

2009 Award Citations

Ken Chilton Prize, to Brian Battersby

Brian Battersby worked long and hard to develop the NOVA program, first within the Prince George Centre and more recently throughout the Society. NOVA, which is an acronym for New Observers to Visual Astronomy, began as a way to resurrect a program run by the Prince George Centre several times years ago that had faded away. Brian developed a detailed teaching plan and course materials entirely on his own and introduced a complete, ready-to-go program. It included a detailed course outline and a teaching guide. There were also student packages with handouts. Brian has also overseen the program in each of its first five years to ensure there is consistency from year to year. Also, NOVA was made available to other Centres, through the Society's website, beginning in 2005 and was used by at least six Centres by 2009. In preparation for International Year of Astronomy, Brian also developed a pamphlet about Sidewalk Astronomy as a companion to the NOVA program. For this continuing project, the Prince George Centre takes great pride in nominating Brian Battersby for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's national Ken Chilton Prize.