



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM AST

Via Zoom – Meeting 869 0010 9721, Passcode 847370

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents / Notes
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Agenda Review Action List Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting 	Information Approval	Tony McGrath	Pre-circulated: Agenda: February 25, 2025 Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Open Action List Minutes: January 28, 2025
	2. SCOPE Fund & Astroimages Sale	Discussion Decision	Tony McGrath Guests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Lou Whitehorne Blair MacDonald 	Refer to Agenda Notes #5: SCOPE Fundraising Agenda Note #6: PayPal
ONGOING ITEMS				
	3. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Board Meeting Dates Confirm Member's Meeting agenda Zoom/SMU Bookings Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations Nominations for vacant Board and Appointed positions 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Tony McGrath	Refer to Agenda Notes #2: Speakers & Approved 2025 Public Meeting Dates Refer to Agenda Notes #3: Approved 2025 Board Meeting Dates
	4. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Report of Feb. 9/25 meeting pre-circulated Next NC Meeting, April 13, 2025 Pre-circulated
	5. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #4: Website Update
	6. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Status Auditor Report 	Discussion	Gregg Dill	Auditor Report from Dave Chapman circulated with Agenda
	7. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Requests Additional SCO Observing Nights NOVA information 	Discussion Decision	David Hoskin	Agenda Note #7: NOVA
RASC HALIFAX CENTRE – GOALS & OBJECTIVES				
	8. 2025 Goals & Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize next steps Develop Action Plan Centre Membership Status 	Ongoing Discussion	Tony McGrath Judy Black	Form a task team to develop an action plan
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	10. Nova East	Information	Judy Black	
	12. SCO	Discussion	Tony McGrath	n/a

	• Maintenance & Development Plan			
	13. 2025 Board Reference Manual	Discussion	Judy Black	n/a
NEW BUSINESS				
	14. CASCA AGM	Discussion	Tony McGrath	n/a
	15.			
Adjournment				
9:00 PM	Adjournment			(Next meeting: April 1, 2025)

RASC, Halifax Centre – Public Meeting
Saturday, March 1, 2025: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Via Zoom - Meeting ID 869 5041 2602, Passcode 522931

Time	<i>Member & Public Meeting</i>		
1:00 PM	Item		
	1. Welcome & Introductions • Photo Montage • ETU Guides for sale	Information	David Hoskin
	2. Special Presentation: <i>Robyn Foret – RASC Awards</i>	Presentation	Robyn Foret
	3. Outreach Opportunities • Food for the Soul: <i>Pencil Awaits</i>	Information	David Hoskin Paul Heath
	4. News from the Board	Information	Peter Hurley
	5. National Council Update	Information	Judy Black
	6. What's Up in March?	Information	David Hoskin
4:00 PM	Adjournment		

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

Present: Tony McGrath (President), Peter Hurley (Vice-President), Judy Black (Secretary), Gregg Dill (Treasurer), David Hoskin, Matt Dyer, Patrick Kelly (Hon. President).

Guest: Blair MacDonald

Regrets: Mary Lou Whitehorne.

1. Welcome & Introductions

- f. Tony called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and welcomed Board members. He asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda which had been circulated.

250225MN-Mot01

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the January 28, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated.
CARRIED.

From June 18, 2024

Action 4: Open. Tony reviewed one of the tech tools and found we did not qualify. He will be examining another tool.

From September 3, 2024

Action 11: Open.

From December 3, 2024

Action 1: Open.

From January 28, 2025

Action 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14: Closed.

Action 10, 11: Open

Tony asked if there were errors or omissions in the January 28, 2025 minutes.

250225MN-Mot02

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the January 28, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as circulated.
CARRIED.

2. SCOPE Fund & Astroimage Sale

a) Astroimage Sales

Blair MacDonald, who was a member of the Fundraising Task Team, explained the proposal with APS and the need to acquire a PayPal account. He described the difference between a 'listed' and 'unlisted' account:

- Listed Fundraiser with PayPal:
 - No fee for setting up or maintaining an account
 - SCOPE would be listed on the PayPal site; advertised worldwide
 - There would be a charge for each transaction that PayPal takes before depositing monies into our account:
 - Cost of CDN transaction: \$.30 + 2.9% of transaction
 - Cost of US transaction: \$.30 + 3.7% of transaction
 - Cost of other transactions (not CDN or USA): \$.30 + 3.9% of transaction
- Unlisted Fundraiser:
 - Not listed on PayPal fundraiser page; only those who go to our website, FB page and other sources we choose to advertise.
 - We would be required to send a prospective purchaser the link with every request
 - The customer may receive a charge.

Blair recommended we go with the Listed fundraiser. He Has had discussions with Allen Sutherland who in turn had discussions with the company providing the shopping cart. Normally, we would be paying \$6.75 per month for the service but the company has agreed to only charge \$.05 per image per month.

The cost for printing for us through APS is at their professional rate, not commercial rate. For example, an 8"x10" is \$6.49 commercial versus \$4.54 professional and an 8"x12" is \$10.99 commercial versus \$4.83 professional.

250225MN-Act01

Blair MacDonald will circulate information acquired from Allen Sutherland and PayPal to the Board.

b) Matching Donations for SCOPE Fund

Judy Black explained there had been confusing messages regarding the value of the funds to be matched, i.e., was it the \$5000 from Michelle Lane or was it \$10,000 with Tony Schellinck's additional \$5000 donation. Members agreed it should be the latter. With donations received plus the Roy Bishop telescope sale, there has been \$1670 donated to date.

Judy Black noted the fundraiser had been reported in *The Weekly Bulletin* this past Monday. Blair had also contacted Mike Gatto to develop a better looking ad for the April edition of the JRASC.

Gregg Dill suggested we should acknowledge these donations. There isn't a sample letter we could use.

250225MN-Act02

Judy Black to find a template for a donor thank you letter.

250225MN-Act03

Judy Black revise the announcement developed for the 2025 Jan/Feb edition of *Nova Notes*.

Members agreed the \$10,000 matching fund plus the astroimage sale should be announced this weekend.

250225MN-Act04

Peter Hurley will announce the official opening of the Dave Lane Memorial SCOPE Fund and its two components: \$10,000 matching funds and astroimage sales.

ONGOING ITEMS**3. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers**

The list of meetings was presented in Agenda Notes #2 of the agenda. Judy noted we are still waiting to hear about the October 4 speaker being acquired by Paul Gray. Otherwise, speakers have been acquired for all meetings except the December AGM.

The Public Meeting agenda was reviewed. All room bookings for the year are confirmed.

250225MN-Act05

Judy Black to contact Paul Heath regarding a poem for *Food for the Soul* at the upcoming public meeting.

Nominations for Vacant Board Positions

Tony noted there is still one opening for a director.

4. Report from National Council Representative

Judy Black had forwarded an NC report based on the draft minutes of meeting. She noted the positive financial position of the RASC compared to past couple of years. RASC was changing its website platform from Drupal7 to WordPress. Members will be apprised of when to expect a temporary shutdown of specific portions of the site.

Karim Jaffer (incoming EPO Chair) noted some of their activities. EPO hosted a Citizen Science Workshop & Townhall this past Sunday night. Four RASC Halifax Centre members (Judy Black, Matt Dyer, Karen Hamblin and Jeremy Kuzub) attended this worthwhile session. He also explained *A Seasonal Beginners' Observing Activity* is being developed for star parties. The NOVA program is being piloted in Victoria Centre. A live-stream *International Astronomy Day* (IAD) is being planned for May 3 and Centres will be encouraged to participate.

Judy noted that annual reports were due. The Centre report has been drafted by Judy and Tony McGrath; however, what was needed were suggestions for photos. Suggestions were made for photos from Nova East, the DSW, the IAD solar observing session at the Discovery Centre. Also required were the financial report and eclipse report, the latter of which we would not provide. Reports are to be sent to Robyn Foret and to Jenna Hinds. Judy also noted there had been a good discussion about Centre meeting expenditures and RASC fees.

5. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube

Tony stated the list of website updates is noted in Agenda Notes #4. Judy noted there were no further

additions to the list

6. Financial Update

Gregg could not report the amount in our account at this time. He did discuss with his financial advisor where best to invest the SCOPE funds. With an unknown market in our future, it was felt that GICs with annual renewal were the safest investment at this time. The consensus of members was the monies were not placed in the stock market but rather in low to no-risk investment such as GICs.

7. Education and Public Outreach

a) EPO Outreach:

David Hoskin reported the outreach event held at APS was a success. There were 10 members, 14 scopes and binoculars at the event. There was a lot of light pollution on this side of the building compared to their previous location.

Forty to fifty members of the public attended and many expressed interest in additional observing sessions. Members agreed this could be done, perhaps a telescope clinic in an evening or following one of our public meetings. Peter noted that York Redoubt is within the 10K circle from an airport, but that Harry Dewolfe Park is not. Perhaps an event could be held there.

David noted the Young Naturalists are at York Redoubt this coming Friday evening. Volunteers are required. Peter Hurley noted that our Centre's observing night also fell on Friday evening. It was decided that both could be conducted; David only required a couple of volunteers to assist with an event to be held at 7pm, lasting probably until 8:30pm.

b) New Observers to Visual Astronomy (NOVA)

Judy has been in contact with Lauri Roche, the EPO Chair at the time, who provided insight into the program. There were 12 sessions that could be held over a 6-week or 12-week timeframe, in-person or via Zoom. Whatever fees collected for the program that was paid to national RASC, 20% of the fee was retained by the National RASC and 80% would be forwarded to the Centre. There were various types of materials provided by the RASC for the Centre, the presenter and for the students. The 20% of the fees collected were needed for future improvements to the program.

RASC Halifax Centre – Goals and Objectives

8. 2025 Goals and Objectives

Tony noted he has done some work on this. Members were reminded that member retention and recruitment were two priorities identified at the previous meeting, and that determining why members left would be of benefit. Tony noted he is working with the list Peter Hurley provided of members who left in the past two years.

250225MN-Act06

Tony McGrath will forward a revised Goals and Objectives document.

Updates/Reports

9. Nova East

Judy Black stated she, Chris Young and Gary Weber had a brief chat of how to proceed with the upcoming Nova East chat with participation from Kingston Centre. There were five discussion areas identified: purpose/goals of a star party, when to hold it, length, themes, and associated workshops and activities. It was agreed that we would wait until the end of the chat to invite members to continue participating in chats to plan the 2025 Nova East. The chat is to be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

10. SCO

Tony McGrath stated he had been working on the plan. He will forward the plan to the Board following some consultation with frequent SCO users as to their perspective on upgrades and maintenance.

11. Board Reference Manual

Judy noted the Manual had been forwarded to members and requested they look at a portion to determine if information is accurate and if needed information is missing.

New Business

12. CASCA AGM

Tony stated the CASCA AGM is being held at SMU in June and wondered if we should have a presence. It was agreed we should contact National RASC to determine if they will be present at this event. If they are, we could ask for volunteers to assist at their table. If not, inquiries about a table at this event could be made with Dr. Rob Thacker.

250225MN-Act07

Judy Black to contact Jenna Hinds to determine if RASC is attending the CASCA AGM.

13. Clear Sky Chart (CSC) and International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)

For quite some time, our Centre donated \$50 CDN to both the CSC and the IDA. Gregg Dill suggested it was perhaps time to increase the amount being donated.

250225MN-Mot03

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Matt Dyer to increase the funds donated to the Clear Sky Chart (CSC) to \$100.
CARRIED

250225MN-Mot04

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by David Hoskin to increase the funds donated to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) to \$100 CDN.
CARRIED

250225MN-Act08

Gregg Dill to forward funds to the CSC and IDA as approved by the Board.

Adjournment

No further business to conduct.

250107MN-Mot05

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm. Our next meeting is April 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Black, Secretary

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
<p>Agenda Note #1re: Open Action List</p>	<p><u>June 18, 2024</u> 240618MN-Act04: Jeff Donaldson, John Liddard and Tony McGrath to explore the possible benefits of using tech tools available to nonprofit organizations through TechSoup and report back to the Board.</p> <p><u>Sept. 3, 2024</u> 240903MN-Act011: Tony McGrath to review the documentation that Jerry Black prepared for using the Celestron 8" SCT and Hyperstar.</p> <p><u>Dec. 3, 2024</u> 241203MN-Act01: The Governance Committee to provide a document for the March Board meeting regarding the retention and disposal of historical documents.</p> <p><u>January 28, 2025</u> 250128MN-Act01: Judy Black to contact Jenna Hinds to determine a date and time for Driven membership database training for Judy Black, Peter Hurley, Pat Kelly and Tony McGrath.</p> <p>250128MN-Act02: Peter Hurley to forward the Communications plan to Jeff Donald.</p> <p>250128MN-Act03: Judy Black to ask Jerry Black to change the wording to "open to members and the public."</p> <p>250128MN-Act04: Judy Black to add increases to fees paid to Clear Sky Chart (CSC) and to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) as a discussion/decision item on the February 25, 2025 Board agenda.</p> <p>250128MN-Act05: Judy Black to ask Jerry Black to change the August observing night to an invitation to join us at Nova East and to provide the link to the event site.</p> <p>250128MN-Act06: Judy Black to ask Jerry Black to change the Nova East Star Party home page to reflect the 2025 date and location change.</p> <p>250128MN-Act07: Tony McGrath is to determine a date for the SCOPE Fund Task Team (Tony, Blair MacDonald, Judy Black, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Gregg Dill) to meet.</p> <p>250128MN-Act08: Judy Black will contact Lauri Roche to confirm the fees associated with NOVA and the administrative responsibilities of the Centres.</p> <p>250128MN-Act09: Peter Hurley will compile a list of those RASC Halifax Centre members who have left in the past two years.</p> <p>250128MN-Act10: All Board members are requested to forward to Judy Black the travel expense reimbursement rates where they work or for whom they volunteer.</p> <p>250128MN-Act11: The Governance Review Committee is to develop a policy regarding travel expenses for Centre activities.</p> <p>250128MN-Act12: Judy Black will forward the SCO Wish List to the Board.</p> <p>250128MN-Act13: Judy Black will distribute the Board Reference Manual to elected Board members before the end of February</p> <p>250128MN-Act14: Judy Black will distribute the revised 2025 Board contact list following this meeting.</p>
<p>Agenda Note #2 re: Speakers & 2025 Public Meeting Dates</p>	<p>2024/5 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events Members' Meeting dates, approved November 2023, are posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p>

	<p>Confirmed Location & Speakers for 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (AT101) March 1 – Robyn Foret (RASC/CASCA Awards) • (LA1171) April 5 – David Turner (The Crater near Indian Point on Mahone Bay) • (AT101) May 3 – Tony Schellinck (Women in Astronomy) • (AT101) June 7 – Blair MacDonald (Black Holes) • (AT101) September 6 – David Hoskin (All-in-One Smart Telescopes) • (AT101) October 4 – (Special Guest) • (AT101) November 1 – Patrick Kelly (Telling Time in Scotland: from stones to sundials) • (AT101) December 6 <p>Suggested Speakers / Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Falk (Edmond Halley) • John Badowski • SMU Astronomy and Physics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grad students • Tiffany Fields • Rob Thacker • https://rasc.ca/find-speaker
Agenda Notes #3: 2025 Board Meeting Dates	<p>Board Meeting Dates (no meetings July/August):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 1 • April 29 • June 3 • September 2 • September 30 • October 28 • December 2
Agenda Notes #4: Website Updates	<p>Updates on the Website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APS outreach event announcements • Updated March 1 Public Meeting information • SCOPE Fund information added
Agenda Notes #5: SCOPE Fundraising	<p>From Judy Black (Feb 21, 2025)</p> <p>I have read and heard a couple of versions of what is happening and I would like everyone to be on the same page and to have the Board approve how monies are accepted. I'm also looking at communications to our fellow RASC members here and further afield. I'm confused and would like clarification, as I'm sure you would, too.</p> <p><u>Regarding Matching Donations</u></p> <p>1- We have \$5000 Lane money to be matched. OK.</p> <p>2- We have \$5000 Lane money plus \$5000 Schellinck money:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a- Schellinck to be acknowledged as an additional \$5000 match money so that there would be a total of \$10,000 to match? OR b-Schellinck to be acknowledged only by the first \$1000 of the \$5,000 total, with the remaining \$4000 to be acknowledged at the AGM? <p>So far, we have sent out messages to our membership and fellow RASC members across Canada acknowledging only #1 to <i>Nova Notes</i>, the <i>RASC Bulletin</i> and the JRASC.</p> <p>3- If we are including the two donations as a single matching fund, the question is "When to acknowledge BOTH?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a- the total needs to be revised and Tony's name mentioned in a revised message going to all the publications mentioned above, OR b- there needs to be a follow-up message (date TBD) stating Tony has stepped up and is adding to funds other be matched. <p>4- If we have Tony's donation split, when do we acknowledge his generous first-part donation (and what about James' \$500 donation that for now is private)?</p> <p><u>Regarding Astroimages Sales</u></p>

	<p>Sales through e-transfer is easily done so that is not an issue. However, what about PayPal? (Refer to Agenda Note #6 regarding PayPal information from Blair MacDonald)</p> <p>1- When do the sales begin - March 1 or later?</p> <p>2- Who is managing the images that are supposedly changing every month or so?</p> <p>3- “Contract” with APS regarding the sales through them?</p> <p>4- Identify other logistics challenges do we have?</p> <p>I know I tend to go down into the weeds when it comes to process but I want to make sure the Board defines the process and the timelines they want used for both the matching and non-matching funds, and for the astroimages component of the fundraising.</p>								
<p>Agenda Note #6: PayPal</p>	<p>(From Blair MacDonald, Feb 16, 2025)</p> <p>I've done a little research into PayPal rates for fund raisers and there seems to be two categories: listed and unlisted. Listed becomes publicly visible while unlisted is visible only to those we send the link. Basically the unlisted version is free, but there is a currency conversion fee paid by the customer. Listed fundraisers will be billed \$0.30+3.9% for each transaction from the US and \$0.30+2.9% for Canadian customers. If we go with an unlisted fund raiser it lasts a month and then we have to renew it monthly. I would suggest the listed option. We only pay for each transaction and we can cover it in the pricing.</p> <p>Here are the details:</p> <p>Does PayPal charge any fees to create and run a PayPal Fundraiser?</p> <p>When creating your fundraiser, choose between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach a lot of people (raise money to support someone or something you care about) • Raise money with a small group (for more personal things like birthdays or group gifts) • Support a charity (mobilize your friends behind your favorite charity) <p>If you're raising money for a charity, PayPal covers the transaction fees, so 100% of the donation goes to the charity (when no currency conversion is involved).</p> <p>If you raise money for yourself, someone else, or a group, you can choose to make it a listed fundraiser or an unlisted fundraiser.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you choose to make it a listed fundraiser, where it's discoverable and promoted via the PayPal app and website, you'll pay a fee for every payment received in your listed fundraiser. • If you choose to unlist the fundraiser and share it only with selected people, there's no fee for you to pay. The donors may need to pay a standard personal transaction fee, depending on the payment method they use and the country/ region where their PayPal account is registered. They can see the fee amount when completing the donation. <p>From <https://www.paypal.com/ca/cshelp/article/does-paypal-charge-any-fees-to-create-and-run-a-paypal-fundraiser-help351></p> <p>Commercial Transaction Rates</p> <p>When you buy or sell goods or services, receive payments through QR codes, make any other commercial type of transaction, or receive a payment when you “request money” using PayPal, we call that a “commercial transaction”.</p> <p>Standard rate for receiving domestic transactions</p> <table> <tr> <th>Transaction Type</th><th>Rate</th></tr> <tr> <td>Commercial Transactions</td><td>2.90% + fixed fee</td></tr> <tr> <td>QR code Transactions – 10.01 CAD and above</td><td>1.90% + fixed fee</td></tr> <tr> <td>QR code Transactions – 10.00 CAD and below</td><td>2.40% + fixed fee</td></tr> </table> <p>Fee Table: Standard rate for receiving domestic transactions</p>	Transaction Type	Rate	Commercial Transactions	2.90% + fixed fee	QR code Transactions – 10.01 CAD and above	1.90% + fixed fee	QR code Transactions – 10.00 CAD and below	2.40% + fixed fee
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<p>Receiving international transactions</p> <p>The fee for receiving domestic transactions applies plus the additional percentage-based fee for international commercial transactions.</p> <p>Fee Table: Additional percentage-based fee for international commercial transactions</p> <table> <tr> <th>Payment Type</th><th>Rate</th></tr> <tr> <td>US - Commercial Transactions</td><td>0.80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>All other countries - Commercial Transactions</td><td>1.00%</td></tr> <tr> <td>US - QR code Transactions</td><td>0.80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>All other countries - QR code Transactions</td><td>1.00%</td></tr> </table> <p>Fixed fee for commercial transactions (based on currency received)</p> <p>From <https://www.paypal.com/ca/business/paypal-business-fees#statement-2></p> <table> <tr> <th>Currency</th><th>Fee</th></tr> <tr> <td>Australian dollar</td><td>0.30 AUD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brazilian real</td><td>0.60 BRL</td></tr> <tr> <td>Canadian dollar</td><td>0.30 CAD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Czech koruna</td><td>10.00 CZK</td></tr> <tr> <td>Danish krone</td><td>2.60 DKK</td></tr> <tr> <td>Euro</td><td>0.35 EUR</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hong Kong dollar</td><td>2.35 HKD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hungarian forint</td><td>90.00 HUF</td></tr> <tr> <td>Israeli new shekel</td><td>1.20 ILS</td></tr> <tr> <td>Japanese yen</td><td>40.00 JPY</td></tr> <tr> <td>Malaysian ringgit</td><td>2.00 MYR</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mexican peso</td><td>4.00 MXN</td></tr> <tr> <td>New Taiwan dollar</td><td>10.00 TWD</td></tr> <tr> <td>New Zealand dollar</td><td>0.45 NZD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Norwegian krone</td><td>2.80 NOK</td></tr> <tr> <td>Philippine peso</td><td>15.00 PHP</td></tr> <tr> <td>Polish zloty</td><td>1.35 PLN</td></tr> <tr> <td>Russian ruble</td><td>10.00 RUB</td></tr> <tr> <td>Singapore dollar</td><td>0.50 SGD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Swedish krona</td><td>3.25 SEK</td></tr> <tr> <td>Swiss franc</td><td>0.55 CHF</td></tr> <tr> <td>Thai baht</td><td>11.00 THB</td></tr> <tr> <td>UK pounds sterling</td><td>0.20 GBP</td></tr> <tr> <td>US dollar</td><td>0.30 USD</td></tr> </table> <p>Fixed fee for QR code transactions 10.01 CAD and above (based on currency received)</p> <table> <tr> <th>Currency</th><th>Fee</th></tr> <tr> <td>Australian dollar</td><td>0.10 AUD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brazilian real</td><td>0.20 BRL</td></tr> <tr> <td>Canadian dollar</td><td>0.10 CAD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Czech koruna</td><td>3.00 CZK</td></tr> <tr> <td>Danish krone</td><td>0.70 DKK</td></tr> <tr> <td>Euro</td><td>0.10 EUR</td></tr> </table>		Payment Type	Rate	US - Commercial Transactions	0.80%	All other countries - Commercial Transactions	1.00%	US - QR code Transactions	0.80%	All other countries - QR code Transactions	1.00%	Currency	Fee	Australian dollar	0.30 AUD	Brazilian real	0.60 BRL	Canadian dollar	0.30 CAD	Czech koruna	10.00 CZK	Danish krone	2.60 DKK	Euro	0.35 EUR	Hong Kong dollar	2.35 HKD	Hungarian forint	90.00 HUF	Israeli new shekel	1.20 ILS	Japanese yen	40.00 JPY	Malaysian ringgit	2.00 MYR	Mexican peso	4.00 MXN	New Taiwan dollar	10.00 TWD	New Zealand dollar	0.45 NZD	Norwegian krone	2.80 NOK	Philippine peso	15.00 PHP	Polish zloty	1.35 PLN	Russian ruble	10.00 RUB	Singapore dollar	0.50 SGD	Swedish krona	3.25 SEK	Swiss franc	0.55 CHF	Thai baht	11.00 THB	UK pounds sterling	0.20 GBP	US dollar	0.30 USD	Currency	Fee	Australian dollar	0.10 AUD	Brazilian real	0.20 BRL	Canadian dollar	0.10 CAD	Czech koruna	3.00 CZK	Danish krone	0.70 DKK	Euro	0.10 EUR
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New Taiwan dollar	10.00 TWD																																																																										
New Zealand dollar	0.45 NZD																																																																										
Norwegian krone	2.80 NOK																																																																										
Philippine peso	15.00 PHP																																																																										
Polish zloty	1.35 PLN																																																																										
Russian ruble	10.00 RUB																																																																										
Singapore dollar	0.50 SGD																																																																										
Swedish krona	3.25 SEK																																																																										
Swiss franc	0.55 CHF																																																																										
Thai baht	11.00 THB																																																																										
UK pounds sterling	0.20 GBP																																																																										
US dollar	0.30 USD																																																																										
Currency	Fee																																																																										
Australian dollar	0.10 AUD																																																																										
Brazilian real	0.20 BRL																																																																										
Canadian dollar	0.10 CAD																																																																										
Czech koruna	3.00 CZK																																																																										
Danish krone	0.70 DKK																																																																										
Euro	0.10 EUR																																																																										

	<p> Hong Kong dollar 0.80 HKD Hungarian forint 30.00 HUF Israeli new shekel 0.40 ILS Japanese yen 12.00 JPY Malaysian ringgit 0.70 MYR Mexican peso 2.00 MXN New Taiwan dollar 3.00 TWD New Zealand dollar 0.15 NZD Norwegian krone 1.00 NOK Philippine peso 5.00 PHP Polish zloty 0.50 PLN Russian ruble 3.00 RUB Singapore dollar 0.20 SGD Swedish krona 1.00 SEK Swiss franc 0.10 CHF Thai baht 4.00 THB UK pounds sterling 0.10 GBP US dollar 0.10 USD </p> <p>Fee Table: Fixed fee for QR code transactions 10.01 CAD and above (based on currency received)</p> <p>From <https://www.paypal.com/ca/business/paypal-business-fees#fees></p>
Agenda Note #7: NOVA	<p>RASC NOVA Program</p> <p>The New Observers to Visual Astronomy (NOVA) Program? 12 modules, each 1-hr long (activities and observations) but modules can be combined for 2-hour sessions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Orienting Yourself in the Night Sky 2. Measuring the Moving Sky 3. Constellations & Seasons 4. Seasonal Targets 5. History of Astronomy 6. Equipment 7. Helpful tools 8. (a) The Sun, (b) The Moon <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the 22-slide <i>Module 8a: Sun</i> was developed by Kim Hay, David Chapman, Curt Nason, Jo Ann Salci, Mark Smith. o the 23-slide <i>Module 8b: The Moon</i> was developed by David Chapman with Curt Nason and Jo Ann Salci. 9. Solar System Structure 10. Solar System Observing 11. Stars 12. Deep Sky Objects <p>Why \$\$\$? The monies collected is a means for further development of the program. RASC will be updating the program twice/year – costs associated with staff, Driven modifications to accommodate changes to the program, and further resource development. Need to avoid copyrighted materials!</p> <p>For RASC income, the NOVA program in future could also be sold for use by organizations outside the RASC to be an astronomy course, e.g., libraries, scouts/guides, schools.</p>

	<p>Who administers the collection of fees? For now, \$\$ collected by the host Centre and monies owed paid to National (20% to National, 80% to Centre). The new Driven system will mean eventual admin by National and Centres will be paid the 80% of fees paid. National Board to approve final cost; trying to keep cost down.</p> <p>Victoria and Montreal Centres split the program into 2 sections, each 5 weeks in duration: Modules 1-7, 8-12. Victoria Centre, for example, charges \$30 for members, \$60 for non-members for each of the 5-week sessions that means a student taking the full 12-module course would pay \$60 or \$120 respectively.</p> <p>NOVA Resources Provided by the RASC: <u>Centre Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Email template to send to students o Template for Certificate of Completion <u>Presenter Materials</u> (for each Module): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Presenter Manual pdf (speaker notes, time frames for each segment, etc.) o PowerPoint presentation (student do NOT receive the P/Pt slides) o Student activity handouts to top up the knowledge / skills learned then go outside to observe. Not all modules have activity handouts <u>Student Materials</u> (for each Module): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Handout for each module o Additional student resources (RASC and external websites related to the module) Potential Expenses to Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Advertising o Refreshments at each session o Space/venue rental (suggest finding a 'partner' that can provide free space) o Handout photocopying costs (or provide online for participants to print or retain as PDF) o Presenters (small honorarium, mileage reimbursement, etc.) </p>
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ACTION LIST (February 25, 2025):

From June 18, 2024		
240618MN-Act04	Jeff Donaldson, John Liddard and Tony McGrath to explore the possible benefits of using tech tools available to nonprofit organizations through TechSoup and report back to the Board.	Open
From September 3, 2024		
240903MN-Act011	Tony McGrath to review the documentation that Jerry Black prepared for using the Celestron 8" SCT and Hyperstar.	Open
From December 3, 2024		
241203MN-Act01	The Governance Committee to provide a document for the March Board meeting regarding the retention and disposal of historical documents.	Open
From January 28, 2025		
250128MN-Act10	All Board members are requested to forward to Judy Black the travel expense reimbursement rates where they work or for whom they volunteer.	Open
250128MN-Act11	The Governance Review Committee is to develop a policy regarding travel expenses for Centre activities.	Open
From February 25, 2025		
150225MN-Act01	Blair MacDonald will circulate information acquired from Allen Sutherland and	Open

	PayPal to the Board.	
150225MN-Act02	Judy Black to find a template for a donor thank you letter.	Open
150225MN-Act03	Judy Black revise the announcement developed for the 2025 Jan/Feb edition of <i>Nova Notes</i> .	Open
150225MN-Act04	Peter Hurley will announce the official opening of the Dave Lane Memorial SCOPE Fund and its two components: \$10,000 matching funds and astroimage sales.	Open
150225MN-Act05	Judy Black to contact Paul Heath regarding a poem for <i>Food for the Soul</i> at the upcoming public meeting	Open
150225MN-Act06	Tony McGrath will forward a revised Goals and Objectives document.	Open
150225MN-Act07	Judy Black to contact Jenna Hinds to determine if RASC is attending the CASCA AGM.	Open
150225MN-Act08	Gregg Dill to forward funds to the CSC and IDA as approved by the Board.	Open

MOTION LIST (February 25, 2025):

250225MN-Mot01	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the January 28, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated. CARRIED.
250225MN-Mot02	It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the January 28, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as circulated. CARRIED.
250225MN-Mot03	It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by Matt Dyer to increase the funds donated to the Clear Sky Chart (CSC) to \$100. CARRIED
250225MN-Mot04	It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by David Hoskin to increase the funds donated to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) to \$100 CDN. CARRIED
250225MN-Mot05	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin to adjourn.