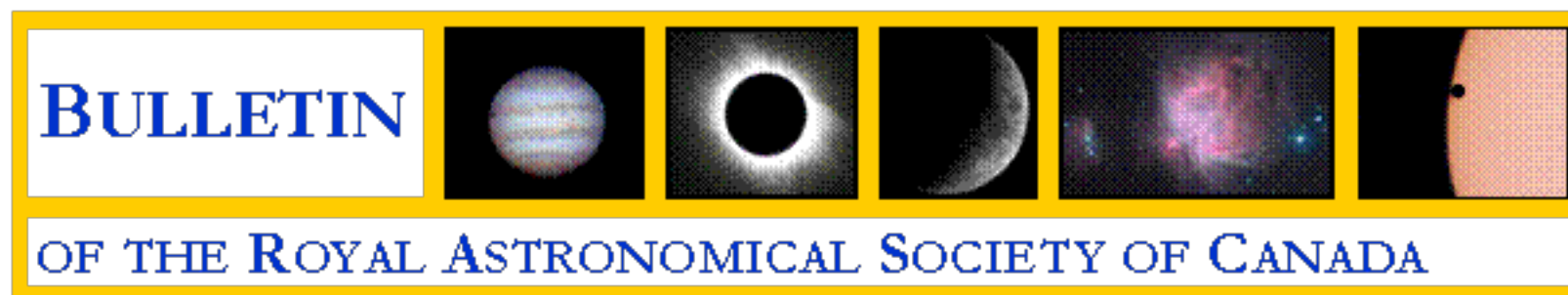


2007-05



May 2007 - Volume 2, Number 5

Andrew Oakes, Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. E-mail them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

► [Across the RASC](#)

[National Council Meeting Highlights - March 10-11, 2007](#)

The Society's National Council met in Mississauga, Ontario, on March 10, 2007 with a special session on Society governance the following day. The meeting brought representatives from almost every Centre together with the Society's Executive and Committee Chairs to do the business part of RASC.

In brief, the highlights were:

- - Approval of the budget, two sets of Centre Bylaws, and the name change of the Moncton Centre to the New Brunswick Centre;
 - Discussion of the Society's participation in the upcoming International Year of Astronomy in 2009;
 - Working groups created to examine a possible new Society publication and two new Society Awards; and
 - Discussion of the Society's bylaws and goals, and Council's role in running the business of the RASC

[Minutes and motions](#) [2] from the meeting will be available in the members-only section of the Society's Web site.

Vive la Star Party Season!

RASC's Montreal Centre (English) is kicking off its annual series of public stargazing parties at McGill University's Morgan Arboretum in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue on May 19 at 8:00 p.m. "After a great membership drive at **Astronomy Day**, our Centre volunteers are excited to begin a summer season packed with beginner observer lectures, mentorship programs, and kids activities," says **Andrew Fazekas**, Centre President. Visit the [Montreal Centre's](#) ^[3] Web page for details.

General Assembly and Astronomy Roundup Calgary June 28 to July 2

Join us in Calgary for the 2007 RASC General Assembly and Astronomy Roundup - a joint meeting of the RASC, AAVSO and ALPO, June 28 to July 2 in Calgary, Alberta. On-line registration is only available until **June 11**," after this date, only on-site registration will be offered and some optional items may not be available.

Guest speakers include **Ray Villard**, of the Space Telescope Science Institute, **Dr. Eric Donovan**, Principal Investigator of the Canadian component of the **THEMIS MIDEX** auroral imaging project and **Dr. Jaymie Matthews**, principal investigator on the MOST satellite. There are also over 35 contributed papers and posters from members of the three organizations.



Ray Villard

For more information on speakers, optional workshops and tours, accommodations and meals, visit the [Astronomy Roundup 2007](#) ^[4] Web site.

May Photo Exhibit Features RASC Members

Ontario RASC members from Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, Niagara, Ottawa and Toronto are featured in the tenth annual *CONTACT* photography festival. Twenty astro-images, selected by *SkyNews* Editor **Terence Dickinson**, are on display in the Great Hall of the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto until May 31. The astrophoto exhibit will officially open at a special meeting of RASC's Toronto Centre on **Wednesday, May 9** beginning at 7:00 p.m. Eighty-nine entries were received from RASC members from Belleville to London. For a list of the successful entrants, visit the [Toronto Centre](#) ^[5] website.

2007 Saskatchewan Star Party

The Saskatoon and Regina Centres will be hosting the **Saskatchewan Summer Star Party 2007** during the new Moon weekend of August 9 to 12. Held at Cypress Hills Inter-provincial Park and Dark-Sky Preserve (*lat. 49.652 deg. N; long. 109.521 deg. W*), the star party features high-altitude observing by night and informative lectures by day. This year's **Fr. Kemble Memorial Lecturer** is **Dr. Luc Simard** of the National Research Council of Canada. For more information, visit the [SSSP 2007 Web page](#) [6].

Astrophotographers Anonymous

The **Hamilton Centre's Annual Banquet** this year takes place on Saturday, May 26, 2007, 6:00 p.m. at the Paradiso Restaurant (Village Square), 2041 Pine Street, Burlington, Ontario. The featured speaker will be **Steve Barnes** (Hamilton Centre) with a talk titled *Astrophotographers Anonymous: Confessions of an Astroimaging Addiction*. A published astrophotographer, Steve will explore his 15-year addiction to astrophotography through humour, stories and pictures. Visit their [Web site](#) [7] for details.

Astronomy Day 2007

Several reports came through cyberspace about **Astronomy Day 2007** celebrated by RASC Centres across the country on April 21, 2007. Below are a few accounts that were shared with RASCList members. The volunteer work was indeed phenomenal.

- - **Victoria, BC:** "Although the weather didn't cooperate, Astronomy Day was still a great success here in Victoria!" wrote **Joe Carr**, President & Webmaster (Victoria Centre). "The inside exhibits at the Royal BC Museum during the day included: Ask an Astronomer booth, Telescope viewing, Solar observing, Telescope making, Astro kids activities, Tour the Solar System, astrophotography, and live music inspired by the stars with June Bugg and the Ugly Brothers. For great photos and more details, see the [Victoria Centre's](#) [8] Web site.
 - **Kingston, ON:** "Well you can't have it all, a day of solar observing with no Sun spots," reported **Susan Gagnon**, (Kingston Centre). "However, we could see the Sun, and all day at that! The University Observatory Coordinator set up the Queen's Coronado (that's right, and she does not lend it to just anyone!) and the solar prominences were fabulous ...
 - **Québec City, QC:** "Here in Québec City, the Astronomy Day was a big success," wrote **Stéphane Dumas**, President. "We held three activities during the day (observation of the Sun during the afternoon, a kiosk in an astronomy shop, and a night of observation). We estimate that over 140 people visited us during that day. A lot of people, especially during the night, were amazed to be able to see, for the first time, the Moon, Saturn and Venus through a telescope."
 - **Winnipeg, MB:** "Winnipeg had some cloudy skies during the day, but it miraculously cleared for 2 hours at 8:00 p.m.," wrote **Scott Young**, RASC National President. "The daytime activities had decent traffic, but the evening was quite because most of the rest of the city was cloudy! Despite the weather we had about 200 visitors down at The Forks to see the Moon and Saturn."
 - **Fredericton, NB:** "Today the weather gods were good to us! With highs of 20 and sunny skies we had six members set up at the local farmers market," reported **Paul Gray** (New Brunswick Centre - Fredericton Unit). "By 9 a.m. we had a continuous flow of people through our tables and scopes. A display of material included all the publications, many numerous free handouts, a laptop with a small supernovae search running ... In the end, we

had about 1,000 people go through the telescopes/table display."

For more Astronomy Day reports, check the [eNews report](#) [9] by Brenda Shaw.

Science and Evolution

On April 26, 2007, the Ottawa Centre's Council ratified a position statement supporting evolution. The statement provoked lively debate on the RASC Centres email list. To read the statement, visit the Ottawa Centre's [Web page](#) [10].

► Centre Spotlight

Charlottetown Centre

The Charlottetown Centre meets on the campus of the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) in the K.C. Irving Chemistry Building Lecture Theatre. Their next gathering is on Sunday, May 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. There is also a public viewing event the day before on May 19 at the [UPEI Observatory](#) [11] atop the Memorial Building. The UPEI Physics Department and the Centre co-host the public telescope viewings on the third Saturday of each month, weather permitting.



The [Charlottetown Centre](#) [12], has been focused on promoting astronomy for almost two decades. Check out these three member Web sites: [Dave Cunningham's Terra Rouge Observatory](#) [13], [Roger Vail](#) [14] and [Garth Arsenault](#) [15]. You'll see some good photography -- aurorae, lunar craters, and other splendours of the Universe.

► Canadian Astronomy

Fourth Rock from the Sun

The **Canadian Space Agency** (CSA) has selected five teams who will take their preliminary Mars mission concepts to the next planning stage. Proposals include a rover (by *MPB Communications*, Montréal), an orbiter (*Dalhousie University*, Halifax), a nanosatellite mapping mission (*University of Toronto*), a mission to learn more about Phobos, a Mars moon (*Optech Inc.*, Toronto), and a radar satellite for Mars geological study (*MDA*, Richmond, British Columbia).

The teams from Halifax, Montréal, Toronto (2) and Vancouver are entitled to a maximum of \$250,000 in funding. Twelve submissions were received as part of CSA's ongoing consultation with the scientific and industrial communities to help position Canada and Canadian expertise in future international missions to Mars. For more details and links, check out the [RASC eNews](#). [16]

International Polar Year Underway

The International Council of Science and the World Meteorological Organization are co-sponsoring the [International Polar Year \(IPY\)](#) [17], a time dedicated to focused interdisciplinary study of Earth's polar regions. IPY began in March 2007 and runs through March 2009. This period will allow researchers to study each polar region in winter and in summer. Data, information, science and outreach, are all important facets of IPY.

► [The Sky this Month](#)

May Galaxy Feast

Canadian skies in May are a galaxy hunter's delight. "Stretching from the Bowl of Ursa Major all the way down to the highly populated grouping known as the Virgo cluster, literally hundreds of galaxies are available for your choosing," says **Gary Boyle** (Ottawa) in his [The Sky This Month](#) [18] column. Check your sky charts, make an observing plan, and track a few down!

► [Dates to Remember](#)

- - **May 9, 2007** - [CONTACT](#) [19] Astroimaging Exhibit Opening (Toronto)
 - **May 11, 2007** - [Kingston Centre's](#) [20] monthly meeting at 7:30-10:00 p.m. – Queen's University guest speaker – Dr. Terry Bridges *Extrasolar Planets: from Hot Jupiters to Earth-like Systems*
 - **May 12, 2007** - Toronto Centre's [10th Annual Open House and Awards Picnic](#) [19] at their E.C. Carr Astronomical Observatory near Collingwood, ON.
 - **May 19, 2007** - First night for Montreal (English) Centre's public stargazing parties the **Morgan Arboretum** in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue, 8:00 p.m.
 - **May 20, 2007** - Charlottetown Centre's public viewing event at the [UPEI Observatory](#). [11]
 - **May 26, 2007** - Hamilton Centre's Annual Banquet
 - **June 11, 2007** - On-line registration ends for RASC General Assembly.
 - **June 28 - July 1** - [RASC General Assembly](#) [21] hosted by the Calgary Centre
 - **August 9-12, 2007** - Saskatoon and Regina Centres' [Saskatchewan Summer Star Party 2007](#) [6]
 - **August 28, 2007** - Total Lunar Eclipse (best in Western Canada)
 - **September 7-9, 2007** - Toronto Centre's [10th Annual Algonquin Adventure Star Party](#) [19], Mew Lake Campground, Algonquin Park, ON

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

136 Dupont Street, Toronto, ON M5R 1V2 CANADA

Tel: 416-924-7973 Fax: 416-924-2911

Member Service: mempub@rasc.ca [22]

Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca [23]



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- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] <https://www.rasc.ca/council/minutes>
- [3] <http://www.rascmontreal.org>
- [4] <http://calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/>
- [5] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/rasc-members-featured-photography-exhibition>
- [6] <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/starparty.html>
- [7] <http://www.hamiltonrasc.ca>
- [8] <http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/astronomy-day/>
- [9] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/astronomy-week-2007-dazzling-success>
- [10] <http://www.ottawa.rasc.ca/science/index.html>
- [11] <http://www.upei.ca/%7Ephysics/>
- [12] <http://xfer.s5.com/rasc/index.html>
- [13] <http://www3.pei.sympatico.ca/terrarouge/index.html>
- [14] <http://mooncamera.googlepages.com/>
- [15] <http://www.upei.ca/%7Earsenaul/>
- [16] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/mars-mission-concept-proposals-receive-funding>
- [17] <http://nsidc.org/ipy/>
- [18] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/sky-month-may-2007>
- [19] <http://rascto.ca/index.php>
- [20] <http://kingston.rasc.ca>
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