



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

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ANNUAL MEETING
RÉUNION ANNUELLE

2016

Agenda

Election of the Board of Directors

Election of Auditor

ANNUAL REPORT
RAPPORT ANNUEL

2015

President's Message

Executive Director's Report

Secretary's Message

Treasurer's Report

Auditor's Report

Balance Sheet/Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure

Notes to the Financial Statements

Annual Meeting Minutes—2015

Centre Financial Reports for Fiscal 2015

RÉUNION ANNUELLE 2016—ORDRE DU JOUR

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



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Réunion annuelle 2016

La Réunion générale annuelle des membres aura lieu le dimanche 22 mai 2016, de 9h à 11h EDT
à Fanshawe College London, ON.

Ordre du jour

1. Procès-verbal de la Réunion annuelle 2015

(publié dans la version électronique du rapport annuel 2015 qui se trouve dans la section réservé aux membres du site Web de la SRAC (www.rasc.ca/private/minutes))

2. Rapports des Officiers

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Président | (James Edgar) | |
| 1ère Vice-Présidente | (Chris Gainor) | |
| 2e Vice-Présidente | (Robyn foret) | |
| Secrétaire/rapporteur | (Karen Finstad) | États financiers |
| Trésorier | (Denis Grey) | Motion pour accepter les états financiers |
| Directrice exécutive | (Randy Attwood) | |

3. Rapports des comités permanents

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Prix | (Glenn Hawley) | Nomination | (Chris Gainor) |
| Constitution | (Chris Gainor) | Observation | (Alan Whitman) |
| Éducation | (Andrea Misner) | Publications | (Chris Gainor) |
| Finance | (Denis Grey) | Réduction de la pollution lumineuse | (Robert Dick) |
| Histoire | (Randall Rosenfeld) | Technologie de l'information | (Craig Levine) |
| Membres et croissance | (Roland Dechesne) | | |

4. Rapports des autres programmes

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Programme de Conférencier | (Charles Ennis) | Programme de Projets Spéciaux | (Barbara Wright) |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|

5. Les Résultats de Élection du Conseil d'administration

6. Élection d'un Vérificateur

7. Autres questions

8. Clôture

ANNUAL MEETING 2016—AGENDA

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



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Annual Meeting 2016

The Annual Meeting of members will be held on Sunday, 2016 May 22, from 9:00 to 11:00 EDT
at Fanshawe College, London, ON

Agenda

1. Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting

(Published in the on-line version 2015 Annual Report, and located on the Members-only section on the website
(www.rasc.ca/private/minutes))

2. Reports of Officers

President (James Edgar)
1st Vice-President (Chris Gainor)
2nd Vice-President (Robyn Foret)
Secretary/Recorder (Karen Finstad)
Treasurer (Denis Grey)
Executive Director (Randy Attwood)

Financial Statements
Motion to approve the financial statements

3. Reports of Permanent Committees

Awards (Glenn Hawley)
Constitution (Chris Gainor)
Education (Andrea Misner)
Finance (Denis Grey)
History (Randall Rosenfeld)
Information Technology (Craig Levine)

Light-Pollution Abatement (Robert Dick)
Membership & Development (Roland Dechesne)
Nominating (Robyn Foret)
Observing (Alan Whitman)
Publications (Chris Gainor)

4. Reports of Other Committees

Public Speaker Program (Charles Ennis)

Special Projects Program (Barbara Wright)

5. Election of Board of Directors

6. Election of Auditor

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada continues to do great things, providing more and better opportunities for understanding astronomy and related science to more and more people across this land. It's something we do well, and something in which we take great pride and satisfaction—education and public outreach.

Early in the year, we received an invitation from the Prime Minister's Office to attend an announcement on April 6 giving huge financial support from the Government of Canada to construction of the Thirty Metre Telescope dome and adaptive-optics system—designed and built in Canada. It was particularly gratifying that the amateur astronomical community received the invitation along with the professionals who will use the telescope. I was pleased that Vancouver Centre member, Dr. Howard Trottier, found the time to join with the Prime Minister and me (and others) at the Gordon MacMillan Southam Observatory in Vancouver for the announcement.

Even earlier than that, on March 8, the Board of Directors adopted an Anti-Harassment Policy (G24 at rasc.ca/system/files/PM4.8_Dec2015_0.pdf), firmly committing “that all members and Society employees will enjoy an environment free from all forms of harassment.” Further, the policy just ahead of that one, G23: Conflict and Complaint Resolution, was revised to clarify the procedure for appointing a mediator, if necessary.

In April, we learned that *SkyNews* Inc. was up for sale. Since *SkyNews* magazine is an integral part of the RASC and a member-

ship benefit, we looked closely at what would be involved. The subject captured much of the attention of the Board and the Executive Director for a full two months, and then some. I'm happy, even ecstatic, to say that we acquired *SkyNews*—this is old news now, but the purchase that concluded on June 30 will resonate throughout our Society for many years to come.

In the summer, we upgraded our rasc.ca website to a newer version of Drupal, using the talents of a young man just out of university, Joseph Astillero. He worked at the Society Office for four months, installing, upgrading, and checking the new system, which is now live and running.

The Board was pleased to approve a proposal to initiate the Special Projects Program, where individuals or groups (Centres) can apply for grants up to \$2000 each for a large variety of different projects. This policy is also in the link given above, at G26.

This presidency has been a most rewarding time for me, spanning nearly two years, and I thank all for their support and encouragement, especially the Society Office staff and Executive Director Randy Attwood, with whom I speak on a (nearly) daily basis. It's been a fun time!

Clear skies!

James Edgar
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The highlight of 2015 was the acquisition of *SkyNews* Inc. in June. While the acquisition was unexpected, it is a good fit for the RASC. Moving operations of *SkyNews* magazine and *SkyNews.ca* with the RASC has been a big job, involving the work of many people. I am pleased to report that all went very smoothly. Both organizations will benefit from this new relationship.

The Society continues to grow due to the excellent work at the Centre level. For the first time in our history, in 2015 our membership passed the 5000 number, up nearly 1000 in four years. (It dropped below 5000 at the end of December after peaking at 5085 earlier in the month.)

Plans for 2016 include the further development of a Fundraising Committee formed in 2015. This committee will oversee fundraising activities to support Society programs.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their commitment and their hard work over the past 12 months. We continue to experience challenges faced by many not-for-profits in Canada due to a weak economy. In 2016, the Board plans to refocus our strategic plan and address these challenges as well as plan new initiatives.

Special acknowledgment must go to our staff in the Society office. Renata Koziol oversees all things financial, for both the RASC and *SkyNews*. Julia Neeser handles membership queries and product orders, and keeps the office running smoothly.

Randy Attwood
Executive Director

Note: The complete Annual Report is available on-line at:
www.rasc.ca/annual-report-2015-extended

Should you encounter any problems with logging in, read this page:
www.rasc.ca/login-assistance

The extended version includes the following:
2015 Annual General Meeting Minutes
2015 Annual Reports from Centres
2016 Award Winners
2016 Centre Addresses and Executives
2016 National Council

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

One of the duties of the National Secretary is to keep the online Policy Manual document updated whenever the Board of Directors votes to modify any of it. The following is a summary of the major modifications to the Policy Manual that were enacted in 2015. Many minor changes were also made that were in the nature of 'housekeeping': updating web links, changing the name 'National Advisory Council' to 'National Council', removing inconsistencies introduced by modifications to fee structure and committee sizes in 2014.

G1 Objects, Mission and Vision. The paragraphs titled Vision, Mission and Values were re-written for clarity and semantic consistency.

G4 Membership Benefits. To this list was added the electronic Observer's Handbook option, as well as that for a discount coupon for purchase of the printed current year Observer's Handbook by new members joining after January 31.

G6 Centres of the Society. Previously a minimum number of members were required to maintain a Centre; this was changed to a requirement to meet the "vital functions of a Centre (meet, have officers consisting of not less than President, Treasurer, Secretary, provide an annual report, provide a member to the National Advisory Council, and provide public outreach)."

G10 Editors' Leadership Roles and Responsibilities. References to the now redundant role of Beginner's Observing Guide editor were removed, and that of special publications editor was added.

G12 Liability Insurance. An erroneous statement that Centre observatories are not covered by our liability insurance was removed; they are.

G15 Public Speaker Program. The National Secretary is no longer obliged to be the administrator of this program, that role is taken by one of the Trustees.

G16 Publications and Subscriptions Pricing. This is a completely new policy provided by the Publications Committee.

G21 National Council Travel. To the list of those eligible for 100% reimbursement was added the National Council Recorder, Observer's Calendar editor, and Special Publications Editor; the BOG editor was removed.

G23 Conflict and Complaint Resolution. The policy was completely re-written to introduce detailed procedures to be followed for mediating disputes between all levels of the Society members and staff.

G24 Anti-Harassment. A completely new policy. N.B. Policy G25 Conflict of Interest was previously numbered G24.

G26 Special Projects Program. A completely new policy, and a new program for funding member's projects that promote the Society's Mission.

C11 Publications Committee. The terms of reference, structure and procedures were greatly expanded in this re-write provided by the Publications Committee.

C12 National Council Terms of Reference. A new position of National Council Recorder was added and its duties defined.

We extend our condolences to the families and friends of the following members who passed away in 2015: Barry Arnold, Avard Mann (Edmonton Centre), Al Seaman (Ottawa Centre), John B. Norris (Toronto Centre) Ray Thompson (Halifax Centre), Ronald Niblett (Ottawa Centre), Paul Herzberg (Toronto Centre), and Timo Markkanen (Victoria Centre).

Karen Finstad
National Secretary

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONT'D)

Membership Statistics 2005-2015

| Centre | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Belleville | 33 | 28 | 31 | 30 | 31 | 37 | 26 | 32 | 35 | 33 | 32 |
| Calgary | 460 | 434 | 381 | 336 | 282 | 271 | 300 | 317 | 313 | 278 | 302 |
| Charlottetown | 0 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 19 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 21 | 20 |
| Edmonton | 294 | 274 | 277 | 229 | 235 | 260 | 257 | 258 | 255 | 241 | 261 |
| Halifax | 172 | 170 | 169 | 153 | 154 | 159 | 155 | 157 | 162 | 152 | 171 |
| Hamilton | 116 | 109 | 103 | 78 | 61 | 66 | 70 | 76 | 80 | 82 | 91 |
| Kingston | 65 | 72 | 75 | 66 | 66 | 74 | 90 | 98 | 106 | 125 | 128 |
| Kitchener-Waterloo | 126 | 130 | 109 | 115 | 106 | 115 | 116 | 118 | 104 | 101 | 127 |
| London | 124 | 129 | 110 | 126 | 104 | 118 | 97 | 101 | 104 | 99 | 112 |
| Mississauga | 179 | 188 | 168 | 132 | 123 | 120 | 127 | 120 | 103 | 53 | |
| C.F de Montréal | 17 | 18 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 23 | 28 | 32 | 32 |
| Montréal | 126 | 117 | 109 | 110 | 91 | 87 | 103 | 107 | 99 | 105 | 109 |
| New Brunswick | 88 | 77 | 66 | 68 | 68 | 66 | 75 | 79 | 88 | 78 | 75 |
| Niagara | 78 | 73 | 62 | 69 | 69 | 71 | 82 | 97 | 104 | 101 | 114 |
| Okanagan | 122 | 124 | 115 | 106 | 92 | 116 | 103 | 88 | 86 | 85 | 83 |
| Ottawa | 361 | 343 | 319 | 325 | 328 | 370 | 389 | 410 | 416 | 396 | 447 |
| Prince George | 76 | 57 | 66 | 63 | 69 | 64 | 64 | 79 | 67 | 82 | 75 |
| Québec | 15 | 18 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 17 | 17 | 35 | 44 | 40 | 39 |
| Regina | 111 | 94 | 80 | 75 | 62 | 62 | 52 | 48 | 55 | 53 | 47 |
| St. John's | 58 | 57 | 58 | 47 | 44 | 45 | 48 | 47 | 52 | 49 | 51 |
| Sarnia | 14 | 20 | 12 | 11 | 15 | 15 | 19 | 24 | 25 | 27 | 27 |
| Saskatoon | 75 | 73 | 68 | 70 | 70 | 72 | 71 | 71 | 78 | 76 | 70 |
| Sunshine Coast | 69 | 50 | 43 | 32 | 38 | 35 | 32 | | | | |
| Thunder Bay | 49 | 45 | 51 | 50 | 46 | 46 | 44 | 37 | 41 | 40 | 39 |
| Toronto | 904 | 869 | 782 | 611 | 573 | 554 | 502 | 506 | 610 | 622 | 748 |
| Vancouver | 254 | 217 | 198 | 226 | 228 | 244 | 251 | 263 | 256 | 238 | 267 |
| Victoria | 216 | 202 | 176 | 163 | 164 | 166 | 185 | 173 | 188 | 177 | 186 |
| Windsor | 107 | 96 | 84 | 90 | 100 | 96 | 96 | 98 | 94 | 89 | 105 |
| Winnipeg | 228 | 221 | 210 | 178 | 180 | 168 | 162 | 169 | 157 | 136 | 132 |
| Unattached | 429 | 431 | 428 | 446 | 435 | 434 | 459 | 530 | 561 | 512 | 538 |
| Total | 4966 | 4745 | 4395 | 4062 | 3893 | 3995 | 4040 | 4201 | 4333 | 4123 | 4428 |
| Honorary | 15 | 14 | 15 | 15 |
| | 4981 | 4760 | 4410 | 4077 | 3908 | 4010 | 4055 | 4216 | 4347 | 4138 | 4443 |

Membership by Type

| Type | Number | % of Total |
|----------|--------|------------|
| Ordinary | 3804 | 76.3 |
| Family | 713 | 14.3 |
| Life | 301 | 6.1 |
| Youth | 148 | 3.0 |
| Honorary | (15) | n/a |

Membership by Country

| Country | Number | % of Total |
|---------|--------|------------|
| Canada | 4755 | 95.5 |
| USA | 195 | 3.9 |
| Other | 31 | .6 |

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

The Society recorded an operating deficit in 2013 of \$47,087 on revenues of \$462,738 (-10.1%). Our revenue decreased modestly by \$1,680 over 2014 as increases in some revenue sources (Membership, *Observer's Handbook*, *SkyNews* recoveries) offset reductions in other areas (*Observer's Calendar* and most importantly Investments).

Specifically, our investment portfolio returned an income of only \$15,084—a decrease of \$48,995 from 2014 and \$67,038 from 2013's returns. Membership revenues were up by 11.8% (\$21,082) reflecting larger membership numbers and the flow-through of fee increases approved in 2014. Publications revenues from the *Observer's Handbook* and *Observer's Calendar* went in opposite directions (+\$27,028 / -12,189) but with a net gain of \$14,839. The Society's donation income was relatively flat as no major donations or grants were received during the year.

On the expense side, there is a one-time "bump" in Membership Services costs attributable mostly to a special distribution of the print edition of the *Journal* in early 2015 which increased both distribution and production costs. Our publications costs now include new honorariums introduced for these publications. Office salaries and benefits were also higher in 2015 due to a short-term contract for IT support services and other increases approved by the Board.

The biggest change to the Society's finances has come about through our strategic investment in *SkyNews*, Inc. The impact of this investment can be summarized as follows:

- Our investment portfolio has been reduced by about 20% which will reduce future investment income flows
- Society staff are now providing direct services to *SkyNews*, Inc. and the RASC's operational overhead has been reduced as a result of this (\$31,770 in 2015)

- Potential strategic partnership arrangements are expected to be easier to manage and execute which will lead to increased revenue and reduced expenses going forward.

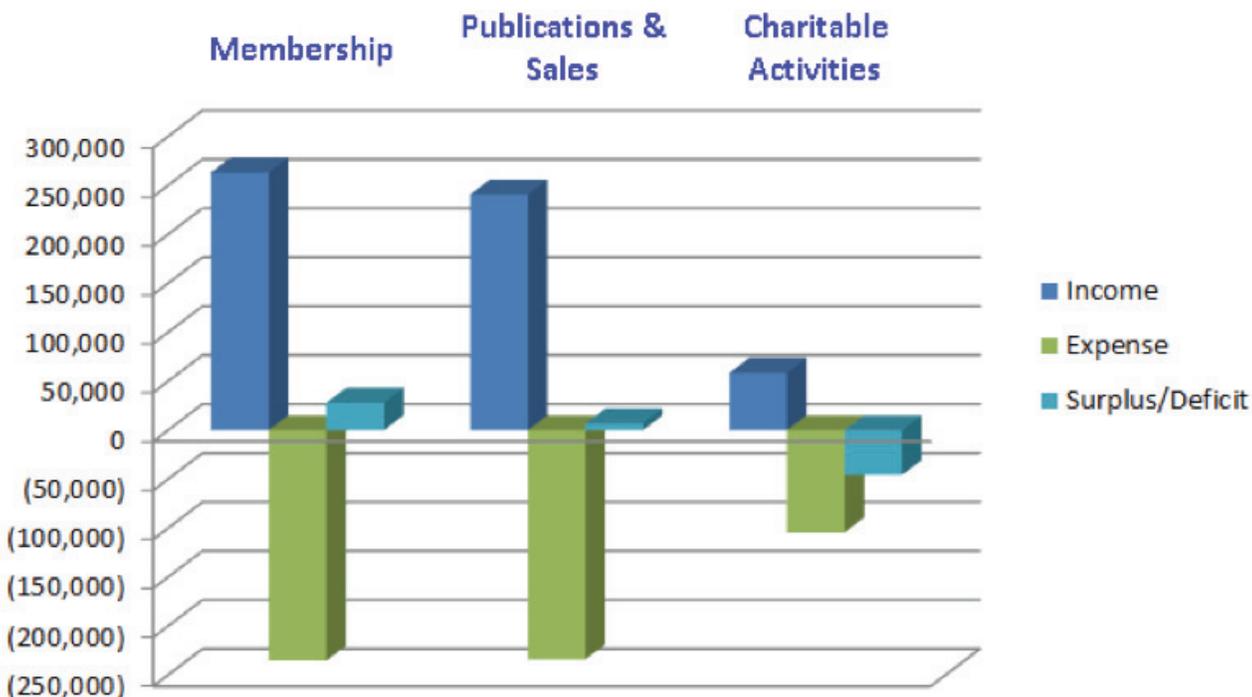
As a Registered Charity, the Society is permitted to run ancillary businesses but such business activity must not take resources away from our charitable aims. Our membership and publications business therefore cannot run deficits.

Our 2016 budget is summarized below. Our Membership business segment is expected to run a significant surplus for the first time in several years which has allowed the Board to forestall any fee increases in the current year. The publications business is expected to continue to make a positive contribution in 2016 with a favourable exchange rate and the introduction of two new publications which are in the late stages of development.

Our charitable programs are expected to run a deficit of approximately \$45,710 which represents the application of donations received in prior years to our charitable programs. The Society supports the advancement of astronomy through various programs including our publications, speaker's support, education and public outreach (EPO) programs, and other activities. Membership fees are expected to account for 47% of the Society's overall revenue in 2015, while publications will contribute 43% and charitable donations and investment income about 10%. For more information on the 2016 budget, please refer to the Council pages on the RASC website at www.rasc.ca/members

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of our Office Administrator, Renata Koziol, for her timely and valuable assistance in preparing these statements.

Denis Grey
Treasurer



2016 Society Budget by Business Lines of Charity, Publications and Membership

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Tinkham & Associates LLP CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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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 accompanying financial statements of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada/La Société Royale D'Astronomie Du Canada, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2015 and the statements of revenue and expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives 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 revenue, excess of revenues over expenses for the year, assets or unrestricted net assets.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2015 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

TORONTO, Ontario
2016

Tinkham & Associates LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

BALANCE SHEET

| As at December 31 | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current | | |
| Cash | \$ 110,600 | \$ 122,115 |
| Accounts receivable | 38,913 | 40,021 |
| Receivable from SkyNews Inc. (note 5) | 5,983 | - |
| Inventory | 26,218 | 19,475 |
| Prepaid expenses | 10,172 | 10,315 |
| | 191,886 | 191,926 |
| Long Term | | |
| Investments (note 4) | 828,414 | 1,090,980 |
| Investment in SkyNews Ic. (note 5) | 211,500 | |
| Capital assets (note 6) | | |
| Tangible assets | 5,138 | 1,264 |
| Intangible assets | 37,425 | 37,421 |
| | \$ 1,274,363 | \$ 1,321,591 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued charges | \$ 25,541 | \$ 33,187 |
| Deferred revenue | | |
| Membership fees for ensuing years | 126,248 | 118,274 |
| Journal subscriptions | 21,838 | 19,657 |
| Unamortized life membership fees (note 7) | 26,502 | 29,152 |
| | 200,129 | 200,270 |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 564,148 | 621,985 |
| Internally restricted (note 9) | 510,086 | 499,336 |
| | 1,074,234 | 1,121,321 |
| | 1,274,363 | 1,321,591 |
| Commitment (note 8) | <i>See accompanying notes to financial statements</i> | |
| On Behalf of the Board | | |



 President



 Treasurer

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

| Year ended December 31 | Internally Restricted (note 9) | Unrestricted | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 499,336 | \$ 621,985 | \$ 1,121,321 | \$ 1,110,133 |
| Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year | - | (47,087) | (47,087) | 11,188 |
| Transfers (note 8) | 10,750 | (10,750) | - | - |
| Balance, end of year | \$ 510,086 | \$ 564,148 | \$ 1,074,234 | \$ 1,121,321 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

| Year ended December 31 | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Membership fee revenue | \$ 199,452 | \$ 178,370 |
| Publication revenue | | |
| <i>Observer's Handbook</i> | 103,810 | 76,782 |
| <i>Journal</i> | 38,554 | 35,748 |
| <i>Observer's Calendar</i> | 35,473 | 47,662 |
| Shipping and Handling | 30,220 | 27,584 |
| Educational Aids | 3,212 | 2,713 |
| Other Publications | 2,169 | 2,195 |
| Other | 899 | 674 |
| | 214,337 | 193,358 |
| Miscellaneous income | | |
| Donations | 19,854 | 18,626 |
| Other income | 9,749 | 5,337 |
| Promotional products | 4,262 | 4,648 |
| | 33,865 | 28,611 |
| Investment Income (net) | | |
| Interest and dividends | 24,592 | 30,839 |
| Gain (loss) on investments | 3,021 | 47,834 |
| Investment manager fees | (12,529) | (14,594) |
| | 15,084 | 64,079 |
| Total Revenue | 462,738 | 464,418 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Publication costs | | |
| <i>Journal</i> | 55,216 | 40,686 |
| Freight and handling costs | 30,860 | 26,001 |
| Cost of publications sold | 25,649 | 24,895 |
| <i>Observer's Handbook</i> | 5,642 | 568 |
| | 117,367 | 92,150 |
| Operating costs | | |
| Office salaries and employee benefits | 163,872 | 141,368 |
| Membership services | 71,536 | 65,125 |
| Services | 49,675 | 33,913 |
| Travel expenses | 37,258 | 33,538 |
| Office expenses | 30,834 | 26,208 |
| Committees | 26,354 | 23,338 |
| Occupancy | 17,818 | 17,294 |
| Amortization of capital assets | 14,691 | 10,697 |
| Advertising and marketing | 8,798 | 6,215 |
| Cost of promotional items sold | 3,392 | 3,384 |
| Recovery of office salaries and rent (note 5) | (31,770) | - |
| | 392,458 | 361,079 |
| Total Expenditures | 509,825 | 453,229 |
| Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue) for the year | \$ (47,087) | \$ 11,188 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

| Year ended December 31 | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash provided (used) by operating activities | | |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year | \$ (47,087) | \$ 11,188 |
| Charges not requiring a current cash payment | | |
| Amortization of capital assets | 14,691 | 10,697 |
| Amortization of life membership fees | (2,650) | (3,073) |
| | (35,046) | 18,812 |
| Changes in non-cash working capital components | | |
| Accounts receivable and receivable from SkyNews Inc. | (4,875) | (17,842) |
| Inventory | (6,743) | 1,852 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 143 | (295) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (7,646) | (4,937) |
| Deferred revenues | 10,155 | 16,744 |
| | (44,012) | 14,334 |
| Cash provided (used) by investing activities | | |
| Investments (net) | 262,566 | 11,569 |
| Investment in SkyNews Inc. (net) | (211,500) | - |
| Purchase of capital assets | (18,569) | - |
| | 32,497 | 11,569 |
| Increase (decrease) in cash during the year | (11,515) | 25,903 |
| Cash, beginning of year | \$ 122,115 | \$ 96,212 |
| Cash, end of year | \$ 110,600 | \$ 122,115 |

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Organization

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (“the Society”) 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 accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

(a) Cash

Cash includes cash on hand and deposits in financial institutions.

(b) Investments

The Society has elected to value all investments at fair value, which is based on quoted market values.

(c) Investment in SkyNews Inc.

The Society purchased 100% of the shares of SkyNews Inc., a profit oriented entity, and accordingly controls the corporation. The Society has elected to account for the investment using the equity method.

The Society purchased SkyNews Inc., a private corporation, on June 29, 2015 to further the Society’s mission. SkyNews Inc. publishes a highly regarded magazine which provides an excellent source of educational information on astronomy and allied sciences to the public. This aligns with the mandate of the Society.

(d) Inventory

Inventory is comprised of publications and promotional items for re-sale and is carried at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on an average cost basis.

(e) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Cost comprises the purchase price and any directly attributable cost of preparing the asset for intended use.

A capital asset is tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that its carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized in the statement of revenue and expenses when the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the sum of the undiscounted cash flows resulting from its use and eventual disposition. The impairment loss is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of the capital asset exceeds its fair value. An impairment loss is not reversed if the fair value of the capital asset subsequently increases. As at December 31, 2015, no such impairment exists.

Amortization has been determined using a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tangible assets: | Computer hardware | 3 years |
| | Office furniture | 10 years |
| Intangible assets: | Software | 5-10 years |
| | Website development | 3 years, 1/2 in year of acquisition |

(f) Revenue recognition

(i) Membership fees

Membership fees received in the first half of the year are recognized during the current year. Those received in the second half of the year are recorded as deferred revenue and recognized in the following year. The organization previously offered life memberships to members. Life memberships received in prior years were credited to unamortized life membership fees liability account, as per Note 7. The unamortized life membership fees are being recognized as revenue evenly over the next 10 years.

(ii) Contributions

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.

(iii) Investment Income

Investment income is recognized on an accrual basis. The unrealized gain or loss on investments, being the difference between cost and fair value, is recognized in investment income for the year.

(iv) Subscriptions and publications

Journal subscription revenues are amortized into income over the subscription period. Publications are recognized as revenue when shipped.

(g) Contributed services

The organization is dependant on the voluntary services of many individuals. The value of donated services is not recognized in these financial statements

(h) Management estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant estimates include the impairment of accounts receivable and the useful lives of capital assets. All estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are made to the statement of operations as appropriate in the year they become known.

(i) Financial instruments

(i) Measurement

The Society initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. The Society subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost except for its investments which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the excess of revenue over expenditures for the year.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued charges.

(ii) Impairment

At the end of each reporting period, the Society assesses whether there are any indications that a financial asset measured at amortized cost may be impaired. When there is an indication of impairment, the Society determines whether a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows from the financial asset and it reduces the carrying amount of the asset to the highest of the following: i) the present value of the cash flows expected to be generated by holding the asset discounted using a current market rate of interest appropriate to the asset; ii) the amount that could be realized by selling the asset at the statement of financial position date; and iii) the amount the Society expects to realize by exercising its rights to any collateral held to secure repayment of the asset net of all costs necessary to exercise those rights. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced directly or through the use of an allowance account. The amount of the reduction is recognized as a bad debt in the statement of revenue and expenses. When the extent of impairment of a previously written-down asset decreases and the decrease can be related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the statements of revenue and expenses in the period the reversal occurs.

(iii) Transaction costs

Transaction costs are recognized in the statements of operations in the period incurred, except for financial instruments that will be subsequently measured at amortized cost. Investment management fees associated with the Scotia McLeod managed portfolio are expensed as incurred.

3. Helm Fund

The Society is trustee of an endowment fund created by Mr. Walter J. Helm (a former Royal Astronomical Society of Canada member) who passed away 1960 June 5. In his will he provided a bequest to the Society that was to be used to support the general purposes of the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Under the terms of a 2010 court interpretation, the income of the Helm Fund is presently being applied in support of on-going public education programs at the DDO site.

Total assets of the fund under administration by the Society at December 31, 2015 are 137,682 (2014 - \$140,395) and are excluded from the Society's financial statements.

4. Investments

| As at December 31 | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Managed portfolio at Scotia McLeod | | |
| Fixed income investments | \$ 390,600 | \$ 555,579 |
| Canadian equity investments | 222,695 | 342,019 |
| US equity investments | 116,656 | 147,281 |
| Cash | 98,463 | 43,664 |
| Accrued interest and dividends receivable (net) | - | 2,437 |
| | \$ 828,414 | \$ 1,090,980 |

The actively managed portfolio with ScotiaMcLeod includes 13 fixed income investments (2014—12 investments) comprised of government and corporate bonds with stated interest rates ranging from 1.75% to 5.53% (2014 - 1.75% to 5.53%), maturing from June 1, 2016 to December 6, 2024 (2014, maturing from September 8, 2015 to December 6, 2024).

The Canadian equity investments include share and trust units of 26 Canadian entities (2014—29 Canadian entities). The single largest holding is 402 shares of Toronto Dominion Bank with a market value of \$21,804 (2014—357 shares of Royal Bank of Canada with a market value of \$28,646).

The U.S. equity investments include share and trust units of 31 entities (2014—30 entities). The single largest holding is 50 shares of CVS Health Corporation with a market value of \$4,889 US\$ (2014—80 shares of CVS Health Corporation with a market value of \$7,705 US\$)

The fixed income and equity investments have been recorded at market value based on information provided by ScotiaMcLeod

5. Investment in SkyNews Inc.

The Society purchased 100% of the common shares of SkyNews Inc. on June 26, 2015. The fiscal year end of SkyNews Inc. is March 31, therefore no income or loss of the controlled entity has yet been determined or included in the financial statements of the Society. The most recent financial statements of SkyNews Inc. are as at June 29, 2015. The following summary is taken from the unaudited financial statements of SkyNews Inc.

| As at | June 29 2015 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Total assets | \$ 126,804 |
| Total liabilities | 225,194 |
| Total deficit | (98,390) |

The Society has recognized cost recoveries totalling \$31,770 for office salaries and rent charged to SkyNews Inc. Included in membership services expense is \$45,223 (2014 - \$44,558) for purchases of *SkyNews Magazine* in the year which is distributed to Society members as part of their membership subscription. The Society also expensed \$2,235 in advertising and marketing for advertisements in *SkyNews Magazine* and purchased inventory totalling \$3,388 from SkyNews Inc. These transactions were made in the normal course of operations and have been measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

6. Capital assets

| | 2015 Accumulated Cost Amortization | | 2014 Accumulated Cost Amortization | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| Tangible Assets | | | | |
| Computer hardware | \$ 14,212 | \$ 9,671 | \$ 8,157 | \$ 7,644 |
| Office furniture | 1,542 | 946 | 1,542 | 792 |
| Library | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| | \$ 15,755 | \$ 10,617 | \$ 9,700 | \$ 8,436 |
| Net book value | | \$ 5,138 | | \$ 1,264 |
| Intangible assets | | | | |
| Software | 62,341 | \$ 34,721 | 61,593 | \$ 24,172 |
| Website development | 11,766 | 1,961 | - | - |
| | 74,107 | \$ 36,682 | \$ 61,593 | \$ 24,172 |
| Net book value | | \$ 37,425 | \$ | \$ 37,421 |

7. Unamortized life membership fees

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Life membership fees as of January 1 | \$ 29,152 | \$ 32,225 |
| Deduct: Amortization to income | (2,650) | (3,073) |
| Balance, December 31 | \$ 26,502 | \$ 29,152 |

8. Commitment

The Society has extended its existing lease agreement for office premises extending to 2017 February 28. The minimum annual payments required under the lease, excluding an estimate of the proportionate share of property taxes, maintenance and insurance for the premises, for fiscal 2016 is \$10,361 and 2017 is \$1,768. Property tax, maintenance and insurance in addition to the base rent is estimated at \$10,343 for 2016.

9. Internally restricted net assets

The Society 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 related to public education and outreach. The P.M. Millman Endowment Fund was established in 1990 for the purpose of providing for the long-term growth of the Society. The Sustaining Membership Fund was

established in 2009 to encourage Centres to organize and host public talks by speakers from outside their local area about astronomical related topics.

An amount equal to the investment income for the year is transferred to all funds annually on a proportionate basis. All disbursements from these funds must be approved by the Board of Directors.

| Schedule 1: Internally Restricted Net Assets | | | | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Sustaining Membership Fund | Ruth Northcott Fund | P.M. Millman Endowment Fund | Total | Total |
| Fund balance, January 1 | \$ 14,182 | \$ 195,618 | \$ 289,536 | \$ 499,336 | \$ 466,013 |
| Transferred from Unrestricted net assets: | | | | | |
| Interest | 191 | 2,631 | 3,895 | 6,717 | 26,899 |
| Donations | 3,257 | 6,392 | 120 | 9,769 | 7,969 |
| Expenses | (5,736) | - | - | (5,736) | (1,545) |
| | (2,288) | 9,023 | 4,015 | 10,750 | 33,323 |
| Balance, December 31 | \$ 11,894 | \$ 204,641 | \$ 293,551 | \$ 510,086 | \$ 499,336 |

10. Financial instruments

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Society's risk exposure and concentrations.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Society is exposed to credit risk through its cash, accounts receivable and investments. Credit risk related to cash is minimal as funds are fully insured and held by credit-worthy parties. Accounts receivable are generally unsecured. The investment policy requires diversification of investments within categories, and sets limits on exposure to individual investments.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will not be able to meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due. The Society meets its liquidity requirements by ensuring adequate cash is maintained and investments are available to be converted to cash if and when required.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

Currency risk

Currency risk reflects the risk that the Society's earnings will decline due to the fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The Society has cash and investments denominated in U.S. \$ totalling \$141,090 at December 31, 2015 (2014 - \$209,148). The exchange rate used to convert US\$ assets at December 31, 2015 is \$1 US = \$1.3840 Cdn. (2014 - \$1.1601 Cdn).

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Society is subject to interest rate risk to the extent of its fixed income investments and cash on deposit with financial institutions that earn interest at market rates. The Society manages its exposure to the interest rate risk of its cash by maximizing the interest income earned on excess funds while maintaining the liquidity necessary to conduct operations on a day to day basis. Fluctuations in market rates of interest on cash do not have a significant impact on the Society's results of operations.

The primary objective of the Society with respect to its fixed income investments is to ensure the security of principal amounts invested, provide for a high degree of liquidity, and achieve a satisfactory investment return.

Other price risk

Other price risk refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from currency risk or interest rate risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all similar instruments in the market.

The Society is exposed to other price risk because of its equity investments.

Changes in risk

There have been no changes in the Society's risk exposures from the prior year.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—2015

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held Sunday, 2015 July 6 at 9:00 EDT, at St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Board members attending: Randy Attwood as Executive Director (ED), Randy Boddam as Director, James Edgar as President (JE), Karen Finstad as National Secretary (KF), Robyn Foret as incoming 2nd Vice President (RF), Denis Grey as Treasurer (DG), Colin Haig as outgoing 1st Vice President and Director (CH), Chris Gainor as outgoing 2nd Vice President and incoming 1st Vice President (CG), Heather Laird as Director, Craig Levine as Director (CL).

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 EDT by JE, who welcomed members to the 2015 Annual General Meeting and introduced the attending Fellows of the Society and Board members. JE then called the roll of Centres; 22 out of 28 Centres were represented, with Unattached Members, observers, and guests present for an approximate total of 57 in attendance.

1. Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

MOTION AGM15-1 Moved by Dave Lane and seconded by Richard Wagner, that the Minutes of AGM 2014 be adopted as printed in the Essential Annual Report.

MOTION AGM15-1 was CARRIED.

2. Reports of Officers

President (James Edgar)

James Edgar highlighted accomplishments of the preceding year, highlighting the successful transition to our new governing structure, the hiring of Executive Director Randy Attwood, the implementation of a sponsorship program and other accomplishments as laid out in his written report. Unfortunately the Charlottetown Centre was dissolved this year due to lack of members. Looking forward it appears that Vancouver Centre will bid to host the 2017 General Assembly.

1st Vice-President (Colin Haig)

Colin Haig described this year's Board as very active, and recognized the efforts of the Society Office staff in supporting the many activities of the Society. He also expressed appreciation for the work of various publications editors and their teams of contributors, announcing that Nicole Mortillero would be taking over from Jay Anderson as Editor of the *Journal*, and James Edgar from Dave Chapman as Editor of the *Observer's Handbook*. He closed by referring to the very recently announced acquisition by the Society of *SkyNews* magazine as an exciting development.

2nd Vice-President (Chris Gainor)

Chris Gainor reinforced previous remarks on the hard work and talent of staff and Board members. He also reported on the success of visits to Centres across the country by various Directors, celebrating their many accomplishments on the local level.

National Secretary (Karen Finstad)

Karen Finstad reported on her duties recording minutes for various Board and Council meetings in 2014, on the six Public Speaker Program events funded in that year, with mention of policy changes in that program for 2015 and its new administrator Charles Ennis of Sunshine Coast Centre. Also looking forward to 2015, she noted that National Council Representative for Toronto

Centre Eric Briggs will take up the post of National Council Recorder. She closed with a request for reflection and respect to members who passed away in 2014, as listed in the written Annual Report.

Treasurer (Denis Grey)

Denis Grey summarised the 2014 year-end financial statements, for which complete details were shown and are included in the written report. Questions from the floor however, mostly dealt with the 2015 acquisition of *SkyNews* Inc and its implications. Roger Nelson asked where the new acquisition will show up in next year's statements; DG answered under investments. Patrice Scattolin asked where *SkyNews* revenues would show up; DG responded we would expect any such to come into our accounts as dividends and show up as another form of investment income, and that we hope that return will be better than typical returns on our other investments, based on *SkyNews* becoming a better publication and a more efficient operation, partly through 'synergies' with the Society and its staff, who may provide paid services to *SkyNews* Inc.

A question from a member on *SkyNews* operations was answered by CH, who will be on the new *SkyNews* Board, who affirmed that as sole shareholder in *SkyNews* the Society will receive reports on its performance but will not take part in the business of running *SkyNews* Inc. Also that we can also hope for 'soft' dividends, since *SkyNews* should be able to assist us carrying out the mission of the Society.

Patrice Scattolin then asked will the 'book value' of *SkyNews* change year to year; CH responded *SkyNews* tax accountants would give advice to *SkyNews* on this, depending on whether there is retained earnings for example, but since the corporation is not publicly traded there is no practical way to measure the value of its shares.

DG fielded another question about our investment manager fees, saying they are based on total assets under management and come to about 1.5%.

Rajesh Shukla asked how Society expenses are assigned to our three spheres of operations (membership charitable and publications business); DG answered this is done on a percentage basis which should remain consistent from year to year.

Following a brief description of the Helm fund and its management as a separate entity, DG noted that the Feibelman Fund has now been rolled into the Ruth Northcott fund, basically for bookkeeping purposes. Dave Lane asked if by doing so, the money in those combined funds would still be subject to the strict usage restrictions on the Northcott Fund, making it largely inaccessible. DG replied that at the moment we have sufficient unrestricted funds from other sources for it not to be a problem. JE added that the new Special Projects Program will make use of the Northcott Fund; there followed some discussion as to whether it may be advisable in the future for the Board to loosen those existing restrictions in order to make better use of the Northcott Fund.

Peter Jedicke asked where the Helm Fund records were reported; DG responded those were reported to the Toronto Centre once a year, and were very simple since it produces a single dividend each year, paid out to the Toronto Centre to support operation of the DDO.

MOTION AGM15-2

Moved by Roger Nelson, seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne that the audited financial statements be approved as submitted.

MOTION AGM15-2 was CARRIED.

MOTION AGM15-3

Moved by Paul Gray seconded by Guy Nason, that Tinkham, LLP, be appointed as Auditor for 2016.

MOTION AGM15-3 was CARRIED.

Executive Director (Randy Attwood)

Randy Attwood presented his first report as ED, noting that he had stepped into the position only after Labour Day 2014, succeeding Deborah Thompson, and that he was looking forward to working with the Board, National Council and Centre executives to improve member services and outreach programs. He introduced the Society Office staff members who were attending, Renata Koziol and Julia Neeser, and encouraged members to meet them, learn what they do and take that information back to their Centres. RA went on to look forward to new events and programs for 2015 including RASC tours, and opportunities for partnerships with other institutions such as the Royal Canadian Institute, and the Planetary Society among others. On the subject of the *SkyNews* he promised no significant changes during the first transition year. The non-financial benefits of the acquisition were emphasized, principally the continuation of *SkyNews* as an entity and as a RASC benefit, useful input from the skilled *SkyNews* team, and the potential for increased membership.

3. Reports of Permanent Committees

Constitution (Colin Haig, Chair)

Chair Colin Haig noted the Committee has worked with several Centres on updating their own By-Laws, and said they remain available to provide guidance to others, although most Centres would also require legal guidance to align with their respective provincial corporate requirements. He also thanked the committee members by name for their work and support over the past year.

MOTION AGM15-4

Moved by the Constitution Committee that the following changes be made to By-Law #1:

1. Section 45.1, be revised to include the words shown in red: 45.1 President - The president shall be a Director. The president shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the Board and of the members. The president shall be the chief executive officer of the Society and shall be responsible for implementing the strategic plans and policies of the Society. The president shall, subject to the authority of the Board, have general supervision of the affairs of the Society, and shall be an ex officio member of all permanent committees. The president shall perform such other duties as shall from time to time be imposed upon him by the Board.

2. Section 45.4, be revised by the insertion of the words shown here in red and by removing the words shown struck through: 45.4 Secretary - The secretary, who shall be a Director, shall attend and be the secretary of all meetings of the Board, **and meetings of members** as defined in Section 4, and committees of the Board. The secretary shall enter or cause to be entered in the Society's minute book, minutes of all proceedings at such meetings; the secretary shall give, or cause to be given, as and when instructed, notices to members, Directors, the public accountant and members of committees; the secretary shall be the custodian of all books, papers, records, documents, and other instruments belonging to the Society.

3. That "National Advisory Council" be replaced with "National Council" throughout, i.e. in Definitions 1.7 and in Section 8 ("NAC" changes to "Council").

MOTION AGM15-4 was CARRIED.

Publications (Colin Haig)

Chair Colin Haig began by acknowledging the work of the committee members, and went on to call for a new volunteer

as Special Projects Editor. He reported that in the last year, the committee has devised a procedure for developing and publishing new projects, has instituted some formal volunteer recognition for contributors, and reported on the success of the *Observer's Handbook* and *Observer's Calendar*. The planned joint issue of *JRASC* and *Cassiopeia* did not come off, although a print copy of *JRASC* was circulated to the entire membership which resulted in a small increase of print subscriptions. He also thanked Dave Garner as *Bulletin* Editor.

Awards (Glenn Hawley, Chair)

Chair Glenn Hawley reminded members that next year's awards nominations should be submitted earlier rather than later since the 2016 GA will be held in May rather than July. He reported that the Awards committee had set up a special working group led by Mary Lou Whitehorne to discuss possible changes to the awards program; which will be implemented at some time in the future.

Education and Public Outreach (Robyn Foret, Chair)

Chair Robyn Foret pointed members to his written report for details, but highlighted key projects including new teacher materials, Lauri Roche's work with the Science Teachers Association, and the new Educator's membership kit which is projected to be available by September 1. In regard to the latter program, he said that Centres may choose to sponsor such memberships for local teachers. He gave brief updates on RASC participation in Discover the Universe, the Canada-wide Science Fair, and a planned renovation of the NOVA program; an effort that will provide opportunities for new volunteers.

Eric Kujala mentioned that webcasting of meetings was an excellent outreach tool which has been successful in recruiting members at the Ottawa Centre, and he offered technical support to any Centre interested in setting up to do the same.

Finance (Denis Grey, Chair)

Chair Denis Grey announced that the Society will be looking for a new Treasurer in a year or so, as his term will end in 2016, and anyone who is interested should come forward soon and speak to him about the position.

History (Randall Rosenfeld, Chair)

Chair Randall Rosenfeld first asked for feedback from members to the list of prospective anniversary projects currently available on the website. He went on to acknowledge his committee members, then handed the microphone over to Peter Jedicke who put out a call for further information on 19th Century librarian and philanthropist John Davis Barnett, whose name appears on a recently discovered miniature sundial. It is hoped to uncover a connection with the London Centre, since it is known that Barnett died in London in 1926.

Information Technology (Craig Levine, Chair)

Chair Craig Levine began with an expression of thanks to the Halifax Centre and all the volunteers who worked to organise and put on the GA. In giving thanks to his all Committee members, gave special mention to Dave Lane who has managed our web server since 1996. He reported that the website is now moving to a shared server following a major effort to upgrade the website platform. He also gave credit to a working group formed at last year's GA, for researching and implementing the new online teleconference application, Webex.

Light-Pollution Abatement (Robert Dick, Chair)

Chair Robert Dick also gave thanks to his committee for their effort in the past year, as he reviewed the highlights of his written report, including the designation of two new Nocturnal Preserves, a category of site which is designed to benefit wildlife, and requires no astronomical outreach. His experience at international conferences has shown a pervading ignorance about the effects

of light on the environment. Dave Lane commented on the new UNESCO Dark Sky reserve that was declared in Nova Scotia this year; the Halifax RASC has been involved in training of personnel at that park.

Membership & Development (Roland Dechesne, Chair)

Chair Roland Dechesne was not present; members were encouraged to read his written report.

Nominating (Chris Gainor, Chair)

Chair Chris Gainor said the main activity of the committee is conducting an election for Board members; this year Paul Schumacher stepped down and has been replaced by Heather Laird, James Edgar and Robyn Foret were acclaimed for another term each. Next year there will be at least three Board positions open for election; nominations are requested.

Observing (Alan Whitman, Chair)

Chair Alan Whitman began his report by thanking James Edgar for his support, and also the Society Office staff who have taken over the task of sending out Observing Certificates to Centre Presidents for presentation to members following review of applications by the Committee. He mentioned a recent decision, discussed in more detail in his written report, to remove the

star-hopping requirement from the Deep-Sky Challenge Objects and Deep-Sky Gems observing certificates. Coming soon is a Mini-Messier Certificate and an Introductory Lunar program.

5. Election of Board of Directors

All positions were acclaimed; see above.

6. Other Business

- Ralph Chou mentioned that Toronto Centre is organising its own 2017 Total Solar Eclipse expedition, and interested members should see him.
- RA announced that a new permanent committee for Fundraising is being formed, and looking for volunteers.
- JE reminded members that next year's GA will be held in London, in conjunction with the AstroCATS meeting, in May 2016.

7. Adjournment

MOTION AGM15-5 Moved by Roger Nelson seconded by Ross Sinclair, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:34 EDT. .

Karen Finstad

National Secretary

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

| | | Belleville | Calgary | Edmonton | Halifax | Hamilton | Kingston | Kitchener-Waterloo | London | Mississauga |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| REVENUE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Membership | Membership Fees: Centre Fee | 829 | 9,732 | 4,987 | 2,874 | 3,444 | 1,479 | 2,482 | 2,658 | 3,044 |
| | Membership Fees: Associate | | | | | | | | | |
| | Membership Fees: Affiliate | | | | | | | | | |
| | Membership Fees: other | | | | 660 | | | | | |
| | Centre Newsletter | | | | 136 | | | | | |
| Donations / Fundraising | Donations | | 1,126 | 523 | 400 | | 1,069 | 500 | | |
| | Fundraising | | 1,472 | | | | | 600 | | |
| Sales Revenue | Sale of Observer's Handbooks | | | | | | 25 | | | |
| | Sale of Observer's Calendars | | 1,210 | 680 | 679 | | 390 | 375 | 506 | 525 |
| | Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides | | | | 50 | | | | | |
| | Other Publication Sales | | | | | | | | | |
| | RASC promotional items | 227 | | | | | | | | |
| | Other Sales | | 389 | | 76 | | | | | 1,032 |
| Subscription Revenue | Astronomy / Sky & Telescope | | | | | | | | | |
| | Other | | | | | | | | | |
| Events Revenue | Star Parties | 88 | 2,649 | 2,470 | 3,979 | | 1,494 | 1,600 | | |
| | Annual Dinner | | 1,098 | | | | | | 580 | |
| | Astronomy Day | | | | | 24,913 | | | | |
| | BIYA | | | | | | | | | |
| | Meetings | | | | | | | | | |
| | Other Events | | 303 | 1,000 | | 1,794 | | | | |
| General Assembly Revenue | General Assembly | | | | 1,386 | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | Interest and Dividends | 2 | | 73 | 176 | | 258 | | | |
| | Advertising | | | | | | | | | |
| | Observatory Site | | 393 | | | 400 | | | | |
| | Equipment Rentals/Loans | | 2,640 | | | | | | | |
| | Miscellaneous | | 1,000 | 86,600 | 18 | 260 | | | | |
| TOTAL REVENUE | | 1,146 | 22,012 | 96,534 | 10,416 | 31,336 | 4,715 | 5,557 | 3,744 | 4,601 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sales Expenses | RASC Publications | | 1,643 | 2,042 | 526 | | 306 | 309 | | 433 |
| | Other Publications | | | | | | | | | |
| | Newsletter | | | | 473 | | 63 | | 233 | |
| | RASC promo items | 240 | | 1,364 | | 300 | | | | |
| | Other | | 2,213 | | 32 | | | | | 161 |
| Event Expenses | Star Parties | 158 | 4,399 | 5,099 | 3,254 | | 1,248 | | | |
| | Annual Dinner | 140 | 1,498 | 780 | | | | 1,802 | | 683 |
| | Astronomy Day | | | 96 | | 19,436 | | 375 | | |
| | BIYA | | | | | | | | | |
| | Meetings | | 1,070 | 549 | 198 | 474 | 470 | 648 | 50 | 700 |
| | Other Events | | 2,089 | 18,759 | 1,285 | 840 | 382 | | | |
| Travel | General Assembly and Council Meetings | | 1,204 | 563 | | | | | | |
| Administrative Expenses | Office Administration | 51 | 179 | 128 | 342 | | 30 | 11 | | 247 |
| | Equipment and Supplies | | 286 | | 211 | | 121 | 138 | 221 | 324 |
| | Insurance | | 2,416 | 1,530 | 1,208 | 1,385 | 486 | 486 | | 729 |
| | General Expenses and Audit | 14 | | 3,899 | 31 | 1,041 | 72 | | | |
| | Awards | 200 | 875 | 120 | | | | 100 | 14 | |
| | Donations | | 100 | 300 | | | | | 600 | |
| | Advertising | | | | | | | 218 | | |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | Observatory and Site Expenses | | 1,507 | 5,791 | 261 | 463 | 372 | 1,650 | 126 | 136 |
| | Equipment & Supplies/Library | | 3,745 | 104 | | 41 | | | | |
| | Depreciation | | | | 879 | | | | | 1,096 |
| | Miscellaneous | 23 | 1,533 | 4,532 | 57 | 763 | | | 4,090 | 163 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | 826 | 24,757 | 45,656 | 8,757 | 24,743 | 3,551 | 5,738 | 5,686 | 4,672 |
| | | | | | | | | -182 | | |
| SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS | | 321 | -2,745 | 50,878 | 1,659 | 6,593 | 1,165 | 14,377 | -1,942 | -71 |
| ASSETS | Current assets | 6,456 | 53,680 | 220,446 | 36,844 | 130,176 | 28,200 | | 40,738 | 18,238 |
| | Capital assets | | | | | | | | | |
| LIABILITIES | | | 1,475 | | 2,868 | | | | | |

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

| | | C. F. de Montréal | New Brunswick | Niagara | Okanagan | Ottawa | Prince George | Québec | Regina | St. John's |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| REVENUE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Membership | Membership Fees: Centre Fee | 3,819 | 1,649 | 1,726 | 2,495 | 6,534 | 1,603 | | 1,431 | 1,507 |
| | Membership Fees: Associate | | | | | | | | | |
| | Membership Fees: Affiliate | | | | | | | | | |
| | Membership Fees: other | | | 70 | 535 | | | | | |
| | Centre Newsletter | | | | | | | | | |
| Donations / Fundraising | Donations | 233 | 10 | 890 | 5,861 | 404 | 2,028 | | | 353 |
| | Fundraising | | | 162 | 7,377 | 1,200 | 12,200 | | | |
| Sales Revenue | Sale of Observer's Handbooks | | | | | | | | | 61 |
| | Sale of Observer's Calendars | | 923 | 120 | 760 | 1,313 | | | 370 | 537 |
| | Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides | | | 795 | | | | | 3,102 | |
| | Other Publication Sales | | | 21 | | | | | | |
| | RASC promotional items | | | 1,400 | | | | | | |
| | Other Sales | | | | | | | | | |
| Subscription Revenue | Astronomy / Sky & Telescope | | | | | | | | | |
| | Other | | | | | | | | | |
| Events Revenue | Star Parties | | | | | | | | | |
| | Annual Dinner | | | | 9,805 | 2,562 | | | 5,338 | |
| | Astronomy Day | | | | | | | | | |
| | Other Events | | | 450 | | | | | 750 | |
| General Assembly Revenue | General Assembly | | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | Interest and Dividends | 805 | | 123 | 16 | 578 | | | | |
| | Advertising | | | | | | | | | |
| | Observatory Site | | | | | 595 | | | | |
| | Equipment Rentals/Loans | | | | | 75 | | | | |
| | Miscellaneous | | | 203 | 664 | | 216 | | 701 | |
| TOTAL REVENUE | | 4,857 | 2,582 | 5,960 | 27,588 | 13,222 | 16,047 | 215 | 11,701 | 2,457 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sales Expenses | RASC Publications | | 894 | 95 | 543 | 1,220 | | | 502 | 562 |
| | Other Publications | | | | | | | | 2,599 | |
| | Newsletter | | | | | 20 | | | | |
| | RASC promo items | | | | | | | | 172 | |
| | Other | | | 732 | 797 | | | | 248 | |
| Event Expenses | Star Parties | | 536 | 131 | | | | | 3,477 | 159 |
| | Annual Dinner | | 56 | | 6,603 | 3,244 | | | | |
| | Astronomy Day | | 176 | | | | | | | 15 |
| | BIYA | | 355 | | | | | | | |
| | Meetings | 161 | 298 | 706 | 146 | 2,033 | | 112 | 1,035 | 209 |
| | Other Events | 86 | | 450 | | 135 | | | | |
| Travel | General Assembly and Council Meetings | | | | 344 | | | | | |
| Administrative Expenses | Office Administration | | 227 | 10 | 49 | 548 | 169 | 56 | 651 | 32 |
| | Equipment and Supplies | | | 7 | 522 | | 135 | | 722 | 35 |
| | Insurance | | | | 486 | 2,175 | 1,144 | | 486 | 486 |
| | General Expenses and Audit | | 67 | 773 | | | 181 | | 770 | |
| | Awards | | | 102 | | 153 | | | | |
| | Donations | | 50 | | | | | | | |
| | Advertising | | 120 | | | | 1,124 | | | |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | Observatory and Site Expenses | 878 | | 2,214 | 15,580 | 1,353 | 20,031 | 20 | | |
| | Library | | | | 53 | | | 155 | | |
| | Depreciation | | | 1,074 | | 1,722 | | | | |
| | Miscellaneous | 86 | 92 | 131 | | | 36 | 68 | 28 | 190 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | 1,211 | 2,870 | 6,425 | 25,143 | 13,238 | 22,820 | 411 | 10,689 | 1,685 |
| SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS | | 3,646 | -288 | -465 | 2,445 | -16 | -6,773 | -196 | 1,012 | -772 |
| ASSETS | Current assets | 103,763 | 2,370 | 24,986 | 251,587 | 61,034 | 117,383 | 400 | 83,445 | 26,075 |
| | Capital assets | | | | | | | | | |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | | 39 | | | | |

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

| | | Sarnia | Saskatoon | Sunshine Coast | Thunder Bay | Toronto | Vancouver | Victoria | Windsor | Winnipeg |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| REVENUE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Membership | Membership Fees: Centre Fee | 271 | 2,616 | 2,000 | | 19,600 | 5,126 | 3,969 | 2,736 | 3,364 |
| | Membership Fees: Associate | | | | | 500 | | | | |
| | Membership Fees: Affiliate | | | | | | | | | |
| | Membership Fees: other | | | | | | | | 1,030 | |
| | Centre Newsletter | | | | | 200 | | | | |
| Donations / Fundraising | Donations | | 579 | 200 | | 13,608 | 361 | 42 | 829 | 55 |
| | Fundraising | | | 1,240 | | | | 1,570 | 696 | 84 |
| Sales Revenue | Sale of Observer's Handbooks | | | | | | 93 | | | |
| | Sale of Observer's Calendars | | | | | 2,500 | 1,216 | 528 | 405 | 419 |
| | Sale of Beginner's Observing Guides | | | | | | | | | |
| | Other Publication Sales | | | | | | | | | |
| | RASC promotional items | | | | | 709 | 907 | | | |
| | Other Sales | | 709 | | | | 594 | 267 | 350 | |
| Subscription Revenue | Astronomy / Sky & Telescope | | | | | | | | | |
| | Other | | | | | | | | | |
| Events Revenue | Star Parties | | 14,246 | 15,000 | | | | 580 | | |
| | Annual Dinner | | | | | | | 1,820 | | |
| | Astronomy Day | | | | | | | | | |
| | Other Events | | 350 | | | 35,374 | | | | |
| General Assembly Revenue | General Assembly | | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | Interest and Dividends | | 409 | | | 399 | 5,827 | 11 | | 39 |
| | Advertising | | | | | | | | | |
| | Observatory Site | | | | | 4,905 | | | | |
| | Equipment Rentals/Loans | | | | | | | | | |
| | Miscellaneous | 17 | | 4300 | | 18,298 | | | | |
| | Helm Fund | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL REVENUE | | 289 | 18,909 | 22,741 | | 96,094 | 14,124 | 8,788 | 6,046 | 3,961 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sales Expenses | RASC Publications | | | 525 | | | 1,952 | 528 | | 537 |
| | Other Publications | | | | | | | 169 | | |
| | Newsletter | | | | | | 894 | 210 | | |
| | RASC promo items | | | | | 1,800 | | 34 | | |
| | Other | 192 | 371 | | | 200 | | | | |
| Event Expenses | Star Parties | | 14,364 | 15,000 | | | | 842 | | |
| | Annual Dinner | 230 | | | | | | 1,890 | | |
| | Astronomy Day | | | | | | 512 | 29 | | 72 |
| | BIYA | | | | | | | | | |
| | Meetings | | | 520 | | 200 | 1,019 | 557 | 1,016 | 798 |
| | Other Events | | | 200 | | | 2,058 | 687 | | 480 |
| Travel | General Assembly and Council Meetings | | | | | 627 | | 337 | | |
| Administrative Expenses | Office Administration | | 674 | 200 | | 4,518 | 1,488 | 189 | 199 | 48 |
| | Equipment and Supplies | | | | | 19,037 | 20 | 123 | | |
| | Insurance | | 1,579 | | | 4,168 | 486 | 500 | 1,890 | 621 |
| | General Expenses and Audit | 13 | | | | 6,000 | 1,305 | | | |
| | Awards | | | | | 460 | | 318 | | 405 |
| | Donations | | | | | | 528 | | | |
| | Advertising | | | | | | 793 | | | |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | Observatory and Site Expenses | | 380 | 1,450 | | 38,411 | 2,936 | 1,060 | 1,564 | 107 |
| | Equipment & Supplies/Library | | 359 | 3,900 | | | | | | 102 |
| | Depreciation | | 1,351 | | | 17,553 | 799 | | | |
| | Miscellaneous | | | 562 | | | 580 | 488 | | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | 435 | 19,078 | 22,357 | | 92,974 | 15,371 | 7,918 | 4,969 | 3,171 |
| SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS | | -146 | -169 | 384 | | 3,120 | -1,247 | 870 | | 789 |
| ASSETS | Current assets | 2073 | 29,100 | | | 469,102 | 379,389 | 49,671 | 85,384 | 42,171 |
| | Capital assets | | 25,677 | | | | | | | |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | | 117,793 | | | | |