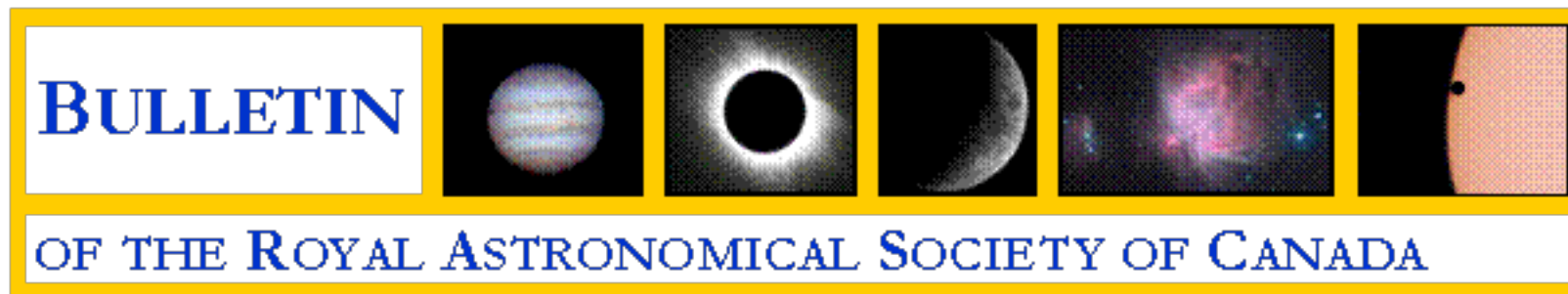


2008-04



April 2008 - Volume 3, Number 4

Ian Levstein, Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

Member: ~FULL_NAME~, RASC ID: ~ID~

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

Bonnie Bird Announces Retirement

The Society's Executive Secretary, **Bonnie Bird**, has announced that she will be retiring this summer after the GA in Toronto. Bonnie has served as our Executive Secretary since July 1996, running the National Office, dealing with Centre inquiries and external customers alike, and keeping everything running smoothly. If you've ever called National Office for any reason, odds are you've heard Bonnie's cheerful voice.

Bonnie's retirement comes at a time when our membership handling systems are transitioning to the new iMIS system, and so our requirements at National Office are somewhat in flux. To get us through this transition period, the Executive, in consultation with the Board Pilot Committee, has decided to create a term position to replace Bonnie and allow time to get the new systems up and in place.

The position of Interim Executive Secretary has been created, with a term ending 2009 Mar. 31. Our current Membership and Publications Clerk, **Jo Taylor**, will be promoted to the position of Interim Executive Secretary beginning 2008 Jul. 5. Jo will be working closely with Bonnie this spring and summer to complete handover training. Jo's position will be posted and backfilled this spring to bring the new Membership and Publications Clerk on-line as early as possible, and allow Jo to move into Bonnie's role this summer.

It is anticipated that by spring 2009, Council will be able to better define the staffing needs for National Office, and we'll be able to post new position(s) with job descriptions.

We wish Bonnie all the best in her retirement and congratulate Jo on her promotion. We'll miss you, Bonnie!

RASC Welcomes the Sunshine Coast Centre

The Executive Committee is pleased to welcome the Sunshine Coast Centre (SCC) to the RASC family! SCC by-laws were approved in principal by National Council, amended as required, and received final executive approval on 2008 Mar. 30.

National Council Meeting (NC081)

Minutes from the National Council Meeting (NC081) on 2008 Mar. 30 are now available in the Members' section of the RASC Web site. Highlights include the 2007 National Awards, proposed changes to the Society's fees, and initiatives to deal with charitable tax issues facing the Society. Please note that these are not the official approved minutes, until passed by National Council at their next meeting. You can access the minutes at www.rasc.ca/private/minutes/index.shtml [2].

2008 General Assembly - Registration Now Open!



The 2008 General Assembly of the RASC will be hosted by the Hamilton, Mississauga and Toronto Centres and will be held on the campus of York University in Toronto. Registration is now open at www.rasc.ca/ga2008 [3]. This year's early-bird registration deadline is **April 30** and regular registration will be available until **June 15**. News and updates are available at www.rasc.ca/news/GA2008.shtml [3].

More information about the 2008 GA will soon be available in a special edition of the *Bulletin* later this month.

Call for Nominations

The three presidential positions (**President**, **1st Vice-President** and **2nd Vice-President**) plus the **Secretary** must be filled by election or acclamation at the RASC Annual Meeting on 2008 Jun. 30. Names of candidates must be presented to the Secretary at least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting by the RASC Nominating Committee or by a private nomination supported by the signatures of five members of the Society. Please send any suggestions for these positions by email, no later than **2008 Apr. 30**, to:

Spring Astronomy Day

Spring Astronomy Day 2008 is fast approaching on **Saturday, 2008 May 10**. This year's Astronomy Day is especially significant in that it will 'spring board' the RASC into the [International Year of Astronomy 2009](#) [5].

Forward your events to the Education Committee via [Brian Battersby](#) [6], for addition to the Education Committee's Web page.

- RASC Astronomy Day Resources: www.rasc.ca/astroday/resources.shtml [7]
- RASC Centre Education Resources: www.rasc.ca/education/other/index.shtml [8]

Call for Star-Party Dates

Please forward your local 2009 star-party dates to the Handbook Editor... yes 2009! Both the *Observer's Handbook* and the *Observer's Calendar* 2009 Editors have deadlines in June.

Bulletin and National Newsletter On-Line

Thanks to **Walter MacDonald** of the Kingston Centre, a significant part of the Society's recent history has been added to the National Web site. Back issues of the *Bulletin* and the *National Newsletter* are now available at www.rasc.ca/publications/printhistory.shtml [9].

Beginning in 1970, the *National Newsletter* was published as a supplement to the *Journal*. Focusing on Society news and information the *National Newsletter* tells the stories of the Society throughout the 70's, 80's and 90's. In 1991, the *National Newsletter* became the *Bulletin* and it was published concurrently with the *Journal* until the *Journal* was relaunched in 1997. The articles and information contained in these back issues are very interesting and many are still relevant and interesting today. Download a trip through memory lane today!

Note that in 1997, the *Journal* was redesigned and the content of the *Bulletin* became an integral part of the *Journal*. Its legacy is continued today in the on-line *Bulletin* which you are reading now.

Bulletin Welcomes New Editor

The *Bulletin* of the RASC is pleased to welcome **Ian Levstein** as its new Editor. Ian has been a member

of the Kingston Centre since 1989 and has served that Centre as Secretary, Astronomy Day Coordinator, and two terms as President. Although now living in the US, Ian continues his interest in astronomy and observes with an old (but still very orange) Celestron C8 SCT. With him, Ian brings to the position an ongoing interest in astronomy and almost 20 years experience with computers, Web publishing, HTML scripting, and editing. You can contact Ian at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

Sir Arthur C. Clarke (1917-2008)

Science fiction writer and visionary, Sir Arthur C. Clarke, best known for his novel *2001: A Space Odyssey*, died on March 19 at age 90. In 1945, Clarke suggested a global relay system of telecommunication signals using geosynchronous satellites. The first draft of his article "Can Rocket Stations Give Worldwide Radio Coverage?" is now in the Smithsonian. He was knighted by the Queen in 2000 for his "service to literature."

► Across the RASC

Prize for Rosenfeld

Toronto member **Randall Rosenfeld** has won second prize for his paper "From Uraniborg to Yerkes, a Fragile Monumentality". The paper was submitted for the 2008 Griffith Observer Boeing Astronomical Writing Contest. Prizes are awarded for those articles "which best communicate to the average reader, material of current or historical interest in astronomy, astrophysics, and space science."

Toronto Centre Hosts 2,000 for Earth Day

The Toronto Centre, in cooperation with the Ontario Science Centre, had a magnificent night for Earth Hour, and was rewarded with a fabulous turnout estimated at 2,000 people. Storytellers, live music, and science demonstrations all built on the environmental theme for Earth Hour. The Toronto Centre prepared a new brochure highlighting light-pollution issues especially for this event.

► The Sky this Month

Young Moon Opportunity

On **April 6**, observers across Canada have an opportunity to observe a young Moon less than 24 hours old. For those of you working on the Isabel Williamson Lunar Program, take note - this is one of the

requirements of the program. This opportunity is the best this year to see such a young Moon, which will vary between 19 and 23 hours old depending on where you are located in Canada. Don't miss out! Below, is a table of details for a number of locations at the end of Civil Twilight, the time when you should start to look for the Moon. Thanks to **Paul Gray**, Observing Chair, for this information.

Location	Civil Twilight Ends	Moon Age	Moon Altitude	Moon Sets
Halifax	8:18 ADT	19h 24m	5 deg 20'	8:57 ADT
Fredericton	8:32 ADT	19h 37m	5 deg 30'	9:13 ADT
Toronto	8:30 EDT	20h 21m	5 deg 48'	9:01 EDT
Winnipeg	8:42 CDT	21h 47m	6 deg 24'	9:33 CDT
Calgary	8:52 MDT	23h 00m	6 deg 59'	9:49 MDT
Vancouver	8:24 PDT (1 day old at 8:50 PDT)	23h 29m	7 deg 21'	9:21 PDT

What's New in the Sky

Readers are encouraged to check out the **Northern Skies** section of the RASC Web site at www.rasc.ca/news/northernskies.shtml [10]. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

► Dates to Remember

- - **2008 Apr. 30** - Deadline for National Nominations
 - **2008 Apr. 30** - Deadline for Early Bird Registration for 2008 GA
 - **2008 Apr. 30** - Deadline for Paper Proposal Submissions for 2008 GA
 - **2008 May 10** - Spring Astronomy Day 2008
 - **2008 Jun. 27** - National Council Meeting (Toronto)
 - **2008 Jun. 28-30** - RASC General Assembly at York University, Toronto, ON
 - **2008 Jun. 30** - RASC Annual Meeting at York University, Toronto, ON
 - **2008 Oct. 4** - Fall Astronomy Day 2008



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Links:

- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] <https://www.rasc.ca/council/minutes>
- [3] <https://www.rasc.ca/ga-2008>
- [4] <mailto:PJedicke@fanshawec.ca>
- [5] <http://www.rasc.ca/education/iya/index.shtml>
- [6] <mailto:brianbattersby73@yahoo.ca>
- [7] <https://www.rasc.ca/astronomy-day-resources>
- [8] <http://www.rasc.ca/education/other/index.shtml>
- [9] <https://www.rasc.ca/our-printed-history>
- [10] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>
- [11] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>
- [12] <http://www.rasc.ca>