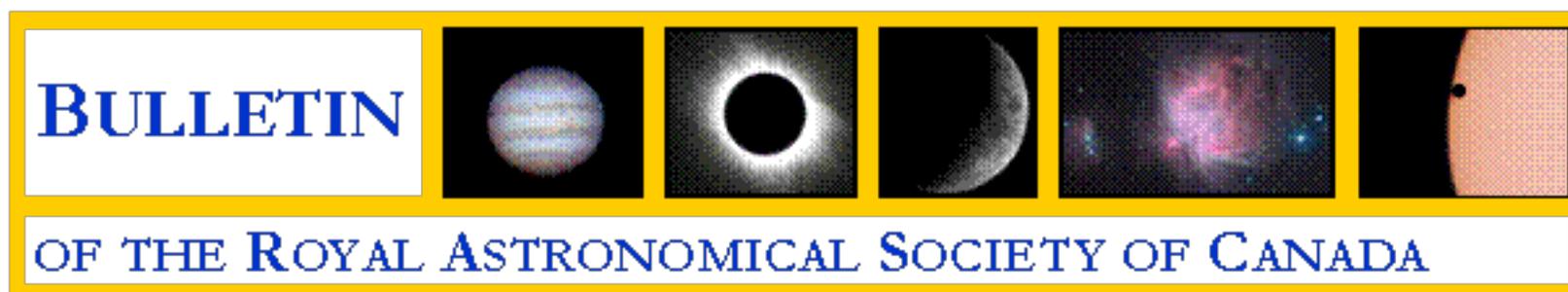


2010-01



January 2010 - Volume 5, Number 1

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

► [Editor's Notebook](#)

by [Ian Levstein](#)

Housekeeping Information

I do **not** keep a list of email addresses. If you find that your copy of the *Bulletin* is not going to the correct email address, please go to the [Member Portal](#) ^[2] Web page. Once you have successfully logged on, click on "My Profile" and you will then be able to update your email address. If you have trouble logging in, please consult [this help information](#) ^[3].

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

2010 General Assembly Update

by Paul Gray, New Brunswick Centre

Come and join us in Fredericton at the 2010 General Assembly of the RASC from July 1 - 4.

We are delighted that the 2010 RASC General Assembly has been awarded to the New Brunswick Centre of the RASC. The 2010 GA will be held in conjunction with the 10th Anniversary of the RASC New Brunswick Centre. This will be the first time the GA will be held in

the province of New Brunswick and at the site of Canada's oldest existing observatory - the Brydone Jack Observatory/Museum built in 1851.

There are three tours planned at this time. The first is a guided walking tour of the William Brydone Jack Observatory and other related, historical sites of interest on campus. The second is a bus tour to the Bay of Fundy to see the world's highest tides in action and walk on the ocean floor. Included will be a stop in Alma for lunch and a drive-through of Fundy National Park and future Dark-Sky Preserve. The third tour is a combined whale watching/sailing trip out of St. Andrews by the Sea. With lunch in St. Andrews and time in the famous Kingsbrae Gardens, this will be a day of adventure and sightseeing.

Accommodations, social events, and lectures will take place on the beautiful University of New Brunswick campus overlooking the city of Fredericton and the Saint John River. All major events/meals will have a choice of seafood or non-seafood fare. If you are a seafood fanatic, then you'll enjoy the chance to have mussels, clams, fish and chips, lobster rolls, Atlantic salmon, and lobster.

Speakers are still being finalized, and an open paper session will be held for RASC members. A poster display/contest as well as an astrophoto contest will be held... so bring your favorite images from the past year. The hospitality suite will be open nightly for after hours' socializing.

The schedule of major events for the 2010 General Assembly is as follows:

- **Wednesday June 30**
 - National Council BBQ (evening)
- **Thursday July 1**
 - Bay of Fundy Cruise (whale watching)
 - St. Andrews Tour
 - National Council Meeting #1
- **Friday July 2**
 - Bay of Fundy Tour to Hopewell Rocks and Alma
- **Saturday July 3**
 - Paper Sessions
 - Hogg Lecture
 - East/West Soccer Game
 - RASC BBQ
- **Sunday July 4**
 - Annual General Meeting
 - Paper Session
 - National Council Meeting #2
 - Closing Banquet

Detailed information on the GA and events will be forthcoming in the upcoming months. Please watch the *Bulletin* and RASC eNews for future updates and information. Also, check out the [RASC 2010 GA Web site](#), and the [New Brunswick Centre](#) ^[4] Web site.

Attendees will be able to start booking room accommodations, directly through the University of New Brunswick, in mid-January. Room rates are \$32 + HST for a single room and \$24 per person for a double room. Information on contacts for this will be posted mid-January.

We also recommend that attendees consider their travel arrangements early. Fredericton Airport

is small and is only serviced by Air Canada and currently has 7 flights per day. Make your plans early to be sure you can get a flight in and out to suit your travel plans. We will be offering free pickup and delivery to and from the Airport to the University of New Brunswick.

More Historical Heritage Organized Online

by R.A. Rosenfeld, RASC Archivist

Walter MacDonald is continuing to expand the historical depth of our free online offerings of RASC publications.

You can now find links to the the "informal" JRASC off-print series on a single [web page](#) [5]. These papers were marketed as separate publications, particularly in the 1930s and 1940s, and are now quite rare. This mode of republication has made available, under a single set of covers, works originally issued serially, those which were deemed to be of special interest to RASC members, or those worthy of wider distribution beyond the RASC.

Among the off-prints are works such as **R.G. Haliburton's** *New Materials for the History of Man - The Festival of the Dead*; **Peter M. Millman's** *Meteor Photography*; and **Walter Haas' Does Anything Ever Happen on the Moon?**

Walter has also created a [web page](#) [6] devoted to **Helen Hogg's** legendary *Out of Old Books*. Dr. Hogg privately printed about 25 hardbound copies of the collected series, one of which is in the Rare Book collection of the Archives. Now all RASC members and others can easily have their own electronic version of *Out of Old Books*. Honorary RASC member **Prof. Owen Gingerich** (Harvard University and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory) has called *Out of Old Books* a "wonderful series," and others have likened it to the late **Dr. Joseph Ashbrook's** [Astronomical Scrapbook](#) column from *Sky & Telescope*.

An alternative pre-existing site devoted to *Out of Old Books* is maintained by **Dr. Rob van Ghent** in [Utrecht](#) [7].

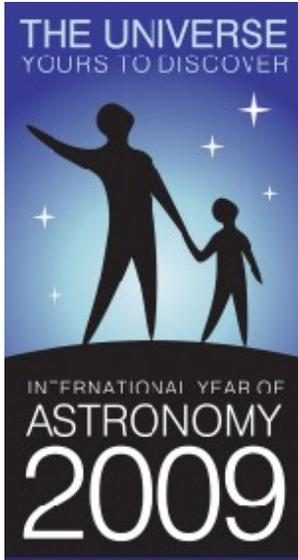
[▶ International Year of Astronomy 2009](#)

Canada and the Stars Contest Winners Announced

by R.A. Rosenfeld, RASC Archivist

The Canada and the Stars Committee is happy to announce the names of the prize winners of the RASC-sponsored astronomical writing competition for IYA2009.

First prize (\$500) in Category 1 (students in grades 8 to 12) was won by **Sophia Glisch** for *Building the base – the work of PI*. First prize (\$500) in Category 2 (18 years or older) goes to



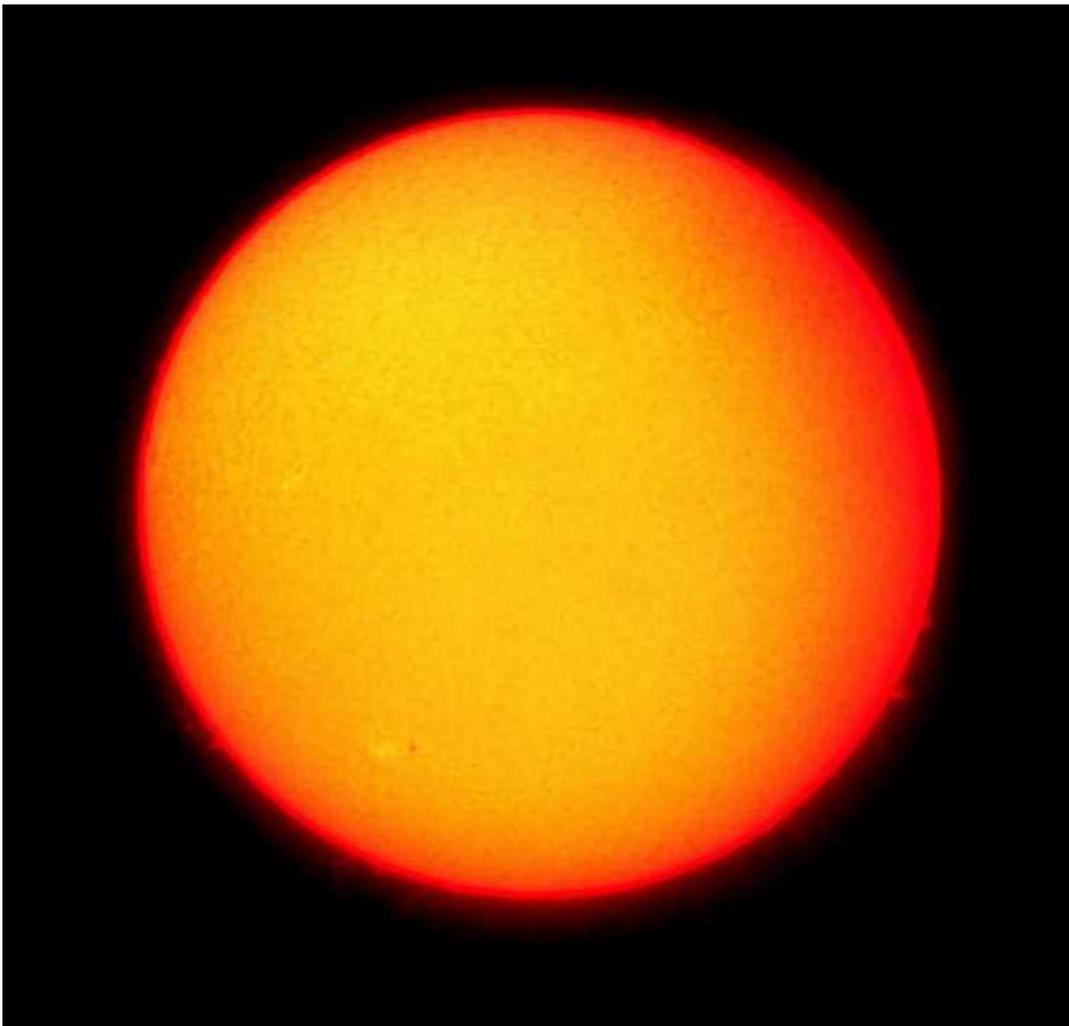
Gerardina Pasquariello for *À l'assaut des trous noirs, phénix de l'espace*. The second prize (\$250) in Category 2 (18 years or older) was won by **Maureen Nadin** for *The Square Kilometre Array: Scanning the Skies for Life; where it began, where else it exists and what it all means*.



Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to all those who participated in the contest to make it another IYA success. Stay tuned for details on where you can read these prize-winning essays.

► [Bulletin Photo of the Month](#)

Solstice Sun



This terrific photo of the Sun was taken at 14:51:50 on December 21 by RASC Kingston member **Hank Bartlett** from Newburgh, Ontario.

Hank used a Canon PowerShot A720 IS with the following details:
Exposure time: 1/60 s; F-number: 3.5; ISO speed ratings: 80; Shutter speed value: 0.016674 s; Aperture value: 3.625; and Focal length: 9.95 mm.

► [The Sky this Month](#)

What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) ^[8] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

► Dates to Remember

- **2010 March 27** - National Council Meeting, Toronto, ON
- **2010 July 1-4** - **RASC General Assembly 2010** ^[9], Fredericton, NB
- **2010 July 9-12** - [Stargazing Manitoulin](#) ^[10], Gordon's Park DSP, Manitoulin Island
- **2010 August 6-9** - [Manitoulin Star Party](#) ^[11], Gordon's Park DSP, Manitoulin Island



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[6] <https://www.rasc.ca/outofoldbooks>

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[9] <https://www.rasc.ca/ga/history/2010s#2010>

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