



January 2017 - Volume 12, Number 1

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

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

News from the Society Office

by **Randy Attwood**, RASC Executive Director

Happy New Year!

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

2016 Annual Report

A note to centre Treasurers and Secretaries – the deadline for submitting Centre activity and financial information for the 2016 Annual Report is Monday, 2017 May 15. We invite Centres to include photos of centre activities to be considered for publishing in the extended Annual Report.

What's in the next issue of the *Journal*

This year begins the 111th start of the RASC *Journal*, beginning with No. 1 February / février—Whole Number 782—that's 782 editions spanning 111 continuous years!

Along with all the usual columnists, this issue has a continuation of research by Michel Duval and his team, comparing the *Black-Drop Effects during the Transits of Mercury in 2016 and Venus in 2004-2012*; an article by Dave Chapman and Cathy LeBlanc *In Search of the 13th Mi'kmaw Moon*, and, by our astute Archivist, Randall Rosenfeld, the

recently completed *Records of the NRC's Associate Committee on Meteorites (ACOM)*, and the CSA's *Meteorites and Impacts Advisory Committee (MIAC)*.

As always, Jay Anderson's *NewNotes* column brings "breaking news" in a concise, easy-to-read manner, keeping us informed about the goings on in research and new astronomical discoveries.

The centrefold photos, in colour, are from RASC amateur astroimagers; this is one of the forums where members can show off their talented accomplishments.

Northern Star

A book about pre-eminent Canadian astronomer John Stanley Plaskett will be published this year. Titled *Northern Star*, it was written by historian and Society Past President Peter Broughton and will be available in early June 2017. The Society contributed financially to the production of this book.

National Star Party July 29

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

On Saturday July 29th, 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 that will be holding public observing sessions of the partial phases. Solar viewers have been ordered and will be provided to all Centres.

News For Educators

For anyone teaching astronomy, there are many resources on the [Discover the Universe](#) website. This includes two webinars scheduled for January.

Astronomy News and 2017 Preview

Wednesday, 2016 January 18 at 3pm Eastern (20h UTC)

Once again, we're starting the year with an overview of the important astronomy news of the previous year and a preview of what's to come in the new year. You'll hear about recent astronomy breakthroughs and space missions, Canadian discoveries and what to look for in the sky in 2017.

Workshop For Teachers: January 23 – February 10

Discover the Universe offers an online astronomy workshop especially designed for teachers. You will discover fascinating topics in astronomy, all connected to your school curriculum.

Register online for these two free events.

Astrocats 2017

The Canadian Astronomy Telescope Show and Canadian Astrophotography School, sponsored by the RASC Hamilton Centre will be held May 6–7 at the John Tonelli Sports Centre Milton, Ontario

For more information visit www.astrocats.ca/

SkyNews Gift Subscriptions

It is not too late to give a subscription to *SkyNews* to a friend, family member or anyone interested in astronomy. All RASC members received emails over the holidays with a link to a web site where subscriptions to *SkyNews* could be purchased for only \$17!

Call the Society Office if you need help setting up a gift subscription.

Super Sale

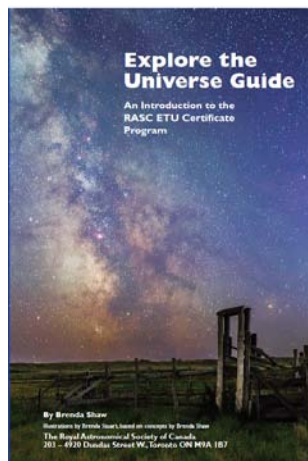
Many RASC publications and promotional items are for sale this month:

Observer's Calendar 2017 SALE PRICE \$8.95



A beautiful calendar showcasing RASC members' astroimages with information on what's up in the sky tonight. A perfect gift for the beginner and a must-have for the experienced observer. **Grab one before they're gone!**

NEW Item: Explore the Universe Guide PRICE \$17.95



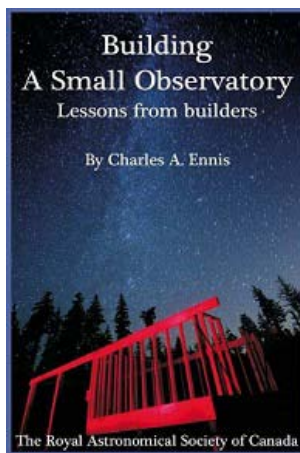
If you are just starting out in astronomy, the ETU Guide is for you. This illustrated book answers questions about astronomical coordinates, constellations, eclipses, the Moon, major and minor planets, comets and more. **It's the perfect guide to start learning your way around the sky.**

Member favourite: RASC Hoodie



Our popular hoodie is back. **Get the RASC Hooded Sweatshirt (Navy), and keep warm while you observe!** Hoodie available in sizes: **S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL**. Email mempub@rasc.ca for size requests. **Price:** 49.99. Crest sold separately.

Building A Small Observatory PRICE \$17.95



This book is the result of interviews with 140 small observatory owners in 10 countries to discover what it takes to fund, build, and operate a small observatory. As a planning guide, it will help you maximize your chances of successfully creating a trouble-free installation, and help find the best site and equipment. Learn from the experience of

those who went before you. Don't make the mistakes that others have made! **Order one for \$17.95 from our eStore.**

Astroimaging Certificates

by **James Edgar**, Past President RASC

The Astroimaging Committee over the past few days has approved certificates as follows:

Wide Field

Dave Chapman
James Edgar
Tenho Tuomi

Solar System

Art Cole

Deep Sky

Jeff Donaldson
Blair MacDonald

See www.rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate

2017 General Assembly – Ottawa, June 29 to July 3

by **Brian McCullough** and **Tim Cole**, 2017 GA Committee, Ottawa Centre



RASC Ottawa Centre is pleased to offer an outstanding lineup of activities for delegates and spouses taking part in the 2017 General Assembly, and we look forward to seeing you here in Ottawa. Is there really any other place to be than the nation's capital during our 150th birthday?

The following schedule of activities and more information can be found at <http://ottawa.rasc.ca/content/2017-general-assembly-ottawa>

Thursday, June 29

- 3:00 p.m. – Residence check-in and GA registrations desk open
- Evening – Hospitality suite open

Friday, June 30

- Welcome
- ***Keynote Address: Ken Hewitt-White***
- National Council Meeting (concurrent all day)
- Algonquin Radio Observatory—Brendan Quine
- Moving Clusters—Glenn LeDrew
- Astronomy Workshop
- Downtown in the Afternoon –Tours
- BBQ on Campus
- Evening Star Party & Diefenbunker Tour

Saturday, July 1 – CANADA 150 DAY!

- Meteor Workshop—Pierre Martin
- The Solar System: a Geological Perspective on Current Controversies—Simon Hanmer
- Moon sketching (Lunchtime group activity)
- ***Ruth Northcott Lecture & Reception with Dr. Eric Steinbring***
- Public Outreach Event
- Starry Night – Documentary Video with Charles Ennis
- Panel Discussion
- CANADA DAY Celebrations on Parliament Hill
- Quiet Canada Day on Campus with Carmen Rush

Sunday, July 2

- Annual General Meeting / Spouse's Tour (concurrent)
- Speakers Corner
- Talk TBD—Carmen Rush
- Talk TBD—Rick Wagner
- Astro-Desserts: recipes for astronomy themed goodies—Kelly Jordan
- August 21 Total Solar Eclipse—Alan Scott
- History of Predicting Solar Eclipses—Ron MacNaughton
- ***Group Photo & RASC Awards Banquet with Speaker Dr. Nadine Manset***

Monday, July 3

- 11:00 a.m. Residence checkout
- Holleford Crater tour with Chuck O'Dale

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 charter 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.



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.



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
203 – 4920 Dundas St W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7 CANADA
Tel: (416) 924-7973

Member Service: nationaloffice@rasc.ca

Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca

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