

2016 President's Award

Terence Dickinson became an RASC Life Member in the Toronto Centre in 1959, when the cost was something like \$50. He was a McLaughlin Planetarium lecturer shortly after it opened and later moved to the Strasenburgh Planetarium in Rochester, New York. When *Astronomy Magazine* started up in 1973, Terry was first a contributing editor, then executive editor of the magazine until 1975. Returning to Canada, he became a full-time science writer in 1976. Nearly 20 years later, he established *SkyNews Magazine* in its current format, recently acquired by the RASC. He continues as Editor Emeritus from his home in Yarker, Ontario. Terry is the author of more than a dozen books on astronomy, countless newspaper columns and articles, and is a frequent speaker at astronomical gatherings. His books *Nightwatch* and *The Backyard Astronomer's Guide*, co-written with Alan Dyer, continue as bestsellers after many years and several editions.

Terry has been a tireless supporter of Canadian astronomy for several decades. His books continue to inform readers about the contributions of both amateur and professional astronomers. He has been recognized for his astronomical education and outreach with numerous awards, including the Royal Canadian Institute's Sandford Fleming Medal (1992), appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada in 1994, and the Klumpke-Roberts Award of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in 1996. Asteroid 5272 Dickinson honours his name.

At Terry's Order of Canada investiture in 1995, the citation reads as follows:

Many Canadians have developed an interest in the wonders of astronomy thanks to his popular books on the subject. His guide for backyard astronomers, Nightwatch, is one of many books he has written for both children and adults. As a commentator for CBC radio's Quirks and Quarks, an author and a columnist, he has unveiled a world of discovery for thousands of amateur astronomers.

Terry's unstinting encouragement of astronomy education is evident in his writing, through *SkyNews*, his outreach activities, his skillful astroimaging, and his long-time support of the RASC. I can think of no other member more worthy to receive the 2016 President's Award.

James Edgar
President