



August 2017 - Volume 12, Number 8

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

August Holiday Hours

Please note: the RASC Society Office will be closed on Monday August 7th (Civic Holiday). Have a safe holiday and clear skies!

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!

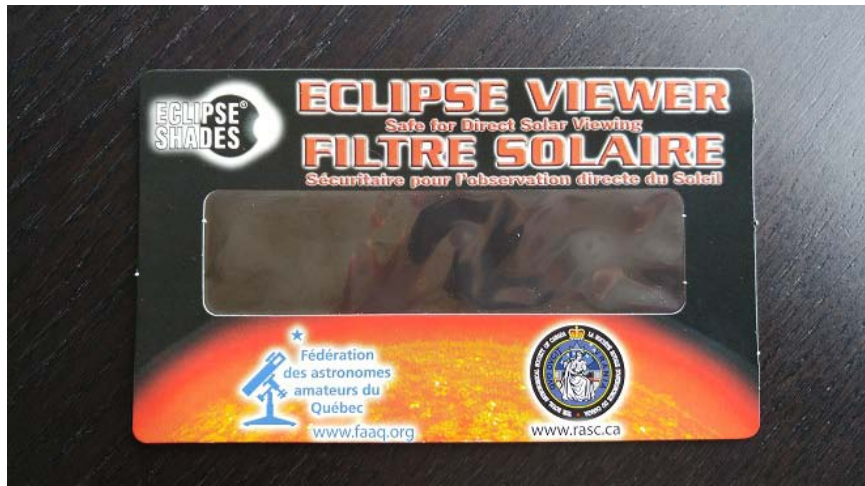
We have many new items available on our eStore celebrating the RASC's 150th anniversary in 2018! [Stop by our eStore today](#) and check them out!

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.

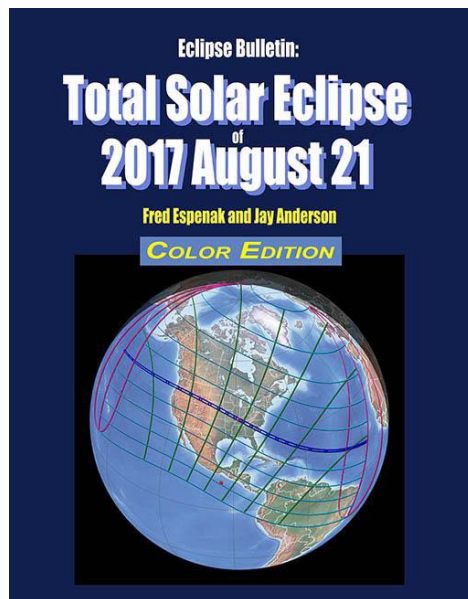
The eclipse will be partial across all of Canada. There will be great interest in the eclipse.

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.



Order your own Solar Viewer on our [eStore](#) for the upcoming eclipse!

Eclipse Bulletin will be **discounted** from \$34.99 to \$24.95 (**low stock!**)



New Additions to Digital Archive

Thanks to a gift from the Ottawa Centre's archivist Chris Teron, we now have online very rare RASC ephemera, such as printed at-home invitations to the GA. They have been digitized by the Society's Webmaster Walter MacDonald, and are available here:

<https://www.rasc.ca/aas-dinner-1929>
<https://www.rasc.ca/home-invitation-1916>
<https://www.rasc.ca/home-invitation-1917>
<https://www.rasc.ca/toronto-programme-1938-39>
<https://www.rasc.ca/toronto-program-1930-0304>
<https://www.rasc.ca/toronto-program-1916>
<https://www.rasc.ca/toronto-program-1917>
<https://www.rasc.ca/members-1909>
<https://www.rasc.ca/brochure-1960s>
<https://www.rasc.ca/meeting-cards-1916>
<https://www.rasc.ca/meeting-cards-1917>
<https://www.rasc.ca/nc-reports-1940s>
<https://www.rasc.ca/nc-reports-1950s>
<https://www.rasc.ca/nc-reports-1960s>

Why Volunteer?

by [Craig Levine](#), RASC Past President

Except for our Executive Director and two staff members, the RASC is an organization of volunteers. Without the time and effort of our members who pitch in at the Centre and national level, we would be a pale shadow of what we are, a membership organization in name only. It's our volunteers who imbue the RASC with its energy and sense of purpose. Your Centre executive, people who show the night sky at public outreach events, women and men who give generously of their time on the various local and national committees, the RASC Council, the Board of Directors? All volunteers, members like you.

Do you have a background in fundraising? Education? Accounting? Marketing? IT? Creative arts? Astro-photography? Or are you an experienced observer, to name just a few of hundreds of skills and interests? Even if you're none of the above, do you have an interest in pitching in where you can, be it on a committee or a special project, or a small working group focused on a specific task or quest? Be it local or national, for a year or just one evening, every generous offer of your time will be gratefully accepted.

From personal experience, beginning as a shy newbie many years ago, in Halifax, the experience of volunteering within the Centre and then the national level of the RASC has been profoundly rewarding and life-changing. Three examples of many are a confidence in public speaking that was absent in me when I first joined and has helped to push my career forward; leadership skills and experience that has been raised in job interviews and come into play at work; and the deep friendships I've made that will be with me for a lifetime. The latter is by far the best reason to be a volunteer in the RASC.

RASC Yukon Centre Activities

by **Anthony Gucciardo**, President, Yukon Centre

What an exciting summer for Astronomy in the Yukon!

Thus far, we have managed to complete, and submit, a Feasibility Study for the first Yukon Public Astronomical Observatory @ the Takhini Hotsprings. This observatory will boast an iStar 9-inch refractor on an Astro-900 mount. In June, the City of Whitehorse approved a second public observatory, as part of the new Chadburn Lake Park project on Canyon (Grey) Mountain. This second observatory is scheduled for construction in the next three to five years. It will host a full Science Centre, as the Takhini observatory will host a complete Nature Interpretive Centre. (<http://www.istar-optical.com/reviews-ii.html>)



Air North, Air New Zealand, Yukon Tourism & Culture, Dr. Ian Griffin of the Otago Museum in Dunedin, New Zealand, and the Yukon Astronomical Society (RASC: Yukon Centre) have recently put a plan in motion to offer the pilot for North America's first-ever Aurora Borealis flights, scheduled to begin here in Whitehorse, Yukon, and a second Flight to the Lights (Aurora Australis) adventure, set for take-off in March 2018. **Air North is offering first dibs to members of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.** 76 seats on a 3.5 hour flight across the Arctic Circle, and into the Aurora's oval, in a Boeing 737-500 at 36,000 feet, while in a darkened cabin for excellent astrophotography. This will be an excellent opportunity to promote *SkyNews* on-board every flight we will offer!! More information will follow shortly!!

Our Society has prepared and sent a Yukon-wide outreach program for the partial solar eclipse on August 21st. All Yukon communities have requested solar viewers from the RASC, and will provide local animation, from Old Crow to Teslin and Tagish, from Watson Lake to Beaver Creek, and Kluane National Park! We are ready for a fantastic show!!

The Society has begun looking to offer the membership in 2018 radio astronomy, and to eventually network with the Okanagan Centre.

Last year, our members talked about establishing a network of cameras throughout the Yukon, that would provide meteorological and atmospheric information to our observatory about cloud cover, meteor activity, and aurora activity year-round. In July, we joined with Cold Climate Innovations, a department of the Yukon College, to develop an AllSky camera that was suited to our North. A prototype was built in 2016, and tested. Now we are ready to manufacture them, and distribute them to municipalities, or businesses, around the Yukon, Canada, and internationally. Our first customer is Dawson City, where Anthony Gucciardo installed this system on the weekend of July 29 to 31.

The Society was invited to even more summer camps this year. It seems space themed weeks are becoming much more popular in the Yukon - and, it is the first

summer that the French community in Whitehorse has invited us to give a presentation in French!!

RASC Montreal Centre Upcoming Events for August

by **Carl Jorgensen**, Secretary, Montreal Centre

Wednesday, August 2, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Only if the skies are clear.

Friday, August 4, 8:00 – 11:30 pm: Public Star Night on the boardwalk of the city of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Montreal Centre members will be setting up their telescopes for public viewing. Only if the skies are clear.

Saturday, August 5, 7:00 – 11:00 pm Members Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Wednesday, August 9, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Only if the skies are clear.

Saturday, August 12, 7:30 – 11:00 pm Public Observing of the Perseid Meteor Shower at the Morgan Arboretum, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Short Presentation by David Schuman at 8:00 pm. Only if the skies are clear.

Wednesday, August 16, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Only if the skies are clear.

Saturday, August 19, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members Observing at Woody Woods (Our darkest out-of-town site), 45 Rang Saint Antoine, Saint-Chrysostome. Only if the skies are clear.

Monday, August 21, 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Public Observing of the Partial Solar Eclipse in collaboration with John Abbot College at John Abbot College, 21275 Lakeshore Rd, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Montreal Centre members will be bringing the solar scope and their own scopes with solar filters.

Wednesday, August 23, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Only if the skies are clear.

Friday, August 25, 7:00 – 11:00 pm Members Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Saturday, August 26, 7:30 – 11:00 pm Members Observing at Cooper Aviation, 1700 Chemin Ste Angélique, Saint-Lazare. Only if the skies are clear.

Wednesday, August 30, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Only if the skies are clear.

Asteroids with a Canadian Connection

by **Eric Briggs**, RASC, Toronto Centre

The following have been added to the list of asteroids with Canadian connections:

(22448) Ricksaunders = 1996 TP35

Discovered 1996 Oct. 11 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

John Richard Saunders (b. 1946) makes astronomy accessories and began a term as President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, London Centre, in 2012.

Name suggested by P. and R. Jedicke.

Orbit type: Main Belt

Ref: MPC 105568

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/22448>

(22475) Stanrunge = 1997 EH13

Discovered 1997 Mar. 3 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

Stanley Edward John Runge (b. 1956) is an experienced amateur astronomer and an active member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Winnipeg Centre.

Name suggested by R. and P. Jedicke.

Orbit type: Main Belt

Ref: MPC 105568

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/22475>

RASC 2018 Program Preview

by **R.A.Rosenfeld**, Chair, RASC 2018 Working Group

At the recent RASC General Assembly in Ottawa, a taste of the programming for our sesquicentennial, RASC 2018, was formally unveiled. Among the projects are the country-wide opening event on January 27, and running throughout the year are various observing and imaging initiatives, and undertakings to help uncover our colourful history to ourselves, and to our fellow citizens. Several of the endeavours are conceived as legacy projects, and many are designed to encourage active participation in what we do. The presentation is available at

https://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/RASC_2018_Sesquicentennial.pptx

If you have any questions about the programming, please feel free to contact me.

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.



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