

2008 Award Citations

- **Service Award, Denis Grey** (Toronto Centre)
- **Service Award, Leslie Harvey** (Toronto Centre)
- **Service Award, Tony Horvatin** (Toronto Centre)

Service Award, Denis Grey (Toronto Centre)

Denis Grey joined the RASC in 1997. For a brief period of time he was a member of the London Centre, but it was after his move to the Toronto Centre that Denis's leadership abilities saw first light at the National and Centre levels. As the long-standing chair of the Membership and Promotions Committee, Denis worked tirelessly to promote the RASC to the astronomical community, to the public at large, and to RASC member themselves. Many of the RASC promotional materials found in mass mailings, publications, and in the RASC eStore are the result of his handiwork and stewardship. Denis continues to be the spark behind new promotional and publication endeavours. Denis's passion for a strong and vibrant Society drives many of these projects, but Denis was also keenly aware of financial implications, and strives to make programs self-supporting or revenue earning wherever possible.

Denis's desire that the RASC be an influential, responsive, and financially viable member of the astronomical community led to Denis playing a lead role with the RASC Executive in discussions on new governance models. Seeded by these initial discussions, the RASC Council has formed the Board Pilot Committee, acting as both a Management Board and as a forward-looking group to propose new structures for improved governance and decision-making. Denis is an active member of this board.

As a vocal supporter of the National Society, Denis is keenly interested in making the National Society a relevant and valuable resource to the Society's Centres and membership. With that in mind, Denis became a driver, along with the RASC IT Committee, for the re-implementation of the Society's membership accounting system. Denis and the ITC successfully challenged Council to fund the MPA II project, through which a modern, supported, self-serve and web-enabled membership and order handling system replaces the prior outdated membership and accounting systems. Denis has contributed countless hours in the proposal and execution of this project, including many hours at National Office assisting in the conversion of the underlying accounting system.

Continuing in the service improvement vein, Denis drove the re-implementation of the National Web site. The new national site is dynamic, rich in content, and professional in design, while supporting effortless contribution by content writers and the membership at large. In conjunction with the new Web site, Denis spearheaded the implementation of the eBulletin, a monthly email distribution of current news, announcements, and events. At the time of this nomination, editorship of the Bulletin has just been taken over by Ian Levstein of the Kingston Centre.

As well as being the extraordinary contributor on the National stage, Denis has similarly stepped up to positions of responsibility within the Toronto Centre, and has built a long list of achievements at that level. He has served as Centre Vice-President, and is currently serving as Centre President. Denis is a past editor of the Toronto Centre

newsletter "Scope," was instrumental in the reworking of the Centre Web site, and is currently chairing the Toronto-Mississauga-Hamilton 2008 General Assembly Committee. Over the years he has played a key role in acquiring Trillium Grants for the Centre, providing funding for such things as public presentation equipment and accessibility, and service improvements to the Centre's E.C. Carr Astronomical Observatory. Despite all his National and Centre commitments, Denis can still be found participating in the events of this active Centre: presenting to the public at public star nights, manning the RASC display during Toronto's Word on the Street Festival, constructing and tearing down the Toronto Centre promotional display at GAs, or handling a hammer in an observatory work party.

Most recently, Denis took the role of Co-chair of the Observatory Park Working Group, dedicated to the preservation of the David Dunlap Observatory and surrounding grounds as an astronomy outreach and education centre, while maintaining the DDO as a successful research facility. At the time of this nomination, Denis was actively soliciting funding for the development of a concept plan and business case for the project.

As if his astronomy related endeavours were not enough, Denis still finds time to contribute volunteer time to his other community interests.

Service Award, Leslie Harvey (Toronto Centre)

Leslie Harvey was first a member during the 1970s and then rejoined the Toronto Centre in 1998. An active volunteer with a passion for public education, she joined the Toronto Centre Council in 2000, held the office of Recorder from 2003-2005, and has served as a Councillor-at-large since 2006. Her additional contributions have included acting as Associate Editor of the Toronto Centre's newsletter SCOPE since 2001, where she has provided support to the Editors and managed the newsletter's distribution with the support of her family.

Her most outstanding contributions have been in the realm of public education. She has served as Education Chair for the Centre since 2003. Her program responsibilities have included:

- annual Astronomy for Beginners programs at the Centre's Carr Astronomical Observatory
- coordination of the Centre's participation at the annual Hobby Show each fall
- an on-going contribution to the Centre's hospitality program at the Ontario Science Centre, as well as support for the Centre's Open House programs at the David Dunlap Observatory and the Carr Observatory; and, most importantly
- coordination of the Centre's display booth, which is prominent at most Centre functions, including volunteer staffing and sourcing materials for the booth
- coordination of the Centre's public education and outreach program, reaching thousands of students in between 60-80 sessions and seminars each year.

As a Councillor-at-large, Leslie Harvey has also been active in CAO work parties, Messier Marathons, and has helped arrange our Annual Open House. She has also served as a CAO supervisor and helped to make our observatory more accessible to our members. At the National level, Leslie has served as an alternate representative at National Council on several occasions and participated with poster sessions and

presentations at the General Assembly.

Our nominee is a two-time winner of the Centre's Andrew Elvins Award for Promotion of Astronomy in 2000 and 2004,

Leslie's commitment to the Society and its mission and programs is very much appreciated by all who have worked with her. She is a model volunteer who is very deserving of the Society's Service Award in 2008.

Service Award, Tony Horvatin (Toronto Centre)

Tony Horvatin joined the Society in 1980, and he was an active observer and builder of telescope equipment during that decade. Beginning in 1990 he became part of the Toronto Centre's Council and began a long period of active service, which has continued uninterrupted for 18 years. In 1995 he became part of the Centre Executive as Secretary. He continued on the Executive as 1st Vice-President in 1999, and finally for two full terms as President from 2003-2006. He continues to be an active member of Council as Past President.

Throughout his participation in the RASC, Tony has been active in our public education programming, regularly volunteering his time and energy to school and other groups. Beginning in 1996, when the Centre acquired the Carr Astronomical Observatory, he has been a leader in the transformation of that property into a centre for amateur astronomy, education, and hospitality. Specifically, our nominee has:

- been the organizer for many CAO work parties which are critical to community building and maintenance of the facility,
- conducted annual programs for local library and scout groups on-site,
- donated a significant observatory building to the site, making arrangements for its transportation, installation, and refurbishment,
- been involved in organizing almost every CAO Annual Open House since they first began in 1999.

As a builder for the Centre, he took the lead role in developing the Centre's first successful application for an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, and was an important contributor to the equally successful 2006 grant application, which together raised almost \$100,000 towards the Centre's programs and services.

Our nominee is a two-time winner of the Centre's Jesse Ketchum Award for Astronomical Equipment in 1993 and 2004, and a recipient of the Bert Winearls Award for Service in 2000.

At the National level, our nominee has been an active contributor to National Council where he has served as the Toronto Centre's representative and provided sound advice and practical guidance to the deliberations of the Council.

All of the above has been accomplished while helping to run a complex family business, raising three children with the help of his wife Grace, and while being extremely active as a Scout leader. The RASC will not be the first to recognize our nominee's contributions, as he also won a Volunteer Service award from the Ontario government in 2007.