

From: The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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Subject: The RASC November Bulletin

Date: Nov 8, 2019 at 1:14:47 PM

To: Walter MacDonald walter.macdonald2@gmail.com



We are into November, and the not-so-nice weather has rolled right in! We know better than to assume that the cold has stopped any of you from enjoying the night sky, [so send us some pictures of your fall set-ups!](#)

If you have a story, event or item you'd like included in the next Monthly Bulletin, [please reach out!](#)

[NOTICE: Nomination for RASC Awards are now open](#)

Letter from our Executive Director:

From the desk of Phil Groff:

Dear members of The RASC,

First of all, I want you to know how thrilled I am to be here. This is

a boyhood dream come true. I can finally say that all those hours spent watching Carl Sagan, and Jack Horkheimer finally paid off.

I haven't been as active an observer recently, so I'm hoping to draw on your experience as I pick astronomy back up again. I recently went to my first Centre meeting in Mississauga. I'm really looking forward to going to a meeting at every Centre during my first year as Executive Director. I have plans for a few other Centres in the near future, but I want to see all of you!

I'm really impressed by the team I've inherited here in the office in Toronto. Each one of them brings their own skill set and enthusiasm for their work to the job. Most importantly, they have demonstrated that they have the best interests of the society in mind in all of the work that they do.

While we all recognize there are challenges ahead of us, we know there's tremendous potential in this organization. In the first three weeks I've been here, we've already started tackling some long term solutions for our organization. We want every experience supporting our organization to be a positive one. With the steps we are taking right now, I am confident that we can get there.

Thank you all for coming along on this journey with me, I'm looking forward to working with you to elevate The RASC into the great organization we all know it can be.

Best,
Phil Groff
Executive Director - The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Board Meeting Summary



Members of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's board met this October 19 and 20 to discuss the future of the organization, and how our society can better serve our membership and the astronomy community at large. With the rebranding of our SkyNews magazine, hiring three new full-time staff members, and review of our internal practices, it is truly an exciting time for The RASC.

A number of items were up for discussion at the board meeting:

- Updating our membership and online store software to ensure user satisfaction.
- Staff updates and introductions from Membership, Youth Outreach and Marketing/Communications Coordinators
- A review of our current IT infrastructure and action items
- SkyNews Update
- Financial/Fundraising
- The future structure of The RASC board
- Review Strategic Plan
- General Assembly plan
- Centre Support and Assistance

Thank you to all our wonderful board members making the flight out to Toronto. Your dedication to our society will help us build and grow the organization in the coming years, and we appreciate you taking time out of your own lives to make this happen.

Celebrating Randy Attwood's tenure at The RASC



Members of The RASC from all over the country came to our National Office in Toronto to celebrate the retirement of our former Executive Director Randy Attwood.

After five years at the helm and decades of building the society, Randy has decided to step down from his post in the National Office.

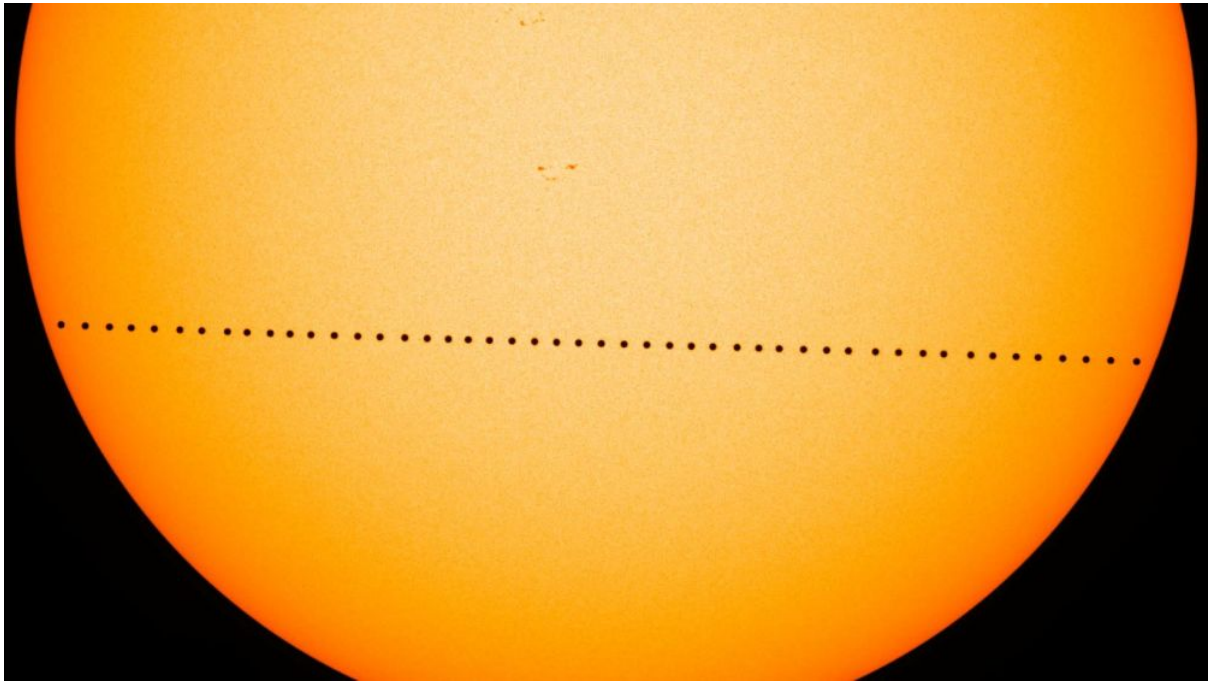
After some light snacks and refreshments, Randy addressed the well-wishers in attendance. He spoke about how proud he was of

the organization, and what a privilege it was to watch it grow.

REMINDER: We are putting together a book of stories and memories of Randy Attwood's tenure as Executive Director. Share your memories of Randy with us [here](#) by November 15 to have them included in our book.

Share your stories

Transit of Mercury



Are you prepared for the Transit of Mercury next week? It's happening November 11 and The RASC wants you to be as prepared as you can be for this momentous occasion.

[Head to our website to read more!](#) On it you'll find a list of RASC events for the Mercury Transit, and a printable handout put together to help educate attendees at your Mercury Transit event!

[Learn More](#)

Nominate someone for an award!

Do you know a volunteer or active member of our Society who deserves special recognition for the impact they've made on astronomy and The RASC? Nominate someone for a RASC award! This is your opportunity to make sure the people that go above and beyond for our Society are recognized for their efforts.

Take some time to think about the unsung heroes, the coaches and mentors, the people who helped you get excited about astronomy. Think about those people who quietly do their part every month, helping on committees, projects, or newsletters. Remember the ones who may be less active today, but made big contributions in prior years, and nominate them for an award.

For more information on our awards, [check out our website](#).

Nominations should be sent to the Awards Committee at awards20000@rasc.ca.



Notes from the Observing Committee

The Observing Committee has some updates and tips for readers in their monthly notices. Follow the link to find out more.

[Read More](#)

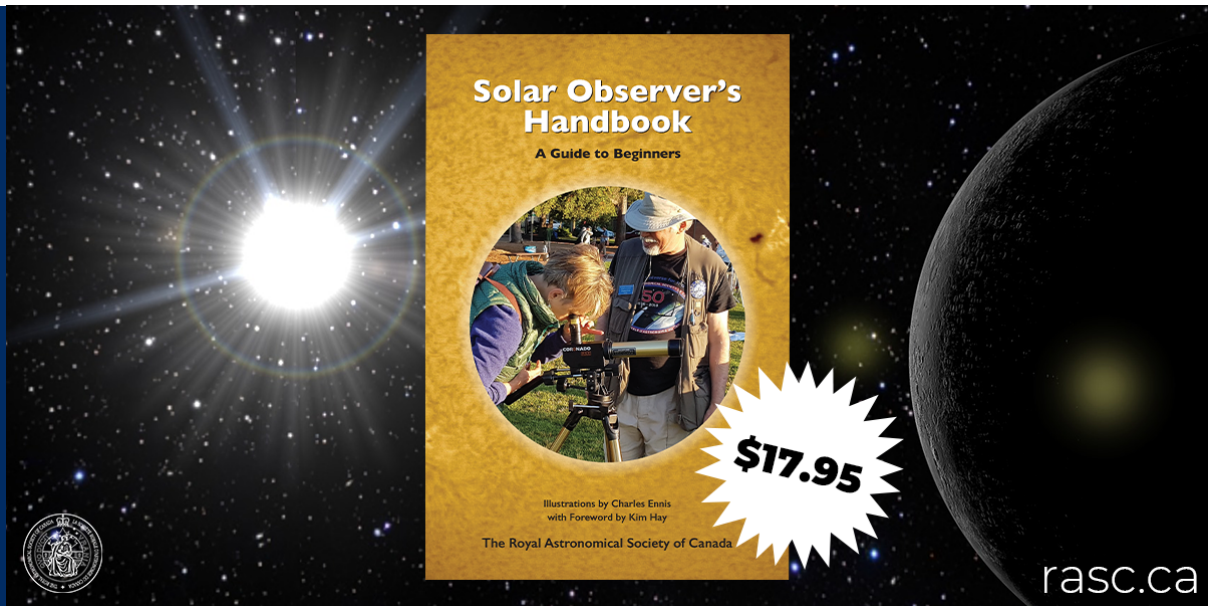


Bellevue Observatory Report

Check out what The RASC Montreal Centre has been up to with the Bellevue Observatory. Follow the link for more info.

[Read More](#)

Now Available!



Learn everything you need to know about Solar Observing before the Transit of Mercury on November 11.

Get your copy of Solar Observer's Handbook today!

[Shop](#)

The RASC in the news

Oct. 29

[City of Nanaimo drafts designs for East Wellington Park - Nanaimo News Bulletin](#)

Oct. 28

[Look up Red Deer, it's the International Space Station - Red Deer Advocate](#)

Oct. 20

[Where to watch the Orionid meteor shower in Edmonton - CTV News Edmonton](#)

Oct. 18

[Double Stars a Double Treat - Lethbridge Herald](#)

Oct. 16

[SSO, astronomical society partner for presentation of The Planets - Saskatoon StarPhoenix](#)

Oct. 8

[Look up for two meteor showers this week - CNN](#)

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