

Belleville Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Bylaws

January 7th, 2022

ARTICLE 1 - IDENTITY

(1.01) NAME

The **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada** or **RASC**, hereafter referred to as “the Society,” refers to the collective membership of all individual members, centres and the National Office, located at 489 College Street, Suite 203, in Toronto, Ontario M6G 1A5.

The name of the Centre is the **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Belleville Centre**, or **RASC Belleville**. Hereafter referred to as “the Centre”

(1.02) OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Centre are:

- to provide a forum where persons interested in astronomy can come together in fellowship and learning,
- to promote and foster a greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of astronomy and allied sciences within the community, particularly among our youth and in the schools,
- to play a leadership role in matters affecting the general good and welfare of amateur and professional astronomy, in the community at large,
- to work in conjunction with the Society and other Centres of the Society to further the progress of astronomy in Canada,
- to publish newsletters, a website, and other material containing information on the progress of astronomy and the work of the Society and the Centre.

(1.03) ASSOCIATION OF CENTRE AND SOCIETY

The Centre is a constituent part of, and associated with the Society.

(1.04) CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

The operation of the Centre is governed by the Centre's by-laws and by the Constitution of the Society.

The by-laws of the Centre shall not conflict with the Constitution of the Society, and any Centre by-law that does so conflict is inoperative to the extent of the conflict.

Where a resolution or action of the Centre conflicts with a resolution or action of the Society, the resolution or action of the Society shall prevail and the resolution or action of the Centre is inoperative to the extent of the conflict.

(1.05) CENTRE DEBTS

The Centre shall be responsible for its own debts, obligations and claims. The Centre shall not incur or be liable for any debt, obligation or claim incurred by the Society.

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP

(2.01) ELEGIBILITY

Membership in the Centre shall be open to all persons who are interested in astronomy, as provided by the Letters Patent of the Society.

(2.02) CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIPS

There are four classes of membership in the Centre: Regular, Youth, Affiliate, and Life memberships.

(a) A **Regular Member** of the Centre is a Canadian member of the Centre who has paid the regular membership fee. The regular membership fee is \$94.00 paid to the RASC National Office. (\$63.00 + \$31.00 Centre Surcharge)

(b) A **youth member** of the Centre is a Canadian member of the Centre who has paid the youth membership fee and who has not reached their twenty-first (21st) birthday at the time of such payment or is under twenty-five (25) and enrolled in a full-time post-secondary education program. Eligibility for youth membership terminates at the end of the membership year in which the person becomes twenty-one years of age or twenty-five if attending a full-time post-secondary education program. The youth membership fee is \$56.00 paid to the RASC National Office. (\$38.30 + \$17.70 Centre Surcharge)

(c) **Family membership** is available to a group of individuals where at least one **regular** or **life** member along with other **regular**, **life**, or **youth** members of the Centre share a common domicile in Canada and have paid the family membership fee. The family membership fee is \$57.50 for the first **regular** adult in the **family** group plus \$23.00 for each additional **regular** member plus \$9.60 for each **youth** member plus the \$31.00 Centre Surcharge paid to the RASC National Office. (\$57.50 + \$23.00 per additional regular member + \$9.60 per additional youth member + \$31.00 Centre Surcharge).

(d) An **affiliate member** of the Centre is an existing member of another recognized Centre of the RASC, and has paid the affiliate membership fee (\$25 for adults, \$15 for those 20 years of age or under). Affiliate membership fees shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Centre. Affiliate members of the Centre shall be entitled to exercise such rights as are determined from time to time by ordinary resolution of the Centre.

(e) A **life member** of the Centre is a member of the Society who has paid the prescribed life membership fee prior to 2004. Existing life memberships are honoured but are no longer available. A life member is not required to pay any annual membership fees, other than any applicable surcharge or special event fees. If established by Centre Policy, additional Centre fees can be charged if those life members wish to support local Centre programs and initiatives. Life Members who elect to not pay additional Centre fees then become National members.

(2.03) RELATIONSHIP OF CENTRE MEMBERS AND THE SOCIETY

Every regular, youth, and life member of the Centre is also a member of the Society. A person who for any reason ceases to be a member of the Society there upon ceases to be a member of the Centre. An affiliate member of the Centre is not a member of the Society, except when he or she has membership in another Centre.

(2.04) TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

A member of another Centre may transfer his or her membership and become attached to the Centre, and an unattached member may become a member of and attached to the Centre, upon application to and acceptance by special resolution of the Centre. Such transfer or attachment is effective from the beginning of the membership year following that in which the transfer or attachment is so accepted.

ARTICLE 3 – BUSINESS & MEETINGS

(3.01) PRESIDING MEMBER

(a) The Annual Meeting (See below) of the Centre shall be presided over by the President, in his or her absence by the Vice-President, and in the absence of both of them, by a member of the Office elected at the meeting. The presiding member may vote at a meeting only to cast a deciding vote in the event of a tied vote.

(b) Every other meeting of the Centre shall be presided over by the President or by his or her designate, normally the Vice President.

(3.02) QUORUM

The quorum for the conduct of business at any meeting of the Centre shall be at least two (2) of the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or National Council Representative; plus at least sixty percent (60%) of the Centre members (present or voting by proxy), who are in good standing and are not members of Centre Council.

(3.03) PROXIES

A voting member of the Centre may be represented at an annual, regular, or special meeting by any other voting member whom he or she has appointed in writing as his or her proxy.

(3.04) MEETINGS

(a) The Centre shall generally meet once each month at a place and time determined at a previous meeting. Meetings shall generally consist of a business session, followed by any planned or impromptu program.

(b) The regular meeting held in the month of October shall be designated as the Annual Meeting, at which the Officers of the Centre shall be elected, dues established, and such other business as the Centre may require to be conducted at that time.

(c) In addition to the regular monthly meetings and the Annular Meeting, the Centre may hold such other special, private, or public meetings as it may deem desirable for the advancement of its purpose and the promotion of astronomy.

(d) In addition to meetings, the Centre may engage in such other activities of a private or public nature as its members may deem desirable and expedient for its purpose.

ARTICLE 4 – Council

(4.01) MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Centre Council shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Events Co-ordinator, and National Council Representative. A council member may hold a maximum of two (2) positions unless appointed to an additional position by the Centre Council.

(4.02) VACANCY

If any official position should become vacant, it may be left vacant or the remaining centre council members may appoint a replacement to fill the vacancy until the Annual Meeting.

(4.03) TERMS OF OFFICE

The term of office of elected Council members shall be one year. A person may hold any such elected office for any number of consecutive terms if re-elected.

(4.04) COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council shall meet as often as the business of the Centre shall require, but at least three times in each membership year. Meetings of the Council shall be called by the President and shall be held at such place as is designated by the President.

ARTICLE 5 - DUTIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

(5.01) DUTIES

(a) The **President** shall govern all matters of business at the monthly meetings, shall represent the Centre within the community at large and in matters of public relations, shall appoint all committee chairs and shall be an official member of all committees.

(b) The **Vice President** shall fill in for any duty of the President should the president not be present, or temporarily not be able to fulfil such roles. The Vice President is not automatically official member of all committees, though he or she may join any other committee.

(c) The **Secretary** will maintain an up-to-date list of all members of the Centre, send any notices to members that may be required and keep such other records as the Centre may deem desirable or expedient.

(d) The **Treasurer** shall receive all monies and deposit same to a bank account in the name of the Centre, keep such books and records as shall enable a proper accounting of the Centre's funds and shall report to the Centre as often as required but at least annually on the Centre's finances.

(e) The **National Council Representative** shall represents the Belleville Centre at all national RASC assemblies.

(f) The **Newsletter Editor** shall create, publish and look after all matters pertaining to the Centre's Newsletters.

(g) The **Webmaster** shall create, maintain, and look after all matters pertaining to the Centre's Website

(5.02) DOCUMENTS:

All cheques written on the Centre's account, contracts, applications, and other such documents, shall be signed by at least two (2) of the following Council members: President, Vice President, National Council Representative, Secretary or Treasurer.

ARTICLE 6 - AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended at any Annual Meeting or at any Special Meeting called for the purpose providing that notice of any proposed amendment is sent to all members in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which it is proposed to adopt the amendment and providing that the proposed amendment shall receive the approval of sixty percent (60%) of the members present and voting, or voting by proxy.

(Draft) Bylaws

January 7th, 2022