



May 2018 - Volume 13, Number 5

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*.
Email them to the Editor, David Garner at
bulletin@rasc.ca

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News from the Society Office

by [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director

RASC Archive Open House: Join Us!

Who? RASC Members and their guests.

Where? 4920 Dundas St W, Unit 203

When? Saturday, May 12

Time? 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Note: Guests are welcome to drop-in and stay for any length of time!

2018 marks 150 years of lasting organized astronomy in Canada, and that story is pre-eminently the story of the RASC. Join us on the afternoon of May 12th for an open house launching the official opening of our new Archives space! This invitation is extended to all RASC members, and their guests. The refurbished Archives facility is a RASC sesquicentennial project, providing improved storage, display, and consultation space for the RASC's material heritage, and a congenial location for select meetings and programming, in a setting richly evocative of our history. The fabric of our history is a resource the entire Society can draw on as we build our future.

If you've ever wondered if any of the telescopes in the iconic earliest RASC star-party images survived, or ever wanted to hear the probable sound of Galileo's clock mechanism, or look at documents from our earliest years, or peer at

Voltaire's contribution to the Newton wars, or discover which famous astronomers left their mark in our archives and books, come to the open house! The history of the RASC is *your* history.

The event runs from 1 to 4 p.m., with the official program commencing at 1:30. The National President will welcome everyone, James Maloney MP for Etobicoke—Lakeshore will bring greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada, CASCA President Roberto Abraham will be on hand, the Executive Director will speak on programs and the RASC, and the Archivist will introduce some of our artefacts. Light refreshments will be served.



OPEN HOUSE AGENDA

- Space opens for guests at 1 p.m.
- 1:30 – 1:35 National President Colin Haig welcomes guests.
- 1:35 – 1:40 MP James Maloney conveys greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada.
- 1:40 – 1:45 CASCA President Prof. Roberto Abraham represents CASCA, and himself as a professional *and* amateur astronomer, and long-time RASC member.
- 1:45 – 1:55 Executive Director Randy Attwood talks about the uses of the space, and future programming.

- 1:55 – 2:15 Archivist *briefly* addresses the place of the RASC’s history in the cultural fabric of the country, and introduces a few of the artefacts on display.
- 2:30 – 2:35 Raffle draw – 150th prize package.
- 2:35 – 4:00 Various RASC artefacts available for viewing.

Note: speaker timings are approximate

NEW RASC WebStore!

The RASC has an exciting announcement: a brand-new webstore! A ton of new Apparel items will be available in different sizes and colours and will be printed on demand and **available here**. The apparel items sport both the 150th logo and RASC Wordmark. **Polo shirts** are now available as well as new **tote bags** and **hats**. We hope you will enjoy the new webstore offerings and wear the RASC with pride!

Thank you for your support!



If you have any questions regarding your apparel order, please contact the customer service team: webstores@tshirtelephant.com.

National Star Party – Saturday, September 15

The 2017 National Star Party held last July was the first ever – it was extremely successful with thousands of Canadians participating, celebrating Canada's 150th birthday.

To celebrate the Society's 150th, we are scheduling a National Star Party for Saturday, September 15. The date was chosen because on that evening the Moon, Jupiter Saturn and Mars will all be perfectly placed in the evening sky. As well, a date later in the summer is easier to manage for Centres at higher latitudes – it gets dark earlier.

We are planning to produce information sheets on observing these planets to hand out at the event. The Observing Committee is planning on producing Mars observing info sheets as well.

Randy Attwood
Executive Director

2018 Election of Board of Directors

by **Robyn Foret**, RASC 2nd Vice-President

Three (3) Board of Director positions, each being a 3-year term, are open for election at the General Assembly. The 2018 Board of Directors will be announced at the General Assembly in Calgary.

Candidates' requirements are stipulated in **Policy G9: Society Nominations and Elections** of the Policy Manual. The Policy Manual is available in the Member's-Only section of the website at www.rasc.ca/rasc-policy-manual.

For more insight into the effort and commitment expected of Board members, feel free to reach out to the Nominating Committee Chair, Robyn Foret who can be reached at arforet@shaw.ca or 403-803-1075.

General Assembly 2018

by **Robyn Foret**, RASC 2nd Vice-President

GA 2018 is Live: Register now at rascga2018.ca

The 2018 GA will be held in Calgary, June 28 through July 2. With the Society celebrating its 150th and the Calgary Centre celebrating its 60th, 2018 will be a very special GA.

Accommodation is at Hotel Alma on campus at the University of Calgary. An upscale euro-style hotel, Alma offers 2-bedroom student quarters, standard hotel rooms and 1-bedroom suites. Overflow accommodation is in Student Housing, so book early to secure your optimal room at Alma.

A western-style barbeque at the U of C's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory informally kicks off the GA on June 28. Great speakers, opportunities to take an Alan Dyer workshop or a tour of the Cross Conservation area, a Social to meet up with RASC friends old and new, a Big Reveal on Friday night, a Stampede Breakfast, incredible poster and paper presentations, the Hogg Lecture, the actual General Assembly, the RASC 150 celebrations, the Banquet, and an optional visit to the KT Boundary and Dinosaur Provincial Park will all make this a very special GA that Members and their families can enjoy.

In the spirit of the West, and espousing our Western values and hospitality, you will be well cared for. Airport pick-up and drop off, a comprehensive meal plan and comfortable accommodations are ready for you.

Registration is limited so visit our web site and register soon. You don't want to miss this GA.

P.S. If you're planning an extended trip, the Calgary Stampede begins on July 6. Imagine a wonderful GA followed by a visit to Banff and Lake Louise, horseback riding on Moose Mountain then Yaa-Hoo along with the Calgary Stampede.

RASC Fundraising

by **Lisa Di Veto**, RASC Fundraising Consultant

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has been awarded funding for two summer employees! Canada Summer Jobs is a federal agency that provides minimum wage for students engaged by charities across the country. It's quite a competitive process, as businesses are eligible for partial wage subsidies. Last year in our federal riding alone, nearly 150 students were funded \$450,000 in wages. RASC's grant totals nearly \$7,000.

RASC will be able to engage both a Social Media and Membership Coordinator and Fund Development Assistant for two months and the government will pay their wages. There's a small cost to the organization to cover mandatory employee expense such as benefits and Worker's Compensation.

We're excited about the opportunity to have additional support serving Centres in marketing, membership and fund development portfolios. 2019 grant application information will be circulated to Centres with charitable status later this year as students could be engaged to work from home on projects such as website updates, newsletter production or event coordination. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have an interest in this funding source.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Lisa Di Veto

Observing News

by **Dave Chapman**, Observing Committee Chair

In April of 2018, RASC awarded the Explore the Moon–Binocular certificate to Victoria Kayser-Derenne (unattached). So far in this 150th Anniversary year, RASC has awarded 7 observing certificates.

In anticipation of this summer's close Mars opposition, a new page has been added to the Special Projects section of the RASC Observing web site www.rasc.ca/mars-2018-opposition. There you will find several downloadable

resources on observing and drawing Mars, including a observing form, courtesy of Denis Fell. We will be adding to those resources as items are produced.

On Twitter, please follow @RASC using the hashtag #RASCobserving for announcements of earned observing certificates and special observing opportunities.

During this anniversary year, we encourage members to create social media posts with photos or brief videos of all kinds of people enjoying astronomy, including the hashtag #TheStarsBelongToEveryone, to show the world that anyone can enjoy astronomy.

The Importance of Reporting Outreach Events

by **James Edgar**, *Observer's Handbook* Editor

Outreach event reporting gives the RASC information about outreach activities, which is vital to our fund raising efforts. It also helps us determine needs for new resource development, additional production runs, and resource distribution among our members and Centres.

Please report any outreach events your Centre may have at www.rasc.ca/rascforms/outreach-event-reporting .

RASC Astrophotography Certificates

by **James Edgar**, *Observer's Handbook* Editor

Astroimagers - earn a certificate while you learn your craft. You can apply for three different certificates: Wide Field, Solar System, and Deep Sky. A certificate suitable for framing comes with a showcase of your winning photos on the RASC Zenfolio site. Have a look at some of the certificate earners' great images at <http://rascastroimaging.zenfolio.com>.

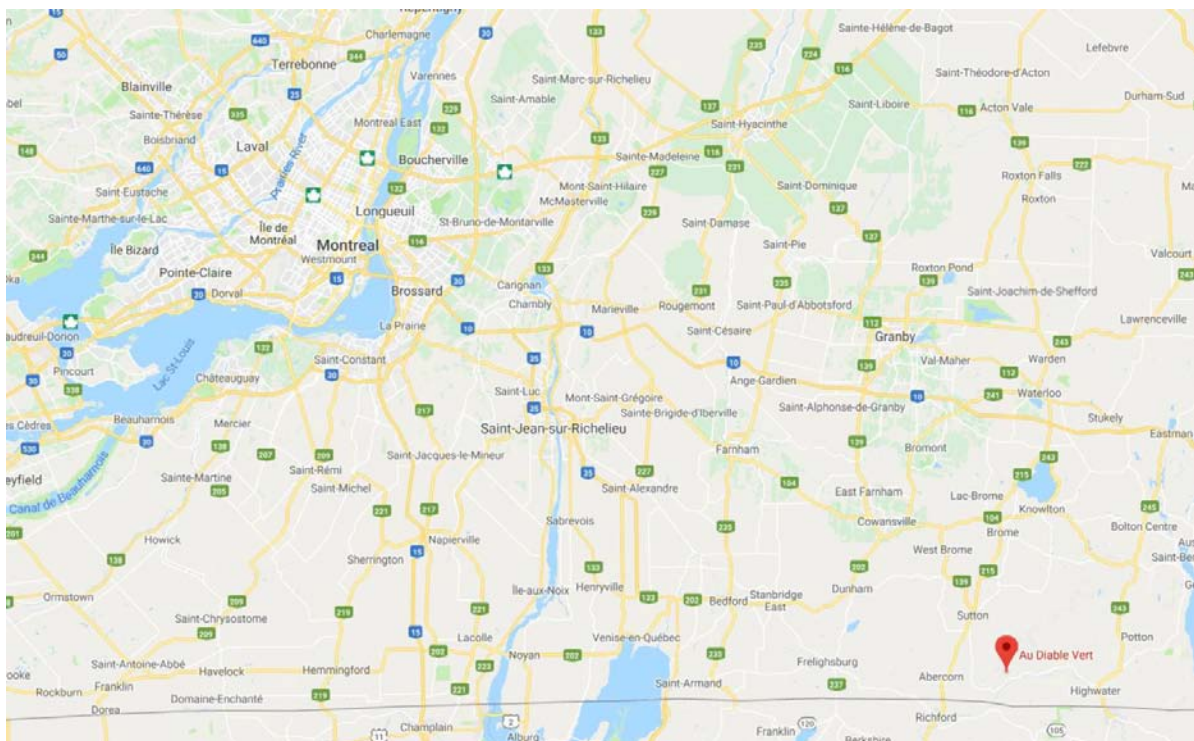
Go to www.rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate for the different category requirements and submission details.

A New Dark Sky Preserve

by **Robert Dick**, Chair, LPA Committee

The RASC has just announced its third DSP for this year: Au Diable Vert, near Sutton Quebec. It is a 150 hectare commercial property 100 km ESE of Montreal and 8 km SSE from Sutton. Of particular interest is its outdoor planetarium – a semi circular arena that resembles a Greek Theatre.

Au Diable Vert is the 21st RASC DSP. For more information contact Jeremy Fontana (jf@jeremyfontana.com):



(Map from Google Maps)

CASCA Newsletter

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

Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie Newsletter

Le bulletin d'équinoxe du printemps 2018 a été publié avec des nouvelles du programme 'Découverte l'univers', le 40e anniversaire de l'Observatoire Mont-

Mégantic, et mises à jour des projets comme le Télescope de Trente Mètres, l'Explorateur Spectroscopique de Maunakea, et d'autres projets astrophysiques canadiens.

<http://casca.ca/?p=9983>

Asteroids with Canadian Connections

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

The following has been added to the List of Asteroids with Canadian Connections:

(22422) Kenmount Hill = 1995 YO5

Discovered 1995 December 16 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak.

Kenmount Hill (47° 31' N, 52° 47' W) is the location near St. John's, Newfoundland, where John Winthrop of Harvard College observed the transit of Venus in 1761.

Name suggested by R. and P. Jedicke.

<https://rasc.ca/asteroid/22422>

Montreal Centre Upcoming Events

by **Carl Jorgensen**, Secretary, Montreal Centre

Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Montreal Centre Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum Conservation Center , 150 Chemin des Pins, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (weather permitting).

Friday, May 4, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members Arbo Clubhouse at the Morgan Arboretum (weather Permitting).

Saturday, May 5, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members Offsite Observing at Thompson Park, 726 Tuesday Main, Hudson (weather permitting).

Saturday, May 12, 7:30 – 10:00 pm: Members Offsite Observing at Woody – Woods, 45 Rang Saint Antoine, Saint-Chrysostome (weather permitting).

Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Members Observing at the Morgan Arboretum Conservation Center. The Bellevue Observatory will be open, but you can also bring your own telescope or binoculars (weather permitting).

Saturday, May 19, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Public Event “Jupiter Night” Presentation by Professor Michael Pagano (from John Abbott College) at the Morgan Arboretum Conservation Center. Public observing of Jupiter and other gems of the night sky after talk (weather permitting).

Wednesday, May 23, 7:00 – 9:30 pm: Montreal Centre Library Clubhouse at the RASC Montreal Centre Isabel K Williamson Library (Rm H-355), John Abbott College, 21275 Rue Lakeshore, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Saturday, May 26, 7:30 – 11:00 pm: Public Event A presentation on gravitational waves “Astronomy is Looking Up” by Emeritus Professor Tony Moffat at the Morgan Arboretum. Observing afterwards (weather Permitting).

Wednesday, May 30, 7:00 – 9:30 pm: Montreal Centre Library Clubhouse at the RASC Montreal Centre Isabel K Williamson Library (Rm H-355), John Abbott College, 21275 Rue Lakeshore, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Presentation by Pierre Tournay “Star Testing” at 7:30 pm.



ALCON 2018

July 11-14 Minneapolis-St. Paul

Vendor and Attendee Registration is Open!
alcon2018.astroleague.org

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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 now 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.





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.



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