museum’s advisors. The difference in the before and after appearance of the objectives is striking. The procedure also involved replacing the missing spacers for the Brashear objective’s lens elements—using an antique 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition stamp, which John Brashear recommended for the purpose!

There was a (so far) record number of working visits (winter, spring, and fall) by a crew composed of ATM experts, historians of astronomy, and supporters of the DTM to work on the collection, including variously Alan Ward (of MoonWard Vacuum Coatings), Eldon Phillips, Steve (“Stargazer Steve”) and Patrick Dodson, Bryan Delodder (of Ten Telescopes), Matteo and Frank Statti, Clark Muir, and Dr. Patricia Raby. Particularly notable were the successful perfecting of the display for the 20-inch “Vatican” mirror (DTM 71.20230408), designed by “Stargazer Steve”, and the provision of very handsome and practical dollies for many of the harder-to-move artifacts, such as the 4-inch Polarex refractor (DTM 53.20220506), and the Rogers’ “Banting” telescope (DTM 21.20200601). These were also designed and built by “Stargazer Steve”. The make a world of difference in handling the displays.

Thanks to the generosity of Terry Gallie, a connoisseur of antique telescopes, we were able to fill one of our desiderata, by adding a telescope made by the Rev’d Dr. Daniel Brand

In recognition of this significant achievement, I find that Denis Lyons is most deserving of this award, acknowledging his major contribution to The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Nominated by:
Brendon Roy, President
RASC

- by Michael Watson and Randy Attwood

Marsh (1858–1933). Marsh is said to have been largely responsible for the founding of three RASC Centres—Peterborough, Guelph, and Hamilton. Besides being a noted eclipse chaser, and early Canadian astrophotographer, he was also well-known in his day for manufacturing refractors (with his son) for commercial sale (usually with 3- to 5-inch objectives). The optics of these were considered outstanding, being manufactured either by Brashear, or Watson-Conrady of London (the same Conrady after whom the “Conrady criterion” for critical achromatic performance is named). The example which has entered the Museum has a 3-inch Watson-Conrady objective, and is complete with work continued on producing more artifact labels, and interpretive panels, along with maintenance of a few of the older panels. This was all fairly routine.



The Marsh Telescope

Earlier in the year the Director, with Mississauga Centre member Matteo Statti, cleaned the objective of the 4.5-inch Brashear “Bracebridge” refractor (DTM 8.20190807), and that of the William Banks (Bolton, Lancs) refractor (DTM 119.20250623, also a new acquisition this year). There were some hair-raising moments during the procedures, but the “technicians” benefitted from the generous assistance over Zoom of Bart Fried, a world expert on Brashear’s optics, and one of the Museum’s advisors. The difference in the before and after appearance of the objectives is striking. The procedure also involved replacing the missing spacers for the Brashear objective’s lens elements—using an antique 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition stamp, which John Brashear recommended for the purpose!

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Particularly notable were the successful perfecting of the display for the 20-inch “Vatican” mirror (DTM 71.20230408), designed by “Stargazer Steve”, and the provision of very handsome and practical dollies for many of the harder-to-move artifacts, such as the 4-inch Polarex refractor (DTM 53.20220506), and the Rogers’ “Banting” telescope (DTM 21.20200601). These were also designed and built by “Stargazer Steve”. The make a world of difference in handling the displays. Thanks to the generosity of Terry Gallie, a connoisseur of antique telescopes, we were able to fill one of our desiderata, by adding a telescope made by the Rev’d Dr. Daniel Brand Marsh (1858–1933). Marsh is said to have been largely responsible for the founding of three RASC Centres—Peterborough, Guelph, and Hamilton. Besides being a noted eclipse chaser, and early Canadian astrophotographer, he was also well-known in his day for manufacturing refractors (with his son) for commercial sale (usually with 3- to 5-inch objectives).

The optics of these were considered outstanding, being manufactured either by Brashear, or Watson-Conrady of London (the same Conrady after whom the “Conrady criterion” for critical achromatic performance is named). The example which has entered the Museum has a 3-inch Watson-Conrady objective, and is complete with its complement of eyepieces, mount, tripod, and fitted wooden case. It also possess some unique features for a Marsh telescope. This instrument was beautifully restored to full usability by Terry Gallie.

Among the acquisitions for 2025 are also the following:

DTM 111.20250124, 7x28 (nominal “30-mm.”) Unitron finder, Japan, ca. 1970. Anonymous donation

DTM 112.20250124, 7(?)x30 Edmund Scientific finder, Barrington NJ, ca. early 1960s. Anonymous donation

DTM 113.20250124, 8(?)x48 (nominal “50-mm.”) refractor with friction-fit focuser (push-pull), unmarked, North-American or Western-European, 1st half of the 20th century. Gift of the estate of Professor Ruth J. Northcott

DTM 114.20250131a-b, two Goodwin Barlow lenses, Frank Goodwin, Chicago, ca. 1950s. Anonymous donation

DTM 115.20250131, Jaeger 16-mm wide-angle eyepiece, A. Jaegers, Lynbrook NY, ca. 1960s. Anonymous donation

DTM 116.20250304, Canadian 1\$ coin (“loonie”) with the theme of Peacekeeping, obverse Queen Elizabeth II, reverse three members of the Canadian armed forces deployed as UN peacekeepers on assignment in Cyprus, 1995. The standing figure is shown with an ELCAN 7x50 binocular, identical to DTM 5.20190516. Gift of R.A. Rosenfeld

DTM 117.20250320a-d, four postcards from the later 1930s with photographs by L.B. Jackes, Toronto, of: 1) the exterior of the David Dunlap Observatory enclosure for the 74-inch reflector and administrative building; 2) the interior of the library in the administrative building; 3) the 74-inch reflector in its dome; & 4), a close-up of the spectrograph. Gift of R.A. Rosenfeld.

DTM 118.20250623, Galilean negative (plano-concave) eyepiece, by R.A. Rosenfeld, Toronto, 2025 June 23. This was made for DTM 84.20230706, a reproduction of one of Galileo’s telescopes in Florence, which arrived in the collection without its eyepiece. Gift of R.A. Rosenfeld

DTM 119.20250623, William Banks (w. banks & co. ltd opticians england) 70-mm achromat OTA & mount, Bolton (Lancs at the time, now Greater Manchester), ca. 1870s-1911. Gift of the RASC Toronto Centre

DTM 120.20250623, J.A. Brashear & Co., 9(?)mm eyepiece, Allegheny PA, ca. 1880-1905. Gift of the RASC Toronto Centre

DTM 121.20250623, J.A. Brashear & Co., 16(?)mm eyepiece, Allegheny PA, ca. 1880-1905. Gift of the RASC Toronto Centre

DTM 122.20251114, two borosilicate 10-inch mirror blanks, ca. 1940s-1970s. Anonymous gift

DTM 123.20251114, Foucault tester, by Jeff Collins, Kitchener-Waterloo, ca. 1970s-early 2000s. Gift of Jeff Collins

Readers may be interested to note that the DTM makes an evocatively dramatic and somewhat romanticized appearance in the opening of the final chapter of Dagomar Degroot’s *Ripples on the Cosmic Ocean: an Environmental History of Our Place in the Solar System* (Cambridge MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2025).



A reproduction of Galileo's telescope (DTM 118.20250623, DTM 84.20230706)

The Director of the DTM wishes to thank the following for their contributions towards the museum, in the form of valued advice, donations, and volunteer labour. Their efforts are much appreciated:

Michelle Bass, Bart Fried, John Briggs, Dr. Roger Ceragioli, Steve and Patrick Dodson, Jenna Hinds, Clark Muir, Peter Pekurar, Eldon Phillips, Dr. Patricia Raby, Dr. Sara J. Schechner, faas Matteo, Frank, and Kitsa Statti, Dr. Michael Szpir, Alan Ward

Particular thanks (yet again!) is owed to members of the Sudbury and the K-W Centres—two RASC nodes distinguished by the skilled telescope makers amongst their membership.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair:

Karim Jaffer Montreal

Members:

Victor Abraham Hamilton

David Hoskin Halifax

Ron Macnaughton Toronto

Lauri Roche Victoria

Jo Ann Salci National

stepping away from EPO in 2026

Joelle Saskatoon

Sheard-Patrick

Kirsten Vanstone Toronto

Christa Van Laerhoven Yukon (rep: CASCA & IAU-NAEC)

Board Liaison:

Betty Robinson

National Office:

Jenna Hinds

Terms of Reference:

The Education and Outreach Committee's purpose is to oversee, in accordance with the policies determined by the National Board of the RASC, the activities of the Society in the field of education for RASC members, Centres, and the public. The committee recommends and develops tools, materials and events for Centres to promote knowledge and understanding of astronomy in general and Canadian astronomy in particular.

We are accountable to and report to the National Board of the RASC.

Meetings in 2025

- Sunday, January 12
- Sunday, April 13
- Saturday, December 6
- + subcommittee meetings

2025 GOALS AND PROJECTS

Outreach Materials:

After a temporary suspension on all budgetary costs and planned activities, in 2025 the EPO Committee worked with the National Office to provide Star Finders and Moon Gazer Guides to Centres for the 2025 observing season. The National Office facilitated the ordering and shipping of existing printed stock, with a process for bulk printing when needed. The EPO Committee also looked into Star Finders for RASC members living in northern Canadian latitudes, awaiting evaluation by the Yukon Centre.

Canadian Space Conference 2025:

RASC EPO had a booth during the networking and poster session at this year's Canadian Space Conference, hosted by SEDS Canada – the Students for the Exploration & Development of Space (SEDS).

In addition to sharing outreach materials with interested students, student clubs in attendance from across Canada were pointed towards the coordinates for their closest RASC Centre. The EPO Chair was invited to deliver a Citizen Science workshop during the conference which was well received. After the conference, the EPO coordinated with the RASC National Office to provide a private space on our YouTube channel to share the SEDS Canada CSC 2025 conference sessions.

General Assembly 2025:

The EPO Committee supported the General Assembly (GA) Planning Committee by offering speakers, hosts, and volunteers for the event. More details in specific sections that follow.

NOVA Course:

NOVA pilot sessions were held by the Montreal & Victoria Centres, after which coordinators and presenters were asked for feedback which was subsequently incorporated into the drafts. Some additional work needed for consistency and balance was also identified, which is to be completed before the rollout stage. The work to update images and graphics for copyright was completed by past-Chair Lauri Roche and National Borad liaison Betty Robinson, and forms for feedback were set up for the eventual rollout. Examples of two completed modules (one from the first half of the course and one from the second) were presented at the GA by the piloting Centres, allowing RASC members to see the structure of the course and provide their impressions.

The Board was asked to revisit their initial decision about the structure of the course (all 12 modules delivered together) and the Board agreed with the EPO proposed structure with a choice of 6 modules per course or all 12, continuing with an 80%–20% split between Centres and the Society but also with the suggested fee structure:

- i. For a 6-module course, \$30 per person for members of the Society, \$50 for non-members, and \$10 for youth accompanied by a paying adult
- ii. For a 12-module course, \$50 per person for members of the Society, \$75 for non-members, and \$10 for youth accompanied by a paying adult

After obtaining approval from the Board and incorporating changes identified during the pilot sessions, the NOVA program structure was presented to the National Council in Dec. Among the feedback received was an identified concern that the cost structure needed flexibility to allow Centres with higher logistics costs (room rentals, etc) to charge more (if needed) to cover those costs. The Board agreed and revised the motion to approve the program. A remaining step before rollout was identified late in 2025 – obtaining clear license to use the contributions of the team of

volunteer authors involved in the NOVA revisions.

The programming year 2025 ended with a draft version having been sent to the Board for approval or feedback – and a request for clarification when this type of licensing agreement is necessary.

Citizen Science

The EPO Committee held an online workshop and townhall discussion on Feb 23 to generate interest in Citizen Science activities and highlight initiatives across the country contributing to existing Citizen Science projects. After a walk-through of an introductory-level workflow of JunoCam image processing as a Citizen Science (CS) project for members and outreach, as well as the Globe At Night light pollution mapping project which overlaps into other areas of RASC mandates, we brought multiple RASC members to the front of the session to share their work including measuring asteroid occultations, aurora detection and monitoring and more. The Townhall meeting is archived at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_BRhTBfWKkfotXw-miU3RU8mUCsHXBbIY/view?usp=drive_link

Highlighting these initiatives continued throughout the year, most notably with an umbral crater shadow timings template shared to all Centres before the total lunar eclipse in the early spring and observations consolidated by Randy Enkin from Victoria Centre. The GA featured outcomes of the umbral shadow timings project, along with several others presented to the RASC membership for use in their own observing journeys and for outreach, some by the EPO Committee and others coordinated independently by the GA Committee.

As we approached the launch of Artemis II in early 2026, the EPO committee spent several months in late summer and fall of 2025 reaching out to the CSA to setup citizen science observing contributions from our membership but without any response. Although NASA did include two Canadian contributions to their approved radio-signal monitoring of Artemis II our EPO continued work on resources to aid any of our RASC members who wished to participate in attempting to observe this mission from Canada.

Seasonal Beginners’ Observing Activities:

An EPO subcommittee worked throughout the year to adapt a previous set of unfinished novice materials to create seasonal star-hopping outreach activities that can be used by Centres throughout the year. Several Centres have expressed interest in using these materials and providing feedback once prepared. Indigenous star stories told by an authentic voice were requested during an informal feedback session and we were able to reach out to Wilfred Buck, who obtained his publisher’s consent to allow us to use some of his published Cree star stories.

Website Review:

A subcommittee of the EPO identified which content should be shared on the updated RASC website, what should be for members and what should be for the general public. We discussed ways to archive materials that no longer have a need to be on the RASC website but may be useful in the future and discussed with the National Office.

School Astronomy Clubs:

The EPO Committee continued to support the work on resources for elementary and secondary school astronomy clubs, led by Ron Macnaughton. Almost 200 ideas across both levels have been identified and these were made available to interested student clubs and potential teacher mentors through an independent website (astroschoolclub.ca).

Stars Across Canada:

International Astronomy Day this year was celebrated on Saturday, May 3 and the RASC EPO partnered with Explore Scientific to run a National LiveStream from the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) highlighting the historical observatory and featuring drop-ins to a dozen Centres coast-to-coast-to-coast, RASC members delivering talks and multiple discussion segments. A huge thanks to our co-host Scott Roberts who flew into Toronto to run this event with Ken Marts, several of our RASC Toronto DDO team and our EPO Chair. A video of this 5+hour event is available on our RASC YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/2MIgQap7eqM>

2026 Plans/Focus:

URGENT: Under guidance from RASC Board, create License and Consent for use of contributed material for EPO Programs, to use henceforth.

- a) Outreach Materials
 - i) Facilitate orders from Centres via National Office
 - ii) Create training resource for use of Outreach Materials (longstanding NC request)
- b) Canadian Space Conference 2026
 - i) RASC participation & Citizen Science workshop
 - ii) Discussion for SEDS Canada support by RASC .. long-term
- c) General Assembly 2026
 - i) EPO will support recruitment of speakers and volunteers for the GA.
- d) Citizen Science (CS)
 - i) Create and deliver CS workshop to Canadian Space Conference
 - ii) Continue to reach out to CSA and CASCA to solicit CS projects that can be brought to RASC . membership and/or used in Outreach
 - iii) Support umbral shadow timing project for both . March & August lunar eclipses

- e) NOVA Program
 - i) URGENT: Complete list of contributors for all NOVA development work, along with their contact information, and obtain licence consent agreements from all.
 - ii) Revisions of modules for consistency and balance to be completed
 - iii) Initial information document for Centres to plan .. their NOVA sessions sent out
 - iv) Feedback forms for any required adjustments/ revisions finalized
 - v) Prepare GA sessions for NOVA ROLLOUT
 - vi) NOVA modules 13-18 development work initiated, with proper license & consent, and image/multimedia copyright requirements clear to contributors
- f) Seasonal Beginners' Observing Activities
 - i) URGENT: Contact all past and current contributors who are able to be reached for license & consent to use these activities
 - ii) Confirm copyright waiver and consent to use Cree Star Stories is sufficient for Board approval
 - iii) Complete revisions of star-hopping activities to .. all four seasonal activity setups and rollout in stages, liaising with communications to do so
 - iv) Prepare GA sessions for SBOA ROLLOUT
- g) School Astronomy Club Resources
 - i) Research & identify resources at the post-secondary level to add to existing list
 - ii) Determine if resources list will be an EPO offering, or solely a separate initiative
 - iii) If the former, create a layout for the RASC website, optimized for student clubs
 - iv) Ensure permissions/copyright for all shared resources
 - h) Identify new EPO needs and unmet support areas
 - i) Examine cooperative initiatives with other RASC Committees

Respectfully submitted,

Karim Jaffer, Chair, EPO Committee
 outreach@rasc.ca

RASC EDITORIAL BOARD

The RASC Editorial Board is responsible, in cooperation with the Board of Directors, for all aspects of the Society's publications, including their editorial personnel, financial arrangements, and marketing and sales efforts. Its membership includes the editors of RASC publications and other interested members appointed by the Board of Directors. Randall Rosenfeld and Betty Robinson left the Editorial Board in 2025, and Brendon Roy replaced Michael Watson.

The RASC Editorial Board met four times in 2025: on January 27, April 7, September 15, and November 17. At these meetings, discussions centred on succession plans for Society publications.

The Editorial Board and the RASC Board of Directors are mindful of the fact that Society publications are major benefits of membership in the RASC and also important sources of revenue for the Society. The Editorial Board is developing job descriptions for editors and assistant editors of our publications. In 2025 James Edgar was renewed for a third term of five years as editor of the *Observer's Handbook*, and new assistant editors are being sought.

Nicole Mortillaro has been editor of the *Journal of the RASC* for more than 11 years, and the Editorial Board is searching for new people to take over from her and *Journal* production manager James Edgar. Assistant editors at the *Journal* are also being reviewed.

The RASC's publications maintained their high quality in 2025, thanks to the great work of the volunteers who create them, and to the people at National Office headed by Executive Director Jenna Hinds. The arrival of a new administration in the United States and its moves to disrupt trade with Canada and other nations impacted the sale and shipment of RASC publications to the U.S.

The removal of the de minimus exemption for smaller shipments to the U.S. led to more of the work relating to shipping to shift to our National Office staff from an external mailing house.

Publication of the *Journal of the RASC* went smoothly in 2025. While the 2024 price increase for printed copies of the *Journal* has caused sales of print editions to fall, income from printed copies moved closer into line with production costs in 2025.

The 2025 *Observer's Handbook* was published in editions for Canada and the United States on schedule. The price for the U.S. edition of the *Handbook* was increased in 2025, and sales remained steady in spite of the trade war.

The *Night Sky Almanac*, which is published annually in cooperation with Firefly Books, was renamed the *Night Sky Guide* for 2026, and work has begun on

Chair:

Christopher Gainor Victoria

Members:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Randy Attwood | Mississauga |
| Chris Beckett | Kitchener-Waterloo, Editor of the <i>Observer's Calendar</i> |
| Dave Chapman | Halifax |
| James Edgar | Regina, editor of the <i>Observer's Handbook</i> |
| Charles Ennis | Sunshine Coast |
| Robyn Foret | Calgary, editor of the <i>RASC Annual Report</i> |
| Nicole Mortillaro | Toronto, editor of the <i>JRASC</i> and <i>Night Sky Guide</i> |
| Betty Robinson | Mississauga |
| Randall Rosenfeld | National |

Board of Directors Representatives

Michael Watson
Brendon Roy

the *Guide* for 2027. Firefly is catching up on royalties after some delays, and discussions are under way about future publication of the *Guide*.

Work to boost sales of the *Observer's Calendar* was delayed due to challenges relating to office staffing and the trade war. Editor Chris Beckett continues his work with teams of volunteers that gather data and select images for the calendar. The Editorial Board is beginning a review of the *Calendar's* finances.

Production of Dr. Maria Cahill's biography of legendary Canadian astronomer Dr. Helen Sawyer Hogg, *Through the Lens of Astronomer Helen Sawyer Hogg: One Woman's Journey with the Stars*, was delayed in 2025. In early 2026, the book was being laid out in anticipation of going to the printers.

The Editorial Board has received notice from Charles Ennis that he is developing a proposal for a publication relating to the World Asterisms Project and its work educating people about various conceptions of our skies. Feedback is being sought on the concept behind the proposal.

Christopher Gainor, Ph.D., FRASC
Chair, RASC Editorial Board

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Chair:

Randall Rosenfeld National

Members:

J. Randy Attwood, Mississauga
FRASC

Chris Beckett Kitchener-Waterloo

Dr. Roy Bishop, Halifax
FRASC

Eric Briggs Toronto

Peter Broughton, Toronto
FRASC

Clark Muir Kitchener-Waterloo

Dr. Karen Finstad Ottawa

Dr. Chris Gainor, Victoria
FBIS, FRASC

Andrew Oakes National

Matteo Statti Mississauga

Dr. Mark Tovey London

Board Liaison:

Brendon Roy Thunder Bay,
exofficio (President)
National President

National Office:

Jenna Hinds Calgary

Perspective

The Society has harboured an active interest in astronomical history as a fitting complement to observing since it began hosting public meetings, and became a publisher of astronomy (both ca. 1890–). And, when it was mature enough to recognize it had its own history, its members turned the historical gaze on themselves (at least by 1917, if not before: <https://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu/pdf/1917JRASC..11...47W>).

Members of the Society have continued to foster that interest in various ways, and its continuance can be seen in the activities of the Committee members noted here. There is an aspect of this activity, however, which possesses a significance which has largely gone unheralded.

The place of the history of Canadian astronomy in the formal university landscape of the history of science and technology in Canada is peculiar. Unlike the case in countries with similar colonial pasts (Ireland, Australia, New Zealand), there has been almost

no professional historical work on our astronomical history conducted within our own borders—few if any courses, not even a handful of doctoral and masters’ theses, and few enough monographs.

This inexplicable situation endows the work of the History Committee with an outsize prominence. Members of the Society at large can feel some pride that their colleagues are uncovering unknown and forgotten stories of our astronomical past because few others are doing so, but, for our cultural well-being it would be better if there was more activity from the professional historians of science in this area.

Project

Following on from last year’s report, most of the work on the Astronomical Landscape of Canada (ALC) has happened off-line. It is anticipated that work can start putting it online when the RASC’s new website becomes a reality.

Publications

Chris Beckett & Randall Rosenfeld, “Taurus, the Bull”, in RASC Observer’s Handbook 2026, ed. James Edgar (Toronto: The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, 2025), pp. 336–337

Roy Bishop and Judy Black, “Nothing Minor”, in Journal of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (JRASC) 119, 6 (2025 December), 224–231

Broughton, R. Peter, “Long Term Growth and Set-backs in Astronomy-Relevant Publications”, in BAAS Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society 57, 2 (2025 February 28) (AAS245 Abstracts) <https://baas.aas.org/pub/2025n2i132p04/release/1>

Chris Gainor, “President Jimmy Carter and Space”, in Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly 32, 1 (2025), 37–39

Chris Gainor has also written reviews of Kelly Weinersmith and Zach Weinersmith, *A City on Mars: Can We Settle Space, Should We Settle Space, and Have We Really Thought This Through?* (Quest 32, 1), Lunar: *A History of the Moon in Myths, Maps, and Matter*, ed. Matthew Shindell (Quest 32, 2), Adam Lazarus, *The Wingmen: The Unlikely, Unusual, Unbreakable Friendship between John Glenn and Ted Williams* (Quest 32, 2), and Jim Ellis and Noreen Humble, *Mythologies of Outer Space* (Quest 32, 2).

Clark Muir, “William Blair Bruce: An Artist’s Arctic Eclipse”, in JRASC 119, 2 (2025 April), 60–63

R. A. Rosenfeld, “Encountering Astronomy’s Past Through Replications in Museums: Useful, or Not?”, in JRASC 119, 1 (2025 February), 38–43

R.A. Rosenfeld, “Léon-Charles Bienvenu’s 1872 Satire on Urbain Le Verrier; Touchatout Mocks the Planet-Finder”, in JRASC 119, 2 (2025 April), 90–94

R.A. Rosenfeld, “Discovery of Rare Field Glasses Signed by Charles Potter, one of the Eight Founders of the Toronto Astronomical Club of 1868”, in

JRASC 119, 6 (2025 December), 248–259

Marina Kounkel, Matteo Statti, Avani Kulkarni, Keivan G. Stassun, and Meng Sun, “Stellar Properties of an Actively Accreting Algol-type Eclipsing Binary 2M16212643+2136590”, in MNRAS 527 (2024), 3806–3817 (included because it was missed in the report for 2024)

Presentations

Randy Attwood, “The Flight of Apollo 11: Some Obscure and Interesting Facts about the Mission”, keynote speaker, Alberta StarBQ, 2025 July 19, Eccles Ranch Observatory, Caroline Alberta

R. Peter Broughton, “Long Term Growth and Setbacks in Astronomy-Relevant Publications”, HAD II: Contributed Oral Presentations at the 245th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society, 2025 January 13, National Harbor, Maryland

Other projects

Chris Beckett has soldiered on with his co-host Shane Ludtke producing and presenting their highly successful Actual Astronomy podcast (<https://actualastronomy.com/>). Some of the episodes contain rather a lot of astronomical history (implicitly if not explicitly as a resource for observers).

Chris Gainor wrote the script for the DVProductions Inc. documentary NORTHERN STAR: the Life of Canadian Astronomer J.S. Plaskett, and the Canadian Space Explorers of Today, based on the award winning monograph (2018 Chant Medal, and the 2023 Donald E. Osterbrock Book Prize for Historical Astronomy of the American Astronomical Society) by R. Peter Broughton, Northern Star: J.S. Plaskett (Toronto-Buffalo-London: University of Toronto Press, 2018).

R.A. Rosenfeld resigned from the position of RASC Archivist (originally created at the request of the History Committee in 2008) in November, and has been replaced by Ian Sanford, JD (Toronto Centre).

INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

No report received.

LIGHT POLLUTION ABATEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Membership

Chair:

Bob King Calgary

Members:

Peter Brackett Calgary

Roland Dechesne Calgary

Chetna Mirsa Ottawa

Bernie Hasselman Ottawa

Board Liaison:

Brendon Roy Thunder Bay,
ex officio (President)

National Office:

Jenna Hinds Calgary, ex officio
(National Office)

The committee membership changed during 2025 with Chetna Misra (Ottawa) joining.

Discussion

During 2025, the National Light Pollution Abatement Committee (NLPAC) focused on redesigning the Certificate of Merit, progressing the 'Dark-Sky Community' designation definition and application process, and preparing for the transfer of the LPAC website to the new platform. We also delivered several presentations. These efforts are described below:

Directional Priority: maintain extensive resources on LPA initiatives:

Public outreach & education:

1. Promoted dark skies through social media: with 5566 followers (down 2% from 2024), and Facebook with 1281 followers (no change from 2024).
2. At the General Assembly, Peter gave a talk about the LPA programme and Roland spoke about citizen science.
3. Roland presented at The Wildlife Society's annual convention in October on "Protecting Species at Risk by Protecting the Night" and to Nature Canada's Bird Friendly City teams in September on the topic of "Light Pollution, Bird Friendly Cities & Possible Next Steps".
4. Bernie participated in a radio broadcast about light pollution on Aug 23 (CHLK Lake88 MyFM out of Perth Ontario. The show title is "Around the House")
5. Chetna prepared articles for the Bulletin: "Lights

Out for Birds" and "Visiting Dark-Sky Sites."

6. The Government of Canada (Global Affairs) asked for assistance to prepare for the G7 conference in Kananaskis, Alberta in June. Specifically, the request was for assistance to assess the site for bird friendliness (birds striking windows) and lighting. Roland did the site assessment, and this work will also provide a template for Global Affairs for future site selection and preparation.

Directional Priority: liaison with Dark Sky International and other LPA groups:

No formal liaison activity in 2025.

Directional Priority: LPA Certificate of Merit programme:

Solicited input from Centres then finalized the Certificate of Merit criteria, nomination process and forms, and certificate design. Information about the Certificate will be rolled out to Centres once Board approval is received.

Directional Priority: conduct research on current light-pollution levels:

Continued exploration of greenhouse shielding requirements, working with key academics. The central problem is that greenhouse lighting design uses different metrics than conventional lighting design for humans.

Directional Priority: sharing of strategies and techniques to engage individuals, companies, and municipalities in adopting effective measures to reduce light pollution:

Dark-sky site operations:

1. Approved LeTerrain as a dark-sky preserve. LeTerrain is located near Ladysmith Quebec.
2. There was a significant increase in enquiries from prospective DSS applicants across Canada, including First Nations and two regional initiatives. Four sites are actively preparing applications.
3. The Nocturnal Sanctuary documentation was completed. The website content will be posted after the transfer of the RASC and LACP websites to the new platform.
4. The Draft Dark-Sky Community definition was finalized submitted to the Board for approval. The application rubric was drafted, and we have partnered with a municipality to ensure the governance, technical and performance requirements in the rubric are practical and achievable; this will lead to their formal application as a dark-sky community.

Create a library of LPA Resources:

1. Preparing to reorganize and update the LPAC website when the RASC website is transferred to its new platform in 2026. New content will be added as well.
2. Supported National Office in intellectual property negotiations with Nelson Publishing, which asked to license the use of the RASC's DSP logo in one of its textbooks. The textbook has a section about dark sky preserves.

NEXTGEN COMMITTEE

Chair:

Ivan Tockovski Toronto

Members:

Lillian Yourong Li

Anagha Samaga

Hadi Jafri

Shruti Suresh

Mythilli

Liam Antonsen

Disha Patel

ABOUT.

The NextGen Committee's purpose is to address the needs of current and future RASC youth members (members aged 13-25 years of age, inclusive) as they relate to programs and services of the Society. The committee serves to represent the unique viewpoints, values, and experiences of the Society's youth members as they apply to their RASC membership, including a core dedication to upholding the ideals of respect, inclusivity, and diversity within the Society.

OBJECTIVES, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES.

Following a recruitment campaign from May-July 2025, the NextGen RASC Committee made immense progress to welcome a diverse and nearly full roster of new committee members, enabling it to develop a renewed effort in the RASC, expanding from three active committee members in 2024 to seven active members by September 2025. The committee unofficially started its new mandate in September 2025 and held seven meetings between September 2025 and December 2025, establishing new goals based on NextGen and RASC principles, and collaborating on the development of new projects.

Expenses

The LPAC's 2025 budget was nil, but expense requests were considered on a case-by-case basis. Two expenditures were approved:

1. LeTerrain DSP certificate printing and shipping \$89.25
2. Virtual attendance at DSI conference - Under One Sky (one attendee) \$52.87

Total \$142.12

i. Workshops, Talks & Educational Materials.

The NextGen Committee developed five new workshop/presentation materials geared toward youth including a workshop on Using an astronomical sextant (Hadi), Basics of Astrophotography and the Moon, Skygazing Basics, and Stacking & Editing Moon Photos (Lillian), Astrophotography of the Orion Nebula with a DLSR (Liam), as well as a talk on Connecting Youth in Astronomy using collaboration, connection, discussion, and investigative principles (Ivan).

ii. Discord

Community. Lillian, Anagha, and several other NextGen Committee members put in a great amount of effort and time to develop a Discord community from, the ground up, for youth members in the RASC to connect, share projects and astrophotography, build community with members across Canada, and to host and run workshops and speaker series, among many other benefits. This included a team effort to build a robust document of protocols and principles to ensure safety, moderation, effectiveness and utility to this community. There have been the first steps of testing the community on a small group of users and there is planned deliberation with a university-led Discord community's designers/contributors, i.e. fellow undergraduate students, to ensure proper and good design.

iii. Unnamed NextGen Publication.

The NextGen Committee began the first steps to develop a journal-inspired publication, specifically oriented to-and-for youth to share scientific and curiosity-driven projects, and to open the door for building more diversity in communication of research and collaboration. Research was done into the feasibility of incentives to help students prepare publications to communicate their progress and results in a professional manner, and to upgrade their accomplishments and skills in the process. The goal is to curate content in accordance with publication standards and RASC principles and policies for youth.

A great deal of deliberation and discussion with the Publication Committee, and other relevant parties to such an endeavour, is planned to occur in 2026.

FOCUS FOR 2026.

The NextGen Committee is in a prime position, in 2026, to build tangible progress upon the foundational principles and goals re-established in the second half of 2025, and, to bring completed projects and initiatives to fruition, with specific focus to integrate sustained continuity and quality to each project and initiative.

Among these is the plan to bring a journal-type of publication specific to youth members in STEM fields with hopes to include a DOI to each accepted publication, as well as a community-project youth magazine, to encourage citizen science in schools, RASC centres, and local communities.

OBSERVING COMMITTEE

Chair:

Emma MacPhee New Brunswick

Members:

- Dale Armstrong London
- Chris Beckett Kitchener-Waterloo
- Eric Klaszus Calgary
- Dr. Randy Boddam Belleville
- Roger Hill Hamilton
- Bruce McCurdy Edmonton
- Murray Paulson Edmonton
- Karol Socander Kitchener-Waterloo
- Jo Vandendool Mississauga
- Bill Weir Victoria
- Viktor Zsohar Yukon

Board Liaison:

Brendon Roy Thunder Bay,
President

National Office:

Jenna Hinds, ED Calgary (non-voting)

There is a renewed need for the NextGen Committee to establish open communication with each centre in the RASC, to amplify youth voices and build a bigger network among youth members. Deliberation, connection and collaboration guide the Discord community to be built-to-last as a communication platform for youth in the RASC and should be opened to members to join in 2026.

The development of workshop and presentation materials will continue across several STEAM-oriented (science, technology, arts, mathematics and other fields) initiatives to engage a wide range of members and to foster the growth and development of long-lasting skills in members.

Engagement within and outside of the RASC will improve member benefits for RASC members and attract more public interest.

Summary

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Observing Committee for their help and guidance through the year.

Observing Programs

The RASC national Observing Committee oversees 8 visual observing certificate programs, 9 if you count the sub-types for the EM. See rasc.ca/certificate-programs for more information. We show them below, ranked in increasing levels of difficulty.

1. Explore the Universe (EU) [with pin]
(the only program open to the public)
2. Explore the Moon (EM)
 - A. Binoculars (EM-B)
 - B. Telescope (EM-T) [with pin]
3. Messier Catalogue [with pin]
4. Finest NGC Objects (NGC) [with pin]
5. Double Stars (DS) [with pin]
6. Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program (IWLOP, IW LUNAR) [with pin]
7. Deep-Sky Gems (DSG)
8. Deep-Sky Challenge (DSC)

During the year 2025 , a total of 21 certificates were awarded to RASC members and some members of the public across Canada and around the world.

We wish to remind observers that earning a certificate is an individual effort. In other words, the finding or locating (L), examination and observing (E), and logbook text and sketching or recording (R) must be all your own work.

We remind observers that we consider an observation to be a brief log note and/or an annotated sketch. Photos may be included in submissions but logging/sketching must be done from an eyepiece.

We continue to provide additional files for download for observers wanting observing lists for their favourite astronomy software. We have lists in Excel, SkyTools, Stellarium, and SkySafari formats for many of our programs (with supplemental notes as needed).

Certificate Recipients

The Observing Committee endeavours to promote our visual observing certificate programs to the RASC membership.

We primarily utilise the monthly RASC Bulletin. Typically, we issue an update with a list of certificates issued in recent months.

We occasionally deliver talks to RASC centres. We remind centre meeting coordinators or local observing committee chairs that we're only too happy to receive requests and invitations to present

| Certificate: | Recipient |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Messier | Nishat Khan, Maple, ON |
| Messier Go-To | John Wilmot, Oro-Medonte, ON |
| Explore the Universe | David Kerr, Fredericton, NB |
| Explore the Universe | Adam Brown, Gatineau, Ottawa |
| Explore the Universe | Paul W. Gregory, Calgary, AB |
| Explore the Universe | Mason Mueller, Cochrane, AB |
| Explore the Universe | Adam Gear, Winnipeg, MB |
| Explore the Universe | Raghav Dewett, Mississauga, ON |
| Explore the Universe | Darryl Carlyle-Moses, Kamploops |
| Explore the Universe | Marco Landry, RASC NB |
| Explore the Moon-T | Luca D'Aliesio, Laval, Montreal |
| Explore the Moon-T | Michael Gatto, Dartmouth, Halifax |
| Explore the Moon-T | Adam Gear, Winnipeg, MB |
| Explore the Moon-T | Dave Chapman, Halifax |
| Explore the Mon-T | Glen Harris, Prince George |
| Explore the Moon-T | Kirby Alguire, Mississauga, ON |
| Explore the Moon-T | Raidel Sosa, Cuba |
| Isabel Williamson | Marco Landry, RASC NB |
| Deep Sky Gems | Chris Vaughan, Toronto, ON |

at their meetings to their local members. It's a great way to update people as to our new programs and recent activities and to build a buzz, get observers excited and invigorated, hopefully inspiring them to undertake a new program or challenge themselves.

The Observing Committee is grateful for the tremendous efforts to refer to our visual observing programs via the Insider's Guide to the Galaxy webinars delivered by live stream and recorded to YouTube. See the RASCANADA YouTube channel for all their videos. The [link here](#) specifically connects to the playlist for the Messier Minutes delivered by Chris Vaughan and Samantha Jewett.

Of course, if RASC members haven't otherwise heard of the visual observing certificate programs, we encourage you to visit our web site's main program page for more info, or send us an email with all your questions. We're happy to help.

<https://rasc.ca/certificate-programs>
observing@rasc.ca

There are a total of 6 different pins (figure 3) which observers may acquire.

Outlook

The Observing Committee is looking to stay the course, continuing to maintain and promote our existing programs. We constantly update our materials for clarity and inconsistencies, while balancing the needs and expectations of long-time members as well as new people joining RASC.

It is our great honour to assist members in improving their observing and logging skills while having fun and learning at the eyepiece. We're in the business of giving goosebumps and feathers in caps.

Humbly prepared and assembled by Emma MacPhee, Interim Observing Committee Chair.



The lapel pins up for grabs. Apologies: the IWLOP is upside-down. But then the Moon appears rotated in a reflecting telescope—so there!

National Council Report

It has been another busy year building on the momentum of 2024 with activity continuing within the roles defined for the National Council (NC). The National Council and Board of Directors continued working to improve their working relationship, especially during the transition of the RASC leadership. The RASC President Brendon

Roy, RASC Executive Director Jenna Hinds, other Board members and some RASC Committee representatives regularly attended meetings to provide guidance when needed, updates on Board activities for which NC input was requested, and to discuss NC recommendations.

Meetings

The National Council met six times in 2025 – February 9, April 13, June 8, September 7, October 19, and December 7. Each meeting averaged 26 of the 40 members representing an average of 20 of the 30 Centres. Board members were also strongly encouraged to attend; an average of 7 of the 9 members attended each meeting. Forty minutes of National Council meetings were allotted to Board updates (financial, special projects, staffing, etc.). The NC welcomed Karim Jaffer as the incoming EPO Chair and acknowledged Lauri Roche (outgoing EPO Chair) for

her contributions to the National Council while acting in this capacity.

The December 7, 2025, NC meeting was considered a special meeting at which Centre Presidents were invited as guests to hear the update of the RASC Board of Directors deliberations regarding the 2025 year-end financial statements and the proposed 2026 RASC Budget, and to provide the opportunity for positive feedback to the Board regarding the plan of action presented.

Officers & Centre Representatives to the National Council

As Chair, I thank Charles Ennis (Vice-Chair) of the Sunshine Coast for his advice throughout the year. Adrianna Stone, who resigned as Recorder at the October 19 NC meeting, was acknowledged for her service in that role. John Hurley (Kingston Centre) was elected Recorder by acclamation at the December 2025 meeting. Their support and dedication as NC Officers in the past year to ensure the National Council business goes forward was very much appreciated. As NC Officers, we have high regard for our fellow NC members who guide not only the NC

but also assist the RASC Board of Directors in determining the path toward a stronger, viable Society.

The NC also wants to thank retiring members for their expertise and input during their tenure on the NC: Andy Blanchard (Hamilton), Peter Hagar (Regina), Steven Nourse (Ottawa), Ellen Papenburg (Kitchener-Waterloo), Nolan Smith (Vancouver), Jon Stolte (Edmonton), Lori Tedford (Saskatoon), Francois Theriault (New Brunswick), and Christa Van Laerhoven (Yukon).

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Chair | Judy Black, Halifax Centre (re-elected, June 9) |
| Vice-Chair | Charles Ennis, Sunshine Coast (elected, June 9) (Jim Fairles, Kitchener-Waterloo Centre) |
| Council Recorder | Adriana Stone, Calgary Centre (by acclamation, Sept 15) (Eric Klaszus, Calgary Centre) |

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Belleville | Debi Butler | Kitchener-Waterloo | Simon Cant |
| Calgary | Dan Boychuk | | (Jim Fairles) |
| | Adriana Stone | London | Peter Jedicke |
| | Garnet Tozer | | Chris Bolte |
| Edmonton | Alister Ling | Mississauga | Allan Connery |
| | Sukrit Ahluwalia | | Kirby Alguire |
| Fraser Valley | Greg Sebulsky | CF de Montréal | Patrice Scattolin |
| Halifax | Judy Black | Montréal | Frank Tomaras |
| Hamilton | Tracy Parsons | | Morrie Portnoff (alternate) |
| Kingston | John Hurley | New Brunswick | François Theriault |
| | | | (June MacDonald) |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|--|
| Niagara | Rick Stasiak | Toronto | Lucy Winnicki |
| Okanagan | Jim Failes | | Ralph Chou |
| Ottawa | Jean-Sebastian Gaudet (Stephen Nourse) | Vancouver | Nolan Smith |
| Prince George | Rob Woods | Victoria | Bill Weir |
| Regina | Mark Meadows | | Lauri Roche (Nathan Hellner-Mestleman) |
| Sarnia | Marty Cogswell | Windsor | Tom Sobocan |
| Saskatoon | Joelle Sheard-Patrick Lori Tedford (Brent Burlingham) | Winnipeg | Dennis Lyons Bryan Stach (Judy Anderson) |
| Sudbury | Alan Ward | Yukon | Dyson Hale |
| Sunshine Coast | Charles Ennis | | Christa Van Laerhoven (alternate) |
| St. John's | Marcellus Redmond | | |
| Thunder Bay | Andreas Buccholz | | |

By-Law #1 and Terms of Reference

Beginning in April 2023, Centres were provided opportunities to suggest change to the RASC Policy C11: National Council Terms of Reference. Since then, the draft was reviewed to finetune several aspects. I thank Michael Watson for the insightful discussions we had regarding the NC and its changing role within the RASC.

The policy, consequent to NC input, was approved in December 2025 by the RASC Board of Directors

and can be found in the 2026 RASC Policy Manual. The Board brought forward proposed changes to the RASC By-Law No. 1 for discussion prior to approval by the membership at the AGM.

The National Council thanked Michael Watson for the April 2025 Journal of the RASC article The RASC's National Council – what does it do? in which he provided RASC members with the NC history, its changing roles, and accomplishments.

National Council Communications

Communications within the Council was addressed. Current members continue to have access to the email distribution list in the National Council Google drive and proves invaluable for one-on-one

communications within the NC. Audio recordings of meetings are kept on the NC google drive for two weeks following the date of upload, ensuring that those who cannot attend can still stay informed.

Relationship with the RASC Board of Directors

The three Pillars of Trust identified in 2023 – Communication, Collaboration and Transparency – were further strengthened this year. The lines of communication and collaboration between the Board and the National Council continued to improve. Presidents Michael Watson and Brendon Roy, E.D. Jenna Hinds and Board members kept the NC apprised of work accomplished.

Financial statements were shared with NC members at every meeting, ensuring there was transparency in financial activity and budgeting and in the change in focus to revenue generation.

Explanation of investments and the required use of special and unrestricted funds were provided. The Board consulted the NC and Centre Presidents on December 7, 2025, regarding the 2026 budget prior to Board approval.

Discussions were also held regarding sustainability of membership costs, potential for future increases, and the impact on membership. Jenna Hinds provided insight on impacts of an impending postal strike, RASC print material costs and shipping schedules, tariff implications, staffing changes, and progress of changes to the RASC website.

Consultation with RASC Committees & Task Teams

Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Committee Chair Karim Jaffer provided updates on projects in development and those about to be announced to the membership at large and welcomed input. He apprised the NC of the NOVA (New Observers to Visual Astronomy) and the Seasonal Beginners' Observing Activities program refinement during their beta testing process.

The NC initiated the discussion regarding reprint of EPO print materials (Moongazers and StarFinders). They were consequently reprinted for Centre activities and were circulated to the Centres based on orders received. Feedback on the quality of the new Moongazer material will be collected to assess its effectiveness and usability.

Priorities for 2026

- Ongoing consultation the RASC Board of Director and with RASC Committees.
- Address further improvement to communication mechanisms within the National Council
- Other business would be prioritized as it arises.

Summary

Needless to say, 2025 was another interesting year, one of strengthening the three Pillars of Trust. The successes achieved were the result of preparation, and the hard work by all the RASC teams (Board of Directors, Executive Director and staff, NC Representatives, RASC Committees and Centres). Many needed difficult decisions were again made to improve operational performance, manage expenses, and involve the membership to further right the RASC ship.

These successes were also due to improved communication and ongoing collaboration across the RASC. The different perspectives and experiences of our membership informed the RASC

and made it a much stronger Society. Sincere thanks to the RASC members who brought personal and Centre perspectives to the National Council table, the criticisms, the accolades, and suggestions for improvements. All were needed. All were appreciated.

In closing, I again remind our fellow RASC members stay curious and to look up. The skies, beginning at your feet, are open to explore the Universe.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Black
Chair, National Council

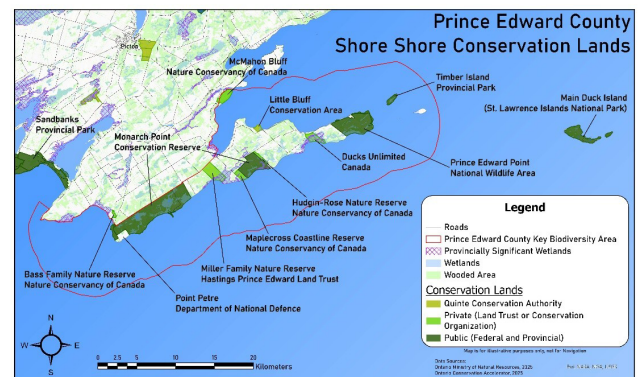
Annual Reports Of Centres

Belleville

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Location of event: | none held on the day of the eclipse |
| % totality at location: | 100% |
| Estimated number of attendees: | 0 |
| Weather: | 75-95% cloud cover, varied by location within region |

The Belleville Centre first formed as an Astronomy Club in 1990 and became a RASC Centre in 2003. With membership in the mid 30's, we have been very active over the past year (see our Facebook post <https://www.facebook.com/reel/849922244622493> for a brief video summary). We now hold our monthly meetings (normally the first Friday of the month) in the Quinte West Community Services Building at 3 Dixon Drive, Trenton. We have close relationships with the two Provincial Parks in our area (Presqu'ile and Sandbanks) with regular daytime and night observing sessions and talks for the campers

We are attempting to obtain a Dark Sky designation for the south shore of Prince Edward County in conjunction with the SSJI and have participated in a number of events for public education and observing sessions. We have given a number of public talks at the three main Libraries in our area and are in the process of providing loaner 'scopes to them. In conjunction with the Kingston Centre, we host Spring and Fall Star Parties under the dark skies of "The County" (see our website: rascbelleville.ca) for details and application for Ms



Calgary

Centre Executive- through November 2025

| Name | Role(s) |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Phil Langill | Honorary President |
| Executive: | |
| Robyn Foret | President |
| Eric Klausz | 1st Vice President |
| Heather Laird | 2nd Vice President |
| Nisha Valckx | Treasurer |
| Derek Euale | Secretary |
| Simon Poole | Past President |
| Council | |
| Judy Sterner | Councillor |
| Steve Donaldson | Councillor |
| Adriana Stone | Councillor |
| Patricia Jeffery | Councillor |
| hDaniel Boychuk | Councillor |
| Russ Dueck | Councillor |
| Shabana Ahmad | Councillor |
| National Reps | |
| Daniel Boychuk | National Council Rep |
| Adriana Stone | National Council Rep |
| Garnet Tozer | National Council Rep |

Centre Executive- Current (2025)

| Name | Role(s) |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Larry McNish | Honorary President |
| Executive: | |
| Heather Lairdt | President |
| Roland Dechesne | 1st Vice President |
| Garnet Tozer | 2nd Vice President |
| Robyn Foret | Treasurer |
| Eric Klausz | Secretary |
| Robyn Foret | Past President |
| Council | |
| MAren Walker | Councillor |
| Steve Donaldson | Councillor |
| Paul Gregory | Councillor |
| Doug Thorp | Councillor |
| Patricia Jeffrey | Councillor |
| David Brown | Councillor |
| Daniel Boychuk | Councillor |
| Judy Sterner | Councillor |
| National Reps | |
| Daniel Boychuk | National Council Rep - Ntl Secretary |
| Matthew Earl | National Council Rep |
| Garnet Tozer | National Council Rep |

Centre Contact Information

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Centre name: | The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Calgary Centre |
| Centre address: | R.A.S.C., Calgary Centre PO Box 22099 Calgary RPO Bankers Hall, Calgary, AB, T2P 4J5 |
| Centre Telephone: | 403-803-1075 Centre President |
| Centre email: | inquiries@calgaryrasc.ca president@calgaryrasc.ca secretary@calgaryrasc.ca treasurer@calgaryrasc.ca |
| Centre websites: | http://calgary.rasc.ca |

CENTRE UPDATES

Established: 1958

Membership (2025): 450 members

Submitted by: Eric Klaszus, Secretary

Assets

Wilson Coulee Observatory

Eccles Ranch Observatory – Conservation Easement

Ralph Klein Park Observatory – planning and fundraising phase

Extensive telescope and binocular loan program for members

Partnerships

Rothney Astrophysical Observatory

University of Calgary

TELUS Spark Science Centre

Calgary Central Public Library

Community Associations, Municipal Libraries, and Special Interest Groups

Outreach

7 General Meetings open to the public

Annual Star Nights, Star-B-Q, and Alberta Star Party

Public events including the Outdoor Adventure Travel Show, Earth Science for Society, science fairs, camps, and media engagements

Public Outreach and Education Committee – Patricia Jeffery

2025 was an exceptionally busy and productive year for the Calgary Centre's Public Outreach and Education activities. Over the course of the year, the Centre delivered 127 outreach and educational events, representing 441.3 volunteer hours, with the support of 78 volunteers working 381 shifts. These efforts reached a combined attendance of 12,696 people, delivering a strong presence for the Centre and reputation within the community.

Educational programming accounted for 46 events, including NOVA sessions, Youth Group activities, Observing Group meetings, C-14 training sessions, and other skill-building initiatives. These programs engaged our Centre members, helping participants develop observational skills, technical confidence, and deeper engagement with astronomy.

Public outreach activities comprised 78 events, with 12,029 members of the public attending. These events spanned a wide range of formats and audiences, including library programs, firefighter burn camps, university events, lectures at TELUS Spark, Scouts and Guides activities, CBC radio interviews, the Outdoor Adventure Travel Show, science fairs, Earth Science Show participation, Fish Creek events, RAO Space Nights, and numerous

other community engagements.

Additional outreach highlights included approximately 11 tours of the Wilson Coulee Observatory, 11 Scouts/Guides/Beavers events, and 11 inflatable planetarium events, many of which were delivered to youth-focused audiences.

Looking ahead to 2026, priorities include continuing the current outreach programming, addressing maintenance and repair needs for the inflatable planetarium, organizing another telescope workshop at TELUS Spark, and offering astrophotography training opportunities for members.

Website Committee – Heather Laird and Daniel Boychuk

During 2025, the Website Committee completed a significant transition to a new hosting provider, resulting in improved site performance, speed, and service reliability. This change supports the Centre's growing reliance on the website as a primary tool for communication with both members and the public.

In parallel with the hosting transition, ongoing work continued to update the website to align with the RASC brand guide. The committee focused on refining frequently used sections of the site to better serve member needs, while also improving public-facing content to clearly communicate Centre activities and offerings.

Looking forward into 2026, the committee plans to continue updating existing pages, developing new content to highlight committee work, and expanding the use of website space to support Centre operations and outreach.

Marketing Committee – Heather Laird and Maren Walker

The Marketing Committee approved and implemented a new locally focused logo during 2025. The updated branding is designed to be more easily identifiable and has been adopted across publications and online channels to strengthen familiarity and recognition within the local community.

Work is ongoing to improve communications and build the marketing team, with a continued emphasis on supporting Centre activities, outreach efforts, and public engagement. These efforts will continue into 2026 as the committee works to further strengthen the Centre's visibility and messaging.

Science Committee – David Brown

2025 was a busy and productive year for P.A.R.S.E.C. (Promoting Amateur Research and Scientific Exploration of the Cosmos), operating under the Calgary Centre's Science Committee. Members of the Centre were actively engaged in occultation timing and variable star measurement, contributing meaningful data to ongoing scientific efforts.

A notable highlight of the year was the publication of an article in the AAVSO Journal by a P.A.R.S.E.C. member, focusing on observations of eclipsing binary stars. This publication reflects the high level of technical engagement and research capability within the Centre.

Throughout the year, the 14-inch PlaneWave telescope on an Astro-Physics mount, located in the roll-off roof observatory at Wilson Coulee, was used to gather scientific data on variable stars. This instrument remains available to members who complete the required training, supporting continued participation in citizen science initiatives.

Observing Committee – Jack Milliken

The Observing Committee continued to provide a robust program of activities designed to encourage members to become actively involved in observational astronomy and RASC observing programs. From September through May, the committee hosted three meetings per month at the Wilson Coulee Observatory, each tailored to different levels of experience.

Each meeting included a presentation on astronomy or space-related topics and was followed by observing sessions when weather permitted. These meetings were also streamed live via Zoom, increasing accessibility for members unable to attend in person.

The Youth Group component introduced astronomy to members from approximately Grade 6 through high school, while accommodating younger participants with strong interest. Beginner RASC observing programs were used to build foundational skills, with support provided for both personal equipment and Centre-owned telescopes.

The NOVA program marked its 18th year in 2025 and continued to introduce members to visual astronomy. Topics included learning the night sky, identifying constellations, using binoculars and telescopes, and locating deep-sky objects. Seasonal Explore the Universe targets and handouts were provided for each session.

The Observing Group offered a non-instructional format open to all members, featuring What's Up presentations covering planets, comets, asteroids, meteor showers, and a constellation of the month, with supporting charts and target lists distributed in advance.

A successful Messier Marathon was held in March, with six members observing through dawn and locating just over 100 objects. Unfortunately, weather prevented the planned OctoberQuest observing event. Several members earned RASC observing certificates during the year, and the committee continues to encourage participation in these programs.

Youth Group – Doug Thorp

Youth Group registration remained steady at 64 participants throughout 2025. Programming focused on current events in space exploration and hands-on visual observing practice, guided by the Explore the Universe observing program.

The program is structured in seasonal segments, allowing new members to join at any point during the year. On clear nights, 10–15 youth members regularly attended sessions in person at the Wilson Coulee Observatory, with presentations streamed on Zoom for those unable to attend.

Looking ahead to 2026, the group plans to introduce a Solarcan camera to track the Sun's movement across the sky during the summer months, providing a new and engaging educational opportunity.

Star Party Committee – Steve Donaldson and Roland Dechesne

The 2025 Alberta Star-B-Q was held at the Eccles Ranch Observatory and attracted 32 attendees, despite challenging weather conditions. Highlights included a keynote lecture by RASC National Board Member Randy Attwood on the Apollo 11 mission, followed by a lively Q&A session, a catered BBQ, door prizes, and several hours of observing once skies partially cleared.

The 2025 Alberta Star Party was held for the second year at A Stone's Throw campground, with 56 attendees. Clear, dark skies enabled high-quality observing, including a memorable view of Titan's shadow transiting Saturn. Programming included lectures by Garnet Tozer and David Brown, a public sky tour, door prizes, and a volunteer-run pancake breakfast.

Looking ahead to 2026, plans include celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Alberta Star Party, expanding lecture programming, potentially using Starlink connectivity for remote speakers, and introducing AstronoMay, a new star party planned for the Victoria Day long weekend at the Eccles Ranch Observatory.

Wilson Coulee Observatory Committee – Eric Klaszus

The Wilson Coulee Observatory hosted several dozen events during 2025 for both members and the public. In addition to monthly observing events, the Centre delivered multiple training sessions enabling members to operate the C-14 telescope independently for visual observing and imaging. Training was offered in two levels—visual dome operation and imaging using the C-14 and Sharpstar 70 mm systems—along with a specialized workshop on the Astrid camera designed for asteroid occultation measurement.

Approximately 15 public tours were delivered to youth groups, providing hands-on exposure to astronomy while introducing families and educators

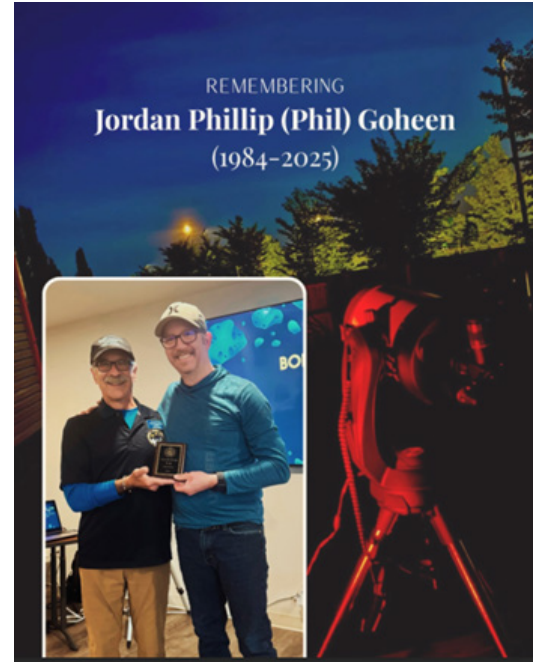
to the RASC and the Centre's activities.

Programming Committee – Robyn Foret

The Programming Committee coordinated a full slate of General Meetings throughout 2025, including invited speakers, committee updates, member events, awards ceremonies, a Members BBQ, a members-only Rothney Observatory event, and the Annual General Meeting. These meetings continued to serve as a core forum for education, engagement, and community building within the Centre.

In Memorium – Phillip Goheen. (1984-2025)

The Centre mourned the loss of Phillip Goheen, a dedicated volunteer, Social Media lead, and enthusiastic Centre member whose contributions to outreach and communications left a lasting impact. He had plans of joining Council in the coming year. He demonstrated a strong commitment to making meaningful contributions to his community, both within astronomy and through other initiatives.



General Meeting Speakers and Topic

| Date | Speaker(s)-Topic |
|-------------|--|
| 15-Feb-25 | Chris Ratzlaff – <i>Chasing the Elusive</i> |
| 15-Mar-25 | Committee Chair updates - EPO, Website, TfM, WCO, Library, Marketing, RKP |
| 19-Apr-25 | Caprice Phillips – <i>Substellar Wonders: Brown Dwarfs in the Cosmos</i> |
| 17-May-25 | Georgia Blum & Simon Poole – <i>Bugs in Space</i> |
| 21-Jun-25 | Members BBQ and Awards Ceremony |
| 24-Sep-25 | Members Only at Rothney Observatory - Awards recap, Phillip Goheen memorial, U of C commemoration, Observatory tour |
| 20-Nov-25 | Annual General Meeting |

Edmonton

No report received.

Centre Executive

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Honorary President | Sir Douglas Hube |
| President | Jay Lavender |
| Past President | Tom Owen |
| Vice President | Clayton Knoll |
| Treasurer | Jeff Wyton |
| General Secretary | Daisy Alferez |
| National Council Rep | Jon Stolte |
| Public Education Director | Geoff Robertson |
| Fundraising Coordinator | Luca Vanzella |
| Councillor | James McNiece |
| Councillor | Mike Szelewicki |
| Councillor | John Woolley |
| Councillor | Alister Ling |
| Councillor | Chris Meerveld |
| Internal Communications Officer | Michael Ward |
| Observing Group Director | Jon Stolte |
| Membership Secretary | Sharon Morsink |
| New Member Advisor | Murray Paulson |

Halifax

About: Established in 1951 as the Nova Scotia Astronomical Society. In 1970, reformed and renamed the RASC Halifax Centre. Our membership as of October 2025 was 137, down slightly from 146 the previous year.

Assets:

The Centre hosts hybrid meetings at Saint Mary's University in Halifax on the first Saturday of each month (except July, August, and holiday weekends). The University provides free meeting space and parking.

We operate the St. Croix Observatory (SCO) with a roll-off-roof, a 16" (40.6 cm) Sky-Watcher f/4.4 GoTo Dobsonian Reflector Telescope, the Howard 200mm EdgeHD Hyperstar f/1.9 Telescope with an attached Raspberry Pi4 for astrophotography, a warm room, and storage room/toilet. Members can access the Thurlow achromatic doublet binoculars (named after Dr. Bill Thurlow) and its parallelogram mount. No equipment rental. Monthly observing sessions were arranged. Unfortunately, SCO activities were temporarily halted at the start of August through the middle of September due to increased wildfire risk associated with drought conditions.

Kejimkujik National Park Dark-Sky Preserve, Acadian Skies & Mi'kmaq Lands (UNESCO Starlight Reserve) and the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve are within 3 hours of SCO. We have a formal Partnership Agreement with Parks Canada related to our continuing support of the Kejimkujik Dark-Sky Designation and the annual Kejimkujik Dark-Sky Weekend (DSW). We partnered with Atlantic Photo Supply (APS), The Discovery Centre, The Deanery Project and the Park View Education Centre Astronomy Club to conduct outreach events.

Outreach:

Kejimkujik DSW was held August 15-17 at Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site. Twelve volunteers from RASC Halifax Centre engaged 630 campers of all ages attending two nights of sky tours and stories with access to telescopes and binoculars. Two afternoon astronomy drop-in sessions saw 170 in attendance. Rain cancelled the third night.

Our partnership with the Discovery Centre resulted in two co-sponsored events:

May 1, Explore Scientific/RASC Global Star Party for 2025 International Astronomy Day: provided telescope views of the Sun.

August 10, Space Day, answered space-related questions and promoted the RASC.

APS advertised and provided prizes for our annual Astroimage Contest and provided their location for a February urban star party. Another urban star

Centre Executive, 2024

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Tony McGrath |
| Vice-President | Peter Hurley |
| Treasurer | Gregg Dill |
| Secretary | Judy Black |
| Board member | Jeff Donaldson |
| Board member | Matthew Dyer |
| Board member | David Hoskin |
| Board member | David McMullin |
| Board member | Vincent Vallee |

party was held at Bedford's Harry DeWolfe Park in September. Solar and night sky observing sessions were held for The Deanery Project that provides community experiential learning opportunities. A relationship was developed with the recently established Park View Education Centre Astronomy Club in Bridgewater. Numerous other outreach events were conducted at various locations and for Guides, Scouts, and Young Naturalists.

Special Projects:

RASC Halifax Centre continues to invest in SCO and developed a management plan for the site. Monies were raised to match the funds initially provided to the Dave Lane Memorial St. Croix Observatory Property Endowment (SCOPE) Fund. Members participated in the general maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Further improvements are expected in 2026.

Our Centre Library was dismantled due to storage challenges and a lack of use. Books brought to our members/public meetings were sold, with remaining books donated.

The Centre developed a plan with member retention and acquiring new members as priorities. The 2026 focus will be increasing member involvement.

Between cloudy nights and smoke from local fires and those further afield, observing sessions (personal and outreach) were greatly hampered over the past year.

Looking forward - 2025/beyond

Hopefully the 37th Nova East Star Party at Smileys Provincial Park won't again be dampened by the weather. Most importantly, may there be many cloudless, smokeless skies and no hurricanes affecting our events in 2025!

Highlights

Our Centre annually publishes 5 editions of our newsletter, Nova Notes, thanks to Editors Lisa Ann

Fanning and John McPhee. Each edition averages 30 pages in length.

Ten Board of Directors meetings and one Meeting by Requisition were held using Zoom. Our AGM was held December 7. Ten Public Meetings were held as hybrid meetings. Volunteers Jerry Black, Peter Hurley and Bob Russell managed the technology for hybrid meetings.

All policies and position descriptions were revised where necessary. Policies G15: Policy Regarding Document Retention and G16: Policy Regarding Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Events Personal Expense Reimbursement were approved. The Centre's National Council Representative position description was reviewed. By-Law amendments were not required.

The weather cooperated for the 37th annual Nova East Star Party held August 22-24 at Smiley's Provincial Park. Speakers and events offered were enjoyed by all in attendance. The RASC Laser

Pointer training was conducted by Peter Hurley. RASC members from Okanagan and Ottawa Centres also attended.

With the lifting of the woods ban, our Annual BBQ was held September 18 at SCO with volunteer chefs at the grill and members providing desserts. Visual observers and imagers alike explored the site's dark skies.

Challenges

Encouraging members to assist with events and increasing our membership numbers remains challenges that we hope to address in 2026.

Looking forward

Hopefully the 38th Nova East Star Party at Smiley's Provincial Park won't be dampened by the weather. Most importantly, may there be many cloudless, smokeless skies and no hurricanes affecting our events in 2026!

Hamilton

About:

Year established: Originally founded as the Hamilton Astronomical Society in 1901, and later established as a RASC Centre in 1908, it remains one of the longest standing scientific organizations in the greater Hamilton region. Although we are referred to as the Hamilton chapter of The Royal Astronomical Society, we serve members in Hamilton and Halton Regions.

Membership: 142 (as of Dec 2025)

Assets (meeting place, observatories, dark-sky sites, club scopes, telescopes for rent, etc):

The club maintains and operates an observatory in Flamborough, Ontario which was established in 1974. It has a number of telescopes available for members to borrow free of charge. The club also maintains a substantial library. Meetings, which are open to the public, are held once a month at 'St. Mathews-on-the-Plains Church' in Burlington, with both an in-person and Zoom component. The meetings generally feature an invited speaker, either in-person or via Zoom, and other topics such as upcoming outreach activities.

Partnerships (Parks, Universities, Municipalities):

Hamilton RASC continues to partner with The Bronte Astronomer to deliver outreach events to the public. Hamilton RASC also provides financial contributions to McMaster University for their special projects, which support research in the field of Astronomy.

Outreach (may include # of volunteers, # of events, size of audience, in-person and on-line):

Hamilton RASC runs 'Saturday Night Sights', an outreach event at our observatory during the spring/summer/fall months. This is open to both members and the general public and encourages people to come out and experience learning the night sky, through information shared by our club's members, and viewing through telescopes.

Special Projects

The observatory was restored to full working order in the spring of 2025, after damage received during

Centre Executive

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Jane Tumbin |
| Vice President / Outreach Director | Victor Abraham |
| Past President | Andy Blanchard |
| Treasurer | Tracy Parsons |
| Membership | Dan Copeland |
| Secretary | Erin Vassair |
| Maintenance Director | Bruce Cornelius |
| Social Media Co-ordinator | Nabira Rashid |
| Webmaster | John Devonshire |
| Member at Large | Shail Choksi |



a vandalism incident a few years prior. We have secured funding from an anonymous donor to support the launch of our upcoming program called 'Young Galileos', which will provide telescopes and training to 90+ students over the next 3 years. We have partnered with Ten Telescopes, who will be supplying the telescopes for this program, with one given to each student. Finally, we received the donation of an observatory, which was installed during the autumn months at the local Scouts camp in Burlington. We will be partnering with them in the later half of 2026 to run programming.

Highlights:

Providing multiple outreach sessions to the public and getting to showcase our newly repaired



observatory. Hosting many successful ‘Saturday Night Sights’ events at our observatory throughout the spring, summer and fall months and gaining many new attendees and members. We cleaned up our observatory grounds and moved our Sea Cannister beside our main building.

Challenges:

We moved our monthly meetings to an alternate weeknight (Fridays) and a new location in January 2025 and are struggling to see the same attendance we had previously experienced from members and the general public.

Looking forward – 2026 and beyond:

We will be launching a few new initiatives during 2026, that we hope will bring further interest from the public in attending our observatory and monthly meetings, while also increasing our membership. These initiatives involve educating children in our community about astronomy and supporting other local clubs and residents.

OUTREACH

Young Galileos

Program funded and printing of scopes is underway
Next steps:

- begin assembling scopes once parts come in
- create curriculum
- advertise for participation
- select participants
- run program

Westfield (~ 6,600 people)

Bronte Astronomer

Only 3 events attended this year (~ 200 people)

Schools

(~750 students and teachers)
7 school visits

Kingston

Centre Executive

- President: Malcolm Park
- Treasurer: Susan Gagnon
- Secretary: Elena Zanetti
- Vice President: Kim Hay
- Editor: Roger Hill
- NC Rep: John Hurley

Honourary President: David Levy

In our 64th year, the Kingston Centre has again had a good year with informative meetings and good outreach. Our membership stands at 63 and we are in good financial health. We held 9 Regular meetings

Community Centres

- (~45 seniors)
- 1 visit
- Antique cabinets
- Ongoing talks with various libraries, science centres, museums to find homes for two antique cabinets

EQUIPMENT

Summary of donated equipment:

- Meade ETX LS 8” SCT
- Meade LX10 8” SCT
- William Optics ZenithStar 81 OTA & Mount
- Sky-Watcher Quattro 200P Imaging Newtonian 8” (205 mm)
- NewStar Efston Science 120mm F=1000mm Refractor
- NewStar Efston Science 80mm F=400mm Refractor
- 12’ Observatory (To Scouts)
- Over 300 miscellaneous astronomy equipment pieces (full list and categorization by kept/sold can be found at: (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19JabmQ35Gk9PaVCYF-0pRMKx8GvOEzFDRrjNVXFe_dM/edit?usp=sharing))
- Antique Victorian Bowed Glass Display Cabinet
- Antique Victorian Display Cabinet (beveled glass top)

Summary of purchased equipment:

- Dwarf 3
- Dwarf 3
- Seestar S50

Summary of kept equipment: (Value ~ \$4,700)

Summary of sold equipment: (Value = \$1,420)

Summary of lending & library:

- 16 books borrowed
- 6 accessories borrowed
- 11 telescopes borrowed



RASC-KC

c/o 76 Colebrook Road, RR#1
Yarker, Ontario
K0K 3N0 Canada

Email: kingston@rasc.ca

Web: kingston.rasc.ca

Facebook: RASC Kingston Centre

at Ellis Hall, Queen’s University, with dinner at a local pub enjoyed beforehand. On non-meeting weeks, we held Zoom socials, well attended by our members. July and August, these socials were held outdoors at

Lake Ontario Park. Executive meetings, 4 in all, were held by Zoom.

Outreach and Events: We continue to assist at the Queen's University Observatory Open House once a month with Laurie Graham, Devin Graham-Ancsin, Susan Gagnon, Bruce Elliott and Elena Zanetti on hand. Kim Hay presented to the Winnipeg Centre on Solar Observing and Citizen Science. Shelley and Stefan Jackson conducted astronomy outreach at a campground, and Rose-Marie Burke and Rick Wagner at a Portland event. Dieter Brueckner outreach efforts reached as far as Switzerland. Astrophotography tutorials led by Malcolm Park are well attended. Queen's University hosted Science Rendezvous where our volunteers, Bruce Elliott, Kim Hay, Kevin Kell, Susan Gagnon, Laurie Graham, Devin Graham-Ancsin, Roger Hill, Rick Wagner, and Peggy and John Hurley hosted a booth at this successful event. Bruce Elliott led the judging, along with Graeme Hay and Elena Zanetti, for the Kingston Centre's RASC Leo Enright Award for Astronomy at the Frontenac Lennox & Addington Science Fair. The winner was Jyotis Jugroot, from King's Town School, for his project, 'Wheelie on the Moon'. Rick Wagner continues to inform us on monthly celestial events. Our newsletter, the Regulus, is published monthly by Roger Hill and is a key resource. David Levy reads us poetry, John

Hurley updates us on National Council activities and our members regale us with images and videos on a regular basis.

Speakers: We are fortunate to continue to have a variety of speakers at our meetings, knowledgeable and passionate about astronomy. These include Mike Karakas, Winnipeg Centre member, on Traveling for Planetary Imaging, Alan Dyer, author and astrophotographer, on Cosmic Connections: How the Moon and Stars Made Earth and Life Possible, David Chapman, Fellow of the RASC and Halifax Centre member, on Celestial Birds: Lore and Observing, Jeff Booth, Toronto Centre member, on the Aurora Borealis: A Natural Wonder, John Moores, Director & Associate Professor, Earth and Space Science Program at York University, on Daydreaming in the Solar System, Jenna Hinds, Executive Director of the RASC, on the Modern History of the RASC, Rick Wagner, Kingston Centre member, on Astronomical Photometry, Stefan Jackson, Kingston Centre member, on Imaging the Sun in Ha, and Steve Mallia, from Ontario Telescope and Accessories, on Gear.

Looking forward to clear skies and a productive 2026.

Elena Zanetti, Secretary



Centre Volunteers at Science Rendezvous, an annual science festival, held May 10th, 2025. From left to right, Devin Graham-Ancsin, Laurie Graham, Roger Hill, Rick Wagner, Him Hay, Kevin Kell, Peggy and John Hurley, Bruce Elliott and Susan Gagnon.



November AGM where Malcolm Park receives the Kingston Centre A Vibert Douglas Award, presented by Kim Hay.

Kitchener-Waterloo

ABOUT

Year established - 1952c

Membership ~ 142 (Current and Due)

Assets – Small telescope library, including solar scopes, some small investments

Partnerships

- Tilker’s Dark Sky Site, for club members in partnership with local farmer
- Telescope Time with Kitchener and Waterloo public libraries
- Sky Tours and Talks at University of Guelph Arboretum
- Summer Star Parties at Conestogo Lake Conservation Area

Outreach

- Over 15 events in 2025, with about 600 participants
- Over 30 events in 2024, with about 900 participants

Highlights

Kitchener-Waterloo Centre held a number of events, starting with a lunar eclipse at University of Waterloo in March. Two summer activities at Conestogo Lake conservation area drew many curious visitors. Several events throughout the year at a local church parking lot drew significant crowds due to the convenience of the in town location. Events at Sedirou Estonian Summer Camp and with Shad Valley gave an opportunity to share the night sky with school age children.

During our monthly meetings we were able to host researchers from local universities and other guest speakers discussing various things including southern hemisphere skies and astrophotos to Martian Geomorphology and telescope building to current research projects.

Centre Executive

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| President | Gary Cameron |
| Vice Presidents | Neil Hunt Peter Pekurar |
| Treasurer | Michael Wright |
| Secretary | Roseanna Rigo |
| National Council Rep | Simon Cant |
| Webmaster | Karol Socander |
| Auditor | John O’Grady |
| National Council Representative | Siman Cant |

The bi-annual Bayfield star parties were blessed with better weather this year, with increased attendance.

The annual astrophotography and sketching contest have continued to be popular with many entries from new participants. There were many beautiful photos and videos shown of the October 2024 Aurora.

Challenges

The weather continued to be a challenge this year, with a number of planned outreach events such as the UofW Perseid meteor shower being cancelled, although we had better luck with our Bayfield sessions and did not have to deal with the effects of forest fires out west.

Looking forward – 2026 and beyond:
For 2026, we are hoping to have outreach events in town, which tends to draw larger crowds as well as continuing the usual events at Bayfield and Conestoga while continuing to reach out with outlying communities.



Bayfield drone view



Bayfield telescopes



3D-Printed Telescope



Inside the Planetarium

London

Centre Executive

The Executive team consisted of the following:

No report received.

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Mark Tovey |
| Vice President | Tyrone Klassen |
| Treasurer | Normal McCall |
| Secretary | Andrew Peters |

Council Members:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| National Council Rep | Peter Jedicke |
| Observer's Chair | Dale Armstrong |
| Honorary President | Peter Jedicke |
| Past President | Bill Gardner |
| Higher Education Liaison and Librarian | Robert (Bob) Duff |
| Youth Programs / Women's Programs | Heather MacIsaac |
| IT System Administrator | Tyrone Klassen Priyank Panchal |
| Councillor at Large | Katelyn Becroft |
| Councillor at Large | Chris Boltë |
| Councillor at Large | Steve Imrie |

Mississauga

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

June 27: Dr. Dirk Froebrich, The Hunting Outbursting Young Stars Citizen Science Project

September 26: Dr. Elaina Hyde, Telescope Spaceships: How to Travel Faster than Light

November 21: Dr. Jesse Rogerson, Humans are natural dreamers and storytellers

There were nine Potpourri Nights covering the following topics:

Cosmology, comets, eclipses, occultations, astrophysics, radio astronomy, SNOLAB, the Space Shuttle, telescope and equipment reviews, the telescope loan program, astroimaging (including galaxies, comets, an ISS solar transit and more), astronomy-related travel, astronomy history, book reviews, the 2024 Astrophotography Contest Results, Starfest, donations to the RASC, artificial intelligence, a trip to York University's Allan I. Carswell Observatory, Discord software (a new communication platform for members), and astro quizzes.

Centre Executive

The Mississauga Centre thanks Dr. Ulrich Krull and Dr. Lea Hirsch of the Chemical & Physical Sciences (CPS) department of the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) for facilitating the use of a lecture room at the university for Centre meetings, and Randy Attwood and Swapna Shrivastava for their contact with UTM. The Mississauga Centre is an academic activity and as such is able to use a lecture room free of charge. On Speaker Nights, an expert in astronomy or a related topic gives a presentation. On Potpourri Nights, members of the Centre give shorter presentations on astronomy and space-related topics.

Friday Meetings

In 2025, there were seven Speaker Nights:

February 21: Dr. Robin Metcalfe, Under the Sea: An Update on Space-Based Exploration of Jupiter's Ocean – Bearing Moons; Annual Meeting, Centre Awards

March 21: Dr. Michael Reid, Reconnecting Students to the Cosmos with Experiential Learning

April 25: Dr. Perry Edmundson, Canada's Lunar Rover Mission Update

May 23: Ivan Semeniuk, Mysteries of the Cosmic Dawn

Awards

The Astrophotography winners for 2024 (awarded in 2025) were the following (first place mentioned first in each category):

General Solar System: Jo VandenDool, Melissa Hayes, Jake Benbihy

Centre Executive

President Allan Connery

Vice President Kirby Alguire

Treasurer Anil Mathur

Secretary Chris Malicki

Council Members:

Past President Randy Attwood

Honorary President Dr. Ulrich Krull

Councillor Betty Robinson

Councillor Keith Jarvie

Councillor Val Connery

Councillor Swapna Shrivastava

Councillor Rob Neill

Councillor Robin Metcalfe

Master Solar System: Shakeel Anwar, Shakeel Anwar, Michele Rainville

Master DSO: Michele Rainville, Dennis Gasparatto, Shakeel Anwar

Master Astroscape: Shakeel Anwar, Shakeel Anwar, Kai Pettifer

General Astroscape: Jake Benbihy, Omar Alnaji, Dalisay Perez

Youth: Logan Shaver (1st and 2nd)

Awards of the Mississauga Centre, awarded at the Annual Meeting in February:

Centre Award: Swapna Shrivastava

Special Projects Award: Val Connery

Observing

The Mississauga Centre has an active observing program and partners with the Riverwood Conservancy (thank you to Randy Attwood, Allan Connery, and others) for public outreach observing events. In addition, Kirby Alguire secured permits and organized members-only darkish sky observing at the Upper Credit Valley Conservation Area.

The Riverwood events are always well attended by the public, and supported by volunteers from Riverwood and the Mississauga Centre.

The April 9 event was cancelled due to cold temperature. There was good attendance (150 to 170) on June 3, July 8, August 5 (complicated by haze and forest fire smoke), September 30, and October 28 (successful event despite a World Series game on at the same time).

The Upper Credit Valley Conservation Area events

were cancelled in January, February, March, April, and the first half of May due to inclement weather. Successful observing sessions took place on May 24 with a strong attendance of astrophotographers and observers, June 28 and September 19 and 27.

As in past years, many Mississauga Centre members attended Starfest in August.

Other Events

Swapna Shrivastava organized a Mississauga Centre trip for 18 members to the Royal Ontario Museum on January 21, for a tour of the meteorite and space rock collections. Dr. Kim Tait, Senior Curator, Teck Endowed Chair of Mineralogy, was to give the tour but was travelling and unable to. However, a volunteer, Doug Currie, took the time to provide us with an enthusiastic tour despite stepping in at the last minute.

Randy Attwood again organized a well-attended Introduction to Astronomy course on four Wednesdays, March 12 – April 2, at Riverwood, with Centre members volunteering with presentations.

The popular annual picnic with over 50 attendees was held on June 7 with an abundance of food and drink, an ice cream truck, solar scopes, an Astro-Exchange organized by Swapna Shrivastava, and an astronomy quiz by Raghav Dewett. Thanks to Val Connery, her family, and other volunteers for making this a great success.

Thanks to an advisory group including Rob Neill, Shakeel Anwar, and Jo VandenDool, as well as guidance from Michele Rainville, the Centre added two new telescopes to the telescope loan program for beginner to intermediate astrophotography! This includes a Seestar S50 Smart Telescope for beginners and intermediate users, the donated Svony SV503 refractor, along with ASI585MC 8.29MP Colour Camera, an ASIAIR Wi-Fi controller, an ASI120MM Mini guide camera, Dual-Band and UV/IR cut filters, and a power station for a complete intermediate to advanced astrophotography setup.

Submitted by Chris Malicki,
Secretary, Mississauga Centre

Montreal

Year Established - 1918

Membership - 139

Assets

Main meeting places are the Morgan Arboretum (hosted by McGill Morgan Arboretum) where our Bellevue Observatory is located and John Abott College graciously hosts us where we have The Isabel Williamson Library, other observing sites are “Wooly Woods Observatory”, our dark sky site located about 60 minutes south of Montreal where one of our members hosts us on their property and Thomson Park in Hudson just off the western tip of the Island of Montreal. The Bellevue Observatory houses our 14” LX200 Meade RCX (Modified Richey-Chretien), we have 16” Explore Scientific Dobsonian outfitted with Nexus Encoder (affectionally called the BumbleBee), Coronado 70mm NearStar h-Alpha for solar observing, we also have other misc. telescopes include 2 8” Dobs. One of the 8” Dobs as well as two refractors are loaner scopes for our members.

Partnerships

John Abbott College, JAC Space Club, McGill University Morgan Arboretum, Montreal Aviation Museum, Espace pour la vie, Trottier IREx, University of Guelph Physics Dept, Let’s Talk Science McGill MacDonald Campus, Concordia University Physics Dept, SEDS Canada, Explore Alliance and Explore Scientific.

Outreach

As mentioned in the Public Events Report, MDA held a special event for the Perseids meteor shower. Due to poor weather and scheduling conflicts, there were no other Outreach events this year.

Public Outreach

Our 2025 RASC Montreal Public Events schedule featured a combination of familiar events that have become a staple of our public offerings, along with some inspirational pilot events that will hopefully set



Enthusiastic Montreal Centre volunteers at Montreal’s largest astronomy event, Astrofest 2025 at Montreal’s Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium

Centre Executive

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| President | Morrie Portnoff |
| Vice President | David Shuman |
| Treasurer | Terence Ladd |
| Secretary | Michael Finkelstein |

Council Members:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Recording Secretary | Yi Fan Zhou |
| Director of the Observatory | Karl Petruch |
| Public Events Coordinator | Karim Jaffer |
| Director of Outreach | Nader Daou |
| Director of Special Projects | Tim Bird |
| Webmaster | Richard Trottier |
| Director of Observational Events | Santiago Lopez |
| National Representative | Frank Tomaras |
| Director of Members’ Liaison | Nicole Laporte |
| Skyward Editor | Gerald MacKenzie |
| Director of Social Media | Alexei Weins |
| Director of Special Events | David Shuman |
| Librarian | Cindy Wrightv |
| Director of Research and Development | Karl Petruch |

the stage for more diverse events and activities over the coming years.

Jan 2025:

co-modal talk by Dr. Michael Wong, astrobiologist at the Carnegie Institute in Washington DC and host of the Star Trek Strange New Worlds podcast.

February 2025 began with our annual LiveStream with Guelph Physics, welcoming Tent Telescopes 3D guru Bryan Delodder

February also featured our JAC Space Club partners co-hosting Plateau Astro for a mobile planetarium show for our now-annual event.

March 2025 included a total lunar eclipse night in the middle of the week with over 100 attending through the night. March had a planned partial annular solar eclipse viewing at sunrise with a new city partner (Vaudreuil) that was canceled due to bad weather.

April, we started of a new mentorship arrangement to help the Dawson Astronomical Society (DAS). We brought Dr. Clémence Fontanive from Trottier iREx to share her work on detecting Brown Dwarfs.

Also, in April we held a Lyrids Meteor shower event with a great weeknight turnout.

In May our RASC Montreal Centre was one of the participants in the Stars Across Canada event to celebrate the 2025 International Astronomy Day (IAD) with Global Star Party 170 – co-hosted by RASC and Explore Scientific, with our Montreal event featuring a timely talk on Aurora observing in Manitoba by our own Russell Fralich.

June was marked by our annual participation in



Artemis II: Mission to the Moon featuring Trevor from Planteau Astro inside his mobile planetarium at John Abbott College

AstroFest with the Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium. We also added two events in June - an online talk by young author and science communicator Nathan Hellner-Mestelman introducing his most recent book – the Language of the Stars, and a re-opening event for our RASC Library featuring Frank Hughes - author and trainer of the Apollo mission astronauts.

In August we had back-to-back events for the Perseids meteor shower, beginning with an Outreach visit by MDA for the second consecutive year with over 300 attending and 3 separate talks from student volunteers. On the peak night we had our annual public Papacosmas Perseids Meteor Shower event - and this year we were the only ones offering a public opportunity to view the meteor shower. With conflicting information being shared by AI, social media and media our attendance ran well past our capacity and the event had to be closed up early.

Sept 2025 featured our annual keynote Public Lecture – the Townsend Event - this year hosting Dr. Lisa Dang from the University of Waterloo.

In early Oct we ran a unique event for International Observe the Moon Night, as RASC Montreal partnered with Dark Sky Preserve for an observing,

musical and poetry-filled evening with a hands-on constellations and dark skies activity plus music on the field beside the Bellevue Observatory. Our annual Oct Spooky Nights event with the JAC Space Club fell on a Wed this year - leading to lower turnout than usual unfortunately. We added in a Nov Public Event with Space Places II – as our exec David Shuman and Alexei Weins will share pics, stories and high-res video of rocket launches and their adventures this past summer to attend these incredible sights.

In early Dec we hosted an Inreach workshop for our members, partners and in collaboration with the University of Michigan Lowbrow Astronomers. And we ended our 2025 public events schedule with our Geminids night - a great turnout of 50+ on a very cold and cloudy Dec night.

Special Projects

Member presentations and workshops on astrophotography and moongazing. Ongoing projects with Dr. Higgins of McGill University and a project with Concordia University Physics featuring a radio telescope project.

Highlights

We have had numerous amazing presentations by our members from workshops on astrophotography and observing the moon to numerous guest presenters as well as presentations by our members. Of course, observationally was challenged by clouds and smoke from forest fires. However, with perseverance we were able to enjoy some evenings under the stars.

Challenges

As always there were challenges which brought many successes. We are engaging more of our members to become volunteers at events. This has led to 3 members joining our Board of Directors. This is an unprecedented event to have 3 new board members..

Looking Forward - 2026 and Beyond

We look forward to continuing to build upon our main partnerships with John Abbott College and The Morgan Arboretum with more co-events..



The amazing range of public events held by the RASC Montreal Centre

New Brunswick

Year Established - 2000

Membership (end 2024) - 77

Assets

RASC NB has access to a Coronado PST, Herschel wedge, several astronomy books and a projector for Centre members.

Partnerships

Centre members are committed to annual public star parties (weather permitting) at the three RASC Dark Sky Preserves in New Brunswick; Kouchibouguac National Park (late spring and autumn), Mount Carleton Provincial Park and Fundy National Park; as well as one or two public observing events at the RASC Urban Star Park (Irving Nature Park) in Saint John. An annual star party was re-established at Mactaquac Provincial Park. Following a request from NB Public Libraries we supported their space-themed Summer Reading Club with twelve presentations and/or solar observing at six libraries. Four science camps at UNBSJ were supported with a presentation, and solar observing, when weather allowed.

Outreach

Centre members performed 167 events, 47 of which were for schools and youth groups, for approximately 62,000 people online and 4900 in-person or online to a known audience. The events involved approximately 2240 hours of volunteer time.

Highlights

The main outreach event was a live feed of the March solar eclipse from Moncton which drew 56,000 viewers, not counting the extra viewers via

Centre Executive

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| President | Curt Nason |
| Vice President | June MacDonald David Hunter |
| Treasurer | Yolanda Kippers |
| Secretary | Emma MacPhee |

Council Members:

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Councillor: | Chris Curwin |
| Councillor: | Alan Legere |
| Councillor: | Yves St. Germain |
| Councillor: | François Thériault |

Time and Date carrying the feed. The Centre was featured in the April edition of BBC Sky at Night magazine's Society in Focus section. We celebrated our 25th anniversary as a Centre with the first in-person meeting since 2000 with 17 members and former members reminiscing and noshing.

Challenges

None that is new or significant. Centre Zoom meetings attract 15-25 people, no different than for in-person meetings alternating among three cities. Members are reluctant to volunteer for Council but with a little prodding we fill the positions.

Looking Forward

Maintaining outreach and membership. There is an initiative headed by a member's astrotourism company to work with NB Tourism and communities to commit to certifying dark-sky areas in the province.



Mactaquac star party (photo by Ted Dunphy)



25th anniversary treat (photo by Emma MacPhee, cookies by Yolanda Kippers)

Niagara

After the excitement of the 2024 eclipse, two excellent aurora shows that year and many other excellent sightings that year, the Niagara Centre had a much calmer and more typical year.

Our monthly meetings were held at Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls. We like the venue and anticipate that it will be our home for the next few years. The meeting room is very good and we can also hold public star nights there. We usually have 25-30 attendees. We felt that we had a great variety of guest speakers, half on Zoom, half in person.

Our membership went down this year from the 70s to the 60s. This reflected members leaving the club, as well as gaining new members. Our members' observatory was open and ready to go, although we feel that it is underused. A spring work party put a tremendous amount of work into the two observatories, storage shed, shipping container and grounds. The 16" mirror from our Newtonian reflector was removed for resilvering at the end of the year. It was long past due. Monthly members' nights at the observatory are scheduled, several nights had good turnouts.

We continue to have many public events from March to November. These events are held at Heartland Forest, other parks, schools and community centres.

Rock Point Provincial Park continues to be a favourite summer destination, where we exchange a couple of nights camping for star nights with the campers.

Starfest is also popular, with several members staying for the whole week. For the past five years or more, we have been working with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. During May and June, they run overnight camping excursions for students in Grade 5-8 at Balls Falls Conservation Area. Several members bring telescopes to show students, teachers and staff the Moon, planets and stars.

Executive as of February 2026

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>President</i> | <i>Dan Frigault</i> |
| <i>Vice-President</i> | <i>open</i> |
| <i>Secretary</i> | <i>Philip Downey</i> |
| <i>Treasurer -</i> | <i>Bob Lewis</i> |
| <i>National rep</i> | <i>Rick Stasiak</i> |
| <i>Board of Directors</i> | <i>Rob Lenz</i> |
| | <i>Gerry Wissiak</i> |
| | <i>Rick McInnis</i> |
| | <i>Brian Vaughan.</i> |

In September, Pauline Horton took over our popular beginners' sessions, which are held before our monthly general meetings. The new theme is "Beginners Learning Together". Rylan Wakeman, a Youth member, taught the classes from January to June. He resigned in the summer, since he was leaving to study astronomy at the University of Waterloo. Our Signal group continues to be popular with club members, for chat, timely alerts and reminders. Over 20 people have signed up.

Niagara Centre guest speakers 2025

January - Robert Godwin "William Leitch"
 February - Barry Pinton "Neutrino Astronomy"
 March - Lunar eclipse roundtable
 April - Bryan Delodder, Ten Telescopes.
 "The Accidental Telescope Factory".
 May - Dan Scolnic - Duke University - "Measuring the Expansion Rate of the Universe"
 September - Mariek Schmidt, Brock University.
 "Perseverance and Jezero Crater"
 October - Samantha Lawler - University of Regina.
 The effects of Starlink and other satellite constellations.
 November - Paul Gray - Starmus Festival
 December - Liam Antonsen - RASC Niagara - Amateur Telescope Making

- by Phil Downey



Okanagan

About the Okanagan Centre

- Established: 1996
- Okanagan Observatory opened to the public: 2008
- Membership: 78 active members
- Assets: Okanagan Observatory (800 Big White Rd), multiple amateur telescopes, and a 25” reflector telescope,
- Partnerships: AAOK (Amateur Astronomers of the Okanagan), Okanagan College, City of Kelowna Parks & Recreation
- Outreach: See highlights below

Centre Executive

- President: Wes Quist
- Vice Presidents: Roland Oliynyk (Kelowna), Mark Force (Penticton)
- Treasurer: Irene Pett
- Secretary: Laird Bowie
- National Representative: Jim Failes
- Directors: Sean Perdue, Olaf Lutz
- Observatory Director: Penny Nile

2025 Highlights

Under the leadership of Outreach Coordinator Colleen O’Hare, the Kelowna outreach team delivered an exceptional year of public engagement. In 2025, the Centre hosted 45 outreach events, reaching 2,000 guests, including nearly 900 youth under 21. Programs served schools, youth groups, adult learners, and the general public.

Key Achievements

- 45 community outreach events delivered across the region
- 2,000 total participants, including ~900 youth
- A diverse mix of school visits, kids’ camps, youth groups, adult programs, and a Dark Sky event
- 6 clear-sky Friday public nights at the Okanagan Observatory, welcoming 250 guests despite challenging weather
- The Skygazer Shuttle mobility bus operated once, providing access for two very appreciative guests

Centre Executive

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| President | Wes Quist |
| Vice President Penticton | Mark Force |
| Vice President Kelowna | Roland Oliynyk |
| Treasurer | Irene Pett |
| Secretary | Laird Bowie |
| National Representative | Jim Failes |
| Director | Sean Perdue |
| Director | Olaf Lutz |
| Observatory Director | Penny Nile |

- The 3rd Annual Okanagan Observatory Star Party hosted 19 campers, featuring dark skies, presentations, a group dinner, and door prizes
 - Weekly Friday public observing nights, weather permitting, continued as a core outreach offering
- ### Equipment & Accessibility

After the theft of our articulated eyepiece, the Centre invested in two SEESStar units. These have proven invaluable, enabling guests of all abilities to enjoy the night sky and significantly improving accessibility at public events.

Challenges

- Declining membership and volunteer capacity
- Persistent poor weather and wildfire impacts
- An aging membership base, making recruitment and retention increasingly important

Looking Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

- Continued strong demand for outreach from schools, community groups, and city-hosted events
- Plans to reopen the Observatory for Friday public nights throughout the summer, weather permitting
- Ongoing commitment to hosting the annual Okanagan Observatory Star Party
- Renewed focus on membership growth, volunteer engagement, and strengthening community partnerships.

Ottawa

No report submitted.

Prince George

ABOUT

Year established: 1931

Membership: 171 as of February 2026

Assets: VRO Observatory including imaging equipment, 5-6 telescopes for loaner program, Jim Bernat Meteorite Collection

Partnerships: SFU, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

Outreach: Friday night Starry Nights in collaboration with SFU, Astronomy Day at SFU, various school presentations, Monthly meetings with guest speakers at SFU Burnaby campus*, Imaging sessions led by Marla, Alan and Rick, NOVA newsletters, Maple Ridge Library event and Canada Day Event,

Special Projects: Washtock star party and remote access and power improvements to VRO

CENTRE EXECUTIVE

President – Nolan Smith

Vice President – Kyle Dally

Treasurer – Phil Lobo

Secretary – Marla Daskis

National Rep – Kai Hui

Speakers Chair/PR – Andrew Ferreira

Events – Suzanna Nagy and Norry Dogan

Observing chair – vacant

Education - vacant

Membership – Marla Daskis

Merchandise – Kyle Dally

Imaging Chairs – Marla Daskis, Alan Jones,

Rick Schneider

Librarian – William Fearon

NOVA Editor – Gordon Farrell

LPA Chair – Leigh Cummings

Webmaster – Martin Curic

VRO Observatory – Alan Jones

Members at Large – Michael Levy, Ty Palmer,
Rob Lyons

HIGHLIGHTS

The VRO Observatory had many upgrades which led to various events there

Renewed relationship with the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

Excellent Monthly speakers (see below for topics and presenter names)

Successful Star Party to renew this year at the same location.

We had quite a few great telescopes donated for our loaner program

CHALLENGES

Light pollution at SFU due to construction

Volunteer fatigue – most of the volunteers for our events are coming from council members

Below were the 2025 RASC Monthly Meeting Topics and Speaker names:

January Matthew Borghese, NASA, 2024 in review, and a preview of 2025

February Alan Chan, Can Active Galactic Nuclei Be Used as Standard Candles to Measure Cosmology?

March Robert Conrad , Observational Astronomy Masterclass

April RASC Vancouver's Show and Tell-scope & Beginner's Guide to Starhopping

May Louis-Philippe Coulombe, Forecasting Exoplanet Weather with the James Webb Space Telescope

June (Paul Sykes) Dr. Michelle Kunimoto, How I Found 3000 New Exoplanets

July Postponed

September Brett Gladman, Bringing the Night Sky to Life: The Vera Rubin Observatory

October Jennie "Starstuff" King, Cosmic Rewind: Celebrating the Last Five Years (from July)

November RASC Vancouver's Show and Tell-scope & Beginner's Guide to Starhopping

December Darsh Mittal, Introduction to Astrophotography

Regina

Year established - 1910

We have a “100 Years of Astronomy in Regina” history book (712 pages) available documenting the first 100 years of our Centre and our activities in southern Saskatchewan.

Copies are available for \$110 for members, and \$125 for non-members.

Membership - 76

Assets

This only includes fixed assets on our financial statement.

- Wireless microphone and mixer sound system for Centre meetings.
- Davin Observatory Land – this is now a Bortle 4 – 5 location outside the city. This was a very dark site when it was acquired in 1990, but the city and rural light pollution has increased significantly over the last 35 years.
- Investments being held to purchase new land to replace the Davin Observatory in a darker / less light polluted location.
- Artwork in the Kalium Observatory located in the Saskatchewan Science Centre.
- 2x Lunt LS60T H α 60 mm solar scopes used for summer public outreach.
- Comet Petriew Cairn – commemorates the discovery of Comet Petriew by one of our members Vance Petriew. It is located at the Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve.
- In addition, we have several loaner telescopes available to members at no charge.

Partnerships (Parks, Universities, Municipalities)

Saskatchewan Science Centre – established in 1989.

The Regina Centre’s Kalium Observatory is located on the roof of the Science Centre.

This is our primary public outreach location open twice a month at no charge.

Our monthly Centre Meetings are held in the Science Centre Theatre and on Zoom. They are open to the public at no charge.

Each meeting has an introduction on recent astronomy related research, a feature presenter (typically from a university, major observatory, or space science program), along with a section on what’s up in the sky.

We also provide several special events for the Science Centre each year to help them with their mission and fundraising.

It contains a 25-year-old Meade LX200 12” SCT driven by a computer.

Centre Executive

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| President | Pierre Schierle |
| Vice President | Rick Saunders |
| Treasurer | Ken Luciak |
| Secretary | Kevin Fenwick |
| National Council Rep | Mark Meadows |
| Past President | Vance Petriew |

Council Members:

Fred Cawsey
Erin Jezegou-Campbell
Art Slibinsky



Comet Petriew Cairn Commemorial

Saskatchewan Summer Star Party (SSSP) – established 1997

This is a partnership between the Regina and Saskatoon Centres and is the premier star party in western Canada held over new moon in August each year at the Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve.

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CHIPP) – established 1997

The partnership with CHIPP grew out of the SSSP.

In 2004, the CHIPP was designated a DSP with support from the Regina and Saskatoon Centres.

We subsequently helped the park develop their astronomy program and facilities.

In 2021, following the pandemic, the provincial park system defunded the CHIPP astronomy program. See the University of Regina partnership for how this was re-established.

We are currently working with the park on the redevelopment of their facilities.

University of Regina – established 2018

The relationship with the University of Regina was reestablished in 2018.

The university runs a program called EYES (Education Youth in Engineering and Science) that is used to recruit new students to the university and develop new STEM educators.

In 2022, a three-way partnership between CHIPP, U of R EYES, and the Regina Centre was established to re-establish the astronomy outreach at CHIPP.

CHIPP provides the observatory and support for the program.

EYES provides the students that lead the outreach programs from June to August that include nightly observing, and education on the sky and LPA, and weekend solar viewing.

The Regina Centre provides training for the EYES team and maintenance of the telescopes.

Outreach

The Regina Centre may be relatively small, but we are very mighty when it comes to outreach. We held 55 events, run by 27 volunteers (over 35% of our members), reaching 2,237 children and youth, plus 3,781 adults for a total of 6,018 people given in-person views of the night sky and sun.

The events were as small as 2 or 3 on cloudy nights at the Kalium observatory to over 2,600 on Canada Day for solar viewing in the Family Fun Zone.

We reached a further 4,619 people through our partnership with CHIPP and EYES for a total of 10,637 people reached.

Special Projects

Rebuilding the fence at our dark sky site to block the highway and nearby town lights. The fence will be designed to be moveable to a future darker site.

Rewriting our Bylaws that were last revised in 2001.



Star Party

Improving our Social Media presence and branding.

Highlights

An amazing year of outreach (see above) and a strong line-up of speakers at our Centre meetings.

Unveiling of the new Petriew Comet Monument and celebration of the comet discovery at CHIPP.

Challenges

We run so many outreach events that it is challenging to cover them all with volunteers. We had to decline some major events in 2025, or our numbers would have been even higher.

Looking Forward - 2025 and Beyond

We are currently working with the Saskatchewan Science Centre on refurbishing the Kalium Observatory. As part of this we need to find a new corporate sponsor that would obtain naming rights for the observatory. This is a complicated / slow process because the building itself is owned by SaskPower, a crown corporation.

Saskatoon

Submitted by Lorie Tedford, Secretary

Year established - 1968

Membership - 60 members

Assets

Sleaford Observatory and Dark Sky Site, Meade 12" scope, the rental program has three 12" Dobs, three 8" Dobs, 2 Dwarf smartscopes and 1 Seestar scope available for rent.

Partnerships

University of Saskatchewan, Grasslands National Park DSP, Cypress Hills Provincial Park DSP, Meewasin Valley Authority Tourism Saskatchewan.

Awards & Honours: None.

Activities & Outreach

The Saskatoon Centre hosted a record high for outreach events in 2025. Most of these events were held alongside the Meewasin Valley Authority led by member Tim Yaworski. Other events were for programs hosted by other organizations in the community that requested the presence of RASC. Throughout the year, hybrid meetings continued to be held each month. The telescope rental program was operational and well used in 2025. This program is looking to be improved with the addition of a fleet of smart scopes. Member Joelle Sheard-Patrick has kickstarted a library telescope program here in Saskatoon. It will be up and running late 2026. The Sleaford Observatory hosted a few observation sessions this year, weather being the main reason for cancellations. Darrell Chatfield took care of the Sleaford site maintenance with his crew.

Summary of the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party by RASC Member and former SSSP Committee Chair Les Dickson:

"The 28th Saskatchewan Summer Star Party was another success! The over 300 attendees enjoyed several nights of clear skies and all that our daytime activities had to offer. We were pleased to have a diverse and interesting roster of presenters this year. Professor Chris Herd of the University of Alberta in Edmonton gave the Fr. Lucian Kemble Memorial Lecture on The Search for Life on Mars: NASA's Perseverance Rover Mission. He was well-qualified

Centre Executive

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| President | John Takata |
| Vice President | Nick Larsen |
| Treasurer (acting) | Les Dickson |
| Secretary | Lorie Tedford |
| National Council Rep | Joelle Sheard-Patrick |

to speak on the subject as he has a leadership role in the selection, collection, and documentation of samples acquired by this NASA mission.

Kierstin Anderson and Mahd Siddiqui of the RADSAT-SK2 Team from the University of Saskatchewan talked about their first RADSAT -SK CubeSat mission in 2023 and the upcoming RADSAT-SK2 mission to be launched in 2026. Kimberly Sibbald gave the Thursday evening "Under Living Skies" Public Lecture on What is Night Photography: An Introduction to Astrophotography. Jeff Swick of our Centre revived the Telescope Walk-about, a daytime tour showing off much of the different telescope equipment scattered around the main Meadows Campground. Our own Nick Larsen gave a 2-hour condensed version of his workshop on astrophotography imaging workflow and post processing using the SIRIL software package.

This clinic proved to be quite popular as the Yurt classroom was filled to capacity. Ron Waldron of Saskatoon and Jack Milliken of Calgary gave evening observing clinics under the stars. Jack was a real trooper as he gave the clinic the day after he suffered an injury while setting up his equipment in the Meadows. He is healing nicely, and we appreciate his dedication. Jennifer Petriew of White City SK and Joelle Sheard of Saskatoon organized the Kid's Workshop on Saturday morning, where they made their own CubeSat models inspired by the RADSAT-SK2 presentation.

Along with the talks, we had a Thursday afternoon BBQ organized by Barb Wright of Calgary (formerly of Saskatoon) and an enjoyable banquet prepared by the Resort staff. SSSP 2025 Les Dickson - Organizing Committee Chair SSSP, the Regina Centre and the Park staff hosted a ceremony at the entrance to the Meadows Campground on Friday



afternoon to unveil the new Comet Petriew Cairn.

More details are provided in the accompanying article by Pierre Schierle of the Regina Centre. We appreciate the cooperation and contributions from the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park staff, especially Royce Pettijohn and Mim Martin. We thank the staff of the Resort at Cypress Hills, including Wes Eng, Melanie Morris and Olivia Brownlee.

Thanks to AllStar Telescope and others for contributions to our popular door prize draw. Devil's Head Coffee has donated coffee again this year. This yearly event would not take place without the efforts and dedication of the volunteers on the organizing committee and those working on-site.

These include Rick Huziak, Ellen Dickson, Greg Fusick, Brent Harrold, Joelle Sheard-Patrick, George Charpentier, Pierre Schierle, Vance Petriew, Andrew Kostiuk, and me. Special thanks to Barb Wright of Calgary, formerly President of the Saskatoon Centre, for stepping up to run our BBQ this year. Work on SSSP starts in October and takes hundreds of hours and thousands of emails and phone calls to organize the event. But SSSP only happens thanks to the efforts of dozens of participant volunteers who give their time annually to make it work on site. Thanks to all!"



Amazing sky above a big crowd of stargazers

Outreach Events

February-March Imaging Processing Workshops held at the University of Saskatchewan led by RASC Saskatoon member Nick Larsen.

February 7th - Planet Viewing with Meewasin Valley Authority led by RASC Saskatoon member Tim Yaworski.

February 8th RASC Saskatoon member Joelle Sheard-Patrick and RASC Saskatoon member Lorie Tedford had a booth set up with outreach materials at the Saskatoon Blades Space themed hockey game.

March 12th - Girl Guides Science Lab Badge Presentation led by RASC Saskatoon member Joelle-Sheard Patrick. There were activities and

scopes set up for the girl guide members.

March 13th - Lunar Eclipse with Meewasin Valley Authority led by RASC Saskatoon member Tim Yaworski.

April 25th - RASC YXE Public Observing night to celebrate International Dark Sky Week and International Astronomy Month led by RASC Saskatoon members Tim Yaworski and Joelle Sheard-Patrick. There were about 70 people that lined up to view the Sun, Jupiter and Mars.

May 24th - Beginners Astrophotography Workshops held at the University of Saskatchewan led by RASC Saskatoon member Nick Larsen.

June 1st - Saskatoon Open Doors event at the U. of S. Observatory. RASC Saskatoon member Joelle Sheard-Patrick represented the club, there were approximately 100 visitors.

September 5th - Broadway Street Fair led by RASC Saskatoon member Lorie Tedford.

September 20th - Dark Sky Night at Batoche National Historic Site. RASC Member Tim Yaworski gave a presentation and RASC Saskatoon member Tammy Valley was also representing the club.

November 1st - Halloween Dark Skies event with Meewasin Valley Authority led by RASC Saskatoon member Tim Yaworski.

General Meeting Program as follows (Meetings are not held in July, August and December):

January: An Introduction to Astrophotography - RASC Saskatoon Nick Larsen.

February: Comparison of DSLR, CCD, CMOS Cameras for Photometry - RASC Saskatoon Mark de Jong.

March: Before the Big Bang - RASC Saskatoon Yannis Pahatouroglou

April: Beginner Planetary Imaging on a Budget - RASC Saskatoon Nick Larsen.

May: Solar Max and Aurora - RASC Saskatoon Ron Waldron. June: Meteorites, a Down to Earth Subject - RASC Saskatoon Darrell Chatfield. Saskatchewan Summer Star Party - RASC Saskatoon Les Dickson.

October: Astronomy Rig Upgrades and Improvements - RASC Saskatoon Jeff Swick.

November: Light, the Universe and (Almost) Everything - RASC Saskatoon Les Dickson.

December: Members Christmas Social RASC Saskatoon member Colin Chatfield presented The Upcoming Sky talks at each meeting held in 2025 to highlight any celestial and noteworthy events taking place during the month.

St. John's

Year established - 1966

Membership - 65

Assets

Nine telescopes, accessories for member borrowing. Access to Butterpot Provincial Park for darker sky observing. Members-only chat group (RASCNLTalk on groups.io) for shared observations, alerts, and advice (about 3700 postings in 2024-2025).

Partnerships

Memorial University Physics (meeting space), Johnson GeoCentre, Terra Nova National Park, Butterpot Provincial Park.

Outreach

In 2025, the Centre carried out in-person Public Observing Events at the Johnson Geo Centre of Memorial University, at Butterpot Provincial Park, at Terra Nova National Park. Each involved 5-10 volunteers and visitors ranging from tens to hundreds. In February 2025, three members also traveled to Ken Diamond Park, in Glovertown, NL to assist Terra Nova National Park staff with an observing event at the Glovertown Winter Carnival. Events at the Johnson Geo Centre included Fall International Astronomy Day (Oct. 11, 2024. 10 members, 9 telescopes, over 100 visitors), a sunrise partial solar eclipse event (Mar. 29, 2025).

Fogged out but viewed on live stream from Denmark International Astronomy Day (May 3, 2025. Solar viewing, an information display, planetarium shows, appearance by Randy Dodge on the Stars Across Canada stream), Geo Centre Family Fun Day (June 19, 2025. Solar viewing), and Fall International Astronomy Day & International Observe the Moon Night (Sept. 27, 2025).

A dozen member telescopes, a few hundred visitors, some with telescopes). In 2025, the Centre also



Butterpot Star Party (Credit: Jim Johnston).

Centre Executive

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Michael Morrow |
| Vice President | Robert Babb |
| Treasurer | Jim Johnston |
| Secretary | Randy Dodge |

Council Members:

Garry Dymond
 Doug Grouchy
 Craig Peterman
 Marcellus Redmond
 Chris Stevenson
 Jon Nugent

collaborated with the Geo Centre to update their Our Future and Space exhibit.

As outlined in the Highlights section, this was celebrated at an event on June 3, 2025. Our Butterpot Star Party (August 1-2, 2025) had afternoon solar viewing and evening public observing with 10 member telescopes and some visitor telescopes. Five members participated in the Terra Nova Night Sky Celebration (August 22-24, 2025). There was an indoor event at the Park Activity Centre on Friday night and solar viewing, along with a solar system walk, at the Park Visitor Centre on Saturday.

On Saturday evening, visitors enjoyed views from several telescopes set up in the Park's dark sky viewing area at Sandy Pond. Over 25 presentations were delivered to youth groups (Scouts, Guides, etc.) and community groups, mostly by Garry Dymond at the Memorial University Marine Institute Planetarium.

Local media interviewed Centre members 7-8 times on topics including comet C/2023 A3, International Observe the Moon Night, aurora, Saturn's rings, the planet parade, and Fall International Astronomy Day. Three hundred copies of Nicole Mortillaro's Night Sky Almanac 2025, kindly provided by Firefly Books, were distributed at events like the Butterpot Star Party, Terra Nova Night Sky Celebration, and Fall International Astronomy Day.

Highlights

In 2025, the Centre also collaborated with the Geo Centre on an updating of their Our Future and Space exhibit. As outlined in the Highlights section, this update was celebrated at an event on June 3, 2025. The vintage refractor once owned by Ruth Northcott, and donated to the Centre in 1971, was installed in its own display cabinet, with numerous information cards including a placard highlighting contributions of Ruth Northcott, early Centre president Dora

Russell, and astrophysicist Dr. Anna O’Grady, a former Centre member. An event to celebrate the updated display, held on June 3, 2025, at Oct. 1, 2024 – Sept. 31, 2025 the Geo Centre, featured a Q&A session with Dr. Hilding Nielson, Dr. Ivan Booth, and Dr. Penny Morrill who are all profiled in the updated display, a talk by Dr. Susan Redmond on “To the stratosphere and beyond: Chasing cosmic clues with balloon-borne telescopes”, and a moon viewing session.



*Fall International Astronomy Day
(Credit: Garry Dymond)*

Presentations at our 10 monthly meetings (hybrid) included talks by members (Doug Grouchy on his 2x54 binoculars in October 2024, Jim Johnston on his 8” Rowe-Ackermann Schmidt Astrograph in November 2024,) and five talks by outside experts: Dr. Anna O’Grady (McWilliams Scholar, Carnegie-Mellon University and former Centre member) in December 2024 on “ Identifying Yellow Supergiant Binaries in the Magellanic Clouds - First Results from Spectroscopy”; Youssef Zaazou (Memorial University) in January 2025 on “AI to fill the gaps in Astronomy?”; Bethany Downer (Chief Science Communications Officer for the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes for the European Space Agency) in March 2025 on “Insights and communications from the Hubble and James Webb space telescopes” ; Kate Murphy (Johnson Geo Centre) in April 2025 on “A Stellar Collaboration: Updating “Our Future & Space” with the St. John’s Centre of the RASC”; Dr. Hilding Nielson (Memorial University) in May 2025 on “Current issues of light

and satellite pollution in international relations”; and Dr. Catherine Neish (Western University) in June 2025 on “Dragonfly: A Rotorcraft Lander at Titan”.

In addition to these talks and our normal member observation reports at each meeting, we had special observation reports on aurora observations at the October 2024 meeting, on comet C/2023 A3 at the November 2024 meeting, and on the lunar eclipse at the March 2025 meeting.

In June 2025, results of the Centre’s 2nd annual Astroimaging Contest were announced. Greg Baggs won in the Landscape category for “Full Moon and Barrens”. Bernard Day won in the Solar System category for “The Sun”. Jim Johnston won in the Deep Sky category for “LBN 552 & LND 1228 Dark Nebulas”, and Bernard Day won in the Overall category for “The Witch Head Nebula”.

Challenges

Our monthly meetings remain hybrid which allows us to engage remote members but also reduces social interaction. Membership gains balance losses. Newer members are starting to take on leadership roles but, as active members age, it becomes a challenge to recruit for outreach events, like at Terra Nova Park, that involve driving and accommodation challenges. We see positive signs that younger members are becoming more engaged, though, and are hopeful for the future of our outreach programs

In 2024-2025, the St. John’s Centre was saddened by the passing of Rick Goulding.

Looking forward - 2026/beyond

Smart telescopes like the SeeStar S50 and S30 and the Dwarf 3 are growing in popularity among new and established members. These reduce the barrier to doing astrophotography and several members are using smart telescopes and contributing enthusiastically to the Observation Reports sections of our monthly meetings.

These devices are well-suited to local conditions, in which weather can limit the duration and predictability of observing opportunities are encouraging more observing activity.

Sunshine Coast

Year established - 2004

Membership - 39

Current membership of the Sunshine Coast Centre is 39 members.

In 2025 observatory attendance was slightly down from last year due to weather being uncooperative: 8 less openings than the year before.

However, attendance at our 2nd Sunshine

Coast Star Party was up 50% from our first year. Our finances are secure. For the first time we have two GIC accounts to cover possible financial problems in future.

Donations are up at outreach, particularly our observatory, and from community donations through Canada Helps.

We just renegotiated our lease from the District of Sechelt for our observatory, increasing from a 1-year lease to a 5-year lease going forward. The District of Sechelt is currently working with our Centre and the RASC Light Pollution

Abatement Committee to get it registered as a Dark Sky Community. There is a lot of work involved in getting this done, but we are making progress and should get it completed soon.

Our observatory just celebrated its 10th anniversary and is showing its age, so our volunteers, led by Danny Sklazeski and David Thompson, have been working hard on upkeep.

Centre Executive

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| President | Charles Ennis |
| Vice President | Michael Bradley |
| Treasurer | Bruce Fryer |
| Secretary | Richard Mitchell |

Council Members:

Laurel Ennis
Daniel Skazleski
Richard Corbett

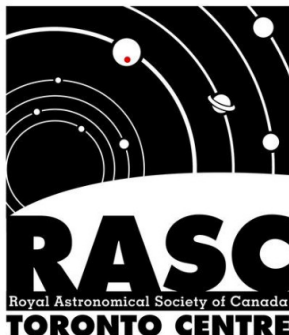
They've added a new storage shed to empty out our warm room so that we can use it for its original purpose. Danny tested a new fence to block the light coming into the site from vehicle arrivals, which was successful, and led to the aforementioned fencing donation to upgrade this to a permanent structure.

In outreach we are partnered with the siyaya reconciliation movement, the Sechelt Botanical Gardens

We conducted three Travelling Neighbourhood Star Parties in 2025, two as the Sechelt Botanical Gardens (with the second event partnered with the Sunshine Coast Community Orchestra), and one in August for the Plast Ukrainian Scouts at Camp Byng (300 attended).

Charles Ennis, President,
Sunshine Coast Astronomers

Toronto



It's been another busy and productive year at RASC Toronto. The RASC Toronto council met 5 times over the last year and has been constantly discussing issues concerning RASC Toronto. A total of 10 resolutions were passed. All our council meetings were well attended. Special thanks to Andrew Reid for setting up our remote Zoom meetings and Andy Beaton for recording and publishing the minutes promptly.

RASC Toronto Centre 2024-2025 Membership Report

Our current membership stands at 527 out of which 97 are family membership and 64 Youth Members. Our Member Advisor Grace Horvatin has been busy mailing 186 welcome packages and fielding a whole lot of questions.

Centre Executive 2023-2024

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Honorary President | Dr. Roberto Abraham |
| President | Alexander (Scott) Masterton |
| 1st Vice-President | Aly Kamadia |
| 2nd Vice-President | Dr. Elaina Hyde |
| Treasurer | Denis Grey |
| Secretary | Mahesh Aravamudan |
| Recorder | Andy Beaton |
| Council Members: | |
| Councillor | Ed Treijs |
| Councillor | Tony Horvatin |
| Councillor | Don Stewart |
| Councillor | Frank Dempsey |
| Councillor | Phil Morrow |
| Councillor | Tanya Oleksuik |
| Councillor | Charles Yung |
| Councillor | Charles Darrow |
| Councillor | Diana Salerno |
| 2st Past President | Dr. B. Ralph Chou |
| 1nd Past President | Tom Luton |

RASC Toronto Centre Membership History - as of September 30, 2025

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| Life | 76 | 76 | 76 | 75 | 74 | 69 | 67 | 66 | 64 | 64 | 63 | 64 |
| Regular | 549 | 592 | 587 | 537 | 538 | 540 | 488 | 526 | 470 | 445 | 469 | 403 |
| Youth | 23 | 28 | 33 | 30 | 38 | 30 | 21 | 27 | 35 | 34 | 64 | 60 |
| Subtotal | 648 | 696 | 696 | 642 | 650 | 639 | 576 | 619 | 569 | 543 | 596 | 527 |
| Family* | 192 | 237 | 213 | 196 | 194 | 196 | 150 | 134 | 113 | 118 | | 97*/527 |
| Total | 840 | 933 | 909 | 838 | 844 | 835 | 726 | 753 | 682 | 661 | 596 | 527 |

*97 /527 belong to Family Category

DAVID DUNLAP OBSERVATORY

The DDO Committee of RASC-TO was extremely busy this year. This committee arranges and oversees all outreach activities associated with the RASC-TC Partnership Agreement with the City of Richmond Hill. Under the able leadership of Phil Morrow, between October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025, the DDO Committee hosted a total of 85 events at the RHDDO (a new name for DDO).

Activities at the RHDDO included Regular outreach programming, private bookings, special events, external outreach events and training.

Events Summary

31 events as part of the regular outreach programming season; 49 private group bookings at RHDDO; 5 special events at the RHDDO and in the Richmond Hill area. In 2023-24 we hosted a total of 129 combined events in the entire year.

In the 2024-2025 program year, despite our near 6 month shutdown, more than 4200 people enjoyed in-person astronomy outreach programming offered by the DDO Committee at the RHDDO. This is an increase from last year's total of 3800 visitors. This total included the 90th Anniversary Celebration

on May 31st, which saw approximately 3000 visitors that weekend. Had significant and active involvement and participation from many of our Volunteers. This year, hosted several new “drop-in” programs, for which guests can register at the door rather than booking ahead of time through Richmond Hill’s online system.

Regular outreach programming at the RHDDO for 2024-2025

Astronomy Speakers Night.
 BYO Binoculars Stargazing Party.
 Family Night.
 Space Action: Comets and Craters
 Sun Fun.
 Out of this World: The Solar System.
 Sunday Sungazing.
 Mars Madness: The Red Planet at Opposition .
 Gigantic Jupiter: The Gas Giant at Opposition
 Spectacular Saturn: The Ringed Planet at
 Opposition.
 Ask an Astronomer (drop-in).
 Telescope Night (drop-in).

Private bookings at the RHDDO for 2024-2025

A Night at the Observatory (1H)
 Astronomy Experience (1.5-2H).
 Astronomy Experience for Schools (2H).
 Astronomy for Youth Service Groups (1.5H).
 Special events at RHDDO and in Richmond Hill
 Global Star Party.
 RHDDO Doors Open.
 Discovery Day.
 RHDDO 90th Anniversary Celebration.
 RH Public Library: Sun Fun.
 External Outreach
 Open Air Astro Fair.
 Annual Algonquin Adventure.

Training

Compliance Training Courses and certifications include: AODA - Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Training, High Five - Principles of Healthy Childhood Development (on line), Ladder Safety (on line), First Aid, Vulnerable Sector Check (V.S.C.). All costs for this training are covered by the DDO Committee.

Operator/Presenter Training

There were multiple training sessions for 74” telescope operator trainees during this period.

E.C. CARR ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY (CAO)

Under the stewardship of Ralph Chou, E.C. Carr Astronomical Observatory (CAO) did very well, this year. The CAO has seen an increased level of member activity. CAO recorded 507 bookings for bedroom use, 63 camping stays and 395 day visits. Eight site supervisors were on duty most weekends between May and November except for those near

Full Moon. Notable activities at the CAO included summer work parties, open house and awards presentation. The CAO Committee members were Ralph Chou (Chair), Jeff Booth, David Brodie, Elaine dos Santos, Grace Horvatin, Tony Horvatin, Genevieve Seabrook, Richard Sowards, Don Stewart, and Ed Treijs. The Committee conducted most of its business on the email forum and by Zoom sessions.

| Date | Event |
|------------|---|
| 7-9 Feb | 101st Toronto Scouts |
| 21-23 Feb | 32nd Toronto Scouts |
| 21-23 Mar | 85th Toronto Venturers |
| 24 Apr | PwC Canada at Blue Mountain Village |
| 23-25 May | 12th Toronto Pathfinders |
| 8 July | Wasaga Beach Women’s Business Association |
| 25 July | Beaver Valley Destination Stewardship |
| 7 Aug | L.E. Shore Memorial Public Library |
| 26 Aug | Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Association |
| 15 Sept | Grey Highland Probus Club |
| 19-21 Sept | 1st Streetsville Scouts and Venturers |
| 27 Sept | Probus Club of Collingwood |

Durham Region Outreach Subcommittee Report

Durham Region Outreach Subcommittee under the leadership of Arnold Brody continued to engage volunteers, conduct star viewing events and deliver presentations to the public. They are still rebounding from the pandemic, with many of the totals nearing pre-covid numbers. Millennium Square public stargazing nights have been a success again this year. It drew a few hundred guests monthly from April through October which accounted for most of the attendee totals, this year. From 2016 onwards, they have held 124 events, volunteering over 1,500 hours, showing the heavens or delivering astronomy presentations to over 31,000 people.

RASC Toronto Monthly Events

Recreational Astronomy Night

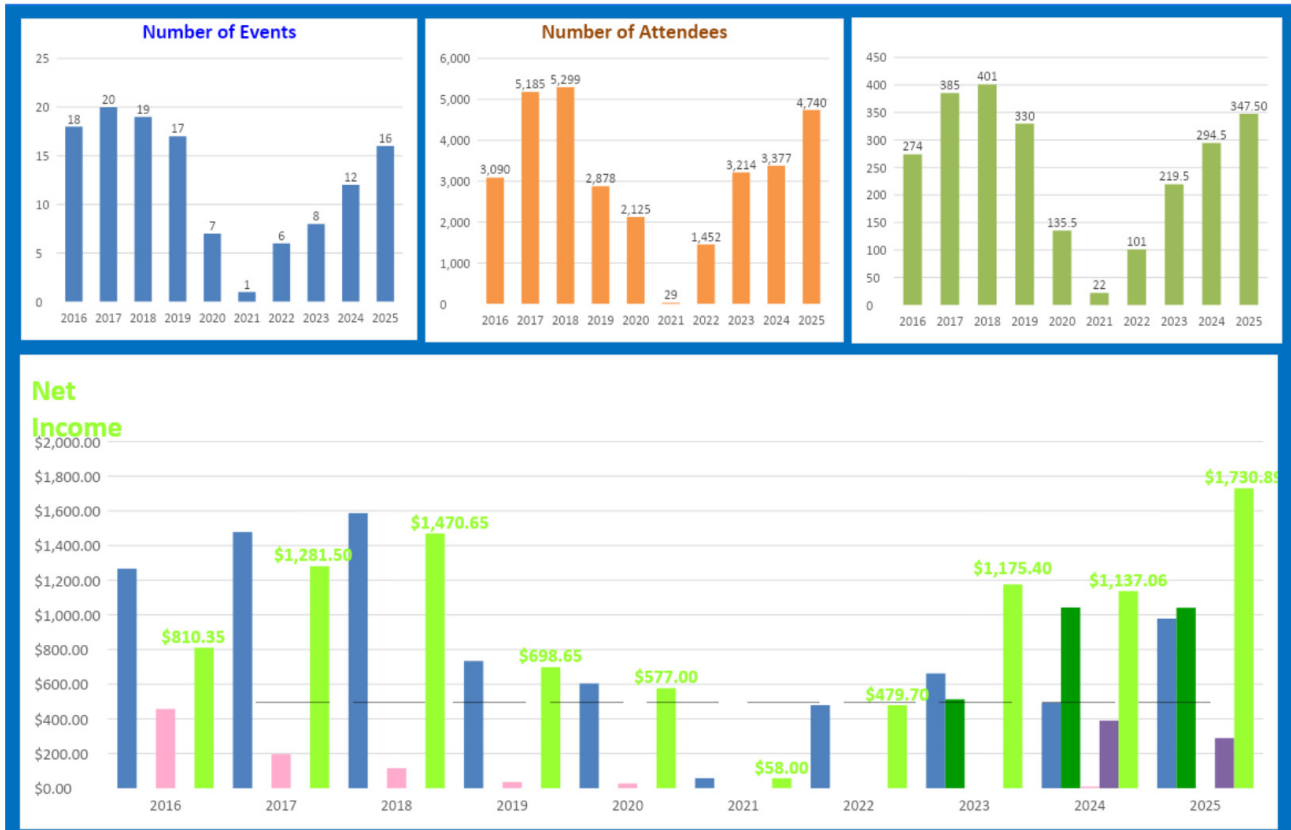
12 Recreational Astronomy Nights hosted by Tom Luton, in hybrid as well as virtual formats.

After our monthly recreational astronomy night meeting, York University also hosts public weekly stargazing in the Arboretum!

RASC Toronto Speaker's Night

8 virtual Lecture Nights hosted by Dr Elaina Hyde virtually. Special speakers invited to these meeting shared their knowledge on current and leading-edge researches and discoveries in Astronomy. These were conducted by RASC, Toronto Centre in collaboration with York University. These events were live-streamed. Thanks to Andrew Reid, Betty Reid, Ward LeGrow and Ennio Cellucci and Reza Mohamed for managing the livestream and YouTube presentations.

Durham Region Outreach Statistics



Audio/Visual Committee Subcommittee Report

The AV Committee again under the leadership of Andrew Reid has had a busy year. A total of 20 streaming events were conducted on YouTube channel – RASC Toronto, this year. Of these, recreational astronomy night had 2 online only meetings and 10 hybrid meetings streamed from York University; whereas speaker’s night had 8 online meetings.

Of the 12 RAN Events, edited and uploaded 34 individual presentations to generate more views. Had last year over 47,400 views for a total of 6,300 hours watched and 399 new subscribers to bring our total subscribers to 3608.

Some of our YouTube viewers have come from the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Argentina, UK, Germany, Florida, Brazil, Chile, Sweden, the Netherlands, California, Oklahoma, North Carolina, British Columbia, Georgia.

EPO and Toronto Public Library Report

The Education and Outreach Committee is fully functional, thanks to our VP Aly Kamadia, despite the absence of a chair. Much of the work done under EPO came from the Durham Subcommittee. We are still looking for someone to chair the EPO committee. Of particular note is the leadership of our Ex EPO-chair and current 1st VP Aly Kamadia, to establish a legal agreement between RASC Toronto Centre and Toronto Public Library to expand our outreach activities. This is remarkable because we

have the potential to get all Toronto Public Libraries, which have the best access to public, involved with RASC Toronto.

As part of this outreach activities a special mention to James Luo for the Brentwood Library Outreach on Sept. 13th, 2025 and to Claudio Oriani for the Outreach at Grace Church-on-the-Hill (non-TPL) on Dec. 7th, 2024.

Telescope Loan Program report

The RASC Telescope Loan Program has been active over the year, thanks to our 3 volunteers: Frank Dempsey, Mario Gagnon, and Kamesh Patel.

| Telescope or item | Number of times loaned out | Number of weeks it was loaned out for |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 200 mm SCT Meade LX10 | 4 | 12 |
| 200 mm SCT Meade LX50 | 1 | 3 |
| 200 mm Skywatcher Dobsonian | n/a | n/a |
| 100 mm Dobsonian | 4 | 7 |
| 90 mm Meade ETX | 2 | 4 |
| 90 mm Celestron refractor | 0 | 0 |
| 120 mm Newtonian reflector | 0 | 0 |
| Binoculars 10x50 mm | 0 | 0 |
| Coronado H-alpha solar scope | 3 | 10 |
| SkWatcher Star Adventurer tracker with Canon Rebel camera and tripod | 1 | 2 |

Property Committee Report

The Property Committee, under the leadership of Tom Luton, assisted with the shredding and disposal of a number of old financial records, reducing our storage. Also, thanks to Denis Grey for spearheading the new barcode based property management system and the disposal of surplus center assets.

Toronto Centre Library Report

Toronto Centre Library under the leadership of Tom received a donation of surplus materials from the David Dunlap Observatory, most notably a collection of Astronomical circulars from the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams from the 1980s.

Observing Committee Report

City Observing Sessions at Bayview Village Park which resumed in April and were conducted monthly through till September. Also conducted observing sessions at Long Branch Park in association with

the Mississauga Centre and the Annual Algonquin Adventure, supported by the park administration. The 2025 Annual Algonquin Adventure once again proved to be a highlight of the year. A big thanks to Charles Yung and Alex Arjomand for enthusiastically arranging, participating and promoting the Bayview Village and the Algonquin events.

Awards Citations, 2024-2025

This year's awards were: Andrew Elvins Award to Toronto Centre Solar eclipse observers; Bertram J Topham Award to Frank Dempsey; Ray Thompson Award to Claudio Oriani; Jesse Ketchum Award to Clayton Davies; Ostrander-Ramsay Award to Nicole Mortillaro; Charlene Norgrove Award to Andy Beaton, Claudio Oriani, and Arnold Brody; H.A. Winearls Award to Dr. Elaina Hyde.

All in all, another great year for RASC Toronto.

Vancouver

Year Established - 1931

Membership - 171 as of February 2026

Assets: VRO Observatory including imaging equipment, 5-6 telescopes for loaner program, Jim Bernat Meteorite Collection

Partnerships: SFU, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

Outreach: Friday night Starry Nights in collaboration with SFU, Astronomy Day at SFU, various school presentations, Monthly meetings with guest speakers at SFU Burnaby campus*, Imaging sessions led by Marla, Alan and Rick, NOVA newsletters, Maple Ridge Library event and Canada Day Event,

Special Projects: Washtock star party and remote access and power improvements to VRO

Challenges

Light pollution at SFU due to construction

Volunteer fatigue – most of the volunteers for our events are coming from council members

Below were the 2025 RASC Monthly Meeting Topics and Speaker names:

January Matthew Borghese, NASA, 2024 in review, and a preview of 2025

February Alan Chan, Can Active Galactic Nuclei Be Used as Standard Candles to Measure Cosmology?

March Robert Conrad ,
Observational Astronomy Masterclass

April RASC Vancouver's Show and Tell-scope & Beginner's Guide to Starhopping

May

Louis-Philippe Coulombe, Forecasting Exoplanet Weather with the James Webb Space Telescope
June (Paul Sykes) Dr. Michelle Kunimoto, How I Found 3000 New Exoplanets

July Postponed

September Brett Gladman, Bringing the Night Sky

Centre Executive

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| President | Nolan Smith |
| Vice President | Kyle Dally |
| Treasurer | Phil Lobo |
| Secretary | Marla Daskis |

Council Members:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| National Council Rep | Kai Hui |
| Speakers Chair / PR | Andrew Ferreira |
| Events | Suzanna Nagy Norry Dogan |
| Observing Chair | vacant |
| Education Co-chairs | vacant |
| Membership | Marla Daskis |
| Merchandise | Kyle Dally |
| Imaging Chairs | Marla Daskis, Alan Jones, Rick Schneider |
| Librarian | William Fearon |
| NOVA Editor | Gordon Farrell |
| LPA Chair | Leigh Cummings |
| Webmaster | Martin Curic |
| VRO Observatory | Alan Jones |
| Members at Large | Ty Palmer, Rob Lyons Michael Levy |

to Life: The Vera Rubin Observatory

October Jennie "Starstuff" King, Cosmic Rewind: Celebrating the Last Five Years (from July)

November RASC Vancouver's Show and Tell-scope & Beginner's Guide to Starhopping

December Darsh Mittal, Introduction to Astrophotography

Victoria

Year established - 1914

Membership - 222

Honouring Members

The Centre recognized the loss of three valued members: Jack Newton, Sid Sidhu who passed away during the Fall, and John McDonald, who passed away in January 2026.

Membership

At the close of 2025, the Victoria Centre's membership stood at 222 members, representing a stable, albeit slightly decreased (1%), membership from the previous year.

Events & Activities

The Victoria Centre maintained a vigorous event schedule, hosting a total of **103** events throughout the year.

Recurring Events

The Centre supported an active calendar of recurring gatherings, catering to diverse astronomical interests. These included:

- Astro Cafes
- UVic Speaker Series
- DAO (Dominion Astrophysical Observatory) Star Parties
- Nova 1 & 2 Programs
- Observing Nights at the Victoria Centre Observatory (VCO)
- Beginners Special Interest Group
- Astro Photography Special Interest Group
- Plaskett Telescope Nights

Marquee Events

- Several high-profile events highlighted the year's programming:
- The Social Dinner
- International Astronomy Day
- RASC Virtual General Assembly
- Vancouver Island Star Party
- Saanich Fair
- Huu-Ay-Aht First Nation Three Stars Dark Sky Festival
- RASC Glass Orchestra

Centre Executive 2024

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| President | Chris Gainor |
| 1st Vice President | Dan Posey |
| 2nd Vice President | Kirsten Pedersen |
| Treasurer | Doug Hardy |
| Secretary | Oliver Robinow |
| Past President | Randy Enkin |
| Directors at Large: | |
| | David Lee |
| | Myles Morrison |
| | Jeff Pivnick |
| | Lauri Roche |
| | Alex Schmid |

A significant highlight among these events was the recognition of David Lee, who received the RASC National Distinguished Service Award.

Public Engagement & Outreach

These activities translated into significant public engagement, generating numerous "Galileo Moments":

10,000 in-person moments (primarily at the Saanich Fair and FDAO Star Parties).

29,000 online moments.

Communications & Online Presence

SkyNews: The Centre's monthly newsletter, SkyNews, has been on hiatus since May 2025 (Issue #464), reflecting changes in the media landscape.

Online Activity: Despite the newsletter's hiatus, the Centre remained active digitally, publishing 61 new posts to bring their total up to 546. They also maintained an active Facebook Group, email lists, a YouTube Channel, and a Zenfolio account.

Windsor

Year established - 1945

Membership - Approx. 100

Assets

Hallam Observatory, Antique Telescopes, Three 8" Telescopes, Portable SeeStar Telescope.

Partnerships

Point Pelee National Park

Outreach

- Monthly Dark-Sky nights at Point Pelee.
- Private tours at Hallam Observatory.
- City of Windsor "Open Streets".
- Tecumseh "Cornfest".
- Exhibit at the Leamington Arts Centre.
- Windsor International Film Festival.

Highlights

2025 was a special year for the Windsor Centre as we celebrated our 80th anniversary. Beyond our usual activities, we hosted a special daytime outreach event at Point Pelee National Park Hundreds attended our public presentations at the visitor centre's auditorium, solar observing and evening sky tour leading into a large Perseids watch party.



*RASC Windsor Labour Day BBQ Social.
Hallam Observatory ~ August, 2025.
Photo by Juliana Grigorescu.*

Other activities of note:

- Windsor Centre joined the Global Star Party Live feed to YouTube from Hallam Observatory.
- Jenna Hinds, RASC Executive Director, visited our May General Meeting.
- Tecumseh Cornfest: Solar viewing at a well attended local festival.
- Point Pelee Dark Sky Nights: Hosted 10 observing sessions, including Perseids, with three public talks hosted by the President of the Centre.
- Sidewalk astronomy at Windsor's "Open Streets" festival.

Centre Executive

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Mahayarrahh-Starr Livingstone |
| First Vice President | Steve Pellarin |
| Second Vice President | Laura Burgess |
| Treasurer | Michel Collins |
| Secretary | Sandy French |
| National Council Rep | Tom Sobocan |

Council members:

Joady Ulrich
Cliff Campeau
Donna Ronconi

- Labour Day Weekend BBQ Social at Hallam Observatory.
- Co-Sponsored a Windsor International Film Festival (WIFF) presentation of "Little, Big and Far"; a film about the life of an astronomer.
- Leamington Arts Centre: "80 Years of Celestial Wonders" - A month-long exhibit of Astrophotography & Astro-Painting by our talented members.
- 80th Anniversary Banquet with Canadian astronomy "rockstar" Dr. David Levy as guest speaker.

Our biggest project of the year was replacing the observing deck at Hallam Observatory. An energetic and passionate group of members volunteered to replace the deck, measuring 37' by 12', with an accessibility ramp. Composite material was used for its durability and long lifespan. We replaced all supports, sealed the existing joists and resurfaced the deck. It was back-breaking work, but looks amazing!



*Hallam Observatory deck construction ~ May 2025.
Photo by Grant Maguire*

Funding of this project came from generous donations by our members and visitors to our Observatory. Thanks to the dedication of our crew, the work was completed in less than ten days.

It has been a very busy year at our Hallam Observatory. We've had many public tours, including Scouts Canada, Rotary Clubs, the Society of Professional Engineers of Ontario, and several different home-schooling groups.

In all, we had 25 paid 'tours' with hundreds of guests in 2025. It was by far the busiest year for paid tours at the observatory, which is helping pay for the deck.

Challenges & Looking Forward

Light pollution continues to be a major concern in South-Western Ontario due to the high number of Greenhouse facilities. We have been working with local municipalities on bylaw compliance and will continue to monitor the situation. A recent issue with parking lot lighting at a major manufacturing site was addressed by the City of Windsor Bylaw enforcement. The Gordie Howe International Bridge is now complete, but has yet to open for cross-border traffic. Artistic lighting on the bridge may present new challenges for astronomy in Windsor, but the organization operating the span has been

Winnipeg

Year established: 1911

Membership: 231

Assets

See treasurer's report

Partnerships

University of Manitoba, St. John's College, Spruce Woods Provincial Park, Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba Museum, Assiniboine Park Conservancy, University of Manitoba Properties, Inc.

Outreach (in-person audience)

Astronomy Day (300), Science Rendezvous (2500+) On The Move Daycare (12) Assiniboine Park Conservancy/Manitoba Museum Partial Solar Eclipse viewing (400) Spruce Woods Public Event (150), Telescopes & Tipis (3), and Southwood Circle (60)

Special Projects

The Centre has been supporting application for second Dark Sky site near Stuartburn in SW Manitoba (Dennis Lyons, Silvia Graca, and Gerry Smerchanski). We're also planning for 50th anniversary of the Centre's Glenlea Astronomical Observatory just south of the City of Winnipeg, and considering scale and nature of changes to the observatory facilities.



Patterson Telescope on display at the RASC Exhibit, "80 Years of Celestial Wonders" Leamington Arts Centre ~ October, 2025. Photo by Mike Mastronardi.

cooperative and open to our concerns about light pollution.

Due to support from members of the Sarnia and London Centres at our recent events, we hope to build our partnerships through shared experiences in the coming year.

This includes organizing a Southwestern Ontario observing party

Centre Executive

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| President | Mark Irvine |
| Vice Presidents | Judy Anderson |
| Treasurer | James Fast |
| Secretary | Ed Wright |

Council members: Gail Wise, Daemon Nightshade, Bryan Stach, Wing Kwong, Stan Runge, Rhianna Cohen, Marc Sarrasin, Dennis Lyons (past-president)

Highlights

The Winnipeg Centre enjoyed another year of robust membership, enthusiasm, and expanding public outreach. Long-term members are taking on very challenging astronomy and astro-imaging projects with considerable success.

The Centre holds Monthly meetings held on a hybrid format. Late in the year, our AV equipment was upgraded to add to the experience of those at the meetings. Speakers continue to be recruited from national and international positions or activities, including in 2025: Dr. Jayanne English (You, Visualization, and the Metamorphosis of Galaxies), Dr. Vesna Milosevic-Zdjelar (How to trick people into learning about the cosmos), Jay Anderson (The Fascination with Mars), Dr. Philip Ferguson (Research to expand access to aerospace technology), Scott Young (Manitoba Museum Planetarium), Dr. Samantha Lawler (Space Debris), Dr. Adam Sirek (The Axiom 3 Mission to the ISS- Aerospace Medicine),

Dr. Paul Charbonneau (Learning from Solar Eclipses throughout the Centuries), Dr. Denny Morse (A Career through TRW, NASA, Google, and Beyond). A night of images from members using smart scopes was another highlight topic at our regular meeting in February. In July, the club meets socially for its annual potluck barbeque at the Glenlea Astronomical Observatory, sharing stories of astronomy and general life while enjoying warm weather before mosquitoes are too bothersome.

Another major highlight of our Centre is the annual Spruce Woods Star Party, where we see about 70 people (members and family) camping for 3 nights at the Spruce Woods Provincial Park. We enjoy being under the stars together in this wonderful Dark-Sky Preserve, chatting in the hospitality tent (equipped with hot drinks and snacks), observing, and doing astrophotography.

The annual afternoon tour of all the equipment (especially new pieces), a hot Sunday breakfast cooked by members, a guest lecture from Scott Young,, and the now-classic binocular tour of the sky by Gerry Smerchanski. In 2025, the weather cooperated and the sky was 21.4 on the SQM!

Once again were able to distribute 7 starter telescopes to children under 16, after online application. Scopes were either purchased thanks to a fundraising project or donated to the cause of this program, Telescopes for Kids, started during the pandemic. One of our previous recipients is now a spokesperson for the program at her school, and enjoys showing the moon, galaxies, and nebulae to her classmates and friends.

Our Loaner-Scope program has seen significant growth, with many scopes now on-loan for much of the year. The program is coordinated by one of our active members, Mike Karakas. Last year the club augmented the program by purchase of a club SeeStar50.

The Oak Hammock Marsh is located 40km north of the City of Winnipeg, and hosts a monthly astronomy night at their Interpretive Centre, with viewing courtesy of RASC volunteers who bring scopes and binoculars to tour members of the public



Photo Credit: Mike Karakas
Jupiter- taken with a C11 in Curaçao 2025

and the Wetland Discovery Centre through the sky. The Centre holds workshops (e.g., Startools astrophotography with Richard Konrad) and a holiday potluck. Finally, participation in highly popular outreach events, often in collaboration with other educational organizations, has been very rewarding, to participating members and members of the public, especially with the high, and growing, attendance at events such as Science Rendezvous and Astronomy Day, and even viewing a partial solar eclipse.

Challenges

The Centre focuses on its mission to advance astronomy and allied sciences, and to raise awareness of astronomy as an enjoyable hobby and an important scientific endeavour, and balances that with improving our members' experience with astronomy and the Centre. Thus, we seriously debated raising the annual membership fee, and ultimately initiated a \$6/annum increase; this was our first increase in Centre-membership dues since at least 2015, despite numerous increases in RASC National dues.

The other major challenge is accommodating member preferences and outreach requests with a council of volunteers. While not uncommon in non-profit organizations, this balance is not easily achieved, making each year's Council renewals very important.

Looking forward - 2026/beyond



Photo Credit: Dr Paul Shelton, Takahashi FSQ106,
Nikon Z7ii DSLR on ZWO AM5 Mount

The Centre is faced with an increasingly urgent need to repair or replace the 50-year-old Glenlea observatory building, due to the long-term damage from exposure to multiple major floods from the nearby Red River. Changes in technology and accessibility to astrophotography, such as through narrow-band filtration and smart scopes, have also led us to consider the type of equipment we maintain at the observatory, as many members have either their own observatory offsite or a smart scope that can be used from the City. Our Observatory Committee is currently surveying members about their use of the observatory, warm room, and observing pad, as a basis for planning.

Yukon

Year established - 2015

Membership - Membership fluctuates between about 25 and 30 people.

Assets

The RASC Yukon Centre Gucciardo Observatory that has a classroom/lounge area and a dome. The observatory sits on a hilltop in walking distance from the Nordici Hot Springs that is a popular tourist destination.

Our main telescope is a 12" Meade SC that was donated to us last year and replaced the 9.25" Celestron HD in the dome. The Yukon Centre also has a 10" Skywatcher Dobsonian reflector and an 8" orange Celestron SC. For loan out we have a stock of small refractors as well.

Partnerships

We have no formal partnerships at this time but we have a long-standing relationship with Parks Canada (specifically regarding the annual dark sky festival at Kluane National Park) and regularly work with other community organizations.

Outreach

We have two regular programs, both of which are open to the general public:

- **Monthly Regular Meeting:** a monthly meeting in downtown Whitehorse (typically the Whitehorse Public Library), usually featuring a lecture.
- **Night at the Observatory:** a night where we meet at the observatory to either do observing or talk about what observing we would like to do in the coming month. Held monthly from September through March.

The Yukon Centre usually hosts three star parties in a year:

- The Spring Yukon Star Party in late March at our observatory.

Centre Executive

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| President | CJ Parr |
| Vice President | Christa Van Laerhoven |
| Treasurer | Forest Pearson |
| Secretary | Patrick Egan |

Council Members:

Shale Davis
Mark Penner
Dyson Hale

- The Fall Yukon Star Party in late August at our observatory.
- Northern Nights at Kluane National Park in partnership with Parks Canada.

Highlights

Since building our observatory, we have been struggling to keep up with the related expenses. This observing season is the second year where we are getting enough visits (and thus donations) to noticeably outpace our expenses.

Challenges

The challenge that comes with increased visits to our observatory is to manage that traffic without burning out our volunteers.

Looking Forward - 2026 and Beyond

We are working on renegotiating the lease for the land our observatory sits on, for renewal in September 2026. Ownership of the land has changed since we signed the last lease.

The new owners are looking towards developing an aurora/wilderness resort and how we might be involved in that effort is to be determined.

Past Award Winners

Below is a list of former winners of the Society Awards.

For names before 2000, please refer to “Looking Up—A History of the RASC” by Peter Broughton. www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/LookingUp-300-text.pdf For names after 2000, go to the RASC website www.rasc.ca/rasc-awards

Chant Medal

The Chant Medal of the Society was established in 1940 in appreciation of the great work of the late Professor C.A. Chant in furthering the interests of astronomy in Canada. The medal is awarded not oftener than once a year to an amateur astronomer

resident in Canada on the basis of the value of the work carried out in astronomy and closely allied fields of original investigation.

- 2001** Richard Huziak (Saskatoon)
- 2002** Dr. Roy Bishop (Halifax)
- 2006** Ed Majden (Victoria)
- 2008** Dr. Geoff Gaherty (Toronto)
- 2018** Peter Broughton (Toronto)
- 2020** Michel Duval
- 2024** Warren Finlay (Edmonton)

Fellowship Award

Developed jointly by the Awards and Nominating Committees, and approved by the RASC Board of Directors in November 2013, the award of Fellow of the RASC (FRASC) is created to acknowledge the work of long-serving members. It recognizes those outstanding members who have made extraordinary contributions to the Society over the long term, much of which service has been rendered at the national level.

2015

- Robert Dick (Ottawa)
- Dave Lane (Halifax)
- Dr. John Percy (Toronto)
- Mary Lou Whitehorne (Halifax)

2016

- Jay Anderson (Winnipeg)
- Alan Batten (Victoria)
- Doug Hube (Edmonton)
- Franklin Loehde (Edmonton)
- Patrick Kelly (Halifax)

2018

- Peter Jedicke (London)

2020

- David Chapman (Halifax)
- Randall Rosenfeld (National Member)

2021

- Roland Dechesne (Calgary)
- James Edgar (Regina & Halifax)
- Michael Watson (National Member)

2022

- Dr. Chris Gainor (Victoria)

2023

- Colin Haig (Hamilton)
- David Levy (Kingston, Montreal)

2024

- Robyn Foret (Calgary)

2025

- Paul Gray (Halifax)

Ken Chilton Prize

The Chilton Prize was established in 1977 by the National Council of the Society in remembrance of Ken E. Chilton, an active member of the Hamilton Centre. The prize is awarded annually to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada in recognition of a significant piece of astronomical work carried out or published recently.

2008

- Eric Briggs (Toronto)
- Debra Ceravolo (Ottawa)
- Peter Ceravolo (Ottawa)
- Lou Cox (Ottawa)
- Steve Gauthier (London)
- Doug George (Ottawa)
- Paul Gray (New Brunswick)
- Walter MacDonald (Kingston)
- Jack Newton (Victoria)
- Ajai Sehgal (Ottawa)
- Jennifer Tigner (Victoria)
- Dave Toth (London)

2009

- Brian Battersby (Prince George)

2010

- Brian Battersby (Prince George)
- Lise Charlebois (National Member)
- Ted Dunphy (New Brunswick)
- Paul Gray (New Brunswick)
- Kim Hay (Kingston)
- Marc Keelan-Bishop (Belleville)
- Don Kelly (New Brunswick)
- Rémi Lacasse

Plaskett Medal

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Canadian Astronomical Society together present an award in recognition of the pivotal role played by John Stanley Plaskett in the establishment of astrophysical research in Canada. The award is made to the graduate from a Canadian university who is judged to have submitted the most outstanding doctoral thesis in astronomy and astrophysics in the preceding two calendar years. An award need not be made every year.

2008 Dr. Adam Muzzin (University of Toronto)

2009 Dr. Catherine Lovekin (Saint Mary's University)

2010 Dr. Helen Kirk (University of Victoria)

2011 Dr. Kaitlin Kratter (University of Toronto)

2012 Dr. Pier-Emmanuel Tremblay (Université de Montréal)

2013 Dr. Yasuhiro Hasegawa (McMaster University)

2014 Dr. Andrew Pon (University of Victoria)

2015 Dr. Anne Archibald (McGill University)

2016 Dr. Jonathan Gagné (Université de Montréal)

- (National Member)
- Dave Lane (Halifax)
- Damien Lemay (Québec)
- Ron Macnaughton (Toronto)
- Chris Weadick (New Brunswick)
- Jennifer West (Winnipeg)

2012

- Holly Ayles (New Brunswick)

2014

- Kathryn Gray (Halifax)
- Nathan Gray (Halifax)

2020

- Peter Pekurar (Kitchener-Waterloo)

2022

- Normand Amyot (non-member)
- Francois Chevrefils (Centre francophone de Montreal)
- Michel Duval (Centre francophone de Montreal)

2023

- Dr Chris Gainor (Victoria)

2017 Dr. Fereshteh Rajabin (Western University)

2018 Dr. Gwendolyn Eadie (Queen's University)

2019 Dr. Alexandra Tetarenko (University of Alberta)

2020 Dr. Simon Blouin (Université de Montréal)

2021 Dr. Ziggy Pleunis (McGill University)

2022 Dr. Deborah Good (British Columbia)

2023 Dr. Deborah Lokhorst (University of Toronto)

2024 Dr. William Thompson (NRC Herzberg Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Centre)

President's Award

Established in 2008, this award is to be given at the President's discretion, usually once a year, to a member who has made an important contribution to the Society, and to be presented by the President either at the General Assembly or during a visit by the President to the home Centre of the recipient.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 2011 | Mayer Tchelebon (Toronto) | 2018 | Rick Huziak (Saskatoon) |
| 2012 | Randall Rosenfeld (National Member) | 2019 | Michael S.F. Watson (National Member) |
| 2013 | Dave Lane (Halifax) | 2020 | Barry Shanko (Vancouver) (posthumously) |
| 2014 | Robert Dick (Ottawa) | 2021 | Renata Koziol (Society Office) |
| 2015 | Walter MacDonald (Kingston) | 2022 | Emily Lafleche (Montreal) |
| 2016 | Terence Dickenson (Toronto) | 2023 | Judy Black (Halifax) |
| 2017 | Dave Garner (Kitchener-Waterloo) | 2024 | J. Randy Attwood (Mississauga) |
| | | 2025 | Dennis Lyons |

Qilak Award/Le Prix Qilak

This award is jointly administered by CASCA, the FAAQ, and the RASC, instituted to acknowledge excellence in astronomy outreach and communication. One prize can be awarded annually in each of the three founding societies

- | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| 2012 | Colleen O'Hare (Okanagan) | 2019 | RASC—Chris Curwin (New Brunswick) CASCA—Dr. Jan Cami (Western University) FAAQ—Hugues Lacombe (Club d'astronomie de Charlevoix) |
| 2013 | Robert Duff (London) | 2020 | Not awarded |
| 2014 | Dr. Howard Trottier (Vancouver) | 2021 | Not awarded |
| 2015 | Toronto Centre DDO Volunteers (Toronto) | 2022 | Jenna Hinds (National) |
| 2016 | Doug Cunningham (Toronto) | 2023 | Wilfred Buck |
| 2017 | Paul Heath (Halifax) | 2024 | Tony Schellinck (Halifax) |
| 2018 | Dr. Rob Thacker (Halifax) RASC Mike Moghadam (Ottawa) Daniel Brousseau (Sherbrooke) | 2025 | Geoff Robertson (Edmonton) |

Service Award

The Service Award was established in 1959 and takes the form of a bronze medal presented to members who have performed outstanding service to a Centre or to the National Society. Below is a list of recent winners of the Service Award.

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colleen O'Hare (Okanagan)• Grant Rice (Okanagan)• Brian Lucas (Sunshine Coast)• Neil Sandy (Sunshine Coast) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A.W. Scott Masterton (Toronto)• Ed Mizzi (Hamilton)• Blake Nancarrow (Toronto)• Roger Nelson (Calgary)• Vance Petriew (Regina)• Linda Pulliah (National Member)• Laurie Roche (Victoria)• Rick Saunders (London)• Danny Sklazeski (Sunshine Coast)• Leslie Strike (Mississauga)• David Thompson (Sunshine Coast)• Luca Vanzella (Edmonton) |
| 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Bradley (Sunshine Coast)• Joanne Burns (Belleville)• Phil Chow (Toronto)• Bruce Fryer (Sunshine Coast)• Robyn Foret (Calgary)• Mike Hanes (London) | |

2020

- Dennis Krause (Okanagan)
- Steve Holmes (Kitchener-Waterloo)

2021

- Diane Bell (Victoria)
- Andrew Bennett (Okanagan)
- Zoltan Boda (Okanagan)
- Darrell Chatfield (Saskatoon)
- Paul Delaney (Toronto)
- Ellen Dickson (Saskatoon)
- Dr. Leslie (Les) Dickson (Saskatoon)
- Blair MacDonald (Halifax)
- Ronald (Ron) Waldron (Saskatoon)
- Ian Wheelband (Toronto)

Simon Newcomb Award

This award was instituted in 1978 to recognize literary ability among non-professional members of the Society.

2022

- Robert Babb (St John's)
- Philip Downey (Niagara)
- Robert Lewis (Niagara)
- Ron Macnaughton (Toronto)
- Merlyn Melby (Saskatoon)
- Tenho Tuomi (Saskatoon)
- Barbara Wright (Saskatoon)

2023

- Chris Young (Halifax)
- Quinn Smith (Halifax)
- Silvia Graca (Winnipeg)
- John Marchese (Mississauga)
- Emma MacPhee (New Brunswick)
- Pierre Schierle (Regina)

2024

- James MacWilliam (Sunshine Coast)
- June MacDonald (New Brunswick)
- Heather Laird (Calgary)
- Charles Ennis (Sunshine Coast)

2025

- Chris Beckett (Kitchener-Waterloo)
- David Lee (Victoria)
- Robert Lenz (Niagara)
- Dennis Lyons (Winnipeg)

1994 Michael S.F. Watson (National Member)

1999 Terence Dickinson (Toronto)

2001 Dan Falk (Toronto)

2002 Dr. David Levy (Kingston)

2003 Alister Ling (Edmonton)

2004 Mary Lou Whitehorne (Halifax)

2006 Dr. Warren Finlay (Edmonton)

2007 Alan Dyer (National Member)

2008 Gary Seronik (Victoria)

2009 James Edgar (Regina)

2011 Jay Anderson (Winnipeg)

2012 Randall Rosenfeld (National Member)

2013 Alan Whitman (Okanagan)

2016 Martin Hellmich & Halley Davies (Halifax)

2017 Ivan Semeniuk (Toronto)

2018 Nicole Mortillaro (Toronto)

2020 John A. Read (Halifax)

2022 Chris Vaughan (Toronto)

2024 Dr. Chris Gainor (Victoria)

2025 Betty Robinson, Mississauga, ON

Young Astronomers Award

The Young Astronomers Award, established in 2023, is awarded to youth members of the RASC who have made significant contributions at the National and/or Centre levels.

2023 Artash Nath
Arushi Nath

2025 Rylan Wakeman
Matteo Statti

Honorary President of the RASC

Dr. Sara Seager (Canada)

Honorary Members of the RASC

Dr. Oscar Álvarez-Pomares (Cuba)
 Dr. William Bottke (United States)
 Dra. Julieta Fierro (Mexico)
 Prof. Andrew Fraknoi (United States)
 Dr. Wendy Freedman (Canada-USA)
 Dr. Jean Meeus (Belgium)

Dr. P.J.E. (Jim) Peebles (United States)
 Dr. Lisa Randall (United States)
 Dr. Sara Seager (Canada)
 Dr. William P. Sheehan (United States)
 Dr. R. Brent Tully (United States)

Past Appointed and Elected Officers of the RASC

Below are lists of former Honorary Presidents, Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers of the RASC. For names before 1990, please refer to “Looking Up—A History of the RASC” by Peter Broughton.

Honorary Presidents

1997–2001 Dr. Jack Locke
 2001–2005 Dr. Roy Bishop
 2005–2010 Dr. Robert Garrison
 2010–2013 Dr. James Hesser
 2013–2018 Dr. John Percy
 2018–2022 Dr. Douglas Hube
 2022- Dr. Sara Seager

Presidents

1998–2000 Randy Attwood
 2000–2002 Dr. Robert Garrison
 2002–2004 Dr. Rajiv Gupta
 2004–2006 Peter Jedicke
 2006–2008 Scott Young
 2008–2010 Dave Lane
 2010–2012 Mary Lou Whitehorne
 2012–2014 Glenn Hawley
 2014–2016 James Edgar
 2016–2017 Craig Levine
 2017–2018 Colin Haig
 2018–2020 Dr. Chris Gainor
 2020–2022 Robyn Foret
 2022-2023 Charles Ennis
 2023-2025 Michael Watson
 2025- Brendon Roy

Secretaries

1999–2005 Kim Hay
 2005–2007 Stan Runge
 2007–2014 James Edgar
 2014–2016 Dr. Karen Finstad
 2016–2018 Charles Ennis
 2018–2020 Roger Nelson
 2020-2025 Eric Briggs
 2025- Randy Attwood

Treasurers

1998–2004 Michael Watson
 2004–2006 David Clark
 2006–2007 Alan Whitman
 2007–2012 Mayer Tchelebon
 2012–2016 Denis Grey
 2016–2016 Susan Yeo
 2016–2017 Colin Haig
 2017–2018 Anthony Gucciardo
 2018–2023 Catherine Carr
 2024-2025 Stuart J. Heggie
 2025- Michael Watson

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