

## General Assembly of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

The General Assembly is first and foremost the Society's business meeting, where members can express their points of view and participate in the Society's development. The 1989 General Assembly is special in that it will address some important changes to the Society's bylaws.

The General Assembly offers the opportunity to all to demonstrate the results of their research through formal presentations and exhibits. It will be a time to renew old acquaintances and to meet new members. Together we will share our love of astronomy and find new ways to interest others in this exciting discipline.

The General Assembly will also offer the opportunity to discover a new part of our country. The convening of the Assembly at the beginning of July should allow members to plan their holidays in an area known for its hospitality and scenic splendor. The regional organizing committee is prepared to suggest places of interest to visit and events to include in one's travel itinerary. Finally, the 1989 General Assembly promises to be one of the best ever for the Society and its participants.

### The Cape Breton Astronomical Society

It all began with a dozen amateur "philosophers" meeting once a month to discuss and share an interest in science generally. After the first few meetings these group discussions turned to cosmology.

Eventually, some members began bringing telescopes to the evening meetings and it was from that time that the focus on astronomy began to grow. When two of our younger members decided to build their own telescopes (27 cm), we decided to recognize our major area of concern and applied for a provincial charter as the Cape Breton Astronomical Society in 1984.

The group has been developing gradually ever since. With the local enthusiasm generated by the 1989 General Assembly, our membership should pass the twenty mark during the summer. Our president, Mr. John Fraser, has managed to find us a dark site within city limits, complete with a club house which the City of Sydney lets us use in the summer.

### Canadian Coast Guard College

Since 1965 the Canadian Coast Guard College has been training men and women to become ships' officers in the Canadian Coast Guard. The College offers two 45-month training programmes in navigation and marine engineering, in both official languages. The programmes put a heavy emphasis on sciences, and as such, astronomy should capture the interest of the cadets.

The College facilities, completed in 1986, include a 400-room residence, a gymnasium and pool, a marine engineering training complex, a boathouse, classrooms, specialised laboratories and a planetarium.

Recruited every year, the students must meet rigid requirements before being accepted into the programmes. The number of recruits is small, but the graduates are assured of a position within the Coast Guard.

During the weekend of the General Assembly, some thirty students will be on site and participate in the activities. Moreover, the registrar will be on hand to explain the registration procedures should anyone request this information.

## How to get to Sydney

Sydney is the heart of industrial Cape Breton. Major industries in the area include mining, steelmaking and fishing. These industries have sustained the area for two centuries. There are many ways to get to Sydney:

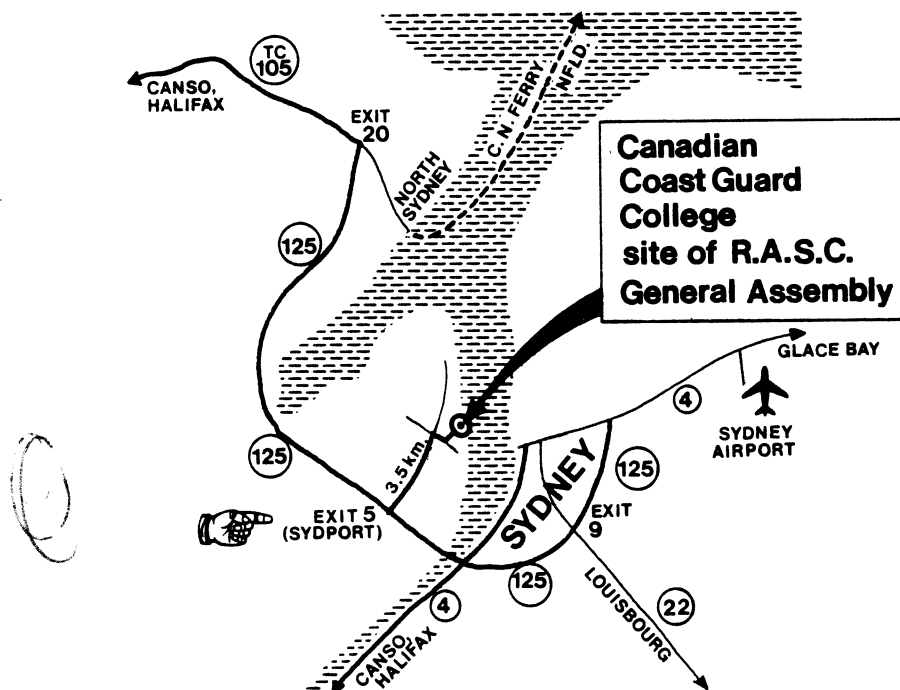
The Sydney/Glace Bay airport (YQY), located 10 km from Sydney and 26 km from the Coast Guard College, is served by Canadian Airlines International and its partner Air Atlantic, and by Air Nova (partner to Air Canada). Transportation will be provided from the airport to the College.

By car, "Easterners" will cross the Cabot Strait on the Marine Atlantic ferries and "Westerners" will arrive by the Trans-Canada Highway or Highway 4. Although some drivers manage to cover the distance from Montreal to Sydney in 18 hours, we recommend that you allow one day per province, in order to enjoy the ride.

The train from Halifax arrives every day around 2100 (9 p.m.). Railroad enthusiasts from various points west will detrain in Truro, N.S., and board the Dayliner for the five-hour leg to Sydney. It takes approximately 24 hours, including the transfer in Truro, to come from Montreal by train. Transportation will be provided from the train station to the College.

Travelling by bus may require a little more research, as schedules are complex and routes are varied. But the sights along the way may justify the extra time and effort.

If you are driving to the Canadian Coast Guard College, get on Route 125, take Exit 5 (Sydport), follow the road to Sydport for 3.5 km, turn right at the intersection marked Rudderham Road (239 East), drive 0.5 km and look for the College entrance sign on your left.



## Accommodation

Since the Coast Guard College is located 15 km from Sydney, we recommend that all members make use of the residence facilities at the College. Rooms at the College are all singles. Each cluster of eight rooms has a small lounge and each "house" of six clusters has a larger TV lounge.

Smoking is prohibited throughout the College except in a few designated areas: some cluster lounges and the Staff Lounge. Smoking is prohibited in all bedrooms, classrooms, meeting rooms and in the cafeteria.

As the College cafeteria is not equipped as a cash operation, meals will be sold at a flat rate. Those who stay in residence will have the regular meal prices included in the per diem room fee. Special meals (the Lobster Boil, for example) will be charged separately. There will be no family or group rates as the College is providing its services at cost. The College does not offer any housekeeping or maid service.

The College rooms will be available from 1600 (4 p.m.) on Thursday, June 29 to 1300 (1 p.m.) on Tuesday, July 4, 1989, at a cost of \$35 per night per person. This includes room and most meals. Part of this fee will be applied to special meals, such as the Lobster Boil, in an attempt to keep members' costs as low as possible.

For those who prefer to stay in town, the Holiday Inn has offered a special rate to the participants: \$60.00 for a single room and \$66.00 for a double room. Reservations can be made by calling the toll free number 1-800-Holiday and using the RASC as a reference.

Others may book rooms in the hotels listed below through Check Inns, using the following toll free numbers:

1-800-565-7105 for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island  
1-800-565-7166 for the Western regions and Northwest Territories  
1-800-565-7140 for the Ontario region  
1-800-565-7180 for Quebec and Newfoundland  
1-800-341-6096 for the United States (for Maine, call 1-800-492-0643)

Ramada Hotel      Wandlyn Inn      Castle Inn      Keddy's Hotel

Anyone wishing to stay at Journey's End Motel (1-902-562-0200) or the Cape Bretoner Motel, a member of the Westin chain (1-902-539-8101), must assume the telephone costs.

## Registration Fee

The registration fee will include the following:

- one group photo per registered member
- attendance at Banquet by registered member
- use of special facilities at scheduled times (pool, gymnasium)
- Friday's Wine & Cheese
- detailed programme of papers and events

Tours and additional tickets for special events are charged separately.

## Papers

The presentation of papers, scheduled for Saturday (morning and afternoon) and Sunday (morning) will feature 10-minute presentations followed by a question and answer period of five minutes each. Members who wish to present a paper are asked to seek their own Centre's guidance and approval before submitting their request to us. Unattached members may submit directly to us. As the G.A. is hosted by "unattached members" this year, we encourage unattached members to present papers. Here are some examples of the types of papers the committee is looking for:

- a) suggested projects which others might be interested in carrying out;
- b) organized projects carried out by RASC Centres;
- c) suggestions or projects which would help unattached members keep up their enthusiasm for astronomy;
- d) amateur radio astronomy;
- e) astronomy education;
- f) astronomy in other countries;
- g) the usual subjects of interest to amateur optical and radio astronomers; e.g., instruments, light pollution, historical events in astronomy, space travel (visitors?), etc.

This list represents our priorities, although one major goal is to have each category represented in order to ensure a wider spectrum of interest. Authors are asked to submit a 150-word summary (English or French), along with a list of required equipment (projectors, easels, etc.) before May 25, 1989, to: Dr. Henry Bradford, c/o Canadian Coast Guard College, Science Department, P.O. Box 4500, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada B1P 6L1.

## Exhibits

No General Assembly is complete without the displays and exhibits competition. This year will be no different. A display is designed to give interested onlookers a good appreciation of a project, its objective(s), the methods used, the results and their interpretations.

Please ensure that your display is sufficiently equipped to "stand on its own" as we will not be able to provide any building equipment or assistance, other than a few helping hands.

Those intending to exhibit are asked to provide a short description of their display, explaining its size, any special requirements (lighting, electricity, time to set up or dismantle, security needs...). Labels and texts on the display may be in English or French. Please indicate in which category you wish to compete:

1. Solar System
2. Stellar observations
3. Galactic observations
4. Astro-photography
5. Amateur radio-astronomy
6. Earth phenomena ("meteors")
7. Centre projects
8. International projects
9. Other

The General Assembly at a glance

<u>Friday, June 30, 1989</u>	(Registration desk open until 2230)
1330 (1:30 p.m.)	Council Meeting I (room 3137) Note time: 1330
1400 - 1700	Exhibit room open for setting up
1700 - 1800	Dinner
1900 - 2000	Wine and Cheese in main corridor
2000 - 2230	Song competition and Murphy Slide Show in Auditorium
2230 -	Observations, weather permitting; parties
<u>Saturday, July 1, 1989</u>	(Registration desk open: 0800 - 1700)
0730 - 0830	Pool opens for early ducks
0800 - 0900	Breakfast
0900 - 1200	Papers - I (Exhibit room open for setting up)
1200 - 1220	Group Picture
1230 - 1330	Lunch
1330 - 1730	Papers - II (Exhibit room open for viewing)
1730 - 1800	Pyramid
1830 - 2330	Dinner at Fortress Louisbourg, lecture and tour
<u>Sunday, July 2, 1989</u>	(Registration desk open: 0800 - 1200)
0730 - 0830	Pool opens for early ducks
0800 - 0900	Breakfast
0900 - 0940	Ecumenical Service, College chapel
1000 - 1230	Papers - III (Exhibit room open for viewing)
1230 - 1330	Lunch
1330 - 1530	<u>General Assembly in Auditorium (note time 1330)</u>
1530 - 1730	<u>Council Meeting II, (room 3137)</u>
1530 - 1730	Tours of campus, judging of displays, planetarium mini-show...(pool open)
1800 - 1900	Cocktails
1900 - 2100	Banquet (formal), awards, invitation to Ottawa
2130 -	Ruth Northcott Lecture by Prof. Wayne Cannon
<u>Monday, July 3, 1989</u>	
0730 - 0830	Pool open for early ducks
0800 - 0900	Breakfast
0900	Departure for tours: Fortress of Louisbourg OR Baddeck: Alexander Graham Bell Museum, harbour cruise
1830 - 2200	Lobster Boil (informal)
2230	Return to College
<u>Tuesday, July 4, 1989</u>	
0730 - 0830	Breakfast
1200 - 1230	Lunch
1300	Latest check out time at the College.

*Accom - Fri Sat Sun for 4  
Registration for P (photo, banquet, wine + cheese)  
Louisbourg dinner for 4  
Banquet for 3 extra*

Send completed registration form by June 10, 1989, to:

Reception Committee - RASC 89GA  
c/o Canadian Coast Guard College  
P.O. Box 4500  
Sydney, N.S.  
CANADA  
B1P 6L1

For telephone inquiries: (902) 564-3660 Ext. 175

King of the skies  
(The plight of the Cape Breton Astronomer)

Weekends are planned for stars  
Site is picked and not too far  
No phones, no lights, no pets  
Even go my timepiece set,  
[We'll do] Two hours of pick-up truck  
[Through a] field that's filled with bovine muck  
[and the] weatherman's promised clear skies;  
My weekend's all set.

I know every constellation and all of their stars,  
All the nebulae, the globulars,  
Every planet and every sun;  
As soon as I get there I'll see every one,

Because: Weekends are planned for stars  
Site is picked and not too far  
No phones, no wife, no pets  
Even go my timepiece set,  
[We'll do] Two hours of pick-up truck  
[Through a] field that's filled with bovine muck  
[and the] weatherman's promised clear skies;  
My weekend's all set.

The last three Fridays, I've had to stay home.  
Wash out the kennels and clean out the bones.  
But this weekend, I'll do as I please  
I'll be seeing stars when I'm out of the trees,

Singing: Weekends are planned for stars  
Site is picked and not too far  
No phones, no boss, no pets  
Even go my timepiece set,  
[We'll do] Two hours of pick-up truck  
[Through a] field that's filled with bovine muck  
[and the] weatherman's promised clear skies;  
My weekend's all set.

I just hit a rock and fell in a rut,  
My Erfel fell out there, rolling in muck.  
The clouds have rolled in, the rain's pouring down,  
I'm not an astronomer, I'm only a clown,

Singing: This weekend's shot for stars,  
Truck is stuck, home is so far.  
I want to phone for help,  
I can only shout and yelp.  
[I see] my truck is sinking low  
[and the] rain is turning into snow.  
Where's that damn weatherman, now?  
My 'scope is all wet.

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## THE 1989 SYDNEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DE 1989, À SYDNEY

Dear Friend,

Enclosed is the official RASC-89 General Assembly Group Photo plus a bonus photo. Some of us are not quite sure which one is the official photo. Enjoy your summer and let us meet again in Ottawa next year.

*Raymond*  
Raymond Auclair



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