



# What'sup?

**The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada**  
Belleville Centre Newsletter

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## Next Meeting

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Pioneer Bldg P13

## Observing Night

August TBD, 2018

## Fall'N'Stars

Fall'N'Stars is only a month away! Located at the Vanderwater Conservation Area Boy Scout Camp, this location has a lot to offer Fall'N'Stars participants in the way of comforts, but it's still a dark sky site.

The **Long House** is the hub of the facility. The long house has been dry walled and painted all white on the inside. Additional propane lamps have been added, making the inside a lot brighter - a good thing to have if it rains and we need to spend long periods of time indoors.

The field is large enough that people may set up tents in two main areas. To the south, is designated a quiet night area. Some, who like to hang out at their site all hours of the night (we ARE astronomers after all) should set up their site along the north side of the field to allow others to sleep.

We also have a **bunk house** in the longhouse if tenting isn't your cup of tea. The bunk house is even attached to the longhouse. (Please note that this year, the two separate bunk houses in the northern field are unavailable.)

We also have two **outhouses**, and a **picnic shelter**. There is **no electricity**. Be sure to bring your own portable power if you need it.

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, we still have space available. The menu for this year's dinner is pizza, wings and salad. A pretty mouth-watering feast to be sure.

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## Photo of the month



M16 taken by Club member with a TEC 202mm Mak Cass at f/31 6200mm, Canon 60Da in 640x480 video crop mode, best 200 of 5000 frames stacked and processed in Lynkeos.

## The Night Sky

August – Mars continues to be a prime object to view all month. However, Mars begins to dim from -2.8 to -2.1 over the course of the month.

August – Jupiter has a number of double shadow transits throughout the month. See Observers Handbook for details.

August 12/13 – Perseids Meteor Shower reaches its peak. It is estimated you should see from 50 to 80 meteors per hour Sunday night into Monday morning.

August 26<sup>th</sup> – Mercury makes an early morning appearance at a magnitude -0.5.



Malcolm Park

## Fall'N' Stars – Guest Speaker

Malcolm Park is a past-president of the North York Astronomical Association (NYAA) and was also the coordinator of Starfest, Canada's largest annual Starparty and amateur astronomy conference. Recently retired after over 30 years in the banking industry, Malcolm pursues his passions for astronomy and photography from his home in Prince Edward County, Ontario Canada.

Malcolm's images have been published in various publications such as the Toronto Star newspaper, SkyNews, Sky & Telescope and Astronomy magazines, and online websites like Spaceweather.com, Global News, the Weathernetwork.com, and NASA Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD). Malcolm has contributed still and time-lapse astrophotography to the Oasis channel television series Cosmic Vistas and the documentary film StarMen.

Malcolm will be speaking on his adventures in San Pedro, Chile.

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## Review of the 2018 RASC General Assembly

held in Calgary on June 29 – July 1, 2018

by Don Town, National Council Representative for the Belleville Centre

Once a year the RASC conducts a General Assembly, with the meeting held in a different location each year. This year's GA was held on the traditional Canada Day long weekend and hosted by the Calgary Centre at the University of Calgary.

The General Assembly is open to all RASC members, although registration for the various presentations, lectures, off-campus field trips and meals is required. The GA also affords the Board of Directors and National Council to meet.

A welcome barbeque on Thursday night started off the weekend events, although my flight from Toronto arrived later than the busses departing to the University of Calgary's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory. The Observatory is located 40 km southwest of the city and the group toured the 3.3 m radio telescope, and the 1.8, 0.5 & 0.4 m optical 'scopes.

We were officially greeted on Friday morning by the outgoing university Chancellor and Canadian astronaut, Robert Thirsk. Robert

shared with us his experiences based on his record setting time in space and now views himself as a citizen of Earth (versus just Canadian). His talk included a number of pictures from space that highlighted the impact that humanity has had on the planet.

As this GA celebrated RASC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the first round of morning talks centered on RASC's past.

In the afternoon while Alan Dyer conducted a session on mastering Photoshop for Astronomy, National Council met across campus. Before the GA there had been a significant amount of discussion about the future role of National Council and this became the primary focus of the afternoon session. The normal review of committee reports was dropped to examine why National Council's effectiveness has diminished. RASC's governance changed to a Board of Directors five years ago, and since that time, decisions have been made at the Board level with little information flow from the Board to Council. An example of this was the lack of budget information shared regarding the society's finances which are currently expected to require a \$20 per year fee increase. A number of changes were proposed to address the interaction of Council with the Board. These changes were presented at the second Council meeting held on Sunday. Resolutions passed to have two Council Co-chairs attend all Board meetings and to have more frequent (6/year) Council teleconferences, with committee reporting spread over the six teleconferences.

On Friday evening the Plaskett Medal ward winner, Dr. Fereshteh Rajabi, presented a

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summary of her research paper on Super radiance. Although a bit heavy in the mathematics, she explained how closely packed atoms/molecules emit coherent radiation.

The papers presented on Saturday morning were either by or about women in astronomy. A complete listing of the presentations can be found on the RASC GA website ([www.rasc.ca/ga2018](http://www.rasc.ca/ga2018)). The Helen Sawyer Hogg Lecture, which is open to the general public, was presented on Saturday evening by Emily Lakdawalla. Emily is a passionate advocate of space exploration and discussed recent missions in our solar system and some exiting results.

The General Assembly was held Sunday morning, with the standard reports from the Board of Directors being given. These can be found on the RASC National website ([www.rasc.ca/system/files/2017Ext.pdf](http://www.rasc.ca/system/files/2017Ext.pdf)).

Some news reviewed at the GA included the recent release and sellout of a \$20 silver coin which contains a meteorite fragment by the Canadian Mint and Canada Post printing a stamp commemorating RASC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

An Awards Dinner was held on Sunday evening recognizing the efforts of the Society's volunteers. Dr. Tanya Harrison gave a very interesting keynote presentation reviewing the presence of water on Mars. Although there were a number of post GA tours (Badlands, Rockies, First Nations Stone Cairn), I was able to catch a flight back home on Monday Morning.

I have attended a number of General Assemblies and have enjoyed them all. The

Calgary Centre put a lot of effort into this GA and made it a great success. I would recommend attending one if you have not yet had the opportunity. The next GA will be held on the Father's Day weekend (June 14-16, 2019) at York University in Toronto.

## Fall'N' Stars

Mark Your Calendar! Fall'n' Stars is slated for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at the Sagonaska Boy Scout Camp. This is our annual gathering in celebration of the night sky. Please go to <http://rascbelleville.ca/fallnstars/> for more info and to register.

## Facebook

Our club now has a Facebook presence on line (RASC Belleville). Please like and follow our club through this means. We will be posting upcoming events, club member photos and astronomy related items.

## Solar observing in the Park 2018

Solar observing at Presqu'ile Provincial Park from 1 to 3 pm Saturdays 14, 28 July & 11, 25 August.

## Night Sky Observing in the Park

Night time observing at Presqu'ile Provincial Park with take place Tuesdays 3, 17, 31 July (9 pm) and 14, 28 August (8 pm).

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## Star BQ – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018

By Debi Butler

We started the day with solar observing but the day was overcast, with only fleeting glimpses of sun to be seen. Don Town brought his scope and solar filter and he hung in there, hoping for a clearing but it didn't happen.

Since we were already at the picnic shelter, we stayed there for the day until the StarBQ was scheduled to start. There was a torrential downpour, which we enjoyed from the picnic shelter followed by more gentle rain. In spite of the weather, there were 8 attendees for the dinner and plenty of food.

When the rain stopped, Joe brought out a ring-toss game and we played off, with the winners being Trivina Billo and Greg. At 9pm, it was decided that there was not going to be a clear sky that evening and everyone headed home.



## Outa this world Humour

Q: How does Jupiter hold up his trousers?

A: With an asteroid belt.

Q: What type of songs do the planets sing?

A: Nep-tunes!



Copernicus' parents might deserve some of the credit for his great discovery. Apparently at the age of twelve they said to him: "Copernicus, young man, when are you going to realize that the world does NOT revolve around you."



# What'sup?

## Club Minutes - June 2018

By Joanne Burns

- **14 people present at meeting**

14 people present, including Norm Folkers from the NYAA club and recent transplant to P.E.C. from Toronto area.

- **RASC General Assembly in Calgary, Alberta**

Don Town, National Council Rep., gives his report after returning from the annual General Assembly of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada which was held in Calgary, Alberta this year over the July 1 long weekend.

- **Canada Post RASC 150th Anniversary Coin and Postage Stamp**

Canada Post has issued 5,000 coins to celebrate the RASC's 150th anniversary. Apparently they also issued a new postage stamp for the same occasion.

- **Fall'n'Stars Report**

Steve Burr reports that 12 persons have registered so far for Fall'n'Stars.

- **StarBQ**

Report by Debi Butler. StarBQ takes place next Saturday, July 14 at Presqu'ile. To be preceded by public solar observing.

- **Observing Reports**

David Billo and Dave Cotterell (from Dave C.'s place near Ivanhoe) attempted to view occultation of star

by Saturn, unfortunately could not see the star but had "world-class viewing."

- **Presqu'ile Public Observing**

Scopes were manned by Debi Butler, Don Townsend, Dave Cotterell and David Billo this past Tuesday night for the first night-time public viewing of this summer at Presqu'ile Park. Campers were treated to views of Venus, Saturn and Jupiter. It was reported that Lake Ontario was so calm that Mars could be seen as a red streak!

- **Dave Cotterell's new observatory**

Dave showed some photos of his new observatory while under construction.

- **Projector**

Because we have been having difficulty for the past 2 or 3 meetings getting the equipment to work in our room (even having to move twice last month) it was voted unanimously that the club purchase its own projector. A price tag of between \$350.00 - \$800.00 was suggested.

- **Room Fees**

Starting in September, Loyalist College will now be charging us a yearly fee of \$162.72 to use a room for our meetings. First time in over 2 decades that we have been charged for a room.

- **Randy Boddam**

Talks about website arXiv.org.

- **Dave Cotterell**

Globular clusters for us to consider viewing over the summer.