

## **Peter Broughton**

Peter Broughton, now retired, was a mathematics teacher in the Toronto school system. He holds a B.Sc. in astronomy and a M.Sc. in mathematics from the University of Toronto, and is an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto.

Peter is one of a select few individuals who, over many decades, has contributed immensely to The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada at the national level. His first position with the Society was as Librarian (1969-1972). Later he served as Treasurer (1976-1979), and as Secretary (1981-1987). Beginning in 1988, Peter undertook the 8-year sequence of presidential positions, serving as President in 1994-1996. He is the only person to have served in so many of the Society's executive positions. During those decades, he was also a member of several Society committees. His wise counsel is highly valued by his associates.

Peter was awarded the Society's Service Award in 1987, the year he completed his two 3-year terms as Secretary.

The year 1994 saw the publication of Peter's 300-page, illustrated book "Looking Up, A History of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada." Peter recorded in that book not only his own encyclopedic knowledge of the Society, but he drew upon both the Society's archives and the memories of many other members. He has preserved for posterity an invaluable record of the RASC since its beginnings in 1868, including the first century of the incorporated Society. Without Peter's love for the Society and the labour he devoted to that book, a considerable part of the Society's history would already be lost.

Peter's contributions to astronomy in Canada extend beyond the RASC. He has published some two dozen research papers on various aspects of the history of astronomy in Canada, spanning the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. His work has appeared in the *Journal of the RASC*, the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *Annals of Science*, and the *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society*.

A few years ago, Peter's contributions to astronomy were recognized by the International Astronomical Union with the naming of asteroid 16217 Peterbroughton.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions over many decades, both to The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and to the preservation of Canada's astronomical heritage, the Awards Committee recommends Peter Broughton for the Society's Fellowship Award.