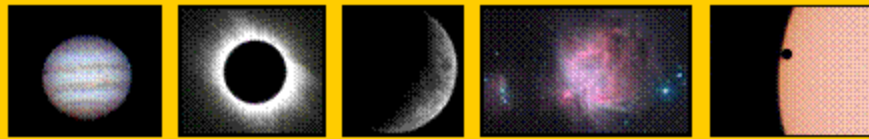


# BULLETIN



## OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

July 2014 - Volume 9, Number 7

David Garner, Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at [bulletin@rasc.ca](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca).

A PDF version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

### ► Editor's Notebook

by David Garner

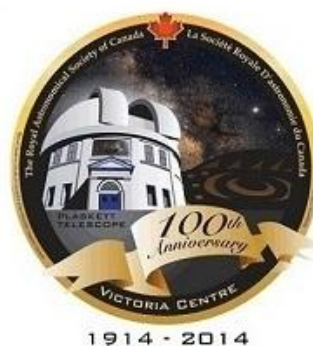
### July's Sky

We have a full Moon on Saturday, the 12th of July and a new Moon on Saturday, the 26th. Mercury and Venus are both visible in the eastern dawn sky. Mars continues to dim as Earth leaves it behind. Jupiter vanishes into the evening twilight as it moves towards conjunction. Saturn is in the southwest evening sky and sets after midnight. On the 8th, for some observers, the Moon occults Saturn. For more details check the *2014 Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#).

### ► News @ RASC.ca

### The 2014 General Assembly

by [Paul Schumacher](#), Victoria Centre, Co-chair of 2014 GA Organizing Committee



**2014 GA : Victoria Centre : June 26 - June 29**

The 2014 RASC General Assembly at the University of Victoria showcased the historic Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, UVic's new observatory located on campus, a wide-ranging scientific and cultural schedule of events and a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Victoria Centre, all conducted against the spectacular natural beauty of Canada's West Coast. Guest Speakers included Dr Laura Ferrarese of the National Research Council, Bob McDonald of CBC's Quirks and Quarks, Dr Andy Pon from Leeds, England, and the RASC's own Peter Broughton.

The Victoria Centre and the GA Organizing Committee wishes to thank everyone who joined us at the GA from June 26th to 29th. It has been fun making new friends, renewing old friendships and exploring the beauty of Vancouver Island.

The 2015 GA Organizing committee invites you to join us in Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2015 July 1st to the 5th.

**RASC VICTORIA CENTRE**  
**2014 General Assembly Organizing Committee**  
Mark Bohlman, Co-Chair [mbohlman@shaw.ca](mailto:mbohlman@shaw.ca)  
Paul Schumacher, Co-Chair [docpschu@shaw.ca](mailto:docpschu@shaw.ca)

## News from the Society Office

by [Julia Neeser](#), RASC Marketing Coordinator

### New Sponsorship Packages Available!

The RASC recently promoted the new sponsorship package to over 300 North American vendors. We've received interest from numerous suppliers and to date we have acquired two new sponsors:

Bronze Level Sponsor: MWT Associates, Inc. specializes in astronomical cruises and tours and exciting astronomical vacations. They plan and organize travel arrangements to faraway places such as the Outback of Australia, the Atacama Desert of Chile, and safaris in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Silver Level Sponsor: Simulation Curriculum is the developer of the award winning Starry Night® and SkySafari® astronomy software for desktop and mobile devices. They help fill the need for high quality, accurate simulation-based curricula for topics in Astronomy, Earth Sciences and beyond.

For more information on RASC sponsorship, click here: [www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors](http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors).

## New Value Packages Available at the eStore

by [Julia Neeser](#), RASC Marketing Coordinator

The **Supernova Value Package** includes: a RASC vintage t-shirt, RASC baseball cap, sticker and seal, 2 StarFinders and 2 MoonGazer guides (Value of \$40 + for only \$29)

The **Star Cluster Value Package** includes: The Star Cluster pack includes the Observer's Handbook 2014, 2 RASC baseball caps and crests, 4 stickers, 4 StarFinders and 4 MoonGazer guides (Value of \$81 + for only \$59)

Check them out and save! [https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store\\_PROMO.aspx](https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store_PROMO.aspx).

## Canadian Astronomical Society Newsletter

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

Cassiopeia, the newsletter of CASCA (Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie) Canada's academic astronomical society, is published on a quarterly schedule. The Summer Solstice 2014 (Solstice d'été 2014) issue has just been published.

<http://kcv.s.ca/martin/astro/ecass/issues/2014-ss/index.html>.

### Table of Contents:

Letter from the new president of CASCA, Dr. Christine Wilson, concerning mid-term review of the long-range plan for Canadian astronomy research, and lobbying for the Canadian contribution to the Thirty Meter Telescope

Letter from the retiring president of CASCA, Dr. Laura Ferrarese, concerning news from the annual CASCA conference in Québec City at the end of May, more news about the Canadian contribution to the Thirty Meter Telescope, plans for the Next Generation Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (now known as Mauna Kea Spectroscopic Explorer), and the end of the MOST Canadian Space Telescope mission.

Mid-Term Review of the 2010-2020 Long Range Plan begins, by Dr. Rob Thacker

Atacama Large Millimetre Array Update by Dr. Christine Wilson

Updates from the Canadian Gemini Office/Nouvelles de l'Office Gemini Canadien par Dr. Stephanie Coté, concerning the Gemini Telescopes in Hawaii and South America

Continuing Evolution of the James Clerk Maxwell Infrared Telescope by Dr. Gary David

Arctic Update by Dr. Eric Steinbring, concerning the PEARL Laboratory (Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory) near Eureka, Nunavut and chances of a large telescope being built there

Natural Resources Canada/Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics Update/Bulletin de CNRC Herzberg par Dr. Dennis Crabtree, noting the 100th anniversary of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, dramatic results from re-aluminization of the 1.86-metre Plaskett Telescope mirror, new Canadian instruments for the James Webb Space Telescope, and news from CHFT, Gemini and other instruments.

Briefly Noted: Madawaska Highlands Observatory by Frank Roy

➤ [Across the RASC](#)

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## The Cave Lecture in Astronomy 2014 July 23



by [Kevin Kell](#), RASC Kingston Centre

The Queen's University Department of Physics, Engineering Physics and Astronomy's annual Cave Lecture in Astronomy will be held on Wednesday 2014 July 23 at 8pm in the Ellis Hall Auditorium. The guest lecturer is Prof Bob Benjamin (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater) speaking on "A Three-Dimensional view of the Milky Way".

Come see nurseries of newly born stars and veils of glowing dust, recently revealed by NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope. Hear how Spitzer's maps of our Milky Way Galaxy exposed its true spiral structure and is helping us find the edge of our home galaxy!

Prof. Benjamin is an assistant professor at University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. As indicated above, he works on the global structure of the Milky Way Galaxy, studying the distribution of stars and gas in order to determine the structure of the bulge, bar, disk, spiral arms and warp. He also works on large-scale models of the interstellar medium and high-velocity clouds. He is visiting Kingston for a 'Radio Halos in Galaxies' conference.

Click here for more information: <http://www.astro.queensu.ca/cavetalk>.

## The Belleville Centre at the Local Science Fair

by [Greg Lisk](#), RASC Belleville Centre

The Belleville Centre has continued their tradition of judging and presenting prizes for best space science related entry at the local Science Fair. For a number of years we have presented a first prize of an astronomical telescope and have tried to make it bigger and better each year. This year for the 55th Annual Quinte Regional Science and Technology Fair we have once again raised the bar. Judging by

members Donald Town, Randy Boddam, Greg Lisk.



Top prize - 8" Dobsonian Telescope:

Aiden Haddad

HJC Destinations - Grade 7

"The Magical Effects of Polarization"

Second prize - Sky Watcher 75mm Telescope (Donated by Westport Scope)

Paige Allcorn

Queen Victoria School-grade 6

"Earth's Forcefield"

Third Prize - Meteorite in Display case

Sarah Shanon

St. Mary (T) School

"The power of Magnets."

## Calgary Centre Announcements

by [James Edgar](#), RASC President

The RASC Public Speaker Program partially funded Dr. Carolyn Porco's lecture tour, which included talks at Edmonton and Calgary.

On Thursday, May 15, at the Kerby Centre in downtown Calgary, the annual Peter Sim Memorial Lecture was held to commemorate Peter Sim – an outstanding public education volunteer for RASC Calgary.

The speaker this year was Dr. Carolyn Porco, who gave a talk titled "Saturn: Land of Enchantment." Dr. Porco is the leader of the imaging science team on the *Cassini* Mission presently in orbit around Saturn. The talk "gives the audience a sweeping tour through the Saturn system and all that *Cassini* has found there since its arrival in the summer of 2004, with a finale that brings into sharp focus the significance of humanity's interplanetary exploration." She was given a standing ovation at the end of her talk.

Steve Donaldson, 1st Vice President, Calgary Centre

## Asteroid (29660) Jessmacalpine

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

Jessie Leanne Preston MacAlpine (b. 1995) was awarded best of category and first place in the 2013 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for her medicine and health sciences project. She attends the Huron Park Secondary School, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada.

Reference: MPC 88760

Name: Jessmacalpine

Number: 29660

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-29660>.

## ➤ Bulletin Photo of the Month

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### The PacMan Nebula

by [Dr. Brian McGaffney](#), Kingston Centre



This is a close up image of NGC 281 (the PacMan Nebula) taken with a DK SCT 14-inch Astrograph scope with a large-format CCD camera. This image is a composite H-alpha and LRGB image acquired over about 10 hrs. Taken here at the Nutwood Observatory. <http://www.nutwood-observatory.com>.

### What's New in the Sky

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



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