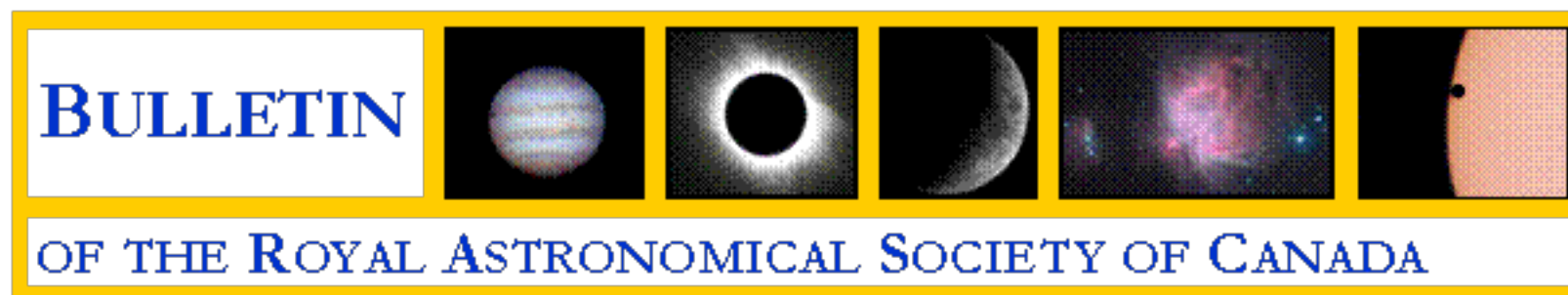


2007-10



October 2007 - Volume 2, Number 10

Denis Grey, Acting Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

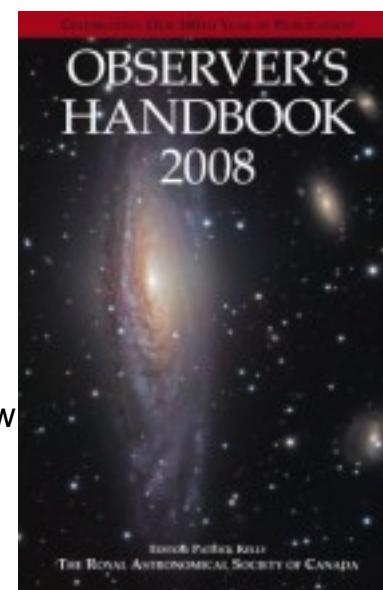
► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

Observer's Handbook Turns 100

Right on the heels of the Journal's 100th anniversary year comes the **100th Edition** of the RASC's *Observer's Handbook*. Published first in 1907 and continuously since 1909, the *Observer's Handbook* is the world's pre-eminent astronomical almanac with contributions from 45 experts. Thousands of copies are sold each year to both amateur and professional astronomers.

Copies of the 2008 edition have now been received from the printer and will be distributed to members beginning in mid-October. Your membership must be paid through October 31, 2007 in order to receive this year's Handbook so renew now if you are not up to date.

To celebrate this anniversary, the RASC is offering a special commemorative coffee mug featuring the covers of the 1st and 100th editions. This mug is now available for purchase at the [RASC eStore](#) [2] for only \$14.95. Get yours today and celebrate this milestone in astronomical publishing by the Society.



First Phase of New Administration System Goes Live

The Society's new iMIS administration system went live over the weekend of September 29-30th. The new system, approved by National Council in June, is aimed at better serving customers, members and volunteers in addition to the Society's staff. The system integrates membership processing, subscription

sales, product purchases, inventory management and member communications. In January 2008, additional modules will be implemented that will enhance the Society's Web site and membership renewal experience. Most members will not notice any changes initially except to note that a new five-digit membership number has been assigned to them (see above). Thanks go out to staff members **Bonnie Bird** and **Jo Taylor** who have put in extra work over the summer months to assist with the preparations, to **Keith Stoute** of [Visual Antidote](#) [3] who supervised the data conversion and **Denis Grey** of the Toronto Centre who acted as Project Manager for this effort.

Board Pilot Committee Meeting

The RASC's Board Pilot Committee (BPC) held their first meeting on the weekend of September 29-30, 2007 at the Toronto Centre's E.C. Carr Observatory. All 13 members of the BPC were in attendance and the committee worked on elaborating plans for the International Year of Astronomy in 2009 for presentation to the Society's National Council in November. Various cost-saving and revenue-enhancing strategies were also discussed which will be investigated for their feasibility and budget impact over the next few weeks.

► The Journal of the RASC

Own the Back Cover

Your photo — in full colour — could grace the back cover of the Journal in February, April, or June next year. We are pleased to announce the first ever JRASC photo contest, in recognition of the growing capability of the RASC membership and the establishment of the new RASC Astroimaging Group.

Photos must be submitted on or before **2007 December 31**, conform to the normal requirements (300 dpi in final size) of the Journal's graphical standards (www.rasc.ca/journal [4]), and be accompanied by a description of the object, the photographic details, and non-exclusive permission to reproduce in the Journal. Images must be in digital form, but may include sketches, paintings, film photographs, and drawings, provided they are converted to a digital format before submission.



The competition will award “the back page” to submissions in three categories: **deep-sky images**; **wide-angle photographs** that include at least a part of the landscape; and scenes of **Centre outreach activities**. Winners will be expected to provide a short bio prior to publication. Images submitted may be published at other times and places in the Journal, with credit to the owner. Please send submissions to editor@rasc.ca [5].

► Across the RASC

Lineup Announced for Astronomy Rendezvous 2007

The New Brunswick Centre has announced their line-up for the 7th annual [Astronomy Rendezvous](#) [6] in

Moncton, NB. Speakers include **Paul Gray, Bob Hawkes, Damien Lemay** and **Guy Nason**. Plan now to attend this event on Saturday, November 17th.

Happy Birthday Sputnik!

The Ontario Science Centre is hosting a special "[Space Party](#)" [7] on Thursday, October 4th to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik I and the birth of the Space Age. The Toronto Centre will host a star party featuring a flyover of the ISS. Plan to attend if you are in Toronto.

Society Makes a Splash at Word on the Street

The Toronto Centre and the National Society teamed up on September 30th at Toronto's annual [Word on the Street](#) [8] festival. This one-day book and magazine fair attracts upwards of 100,000 people each year. The Society's booth featured Ha solar observing as well as an opportunity to sell RASC merchandise and publications.

Changes in Store for Dunlap Observatory

Canada's largest optical telescope, the 74" reflector at the [David Dunlap Observatory](#) [9], may be closed and its lands redeveloped as part of a plan announced on September 10th by the University of Toronto. The Society is considering an appropriate response to the potential loss of this historic and scientifically relevant facility.

Beaver Hills Celebrates 1st Anniversary

The Edmonton Centre participated in a 1st anniversary celebration of the establishment of the [Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve](#) [10] at Elk Island National Park. A full range of programs was offered in honour of this milestone.

IDA Symposium at Mont Mégantic a Success

Mont Mégantic Observatory in the Eastern Townships hosted a [symposium](#) [11] from September 19-21 in co-operation with the International Dark-sky Association, Parks Canada, the Astrolab Education Centre and the RASC's Light Pollution Abatement Committee.

► [The Sky this Month](#)

Sidewalk Astronomy Night - October 31, 2007

The evening of Hallowe'en - **Wednesday, October 31st** - is traditionally the best evening of the year for sidewalk astronomy. Once a year kids of all ages are out and about after dark in a family-friendly way. RASC members are encouraged to set-up their telescopes and provide a "trick or peek" opportunity to

visitors who come by their house. This year there are no bright planets available but M31, the Double-Double, the Ring Nebula (the donut that goes with the Double Double, the Double Cluster and many other highlights of the Milky Way are available at sunset. Herschel's favourite planet Uranus is also high in the south for the amusement of many.

► Dates to Remember

- **October 20, 2007** - [Board Pilot Committee Meeting \(Teleconference\)](#) [12]
- **October 31, 2007** - Sidewalk Astronomy Night
- **November 17, 2007** - [Astronomy Rendezvous 2007 \(RASC New Brunswick\)](#) [6]
- **November 24, 2007** - [National Council Meeting \(Teleconference\)](#) [13]
- **December 31, 2007** - [Centre Projects Fund Application Deadline](#) [14]
- **February 20, 2008** - [Total Lunar Eclipse \(Most of Canada\)](#) [15]



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Links:

[1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>

[2] http://www.store.rasc.ca/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=RASC&Product_Code=OHMUGCDN&Category_Code=PROMO

[3] <http://www.visualantidote.com>

[4] <http://www.rasc.ca/journal>

[5] <mailto:editor@rasc.ca>

[6] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/lineup-astronomy-rendezvous-2007>

[7] http://www.rasc.ca/news/Sputnik_50.shtml

[8] http://toronto.rasc.ca/content/WOTS_2007.shtml

[9] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/canadas-largest-observatory-be-redeveloped>

[10] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/beaver-hills-dark-sky-preserve-1st-anniversary>

[11] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/international-dark-sky-symposium-mont-megantic-report>

[12] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/rasc-members-elected-board-pilot-committee>

[13] <https://www.rasc.ca/council>

[14] <http://www.rasc.ca/fund/centreprojects.shtml>

[15] <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEmono/TLE2008Feb21/TLE2008Feb21.html>

[16] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>

