

The National Office and the Centres

The National Office is located at 136 Dupont Street in Toronto (north side of Dupont at Davenport).

Office hours vary, but at the time of writing they are;

Monday to Thursday - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Phone: 416-924-7973 Fax: 416-924-2911

Toll free: 1-888-924-RASC (7272)

Email: rasc@rasc.ca
member@rasc.ca

Website: <http://www.rasc.ca>

The National Office contains the astronomical reference library of the Society, including an excellent collection of periodicals, historical books and a number of slides and videos. The videos may be borrowed by members and Centres by writing to the librarian.

Centres of the Society are located in the cities from St. John's to Victoria and include Francophone Centres in Quebec and Montreal. Members may also join the Society directly as unattached members.

The current 23 centres are:

Calgary	Edmonton
Halifax	Hamilton
Kingston	London
Kitchener-Waterloo	Montreal
Niagara	Okanagan
Ottawa	Quebec
Regina	St. John's
Sarnia	Saskatoon
Thunder Bay	Toronto
Vancouver	Victoria
Windsor	Winnipeg
Centre Francophone de Montreal	

Membership gives you...

- ◆ The annual Observer's Handbook, an invaluable aid to the study of the sky.
- ◆ The bimonthly Journal, containing a variety of articles on astronomy.
- ◆ SkyNews magazine.
- ◆ Use of the Society's library of books, magazines and slides. (Custom regulations do not permit us to forward books, slides, etc. outside of Canada).
- ◆ Participation in all the activities of the National Society and of the Centre to which the member is attached.
- ◆ The satisfaction of supporting and participating in astronomical education and research.

For more information, or to apply for membership, write to:

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
National Office
136 Dupont Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 1V2

Or visit your local centre.



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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Astronomy has a special appeal for people of all ages from all walks of life:

the child whose curiosity is first awakening, the hobbyist who finds satisfaction in creating and using fine instruments, the inquisitive person with an appreciative eye and a receptive mind, as well as the professional scientist who makes astronomy his or her life work. All these people can share their interest through membership in The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

History

The Society has a long history, going back to 1868, when eight amateur astronomers founded an astronomical club in Toronto. An expanded group obtained a charter in 1890, and the name "The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada" was adopted in 1903 with the permission of Edward VII. In the early years, the meetings of the Society were held in the homes of the members. As the membership increased, the meetings were moved to the University of Toronto. In 1906, a branch was formed in Ottawa, and thus the idea of Centres of the Society came into being. There are now 23 Centres in Canada, from coast to coast, and about 3800 members in all. New Centres may be established anywhere in Canada where there is sufficient continuing interest. At the annual General Assembly of the Society, members of the Centres come together to share their interest in an atmosphere of fun and fellowship.

The Society is governed at both the national and local levels by capable individuals from many walks of life serving as unpaid volunteers. They manage the Society in a fiscally responsible manner and have kept it free of debt.

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is a registered charitable organization (number 0283895-21-13) and issues official receipts to donors for income tax purposes. Donations to the national organization can be directed either to the Centennial Fund (to support new initiatives) or to the Peter MacKenzie Millman Endowment Fund (to further long-term growth).

Activities of the Society

Members receive publications that are produced by the Society:

- ◆ The Observer's Handbook is an annual guide to the night sky, containing over 200 pages of information on astronomical data and phenomena. It is essential to any person who wishes to keep up with the sky. Over ten thousand copies of the Handbook are sold annually to non-members, and hundreds of libraries around the world subscribe to this publication.
- ◆ The Journal is issued six times a year, and contains articles of lasting interest to both amateur and professional astronomers, as well as to educators and the general reader. In addition to scientific and special interest articles, the Journal contains news of Society activities.
- ◆ SkyNews. This Canadian magazine, edited by Terence Dickinson, is aimed at the novice and amateur astronomer with up-to-date star charts and current information.

Other publications which are available from the RASC and most Centres:

- ◆ A Beginner's Observing Guide.
- ◆ Looking Up; a History of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
- ◆ RASC Calendar.

Each Centre of the Society conducts a variety of activities of interest to its members and to the public. At regular meetings, well-known professional and amateur astronomers give lectures on topics of current interest. In addition, there are slide and film programs, and study and discussion groups. Some members take part in regular observations of variable stars, lunar occultations, sunspots, meteors, comets and other phenomena. Others develop special skills in astrophotography. Many Centres have built their own observatories for these purposes. Some members purchase a telescope; others learn how to construct their own. Most Centres have programs of public education, including special star nights during the mild summer months when hundreds of people have an opportunity to look through telescopes - many for the first time in their lives. Members learn about the activities of their Centre through a regular Centre Newsletter.

The observational and educational work of amateur astronomers is of tremendous value to the science of astronomy. In addition, the Society has been influential in the establishment of observatories and planetaria in a number of Canadian cities.