

## 2009 Award Citations

- **Service Award, Robert Duff** (London Centre)
- **Service Award, Kim Hay** (Kingston Centre)
- **Service Award, Richard Huziak** (Saskatoon Centre)
- **Service Award, Walter MacDonald** (Kingston Centre)
- **Service Award, Al Seaman** (Ottawa Centre)
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### **Service Award, Robert Duff** (London Centre)

Robert Duff, known as Bob to his many friends, bought his first telescope at the age of 14, using money he earned working part time delivering meat on his bicycle for the neighbourhood butcher. The telescope tripod was wobbly at best, but he persisted and was able to view the Moon, Jupiter, and Saturn. The telescope had an eyepiece solar filter, which he used to observe sunspots. His father warned that this method of viewing the Sun might be unsafe as the filter became extremely hot after a few minutes of use. This interest in solar observing continued, with notably better equipment. Bob regrettably sold that telescope when he went to university, as he had no place to store it.

Late in 1987 Bob began attending meetings of London Centre of the RASC, a time when meetings were held on the University of Western Ontario campus. He joined the Centre in September 1988, and has been an active member ever since. In 1997 when London Centre celebrated its semi-sesquicentennial, Bob served on the committee that organized the event, and prepared an excellent display about the Centre's history. Bob was also a hard-working member of the 2001 General Assembly committee.

Bob is passionate about books, and has read almost every astronomy book available to him. He serves as the London Centre Librarian, storing the London Centre collection at his apartment, and bringing a small selection of choice readings to each meeting to loan out to London Centre members. Bob also maintains a strong RASC relationship with the London Public Library system.

Bob served as Public and Educational Outreach Coordinator beginning in 2006, and is the London Centre's point person for Western's Hume Cronyn Observatory Open Houses during the summer, and Western's Exploring The Stars public education events during the fall and winter. Bob makes it a point to attend every event whenever possible, earning the recognition of being THE hardcore volunteer of the London Centre, often attending three or more events in a week. He also organizes star parties for Scout and Guide groups, primary and secondary schools, and other community groups. At any public event Bob can be counted upon to recall distance, size and countless other details on any particular planet, star, nebula or galaxy. Bob also takes some affectionate ribbing for being able to quickly calculate the power of any particular telescope-eyepiece combination to first decimal place accuracy.

Bob was instrumental in organizing the many Mars Parties held in 2003, and received notable recognition from London Centre for his efforts. Bob was named RASC London Centre Member of the Year for 2006 in recognition of his continuing service to London

Centre and his advancement of the astronomical science. Bob is now deeply committed to London's efforts for IYA2009.

For these services and for his unwavering support of London Centre, we recommend Robert Duff for the RASC Service Award.

### **Service Award, to Kim Hay (Kingston Centre)**

Many of us, no most of us, join clubs, associations or societies for what they can give us or where they can take us. Few of us join to give as Kim Hay has to RASC National, RASC Kingston Centre and her fellow members. Joining any association for benefit is what they are there for, to guide, teach and enrich the interests of its members. Kim however is one of those individuals in life that join to give first and receive later.

Since 1989 through two decades of membership, Kim has been a constant volunteer, served on numerous committees, and held many executive positions at both the Kingston Centre and National level. It only took Kim two years after joining the RASC to become an executive, holding positions of Secretary, Treasurer, National Council Rep., President and Treasurer 2008-2010. In 1997, when Kingston Centre hosted the General Assembly, Kim was the never-tiring Treasurer and Registrar for the event (with the aid of "Barbarian") that helped make it such a success. Apart from all of these positions Kim has volunteered for every public event and instructional/education course that the Kingston Centre has had in the past 20 years.

Kim's involvement at the National level makes one wonder how she had the time for most of her Centre work. Serving on eight committees since 1994 Kim has contributed greatly not just to this Society but the hobby and interest of astronomy as a whole. Her National level service is as follows: Membership & Promotion Committee 1994-2002 (Chair 1998-2001), Computer Use Committee 1998-2001, National Secretary 1999-2005, national Executive Committee 1999-2005, Light Pollution Abatement Committee 2001-2002 and 2006-2008, Education Committee 2005, 2007-2008 (Chair 2007-2008), Library Committee 2007, Historical Committee 2007, Board Pilot Committee 2007 and Executive Advisory Committee (2008-2009).

An avid and infectious solar observer, Kim has published her first contribution to the 2009 Observers' Handbook. Kim is dedicated to sketching and tracking solar phenomenon (soon to be expanding into H-alpha), never taking the shortcut of digital imaging for her statistical work. She has been the ALPO Solar Co-ordinator since 2005 and serves as Computing Section Co-ordinator since 2004. Other outside interests include membership in the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) and being a Committee member (Canada level) for the International Year of Astronomy (2007-2009).

Her most recent contributions in 2008 to members across Canada were the creation of the RASC Astrosketchers Web page and e-mail discussion group (<http://www.rasc.ca/discussion/astrosketchers/>), and her work on the Web presentation of Canada and the Stars (<http://www.rasc.ca/education/iya/csc.shtml>). She deserves all the credit for bringing together the RASC's astronomical sketching community, and putting its resources on the Web.

The last point to mention is the over 100 hours of time committed to preparing for the International Year of Astronomy in 2008 alone, not counting participating in all of the events that will happen in 2009.

The Awards Committee and the Board of The RASC-Kingston Centre wholly endorse Kim Hay's nomination for the RASC Service award based on the documentation put forward here.

### **Service Award, Richard Huziak (Saskatoon Centre)**

Richard Huziak has been an active member of the RASC and Saskatoon Centre since 1976. His notable accomplishments and activities encompass work on light pollution abatement, public education and outreach, and important contributions to the Saskatoon Centre.

Richard has for at least 20 years been part of the international movement to eliminate light pollution. He is an active member of the RASC's Light Pollution Abatement Committee and the International Dark Sky Association. He has led local efforts to change civic policies regarding light pollution in the City of Saskatoon. He made many presentations on the subject to the Saskatoon City Council and the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee. He worked closely with members of the committee to draft a comprehensive dark-sky lighting policy for consideration by the Council. His persistence was rewarded when, in August 2008, Saskatoon City Council adopted the "Dark-Sky Comprehensive and Integrated Outdoor Lighting Policy". This means that the City of Saskatoon can now formulate outdoor lighting policies that include the use of shielded, properly directed lights for all city facilities, city parking lots, parks, pathways and streetlights. Prior to the adoption of this new policy, Richard was instrumental in having the City of Saskatoon undertake a test project in the Hampton Village subdivision in which all non-arterial roads would be lit using flat-lens full cut-off light fixtures. His most notable success has been on the regional level: Richard led efforts that resulted in the creation of the Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve (DSP) in 2004, the third DSP in Canada and currently the world's largest DSP. He also aided efforts by RASC members in Alberta that resulted in the creation of the Beaver Hills DSP which includes the Elk Island National Park and the Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area. Richard's anti-light pollution activities has won him awards from environmental groups. These awards include: Environmental Champion for Saskatchewan in 2005 and the Annual Environmental Activist Award in 2007 from The Saskatchewan Eco-Network.

Richard's commitment to public outreach and education is amply demonstrated by the over 1100 talks and presentations he has made over the last 15 years to groups as diverse as elementary school classes, Beaver Creek Conservation Authority, public star parties, and the Saskatoon Engineering Society. Richard has led literally hundreds of public star nights and talks, often by himself, at numerous locations across Saskatchewan. He has freely given his time as a mentor to members of the Saskatoon Centre and the amateur astronomical community at large. He has taught astronomy and light pollution topics to the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park interpretive staff; his efforts in promoting astronomy in that park has led to the creation of an astronomy interpretive program that has proven to be among the most popular programs in the park. Richard is truly dedicated and passionate about promoting and stimulating interest in astronomy and related activities and topics.

Richard Huziak has been involved in almost every aspect of the Centre's past 38 year history. Richard served on the Saskatoon Centre Executive in many positions, most notably as President from 1993 to 1997 and 2003 to 2004. Richard is an active member of the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party and General Assembly 2009 organizing committees. Richard has been a major contributor to the planning and construction of both the Rystrom and Sleaford observatory sites. He is currently a member of the Sleaford Joint Site Management Committee which manages the Sleaford observatory site in behalf of the joint users, the University of Saskatchewan and the RASC Saskatoon Centre. His passionate promotion of amateur astronomy within the Centre and to the surrounding community is infectious and inspiring. Much of what the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC is today is due to the untiring devotion of Richard Huziak in fostering the life of the Centre. The Saskatoon Centre, and much of the National organization as well, owes much to Richard's many years of service.

### **Service Award, Walter MacDonald (Kingston Centre)**

2009, most notably The International Year of Astronomy, will also mark 30th year of Walter MacDonald's involvement with the RASC. Walter was an active member of the Toronto Centre from 1979 till 1987, and from 1987 to the present he has been energetically involved with the Kingston Centre. In a local sense it is undeniable that Toronto's loss is Kingston's gain, yet wherever Walter has been, the nature of his many ongoing contributions to the Society has benefited the RASC as a whole, and through the RASC, astronomy at large.

During his term as National Librarian (1994-1997), Walter created and distributed one of the first e-versions of the National Library's holdings of monographs and journals. It is in the spirit of that early effort to enhance access to RASC resources through electronic means, profiting members and non-members alike, that Walter has undertaken an immensely more significant enterprise. He has digitized The National Newsletter (1970-1990), and the early print incarnation of The Bulletin from 1991 to 1996, as well as the Annual Reports for 1966-1977 (when they were issued under separate cover), and provided links to the URLs of the earlier Annual Reports (1914-1960s) in The SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System (ADS). This has been a massive undertaking, and Walter conceived, implemented, and completed it virtually single-handedly, and in record time. It is as if one man did a whole committee's worth of work, competently, congenially, and on-time. There are reports, reviews, and observations of real value in the Newsletter and early Bulletin which fully justify the effort spent on their digitization. The full significance of Walter's achievement in this project lies elsewhere, however; he has made readily available several key resources for the history of organized amateur astronomy in Canada, for charting the course of Canadian amateur science, for chronicling the changing relationship between amateur and professional astronomers, for gauging the reaction (or non reaction) of Canadian amateurs to trends in the discipline, and for comparing our national astronomical culture with others. For this achievement alone he merits nomination for the Service Award.

More should, and can be said about Walter's work at the Centre level. While a member of the Toronto Centre, he served as Assistant Editor of Scope, the Centre's newsletter, as well as Chair of the Observational Activities Committee. As a member of the Kingston Centre, he was their Representative on National Council (1992-1994), Centre President (1994-1995), a member of their Observatory Committee, and Centre Webmaster. Prior

to holding that last position he digitized nearly two decades of Regulus, the Kingston Centre's newsletter. In recognition of his contributions he received the A.V. Douglas Award for 2007, the Kingston Centre's most prestigious service award.

For Walter, as for many of us, whatever his other astronomical interests, observing is vitally important. His first projects were centred on DSOs, and by extension, astrophotography, first on film, then with CCD technology (1998-). He was the first Kingston Centre member to complete the RASC Finest NGC Certificate in 1995. Walter's love of observing has led him to complement his RASC membership with membership in other reputable astronomical societies: the AAVSO (since 1981), The Planetary Society (since 1983), the North York Astronomical Association (NYAA), and the Durham Region Astronomical Society (DRAS). For the AAVSO he has logged nearly 24,000 observations (some visual, but the majority with CCD). Walter has endeavoured to increase collaboration between the RASC and the AAVSO, notably through mentoring novice RASC variable-star observers. He has been involved with the Kingston Centre's Robotic Telescope project since its inception in the fall of 2006, providing both technical assistance and major hardware. He also successfully designed and installed his own observatory structure as an integral part of his home (Winchester Observatory). His interest in variable stars has led him to participate in the Puckett Supernova Search Team, work for which he received the Ken Chilton Prize for 2008, along with several RASC colleagues.

Walter approaches all of his astronomical projects with good humour, high motivation, and hard work. He has been generous in helping others with equipment, advice, and programmes. It speaks volumes that when the RASC Archivist suggested Walter be nominated for the Service Award, members of the RASC History Committee endorsed the nomination, as did the Kingston Centre's Awards Committee.

### **Service Award, Al Seaman (Ottawa Centre)**

Al Seaman has shown superior dedication for his volunteer duties with the Ottawa Centre RASC. Over a period of more than 10 years, Al served as Director of our Fred Lossing Observatory (see: [http://ottawa-rasc.ca/centre\\_info/flo/flo.html](http://ottawa-rasc.ca/centre_info/flo/flo.html)), is an important member of the SmartScope team (see: <http://ottawa-rasc.ca/smartscope/smartscope.html>), helped pioneer the creation of our Centre Web site (see: <http://www.ottawa.rasc.ca/index.php>), helped manage our membership and mailing lists on the internal side and has been a very frequent traveler to RASC General Assemblies.

Al's meticulous attention to detail assisted in the creation and management of a first-class Internet information tool. Our Web site is a valuable reference tool within and outside the Ottawa astronomical community.

Al's consistent dedication of his time and efforts in managing our assets has given our council an anchor to further advance our centre.

For his continued presence as a driving force in the Ottawa Centre RASC, Al Seaman is a deserving candidate for the Service Award.

### **Service Award, Patrice Scattolin (CFM)**

Patrice Scattolin joined the RASC Centre francophone de Montreal in 1997. He served as a member of the CFM Executive Council almost continuously since 1998. He held the position of President for three years (2000-2002) and is currently the Vice-President and Treasurer of the Centre. Patrice is an active and respected amateur astronomer within the broader Quebec amateur astronomical community. In 1998 he was awarded the CFM "Étoile d'argent" award and, in 2003, the CFM's highest award, the "Georgette Lemoynes" Award.

At the RASC national level, Patrice is the current CFM representative on National Council, a position he has held for most of the last ten years. He served on the Publications Committee and is the current Chair of the Information Technology Committee and Web Team, and of the Constitution Committee. In 2007, he was a member of the Board Pilot Committee team that had been set up to help clarify options for the future of the RASC.

Patrice Scattolin is well-known for his analytical skills in addressing Society issues and his perseverance in the search for, and implementation of solutions. For his dedication and his leadership both at the Centre and the national level, Patrice Scattolin is a deserving candidate for the Service Award.

### **Service Award, Clinton D. Shannon (Halifax Centre)**

Clinton D. Shannon joined the Society on 1992-01-01, and has been an active member in good standing for the subsequent 17 years, with a long record of contributions to the Halifax Centre. His formal positions with the Halifax Centre include Librarian (1995 and 1996), 2nd VP (1997), President (1998 and 1999) and Councillor (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003).

Clint came late to astronomy, yet embraced it with an enthusiasm of someone half his age. His career involved 55 years in the aircraft maintenance industry, both in the United States and Canada, from large air carriers in California to DEW Line operations in the Arctic. In 2004, Clint was one of three Canadians elected to the Aircraft Maintenance Engineers Hall of Fame. In the early nineties he discovered the Halifax Centre and soon became one of the most valuable members, and certainly the most colourful!

Clint never lets his seniority slow him down. Beginning in 1995 he made a large contribution to the building of the Halifax Centre St. Croix Observatory, including clearing the forest with his chain saw, and organizing and taking part in nearly every work party ever after that. He is always generous, creative and resourceful whenever anything needs doing. Clint personally mentored several centre observers, advising and assisting one and all on observing equipment. He is the Centre's telescope guru. Thanks to Clint's interest and advice, many of our observers have better optics, focusers, dew shields, finders, power supplies, scope drives, cameras... the list goes on and on.

Over his 17 years of active involvement in Centre activities, including a large supporting role in the 1993 General Assembly in Halifax, Clint has contributed extensively to the success of Nova East, Atlantic Canada's largest annual star party. He is always a generous and considerate host to the members and friends of the Halifax Centre

attending Nova East. His well-stocked bug tent on the camping and observing field has become a traditional social focus of the event. Beyond Nova East, Clint has been an enthusiastic leader and participant on trips to more distant events, including the Texas Star Party, the Winter Star Party in Florida, and expeditions to view total solar eclipses.

Clint talks and listens to everyone with genuine interest and care. For several years he successfully navigated the treacherous waters of the Halifax Centre nominating committee, ensuring a Centre executive well stocked with able and willing people. He is a friend to all, with grace, humour, intelligence and razor-sharp wit. He has added an extra dimension to the life of the Halifax Centre.

In the wider community Clint has taken astronomy to the youth of Nova Scotia. For several years he has given talks to schools and youth groups along the eastern shore where he lives, participated in public observing events of the Halifax Centre, and supported Centre involvement in the Halifax planetarium.

Clint Shannon is an inspiration to younger amateur astronomers, and that includes all of us!

#### **Service Award, Alan Whitman (Okanagan Centre)**

During his life-long appreciation of astronomy Alan Whitman has generously shared his enthusiasm, promoted education and motivated participation in the challenges and rewards of astronomy with both his personal associates and in the public forum.

Prior to becoming a member of the RASC Okanagan Centre upon its formation in 1996, Alan initiated the organization of the astronomical community in the Okanagan with the formation of the Okanagan Astronomical Society (OAS) in 1980, and served as President of the OAS for the first two years. Alan guided the nascent astronomical community in establishing regular meetings, public observing events, observer recognition, and even led a group (17 members) expedition to use the 24-inch Cassegrain telescope at Goldendale Observatory in southern Washington.

In 1984 Alan founded the Mount Kobau Star Party, which has remained to this day a primary destination for serious observers in western Canada and the USA. In 2002 Alan was the Observatory Director for the Chaco Canyon observatory in the New Mexico high desert. Alan has travelled the world in pursuit of solar eclipses and southern hemisphere observing, sharing his experiences and encouraging others to partake.

Alan has served as National Representative for the Okanagan Centre, on the National Awards committee, on the National Observing Committee and briefly as National Treasurer.

Alan has given numerous well-received presentations to monthly member meetings in the Okanagan as well as other Centres across Canada. Alan gave the Fr. Lucien Kemble Lecture at the Saskatchewan Star Party and has been a guest speaker for many other star party enthusiasts.

Through his career as a prolific author Alan has touched a global audience with his observational inspiration. He has had observing articles published in four magazines

including thirteen in *Sky & Telescope*. He writes the text in The Sky Month by Month section in the RASC *Observer's Handbook*, as well as its Southern-Hemisphere Splendours list. Alan has been a frequent contributor and columnist for the Journal. In 2007 Alan was a contributing author for about one-fifth of the 576-page book *Astronomica* for an Australian publisher.

Alan was, and is, instrumental in initiating the development of the Okanagan Observatory project. He united the Okanagan Centre membership towards a common goal and has offered his guidance in key elements, which he garnered while contributing to the construction of the Prince George Centre Observatory.

Alan's primary gift to the Okanagan Centre membership is his unreserved generosity in sharing his observing knowledge. Alan has hosted numerous star parties at his "Clam Shell" observatory, he has promoted participation in occultation events, freely offered observing hints for getting the most out of DSO and planetary observations, provided warnings of "not to be missed" upcoming astronomical observing events in our community and perhaps his most cherished contribution is mentoring newcomers to the hobby.

It is with great pride that the Okanagan Centre is proposing Alan Whitman for The Royal Astronomical National Service Award.