

## Candidate's Statement

### **Michael Watson ~ Incumbent Director and RASC National President**

Hello to my fellow RASC members. I am currently finishing my second three-year term as a Director of the Society, and I am hoping to be able to serve for an additional term. I joined the Society in 1970, and have been a member continuously for the 54 years since then, and a life member since the 1980s. I am a civil trial lawyer by profession, and an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School at York University in Toronto.

While many of you may know me as an astrophotographer (a mobile one, with no personal observatory!), and an eclipse chaser, I have been involved for many years in the governance of this astronomy club that we all love.

I'm not going to bore my fellow members talking the positions that I've held over the years, or awards and so on. My guess is that the membership is interested in what lies ahead for the RASC in the coming years. I have been grateful and pleased to have been entrusted by the Board of Directors with the position of national President for the 2023-24 year. In a next term as director I would continue the work that the national Board of Directors has undertaken in the past year and a half to reduce costs and bring financial stability to the Society, and also to strengthen even more the Board's collaboration with the National Council. On a related point, the Society needs to rationalize and simplify its operations, which are far too complex and expensive for a charitable organization of our size. With our new Executive Director who has been in her position for a little over a year now, the Board has been working toward that goal, with some success I think.

I thank you for your consideration of my candidacy, RASC members, and in the event that there is a contested election for directors at this year's Annual General Meeting of the Society on June 25, I ask you to participate in the governance of the Society by voting for the candidates of your choice. I'll see you (virtually, of course) at the AGM in June!