



ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Mars makes closest approach to Earth in 15 Years on October 6

October 6 - The red planet will be making its closest approach to Earth in 15 years. This will give us an incredible look at our planetary neighbour.

A week after this, Mars will reach opposition. An opposition is when Earth is located in a straight line directly between the sun and another orbiting planet in our solar system. Mars oppositions happen around every other year. This year's opposition is on Oct 13, however a week earlier will be the best time to observe Mars.

When Mars is this close to Earth, amateur astronomers can see details of the planet's surface with their telescope, but many factors can play into the quality of observing. During the 2018 opposition the surface of Mars was covered by a massive dust storm. However, things are shaping up for some incredible observing!

Mars will be very large and bright in the sky in upcoming weeks, becoming brighter than Jupiter on September 24, and remaining this bright well into November.

In conjunction with this astronomical event taking place Oct. 6, RASC Outreach Coordinator Jenna Hinds will be hosting a livestream as part of the "Insider's Guide to the Galaxy" series at 3:30pm (ET). Members of the public are more than welcome to join. More information on the livestream can be found at www.rasc.ca/homebound-astronomy.

About The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) began as the Toronto Astronomical Club on December 1, 1868. The eight people who gathered to share their interest were not professional astronomers, just working-class citizens with a passion for astronomy. Over 150 years later, the RASC continues to serve Canadians with a passion for astronomy. With nearly 5000 members and 30 Centres across the country, the organization supports men, women and youth in their quest to learn more about the universe. Head to rasc.ca for more information.

For more information, please contact:

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