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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](http://News@RASC.ca)

Editor's Corner

by [David Garner](#), Bulletin/NNL Editor

We would like to form an Editorial Panel made up from your Centre Newsletter Editors (and any other interested RASC members) to provide regular and timely articles for the Bulletin and National Newsletter (NNL).

As a national organization it is important that we are aware of the activities in other Centres. It not only unites us but also gives us ideas about outreach events that we could hold in our own Centres.

I look forward to hearing from you so, if this is something you would like to be a part of please contact me (bulletin@rasc.ca) and/or Randy Attwood (attwood@rasc.ca) .

Clear Skies,
Dave Garner

News from the Society Office

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

[2019 General Assembly Website is Up!](#)



The 2019 GA website is up and running! Click here <https://rascga2019.ca/> to register and secure your spot!

Note - the University of York accommodations is now open for bookings! Click here <https://rascga2019.ca/accommodationyork/> to book now!



Highlights of the 2019 General Assembly include:

- Two days of paper sessions by invited speakers and RASC and AAVSO members.
- A half day of workshops for members to discuss various outreach and astronomy activities: Education; Public Outreach; Citizen Science; Light Pollution Abatement; Member Retention; Running a Centre; and more.

- The Ruth Northcott lecture will be given by James Hansen, author of *First Man: The Life of Neil A. Armstrong* (2005). It is a biography of the first man to walk on the Moon. A movie based on the book was released in 2018.
- Longtime RASC member David Levy's autobiography, *A Nightwatchman's Journey*, will be introduced.
- During the weekend, a program will be offered to members of the public. Families will be invited to attend hands-on astronomy activities and introductory lectures as part of a Father's Day Weekend Astronomy Adventure.
- Evening observing at York University's Allan I. Carswell Observatory.
- After the General Assembly, there will be tours to local sites, such as the David Dunlap Observatory.

Recently, two subway stations were opened at the north and south ends of the campus, making York University accessible from all over the city. This also means that downtown Toronto is a short subway ride from the campus.

Accommodation will be available in student residences on campus and at a hotel off-site on the Toronto subway line.

Look for registration information this month on the 2019 General Assembly website: <https://rasc.ca/ga2019>

See you in Toronto in June!

Volunteers Needed –GA 2019

Jenna Hinds, Youth Outreach Coordinator

At the 2019 GA, we are focusing on outreach. We will be running outreach activities for the public all day Saturday June 15th and Sunday June 16th. We are looking for volunteers to help with these outreach activities. There will be 7-8 different activities and demonstrations running all weekend and we will host a training event at the National Office a couple weeks prior to the GA. If you cannot attend, we will also be sharing the meeting on Webex. Further details to come. High school students can receive volunteer hours for their time.

Please contact Jenna atjenna.hinds@rasc.ca or 416.924.7973 ext 4 if you would like to volunteer for any part of the outreach events!

2019 Election of Board of Directors - Call for Nominees

by [Robyn Foret](#), 1st Vice President, Nominations Chair

Three (3) Board of Director positions, each being a 3 year term, are open for election at the 2019 General Assembly.

Nominations for the RASC Board of Directors is open through April 7, 2019 and we encourage all Members in good standing consider a role on the Board. The 2019 Board of Directors will be announced at the 2019 General Assembly in Calgary.

Candidates' requirements are stipulated in **Policy G9: Society Nominations and Elections** of the Policy Manual. The Policy Manual is available in the Members-only section of the website here: <https://www.rasc.ca/rasc-policy-manual>

For more insight into the effort and commitment expected of Board members, feel free to reach out to the Nominating Committee Chair, Robyn Foret. Robyn can be reached at arforet@shaw.ca or 403-803-1075.

RASC Fundraising Forum

by [Lisa Di Veto](#), RASC Fundraising Associate

While last year's annual reports and financials are being compiled and assessed, it's timely to review efforts and once again, sincerely thank our donors for their generous support! The 2018 year ended with nearly a tenfold increase over prior year donations and contributions as follows:

\$75,000 Trottier Family Foundation

\$60,000 Donations from Individuals & Members

\$25,000	Member Major Gift
\$25,000	Robert Fidler Bequest
\$8,650	Sponsorship Fees
\$6,720	Canada Summer Jobs Wage Subsidy
\$5,000	Foundation Grants

Fundraising income has allowed the Society to create the important position of Youth Outreach Coordinator to engage young people in astronomy. The Robotic Telescope program development has been supported and vital charitable initiatives such as the Journal and Observer's Handbook (OH) continue to flourish and expand with the introduction of a US version of the OH.

Moving forward this year, one goal is to provide helpful information to the fifteen centres with charitable status. Changes to Canada Revenue Agency's tax receipt requirements have been sent to treasurers and centres have been asked how they thank their donors (letters, plaques, certificates, etc.). Sharing knowledge of best practices will assist in the establishment of national donor recognition benchmarks to be circulated to all centres.

For centres that are not a charity, I encourage you to consider applying for charitable status. Centres may first incorporate as a not for profit (although it's not mandatory). Incorporation fees vary by province but are about \$750. There's no cost to apply for charitable registration.

The primary benefit in becoming a charity is the ability to issue charitable tax receipts. This can appeal to members who wish to financially contribute to centre activities and outreach. Some individuals may choose to arrange a bequest or donate property or equipment. Your centre may also be eligible to apply for grants. Of course, the centre must comply with CRA regulations regarding the issuing of receipts, record keeping and submission of an annual financial report. I can help with those tasks. Don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to explore this option.

Finally, the Society's Fundraising Committee is seeking members who not only have fundraising experience but themselves donate to national or are willing to contribute. Being a donor is a pre-requisite in helping RASC seek support. Cross country participation is being sought. For more information on joining the committee and helping to advance RASC's charitable mandate, please contact me at 519-754-1803 or ldiveto@rasc.ca Thank you!

Call for Papers and Posters for the 2019 GA!

by Scientific Program Committee RASC 2019 GA

The committee in charge of the scientific program for the GA invites submissions for the Society's paper sessions on Saturday June 15, as well as posters.

Presentations on any aspects of your astronomical research (program design, data acquisition, reduction, and results), experiments and innovations in education & public outreach (EPO), collaborative programs of any sort, instrumentation, and cultural and historical astronomy are welcome. The special themes of the 2019 GA are EPO, citizen science, and the 50th anniversary of the Apollo XI Moon landing, and proposed presentations on any of these are encouraged—but it is important to note that you are not limited to those themes.

Proposals for papers and posters should include your name, affiliation (if any), title of your paper or poster, an abstract not exceeding 150 words, and any AV requirements. Please submit your proposals to papers@rascga2019.ca, with the subject line "paper proposal RASC GA 2019", or "poster proposal RASC GA 2019", on or before May 4.

Vernal Equinox 2019 Cassiopeia

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

<https://casca.ca/?p=11662>

The Vernal Equinox 2019 Cassiopeia newsletter of the Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie has been published. This is the newsletter of Canada's society of academic astronomers. The new issue includes CASCA President Rob Thacker's report on the new Canada's Space Strategy and its implications for Canadian observational astronomers using instruments on the ground and in space.

(The new federal government strategy document is also online at <https://s3.central-1.amazonaws.com/sqreports/2019/space-strategy-for-canada.pdf>)

The newsletter also includes reports from Canadian projects currently using ground and space-based instruments about their ongoing activities, and a thesis abstract:

Dissertation: *Multiwavelength, Machine Learning, and Parallax Studies of X-ray Binaries in Three Local Group Galaxies* by Dr. Robin Arnason.

Department of Physics and Astronomy, Western University

RASC Montreal Centre Upcoming Events

by [Carl Jorgensen](#), Secretary, Montreal Centre

Tuesday, April 2, 11:00 – 3:30 pm: Members solar observing and also 7:30 pm – 11:00 pm night time observing at the Vanier College 821 Sainte Croix Ave, Saint-Laurent. Members solar telescopes are set up for solar observing during the afternoon and regular telescopes for night time. The students of Vanier College will be able to view the Sun during the daytime plus Mars and deep sky objects etc. during the night time.

Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members observing at the Morgan Arboretum Conservation Centre. Observing with your own telescope or binoculars (weather permitting). The Bellevue Observatory is closed.

Saturday April 6, 6:30 – 11:00 pm: Stargazing event at St. Paul's church: 321 Empire Avenue, Greenfield Park. RASC members only. BBQ from 6:30 pm (donations). Interactive presentation and games at 7:30 pm (minimum \$2.00 donation for RASC Montreal). Stargazing from 8:30 pm if clear. Volunteers from the Montreal Centre hopefully 1 speaker and if clear 3 members with telescopes. All members welcome.

Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members observing at the Morgan Arboretum Conservation Center. The Bellevue Observatory will be closed, but you can bring your own telescope or binoculars (weather permitting).

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 – 9:30 pm: Public event (talk by Professor Michael Pagano) at Collège Marianopolis 4873 Ave Westmount, Westmount. Doors open at 6:30. Talk by Michael Pagano "*Observational Evidence of Cosmology*" at 7:00. Observing after the talk (weather permitting).

Saturday, April 13, 6:00 – 11:00 pm: The Montreal Centre's 4th Annual Astro Swap & Sell /Star Party at the Morgan Arboretum Conservation Center. Astro Swap & Sell starts at 7:00 pm. Got something to swap or sell? Looking to purchase gently used astronomy or astrophotography equipment? Then this is the Astro event for you. Come for the sale, stay for the party! New: Potluck Supper. Bring something to share. Star Party: (Weather permitting) starts at sunset. Bring your telescopes and join us under the stars.

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 – 9:30 pm: Members Library Clubhouse at John Abbott College, H-355, 21275 Rue Lake-shore, Saint-Anne-de-Bellevue. Members only. Can borrow and return books. Talk with other members, show & tell, etc..

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 – 11: 00 pm: Members observing at the Morgan Arboretum Conservation Center. The Bellevue Observatory will be closed, but you can bring your own telescope or binoculars (weather permitting).

Saturday, April 27, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members offsite observing at Thompson Park, 726 Rue Main, Hudson (weather permitting) .

Thank You to our Sponsors!

by **Madison Chilvers**, RASC Marketing Coordinator

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are now 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.

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.



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