



**April 2017 - Volume 12, Number 4**

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*.  
Email them to the Editor, David Garner at  
[bulletin@rasc.ca](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca)

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## News from the Society Office

by [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director

### SkyNews Gift

Give the Gift of *SkyNews*! Introduce *SkyNews* to your family and friends at a special **discounted rate for RASC members only!** 1 Year – \$18.00 plus applicable taxes. Log in to [www.rasc.ca](http://www.rasc.ca) and head to **Member Benefit Programs** (under Member Area tab) for details. *SkyNews* is an affordable, highly appreciated gift that delivers the Sun, the Moon, the Planets and the Stars – six times a year. Continue to treat yourself and all your friends to *SkyNews* with this special offer!

### RASC 150th

Next year the RASC celebrates its **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary**. Be sure to follow plans for the celebration on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary page <http://rasc.ca/2018>



### **NEW Product: RASC Lapel Pins!**

You asked and we answered: we now have **2 stylish lapel pins** for sale on the RASC eStore! Stop by our eStore and order one today!

### **2016 Annual Report**

A note to Centre Treasurers and Secretaries – the initial deadline for submitting Centre activity and financial information for the 2016 Annual Report is 2017 April 3. We invite Centres to include photos of Centre activities to be considered for publishing in the extended annual report.

### **National Star Party July 29**

To celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Society is planning for the first time ever, a National Star Party.

On Saturday July 29, all Society centres and non-RASC astronomy organizations and clubs are encouraged to hold a star party – from coast to coast to coast!

The first-quarter Moon as well as the planets Jupiter and Saturn will be perfectly placed for early evening observing. Special handouts to mark the occasion will be produced and distributed to all participating groups.

### **Total Solar Eclipse – Monday 2017 August 21**

The first total solar eclipse to be widely observed in North America since 1979 will take place this August. The eclipse will be total along a path spanning the continental United States. Hundreds of RASC members have already made plans to observe this event somewhere along the path.

The eclipse will be partial across all of Canada. There will be great interest in the eclipse. Issues of *SkyNews* starting with the March/April issue will cover all aspects of observing and photographing the eclipse.

The Society plans to support Centres which will be holding public observing sessions of the partial phases. Solar viewers have been ordered and will be provided to all Centres.

## The 2017 Board of Directors Election

by **Robyn Foret**, Chair, Nominating Committee

The 2017 General Assembly will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, June 30 to July 3. Each year, there are 3 Director positions on the Board up for election. The election will take place prior to the General Assembly and the newly elected Board will elect its Executive to be announced at the Annual General Meeting on July 2.

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for 3 Directors of the Society, each holding a 3 year term.

Participation on the RASC Board of Directors is a leadership experience that provides a rich opportunity for personal and astronomical growth!

- Be part of our leadership team at The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
- The Nominating Committee is seeking at least three candidates to run for the Board of Directors
- The President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be drawn from the ranks of the Board, which will include the three members chosen in this election and six members who were elected in 2015 and 2016.

The **Deadline for Nominations** for Board members is **2017 May 1**.

Candidate's **Campaign Period** runs from **May 8** through **June 2**. Candidates share their vision and qualifications with the Membership during this period with information posted on [rasc.ca/elections](http://rasc.ca/elections)

The **Election Period**, where Members vote on the Candidates standing for election, runs from **June 5** through **June 23**.

Here are the rules for candidate eligibility as set out in the RASC Policy Manual:

### Candidate Eligibility

The Nominating Committee will ensure that candidates for the RASC Board of Directors meet the following criteria:

- i. be a member in good standing of the Society;

- ii. meet the requirements for being a Board member as outlined by the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, and, specifically:
- iii. be over the age of 18 at the time of the Annual General Meeting (this year, July 2);
- iv. be an individual person (i.e. not a body corporate);
- v. be solvent (not bankrupt);
- vi. have agreed to stand for election in writing;
- vii. have the **support in writing of at least 3 people**, one of whom is a member of the Society; and,
- viii. have agreed to abide by the Society's Directors and Officer's Code of Conduct and indicated their willingness to sign the Society's Board of Director's agreement prior to assuming office.

#### Candidate's Statement

As part of the nomination process, candidates will be asked to provide a **Candidate's Statement**, including:

- their previous experience with councils and committees of the Society at both the National and Centre levels;
- a suitable photograph in electronic format as well as contact information as required;
- committee work and experience outside of the Society that may be relevant to the Society; and
- their goals for the Society and how they would contribute to the Board if elected.

Anyone wishing to be a candidate should write or email the RASC Nominating Committee through its Chair, Robyn Foret ([arforet@shaw.ca](mailto:arforet@shaw.ca)). Each candidate should state that they understand the eligibility requirements and state that they meet those

requirements. Candidates must agree to abide by the RASC Directors and Officers Code of Conduct. They should also indicate whether they intend to seek a position on the executive, and if so, what position they are seeking. The three supporters for each candidate should also write or email the committee. Candidates and their supporters must inform the Nominating Committee of their intention to run or support a candidate **by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Friday, May 1.**

Candidates' statements will be posted on the RASC website no later than May 5. Candidates can campaign from May 8 through June 2. Voting will take place from June 5 through June 23, and results will be announced on June 26. All members of the RASC are eligible to vote, and facilities to vote on line will be available as well as paper ballots on request from the Society Office.

The nominating committee will be pleased to answer questions from any member of the RASC about this election process. The Nominating Committee can be reached by mail through the Society Office of the RASC, 203 - 4920 Dundas Street W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7 or by email at [arforet@shaw.ca](mailto:arforet@shaw.ca)

Robyn Foret, Chair, Nominating Committee RASC

## **2017 Registration for Ottawa General Assembly**

by **Brian McCullough**, Chair 2017 GA Organizing Committee

We have three months to go before we open our doors to RASC members and their guests for the annual General Assembly at Algonquin College in Ottawa over the Canada Day weekend. We hope you will be able to attend.

Registration opens Friday, March 31 through our RASC Ottawa website. All of the information you require for registering and for ordering GA merchandise can be found on the website (<http://ottawa.rasc.ca/content/2017-general-assembly-ottawa>). Please note that registration will close on Friday, June 2 to give us time to order our merchandise, food and other services. We have an excellent program of presentations and events in store for what promises to be an outstanding General Assembly weekend.

See you there!

## Astroimaging Certificate Program

by **James Edgar**, RASC Past President

So, you want to be an astrophotographer. If you're a beginner, intermediate level, or a seasoned photographer, you can find a level of imaging that suits your talents best and then you can apply for a certificate from the Astroimaging Committee. This site tells it all [www.rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate](http://www.rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate), giving guidelines, hints, examples, and criteria for each level. Also, fillable forms are included on the site to make application simple and painless.

If your images are accepted and you are then awarded a certificate, your name will be placed on the RASC website. In addition, a Zenfolio site has been set up to show off the winning images in a permanent gallery. <http://rascastroimaging.zenfolio.com>



## CASCA Newsletter and Conference

by **Eric Briggs**, RASC, Toronto Centre

The Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie has published its Vernal Equinox 2017 Cassiopeia newsletter, concerning the activities of Canada's academic astronomers (<http://casca.ca/?p=8363>).

Among other things, there is a note that Alan Nursall, the President and CEO of Telus World of Science Edmonton, will be featured in an invited talk on Education and Public Outreach in Astronomy at the CASCA annual conference in Edmonton on the week of May 29.

The new Cassiopeia newsletter also includes a notice that CASCA will discuss the future rationale for publishing a newsletter.

The editors of Cassiopeia are Magdalen Normandeau & Joanne Rosvick.

### HELEN SAWYER HOGG PUBLIC LECTURE

The major attraction for RASC Members to the annual CASCA conference in Edmonton at the end of May could be the Annual Helen Sawyer Hogg Free Public Lecture. This lecture is sponsored jointly by CASCA and the RASC. It is so named in recognition of the lifelong contributions of Helen Sawyer Hogg towards increasing public awareness and appreciation of the Universe around us, an aim furthered by lectureship also seeks to further. It is held annually, alternating between the two Societies (the RASC hosts in even-numbered years and CASCA in odd-numbered years).

This year's lecturer is Dr. Fiona Harrison from CalTech. Fiona's interest in observational high energy astronomy led her to become the Principal Investigator of NASA's NuSTAR Explorer mission, the first orbiting X-ray telescope with the ability to focus high energy X-rays. Since its launch in 2012, NuSTAR has uncovered a number of important scientific results, including the identification of a number of "hidden" close-by supermassive black holes, the discovery of the brightest X-ray pulsar ever recorded and the creation of the first map of radioactive material in a supernova. These, plus many other discoveries, have greatly enhanced our view of the X-ray Universe in just four years.

The venue of the CASCA conference will be the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences (CCIS) on the University of Alberta campus in Edmonton, which was the venue for the RASC General Assembly back in 2012.

## **Asteroids with a Canadian Connection**

by **Eric Briggs**, RASC, Toronto Centre

The following have been added to the list of asteroids with Canadian connections:

(24732) Leonardcohen = 1992 CL2

Discovered 1992 Feb. 2 by E. W. Elst at the European Southern Observatory.

Leonard Cohen (1934–2016) was a Canadian singer, songwriter, poet and novelist.

His song “Suzanne” was one of many that became a hit. He was honored with one of the Prince of Asturias awards. Name suggested by K. Leterme.

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/24732>

(22434) Peredery = 1996 GE6

Discovered 1996 Apr. 11 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

Walter Volodymyr Peredery (b. 1938) is a retired Canadian geologist who studied the Sudbury, Ontario, area and developed the view that it is an impact basin.

Name suggested by P. and R. Jedicke.

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/22434>

(22426) Mikehanes = 1996 AH9

Discovered 1996 Jan. 13 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

Michael Francis Hanes (b. 1959) was a pilot for Air Canada, an amateur astronomer and telescope maker with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, London Centre.

Name suggested by R. and P. Jedicke.

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/22426>

(22415) Humelvey = 1995 UB21

Discovered 1995 Oct. 19 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

James Nairn Patterson Hume (1923–2013) and Donald Glenn Ivey (b. 1922) were physics educators, best known for their award-winning 1962 film Frames of Reference.

Name suggested by R. and P. Jedicke.

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/22415>

## **SkyNews, the Early Years**

by **R.A. Rosenfeld**, RASC Archivist

The Society's Archives are looking for a complete hard-copy run of the earliest issues of SkyNews, when it was published by the National Museum of Science and Technology (now the Canada Science and Technology Museum), with the involvement of RASC members Mary Grey, Dr. Randall Brooks, and Terry Dickinson. We are looking

for the years 1989 to 1994 inclusive.

Alternatively, we would like to acquire scans of the 1990 summer & autumn issues, and the 1991 winter issue.

If you can help please contact the Society's Archivist at [randall.rosenfeld@utoronto.ca](mailto:randall.rosenfeld@utoronto.ca)

## **Astronomy Rewind**

by [R.A. Rosenfeld](#), RASC Archivist

The American Astronomical Society (AAS), together with its journals ApJ and AJ, are sponsoring an astronomical crowd-sourcing project in the wildly successful Zooniverse stable.

In the words of the project's principals:

"Thousands of astrophotos, radio maps, and other telescopic images are mostly dead to science, and we aim to bring them fully back to life.

Astronomy Rewind will take these "zombie images"—which have been scanned from old pages of the ApJ and AJ by the NASA/SAO Astrophysics Data System—and add metadata sufficient to incorporate them into the Astronomy Image Explorer and WorldWide Telescope. Researchers will then be able to find them online and compare them with newer electronic data from modern telescopes, making possible innovative studies in time-domain astronomy" (<https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/news/2017-11>).

For more on the project visit

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/astronomy-rewind>

## **Westmount Earth Hour**

by [Carl Jorgensen](#), Montreal Centre

Every year the city of Westmount QC invites the RASC Montreal Centre to participate in their Earth Hour. Earth Hour is an international event designed to increase public awareness about environmental issues and the need to use energy wisely. As a club we have participated many times during this event. Our role is to make people aware of what the night sky has to offer, to educate the people about light pollution and,

weather permitting, to invite them to look through our telescopes. It also gives us the opportunity to inform the public of the joys of astronomy and to generally promote our Centre.

The city of Westmount Earth Hour was on 2017 March 25 and takes place at Victoria Hall Community Centre, 4626 Rue Sherbrooke O, Westmount, QC.

We have 2 crews for Earth Hour, the Indoor Crew and the Outdoor Crew. The Indoor Crew is responsible for setup and to staff the two tables allotted us by the city of Westmount. The Outdoor Crew is responsible for bringing telescopes and setting them up to give the public an opportunity to observe the night sky. We had 6 Montreal Centre members for the indoor Crew 2 members taking photographs and 12 Montreal Centre members in the Outdoor Crew with 8 telescopes. One of the outdoor members was our photographer.



Indoor Crew



Outdoor Crew

## Thank You to our Sponsors!

by **Julia Neeser**, RASC Marketing Coordinator

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are offering companies the distinction of becoming a sponsor of the RASC, Canada's pre-eminent amateur astronomy organization. This offer is available only to those industry leaders who recognize the value in being associated with the amateur astronomy community. [www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors](http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors).



## What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the **Northern Skies** section of the RASC website. Thanks to Gary Boyle for keeping us all in the know. Julia Neeser creates "The Solar System" monthly with data from James Edgar's "Skies" newspaper articles at [www.rasc.ca/observing](http://www.rasc.ca/observing).



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