2010 Award Citations

Chilton Prize, to Brian Battersby, Ted Dunphy, Paul Gray, Kim Hay, Marc Keelan-Bishop, Don Kelly, Rémi Lacasse, Lise Lacasse, Dave Lane, Damien Lemay, Ron Macnaughton, Chris Weadick, and Jennifer West

International Year of Astronomy (IYA) presented a unique opportunity for the RASC to step up its education and public outreach activities across Canada. The National Council approved significant funding and challenged our members to be creative in proposing IYA-related projects.

This award recognizes those members who participated in a significant way to develop, implement, and distribute the highly successful educational materials that were given away to the public at events held during IYA and beyond.

Mary Lou's New Telescope Children's Book

This book tells the story of a young girl who is fascinated by the night sky. As she learns more about the stars and planets, she receives her own telescope for her birthday. She quickly discovers, however, that lights in the city interfere with her observing. She visits her grandparent's farm and sees the sky from a dark-sky perspective. With her parents' support, she meets with their city's engineering department. She is able to convince the city's lighting engineer to try full cut-off lights in her residential area.

Ted Dunphy conceived the original concept and story. Don Kelly further developed and authored the book and worked closely with the illustrator to complete the book. Paul Gray did the graphic design work for the book in both languages. 24,000 copies of this book were printed and distributed free in both English and French.

Star Finder

Ron Macnaughton conceived the Star Finder project and led its development. He authored most of the text on the Star Finder itself and the companion Web site www.star-finder.ca. Ron made the Star Finder much more than just a planisphere by including carefully written concise text on many astronomical topics. The cartography and graphic design of the star wheel and holder (front sides) was done by Chris Weadick and Dave Lane. The graphic design and original illustrations on the back sides and the "kid-friendly" companion Web site was done by Marc Keelan-Bishop. 265,000 Star Finders have been printed in both English and French.

Astronomy Trading Cards

Jennifer West conceived, wrote the text, chose the images, and beautifully designed seven types of educational trading cards covering most popular objects and object types. These became known as 'Galileo Moment' cards, as they were handed out in great numbers at IYA events. 100,000 of each type of bi-lingual card were printed.

Sidewalk Astronomer Booklet

Brian Battersby conceived, authored, and designed the Sidewalk Astronomer Booklet. It provides the reader with basic astronomy information and challenges them to make observations. 24,000 booklets were printed.

Rémi Lacasse (with assistance from his wife Lise) and Damien Lemay translated all of

the bi-lingual materials into French so that they could be used in all of Canada. They also handled promotion and distribution activities in the province of Québec.

As chair of the Education Committee and a member of the IYA Executive Committee for Canada, Kim Hay supported the development of all the materials in many ways, but in particular she handled much of the promotion and distribution logistics throughout IYA.