



**RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Tuesday, April 27, 2021: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
 Via Zoom - Meeting ID 940 9515 2733

<b>Agenda Items</b>				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Agenda</li> <li>• Review Action List</li> <li>• Approval of 2 Previous Minutes of Meeting</li> </ul>	Information Approval	Judy Black	Pre-circulated: Agenda: April 27, 2021 Minutes: March 23, 2021 Minutes: April 6, 2021
<b>ONGOING ITEMS</b>				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 2021 Meeting date confirmation &amp; approval</li> <li>b. Zoom/SMU Bookings</li> <li>c. Guest Speakers &amp; Ideas for Future Presentations</li> </ul>	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #1</b>
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	4. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach Requests (if applicable)</li> <li>• Inreach/Education Sessions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ International Astronomy Day (May 15, 2021)</li> <li>○ InOMN (Oct 16/21)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	Paul Heath Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	5. RASC Halifax Centre Website	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	6. Financial Update	Discussion Decision	Gregg Dill Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
<b>UPDATES / REPORTS</b>				
	7. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade Status</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	John Liddard Gregg Dill	<i>n/a</i>
	8. Halifax Centre Fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Team</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	9. Nova East	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #2 re Nova East</b>
	10. Member Survey	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #3 re Member Survey</b>
	11. Publication of Membership Lists	Information Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #4 re Publication of Membership Lists</b>
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>				
	12. Member Guidelines for Using SCO	Discussion Decision	David Hoskin Kathy Walker	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #5 re SCO Guidelines</b>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>				
9:00 PM	Adjournment (Next meeting: June 1, 2021)			

**RASC, Halifax Centre – Members' Meeting**  
 Saturday, May 1, 2021: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> - Photo Montage - 2021 Calendars & ETU Guides for sale	Judy Black Paul Gray
1:10 PM	<b>1. Main Presentation:</b> <i>Chris Gainor &amp; guest – Use of the HST by Amateur Astronomers</i>	Chris Gainor George Lewycky
2:10 PM	<b>2. Presentation</b> <i>Tony Schellinck – Basics of Lunar Sketching</i>	Dave Chapman
2:35 PM	<b>3. Outreach / Inreach Opportunities</b> • Requests Received • Food for the Soul	Paul Heath
2:55 PM	<b>4. What's Up? (May)</b>	Dave Chapman
3:20 PM	<b>5. Members' Question Period</b>	Various
3:45 PM	<b>6. News from the Board</b>	Judy Black
4:00 PM	<b>7. Adjournment</b>	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Astro-Chat</i>	

\* Times are for Board of Director information only and for informing presenters of the length of their presentations; they will not be published on the Halifax Centre website. Times will be adjusted for each meeting.

**Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting  
April 27, 2021 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
held via Zoom Meeting ID 940 9515 2733**

**Present:** Judy Black, Peter Hurley, Paul Heath, Matt Dyer, David Hoskin, Pat Kelly, Kathy Walker, Lisa Ann Fanning, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Wayne Harasimovitch (joined at 7:22pm).

Regrets: Tim Doucette, John Liddard.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Judy Black called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and welcomed members.

The meeting agenda was reviewed. There were no other additions or changes to the agenda presented.

**210427MN-Mot01**

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the April 27, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as presented.

CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

From January 2020

**Action 5:** Open.

From September 10, 2020

**Action 5:** Open.

From January 7, 2021

**Action 7:** Open.

From February 2, 2021

**Action 9:** Open. Gregg Dill will send an email to Wayne Harasimovitch.

From March 2, 2021

**Action 6:** Open.

**Action 13:** Open. Both policy items on June 1, 2021 agenda.

From April 6, 2021

**Action 1:** Closed. Uploaded to RASC Halifax Centre website on Observing and Publications pages.

**Action 2-3:** Closed.

**Action 4:** Closed. Judy met with Jenna Hinds on April 19 and the survey is ready to go out on Survey Monkey.

**Action 5:** Open. Will be announced at Members' meeting on Saturday May 1, 2021.

**Action 6:** Open.

**Action 7-9:** Closed.

**Action 10:** Closed. About to go out after we amend them tonight.

**Action 11:** Closed. Pat Kelly pointed out that the 10-page Privacy Policy on the RASC National website states that

the Centre Executive are able to access the database to run the Centre. This will be discussed further under Agenda item 11.

The minutes of the March 23, 2021 Board of Directors meeting on Requisition regarding Financial Planning had been distributed by email by Judy on April 5, 2021. A number of Directors had not had an opportunity to review those minutes by the time of the April 6 Board of Directors meeting, so approval had been deferred to this meeting. The minutes were reviewed and no changes were proposed.

**210427MN-Mot02**

It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2021 Board of Directors meeting on Requisition regarding Financial Planning, as distributed.  
CARRIED.

The minutes of the April 6, 2021 Board of Directors meeting had been circulated on April 26, 2021 by email by Peter Hurley. Comments had been received from Pat Kelly by email on April 26, 2021. No further changes were proposed.

**210427MN-Mot03**

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the April 26, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended.  
CARRIED.

**ONGOING ITEMS**

**2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers**

*a) 2021 Meeting date confirmation and approval*

Judy pointed out that dates for 2021 Board meetings are listed in Agenda Note #1, as well as dates for the Members' meetings. She indicated that we are still waiting to hear back from Tim Doucette about a presentation by Rogers and Seager. Once that date is confirmed, then we can fill the other with a presentation by Randy Atwood. For the May 1 Members meeting presentation by Chris Gainor, he will have two amateur astronomers, George Lewycky and Jim Secosky, joining him who have used the Hubble Space Telescope. She indicated that we didn't have a mini-presentation for June. Paul Heath had suggested that Chris Young might be willing to present on constellation stories.

**210427MN-Act01**

Judy Black to contact Chris Young about presenting at Members meeting about constellation stories.

Judy pointed out that the agenda for the Members' meeting on May 1, 2021 was also in our meeting agenda and reminded us that we would be using the RASC National Zoom webinar account for the meeting. With the webinar format, individual cameras would be disabled, we would only see the panelists. For the AstroChat after the meeting, cameras would be enabled. Paul Heath confirmed that he would be doing *Food for the Soul*. And Judy reported that she had not received any questions yet for the *Members' Question Period* but pointed out it remains on the meeting agenda.

*b) Zoom/SMU Bookings*

There was no discussion.

*c) Guest Speakers and Ideas for Future Presentations*

See above and Agenda Note #1.

### **3. Report from National Council Representative**

Judy indicated that there was nothing to report. The next National Council meeting is on June 6, 2021.

### **4. Education and Public Outreach**

Judy indicated that she and Paul Heath had discussed the general topic and they had agreed to change the agenda item name. They indicated that it wouldn't result in any changes of consequence, it was just a title to match more closely with the RASC National title. Paul's title as Outreach Chair will remain the same on the RASC Halifax Centre website until the AGM.

Paul indicated that there were no outreach activities to report or that he had not received any requests, likely as a consequence of the recent Provincial COVID-19 lockdown. He suggested that we should add links to the RASC Halifax Centre website to International Astronomy Day activities, as we were unable to initiate any local activities ourselves. Peter Hurley confirmed that the Discovery Centre had closed to public activities as a result of the lockdown and there were no plans for any collaboration with them for Astronomy Day. Judy will add a note to the Report from the Board at the Members' meeting.

#### **210427MN-Act02**

Judy Black to have links to International Astronomy Day activities received from Paul Heath added to the RASC Halifax Centre website.

### **5. RASC Halifax Centre Website**

Judy reported the new RASC National database rollout was imminent, likely over the coming weekend. She and Pat Kelly discussed implications for our Centre website, email list servers and Board member access to the database. Judy read an email from National about new features of the new database system, which indicated some issues with implementation and ended with "please be patient with us" Special Forums could also be set up

#### **210427MN-Act03**

Judy Black to complete the RASC form for further information about aspects of the new RASC National database.

Judy pointed out that we will have to emphasize that we are all members of RASC National and are affiliated with the Halifax Centre and to explain the significance of this. Our Centre is in essence a "local office" to "home office" (i.e., RASC) that provides services to members in this area and others outside our area who wish to be affiliated with us.

#### **210427MN-Act04**

Judy Black to prepare a statement for the RASC Halifax Centre that explains the RASC membership and the RASC "affiliation".

Judy also reported that RASC National Council was discussing changes with respect to the volunteer policy. It was still before the RASC Board of Directors for approval. The discussion that followed indicated that changes with respect to volunteer security clearances could have significant impacts on volunteer

activities and participation at the Centre level. It was agreed that we would have to wait and see what does come down from the Board.

## **6. Financial Update**

Judy pointed out that Greg Dill was not present and it was agreed that this item would be postponed until our next meeting on June 1, 2021.

## **UPDATES/REPORTS**

### **7. SCO**

John Liddard wasn't present to provide an update so it was agreed we should postpone discussion until our next meeting. Judy indicated that most of the bills were now in. Paul Heath asked if costs were now higher than projected. Judy indicated cost was a little higher than projected but funds are still available. The installation of the power line from the Warm Room to the Storage Room, new lighting inside the Storage room, plus the installation of the electric heater in the warm room (which John has already purchased) have yet to be resolved.

### **8. Halifax Centre Fees**

Judy suggested that the best way forward with this item was to form a task team to discuss the issue and bring a proposal forward to the Board. There was general agreement to that approach and she asked for volunteers. Pat Kelly, David Hoskin, Peter Hurley and Mary Lou Whitehorne volunteered, and Judy indicated that she and Gregg Dill would both be ex-officio members.

#### **210427MN-Act05**

Judy Black to distribute the list of fees charged by other RASC Centres with Board members again.

#### **210427MN-Act06**

Pat Kelly to organize task team meeting to discuss RASC Halifax Centre members fees.

### **9. Nova East**

Judy indicated that the present situation was summarized in Agenda Note #2. The group campsite at Smileys Provincial Park is closed for 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. There was discussion whether we should abandon Nova East completely for 2021. Because the New Moon is the weekend of Nova East, a guest speaker could be invited for a date during the week before or after so as to not interfere with members' observing. An informal virtual observing session (weather permitting) could be arranged; members could potentially share what they're looking at. Members agreed that we should not have a speaker series as was done last year, and that we should focus on the social aspect. We will discuss options further at our next meeting on June 1, 2021.

### **10. Member Survey**

Judy indicated that the Member Survey, agreed to last meeting, was included as Agenda Note # 3. She had discussed the Survey with Jenna Hinds at RASC National office and that it was now ready to be distributed to Halifax Centre members via the National office Survey Monkey account. Jenna had raised the question of whether we wanted answers to questions to be optional or required. It was agreed that members were required to answer all questions.

#### **210427MN-Act07**

Judy Black to send notice of the Members Survey out through the Halifax Centre Announce list.

#### **210427MN-Act08**

Judy Black to distribute the Members Survey by Survey Monkey on May 2, 2021 due back by May 10, 2021.

## 11. Publication of Membership Lists

Judy indicated that the response to her query to Phil Groff, National office, regarding publication of the membership list is provided in Agenda Note #4, as is further information provided by Jenna Hinds subsequently.

### 210427MN-Act09

Judy Black to indicate to Phil Groff our interest in having membership profile and interests updated annually on registration in the new database.

## GOVERNANCE

### 12. Member Guidelines for Using SCO

Judy indicated that she had included a summary of the current Nova Scotia COVID-19 restrictions relevant to SCO as Agenda Note #5. Further restrictions had been announced today. It was agreed that we should announce that SCO is presently closed to all members, until further notice. This should go out on the Halifax Centre Announce list and be posted on the Halifax Centre website. It was also agreed that the Use of SCO Guidelines in the current issue of Nova Notes should be removed and replaced with a notice that SCO is presently closed to all use.

### 210427MN-Act010

Judy Black to post that SCO is closed to all further use to RASC Halifax Centre Announce list and on the website, effective April 27, 2021 until further notice.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, Judy Black adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Hurley, Secretary

## **ACTION LIST (as of April 27, 2021):**

<b>From January 2020</b>		
200111MN-Act05	<b>Gregg Dill and John Liddard</b> will establish the value of capital equipment when the inventory is complete.	Open
<b>From September 10, 2020</b>		
200910MN-Act05	<b>John Liddard</b> and <b>Paul Gray</b> will test whether a small jack hammer can handle digging a trench to the required 14 inches depth.	Open
<b>From January 7, 2021</b>		
210107MN-Act07	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to submit annual requirements to NS RJSC.	Open
<b>From February 2, 2021</b>		
210202MN-Act09	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to advice Wayne Harasimovitch how to submit receipts as a donation.	Open
<b>From March 2, 2021</b>		

210302MN-Act06	<b>Judy Black</b> to ask Dave Chapman to check on availability of Haley Davies to do further video editing and what her rate would be.	Open
210302MN-Act13	<b>Judy Black</b> to draft changes to policy G6 to clarify the approval process for appointed positions.	Open
<b>From April 6, 2021</b>		
210406MN-Act05	<b>Judy Black</b> to announce at the Members' meeting on April 10, 2021 that they will be receiving the survey shortly and to encourage them to participate.	Open
210406MN-Act06	<b>Peter Hurley</b> to add review of Policies G6 and G11 to the agenda of the June 1, 2021 Board of Directors meeting.	Open
<b>From April 27, 2021</b>		
210427MN-Act01	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact Chris Young about presenting at Members meeting about constellation stories.	
210427MN-Act02	<b>Judy Black</b> to have links to International Astronomy Day activities received from Paul Heath added to the RASC Halifax Centre website.	
210427MN-Act03	<b>Judy Black</b> to complete form for further information about aspects of the new National database. ??? does that make sense???	
210427MN-Act04	<b>Judy Black</b> to prepare a statement for the RASC Halifax Centre reminding them of their membership is with RASC National and that they are affiliated with Halifax Centre, which is just a local office .....this needs adjustment....	
210427MN-Act05	<b>Judy Black</b> to distribute the list of fees charged by other RASC Centres with Board members again.	
210427MN-Act06	<b>Pat Kelly</b> to organize task team meeting to discuss RASC Halifax Centre members fees.	
210427MN-Act07	<b>Judy Black</b> to send notice of the Members Survey out through the Halifax Centre Announce list.	
210427MN-Act08	<b>Judy Black</b> to distribute the Members Survey by Survey Monkey on May 2, 2021 due back by May 210, 2021.	
210427MN-Act09	<b>Judy Black</b> to indicate to Phil Groff our interest in having membership profile and interests updated annually on registration in the new database.	
210427MN-Act010	<b>Judy Black</b> to post that SCO is closed to all further use to RASC Halifax Centre Announce list and on the website, effective April 27, 2021 until further notice.	

#### **MOTION LIST (April 27, 2021):**

210427MN-Mot01	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the April 27, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as presented. CARRIED.
210427MN-Mot02	It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2021 Board of Directors meeting on Requisition regarding Financial Planning, as distributed. CARRIED.

210427MN-Mot03	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the April 26, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended. CARRIED.
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## AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
<p><b>Agenda Note #1 re: 2021 Meeting Dates</b></p>	<p><b>A) 2020 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events</b>  Board Meeting dates were approved at the January 7, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.  June 1            November 2  September 7    November 30  September 28</p> <p><u>Members' Meeting</u> dates were approved at the October 28, 2020 Board of Directors meetings. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.  May 1            October 2  June 5            November 6  September 11   December 4 (AGM)</p> <p><b>B) Confirmed Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 1: Chris Gainer (Amateur Use of the HST) + Tony Schellinck (Basics of Lunar Sketching)</li> <li>• June 5: Leslie Sage (Astronomy editor, <i>Nature</i> magazine)</li> <li>• Sept 11: David Hoskin (Comet NEOWISE)</li> <li>• December 4: Dr. Phil Groff</li> </ul> <p><b>C) Suggested Speakers</b>  Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (Oct or Nov, or 2022) Dr. Leslie Rogers &amp; Sara Seager</li> <li>o (Fall) Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster)</li> <li>o Nicole Mortillaro</li> <li>o ??? Someone to address Perseverance, Gateway and Artemis</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Note #2 re: Nova East</b></p>	<p>The group campsite at Smiley's Provincial Park is not available for 2021. Therefore, things to consider during discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do we cancel Nova East completely?</li> <li>2. Do we organize a speakers Series as in 2020?</li> <li>3. Do we acquire a single speaker to acknowledge Nova East 2021 has "officially" occurred? (Note: Given NE weekend has the New Moon, this presentation should be organized for a weekday evening or to another weekend.)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Agenda Note #3 re: Members Survey</b></p>	<p><b>2021 Halifax Centre Survey Regarding Meeting Members' Needs</b>  Judy Black met with Jenna Hinds on April 19, 2021 to discuss the survey. Jenna has it loaded ready to disseminate to our members. Questions arose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Are all questions required, all questions optional, or a mix? (please review the questions below to assist in this decision)</li> <li>2- When do we want it disseminated?</li> <li>3- What would be the deadline for responses?</li> </ol> <p>The degree of being able to analyze the data was discussed. At the time the Survey was uploaded, the account was a basic one with limited analysis capability. As of today, Jenna informed me RASC will be purchasing the next level of SurveyMonkey for use by RASC and as a service for all Centres. Consequently, we do several analyses of the data.</p> <p><b>Survey Questions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How long have you been a member of the RASC, Halifax Centre? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 0 – 2 years</li> <li>b. 2 – 5 years</li> <li>c. 5 – 10 years</li> </ol> </li> </ol>



- d. 10 – 20 years
- e. Over 20 years

Comments:

2. In the past year during the pandemic, do you attend the online monthly Centre meetings held via Zoom? (check one)
- a. I never attend.
  - b. I never miss them.
  - c. I make it to most of them.
  - d. I attend 1 to 3 times per year.
  - e. I have only been to a few since becoming a member.

Comments:

3. Prior to the pandemic when we met at Saint Mary's University, did you attend the monthly Centre meetings? (check one)
- a. I never attended.
  - b. I never missed them.
  - c. I made it to most of them.
  - d. I attended 1 to 3 times per year.
  - e. I went to a few since becoming a member.
  - f. I was not a member prior to the pandemic.

Comments:

4. If you do not attend at least 6 meetings in the past year, what are the main reasons? (check all that apply)
- a. Topics covered do not interest me.
  - b. Topics covered are meant for the more experienced observer.
  - c. The meeting should be more 'astronomy' and less Centre 'business'.
  - d. I have to work on Saturdays when the meetings are held.
  - e. My Internet access is not good enough to support videoconference meetings.
  - f. The meetings are too long.
  - g. I watch the video on the RASC Halifax YouTube channel at my convenience.
  - h. I joined the Centre during the past year.
  - i. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

5. Are there topics that you would like to see presented at a Centre meeting that would convince you to attend, either as a longer "feature speaker" presentation, or as shorter mini talks by a few presenters? If 'yes', please provide your topic suggestions in Comments.

Yes

No

Comments:

6. If you are interested in visual observing, are there particular observing topics the Centre could offer that would convince you to attend? If 'yes', please provide your topic suggestions in Comments.

Yes

No

Comments:

7. If you are interested in astroimaging, are there particular astroimaging topics the Centre could offer that would convince you to attend? If 'yes', please provide your topic suggestions in Comments.

Yes

No

Comments:

8. Is there any way that we can improve the way you receive news about the Centre and its activities?

Yes

No

Comments

9. Is there anything else you would like to say to the board that we have not covered here?

Yes

No

	Comments
<p><b>Agenda Note #4 re: Publication of Membership Lists &amp; other information</b></p>	<p><b>From Phil Groff (April 20, 2021)</b></p> <p>"I don't claim to be a legal expert, in terms of privacy and confidentiality. However, I think you can make a reasonable argument for why these three positions should be able to access your list of Centre members. We can set up whatever permissions and restrictions you'd like with the new system, which hopefully is in its final stages of review (he said crossing all his fingers).</p> <p>I think we can also set things up, fairly easily to ask about the areas of interest and willingness to volunteer, annually with review notices, or at some other frequency if that's easier. Again, we have a lot of flexibility with the new system, and ongoing paid support from our developers for anything that's beyond Adela or other staffers to implement, though most things, such as these suggestions shouldn't be."</p> <p><b>In Discussion with Jenna Hinds (April 19, 2021) re Database information</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion lists will be replaced with "Forums" so that Centres can talk to each other and discover what each other is doing. All Forums will be public. Older "discussion lists" have become defunct, e.g., education. Others will be revitalized, such as astro-sketchers, astroimaging, light pollution abatement and will add NextGen, new astronomers (national), observing, and perhaps citizen science. How and when to notify members of the forums and targeting the message was also discussed briefly.</li> <li>2. Mentorship program being planned. A button would be an opt-in button but must be a member. They may have to read and sign a document, complete RASC training, police check (centres must ID person in charge of volunteers to have access to this information). There will be a membership list and a separate volunteer list. We can arrange for volunteer signup sheets for time slots and/or volunteer role (info desk, hand out flyers, etc.).</li> <li>3. A RASC policy regarding police checks has been sent to the Board for review and approval. Police check document can be uploaded to a person's personal account. The request can be made for them to have it before they volunteer. If members are willing to continue as a volunteer, there would then be a requirement to have it renewed. Frequency of renewal would be based on provincial requirements. There may a discussion at the EPO about compensating those who cannot afford to pay for the police check.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Agenda Note #5 re: SCO Use Guidelines</b></p>	<p><b>From Judy Black (April 26, 2021)</b></p> <p>As of Friday April 23, 2021 at 8 AM, all residents of Halifax Municipality plus a few communities outside of Halifax were asked to remain within their district to prevent further community spread of COVID-19 and its variants.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the press conference on Sunday, April 26, 2021 the following restrictions were announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are not permitted to travel outside their local community unless it's for essential travel like work, school, childcare, child custody reasons or medical and legal appointments.</li> <li>• Gathering limit for close social groups (indoors and outdoors) is no more than 10 people. When your household goes into the community, your household can stay together outdoors without social distancing no matter how many people live in the household. Additional restrictions and protective measures are also in place for some locations - see <a href="#">Halifax County restriction alerts</a>, <a href="#">Hants County restriction alerts</a>, <a href="#">Lunenburg County restriction alerts</a> and <a href="#">Guysborough County restriction alerts</a>.</li> <li>• Fines for breaking any part of the order (like gathering limits, social distancing guidelines and self-isolation requirements) under the Health Protection Act Order are \$2,000 for the first offence for individuals.</li> </ul> <p>Consequently, the Board of Directors needs to determine if SCO is closed until there is easing of the restrictions. Because the COVID-19 restrictions now include non-essential travel to and from Halifax, Hants, Lunenburg and Guysborough Counties, it is my recommendation that SCO be closed and that RASC Halifax Centre members be notified immediately, i.e., we do not wait until the Members' meeting on May 1, 2021.</p>

	<p>On the home page of our website, the link to the guidelines reads “REVISED – SCO guidelines during COVID-19”. We could change this to read “SCO is closed until further notice”, have the link remain to the Guidelines document with the added statement below.</p> <p>As of April 27, 2021: Because the provincial COVID-19 restrictions now state to stay home and avoid non-essential travel outside your local community, and specifically cites travel to and from Halifax, Hants, Lunenburg and Guysborough Counties, SCO will be closed to all RASC Halifax Centre members until provincial restrictions have eased. Members will be notified immediately of any changes.</p>
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Approved June 1, 2021