

RASC Board Candidate Statement

Betty R. Robinson

March 4, 2024

Dear RASC Board;

I would like to retain my position the RASC Board so that I can continue to help get the RASC back on track after our dreadful year.

In addition to the qualifications offered when I first applied to join the Board (see below), I have since become an active Board member by being the Board liaison for the NextGen committee, now currently the Board liaison for the Education and Public Outreach Committee, and am on the Editorial Board, the Constitution Committee, and the Finance Committee. I have also accepted the position of Second Vice-President.

RASC Background

Since 1981, when I joined the RASC, Toronto Centre, I have been active in several positions on Toronto Centre Council, National Council, and Mississauga Centre Council: Councillor, Secretary, and Property Committee Chairperson. I was editor of the Toronto Centre's newsletter, *Scope*, for several years and am currently on my second turn as editor of *Messenger*, the Mississauga Centre newsletter. Since about 2002, I have been a regular editorial contributor to the *Observer's Handbook*.

In 2017, the RASC honoured me with the Service Award, and in 2019, the Mississauga Centre honoured me with the Centre Award. In 2023, the RASC honoured me by having an asteroid named after me: (20026) Bettyrobinson.

Personal and Professional Background

My first love was astronomy. However, after completing my B.Sc. with University of Waterloo, my passion for science in general was cemented. I have been very lucky to have a career in educational publishing that allows me not only to apply my education and help produce successful science textbooks, but also keeps me on top of many new findings, new approaches, and new applications in science. Further, as a developmental editor, I have sharpened my storytelling and writing skills such that I am writing my own science blogs and a series of science books.

What Can I Do for You?

While you have read much about my editorial experience and skills, in joining the Board I would be mainly interested in education and promoting and encouraging young women in STEM. The latter interest is strong, so strong in fact, that I started the above-mentioned series of books to encourage girls to get into science and to show male readers that girls are just as capable as boys in this respect. To this end, I would become involved in areas/committees surrounding this issue. However, that's not to say I wouldn't contribute to the Editorial Board as well, if needed.

With respect,

Betty R. Robinson

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