



# RASC 2018 Sesquicentennial

RASC—Eyes on the Universe for 150 Years



2017 RASC GA  
Ottawa

RASC 2018 Working Group

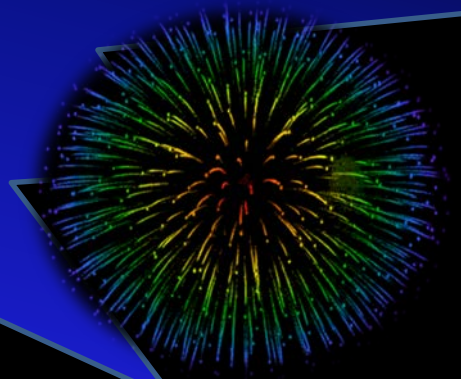




[www.rasc.ca/2018](http://www.rasc.ca/2018)

*RASC—Eyes on the Universe for 150 Years*

**RASC, 1868-2018, one hundred  
& fifty years of not-quite  
continuous existence, variously  
promoting astronomy and allied  
sciences—that's reason to  
celebrate!**



*But how?*





Not every “unique” idea seemed equally practicable, or to strike quite the right tone...

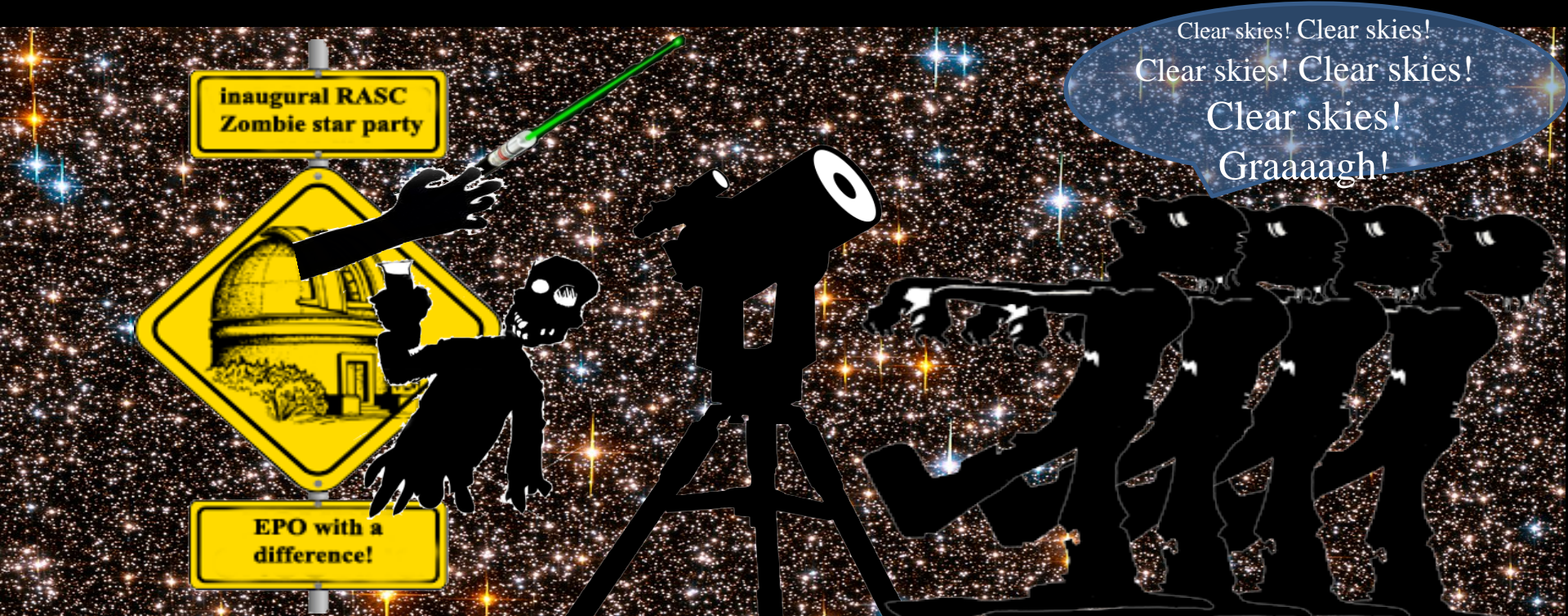
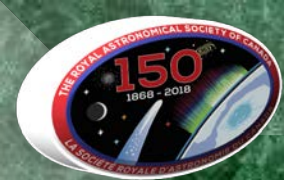


Image © NASA; Zombies not © NASA

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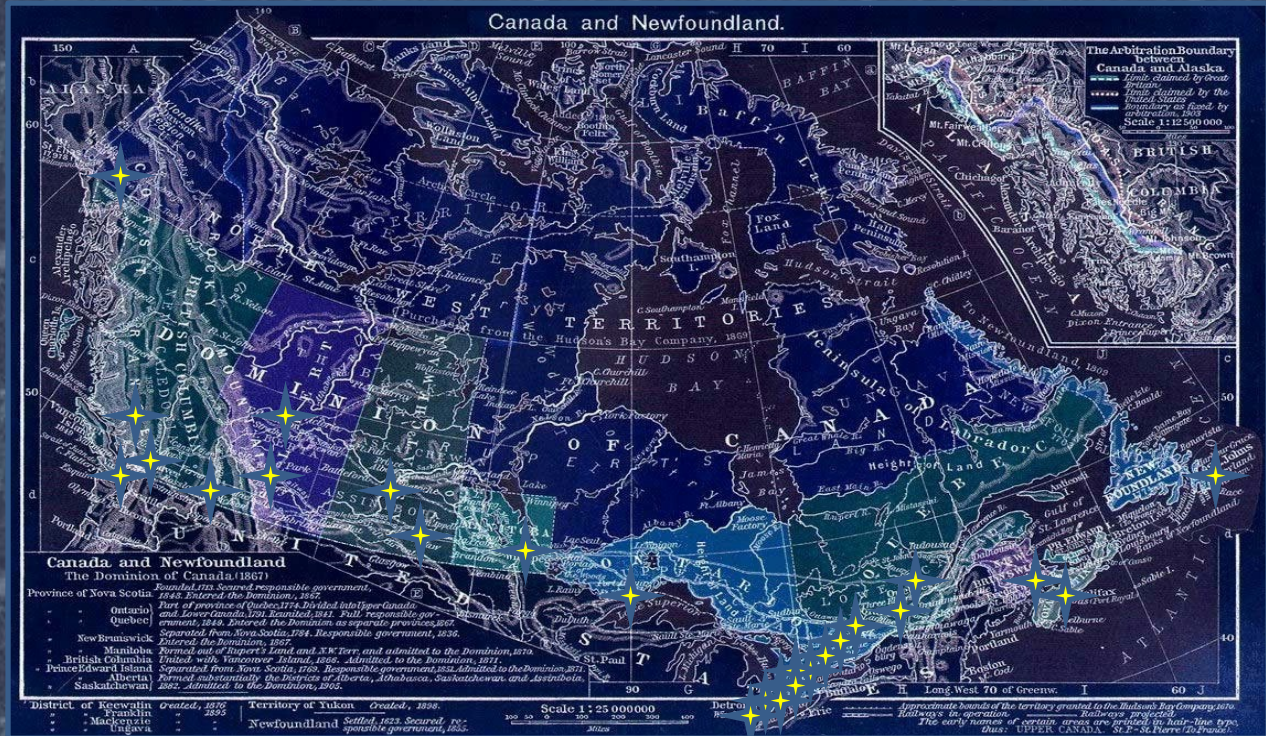


# Opening event—the National Star Party

## 2018 January 27

www.rasc.ca/2018

- all Centres
- ca. 3:00-8:00 PM local time, regardless of weather
- solar & lunar observing, etc.
- live streaming via rasc.ca, with Centre highlights
- messages from luminaries, astronomical & civilian



map courtesy of retrospective 1867 politically-incorrect cartographic notions

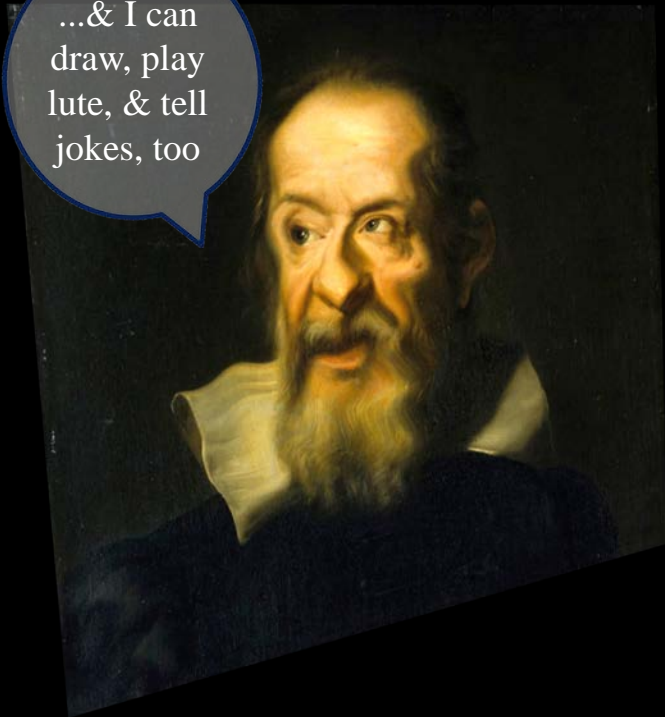




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## *Cultural connections*


...& I can  
draw, play  
lute, & tell  
jokes, too



An opportunity to partner with your favourite local arts organization(s), and renew—or initiate—collaborations to mutually explore the rich cultural connections between astronomy and other human endeavours.

For a list of resources, and possible ideas, visit:

<https://www.rasc.ca/cultural-connections-resources>

Project lead—You! 





# RASC 2018—the Podcasts

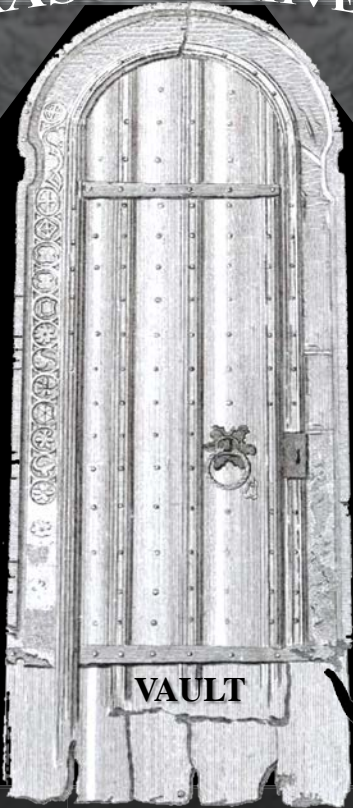
www.rasc.ca/2018

## RASC ARCHIVES



RASC  
Archives  
Vault

- ❖ Enter at own risk!
- ❖ Hardhat mandatory
- ❖ Chain-mail advised
- ❖ Please leave the dust as you found it!
- ❖ Report any cases of decreasing entropy *immediately!*



Curious about the old stuff which tells who we are, and what we've done since 1868? A series of podcasts will delve into the fascinating (& sometimes *unbelievable*) stories of the RASC, based on the surviving artifacts, the members who made and used them, and what we've learned—and haven't learned—about doing citizen science.

- episodes throughout 2018, with a new episode released each month
- images of rare RASC artifacts and documents illustrating the podcasts will be on the website, with associated resources
- learn, among other things, about how the RASC almost didn't happen, and how some of the original founding documents disappeared, and then “miraculously” reappeared

Project leads—R.A. Rosenfeld & Heather Laird

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# Canada Observes

At its best, the RASC is about collaboration, and cooperation. What better way to express that spirit, than to take part on the occasion of our sesquicentennial in the biggest RASC selfie ever! Images taken of Centres doing what they do best will be combined in a mosaic version of a RASC symbol to express the vitality of Centres' EPO across the country, *and* that nationally the RASC is an effective and diverse unity made up of *all* of us. This project also envisions creating a mosaic image of an astronomical object made up of RASC members' sketches and photographs of that celestial object or phenomenon—we are, after all, about observing the universe around us.

Both mosaics will be made available in two professionally designed banners, the files of which can be downloaded by Centres and members for display.

Project leads—June MacDonald & Heather Laird





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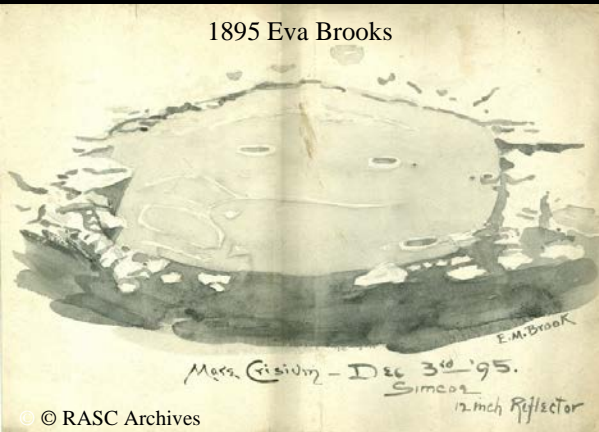
# Viewing the Moon across Time

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to observe with RASC members of the past? *Viewing the Moon across Time* provides an opportunity to creatively enjoy the flavour of past amateur astronomy, through active engagement with its materials.

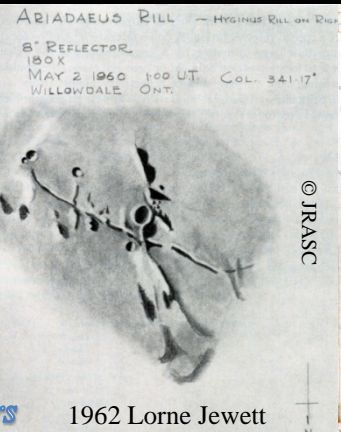
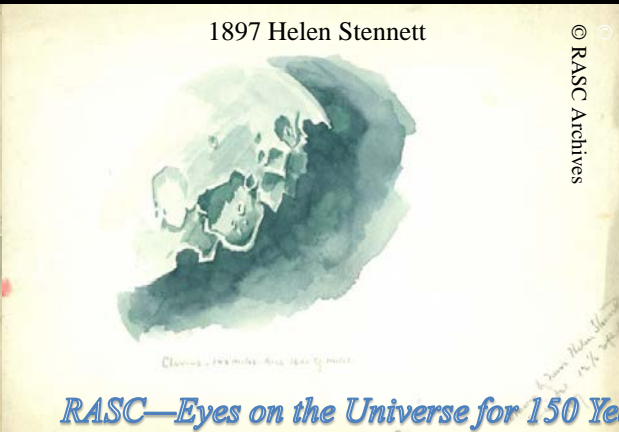
The resources provided will enable experimentation in exploring past styles of observing, in using earlier equipment and techniques (or their nearest modern equivalents), and in recapturing the intellectual formation of observers at key dates in the Society's past. The goal of this project is to broaden the observing experience of participants, through encouraging a creative and critical hands-on engagement with resources, techniques, and views unfamiliar to most contemporary observers, which will enrich the personal choices they can bring to their own observing craft, and expand the repertoire of material they can introduce into their EPO. The project webpage will feature many of the historical observing resources, and provide links to others.

Project lead—R.A. Rosenfeld

1895 Eva Brooks



1897 Helen Stennett



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1962 Lorne Jewett

1978 Peter Daniels

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# RASC 2018 anniversary imaging competition

As part of our 2018 sesquicentennial celebrations, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will invite Canadians to observe the astronomical sky and share their impressions through photography, sketching, or other artistic expression (*e.g.*, sculpting, print making, textile artistry, videography, *etc.*). We particularly welcome and encourage young people and newcomers of all ages to engage and share their inspirations.

There will be separate categories for experienced astrophotographers (5 years or more in the field), intermediate astrophotographers (less than five years), and beginners—those who have taken up astrophotography in 2018. Public voting will determine the winners in the categories.

Project leads—Jim Hesser & Lauri Roche



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# The RASC at 150



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To mark the centenary of the RASC in 1968, the Society published a brief collection of papers surveying some aspects of the history of Canadian astronomy: *Astronomy in Canada: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*. As much of the story of Canadian astronomy remains to be told—particularly the amateur and pro-am aspects—the RASC’s sesquicentennial can be fittingly celebrated by chronicling more of our story.

*The RASC at 150* has two parts; the first will be a workshop under the aegis of the 2018 GA, where new research on the RASC’s role in Canadian astronomy will be presented by invited speakers. The second is the publication (*ca.* 2019-2020) of an illustrated book based on those talks.

It is anticipated that *The RASC at 150* will be a substantial contribution to the literature on Canadian astronomical history and heritage, and a legacy project.

Project leads—R.A. Rosenfeld & Heather Laird





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Happy  
Birthday!

