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We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*.
Email them to the Editor, David Garner at
bulletin@rasc.ca

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

News from the Society Office

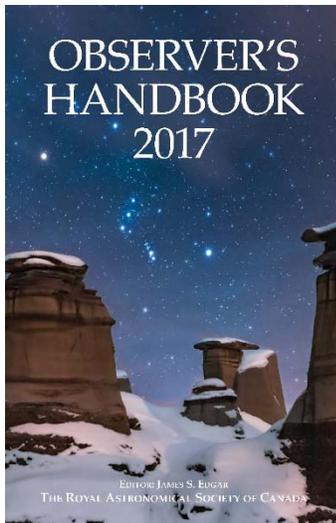
by [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director



NEW Item: **Observer's Calendar 2017**

A beautiful calendar showcasing RASC members' astro images with information on what's up in the sky tonight. A perfect gift for the beginner and a must-have for the experienced observer. **Now available for purchase!**

***NOTE to Centres: Please place your OC 2017 orders with Julia Neeser**
mempub@rasc.ca *



NEW Item: **Observer's Handbook 2017**

The *Observer's Handbook*, a 352-page guide published annually by The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, has come to be regarded as the standard North American reference for data on the sky. The Handbook material is of interest to astronomers, scientists, teachers, students, science writers, campers, Scout and Guide leaders, and interested readers. The Handbook forms the basis of many secondary and university astronomy courses, and it should be in every library.

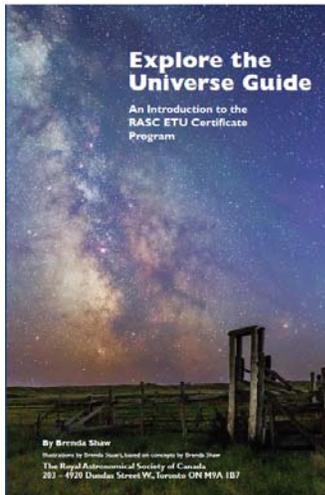
The 2017 Handbook is **available for Pre-Order**, and will be sent out to all RASC members at the end of October or early November.



NEW Item: **(Royal) Blue RASC hat**

Our brand new, appropriately *Royal* blue RASC baseball cap with **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada** embroidered on the front. One size fits all. Strap

fitted with brass closure for comfort. Get this limited edition Royal Blue RASC hat before it's gone!



NEW Item: Explore the Universe Guide

The Explore the Universe Guide is **available for Pre-Order** and will be in stock very soon!

If you are just starting out in astronomy, the ETU Guide is for you. This illustrated book answers questions about astronomical coordinates, constellations, eclipses, the Moon, major and minor planets, comets, and more. It's the perfect guide to start learning your way around the sky!

Society Office Closures: Please note the Society Office will be closed on Monday, 2016 October 10 for Thanksgiving. Enjoy a safe long weekend!

President's Corner

by **Craig Levine**, RASC President

I don't think I'm much unlike many, if not most, of my fellow amateur astronomers. My life can get quite hectic. I have the growing demands of my day job and working within a larger and newly merged company, dealing with rush-hour traffic, errands and chores that seemingly never end, meeting the needs of

family near and far, keeping at least one weekend day clear so that my also-busy wife and I can go off on an adventure and create memories to look back on fondly, and of course my volunteer commitments. My other hobbies beyond astronomy often taken a back seat to life, as do opportunities to do some actual observing.

A few years ago, I hit a metaphorical wall and much of the joy I formerly held in many things, like visual astronomy, seemed to have vanished. I know now that I was burnt out and had lost the balance that we all need in our lives. During that time, I was browsing through my bookshelves, and I pulled out a still-unread copy of Leslie C. Peltier's, *"Starlight Nights: The Adventures of a Star-Gazer."* This was the edition with a forward written by fellow RASCAl David H. Levy. I had forgotten that I even had it in my collection. I started reading it, and like David's recollection of his younger self, I found that hours had passed and that I had read the book from cover to cover. The joy and passion for astronomy that Leslie genuinely felt came out in his prose, and it brought back to me the visceral thrill of discovery, of observing new (to me) objects and greeting old friends among the constellations that drew me into astronomy in the first place.

When external demands begin to take over, I know now to step back and catch my breath, and find ways to be in the moment and to truly experience it. I make time for astronomy and my other hobbies as best I can, and I also keep Leslie's memoir handy on the corner of my reading table. I'll pick it up and read a few pages or a chapter from time to time. It's a reminder to me of some of the things in life that truly matter, and that once I move past the desire to do nothing at the end of a long day and get out there and observe or photograph, I'll find that joy and mindfulness that captured me all those years ago under the rural dark skies of Cape Breton Island. If you have not read *"Starlight Nights"* yet, I encourage you to do so. You won't regret the time spent.

2017 General Assembly – Ottawa, June 29 to July 3

by **Brian McCullough** and **Tim Cole**, 2017 GA Committee, Ottawa Centre

For information regarding the 2017 GA, check out our website:

<http://ottawa.rasc.ca/content/2017-general-assembly-ottawa>.

You'll find the highlights, bios of the major speakers, promo video, and extensive information on accommodations.

We also have a promotional video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9WSHYjIDA4&feature=youtu.be>

Important announcement regarding accommodations.

For out-of-town GA delegates, the GA team has secured a block of two-bedroom suites at the Residence and Conference Centre Ottawa West.

The residence is located at the Algonquin College campus, adjacent to the GA meeting areas.

We have reserved a block of two-bedroom suites at the very attractive rate of \$180 (plus tax) /*per double suite, per night*/. In order to secure this special rate, we had to guarantee a minimum booking of four nights on each double suite. Suites may be shared, of course.

Please note that *RCC Ottawa West only accepts bookings for two-room suites, not individual rooms*. We regret the inconvenience, but we are asking delegates to please arrange their own suite mates, and have setup a bulletin board style Suite Mate Finder on our Ottawa Centre website. Each room in the suite can be locked, but the bathroom and kitchenette are shared spaces.

The suites will be held for us until 2016 December 15, after which they will be released and offered to the general public. Demand for rooms in Ottawa is expected to exceed capacity over the Canada Day weekend next year.

General registration will be open in the coming months, but it is imperative that attendees book their accommodations through our web site as soon as possible. For more information, please go to the Ottawa Centre website at:

<http://ottawa.rasc.ca/content/2017-general-assembly-ottawa>

Asteroids with Canadian Connections

by **Eric Briggs**, National Council, Recorder

The following asteroids have been added to the list of asteroids with Canadian connections:

(21360) Bobduff = 1997 GW30

Discovered 1997 Apr. 8 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

Robert Ian Duff (b. 1946) is an amateur astronomer who has served as Librarian and Outreach Coordinator for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, London Centre. Name suggested and citation prepared by Robert Jedicke and Peter Jedicke.

Orbit type: Main Belt

Ref: MPC 101215

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/21360>

(21361) Carsonmark = 1997 HQ

Discovered 1997 Apr. 28 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

Jordan Carson Mark (1913–1997) worked as a physicist and administrator at Los Alamos National Laboratory and as an advisor on the safety of nuclear reactors. Name suggested and citation prepared by Robert Jedicke and Peter Jedicke.

Orbit type: Main Belt

Ref: MPC 101215

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/21361>

(22456) Salopek = 1996 XF12

Discovered 1996 Dec. 4 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

David Stephen Salopek (b. 1963) earned a Ph.D. in cosmology from the University of Toronto in 1989 and worked at the Universities of Cambridge and Alberta. Name suggested and citation prepared by Robert Jedicke and Peter Jedicke.

Orbit type: Main Belt

Ref: MPC 101215

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/22456>

(22494) Trillium = 1997 JL

Discovered 1997 May 2 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

Since 1937, the White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) has been the official flower of Canada's province of Ontario, where it is often found in forests. Name suggested and citation prepared by Robert Jedicke and Peter Jedicke.

Orbit type: Main Belt

Ref: MPC 101215

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/22494>

(130069) Danielgaudreau = 1999 VV196

Discovered 1999 Nov. 1 by the Catalina Sky Survey.

Daniel Gaudreau (b. 1969) is the Lead Systems Engineer for the OSIRIS-Rex Lidar Altimeter instrument. He also had that role on the JWST Fine Guidance Sensor, in addition to Software Systems Engineer. He was also involved as a Ground Segment Project Engineer on the Canadian Space Station Program.

Orbit type: Main Belt

Ref: MPC 101216

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/130069>

CASCA Autumnal Equinox Newsletter

by **Eric Briggs**, National Council, Recorder

The Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie has published its 2016 Autumnal Equinox newsletter *Cassiopeia*, with updates from various large telescope projects with Canadian academic participation around the world and in space.

The new E-CASS also includes a report from the workshop "Celebrating the History of Radio Astronomy in Canada" at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in Penticton, BC.

The newsletter also includes four recently defended thesis dissertation abstracts by Canadian academic astronomers:

- Arash Bahramian “Behaviour of Low-mass X-ray Binaries and their Formation in Globular Clusters”
- Sahar Rahmani “What Governs Star Formation in Galaxies? A Modern Statistical Approach”
- Jesse Rogerson “Monitoring Broad Absorption-line Quasar Variability”
- Neven Vulic “X-Ray Populations in The Local Group: Insights with Hubble and Chandra”

The CASCA Autumnal Equinox Newsletter is located at: <http://casca.ca/?p=7650>

Obituary: Blair Colborne 1945 - 2016

by **Roger Nelson**, RASC, Calgary Centre



Blair Colborne passed away on 2016 August 24 in Calgary. Blair was a long-time member of the Calgary Centre starting about 1986.

Blair also created the Calgary Centre’s Youth Group in 1991. Prompted by then-Centre President, Ruth Lewis, Blair took a deep plunge into astronomical education by starting the Calgary Centre’s Youth Program, initially learning the materials during the week prior to the twice-a-month Saturday classes. Careful

not to underestimate his young charges, Blair systematically covered topics ranging from star-hopping techniques to telescope selection to basic astrophysics. The program blossomed under Blair's guidance to eventually include three class levels and as many as six instructors. Blair's stated goal was never to create a legion of young astronomers, but to teach critical scientific thinking in the hopes that this would make the students better able to cope in an ever more-technological world. In spite of Blair's more pragmatic view of what astronomy could mean to his classes, one of his students did go on to get their Ph.D. in Astrophysics, and worked with the Hubble Space Telescope.

Blair also had an interest in protecting the natural dark night for astronomy and was a founding and long-time member of the Calgary Centre's Light-Pollution Abatement Committee, which started in 1988.

Blair created SkyVue Telescopes to provide a source of "real" astronomical telescopes to Canadian amateur astronomers.

Blair's prior experience operating a tire store was good grounding for his foray into a retail telescope store that he ran from his home in order to keep his overhead down and his prices affordable. His credo was to never sell the wrong piece of equipment to anyone, especially beginners. In this quest he would spend one or two hours on the telephone, getting to know the level of expertise, skill level, and interests of potential customers, before inviting them over to see actual equipment. Even so, his love of astronomy and his wish to make sure everyone had a chance to experience it meant that he would sometimes forgo a profit in order to make a transaction happen. He also ran a no-charge telescope "borrowing" program for the Youth Group members.

Blair was also a strong supporter of our Star-B-Qs and Alberta Star Parties through his SkyVue Telescopes and an important cog in the telescope-building classes, as most people purchased their optics through him.

Blair was awarded the Calgary Centre's *Peter Sim Public Education* award in 2002 for his never-ending efforts to inform people of all ages about the night sky.

Blair will be sorely missed by all of us who had the pleasure and privilege to know him and work with him or learn from him.

Thank You to our Sponsors!

by **Julia Neeser**, RASC Marketing Coordinator

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are offering companies the distinction of becoming a charter sponsor of the RASC, Canada's pre-eminent amateur astronomy organization. This offer is available only to those industry leaders who recognize the value in being associated with the amateur astronomy community.

<http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors>.



What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the **Northern Skies** section of the RASC website. Thanks to Gary Boyle for keeping us all in the know. Julia Neeser creates "The Solar System" monthly with data from James Edgar's "Skies" newspaper articles at <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>.



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is a benefit of membership in the Society.

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