

## RASC MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

PREPARED FOR THE RASC KINGSTON CENTRE

BY WALTER MACDONALD, NATIONAL COUNCIL REP.

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### CENTRE PARTICIPATION IN SURVEY

CENTRE	NUMBER MEMBERS	NUMBER RETURNED	CENTRE PER CAPITA (%)
ST.JOHN'S	38	13	34
<b>KINGSTON</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>32</b>
OTTAWA	243	53	22
QUEBEC	65	14	22
MONTREAL	110	23	21
CF MTL	36	7	19
T. BAY	38	7	18
CALGARY	197	36	18
SARNIA	11	2	18
WINNIPEG	45	8	18
NIAGARA	48	8	17
HAMILTON	99	16	16
HALIFAX	138	21	15
LONDON	46	7	15
VICTORIA	129	18	14
EDMONTON	125	17	14
WINDSOR	41	4	10
REGINA	21	2	10
UNATTACH	594	56	9
VANCOUVER	177	16	9
TORONTO	855	75	9
SASKATOON	35	3	9
K-W	25	1	4
NOT SPEC.	--	24	--
TOTAL	3166	447	15

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Question 1, A-L

How do you rate the application of Society funds to the following activities, or potential activities?

	should dont spend		about right		should spend		
	know less				more		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	0
Promoting Astronomy to its members	6	26	253	66	29	67	
Promoting Astronomy to the public	5	20	139	179	33	71	
Promoting light pollution awareness	7	18	100	162	67	93	
Providing educational books,slides etc.	11	35	170	106	15	110	
Financial support for exchange speakers	18	67	189	42	12	119	
Financial assist. for annual GA hosts	14	56	200	21	6	150	
Providing Awards and Scholarships	20	53	208	62	6	98	
Providing Society publications	36	92	207	41	7	64	
Travel grants for Nat. Council business	31	97	172	16	2	129	
Donations to third world Astronomy	57	57	95	55	11	172	
Sponsoring public lectures	13	30	170	109	15	110	
Research grants to centres	21	73	123	76	5	149	

- Question 2, A-D

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements;

	strongly disagree		strongly agree			
	1	2	3	4	5	
I am generally satisfied that I am getting my money's worth for my membership dues	19	63	105	127	122	11
I am generally satisfied that my membership dues are well spent.	29	75	113	136	81	13
I am generally pleased with the selection of services and promotional items.	13	77	195	104	34	24
I would buy more RASC promotional items if they were made available.	57	119	115	100	38	18

\*\* Question 3

Do you have any suggestions that might enable the Society to increase revenues without increasing Membership fees? \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Question 4

Do you have any suggestions that might enable the Society to better serve the membership and the public? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Question 5**

Any other comments? \_\_\_\_\_

**- Question 6**

I use the Handbook:

Always **118** Frequently **182** Occasionally **108** Infrequently **34** Never **3** N/A **2**

**- Question 7**

Generally I find the Handbook information:

Very useful **260** Useful **138** Sometimes useful **31** Seldom useful **10** Never useful **1** N/A **7**

**\*\* Questions 7b & 7c**

Most useful section \_\_\_\_\_

Least useful section \_\_\_\_\_

**- Question 8**

I find the technical level of the Handbook:

Very easy **47** Easy **135** Average **210** Difficult **35** Very difficult **10** N/A **10**

Most difficult section \_\_\_\_\_

Least difficult section \_\_\_\_\_

**- Question 9**

The Handbook is my primary Astronomy reference. Yes **243** No **192** N/A **12**

**- Question 10**

I'd use and buy a smaller, less technical, Beginners Handbook. Yes **105** No **331** N/A **11**

**- Question 11**

I'd like to have the choice of either the Handbook OR the Beginners

Handbook with my membership. Yes **174** No **250** N/A **23**

**- Question 12**

I'd like to see the Handbook unbundled entirely from membership and be

given the option to purchase it or the beginners version. Yes **89** No **338** N/A **20**

**\*\* Question 13**

Overall impressions: \_\_\_\_\_

**- Question 14**

I read the Bulletin:

Always **256** Frequently **120** Sometimes **45** Infrequently **24** Never **2** N/A **0**

**- Question 15**

Generally I find the Bulletin articles:

Very useful **32** Useful **169** Sometimes useful **197**

Seldom useful **39** Never useful **6** N/A **4**

**- Question 16**

I find the selection of submitted articles presented:

Very interesting **38** Interesting **214** Sometimes interesting **163**

Seldom interesting **23** Never interesting **4** N/A **5**

- Question 17

I like the fact the Bulletin accepts articles in English and in French

Yes **329** No **86** N/A **62**

- Question 18

I have submitted at least one article to the Bulletin. Yes **65** No **377** N/A **5**

- Question 19

I would consider submitting articles to the Bulletin. Yes **260** No **162** N/A **25**

\*\* Question 20

Overall impressions: \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 21

I read the Journal:

Always **134** Frequently **84** Sometimes **93** Infrequently **106** Never **29** N/A **1**

- Question 22

Generally I find the Journal articles:

Very useful **15** Useful **84** Sometimes useful **145** Seldom useful **152** Never useful **43** N/A **8**

- Question 23

Generally I find the book reviews:

Very useful **38** Useful **140** Sometimes useful **135** Seldom useful **87** Never useful **35** N/A **12**

- Question 24

I find the selection of submitted articles presented:

Very interesting	<b>28</b>	Interesting	<b>118</b>	Sometimes interesting	<b>161</b>
Seldom interesting	<b>111</b>	Never interesting	<b>24</b>	N/A	<b>5</b>

- Question 25

I find the technical level of the Journal:

Very easy **5** Easy **30** Average **139** Difficult **180** Very difficult **89** N/A **4**

- Question 26

I like the fact the Journal accepts articles in French and in English

Yes **310** No **100** N/A **37**

- Question 27

I have submitted at least one article to the Journal. Yes **55** No **386** N/A **6**

- Question 28

I would consider submitting articles to the Journal. Yes **112** No **316** N/A **19**

\*\* Question 29

Overall impressions: \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 30, choices A-F

Please indicate your first (1), second (2), and third (3) preferences, among the following possibilities:

	1st	2nd	3rd	N/A
I'd like to see the Journal continue in its present format ____	<b>127</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>251</b>
I'd like the Journal to be published in some less costly format ____	<b>78</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>225</b>
I'd like to see the annual number of issues of the Journal reduced from six to four ____	<b>79</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>213</b>
I'd like to see the Journal and the Bulletin merged into a single publication, printed in a format much like the current Bulletin ____	<b>86</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>251</b>
I'd like to see the Journal unbundled from membership and be given the option to subscribe to it ____	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>316</b>
I'd like publication of the Journal to cease entirely. ____	<b>53</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>337</b>

\*\* Question 31

Any other comments or suggestions? \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 32

Male **388** Female **54** N/A **5**

- Question 33

Single **132** Married or equivalent **309** N/A **6**

\*\* Question 34

Languages

Spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Read: \_\_\_\_\_

Written: \_\_\_\_\_

Language of usual use in your household: \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 35

Number of other family members also interested in Astronomy: \_\_\_\_\_

1 **139** 2 **41** 3 **12** 4 **0** 5 **1** N/A **27**

- Question 36

Household annual income (thousands) <20 **25** 20-40 **87** 40-60 **137** >60 **161** N/A **37**

\*\* Question 37

Ethno-cultural background (eg- Chinese, German, Cree, Scots, Afro-American)

\_\_\_\_\_ (whatever you feel applies)

- Question 38

Age: <16 **1** 16-18 **4** 19-21 **4** 22-25 **9** 26-35 **101** 36-50 **187** 51-70 **101** >70 **35** N/A **5**

- Question 39

Membership class: Ordinary **341** Youth **6** Life **61** Senior **33** Honorary **0** N/A **6**

- Question 40

Centre Name \_\_\_\_\_ or Unattached \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 41

Years membership: <2 **58** 2-4 **102** 5-7 **83** 8-10 **39** 11-15 **50** 16-20 **39** >20 **73**

- Question 42

Education:

Secondary School **55** Technical Institute **83** University **177** Post Graduate **125** N/A **7**

Degree/diploma: Sciences **158** Math **24** Engineering **73**  
Education **31** Liberal Arts **45** Fine Arts **5**  
Other **58** N/A **53**

- Question 43

Interest level in Astronomy:

Armchair **112** Active Amateur **316** Professional **33** Educator **31**

- Question 44

How many RASC meetings did you attend in the past 12 months?

<3 **175** 3-6 **63** 7-10 **87** 11-15 **63** >15 **51** N/A **8**

- Question 45

Did you contribute to any of the above meetings (by speaking, showing slides, chairing, etc), and if so, providing how much time in total;

<3 min **135** 3-30 min **57** 31-59 min **27** 1-5 hr **53** >5 hr **28**

- Question 46

Did you contribute to any RASC public education activities (eg- star nights, Astronomy Day, etc) in the past 12 months?

Yes **209** No **226** N/A **12**

- Question 47

Ever served on Centre Council, or Centre committees?

Yes **198** No **242** N/A **7**

- Question 48

Would you (again) if asked?

Yes **235** No **150** N/A **62**

- Question 49

Ever served on National Council, or National committees?

Yes **64** No **372** N/A **11**

- Question 50

Would you (again) if asked?

Yes **145** No **213** N/A **89**

- Question 51

How many of the Society's annual General Assemblies have you attended?

none **263** 1-2 **88** 3-5 **42** 6-10 **29** >10 **18** N/A **7**

\*\* Question 51B

If "none", why not? \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 52

How many articles relating to astronomy have you read in the last 12 months?

<3 **5** 3-6 **23** 7-10 **30** 11-15 **37** 16-30 **73** >30 **271** N/A **8**

- Question 53

How many books relating to astronomy have you read in the last 12 months?

<3 **141** 3-6 **168** 7-10 **67** >10 **63** N/A **8**

- Question 54 A-E

From what source(s) does your astronomical reading come? (percentages)

Personal purchase/subscription \_\_\_\_\_ Public library \_\_\_\_\_ Other library \_\_\_\_\_

RASC library \_\_\_\_\_ Non-library borrowing (eg- friends' books) \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 55

Have you borrowed books or materials from any RASC library in the last 12 months? Yes **112** No **331** N/A **4**

\*\* Question 55B

If "No", why not? \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 56

How did you learn about the RASC?

Friend	<b>164</b>	Local centre activities	<b>127</b>
Local science centre	<b>37</b>	Magazine ad	<b>51</b>
RASC publications	<b>43</b>	Other	<b>26</b>

\*\* Question 57

Why did you want to, or what made you decide to, join the RASC? \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 58

Are you a member of any other Astronomy organizations? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If so, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

- Question 59

Do you own a personal telescope, and if so, is it: (check all that apply)

Dobsonian **66** Newtonian **122** Refractor **145** Catadioptric **151** Binoculars **268**

- Question 60

Its aperture in cm (of the largest, if more than one) is:

<5 **46** 6-9 **59** 10-15 **93** 16-21 **90** 22-30 **48** 31-50 **41** >50 **7** N/A **64**

- Question 61

Do you own, or have access to, a personal computer? Yes **345** No **102**

- Question 62

If so, do you use it for any of the following:

(excluding work-related, or professional activities)

Writing astronomical programs:	<b>91</b>
Accessing an astronomical section on a BBS:	<b>86</b>
Accessing an E-mail node:	<b>82</b>
Running commercial astronomical programs:	<b>187</b>
Doing RASC related tasks (eg- reports, letters)	<b>120</b>

- Question 63

Do you have access to a mainframe computer? Yes **118** No **329**

- Question 64

If so, do you use it for any of the following:  
(excluding work-related, or professional activities)

Writing astronomical programs:	<b>14</b>
BBS	<b>12</b>
Accessing an E-mail node:	<b>44</b>
Running commercial astronomical programs:	<b>6</b>
Doing RASC related tasks (eg- reports, letters)	<b>18</b>

- Question 65

What percentage of your observing is done;  
Alone \_\_\_\_ With friends or family members \_\_\_\_ With RASC members \_\_\_\_

- Question 66

For what percentage of your observing do you use;  
No optical aid \_\_\_\_ Binoculars \_\_\_\_ Telescope <21cm \_\_\_\_ Telescope >21cm \_\_\_\_

- Question 67

On how many days did you observe in the last 12 months?  
<3 **52** 3-12 **97** 13-26 **134** 27-52 **89** 53-100 **47** >100 **28** N/A **0**

- Question 68

What percentage of your observing is done; Backyard or neighbourhood \_\_\_\_  
Site within an hour's drive \_\_\_\_ Distant site \_\_\_\_

\*\* Question 69

What are your primary viewing interests? (eg- planets, deep-sky, astrophotography, variable stars, meteors, binaries, galaxies...)?

- Question 70

Do you report observations to any organized group or headquarters?  
(eg- AAVSO, ILOC, IOTA...) Yes **70** No **377**

\*\* Question 70B

If Yes, which group(s):	GROUP #
	IOTA 27
	AAVSO 22
	ALPO 9
	ILOC 5
	IMO 3
	BAA 3
	OTHER 26

- Question 71

Have you ever designed, made, or assembled any astronomical equipment  
(eg-telescope, mounting, photometer, software) Yes **28** No **419**

- Question 72

If Yes, was the Society of any help in this, through;  
Articles **36** Library books **43** Meetings **116** Personal contacts **103** None **2**



- Question 73

Do you have a disability or handicap that does not allow you to take part in astronomical activities to the extent you would like? Yes **32** No **415**

\*\* Question 74

If so, could you offer any suggestions as to services or assistance the RASC might be able to provide to enable your fuller participation?

\*\* Question 75

What suggestions do you have for improving the services that the RASC provides to members? What problems have you experienced as a member that could be better addressed? \_\_\_\_\_