

TO: Awards Committee
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

FROM: Dr. Douglas P. Hube, Honourary President
RASC (Edmonton Centre)

RE: Nomination of Franklin Loehde as a 'Fellow of the RASC'

Franklin Loehde has been a member of the RASC for more than six decades, joining while still a high school student. During that time he has provided exemplary leadership and service to the Society at both the local and national levels. In serving the Society he has served the needs of the general public.

In 1959, Franklin was a member of the committee that proposed to the Council of the City of Edmonton that a public planetarium be constructed as permanent recognition of a visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. That proposal was accepted, and on 22 September 1960 the 'Queen Elizabeth Planetarium' was officially opened in Coronation Park. The 'QEP', as it is popularly known, was the first public planetarium in Canada. It set the precedent for public planetariums opened subsequently in other cities across Canada. The QEP was one of the first steps, and a major step, in bringing knowledge of our science and appreciation of the astronomical universe to the general public.

When, a little less than twenty years later, it was recognized that a facility more substantial than the QEP was needed, Franklin was among the first to volunteer his services to what became the Edmonton Space Sciences Foundation (ESSF). Seven years after creation of the ESSF, the 'Edmonton Space Sciences Centre' (ESSC) opened its doors to the general public. Franklin served the ESSF in several formal capacities during the development, and following completion, of the ESSC. The ESSC, now known as the 'TELUS World of Science – Edmonton' (TWOSE), is recognized as one of the World's major science centres, and is the 2nd most popular tourist attractions in northern Alberta. It accommodates the educational needs of more than a quarter million elementary school students each year. After 38 years, Franklin is one of the two founding members of the ESSF who is still active in directing the operations of the facility.

Franklin wrote a chapter on the night sky for the book 'Alberta – A Natural History'.

He has served in several offices within RASC (Edmonton Centre), including president, and he is a frequent contributor to monthly meetings and to 'Stardust', the newsletter of RASC (Edmonton).

Franklin was National President of the RASC in 1982-4.

For many years he served as casino manager, a role not found in other Centres, but one which has resulted in a very substantial income for RASC (Edmonton). The money raised has made possible the purchase of a large array of telescopes and auxiliary instruments that are used at the TWOSE observing deck for public education and observing. The money raised has also been applied to the purchase of

portable telescopes that are made available to schools and may be borrowed by members of the general public. In addition, casino funds are being used to support the 'SkyScan' program that places radio telescopes in schools throughout the Edmonton area and that allow public school students to do real research.

Franklin's direct and indirect contributions to the RASC at the National level and at the local level have been recognized in several ways:

- He was a recipient of the RASC 'Service Award'.
- The RASC (Edmonton) has created the 'Franklin Loehde Award for Project of the Year'.
- The International Astronomical Union has named Asteroid 85121/1976KF₃ in his honour.

Franklin Loehde's contributions to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada at the national and local levels make him a worthy candidate for the honour of 'Fellow of the RASC'.