

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Halifax Centre
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, December 7, 2019

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Paul Gray welcomed the 30 members and 6 guests to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He then provided opening remarks.

1. Approval of 2019 Agenda

191207AGM-Mot01:

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Tom Crosman to approve the 2019 AGM agenda as circulated.
CARRIED.

2. Approval of 2018 AGM Minutes

The minutes of the 2018 AGM had been pre-circulated to members.

191207AGM-Mot02:

It was moved by Patrick Kelly and seconded by Paul Heath to approve the minutes of the 2018 AGM as circulated.
CARRIED.

3. Appointment of a New Auditor

Paul Gray stated that Jim Millar could not reoffer to stand as auditor for 2019-2020. He asked for volunteers or nominations from the floor.

191207AGM -Mot03:

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Dave Chapman to appoint Ian Anderson as Auditor for 2019-2020.
CARRIED.

Ian accepted the nomination and will stand as the Auditor for 2019-2020.

Board Executive Reports

(Note: Reports in their entirety will included in the Jan/Feb edition of Nova Notes)

1. Vice-President's Report

Paul Gray presented the report on behalf of Charles White who, because of a vacancy in the President position, also acted in that capacity. He stated the year had seen a lot of great and exciting events take place from January to December and it is hard to believe that it's already the end of 2019. One of the biggest changes has been the adjustment of the monthly meetings from Friday evenings to Saturday afternoons. For the meetings that he had been able to attend, it has personally been a benefit as it's easier to get into the city.

He thanked the Board for trying out the new day and time. Charles really enjoyed the new segments and the flow of the meetings now, too. Hats off to all those who make it happen each month.

Another new change has been the *Astronomy Nova Scotia* website. If you've not checked it out, he would encourage you to do so. Halifax Centre posts the Centre's meeting information on the site and other astronomy related events happening.

Charles had the privilege to award some observing certificates this past Nova East. Congratulations again to the recipients but also to the Nova East Planning Committee for putting on another great year! They even managed to schedule in some good evenings for observing and the public crowd was a pretty good size, too. Nice to see all the

interest from both telescope users and the public! A hearty thanks to our sponsors at Atlantic Photo Supply again this year.

With that, he wished everyone a happy 2020, and hoped that the new Board of 2020 will have a great year.

2. Secretary's Report

Judy Black stated there were 7 Board of Directors meetings and 8 Members' meetings in 2018-2019, including the informal members' BBQ at SCO. Two board meetings had been cancelled due to storms. Reinstated this year were presentations of sections of the Observer's Handbook, and Judy along with Pat Kelly and John Read were presenters. In the past year, Pat Kelly, John Read and Judy Black made presentations. Motions were made with a quorum of the Board of Directors to provide direction on policy, activities, support of the observatory at St. Croix, our budget, and a definition of any spending not covered in the budget. She noted that all Halifax Centre policies, position descriptions and Bylaw #1 are on the website. She noted the Centre, as of September 30, 2018 had 170 members (up 2 from last year). She thanked the Centre and fellow Board members for the support she received in the past 4 years she has served as Secretary.

3. Auditor's Report

Paul Gray read the Auditor's letter as Jim Millar could not attend the meeting. There were two recommendations:

- a. That a physical inventory of merchandise for sale be carried out as part of the year end procedure.
- b. That a physical inventory of capital equipment be carried out at least every five years.

4. Treasurer's Report

Gregg Dill provided highlights of the Treasurer's report. Revenue was \$5,177.48 with expenses at \$6,810.72. This meant a deficit of \$1,833.24 for the year, but the Centre continues to be successful and solvent. He then explained the assets of \$31,205.66, the liabilities of \$609.93, and a slight decrease in capital.

He noted that one GIC had been collapsed to \$2000.00 from \$4000.00 to improve the cash flow. Members suggested there be an adjustment for the donated telescope and that a revised report then be circulated to members.

191207AGM-Mot04:

It was moved by Dave Lane and seconded by Tony Schellinck to approve the Financial Report as presented with the caveat to revise statements to reflect the telescope donation by March 31, 2020.

CARRIED.

Appointed Position & Committee Reports

(Note: These reports in their entirety will be in the Jan/Feb edition of Nova Notes.)

Members agreed to approve all reports at the end of the reports in lieu of approving each individually. Time was allotted after each report for questions and clarifications.

5. National Council Representative Report

Pat Kelly reported the National Council met six times in 2019, two at the GA and four on-line. The new process of having a number of Centres report on their recent events has provided interchange of ideas between the Centres. A manual for Green-laser pointer (GLP) use at star parties and other education and outreach events has been developed. It is a self-guiding course for RASC membership only; he noted you do require your membership card to use a green-laser pointer at any outreach event. The role of the National Council is also being reviewed and could potentially be the primary source for the revisions to the Centre Manual, and perhaps have responsibility for some Committees such as the Awards Committee.

6. Observing Chair Report

Sean Dzafovic stated that only one member received RASC observing certificates in the past year for Explore the Universe – Liz Greenough.

7. St. Croix Observatory (SCO) Report

Judy Black presented the report prepared by John McPhee. St. Croix Observatory (SCO) continued as a centrepiece of observing activity for the Centre. A number of targeted events were held such as the annual work party on Sept 13 and the Annual BBQ on September 20 (not in the traditional month of June). A 465-litre propane tank now fuels the Warm

Room space heater and a new thermostat was installed. A new door was installed in the observatory roll-off and other minor repairs after a break-in sometime in January.

An EDGEHD 8, 203 mm, f/10 telescope with Starbright XLT coatings on an Advanced CX mount - as well as an ATIK 428EX CCD camera and laptop for astrophotography programs plus other accessories - were generously donated to the society by Jane and Alf Howard. Dave Chapman, Chris Young and Jerry Black performed a much-needed maintenance on the mirrors of the 16" SkyWatcher in September.

8. Nova Notes Report

Paul Gray reported on behalf of Charles White. Five editions of Nova Notes were published, starting with his inaugural 2018 AGM reports. He thanked Paul Heath (*Food for the Soul*) and other regular contributors for their recurring articles. Thank you as well for contributors to the cover photos. An average of 17 copies per issue were mailed. Charles also has a "From the Editor" section where he shares his views. Thank you, Charles, for a job well done.

9. Nova East Report

Judy Black, as Chair of the 33rd Nova East, reported another successful event thanks to the work of her team members – Melody Hamilton, Chris Young, Gregg Dill, Liz Greenough, and Dave Chapman, and consultants Mary Lou Whitehorne, Jerry Black, John Read, Paul Gray, and Pat Kelly. She gave a brief presentation about *Nova East, the Star Party Between Two Storms*. A revised Nova East Task Chart with revised tasks and timelines required for planning Nova East has been prepared for the 2020 NE Team. She also noted that Melody Hamilton, Registrar for the past 4 years, has retired the position; Pat Kelly has agreed to assume the role.

10. Librarian Report

Judy Black reported on behalf of John Read who had recently stepped down as Librarian. She noted that repairs had been made to the cart. John had provided recommendations regarding the content of the library and replacement of the cart. Wayne Harasimovitch has taken over responsibility for the Library.

11. Outreach Report

Paul Heath provided an overview of his report. He thanked everyone who helped throughout the year. He cited various events such as Kejimikujik Dark-Sky weekend, Nova East, International Observe the Moon Night, and the Saltscapes Exhibition that provided visibility for RASC and Halifax Centre.

191207AGM-Mot05:

It was moved by Blair MacDonald and seconded by Keegan Oickle to accept the reports as presented.
CARRIED.

Call for Nominations and Election of 2019 Board of Directors

Paul Gray explained that according to Bylaw #1 (2017) now enacted, there could be no less than five and no more than 10 on the Board. He noted that Sean Dzafovic and John Read were stepping down from the Board. There was a brief discussion about a youth member (18 years of age or older) on the Board.

There was a call for nominations from the floor for the 2020 Board of Directors. The slate of nominees for the 2020 Board of Directors was then presented as follows and included three new members (*):

Executive Committee

President – Judy Black

Vice-President – Paul Gray

Recording Secretary – Peter Hurley

Treasurer – Gregg Dill agreed to re-offer as Treasurer

Directors

Pat Kelly

Paul Heath

Tom Crosman

Matthew Dyer*

Wayne Harasimovitch*

David Hoskin*

071218AGM-Mot06:

It was moved by Tony Schellinck and seconded by Blair MacDonald to close nominations.
CARRIED.

There being no further nominations, the 2020 Board of Directors positions were approved by acclamation.

Mary Lou Whitehorne continues to be the Honorary President until 2024. The list of individuals who were appointed earlier today at the Board of Directors Meeting was also noted:

National Council Rep	Patrick Kelly
DSP Committee	Dave Chapman (interim)
Observing Chair	Dave Chapman
NE Planning Committee	Judy Black
Outreach Chair	Paul Heath
SCO Manager	John Liddard
Librarian	Wayne Harasimovitch
Editor, Nova Notes	Charles White
Nominating Committee	TBD

Adjournment

071218AGM-Mot07

It was moved by Pat Kelly to adjourn the AGM.

Members were invited to socialize and enjoy the Christmas treats provided.