



REGULUS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1991

NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGSTON CENTRE
OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

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ASTRONOMY DAY.....	Stan Hanna	(000)	000-0000
	Peggy Torney	(000)	000-0000

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Regular Meetings of the Kingston Centre, RASC are held in on the second Friday of each month at 8 p.m., in Room D-216, MacIntosh-Corry Hall, Queen's University. Non-members are welcome. Executive meetings are at 7:30 p.m.

- Fri., Nov., 8 REGULAR MEETING. Speaker, Leo Enright: "Sunspots"
- Fri., Dec. 13 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER – 6 P.M. AT THE MCGINNIS LANDING,
530 BATH ROAD, KINGSTON.
REGULAR MEETING – Program to be announced.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ian Levstein

Greetings to all and sundry. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed as September once again rolled around. As October starts, I begin to approach fall evenings with some trepidation, for as Orion begins to rise in the east, so surely will winter soon be upon us.

As the youngsters are once again back in school, it is time to remind everyone that one of my goals as president was to get young people involved in astronomy. My own astronomy club is still active, but I fear that many students are still slipping through our fingers. Where are our members who know teachers in the school system, or professors at Queen's or RMC? I am asking that you commit yourself to getting in touch with these people and invite them and their students to our meetings, or to allow us to set up a display and speak to the students. Only by personally reaching out will we pique the curiosity of a student.

Many thanks to all members who participated in the August 16th public observing session at Charleston Lake Provincial Park. Although the weather looked quite ominous at first, the clouds began to clear just after dusk, and by the time **Terry Dickinson's** slide show was over, the seeing wasn't too bad. Favourable views of Saturn, Albireo, M57, M27, M51, M31 and others were enjoyed by all. Same time, next year. Those of you who missed **Damien Lemay's** talk on September 26th are, at this moment, probably regretting your decision. **Damien** gave a most enthusiastic and educational talk on the contributions made to science and astronomy by amateurs. The slide show alone was worth the price of admission. Thanks also to **Ruth** and **Terry Hicks** who hosted a lovely reception for **Damien** and put him up for the night.

On Saturday, October 26th, Joyceville Public School had a Science Fair, and we were invited to set up a display, show slides, etc., from 11 p.m. In addition to myself, **Denise Sabatini** was there to help. By the way, **Terry Dickinson** also spoke at the Fair. The occasion was quite successful.

Do you have a program you would like to present? If so, please let me know so that I can schedule it. There are openings for most of 1992, so far, so there are plenty of dates to choose from. Two short programs in one evening would also work out quite nicely. Perhaps you have an idea for a program you would like to see, but would prefer someone else to prepare and present it? Let me know.

Well, that's all for now. See you soon.

DUES FOR 1992 NOW DUE

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP - \$40

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP (under 18) - \$25

SENIOR MEMBERSHIP (over 65) - \$25

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$640

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (spouse, child, or parent of member) - \$10

Our Treasurer PETER KIRK would appreciate receiving your remittance for dues at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
KINGSTON CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT 1991

The Kingston Centre had a very exciting and busy year, including guest speakers, the NFCAAA Conference and many exciting happenings.

Our first meeting on January 11, 1991, was cancelled due to a blizzard. Our new executive and members would have to wait till February to exchange observing reports and news. On February 2, 1991, our National Council Representative **Leo Enright** attended a National Council meeting in Toronto. At our regular meeting February 8, 1991, one of our Co-Astronomy Day Coordinators, **Stan Hanna**, gave a book review on Richard Preston's book At First Light, this was about the Hale 200" telescope. Also, our Vice President, **Vic Smida**, donated the book A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking, to our Library. Our President, with the backing of many members, wrote a letter to The Honorable Ruth Grier, Ontario Minister of the Environment, on the environmental rights and on light pollution. A reply to this letter was received on March 7, 1991, thanking us for our concerns to the Environmental Rights issue. March had two meetings for our Centre. One, our regular meeting on March 8, 1991, with **Peggy Torney**, our second Co-Astronomy Day Coordinator, giving a talk on A Voyage Through the Universe, taken from the 12 volume set of Time Life Books on Astronomy. With the use of slides, memory work, and crossword puzzles, the Centre's members participated in her talk. **Alister Ling**, noted Deep Sky Observer, writer and meteorologist, came by on March 26, 1991, and enlightened us with a talk and slides on Deep Sky Observing. **Alister** now lives in Edmonton with his wife **Valerie**, hopefully enjoying his passion of Deep Sky Observing.

In April our Centre was treated to a talk by our President **Ian Levstein**. His topic "The Surface is Fine and Powdery" was about the race for space from Sputnik to Apollo 17, with the use of slides and audio accompaniment (from his "boom box"). **Ian** also donated the soft-cover set of Burnham's Celestial Handbooks to the Centre. These will travel with our Centre telescope from now on. Our Astronomy Day celebrations, which were held at the Kingston Shopping Centre, April 20, 1991, included visual displays, hands-on displays, books, literature, and of course lots of telescopes. Our observing session for later that evening was cancelled due to rain.

The Kingston Centre hosted the NFCAAA Conference on May 4, 1991. The group was taken on a tour of the Holleford Crater, located outside of Hartington, Ontario, by **Leo Enright**. Later that evening, a dinner at the Holiday Inn with guest speaker **Dr. Martin Duncan**, speaking on "Chaos In the Solar System", provided us with another look at the many theories that are present in astronomy. Old friends were re-acquainted, and new friends were made, a good time was had by all. Our May meeting prepared us for the major event in July, the Eclipse. This talk was given by **Leo Enright**. Slides on types of eclipses and the cycles that they go through, showed us how the eclipses come about.

The National General Assembly was also held May 17 - 20, 1991, in Vancouver, B.C. Several members from the Kingston Centre attended. With about a month to go, several of our members were preparing themselves for the July 11, 1991, eclipse. But first to tease and tantalize us on June 14, 1991, was **Walter MacDonald**, with slides and a talk on the 1984 total eclipse. He also showed us slides of his home-made observatory and informed us of Farm-Fest, being held on the MacDonald farm September 6 - 8, 1991, just outside of Thomasburg.

Leo Enright informed our Centre that **David Levy** had just discovered his twelfth comet, on June 14, 1991. A card and letter of congratulations were sent on behalf of everyone at the Kingston Centre. Our one-and-only planet party was held on June 15, 1991, at Lemoine Point, airport side. This was held due to the coming conjunction of Venus, Jupiter and Mars. As usual, the weather did not fully cooperate, however, a few photos were taken of that memorable night.

The Eclipse Day has come and gone, and astronomers everywhere are still talking about it. For those members who did not go to Mexico, the Kingston Eclipse of 2% was clear and bright. At our July 19, 1991, meeting, some photos were shown of the Kingston Eclipse, thanks to **Ian Levstein**. Our Past President, **Denis Sabatini**, intrigued us with a wonderful and educational talk on Archeo-Astronomy, her passion subject. It is always interesting in seeing how ancient cultures lived and survived. Also, another accessory was purchased for the Centre's telescope, a Telrad. We now have a viewfinder that works.

Charleston Lake was the location for our August meeting, on August 16, 1991; This was in conjunction with **Terry Dickinson's** annual Star Party at which the Kingston Centre helps. Many scopes were there and **Terry's** talk with slides provided much information. Views of Saturn, the Ring Nebula, and meteors from the Perseid Meteor Shower shone brightly in the sky. There was a fair amount of people out to observe. It seemed to be a success despite the poor weather earlier in the evening.

The summer is over and the various routines begin again. Our September 13, 1991 meeting was Members' Night. We all talked about our summer observing, showed various slides and oowed and awed over the eclipse photos. Congratulations and kudos were given to Steve Mandars who received His Messier Certificate for finding all 110 Messier objects. His feat was started August 15, 1989, and completed May 14, 1991. The Grand finale to our Centre's happenings came on September 26, 1991, when **Damien Lemay**, President of the RASC, came and gave a talk on "Astronomy, Hobby or Science?" Many slides were shown of the sun, his observatories, telescopes and various starfields. **Leo Enright** attended another National Council meeting on September 28, 1991, in Toronto.

October 11, 1991, our President **Ian Levstein** presented this year's recipient of the **Dr. A. Vibert Douglas Award** to **Bill Broderick**, our newsletter editor. **Bill** also gave the Centre a talk and slide presentation on Light Pollution. **Terry Dickinson** also stopped by this evening and donated and autographed his new book, The Backyard Astronomer's Guide, to the Kingston Centre. Elections for the 1992 executive offices and committees were held and all positions were filled. The Kingston Centre has 52 members total, with 40 regular members, three senior members, one youth member, and eight life members.

This concludes the year at the RASC Kingston Centre so far. Congratulations to our current executive for a job well done, and congratulations for the new executive coming in to serve our Kingston Centre.

Respectfully Submitted
Kim Hay
Secretary, RASC
Kingston Centre

KINGSTON CENTRE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1991 8 P.M.
THE MCGINNIS LANDING
530 BATH ROAD. KINGSTON

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

As my year as President of the Kingston Centre comes to a close, I would like to share a few thoughts with the members.

The year began with a bit of a step backwards, as "Mother Nature" decided to unleash the worst snowstorm in memory, causing a cancellation of the January meeting. But by February, all was rolling nicely, and I began to feel quite comfortable in my new role. Despite the fine programs presented by our guest speakers, my favourite part of the evening was listening to the observing notes and finding out what was going on in the lives of the members. I find that the most difficult part of the job is putting together a schedule of programs for each month. Sometimes. I wonder if it will be able to keep even one or two months ahead of time, but so far I've been blessed with good luck, and I hope that the past year's programs have been both interesting and enjoyable. I have been pleased to welcome several new members to our Centre, and I hope that they have been pleased with the quality of the programs presented, and the information they have picked up along the way.

I would like to think that my efforts in getting students interested in astronomy have not been in vain, and that in future, even more young people will join our Centre, or join an astronomy club at their local school. I cannot stress more strongly the need to get youngsters interested in astronomy. Our future as a viable, vital and growing organization, as it has been so often pointed out, lies with our younger generation.

I must offer thanks to several people who have been invaluable in their assistance over the past year. First, **Denise Sabatini**, who right after last year's election, fed me suggestions for programs. I thought this was most appropriate since we were holding our monthly post-meeting meeting at Harvey's. Thanks also to **Bill Broderick** who, as editor of Regulus, has restored our newsletter to a newsworthy publication, and has been after me constantly to get my information to him on time. To **Stan Hanna**, for his Astronomy Day efforts to get display material and people to help out. And thanks to **Leo Enright** who has faithfully served for the past three years as our Representative to the National Council and now moves on to a much needed rest.

I look forward to a continued relationship with the RASC Kingston Centre.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Levstein

R.A.S.C. PROMOTIONAL ITEMS Available at the Kingston Centre

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. RASC Golf Shirts - sky blue in colour with dark blue emblem
Sizes Medium & large
Other colours available are Yellow, Pink, all sizes | \$20.00 |
| 2. RASC Keychains - clear acrylic with navy emblem on white insert
with metal ring | \$ 4.00 |
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These are available now from: **KIM HAY**, Secretary, RASC Kingston Centre
Phone 353-1189 or come and see me after one of our meetings.

FARM-PEST VII

By

Walter MacDonald

September is my favourite month of the year for observing. The nights are reasonably long but not too cold and there are no mosquitos to speak of. Under new moon conditions, the entire night sky is available for perusal--everything from Sagittarius and its summer sky environs in the evening to Orion and its winter sky environs in the morning. At this time of the year, the morning zodiacal light starts to come into its own. Such was the setting for Farm-Fest VII, held on the new moon weekend of September 6th, 7th, and 8th at the "Old MacDonald Farm".

Things got rolling on Friday afternoon with the arrival of the first participants. By the end of astronomical twilight approximately 15 people were present from Oshawa, Toronto, Trenton and Belleville. After a brief tour of the site (known as "LCOS", or the Lost Channel Observing Site) the observing commenced in earnest. Though some clouds floated by from time to time, the sky was otherwise clear. M13, 27, 56, and 57 were a few of the objects enjoyed with the 17½" Dobsonian. Once again Steve Chomniak brought his 13.1" Dobsonian and (more importantly!) his set of TeleVue eyepieces. Several of us observed until dawn and were treated to a preview of the winter sky. With twilight growing in the east, Orion was most of the way to the meridian, and even Sirius was well up! This, I thought, was a strange sight since all the trees were in leaf and the grass was still green!

Saturday was cloudy all day, which put a stop to the planned solar observing. By late afternoon it looked like it would be cloudy for the rest of the weekend. When complaints about the cloudy sky conditions surfaced, I reminded the participants that Farm-Pest only guaranteed dark skies, not clear skies!

Fortunately, the skies cleared at sunset and stayed clear for about three hours. An even bigger contingent from the Belleville astronomy group showed up this night, as did Leo and Denise. Twenty people were now in attendance. Once again the official tour was given and the 17½" brought to bear on a number of deep sky objects. After the clouds rolled in, several visitors left and the rest of us waited for the clouds to go away. Doug Clapp had been experimenting with his SBIG CCD and laptop computer in his observatory before the clouds came in. Now with lots of time available, he gave several demonstrations of his setup, including a fantastic image of M57 taken that evening.

After a couple bouts of waiting, everyone decided that it wasn't going to clear before dawn and so we all retired for the night. Leo and Denise arose at dawn to observe the planets during morning twilight. The rest of us, unfortunately, were still lying down on the job!

By Sunday night, just a few of us were left, although a couple of Centre members showed up about sunset. Sunday night proved to be the clearest night of the weekend—no clouds at all! The highlight of this night for me was my first look ever at SS Cygni!—and it was in outburst! As on Friday night, we observed until dawn. It was a wonderful way to conclude Farm-Fest.

**NEW GROUP ENCOURAGES
DOUBLE VISION**

By Walter MacDonald

The Association of Binary Star Observers has recently been founded by Massachusetts amateur Ron Tanguay. Its objectives are those of its members. In addition, it hopes to double the number of binary star observations in a bi-annual newsletter. Dual memberships are available for 2 x \$10. All correspondence with the association should be sent in duplicate.

Although the group is on a solid footing now, it was plagued by controversy early in its formative stages as the original name was to be the American Association of Binary Star Observers (AABSO). This drew strong criticism from the AAVSO (American Association of Variable Star Observers) as they felt the similarity of names would cause much confusion among astronomers. This situation was resolved when the new group decided to change its name to the Association of Binary Star Observers (ABSO).

Those interested in joining the new group can write to: Association of Binary Star Observers, 22 Deuce Street, Apastron, MA. 22222, U.S.A.

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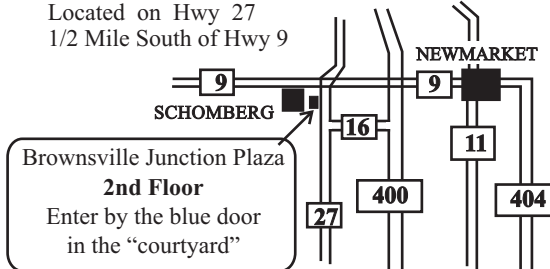
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YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

Articles, notes on your observations, humour, poetry, artwork, anything on astronomy or related topics, are invited. Also, your letters or comments about **Regulus** and its contents. Please send to the Editor: **Bill Broderick, xxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxxxx, Ontario XXX XXX.**

Year End Treasurer Report
Kingston Centre - RASC
1991

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
Membership Fees	1617.00	1593.25
Life Members Grants	80.00	80.00
Donations	51.25	43.00
Educational Activities	—	—
Interest & Dividends	14.19	11.09
Sales of Handbooks	43.34	10.00
Advertising	191.55	141.55
General Assembly(incl. Travel Grants)	274.85	—
Miscellaneous	923.11	19.75
 Total Revenue	 3195.29	 1898.64
 <u>Expenditures</u>		
Fees Remitted to National Office	821.44	704.25
Library	—	—
Meetings and Newsletters	552.97	230.72
Annual Dinner Net	—	—
General Assembly(incl. Travel Grants)	274.85	—
Office Administration	305.64	222.86
Equipemnt and Supplies	39.64	46.33
General Expenses and Audit	—	—
Educational Activities	—	—
Insurance	—	—
Awards and Donations	66.66	231.29
Opeatinv Expenses - Observatory	169.98	105.00
Miscellaneous	844.11	96.69
 Total Expenditures	 3075.28	 1637.13
 Surplus or (Deficit) on Operations	 120.01	 261.51

Centre Treasurer Peter Kirk

Date 11 OCT 91

EDITOR'S REPORT

As 1991 draws to a close, I can look back over my first two years as Editor of **Regulus** with considerable satisfaction. The work, if I can call it that (it's really very much a pleasure!), has settled pretty well into a routine. The format and style are fairly simple—as long as the material is there, **Regulus** practically puts itself together!

Fortunately, we've had an ample supply of submissions, thanks to contributors such as **Leo Enright, Terry Hicks, Walter MacDonald, Ian Levstein, John Griese III, David Stokes, Hein Van Asperen, and others.** (On occasion, I've slipped something in myself, or "borrowed" from another Centre's newsletter.)

A special word of thanks to **Walter MacDonald** for his steady production of "**The Celestial Observer**" cartoons. Please keep them coming, Walter!

Also, I want to thank you all very much for presenting me with the Dr. A. Vibert Douglas Award for my work on the newsletter. I am deeply gratified indeed.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Broderick


ELECTION RESULTS

As a result of the **elections** held Friday, October 11, 1991, the following are the Officers and Executive Council of the Kingston Centre for 1992:

HONORARY PRESIDENT, David Levy; **PRESIDENT**, Ian Levstein; **VICE PRESIDENT**, Leo Enright; **PAST PRESIDENT**, Denise Sabatini; **SECRETARY**, Kim Hay; **TREASURER**, Peter Kirk; **LIBRARIAN**, David Stokes; **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**, Bill Broderick; **NATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**, Walter MacDonald; **ALTERNATIVE. REP**, Ian Levstein,

The following are the Committees:

ASTRONOMY DAY COORDINATORS, Stanley Hanna and Peggy Torney; **EDUCATION**, Denise Sabatini; **PUBLICITY**, Bill Broderick; **OBSERVING**, John Eustace.

 Wishing you all the joys and blessings
of Christmas