



# What'sup?

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

## In this Issue

- 2019 General Assembly
- Fall'N Stars 2019
- Outa this world humour
- Astronomy Facts

## Next Meeting

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Pioneer Building, Room  
P13

Observing Night

TBD

## 2019 General Assembly

The 2019 General Assembly will be held in Toronto at York University 2019 June 13– 16. The theme of the General Assembly will be Education and Public Outreach.

### Background

In August 2018, the Carswell Family Foundation made a \$3 million donation to York University to create the Allan I. Carswell Chair for Public Understanding of Astronomy. Thought to be the first of its kind in North America, it will be dedicated to science engagement and outreach. It will benefit students and the public through education and activities, involving telescopes at the Allan I. Carswell Observatory, as well as novel technologies such as virtual reality. The endowment will also support the York Science Communicator in Residence program to enhance student learning opportunities in science communications. A new 1 metre telescope will be installed in the observatory in early 2019.

York University was the site of the 2008 General Assembly held by the Toronto, Mississauga and Hamilton Centres. Recently, two subway stations were opened at York — at the north and south ends of the campus making it accessible from all over the city. This also means that downtown Toronto is a short subway ride from the campus.

For further info: <http://www.rasc.ca/ga2019>

## South Bay under the Stars

May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sponsored by RASC Belleville, this will be a fun weekend of stargazing and astronomical fellowship. Campsites are still available. For further info or registration forms please contact us at [steveburr100@gmail.com](mailto:steveburr100@gmail.com)

## Outa This World Humour

What do Martians listen to in space?  
Bruno Mars.

How do you throw a party for an astronaut?  
You have to plan-et.

How does a man on a moon get his haircut?  
Eclipse it.

What kind of song do planets sing?  
A Nep-tune.

Why wasn't the moon hungry?  
Because it was full!

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/schooljokes/astronomyjokes.html>



## Astronomy Facts

Scientists agree that the "average" travel time for a photon to escape the sun's interior and leak out into space is on the order of 10 million years. Solar neutrinos, which are also produced in the sun's core, interact so infrequently with other matter that they take no longer than a few seconds to escape!

The sun converts 600 million tons of hydrogen into 595 million tons of helium and 5 million tons of pure energy every second. Even at this rate the sun has only used about 4% of its hydrogen. The conversion happens when two protons collide head on and one of the protons is travelling at least 5 times faster than average. Since not every collision of protons is exactly head on, overall, just one collision in every ten billion trillion initiates the conversion of hydrogen to helium and energy.

## Fall'N Stars 2019

Mark your calendars! The date for this year's Fall'N Stars is Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of September at the Vanderwater Conservation Area Boy Scout camp. Further info and registration forms can be found at <http://rascbelleville.ca/fallnstars/>