



May 2017 - Volume 12, Number 5

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

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News from the Society Office

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

RASC 150th

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



NEW Products: RASC150th!

We have many new items available on our eStore celebrating the RASC's 150th anniversary in 2018! [Stop by our eStore today](#) and check them out!

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 now past. Please make sure you submit your reports online or to Julia Neeser: mempub@rasc.ca. 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 150th 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* will cover all aspects of observing and photographing the eclipse.

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

Director of the American Association of Variable Star Observers

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr Stella Kafka, Director of the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) to the Society Office in April.



Executive Director Randy Attwood and Dr Stella Kafka.

2017 Registration for Ottawa General Assembly

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

There is just one month to go to the registration deadline for the 2017 RASC General Assembly, so please let your fingers do the walking to the RASC Ottawa website to book your registration, purchase merchandise, and make whatever donation you care to offer.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, we have had to replace our original Saturday morning workshop session. We think everyone will enjoy the Astronomy Educators Workshop now on tap. There will be plenty of hands-on activities, interesting demos, and great ideas to take back to your own outreach programs.

Looking forward to seeing everyone for the 2017 GA in Ottawa!

RASC Montreal Centre Upcoming Events

by **Carl Jorgensen**, Secretary Montreal Centre

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec. (Only if the skies are clear)

Thursday, May 4, 7:00 – 9:30 pm: Montreal Centre Library Clubhouse at RASC Montreal Centre Library, John Abbott College, 21275 Rue Lakeshore, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec.

Saturday, May 6, 7:30 – 10:30 pm: Montreal Centre Public Event at the Morgan Arboretum, 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec. Doors Open at 7:30. Presentation at 8:00 pm, public observing after presentation if the skies are clear.

Saturday, May 13, 7:00 – 11:00 pm: Members Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum.

Wednesday, May 17, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec. (Only if the skies are clear)

Saturday, May 20, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members Observing at Woody – Woods, 45 Rang Saint Antoine, Saint-Chrysostome. (Only if the skies are clear)

Saturday, May 26, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members South Shore Clubhouse at 1503 Bellevue #2, Greenfield Park. Doors Open at 7:30. Presentation at 8:00 pm, observing after presentation if the skies are clear.

Saturday, May 27, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members Observing at Thompson Park, 726 Rue Main, Hudson (only if the skies are clear).

Wednesday, May 31, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (only if the skies are clear).

2017 CASCA Qilak Award for Astronomy Outreach and Communication Presented to Pierre Chastenay

by **James Edgar**, RASC Past President

The Beyond International Year of Astronomy group (collaboration of RASC/CASCA/FAAQ) developed this award jointly in 2010.

Qilak is the Inuit word that means the entire sky: the celestial sphere and all that it contains, the Sun, the Moon, and the stars.

The Qilak Award is intended to recognize individual Canadian residents, or teams of residents, who have made an outstanding contribution, during a particular time period, either to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy in Canada, or to informal astronomy education in Canada, and to promote such activities among the members of the sponsoring organizations.



Congratulations to Pierre Chastenay for receiving the 2017 CASCA Qilak Award.

Outreach and Volunteering

by **James Edgar**, RASC Past President

Outreach activities across Canada often amount to vast numbers of RASC members in touch with local residents, park visitors, school classes, Scouts, Guides, Pathfinders, Cubs, Beavers, and any number of interested people at various events.

In addition, consider the number of volunteer hours put in by Centre Presidents, Observatory managers, Treasurers, bulletin editors, and such. Then multiply that by 29 Centres across the country, and you can readily see that this is no small number. This is what we do, this is our mandate: to educate the public about astronomy and the allied sciences. Let's congratulate all those RASCals who dedicate their volunteer skills and hours to this great hobby we call astronomy!

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.



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.



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