



RASC, Halifax Centre Annual General Meeting – December 7, 2019

AGENDA

Welcome & Opening Remarks

- 1- Approval of 2019 Agenda
- 2- Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2018 AGM
- 3- Appointment of Auditor for 2019-2020 Audit

Reports

- 4- VP Report – Charles White
- 5- Secretary Report– Judy Black
- 6- Auditor Report – Jim Millar
- 7- Treasurer Report – Gregg Dill
- 8- National Council Representative Report – Pat Kelly

Committee Reports

- 9- Observing Chair Report – Sean Dzafovic
- 10- St. Croix Observatory (SCO) Report – John MacPhee / John Liddard
- 11- Nova Notes – Charles White
- 12- Nova East Report – Judy Black
- 13- Librarian Report – John Read
- 14- Outreach Chair Report – Paul Heath

Call for Nominations and Election of 2019 Board of Directors

- 15- Nominating Committee Report - Paul Gray
 - a- Nominations for positions
 - b- Elections for positions

RASC, Halifax Centre Members' Meeting – December 7, 2019

1. Welcome – Paul Gray
2. Outreach Opportunities – Paul Heath
3. News from the Board / What's Up? – Judy Black
4. **Presentation: David Chapman: "Telescope Tales - 6 Decades of Observing"**
5. Adjournment

Date of next Members' Meeting – January 11, 2020 in Room AT101

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 centerpiece 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 Oserve 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 Whitehome 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.

2019 Annual Report: Vice-President

I am writing this report as the VP of RASC Halifax, but due to the vacancy in the President position, I have been filling in with that roll as well.

This year has 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 I have been able to attend, it has personally been a benefit as it's easier to get into the city.

Thank you to Paul Gray and the rest of the Board for trying out the new day and time. I really enjoy 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, I would encourage you to do so. We post the Centre meeting information on the site and other astronomy related events happening.

I 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, I want to wish everyone a happy 2020, and hope that the new board of 2020 has a great year.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles White, Vice-President
RASC Halifax Centre

2019 Annual Report: Secretary

The principal duty of the secretary is to provide minutes, agendas, and meeting announcements to the Board of Directors and members of the Centre. An additional duty is to book meeting rooms through SMU for meetings. We were welcomed back for another year and are grateful to Saint Mary's University for their very significant support related to meetings and special speaker events held at their institution.

There were 7 Board of Directors Meetings in 2018-2019 which occurred before the Members' Meeting. Members are welcome to attend Board of Directors meetings if they wish. There were no Board of Directors meetings held in July and August. There were minimally 2 reminders of meeting for every Board of Directors and Members' Meeting held. The December 2018 and September 2019 Board meetings were cancelled due to storms.

There were 8 regular Members' Meetings, one special meeting held at The Discovery Centre and the informal gathering at the Annual BBQ held in September 2019 at the St. Croix Observatory. All Members' Meetings had a guest speaker. Some of the highlights included presentations by:

- Paul Heath (monthly installments of *Food for the Soul*);
- Paul Gray (*Dark Nebulae in New Light*);
- Dave Chapman, John Read, and Halley Davies (*YouTube videos re RASC observing programs*);
- Kathryn Gray (*What's new in Astronomy & Astrophysics?*);
- Mary Lou Whitehorne (*Wolf-Rayet Stars: Truly Scary Monster Stars*);
- Dr. Rob Thacker (*The RASC in 2019*);
- Jenna Hinds (from National RASC);
- Mark Rector (*Oh Canada – Our Home & Inventive Land*); and

- David Chapman with regular instalments on the Mi'kmaw Moons project.

Reinstituted this year were Observer's Handbook presentations by members Pat Kelly (Jupiter's natural satellites), John Read (Lunar Observing, Women with Impact) and Judy Black (the Observing Logbook). We can look for more instalments in the coming year.

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 definition of any spending not covered in the budget. Motions made this past year included:

- Approval of annual meeting dates and the 2019 AGM agenda
- Adjustments to reinvestment of the Centre's GICs, regular budget preparations for the Centre and for Nova East Star Party, and funds for videographer
- Approval for redevelopment of the RASC Halifax Centre and the Nova East Star Party websites using Joomla!
- Approval of the Astrophotography Contest as a contest of the RASC Halifax Centre (April) and for the contest Guidelines (May)
- Approval of the following Halifax Centre appointments:
 - Honorary President: Mary Lou Whitehorne (Nov 2018)
 - Director: Peter Hurley (Feb 2019)
 - SCO Manager: John MacPhee (Feb); John Liddard (Nov 2019)
 - Chair, Dark-Sky Preserve (DSP) Committee: Dave Chapman (Oct 2019)
- Approval of Amendment to Bylaw #1 (addition of 6.5.3 re electronic voting of the Board)
- Approval of the following Halifax Centre policies and recommendations:
 - G5: Halifax Centre Privacy Policy (Oct 2018)
 - G6: Procedures regarding Nomination, Elections & Appointments (Oct 2018)
 - B1: Terms of Reference: Board of Directors (Oct 2018)
 - B2: Terms of Reference: Ordinary Committees of RASC Halifax Centre (Oct 2018)
 - PD9: Position Description (appointed) - Outreach Chair (Oct 2018)
 - G7: RASC Halifax Centre Website Standard Operating Procedures (Nov 2019)
- Approval of modifications to policies and recommendations:
 - Terms of Reference for the Board of Directors re process for electronic voting process
 - Dark-Sky Preserve (DSP) Committee re increase from 3 to 5 members on the committee plus the President *ex officio* (Nov 2018)

The policies are posted on the Centre's website and are included in the RASC Halifax Centre's Board of Directors Reference Manual.

RASC Halifax Centre Bylaw #1 (2017) requires that members are advised of the make-up of the membership of the Centre which as of the September 30 totaled 170 members (up from 168 last year):

- 16 Family Regular
- 6 Family Youth
- 21 Life
- 125 Regular
- 1 Regular USA
- 1 Youth

This was my fourth year serving as Secretary of the RASC Halifax Centre. I would like thank Halifax Centre members and the Board of Directors for their invaluable support over the past year and during my tenure as Secretary. It has been an honour working on your behalf in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black, Secretary

2019 Annual Report: Auditor

1 December 2019

Jim Millar
291 Abbey Road,
Stillwater Lake, NS
B3Z 1R1

To the members of the RASC Halifax Centre,

I have examined the financial records for the period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019. I believe that the Balance Sheet prepared by the treasurer represents an accurate account of the financial position of the Centre as of 30 September 2019.

I have also looked closely at the Income Statement, the Report of the Treasurer, and the substantiating records and receipts and have not found anything of major concern. I have not checked every transaction or receipt but have seen a representative sample of them.

I note the change to having cheques and other documents be signed by two of at least three people registered to have signing authority has been implemented.

I also note that in response to the audit letter observation from last year that appropriate receipts and invoices are present for all the disbursements.

I have two recommendations:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Millar

2019 Annual Report: Treasurer

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Comparative Income Statement

Years Ending September 30, 2018 and September 30, 2019

	Year Ended September 30		Amount of Increase or (Decrease) during 2019
	2019	2018	
Revenue			
Membership Fees	\$2,949.96	\$2,736.12	\$213.84
Donations	\$67.50	\$25.49	\$42.01
Educational Activities	\$50.00	\$300.00	(\$250.00)
Interest	\$212.62	\$170.84	\$41.78
Sales of Merchandise	\$690.00	\$1,060.00	(\$370.00)
Nova East (Net)	\$1,025.40	\$1,279.43	(\$254.03)
Nova Notes Print Subscriptions	\$182.00	\$238.00	(\$56.00)
Total Revenue	\$5,177.48	\$5,809.88	(\$632.40)
Expenses			
Meeting treats	\$248.71	\$169.57	\$79.14
Guest Speaker	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$60.35	\$405.72	(\$345.37)
Depreciation & Write-offs	\$492.44	\$520.57	(\$28.13)
Equipment & Supplies	\$0.00	\$15.02	(\$15.02)
Costs of Goods Sold	\$886.25	\$1,081.34	(\$195.09)
Office Administration	\$455.27	\$986.52	(\$531.25)
Educational Activities	\$1,186.93	\$1,839.50	(\$652.57)
Insurance	\$1,385.00	\$1,297.00	\$88.00
Awards & Donations	\$385.28	\$66.52	\$318.76
National Office Processing	\$68.52	\$50.99	\$17.53
Operating Expenses Observatory	\$1,641.97	\$247.13	\$1,394.84
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$6,810.72	\$6,679.88	\$130.84
Operational Surplus	(\$1,633.24)	(\$870.00)	(\$763.24)

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Comparative Income Statement
Years Ending September 30, 2018 and September 30, 2019**

	2019	Year Ended September 30 2018	Amount of Increase or (Decrease) during 2019
Assets			
Cash ¹	\$3,843.76	\$3,055.26	\$788.50
Accounts Receivable	\$389.42	\$449.99	(\$60.57)
Investments	\$463.58	\$161.00	\$302.58
Library Estimated	\$14,000.00	\$16,056.12	(\$2,056.12)
Observatory Equipment	\$1,440.34	\$1,600.38	(\$160.04)
Miscellaneous Estimated	\$10,748.51	\$11,083.15	(\$334.64)
	\$320.05	\$320.05	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$31,205.66	\$32,725.95	(\$1,520.29)
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable ²	\$609.93	\$1,240.42	-\$630.49
Capital			
Nova East Working Equity	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Common Equity	\$25,595.73	\$26,485.53	(\$889.80)
Total Capital	\$30,595.73	\$31,485.53	(\$889.80)
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$31,205.66	\$32,725.95	

Notes:

1. \$3.00 difference between bank statement and General ledger. Waiting for National correction.
2. Accounts Payable is \$40.00 as of November 1, 2019

2019 Annual Report: National Council Representative

The National Council has 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. Other topics of discussion have included the renewal process for SkyNews, the process for approving the use of green-laser pointers at star parties and other education and outreach events.

A lot of time was also taken with coming up with the composition of the members of the National Council (the specification in the by-law is at odds with the policy manual) and the quorum for meetings (there is none). A set of proposals have been approved and the Board is now working on a number of updates to the national By-law and these are likely to be part of that.

Budget discussions have been discussed at a number of meetings, to provide some feedback to the Board. While not all national committees report regularly to the National Council (the mandate of most is to report to the Board), those that do are most helpful in letting all Centres find out about what is going on throughout the Society. This type of information is also provided by updates from the Board.

The National Council has been unable to find a Chair, or Vice-Chair to this point in time. The Chair position became empty when Eric Briggs was elected to the Board. With the agreement of the Council, he has been acting as the chair for the last two meetings, with success.

I would encourage everyone to log in to the members' section of the Society web site and look at the reports of the various committees as well as the minutes from both the Board and National Council meetings. If you would like to contribute, contact the chair of the committee with an offer to volunteer!

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Kelly
National Council Secretary
RASC, Halifax Centre

2019 Annual Report: Observing Chair Report

Congratulations to the Halifax Centre members who completed RASC Observing Certificates this year:

Liz Greenough – Explore the Universe

No members were recording having completed any of the other RASC Observing Certificates this year (Explore the Moon, Messier Catalog, Finest NGC, Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program, Deep-Sky Challenge Objects, Deep Sky Gems).

Respectfully Submitted,
Sean Dzafovic, Observing Chair
RASC, Halifax Centre

2019 Annual Report: Nova Notes

Nova Notes has had another nice year. With 5 editions published as of the AGM, there have been some great articles and regular contributors throughout 2019, but overall from 2018 the articles submissions are down slightly, as are contributions to the RASC Halifax showcase section. Let's work to bring those numbers up in 2020!

Biggest changes to Nova Notes have been the addition of the Centre showcase and I am going to reaching out to the 2020 Observing Chair to see how we can incorporate more certificates, sketching, photo taking, etc. into the newsletter. My goal is to have Nova Notes a one-stop shop that reflects the broad interests of the Centre instead of only being focused on the meeting reports.

The subscribers to the paper version of newsletter are also down and there has been a slight increase to the price of subscription moving forward, going from \$17.00, to \$20.00. Those who have already signed up at the original price are locked in for that price until their membership renewal comes up again in 2020.

I would to give my thanks to the following for their contribution in 2018-2019:

- Article Contributors: Judy Black, Michael Boschat, Dave Chapman, Paul Heath, Pat Kelly, John McPhee, John Read
- Photo Contributions: Jerry Black, Judy Black, Michael Boschat, Barry Burgess, Dave Chapman, Jeff Donaldson, Bruce Hamilton, David Hoskin, Blair MacDonald
- Sketchers: Dave Chapman, Melody Hamilton, Charles White

I look forward to what Nova Notes will have in it in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles White
Editor, Nova Notes
RASC Halifax Centre

2019 Annual Report: Nova East



“The stars belong to everyone” was again the theme of our star party held at Smiley's Provincial Park during the weekend of August 30 – September 2. This this was the 33rd consecutive Nova East making it the longest consecutively held Star Party in the Atlantic region.

Many thanks to John Read for the 2019 logo design printed on the Nova East t-shirt and hoodie. It featured a black hole event horizon border with features of Nova East events inside – camping, binoculars, Jupiter & Saturn high in the sky, meteor showers, and the tidal bore, not to mention a nearby Nova Scotia community named 'Black Hole'.

2019 NE Planning Committee (NEPC):

Members included Judy Black (Chair), Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Melody Hamilton (Registrar), Chris Young, Dave Chapman and Liz Greenough. Consultants were Mary Lou Whitehorne, John Read, Patrick Kelly, and Paul Gray. There were four face-to-face meetings – three planning meetings held March 23, April 27 and May 31 plus the wrap-up meeting held October 4. The success of Nova East 2019 was because of the dedication, imagination and prep work done by each of the members during the planning and implementation phases of this event.

Weather:

Nova East was almost cancelled this year due to Tropical Storm Erin. However, Erin left the area Thursday and set-up at Smileys Provincial Park progressed as per usual Friday morning. Thank you to

volunteers who set up the campsite markers – Ron LeBlanc, Octave McLaughlin, Blair MacDonald and Jerry Black.

The fair-weather window between the tropical storm and the rain that followed two days after Nova East provided registrants with three warm sunny days and clear night skies. The NEPC could not have hoped for better. The only pitfall was the heavy dew that created observing challenges during the later evening.

Registration Desk:

Melody Hamilton lead the registration planning process and managed the registration desk at Nova East. Thank you to Liz Greenough for registration desk assistance and for being an excellent bell ringer.

It is with great regret that we announce the retirement of our long-time Registrar, Melody Hamilton. Melody has been a key player in the success of Nova East. She will be missed by her fellow members on the NEPC and by those she welcomed at Nova East. I'm sure we will still see her at the event.

Speakers:

Public Talk: *Tweeting to the Stars at the Burke-Gaffney Observatory* – Tiffany Fields

Special Talk: *The Large Fundy Tides & Tidal Bore Viewing* – Dr. Roy Bishop

Talks:

'Night Lights' and Outreach Under the Street Lights – Charles White

Cluster of Fun – Exploring Galactic Clusters and the Stars Within – John Read

The Art of Seeing – Exploring the Universe, Then & Now – Tony Schellinck

Beginner Talks:

Getting Started in Night Sky Photography – Kathy Walker

How a Telescope Magnifies – An Introduction – Dave Chapman

Speaker Identification was again organized by Melody Hamilton. This year, orange name tag ribbons were used to identify the Planning Committee, telescope medics and speakers. Specific roles were cited below the name on the name tag. Those “new” to Nova East and/or to astronomy were identified by a star on their tag.

Field Observing Presentations:

There were three field presentations on Friday and Saturday evenings that were open to registrants and Smiley's Provincial Park campers alike:

- Paul Heath – Sky Tour of the planets and constellations in view.
- Judy Black & Melody Hamilton – Binocular table
- Tony Schellinck – NEW – an introduction to using telescopes to find DSOs

Because the Transport Canada-RASC agreement had not been completely clarified regarding GLP usage at RASC outreach events, modified MAG-LITEs and special smaller flashlights were substitutes to point out objects in the night sky. Use of GLPs will again be reviewed by the 2020 Nova East Planning Committee.

Telescope Medics:

For a second year, "Telescope Medics" provided one-on-one assistance to telescope users with setting up their telescope and troubleshooting problems. Many thanks to volunteers Jerry Black, Dave Chapman, Dave Hoskin, Quinn Smith, Kathy Walker, and John Read.

Astrophotography Contest with New Guidelines:

The **Astrophotography Contest** had undergone a complete revision during the past year. It is now a RASC Halifax Centre photo contest with its winners awarded at Nova East. Thirty photos were judged in three categories with specific criteria for the adjudicators to judge each one submitted. The categories, number of submissions in each category and the winners were:

1. Wide-Field (15 submissions): Jerry Black – *"I feel like a spot of tea. Where is the Teapot?"*
2. Deep-Sky/Prime Focus (10 submissions): Jeff Donaldson – *M27 Narrowband*
3. Solar System (5 submissions): David Hoskin – *Mare Nubium's Straight Wall*

Adjudicators were Blair MacDonald, Mary Lou Whitehorne and Ian Corbett. Blair MacDonald, on behalf of APS and Halifax Centre, presented each winner with a letter explaining how to arrange for a large framed photo of the winning image from APS. A letter of thanks was sent to the adjudicators for their time, and to APS for their generous donations.

The **People's Choice Award** winner, Barry Burgess, was awarded a \$50.00 Atlantic Photo Supply gift certificate for his *Balancing Rock & Milky Way*.

Door Prizes:

Chris Young acquired numerous **Door Prizes** that delighted all of the 21 lucky prize winners that included two youths. Prizes were purchased from Amazon, Atlantic Photo Supply, Amazon, the Bay and the RASC, plus book donations from Jim Millar. A budget of \$1,000.00 was allotted; only \$750.18 was expensed.

The 8x42 Nature Celestron binoculars provided by Halifax Centre as a door prize was won by Tony Schellinck. The main prize, won by Dave Lane, was a Celestron First Scope donated by Atlantic Photo Supply.

Other Highlights:

The **Astro Breakfast** was organized by Chris Young and Melody Hamilton. The Saturday morning pancake and sausage breakfast came with coffee, juice, muffins, donuts and fresh whole fruit. Thank you to the cooks – Chris Young and Mo Sandland. Sunday's fare was lighter with coffee, juice, muffins, donuts and fresh fruit.

The **Potluck BBQ** was organized by Chris Young, Judy Black and Melody Hamilton. Registrants were treated to wonderfully barbecued hamburgers (veggie and beef) and hotdogs. Thank you to the cooks – Chris Young and Quinn Smith. These were accompanied by numerous delicious salads and side dishes provided by attendees – and we can't forget the phenomenal dessert table with leftovers used at the Astronomers' Lounge! Thank you to all registrants who contributed.

Special recognition was given to RASC Halifax Centre members that were presented with RASC certificates and awards since the previous Nova East. None were cited for the past year.

Charles White presented the RASC astro-imaging Solar System Certificate to David Hoskin. This certificate is for astronomers to learn basic techniques of photographing Solar System objects, such as tracking, focusing, stacking, and image processing. David joins fellow Halifax Centre members Art Cole (2017) & Tony Schellinck (2017) in this achievement.

Task Chart:

The Task Chart acted as a guide for the 2019 Nova East Planning Committee and provided the timeline for planning the event. This document was used throughout the planning process and revised as required.

Terms of Reference - Nova East Planning Committee:

The Terms of Reference were reviewed; no changes are suggested.

Date of 2020 Nova East:

As approved by the Board of Directors at a prior meeting and is now included in the 2020 RASC Calendar, Nova East 2020 will be held August 21-24. The New Moon is on August 19.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black, Chair
2019 NE Planning Committee

During the January to May meetings of the RASC Halifax Centre, the library cart was rolled out. We started a new feature, a brief librarian's talk, during each meeting where we recommended several books.

During each meeting, a few books were signed out. We started a new binder to track borrows (in the future I recommend this be done electronically with "iBookshelf").

However, during the May meeting, a wheel broke off the library cart. The library cart fell and broke into several pieces. The primary reason for the collapse was that the library cart was overloaded. The cart was fully repaired by early November. However, all off the contents are still in banker's boxes, and require re-shelving. To avoid this issue in the future, I recommend the following actions be taken by the Librarian in 2020:

- Dispose of outdated media such as VHS, cassette tapes, CDs, and DVDs. There is nothing here that isn't available digitally.
- Donate all duplicate books.
- Review each title for relevance (there are several titles that are outdated to the point of inaccuracy).
- Do NOT accept donations of books.
- Digitize the borrowing process with an app like iBookshelf (only the librarian needs access to the app).
- Replace the wooden library cart with this one: <https://www.amazon.ca/Lorell-LLR49202-Double-sided-Book-Cart/dp/B00P8511IU>
- Cap the RASC library's inventory at 100 books. (Note that SMU's library has 1000's of astronomy books.)

Respectively submitted,

John Read, Centre Librarian
RASC, Halifax Centre

2019 Annual Report: Outreach

It was another busy year for Outreach.

As a group we participated in a number of our usual events and some new ones. Kejimikujik Dark Sky weekend, Nova East, INOMN, Saltscapes was a last-minute event this year but everyone stepped up to make it a great event. About 350 visitors to our booth. The YNC observing night was a blow out this year. Over 100 family members attended.

Much thanks to John, David, Darren and Tony for stepping up at the last minute to assist and make it a great event for the Young Naturalist Club families. We only had 2 talks during Science Literacy week at the Keshan Goodman Library this year. Thanks to John Read for helping out.

Our big new event was the Central Libraries kick off to Summer Reading program. We joined with Parks Canada, an astronomy themed band, fresh pancakes and library staff to present various astronomy items/ telescope types/ moon craters/RASC info table. Thanks to All who helped with this event. Estimated 300-400 were in attendance.

Many members stepped out to do small outreach events throughout the year. Dave Chapman sidewalk observing for Apollo 11 anniversary and Mercury transit. Mike Boschat solar sidewalk, Charles White hotel sidewalk observing, Dave Hoskins Dalhousie Pathology students observing session, Chris Turner Girl Guide group observing night.

And then there was Tony Schellnick!!!! Again, Tony with the help of Wayne Mansfield and Jerry Deveaux, presented many programs on the South shore: March (two talks -89 people), May (4 talks 45 people). While on vacation in California, he held an impromptu talk for over 100. A new event with Wayne

Mansfield's help was a talk and observing session at the Kejimkujik Sky Circle for the community group from the Ummah Mosque and Community Center. Over 100 people attended. This year at Kejimkujik and Nova East, Tony passed his Binocular table to others and set up an intro Telescope session. This new addition was a great success.

I must commend Tony for his continuous and innovative approach to teaching the night sky.

Although there was no official event for the Mercury Transit, due to the Remembrance Day services, many members set up near their homes to show people the transit. Dave Lane also did a live feed from BGO. Clouds kept us to the last half of the transit for observing.

I was less active this year, only 4 school talks. I did the Shubie Wildlife talk and YNC astronomy talk, and coordinated the other Center outreach events. Overall it was another successful year in Outreach for the Halifax Centre.

Respectively submitted,

Paul Heath, Outreach Chair
RASC, Halifax Centre

Approved December 5, 2020