



THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

203-4920 DUNDAS STREET W, TORONTO ON M9A 1B7
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ANNUAL MEETING
RÉUNION ANNUELLE

2018

Agenda

Election of the Board of Directors
Election of Auditor

ANNUAL REPORT
RAPPORT ANNUEL

2017

President's Message
Executive Director's Report
Secretary's Message
Treasurer's Report
Auditor's Report
 Balance Sheet/Statement of Changes in Net Assets
 Statement of Revenue, Expenditure
 Notes to the Financial Statements
Annual Meeting Minutes—2017
Centre Financial Reports for Fiscal 2017

RÉUNION ANNUELLE 2018—ORDRE DU JOUR

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Réunion annuelle 2018

La Réunion générale annuelle des membres aura lieu le samedi 2018 juin 30,
de 10,00h à 11,30h MDT à University of Calgary dans Calgary, Alberta.

Ordre du jour

1. Procès-verbal de la Réunion annuelle 2017

publié dans la version électronique du rapport annuel 2017 qui se trouve dans la section réservé aux membres du site web de la SRAC (www.rasc.ca/annual-meeting-minutes)

2. Rapports des Officiers

Président	(Colin Haig)	États financiers	
1ère Vice-Présidente	(Chris Gainor)	Motion pour accepter les états financiers	
2e Vice-Présidente	(Robyn Foret)	Directrice exécutive	(Randy Attwood)
Secrétaire/rapporteur	(Charles Ennis)		
Trésorier	(Anthony Gucciardo)		

3. Rapports des comités permanents

Astroimagerie	(Tenho Tuomi)	Nomination	(Chris Gainor)
Constitution	(Chris Gainor)	Observation	(Dave Chapman)
Collecte de fonds	(Heather Laird)	Prix	(Craig Levine)
Éducation	(Curt Nason)	Publications	(Chris Gainor)
Finance	(Anthony Gucciardo)	Réduction de la pollution lumineuse	(Robert Dick)
Histoire	(Randall Rosenfeld)	Technologie de l'information	(Craig Levine)
Membres et croissance	(Roland Dechesne)		

4. Rapports des autres programmes

Programme de Conférencier	(Charles Ennis)	Programme de Projets Spéciaux	(Barbara Wright)
150th anniversaire	(Randall Rosenfeld)		

5. Les Résultats de Élection du Conseil d'administration

6. Élection d'un Vérificateur

7. Autres questions

8. Clôture

ANNUAL MEETING 2018—AGENDA

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA



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Annual Meeting 2018

The Annual Meeting of members will be held on Saturday, 2018 June 30
from 10:00 to 11:30 MDT at University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting

Published in the on-line version 2017 Annual Report, and located on the Members-only section on the website
(www.rasc.ca/annual-meeting-minutes)

2. Reports of Officers

President	(Colin Haig)	Financial Statements	
1st Vice-President	(Chris Gainor)	Motion to approve the financial statements	
2nd Vice-President	(Robyn Foret)	Executive Director	(Randy Attwood)
Secretary/Recorder	(Charles Ennis)		
Treasurer	(Anthony Gucciardo)		

3. Reports of Permanent Committees

Astroimaging	(Tenho Tuomi)	Information Technology	(Craig Levine)
Awards	(Craig Levine)	Light-Pollution Abatement	(Robert Dick)
Constitution	(Chris Gainor)	Membership & Development	(Roland Dechesne)
Education	(Curt Nason)	Nominating	(Robyn Foret)
Finance	(Anthony Gucciardo)	Observing	(Dave Chapman)
Fundraising	(Heather Laird)	Publications	(Chris Gainor)
History	(Randall Rosenfeld)		

4. Reports of Other Committees

Public Speaker Program	(Charles Ennis)	Special Projects Program	(Barbara Wright)
150th Anniversary	(Randall Rosenfeld)		

5. Election of Board of Directors

6. Election of Auditor

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Founded in 1868, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2018. Our mission is to enhance the understanding of and to inspire curiosity about the Universe through public outreach, education, and support for astronomical research.

We are achieving our mission by sharing knowledge and experience with Canadians in a collaborative way; by encouraging discovery through the scientific method; and by engaging a more diverse community that is representative of Canada's population.

We work to spark curiosity in young people, so they pursue a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). We do this through support of local initiatives including courses such as the New Observers to Visual Astronomy (NOVA), by connecting with educators and science teacher organizations in several provinces, by supporting the Canada-Wide Science Fair, and through our media and outreach efforts.

As Canada's largest organization of amateur and professional astronomers, we have a country-wide network of over 5100 members in 28 Centres from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia, and northwest to Whitehorse, Yukon. The Centre in Québec City became less viable due to small size and competing Franco-phone offerings from the Fédération des astronomes amateurs du Québec (FAAQ). Our inability to provide service and publications in both official languages on an on-going basis no doubt has contributed to this situation. We expect many members will transition to "members at large," unattached to a Centre, in addition to joining an FAAQ club in their area. The remaining Centres are healthy, and we hope to grow the membership and possibly expand to new cities in Canada. Our strategic plan calls for us to find new ways to grow your Society in a sustainable way, being mindful of financial and volunteer resources.

Our 5100 members include well over 500 volunteers who deliver lectures, run events, conduct observing sessions, workshops, and educational programs. Over 150 volunteers support our Society's efforts directly by creating publications, operating our programs, participating on committees, and saving our night skies from light pollution through the adoption of good outdoor lighting. Countless hours are invested annually by our member volunteers to bring the science of Astronomy to all people in Canada.

People of all ages here in Canada and internationally connect with your RASC through social media, the internet, and traditional media such as radio, television, and print. When there is current news regarding astronomy and space, we're sharing insights on national television and radio with appearances by your Society's Executive Director, President, and volunteers across Canada.

The RASC owns *SkyNews* magazine, Canada's only popular science publication, with over 20,000 readers. The magazine shares news, insights, practical tips, stargazing advice, star charts for observing, and inspirational stories about adventures under the night sky. The RASC provides *SkyNews* with shared office space and some administrative resources on a cost-recovery basis.

The RASC *Journal* is a science journal, available on a subscription basis in print and digital download. This bimonthly publication disseminates professional and advanced amateur articles and scientific papers. Member fees include both JRASC and *SkyNews* subscriptions, in addition to an *Observer's Handbook* and we're proud of the Society's ability to provide members with relevant and valuable benefits since 1868.

Volunteers create our annual publications such as the *Observer's Handbook* reaching over 9500 people. Our *Handbook* and *Observer's Calendar* generate significant revenue to enable the Society to achieve its charitable aims. We create, sell, distribute, and provide astronomy books, teacher materials, and astronomy-related merchandise. Our ecommerce site (click "Shop" at www.rasc.ca) helps us distribute orders online or through our Society Office. Proceeds help support RASC activities, such as education, outreach, and the fight to preserve our starry skies with good outdoor lighting.

Our General Assembly, including the annual meeting of the members, was hosted by the Ottawa Centre, around Canada's 150th anniversary celebration. Algonquin College provided first-class facilities, and a few hundred members converged on Ottawa for presentations, meetings, astrophotography displays, and workshops, in addition to business meetings related to the operation of the Society. Several commercial organizations supported the event as sponsors. The Ruth Northcott Memorial Lecture was open to the public and featured Dr. Eric Steinbring of the National Research Council, on the topic of Astronomy from Coast to Coast to Coast.

As part of the Strategic Plan we adopted in 2016, we are creating a welcoming, diverse, safe, and collaborative culture reflective of Canada's population. Our membership primarily consists of established people in their middle years and those in retirement. Some joined when they were students and went on to make amazing discoveries, including finding planets around other worlds. Students have won recognition at the local Centre or regional science-fair level and went on to the Canada-Wide Science Fair and are now on the Board of our Society, including your current President. Today's youth members often re-engage with RASC activities after university when they have more free time.

We are working to ensure our culture aligns with Canada's evolving demographics, and to find ways to re-engage and retain members. Member churn is under 20%, and our Strategic Plan outlined steps to bring this down by both improving the culture and by creating "inreach" programs to better connect with members that we may lose. We recognized we need to ensure people are engaged early and continue to grow in their knowledge, skills, and passion for the night sky.

As part of our efforts, the Society is updating policies concerning conduct of members, to reduce and eliminate potential instances of harassment, and to be more transparent and accountable. We believe this will help improve diversity, openness, member retention, and to eliminate problems. Recent news items have touched on harassment of all kinds, and the Society wants to ensure we have a good environment for all its members and the community we serve.

Partnerships are areas we intend to build on. Collaboration with francophone astronomy clubs through the FAAQ and the professional Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) can grow even further. These organizations have co-sponsored educational materials, astronomy programs, lectures, the Qilak award, and more. It is hoped this will continue in the coming years in even more fruitful ways. The RASC co-sponsored the Helen Sawyer Hogg Lecture, presented by Dr. Fiona Harrison of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) at the CASCA annual meeting.

The Society continues to manage its finances carefully and is developing new sources of revenue. In the fall of 2017, we began

developing some new publications that will be available for sale. We also hired a professional fundraising consultant to assist us with aligning our existing fundraising activities to be more productive, so that we can achieve more.

This past summer, North Americans were treated to a spectacular total solar eclipse. The RASC procured and distributed over 10,000 safe eclipse glasses, allowing members of the public to view the Moon's passage in front of the Sun without worry.

The Society maintains extensive archives that will be accessible in the spring of 2018, when we open a small library space at our Dundas St. office in Toronto. This will also include a small meeting space and museum artifacts, including our meteorite collection and historic items.

Our plan is to reach more schoolchildren and educators, build on our membership base, and engage the public more frequently in the coming year. We have started efforts toward providing a tele-

scope that can be used by the public for astroimaging and science. We have also partnered with provincial and national parks to create Dark-Sky Preserves, so the unspoiled night sky can be enjoyed by more people.

Please support our journey. I encourage you to assist us by donating to the Society at online at www.rasc.ca. If you are considering a Legacy Gift, our staff would be pleased to work with you and your financial advisors to arrange a planned gift that best suits your goals.

On a personal note, as President of the Society and chair of the Board of Directors, I wish to express my gratitude to the hundreds of people within the Society and in the larger community who help the RASC reach more people and help them learn and enjoy the night sky.

Colin Haig
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The year 2017 was an amazing one for the Society. Astronomically, the highlight was the spectacular total solar eclipse across the United States. Hundreds of members travelled south to the path of totality and stood in the Moon's shadow, many for the first time. At home, members across the country hosted public observing sessions of the partial eclipse. Armed with solar filters and information sheets to hand out and telescopes equipped for safe solar observing, everyone was inundated with crowds ten times larger than expected. Many members are already preparing for the Canadian total solar eclipse in April 2024.

Canada marked its 150th birthday in July. The Ottawa Centre hosted the General Assembly on the Canada Day weekend, which included an excellent program of speakers and events. To mark the anniversary, the Society held its first coast-to-coast-to-coast National Star Party on July 29.

While Canada celebrated its 150th anniversary, we prepared to celebrate ours in 2018. A working group headed by Randall Rosenfeld has been planning our celebration throughout 2017. The kickoff on 2018 January 27 was marked by a coast-to-coast 6-hour online celebration hosted by Paul Delaney, with participation from several Centres and videotaped congratulations from various groups and individuals. Congratulations to the 150th anniversary working group for planning a year of exciting events to celebrate this milestone in RASC history. A highlight will be the General Assembly in Calgary in late June.

Check out the 150th website at <https://rasc.ca/2018> to see all the planned events.

A special 150th anniversary project will fundraise to acquire a robotic telescope. Once operational, members will have access to data year-round and be able to participate in science research projects, astrophotography programs, and public outreach events.

Over the New Year, we expanded the Society office space, creating a new History Centre. This new space will serve as a storage and display area for our archives, a meeting space, and an area to hold public meetings and presentations.

I congratulate the Centres for another year of outstanding astronomical activities, and continue to be impressed by the commitment and dedication shown by our members in promoting astro-

my and its allied sciences. Hundreds of volunteers bring astronomy to new members and to the public each year.

A big thank you to our hard-working Board of Directors, and welcome to new Board members Anthony Gucciardo, Michael Watson, and Dr. Robert Thacker.

Several volunteers are responsible for the ongoing job of producing our publications. The publications are critical to promoting astronomy, and they help us achieve our mandate, inform members of news and activities, and generate income for the Society.

James Edgar leads a team of editors, proofreaders, and contributors to produce the annual world-renowned *Observer's Handbook*. Nicole Mortillaro leads a team of editors, proofreaders, designers, and contributors to produce our excellent *Journal*. James Edgar works as Production Manager of the *Journal*, and with the skilled help of Halifax member, Catherine Berry, produces the *Annual Report*. Paul Gray is the editor of the outstanding *Observer's Calendar*. David Garner is the editor of both the *Bulletin* and the *National Newsletter*, which provide timely information to the membership. A big thank you to the entire team!

Part of my job is to run *SkyNews* and its website. We have an incredibly talented team who continue to make *SkyNews* the best astronomy magazine anywhere. Editor Gary Seronik and his team of writers produce high-quality material that is timely and extremely useful for people new to astronomy—both observers and those who just like to read about the latest in astronomical research and discoveries. Our production team is the best—thanks to Colleen Moloney, Janice McLean, Susan Dickinson, and David Webster for producing each issue and making each one better than before. We are glad our Editor Emeritus Terry Dickinson continues to write for *SkyNews*. Gary and Ellen Rooney (a husband & wife team) keep the website humming and populated with the latest news and astrophotos.

SkyNews is an astronomy resource for the RASC. To ensure its continued success, I ask all members to support the advertisers both in the magazine and on the website. Pass your copy along to a young astronomer or interested adult, and buy some extra subscriptions for your friends, your doctor's office, or school library. A big thank you to all the Centres that bought bulk copies to distribute to potential members at meetings and outreach events. This helps a lot!

I welcome Lisa Di Veto to the Society team. Lisa is a fundraising consultant with many years of experience. Lisa is helping us set up a framework for raising funds to support new and exciting projects.

We are fortunate to have a skilled and devoted team working for the Society in the Toronto office. Renata Koziol handles the finances for both the RASC and *SkyNews*. Julia Neeser runs the office and handles membership and customer queries. I am always amazed at how they do what they do. On August 21 (eclipse day), when my wife, Betty Robinson, and I were off observing totality, Renata and Julia handled a long lineup of people hoping to get their hands on solar viewers. After the throng was served, they went out to the street and showed the eclipse to passers-by.

Running the Society is a big job; we could not do it without the support of our members.

We regret that the Québec Centre (established in 1942) has folded for lack of membership. We intend to continue our relationship

with the astronomers in Québec City, supporting them in their outreach efforts.

I note the passing of two good friends in 2017. Dr. Robert Garrison was a Past President—he was on the Executive when I was President in 1998–2000. Bob was a great supporter of the RASC and very active in public outreach. Because he taught a Life in the Universe course at the University of Toronto, the media always reached out to him for an interview when this topic was in the news. Rosemary Freeman also passed away in 2017. Rosemary was the Society's Executive Secretary from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s—in three separate office addresses. Always friendly, she served the Society well as we moved the office into the computer age.

Clear skies in 2018!

Randy Attwood
Executive Director

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The Board met 16 times in 2017, travelling twice to Calgary to participate in Strategic Planning Sessions and once to Toronto. An increasing amount of Board business is conducted through email exchanges and votes.

The Public Speaker Program Fund was used one more time this year than last (16 applications). The amount refunded to Centres is \$5485.49, down from last year (\$6939.18). This was because three speakers for the Sunshine Coast Centre declined reimbursement. If they'd accepted reimbursement, this would have pushed the figure for this year up \$764.64 to \$6250.13, which would still be under last year's figure. Another reason that the amount is down is that the request for \$5770 from the PSP to subsidize speakers at the Ottawa GA was turned down, with the organizers being referred to other sources of funding. The PSP had been increasingly used by General Assemblies in recent years to subsidize their speaker programs and this practice was ended as the Public Speaker Program is meant to allow isolated and/or financially disadvantaged Centres to bring in speakers. Permitting GA claims for a single event was reducing the amount available to these Centres.

Changes to the Policy Manual, include revisions to the Committee Terms of Reference (Board of Directors Compensation), revisions to C10 Observing Committee membership, G7 General Assembly reporting limits, G10 (addition of Reimbursement for Revenue-Generating Publications), G25 Conflict of Interest, G27 Gifts, Appendix A, the Board of Directors Code of Conduct,

An On-Boarding Manual for the Board of Directors, and a Centres Manual were released by the Board. The Centres Manual will be a "living document" for Centres to add their own ideas and comments.

We offer condolences to the families of the following members who passed during 2017: Mississauga: William F Bohnhardt; Montréal: Ian Harris; New Brunswick: Laurie Mersereau; Okanagan: Luke Kurvers; Ottawa: Paul Boltwood, Arthur Griffin, Eric Kujala; Toronto: Bob Garrison, Rosemary Freeman; Yukon: Sandra Peacock.

Charles Ennis
National Secretary

Note: The complete Annual Report is available on-line at:
www.rasc.ca/annual-report-2017-extended

Should you encounter any problems with logging in, read this page:
www.rasc.ca/login-assistance

The extended version includes the following:
2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes
2017 Annual Reports from Centres
2018 Award Winners
2018 Centre Addresses and Executives
2018 National Council

Membership Statistics 2007-2017

Centre	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Belleville	26	28	33	28	31	30	31	37	26	32	35
Calgary	458	421	460	434	381	336	282	271	300	317	313
Charlottetown	0	0	0	7	13	20	19	25	24	24	22
Edmonton	332	302	294	274	277	229	235	260	257	258	255
Halifax	172	164	172	170	169	153	154	159	155	157	162
Hamilton	113	111	116	109	103	78	61	66	70	76	80
Kingston	64	67	65	72	75	66	66	74	90	98	106
Kitchener-Waterloo	135	114	126	130	109	115	106	115	116	118	104
London	115	119	124	129	110	126	104	118	97	101	104
Mississauga	183	170	179	188	168	132	123	120	127	120	103
C.F de Montréal	18	20	17	18	16	18	20	22	24	23	28
Montréal	143	135	126	117	109	110	91	87	103	107	99
New Brunswick	108	91	88	77	66	68	68	66	75	79	88
Niagara	95	88	78	73	62	69	69	71	82	97	104
Okanagan	133	133	122	124	115	106	92	116	103	88	86
Ottawa	372	358	361	343	319	325	328	370	389	410	416
Prince George	92	99	76	57	66	63	69	64	64	79	67
Québec	13	15	15	18	16	20	20	17	17	35	44
Regina	78	88	111	94	80	75	62	62	52	48	55
St. John's	60	61	58	57	58	47	44	45	48	47	52
Sarnia	11	15	14	20	12	11	15	15	19	24	25
Saskatoon	85	83	75	73	68	70	70	72	71	71	78
Sunshine Coast	72	65	69	50	43	32	38	35	32		
Thunder Bay	45	46	49	45	51	50	46	46	44	37	41
Toronto	824	860	904	869	782	611	573	554	502	506	610
Vancouver	254	236	254	217	198	226	228	244	251	263	256
Victoria	257	235	216	202	176	163	164	166	185	173	188
Windsor	116	106	107	96	84	90	100	96	96	98	94
Winnipeg	240	214	228	221	210	178	180	168	162	169	157
Yukon	32	44									
Unattached	432	413	429	431	428	446	435	434	459	530	561
Honorary	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14
	5093	4916	4981	4760	4410	4077	3908	4010	4055	4216	4347

Membership by Type

Type	Number	% of Total
Ordinary	3807	74.8
Family	804	15.7
Life	287	5.7
Youth	180	3.5
Honorary	(15)	.3

Membership by Country

Country	Number	% of Total
Canada	4879	95.8
USA	187	3.7
Other	27	.5

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Two key questions have guided me while in my first term as Treasurer:

1. What do we need from our budget to accomplish our objectives?
2. What do we want the RASC to look like in the future, in order to remain viable, relevant, and sustainable?

By emphasizing that we need to use resources properly, ensuring projects, committees, and operations are time-lined, properly budgeted, transparent, accountable, and measured with key performance indicators (KPI) in accordance to the Strategic Plan, we can focus on:

- Ensuring that our front office staff are adequately trained and have access to the right tools and skills; and
- Ensuring that RASC finances are sustainable.

It is important to remember that strategic planning is an organization's process of defining its strategy, or direction, and allocating resources to pursue this strategy. It also extends to control mechanisms for guiding the implementation of the strategy.

We are conducting a total review of the budget's incomes and expenses, to see what we can add, improve, or remove. This has already led to changes in Policies G19, 20, & 21, which have been completely revamped and/or updated, to meet current and future Society needs. Scotia McLeod-managed investments were reviewed; Society reports to the Canada Revenue Agency were reviewed; travel expense policy was thoroughly reviewed. The Finance Committee created a PowerPoint document "RASC Budget Workshop for Centres," distributed in November 2017, to ensure Centres understood:

- Strategic planning, resource allocation, budgeting
- Cash management
- Association profits and financial reserves
- Financial responsibilities of the Board of Directors
- Financial accountability and audits
- Types of funding
- Fundraising
- Fundraising laws and regulations
- Grant proposals
- References / Useful Links
- Important Dates & Deadlines for Centre Treasurers

This document was made to facilitate annual reporting, for Centres to meet municipal/Provincial/Territorial/Federal (Canada Revenue Agency) regulations. Contact the Finance Committee if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

To ensure a consistent and competent oversight over all aspects of financial management, the Finance Committee works closely with Renata Koziol at the Society Office, who always goes above and beyond for the Society and has provided many hours of support, guidance, and wisdom. Thank you, Renata, for everything you do for the membership, and the RASC!

Thanks to the other members of the Finance Committee for helping give you, the members, the best membership service for your money: Randy Attwood, Colin Haig, Craig Levine, Robyn Foret, and Arun Rau.

Thanks also to the RASC's external financial supporters, who work in partnership with the RASC: Michele Tkachenko from Tinkham & Associates, and Shannon Boutilier from Scotia McLeod Wealth Management.

During my first year, I have learned that our organization has a "charity mentality," tending to place emphasis on costs rather than investment. We do not seem to be comfortable with thriving, and only recently have we started to embrace a mindset of changes such as the creation of a Fundraising Committee and sponsorships. We have been working closely with Lisa Di Veto, to see if there are ways our Society can implement many of her ideas, as well as new approaches. Thank you, Lisa, for all your hard work!

It has taken the better part of the year to get a firm grasp of all the people and ways the RASC operates; from the office staff, member benefits, services, sponsorships, donations, investments, assets, fundraising, publications, and SkyNews Inc..

That said, the many constructive comments brought forward by the members, Centre Presidents, and/or National Council have been heeded. For the RASC to better reach its objectives (outlined in the Strategic Plan), to move forward, it can no longer operate in a "business-as-usual" model. Some things will continue to be improved, others will need to be removed, and some will need to be innovated, or re-engineered.

The main duty of Treasurer is to oversee the financial administration of the organisation, review procedures and financial reporting, advise the Board of Directors on financial strategy, and on fundraising opportunities and objectives.

Donations, and New Sources of Revenue

DONATIONS: Donations were down in 2017 as compared to other years. Our new Fundraising champion, Lisa Di Veto, came on board in October to help us improve donations using her various skills and resources. Lisa and the Fundraising Committee are working hard to get more donations through grants, events, and projects. Members are encouraged to donate whenever possible.

NEW SOURCES OF REVENUE: The Finance Committee and Fundraising Committee are actively looking for new sources of revenue. New projects, such as publication of the *Solar Observer's Handbook* and North Studio's website re-work, have all been approved to help the RASC get new revenue.

Closing Comments

In the coming months, hard choices will need to be made by every member in the Society, and on the Board of Directors. The world of finances is not as stable as it once was, and as identified above, the RASC will not always be guaranteed a positive income. We need to work collaboratively to meet the changing economy and the modern world. For the future, costs will continue to rise in all sectors of our economy: food, gas, oil, postage & shipping, and the RASC will need to meet those challenges head-on. A careful balance of improving membership and Centre services and being sustainable is possible—we need each of you to help us reach those goals together!

Anthony Gucciardo
Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Tinkham & Associates LLP CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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To the Members of
THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada/La Société Royale D'Astronomie Du Canada, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2017 and the statements of revenue and expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives revenue from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenue, excess of revenues over expenses for the year, assets or unrestricted net assets.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

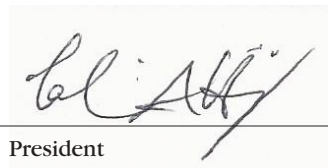
TORONTO, Ontario
February 28, 2018

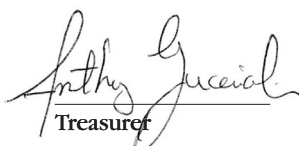
Tinkham & Associates LLP
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31	2017	2016
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 77,436	\$ 116,894
Accounts receivable	36,990	25,136
Receivable from SkyNews Inc. (note 5)	9,628	5,982
Inventory	17,608	31,168
Prepaid expenses	23,340	19,521
	165,002	198,701
Long Term		
Investments (note 4)	859,942	877,646
Investment in SkyNews Inc. (note 5)	215,238	212,555
Capital assets (note 6)		
Tangible assets	6,786	5,026
Intangible assets	41,455	34,379
	\$ 1,288,423	\$ 1,328,307
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 29,434	\$ 30,055
Deferred revenue		
Membership fees for ensuing years	123,662	121,181
Journal subscriptions	18,918	14,694
Unamortized life membership fees (note 7)	21,202	23,852
	193,216	189,782
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	542,097	601,999
Internally restricted (note 9)	553,110	536,526
	1,095,207	1,138,525
	1,288,423	1,328,307
Commitment (note 8)		<i>See accompanying notes to financial statements</i>

On Behalf of the Board


President


Treasurer

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Internally Restricted (note 9)	Unrestricted	2017	2016
Year ended December 31				
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 536,526	\$ 601,999	\$ 1,138,525	\$ 1,074,234
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	-	(43,318)	(43,318)	64,291
Transfers (note 9)	16,584	(16,584)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 553,110	\$ 542,097	\$ 1,095,207	\$ 1,138,525

See accompanying notes to financial statements

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Year ended December 31	2017	2016
Revenue		
Membership fee revenue	\$ 212,743	\$ 211,842
Publication revenue		
<i>Observer's Handbook</i>	121,033	117,836
<i>Journal</i>	35,467	39,133
<i>Observer's Calendar</i>	35,354	32,376
Shipping and Handling	35,249	38,706
Other Publications	7,436	17,273
Educational Aids	4,055	4,420
	238,594	249,744
Miscellaneous income		
Promotional products	33,381	7,881
Donations	21,420	23,489
Other Income	12,363	8,992
<i>SkyNews (note 5)</i>	2,683	1,055
	69,847	41,417
Investment Income (net)		
Gain (loss) on investments	25,287	49,877
Interest and dividends	19,879	21,017
Investment manager fees	(11,658)	(10,313)
	33,508	60,581
Total Revenue	554,692	563,584
Expenditures		
Publication costs		
<i>Journal</i>	47,699	46,856
Freight and handling costs	38,072	32,623
Cost of publications sold	34,696	37,280
<i>Observer's Handbook</i>	2,614	4,772
	123,081	121,531
Operating costs		
Office salaries and employee benefits	190,694	171,439
Membership services	92,717	85,014
Committees	48,007	15,738
Travel expenses	41,592	29,677
Services	37,769	36,386
Office expenses	34,950	37,746
Occupancy	28,680	26,500
Amortization of capital assets	25,539	17,539
Advertising and marketing	13,289	8,514
Cost of promotional items sold	7,667	4,773
Strategic Planning	6,150	6,150
Recovery of office salaries and rent (note 5)	(52,125)	(61,714)
	474,929	377,762
Total Expenses	598,010	499,293
Excess of revenue over expenses (expenses over revenue) for the year	\$ (43,318)	\$ 64,291

See accompanying notes to financial statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year ended December 31	2017	2016
Cash provided (used) by operating activities		
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ (43,318)	\$ 64,291
Charges not requiring a current cash payment		
Amortization of capital assets	25,539	17,539
Amortization of life membership fees	(2,650)	(2,650)
Income of SkyNews Inc.	(2,683)	(1,055)
	(23,112)	78,125
Changes in non-cash working capital components		
Accounts receivable and receivable from SkyNews Inc.	(15,500)	13,778
Inventory	13,560	(4,950)
Prepaid Expenses	(3,819)	(9,349)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(621)	4,514
Deferred revenues	6,705	(12,211)
	(22,787)	69,907
Cash provided (used) by investing activities		
Investments (net)	17,704	(49,232)
Purchase of capital assets	(34,375)	(14,381)
	(16,671)	(63,613)
Increase (decrease) in cash during the year	(39,458)	6,294
Cash, beginning of year	\$ 116,894	110,600
Cash, end of year	\$ 77,436	\$ 116,894

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Organization

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (“the Society”) is a Canadian corporation without share capital and a registered charitable organization, incorporated for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting astronomy and related sciences. The Society is not subject to income taxes pursuant to exemptions accorded to registered charities in the income tax legislation.

2. Significant accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

(a) Cash

Cash includes cash on hand and deposits in financial institutions.

(b) Investments

The Society has elected to value all investments, with the exception of the investment in SkyNews Inc., at fair value, which is based on quoted market values.

(c) Investment in SkyNews Inc.

The Society purchased SkyNews Inc., a private corporation, on June 29, 2015 to further the Society’s mission. SkyNews Inc. publishes a highly regarded magazine which provides an excellent source of educational information on astronomy and allied sciences to the public.

The Society owns 100% of the shares of SkyNews Inc., a profit oriented entity, and accordingly controls the corporation. The Society has elected to account for the investment using the equity method.

(d) Inventory

Inventory is comprised of publications and promotional items for re-sale and is carried at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on an average cost basis.

(e) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Cost comprises the purchase price and any directly attributable cost of preparing the asset for intended use.

A capital asset is tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that its carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized in the statement of revenue and expenses when the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the sum of the undiscounted cash flows resulting from its use and eventual disposition. The impairment loss is measured as the amount by which the carrying amount of the capital asset exceeds its fair value. An impairment loss is not reversed if the fair value of the capital asset subsequently increases. As at December 31, 2015, no such impairment exists.

Amortization has been determined using a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives as follows:

Tangible assets:	Computer hardware	3 years
	Office furniture	10 years
Intangible assets:	Software	5-10 years
	Website development	3 years, 1/2 in year of acquisition

(f) Revenue recognition

(i) Membership fees

Membership fees received in the first half of the year are recognized during the current year. Those received in the second half of the year are recorded as deferred revenue and recognized in the following year. The organization previously offered life memberships to members. Life memberships received in prior years were credited to unamortized life membership fees liability account, as described in Note 7. The unamortized life membership fees are being recognized as revenue evenly over 10 years to 2025.

(ii) Contributions

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

(iii) Investment Income

Investment income is recognized on an accrual basis. The unrealized gain or loss on investments, being the difference between cost and fair value, is recognized in investment income for the year.

(iv) Subscriptions and publications

Journal subscription revenues are amortized into income over the subscription period. Publications are recognized as revenue when shipped.

(g) Contributed services

The organization is dependant on the voluntary services of many individuals. The value of donated services is not recognized in these financial statements

(h) Management estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant estimates include the impairment of accounts receivable and the useful lives of capital assets. All estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are made to the statement of operations as appropriate in the year they become known.

(i) Financial instruments

(i) Measurement

The Society initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. The Society subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost except for its investments which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the excess of revenue over expenditures for the year.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued charges.

(ii) Impairment

At the end of each reporting period, the Society assesses whether there are any indications that a financial asset measured at amortized cost may be impaired. When there is an indication of impairment, the Society determines whether a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows from the financial asset and it reduces the carrying amount of the asset to the highest of the following: i) the present value of the cash flows expected to be generated by holding the asset discounted using a current market rate of interest appropriate to the asset; ii) the amount that could be realized by selling the asset at the statement of financial position date; and iii) the amount the Society expects to realize by exercising its rights to any collateral held to secure repayment of the asset net of all costs necessary to exercise those rights. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced directly or through the use of an allowance account. The amount of the reduction is recognized as a bad debt in the statement of revenue and expenses. When the extent of impairment of a previously written-down asset decreases and the decrease can be related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the statements of revenue and expenses in the period the reversal occurs.

(iii) Transaction costs

Transaction costs are recognized in the statements of operations in the period incurred, except for financial instruments that will be subsequently measured at amortized cost. Investment management fees associated with the Scotia McLeod managed portfolio are expensed as incurred.

3. Helm Fund

The Society is trustee of an endowment fund created by Mr. Walter J. Helm (a former Royal Astronomical Society of Canada member) who passed away 1960 June 5. In his will he provided a bequest to the Society that was to be used to support the general purposes of the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Under the terms of a 2010 court interpretation, the income of the Helm Fund is presently being applied in support of on-going public education programs at the DDO site.

The fair value of the total assets of the Helm Fund under administration by the Society at December 31, 2017 are \$145,407 (2016 - \$146,558) and are excluded from the Society's financial statements as the Society is not the legal owner or beneficiary of the Fund.

4. Investments

As at December 31	2017	2016
Managed portfolio at Scotia McLeod		
Fixed income investments	\$ 377,308	\$ 414,672
Canadian equity investments	302,970	276,076
US equity investments	147,949	119,679
Cash	31,715	67,219
	\$ 859,942	\$ 877,646

The actively managed portfolio with Scotia Wealth Management (ScotiaMcLeod) includes 17 fixed income investments (2016—13 investments) comprised of government and corporate bonds with stated interest rates ranging from 1.20% to 3.75% (2016 - 1.51% to 3.80%), maturing from August 9, 2018 to June 15, 2022 (2016 - June 15, 2017 to March 15, 2022).

The Canadian equity investments include share and trust units of 29 Canadian entities (2016—30 Canadian entities). The single largest holding is 265 shares of Toronto-Dominion Bank with a market value of \$19,517 (2016—429 shares of Toronto-Dominion Bank with a market value of \$28,408).

The U.S. equity investments include share and trust units of 34 entities (2016—33 entities). The single largest holding is 61 shares of Microsoft Corp. with a market value of \$5,218 US\$ (2016—88 shares of Citigroup Inc. with a market value of \$5,230 US\$)

The fixed income and equity investments have been recorded at market value based on information provided by Scotia Wealth Management (ScotiaMcLeod).

5. Investment in SkyNews Inc.

The Society purchased 100% of the common shares of SkyNews Inc. on June 26, 2015. The fiscal year end of SkyNews Inc. is March 31, accordingly, the net income for the period from the date of purchase to March 31, 2017 has been recognized in the financial statements of the Society in 2017 (2016 - from the date of purchase to March 31, 2016). The following summary is taken from the unaudited financial statements of SkyNews Inc.

As at	2017	2016
Total assets	\$ 119,546	\$ 146,854
Total liabilities	214,198	244,189
Total deficit	(94,652)	(97,345)
	Year ended March 31, 2017	Period ended March 31, 2016
Total revenue	531,159	351,717
Total cost of sales	464,732	306,333
Total expenses	63,744	44,329
Net income for the period	2,683	1,055

The Society has recognized cost recoveries totalling \$52,125 (2016 - \$61,714) for office salaries and rent charged to SkyNews Inc. Included in membership services expense is \$49,748 (2016 - \$45,153) for purchases of *SkyNews Magazine* in the year which is distributed to Society members as part of their membership subscription. The Society also expensed \$6,236 (2016 - \$5,353) in advertising and marketing for advertisements in *SkyNews Magazine*.

These transactions were made in the normal course of operations and have been measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

6. Capital assets

	2017		2016	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Tangible Assets				
Computer hardware	\$ 15,729	\$ 14,595	\$ 15,729	\$ 12,070
Office furniture	2,629	1,635	2,629	1,263
Library	1		1	-
Leasehold improvements	4,989	332		
	\$ 23,348	\$ 16,562	\$ 18,359	\$ 13,333
Net book value		6,786		\$ 5,026
Intangible assets				
Software	\$ 103,503	\$ 64,009	74,118	\$ 45,622
Website development	11,766	9,805	11,766	5,883
	115,269	73,814	85,884	51,505
Net book value		\$ 41,455		\$ 34,379

7. Unamortized life membership fees

	2017	2016
Life membership fees as of January 1	\$ 23,852	\$ 26,502
Deduct: Amortization to income	(2,650)	(2,650)
Balance, December 31	\$ 21,202	\$ 23,852

8. Commitment

The Society leases office space and has entered a new lease agreement for additional storage space. The leases extend to March 31, 2019. The minimum annual payments required under the lease, excluding an estimate of the proportionate share of property taxes, maintenance and insurance for the premises, for fiscal 2018: \$24,629 and 2019: \$6,267. Property tax, maintenance and insurance in addition to the base rent is estimated at \$30,000 for 2018.

9. Internally restricted net assets

The Society has internally restricted certain funds. The Ruth Northcott Fund was established in 1969 and funds are used for a variety of specified purposes as approved by the Board of Directors related to public education and outreach. The P.M. Millman Endowment Fund was established in 1990 for the purpose of providing for the long-term growth of the Society. The Sustaining Membership Fund was established in 2009 to encourage Centres to organize and host public talks by speakers from outside their local area about astronomical related topics.

An amount equal to the investment income for the year is transferred to all funds annually on a proportionate basis. All disbursements from these funds must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Schedule 1: Internally Restricted Net Assets				2017	2016
	Sustaining Membership Fund	Ruth Northcott Fund	P.M. Millman Endowment Fund	Total	Total
Fund balance, January 1	\$ 7,557	\$ 218,633	\$ 310,336	\$ 536,526	\$ 510,086
Transferred from Unrestricted net assets:					
Interest	222	6,435	9,134	15,791	28,767
Donations	2,438	3,853	652	6,943	4,355
Expenses	(6,150)	-	-	(6,150)	(6,682)
	(3,490)	10,288	9,786	16,584	26,440
Balance, December 31	\$ 4,067	\$ 228,921	\$ 320,122	\$ 553,110	\$ 536,526

10. Financial instruments

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Society's risk exposure and concentrations.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Society is exposed to credit risk through its cash, accounts receivable and investments. Credit risk related to cash is minimal as funds are fully insured and held by credit-worthy parties. Accounts receivable are generally unsecured. The investment policy requires diversification of investments within categories, and sets limits on exposure to individual investments.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will not be able to meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due. The Society meets its liquidity requirements by ensuring adequate cash is maintained and investments are available to be converted to cash if and when required.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

Currency risk

Currency risk reflects the risk that the Society's earnings will decline due to the fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The Society has cash and investments denominated in U.S. \$ totalling \$171,548 at December 31, 2017 (2016 - \$139,254). The exchange rate used to convert US\$ assets at December 31, 2017 is \$1 US = \$1.2545 Cdn. (2016 - \$1.3427 Cdn).

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Society is subject to interest rate risk to the extent of its fixed income investments and cash on deposit with financial institutions that earn interest at market rates. The Society manages its exposure to the interest rate risk of its cash by maximizing the interest income earned on excess funds while maintaining the liquidity necessary to conduct operations on a day to day basis. Fluctuations in market rates of interest on cash do not have a significant impact on the Society's results of operations.

The primary objective of the Society with respect to its fixed income investments is to ensure the security of principal amounts invested, provide for a high degree of liquidity, and achieve a satisfactory investment return.

Other price risk

Other price risk refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from currency risk or interest rate risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all similar instruments in the market.

The Society is exposed to other price risk because of its equity investments.

Changes in risk

There have been no changes in the Society's risk exposures from the prior year.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—2017

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

09:00 EDT, Sunday 2017 July 2, Algonquin College, Ottawa, Ontario

BOD Members in Attendance: Colin Haig, Craig Levine, Chris Gainor, Robyn Foret, Anthony Gucciardo, Charles Ennis, Heather Laird, Michael Watson, Randy Attwood. Absent: Rob Thacker. Twenty Centres were represented, with about 40 members and guests present.

1. Call to Order

Chair Craig Levine called the meeting to order at 9:02.

2. Previous Minutes

Motion AGM 17-1

Moved by Don Town, seconded by Eric Briggs, to approve the minutes as previously distributed. No discussion.

Motion AGM 17-1 was CARRIED.

3. Officer's Reports:

President

Craig Levine summarized the Society's new Strategic Plan, describing how the Board would provide governance, oversight, and vision and how the Executive Director's office would focus on execution of the plan. Craig spoke to the need for transparency, achievability, and measurability. Craig spoke of how it was incumbent upon us to work towards a Society free of harassment, welcoming to youth, women, and diverse ethnic cultures. We must encourage diversity and engage youth. Craig described the Society as being reactive in the past, and the need to take a long view in future, with long term goals. Craig described the Strategic Plan as a five-year plan which was a living document, aware of changing circumstances and responding to changes in Canada's economic environment. Changes to Board structure have given us flexibility, the ability to respond and "tack with the wind" quickly, responding to needs. Craig spoke of the lengthy process of creating changes to the governance structure. Now that we've made that change, we can work with the President's list and can now focus on Centres and their needs. Craig then summarized the services that National Office provides to Centres. We must be driven towards service and value to Centres, growing to develop sustainable resources. Craig reminded attendees that this year saw the formation of our first fundraising committee, working to eliminate dependence on foreign exchange and investments and identify special projects to attract donations and to provide more funds for services. We need to change to a charitable culture and focus on outreach to connect with diverse communities to "fill out big tent."

1st Vice President

Chris Gainor summarized work on publications, describing automatic turn over mostly due to staff of the *Journal*, *Observer's Handbook*, etc. This was an easy job, but got more complicated moving into stand-alone publications such as *Building a Small Observatory* and the *Explore the Universe Guide*. He anticipated upgrades and changes to facilitate work in the coming year, possibly the introduction of a production coordinator, and encouraged attendees to share any ideas they may have. Chris said the Constitution Committee had been very quiet lately, with the major issue being waiting for new Societies Act in Ontario to be proclaimed.

Chris said the Board would be looking at the role of the Constitution Committee this year.

2nd Vice President

Robyn Foret submitted a report on-line prior to the GA which he had just amended and would post on the website soon. Robyn formed a working group for the Strategic Plan at the National Council meeting at the 2016 GA in London, taking output, creating a chart to identify must do's, could do's. Robyn thanked the working group for their hard work which was accomplished on a short time line, producing a great outcome. Robyn spoke of governance and liaison to committees. With regards to the Nominating Committee; we almost had an election, which ended up in a process of acclamation. Robyn summarized the term limits of the new Board members. Robyn encouraged members to put their names forward to serve on the Board in future.

Secretary

Charles Ennis submitted a report published in the Annual Report. Charles summarized the status of the Public Speakers Program, which is finally being used close to capacity, though this was due to funds being allocated to speakers at the GA in the last two years, a practice that the Board has ended. Charles spoke of the new *Centres Manual* and *On-Boarding Manuals*, both living documents to assist Centres.

Treasurer

Colin Haig submitted a financial statement published in the Annual Report. Colin stepped into the Treasurer's position last January. Colin thanked Denis Grey and Susan Yeo for their service, and he described it as "quick learning" when he stepped in. Haig summarized the financials and the situation with the Helm Fund. There is a need to disperse proceeds annually and file a return with the CRA because if this isn't done, the Fund can be taxed. The Toronto Centre operating the David Dunlap was eligible to receive Helm funds, but in 2017 this was discontinued, and the Society must find a new recipient. The Society was 6 days late in filing, in part because the Toronto Centre was delayed in getting reports to the Treasurer. Colin praised Tinkham and Associates, who worked extensively with Renata. Colin described the auditor, who works on our behalf, as providing good scrutiny and thanked them for their assistance. Colin praised Renata for her efforts in reducing the Society's credit card charges. Colin briefly summarized the honorarium payment sent out automatically in error to an editor who had to return it due to Ontario regulations. Changes have been made to the *Policy Manual* to address this and other conflict of interest issues.

Motion AGM 17-2

Moved by Randy Boddam, seconded by Paul Heath, that our auditor be reappointed.

Motion AGM 17-2 was CARRIED.

Colin then summarized the financials for SkyNews Inc., which is treated by the Society as an investment. SkyNews Inc. is a separate, private corporation owned by the RASC. Colin described how the RASC also has large investments with Scotia McLeod and how we must be prudent and take care with these investments. Colin described how the publishing business has changed radically due to the internet. The Society totally depends on subscriptions and ad revenue, both of which are slowly declining. The RASC has defrayed SkyNews Inc. costs by services provided by RASC head office. Colin pointed out that the year end for SkyNews Inc. is offset 3 months from the Society.

A member asked: "Are the financials for SkyNews Inc. published?" Colin replied: "No, it is a separate corporation."

Colin then summarized the Society's balance sheet. Assets year over year stayed close. The Society has cash on hand in its accounts. Receivables are low. SkyNews Inc. is billed for staff time, office services. On the inventory side: the Society has more inventory on hand, greater variety, new books. Colin summarized the new items. Regarding investment: Scotia McLeod did well, increasing the value of our investments. SkyNews Inc. is static. Liabilities nothing out of ordinary. Regarding member fees: Colin summarized net assets and internally restricted or unrestricted funds. Fee revenue up somewhat, publications slightly up, with a slow decline in Observer's Handbook and Calendar sales, printed *Journal* issues, just below 5% per year decline. Colin described the new US edition *Observer's Handbook*. US exchange rates have helped somewhat. Other publications such as the *Explore the Universe Guide* and *Building a Small Observatory* have brought in a significant amount of cash. Donations last year totaled \$2300, but this year donations are behind expectations. Colin described how donation money goes to programs and activities. Membership fees cover members services. Colin described how nothing in membership fees helps grow our Society or help the Society to achieve its objectives. Projects are funded from publications and donations. Colin described in detail exactly what membership fees cover. At the request of Chris Martin, Colin also summarized the costs of service pins for members.

Colin explained that on the expense side salaries and benefits had been adjusted upward, and that this will happen again this year. Regarding Committee expenses: Colin noticed some Committees are financially efficient, while others ask for money and don't spend it. Colin didn't know if this indicated savings or lack of activity.

Colin reported an excess of revenue over expenses creating a \$64,000 surplus due to investment returns, foreign exchange, and new publications. Some of the costs of the delayed implementation of the iMIS system have been rolled into the first quarter of 2017, so there will be a possible deficit this year.

Colin commented on the 20% membership turnover and how we needed to work on retention. Colin spoke of raising membership fees to cover cost, of rolling out new programs and ideas which required funding, and how some programs, like the Public Speaker's Program, are not fully used. Colin spoke of how programs like the PSP were funded from sustaining donations, and that they haven't been topped up due to a lack of donations, which wasn't a problem before, but is becoming a problem as it becomes used to capacity. Colin encouraged members to make donations to sustaining funds. Colin reported that the loss of the University of Toronto's subscription to JRASC led to a loss of \$2000.

A member asked if renewal by cheques would be better than credit card renewals. Colin reported that the Society had looked at using PayPal, etc., and that credit cards were easy and convenient, allowed for renewals on line, and did not involve staff, which lowered costs. Colin pointed out that merchants were billed fees for high rewards cards and asked members not to use them for renewals if possible.

Robyn Foret announced that he is testing a credit transfer for renewal with Renata's assistance.

Cathy Hall from Kingston noted that demographics had changed, that many of our members were aging, and asked what the status of life members was? Did revenue from life members cover costs? Colin pointed out that there had been a note regarding this in the Annual Report and that it was not quite covering costs for them. Colin said that there were 247 life members left and it would take between fifteen and twenty years to go to depreciate that amount of money to finally eliminate that category, and that we can't go

back to life members to ask for more. Colin pointed out that it would be "wonderful for life members to donate time and dollars to projects." Colin recalled the Society decided life membership was not sustainable a decade ago.

Colin then summarized the work of Heather Laird and the Fund-raising Committee, and the plan to hire a consultant.

Nelson Walker from Victoria asked about the difference between assets and intangible assets? Colin described intangible assets as things like software and labour which we can't sell for money.

Glen Hawley then described what had happened regarding life memberships, how when the CRA changed the rules in 2004 we could no longer take revenue and put it towards member services. Glen said the Society came to this realization in 2008, and that the CRA did not penalize us.

Colin spoke of the Society and some Centres being registered as charities and how this differed from Centres who were not registered as charities. In response to a question from the floor from a Toronto representative, who said that it was an error to assume that her Centre was no longer going to be doing outreach at the DDO. Colin explained his understanding of the judgement and the specific rules which applied regarding the Helm Fund, and how the Trustees had been forced to make a decision to avoid taxes, which had been complicated by the Toronto Centre getting their reports in late. Colin assured Toronto Centre that if they got back into operation at the DDO the Trustees of the Helm Fund could continue support.

The meeting was adjourned for a coffee break at this point. At 10:50 hours the meeting was reconvened.

Colin concluded his reports, speaking of the sesquicentennial of the Society next year incurring expenses, some of which were allocated this year and some next year.

Motion AGM 17-3

Moved by Randy Boddam, seconded by Oscar Echeverry, to adopt the annual financial statements as presented for 2016. No further discussion. Motion AGM 17-3 was CARRIED.

The Secretary called for a moment of silence to remember deceased members.

Executive Director

Randy Attwood thanked Colin Haig for stepping up to be Treasurer. Randy stated: "The Society is the Centres" and the strength of our organization compared to astronomy clubs elsewhere. Randy said that the head office had been busy and had a good year. The Strategic Plan was a big step, being the 3rd in 7 years. Randy described how this Strategic Plan was different, focussing on applying and engaging and getting the Society running. This Strategic Plan will take a few years, as there are lots of things to do, and will involve a change in culture. Randy commented the Ottawa Centre for the amazing job they'd done in organizing the GA, and said the Society was indebted to them for picking it up, especially as there had been uncertainty about who was to do it. Randy commented that General Assemblies are labour intensive and said we needed to look at how to make them easier and sustainable.

Randy spoke about the National Star Party, 29 July, and how the FAAQ and other non-RASC clubs were participating. Randy said next year's event may be held near to the Mars opposition. Randy said 25,000 solar viewers had been obtained for the total solar eclipse on 21 August and commented on how many Centres were holding partial eclipse events too. Regarding the Society's 150th anniversary, Randy announced that Canada post would be releasing two astronomy stamps next year. Randy spoke of how the sesquicentennial would be a great opportunity and how the Society would be hiring a marketing agency to promote our Society next year.

Randy reported on *SkyNews*, with its new *National Newsletter* insert. Randy described how our *Journal* went digital 10 years ago and lost communication with members. We know how many open the digital *Journal*, and it is not a large percentage. Randy thanked Dave Garner and his team for the newsletter. Randy spoke of how *SkyNews* circulation was audited every 6 months, and how advertisers looked at this. Randy encouraged bulk purchases, used to promote Centres, as those copies add to *SkyNews* circulation, adding up to 8,000 - 10,000 to add to circulation audit and encourage advertisers.

Randy thanked the Board for its hard work, recognizing the demand on volunteer time, and said we now have path to follow due to the new Strategic Plan. Volunteers are critical, and Randy encouraged Centres to track and volunteer time, as this is needed for grant applications.

Randy then recognized the Board members stepping down, presenting awards to James Edgar and Randy Boddam.

4. Committee Reports

Astroimaging

James Edgar reported for this new Committee, encouraging members to submit more images for the new site on the web.

Awards

James Edgar noted that no Fellows had been appointed this year, and that Centres should consider making recommendations for Fellows in the future.

Education

Andrea Misner described work on the Discover the Universe program, as well as educational banners, posted online, which Centres can print on their own.

History

Randall Rosenfeld submitted a report before the GA. Randall reported on work on the Society's sesquicentennial, starting with the National Star Party January 27, 3 - 8 pm local time, with live streaming moments for each Centre to have a highlight (project lead Paul Delaney). Other initiatives include:

- Cultural connections: partnership with favourite local arts organizations
- Video casts: Leads Randall and Heather.
- Canada Observes: The creation of two banners/mosaics (one a Moon, one a RASC crest), composed of images of Centre members in action. Randall hoped to have this ready for January 2017.
- Viewing the Moon Across Time.
- RASC Imaging Competition: Leads Jim Hesser and Lauri Roche.
- RASC at 150. Writing the history. Chapters for book. Leads Randall and Heather.

Finance

Colin Haig reminded us that the Treasurer's report is the Finance Committee's report. Colin recognized the hard work of Arun Rau. Colin asked anyone with a financial background to consider volunteering to assist the Finance Committee.

Fundraising

Heather Laird filed a report before the GA. Heather described how her Committee had obtained advice from Ryan Fraser for the new gift acceptance policy, policy and procedures, and a high-level summary, all of which goes toward donations. Heather described how the Executive Director has been meeting with Leah Eustace of Blue Canoe, about implementing fundraising plus hiring a fundraiser and creating a job description for a fundraising job starting mid September.

IT

Craig Levine summarized what the IT Committee does and recognized Walter MacDonald for his hard work. Craig spoke of how the Society relied on volunteers in the past and how we needed to revamp our website to align with fundraising and the Strategic Plan and improve user experience. Craig described how the Committee worked on the back end last year, and now the focus had now shifted to the front end. The Society relied on volunteer capital on the past, but contracted a company to help last year. Craig said he'd rather see volunteers focus on things they are good at, and outsource other stuff using service level agreements.

Colin summarized iMIS issues, which he hoped would be wrapped up in 2 weeks.

A member asked about auto renewal for membership. Colin spoke of the expectations and new possibilities of the iMIS upgrade, which needs things to be fixed before we can use it to its potential. Colin spoke of new Payment Card industry (PCI) security standards, payment application audits, and said our Society was small enough to self audit concerns about compliance.

LPA

Robert Dick submitted a report before the GA. Robert spoke of the LPA's dark preserve programs and the LPA's focus on environmental issues. Robert spoke of a light pollution workshop in August and work on a capital lighting plan with the National Capital Commission and on a municipal flyer to Ontario cities, including LPA best practice for the city of Toronto. Sky quality meters are available for loan. Robert encouraged attendees to take local readings and upload them to the website, as data is needed. The LPA is meeting with parks Canada, who decided not to use urban lighting, but found their distributors only provide urban lighting; they are not using their guidelines to fit vendors.

Eric Briggs brought up a point of order, asking if there was time left in the meeting for repopulating committees. Craig Levine said we don't want to rush this, and will be working with committees to ensure there are enough funds and enough members online, as this was part of the Strategic Plan. Craig said we'd schedule a WebEx meeting to appoint a co chair to the National Council, etc.

Observing Committee

Alan Whitman reported that this Committee receives and approves observing certificates and that Dave Chapman was the new chair. James Edgar has been updating the website. Alan thanked Julia Neeser for her help.

Special Projects

Charles Ennis encouraged Centres to use the Special Projects Fund to fund local projects.

Membership and Development

Chair Roland Deschesne was not present.

Patrick Kelly asked if a new Honorary President was being sought. Craig assured him that this was in progress.

Craig Levine then handed over the President's chair to Colin Haig.

Motion AGM 17-4

Moved by Patrice Scattolin, seconded by Heather Laird, to adjourn. No further discussion.

Motion AGM 17-4 was CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 12:16 EDT.

Charles Ennis

National Secretary

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

		Belleville	Calgary	Edmonton	Halifax	Hamilton	Kingston	Kitchener-Waterloo	London	Mississauga
REVENUE										
Membership	Membership Fees: Centre Fee	745	9,920	7,066	2,976	3,430	1,299	3,216	3,559	3,763
	Membership Fees: Affiliate						23			
	Membership Fees: other									
	Centre Newsletter				204					
Donations / Fundraising	Donations		5,718	160	73		1,077			
	Fundraising									
Sales Revenue	Sale of Observer's Handbooks									
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	144	240	2,255	1,116	255	240	780	673	405
	Other Publication Sales									
	RASC promotional items	137				65	138	185		
	Other Sales		140				86			1,230
Subscription Revenue	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope									
	Other									
Events Revenue	Star Parties	88	2,387	4,325	2,655		1,141			
	Annual Dinner		2,220					1,560	1,084	
	Astronomy Day									
	Meetings									
	Other Events	312				16,153				
General Assembly Revenue	General Assembly									
Miscellaneous Revenue	Interest and Dividends	1	2	57	133		136	39		
	Advertising									
	Observatory Site		250			250				
	Equipment Rentals/Loans		2,740							
	Public Services, events, outreach			72,649						
	Miscellaneous			1,115				583		
TOTAL REVENUE		1,427	23,617	87,627	7,157	20,153	4,140	6,363	5,316	5,398
EXPENDITURES										
Sales Expenses	RASC Publications	427	200	1,583	226	435		473	673	405
	Other Publications		150						57	192
	Newsletter			286	455		120		139	
	RASC promo items	154	479				352	317		
	Other		370				99			69
Event Expenses	Star Parties		1,110	5,673	3,188		1,053	18		
	Annual Dinner	320	2,311			10,341		2,170	1,084	709
	Astronomy Day									
	BIYA									
	Meetings		1,430	1,776	785	817	407	399	11	600
	Other Events	214	1,035	8,318	1,365	104	112		708	
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings		310	1,312	117			187		
Administrative Expenses	Office Administration	15	735	16	404	625	69	321		277
	Equipment and Supplies		1,501	150	79		118			
	Insurance		5,400	1,674	1,251	1,611	486	486		486
	General Expenses and Audit			310			81	108		
	Awards		886	140				158		163
	Donations			3,840	129				500	
	Advertising			150					122	120
Miscellaneous Expenses	Observatory and Site Expenses		2,572	15,423	507	3,277		516	624	
	Equipment & Supplies/Library			330		60				
	Depreciation		14,183		728					1,096
	Miscellaneous		895	4,784		3,033	269	208		163
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,130	33,567	44,840	9,235	20,304	3,166	5,362	3,918	4,280
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		297	-9,950	42,787	-2,078	-151		1,001		1,118
ASSETS	Current assets	6,635	73,273	125,305		27,816	29,093	15,737	8,543	16,935
	Capital assets	720	26,146	270,500		104,178			35,758	1,096
	Total assets	7355	99,419	395,805		131,994	29,093	15,737	44,301	18,031
LIABILITIES	Current liabilities		20					425		
	Long-term liabilities			60,000						
EQUITY	Net Equity	7,355	99,399	335,805		131,994	29,093	15,312	44,301	18,031
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		7,355	395,805	395,805		131,994		15,737	44,301	18,031

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

		C. F. de Montréal	New Brunswick	Niagara	Okanagan	Ottawa	Prince George	Québec	Regina	St. John's
REVENUE										
Membership	Membership Fees: Centre Fee	3,609	1,848	1,825	2,700	7,154	2,556	548	1,192	1,368
	Membership Fees: Affiliate									
	Membership Fees: other			50	590					
	Centre Newsletter									
Donations / Fundraising	Donations	200		1,166	5,736	25,242	8,000		1,160	355
	Fundraising		673	166	5,367		12,000		3,194	
Sales Revenue	Sale of Observer's Handbooks									
	Sale of Observer's Calendars		640	112	860	1,137		210	745	840
	Other Publication Sales									
	RASC promotional items			46	442					105
	Other Sales		903	888	764		941			
Subscription Revenue	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope									
	Other									
Events Revenue	Star Parties								8,175	
	Annual Dinner				7,616	1,935				
	Astronomy Day									
	Other Events						699			
General Assembly Revenue	General Assembly		947			1,266				
Miscellaneous Revenue	Interest and Dividends	1,119		280	17	335				149
	Advertising									
	Observatory Site									
	Equipment Rentals/Loans				10	182				33
	Public services, events, outreach						625		275	
	Miscellaneous			132	723	1,391	101			
TOTAL REVENUE		4,928	5,011	4,665	24,825	38,642	24,922	758	14,741	2,850
EXPENDITURES										
Sales Expenses	RASC Publications		724	203	593		592		933	863
	Other Publications									
	Newsletter									
	RASC promo items		919	58	441					110
	Other		290	732	492	151	14			
Event Expenses	Star Parties		356	134					6,321	121
	Annual Dinner		1,362		2,432	2,887				
	Astronomy Day									
	BIYA									
	Meetings		59	456	114	36			500	125
	Other Events				573	639	519		112	160
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings				478		97			
Administrative Expenses	Office Administration		150	591		436	55	201	50	55
	Equipment and Supplies		907	241	1,198		437	46		205
	Insurance	856	254		486	2,203		34		486
	General Expenses and Audit			120					545	
	Awards				56	622				
	Donations		25	350						
	Advertising			91			440		291	
Miscellaneous Expenses	Observatory and Site Expenses	1,438		149	18,713	2,241	13,138		3,142	
	Equipment & Supplies/Library				94	83				
	Depreciation		232	845		3,761				
	Miscellaneous	167		435	1,806		1,027	112	517	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		2,461	5,278	4,405	27,476	13,060	16,319	637	12,411	2,125
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS		2,467	-267	260	-2,651	25,582	8,603	122	2,330	725
ASSETS	Current assets	81,975		10,100	32,105	63,179	8,955	697	16,759	27,189
	Capital assets	21,655		14,885	251,034	26,181	118,775		72,725	
	Total assets	103,630		24,985	283,139	89,361	127,730	697	89,484	27,189
LIABILITIES	Current liabilities			263			-670			121
	Long-term liabilities					1,374				
EQUITY	Net Equity	103,630		24,722	283,139	87,987	128,400			27,068
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		103,630		24,985	283,139	89,361	127,730	697	89,484	27,189

CENTRE TREASURERS' REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

		Sarnia	Saskatoon	Sunshine Coast	Thunder Bay	Toronto	Vancouver	Victoria	Windsor	Winnipeg	Yukon
REVENUE											
Membership	Membership Fees: Centre Fee	265	2,747	1,368	1,140	19,138	5,434	5,168	2,879	4,213	1,076
	Membership Fees: Affiliate										
	Membership Fees: other								1,130		
	Centre Newsletter										
Donations / Fundraising	Donations		70	1,036	188	7,690	1,019	5,570	2,604		
	Fundraising		390	1,213		2,031			460		23,769
Sales Revenue	Sale of Observer's Handbooks						139				
	Sale of Observer's Calendars	120		269	1,010	2,331	1,381	581	1,773	708	
	Other Publication Sales										
	RASC promotional items			236							
	Other Sales		301			10,264	745	800			
Subscription Revenue	Astronomy / Sky & Telescope										
	Other										
Events Revenue	Star Parties		16,670					693			
	Annual Dinner							1,572			
	Astronomy Day										
	Other Events			1,058	780						329
General Assembly Revenue	General Assembly										
Miscellaneous Revenue	Interest and Dividends		122		8		7,266	11		27	
	Advertising										
	Observatory Site					20,561					
	Equipment Rentals/Loans										
	Public Services, events, outreach										
	Miscellaneous			1,044			665	1,916		500	
TOTAL REVENUE		385	20,300	6,224	3,127	62,015	16,649	16,311	8,846	5,448	25,174
EXPENDITURES											
Sales Expenses	RASC Publications			252	531			629	1,146	785	
	Other Publications	99						179		339	
	Newsletter						860	200			
	RASC promo items			222	25		3,492	14			
	Other	150				702		99			
Event Expenses	Star Parties		17,825					744			
	Annual Dinner							1,462			
	Astronomy Day						2,578	110			
	BIYA										
	Meetings			1,649			2,249	412	996	714	
	Other Events		236	250			683	2,882			
Travel	General Assembly and Council Meetings										616
Administrative Expenses	Office Administration		519	355	126	30,847	867	478			108
	Equipment and Supplies	40					767				
	Insurance		1,391	542		4,000	486	500	2,038	655	
	General Expenses and Audit					6,742	809			48	
	Awards			138		500	500	423		593	
	Donations										
	Advertising			96		2,034	234		226		
Miscellaneous Expenses	Observatory and Site Expenses		2,313	67			466	8,669	1,583	95	
	Equipment & Supplies/Library						35			802	
	Depreciation		1,477			13,178	865				
	Miscellaneous	4		866	2,511		1,203	378	52	203	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		293	25,553	4,437	3,193	58,003	16,093	17,179	6,041	4,958	15,881
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS											
92 -2,253 1,787 -67 4,012 555 -868 2,805 490 9,293											
ASSETS	Current assets	2,408	6,057	4,407		148,765	364,730	9,726	7,341	15,507	
	Capital assets		34,301	46,941		327,673	10,814	32,300	80,000		
	Total assets	2,408		51,348		476,438	375,544	42,026	87,341	15,507	27,336
LIABILITIES	Current liabilities					93,004					
	Long-term liabilities										
Equity	Net Equity			51,348		383,434	375,544	42,026	87,341	15,507	-342
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		2,408		51,348		476,438	375,544	42,026	87,341	15,507	27,336