



Nomination of Randall Rosenfeld as Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Born in 1959, Randall Rosenfeld formerly belonged to Halifax and Toronto Centres, but it is as an unattached member that he has really spread his wings. His service at the national level has spanned a dozen years, but in that time he has accomplished what few could contemplate in a lifetime. A former RASC President noted that, “Whatever Randall undertakes, he does so with thoughtfulness, thoroughness, good humour and modesty”, and it seems impossible to come up with better words today.

In chairing three standing committees—membership & promotion, green laser pointer, and history—it is clear that Randall enjoys an amazing breadth of interests, influence and admiration by his colleagues. He worked closely with the observing committee, trying to stimulate observations of the transit of Venus within a historical context, and with other committees both within and outside the RASC in making the 2009 International Year of Astronomy more meaningful.

As the Society’s Archivist, he has opened windows and doors to our history and heritage through his active interest in the astronomical artifacts the RASC has acquired over the years, through online resources that he has organized, through his delightfully written and illustrated reports, and through more than 50 articles and papers he has written for the *Journal*.

Randall’s wonderful way with words has been recognized within the Society as a recipient of the Simon Newcomb Award in 2012, and extramurally for his prizewinning entries in the Boeing Griffith Observer Writing Contest. His beautiful performances of ancient music have enhanced many a meeting and exposed wider audiences to the unity of science and the arts.

Who else but Randall could have planned so successfully the 2018 celebration of the Society’s sesquicentennial? What an eclectic mix of approaches to astronomy were revealed by the speakers at the 2018 General Assembly! And soon, we are confident, their contributions will appear in book form under Randall’s editorship, bringing even wider recognition to the Society

and what it has meant throughout Canada's history. The monthly series of podcasts produced by Randall and Heather Laird were a highlight of the sesquicentennial year. Besides the importance of making RASC members proud of our shared history, outsiders often contact Randall for further information about aspects of former members' interests. The replies to such enquiries are always thorough, often drawing on his experience and knowledge of sources outside the Society's own resources. This is especially evident when groups like CASCA's Heritage Committee (of which Randall has been a member since 2012), or individuals like the widow of Richard Jarrell, recognize the RASC Archives a suitable and responsible repository for papers and manuscripts in their possession. Randall's 2016 appointment as CASCA's Archivist underscores the respect that Canadian astronomers have for his knowledge of the history of their science.

The ultimate example of how Randall's efforts have borne fruit is the magnificent \$25,000 annual and \$1.5 million legacy gift of Rudolph Dorner to establish a telescope museum under the aegis of the RASC and to appoint Randall Rosenfeld as its first director. Such generous benefactors do not act without confidence in the beneficiaries.

While the Society has not been neglectful in recognizing Randall's many contributions, having presented him with the President's Award in 2012 (the same year that the International Astronomical Union officially attached his name to asteroid 283990), and the Service Award as recently as 2017, we nonetheless believe that the time is ripe to denote Randall Rosenfeld as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada for his exemplary and outstanding contributions in furthering the aims of the Society over an extended period of time.

Respectfully submitted,
Roy Bishop, FRASC
Peter Broughton, FRASC December 2019

✧ dedicated to the promotion of astronomy and allied sciences ✧