



**March 2017 - Volume 12, Number 3**

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

➤ [News @ RASC.ca](#)

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## **News from the Society Office**

by **Randy Attwood**, RASC Executive Director

Next year the RASC celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Be sure to follow plans for the celebration on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary page <http://rasc.ca/2018>

### **2016 Annual Report**

A note to Centre Treasurers and Secretaries – the initial deadline for submitting Centre activity and financial information for the 2016 Annual Report is 2017 April 3. We invite Centres to include photos of Centre activities to be considered for publishing in the Extended Annual Report.

### **Northern Star**

A book about pre-eminent Canadian astronomer John Stanley Plaskett will be published this year. Titled NORTHERN STAR, it was written by historian and Society Past President Peter Broughton and will be available in early June. The book was made possible with financial support from the Society.

### **National Star Party July 29**

To celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Society is planning for the first time ever, a National Star Party.

On Saturday July 29, all Society Centres and non-RASC astronomy organizations and clubs are encouraged to hold a star party – from coast to coast to coast!

The first-quarter Moon as well as the planets Jupiter and Saturn will be perfectly placed for early evening observing. Special handouts to mark the occasion will be produced and distributed to all participating groups.

### **Total Solar Eclipse – Monday August 21**

The first total solar eclipse to be widely observed in North America since 1979 will take place this August. The eclipse will be total along a path spanning the continental United States. Hundreds of RASC members have already made plans to observe this event somewhere along the path.

The eclipse will be partial across all of Canada. There will be great interest in the eclipse. Issues of *SkyNews* starting with the March/April issue will cover all aspects of observing and photographing the eclipse.

The Society plans to support Centres that will be holding public observing sessions of the partial phases. Solar viewers have been ordered and will be provided to all Centres.

### **Astrocats 2017**

The Canadian Astronomy Telescope Show and Canadian Astrophotography School, sponsored by the RASC Hamilton Centre will be held May 6-7 at the John Tonelli Sports Centre Milton, Ontario

For more information visit [www.astrocats.ca/](http://www.astrocats.ca/)

### **SkyNews Gift Subscriptions**

It is not too late to give a subscription to *SkyNews* to a friend, family member or anyone interested in astronomy. All RASC members received emails over the holidays with a link to a web site where subscriptions to *SkyNews* could be purchased for only \$17!

## **SALE on *Observer's Calendar 2017***



***Observer's Calendar 2017* SALE PRICE \$8.95**

A beautiful calendar showcasing RASC members' astro images with information on what's up in the sky tonight. A perfect gift for the beginner and a must-have for the experienced observer. **Grab one before they're gone!**

## **The 2017 Board of Directors Election**

by **Robyn Foret**, Chair, Nominating Committee

The 2017 General Assembly will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, June 30 to July 3, 2017. Each year, there are 3 Director positions on the Board up for election. The election will take place prior to the General Assembly and the newly elected Board will elect its Executive to be announced at the Annual General Meeting on July 2.

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for 3 Directors of the Society, each holding a 3 year term.

Participation on the RASC Board of Directors is a leadership experience that provides a rich opportunity for personal and astronomical growth!

- Be part of our leadership team at The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
- The Nominating Committee is seeking at least three candidates to run for the Board of Directors
- The President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be drawn from the ranks of the Board, which will include the three members chosen in this election and six members who were elected in 2015 and 2016.

The **Deadline for Nominations** for Board members is **2017 May 1**.

Candidate's **Campaign Period** runs from **May 8** through **June 2**. Candidates share their vision and qualifications with the Membership during this period with information posted on [rasc.ca/elections](http://rasc.ca/elections)

The **Election Period**, where Members vote on the Candidates standing for election, runs from **June 5** through **June 23**.

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:

- i. be a member in good standing of the Society;
- ii. meet the requirements for being a Board member as outlined by the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, and, specifically:
- iii. be over the age of 18 at the time of the Annual General Meeting (this year, July 2);
- iv. be an individual person (i.e. not a body corporate);
- v. be solvent (not bankrupt);
- vi. have agreed to stand for election in writing;
- vii. have the **support in writing of at least 3 people**, one of whom is a member of the Society; and,
- viii. 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, Robyn Foret ([arforet@shaw.ca](mailto:arforet@shaw.ca)). Each candidate should state that they understand the eligibility requirements and state that they meet those requirements. Candidates must agree to abide by the RASC Directors 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. 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 a candidate **by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Friday, May 1.**

Candidates' statements will be posted on the RASC website no later than May 5. Candidates can campaign from May 8 through June 2. Voting will take place from June 5 through June 23, and results will be announced on June 26. All members of the RASC are 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 [arforet@shaw.ca](mailto:arforet@shaw.ca)

Robyn Foret, Chair, Nominating Committee RASC

## Update on Society's Policy Manual

by **James Edgar**, RASC Past President

The Society's Policy Manual is an evergreen document, with numerous changes, edits, additions, and deletions over the past few years. It builds on an early iteration from National Secretaries Kim Hay, Stan Runge, James Edgar, Karen Finstad, and most recently, Charles Ennis. Version 5.0 is now on the website at [www.rasc.ca/rasc-policy-manual](http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-policy-manual), incorporating a motion by the Board of Directors to include the criteria and terms of reference for the various Awards in Section C1. Another important change also follows from a Board motion, to remove the often-contentious wording for a Service Award, which required "...at least ten (10) consecutive years..." to be eligible. The new wording (also found on the website at [www.rasc.ca/service-award](http://www.rasc.ca/service-award)) removes "consecutive" and now reads:

To be eligible for the Award, a recipient must:

- Be a member in good standing (a Service Award may be made posthumously to a member who would otherwise have been eligible).
- Have rendered substantial service of a well-defined nature to the Society and/or a Centre over a period of at least ten years. Such service should have had a major, constructive impact and would involve a very substantial and continued commitment on the part of the nominee.
- Not have received a Service Award before.

In addition, each award now has a fillable form for ease of entry and submission.

## The Starry Nights Exhibit

by **Paul Klauninger**, RASC Ottawa Centre

The Ottawa Centre is buzzing with preparations for this year's General Assembly. Holding the GA in Ottawa this year, coincident with Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, makes this a truly special occasion. One Centre project in particular promises to provide a rare opportunity for members of our Society, and at the same time, bring our love of astronomy into the limelight for the public. Through the

extensive efforts of members Janet Tulloch and Gordon Webster, we have been granted the opportunity to organize a display of astronomical art at a prestigious venue with broad audience exposure, the Shenkman Centre for the Arts in Orleans, Ontario. The Starry Nights project will be a visual arts exhibition containing works solely created by RASC members and will run from June 27 to July 25.

Such a unique opportunity offers us the chance to do more than just show some of the spectacular works created by Canadian amateur astronomers. It will allow us to:

- Bring an appreciation of dark skies as part of our Canadian heritage to a broader public. This is especially significant nowadays, as increasing light pollution minimizes such opportunities for more and more city dwellers.
- Sensitize and educate a new and broader audience to richness of the night sky - it is so much more than the Moon and a few stars! The Shenkman venue reaches children at summer camps, as well as audiences attending the centre for art performances and to view the other galleries located there.
- Introduce the idea to the public that the creation of astronomically themed works (and astrophotography in particular) are legitimate art forms. This is particularly significant, since it can help to bridge the perceptual gap between science and art. Many complex theories of modern physics underlie our present understanding of the Universe, and as such, can be intimidating for most. Works of art transcend language, and in addition to being inspirational, can also be highly instructional. It is true that a picture really can be worth a thousand words!
- Offer the exhibited works for sale to the public attending the Shenkman Centre. If a work is purchased, a 15% commission goes to the ARTicipate Endowment Fund and the balance to the artist.

The opportunity to submit a work for this exhibit is open to all RASC members in good standing, and all submissions must have been created/imaged from within Canada. Entry details can be requested by email at: [RASC2017ArtExhibit@gmail.com](mailto:RASC2017ArtExhibit@gmail.com). While there is no fee to submit entries for initial consideration (only two submissions allowed per artist please), accepted exhibitors will be required to pay a \$10 administration fee and must cover the costs associated with printing and properly framing their works, as well as shipping to and from the Shenkman Centre, if required.

The Starry Nights exhibit will contain 40 to 60 works selected from all the submitted entries. It's your chance to shine! Send us your best work for consideration and good luck to all!

## **Call for Exhibitors – Appel pour les exposants**

by **Janet Tulloch**, RASC Ottawa Centre

The City of Ottawa and The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Ottawa Centre

presents

En collaboration avec la Ville d'Ottawa, la Société royale d'astronomie du Canada –  
Ottawa-Centre présente

### ***Starry Nights***

**An exhibition of the night sky  
Une exposition du ciel nocturne**

**LaLande + Doyle Exhibition Space  
Shenkman Arts Centre, 245 Centrum Boulevard, Lower Level**

**Espace d'exposition LaLande + Doyle  
Centre des Arts Shenkman, 245, boulevard Centrum, niveau inférieur**

**June 27 to July 25  
Du 27 juin au 25 juillet**

**Open to all RASC members/Ouvert à tous les membres de la SRAC**

**For entry details please contact/**

**Pour plus d'information, veuillez communiquer avec:**

**[RASC2017ArtExhibit@gmail.com](mailto:RASC2017ArtExhibit@gmail.com)**

**By March 31**

**Au plus tard le 31 mars**

**Final deadline for all entry materials/Date limite pour tous les documents de  
participation:**



**April 30, 2017/30 avril**



TTY 613-580-2401

## **2017 General Assembly – Ottawa, June 29 to July 3**

by **Brian McCullough** and **Tim Cole**, 2017 GA Committee, Ottawa Centre



RASC Ottawa Centre is pleased to offer an outstanding lineup of activities for delegates and spouses taking part in the 2017 General Assembly, and we look forward to seeing you here in Ottawa. Is there really any other place to be than the nation's capital during our 150th birthday?

The following schedule of activities and more information can be found at <http://ottawa.rasc.ca/content/2017-general-assembly-ottawa>

### **Thursday, June 29**

- 3:00 p.m. – Residence check-in and GA registrations desk open
- Evening – Hospitality suite open

### **Friday, June 30**

- Welcome
- **Keynote Address: Ken Hewitt-White**
- National Council Meeting (concurrent all day)
- Algonquin Radio Observatory—Brendan Quine
- Moving Clusters—Glenn LeDrew
- Astronomy Workshop
- Downtown in the Afternoon Tours
- BBQ on Campus
- Evening Star Party & Diefenbunker Tour

### **Saturday, July 1 – CANADA 150 DAY!**

- Meteor Workshop—Pierre Martin
- The Solar System: a Geological Perspective on Current Controversies—Simon Hanmer
- Moon sketching (Lunchtime group activity)
- ***Ruth Northcott Lecture & Reception with Dr. Eric Steinbring***
- Public Outreach Event
- Starry Night Documentary Video with Charles Ennis
- Panel Discussion
- CANADA DAY Celebrations on Parliament Hill
- Quiet Canada Day on Campus with Carmen Rush

### **Sunday, July 2**

- Annual General Meeting / Spouse's Tour (concurrent)
- Speakers Corner
- Talk TBD—Carmen Rush
- Talk TBD—Rick Wagner
- Astro-Desserts: recipes for astronomy themed goodies—Kelly Jordan
- August 21 Total Solar Eclipse—Alan Scott
- History of Predicting Solar Eclipses—Ron MacNaughton
- ***Group Photo & RASC Awards Banquet with Speaker Dr. Nadine Manset***

### **Monday, July 3**

- 11:00 a.m. Residence checkout
- Holleford Crater tour with Chuck O'Dale

## Call for Images 2018 RASC *Observer's Calendar*

by **Paul Gray**, RASC *Observer's Calendar* Editor

Astronomical images and sketches of all types are invited for consideration for publication in the 2018 RASC *Observer's Calendar* including: deep sky, wide field, Solar System, astronomical sketches 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 3825 x 3028 pixels for the print ready tiff. 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 website, send me the link, but **please also direct me to your recent favorites**. 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 the past 3 years.

Please email submissions to me at [snpgray \(at\) gmail \(dot\) 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, we will request a full resolution tiff version. Full resolution tiffs will be required for use in print. The deadline for submissions is March 31. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the above mentioned email address.

## Asteroids with a Canadian Connection

by **Eric Briggs**, RASC, Toronto Centre

The following have been added to the list of asteroids with Canadian connections:

<http://rasc.ca/asteroids/11780>

(11780) Thunder Bay = 1942 TB

Discovered 1942 Oct. 3 by L. Oterma at Turku.

Thunder Bay, located on the shores of Lake Superior, is the most populous municipality in Northwestern Ontario, Canada. Formed in 1970 as the amalgamation

of two cities, Thunder Bay is known as “the Lakehead” because it is Canada’s westernmost port on the Great Lakes and the end of Great Lakes Navigation.

Orbit Type: Main Belt

Ref: MPC 103030

## Winter Star Party

by [Dave Chapman](#), Halifax Centre

The southern horizon at the Winter Star Party (2017 February 20-26) in the wee hours, showing (left to right) Alpha and Beta Centauri, Crux, and the Eta Carinae Nebula. The globular cluster Omega Centauri is at top centre.



About 15 RASC members from 5 Centres informally convened at this year’s Winter Star Party in the Florida Keys (Centres represented were Belleville, Halifax, Ottawa, and Toronto, plus le Centre francophone de Montréal). The week got off to a windy,

cloudy, rainy start, with limited viewing opportunities, but then improved, with Thursday through Friday nights offering long periods of dark, cloud-free skies. There is light pollution to the east, through north, to the northwest, at low altitude, but other directions and overhead are usually near-perfect. Measurements with a narrow-beam Unihedron Sky Quality Meter showed values in the range 21.7–21.9 magnitude per square arcsecond.

Typical objects observed and/or imaged included Venus, the Zodiacal light, the Orion Nebula, the Horsehead Nebula, the Beehive cluster, Jupiter, binocular double stars, and several other deep sky objects in the rich Milky Way star fields south of Sirius. Midnight brought a large expanse of galaxies overhead. One of us spotted comet 3P/Encke.

The 20° latitude advantage allowed viewing of several of the “Southern Sky Splendours” from the *Observer’s Handbook*, although these were somewhat attenuated by atmospheric extinction (see photo). Just before dawn, it was possible to take in the entire constellation of Scorpius, including the long “fishhook” tail—almost worth the entire price of admission!

But overall, it is simply a pleasure to sit back and enjoy the beauty of the “winter” night sky in “summer” conditions. It is a great event with good camaraderie. Consider it for your next winter getaway trip!

## **Thank You to our Sponsors!**

by **Julia Neeser**, RASC Marketing Coordinator

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are offering companies the distinction of becoming a sponsor of the RASC, Canada’s pre-eminent amateur astronomy organization. This offer is available only to those industry leaders who recognize the value in being associated with the amateur astronomy community. [www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors](http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors).



## What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) section of the RASC website. Thanks to Gary Boyle for keeping us all in the know. Julia Neeser creates “The Solar System” monthly with data from James Edgar’s “Skies” newspaper articles at [www.rasc.ca/observing](http://www.rasc.ca/observing).



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