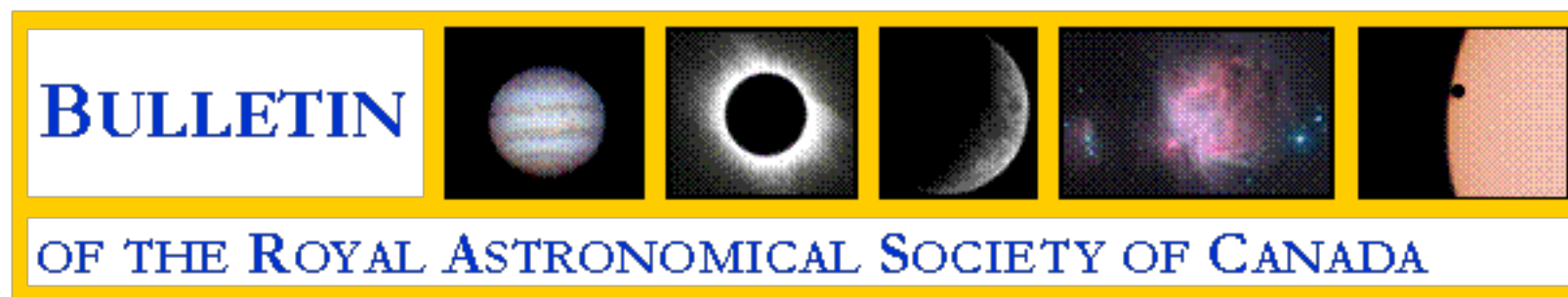


2008-01



January 2008 - Volume 3, Number 1

Denis Grey, Acting Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

Member: ~FULL_NAME~, RASC ID: ~ID~

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

International Year of Astronomy is Now Official

On December 20th the United Nations (UN) 62nd General Assembly proclaimed 2009 the "International Year of Astronomy". The International Year of Astronomy 2009 is an initiative by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) will be a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, highlighted by the 400th anniversary of the first use of an astronomical telescope by Galileo Galilei. The aim of IYA2009 is to stimulate worldwide interest, especially among young people, in astronomy and science. IYA2009 events and activities will take place at the global, regional, and local levels, to promote a greater appreciation of the inspirational aspects of astronomy that embody an invaluable shared resource for all nations. The UN has designated UNESCO as the lead agency for the IYA2009, while the IAU will function as the implementing body. The full text of the UN resolution is available on the IYA Canadian website at www.astronomy2009.ca [2].



The RASC's National Council through the Society's Board Pilot Committee (BPC) is seeking proposals for projects to help celebrate IYA 2009. We encourage proposals from the Society's program-focused

committees (e.g. Education, Observing, Light-Pollution Abatement, Publications, etc.), a Centre, or a group of Centres. The RASC is providing a funding commitment of \$20,000 in 2008 for IYA related projects. It is expected that another \$20,000+ will be available for 2009. Any unused 2008 funding should be available in 2009. This funding is being provided from the **Feibelman Fund** which originated from a bequest from the estate of Walter Feibelman, a well-known US astronomer. The deadline for IYA proposals is February 29, 2008. More information is available at the RASC's [IYA 2009](#) [3] Web site.

Society Seeks National Treasurer

Looking for a rewarding challenge? The position of National Treasurer is presently vacant. The Society is seeking a new treasurer to complete the remaining two and a half years of the treasurer's three-year term, ending in mid-2010. The position of treasurer is one of leadership and influence. The successful candidate will play a pivotal role in determining future direction and success of the RASC.

The Treasurer is a member of the Society's Executive Committee, and is the chair of the Finance Committee. His or her duties include, among others, the following:

- With assistance from national office staff, prepare and keep complete financial records of the business of the Society
- Supervise the deposit of receipts and disbursement of Society funds,
- Supervise the safekeeping of the Society's securities and other monetary assets,
- In general, conduct the financial business of the Society in accordance with the direction of Council,
- Prepare and present financial reports and the annual Society budget to council

Since this position needs to be filled immediately, I invite you to indicate your interest in this position, ask any questions you may have or send your suggestions for who might be qualified to Mary Lou Whitehorne, 2nd Vice-President, as soon as possible.

Call for Nominations

Are you a leader? Do you want to see the RASC grow and excel into the future? Do you want to contribute to that success? Here's your chance to make a real difference in our Society by getting involved in the issues that matter!

The three presidential positions (President, 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President) must be filled by election or acclamation at the RASC Annual Meeting on June 30, 2008. Names of candidates must be presented to the Secretary at least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting by the RASC Nominating Committee or by a private nomination supported by the signatures of five members of the Society.

You are invited to send suggestions for these positions for the Nominating Committee's consideration. Please send any suggestions by email, no later than **April 30, 2008**, to: PJedicke@fanshawec.ca [4]

The duties associated to these positions are specified in the Society's bylaws, which are available in the password-protected portion of the RASC Web site.

Board Pilot Committee Works on Building Society Membership

One of the preoccupations of the Society's **Board Pilot Committee** is to sustain and increase membership in the Society. Two members of the BPC have recently taken direct action in this regard. Associate Member **Annabel Katherine Chorney Young** joined the Winnipeg Centre on December 17th weighing 8lbs, 8oz. Two short weeks later on January 1st, 2008, **Andromeda (Andie) Bernice Battersby**, joined the Prince George Centre weighing 7lbs 9oz. No prediction has yet been made as to when these two young ladies will attend their first meetings!

Congratulations to Society President Scott Young and BPC member Brian Battersby on these excellent additions to their respective families (and the Society).

► The Journal of the RASC

New - Colour in the Journal

Colour is coming to your home-delivery hardcopy of the Journal. As a result of a small increase in Journal subscription fees, increasing advertising revenue, and ongoing page charges, the 2008 JRASC budget has been increased to allow two pages of colour in every issue. Articles for the Journal can now include colour graphics for added punch, colour photographs, or colour drawings. To make best use of the new capability, the JRASC is looking for even more astrophotographs, scenes of club activities, drawings, and art work, and articles that can show off the full extent of your efforts, the achievements of the RASC, and the scope of Canadian amateur and professional astronomy. If you've got something to offer, submission details can be found at www.rasc.ca/journal [5].



Victoria Centre's Charles Banville "owns" the February Back Cover

A stunning photograph of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory set against a star-trailed night sky has won the first Journal photo contest for **Charles Banville** of the Victoria Centre. Charles' photo will be published on the back cover of the February issue of the JRASC. The contest is ongoing, though the deadline for entries has now closed. Future winners will be announced for the April and June issues.

► Across the RASC

Observatory Park Initiative Greenlighted

At the request of the Observatory Park Working Group, the Council of the RASC, Toronto Centre has "greenlighted" Lord Cultural Resources (Lord) to start work on the Concept Plan and Business Case as outlined in our Prospectus. Fundraising will continue to raise the remaining \$14,460 needed while the study process gets underway beginning in early January.

Start-up activities will include development of the project plan and timetable for the interview phase as well as scheduling of the Concept Planning Workshop. Lord will be asked to schedule the delivery of their

final report as quickly as possible with a target delivery date of March 31, 2008 (to be confirmed).

In approving the preliminary work by Lord Cultural Resources, the RASC, Toronto Centre has expressed its confidence that the remaining funds required will be forthcoming early in 2008. As of December 31, 2007, the Observatory Park fundraising campaign has reached 71% of our goal or \$35,560. With further support from the local and astronomical communities we are now confident that we will meet our goal to fully fund the study.

For more information on the Observatory Park initiative and this rapidly developing issue please refer to www.observatorypark.ca [6] for news and information updates.

Dr David H Levy to give Lecture In New Brunswick

Mount Allison University in conjunction with the RASC New Brunswick Centre invite everyone to a public lecture by Dr David H Levy on Tuesday, January 15th at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. The lecture will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Convocation Hall. David Levy is one of the world's foremost comet discoverers. He has discovered 22 comets and 50 minor planets. He is an Emmy Award winner and author of more than 30 books. More information will be available at www.mta.ca/events/ [7].

► The Sky this Month

January Skies

Gary Boyle's [The Sky This Month](#) [8] for January features the dramatic constellation of **Orion**.

Lunar Eclipse Coming Up in February!

The last good chance for a lunar eclipse until 2010 is coming up on February 20th and it is well-placed for observation by RASCals across Canada for a change! Now is the time to make plans for public events and exposure for this excellent event.

► Dates to Remember

- - **January 31, 2008** - Centre Annual Reports due to National Office
 - **February 20, 2008** - [Total Lunar Eclipse \(Most of Canada\)](#) [9]
 - **March 29, 2008** - Board Pilot Committee Meeting (Toronto)
 - **March 30, 2008** - National Council Meeting (Toronto)
 - **April 30, 2008** - Nominations Deadline
 - **June 28-30, 2008** - RASC General Assembly at York University, Toronto, ON



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Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca [11]

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Links:

[1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>

[2] <http://www.astronomy2009.ca>

[3] <http://www.rasc.ca/education/iya/>

[4] <mailto:PJedicke@fanshawec.ca>

[5] <https://www.rasc.ca/journal>

[6] <http://www.observatorypark.ca>

[7] <http://www.mta.ca/events/>

[8] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/sky-month-january-2008>

[9] <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEmono/TLE2008Feb21/TLE2008Feb21.html>

[10] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>

[11] <http://www.rasc.ca>