

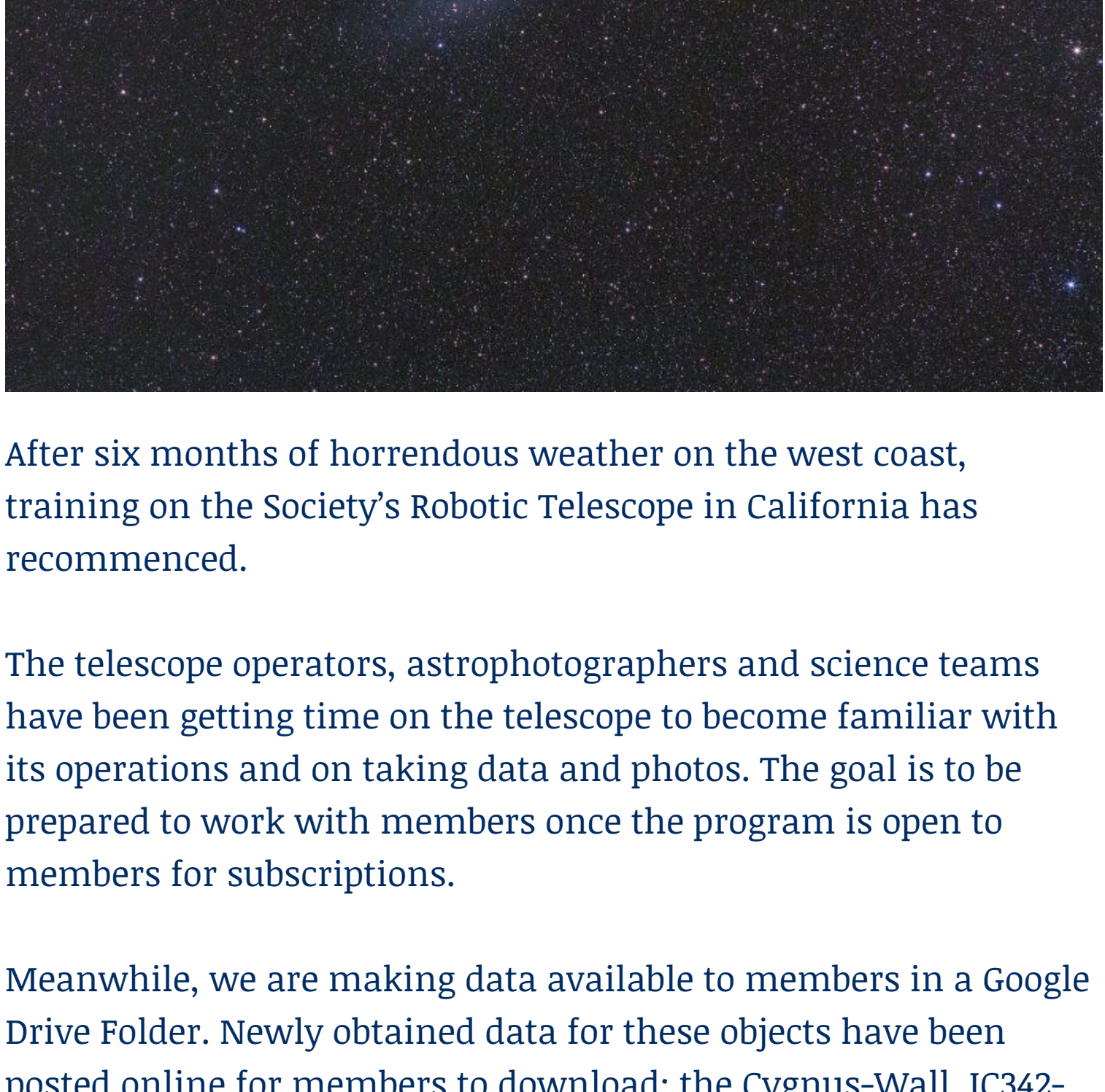


Now that the long weekend has passed, the summer has unofficially come to an end. We're not going to let that get us down though because there are some amazing things going on at the RASC!

Read on to find out more about what to expect as we enter the final quarter of 2019.

If you have a story, event or item you'd like included in the October Bulletin, [please reach out!](#)

Robotic Telescope Update



After six months of horrendous weather on the west coast, training on the Society's Robotic Telescope in California has recommenced.

The telescope operators, astrophotographers and science teams have been getting time on the telescope to become familiar with its operations and on taking data and photos. The goal is to be prepared to work with members once the program is open to members for subscriptions.

Meanwhile, we are making data available to members in a Google Drive Folder. Newly obtained data for these objects have been posted online for members to download: the Cygnus-Wall, IC342-2018, NGC7023, the Tulip Nebula.

[Click here to see the data](#)

Welcome to RASC Adela and Eric!



We're very happy to announce Eric Wickham has been appointed RASC's Communications and Marketing Coordinator. Eric has an impressive background in the field and is coming to the role from Habitat for Humanity

Halton-Mississauga where he was Communications Specialist. He was responsible for amplification of the organization's message through all external communications platforms including traditional media, print, marketing and online presence. He's also worked in broadcast media including an on-air radio role and as Program Assistant with CBC Radio One.

In this new position, Eric will be responsible for developing and implementing RASC's national marketing and communications strategies to increase awareness of the organization and engage more people in learning about astronomy. He'll also offer expertise to Centres and committees in their marketing and communications portfolios. If you'd like to personally welcome him to the organization, he can be reached at 416-924-7973 ext. 104 or eric.wickham@rasc.ca.

We are also very happy to welcome Adela Zyfi to the RASC. Adela is a recent graduate of Ryerson's Biomedical Sciences program, and brings her experience working with the international NGO WUSC as well as in Ryerson's registrar's office to our charity. In her role with RASC, Adela will be answering membership inquiries and providing support to local Centres.



She will be replacing Madison Chilvers as our Membership Coordinator and Office Administrator. Madison will be heading to law school in the fall. Thank you Madison for all the hard work you've done for the RASC!

If you'd like to personally welcome Adela to the RASC please send her an email at mempub@rasc.ca or give her a call at 416 924 7973 ext. 102.



Now available in our online store! The 2020 RASC Calendar. [Order yours now!](#)

Notes from the Observing Committee

Currently in 2019, 14 members and one non-RASC individual have earned a RASC Observing Certificate:

Explore the Universe:

- Cole Beselaera - Sarnia
- Berta Beltran - Edmonton
- Thomas Bracken - Montreal
- Nicole Laporte - Montreal
- Vasileios Varsamis - Greece (non-member)

Explore the Moon: - Telescope

- Randy Enkin - Victoria
- Larissa Awad - Mississauga
- Henry Leparskas - London

Messier:

- Ingrid G. de Bude - Ottawa
- Chris Vaughan - Toronto
- Nick Pierre - Toronto
- Dennis Pilon - Regina
- Wes Loudon

Finest NGC:

- Nick Pierre - Toronto

Isabel Williamson Lunar:

- Kirby Alguire - Unattached

The announcements of earned certificates will continue to be posted online on the respective RASC Observing sub-page, in the Bulletin, in the National Newsletter, in the RASC section of the SkyNews, and on social media.

There are a couple of Centres that aren't certification Centres for the Explore the Universe Program. The Observing Committee is continuing its efforts to have all RASC Centres be the local "go-to" for this program.

Centres that do offer our Explore the Universe program can be found on the [RASC website](#).

Any RASC Centre with an active observing group should consider becoming a Local Certification Centre. All a Centre needs to do is choose a member who will review and approve applications for the Explore the Universe certificate. Ideally, that member would be an active observer who promotes RASC Observing Programs and mentors beginning observers. Send the name to the RASC Observing Chair for inclusion in the above list.

Advanced Observing Tips

For even more advanced observing tips [head to our website](#).

What to Look For—advanced ideas for deep sky objects (DSOs):

Galaxies

- Compare the view using both direct and averted vision.
- What is the overall shape of the galaxy?
- Is the galaxy uniform in brightness?
- How noticeable is the core of the galaxy? Describe it (compact, stellar, etc.).
- Do the outer edges of the galaxy appear sharp or diffuse?
- Can any structure be seen in the galaxy (mottling, bright and dark patches, or lanes)?
- Can any detail be seen in the arms of the galaxy?
- Are there any stars visible in the arms?
- Are there any nearby galaxies (or other deep sky objects)?

Globular Clusters

- How concentrated is the cluster (is it tightly packed, or more of a loose association of stars)?
- Is the central core bright, compact, or indistinguishable?
- How would you describe the overall density of the stars within the cluster (low, medium, high)?
- How much of the cluster can be resolved into its component stars (none, the outer edge, all of it)?
- If the cluster can't be resolved, were you able to detect any mottling, or resolve any stars on the periphery with the use of averted vision?
- Are there any other deep sky objects located nearby or in the same field?

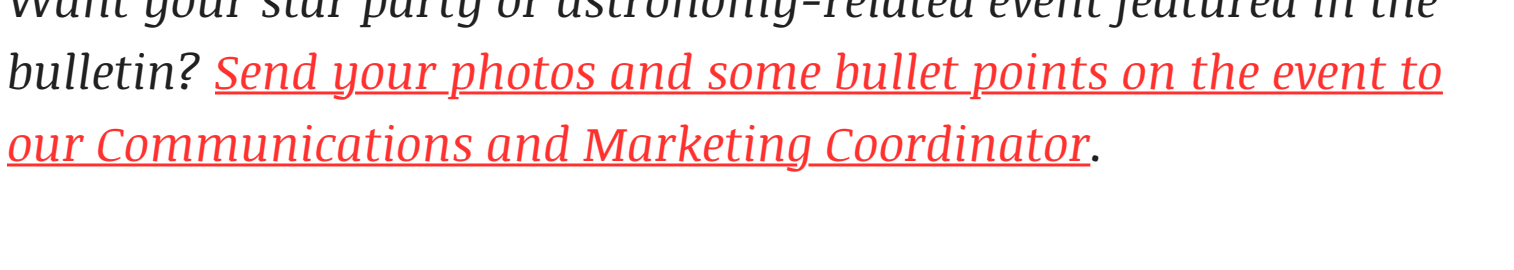
Observing Question

What cluster has neither an NGC nor IC designation?

Clear Skies,

Blair Stunder
RASC Observing Chair
Prince George, B.C.

Star Party in Victoria

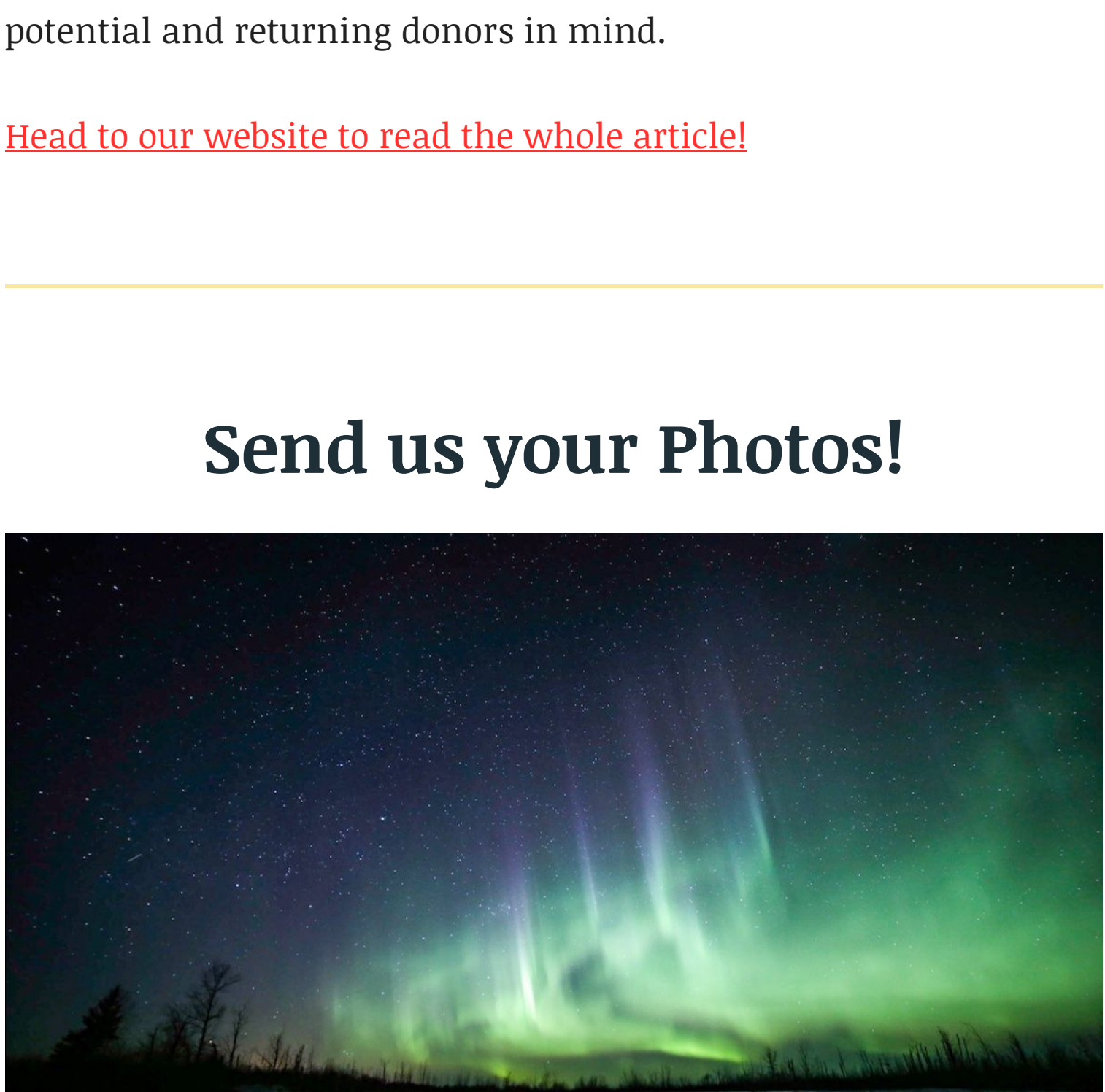


Here are a couple of photos from last week's Saturday Star Party at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria B.C. RASCals from the Victoria Centre bring their telescopes to the observatory for Saturday Star Parties during the summer at the DAO.

These star parties are run by the Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, and the Victoria Centre and its members are enthusiastic participants in the work of the FDAO. Visitors to Saturday Star Parties also get to see the Centre of the Universe visitors' centre and the Plaskett Telescope, which celebrated its centennial last year.

Want your star party or astronomy-related event featured in the bulletin? [Send your photos and some bullet points on the event to our Communications and Marketing Coordinator.](#)

Showing program costs in a donor-friendly way



Our Fundraising Coordinator Lisa DiVeto has put together an article for local Centres on how to present your program costs with potential and returning donors in mind.

[Head to our website to read the whole article!](#)

Send us your Photos!

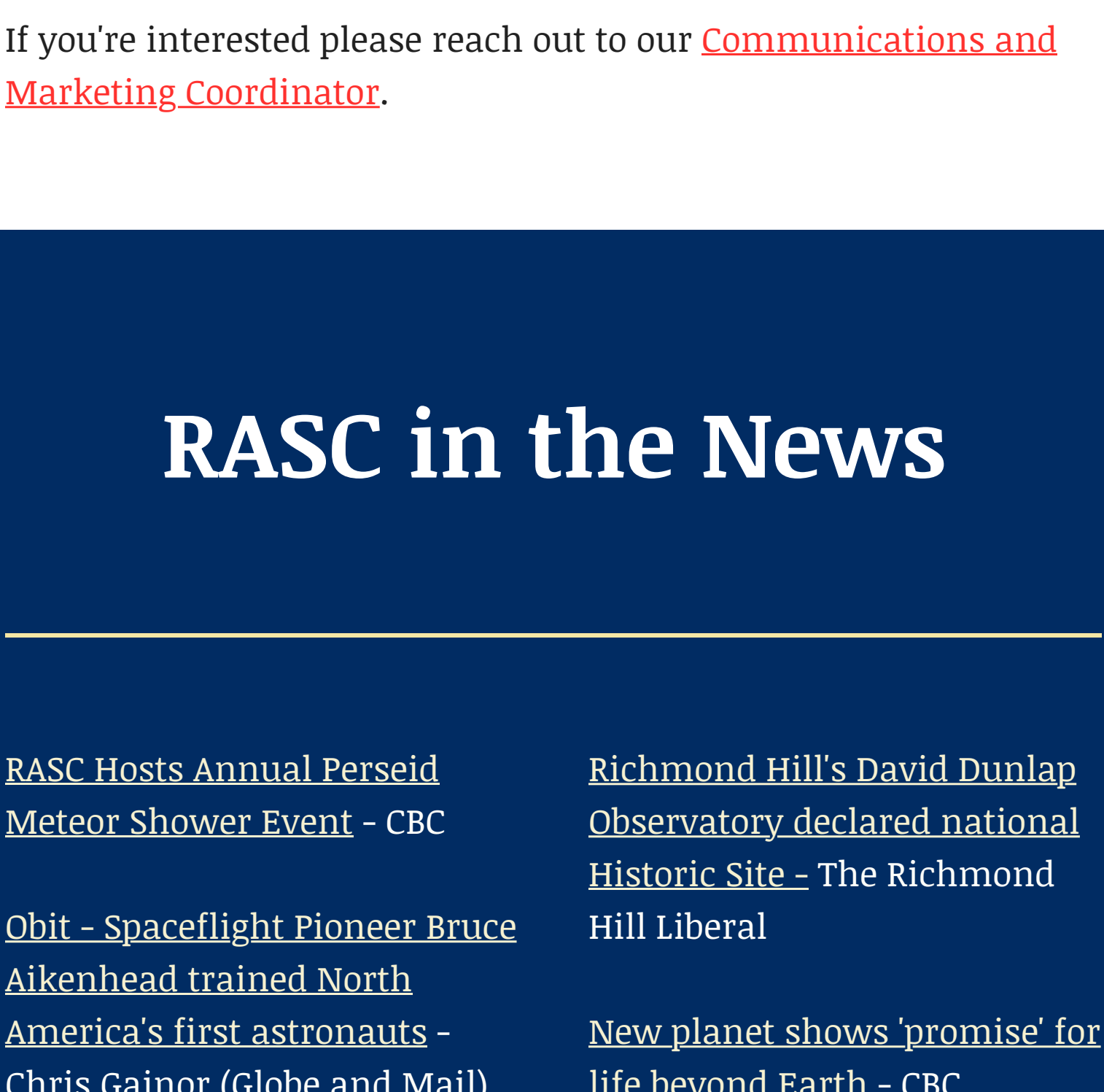


Photo Credit: Jeanine Holowatuik, Saskatchewan IG: @jeanine.holowatuik

Are you an amateur astrophotographer and would like your work featured by The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada? Send us some of your photos, and we will feature you on social media and in our monthly bulletin. Let's use our organization's reach to get your photos in front of some potential followers!

If you're interested please reach out to our [Communications and Marketing Coordinator](#).

RASC in the News

- [RASC Hosts Annual Perseid Meteor Shower Event](#) - CBC
- [Obit - Spacelight Pioneer Bruce Aikenhead trained North America's first astronauts](#) - Chris Gahner (Globe and Mail)
- [One Decade Since Gordon Park named Dark Sky Preserve](#) - Manitoulin Expositor
- [Canadian Astronomers find 8 more fast radio bursts](#) - Nicole Mortillaro (CBC News)
- [Richmond Hill's David Dunlap Observatory declared national Historic Site](#) - The Richmond Hill Liberal
- [New planet shows 'promise' for life beyond Earth](#) - CBC interview with Randy Groundwater (RASC Windsor)
- [Scientists may have discovered a black hole devouring a Neutron Star](#) - Nicole Mortillaro (CBC News)

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