

BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

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Ian Levstein, Editor

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

A PDF version of the *Bulletin* is available at: <http://www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/201106.pdf>

A text-only version of the *Bulletin* is available at: <http://www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/201106.txt>

► Editor's Notebook

by Ian Levstein

Email Address Change?

If your email address has changed, please do not contact me. I am not the keeper of the email list. I have no control over the email address where the *Bulletin* is sent.

To change your email address, you must log on to the [Member's Only portal](#) at the RASC Web site.

► News @ RASC.ca

Winnipeg General Assembly 2011

by [Jay Anderson](#), GA Chair

The GA is less than a month away!

This year's astronomical getaway begins in Winnipeg on June 30 and celebrates the RASC and the Winnipeg Centre's 100th birthday over the following three days. All of the familiar elements are in place: the National Reps BBQ, the good-buddy Wine & Cheese at the Manitoba Museum, the RASC BBQ and Winnipeg Birthday Party, and the dress-up Banquet and Northcott Lecture. This year's astrophoto contest is the biggest ever, with spiffy prizes.

Scientific interests are satisfied by the GA's speakers: **Dr. Christine Wilson** from McMaster, **Paul Delaney** from York, **Alan Dyer** from Calgary, and **Dr. Safi-Harb** from the University of Manitoba. And if being a tourist is your bag, we have an honest-to-goodness dinosaur dig, a ride on a steam train, or visits to the Winnipeg Zoo. It's all described at the [Web page](#) or by searching on "Winnipeg GA RASC".

Time to register is running short.



General Assembly Photo Contest

by [Jay Anderson](#), GA Chair

A photo contest is traditionally a part of the GA activities, but this year we are encouraging submission of electronic images, whether or not you plan to attend the GA.

The rules are simple:

- no more than three entries in total
- no more than two in any one category, not counting video submissions
- must be taken within the past two years
- must follow the formats outlined in the submission form (mostly size limitations)
- must be accompanied by full documentation according to the submission form.

The entry form can be found [here](#).

The categories are:

1. High-magnification Deep Sky (15 arcminutes or less on the longest dimension)
2. Wide-area Deep Sky (through a telescope - can be panoramas)
3. Piggy-back or tripod-mounted camera under 200mm f/l
4. Lunar and Planetary images
5. Videos
6. RASC and public outreach activities
7. Cell-phone astrophoto (describe phone model and process)

The last category is especially challenging, but no fancy equipment is required, just your imagination. Could be a Milky Way shot, Moon, planet, observatory scene... whatever.

Give us your best shot!

The RASC is on Twitter!

by [Katrina Ince-Lum](#), MAP committee

As part of the RASC's commitment to outreach, education and member communication, the MAP committee is pleased to announce the [National RASC Twitter](#) Web page.



A foray into social networking, it is an opportunity not only to unite Centres but to be an easily approachable voice of Canadian astronomy online to non-members. Ideas to be tweeted (special events at your Centre, astronomical events of note, etc.) can be emailed [here](#).

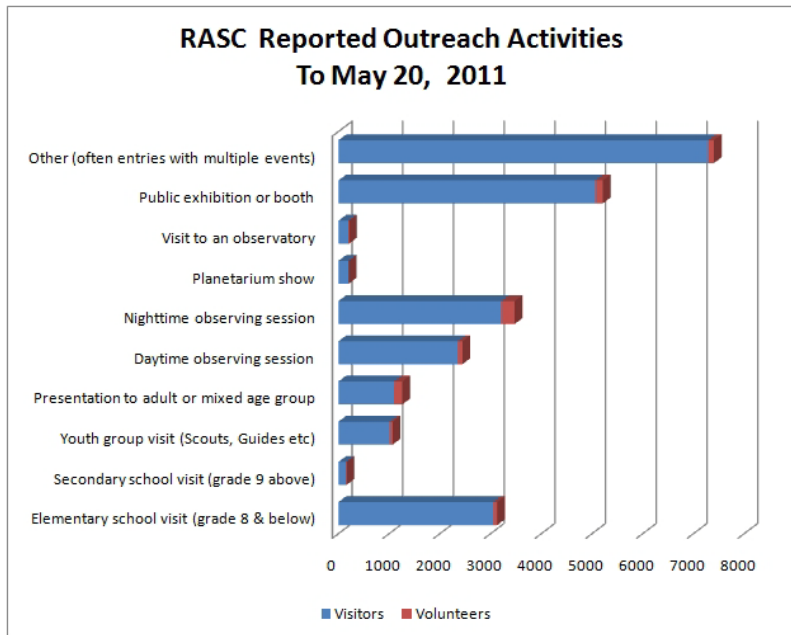
Check it out... and if you're on Twitter, follow us and invite your friends to follow as well.

RASC Outreach Events by Type

by [Ron Macnaughton](#), Chair, Education Committee

The event entry form [here](#) has had a total of 24,580 visitors and volunteers reported since it started this year. It asks for the type of activity. The “Other” category is so large because some groups reported several activities in one entry. This category includes school visits, public viewing sessions and public booths.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to report the events, a task much less fun than getting “Wow’s” as people look through a telescope for the first time.



Peter Millman's Astronomy Column

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre - with advice from **Dr. Victor Gaizauskas**

Peter Millman was the first Toronto astronomer to write a regular column in a local newspaper, as far as I know. He first contributed to the *Toronto Star* on 1940 May 18. By that time, he had been working for **C. A. Chant** at the David Dunlap Observatory since 1933, before its formal opening. Millman had also been on the observing committee of the RASC Toronto Centre since 1934, which was no coincidence since Chant was on the same committee. But, there was a war on, and when Millman enlisted in the RCAF it fell to **Frank Hogg** to correspond with the *Star* (Hogg had a heart condition that excused him from military service and shortened his lifespan.)

After the war, Millman joined the staff of the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa, and he was the president of the RASC Ottawa Centre from 1945 to 1950. In the early 1950s, after Frank Hogg had passed away and **Helen Hogg** was writing the *Star*'s astronomy column, Millman started another such column in a competing paper, the *Toronto Telegram*. The *Telegram*'s astronomy column was printed almost every Saturday from 1951 September 15 until 1967 October 21, and after that it was printed once monthly until 1971, April 24. The *Telegram* ceased production at Halloween 1971 and was “eclipsed,” becoming the *Toronto Sun* which is still a very popular paper.

The Hogs' column in the *Star* was featured in January's *Bulletin*. Helen Hogg was a popular astronomy outreach specialist, discussing her “real” work with variable stars, new topics in science, work trips she had made to other observatories, new sights in the sky and basic astronomical ideas. She freelanced her column, and drew freely from it when composing her popular astronomy book [The Stars Belong To Everyone](#).

Millman's interests were more specific than Hogg's, and this comes across in the subject matter he chose for his weekly columns. Any news regarding meteor showers, meteorites, asteroids or artificial satellites in the 1950s was very likely to get printed in Millman's *Telegram* column. Millman's column

was also often richly illustrated with his own hand-drawn art, whereas Hogg's column was usually just text with a few charts. Hogg's column courageously described the Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram and Tauri stars for the public more often than Millman did. Any current events such as Comet Arend-Roland, or Canadian news such as impact craters being discovered in the Canadian Shield, was as likely to be published in one paper as in the other. Millman also set aside more copy for basic familiarization with the constellations and the seasons.

Editor's Note: The full story can be found [here](#). An Excel file of the index can be found [here](#).

► The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know.

► Dates to Remember

- 2011 June 30-July 3 - [2011 General Assembly](#), Winnipeg, MB
- 2011 July 1 - **National Council Meeting**
- 2011 July 3 - **Annual Meeting**
- 2011 July 29-31 - [RASCals Star Party](#), Metchosin, BC
- 2011 July 30-31 - [Alberta Star-B-Q](#), Caroline, AB
- 2011 August 25-28 - [Saskatchewan Summer Star Party](#), Cypress Hills Inter-Provincial Park, SK
- 2011 August 25-28 - [Starfest](#), Ayton, ON
- 2011 August 26-28 - [Nova East](#), Smileys Provincial Park, NS
- 2011 September 2-4 - [Butter Pot Star Party](#), Butter Pot Provincial Park, NL
- 2011 September 23-25 - [14th Annual Algonquin Adventure](#), Mew Lake Campground, APP, ON
- 2011 September 23-25 - [Fall'N'Stars](#), Thomasburg, ON
- 2011 September 24-25 - [Alberta Star Party](#), Starland Recreation Area Campground, AB
- 2011 September 27-October 2 - [Northern Prairie Star Party](#), Black Nugget Lake, AB



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