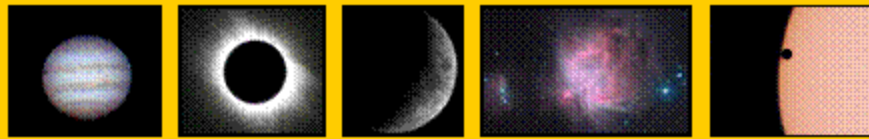


# BULLETIN



## OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

April 2014 - Volume 9, Number 4

David Garner, Editor

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

A PDF version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

## ► Editor's Notebook by David Garner

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### April's Sky

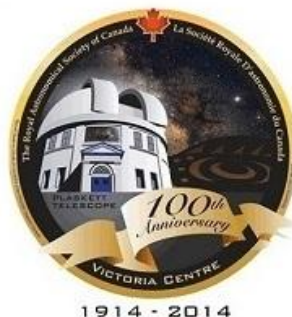
We have a full Moon on the 15th of April and a new Moon on the 29th. Watch for the total lunar eclipse in the early hours of the 15th. Venus is in the eastern morning sky. Mars is in opposition on the 8th and visible all night. Jupiter is in the western evening sky and sets after midnight. Saturn rises in the late evening. For more details check the *2014 Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#).

## ► News @ RASC.ca

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### The 2014 General Assembly

by [Paul Schumacher](#), Victoria Centre, Co-chair of 2014 GA Organizing Committee



**2014 GA : Victoria Centre : June 26 - June 29**  
**The 2014 GA Web site is up and running for registrations!**

Join the members of Victoria Centre as we celebrate 100 years of being a RASC Centre at our 2014 RASC General Assembly. To add to the festivities, we will also be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, located in Saanich, B.C., just to the north of downtown Victoria.

The 2014 General Assembly will showcase the DAO, University of Victoria's new observatory located on the campus, which is our assembly headquarters, a wide-ranging scientific and cultural program for your entire family, and all this conducted against the spectacular natural beauty of Canada's West Coast. Guest Speakers include Dr Laura Ferrarese, Bob McDonald of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks*, and RASC's own Peter Broughton.

Victoria is serviced by both of our domestic air carriers and can be reached by convenient car ferry service connecting Victoria to Vancouver, B.C. and Seattle, Washington.

From on-campus accommodation at the University of Victoria to nearby hotel and RV facilities, there are many lodging options available in the Greater Victoria area for RASC members.

Registration will go live 2014 March 1 at RASC.ca.

Please join us in Victoria, June 26 to June 29 for the 2014 GA.

## **RASC VICTORIA CENTRE**

### **2014 General Assembly Organizing Committee**

Mark Bohlman, Co-Chair [mbohlman@shaw.ca](mailto:mbohlman@shaw.ca)

Paul Schumacher, Co-Chair [docpschu@shaw.ca](mailto:docpschu@shaw.ca)

## **Light Pollution Mapping Project**

by [Roland Dechesne](#), Light Pollution Abatement Committee



The Globe at Night (<http://www.globeatnight.org>) is a citizen science project that allows people from around the world to gauge the brightness of their nighttime skies via simple constellation comparison charts. Canadian amateur astronomers have already

submitted data from the earlier dark-of-the-Moon observing windows, but there are many more observing windows coming up. The next one spans the interval from April 20 to 29 and the one after covers May 19 through 28. The spring constellation, Leo, will be your target. Data submission is through the Web site in English (<http://www.globeatnight.org/webapp/>), ou en francais (<http://www.globeatnight.org/fr/webapp/>).

## **Brochure Files Available for April's Total Lunar Eclipse and Astronomy Day**

by [Roland Dechesne](#), Membership and Development Committee

Are you planning to host public observing sessions this spring as part of the April 15 total lunar eclipse or Astronomy Day? Be ready with a wide variety of useful brochures available for download here: <http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/>

## **AstroCATS - Less Than 5 Weeks Until "Show-Time"! (May 3 & 4)**

by [Gary Bennett](#), Chairman, AstroCATS, RASC Hamilton Centre

The Canadian Astronomy & Telescope Show (AstroCATS) will be celebrating its 2nd year on May 3 & 4 at the David Braley Athletic & Recreation Centre, Mohawk College, in Hamilton. Hosted by RASC Hamilton Centre, AstroCATS is a full-featured Trade Show complete with international exhibitors, seminars & guest speakers, amazing door/raffle prizes, and all this for the price of a movie ticket.

Our program will appeal to beginners and experienced astronomers alike. Seminar topics range from how to choose your first telescope (or even build your own), to advanced astrophotography processing techniques. Exhibitors will showcase astronomy products rarely seen on a showroom floor and many of those will be new and upcoming products. This year we are especially well represented by CCD camera exhibitors with names like Apogee, ATIK, and Hutech. Equally impressive are Canadian inventions brought to you by Kendrick, Mallincam, Norman Fullum, and SkyShed POD. Your favorite astronomy retailers will also be there with truck loads of gear for you to take home. If REALLY BIG equipment is on your list, Mathis Instruments will be there with a mount that can take your telescope AND YOU for a ride around the sky (although their demo will only have a lowly PlaneWave telescope).

For visual observers, there will be plenty of "eye candy" on display. Everything from handcrafted Norman Fullum telescopes to the best of Solar Telescopes. Familiar "big-name" brands that will be exhibiting this year include ADM Accessories, Celestron,

Meade, Vixen, Lunt Solar Systems, Mathis Instruments, and many more.

We are also hosting a 2-day Solar "Star Party" brought to you by Lunt Solar Systems and Stephen Ramsden of the Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project (CBSA). CBSA is now an international Solar Outreach Program and last year they reached 162,023 students.

Our seminar and guest speaker program features some of the best talents on the planet. A short list includes:

- Robert Naeye, Editor in Chief, Sky & Telescope Magazine
- Terence Dickinson, Editor of SkyNews Magazine
- Wally Pacholka - Astro-Landscape Photographer Extraordinaire
- International Award Winning Amateur Astrophotographers: Damian Peach, Kerry-Ann Lecky Hepburn, Ron Brecher
- And more....

Seminars fall into 4 categories:

- Artistry & Creativity
- Beginner/Family / General Interest
- Learning (How-To)
- Celebrities

Several speakers are famous astrophotographers, but you don't need to be one to enjoy these presentations. While many of these presentations will feature images produced by these gifted people, the seminars will be a demonstration of the beauty of the Cosmos as seen through the camera. Of course, if you want to learn "how-to," there is a seminar for that too!

Our seminar program and schedule, as well as the list of exhibitors, is close to being finalized. We also hope to announce Door/Raffle Prizes that will be up for grabs. Last year we gave out over \$15,000 in prizes! Prize donors tend to surprise us at the last minute but we attempt to update our Web site as intel becomes available.

AstroCATS is a 2-day event and many of you will want to attend both days. For out-of-town guests, we have a special arrangement for overnight accommodations. A 2-bedroom suite, free parking/internet/breakfast for only \$79.95!

Tickets can be purchased at the door, but on-line ticket buyers will also receive a Free Raffle Prize entry.

For more information and updates, visit: <http://www.astrocats.ca>.

We look forward to seeing you at the show!

## Save the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope

by [James Edgar](#), RASC National Secretary

Did you know the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) is the largest submillimetre survey telescope in the world (15 metres diameter)?

The principal investigators (Michel Fich *et al.*) recently finished building SCUBA-2, a superb camera that makes the JCMT very powerful, up-to-date, and far better than anything anywhere else. However, at the end of September 2014, the Canadian government will stop providing operating funds for the JCMT. When this happens the JCMT will be given away to a group of astronomers in Taiwan, China, Japan, and Korea.

While it isn't the highest on the list of Canadian astronomical projects, it is the best in the world, and state of the art with the recent upgrade, and the facility will be given away to someone else who can (and will) pay for the operations.

The Canadian share of the operations cost is \$700,000/year. No extra funds are needed from federal politicians – just a directive that the funding agencies be allowed to spend money on this.

We need a **letter-writing campaign from RASC members** to push for continued funding.

Write your Member of Parliament and the Prime Minister insisting that we Canadians continue to fund the JCMT. Use this link to write the Prime Minister:

<http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/contact>, and this link to locate your MP's email address

(although a "real" letter has far greater impact):

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>.

## Call for Nominations

by [Chris Gainor](#), Chair, Nominating Committee RASC

In 2013, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada made major changes to its governance structure to come into line with the provisions of the Canada Not For Profit Corporations Act. As of the Thunder Bay General Assembly in 2013, a Board of Directors is responsible for the running of the RASC, replacing the National Council.

Under our new By-Law, the RASC Board over the past year has been made up of the executive and three Board members selected in a special election last year. In 2014, the members get to choose the entire Board of nine members in an election.

This will be the only year the entire Board will be up for election, unless an unforeseen situation should arise. Starting in 2015, three Board positions will come open every year.

In the 2014 election, the three candidates with the greatest number of votes will serve terms of three years expiring in 2017, the next three candidates will win terms of two years each expiring in 2016, and the following three candidates will get terms of one year each expiring in 2015.

This year, the RASC Nominating Committee is seeking at least nine candidates to run for the Board of directors. Members of the Society Executive will be drawn from the ranks of the new Board, and candidates for Board positions should indicate if they wish to serve on the executive and the position they wish to fill.

Our National Secretary, James Edgar, has announced that he wishes to step down from that position. The RASC Nominating Committee is therefore seeking a member interested in serving on the Board and the executive as National Secretary. While many current members of the Board have indicated that they will seek election this year, there will be at least two vacancies due to Board members leaving the current Board and not seeking election.

Here are the rules for candidate eligibility as set out in the RASC Policy Manual:

### **Candidate Eligibility**

The Nominating Committee will ensure that candidates for the RASC Board of Directors meet the following criteria:

Be a member in good standing of the Society;

Meet the requirements for being a Board member as outlined by the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, specifically:

- be over the age of 18 at the time of the Annual General Meeting (this year, June 29);
- be an individual person (i.e. not a body corporate);
- be solvent (not bankrupt);

Have agreed to stand for election in writing;

Have the support in writing of at least 3 people, one of whom is a member of the Society;and

Have agreed to abide by the Society's Directors and Officer's Code of Conduct and indicated their willingness to sign the Society's Board of Director's agreement prior to assuming office.

## **Candidate's Statement**

As part of the nomination process, candidates will be asked to provide a **Candidate's Statement**, including:

Their previous experience with councils and committees of the Society at both the National and Centre levels;

A suitable photograph in electronic format as well as contact information as required;

Committee work and experience outside of the Society that may be relevant to the Society; and

Their goals for the Society and how they would contribute to the Board if elected.

Anyone wishing to be a candidate should write or email the RASC Nominating Committee through its chair, Christopher Gainor. Each candidate should state that they understand the eligibility requirements and state that they meet those requirements. Candidates should agree to abide by the RASC Director's and Officers Code of Conduct. They should also indicate whether they intend to seek a position on the Executive, and if so, what position they are seeking. Candidates should also send a candidate's statement as set out above. The three supporters for each candidate should also write or email the committee. Candidates and their supporters must inform the Nominating Committee of their intention to run or support for a candidate by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

Candidates' statements will be posted on the RASC website no later than May 15, 2014. Candidates can campaign from May 1, 2014 through June 13, 2014. Voting will take place from June 14 through June 25, 2014, and results will be announced the next day, June 26, 2014. All members of the RASC will be eligible to vote, and facilities to vote on line will be available as well as paper ballots on request from the Society Office.

The Nominating Committee will be pleased to answer questions from any member of the RASC about this election process.

The Nominating Committee can be reached by mail through the Society Office of the RASC, 203 - 4920 Dundas Street W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7, or by email at [cgainor@shaw.ca](mailto:cgainor@shaw.ca)

Christopher Gainor, Ph.D.

Chair, Nominating Committee RASC

## Call for Images for 2015 Calendar

by [Paul Gray](#), Observer's Calendar Editor

Astronomical images and sketches of all types are invited for consideration for publication in the 2015 RASC Observer's Calendar including: deep sky, solar system, and dramatic astronomically themed landscapes.

Images can be prime focus, piggyback, eyepiece projection, or fixed tripod; and recorded on a digital/CCD camera, film, or Webcam. Submitted images must be of sufficient quality and resolution to reproduce well at 9.5" x 12" and must be compatible with the "landscape" orientation of the calendar images. Generally, this will mean a resolution of at least 1200 pixels tall. We will also consider making a quilt or mosaic of lunar/planetary Webcam captured images (so as not to over magnify an individual image for publication).

If you already have a gallery of images on your Web site, send me the link, but please also direct me to your favourites. Both well-known and obscure objects are published in the calendar, so to avoid having the same objects used too often, I will be screening for those that may have appeared in recent years.

Please email submissions to me at [snpgray@gmail.com](mailto:snpgray@gmail.com). While I have a bottomless email box, it's best to send me jpegs first. If your image is selected, I will request a full resolution tiff version. Full resolution tiffs will be required for use in print. The deadline for submissions is 2014 April 30. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the above mentioned email address.

## What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know.



### The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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