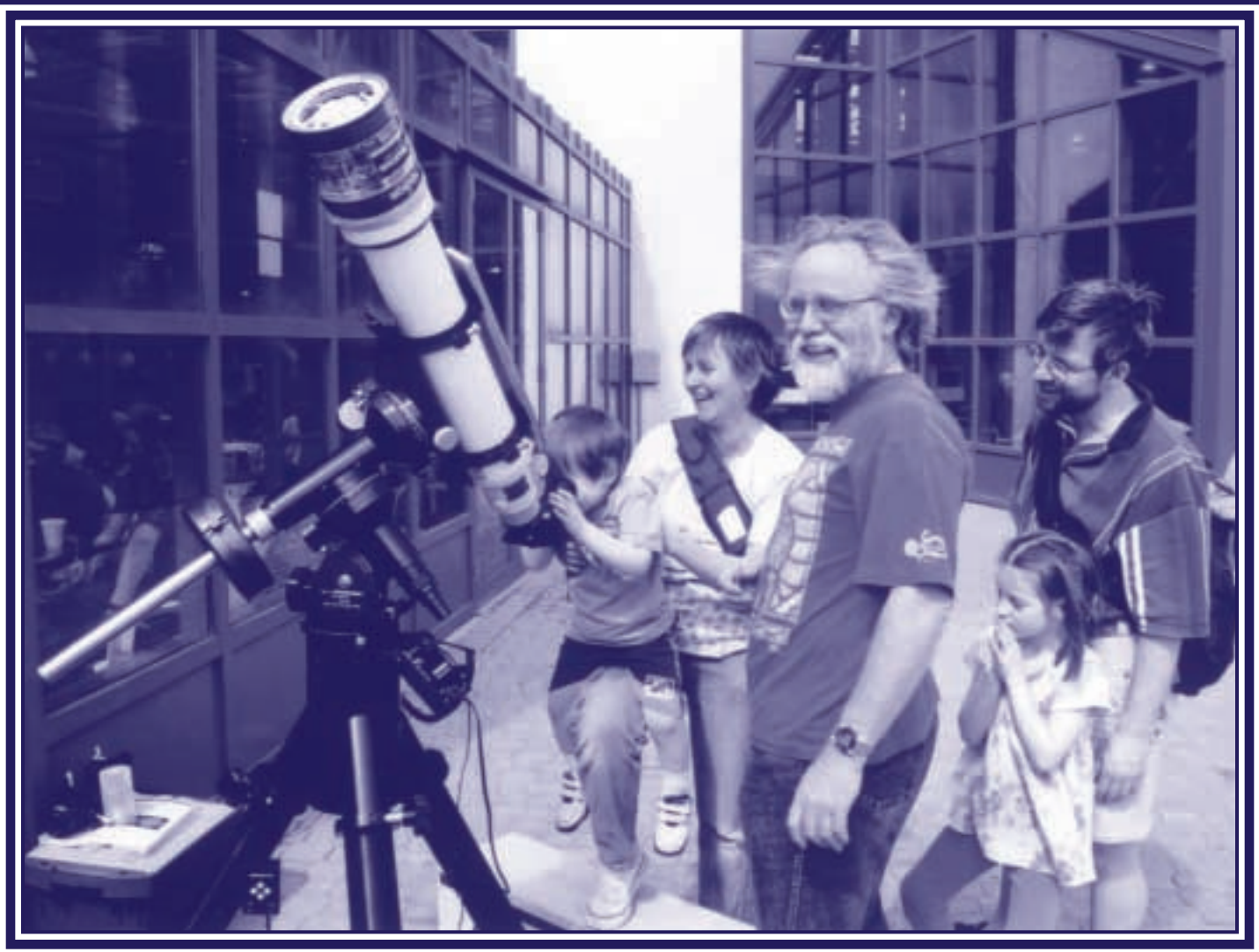




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THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA  
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

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2002 ANNUAL REPORT  
RAPPORT ANNUEL

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# THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA – 2002

## RASC Web Site

www.rasc.ca

## RASC E-store

www.store.rasc.ca

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Ted Bronson

Charlottetown Centre

Clair Perry

Montreal Centre

Mark Bratton

Toronto Centre

Geoffrey Brown

Edmonton Centre

Pat Abbott

Niagara Centre

Brian Pihack

Toronto Centre

Brian Cheaney

Edmonton Centre

Bruce McCurdy

Okanagan Centre

Alan Whitman

Toronto Centre

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Halifax Centre

Pat Kelly

Ottawa Centre

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Hamilton Centre

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Rob Dick

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Tim Hunter

Kingston Centre

Peggy Hurley

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Bob Parry

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Prince George

Bob Nelson

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Pomponia Martinez

Centre

David Garner

Québec Centre

René Breton

Victoria Centre

David Lee

London Centre

David Clark

Regina Centre

Lee Beck

Windsor Centre

John Welsh

Moncton

Adrien Bordage

Sarnia Centre

Brendan Fleming

Winnipeg Centre

Stan Runge

Saskatoon Centre

Sandy Ferguson

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LAYOUT AND PRE-PRESS PREPARATION  
CONCEPTION ET INFOGRAPHIE

Mark Bratton

COVER PHOTOGRAPH  
PHOTO COUVERTURE

Kevin Georgison

PRINTING  
IMPRESSION

Pulsar Printing

**On the Cover:** Promotion of astronomy and public outreach are two of the main goals of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Here a young family engages in safe solar viewing under the supervision of Winnipeg Centre member Jay Anderson as part of Astronomy Day activities.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In May of 2002 I assumed the office of President of the RASC. One of the duties of this office is to report annually to members on Society activities. That is a rather daunting task for an organization as diverse as the RASC, but I'll give it my best shot!

After some rather significant changes in the Society over the previous several years – revitalization of the *Journal*, the move to centralized membership and product sales handling, and elimination of the fixed membership year – 2002 was a relatively quiet year. There was one major initiative, the movement to “decouple” membership fees by allowing Centres to set fees independently of the Society, but after a thorough debate that proposal was defeated at the Society's 2002 Annual Meeting. It is the mark of a healthy organization, especially one as old as the RASC, that it continually strives to improve itself, as the RASC has been doing and is continuing to do.

The Society and its 26 Centres are thriving and expanding. As you will read later, the Centres are engaged in a wide range of astronomical and outreach activities, and I won't attempt to summarize them here. The Society's total membership at the end of 2002 stood at an all-time high of 4675, a 6% increase over 2001 and a 63% increase over 1996 (for more details, see the National Secretary's report below).

In spite of a record number of memberships to process and a record number of publication orders to handle, operations at the Society's national office in Toronto were smooth in 2002, indeed likely the smoothest in the four years that memberships and sales have exclusively been processed at the national office. The computer software system (MPA) that was set in place in 1999 to do this processing is working well, and our employees, Executive Secretary Bonnie Bird and Membership and Publications Coordinator Isaac McGillis have become very proficient at using the MPA system and fixing the little glitches that invariably arise. In fact, operations were so smooth in 2002 that Bonnie was able to go on a 3-week eclipse-watching vacation in our peak-activity late-fall period, with Isaac most capably keeping things under control. We are most fortunate to have such dedicated and diligent employees to look after the day-to-day business of the Society.

Publications constitute a large part of what the Society does, and are the main direct benefit most members realize of belonging to the national RASC. The *Journal*, under the editorship of Wayne Barkhouse, is a unique assortment of Society news and articles on astronomy. Since its revitalization in 1996, the *Journal* has become a real team effort, with many dedicated members working hard to produce issue after issue. One of the key players, production manager Dave Lane, left the *Journal* production team in 2002 and was replaced by Dave Garner. Our sincerest thanks go out to both Daves — to the first for overseeing the transition of the *Journal* to the attractive publication it has become and to

the second for agreeing to take on the important task of managing the production.

The Society's other publications, the *Observer's Handbook*, *Observer's Calendar*, and *Beginner's Observing Guide*, generated over half the Society's revenue in 2002. We should all take pride not only in this financial success, but also in the fact that large numbers of amateur astronomers in Canada and the United States, and in the case of the *Observer's Handbook* throughout the world, look to the RASC as a key source of informative and useful astronomical publications.

The Society is currently celebrating its Royal Centenary. It was in 1903 that King Edward VII granted the Society its Royal designation and the Society acquired its modern name. In celebration of this milestone, I attended an event last October in Vancouver that was part of the Golden Jubilee tour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I also sent, as a commemoration of her 50 years as our monarch and of our 100 years of Royal heritage, a copy of the 2003 *Observer's Calendar* to the Queen, together with the best wishes of the Society's members.

The annual gathering of Society members is its General Assembly (GA), hosted by a different Centre each year. The Montreal Centre held the 2002 GA in May, which was as usual a delightful and exhausting mix of business meetings, lectures, and late-night socializing. Thanks go to the many members of Montreal Centre who put on such a great GA. The Vancouver Centre will host the 2003 GA, at which the Society's Royal Centenary will be celebrated. I'm looking forward to it!

While most members travel to other Centres only perhaps to attend a GA, the President is fortunate enough to be able to visit several Centres during his or her two-year term. My predecessor, Bob Garrison, managed to visit over 90% of the Centres, a modern-day record. At the time of this writing, I have visited half of the 26 Centres, including all 4 Maritime Centres (Charlottetown, Halifax, St. John's, and Moncton) and all 7 southern Ontario Centres (Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Niagara, Sarnia, Toronto, and Windsor). The tours have been exhausting (especially the latter, which took place over the course of just 10 days!) but exhilarating. I've been met uniformly with great hospitality, and I've acquired an even greater appreciation of the dedication of members everywhere to astronomy and to the Society.

So, I can say with confidence and pride that the Society had a very good 2002. It continues to fulfill its mandate in an assortment of ways, be they local Centre activities or the printing of world-renowned publications. And, it's shaping up to be an even better 2003!

**Dr. Rajiv Gupta**  
*President*

# NATIONAL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Every year new amateurs and new acquaintances/astronomy enthusiasts join our membership, making the RASC a wonderful place to belong, to meet new people, and to make new friends. At this time, on behalf of everyone in the Society, I extend a welcome to all our new and renewed members.

In the table below are the membership statistics for 1996 through to 2002.

**Table 1: Centres and Membership Numbers from 1996-2002**

Centre	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
Calgary	315	315	310	270	267	272	256
Charlottetown	16	18	26	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Edmonton	256	249	222	217	166	152	138
Halifax	196	186	172	157	164	135	127
Hamilton	114	122	109	79	65	45	50
Kingston	145	146	152	176	136	152	142
Kitchener	114	106	95	80	51	32	32
London	118	115	115	78	65	49	45
Moncton	62	46	29	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
C.F. de Montréal	39	36	38	46	46	33	11
Montreal	116	106	102	105	113	108	103
Niagara	109	97	91	83	72	60	48
Okanagan	87	70	61	53	40	35	16
Ottawa	480	457	431	394	298	246	216
Prince George	42	25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Québec	45	50	63	36	50	51	47
Regina	56	47	30	27	31	18	23
St. John's	54	45	47	36	41	39	35
Sarnia	27	27	31	19	10	12	13
Saskatoon	70	73	76	77	75	54	54
Thunder Bay	39	38	32	37	31	17	20
Toronto	886	775	792	723	720	687	682
Vancouver	292	294	275	271	229	233	218
Victoria	188	200	159	148	144	126	100
Windsor	120	107	102	94	71	66	52
Winnipeg	114	105	99	106	97	77	64
Unattached	575	552	558	476	413	357	365
Honorary	13	13	13	14	15	15	15
Total	4688	4420	4230	3802	3410	3071	2872

Along with new members, we lose our friends and fellow members. On behalf of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, I extend our deepest sympathies to family and friends for the loss of the following astronomers:

Morris Altman (Toronto), Margaret Bower (Ottawa), Prof. R. Hanbury Brown (Honorary), Brenda Disher (Toronto), Jack M. Grant (Ottawa), Ernest Litovitz (Toronto), Eddy Mah (Edmonton), Campbell Mayne (Hamilton), James McEwan (Halifax), John Howell (Victoria), Anna Myers (Halifax), Tannis Nelson (Okanagan), Gerry O'Reilley (Unattached), Grote Reber (Honorary), Greg Soderling (Vancouver), Mark St. George (London), Christian Stuhr (Unattached), M.M. Thomson (Ottawa), Prof. Alexis E. Troche-Boggino (Complimentary), Dr. William Tutte (Toronto), Arthur Weeks (Ottawa), and Dr. Kenneth Wright (Victoria).

Our Society runs with many volunteers, but there are two individuals at the National Office at 136 Dupont Street, Toronto,

daily answering your questions and helping you in any way they can — Bonnie Bird (Executive Secretary) and Isaac McGillis (Membership and Publications Co-ordinator). Without Bonnie and Isaac, or the many volunteers who help keep the Centres and the Society going, we just wouldn't be the Society we are today, the Society of which we can all be proud.

One of the year's major events is the General Assembly. This year's General Assembly was held over the Victoria Day weekend (May 17-20) and was hosted by the Montréal Centre in Montréal, Québec. We hold our National Council and Annual Meetings to conduct the Society's business, but it is mostly about having a fun-filled time, meeting new friends and seeing old ones, hearing great speakers, and attending a wonderful Banquet to round out the festivities. Many thanks go to the Organizing Committee (Members of Montréal Centre and Centre de Francophone de Montréal), Chairman Mark Bratton, and the countless volunteers it took to plan, run, maintain, and to keep everything going smoothly.

Also over the course of the weekend several RASC awards were handed out. The Chant Medal went to Dr. Roy Bishop (Halifax) for all of his years of extraordinary work in astronomy and closely-allied fields of science.

The Simon Newcomb Award was awarded to David Levy (Kingston) for his work on the many books and articles that David has written as inspiration to people in the field of astronomy.

The Ken Chilton Prize was awarded to Vance Petriew (Regina) for his discovery of Comet C/2001 Q2 on August 18, 2001 at the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party ([www.prana.usask.ca/~rasc](http://www.prana.usask.ca/~rasc)).

For a more detailed account of the General Assembly 2002, please see your JRASC October 2002 Vol. 96, Number 5 (696). For more information on the Awards received, visit [www.rasc.ca/award](http://www.rasc.ca/award).

The General Assembly for 2003 will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, June 27-June 30. Come and be a part of the General Assembly. It is a great place to be. For more information visit [www.rasc.ca/ga2003](http://www.rasc.ca/ga2003).

There are other awards and certificates to be achieved throughout the year — the Messier, Finest NGC Certificates, and the new one called Explore The Universe Certificate Program. More information, on how you can apply or if you feel you have already completed the requirements, can be found at: [www.rasc.ca/observing/home.html](http://www.rasc.ca/observing/home.html).

Other events held in 2002 include International Astronomy Week, Space Day, and many Star Parties from coast to coast across the country. This Society has a lot to be grateful for and to be proud of. It is with members like you that we continue to grow and flourish. If you feel that you want to contribute at your local Centre or on the National level, let someone in your local organization know. We welcome anyone who would like to help in any way. This is your Society, so let's make it work together.

**Kim Hay**  
*National Secretary*

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

## **Tinkham & Associates**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

C.J. Tinkham, C.A., C.M.C.  
D.C. Tinkham, B.COMM., C.M.C., F.C.A.  
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To the Members of  
THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA  
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

We have audited the balance sheet of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada as at December 31, 2002 and the statements of revenue and expenditures, and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

As described in note 3 to the financial statements, the Society credits interest earned on unamortized life membership fees and interest earned on internally restricted funds directly to the liability or fund and does not recognize the income in the statement of revenue and expenditures. In this respect, the financial statements are not in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derived revenue from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenues, excess of expenditures over revenue, assets or unrestricted net assets.

In our opinion, except for the departure from Canadian generally accepted accounting principles as explained in note 3 and except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we may have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2002 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

TORONTO, Ontario  
March 17, 2003

**Tinkham & Associates LLP**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

# BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31

	2002	2001
<b>Assets</b>		
Current		
Cash	\$ 121,005	\$ 137,416
Short-term investments (note 4)	351,871	208,132
Accrued interest receivable	15,741	13,190
Accounts receivable	39,542	38,707
Prepaid expenses	3,916	3,916
	<b>532,075</b>	<b>401,361</b>
Long-term		
Investments (note 5)	119,839	219,839
Accrued interest receivable	19,487	11,176
	<b>139,326</b>	<b>231,015</b>
Capital assets		
Office building, furniture, equipment, library (nominal value)	1	1
	<b>\$ 671,402</b>	<b>\$ 632,377</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 28,348	\$ 34,923
Deferred revenue		
Membership fees for ensuing years	97,471	93,258
Journal subscriptions	21,313	27,549
Unamortized life membership fees (notes 3 & 6)	74,560	63,707
	<b>221,692</b>	<b>219,437</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Invested in capital assets	1	1
Unrestricted	130,906	108,610
Internally restricted (notes 3 & 7)	318,803	304,329
	<b>449,710</b>	<b>412,940</b>
	<b>\$ 671,402</b>	<b>\$ 632,377</b>

On Behalf of the Board:

*See accompanying notes to financial statements*



President



Treasurer

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended December 31

	Invested in Capital Assets	Internally Restricted (notes 3 & 7)	Unrestricted	2002	2001
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1	\$ 304,329	\$ 108,610	\$ 412,940	\$ 384,656
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	-	-	32,680	32,680	24,770
Net interest earned on Ruth Northcott fund	-	4,090	-	4,090	3,514
Transfers	-	10,384	(10,384)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 1	\$ 318,803	\$ 130,906	\$ 449,710	\$ 412,940

*See accompanying notes to financial statements*

# STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Year ended December 31

	2002	2001
Revenue		
Membership fees	\$ 128,551	\$ 111,395
Publication revenue		
Journal	36,333	39,262
Observer's Handbook	148,210	142,779
Beginner's Observing Guide	15,884	12,845
Observer's Calendar	62,549	56,700
Other	950	1,362
	<b>263,926</b>	<b>252,948</b>
Miscellaneous income		
Interest on investment (note 3)	12,206	10,865
Rent	15,058	14,678
Other income	2,704	3,380
	<b>29,968</b>	<b>28,923</b>
	<b>422,445</b>	<b>393,266</b>
Expenditures		
Publication costs		
Journal	62,531	64,967
Annual report	6,440	5,236
Distribution costs	16,372	15,428
Observer's Handbook	43,535	41,568
Beginner's Observing Guide	2,418	7,974
Observer's Calendar	33,335	32,564
Skyways	4,160	-
Operating costs		
Office salaries and employee benefits	54,095	51,889
Membership services	23,653	24,177
Handbook distribution to members	12,641	2,651
Grants to Centres	6,000	-
Life membership allotment to Centres	4,734	4,320
SkyNews expense	38,523	36,860
Office expenses	25,518	26,126
Advertising	7,817	5,828
Financial services	8,842	8,927
Insurance	5,362	4,574
Committees/Promotion	6,329	4,908
Travel expenses	21,107	20,226
Building	6,353	10,273
	<b>389,765</b>	<b>368,496</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	<b>\$ 32,680</b>	<b>\$ 24,770</b>

*See accompanying notes to financial statements*



# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2002

## 1. Organization

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is a Canadian corporation without share capital and a registered charitable organization, incorporated for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting astronomy and related sciences. The organization is not subject to income taxes pursuant to exemptions accorded to registered charities in the income tax legislation.

## 2. Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada financial statements in conformance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the reported amounts of revenue and expense during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from such estimates.

### (a) Basis of accounting

These financial statements were prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis recognizes revenues as they become available and measurable; expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable as a result of receipts of goods or services and the creation of a legal obligation to pay.

### (b) Investments

Short-term investments are carried at the lower of cost (including accrued interest) and market on an individual basis. Long-term investments are carried at cost.

### (c) Capital assets

The office building, furniture, equipment and library of the Society are carried in the accounts at a nominal value. The cost of additions to and replacements of capital assets are expensed as they are incurred. There were no capital assets purchased in the current year (2001 - Subscription module software \$5,865) and is included in office expense in the statement of revenue and expenditures.

### (d) Membership fees

Members' fees are recognized as revenue for the fiscal year in which the membership primarily falls. Accordingly, fees received for ensuing years are recorded as deferred revenue. Life memberships are credited to deferred revenue when received. Five percent of the life membership fund is transferred at the beginning of each year to membership fees revenue.

### (e) Revenue recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

### (f) Publications

R.A.S.C. Journal subscription revenues are amortized into income over the subscription period.

### (g) Contributed materials and services

The organization is dependant on the voluntary services of many individuals. Since these services are not normally purchased and because of the difficulty in estimating their fair market value, these services are not recorded in these financial statements.

## 3. Departure from Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In accordance with its past practice, the Society has recorded interest earned on unamortized life memberships as a direct increase in the liability recorded on the balance sheet. The effect of this policy as at December 31, 2002 is liabilities are overstated by \$19,729 (2001 - \$16,710), interest on investment and excess of revenue over expenditures is understated by \$3,019 (2001 - \$3,711), and opening unrestricted net assets are understated by \$16,710 (2001 - \$12,999).

In accordance with its past practice, the Society has recorded interest earned on certain internally restricted net assets as a direct increase in the fund balance in the statement of changes in net assets. The effect of this policy as at December 31, 2002 is interest on investment and excess of of revenue over expenditures is overstated by \$2,359 (2001 - net \$3,514).

## 4. Short-term Investments

Short-term investments at December 31, 2002 comprised three guaranteed investment certificates with rates varying from 1.5% to 6.42% (2001 - 1.5% to 5.63%). Maturities range from February 2003 to September 2003 (2001 - March 2002 to September 2002).

## 5. Long-term Investments

Long-term investments are comprised of a Canada Savings Bond and a guaranteed investment certificate with rates of interest from 5.0% to 5.5% (2001 - 5.625% to 6.42%) and maturities ranging from November 2004 to March 2007 (2001 - March 2002 to November 2004).

## 6. Unamortized life membership fees

	2002	2001
Life membership fees as of January 1	\$ 63,707	\$ 54,516
Add: Life membership fees received in the year	10,184	7,556
Interest earned	3,854	4,361
Deduct: Amortization	3,185	2,726
Balance, December 31	\$ 74,560	\$ 63,707

## 7. Internally Restricted Net Assets

The Board of Directors has internally restricted certain funds. The Ruth Northcott Fund was established in 1969 and funds are used for a variety of specified purposes as approved by the Board of Directors. The P.J. Millman Endowment Fund was established for the purpose of providing for the long-term growth of the Society. An amount calculated using the rate of inflation for the previous year is transferred to this fund annually. All disbursements from either fund must be approved by the Board of Directors.

The transfers to the funds are as follows:

			2002	2001
	Ruth Northcott Fund	P.J. Millman Endowment Fund	Total	Total
Fund balance, January 1	\$ 62,831	\$ 241,498	\$ 304,329	\$ 299,136
Transferred from Unrestricted net assets:				
Interest	4,090	–	4,090	3,514
Inflation adjustment	–	10,384	10,384	1,679
Balance, December 31	\$ 66,921	\$ 251,882	\$ 318,803	\$ 304,329

## 8. Financial Instruments

It is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from its financial instruments.

## 9. Statement of Cash Flows

A statement of Cash Flows is not presented because it would not provide any additional useful information.

# ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – 2002

## THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
held May 19, 2002 in  
Room 151

Samuel Bronfman Building  
McGill University, Montréal, Québec

The meeting was called to order at 09:10 EDT by the Chair, RASC National President, Dr. Robert Garrison. Dr. Garrison welcomed delegates to the 2002 General Assembly.

Dr. Garrison called the roll of Centres. Twenty-two Centres were represented (Calgary, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Halifax, Kingston, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Moncton, Centre Francophone de Montréal, Montreal, Okanagan, Ottawa, Québec, Regina, St. John's, Saskatoon, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, Windsor, and Winnipeg) and several unattached members were also present. Approximately 110 members attended.

### 1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the Agenda, as distributed.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE 2001 ANNUAL MEETING

#### Motion AM200201

It was moved by Mr. Watson and seconded by Ms. Beck that **Motion 20010107** be renumbered as **Motion AM200103** and that subsequent motions be renumbered and that the motion be changed from "That Council recommend at the Society's Annual Meeting a fee increase of \$4 for ordinary members, \$2.50 for youth members and \$80 for life members." to "It was moved by Dr. Gupta that at the Society's Annual Meeting a fee increase of \$4 for ordinary members, \$2.50 for youth members and \$80 for life members."

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

#### Motion AM200202

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Beck to accept the minutes of the 2001 Annual Meeting as amended.

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

### 3. REPORTS:

#### 3.1 OFFICERS -- PRESIDENT

Dr. Garrison reported that he has visited almost all Centres. Dr. Garrison remarked that the RASC is a marvellous organization of volunteers with incredible dedication and he congratulated Centres for their activities. Dr. Garrison stated that some Centres could work on increasing membership. Dr. Garrison said he had seen some changes during his term and that much work had been done. Dr. Garrison remarked that developments in software and

at the National Office were going very well, and that the Society is in good shape. He stated that the proposals to be considered at this Annual Meeting would make the Society more efficient and would not be a major change to the operation of the Society.

#### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

There was no report.

#### 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Jedicke reported on his continuing work on the Society's Web site page of asteroids with Canadian connections.

#### TREASURER

Mr. Watson reported that the Society did better last year than the two previous years having a modest surplus. Mr. Watson said that it restores some of the \$41 000 deficit, a large part of which purchased the new software and hardware for the in-house membership handling system two years ago. Mr. Watson stated that last year's \$25 000 surplus replenished some of the lost asset base. Mr. Watson remarked that from 1996 to 2001 membership increased at a significantly rapid rate. Mr. Watson mentioned that the rate of membership increase is currently slowing down. Mr. Watson reported that if membership continues to grow at 5-7% per year for the next few years, the Society may need to hire a third employee for the National Office. Mr. Watson reported that the Society is doing well.

#### Motion AM200203

It was moved by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Legacy/Grey (Denis) to adopt the audited financial statements as they appear in the 2001 Annual Report.

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

#### NATIONAL SECRETARY

Ms. Hay announced that 6 members have completed the requirements for their Messier Certificate and 14 members have completed the requirements for their NGC Finest Objects Certificate. Ms. Hay reported that there are 15 Honorary Members including the two newest Honorary Members, Dr. Carolyn Shoemaker and Dr. James Peebles. Ms. Hay read the names of members who were reported as deceased in 2001 and the first five months of 2002. A moment of silence was observed in their honour. Ms. Hay thanked the members of the Montreal Centre for hosting the 2002 General Assembly and wished them well for the rest of the weekend. Ms. Hay stated that in her goals in her next term of office included updating the RASC Manual, create a National Secretary's Manual and to help the Executive Secretary and the Executive whenever they require assistance.

#### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Ms. Bird reported that work at the National Office is progressing smoothly. Ms. Bird remarked that work at the National Office is the constant processing of memberships and orders and that Mr. McGillis processes them efficiently daily. Ms. Bird acknowledged that Mr. McGillis does an excellent job keeping track and processing the orders. Ms. Bird reported that after the incidents of

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September 11, 2001, small U.S. orders took longer to be delivered due to mail system and customs checking at the border, although bulk U.S. orders delivered by UPS were delivered on time. Ms. Bird reported that the implementation of the 2001 fee increase was smooth. Ms. Bird stated that the building at National Office is in good shape with no major outlays were made in the past year. Ms. Bird announced that all Centres submitted their Annual Reports and in a timely manner. Ms. Bird thanked Ms. Hay for her support and assistance in the past year. Ms. Bird said that Mr. Kell has taken over the Web site and works efficiently with a phenomenal turnaround time. Ms. Bird thanked Mr. Lane for his work and his dedication. Ms. Bird thanked Dr. Garrison for his support, assistance and dedication. She also reported that the new computer has arrived at National Office and will be set up as soon as Mr. Haig is available.

Dr. Garrison thanked Ms. Bird for her hard work and dedication and remarked on the success of the computer system.

#### **NATIONAL RECORDER**

There was no report.

### **3.2 STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **AWARDS**

There was no report.

#### **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Watson acknowledged and thanked the members of the Constitution Committee for their contributions to the Committee. Mr. Watson announced that the Committee will be working on the revision of the outdated model Centre by-laws to reflect that the Society no longer has a fixed membership year.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Garrison had already presented the report.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Watson outlined the two main tasks of the Finance Committee. Mr. Watson stated that the Finance Committee prepares the budget for the Society and considers, gives recommendations for, and decides how to manage the Society's investments as they become due. Mr. Watson thanked the members of the Finance Committee.

#### **HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Broughton announced that the Historical Committee has taken initiatives to mark the centenary of the Society's Royal Charter in 2003 and is trying to arrange a meeting to exchange greetings with Her Majesty during her visit to Canada in October, 2002. Mr. Broughton stated that the Committee will be marking Canadian sites where historic transits were observed as recommended by the International Astronomical Union Heritage Committee. Mr. Broughton remarked that attempts are being made to have two sites marked:

1. St. John's, Newfoundland where the Transit of Venus was observed in 1761 by Prof. Winthrop of Harvard College.
2. Churchill, Manitoba where the Transit of Venus was observed in 1769 by Wales and Dymond.

Ms. Bird thanked Mr. Broughton for answering queries on historical matters received by the National Office and for being available to assist at National Office.

#### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

There was no report from the Committee. Dr. Garrison volunteered to assist in the library.

#### **MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE**

There was no report.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

There was no report.

#### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Mr. May read from his report. Mr. May stated that the property is in good order and that Mr. McGillis has been busy with gardening. Mr. May said that Ms. Bird and Mr. McGillis had been doing spring cleaning and cleaning of debris and branches from the property, the air conditioning is functioning, and that the tenant's rent had been increased by 2.45%. Mr. May thanked Ms. Bird and Mr. McGillis for their ongoing efforts in maintaining the property. Dr. Garrison thanked Mr. May for his thorough work in maintaining the property.

#### **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Dr. Gupta announced that the marketing campaign would begin soon for the 2003 publications, consisting of colour fliers for the *Calendar* and black and white fliers for the *Observer's Handbook* and *Beginner's Observing Guide*. Dr. Gupta stated that a banner ad would be placed at the Heavens Above site again this fall but at a reduced scale from last year's ad. Dr. Gupta acknowledged Ms. Bird's and Mr. Bratton's contributions in producing the Annual Report. Dr. Gupta remarked that the 2002 *Calendar* sales were 10% above that of the previous year and that the *Observer's Handbook* sales had slightly decreased, that the *Beginner's Observing Guide* sales were steady. Dr. Gupta said that sale activity has been increasing on the e-store each year and it seems to have been a worthwhile endeavour for the Society. Dr. Gupta remarked that *Journal* issues at least a year old are available on the ADS Web site. Dr. Gupta thanked Mr. Lane for his past work producing the *Journal* and acknowledged Mr. Garner for taking on the position as the new *Journal* Production Manager.

Mr. Attwood acknowledged the value of the Annual Report as an important publication for all members to learn about what is happening in other Centres and as a reference on the financial situation of the Society. Mr. Attwood expressed concern that this year's Annual Report may be the last due to the increased postage rates. Dr. Gupta explained that in the past, Annual Reports have been mailed to Canadian members at minimal cost but due to changes in Canada Post's regulations, costs have increased this year by approximately \$2500. Dr. Gupta stated that he does not think it will mark the demise of the Annual Report in printed form. Mr. Orenstein inquired if there would be a possibility of a French edition of the Annual Report. Mr. Scattolin replied that there is a problem generating a French issue. Mr. Scattolin said that translators must be found and also that there are few French members,

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approximately 500, so it may not be economical to produce a French edition.

#### **JOURNAL EDITOR**

There was no report from the Editor. Dr. Garrison reported that there were more articles and more reports being submitted. Dr. Garrison announced that Dr. Barkhouse had just received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto and would be moving to Harvard. Dr. Garrison said that he is encouraging CASCA members to submit articles for publications. Dr. Garrison remarked that Dr. Barkhouse has the *Journal* ready on time, any delays are due to delays in the production of SkyNews and slow postal service in some areas due to 2nd class mail for not-for-profit organizations.

#### **Motion AM200204**

It was moved by Mr. Broughton and seconded by Mr. Edgar that the Secretary write on behalf of the Society, a letter of congratulations to Dr. Barkhouse on receiving his Ph.D and to thank him for his hard work.

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

#### **OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK EDITOR**

Dr. Gupta thanked Mr. Edgar and Mrs. Robinson and members of the Publications Committee for their assistance and team effort in the production of the *Observer's Handbook*. Dr. Gupta stated that the *2003 Observer's Handbook* would be mailed first class at an additional cost of approximately \$2.00 per member for an overall cost of \$7 000 due to Canada Post's policy change. Mr. Watson stated that the additional cost for the *Observer's Handbook* and the additional cost of \$2 025 for the Annual Report were not anticipated at the time National Council passed the budget at the January 2002 meeting. Mr. Watson said the additional cost could be absorbed because of the recent modest surplus budgeted.

#### **BEGINNER'S OBSERVING GUIDE EDITOR**

Mr. Enright reported that the Society has realized a small profit from sales of the *Beginner's Observing Guide*. Mr. Enright commended Ms. Bird and Mr. McGillis for their tremendous efforts in handling the sales of the *Beginner's Observing Guide*, with over 900 copies sold from National Office. Mr. Enright remarked that he was pleased with the number of sales to science centres and clubs in the United States.

#### **OBSERVER'S CALENDAR EDITOR**

There was no report from the editor.

### **3.3 SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

#### **ASTRONOMY DAY**

Mr. Young reported that Astronomy Day was very successful and congratulated all who participated. Mr. Young remarked that the next Astronomy Day will be held Saturday, May 10th, 2003. Mr. Young stated that Jupiter, Saturn, and the first quarter moon would be visible at dusk on Astronomy Day 2003.

#### **COMPUTER USE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Lane requested volunteers to help the Computer Use

Committee in their tasks of supplying technical support to National Office, running the Society's Web site, electronic store, and e-mail lists. Volunteers willing to help were urged to contact Mr. Lane or Mr. Kaye. Dr. Garrison acknowledged that the Computer Use Committee was becoming more important because of the increased electronic dependence.

#### **LIGHT POLLUTION ABATEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Dick requested photos and videos showing examples of good and bad lighting to be used on the Committee's Web site. Mr. Dick remarked that the media link to the public was very important in informing people about responsible lighting.

#### **NEW OBSERVING CERTIFICATES COMMITTEE**

Mr. Grey reported that information for the observing certificates was available on the Web site. Mr. Grey thanked Mr. Scattolin and his team for their translation into French of the program now available on the Web site. Mr. Grey remarked that the Committee is continuing work on a series of advanced certificates. Mr. Grey stated that a presentation on the new certificate is available in PowerPoint or slides for Centre presentations to help promote the program. Mr. Grey thanked Mr. Fleming and the Committee for their hard work.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Ms. Beck reported on the proposed purchase of Skyway, a teacher's guide written by Ms. Mary Lou Whitehorne, to address the lack of resources for the Pan Canadian astronomy curriculum. Ms. Beck stated that the budget proposal was on the table for National Council. Ms. Beck remarked that she was stepping down as Chair of the Committee and thanked the members of the Committee for their hard work. Dr. Garrison thanked Ms. Beck for her hard work in the past year as Chair. Dr. Percy emphasized the importance of public education.

### **4. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY BY-LAW NUMBER ONE**

Mr. Watson described the procedure for By-Law amendments. The proposed amendments were presented in a document several pages in length distributed to members with the Annual Report and also at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Motion AM200205**

#### **(REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS)**

It was moved by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Tisdale that Article 5.02(2) of the By-law be amended as provided under the heading "Motion 2" in the Explanatory Statement of the document distributed.

The **Motion** was **CARRIED** by special resolution.

#### **Motion AM200206**

#### **(TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS)**

It was moved by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Young that Article 6.08(1) of the By-law be amended as provided under the heading "Motion 1" in the Explanatory Statement in the document distributed.

The **Motion** was **CARRIED** by special resolution.

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**Motion AM200207  
("DECOUPLING" OF SOCIETY  
AND CENTRE MEMBERSHIP FEES)**

It was moved by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Bratton that various articles of the By-law be amended as provided under the heading "Motion 3" in the Explanatory Statement in the document distributed.

Dr. Gupta explained that decoupling the fees was an administrative move, not a broad change in the nature of the type of organization. Dr. Gupta clarified that this would not be in any way disassociating Centres from the Society financially or otherwise. Dr. Gupta explained that the changes would bring the by-laws up to speed, that Centres are already set to charge their own fees as surcharges. Mr. Young remarked that the RASC is a unique organization in the world. Mr. Young stated that the negative fears regarding decoupling had been addressed. Mr. Broughton said that there may be problems with members perceiving there are extra charges and their dissatisfaction would affect the future strength of the Society. Mr. Nason said that the Toronto Centre had concerns with the issue that a formula for unattached membership fees be entrenched in the By-laws, and that there were concerns regarding the handling of life members, especially in transferring from Centre to Centre. Mr. Nason said that the life membership fees should be standardized across the country. Ms. Kulyk acknowledged that members benefit from belonging to both a local and national organization. Ms. Kulyk remarked that membership is increasing so something must still be right and that although the proposed system makes the fee structure more transparent to members, it seems more complicated than the present system. Ms. Kulyk said that we must have a shared vision for the future of the Society and work towards it. Mr. Edgar said that he supported the promotion of the flexibility and transparency, and in simplifying the financial affairs of the Society and Centres. Dr. Gupta stated that the method of fee collection would remain the same. Ms. Beck stated that opting out is more divisive than fee decoupling, that decoupling fees was purely administrative. Mr. Enright supported the thoughts of historical perspective presented by Mr. Broughton and Mr. Nason, and encouraged ways be found other than by-law amendments to deal with problems. Mr. Dick said that strong concerns had already been addressed and will be implemented once by-law amendments are made. Mr. Dick agreed that opting out was more divisive than the proposed

amendments. Mr. Hawley said that fears over the change were overdone, the fee collection would remain the same. Mr. Hawley said that the Calgary Centre supported the proposed amendments. Mr. Tisdale stated that the Society did not have any fee increases for many years and then two fee increases within two years. Mr. Tisdale remarked that the proposed amendments made things simpler, allowing National to only apply for the amount it requires for the operation of the Society without the complicated formula to get what they need. Mr. Jedicke stated that Centres should be allowed to set their own fees, be in charge of local operations. Mr. Jedicke said that the proposed amendments made things simpler and that simpler almost always works better.

The **Motion** was **DEFEATED**.

**5. RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
OF THE SOCIETY**

Mr. Attwood reported that the slate was elected by acclamation. Mr. Attwood announced that the new executive consists of: Dr. Rajiv Gupta, President; Mr. Peter Jedicke, 1st Vice-President; Mr. Scott Young, 2nd Vice-President; and Ms. Kim Hay, National Secretary.

**6. ELECTION OF AUDITOR**

**Motion AM200208**

It was moved by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Enright that Tinkham & Associates be elected as auditors.

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS.**

There was no other business.

**8. NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – July 1, 2003,  
Vancouver, British Columbia**

Dr. Garrison announced that the next Annual Meeting will be held July 1, 2003 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Bill Ronald that the meeting adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heide DeBond**, *National Recorder*

# ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE CENTRES

## CALGARY CENTRE

The Calgary Centre's Telescope for Lend program now has fourteen telescopes and one SLR camera suitable for astrophotography available to

the membership.

One of our Youth Group members, Jonathan Sick, won a prize worth \$50,000.00 at the International Science Fair from the University of Kentucky for a project to roboticize his twelve-inch Dobsonian using star pattern recognition software he wrote. Jonathan's telescope does not require the user to identify for it two or three stars to orient the system on setup, but rather compares the star images it sees to its database to figure out where it is pointing.

Our 1.8-m radio telescope is still in operation and we are almost ready to inaugurate a new 3-m dish. The telescope-building program made seven 8-inch closed-tube and seven 10-inch truss-style Dobsonian scopes in the past year. Position encoders were purchased for the C-14 at our Wilson Coulee Observatory, and the computer to be associated with them will soon be installed in its insulated box. This will, among other things, speed up the photometry data collection currently being done in conjunction with the University of Calgary and make the C-14 easier to use.

Tours of the Observatory for scouts, school classes, etc. are available to any group of 10-30 people who want to set one up.

Our efforts to convince the City of Calgary to save money by changing the streetlights are finally paying off. Standard 250-watt "basket-lens" lights are being systematically replaced with 100-watt flat-lens full-cutoff fixtures in residential areas, and new installations are being fitted with the new lights as well. We once again attended the annual Mayor's Environmental Expo, emphasizing the benefits of responsible lighting to the public. And, of course we had our booth at the annual Spring Home and Garden show, extolling the virtues of membership in the Society as well as exposing the evils of light pollution.

We organized tours to both South Africa and Australia for the December 4, 2002 total solar eclipse, and somebody will probably be trying to sell leftover eclipse pins at the upcoming General Assembly.

We continue to staff the Calgary Science Centre's five telescopes every clear Friday evening for free public viewing from downtown. We also held two Public Star Parties in Fish Creek Provincial Park that were well attended despite the less-than-perfect weather conditions.

The Calgary Centre has at last decided that the National Membership database is well enough developed for us to "opt in" to the system, and the necessary Bylaw changes to permit this are in progress.

For our Eccles Ranch Observatory site we received a \$6000 matching grant from National for landscaping and development of the site. We have not yet spent all the money, but considerable progress has been made in controlling water flow over the site and a new foundation was built for the all-important biffy.

**Glenn Hawley**

*Secretary, Calgary Centre*

## CHARLOTTETOWN CENTRE

2002 was an eventful year for the Charlottetown Centre.

Monthly meetings were held on the third Sunday of each month, except July and August. A highlight of the year was Astronomy Day, a public education and demonstration event at the Charlottetown Mall on April 13. The general public had an opportunity to examine telescopes on display, review astronomical publications and literature, and participate in "hands on" displays and computer simulations. Turn out was excellent.

Another public education program was held in August at the Greenwich National Park Interpretative Centre. Again, the turnout was excellent.

The Centre held a number of observing sessions during the year. To provide a focal point for future activities, the Centre has obtained access to an excellent viewing site for observing sessions and outings.

In February, the Centre was pleased to welcome Dr. Randall Brooks, who gave a most interesting public lecture on Champlain's Astrolabe. RASC President Dr. Rajiv Gupta visited the Centre in November and spoke on Composite High-Resolution Digital Astrophotography.

To end the year, the Centre held its annual Christmas dinner. Members and guests were treated to a stellar performance by a local barbershop quartet.

**Keith Wornell**

*Secretary, Charlottetown Centre*

## EDMONTON CENTRE

Edmonton Centre marked its 70th Anniversary with a well-attended banquet on October 26. Long-time Centre members

Alan Dyer, Mel Rankin, and Franklin Loehde gave talks.

Our monthly meetings saw from 80 to 120 in attendance and featured the following speakers:

- January:** Dean Maclaughlin "Globular Clusters and Star Formation"  
**February:** Stephen Portillo "Jupiter"; Dr. Doug Hube "The November Sky from Australia"; Alister Ling "Africa 2001 Eclipse Safari"; Mark Kaye "Thirty Years of Observing"  
**March:** Bruce McCurdy "Nine Years of Lunar Observing"  
**April:** Dr. Don Smith "Edwin P. Hubble"  
**May:** Pat Abbott "Variable Star Observing"  
**June:** Dave Robinson "Down Under Astronomy"  
**September:** George Lafleur "Video pictures of globular clusters"; Lance Taylor "CBC on Asteroid 2002 NY40"; Denis Fell "Solar Observing and Solar Photography Techniques"  
**October:** Dr. Doug Hube, The 2002 Leonid Meteor Shower; Martin Connors, "October Auroras"  
**November:** Rick Huziak "The Great Canadian Observing Challenge"

**December:** David Roles "Australian solar eclipse and Swedish solar telescope images"; Bruce McCurdy "Radio Meteor Observations of 2002 Leonids"; Jeeshan Chowdhury, "Human Exploration of Mars."

### Observing Highlights:

This was not a great year for observing with some notable exceptions. There was lots of activity on the Sun, a highlight of the summer observing sessions. Asteroid NY40 was a good observing experience despite the spotty weather. Comet Ikeya-Zhang in the western sky was the most comet-like comet we've seen since Hale-Bopp. The partial solar eclipse on the evening of our June 10 general meeting drew a large crowd from the public. The Leonids were clouded out, although radio observations were made and the results cited by a leading Leonid authority.

### Membership:

Membership, at 256 members, is the same as last year, including 11 youths and 11 life members.

### Public Education:

Our Centre's main public education effort is focused at the public Observatory at the Odysium where several telescopes are operated afternoons and evenings on weekends during the winter and all week in summer. In 2002 Centre members hosted over 9000 public visitors. The addition of our new 16-inch LX200 GPS Meade telescope drew more people and gained publicity for the Observatory.

During the year, members gave presentations to school groups, Cubs, Brownies, Guides, Scouts, and others. The George Moores workshop was held April 5 – 7 and was well attended by both people and clouds. Ivan Semeniuk of Discovery Channel was our special guest speaker. Astronomy Days sessions were held at three locations around Edmonton March 22 to 24 followed by a Parade of Planets on April 20 attended by 600 people. On May 5 we participated in Earth Day with a booth on the use of the "Right Light." Shortly thereafter, we also did a light pollution display at the University of Alberta's Relay for Life. Our library is open regularly and our Web site is at [www.edmontonrasc.com](http://www.edmontonrasc.com).

The Radio Astronomy committee launched the Sky Scan Project ([www.skyscan.ca](http://www.skyscan.ca)) installing three radio meteor detectors in Edmonton junior high schools. Three school workshops and a workshop at the Alberta Teacher's Association were given on the project.

### Equipment:

In 2002 we bought new equipment using Casino proceeds. Expenditure guidelines were developed to direct the use of funds. The most prominent acquisition of the Centre was a 16-inch Meade equatorial telescope. Also we acquired a Calcium K-Line filter and new eyepieces for Kidscopes.

### Awards:

President's Award for Service to the Centre:	Don Brown
Angus Smith Award for Excellence in Telescope Design:	David Robinson and Roman Urick
Observer of the Year Award:	Paul Campbell

George Moores Award for Excellence in Public Education:

Sherrilyn Jahrig

### David Cleary

Secretary, Edmonton Centre

## HALIFAX CENTRE

### Membership

2002 was a positive year for the Halifax Centre. President Mary Lou Whitehorne presided over a growing membership, with numbers currently just shy of 200. Monthly meetings were held at St. Mary's University in a classroom that is equipped for audio-visual presentations. With the number of members coming out for meetings rising, we are faced with the pleasant task of considering a larger venue. Credit to the growing attendance can be given both to the interesting and varied keynote speakers and to the meeting notices placed in prominent media outlets.

*Nova Notes* has blossomed under the deft hand of Editor Mike Gatto. The newsletter is the voice of the Centre, and Mike has made sure that the members are front and centre inside. Mike's background in the publishing world clearly shows in the layout.

The Centre executive and general membership were proud to learn that Dr. Roy Bishop, Centre Honorary President, editor of *The Observer's Handbook* for 19 years, former RASC National President, and currently National Honorary President, was awarded the Chant Medal for 2001.

### St. Croix Observatory

Observing Chair Dave Lane oversaw the Centre observing programs and observatory facility. The 2002 work party became a well-attended social event. Also of note was the completion, by incoming 2003 President Steve Tancock, of the Halifax Centre's 17.5-inch truss telescope. The telescope and its construction were featured in the Jul/Aug edition of *SkyNews*. The furnace in the warm room was upgraded as well.

The observatory hosts "Members' Night" on the Friday closest to the New Moon each month. Members are encouraged to come out and share the views on these nights. In March a beautifully clear night with the promise of an aurora brought over thirty members out to share the experience. Other Members' Nights have also been well attended.

A management committee was struck to plan future development of the observatory property. First priority will be an expansion of the gravel pad to accommodate the growing number of telescopes, particularly with owners of large Dobsonians making regular use of this unique facility.

### Public Education and Outreach

#### Light Pollution Abatement

Anthony (Tony) McGrath took the initiative in bringing the issue of responsible lighting to city hall. The city solicited input from interested groups regarding long-term municipal planning, taking into account quality of life of the residents, cost savings, etc. Tony wrote up a professional draft proposal for the city, highlighting the benefits of a responsible lighting policy.



## Sidewalk Astronomy

August saw several members arrive on the waterfront for a public observing session at the Alderney landing complex. Several members showed up with a variety of optical instruments covering the full range of available equipment. The lineups were long, and there was no end of questions and exclamations of delight at the images. It was such a success the Alderney Landing facility invited the Centre to participate in another upcoming event.

## Centre Meetings

The main talks at the monthly meetings were varied this year. The talks included:

- January:** David Chapman "A Date with the Stars: the Astronomical Basis of Our Calendar"  
**February:** Craig Levine "Globular Clusters: Much More Than What Meets the Eyepiece"  
**March:** Fr. William Lonc "The Galileo Affair: A Speeding Ticket Gone Sour"  
**April:** Daryl DeWolfe "Caroline Lucretia Herschel"  
**May:** Rollie Strand, Pat d'Entremont, Craig Levine "Observa-stories"; Active new members share their astronomy experiences.  
**June:** Pat Kelly "Game Show: Who Wants to be a Gazer?"  
**September:** Paul Gray: "Recent Star Parties"  
**October:** Dr. Francis LeBlanc "Stars and Their Spectra"  
**November:** Dr. Rajiv Gupta "Imaging the Heavens"  
**December:** Blair MacDonald "A Non-Physicist's Look at Black Holes"

Regular components of the general meetings include the library cart, equipment talks, a "What's Up?" segment, and a selected topic from the *Observer's Handbook*.

## Nova East

Nova East, organized jointly by the Centre, Minas Astronomy Group (MAG), and the Nova Central Astronomy Club (NCAC) was a success. It is held annually at Smiley's Provincial Park in Hants County. Nature walks, solar observing, rocket launches, and children's events took over the daytime hours, and the good weather held to allow some observing.

## Craig Levine

*Secretary, Halifax Centre*

# HAMILTON CENTRE

This past year has been a very exciting year for the Hamilton Centre, with the following detailing some of our activities.

The Centre held its first (of what is expected to be) Annual Banquet, during the Spring. Approximately 50 members and guests were treated to an excellent meal, which was followed by a presentation on Deep Sky Imaging by Matt Ben Daniel. A number of local businesses and members contributed draw prizes, and most in attendance went home with a new astronomical addition. Thanks to members of the Niagara and Toronto Centres for supporting our Banquet.

Our Public Education Program continued at the Powis Observatory, with tours, slide presentations, and telescopic views

provided to a number of Cub, Brownie, Scout, and Guide Troops. The Sidewalk Astronomy Program was held every month through the summer and fall at Spencer Smith Park in Burlington. As in past years, many members supported the effort by bringing their scopes out to afford views of the lunar landscape to the hundreds of people at each session. It was interesting to watch people's faces as they saw crater details for the first time. They kept coming back for second and third looks, and this made the evenings very rewarding to members of the Centre and also attracted some new members.

In the fall of the year, we established the second and fourth Friday of each month as Public evenings at the Observatory.

A number of members of the Hamilton Centre were instrumental in helping Tim Horton's Corp. to design and set up an Observatory for their new children's camp in Brantford. Their Observatory has a 16-inch SCT, imaging equipment, video equipment, and a full rotating dome. It is quite impressive. Upon completion of the camp, the new observatory was open to the public for tours and a number of Hamilton Centre members were on hand with telescopes (and solar filters) so people could view sunspots.

General meetings were held on the first Thursday of every month at the Steam Museum in Hamilton with a wide range of topics, which appealed to the varied interests of the membership. Guest speakers' presentations were augmented by presentations by Centre members. These presentations demonstrated the deep level of skills and ingenuity that exist in the Centre. Each month, new observers were challenged to observe designated objects and work towards completing the Explore the Universe Certificate.

As in past years, there were numerous cleaning and construction bees at the Observatory to maintain the facility in good working order. Our extensive library was re-organized and is now much easier to use.

To encourage members to observe, a Double Star Project was started and has added a new and interesting activity to many of our observing sessions. Additional projects are planned for the year 2003, e.g. Variable Stars.

A number of members of the Hamilton Centre attended Starfest this past year and thoroughly enjoyed the dark skies. As a result about a dozen members made trips together up to the Bancroft area in September and October to do more dark-sky observing. Not only did we see many astronomical treasures (including an amazing auroral display), we had a great time enjoying each other's company. This is an activity that we plan to expand in 2003.

Thanks to all the members and volunteers who gave so generously of their time, energy and ideas in making all the various Centre programs a success.

## Ken Lemke

*Secretary, Hamilton Centre*

# KINGSTON CENTRE

At the time of the preparation of this report, the Kingston Centre looks forward to electing a new executive and celebrating the end of another busy year. The major focus of excitement this year has been the completion of the Centre's 61-cm Venor scope. An

enthusiastic and talented group has laboured for 3 years to produce this beautiful instrument. Superb optics and portable! (It takes only 1 to 6 people to move it, depending on the grade.)

Kingston area weather continues to be less than observer-friendly and a large number of the monthly sessions scheduled at member homes have been clouded out. In an effort to ease the frustration, several members have spent considerable time and effort in conducting a search for a permanent dark-sky observing site, and some good spots were found. The Centre hopes that this search will yield a permanent observatory site.

A rapidly developing skill in the Kingston Centre is the production of cookbook CCD cameras. The CCD observing group has taken up this pursuit in earnest.

Public events were very successful this year and Astronomy Day was a great lesson in quantity vs. quality. Choice of location is always the dilemma when it comes to public events and sometimes high-traffic levels of a frantic nature often result in fewer meaningful contacts. Astronomy Day was preceded by a week of public observing and ended with the first public appearance of the Venor scope.

July's major public event is the local charity fundraiser "The Sky is the Limit Festival" and the turnout was good although solar viewing got off to a slow start due to heavy haze from Quebec forest fires.

The Charleston Lake Provincial Park night with Terry Dickinson was a great time. There were line-ups at the smallest of scopes, but when the voices dropped the prevalent sound was that of observers climbing up and down aluminum ladders to the big scopes.

The Annual Fall'N'Stars Dark Sky Camping and Observing weekend was also deemed a success. This event is a cooperative effort of the Kingston Centre and the Belleville Astronomy Club. It is held in September, north of Belleville. A stunningly colourful aurora display featured prominently on the Saturday evening.

Observing and Bar-B-Queing are a popular combination and there were several such events this year, perhaps because you can Bar-B-Que in the rain. Monthly public observing downtown continues to draw respectable numbers, often in spite of the weather.

The Centre is enjoying a new meeting room in the Astronomy and Physics building, Stirling Hall. Here is a list of talks presented:

- February 8:** Dr. Tom Dean "Introduction to Predicting Satellite Apparitions using Orbital Elements"  
**March 15:** Rocky Persaud "Mars on Earth, the Devon Island Research Lab"  
**April 12:** Dr. Brian Hunter "Observing Earth Satellites"  
**May 13:** Dr. David Levy "What the RASC-Kingston Centre Tucson Branch has been up to"  
**June 14:** FLA County Science Fair presenters  
**July 12:** Fred Barrett "Observatory Building and Other Projects"  
**August 16:** Annual Markfest with guest speaker, Dr. Larry Widrow "Dark Matter Research: M31"  
**Sept 13:** Attila Danko "How to Forecast Observing Conditions - the Sky Clock"

There were a few more members' nights for shorter presenta-

tions this year since evenings with invited speakers leave little time for this. Fundraising draws continue at every meeting due to a steady supply of homemade wine with the much-coveted event-related labels, as well as numerous other member donations.

The Education Committee has produced a new edition of the secondary-school teachers' guide to astronomy "Expanding Their Universe." The sale of this and the grade-6 book "Worlds to Discover" and their accompanying slide sets have been a major fundraising activity for the Centre as well as a tool for the promotion of astronomy.

As we approach 2003, Kingston faces challenges similar to other Centres, i.e. the expansion of the active volunteer base while fighting burnout in the terminally committed. One strategy to be examined is to split committee chairs that have become too successful to survive. We invite you to check our progress now and then through our newsletter, Regulus, or the Centre Web site.

This is my last report as Secretary and I would like to say how much I have enjoyed the last three years. I thank the Kingston members for giving me this opportunity and I wish my successor as rewarding an experience.

**Susan Gagnon**

*Secretary, Kingston Centre*

## KITCHENER WATERLOO CENTRE

Increased club participation and out-reach to the public were some of our goals at Kitchener-Waterloo Centre for 2002. We met some of these and thanks to the Tula Foundation we will be able to meet and exceed all our aspirations in the future. Brady Johnson and Neil Hunt submitted a proposal to the Tula Foundation that was approved in October and our club was granted \$50,000. This will enable us to up-grade all three buildings at our Ayr site with new equipment. We will be able to satisfy the growing demands of our club members and the public by this grant. It will allow us to provide astronomy education and learning opportunities to the public and to our club. We hope with our purchases to be able to provide a balance between visual astronomy and astro-photography to accommodate the needs of the club and the public. Key members of the club will conduct seminars with the new equipment on site to enable as many members of the club to learn on all levels how the facilities can be used.

Our club is fortunate in having a large number of members knowledgeable in many aspects of astronomy. During the past year at our monthly meetings we have had many presentations by members. Topics ranged from telescope making to black holes. In the spring, we were delighted to have Dr. Robin Ollerhead from the University of Guelph give a presentation on the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory and the progress in the search for Dark Matter. Dr. Bob Garrison visited in May and we learned of the spectral survey he is conducting in conjunction with the Vatican Observatory and Appalachian State University, through a program sponsored by NASA and the NSF. Heide DeBond from the David Dunlap Observatory arrived in the fall and led us through the history of the DDO and the current programs running there.

Astronomy Day activities were held at the Conestoga Mall

for two days and were well attended by our members. We held a star party in May at Waterloo Park in which 30 of our members participated. We had all types of equipment, everything from binoculars to a 16-inch Dobsonian scope. Due to the publicity of the planetary conjunction we had 200 people from the public eagerly line up to look and learn more about the sky. Unfortunately, poor weather in the fall did not allow us to have a second star party. In July, our President Dave Garner invited us to come and build Scopes for Schools in his workshop at his home, and treated us to a Bar-B-Que at the end of the day. A small group of us learned how to build six small scopes that were donated to high schools in the region. We enjoyed this so much that we hope to make this a yearly event. Astronomy education has been expanded with the new curriculum but all schools will benefit from having more equipment for the students. A large group of our members attended Starfest in August, which enjoyed the best weather in years.

After our December meeting we were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Rajul Mathur. He had been a valued club member for a number of years and was an Engineer at Com-Dev in Cambridge. He died at the age of 48 years and left a wife and two children.

### **Brenda Purdy**

*Secretary, Kitchener-Waterloo Centre*

## **LONDON CENTRE**

London Centre membership continued to climb throughout 2002, just passing 120 members, and our many fun activities made for an excellent year. We continue to meet at Fanshawe College, and observe with dark skies at the Fingal Wildlife Management area, with the encouragement of the Elgin Stewardship Council.

Memorable observing events included a springtime star party at Derek Hitchen's country ranch near Alvinston, observing the June 10 partial solar eclipse from Grand Bend, watching 2002 NY40 zip across the sky, and an international chase for clear Leonid observing sites. Gone are the days when London Centre members would accept the often-lousy local weather conditions as a reason for missing an astronomical spectacle!

London Centre is very active, providing education and quality observing experiences to the public, and students at Port Stanley Public School, Kensal Park Public School, St. Teresa Separate School, and Faith Baptist Church. We travelled with our telescopes to community groups to pass on our enthusiasm for our hobby, visiting the Summer Space Camp at South Huron District High School, the West Elgin Nature Lovers Club, 4-H Camp at Ridgetown Agricultural College, summer campers at Lake Whittaker Conservation Area, and Scouts and Guides during weekend camps. Telescopes were also set up outside the IMAX theatre to promote "Space Station" and provide the audience with live views of Jupiter, Saturn, and the Moon.

On International Astronomy Day eleven members put on a mall display with the assistance of a local merchant, providing guidance on telescope purchase, observing tips, and friendly conversation about amateur astronomy and the activities of the RASC.

London Centre continues to build an audience at local

Provincial Parks, giving public-star nights at Pinery Provincial Park to 900 campers and locals, Rondeau Provincial Park with 200 happy observers, and Grundy Provincial Park where 450 campers enjoyed a slide show and Moon viewing.

Every Saturday evening from June 1 to August 31 the Professors and students of the Physics and Astronomy Department at the University of Western Ontario open the Cronyn Observatory to the public, featuring narrated slide shows and views through the 25.4-cm refractor. London Centre members shared their telescopes for additional celestial views and promoted amateur astronomy and the RASC.

Stories from these events would fill many pages but in every case it is the public's joyful wonder at experiencing the night sky that makes the time fly and the effort worthwhile.

On May 15 nine members of the Centre traveled to the Colossus IMAX theatre in Toronto to see "Space Station" (in 3D) and to greet Triple Nickel, a Centre member who trains NASA astronauts in the Shuttle Training Aircraft. Triple has contributed greatly to club activities, having given a talk at the 2001 GA and at our club meetings.

The London Centre was saddened by the passing of Mark St. George, aged 32, on December 16. Mark was an accomplished observer, astronomy promoter, and amateur telescope maker. He represented London Centre as National Representative, edited the Centre newsletter, and took an active part in the London Centre activities. He will be missed.

Club meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Room B1073 at Fanshawe College in London. Last year's highlights included:

Tom Glinos (Australia), Margaret Campbell and Peter Brown (New Mexico) and Gil Esquerdo (Arizona) "Leonid Meteors of 2001: slides and videotape"  
 Dave McCarter "Eyepieces: the evolution of eyepieces available to the amateur"  
 Peter Brown "Infrasound Detection of Bolides and Other Phenomena"  
 Triple Nickel NASA JSFC  
 "Flying with the Space Shuttle Astronauts"  
 Dr. Martin Beech "History of 20th Century astronomy as told in stamps and trading cards"  
 John Appleyard "Observing with a 51-cm Dobsonian";  
 John and Bram Bontje "A demonstration of a compact homemade 41-cm Dobsonian"  
 Peter Broughton "The Wales & Dymond expedition to view the transit of Venus at Churchill"  
 Dan Falk "The Universe on a T-Shirt"  
 Various members "Planning to observe the 2002 Leonid meteor shower"  
 Steve Gauthier, Bill Gardner, and Jon Gunning  
 "CCD Astrophotography: equipment, techniques and results"

### **John Bontje**

*Secretary, London Centre*

## **MONCTON CENTRE DE CENTRE**

Le Centre de Moncton a organisé une foule d'activités durant l'année 2002. Premièrement, pour marquer la journée internationale

de l'astronomie nous avons monté des kiosques d'information dans des centres commerciaux à Moncton et à Saint-Jean. Nous avons, pour la première fois, organisé une fin de semaine de camping astronomique en juillet. Cette activité fut très appréciée par nos membres et nous planifions de la répéter pour l'année 2003. Les différents regroupements autour de la province ont également organisé des séances d'observation mensuellement pour nos membres ainsi que pour le public.

Plusieurs de nos comités ont été très productifs, notamment, celui du feuillet d'information intitulé Horizon et celui de notre site internet. Notre comité des membres a aussi connu beaucoup de succès en augmentant le nombre de membres de notre Centre par environ cinquante pour cent. Nous avons également achevé notre constitution qui fut adoptée à notre réunion annuelle.

En plus d'organiser des conférences à nos réunions régulières, nous avons encore une fois cette année organisé une série de conférences en conjonction avec notre réunion annuelle. Quatre conférences furent présentées: Observational Astronomy, How to Begin Observing the Night Sky - Adrien Bordage (Centre de Moncton); CCD Imaging on a Budget - Roger Thompson (membre non attaché de la SRAC); Les spectres des étoiles - Stars and their Spectra - Dr. Francis LeBlanc (Centre de Moncton); et Composite Digital Techniques for High Resolution Astrophotography with Film - Dr. Rajiv Gupta (président national de la SRAC). Cette année nous avons également organisé une session d'affiches astronomiques. Ces conférences et la session d'affiches semblent avoir été appréciées par nos membres ainsi que du public qui était invité à ces activités. De plus durant notre réunion annuelle, nous avons élu un tout nouvel exécutif en plus de quatre conseillers siégeant sur notre Conseil.



The Moncton Centre organized several activities during the year 2002. First, we set up information kiosks in shopping malls in Moncton and Saint John to mark International Astronomy Day. We also organized, for the first time, an astronomical camping weekend. This activity was very much appreciated by our members and we plan to repeat it in 2003. Our different groupings of members around the province also organized monthly observing sessions for our members and for the public.

Several of our committees were very productive, notably, the newsletter committee which publishes Horizon, the Centre's newsletter, and also the Web site committee. Our membership committee had a lot of success attracting new members. Our membership has grown by approximately fifty percent this year. We also finished our constitution, which was adopted at our annual meeting.

In addition to organizing talks at our regular meetings, we have organized again this year a conference series in conjunction with our annual meeting. Four talks were presented: Observational Astronomy; How to Begin Observing the Night Sky - Adrien Bordage (Moncton Centre); CCD Imaging on a Budget - Roger Thompson (unattached RASC member); Les spectres des étoiles - Stars and their Spectra - Dr. Francis LeBlanc (Moncton Centre); and Composite Digital Techniques for High Resolution Astrophotography with Film - Dr. Rajiv Gupta (RASC National President). This year we organized an astronomical poster session. The conferences and the poster session seemed

to be well appreciated by our members and the public who was invited to these activities. During our annual meeting, we elected a new executive along with four councillors who will sit on Council.

**Francis LeBlanc**

*Président sortant, Le Centre de Moncton  
Outgoing President, Moncton Centre*

**CENTRE  
FRANCOPHONE DE  
MONTREAL**

Le centre francophone de Montréal a collaboré avec le "Montreal Centre", pour l'assemblée générale de la SRAC tenue à Montréal en mai dernier surtout

apportant notre aide à la création du site Web.

L'année a été marquée par le décès de trois anciens membres: Rollande (Chassé) Matteau (secrétaire (1965-68); trésorière (1969-71)), Pierre Lemieux (président (1958-60); trésorier (1962-68)), et Gilbert Ouellette (vice-prés. (1990-91). Pierre Lemieux a été éditeur de "L'Annuaire astronomique de l'Amateur" (premières éditions, 1966-69). Il s'agit d'un livre d'éphémérides en français. Des articles biographiques sur ces membres ont été publiés dans les numéros de juin, septembre et décembre de notre bulletin: l'Astro-Notes.

Notre centre tient à une permanence dans la présentation de conférences et de soirées d'observation. Comme par les dernières années nos réunions ont lieu à toutes les semaines, sauf durant l'été où nous faisons surtout de l'observation et des soirées publiques.

Nous avons tenu 27 réunions au centre culturel CLSM. Les conférences ont été données par des astronomes professionnels de l'Université de Montréal, ainsi que par des membres. Voici une liste des conférences données par nos membres et des visiteurs des autres clubs:

- 22 Jan.** Patrice Scattolin « Explorez l'univers »
- 5 Fév.** Etienne Artiqua, Ude Montréal « La recherche sur les naines brunes à l'observatoire du Mont-Mégantic »
- 19 Fév.** Rémi Lacasse « Logiciel d'observation de la Lune »
- 5 Mars** Sébastien Blais-Ouellette, Ude Montréal  
« De matière obscure à énergie obscure: le côté sombre de l'univers »
- 12 Mars** François Chevrefils « La structure interne des étoiles »
- 19 Mars** Maurice Provencher  
« La construction d'un observatoire »
- 2 Avril** Suzanne Talon, Ude Montréal  
« Vie et mort des étoiles: un aperçu de la théorie de l'évolution stellaire »
- 9 Avril** Michel Richer « Fabrication de la caméra CCD Audine »
- 16 Avril** Michel Rebetez « Les montures Scotch »
- 17 Sept.** François Chevrefils « Les astéroïdes "Near-Earth", risque de collisions »
- 1 Oct.** Christian Marois, Ude Montréal « La recherche des planètes extra-solaires: observations avec la caméra "Trident" au CFHT »
- 15 Oct.** Luc Béland « Un télescope non-obstrué, à deux miroirs (prototype) »

- 5 Nov.** Pierre Bastien, Ude Montréal « L'observation au radio-télescope James Clerk Maxwell au Mauna Kea »
- 12 Nov.** Présenté par six membres du Club de Dorval « Le ciel profond »

Nous voulons souligner la précieuse collaboration de Pierre Bastien pour sa collaboration avec les conférenciers de l'Université de Montréal.

Nous avons tenu des soirées astronomiques publiques à Montréal au cours de l'été 2002. Nous avons tenu trois soirées publiques au parc de l'Île-de-la-Visitation, avec une assistance de 40 à 60 visiteurs. Nous avons aussi tenu trois autres soirées au parc du Vieux-Port de Montréal, avec près de 500 visiteurs à chaque soir. Nous avons au moins trois télescopes sur place à ces soirées publiques. C'est notre troisième année au parc de l'Île-de-la-Visitation et notre sixième année au parc du Vieux-Port de Montréal.

Notre local au centre culturel CISM est fermé au cours de l'été. Le club de Dorval nous a généreusement invités à participer à leurs réunions durant l'été. Nous désirons remercier les membres de ce club de leur accueil.

À chaque été (fin juillet ou début d'août), nous collaborons à l'organisation du CAFTA: le Concours Annuel de Fabricant de Télescopes Amateur. Près de 350 visiteurs sont venus au parc-des-îles à St-Timothée, près de Valleyfield, (QC). Cette année (samedi, le 3 août), il y avait 65 télescopes sur le site le samedi soir. Neuf télescopes ont été présentés au concours. Le CAFTA est organisé par le club de St-Timothée, celui de Dorval, et par notre centre. Depuis quelques années, nous avons des visiteurs du Montreal Centre, du centre de Québec, et de celui d'Ottawa. Au moins 17 clubs sont représentés au concours.

### François Chevretils

*Secrétaire, Centre francophone de Montréal*

## MONTREAL CENTRE

The year 2002 was another interesting and active one for the members of the Montreal Centre. The indisputable highlight was of course the RASC General Assembly, held on the campus of McGill University. One hundred and twenty-nine participants registered with most coming from across Canada and even a few arriving from the U.S. Preparations began in October of 2000, immediately after the Montreal Centre's offer to host the GA was accepted by members of National Council. A Committee was formed to look after the myriad of details to be addressed in order to put on a successful GA. We were especially pleased to have Dr. Jaymie Matthews, Dr. Brent Archinal, Dr. David Levy, and Dr. Paul Hodge all agree to act as keynote speakers. Although activity was often hectic (not to say chaotic!) in the final months leading up to the GA, we were all surprised at how quickly the three days flew by that Victoria Day weekend. Afterwards, the GA Organizing Committee took satisfaction in a job well done. They were especially pleased at the many kind words and comments they heard from other GA participants.

An outgrowth of hosting the GA was an opportunity for the Montreal Centre to give the I.K. Williamson Observatory a much-needed facelift. This included repainting the dome and

interior of the observatory, completely reorganizing the basement (including the disposal of a number of items that had long since outlived their usefulness), and the removal of many decades of grit from the floor of the meeting room. After weeks of work by members of the Committee (principally Chris Novak, Carole Talbot, Bill Strople, and Tony Giacomodonato) the Observatory was looking very spiffy indeed and the Montreal Centre took great pride in showing off our home to GA attendees.

On the observational front, there was a high level of activity at the Centre's Woolly Woods Observatory with at least four official members' nights scheduled per month and many nights of unofficial activity as well. The Centre held two special events at the observatory that were especially well attended: a "Star-B-Que" in July and a "Corn-U-Scopia" late in September. Although the weather was uncooperative for observing in July, the skies were spectacular for the "Corn-U-Scopia" (which featured late-season corn cooked outdoors in Johanne Gamache's open Bar-B-Que pit). Chris Novak also hosted the Centre at his home in Les Cèdres on September 9 for observing and a Bar-B-Que. (Thanks Chris for arranging the spectacular aurora display that evening!)

2002 saw the Montreal Centre increase its public-outreach activity with monthly talks and observing sessions held at the Morgan Arboretum. Centre member Andrew Fazekas (who writes a regular astronomy column for the Weekender section of the Montreal Gazette) provides a popular and comprehensive introductory lecture on astronomy. Attendance by the public at this event frequently exceeds 200, especially on crystal-clear nights.

In 2003 the Montreal Centre looks to make some major equipment purchases, including a Dobsonian telescope for its rental program, a Stellarcam EX video camera and a Coronado Nearstar telescope for its public outreach program. Things are looking up!!!

### Mark Bratton

*Secretary, Montreal Centre*

## NIAGARA CENTRE

The Niagara Centre had another full year in 2002. Our club is growing with no end in sight. New members add life to the club and its activities.

The eagerness of new members is refreshing and serves to remind us that astronomy is an exciting interest to pursue.

Our ATM group has completed the grinding of their respective mirrors, which have been sent off for polishing and coating. The next step will be to build the telescopes to accompany those mirrors. We have recently created a CCD imaging group within the club to facilitate the learning and use of our newly upgraded Meade 416 CCD camera. The use of a CCD camera has a high learning curve, and this seems the best way to help our interested members learn the CCD world. Learning together is always preferable to going it alone.

The Niagara Centre held its elections in October. We have some new faces and some members who were re-elected. All are hard working and have a desire to serve the club to the best of their ability. Our new President, Glen Pidsadnick, is a prime example of the enthusiasm that marks our Centre. Glen has been dealing with vision problems throughout his life. He was born with congenital glaucoma, and has unfortunately lost an eye to

the condition. He has 8% vision in his remaining eye. Don't think for a second he lets this stop him from achieving what he desires. He has been one of our most ardent members, and often drags us out on freezing nights to observe with him. Glen requires a Go To telescope to find his objects while he is observing. Other than this assistance, he observes on his own. He can be an inspiration to other vision-impaired members or individuals with an interest in astronomy. You can be an active observer even with limited vision. The Niagara Centre may be the first RASC Centre to have a legally blind President. His determination should serve as an example to us all.

The Niagara Centre had a full year of public starnights. These are held at Fireman's Park, Niagara Falls, Chippawa Creek Conservation Area, Rockpoint Provincial Park, and at a local winery during the summer months. Public starnights continue to be attended by larger crowds each year. It certainly seems as if astronomy is a growing interest in the eyes of the public.

Our Annual Banquet was held April 6 at the Skyline Brock Hotel in Niagara Falls. The guest speaker was Marcia Bartusiak. All enjoyed her talk. Thank you to Philip Downey, our Editor, for arranging to have Marcia speak at the banquet.

Following is a list of speakers and topics for our general meetings during 2002:

- January 17:** Dr. John Black "Medieval Astronomy"  
**February 21:** Members' night, slides, discussion  
**March 21:** Members' night, slides, discussion  
**April 6:** Annual Banquet - Marcia Bartusiak  
 "Einstein's Unfinished Symphony: Gravity Waves, the First New Astronomy of the 21st Century"  
**April 18:** Members' night, slides, discussion  
**May 16:** Paul Downie "Finding Your Way Around the Night Sky"  
**June 20:** Phil Downey "Making Sun-Earth Connections: The Sun's Effects on Earth's Atmosphere"  
**September 19:** Members' night, slides, discussion  
**October 17:** Annual Meeting/Elections, Les Marcz  
 "An Introduction to Digital Camera Astrophotography"  
**November 21:** Members' night, slides, discussion  
**December 19:** Members' night, slides, discussion, Christmas party

**John VanderBrugge**  
*Secretary, Niagara Centre*

## OKANAGAN CENTRE

During the past year the Okanagan Centre has enjoyed increased membership involvement in club activities. This has enabled our Centre to reach many public-outreach goals, providing satisfying rewards for both the membership and the community.

Okanagan Centre members were pleased to have the opportunity to give away a 4.5-inch telescope to the winner of an Essay Contest we offered to grade 7, 8, and 9 students in our area. The contest winner was grade-7 student Stephanie Fromberg.

Stephanie and runners-up Christina Shaak, Raminder Saini, and Jessica Wolfe-Leeming were given Youth memberships in the RASC for one year, paid for by the Okanagan Centre members.

We celebrated International Astronomy Day at the Volunteer and Hobby Show that took place on Sunday, April 21 at the Kelowna Curling Club. This high-traffic event had about 60 other participating organizations but the Okanagan Centre corner location allowed our prominent display to overflow our booth and it was a big hit! Our parking lot solar display also garnered much interest and many appreciative members of the public enjoyed views of the "spotted Sun." A great time was had by all who attended and a big thank you goes to all of the Okanagan Centre members that volunteered their time to help.

Congratulations to Terry Adrian for submitting the winning photo in the Okanagan Centre photo contest. Honorable mention goes to contest entrants Stewart Hill and Don Sheets. Terry's close-up photograph of the lunar crater Clavius was framed and presented to Black Mountain Irrigation District (BMID) Directors in appreciation for use of the Emeny Field observing site, to which BMID controls access.

Okanagan Centre members in Vernon, led by Bruce Aikenhead, were instrumental in refurbishing the 18-inch Dobsonian telescope belonging to the Vernon Science Centre. The Science Centre was very appreciative of the work done by Okanagan Centre members, and members have used the telescope for several public observing nights.

Okanagan Centre members have been active in sharing astronomy with our community. Members of the group have made presentations at local schools, to youth groups such as Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, and to adult-learning programs. Another popular event has been the Novice Night observing sessions where experienced observers share their knowledge and experience with beginners and those wishing to improve their observing skills.

We have established an email discussion group for members in our Centre that is dedicated to the sharing of anything friendly, informative, or inquisitive about Astronomy. The discussion group is very popular and is even monitored from Norway by Okanagan Centre member Mikkel Steine.

### Centre Meetings

- January 22:** Kelowna: "Constructing a CCD camera"  
**Jan 30:** Vernon: "Beginner's Observing Tips"  
**February 12:** Kelowna: Mark Kaye, Guest Speaker  
**February 27:** Vernon: Guy Mackie, Guest Speaker  
**March 26:** Kelowna: "Tips on deep sky observing"  
**March 28:** Vernon:  
**April 20:** Astronomy Day; Kelowna Curling Club  
**April:** Kelowna: Astronomy Day at Chapters;  
 Vernon: "Asteroids"  
**May 28:** Kelowna: Dr. Richard Christie "Dark Matter in our Universe"  
**May 29:** Vernon  
**June:** Kelowna: Upcoming Star Parties  
**September 17:** Kelowna: Combined Meeting – Jack Newton "Astrophotography"  
**October 15:** Kelowna: Dr. Rajiv Gupta "Digital Techniques for Astrophotography"; Presentation of Messier Certificate to Jim Fisher

**October 30: Vernon**

**November 26: Kelowna:** Annual General Meeting and elections; Alan Whitman "Chaco Canyon Archeological site"

**November: Vernon:** "Taking Orion Apart"

**December 17: Kelowna:** "Celestial Navigation, COTM - Auriga"

**December: Vernon:**

## OTTAWA CENTRE

The Centre's monthly meetings were held on the first Friday of the month in the auditorium of the Canada Science and Technology Museum, with attendance frequently exceeding 200. The meetings consisted of presentations by 6 to 8 speakers, and were ably co-ordinated by the meeting Chair, Gary Boyle, or his substitutes.

We were honoured to have Dr. Heidi Hammel of the Space Science Institute as invited speaker at our Annual Banquet. Another distinguished visitor at the Centre's April meeting was the Society's National President, Dr. Robert Garrison, who spoke on recent cosmological discoveries.

Membership in the Centre stands at 459 regular members, 35 life members, and 21 youth members, an increase of 7.5% over last year.

Centre members have been involved in a wide range of activities apart from the formal meetings. Our Public Outreach coordinator, Debra Tigner, organized six public star nights at Pinhey's Point or at the Carp "Diefenbunker," and several other activities at the National Science and Technology Museum. This year, she joined Doug George, Ajai Sehgal, and Lou Cox of the Centre, as a member of Tim Puckett's supernova team and was credited, along with Tim, with her first discovery just before year's end.

This year, member Atilla Danko created the lauded "Clear Sky Clock," using data provided by Environment Canada meteorologist Alan Rahill, which provides a valuable service to astronomers across North America. Atilla's 25-inch telescope is a big drawing card at our star parties, providing the public with superlative views of planetary and deep sky objects.

The Centre's Light Pollution Abatement Committee, headed by Pat Browne and Ricardo Borba, has been very active this year. They were able to reduce upward directed light from an Almonte shopping centre (near the Centre's Observatory), and are working towards a bylaw to use only full-cutoff streetlights in the community. They have also succeeded in getting Ottawa to recognize light pollution and light trespass as issues of concern.

There has been much activity with the SmartScope team, under Chris Teron's leadership. The team has welcomed Mike Earl, whose work in building the CASTOR automated telescopes for the Department of National Defence allows him to bring valuable expertise. The building was erected with mostly members' volunteer labour, is now essentially complete, and is undergoing engineering tests of its software controls.

Centre members continue to add to their "arsenal" of equipment. One private observatory was completed and another is under way, and another member was able to upgrade from a 25-inch to a 30-inch computer-controlled Go To telescope.

Messier and Finest NGC awards were presented to Matt

Weeks, and John Thompson received the Astronomical League's Herschel 400 award.

On a closing note, the Centre lost two valued members, Richard Arnold "Arnie" Weeks, and Dr. Malcolm Thomson, in the past year. Arnie Weeks was instrumental in the founding of the Centre's Light Pollution Abatement Committee; Dr. Thomson was a past-National Society President, and retired from the National Research Council in 1972 as the head of its Time and Frequency Division in 1972. He was author of "The Beginning of the Long Dash: A History of Timekeeping in Canada."

### John Thompson

*President, Ottawa Centre*

## CENTRE DE QUEBEC

### Introduction

Ce rapport sera divisé en deux parties. La première partie qui traitera des activités faites durant l'année sera divisée en trois sections, soient les conférences, l'observation et activités diverses. Ensuite, la deuxième partie traitera la liste de l'exécutif à venir pour l'année 2003 du Centre de Québec.

### Activités

#### a) Conférences

L'année 2002 a été, tout comme à chaque année, un vif succès pour les conférences. Au total, dix conférences, à raison d'une conférence par mois, ont été données par d'excellents conférenciers. Au mois de janvier, monsieur Yvan-Miville Dechene est venu nous parler des Satellites IRRIDIUM. En février, monsieur Martin Rochette nous a entretenu sur La photographie numérique en astronomie. Pour le mois de mars, madame Anne Pellerin nous a parlé du Mont Palomar et son histoire. Pour la conférence du mois d'avril, monsieur Pierre-Paul Leblanc nous a parlé de la Formation et l'évolution du système solaire. En mai, René Breton a parlé de la Recherche des planètes extra-solaires. La conférence du mois de juin a été présentée par monsieur Jocelyn Savard qui nous a parlé du Diagramme H.R. démystifié.

En septembre, monsieur Luc Bellavance nous a entretenu sur le Paradoxe d'Olgers. En octobre, monsieur Pierre-Paul Leblanc nous a parlé du Temps en astronomie. Pour novembre, le réputé monsieur Pierre Chstenay nous a parlé des Illusions d'optique en astronomie. Finalement pour décembre, monsieur Dominique Beauchamp nous a parlé de l'astrophotographie à l'aide d'une caméra numérique.

#### b) Observation

L'année 2002 a été une belle année d'observation. Nous avons organisé une dizaine de soirées d'observation. Les observations ont lieu à l'Observatoire Alphonse Tardif à St-Nérée, en campagne à environ une heure de la région de Québec. De ces dix soirées organisées, cinq ont été annulées en raison de la mauvaise température.

Parmis ces cinq soirées ayant eu lieu, on y retrouve le Marathon Messier en mars. En juillet, nous avons organisé un party Hot-Dog qui, malgré une pluie torrentielle au souper, a été un vif succès après le dégageant en début de soirée.

## Divers

Comme activité complémentaire, il y a eu la Journée internationale de l'astronomie du 20 avril. Nous avons organisé une activité à cet effet. Malheureusement comme à chaque année, peu de gens y ont participé.

### Daniel Tardif

*Secrétaire, Centre de Québec*

## PRINCE GEORGE CENTRE

Although this year hasn't provided us with an overabundance of clear ob-

servicing opportunities (is there such a thing?), the Prince George Centre has nonetheless kept itself busy.

Two keynote speakers visited us this year. In mid February, Mark Kaye entertained us at a well-attended lecture on his many years of observing. Former member Alan Whitman spoke to us in early September on his experiences of naked eye observing and pursuit of solar eclipses. Both speakers had fascinating tales to relate.

The March Messier Hunt was held at the Centre's observatory, and although the temperature hovered around  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ , clear skies enabled most attendees to view many of Messier objects. One determined observer braved the elements until morning light to record a total of 96 objects! Several members had a unique opportunity to search by helicopter for a suitable September Messier Hunt location. Baldy Hughes, a decommissioned radar site located about 35 km from Prince George, was finally chosen. Although clouds appeared intermittently, those who participated in the fall hunt were moderately successful.

Attempts to participate in April's International Astronomy Day were thwarted by successive weekends of cloudy weather. However, several solar-viewing events were held in a shopping mall parking lot throughout the summer, and the public viewed the Sun, Moon, and Venus through three members' telescopes. Attending members buoyed by the amount of enthusiasm generated, spent many hours answering questions and extolling the benefits of membership in the Centre.

The Innovation Resource Centre invited the Prince George Centre to be the subject of a survey, the results of which illustrated the need to focus on increasing public awareness. Subsequently, brochures were made available at several locations, such as the Public Library, Tourist Bureau, and Airport, plus inclusion in the Welcome Wagon's package to new residents of the city. Newspaper notices of the Lyrid, Perseid, and Leonid meteor showers, and the appearance of Asteroid 2002 NY40 created a fair amount of interest, as was evidenced by a total attendance of about 120 people at these events. Also increasing public awareness was our participation in the spring and fall Recreation Markets, and presenting astronomy in the band shell at Fort George Park in August.

Membership has increased steadily this year and the Centre now has 41 members, some of them actively obtaining various certificates, modifying Webcams for astronomical photography, or honing their observing skills. Meetings held on the last Wednesday of every month except June, July, and December allow members to present their interests, which include celestial

navigation, the intricacies of stepper motors, and talks on asteroids, constellations, and light pollution. Family potluck dinners and Bar-B-Que also enhance the feeling of fellowship within the Centre.

Well over 1000 visitors experienced what the Prince George Centre had to offer this year. Public-viewing events, high-tech PowerPoint presentations, stimulating lectures, tours, and an abundance of telescopes at the observatory highlighted many evenings. The future looks bright for the Prince George Centre, and continued involvement by its enthusiastic members will ensure that it remains so.

### Glen Harris

*Secretary, Prince George Centre*

## REGINA CENTRE

The year 2002 was an exciting and busy year for the Regina Centre. The Centre held its monthly general meetings in 2002 on January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, September 27, October 25, and November 22. There was also a flurry of other activities at the Regina Centre.

One of the more notable activities was the April 20 Astronomy Day. This was the official opening of the Centre's Saskatchewan Millennium Telescope at the Saskatchewan Science Centre Kalium Observatory. The observatory telescope was officially opened to the public and telescopes were set up outside. The media, dignitaries, and about 700 people attended the Astronomy Day events presented by the Centre.

Volunteers from the Centre also completed filming five astronomy programs entitled "Night Sky." The program topics were: an interview with RASC President, Bob Garrison; Comet Petriew; telescope building; the Moon; and the Prairie Meteorite Search. The programs were broadcast on the Regina community cable channel during the spring and summer.

Together with the Saskatoon Centre, the Regina Centre organized the 2002 Saskatchewan Summer Star Party. The star party was held from August 9 to 11 and this year's theme was the discovery of Comet Petriew.

The Centre also organized public viewing events at: June 16 Regina Children's Festival; Canada Day; July 28 Pile O' Bones Sunday; August 24 Lanterns On The Lake; October presentations at the Regina Sunrise Library; Kalium Observatory public-viewing nights; and numerous private observatory tours.

Even with such a busy year, the Centre members managed to settle down and enjoy exploring the night sky together at the summer Star-B-Que observing nights held at the Davin Deep Sky Observatory, Messier Marathon nights, and meteor-shower nights.

### Steve Szuta

*Secretary, Regina Centre*

## ST JOHN'S CENTRE

The St. John's Centre had a wide range of activities during the past year. The highlight of our activities consisted of a good number of interesting talks.

In a continuing quest to find something new and interesting,



this year we inaugurated a couple of new features in our meeting format. Florence McNeily agreed to provide us with some book reports from our library, and we tried to present topical news from the Internet (our meeting room has a computer with an Internet connection).

The annual Star-B-Que at Butterpot Provincial Park went well. We had plenty of members show up to provide help, with a large number of scopes on hand for the big public observing session. Even some long-lost members dropped in, visiting from the mainland. A number of people were inducted into the Loyal Order of the Big Dipper (with a non-alcoholic option) at a ceremony presided over by Garry Dymond. This Centre tradition had languished somewhat over the past few years. Wayne Winsor also demonstrated that somebody in the Centre could actually sing for his supper!

Here is a summary of our meeting year:

- January:** Cancelled due to storm.  
**February:** "What I Got for Christmas --  
Newbie equipment advice"  
**March:** "Hubble Repairs"; "Comet Ikeya-Zhang"  
**April:** Dr. David Turner: "New System for Determining the  
Visual Magnitudes of Cepheid Variables"  
**May:** "Planetary Conjunctions"  
**June:** Dr. Chris Woodworth-Lynas and  
Dr. Jacques Guigné: "Mars: Ice Keel Scour Marks:  
Evidence for an Ancient North Polar Ocean"  
**September:** "Christmas Gifts (especially telescopes)";  
"Summer Vacation Activities"  
**October:** AGM. Election of Officers.  
**November:** Dr. Rajiv Gupta: "Composite Digital Techniques for  
High-Resolution Astrophotography with Film"  
**December:** Bill McCallum: "Butterpot Universe Centre  
Presentation"; Annual Wine and Cheese.

Summaries of all the talks can be found on the Centre's Web site at [www.sji.ca/rasc](http://www.sji.ca/rasc).

Our educational activities have continued thanks mainly to Garry Dymond creating shows for many different kinds of groups at the Marine Institute's Planetarium (part of Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador). Randy Dodge has recently provided a lecture at the Provincial Library, in addition to the Centre running a couple of one-day courses in conjunction with Memorial University's Life-Long Learning Department. A new feature on our Web site brings regular articles, provided by NASA from their Space Place Web site.

We look forward to hosting the GA in 2004! Good luck and clear skies!

### David Bourgeois

*Secretary, St. John's Centre*

**SARNIA**  
CENTRE

The Sarnia Centre was privileged to host a pair of public lectures presented on March 1 & 2 by Dr. Robert Garrison, RASC President and Professor Emeritus of Astronomy at the University of Toronto. The first talk provided a captivating overview of Dr. Garrison's hands-on experiences using

the University of Toronto Southern Observatory (UTSO) in Argentina. Besides detailing the important astronomical science achieved using this telescope, Dr. Garrison also provided his own personal account of Ian Shelton's discovery of supernova 1987A. The second talk entitled "Life on Other Worlds" outlined the methods by which extrasolar planets can be detected and the key conditions required for life to exist. Both presentations were extremely well attended by members and non-members alike and attracted new members to our local Centre.

The Canadian Cancer Society fundraiser took place on June 21 at Canatara Park and the Sarnia Centre participated as part of the entertainment for several hours during the all-night relay event. With telescope on-site, centre members Marie Fisher and Jose Ordenes (with his wife Patty) were on hand to delight participants with highlights of the night sky.

The heat and haze of summer brought with it the annual hobbyfest at Sarnia's Centennial Park. As always, the Sarnia Centre was an active participant in this event, which allows local clubs, societies, and organizations the opportunity to share enthusiasm and stimulate interest among members of the public. Marie Fisher, Jose Ordenes, and Jim Selinger were in charge of the astronomy display, which included several telescopes (an 8-inch reflector, a 127-mm ETX, and a 10-inch Schmidt Cassegrain) and a spectacular astrophotography display put together by Jose. The astronomy booth has traditionally been a big draw at the hobbyfest and this year's display was no exception.

One of the major highlights of the year was the August Star Party held at Centre member Don Stefanik's farm near Forest. The daylight portion of the event began with a potluck supper featuring some delectable Bar-B-Que'd pork, followed by a sunspot-observing session. Soon after the sun went down, everyone focused on the thin crescent moon and a half-lit Venus. Observing conditions were excellent as the twilight faded into darkness. Don proudly displayed his custom-made observing deck onto which everyone could setup his or her telescopes. With the various sizes of telescopes available (homemade and commercial alike), many Messier and NGC deep sky objects were accessible. Particularly impressive were views of M13, M57, M27, and M31, with a few stray Perseid meteors also making an appearance. A wonderful time was had by all, with many hoping that this will become an annual event!

Special thanks to Zdenko Saroch for his diligent work all year long in the regular preparation and distribution of *Urania*, the Sarnia Centre newsletter. The Sarnia Centre looks forward to many exciting celestial events taking place in 2003, including the two total lunar eclipses in May and November, and the extremely close approach of Mars in August. We wish everyone clear skies!

### Paul Bessonette

*Secretary, Sarnia Centre*

**SASKATOON**  
CENTRE

The year 2002 has again been a very rewarding year for the members of the Saskatoon Centre. The renovations of 10-foot dome and the warm-up shelter at our Sleaford Observatory are near completion. The agreement between our Centre and the

University of Saskatoon Physics Department has finally been signed. Rick Huziak and Sandy Ferguson continue to interact with school and other groups at a torrid pace. Astronomy Day was fairly successful this year although the numbers of people to our display were down. The Saskatchewan Summer Star Party was again a real success with 200 registrants this year. Unfortunately, near-continuous rain interfered with many events but failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the participants.

Many Centre members have enjoyed our gastronomy nights with another one upcoming on January 11, 2003. Also popular are Bar-B-Ques at the Sleaford Observatory, followed by a night of observing when conditions permit.

A good turnout of Saskatoon Centre members to Edmonton's Astronomy workshop occurred and all agreed this was a very worthwhile endeavour.

As a group, the members of our Centre continue to enjoy a lot of fun and good fellowship at our meetings, star parties, and social events, and we look forward to more of the same in the coming year.

### **Al Hartridge**

*Secretary, Saskatoon Centre*

## **T**HUNDER**B**AY CENTRE

The year 2002 was a good one for the Thunder Bay Centre. Membership numbers

have risen slightly over the year; Centre activities were diverse as more members become involved in club operations and presentations. Centre members conducted most of the presentations at our general meetings. Some of the topics covered were: Sundial Construction and Operation (John Stewart); Extrasolar Planets (Bruce Miron); Using a Sextant to Determine Geographical Positions using Nautical Tables (Bob McLean); Location and History of Meteorites (John Bakkelund); and Comet Ikeya-Zhang (Doug Stuart). John Bakkelund talked about his trip to Australia to see the Leonids. Randy McAllister presented plans for building a permanent observatory. Ted Bronson talked about the June 10 solar eclipse and showed slides of the Spring 2002 planetary grouping.

The rebuilding of our 17.5-inch scope (nicknamed "Bob's Dob" in honour of its first designer, Bob Bishop) is now complete. Those many hours of work were worth the 30 seconds at the eyepiece!

Ted Bronson ran the Basic Backyard Astronomy course at Confederation College in the Spring and again in the Fall. This eight-week course is for the beginner and covers all aspects of the sky and observing equipment at a general level. There were 23 students enrolled in the course.

This year the Thunder Bay Centre was able to do only one Stargazing Weekend despite the numerous requests to run star nights at various Parks around the Thunder Bay area this summer! Due to time restraints and other commitments, many requests could not be accommodated.

Quetico Provincial Park (August 10) – This was the 16th year that Ted Bronson has run this event. He did the slide presentation at the outdoor (screened in) amphitheater to an audience of about 60 people. Assisting him was Brendan Roy, one of our deep sky

masters. The public-observing session was held at the pavilion parking lot after the talk where Bronson gave a tour of the skies visually and with binoculars while Brendan used his telescope. Quite a few Perseid meteors were seen along with a nice aurora display.

The Thunder Bay Centre had the pleasure of hosting a special guest speaker, Dr. Robert Garrison. His talk "The Process of Discovery: Supernovae, Comets, and Extraterrestrial Life" for the public generated much interest as indicated by the many questions at the end of the session. Dr. Garrison also did a presentation for our Centre entitled "The Structure of our Milky Way Galaxy." This session also included photos of the relocation of the University of Toronto Southern Observatory from Chile to Argentina.

The final event of the year was a party at the Bronson residence, with about 40 people in attendance. A toast was made to the good year of 2002 and a successful observing year in 2003.

### **Ted Bronson**

*Secretary, Thunder Bay Centre*

## **T**ORONTO CENTRE

The Toronto Centre has been extremely active this year promoting astronomy to the public and to its membership. Thanks to the initiative and hard work of Paul Markov, and the enthusiastic support of the membership, our Members' Nights enjoyed unprecedented participation and many exciting presentations. Each meeting started with a review of the "Sky This Month" by Geoff Gaherty. Presentations included several offerings on astro-imaging, installing a Backyard Pier, March 2002 Hubble Space Telescope Upgrade, How to Power a Telescope in the Field, The Canada Hand: Future Addition to the Canadarm, How to Build a Barn-door Tracking Platform for Astrophotography, Observing Variable Stars, Construction and Completion of the Brown Observatory at the CAO near Collingwood, Ont., John Glenn's First Space Flight, Isaac Newton, Tycho Brahe's Europe, and Eyepiece Cleaning Workshop.

Several talented members showed their astrophotos, featuring Comet Ikeya-Zhang, the planetary alignments, partial solar eclipse, and aurora.

This year members were informed with Show and Tell demonstrations of astronomical equipment. Presentations included Starmaster 11 Dob, Skywatcher 6 Refractor, Televue 76 Apo Refractor, Skymaster 10-inch Dob, Supercircuit's PC164C astro-video camera, and a video of NEA NY40.

Members were instructed in several Do-It-Yourself demonstrations such as: Build an Observatory Chair; Make Your Own Red LED Flashlight; Make Your Own Telescope Case; Make a \$15 Laser Collimator; \$20 Scope Balancing System; Wooden Tripod and Binocular Holder.

Thanks to the hard work and support of Dr. Roberto Abraham, the Toronto Centre enjoyed an excellent series of Speaker's Nights, which this year included:

**October:** Dr. M. Allen "Millimetre-wave Astronomy and M82"

- November:** L. Mudryk "The Puzzle of Star Formation"
- November:** Dr. J.J. Kavelaars "Astro-Archeology 101: The Jovians"
- January:** Dr. C. Matzner "The Sky in Motion: Observable Timescales in History"
- February:** Dr. R. Garrison "The NASA/NSF N-Star Project: The Canadian Connection"
- March:** Dr. N. Lloyd-Ronning "The Most Brilliant Objects in the Universe"
- April:** Dr. T. Rothwell "The VLA Galactic Plane Survey: At the Centre of a Global Hydrogen Conspiracy"
- May:** Dr. E. Seaquist "Seeing the Antennae Galaxies at Cool Wavelengths"
- September:** M. McClure "The Expanding Universe"

The Centre joined with the Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Science on February 3 to present a lecture by Dr. Sara Seager on Extrasolar Planetary Systems.

We congratulate Adam Muzzin of the University of Toronto for winning the Toronto Centre's Gold Medal for the top astronomy undergraduate student. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics under the direction of Prof. Henk Hoekstra.

The Toronto Centre conducted regular City Observing Sessions at Morningside Park in Toronto, and Deep Sky Observing sessions at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park near Caledon and at Mount Albert Lions Park in Mt. Albert, ON. These events were held monthly, weather permitting, and were conducted by Guy Nason and Robert Chapman. The Toronto Centre continued its support of the David Dunlap Observatory's summer evening public viewing program by having members set up their telescopes. Our annual open house at the David Dunlap Observatory took place on July 6.

Public education and outreach has brought astronomy to over 5000 people through a remarkable number of school presentations organized by Brian Cheaney, Guide and Scout presentations organized by Leslie Harvey, as well as the extremely popular public star parties. Heartfelt thanks to all members who supported these outreach programs with their enthusiasm, equipment, and knowledge. We thank Sara Poirier, Staff Astronomer, and Jim Walterhouse and Doug Carman, AV technicians, of the Ontario Science Centre for their support of our activities. Thanks to the Ontario Science Centre for continuing to host our meetings. We thank Geoff Brown and Carruthers Shaw and Partners Ltd. Architects for continuing to host our Council meetings. Our thanks and appreciation to Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute for providing a free meeting place during the public service strike that closed the Ontario Science Centre during April and May.

Thanks to the dedication and initiative of the Finance Committee, our Centre was successful in procuring a \$23,800 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Thanks to Tony Horvatin for his time and persistence in guiding our application throughout the complicated requirements and processing and success of our bid. The result was the addition of a Go To telescope, CCD camera, laptop computer, and digital projector, all of which will be used to enhance our public education program.

The 5th Annual Algonquin Adventure was an outstanding success with over 100 registered observers, thanks to the efforts of

Bob and Lil Chapman. We would also like to thank Bill Furniss, Park Warden.

Geoffrey Gilmour-Taylor continued to manage the Centre's Web site and email list. For the first time, our newsletter SCOPE was published in electronic format, available through the listserv, concurrent with the print version. The listserv increased to 125 members, with traffic in excess of 2000 email messages.

The CAO (Carr Astronomical Observatory) committee was active this year operating the CAO and continuing development of the Geoff Brown Observatory. Council has approved a management plan that ensures appropriate stewardship of the facility. The plan provides for a team of on-site supervisors to provide access and support to members using the facility. Members are being trained on operating procedures for the use of the observatory and its equipment. Thanks to Andy Schuh, a new set of user-friendly manuals has been created dealing with all aspects of using the site's facilities. Members may book space in advance and Brian Cheaney has refined the on-line booking procedure with a link on the Centre's Web page. Thanks to the diligence and dedication of the members of the committee for making the CAO such an enviable and accessible facility for the membership.

About 70 members, friends, and families attended the Annual CAO Open House and Awards Picnic on June 8, 2002. A swap table was included as well as informal talks given by Geoff Gaherty and Guy Nason. Thanks to Anu Poldes, Grace Horvatin, Leslie and Costas Harvey, Denis Grey, and Dietmar and Millie Kupke for helping to make this a successful event.

A star party and Bar-B-Que was held at the CAO for members of Carruthers Shaw and Partners Ltd. Architects and their families on July 13. It was organized by Geoff Brown and sponsored by the Centre to thank the firm for their generous donation of architectural services during the design and construction of the observatory.

Ralph Chou reports there are 726 regular members, 40 youth members, 83 life members, and 156 associate members in the Toronto Centre. I regret to report the death of three long-time members of the Centre: Robert Rixen, Dr. William Tutte OC, and Morris Altman.

Thanks to all our members who participate and support our Centre so generously with their time, enthusiasm, expertise, and funding. Without the active participation of our membership through events such as the public star nights, school and scouting presentations, and Hobby Show, our outreach programs would not be as successful.

### Heide DeBond

*Secretary, Toronto Centre*

**VANCOUVER  
CENTRE**

January brought us our first Guest Speaker for the year, Mr. Chris Gainor from Victoria Centre. Chris presented his book "Arrows to the Moon," which studies the influence the AVRO Arrow had on the space program and the Canadian content in NASA.

In February Ernie Pfannenschmidt talked about "Looking at Telescopes Differently." Ernie's talk presented the basics of optics and ended with a discussion of his folded refractor design.

March started with National President and Vancouver Centre member Dr. Rajiv Gupta demonstrating his Registrar image registration program quite thoroughly. We held a joint venture with the H.R. McMillan Space Centre at Colony Farm in nearby Coquitlam called "Giants in the East" that saw over 400 attendees. Our second Artificial Star Party was a success with members collimating their scopes using Seamus Dunne's artificial star. To end the month we attempted a Messier Marathon under somewhat cloudy skies.

April saw Dr. Mark Halpren from UBC present a talk on NASA's Microwave Anisotropy Probe. Astronomy Day went very well with crowds estimated over 1000 throughout the day and into the night.

In May we were honoured to host Andrew Chakin, whose talk, *The Apollo Experience*, was based upon his book "A Man on the Moon."

June was our busiest month of the year. Fraser River Day was again the largest event we participated in with crowds over 10,000. Our Sidewalk Astronomy outreach was a great success with many people visiting us. We entertained people at various locations around the city for the Annular Eclipse and spent an evening with the Young Naturalists Club at our Boundary Bay observing site. Steve Whitehouse and Craig Breckenridge presented the summer Messiers at our monthly meeting.

July brought us a new planetarium show "Nightwatch" with presenter Dr. Peter Newberry at our home, the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre. We also held the first of our Manning Park Star Parties. The Manning Park Outreach was cancelled this year due to lack of park funding.

August had Dr. Harvey Richter present "Dating the Universe with Hubble Observations of M4." We attended the Mount Kobau Star Party in number. The first of our "Night with the Stars" was held for Moe Jollymore, successful Rotary Club bidder for an evening with an experienced astronomer. A hugely successful Perseid Meteor Shower event was held at Aldergrove Lake Park with over 375 people attending. We also held a talk for the Cub Scouts for their Heritage Day canoe trip down the Fraser River.

September's meeting saw Dr. Dennis Danielson present "Our Copernicus," giving us great insight into the astronomer's life and times. The second of our "Night with the Stars" was held for Vivian Chan. We started our Strategic Planning Sessions in order to smooth out transitions between Councils and develop a plan for where Vancouver Centre is going. We also attended a neighbourhood star party at Renfrew School.

October's Sidewalk Astronomy was clouded out on both the Friday and Saturday nights; of course, these were the only two cloudy nights all month. Our speaker at the monthly meeting was incoming President Bill Ronald who gave us an excellent slide show of his trip to Africa for the Total Eclipse.

November brought John Nemy and Carole Leggatt back to the auditorium after a hiatus in Ontario of several years. John presented a talk "The Spiral Nebulae Story" filled with his images.

December of course brings us the AGM and our guest speaker was our Amateur Night organizer, Dr. Lee Johnson. Lee's talk was an extended "In Transit" tour of the night sky.

### **Craig Breckenridge**

*Past President, Vancouver Centre*

Victoria Centre had another very busy year with a wide variety of activities supported by a large number of members. The Victoria Centre experienced a modest membership growth this past year. A number of regular Centre activities included: our regular monthly meetings, Saturday evenings at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Sandy Barta's Astronomy Café every Friday night where all things astronomical are discussed and, if it's clear, everyone observes under the beautiful, dark Sooke skies. Sid Sidhu's beginners' observing sessions are also held once a month weather permitting at Sid's house under the dark skies of the Highlands.

This year marked the first anniversary of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory's Centre of the Universe visitors' centre. The Centre of the Universe added a new "Stargazer Sunday" public program in addition to the regular Star Party Saturday programs that have been running for a number of years. A number of very dedicated Centre volunteers participated in both evenings, which run weekly from April through to October. Members contributed their telescopes and time to showing an interesting variety of objects to the public during these evening events. Centre members also assisted the Centre of the Universe staff to hold a well-attended public viewing of the partial solar eclipse on June 10, which also coincided nicely with the Centre of the Universe's first birthday on June 9.

Astronomy Day 2002 once again returned to the Royal British Columbia Museum on April 20. A large number of volunteers turned out to present a wide variety of well-attended exhibits and events to the public. The Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics and the University of Victoria Astronomy and Physics Department provided a number of astronomers for the "Ask the Astronomer" booth where the public could get answers to their most burning astronomy questions. Outside on the museum grounds, a number of telescopes were set up to show the sun and sunspots.

The Pearson College observatory continues to be put to good use by members and the students of Pearson College. Peter Schlatter assisted the Pearson students and, with some other Centre members, maintained the observatory telescope and equipment. The annual Centre picnic was held there again this year.

Our school telescope program continued this year thanks to Sid Sidhu and a team of dedicated Centre volunteers. They visited seven schools this past year to give classroom presentations and night-sky viewing. The program continues to be well received by the schools and forms an integral part of the Centre's public outreach program.

The Light Pollution Abatement Committee has made good contacts with the municipalities of the Western Communities. Sid Sidhu and Bill Almond are in discussions with the Citizen's Advisory Committee, which is involved in preparing light pollution abatement guidelines for Metchosin. Langford has updated their Subdivision and Servicing by-law to include a need to reduce night-sky light pollution. Highlands has formally adopted a Light Pollution Abatement bylaw.

The Second Annual RASC Victoria Centre Star Party September 6 and 7 was a success despite the threatening weather. Both Friday and Saturday evenings saw a number of interesting

presentations. The Victoria Centre is grateful for the hard work of Rich Willis in organizing the Star Party. Earlier in mid June, a number of Centre members also attended the Island Star Party put on by our good friends, the Cowichan Valley Starfinders.

The Victoria Centre continues to meet on the second Wednesday of every month (except July, August, and November) at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Victoria in the Elliot Building, Room 061. The following is a list of speakers from our regular meetings:

- November:** Dr. Peter Stetson "Star Clusters: Not Just Another Pretty Face"
- December:** Members' Night
- January:** Ernie Pfannenschmidt "Looking at Telescopes Differently"
- February:** Dr. Gordon Walker "Looking for Ourselves: The Search for Planets and Life Outside the Solar System"
- March:** Dr. Doug Johnstone "Star Formation: A Pictorial Journey from Molecular Clouds to Planetary Systems"
- April:** Dr. Dennis Crabtree "Gemini - Two Telescopes, One Universe"
- May:** Dr. Marcin Sawicki "Evolution of Galaxies"
- June:** Chris Gainor "Arrows to the Moon: Canada's Contribution to the Apollo Program"
- September:** Members Night
- October:** Ernie Pfannenschmidt "Adventures in Site Testing"

#### Robert Walker

*Secretary, Victoria Centre*

## WINDSOR CENTRE

For the Windsor Centre, 2002 was truly a good year. Progress on our new observatory, with a warm-up room, near Comber, Ontario, con-

tinued at a rapid pace, being built to high-quality construction standards. Dark green metal siding was placed on the lower section of the domed observatory and exterior of the above-mentioned room. On June 15, Randy Groundwater, Windsor Centre President, presided over the dedication ceremony for this facility, which has been named the Hallam Observatory, in honour of Cyril Hallam, who had been one of the principal founding members of our Centre. Dorothy Hallam gave a very good impromptu speech concerning her late husband and the Windsor Centre. She cut the ceremonial ribbon marking the official beginning for the observatory, which will be used by the members and the community.

Tim Bennett attended the General Assembly in Montreal last May. Membership increased to 121 during the year. At our December Social on December 6, a new award, the Service Certificate, was first presented to Al DesRosiers, who has done much work in the Centre. The Centre members congratulated him on obtaining this achievement. In the latter part of last fall, a Celestron 14-inch telescope with a custom mount was ordered and the members hope to see this instrument installed in the observatory by the fall of 2003.

A special "Thank you" goes to Peter Bondy, Tim Bennett, Al DesRosiers, and the other individuals who have worked so dili-

gently in bringing about the goal of having our own observatory. The Centre wants to give a sincere "Thank you" to Dr. William Baylis for his well-delivered talk given to us last November. An overall genuine "Thank you" is expressed to the members who have made 2002 a year when our Centre continued to truly advance forward and assist those persons with their interest in astronomy in Windsor and Essex County. The Windsor Centre held nine membership meetings, three council meetings, two socials, one public-observing session (at two sites), and one public display. Membership meetings were as follows:

- January 15:** Members' Night: Randy Groundwater "Newtonian Telescope Design"; Dan Taylor "Stellafane 2001"; and Steve Pellarin "Peculiar Galaxies"
- February 19:** Randy Groundwater with Tim Bennett, Peter Bondy, and Rev. Harry Brydon "Observatory Update and Future Objectives"
- March 19:** Randy Groundwater "Observing with Binoculars"
- April 16:** Paul Preney and Adrian Guillon "Radio Astronomy: World Wide Amateur Observing Network"
- May 21:** Rev. Harry Brydon "Strings and Things"
- June 18:** Tim Bennett "General Assembly 2002 in Montreal"
- September 17:** Randy Groundwater "Shadowgrams: A History of the Windsor Centre"; Steve Mastellotto "Hallam Observatory Dedication"
- October 15:** Steve Pellarin "Discoveries from Hubble and Chandra"
- November 19:** Dr. William Baylis, University of Windsor, Department of Physics "Galileo: The Father of Modern Physics"

#### C. Joady Ulrich

*Secretary, Windsor Centre*

## WINNIPEG CENTRE

The Winnipeg Centre enjoyed another successful year with membership steady at 115 persons, an expanded observing program, an increase in member observing skills, and greater use of the Centre's large telescopes. Meetings were held throughout the year with observing sessions for most months. Several members completed observing certificates and there was strong participation in regional star parties and observing expeditions.

#### Meetings and Topics:

- January:** "The Astronomical Tourist"; a report on a trip to Australia to view the Leonids and to Costa Rica to see a solar eclipse.
- February:** "Faint Fuzzies"; telescopes, tricks and techniques for observing some of the fainter objects in the sky. The session included instructions on how to use the Centre's new 14-inch Dobsonian.
- March:** "Kevin and Rays' Excellent Adventure" an account of two members' trip to Arizona for some springtime

- April:** observing and a look at Omega Centauri. “Waltzing to Ptolemy -- a Dance Through Five Centuries”; a discussion of the links between ancient and modern astronomy.
- May:** “Sketching the Sky”; how to record what you see at the eyepiece, especially verbal descriptions and sketching.
- June:** “Journey through the Milky Way”; a description of the “home” galaxy and a sampling of its members.
- July:** The Annual Bar-B-Que at the Observatory.
- August:** “The Perseids”; a look at the upcoming shower.
- September:** “Widefield Astrophotography”; a demonstration of the equipment and techniques to capture wide area photographs of the sky using barn-door trackers.
- October:** Our annual business meeting - and a talk about astrophotography in Bolivia.

**November:** “The Leonids are Coming”; a look at the history and future of what might be a spectacular shower later in the month.

**December:** “The Pinawa Sundial”; an account of the construction and operation of a large sundial constructed at Pinawa, MB.

Club Observing Nights were held in February, March, July, August, November, and December.

Public Star Nights were held in May, August, and November.

**Jay Anderson**  
*Secretary, Winnipeg Centre*

## MONTREAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY GROUP PHOTOGRAPH



# CENTRE TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR FISCAL – 2002

	CALGARY	CHARLOTTETOWN*	EDMONTON	HALIFAX	HAMILTON	KINGSTON	KITCHENER-WATERLOO	LONDON	MONCTON	C.F. DE MONTRÉAL	MONTRÉAL	NIAGARA	OKANAGAN
<b>REVENUE</b>													
Membership fees – regular	12,372	291	4,180	2,834	2,120	3,098	4,647	2,426	1,320	990	3,847	2,340	1,320
Membership fees – basic surcharge				0	1,513	867	530	0		900			296
Membership fees – special surcharge		90		0		60							
Life membership grants	317		159	493		141		123				71	18
Donations		272	66,951	250	1,469	446	551	200		47	1,170	1,642	505
Fundraising	2,004	36		0	497	313	351	678			180	535	142
Educational activities	990		615	0	115	860					2,196	0	293
Interest and dividends	545			61		3		91				50	1
Sale of Observer's Handbooks – net	53		266	433		84						55	0
Sale of RASC Calendars – net	1,534	95		529	152	745	260	374	314		(220)	285	123
Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides – net	251		40	108		35		82				274	90
Advertising			0	0								0	
General Assembly – including travel grants			730	0					764		1,398	0	
Miscellaneous	8,841	200		720	1,650	1,759		63			193	5,820	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>26,907</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>72,941</b>	<b>5,429</b>	<b>7,516</b>	<b>8,411</b>	<b>6,339</b>	<b>4,037</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>8,764</b>	<b>11,072</b>	<b>2,788</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>													
Fees remitted to National Office	9,741			0		96	2,738			792		48	0
Library				0		363				23	80	0	
Meetings		134	4,898	265	288	153			403	0	110	350	133
Newsletter	1,282		3,595	1,308	964	1,388	181	390	90	146	1,676	446	720
Annual dinner – net	412		800	0	1,415	1,033				0		0	
General Assembly – including travel grants				0					764	0		0	0
Equipment and supplies		44	39,730	0	91	906		452	723	329		246	84
Office administration			809	269	1,334	255		588		243	134	20	245
General expenses and audit	669	40		25	496	93				13		13	709
Educational activities	2,422		5,358	0		712				0		0	120
Insurance	1,592			769	951					329	1,090	0	
Awards and donations	44		143	169	396	118				53		0	173
Observatory	735		102	606	247	1,836	3,807			106	1,863	1,932	58
Miscellaneous	8,502	500	1,779	530	284	1,978			121	77	1,356	5,220	88
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>25,399</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>57,214</b>	<b>3,941</b>	<b>6,466</b>	<b>8,933</b>	<b>6,726</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>6,309</b>	<b>8,275</b>	<b>2,330</b>
<b>SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)</b>													
ON OPERATIONS	1,508	266	15,727	1,488	1,050	(522)	(387)	2,607	297	(174)	2,455	2,797	458
<b>BANK BALANCE</b>													
FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	39,060	205	59,848	20,597	1,463	15,572	3,743	32,143	1,255	1,724	12,245	7,101	2,275 <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>BANK BALANCE END OF YEAR</b>	<b>40,568</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>57,575</b>	<b>22,085</b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>15,050</b>	<b>3,356</b>	<b>8,927<sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>9,898</b>	<b>2,733</b>

\*Previous Year Bank balance adjusted.

<sup>(1)</sup>Retained earnings

<sup>(2)</sup>Balance adjusted due to change in fiscal year end.

<sup>(3)</sup>Current assets

<sup>(4)</sup>Balance adjusted to allow for GA 2001 expense not recorded in 2001 Annual Report.

# CENTRE TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR FISCAL – 2002

	OTTAWA	PRINCE GEORGE	QUÉBEC	REGINA	ST. JOHN'S	SARNIA	SASKATOON	THUNDER BAY	TORONTO	VANCOUVER	VICTORIA*	WINDSOR	WINNIPEG
<b>REVENUE</b>													
Membership fees – regular	21,949	695	2,171	1,947	517	353	2,212	1,032	37,766	4,817	3,025	2,316	4,603
Membership fees – basic surcharge	0	156		176			0			1,814	334	18	637
Membership fees – special surcharge	0			–			20						
Life membership grants	581			88			53		1,398	282	440	35	35
Donations	1,943	1,130		7,509	381		1,272	101	17,905	87	1303	11,905	265
Fundraising	27,393	627		435			223			3,898		2,656	99
Educational activities	0	940		–			6,956				150	0	
Interest and dividends	278		2	22	1		4		2,852	228	0	1	120
Sale of Observer's Handbooks – net	0			4						(3)	(56)	0	
Sale of RASC Calendars – net	449	429	448	15	170	20	506			31	107	142	176
Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides – net	0			–						5	(30)	0	
Advertising	0			–						25		0	
General Assembly – including travel grants	0			–						2,798		0	
Miscellaneous	3,108	86	57	4,810					21,627	54	2,770	142	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>55,701</b>	<b>4,063</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>15,006</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>11,246</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>81,548</b>	<b>14,034</b>	<b>8,044</b>	<b>16,335</b>	<b>5,935</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>													
Fees remitted to National Office	13,955		240	1,221	29		156		20,872		76	60	2,242
Library	0	56		–			79			178	309	500	
Meetings	186		158	–		113	17	50	2,857	2,446		261	127
Newsletter	5,251	173		8			646		6,975	1,253	1,450		925
Annual dinner – net	1,613			(30)							539		
General Assembly – including travel grants	0			–	502					4,436	1050		
Equipment and supplies	0	426	321	11,904	263	40	127		7,957	399	44		
Office administration	291	104	1,133	1,365	180		180		9,744	309	157	12	15
General expenses and audit	8,913			313		3	52	46	1,625	160	112		84
Educational activities	147	240		–			6,753			427	1,199	188	
Insurance	5,289	1,412		288			353						595
Awards and donations	0			40							809	13,581	
Observatory	623	2,108	1,437	2,660			718		982	3,723	1,139	240	306
Miscellaneous	0	389	134	4,427		96	47	175	22,781	186	141		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>36,268</b>	<b>4,908</b>	<b>3,423</b>	<b>22,196</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>9,128</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>73,793</b>	<b>13,517</b>	<b>7,024</b>	<b>14,842</b>	<b>4,294</b>
<b>SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)</b>													
ON OPERATIONS	19,433	(845)	(745)	(7,190)	95	121	2,118	862	7,755	517	1,020	2,373	1,641
<b>BANK BALANCE</b>													
FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	107,999 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,100	4,391 <sup>(2)</sup>	6,924	2,918	846	15,424	1,325	61,981	23,056	2,045	4,595	6,257 <sup>(3)</sup>
<b>BANK BALANCE END OF YEAR</b>	<b>127,432</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>3,646</b>	<b>(266)</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>17,542</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>69,736</b>	<b>23,573</b>	<b>3,065</b>	<b>6,968</b>	<b>7,899</b>

\*Previous Year Bank balance adjusted.

<sup>(1)</sup>Retained earnings

<sup>(3)</sup>Current assets

<sup>(2)</sup>Balance adjusted due to change in fiscal year end.

<sup>(4)</sup>Balance adjusted to allow for GA 2001 expense not recorded in 2001 Annual Report.



# OFFICERS AND COUNCILS OF THE CENTRES – 2003

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**Stardust Distribution:** Stephanie May  
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**Social Director:** Terry & Daphne Samuels  
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**Observers Site & Equipment Director:**  
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**Directors without Portfolio:** Anita  
David, Ron Lemish, David Shuman,  
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**Public Observing Coordinator:** Darlene  
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Joyce Sims, Chris Duller

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**Treasurer & Vernon Liaison:** Bryan Kelso  
**National Representative:** Alan Whitman  
**Newsletter Editor:** Terry Adrian  
**Librarian:** James McRae  
**Coordinator, Vernon area:** Wayne Willett  
**Webmaster:** Stewart Hill  
**Youth Director:** Jim Tisdale  
**Astronomy Day/Public Education**  
**Coordinator:** Arlen Burleigh

### OTTAWA CENTRE

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**Treasurer:** Stephen Nourse  
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**National Representatives:** Rob Dick,  
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**Webmaster:** Yves Demers  
**Librarian:** Richard Kicksee  
**Ted Bean Telescope Loan Library:** Lev  
Mykytczuk  
**Fred Lossing Observatory Committee**  
**Chair:** Al Seaman  
**Smartscope Committee Chair:** Chris  
Teron

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**Past President:** Dr. Bob Nelson  
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**Light Pollution Abatement:** Maurice  
Sluka  
**Members at Large:** Wayne Sanders,  
Maurice Sluka, Kane Sanders

### CENTRE DE QUÉBEC

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**Vice-Président:** Jacques-Denis Dumulong  
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**Secrétaire de l'exécutif:** Jean-Marie Fréchette  
**Directeur des conférences:** Jean Chiasson  
**Directeur des observations:** Jean Chiasson  
**Bibliothécaire:** Jean Chiasson  
**Conseillers:** Agathe Caron, Daniel Allaire, Line Dion

### REGINA CENTRE

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**Vice-President:** Lorne Harasen  
**Treasurer:** Darcy Kozoriz  
**Secretary:** Steve Szuta  
**National Representative:** Lee Beck  
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**Davin Observatory Director:** Dave Barrie  
**Librarian:** Michael Plante  
**Computer Systems Director:** Vance Petriew  
**Public Education Director:** Michael Holzer  
**Equipment Manager:** Alden Foraie  
**Newsletter Editor:** Jennifer Petriew

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**Secretary:** David Bourgeois  
**Treasurer:** Wayne Winsor  
**National Representative:** Chris Stevenson  
**Past-President:** Fred Smith  
**Webmaster:** Mike Crawford  
**Librarian:** Florence McNeily  
**Observing Chairman:** Gary Case  
**Equipment Officer:** Brian Payton

### SARNIA CENTRE

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**Vice-President:** Jose Ordenes  
**Secretary:** Paul Bessonette  
**Treasurer:** Brendan Fleming  
**National Representative:** Brendan Fleming  
**Newsletter Editor:** Zdenko Saroch

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**President:** Les Dickson  
**Past-President:** Rick Huziak  
**Vice-President:** Darrell Chatfield  
**Secretary:** Alan Hartridge  
**Treasurer:** Barb Young  
**National Representative:** Sandy Ferguson  
**Library:** Ellen Dickson, Sandy Ferguson  
**Councillors:**  
**Activities Coordinator:** Sandy Ferguson  
**Fundraising Coordinator:** Darrell Chatfield  
**Membership Coordinator:** Bob Christie  
**Newsletter Editor:** Rick Huziak  
**Observing Group Coordinator:** vacant  
(Acting Coordinators: Rick Huziak, Darrell Chatfield)  
**Sales Coordinator:** vacant (Acting Coordinator: Rick Huziak)  
**Sleaford Site Coordinator:** Bill Hydromako  
**SSSP Committee Chairman:** Les Dickson  
**Youth Coordinator:** Tyrone Klassen  
**Councillors-at-Large:** Brian Friesen, Gord Sarty

### THUNDER BAY CENTRE

286 Trinity Crescent  
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(807) 475-3406

**President:** Bruce Miron  
**Vice-President:** Bob McLean  
**Secretary:** Ted Bronson  
**Treasurer:** Marion Biloski  
**National Representative:** Ted Bronson  
**Membership Chair:** Ted Bronson

**Newsletter:** Bruce Miron  
**Webmaster:** Ed Kucbel  
**Programs:** Ted Bronson  
**Media Contact:** Ted Bronson

### TORONTO CENTRE

c/o Ontario Science Centre  
770 Don Mills Road  
North York ON M3C 1T3  
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(announcements only – no message service)

### **Honorary President:**

Dr. Michael DeRobertis  
**President:** Tony Horvatin  
**First Vice-President:** Brian Cheaney  
**Second Vice-President:** Dr. Roberto Abraham  
**Secretary:** Dr. B. Ralph Chou  
**Treasurer:** Tim Hunter  
**Recorder:** Leslie Harvey  
**National Representatives:** Geoff Brown, Brian Cheaney, Denis Grey, Tony Horvatin, Tim Hunter  
**Past-President:** Guy Nason  
**Past-President:** Steven Spinney  
**Councillors:** Robert May, David Hanson, Geoff Brown, John Ginder, Geoff Gilmour-Taylor, Denis Grey, Sara Poirier, Andy Schuh, Marinella Meli

### VANCOUVER CENTRE

c/o HR MacMillan Space Centre  
1100 Chestnut St, Vancouver BC V6J 3J9  
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**Honorary President:** John MacDonald  
**President:** Bill Ronald  
**Vice-President:** Nicole Van den Elzen  
**Secretary:** Ron Jerome  
**Treasurer:** Marc Verscheuren  
**National Representatives:** Bob Parry, Pomponia Martinez  
**Nova Editor:** Gordon Farrell  
**Director of Telescopes:** Phil Morris  
**Membership:** Dan Collier  
**Public Relations:** Norman Song  
**Greeter:** Greg Price  
**Merchandise:** Doug Montgomery  
**Webmaster:** Jason Rickerby  
**Librarian:** William Fearon  
**Speakers:** Barry Shanko  
**Trustees:** Lee Johnson, Sally Baker  
**CARO Chair:** Bob Parry  
**2003 GA Chair:** Craig Breckenridge

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## VICTORIA CENTRE

c/o Lauri Roche  
8581 Sentinel Place, Sidney BC V8L 4Z8  
<http://victoria.tc.ca/~rasc> • [Iroche@shaw.ca](mailto:Iroche@shaw.ca)

**Honorary President:** George Ball  
**President:** Chris Gainor  
**Vice-President:** Rich Willis  
**Secretary/Recorder:** Robert Walker  
**Treasurer:** Lauri Roche  
**National Representative:** David Lee  
**Past President:** David Lee  
**Webmaster:** Joe Carr  
**Librarian/Telescopes:** Sid Sidhu  
**SkyNews Editor:** Sandy Barta  
**Email Lists:** Joe Carr  
**New Members Liaison:** Sandy Barta  
**Members at Large:** Bill Almond, Sandy Barta, Li-Ann Dorrance, Jim Hesser, Ed Maxfield, Frank Ogonoski, Blaire Pellatt, Bruno Quenneville, Colin Scarfe

## WINDSOR CENTRE

c/o Ken Garber, 2831 Alexandra Avenue  
Windsor ON N9E 2J8  
[www.wincom.net/rasc](http://www.wincom.net/rasc)  
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**Honorary President:** Dr. William Baylis  
**President:** Randy Groundwater  
**First Vice-President:** Steve Mastellotto  
**Second Vice-President:** Robin Smallwood  
**Secretary:** C. Joady Ulrich  
**Treasurer:** Ken Garber  
**National Representative:** John Welsh  
**Past President:** Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu  
**Librarian:** Tom Sharron  
**Recording Secretary:** Dave Panton  
**Public Education Director:** Randy Groundwater  
**Public Relations Director:** Robin Smallwood  
**Aurora Editor:** Steve Mastellotto  
**Director of Observing:** Steve Pellarin  
**Webmaster:** Steve Mastellotto  
**Assistant Director of Observing:** Robin Smallwood  
**Assistant Aurora Editor:** Paul Preney  
**Councillors:** Peter Bondy, Rev. Harry Brydon, Henry Lee, Steve Pellarin, Paul Preney, Ken Rounq, Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu, Tom Sharron

## WINNIPEG CENTRE

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**President:** Gail Wise  
**First Vice-President:** Robin Woods  
**Second Vice-President:** Lindsay Price  
**Secretary:** Jay Anderson  
**Treasurer:** Stan Runge  
**National Representative:** Stan Runge  
**Past President:** Scott Young  
**Webmaster:** Kevin Georgison  
**Librarian:** Fred Wood  
**Winnicentrics Editor:** Gail Wise  
**Observatory Director:** Ray Andrejowich  
**Councillors:** Ron Berard, Sean Ceaser, Lloyel Hull, Mike Karakas, Jennifer West, Fred Wood

# 2002 AWARD WINNERS

**Service Award:** (none awarded)

**Chant Medal:** Dr. Roy Bishop (Halifax)

**Ken Chilton Prize:** Vance Petriew (Regina)

**The Plaskett Medal:** Dr. Edward W. Thommes (Queen's University)

**Simon Newcomb Award:** David Levy (Kingston)

## MESSIER CERTIFICATE

Donna-Marie Bonnett (Toronto)  
Jim Fisher (Okanagan)  
Bill Gardner (London)  
Michael Gatto (Halifax)  
Harold Healy (Toronto)  
Stewart Hill (Okanagan)  
Tim Hunter (Toronto)  
Keith Lowe (Halifax)

Terry Millard (Unattached)  
Vance Petriew (Regina)  
Vic Smida (Kingston)  
Martin Weatherston (Unattached)  
Matthew Weeks (Ottawa)  
Bill Weir (Victoria)  
Scott Wilson (Regina)

## NGC CERTIFICATE

Joyce Carley (Toronto)  
Brian Cheaney (Toronto)  
David Crabtree (Unattached)  
Richard Keppler (Calgary)  
Ken Kingdon (Kingston)  
John Mirtle (Calgary)  
Vance Petriew (Regina)  
Scott Wilson (Regina)

*Below is a list of former winners of the Chant Medal, Ken Chilton Prize, Plaskett Medal, Service Award, and Simon Newcomb Award. For names before 1990 please refer to "Looking Up – A History of the RASC" by Peter Broughton.*

## CHANT MEDAL

The Chant Medal of the Society was established in 1940 in appreciation of the great work of the late Professor C.A. Chant in furthering the interests of astronomy in Canada. The medal is awarded not oftener

than once a year to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada on the basis of the value of the work carried out in astronomy and closely allied fields of original investigation.  
1993 Mary Lou Whitehorne (Halifax)

1995 Paul Boltwood (Ottawa)  
1996 David Lane (Halifax)  
1998 Bertus (Bert) Rhebergen (Hamilton)  
2001 Richard Huziak (Saskatoon)  
2002 Dr. Roy Bishop (Halifax)

## KEN CHILTON PRIZE

The Chilton Prize was established in 1977 by the National Council of the Society in remembrance of Ken E. Chilton, an active member of the Hamilton Centre. The prize is awarded annually to an amateur

astronomer, resident in Canada in recognition of a significant piece of astronomical work carried out or published recently.

1990 Doug George (Ottawa)

1995 Paul Gray, David Lane (Halifax)  
1996 Raymond Thompson (Toronto)  
1997 Heather T. Cameron (Halifax)  
2001 Michael Boschat (Halifax)  
2002 Vance Petriew (Regina)

## THE PLASKETT MEDAL

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Canadian Astronomical Society together present an award in recognition of the pivotal role played by John Stanley Plaskett in the establishment of astrophysical research in Canada. The award is made to the graduate from a Canadian university who is judged to have submitted the most outstanding doctoral thesis in astronomy

and astrophysics in the preceding two calendar years. An award need not be made every year.

1991 Paul Charbonneau (Montreal)  
1992 Eric Poisson (Alberta)  
1993 Pierre Brassard (Montreal)  
1994 Grant Hill (Montreal)  
1995 Michael Richer (York)

1996 Gordon Squires (Toronto)  
1997 Alain Beauchamp (Montreal)  
1998 Dean McLaughlin (McMaster)  
1999 Stéphane Charpinet  
(Université de Montréal)  
2000 Alexei Razoumov (British Columbia)  
2001 Peter Brown (Western)  
2002 Edward W. Thommes (Queen's)

## SERVICE AWARD

The Service Award was established in 1959 and takes the form of a bronze medal presented to members who have performed outstanding service to a Centre or to the National Society. Below is a list of recent winners of the Service Award.

1990 Mary Grey (Ottawa)\*

1991 Don Hladiuk (Calgary)  
Ian McGregor (Toronto)

1992 Jean-Marie Frechette (Quebec)  
Michael Watson  
(Unattached, Canada)

1993 Eric Clinton (London)

David Tindall (Halifax)

1994 Randy Dodge (St. John's)

Gary Dymond (St. John's)

Mel Rankin (Edmonton)

1995 Ron Gasbarini (Niagara)

Patrick Kelly (Halifax)

1996 Sidney Lee (Calgary)\*

Robert Venor (Montreal)\*

Abbe Alphonse Tardif (Quebec)

1998 David Lane (Halifax)

Roger Hill (Hamilton)

Sandy Ferguson (Saskatoon)

1999 John Mirtle (Calgary)

Ralph Chou (Toronto)

2000 Phil Johnson (Calgary)

2001 John Rousom (London)

David G. Turner (Halifax)

2002 N/A

\* deceased

## SIMON NEWCOMB AWARD

This award was instituted in 1978 to recognize literary ability among non-professional members of the Society.

1994 Michael S.F. Watson

(Unattached, Canada)

1999 Terence Dickinson (Toronto)

2001 Dan Falk (Toronto)

2002 David Levy (Kingston)

## HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE RASC

Dr. R.B. Baldwin (United States)

Dr. F.M. Bateson (New Zealand)

Dr. R. Hanbury Brown (Australia)

Dr. David L. Crawford (United States)

Dr. A. Dollfus (France)

Rev. Robert Evans (Australia)

Dr. Owen Gingerich (United States)

Dr. Stephen W. Hawking (United Kingdom)

Dr. Patrick Moore (United Kingdom)

Dr. Grote Reber (Australia)

Leif Robinson (United States)

Dr. A.R. Sandage (United States)

Dr. Anne Underhill (Canada)

## PAST ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE RASC

Below are lists of former Honorary Presidents, Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers of the RASC. For names before 1990, please refer to *Looking Up – A History of the RASC* by Peter Broughton.

### Honorary Presidents

1989-1993 Ian Halliday

1993-1997 Alan Batten

1997-2001 Jack Locke

2001-2005 Roy Bishop

### Presidents

1990-1992 Damien Lemay

1992-1994 Peter Broughton

1994-1996 Doug Hube

1996-1998 Doug George

1998-2000 Randy Attwood

2000-2002 Robert Garrison

2002-2004 Rajiv Gupta

### Secretaries

1987-1993 David Tindall

1993-1996 Randall Brooks

1997-1999 Raymond Auclair

1999-2005 Kim Hay

### Treasurers

1989-1992 Karl Miller

1992-1994 Terry Hicks

1994-1998 Rajiv Gupta

1998-2004 Michael Watson

## GENERAL ASSEMBLIES – 1990 - 2004

The following Centres hosted the General Assembly from 1990 to 2002:

1990 Ottawa Centre

1991 Vancouver Centre

1992 Calgary Centre

1993 Halifax Centre

1994 St. John's Centre

1995 Windsor Centre

1996 Edmonton Centre

1997 Kingston Centre

1998 Victoria Centre

1999 Toronto Centre

2000 Winnipeg Centre

2001 London Centre

2002 Montreal Centre

The following Centres will host the General Assembly in the future.

2003 Vancouver Centre

2004 St. John's Centre

# CENTRE ADDRESSES / ADRESSES DES CENTRES

## CALGARY

c/o Calgary Science Centre, PO Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary AB T2P 2M5 • (403) 237-7827  
[www.syz.com/rasc/](http://www.syz.com/rasc/)

## CHARLOTTETOWN

c/o Clair Perry, 38 Mt. Edward Road, Charlottetown PE C1A 5S2  
[www3.pei.sympatico.ca/brian.gorveatt/home.html](http://www3.pei.sympatico.ca/brian.gorveatt/home.html)  
[cperryphoto@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:cperryphoto@pei.sympatico.ca) • (902) 894-9613

## EDMONTON

c/o Edmonton Space & Sciences Centre  
11211 - 142 St, Edmonton AB T5M 4A1  
[www.edmontonrasc.com](http://www.edmontonrasc.com)

## HALIFAX

PO Box 31011, Halifax NS B3K 5T9  
(902) 420-5633 (9 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F)  
[www.halifax.rasc.ca](http://www.halifax.rasc.ca) • [halifax@rasc.ca](mailto:halifax@rasc.ca)

## HAMILTON

PO Box 1223, Waterdown ON L0R 2H0 • (905) 689-0266  
<http://interscape.net/homeroom/rascsite/index.htm>

## KINGSTON

PO Box 1793, Kingston ON K7L 5J6 • (613) 377-6029  
[www.rasc.ca/kingston](http://www.rasc.ca/kingston) • [rascexec@cliff.path.queensu.ca](mailto:rascexec@cliff.path.queensu.ca)

## KITCHENER-WATERLOO

c/o John Beingessner, 479 Cabot Trail  
Waterloo ON N2K 3Y3 • (519) 884-2425 • <http://kw.rasc.ca/>

## LONDON

PO Box 842, Station B, London ON N6A 4Z3 • (519) 472-1437  
<http://phobos.astro.uwo.ca/~rasc/> • [pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca](mailto:pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca)

## MONCTON

c/o Dr. Francis LeBlanc, Département de physique et d'astronomie  
Université de Moncton, Moncton NB E1A 3E9 • (506) 858-3781  
[www.rasc.ca/moncton](http://www.rasc.ca/moncton) • [leblanf@umoncton.ca](mailto:leblanf@umoncton.ca)

## CENTRE FRANCOPHONE DE MONTRÉAL

Casier Postal 206, Station St-Michel, Montréal QC H2A 3L9  
(514) 201-3982 • [www.laam.ca](http://www.laam.ca)

## MONTREAL

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## NIAGARA

PO Box 4040, St. Catharines ON L2R 7S3 • (905) 935-9355  
[www.rasc.ca/niagara](http://www.rasc.ca/niagara) • [jvandwil@vaxxine.com](mailto:jvandwil@vaxxine.com)  
[rascniag@vaxxine.com](mailto:rascniag@vaxxine.com)

## OKANAGAN

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[www.m51.ca](http://www.m51.ca)

## OTTAWA

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Hotline: (613) 830-3381  
<http://ottawa.rasc.ca/> • [contact@ottawa.rasc.ca](mailto:contact@ottawa.rasc.ca)

## PRINCE GEORGE

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[www.rasc.ca/princegeorge](http://www.rasc.ca/princegeorge) • [pgcentre@yahoo.com](mailto:pgcentre@yahoo.com)

## QUÉBEC

2000 boul Montmorency, Québec QC G1J 5E7  
[www.sracqc.com](http://www.sracqc.com) • [srac\\_quebec@hotmail.com](mailto:srac_quebec@hotmail.com)  
(418) 660-2815

## REGINA

PO Box 20014, Cornwall Centre, Regina SK S4P 4J7  
[www.ras.sk.ca](http://www.ras.sk.ca) and [www.telescope.mysask.com](http://www.telescope.mysask.com)  
[info@ras.sk.ca](mailto:info@ras.sk.ca) • (306) 751-0128

## ST. JOHN'S

c/o Randy Dodge  
206 Frecker Drive, St. John's NF A1E 5H9  
[www.sji.ca/rasc](http://www.sji.ca/rasc) • [randy@mun.ca](mailto:randy@mun.ca)

## SARNIA

c/o Jim Selinger  
160 George Street, Sarnia ON N7T 7V4  
[www.sarnia.com/groups/astro/](http://www.sarnia.com/groups/astro/) • [jselinge@mnsi.net](mailto:jselinge@mnsi.net)  
(519) 337-6815

## SASKATOON

PO Box 317, RPO University, Saskatoon SK S7N 4J8  
<http://prana.usask.ca/~rasc/rasc.html> • [dickson@sasktel.net](mailto:dickson@sasktel.net)  
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## THUNDER BAY

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## TORONTO

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770 Don Mills Road, North York ON M3C 1T3  
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[www.rasc.ca/toronto](http://www.rasc.ca/toronto)

## VANCOUVER

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## VICTORIA

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## WINDSOR

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