

RASC, Halifax Centre – AGM & Members' Meeting

Saturday, December 4, 2021: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 961 6655 9250

Time	Item
1:00 PM	<p><i>Annual General Meeting (AGM)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome & Opening Remarks <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approval of 2021 Agenda b. Approval of AGM Minutes (December 5, 2020) c. Appointment of Auditor for 2021-2022 Audit 2. Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Q&A regarding pre-circulated reports b. Approval of reports as presented (with any amendments) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Report – Judy Black • VP Report – Pat Kelly • Secretary Report – Peter Hurley • Auditor Report – Ian Anderson • Treasurer Report – Gregg Dill • Dark-Sky Preserve Committee – Dave Chapman • Governance Committee Report – Judy Black • National Council Representative Report – Judy Black • Nova Notes – Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee • Observing Chair Report – Dave Chapman • Outreach Chair Report – Paul Heath • St. Croix Observatory (SCO) Report – John Liddard 3. Call for Nominations and Election of 2022 Board of Directors <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nominating Committee Report – Peter Hurley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominations for Board of Directors • Elections for positions 4. Call for Nominations for Appointed Positions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nominations for Appointed Positions – Peter Hurley 5. Adjournment of AGM
1:45 PM	

Time	Item		
1:45PM	<i>Members' Meeting</i>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo Montage • 2021 / 2022 Calendars 	Information	Judy Black Paul Gray
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Special Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Phil Groff 	Presentation	Phil Groff
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Food for the Soul 	Information	Paul Heath
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. What's Up in December? 	Information	Dave Chapman
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. News from the Board <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Winners of Astroimaging Contest b. People's Choice Awards 	Information	Judy Black
4:00 PM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Adjournment 		
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	ASTRO-CHAT	Fun in Conversation!	

RASC, Halifax Centre – AGM & Members' Meeting
Saturday, December 4, 2021: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Via Zoom - Meeting ID 961 6655 9250

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Judy Black welcomed the 28 members to the meeting and thanked them for coming. Mi'kma'ki land acknowledgments and the inclusivity and diversity statements were read. She noted that reports were pre-circulated to members and would not be read during this meeting. The exceptions are the Treasurer and Auditor reports.

1. Approval of 2021 Agenda

211204AGM-Mot01:

It was moved by Mary Lou MacDonald and seconded by Blair MacDonald to approve the 2021 AGM agenda as circulated.
CARRIED.

2. Approval of 2020 AGM Minutes

The minutes of the December 5, 2020 AGM had been pre-circulated to members.

211204AGM-Mot02:

It was moved by Chris Young and seconded by Bob Russell to approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM as circulated.
CARRIED with 2 abstentions.

3. Appointment of a New Auditor

At this point in time, there is no nominee for this position. Dave Lane agreed to have his name forwarded for appointment.

211204AGM-Mot03:

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Chris Young to appoint David Lane as Auditor for 2021-2022. CARRIED.

Board Reports

(Note: Reports in their entirety will included in the Jan/Feb 2021 edition of Nova Notes)

Judy Black noted the reports from the Board and the appointed positions had been circulated as part of the AGM agenda circulated on December 1, 2020. Gregg Dill will address both the Treasurer and Auditor reports following approval of other reports.

201205AGM-Mot04:

It was moved by Chris Young and seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne to accept the pre-circulated elected and appointed position reports as pre-circulated.
CARRIED.

Auditor and Treasurer Reports

Gregg Dill noted that due to lack of information from the RASC to allow for correct allocation of revenue and expenses, there is no auditor's report at this time. The report was thoroughly discussed with the Auditor Ian Anderson. Judy Black stated that getting numbers from the RASC has been a challenge over the past year. Gregg provided the income statement.

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Halifax Centre			
Comparative Income Statement			
Years Ending September 30, 2020 and September 30, 2021			
	Years Ended September 30		Amount of Increase or (Decrease)
	2021	2020	during 2021
Revenue			
Membership Fees	\$1,904.30	\$3,026.78	(\$1,122.48)
Donations	\$131.83	\$175.00	(\$43.17)
Educational Activities	\$0.00	\$500.00	(\$500.00)
Interest	\$237.36	\$315.22	(\$77.86)
Unspecified from RASC National	\$1,196.40		\$1,196.40
Sales of Merchandise	\$550.00	\$1,610.00	(\$1,060.00)
Nova East (Net)	\$0.00	(\$100.07)	\$100.07
Nova Notes Print Subs	\$157.00	\$157.00	\$0.00
SCO Special fundraiser	\$9,090.00		
Miscellaneous		\$3.00	(\$3.00)
Total Revenue	\$13,266.89	\$5,686.93	(\$1,510.04)
Expenses			
Meetings	\$230.00	\$282.14	(\$52.14)
Newsletter	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Depreciation and write offs	\$363.99	\$479.18	(\$115.19)
Equipment and Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Purchase of merchandise	\$0.00	\$1,130.70	(\$1,130.70)
Office Administration	\$228.85	\$392.29	(\$163.44)
Educational Activities	\$329.13	\$832.20	(\$503.07)
Insurance	\$1,687.00	\$1,462.00	\$225.00
Awards and Donations	\$50.00	\$120.00	(\$70.00)
National Office Processing	\$96.69	\$100.76	(\$4.07)
Operating Expenses SCO	\$15,470.66	\$1,016.66	\$14,454.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$18,456.32	\$5,815.93	\$12,640.39
Operational Surplus (Deficit)	(\$5,189.43)	(\$129.00)	(\$14,150.43)

A) Income:

- Membership fee revenue had decreased. Fees had been tracked until the new platform had been implemented. Part of the income is in "unspecified" from the RASC
- Sale of merchandise had a decrease, in part due Explore the Universe being given to all new members versus being sold through our Centre.
- The SCO special fundraiser raised \$9,090.00. Donations totalled \$8610.00 with an additional \$480.00 from astroimage sales.

B) Expenses:

- A highlight this past year was the SCO electrification project with expenses to date of \$15,470.00; Halifax Centre donated \$7500.00 to that project. If you take out the electrification project from both the income and expense sheet, we made \$1,00.00 to \$1,200.00 in the past year.

Members noted it would be important for the RASC to know income and expenses for their year-end reports. Questions arose about future expenses for the SCO project that were addressed by Joh Liddard; it was estimated to be around \$1,400.00 and prioritization of items have been made. Nova Notes should show both expenses and income; Gregg noted that expenses related to shipping and mailing are still pending.

C) Balance Sheet:

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Halifax Centre			
Comparative Balance Sheet			
Years Ending September 30, 2020 and September 30, 2021			
September 30, 2021 Activity to: September 30, 2021	Years Ended September 30		Amount of Increase or (Decrease) during 2021
	2021	2020	
Assets			
Cash	\$5,166.49	\$10,057.34	(\$4,890.85)
Accounts Receivable	\$243.75		\$243.75
Investments	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Library Estimated	\$1,257.42	\$1,296.31	(\$38.89)
Observatory Equipment	\$10,513.68	\$10,838.78	(\$325.10)
Miscellaneous Estimated	\$137.40	\$320.05	(\$182.65)
Total Assets	\$25,318.74	\$30,512.48	(\$5,193.74)
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$497.51		\$497.51
Capital			
Nova East Working Equity	\$4,899.93	\$4,899.93	\$0.00
Common Equity	\$19,921.30	\$25,612.55	(\$5,691.25)
Total Capital	\$24,821.23	\$30,512.48	(\$5,691.25)
Total Liabilities and Capital	\$25,318.74	\$30,512.48	(\$5,193.74)

At the end of the year, we had \$50,166.00 in the bank. The Centre still has 2 GICs worth \$4,000 each and become due next June. Also note the estimated values of the library and the Observatory equipment. Gregg noted that this report will differ from the audited report expected in the Jan/Feb edition of Nova Notes.

211204AGM-Mot05:

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne to accept the financial report as presented.

CARRIED unanimously.

Before Nominations and elections were to be addressed, Judy thanked Wayne Harasimovitch and Dave Chapman for their service to the Halifax Centre. Dave has served the past several years as Observing Chair, and as Chair of the Deep-Sky Preserve (DSP) Committee where he will continue to participate. Wayne served as the Centre's Librarian.

Call for Nominations and Election of 2022 Board of Directors

Peter Hurley, Chair of the Nomination Committee, presented the nomination for the Board of Directors. There were 3 calls for nominations from the floor for the 2022 Board of Directors. The slate of nominees for the 2022 Board of Directors was then presented as follows:

Executive Committee

President – Judy Black

Vice-President – Patrick Kelly

Recording Secretary – Peter Hurley

Treasurer – Gregg Dill

Directors

Tim Doucette
Matthew Dyer
Paul Heath
David Hoskin
Kathy Walker
Jaime Whynot

There being no further nominations, the 2021 Board of Directors positions were elected by acclamation.

The Board had approved appointments at previous deliberations. Judy Black stated Mary Lou Whitehorne continues to be the Honorary President until December 2023. Thanks to Dave Lane stepping up earlier in this meeting, the Auditor position has been filled. The Nova East Planning Committee requires a Chairperson to begin the planning process for Nova East 2022 in February/March 2022.

Auditor	Dave Lane
DSP Committee, Co-Chairs	Peter Hurley, Tony Schellinck
Governance Committee	Judy Black
Librarian	Jerry Black
National Council Rep	Judy Black
Nominating Committee	Vacant
Nova East Planning Committee	
Nova Notes, Co-Editors	Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee
Observing Chair	David Hoskin
Outreach Chair	Paul Heath
SCO Manager	John Liddard

There were 3 calls for nominations from the floor for the appointed positions. Peter stated the appointments would be approved by the incoming Board at their January 4, 2022 meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 PM AST.

2021 Annual Report: President

2021 is now in the history books and with it is my second term as President. I feel the challenges of 2021 have been addressed by the incredible team on the Board of Directors and its committees. It is because of them that RASC Halifax Centre is continuing to thrive and grow.

Nova Notes once again is one of the best Centre newsletters in the RASC. A special thanks to Lisa Ann Fanning and John McPhee for their incredible work over the past year. Many thanks also go to those who submitted articles and photos in the past year.

Outreach and observing events at the Halifax Centre again were at a minimum this past year due to the pandemic restrictions but that did not appear to dampen volunteer efforts. Congratulations and thank you to members who stepped up at events once the emergency measures were modified to allow for small groups.

Nova East was cancelled this year due to the Provincial Park restrictions. I am sure we are all looking forward to the possibility of an on-site event in 2022.

In fall 2020, members approved going forward with an electrical upgrade. Many thanks to John Liddard, SCO Manager, for spearheading this project. The SCO Fundraising Committee implemented a fund development plan to ensure the project goes forward (Blair MacDonald, Matthew Dyer, Gregg Dill) and that plan continued into this year. The Centre thanks Minas Energy and K-Line Construction for their generous offers, expertise, and time to make the upgrade come to fruition.

Our Members' Meetings continued using Zoom as way to remain in contact – Centre meetings, virtual observing, and astro-imaging sessions. Using Zoom had several advantages over the past year of lockdowns and group gathering restrictions:

- RASC Halifax Centre members from anywhere in the province could participate.
- Board and committee members outside Metro could be recruited for active participation because travel to meetings was not required.
- RASC members from across Canada and the USA's Eastern seaboard could also be involved.
- Recruitment for Board and committee members outside the Metro area was easier when travel not required; consequently, we have Board members from Yarmouth to Truro to Hall's Harbour.

Use of Zoom will continue into 2022 and, when we once again meet face-to-face, we will investigate using both 'live' and Zoom capabilities.

This was the third year we have been meeting on the first Saturday afternoon at 1 pm of each month except July and August. Social time with fellow members is important and since November 2020 the Astro-Chat was included at the end of the meeting. Members were welcomed to stay online for an informal, non-recorded session. This will continue in 2022 to be part of the meeting agenda.

I would like to thank all the volunteers on our Board and its committees, and to our members who volunteered for our outreach and observing events. Dave Chapman (Observing Chair, Co-Chair of the DSP Committee) and Wayne Harasimovitch (Director, Librarian) are stepping down for their roles. Many thanks to these dedicated members for their expertise and time spent on RASC Halifax endeavours. They aren't gone from the Centre and I'm sure we can engage them in other ways in the coming year.

Here is the list of 2021 RASC Halifax Centre team whose efforts made the past year possible.

<p>Board of Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: Judy Black • Vice-President: Patrick Kelly • Secretary: Peter Hurley • Treasurer: Gregg Dill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Tim Doucette, Matthew Dyer, Wayne Harasimovitch, Paul Heath, David Hoskin, Kathy Walker
<p>Appointed Positions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honorary President: Mary Lou Whitehorne • Auditor: Ian Anderson • Co-Editor, Nova Notes: Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee • Deep-Sky Preserve Committee: Dave Chapman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Committee: Judy Black • Librarian: Wayne Harasimovitch • National Council Representative: Judy Black • Observing Chair: Dave Chapman • Outreach Chair: Paul Heath • SCO Manager: John Liddard
<p>Dark-Sky Preserve Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair: Dave Chapman, Tony Schellinck • Members: Paul Gray, Melody Hamilton, Peter Hurley, Tony Schellinck, Chris Young 	<p>Nominating Committee</p> <p>Peter Hurley (Chair), Chris Young, Judy Black (ex officio)</p>
<p>Governance Review Committee</p> <p>Judy Black (Chair), Patrick Kelly, Gregg Dill</p> <p>SCO Usage Review Task Team</p> <p>Kathy Walker, David Hoskin</p>	<p>SCO Fund Development Committee</p> <p>Blair MacDonald (Chair), Matthew Dyer, Gregg Dill, Judy Black (ex officio)</p>

We have an incredible Centre for which we should all be proud. A sincere thank you to everyone for your support and the expertise you provided me and my fellow Board members in the past year. I look forward to again working with you and for you in the coming year.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Look up, the skies are open.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Black, President
RASC, Halifax Centre

2021 Annual Report: Vice-President

With Judy Black as the Centre's President, there is not a lot left over for a Vice-President to do. As Judy was out of town for a Board meeting and the Centre Member's Meeting that followed it, I did get two chances to fill in as "acting president".

The two main projects I worked on this year were a guide to selecting binoculars for astronomy, which is now on our web site, and wrangling with the data from the membership survey that was undertaken this year.

It was a lot of fun working with the Board this year, and hopefully next year I will be a bit busier!

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Kelly, Vice-President
RASC Halifax Centre

2021 Annual Report: Secretary

The principal duty of the secretary is to provide minutes, agendas, and meeting announcements to the Board of Directors and to the Members of the Centre. An additional duty is to book meeting rooms for our meetings and, in the past, meeting space has been generously provided by St. Mary's University.

As a result of COVID-19 in 2020 and public health measures put in place to help control the spread of the virus, RASC Halifax Centre adopted Zoom, a web-based computer video conferencing tool to host our Member's, Board, and Committee meetings virtually. We used Zoom throughout 2021 for all our meetings and for virtual observing sessions and other in-reach sessions.

Member's meeting switched to the first Saturday of the month, unless that fell on a holiday. Board meetings would usually meet the Tuesday before the Member's meeting. There were 10 regular Member's meetings all using Zoom; no meetings were held in July or August. There were also 10 regular meetings of the Board again all using Zoom. The Annual General Meeting is usually held on the same day but before the Member's meeting in December, and that will be the case again in 2021, using Zoom.

There have been other consequences of COVID-19. The annual Nova East Star Party was cancelled again in 2021, as was the annual BBQ at SCO. But the Kejimikujik Dark-Sky Weekend was able to go ahead although with some new and innovative modifications. Guidelines for use of SCO were modified as NS Provincial Health COVID-measures changed, but SCO remained open for use and observing sessions continued as measures permitted members to access SCO.

Membership increased in 2021. The membership of the Centre as of October 2021 totaled 180 members (up from 173 last year).

- 28 Family
- 124 Regular
- 2 Regular US
- 21 Life
- 5 Youth

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary
RASC, Halifax Centre

2021 Annual Report: Dark-Sky Preserve Committee

After no Dark-Sky Weekend in 2020 (because of park renovations, not COVID), we cautiously planned with Kejimkujik to have an event in 2021, although the format was a little different due to COVID restrictions.

The DSW was held over 4 nights, Thursday 12 August to Friday 14 August, starting one day earlier to include the peak of the Perseid meteor shower. Incredibly, it was clear all 4 nights (unheard of). We opted not to have people look through telescopes, and instead set up telescopes with cameras and monitors.

This seemed to work OK and may be included in future events to a limited extent. The necessity to limit and control crowds during COVID introduced additional complications of participants registering and checking in for events, plus dividing the activities between the Sky Circle field and Merrymakedge Beach.

Again, this is something we may consider for future. By all accounts, DSW 2021 was successful but also more complicated than previous years. Its success was made possible by the close cooperation between RASC volunteers and Kejimkujik staff.

In February, Dave and Tony were invited to Kejimkujik to inspect the lighting of the new washrooms, the installation of which cancelled the 2020 DSW and all front country camping. There had been concerns raised on social media about the apparent high levels. There are good things about the new design (no up-light) but overall we felt that the levels were higher than recommended by RASC for Dark-Sky compliance. We've had a couple of meetings on the issue and are continuing to talk with a view to "continuous improvement." The washrooms embedded in the vegetative screening of the main campsite are of little concern to us, but we are more concerned about those near beaches that could be used for dark-sky viewing. Nothing has been fully resolved to date; however, both RASC and Kejimkujik are committed to improving the lighting conditions at the park to make them more "observer-friendly" and we continue to enjoy a good working relationship.

In terms of volunteer-hours, we had 14 volunteers this year (mostly for DSW) who accounted for 322 person-hours of volunteer work (average of 23 h +/- 11h). This includes not only in-person time on-site but also travelling, planning, and virtual meetings (mostly for DSW but also regarding the new washroom lighting). Thanks to: Jerry Black, Judy Black, Jeff Donaldson, Paul Heath, David Hoskin, Peter Hurley, Wayne Mansfield, Fiona Morris, Keegan Oickle, Karl Penney, Daphne Themelis, and Chris Young.

In 2022, the DSP Committee co-chairs to be appointed are Tony Schellinck and Peter Hurley. Other members will include Dave Chapman, Paul Gray, Melody Hamilton, and Chris Young.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Chapman and Tony Schellinck
Co-Chair, Dark-Sky Preserve (DSP) Committee
RASC, Halifax Centre

2021 Annual Report: Governance Committee

I would like to thank my fellow members on the Governance Committee, Patrick Kelly and Gregg Dill, for the work accomplished in the past year. Kathy Walker and David Hoskin were members of the SCO Usage Review Task Team and provide insight as to what, if any, revisions should be made as provincial COVID-19 restrictions changed.

No changes to the Bylaw #1 nor the Objectives were recommended.

With the recommendations from the Committee, the Board of Directors approved the following additions to the RASC Halifax Centre policies and guidelines found on the RASC Halifax website.

- a) **Policy G6: Procedures Regarding Nominations, Elections & Appointments** – (Adopted October 19, 2018; Revised June 1, 2021) The process for appointments was clarified as it differed from election of the Board of Directors.

- b) **Policy G11: Policy Regarding RASC Halifax Centre Membership and Conflict Resolution** – (Adopted June 1, 2021) Based on the example and recommendation of the RASC Board of Directors, a document regarding conflict resolution was developed.
- c) **Guidelines Regarding the Use of the St. Croix Observatory (SCO)** – (Adopted Nov 2, 2021) members were apprised of revisions to the policy approved by the Board. Phase 5 Guidelines were approved on November 2, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Judy Black, Chair
 Governance Committee
 RASC, Halifax Centre

2021 Annual Report: National Council

These are the main activities for 2021:

- **RASC:** A new site for National Office was located and the office plus the Dornier Telescope Museum will be moving in December 2021. Brandon Roy, Malhar Kendurkar and Betty Robinson joined the Board of Directors in the past year.
- **The Centre Manual** continues to be drafted. Elements of the Manual are being developed such as volunteering and some sections being revised.
- **Driven!** This is the system adopted to keep track of memberships, run the on-line store, etc. It replaced iMIS with a system that should be easier (and cheaper) to maintain, plus come with modules for tasks that we cannot currently do on iMIS. The new system came into effect in early 2021. New membership database is fully working. Identified challenges of the system are being addressed by the Society Office.
- **Total Solar Eclipse Task Force:** Randy Attwood leads the team to coordinate preparations for the 2024 total solar eclipse. Its objective is for safe observing and to promote the event through the RASC and in conjunction with other organizations such as CASCA, the FAAQ, the Canadian Space Agency and the Canadian Association of Science Centres.
- **RASC General Assembly Working Group:** Randy Attwood leads this team to develop materials for a host centre to follow from the initial offer to hold a GA through the planning process followed by running of the event is being developed. Judy Black volunteered to assist Randy in this endeavour along with others to make this a true coast-to-coast project.
- **Policy and By-law Changes:** There were some housekeeping changes made by the RASC Board of Directors.
 - Policy G9: Nomination and Election of Officers – This was revised to conform with the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporation.
 - The RASC Board removed the Bylaw #1 prohibition stating “9.1.4 No person who is a Director of the Society, or who is President, a Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer of the Society, may simultaneously be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or a National Council Representative of a Centre”; it will be ratified at the June 2022 AGM.
 - A risk mitigation statement is being developed for inclusion on the RASC member registration and renewal forms. A best practices document is being developed for Centres to reference.
- **RASC Liability Insurance:** Centres forwarded questions regarding volunteer and event liability. They have been forwarded to the insurance broker for answering and preparing a document.
- **National RASC Committees:** Virginia DiCiocco is replacing Roland Deschenes as Chair of the Inclusivity and Diversity Committee. Chris Beckett is replacing Paul Gray as editor of the RASC Calendar.

The *New Observers to Visual Astronomy (NOVA)* program is being revised by the EPO Committee to include videos and printed materials for presentation in 5 to 8 sessions. The eight modules will include topics relating to astronomical objects, telescopes, and other equipment plus some science.

• **National Finances:** SkyNews profit in 2020 was approximately \$2400; the unaudited 2021 revenue is projected to be upwards of \$90,000. Investments are also bouncing back.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Black, NC Representative
RASC, Halifax Centre

2021 Annual Report: Nova Notes

To date four issues of Nova Notes have been published, with the fifth and final issue for 2021 to be published at the end of December (content deadline is December 18, 2021).

Nova Notes got a facelift this year as well with the inclusion of more colour photographs per edition and an increased size limit of website storage of each PDF increased to 10 MB. Many thanks to Jerry Black for getting this done!

The editorial staff consisted of John McPhee who focused on copy edit and Lisa Ann Fanning who solicited content and performed layout. Additional review was provided by Judy Black and Pat Kelly.

Jerry Black assisted with posting to the Halifax Centre website. Once posted, editions are promoted with a Member Announcement (via email), and announcements on the RASC Facebook page and Listserv.

Current editions are also displayed at each monthly meeting as well as an update on upcoming deadlines for content by the President, Judy Black.

Edition Sizes:

- Jan/Feb 2021 (Vol 52 No 1) issue was 28 pages total
- March/April 2021 (Vol 42 No 2) issue was 20 pages total
- May/June 2021 (Vol 42 No 3) issue was 27 pages total
- September/October 2021 (Vol 42 No 4) issue was 24 pages total

Regular features include:

- *From the Editor* (John McPhee and Lisa Ann Fanning alternating)
- *A Message from the President* (Judy Black)
- Halifax centre Information page
- *Food for the Soul* (poetry by Paul Heath)
- *Members' Universe* (a new feature with member news and submitted work)
- Member's Meetings reports

Main cover photos were provided by: John A. Read, Kathy Walker, David Hoskin and Jason Dain.

Contributors of articles, photos and sketches include Jerry Black, Judy Black, Dave Chapman, Jason Dain, Tim Doucette, Lisa Ann Fanning, Melody Hamilton, Paul Heath, David Hoskin, Blair MacDonald, Tony McGrath, Fiona Morris, John A. Read, Kathy Walker and Jaime Whynot.

The 2020 AGM Minutes and Auditor's reports appeared in the Jan/Feb 2021 edition.

News from the Governance Committee appeared in the May/June 2021 edition.

The May/June 2021 edition was themed "Sun, Moon and More" and featured many Solar, Lunar and June 10, 2021 Solar Eclipse photos.

Regular updates appeared in each edition regarding the St. Croix Observatory (SCO) COVID guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the many folks who put effort into making Nova Notes a success!

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Ann Fanning and John McPhee
Nova Notes Co-Editors
RASC, Halifax Centre

2021 Annual Report: Observing Committee

This year was interesting, owing to COVID restrictions. RASC Halifax Centre did not offer any public observing events other than the Kejimkujik Dark Sky Weekend (reported on elsewhere). Activity at the Centre's Saint Croix Observatory was low, probably owing to COVID restrictions. Several "virtual" observing sessions were conducted online via Zoom, thanks to the help of Dave Lane, Jerry Black, Blair MacDonald, and Judy Black.

The following Observing Certificates were earned and awarded (congratulations to all!):

1. Explore the Universe – Jeanette Kenny
2. Explore the Moon—Binocular: Melody Hamilton and Liz Greenough
3. Explore the Moon—Telescope: Judy Black, David Hoskin, John Read, Lisa Ann Fanning, and Liz Greenough
4. Double Stars: Melody Hamilton

The Chair has been aided by Melody Hamilton and David Hoskin. Melody originally came on board to support observing certificate applications by members of the Minas Astronomy Group; however, neither MAG nor RASC Halifax had in-person meetings in 2021, so very little in-person reviewing was done. Melody and Dave happen also to be members of the Society-wide RASC Observing Committee, and have been active in that domain, reviewing applications and guiding policy. David Hoskin came on board in anticipation of following Dave Chapman as Chair and reviewed 3 Explore the Moon applications this year.

David Hoskin has been nominated to Chair the Observing Committee. Committee members will include Melody Hamilton and Dave Chapman (for continuity).

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Chapman
Observing Committee Chair
RASC, Halifax Centre

2021 Annual Report: Outreach

COVID-19 again shut us down for the most part for outreach events. We had three school requests which we were unable to fulfill.

Dark-Sky Weekend (DSW) was a great success again this year, even with the COVID-19 restrictions. The audiovisual presentation at Merrymakedge Beach saw 27 registrants on night one and 20 on night two before all headed to the beach for a guided binocular tour with Tony Schellinck. More than 120 over two nights enjoyed the sky lore presentations of Dave Chapman and Chris Young. We had 14 volunteers over 4 days who averaged 21 hours +/-5 hours each, including meetings, prep, travel, and program delivery.

Dave Chapman was able to get out and do outreach, THANKS DAVE, and Cathy LeBlanc.

Halifax Planetarium: 15 people

Lunenburg Library (with Cathy LeBlanc): 26 people

The Deanery Project: Dave Chapman hosted 2 events, 12 people each

Mi'kmaq Moons on-line presentation.

Blair MacDonald conducted two astroimaging workshops on using masking to a total of 24 participants

Hopefully, the upcoming year will allow us to do public outreach once more as we have done in the past.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Heath
Outreach Chair
RASC, Halifax Centre

2020 - 2021 Annual Report: Manager, St. Croix Observatory

The COVID-19 continued to have an impact on the use of the St. Croix Observatory (SCO) for 2021. The annual BBQ had to be cancelled again for the 2021 season. However, loosening of government restrictions and availability of vaccinations had allowed for an increase in the use of SCO by members as long as they adhered to the provincial guidelines.

2021 continued to provide opportunity to attend to necessary maintenance. The door to the storage room/bathroom building had received temporary repairs to the deadbolt and casing strike area. It has made the door easier to lock and unlock but a more permanent repair will require the replacement of the door casing. Age and past vandalism have taken its toll on the casing, and it is not allowing the door to hang properly.

The majority of the electrical upgrades to provide SCO with AC power from the Minas Energy power grid have been completed. The lighting in the warm room and the roll-off observatory have been upgraded with red and white LED bulbs and dimmer switches. An external flood light that can be used for packing up in the dark has been added above the warm room door. A total of 3 electrical circuits now exists in the roll-off observatory and all electrical outlets for the roll-off observatory have been upgraded and replaced. There are now three quad outlets along the inside north wall, three quad outlets along the inside south wall, and three double outlets along the outside of the south facing wall.

Electrical upgrades that remain to be completed are replacing the propane furnace with an electric heater and bringing AC power and lights over to the storage room/bathroom building. Lighting in the storage room/bathroom is still provided through the 12v solar storage system. The date to complete these upgrades is still to be determined and will be visited again in the spring.

An interesting (non-astronomical) event was experienced in late September 2021. While tending to some maintenance, the hatching of 44 snapping turtles was witnessed near the warm room and efforts ensured they all made it safely to the water. We will be in discussions with appropriate wildlife experts to ensure future nests are well protected from foot traffic.

In summary, attendance/use of SCO has seen an increase in 2021 with the addition of three new keyholders. Responses regarding the upgrades has been highly favorable with everyone enjoying the new lighting and abundant supply of electricity.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Liddard
SCO Manager
RASC, Halifax Centre

Nominating Committee Report

The following is the list of nominations put forward to the Board on November 2, 2021, and to all members as of November 13, 2021, through the Announce List. The call for further nominations will be made at the AGM on December 4, 2021.

President	Judy Black
Vice-President	Pat Kelly
Secretary	Peter Hurley
Treasurer	Gregg Dill
Director	Tim Doucette
Director	Matthew Dyer
Director	Paul Heath
Director	David Hoskin
Director	Kathy Walker
Director	Jaime Whynot

The following appointments were discussed at the Board of Directors meeting of November 2, 2021. The positions will be appointed by the newly elected Board at their meeting in January 2022. The call for further nominations will be made at the AGM on December 4, 2021.

Honorary President	Mary Lou Whitehorne
2022 Auditor	Vacant*
Dark-Sky Preserve (DSP) Committee, Co-Chairs	Tony Schellinck, Peter Hurley
Governance Committee	Judy Black
Librarian	Jerry Black
National Council Representative	Judy Black
Nominating Committee	Peter Hurley
Nova East Planning Committee	Vacant
Nova Notes, Co-Editors	Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee
Outreach, Chair	Paul Heath
Observing, Chair	David Hoskin
SCO Manager	John Liddard

* Dave Lane volunteered at AGM; appointed as Auditor at the January 4, 2022 Board of Directors meeting

Policy G6: Procedures regarding Nominations, Elections and Appointments can be found on the RASC Halifax centre website (https://halifax.rasc.ca/images/documents/G6_Nominations_Elections.pdf).

Respectfully Submitted,
 Peter Hurley, Chair
 Nominating Committee
 RASC Halifax Centre