

Randy Attwood

Randy Attwood joined the RASC in 1970 and has been actively contributing in a substantive way ever since. He began his work in the Toronto Centre, where he held numerous council positions over the years, including Centre president from 1982 to 1986. He has also served nationally as 1st Vice-President, and then President of the Society from 1998-2000. He has served on numerous national committees, as a trustee to special funds, and worked hard for years to improve the Society's operational and business models. He has been instrumental in helping small astronomy clubs become Centres of the RASC. His tireless dedication to the RASC and to public education earned him the Service Award in 2005.

Randy is passionate about astronomy and the space sciences. During the 1980s, he produced and hosted an astronomy and space exploration cable television program called Astronomy Toronto. He has taught night school astronomy courses and contributed as a science writer and reviewer to high school science books (astronomy, space science, climate change). He has also carried the astronomy EPO torch through Scientists in Schools, the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), and others.

For many years, Randy has been in demand as a respected and expert astronomy and space science media consultant, appearing on CBC, CTV, Global, and the Discovery Channel, among others. In this way, he has brought astronomy and space science to millions of people. In so doing, he has raised the profile and stature of the RASC as Canada's leading "go-to" organization for information about astronomy and space science.

In 2003, Randy founded the Mississauga Astronomical Society. In 2006, it became the Mississauga Centre of the RASC, where Randy was president for seven years. He also developed the Centre's popular outreach program in partnership with the Riverwood Conservancy, where thousands more people have been introduced to the stars. Not stopping, he went on to found Earthshine, a charitable organization dedicated to building a planetarium in the Greater Toronto Area. Once again, his success in nurturing and building relationships with other organizations has resulted in furthering the mission and vision of the RASC.

Through his 40-year career in the RASC, Randy's work has held to a consistent theme of raising awareness of astronomy and the RASC among the public. He has worked to raise scientific literacy in Canada and beyond. He recognized the tremendous value of building bridges and partnerships between the RASC and other like-minded organizations—of taking strength to greater strength. Randy Attwood is an ambassador for the Society unlike any other.

In 2012, The International Astronomical Union confirmed the naming of Asteroid (260235) Attwood in Randy Attwood's honour.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Awards Committee recommends Randy Attwood for the Society's Fellowship Award.