



Facsimile Message

To: [LOCAL MALL]
Attn.: [SUPERVISOR]
From: [COORDINATOR]
Subj.: Astronomy Day
Date: [11 February 2000]

Dear [SUPERVISOR],

Further to our recent telephone conversation I have prepared a few notes to describe "International Astronomy Week" and also the demonstration that the [Ottawa Centre] of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada ("RASC") would like to show at the St. Laurent Mall on Saturday 2nd., May 1998.

Background:

Astronomy Day occurs each year sometime between mid April and mid May on a Saturday near or before the 1st quarter Moon. Astronomy Week starts the Monday before Astronomy Day and ends the following Sunday. Astronomy Day was first held in California in 1973 and has spread throughout the World and is now an International event. Usual activities include demonstrations of Telescopes, models of the Solar System, games, children's crafts and model making, Solar observations, computer simulations and many other activities which help to describe and promote Amateur and Professional Astronomy.

The [Ottawa Centre] of the RASC has over [375] members who come from all walks of life including many children members. They meet monthly on the first Friday of the month at the National Science and Technology Museum to discuss recent activities and to host speakers who provide talks about various events connected with Astronomy and exhibitions of photographs showing comets, Galaxies, Planets Star Clusters etc.

Astronomy Day 8th April 2000:

If acceptable, the Ottawa group will setup demonstrations and exhibits in the Mall between 1030 and 1630 on 8th April. The activities would include the following:

- Demonstration of different Telescopes (2 or 3) - if possible we would like to also setup one or two telescopes outside the Mall to show "Sunspots" if the weather permits.
- A display of Astronomical photographs - these will all have been taken by members of the Ottawa group. They will show impressive shots of comets, planets, galaxies star systems and nebula.
- We would like to setup at least one simple Astronomy related craft which can be made by children.
- A television/VCR will display a compendium of Astronomical events, examples of different facets of Astronomy and activities that can be undertaken by individuals and families.

The setup will be planned around a standard 10 foot curved display booth backdrop where many of the photographs would be installed. One or two 6 foot (or similar) tables would hold the other demonstrations and materials for hand out. The Telescopes will be setup close to the tables. The backdrop and tables can be contained in an area of approx. 10 x 10 foot with possibly a similar area to house the Telescopes. It would be very convenient if tables and chairs can be made available from the Mall together with at least one standard power outlet.

I hope this provides you with sufficient information about the event. I will be very pleased to meet with you to go through the proposed program and to review possible sites for the event.

Looking forward to hearing from you. My number is [223 1057]

Kind Regards

J. Peter Williams
Astronomy Day Coordinator
For the RASC Ottawa Centre