RASC GA 2020 VANCOUVER

We are already a month into 2020! Why don't you make good on your New Years resolution to dedicate more time to astronomy and join us for The RASC General Assembly this year? It's taking place from June 5-7 at the Executive Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre in Coquitlam B.C.

Take advantage of early bird pricing (available until Feb 15th) and get your tickets today! We hope to see you there!

Get your tickets today!

ROM After Dark

Skyfarm Managing Editor Alimdria Scamps dressing off for the sunset edition of Skyfarm Magazine!

We are so happy to have taken part in ROM After Dark! We love every opportunity to be meet people that share our interest of astronomy, and this event did not disappoint.

We sketched some crates, looked through a telescope at a 3D-printed Moon and discussed realism in Science Fiction.

We want 2020 to be the year we make The RASC more visible than ever. Let us know about any astronomy-related events you think The RASC should be a part of this year!

Photo Credit: Bernard Sandler

Robotic Telescope Info Session

Join us for an info session about the Robotic Telescope Project Feb 19th, 9:00pm ET

Curious about what's happening with the Robotic Telescope Project? We will be livestreaming a webinar on Feb 19th at 9:00pm ET on our YouTube Channel discussing details of the project, including:

- An update on the project's current status,
- A brief tour of the night sky, demonstrating how the telescope's software works,
- An overview of the membership options that will be available,
- An estimated timeline and explanation of current delays, and
- A lengthy question-and-answer period, with questions from RASC Centre Presidents, VPs and National Council Reps.

We will also be releasing a sample data set from the scope for those of you who would like to take a look at the data and try your hand at editing. The link will be in the description of the video once it has finished livestreaming, and will be sent to Centre Presidents and National Council Reps following the webinar.

You can watch the video live as it streams, or you can check it out anytime after the event on our YouTube Channel.

If you have questions you would like addressed, please pass them on to your Centre Presidents or National Council Reps to be asked live.

SkyNews.ca is now live!

The efforts of our amazing SkyNews team has paid off and now we have a brand new website to show off for our publication!

Head to SkyNews.ca and read all the amazing stories our team has been working on!

Visit SkyNews.ca

Annual Report

A note to Centre Treasurers and Secretaries: please note the deadline for reports is February 29. Please send Treasurer reports to Adela Zyll (centrals@rasc.ca) and Secretary reports to James Edgar (edgar@rasc.ca). Please include the number of participants reached through outreach events and number of youth 21 and under reached (if tracked, or an estimate) in the Secretary reports.

Canada Summer Jobs Opportunity

The federal government has now opened applications for Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) funding. They'll pay youth a minimum wage for summer employment meeting select criteria. National Office has been granted placements in the past and the assistance has been extremely valuable. To apply, your Centre must have a Canada Revenue number; be a charity with a BN number or a not for profit with a GST/HST number.
Here are the main details;

- Candidates must be between 15-30 years of age, have a SIN number, be entitled to work in Canada
- CSJ will pay the provincial minimum wage
- Employment is for 6 weeks minimum, 16 maximum, 30-40 hours per week
- Earliest start date is May 11, end date August 28
- Application deadline is February 24

The job offered must meet national priorities and your local riding requirements:

Local Priorities. Submissions are awarded points, it's a competitive process - businesses can also apply. Your local Member of Parliament has a role in awarding grants so establishing a relationship with the constituency office can be beneficial. All of the information and application can be found here: Canada Summer Jobs.

Centres may wish to engage youth to write newsletters, develop promotional materials, update websites and social media posts or assist at star parties and other events. If you have any questions, I'm available at 519-756-3803 or ldizeto@rasc.ca.

Good luck!
Lisa Di Veto

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Upcoming Astronomy Events

There are so many astronomy events taking place this month, there isn't enough space in this newsletter to post them all! Follow the link below to read about all The RASC events taking place in February.

RASC Events

Registration for the Women in Space Conference is now open. The conference is to be hosted at the Canadian Space Agency, May 4-8, 2020. The goal of this event is to highlight the achievements of women and non-binary researchers and industry professionals, discuss challenges faced in the field, and offer opportunities for mentoring, recruiting, networking, and more. Click here to register!

Interested in sponsoring and partnering with the Women in Space Conference in elevating the status of women and non-binary researchers in the space sector?

Contact: https://www.womeninspacecon.com/sponsors

Notes from the Observing Committee

In 2019, 36 members have earned a RASC Observing certificate:

Explore the Universe:

Catherine Wigmold - Calgary
Leon Brown - Calgary
Suzanna Nagy - Vancouver
Nona Jean Cherniak - Unattached (USA)
Cole Bowlanck - Sarnia
Reba Bellows - Edmonton
Jeremy Bellows - Edmonton
Nicole Lapierre - Montreal
Nick Pierce - Toronto
Kevin Dmytrenko - Winnipeg
Robin Clarke - Winnipeg
Jean-Mark Rogers - New Brunswick
Ryan Simmons - Unattached (Canada)
Murray Campbell - Ottawa

Explore the Moon - Telescope

Randy Enkin - Victoria
Larissa Amal - Mississauga
Henry Lepsenkas - London
Leon Brown - Calgary

Moon:

Ingrid L. de Rude - Ottawa
Chris Vaughan - Toronto
Nick Pierce - Toronto
Dennis Pinn - Regina
Wes Louden

Planet Noir:

Nick Pierce - Toronto
Murray Campbell - Ottawa

Isabel Williamson Lunar:

Kirby Algoze - Unattached

Astronomical Longer:

Nelson Walker - Victoria

Nelson has received 15 observing awards from the astronomical Longer and is currently working on three other astronomical Longer Observing Programs.

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