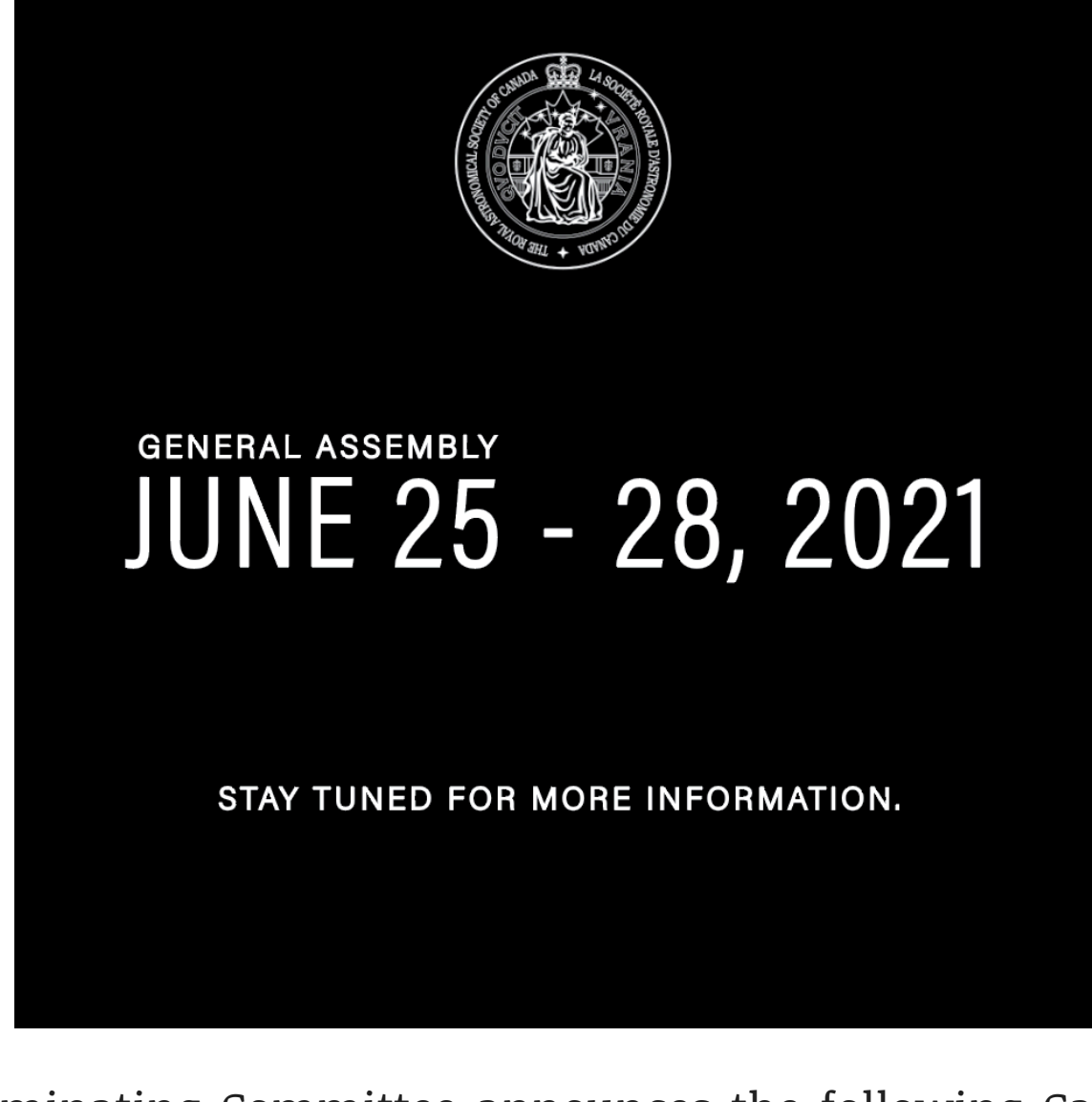




Board of Directors Elections & General Assembly



The Nominating Committee announces the following Candidates for election to the Board of Directors per RASC Policy G9.

- Betty Robinson
- Malhar Kendurkar
- Michael Watson
- Robyn Foret

Candidate Statements shall be posted on the RASC website in April and elections will take place at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Winners of the RASC Service Awards & the President's Award for 2021!

The Awards Committee of the RASC is pleased to name the winners of the RASC Service Awards and the President's Award for 2021!

Service Award

The RASC Service Award is a major award of the Society given to a member in recognition of outstanding service to the Society and/or a Centre, rendered over an extended time of at least 10 years.

- **Diane Bell, Victoria Centre:** Ms. Bell spent a little over a decade as one of the Victoria Centre's most energetic and popular volunteers until her unexpected death late in 2020. Upon joining the Victoria Centre, she developed an encyclopedic knowledge of the sky that she happily shared with members of the public at Saturday night viewing events at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, observing at the Victoria Centre Observatory, Astronomy Cafés, and other centre events. Her fellow members benefitted from her skills as a musician, photographer, sketcher, musician, quilter, crafter, baker, and observer. Her constellation blanket, eclipse cookies and astronomical COVID masks will be long remembered. Ms. Bell will always be remembered as an astronomy cheerleader with boundless enthusiasm, a contagious smile and ready hugs.
- **Andrew Bennett, Okanagan Centre:** Mr. Bennett was a charter member of the RASC Okanagan Centre, joining the Society when the centre was established in 1996. He was quick to volunteer, using his tech skills to lead the Okanagan Centre in developing an online presence, later serving for many years as a co-webmaster. Mr. Bennett has been a regular at outreach events for many years, enthusiastically giving of his time and knowledge, and bringing a variety of telescopes – delighting the public with views of celestial wonders. He has given a variety of presentations as the featured speaker at club meetings over the years. He has donated financially on multiple occasions and given much time to the organizational committee of the Okanagan Observatory. Most recently, Mr. Bennett has been a strong advocate for the establishment of a robotic telescope at the observatory.
- **Zoltan Boda, Okanagan Centre:** A former school teacher, principal and administrator, Mr. Boda established himself quickly as an eloquent, thoughtful, and often humorous contributor to club discussions. He served as centre treasurer from 2006 to 2014, and proved himself both capable and dedicated. When accounting became more complex, requiring documentation of grant revenue, donations, and charitable receipts, Mr. Boda was equal to the task. When discussions began surrounding the creation of a new club observatory, he jumped in as a full participant and could be found on site in any of several roles: operating a diesel packer helping to level gravel, spreading ground cover, installing the entry gate, leading installation of amphitheatre seating, and lending a hand to various other maintenance tasks. Informally, the entranceway to the observatory became known as Zoli's Road, recognizing his astute input in the choice of an S-curved route joining the nearby secondary highway and the observing field.
- **Darrell Chatfield, Saskatoon Centre:** Mr. Chatfield has been a member of the Saskatoon Centre since 1996. His contributions to the Centre have been invaluable. Darrell was a founder of, and has served on, the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party Committee every year since its inception in 1997. He is always present at Centre-sponsored public star-nights and events, almost never missing an opportunity to participate. Mr. Chatfield is also a founder and builder of the Sleaford Observatory and has provided yearly care, maintenance and planning for the observatory's upkeep. He is also a fine observer, earning both the Herschel 400 and Herschel 400 II certificates from the Astronomical League, and the Messier and FNGC certificates from the RASC.
- **Paul Delaney, Toronto Centre:** Dr. Delaney has arguably become the face of astronomy to the Canadian public. Since joining York University's Department of Physics and Astronomy in 1986, he has become a frequent television and radio commentator on astronomical events. Now a University Professor and Director of the Allan I. Carswell Astronomical Observatory at York, Dr. Delaney is a dedicated enthusiastic astronomy educator. He has been a member of the RASC since 1980, and served as Toronto Centre's Vice-President for Programs from 2009 to 2020, where he arranged for regular speaker night presentations and gave many of them himself. Dr. Delaney is well known for his outreach activities, including anchoring the RASC's 150th Anniversary Star Party in 2018. He has won the Canadian Astronomical Society's Qilak Award, the 2017 Klumpke-Roberts Award of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and the 2010 Sanford Fleming Medal of the Royal Canadian Institute.
- **Ellen Dickson, Saskatoon Centre:** Ms. Dickson has been active with the Saskatoon Centre since 1997 and became an associate member in 2013. Her contribution to the Centre has been invaluable. She was a founder of, and has served on, the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party Committee every year since its inception in 1997. Ms. Dickson is always present at Centre-sponsored public star-nights and events, almost never missing an opportunity to participate. Ms. Dickson has represented the Saskatoon Centre at Edmonton's Beaver Hills Dark-sky Preserve celebrations. She has also attended at least a dozen General Assemblies as an ambassador for the Saskatoon Centre.
- **Leslie (Les) Dickson, Saskatoon Centre:** Mr. Dickson has been a member of the Saskatoon Centre since 1997. His contribution to the Centre has been invaluable. Mr. Dickson was a founder of, and has served on, the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party Committee every year since its inception in 1997 has held the position of rotating chair for the committee several times. He has also served as president of the centre for three terms. He is also a founder and builder of the Sleaford Observatory, helping to find the site and participate in the physical building. He is always present at centre-sponsored public star-nights and events, almost never missing an opportunity to participate. Mr. Dickson has represented the Saskatoon Centre at Edmonton's Beaver Hills Dark-sky Preserve celebrations. He has also been the Centre's National Council Representative for many years.
- **Blair MacDonald, Halifax Centre:** As a member of the RASC for 30 years, Mr. MacDonald has become very well known at the Halifax Centre and around the Society for his expertise as an astroimager. He has become known as a mentor for many astroimagers in the Halifax Centre. His images and articles have appeared in many RASC publications, and he has served on the RASC Astroimaging Committee, and help draw up criteria for RASC astroimaging certificates and the deep sky certificate. Mr. MacDonald has also been active in public outreach activities around Nova Scotia, and he has served on the executive of the Halifax Centre and chaired the Nova East Star Party for three years and assisted many other times.
- **Ronald (Ron) Waldron, Saskatoon Centre:** Mr. Waldron has been a member of the Saskatoon Centre from 1970 to 1985, and again since he rejoined in 2002. As a teacher and planetarium operator, he has put stars in the eyes of countless students and trained many teachers. Even in retirement Mr. Waldron continues to be invited into schools to present star shows inside the travelling planetarium. He has held the positions of president and vice-president and has always participated in the long-term planning and welfare of the Saskatoon Centre. In retirement, he is acting as an aurora tour guide at the Churchill Northern Nights Centre in Churchill, MB for fly-in visitors during aurora season.
- **Ian Wheelband, Toronto Centre:** While Mr. Wheelband has been a member of the RASC for nearly 30 years, his energetic participation in Toronto Centre activities, particularly those involving public outreach, has grown in recent years prior to his retirement from his professional work. He is known for sharing the knowledge he has developed as an astroimager, leading imaging workshops and public outreach activities at the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) and the E.C. Car Astronomical Observatory (CAO). Mr. Wheelband has contributed to much of the work done at the CAO and the Sue-Lora Observatory. Many of his public outreach activities have taken place in the Durham Region east of the Greater Toronto area, as well as at his retreat in Nova Scotia. Mr. Wheelband has also helped keep the Toronto Centre's finances in good shape, and played a major role in returning the DDO to the Toronto Centre.

President's Award

This award is given at the President's discretion, usually once a year, to a member or members who has/have made an important contribution to the Society.

- **Renata Koziol, Society Office:** Renata Koziol is a long-standing staff member of the Society Office and is presently our Director of Finance. Her many contributions to the financial well-being of the Society and the many tasks she undertakes related to our Operations, Publications, Budgets and Audits to name a few, exemplify her dedication to the RASC. Renata has been the resident Book of Knowledge on everything financial for the Society through three Executive Directors, many Directors, at least 7 Presidents, and numerous Treasurers. She is respected by our staff, our suppliers, our contractors, our members, and the past and present Board of Directors.

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