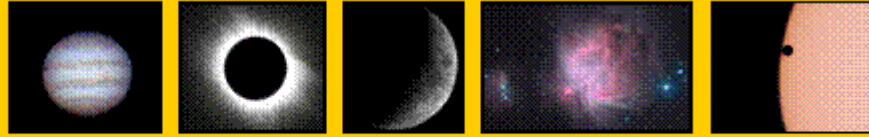


# BULLETIN



## OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

June 2015 - Volume 10, Number 6

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at [bulletin@rasc.ca](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca).

A PDF version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

### ► Editor's Notebook

by David Garner

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### June's Sky At a Glance

We have a full Moon on the 2nd and a new Moon on the 16th. Mercury is well placed in the morning sky from the 9th to the 30th and Venus reaches greatest elongation on the 6th. Throughout June, Venus and Jupiter are in the western evening sky and reach minimum separation on June 30. Saturn is visible most of the night and is retrograding in Libra.

For more details check the *2015 Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#).

### ► News @ RASC.ca

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#### News from the Society Office

by [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director

#### RASC Tours Update

##### RASC 2015 Southern California Tour

Join other RASC members on a trip to Los Angeles/San Diego in November 2015! The RASC is partnering with its sponsor MWT Associates, Inc. (melitatrips) – to run several astronomy-related tours in the next few years! For more information see:

<http://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/RASC%20flyer%20email.pdf>.

##### RASC 2017 Total Eclipse Expedition

Have you made plans for 2017 yet? Join other RASC members and view this unforgettable event with the breath-taking Grand Tetons of Wyoming in the background. For more information on our Great American Solar Eclipse 2017 Tour see:

<http://www.rasc.ca/news/great-american-total-solar-eclipse-tour-book-now>.

## **\*May RASC Promo Gear Sale\***

RASC Baseball Cap on sale for \$8.00 !

RASC Toque on Sale for \$8.00 !

Available at the RASC store:

[https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store\\_PROMOWEAR.aspx?Category=PROMOWEAR](https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store_PROMOWEAR.aspx?Category=PROMOWEAR)

## **Annual Report 2014/2015**

The RASC Essential Annual Report has been distributed to members who haven't provided us with an email address. A link to an online extended version will be sent out to all members as well. The extended version of the annual report will be available for download sometime in June.

## **Office Closure**

Due to power outage for Toronto Hydro work, the Society Office will be closed on Wednesday June 24th. The office staff will also be attending the General Assembly, therefore the office will be closed on July 1st and re-open July 7th.

## **RASC Board Acclamation Brings New Member**

by [Chris Gainor](#), RASC 2nd Vice-President

The 2015 election for the RASC Board of Directors concluded on May 15 with three candidates acclaimed for the three open positions on the nine-member Board. One of the three, Heather Laird of the Calgary Centre, is a new member joining the Board for a three-year term.

Incumbent Board members James Edgar of the Regina Centre and Robyn Foret of the Calgary Centre were returned to the Board for three years. Paul Schumacher of the Victoria Centre is stepping down after serving two years on the Board.

Because there were only three candidates for the three open positions, all three candidates were acclaimed, and no vote will be required.

"I am delighted that Heather is joining the Board, and I look forward to the new energy and new perspective that she will bring to the Board," said RASC Second Vice-President Chris Gainor, who is chair of the Nominating Committee. "James and Robyn are working hard for the RASC, as we all know, and I'm glad to see them return to the Board."

He also thanked Schumacher for his work on the Board. "Paul helped the RASC make the transition from our old structure to the new setup, and he also played a key role in the success of the GA in Victoria last year. I'm very happy that Paul will stay involved in the RASC by joining the Nominating Committee."

Gainor noted that while there was a contest for Board positions in 2013, the last two Board elections have ended with acclamations. "I am gratified that we have very capable people coming forward to stand for the Board, but I and other members of the Board believe that we must work harder in the future to ensure that we have contested elections so that the full membership has a voice and a choice in the composition of the Board."

## 2015 Halifax GA Update

by [Patrick Kelly](#), National Advisory Council Representative, Halifax Centre, RASC

**GA Update:** The 2015 General Assembly will be hosted by the Halifax Centre. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Halifax Centre. The General Assembly will be held from Wednesday, July 1, to Sunday, July 5, at Saint Mary's University. Plan now to visit the Atlantic Coast this summer! For more information see: <https://www.rasc.ca/events/>

**Time to Finish Registration:** Now is a good time to complete your registration! Quite a few people have registered, but not chosen their events and meals. We urge attendees to pre-order all meals as we cannot ensure that you will be able to purchase meals onsite. There are a few seats remaining for the only tour, Wine and Tides. The tour includes the picturesque Annapolis and Gaspereau Valleys, Grand Pré UNESCO World Heritage Site, and views of the largest tides on Earth.

**Posters:** Anyone wishing to submit a poster should do so within the coming week to ensure a listing in the program booklet.

**Souvenir Deadlines:** The deadline for ordering T-shirts and fleeces is Friday, June 5th. There will be very limited on-site items for sale.

## Astronomy Workshop for Informal Educators: 2015 June 8th to 26th

by [Julie Bolduc-Duval](#), Coordinator, *Discover the Universe*

Discover the Universe invites all educators from parks, summer camps, youth groups or interpretive centres to register for this free online astronomy workshop. Participants will discover astronomy activities to do with their groups while learning about basic concepts in a fun and innovative way. Visit our website for more information and to register: <http://www.discovertheuniverse.ca>.

Discover the Universe is offered by the RASC in collaboration with CASCA (Canadian Astronomical Society) and the FAAQ (Federation des astronomes amateurs du Quebec).

For information, contact Julie Bolduc-Duval at [julie@discovertheuniverse.ca](mailto:julie@discovertheuniverse.ca)

## ➤ Across the RASC

### RASC Award for Excellence in Astronomy

by [Joe Carr](#), RASC Victoria Centre

The winner of the junior RASC Award for Excellence in Astronomy was Janet Dawson from Gordon Head Elementary School in Victoria, B.C. for her project "Goodnight Sun!"

Congratulations Janet! For more information:  
<http://victoria.rasc.ca/2015-rasc-award-excellence-astronomy/>.

### Vancouver Centre announces the opening of the Trottier Observatory

by [Suzanna Nagy](#), RASC Vancouver Centre

Through a very generous donation of \$2.7 million by the Trottier Family Foundation (Lorne Trottier, Louise Trottier, and their daughters, Claire and Sylvia), Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Burnaby B.C. has completed construction of the Trottier Observatory. The Trottier Observatory features a six-metre-

diameter dome housing a 0.7-metre-aperture telescope on a fully robotic alt-azimuth mount built by PlaneWave Instruments.

On 2015 April 17, the Trottier Observatory was revealed to the public with a Gala Star Party hosted by SFU with the assistance of RASC Vancouver Centre and 2,000 people in attendance.

There is now a partnership between Simon Fraser University and the Vancouver Centre of the RASC. In exchange for RASC volunteers bringing their telescopes to star parties as well as staffing the Observatory for public events, SFU will share a percentage of the Observatory time for use by members of Vancouver Centre.

Vancouver Centre is thrilled to be an active partner in SFU's public outreach Observatory program. We are looking forward to many years of great star parties and other public events.

Photos and videos of the Trottier Observatory construction can be found at:  
[www.sfu.ca/science/trottierobservatory](http://www.sfu.ca/science/trottierobservatory).

## ► Bulletin Photo of the Month

### The Deer Lick Group

by [Brian McGaffney](#), Kingston Centre



This group of galaxies is believed to have been named by Tomm Lorenzin in honour of Deer Lick Gap in the mountains of North Carolina. The most prominent member is NGC 7331, at a distance of 46 million light-years. The LRGB image is a result of 28 hours over three nights taken with a 14-inch carbon-fibre astrograph on an ME mount. The camera was a modified U16m with Baader Filters.

## Thank You to our Sponsors!

by [Julia Neeser](#), RASC Marketing Coordinator

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are now offering companies the distinction of becoming a charter sponsor of the RASC, Canada's pre-eminent amateur astronomy organization. This offer is available only to those industry leaders who recognize the value in being associated with the amateur astronomy community. <http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors>.



## What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) section of the RASC website. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know.

Julia Neeser creates "The Solar System" monthly with data from James Edgar's "Skies" newspaper articles at <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>.



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