



June 2017 - Volume 12, Number 6

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

RASC 150th

Next year the **RASC celebrates its 150th anniversary**. Be sure to follow plans for the celebration on the 150th anniversary page <http://rasc.ca/2018>



NEW Products: RASC150th!

We have many new items available on our eStore celebrating the RASC's 150th anniversary in 2018! [Stop by our eStore today](#) and check them out!

2016 Annual Report

A note to Centre Treasurers and Secretaries – the initial deadline for submitting Centre activity and financial information for the 2016 Annual Report is now past. Please make sure you submit your reports online or to Julia Neeser: mempub@rasc.ca. We invite Centres to include photos of Centre activities to be considered for publishing in the extended annual report.

National Star Party July 29



To celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary, the Society is planning for the first time ever, a National Star Party.

On Saturday July 29, all Society Centres and non-RASC astronomy organizations and clubs are encouraged to hold a star party – from coast to coast to coast!

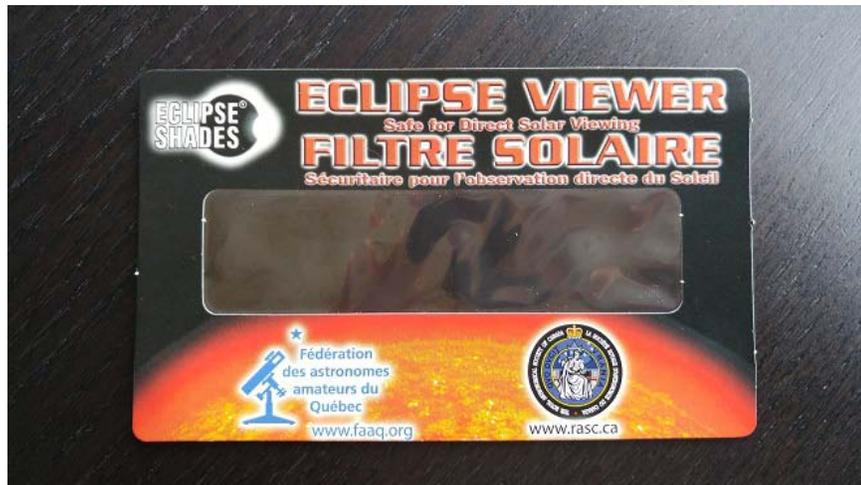
The first-quarter Moon as well as the planets Jupiter and Saturn will be perfectly placed for early evening observing. Special handouts to mark the occasion will be produced and distributed to all participating groups.

Total Solar Eclipse – Monday 2017 August 21

The first total solar eclipse to be widely observed in North America since 1979 will take place this August. The eclipse will be total along a path spanning the continental United States. Hundreds of RASC members have already made plans to observe this event somewhere along the path.

The eclipse will be partial across all of Canada. There will be great interest in the eclipse. Issues of *SkyNews* will cover all aspects of observing and photographing the eclipse.

The Society plans to support Centres holding public observing sessions of the partial phases. Solar viewers have been ordered and will be provided to all Centres.



Order your own Solar Viewer on our [eStore](#) for the upcoming eclipse!

Election Update

by [Robyn Foret](#), RASC 2nd VP

Each year the Term of three Directors of the Board ends, and this year **Randy Boddam**, **Charles Ennis**, and **Colin Haig** see their three-year terms come to an end. All three Directors are eligible to stand for re-election, and both Charles Ennis and Colin Haig have elected to do so.

Nominations for the RASC Board of Directors closed April 30, and by that time, we had two additional candidates, **Anthony Gucciardo**, President of the Yukon Centre, and **Dr. Rob Thacker** of the Halifax Centre. We were also informed in April by **James Edgar** that he would be stepping down from his role on the Board for personal reasons as of GA 2017, ending his term early. As a result, it appeared that all positions would be filled by acclamation and no election would be required.

In May, we confirmed that **Susan Yeo**, on leave from the Board since November 2016, would also be ending her term early for personal reasons leaving an additional unfilled vacancy. This additional position is to be filled by **Michael Watson**, by acclamation.

Candidate Statements may be viewed here in the Member's area of the RASC website: www.rasc.ca/candidate-statements-2017

Your new Board of Directors, effective 2017 July 2, will be **Craig Levine, Charles Ennis, Colin Haig, Chris Gainor, Anthony Gucciardo, Heather Laird, Rob Thacker, Michael Watson, and Robyn Foret.**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, The Board, and The Society, I would like to thank **James Edgar, Randy Boddam, and Susan Yeo** for their service to the Society. Please be sure to thank them individually as circumstance permits; serving the Society in this capacity takes dedication, commitment, and sometimes a thick skin, and all have served us well.

RASC Montreal Centre Upcoming Events

by **Carl Jorgensen**, Secretary, Montreal Centre

Thursday, June 1, 7:00 – 9:30 pm: RASC Montreal Centre Library Clubhouse at RASC Montreal Centre Library, John Abbott College, 21275 Rue Lakeshore, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC H9X 3L9.

Saturday, June 3, 7:30 – 10:30 pm: RASC Montreal Centre Public Event at the Morgan Arboretum, 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, H9X 3V9. Doors Open at 7:30. Presentation by Kevin Kemball at 8:00 pm. Public observing after presentation if the skies are clear.

Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, H9X 3V9. Only if the skies are clear.

Saturday, June 10, 7:00 – 11:00pm: Members Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum. 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, H9X 3V9.

Wednesday, June 14, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, H9X 3V9 Canada. Only if the skies are clear.

Saturday, June 17, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members Observing at Woody – Woods, 45 Rang Saint Antoine, Saint-Chrysostome, QC, J0S 1R0. Only if the skies are clear.

Wednesday, June 21, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, H9X 3V9. Only if the skies are clear.

Saturday, June 24, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members Observing at Coopers Aviation, 1700 Chemin Ste Angélique, Saint-Lazare, QC J7T 2X8. Only if the skies are clear.

Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 – 11:30 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum, 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, H9X 3V9. Only if the skies are clear.

Friday, June 30, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members South Shore Clubhouse at 1503 Bellevue #2, Greenfield Park QC J4V 3L5. Doors Open at 7:30. Presentation at 8:00 pm, observing after presentation if the skies are clear.

RASC Yukon Centre Update

by **Anthony Gucciardo**, President, Yukon Centre

The Feasibility Study for our first of two planned Public Observatory projects, this one at the Takhini Hotsprings, is almost ready for submission to the Community Development Fund. The Board will be reviewing the draft this week, just in time to submit for the next fund deadline. We hope to get the full support in order to finish what we started, so that it can be used as of September 2017!!



The Department Head of Continuing Education & Training at the Yukon College has approved our non-credit astronomy program. We are hopeful to get things started in September 2017. This will include offering astronomy at all the College campuses across the Yukon, later in French, and also on an e-Learning platform.

<https://soundcloud.com/cbcyukon/yukon-college-to-offer-astronomy-course>

Air North may partner with YAS and Economic Development to develop a pilot flight in September or October that will take tourists into the Auroral Oval at 36,000 feet. Using one of their Boeing 737s, the four hour flight will fly north past the Arctic Circle, head east toward Yellowknife, and swing back over Watson Lake to Whitehorse. Flight could include a full meal, on-board service, and a nice toast of champagne on arrival. The Society could provide all the scientific and astrophotography aspects of the project. More to follow!

Over the school holidays, the Society was invited to YuKconstruct's Makerspace, teeming with a dozen pre-teens as they kicked off their March Break Maker Camp! The 5 day camp consisted of lots of hands on activities and made use of the Makerspace's awesome equipment. The camp participants got to experience laser cutting, bottle rocket building and blast off, 3D design and printing, carpentry, stop animation, robotics and more! Everyone went home each day with items that they'd built/designed/crafted/created. For more information, see

<http://yukonconstruct.com/2017/04/05/march-break-maker-camp-summary/>

Dr. Christa van Laerhoven, Planetary Sciences & RASC: Yukon Centre member was interviewed April 19 on CBC North Radio in Whitehorse. TOPIC: PHAs (Potentially Hazardous Asteroids) and the “near” fly-by of 2014 JO25. Interview (full):

https://soundcloud.com/cbcyukon/giant-asteroid-wont-hit-earthprobably?in=user-677246815%2Fsets%2Fyas-interviews&utm_source=soundcloud&utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=facebook

We are in communication with ATCO Yukon Electric for demonstrating social and environmental responsibility through the adoption, and implementation, of night-sky friendly roadway lighting. Specifically, we recognize the recent installation of appropriately designed warm-white (3,000K) International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) approved LED streetlights in Whitehorse. There is currently a row of the new dark sky approved street lights on Hamilton Blvd extension where it joins Alaska Highway. The Society is scheduled to give a presentation to City Council June 19 on looking into changing the municipal by-laws for Dark-Sky compliance.



The Yukon Government made the update to the LED lighting upgrade for commercial buildings with exterior LED lighting upgrades meeting Dark Sky criteria being eligible for a 40% rebate off lamp/fixture costs. It's live on our [Commercial Energy Incentive Program](#) web page.

www.energy.gov.yk.ca/pdf/ceip-2017-18-form-led.pdf

Forest Pearson (member) and Viktor Zsohar (Treasurer, Director) are leading the charge in Light Abatement project in Whitehorse.

[Riverdale Community Newsletter – April 2017](#)

The Riverdale Community Association board was given a presentation by the Yukon Astronomical Society on their Light Pollution Abatement work. The International Dark Sky Association works to improve public lighting in an effort to maintain dark skies; and to reduce the human health and wildlife impacts resulting from light pollution. Even Whitehorse has a significant light pollution problem.

Yukon Centre Outreach in the Philippines

What a beautiful country the Philippines is! Together with friends and relatives we had an opportunity for fantastic stargazing on the beach! Jupiter was close to the zenith and showed amazing clarity of the bands. A small “crowd” also enjoyed views of the Jovian moons. Indeed, at times the line up was so intense around the scope that I had to realign the telescope and I did not even need a star map to find the amazing Omega Centauri besides the Southern Cross! To my surprise, Orion was still up after sunset, so had a quick look at M42 as well. This was my first time to observe the southern skies, and was totally disoriented for a while, but was happy to show what I could to the number of people. No serious deep-sky objects but a lot of fun with the amazing people around me. Christian, our relative, took and posted this picture, and more to follow by me when I can upload from the camera! Can I call this small event as the first international astronomy outreach mission of RASC Yukon Centre? 😊

Mabuhay to my friends from the Philippines!



Donate to the RASC

by [James Edgar](#), RASC Past President

Major donations and bequests in recent years have given us the resources and ability to print thousands of *Star Finders* for the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) and beyond. More recently, we printed thousands of *Moon Gazer's Guides*, a one-page card featuring a Moon map, with descriptions of lunar phases and eclipses. Volunteers continue to supply these valuable resources to kids and adults alike at star parties, schools, and parks.

The RASC uses donated funds from **Sustaining Members**, up to \$10,000 per year, to reimburse travel and accommodation under the **Public Speaker Program**, where Centres sponsor a speaker to come from out of town to speak on astronomical or other topics. The **Special Project Program** receives funding from the **Ruth Northcott Memorial Fund** to a maximum of \$10,000 per year.

The **Canada-Wide Science Fair** receives two prizes from the RASC each year as the Award for Excellence in Astronomy, one Intermediate award and another in the Junior category.

Through its **Awards Program**, the Society recognizes long service with significant achievement, outstanding contributions in education and public outreach, writing excellence, work of lasting value in astronomy, and achievements of overall importance to the RASC. These awards not only recognize our many volunteers, but they also encourage others to strive for the same lofty goals.

Your generous support will help to keep these initiatives going. Without people like you, meeting the objectives of the Society would not be possible.

Policy Manual Revisions

by [James Edgar](#), RASC Past President

The Board approved the following revisions and additions to the Policy Manual (in point form), which can be accessed for full details at www.rasc.ca/rasc-policy-manual

- **New Policy Policy B10: Board of Directors Compensation**
Essentially Directors will not receive compensation, even in the form of an honorarium. Reimbursement for actual reasonable expenses as per the Board Travel Policy is still allowed.
- A revision to **Appendix A: Directors and Officers Code of Conduct**
Setting an upper limit of \$50 to "nominal value" in the section "Gifts and Hospitality"
- A new **Policy G27: Gifts**
Gifts from outside interests or vendors are not acceptable, except for small items not exceeding a nominal value of \$50. Such gifts must be declared to the Board and the Executive Director.
- Under **Policy G25: Conflict of Interest**
Committee members are now governed by the terms of this policy.
- A revision to **Procedure for Handling a Conflict of Interest** to include Committee members
- In addition, Committee members are encouraged to follow the principles outlined in **Appendix A: Directors and Officers Code of Conduct**

Asteroids with a Canadian Connection

by [Eric Briggs](#), RASC, Toronto Centre

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

(11458) Rosemarypike = 1981 EV12

Discovered 1981 Mar. 1 by S. J. Bus at Siding Spring.

Rosemary E. Pike (b. 1984) is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Academia Sinica (Taiwan) who studies complex resonances in the Kuiper belt, particularly the stability of the 5:1 resonance with Neptune.

MPC 103978

Orbit Type: Main Belt

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/11458>

(22406) Garyboyle = 1995 QW5

Discovered 1995 Aug. 22 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

Gary Boyle (b. 1957) is a Canadian amateur astronomer who leads club activities, runs outreach events, teaches a college course and writes a stargazing column. Name suggested by R. and P. Jedicke.

MPC 103980

Orbit Type: Main Belt

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/22406>

(129982) Jeffseabrook = 1999 UJ45

Discovered 1999 Oct. 31 by the Catalina Sky Survey.

Jeff Seabrook (b. 1976) is part of the altimetry team developing the capability to generate topography and shape models from the OSIRIS-REx Laser Altimeter. Prior to this, he was a graduate student who developed and deployed atmospheric ozone lidars, and part of the MET team on the Phoenix Mars Mission.

MPC 103982

Orbit Type: Main Belt

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/129982>

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 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. 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.



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
203 – 4920 Dundas St W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7 CANADA
Tel: (416) 924-7973

Member Service: nationaloffice@rasc.ca

Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca

The *Bulletin* of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
is a benefit of membership in the Society.

© 2017 Royal Astronomical Society of Canada