

January 22, 2016

Glenn Hawley, Chair  
RASC Awards Committee

Dear Glenn and Awards Committee members;

We, the undersigned, hereby nominate Jay Anderson of the Winnipeg Centre, as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

The award of Fellow of the RASC is to recognize the long-term and on-going contributions of members whose service to the Society has been exemplary and substantive for an extended period of time. Such contribution will far exceed the level required for our Service Award.

This is a major, and senior, national award. It is intended to be the Society's most senior award and the highest honour the Society can pay to a member. Candidate's service and contributions to the Society must have had a significant positive impact on the work of the Society over an extended period, and must have contributed to the Society's success in attaining its stated objectives, mission, and vision. Such contributions can be at both the Centre and national level, but *at least half* of the service contribution must have been rendered at the national level.

Jay Anderson meets the requirements to be designated a Fellow of the RASC. Jay began his national contributions to the work of the Society as the eclipse "Weather Prospects" section contributor to the 1990 edition of the *Observer's Handbook*. In 1999 he began the section "Frequency of Clear Night Skies in July & August" which he has expanded into the current "Frequency of Nighttime Cloud Cover". Thus the current 2016 edition is his 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, Jay provided additional articles for the 2004 and 2012 editions: weather prospects for the transits of Venus.

Of special note is Jay's highly successful decade-long tenure as editor of *JRASC*. When he assumed the role of editor, the *Journal* was in the midst of a major shift in format, focus and volunteer staff. Jay continued with, and further consolidated, the many changes needed, updating and transforming the *Journal* into a vibrant and attractive publication of interest and value to the Society's membership. Jay's leadership, management skills, and grace under the pressure of so many challenges, is an inspiration to all.

Although he began his work with the RASC in 1990, he has been writing about weather conditions along eclipse tracks since 1978, with NASA's "Mr. Eclipse," Fred Espenak. According to Fred Espenak's eclipse website:

<http://www.mreclipse.com/pubs/authorJA1.html>

*"Jay Anderson is a meteorologist, formerly with the Meteorological Service of Environment Canada. Astronomy has been a large part of his life since his mid teens, and it was only after graduating with a degree in Physics and Astronomy from the University*

*of British Columbia that he adopted meteorology as a second pastime. He has written on the climatology of places along eclipse tracks since 1978, when a solar eclipse was predicted to pass over his home town. He still lives in that home town – Winnipeg...”*

Given Jay's decade as Editor of the *JRASC*, his more than a quarter century of weather predictions for total solar eclipses and transits of Venus in the *Observer's Handbook*, and in NASA publications with Fred Espenak, he has made major, long-term contributions to the RASC. Those contributions have been at the centre, national, and international levels. According to his Service Award citation, he has been a member of the RASC continuously since 1990. (The Service Award citation for Jay Anderson, which details his many other contributions to the Society, appears below as *Appendix I*.)

Jay Anderson's extraordinary eclipse conditions work constitute a major, long-term contribution to the work, credibility, and international stature of the RASC as one of the world's leading and most-respected astronomical societies. He is acknowledged as a global expert on eclipse weather conditions. Eclipse chasers the world over turn to Jay's work, and the *Observer's Handbook*, when planning eclipse observations.

In recognition of Jay Anderson's many and decades-long contributions to the RASC, in particular his lengthy internationally-recognized expert contributions in eclipse weather predictions, and the resulting breadth and depth of these contributions with respect to the RASC's objectives, mission and vision, we urge the Society to award Fellowship to the very deserving Jay Anderson.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Whitehorne, FRASC  
Roy L. Bishop, FRASC  
Jim Hesser, FRASC

### **Appendix I – Service Award Citation for Jay Anderson**

The Council of the Winnipeg Centre has unanimously voted to nominate Gordon “Jay” Anderson for the 2013 Service Award.

Jay has contributed to all facets of the Winnipeg Centre, and at the National level for a very long time. Originally joining the RASC in the early 1970s, his latest membership term began in 1990. During this period of time, he has served as Winnipeg Centre President, Councillor, Secretary, National Representative and he is currently the club Treasurer. Jay is also serving his second five year term as Editor of the Journal, a monumental task.

Jay's role with the Winnipeg Centre may best be described as a stalwart builder, both physically and mentally. He was a key participant in the initial construction of our observatory at Glenlea, and the subsequent rebuilds which followed the incapacitating floods to the site. Plus he is a key member of the maintenance of, and annual upgrades to, the building. He's often dropping by to cut grass or shovel snow before any of our Centre sponsored events at the site.

Plus, he is constantly trying to improve the Winnipeg Centre. As President, he made wholesale changes to our meeting format; setting stage for a friendlier and more inviting meeting for new members. Jay participates by regular presentations at the meetings, plus monthly updates on the upcoming astronomical events worth enjoying. He is regularly supporting the club's Public Observing sessions; bring out his expertise and his various telescopes. He also encourages others to travel to view events such as occultations, transits and eclipses.

Being one who enjoys bringing people together, he regularly lends out his house to our Centres Council meetings, Annual Winter Potluck dinner and as a backup site in case of rain, for our annual June Barbeque.

Jay enjoys helping others to improve their observing skills. He is generous in lending out equipment, and helping others develop their imaging skills.

Jay's contributions extend well beyond the Winnipeg Centre. He is an expert on Solar Eclipses, participating in the past with the former NASA Eclipse guides. Plus he is still sought out for his opinion on where to go to view them, utilizing his long term experience as a former Meteorologist.

Jay also significantly contributes with his writing and editorial skills. He is the author of many articles seen in our Journal and Sky and Telescope magazine. Jay also achieved a long sought goal, in tailoring the Journal into a more membership friendly publication. He has solicited others to contribute with numerous monthly columns on amateur based interests.

He has been involved as Chairman of the organizing committee for the last three of our Centre General Assembly meetings in Winnipeg.

Jay does all this with a large smile on his face. His presence offers warmth, patience and expertise to help others become the best astronomers they can be. Winnipeg Centre is lucky to have him in our fold, and we are proud of his achievements.