

BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Special Edition 2010 - Volume 5, Number Wow!

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

► The Journal of the RASC

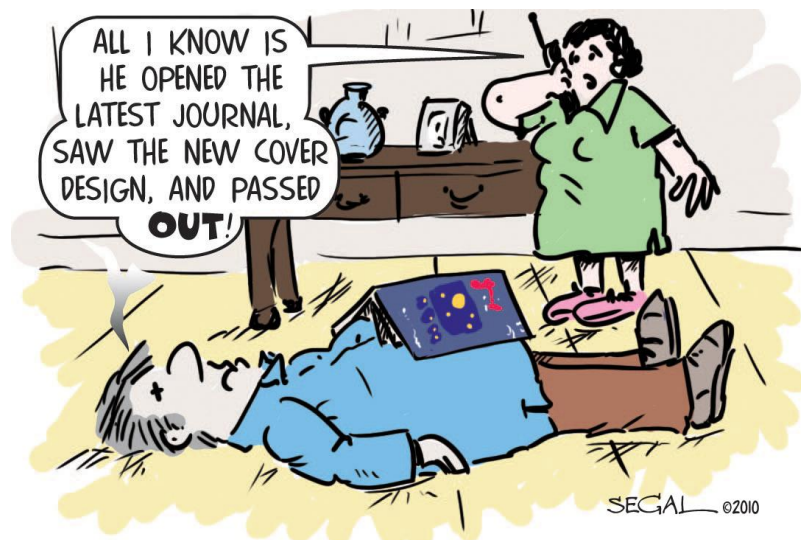
President's Corner

by **Mary Lou Whitehorne**, RASC President

*Have you read your **Journal** lately? Do you know what's on its pages? This is not your father's **JRASC!*** Every culture has its own interpretation of the stars and the skies. There are rich troves of sky lore all around the globe. We have only to look on our own bookshelves to know that we, as a species, are storytellers. So, let me tell a story!

Once upon a time, in a fair and kindly country called Canada, there was an organization of astronomers called The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC). There was an old and noble learned society of astronomers, with a long, vibrant history and an international reputation for quality, accuracy, and integrity about all of their good works.

These astronomers were storytellers, too. They told many stories of different kinds in their own storybooks. One of their storybooks is called the *Observer's Handbook*, and after 100 years, it is still a best seller. It is filled with star stories. Some of the stories are narratives and others are tabular, graphical, or numerical. But, for astronomers who know the language, these stories tell us a great deal about the stars in the sky.





But, there is another storybook from the RASC. It is called the *Journal*, or *JRASC* for short. This storybook is a periodical and is published six times each year. *JRASC* has been around for 100 years too! That's pretty amazing!

Have you read the *Journal* lately? **Your** *Journal*. It's full of interesting star stories that you will enjoy. It used to be a peer-reviewed academic publication filled with research papers that appealed mostly to professional astronomers. Now it is focused on amateur astronomers who want to learn more about astronomy, the Universe, and how our favourite science works. It has a much broader spectrum of coverage, with popular articles, interviews, regular columns, reviews, research papers, and scholarly articles on a variety of subjects, as well as Society news and astro-images. There's no fluff and lots of solid astronomy to sink your teeth into, be inspired about, and to learn from. How can any self-respecting RASCer resist?

Every two months, the *Journal's* Editor and team of 30 RASC volunteers work hard to bring you a mix of contributors and content that is designed to appeal to the full breadth and depth of interests of RASC members.

The *Journal* remains Canada's only astronomical journal of record. It is a publication of which we can be justly proud. So go ahead. Open the *Journal*, browse through its rich assortment of content. There's something for everyone in its pages. This is no ordinary astronomy magazine. It's **our** *Journal*. It is written by us, for us. It's the story of our Society.

And, the RASC astronomers opened their *Journals*, and read of its pages, and they all lived happily ever after!



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