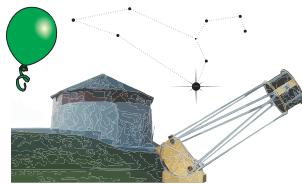


# Regulus

January 2011  
RASC Kingston Centre

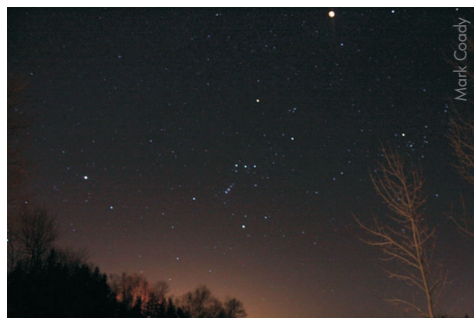


## Upcoming Meetings

**Friday, January 14, 2011**  
**Special Meeting** 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
 ☞ various members  
**Our 50th Anniversary Celebration!**

**Friday, February 11, 2010**  
**Regular Meeting** 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Stirling Hall Theatre "A" on Bader Lane at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Our meetings are co-sponsored by the Queen's Physics Department and include Astronomy lectures open to the public. ★



### Total Lunar Eclipse: December 21, 2010

Eastern Ontario was clouded out for this lunar eclipse, but members **Mark Coady** and **Mark Kaye** managed to position themselves under clear skies.

## Kingston Centre: 50 Years!

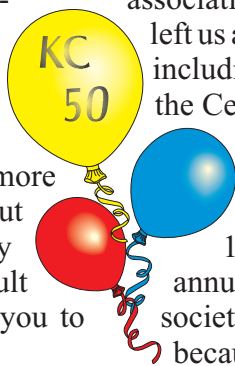
Walter MacDonald

THIS ISSUE of *Regulus* celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Centre. Within is packed as much information (and photos too) as I could gather. In efforts such as these there is always more more that could be done, but alas, available time and energy are finite. Still, I think the result is highly creditable. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Although he is no longer with us, **Leo Enright** has as large a presence

in this issue as he had in his 36-year association with the Centre. He has left us a fine legacy of written work, including much on the history of the Centre, reprinted here.

Almost all of what we know about the Centre in the 1960s and much of the 1970s comes entirely from its annual reports to the national society. For that reason, and also because they have never before been published in *Regulus*, these reports appear in this issue. ★



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## Reports & Other Items

### Capital Equipment Inventory

Our Treasurer, **Kevin Kell** sent this note along:

In his 2010 Auditors Report, **Doug Angle** noted that we need better records for our capital equipment. As a result, we have created the *Capital Equipment Inventory of the RASC Kingston Centre* document, located in the members section of the website:

[kingston.rasc.ca/Secure/capital-equipment.pdf](http://kingston.rasc.ca/Secure/capital-equipment.pdf)  
 It is a 28 page, 7MB PDF document.

If you are interested, please take a look at it and forward comments,

suggestions and corrections to me by email at [kingston\(at\)rasc.ca](mailto:kingston@rasc.ca)  
 After the initial batch of corrections I hope that this document need not be updated more than once a year or so.

### Shoot the Stars in L&A County

**KEVIN KELL REPORTS:** **Kim** & I met up with **Fred Barrett** (he had a long drive from Ottawa!) along with **Malcolm Park** (NYAA, who came to Kingston to speak to us a few years back) at the L&A County Museum for the photo contest awards. **Terry Dickinson** had planned to be there

From Kingston Centre, the RASC, and Beyond...

but got called away on business...to Australia along with **Alan Dyer** [*some people have it rough!*—Ed].

Congratulations to **Malcolm** for an honourable mention! **Fred** & I didn't make the cut along with some 15-odd others. There was a lot of good stuff in there from people we have never heard of!

**THE ORGANIZERS REPORT:** Thanks again to everyone who submitted entries into the "Shoot the Stars in L&A County" photo contest. We had more than 50 top-notch submissions,

Continued on next page...

## ...Reports & Other Items

...continued from front page

and it was very difficult to choose the winners.

The task of selecting the winners was so daunting, the judges needed to extend the honourable mention category from one to three. The panel of judges included: **Henry Hogg**, Warden of Lennox & Addington County, **Terrence Dickinson**, renowned astronomer and science writer, and **Cathy Vanner**, President, Napanee Photo Club.

### Skype Adds Group Video

On Wednesday, December 1st several centre members (Hank, Kim, Mark, Kevin K, and Walter) successfully tested the new group video feature in Skype. The hope for the future is to use group video conferencing for executive meetings and perhaps even Centre meetings.

### KAON Report

**Kevin Kell** says that the great surprising news about the December 11th KAON session at the Queen's University Observatory was that the elevator was back in service. We walked into Ellis Hall and over to the elevator, where we discovered it was much wider than it used to be. The double doors opened and it was a regular elevator size inside. Very

impressive. Then we went to push the button for the top floor and lo and behold...it was '4' and not '3.' No! It could not be! Kim pressed the '4' and off we went...right up to the observatory floor! Yay! Party time! No more hauling heavy telescopes up to the 4th floor! We were amazed.

It was cloudy so no scopes went out on the deck. **Laurie** gave a very good talk on Geologically Active Moons of the Outer Planets that went over 30 minutes to a crowd of about 25-30 people. **Terry Bridges** and **James Silvester** (past observatory coordinators) made an appearance as did **Brian, Susan, Kim** & myself. I didn't catch the name of Nathalie Ouellette's assistant.

The warm room is looking good. A few more bits and pieces of infrastructure have been put in place since the last time we were there. Things are looking up!

### Other Items

A northern hemisphere storm on Saturn is being watched by the Cassini spacecraft and amateurs on Earth...Asteroid (596) Scheila was seen sporting a comet-like spiral-shaped tail...R CrB is finally recovering from its unusually long and deep minimum—or is it? ★

## Regulus Needs You!

**ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**—full articles, or even just a couple of paragraphs are always welcome. Items are gratefully accepted on each and every day of the year! Send items to:

walter2 (at) starlightccd (dot) com  
or:

Walter MacDonald  
PO Box 142  
Winchester ON K0C 2K0

### The Fine Print:

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## RASC-KC Board of Directors

**President:** Susan Gagnon  
**Vice President:** vacant  
**Secretary:** Steve Hart  
**Treasurer:** Kevin Kell  
**Librarian:** David Maguire  
**Editor:** Walter MacDonald  
**National Council Rep:** Brian Hunter

## Committee Chairs/Coordinators

**Equipment Loan:** Kevin Kell  
**KAON:** Susan Gagnon  
**Webmaster:** Walter MacDonald

## ANTECEDENTS TO THE 1961 FOUNDING OF THE KINGSTON CENTRE

Records from the mid-nineteenth century show that, in the town of Kingston, Canada West, there was a strong local interest in astronomy at the time of, and following, the May 26, 1854 total solar eclipse. The local amateurs of the time, who were called “gentlemen astronomers” undertook to build an astronomical observatory. Land and building materials were acquired for the building of the observatory, at a cost of \$600.00. The site was at the west end of the city, in what is at present MacDonald Park (see the 1985 picture on page 6). A new 160mm (6½ inch) Alvin Clark refractor was purchased for \$600.00. Soon a transit telescope was purchased also, in order to determine time precisely. Observations of many kinds were made after the completion of the frame structure in 1855.

The observatory was taken over by Queen’s University in 1861, and it was replaced by a brick structure in 1862. Under the Queen’s University mathematician, **Nathan Dupuis**, many kinds of observations—barometric, surveying, and time-related—were made at the observatory.

In 1881 the observatory was moved to the Queen’s University campus where Astronomy had been taught since 1863. Observations continued for many years. The observatory was demolished in 1946.

Twelve years later, in 1958, plans were approved for a new 38cm (15 inch) Cassegrain telescope on Ellis Hall.

## EARLY ASTRONOMY “EXPLORERS” IN KINGSTON, PRIOR TO THE 1961 FOUNDING OF THE CENTRE

John F. Baker of Queen’s University had corresponded with the Toronto “Astronomical Society” (the predecessor of the R.A.S.C.) in 1892 regarding the teaching of astronomy.

Lt.-Col. McGill of The Royal Military College wrote to the Toronto group on a similar topic in the 1890s. He was particularly concerned with the teaching and testing of astronomy in the university and in the schools.

In 1907, very close to the time when Dr. **C.A. Chant** began the publication of the *Journal* and the *Handbook* of the Society, Professor Matheson and Professor Dupuis, both of Queen’s University, became R.A.S.C. members. (The Society had just a few years before received its royal charter.)

**William Findlay** of Toronto, in 1939, referred to a group of “capable members in that vicinity” when he said that Kingston was “one important university city where I feel sure there is a possibility of a good branch being organized.” He was the National President at the time. 1939 was a significant year for two other reasons:

(1) Dr. **A. Vibert Douglas** (B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., and L.L.D.—all from McGill University, and an internationally recognized authority in spectroscopic absolute stellar magnitudes and stellar atmospheres) moved from being lecturer in physics and astronomy at McGill University to Queen’s University where she becomes Professor of Astronomy from 1942 to 1964 and Emeritus Professor of Astronomy from 1965 to 1988. (She was also recognized for her work on stellar astronomy done in collaboration with Sir Arthur Eddington, of whose official biography she was the author.)

(2) Dr. A. Vibert Douglas became the Second Vice-President of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Later, in 1943 and 1944, she was the National President of the R.A.S.C.

## THE FOUNDING EVENTS OF THE KINGSTON CENTRE IN 1961

### Thursday, January 19, 1961:

▶ There was a meeting of 20 Queen’s University faculty members and students in Room 221, Ellis Hall at 7:30p.m. The meeting was chaired by Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, Professor of Astronomy, who outlined the history and the goals of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

▶ Dr. George Harrower talked about the Ellis Hall Observatory

▶ The feature talk of the evening was by Dr. Douglas, and the topic was “Telescope and the Universe They Reveal”.

▶ An observing session was scheduled for the following week, for Thursday, January 26, 1961.

▶ Nine people joined the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. The annual fee was \$5.00 for adults, and \$3.00 for students.

▶ A report of the meeting was sent to the National Executive Secretary of the Society on January 23, 1961.

▶ Meetings continued to be held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

### February 1, 1961:

▶ A letter of reply was written by the National President, Dr. Peter Millman, expressing the National Council’s appreciation for Dr. Douglas’s efforts.

### March 9, 1961:

▶ A meeting (the fifth for the group) was held in Room 221, Ellis Hall, to elect the officers for 1961. Those elected to executive positions were as follows: Honorary President: Dr. A.V. Douglas; President: A.K.F. Turner; Vice-President: M.R. Edwards; Secretary-Treasurer: F.M. Taylor.

▶ (In a letter of the following day,

Continues on page 9...

All we know of the Centre's history in the 1960s comes from the annual reports published by the RASC but as 1967–69 are missing, even this meagre knowledge is not complete.

## A "UNIVERSITY CLUB-CENTRE" IN THE 1960S (by Leo Enright)

In the following few years [after 1961] and throughout the remainder of the 1960s, maintaining membership proved very difficult, in spite of the efforts by Dr. Douglas and several visits to the Centre by National Executive Members. In 1962 there were only 7 members of the Society in the group. Several reasons are given for the difficulties in main-taining the numbers of members:

- ▶ the pressures of university life, with the constant demands of study,
- ▶ the short school year, with students arriving in September and leaving in March or April,
- ▶ the changing executive from year to year,
- ▶ the Queen's University Astronomy Club (Q.U.A.C.) "coexisting with the Centre" and being the more "student visible" aspect of the organization,
- ▶ the Q.U.A.C., rather than the R.A.S.C.–Kingston Centre, being responsible to the student government on campus—certainly a unique arrangement among the Centres of the Society.

In spite of these difficulties for the

young organization, a number of dedicated individuals put forward a tremendous effort to maintain an active group on campus. There was a real effort to have WEEKLY events: biweekly meetings, alternating (in the other weeks) with observing sessions in the dome in Ellis Hall. Often the topic for a meeting was a presentation by a group member, or a film, or a presentation by a member of the Queen's faculty, or a talk by a member of the National Executive.

## ANNUAL REPORT 1962

In January, a group of interested students met with **Dr. A. Vibert Douglas** and **Dr. G. A. Harrower** of Queen's University to discuss the possibility of forming an astronomy club which would give them access to the instruments in the Queen's Observatory. Before the end of the spring term, an Executive had been elected and a Constitution drawn up. The application to form a Kingston Centre of the R.A.S.C. was approved by the National Council at its June meeting.

In September, meetings were organized on a bi-weekly basis. Programmes have included slides taken by **Dr. Harrower** of the Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories, the film "Universe," two films from the Society's Library, and a discussion by Dr. Harrower on "Sidereal Time and the Use of the Telescope." Several meetings have included observing sessions.

More recently the following sections were organized: Lunar,

Planet, Comets and Nova. during the winter, the Centre plans to complete a six-inch reflector for its own use.

There are approximately twenty active members in the Centre.

*A. Rothwell, Secretary*

## ANNUAL REPORT 1963

The Kingston Centre is attempting to build up a stable membership. In the autumn of 1961 we had 23 members; in the autumn of 1962 we had, however, only 7 members.

Meetings were held at Queen's University Observatory. **Dr. Peter M. Millman** and Miss **Ruth J. Northcott** gave illustrated addresses and **Dr. A. V. Douglas** demonstrated a series of moving coloured slides of the solar system which were made in England in 1860. Other meetings were conducted by the members who have organized a telescope-making group. The 15-inch reflecting telescope at Queen's University Observatory has been frequently available along with several smaller instruments. Systematic observation has been hampered by poor weather.

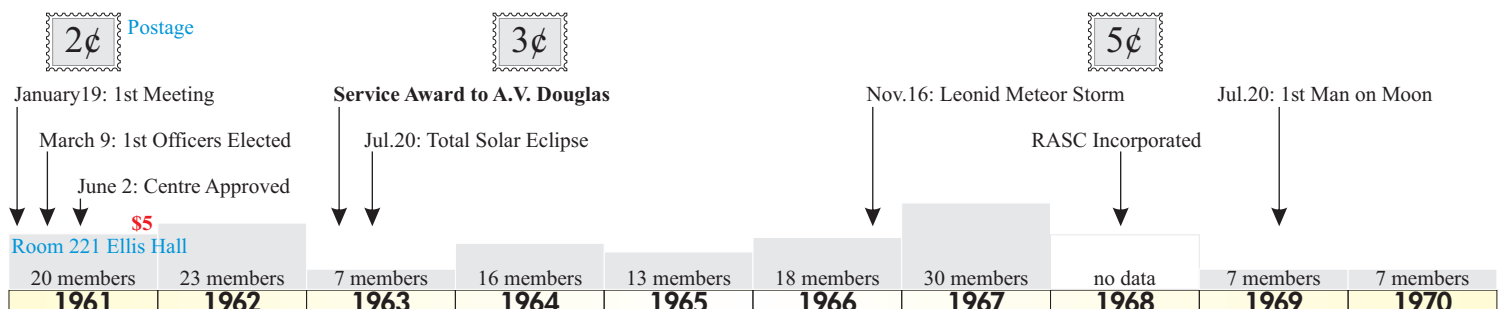
*P. A. Jolliffe, Secretary*

## ANNUAL REPORT 1964

During the year, meetings have been held in the Observatory at Queen's University. Lectures have included the following:

February 27—**P. A. Jolliffe**: "Associations of Stars."

*Continues on page 9...*



Our knowledge of the Centre and its activities in the 1970s comes mostly from annual reports, but not entirely. **Leo Enright** joined the Centre in late 1973 and **Brian Hunter** also had some involvement back that far. As well, the Centre published a newsletter and thanks to Leo we have those as far back as late 1973, though the collection for 1973–1976 is far from complete.

The “modern” era of the Centre really begins in 1978 with Leo’s presidency. This time marks the transition from a small university Astronomy club to a much larger RASC Centre. The newsletter started to publish many more pages and to follow a monthly schedule for 1979 and 1980. (From 1981 to 2002 it would be published bi-monthly: 6 times per year). Thanks to these newsletters we know much more about this period of the Centre’s history. Also, our current “living memory” from this time includes members **David Levy** and **Angelika (Kahrkling) Hackett**.

## A “TURN-AROUND” IN THE 1970s (by Leo Enright)

Several very important events occurred in the 1970s, events which marked a renewal and surge in membership of the R.A.S.C. Kingston Centre:

▶ People from outside the Queen’s University community began to join

the Centre, though membership of Queen’s students continued, and meetings continued to be held in Ellis Hall, Room 222, and the Ellis Hall Observatory continued to be used, as it had in the past.

▶ A bright morning comet (Comet West) inspired student observing in 1976.

▶ Efforts to recruit members at the annual Queen’s Clubs’ Nights (held each year in September or early October in Grant Hall) were quite successful. (I personally remember that **David Levy** was first spotted at one of these events, and he soon began attending our meetings, joined the Kingston Centre, and became an active member of the group. He had just become an M.A. student in the English Department, and was working on a thesis concerning the writings of the great English poet of the Victorian Age, Gerard Manley Hopkins, who occasionally referred to particular comets of the period and other celestial objects in his beautiful poetic descriptions of the natural world.)

▶ Astronomy Day started to be observed in Canada; it was promoted in Mall Displays at various Kingston Shopping Centres.

▶ The General Assembly (the “G.A.”) became an increasingly popular annual event of the Society in the 1970s. The Kingston Centre had good representation at the Toronto event in 1977 and the London event in 1979.

▶ Centre activities were promoted as never before, and new ones were added:

▶ Holleford Crater Tours were started.

▶ “Summer Solstice Celebrations” were initiated at Leo Enright’s place in Sharbot Lake.

▶ Visits to Jarnac (David Levy’s cottage in the Gatineau Hills) were enjoyed by members.

▶ Informal observing sessions were held at members’ homes.

▶ Member projects were initiated: telescope making was promoted by **Larry Manuel**, and observatory construction was undertaken.

▶ Members participated in eclipse trips to several places in Manitoba for the total solar eclipse of February 26, 1979.

▶ The “Third Big Magazine of Astronomy” took off with Kingston Centre involvement: **David Levy** was a regular “variable star columnist” for *Star & Sky*.

▶ Kingston Centre members won major awards for significant contributions to Astronomy: **Warren Morrison** won the Chilton Prize in 1979; **David Levy** won the Chant Medal in 1980.

In addition to paying tribute to the early efforts by Dr. Douglas in the 1960s, I wish to mention the efforts of certain Queen’s students of the 1970s, whom I had the opportunity of knowing: Mr. **Paul Brown**, Mr.

Continues on page 13...



## “AN EXPLOSION OF ACTIVITY”

(by Leo Enright)

The great explosion of activity during the 1980s was marked by the following events or activities:

- ▶ Centre exchanges were promoted between the Kingston Centre and the London, Ottawa and Halifax Centres.
- ▶ Holleford Crater Tours became more common, and were undertaken much more frequently.
- ▶ The General Assemblies of the society drew wider participation from across the country and certainly from members of our Centre.
- ▶ Our member **David Levy** discovered his first comet, and later several other comets, and became well known in the astronomical world (from Comet Levy-Rudenko to Comet Levy 1990).
- ▶ Stellafane and the Syracuse Summer Seminar conventions drew members to popular summer events.
- ▶ Popular attention (in both the tabloid and legitimate press) was drawn to the “The Superconjunction of 1982” and to the appearance of Halley’s Comet in 1985–86.
- ▶ Recognition was given by the City of Kingston for Ontario’s first astronomical observatory at a ceremony in MacDonald Park.
- ▶ There was greater participation by members of the Centre in the affairs of the Society.
- ▶ There were increased activities associated with participation in International Astronomy Day. ★



Toronto Centre members visit for a Holleford meteor crater tour on 1983 July 16. Left to right are: Walter MacDonal, Scott Ramsay (back), John Curtin, Joan Curtain, Terry Hicks, Martin Gventer & wife & daughter(?), Steve Spinney (back), Ruth Hicks, Eric Galt, Lionel Armstrong.



Sunday, November 3, 1985: Honoured guests at the unveiling of the historic plaque marking the location of Ontario’s first observatory: **Dr. John Downie**, Dean of the Department of Applied Sciences of Queen’s University; **Dr. A. Vibert Douglas**, Founder and Honorary President of the Kingston Centre and Past President (1943–1944) of the R.A.S.C.; and **Professor Victor Hughes** of the Department of Physics of Queen’s University. You can read the full story in the *National Newsletter*, February 1986.



**Warren Morrison** of the Kingston Centre receives the Society’s prestigious Chant Medal from outgoing National President, **Dr. Roy Bishop**, at the 1986 Winnipeg General Assembly.



Clyde Tombaugh spoke in Kingston on October 20, 1989 about his discovery of Pluto.

Year	Postage	Membership Fee	Meeting Location	Members	Key Events
1981	30¢		Room 222 Ellis Hall 2nd & 4th Friday	38 members	Jan: <i>Regulus</i> goes bi-monthly
1982	32¢	\$20		37 members	Jul.3: Observing w/Steve Dodson & 22" Jul.16: Crater Tour w/Toronto Centre Dec.30: Total Lunar Eclipse July 5: Total Lunar Eclipse
1983	34¢			36 members	
1984	34¢			38 members	May 30: Annular Solar Eclipse
1985	36¢			37 members	
1986	37¢	\$5	Room D-207 Mac-Corry Hall 2nd Friday	44 members	Jan.23: 1st A.V. Douglas Award to David Stokes Jan.24: Voyager 2 flies by Uranus Jan.26: Space Shuttle Challenger destroyed Feb.9: Comet Halley @ perihelion Service Award to Leo Enright Chant Medal to Warren Morrison
1987	37¢	\$25		46 members	
1988	38¢		Room C-206 Mac-Corry Hall	35 members	
1989	38¢		Room D-214 Mac-Corry Hall	38 members	Mar.13: HUGE Aurora! Aug.17: Total Lunar Eclipse Aug.25: Voyager 2 flies by Neptune
1990	39¢			48 members	Oct.20 Clyde Tombaugh speaks @ Kingston! Nov.22: David Levy

# Kingston Centre in the 1990s

Walter MacDonald

The Kingston Centre continued to flourish in the 1990s with more members and activities than ever before:

- ▶ Several Centre members operated computer Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs), rich sources of pictures, software, articles, and mail messages from far and wide.
- ▶ A number of Centre members participated in the Society's solar eclipse expedition in July 1991 to see "The Big One" in Baja: almost seven minutes of totality!
- ▶ Jack Newton gave a presentation to the Centre as part of his speaking tour in 1993, and we knew that the CCD age was finally here.
- ▶ Many public astronomy displays and public lectures were held.
- ▶ Centre members regularly participated in the annual Charleston Lake Star Party and Starfest.
- ▶ The Centre went online in 1996 with an Internet website.
- ▶ Kingston Centre hosted the 1991 NFCAA conference and the 1997 RASC General Assembly.
- ▶ An ATM Group was formed and successfully completed many projects, most notably a whole bunch of barn-door tracking mounts.
- ▶ A Youth Group was formed in 1999 to get young people interested in Astronomy. ★

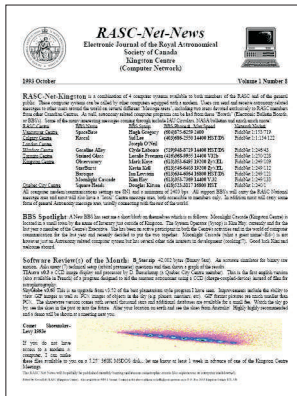


In 1997 Kingston hosted the RASC General Assembly. Featured speakers were Dr. Eugene Shoemaker, Dr. David Levy, Terence Dickinson, Dr. Martin Duncan, and Dr. Judith Irwin.

RASC Eclipse Expedition to Baja in July 1991  
 Right: totality;  
 Far right: Denise Sabatini, Leo Enright, Terry Dickinson, and Bill Broderick enjoy themselves in Cabo after the eclipse.



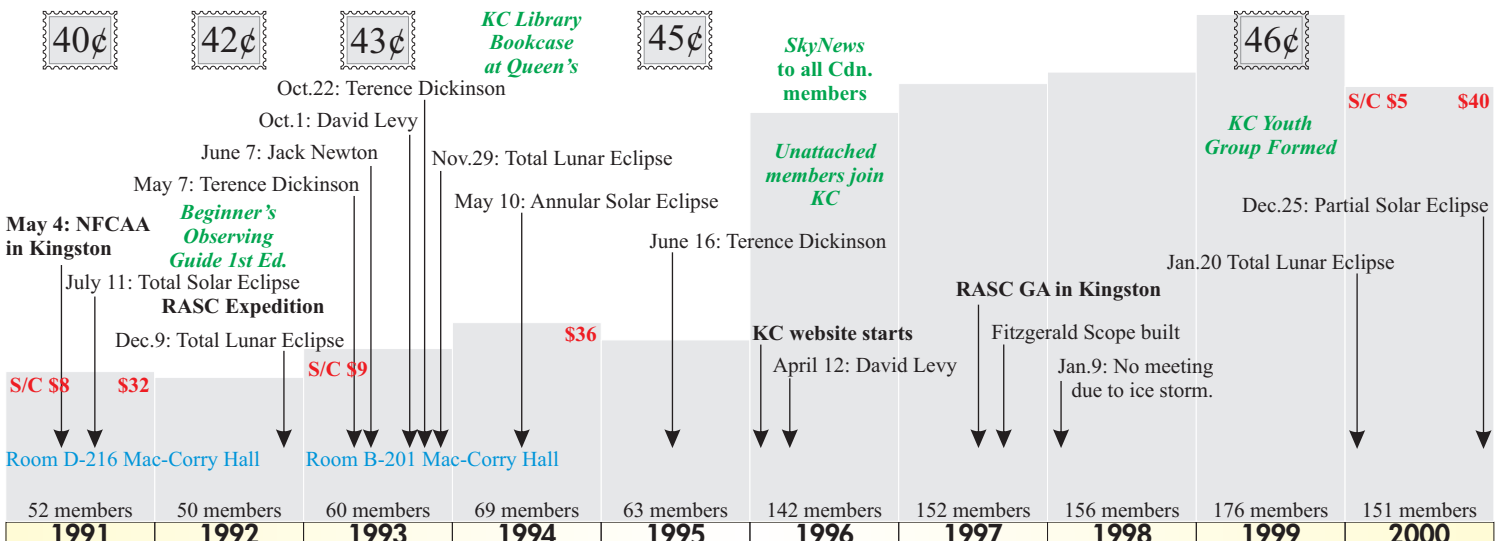
RASC-Net-News was produced from 1993-95 by Kevin Kell to encourage use of astro BBSs. 21 back issues are archived in the members-only section of the Centre's website.



## YOUTH OBSERVING GROUP (by Hank Bartlett)

"YOG" was formed by Hank Bartlett in 1999 and ran until spring of 2001, the "Youth Observing Group" was to provide an informal and less public way of bringing astronomy to elementary school astronomers. The target group was

Continues on page 13...



# Kingston Centre in the 2000s

Walter MacDonald

Our most recent decade was another busy one, marked by many accomplishments and milestones:

- ▶ The Centre's meeting place moved from Mac-Cory Hall to Stirling Hall.
- ▶ The ATM group completed the fabrication of the 24" Venor Telescope.
- ▶ A new annual star party, Fall'N'Stars was started under the dark skies of Vanderwater Conservation Area near Thomasburg.
- ▶ The Centre was thrilled to have David Levy and Terry Dickinson as speakers on several occasions.
- ▶ Many informal "Markfest" and "Astro Yak" gatherings were hosted by Centre members.
- ▶ Members were involved with many public observing ("KAON") sessions at the Queen's University observatory.
- ▶ Kingston Centre was incorporated and also received charitable status.
- ▶ A beginner's Astronomy course, OAFTN, was run twice in 2006.
- ▶ The 2009 International Year of Astronomy kept members busy with many public outreach events.
- ▶ Our newsletter, *Regulus*, went electronic in 2009 with distribution now primarily by internet.
- ▶ Regrettably, the Centre lost several prominent members: Arlyne Gillespie, Leo Enright, and Norm Welbanks. ★



The 1st annual Fall'N'Stars star party in 2001.



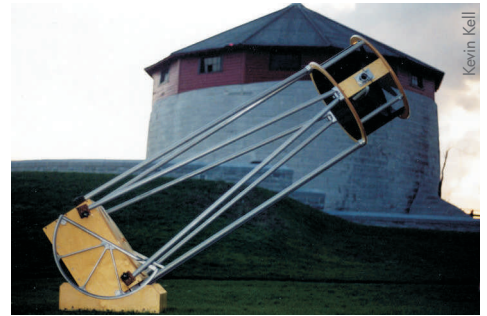
KC members at STARFEST 2000.



KC campsite at STARFEST 2000.



Astronomy Day 2007 volunteers.



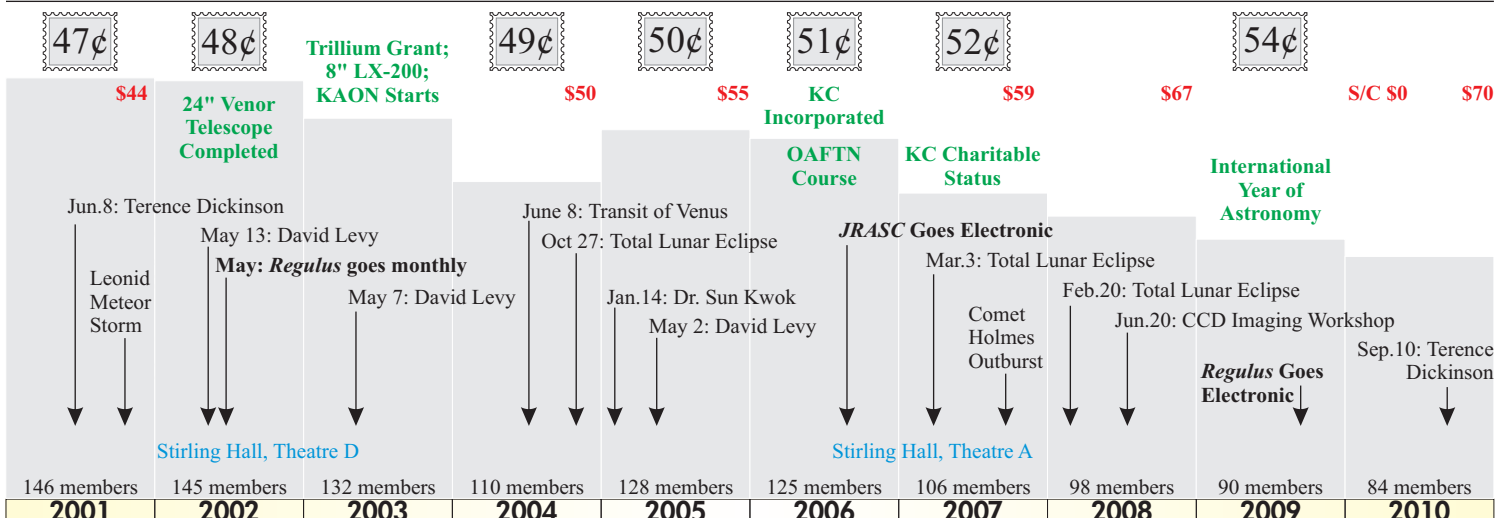
The Centre's 24" Venor Telescope.



David Levy receives a special memento at the May 2nd, 2005 meeting. The photo he is holding is reproduced on page 11 of this issue.



Members relax at the 2003 "Markfest." This was held annually at Mark Kaye's place.



## ...The Early History of the Kingston Centre

...continued from page 3

Leo Enright

March 10, 1961, Dr. Douglas reported the business of the meeting to the National Executive Secretary, Mrs. Marie Fidler.)

### March 23, 1961:

▶ The Constitution for the Kingston Centre was approved at the second meeting in March.

▶ The National Council Meeting, which had been held in Toronto on March 17 and 18, had approved the election to membership in the Society of the twenty Kingston members who had joined the Society both at, and subsequent, to the first meeting in Kingston in January, as reported in a letter written by Professor Kennedy, the National Secretary, also on March 23, 1961. In the letter, he suggested that either Dr. Douglas or Mr. Turner submit a letter for Centre status, as required by the

National Constitution, so that it might be approved at the June National Council Meeting.

### April 10, 1961:

▶ Dr. Douglas submitted the letter for Centre status, and submitted the proposed Constitution for the Kingston Centre.

### April 13, 1961:

▶ A letter of acknowledgment was sent from Professor Kennedy to Dr. Douglas. It expressed delight with the progress that had been made during the past winter. The request for Centre status would be brought before the National Council at its meeting on June 2, 1961.

### June 2, 1961:

▶ The National Council approved the creation of the Kingston Centre as the sixteenth Centre of the Society, and

also approved its Constitution.

The Kingston Centre now existed as the sixteenth Centre of the Society, and during that first year, 1961, it had 23 members. It was a good beginning.★

The portions of the Centre's history in this issue by Leo Enright are taken from his articles in the Mar/Apr and May/June 2001 issues of *Regulus*, which in turn were based on notes used for talks he presented to the Centre on January 12 and February 9, 2001 on the occasion of the Centre's 40th anniversary.

### Leo's References:

- ▶ R. Peter Broughton: *Looking Up, A History of the R.A.S.C.*
- ▶ *Regulus*, the newsletter of the R.A.S.C. Kingston Centre, particularly the first three issues of the year 1986.
- ▶ Slides in the personal collection of the author.

## ...Kingston Centre in the 1960s

...continued from page 4

October 27—R. Flynn Marr: "The 15-inch Telescope at Queen's."

November 7—R. C. Roeder, Ph.D.: "Cosmology."

In addition, star nights have been held every two weeks except during the summer months.

Plans have been made to renovate the Springfield Telescope owned by this Centre and install it near the Observatory dome. The main telescope of the Observatory has been made available for frequent use by authorized members of the Centre. The present membership of the Centre is 16.

*Peter Jolliffe, Secretary*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1965

Since our membership is made up entirely of university students who have very little time, the main function of our Centre is to provide

an opportunity for informal discussion on astronomical topics among these members. With limited free time, projects such as telescope making and prolonged observational programmes are not practical. However, we have trained ten new members in the use of the Queen's University telescope (a 15-inch reflector) and, having all passed their tests, they are allowed to use the instrument whenever they have a free evening for telescope observation. Apart from this, various films on astronomy have been shown in our bi-weekly meetings, among which were the series of "Bell Telephone Hour" films, including "Cosmic Rays" and "The Sun."

For the next few weeks we have planned gas and ruby laser demonstrations together with the presentation of a number of films on astronomy during "The Engineering Hour" to a large number of en-

gineering students at Queen's from all years.

*Gary Rathwell, Secretary*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1966

Our membership is made up principally of university students who have very little time, therefore the main function of our Centre is to provide an opportunity for informal discussion on astronomical topics among its members. With limited time, projects such as telescope making and prolonged observational programmes are not practical. However, we have "checked out" most of our members on the University's 15 inch reflector, which they are allowed to use. This year, our president has been able to obtain for us some particularly interesting films, which we have shown at meetings.★

## ...Kingston Centre in the 1970s

...continued from page 5

**Sandy McHattie**, Ms. **Susan McDougall**, Mr. **Chris Sargeant**, and Mr. **Doug Baker**.

### ANNUAL REPORT 1970

*No report was made.*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1971

Eight meetings during the 1970-71 season, the dates and subjects were as follows:

October 5, 1970—Two films were shown, and the Queen's University planetarium and optical telescope were demonstrated.

October 19—Film: "The Radio Sky."

November 2—The Bell Telephone film: "The Strange Case of the Cosmic Rays."

November 16—The guest speaker, Mr. **Kenneth Chilton**, discussed planetary observations.

January 18, 1971—A film on radio astronomy was shown.

February 1—The Bell Telephone film: "Time."

February 15—**R.N. Henriksen**, Ph.D., Queen's University Astronomy Group: "Pulsars Present and Future."

March 8—Film: "The Parkes Radio Telescope."

In addition to this, the Kingston Centre has organized a mirror grinding project under the direction of **Bob Baran**, of the Queen's Astronomy Group, and **Glen Chapman**. The group hopes to continue work next year, with the aid of a grinding machine recently purchased.

*Kenneth C. Heaton, President*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1972

Kingston Centre meetings were held as follows:

October 10—A film entitled

"The Universe." Visited Queen's Planetarium and used 15-inch Cassegrain Telescope.

October 25—A report on the progress of the Observer's Group. **Glen Chapman**, a graduate student at Queen's and past president of the Centre, presented a slide lecture on Interstellar Space Travel (Part I).

November 8—A film "Our Mr. Sun."

A **Mrs. Shortcliffe** advised she will donate to the Q.U.A.C. \$500 to the cost of building an observatory for a 10 inch reflecting telescope, which she will also donate. Stipulation is that a proper place be chosen and plans presented to ensure the good intentions of the Q.U.A.C. and a committee was formed to carry out this plan.

November 22—**Donald Rettallack**, a graduate student at Queen's in the Astronomy Department, presented a talk on recent developments in Radio Astronomy.

The Observer's Group used the 15-inch Cassegrain Telescope and took astrophotographs.

1973 January 15—**Professor Bridle** of Queen's Astronomy Department lectured on "Some recent observations of Extra-Galactic X-Ray Sources."

January 30—A film "Radio Sky" from National Headquarters in Toronto was shown. A report on the meeting of the Council of January 27th was given by the Secretary, **Geoffrey Wyght**.

The Q.U.A.C. committee reported that they could not accept Mrs. Shortcliffe's donation.

March 6—**Glen Chapman** presented a slide lecture on Interstellar Travel (Part II). The following were elected to the Executive Committee: Paul Brown, President; Valerie Kirkwood, Vice-President; Geoffrey Wyght, Secretary-Treasurer; and David Ridding, member of council.

March 20—A film "Fields of

Space." The 15-inch Cassegrain Telescope at the Planetarium was used by the Observer's Group.

*Geoffrey J. R. Wyght, Secretary*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1973

A report of the meetings of the Kingston Centre from January to March, 1973 is in the Annual Report 1972 (above).

October 2—Aims and future plans were described. Members visited the Ellis Hall Observatory.

October 16—A film entitled "Universe." The Instruments and Observers Groups were formed.

October 30—Slide-lecture on the Algonquin Radio Observatory of the National Research Council by **Geoffrey Wyght**. A film entitled "Eclipse at Grand'mere."

November 13—Lecture on Black Holes by **Dr. W. Y. Chau**, Assistant Professor of Physics at Queen's University. A report by the Observers Group on the transit of Mercury.

November 27—A film entitled "Crab Nebula." A display by the Observers Group on recent observing sessions.

*Geoffrey J. R. Wyght, Secretary*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1974

*No report was made.*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1975

During most of this year the centre at Kingston has been a small tightly-knit centre. We did not consider ourselves large enough to warrant inviting outside speakers. Thus we contented ourselves with films and mini-lectures from members themselves.

We hold a meeting every other Tuesday night and in good weather we hold an observing session for the

## ...Kingston Centre in the 1970s

whole centre on the intervening Mondays. Most of our lectures have been concerned with observing, the solar system and telescope-making. We had for instance a lecture on the moons of the planets and one on celestial coordinate systems. We were lucky to get some films from the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa that were excellent. A new addition to the National Film Library *Sand, Silver and Stars* made by **Frank Shinn** about the making of **Jack Newton's** 12-inch reflector, was screened recently. This was in connection with the several telescope-making projects which are in progress.

Right now, (early March) we are all continually trying to get ourselves up at 4 o'clock in the morning to see **Comet West**, and we hope to get some good pictures.

As we exist as a double entity—being the Queen's University club as well—the AMS, the governing student body at Queen's, has required that all clubs on campus submit a constitution and be ratified. This means that the financial year of the club must run from September to September, therefore we are unable to submit our financial report for 1975 at this time. However, in the summer when the AMS has reimbursed us a report will be sent to the National Office.

*Paul Brown, Secretary*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1976

The early part of 1976 was highlighted for the Kingston Centre by the appearance of **Comet West**. There were several 5:00 a.m. observing sessions in a row as members took advantage of a run of good weather.

During the summer, there were no meetings as most of the Centre members are students of Queen's University who do not live in Kingston.

September saw a membership drive which for the first time in several years attracted new members from outside the Queen's community. During this latter part of the year, the Centre was presented a lecture by **Dr. A. H. Bridle** of Queen's University, Physics Department and organised a trip to the Toronto Planetarium.

*Ms. Susan McDougall, Secretary*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1977

Meetings were held every two weeks and during the first part of the year they were mostly devoted to making plans for building our own telescope. Happily, this past year has seen a concentration on increasing membership in the Centre and our increased activity is surely one of the reasons that membership has almost doubled.

There were three separate activities during the summer. These were: a picnic at the Holleford crater, a summer solstice celebration and a Perseid meteor observing session—which was an all-nighter and extremely worthwhile. In addition, we held an Orionid observing session in the fall.

**Dr. A.H. Batten**, our National President, honoured us with a visit and lecture as did **Dr. John R. Percy**, 1st vice-President, and **Dr. A.H. Bridle** of the Physics Department of Queen's University.

*Susan McDougall, Secretary*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1978

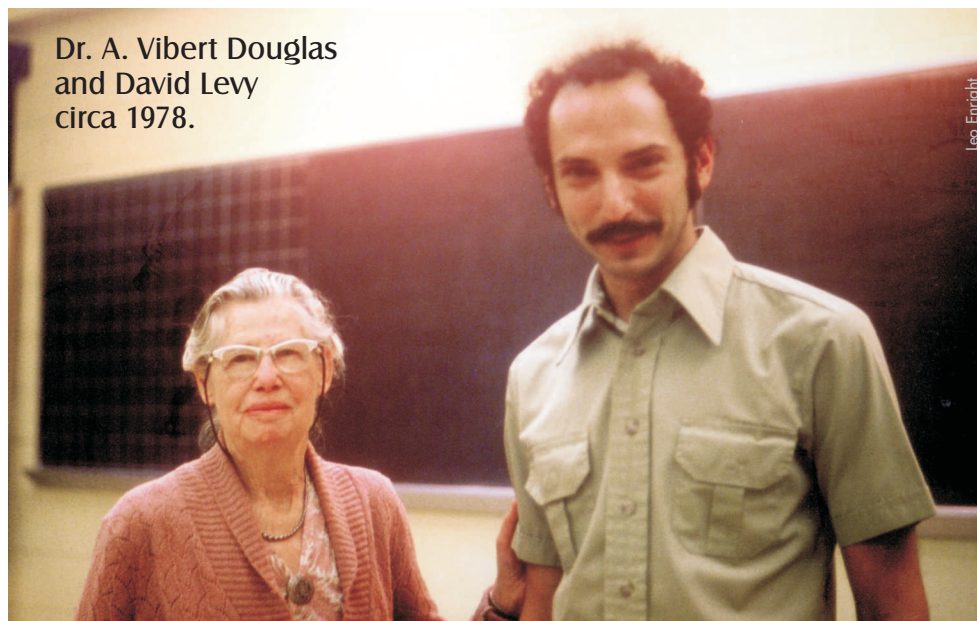
1978 was a very successful year for the Kingston Centre. Our membership increased and a corresponding rise in meeting attendance was also noted. The meetings were held on alternate Tuesdays with the other Tuesdays reserved for observing sessions at Queen's University's telescope. However, these observing sessions were attended only by our hardcore observing group of four. A list of our eight more important meetings follows:

January 10—Display night for equipment and photos.

January 24—A talk by **David Levy** on the "Great Comet of 1861."

February 7—A talk by **Leo Enright** on the astrolabe.

February 21—A talk by **Dr. A.V. Douglas** on the history of the I.A.U. (see *National Newsletter* June '78)



Dr. A. Vibert Douglas  
and David Levy  
circa 1978.

## ...Kingston Centre in the 1970s

page L42).

March 7—A talk by **David Levy** on the observation of variable stars.

March 21—Elections and a planned lunar observation night for the public.

April 4—A talk by **Leo Enright** on the different types of light in the sky.

October 5—A talk by **Peter Jedicke** of the London Centre on the colonization of space.

Not included in this list is our summer meetings which were still held but attended poorly and were quite informal. Our three annual summer excursions however were very successful. The first to Holleford Crater just north of Kingston proved enjoyable and was followed by two others to Sharbot Lake to celebrate the summer solstice and one to observe the Perseid Meteor Shower. Unfortunately, this last one was plagued by some clouds and the fallout from a skunk at 2:00 am; still we recorded fifty meteors.

In the fall we changed our meetings to alternate Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. with observing sessions on every clear Tuesday and remaining Thursday. Accordingly our activity has increased.

As many Centres have noted, our newsletter has grown since last year from 2 to 5 pages and as a result we have appointed an editor for 1979.

Finally, our long dragged out telescope building project has seen new hope with the purchase of finished 10" f/5.6 optics by the Centre. This telescope will probably help our many speciality observing projects such as Messier object hunting, astrophotography, comet hunting, variable star observing, and two new projects, a nova search program and long baseline aurora observations with the Maple Ridge Amateur Astronomer's Society in British Columbia. On the whole we

have had a very active and enjoyable year with much progress made especially with membership.

*Enrico Kindl, Secretary*

### ANNUAL REPORT 1979

The year 1979 has been a very exciting and active one for the Kingston Centre. It began with about 46% of our membership joining various expeditions to observe the total solar eclipse on February 26. The eclipse was an unforgettable experience, recorded by **David Levy** in the form of a one-half hour slide presentation. This excellent show has been seen by many groups in various cities, and won the second prize at the General Assembly in London, Ontario, last May.

We have had the pleasure of hearing **Dr. John Percy**, President of the R.A.S.C., speak to us in February about the evolution of stars, and **Dr. A. Vibert Douglas**, our Honorary President, who spoke to us in April about the work of **Sir Arthur Eddington**.

In June, after several years of work, our Centre completed its own telescope, a 10-inch Newtonian reflector, which we name the *Dr. A. V. Douglas Telescope*, after a person who has made great contributions to the field of Astronomy, the R.A.S.C., and our Centre.

Numerous educational events have been organized throughout the year. **David Levy** was largely responsible for the work and we owe him much sincere appreciation. The first project was the "Astronomy Day," sponsored by the Kingston and District Science Council under the direction of **Dr. James Allen** and the Queen's University Physics Department. It took place on February 22, just before the solar eclipse, and several hundred children took part,

learning about astronomy in general, telescopes, observing, radio astronomy, and discussing in detail how eclipses happen and how to observe them safely.

A second project was a course in basic concepts of astronomy, including as much observing as possible, given by **David** at his home outside Kingston.

For the third project, **David** had made arrangements to enter the Millhaven Penitentiary, a maximum security institution, in order to present the eclipse slide show to about twenty inmates. It was a very well received and successful endeavour.

On August 13th **David** attended a program of the International Astronomical Union's Commission 46, at the Université de Montréal. There he gave an excellent presentation on teaching astronomy to children. **Dr. Douglas** and **Leo Enright** were also present at this 17th General Assembly of the I.A.U.

The summer was very active, with members of the Kingston Centre taking part in several excursions to the Gatineau Hills in the Province of Québec, where **David's** hospitality and the dark skies made observing a great pleasure. The Holleford crater, not far from Kingston, is a very interesting area which was explored by some of our members in July and again in August.

On the 4th of August, the Centre organized a mall display at the Kingston Shopping Centre, with exhibits of their instruments and photos. The same evening, our Centre held a Public Star Night on the waterfront, during which people came to look through the telescopes and were able to get a small impression of what observing is all about.

**David** was very busily acquiring various telescopes throughout the year, including a "talking telescope"

which he built, together with **Constantine Papacosmos** of Montréal. He entered it in the refractor category at the 44th annual Stellafane, held in Springfield, Vermont, and it won third prize.

In October **Leo, Doug Baker, Denis Belanger, and Angelika** attended Clubs' Night at Queen's University and talked to many interested students about astronomy and our Centre. Several of the students attended subsequent meetings.

Weather permitting, all members are keeping active with observing and photographing, ranging from the total lunar eclipse of September 6th, photographed by **David** from Tucson, Arizona (while **Michael and Denis** spent the night in the rain on Wolfe Island near Kingston), to sunspot observing, auroras, occultations, deep sky objects, and other phenomena.

**Leo Enright** continues to be the very enthusiastic editor of "Regulus," our newsletter, which is full of interesting information and keeps us up to date at all times.

*Angelika Kahrkling, Secretary*★

those with a true interest in learning and observing rather than those with just an idle curiosity. RASC-KC membership was always offered but was not a requirement as this was to be a free unattached introduction to astronomy. Parental participation was encouraged so this hobby could be enjoyed together as well as making it more likely youngsters could get out in the dark to observe.

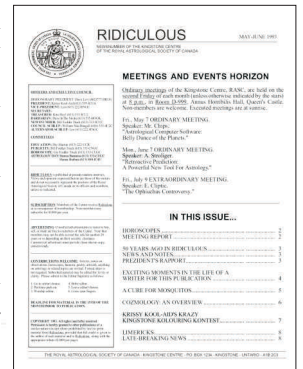
With the help of **Tim Seitz** we were able to use a classroom at Holy Cross School in Kingston as well as an outdoor observing area and ran only during the school year. One meeting night a month youth were provided with information and star maps that they could use and study at home. While at these meetings we talked about current astronomical

events, astronomical history and equipment, we spent half of the time observing if the weather co-operated. RASC-KC members also volunteered their time to give talks such as **Don Mastriani** (NASA Memorabilia), **Kim Hay** (meteor observing), and **Tim Sietz** (a tour of Starry Night).

Access to a library of youth oriented books was available to take home on loan. Observing equipment ranged from binoculars to a 10" reflector telescope. Youth were encouraged to also bring their own equipment so that RASC-KC members could evaluate and coach them in the best ways and objects to observe. Solar observing was done at the beginning of the meeting during early fall and late spring.★

Reminiscing about these earlier days in the life of the Kingston Centre is a most valuable exercise, replete with fond memories for those who lived them and sources of edification for those who have come later and may hope to emulate the pioneers who founded and nurtured both our Society and its Centres when they both were much younger.  
—Leo Enright, June 2008

*Ridiculous*, an annual parody of *Regulus*, was produced by **Walter MacDonald** from 1991 to 1993. These are archived in the members-only area of our website.



### KC Meetings January–June 2011

**Susan Gagnon**

I HOPE THAT YOU CAN JOIN US on Friday, January the 14th in Stirling Hall Theatre A when we attempt to set up a virtual tour of the observing facilities at Herstmonceaux Castle with **Brian Hunter**. This is where Brian goes off to each winter to teach a beginners Astronomy class. We will also have cake to celebrate the arrival of 2011, the 50th year for the Kingston Centre.

February 11th meeting will feature Professor **Larry Widrow**. He will take us through the tangled past of Andromeda and Triangulum and pose that oh-so-important Valentine question: Where is this

relationship going?

The February 12th KAON session at Queen's will feature **Joel Roedeger** and his topic is "Astronomy in the Middle East."

February 26th I will be presenting an indoor talk at the Little Cat Conservation site and if weather is clear we hope to have a few scopes out. Let me know if you can participate. The topic is "Navigating the Winter Sky."

The March and April meetings are not yet settled as I am waiting for an out of town speaker confirmation.

The Science Fair will take place on the 7 and 8th of April and there

will be a prize donation by the Centre. \$75 and a BOG make up the Leo Enright Memorial Award for best astronomy and related science.

I am hoping that the May meeting will be an observing session out of town, but arrangements have not been completed. We must make these arrangements as there is a chance that Stirling Hall will be under construction and not available to us.

In June, **Tim Sietz** has offered his campsite for an observing night on the Saturday rather than the Friday so the meeting night/observing night will be June 11th. There will be directions closer to the date.★

## Friday, December 3

**Mark Kaye:** I followed her well into the day this morning with the thin crescent Moon just below. It was an easy target, even with the hazy clouds that moved across a couple of hours after sun-up. Having the Moon to focus on really helps keep it in sight, even when she was covered by thin haze.

## Thu/Fri, December 9/10

**Kevin Fetter:** The other day, I replaced the connector for the network cable that goes to the outside of the house. I thought I had put the wires in the correct order into the connector...

Well tonight, it got clear and so I tried to connect to the scope, but it wouldn't connect. After a while I looked at the connector, and noticed that at least two of the wires going into it were in the wrong order compared to the old connection. So that was the problem! I found a new connector and made sure that the wires were in the correct order before using the tool on it.

I tried to connect to the scope, and this time it worked. But of course the sky is cloudy now.

## Mon/Tue, December 13/14

**Kevin Kell reports that the Geminid meteor shower was a bust in Yarker:**

Snow and cloud, cloud and snow. No Geminid meteors to see. There were two things that went by that looked like snowploughs though. ☺

I think I've settled on this weekend to transfer the all-sky camera operations over from a workstation to a laptop and move it back into the observatory. Right now the workstation is in a shed that is not weather proof, suffers from power outages and I've afraid the heat it is

generating will attract rodentia to the shed.

The laptop will use less power, not generate as much waste heat, be able to survive short power outages because of its battery, and to boot, be much more accessible in the observatory rather than buried in the back of the shed.

## Mon/Tue, December 20/21

**Kevin K:** 02:00—clouded over from horizon to horizon. It looks like the weather moved in from the south and east a little early as it appears clearer to the west of us, all the way to Toronto.

02:30—still clouded over

03:00—still clouded over

03:30—still clouded over

03:53—end of totality, still clouded over

04:20—still clouded over.

Nuts! There was very poor coverage on the internet in various places. I was only able to get two sites with live video and they were very slow.

**Kevin F:** Yup, nothing but cloudy skies. This month has been bad for cloudy skies. [*Actually, it has been very good for cloudy skies, and bad for clear skies!—Ed.*]

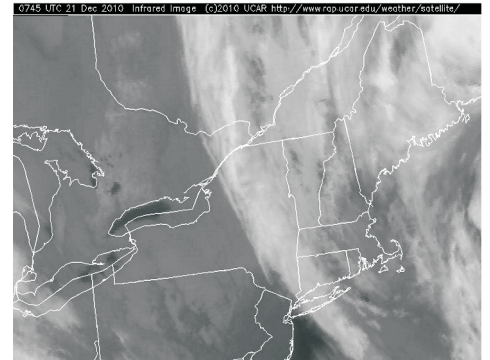
**Walter:** It was totally overcast here in Winchester. Looks like the Clear Sky Chart was right. I did get one glimpse of the moon through heavy cloud just before the eclipse started, but other than that there was no sign of its orb all night. Guess I should have gone to Oshawa early for Christmas.

I tried to login to slooh but their server was swamped. Oh well, I was going to dump slooh anyways.

Here is a screen shot of last night's cloud conditions. I was under the west end of the thick part of that cloud, with the thinner cloud further west. You can see the narrow lane of clear air cutting through central Ontario. This site is a very nice one

to use for the “iffy” nights where you need to see what the cloud is doing, or see if there are any clear spots coming your way:

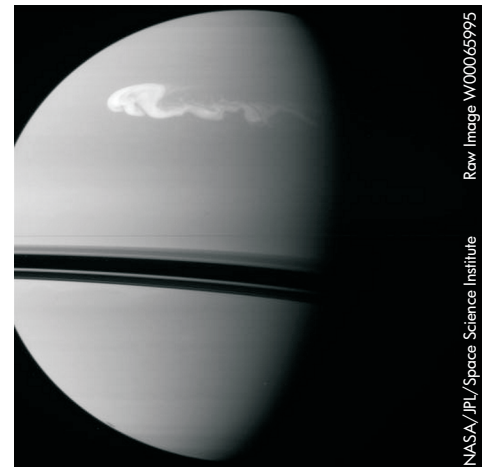
[ssec.wisc.edu/data/us\\_comp/](http://ssec.wisc.edu/data/us_comp/)



## TRIVIA ABOUT THIS TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE:

According to **Geoff Chester** of the US Naval Observatory, this was only the second eclipse to occur on the day of the winter solstice in the last 2000 years! The first was Dec. 21, 1638 and the next will be on Dec. 21, 2094.

**Eric Briggs reports:** something that may be a neat thing to point out to other RASC members is that **C.A. Chant** passed away on the night of a lunar eclipse on November 18th, 1956. That eclipse was part of Saros 125, and it will be repeated in this Monday night's eclipse. Other Saros 125 lunar eclipses happened on November 25 1974 and December 9 1992. ★



The Cassini spacecraft imaged this storm on 2010 Dec. 24 at a range of 1.8 million km.

## Meeting Room Thoughts

Hank Bartlett, Walter MacDonald

IT APPEARS THAT RENOVATION WORK in Stirling Hall may prevent the Centre from meeting in its usual room there this May. With this in mind, some discussion has taken place about alternative locations such as libraries, and even the possibility of having meetings on a day other than Friday, perhaps even in the daytime on a weekend. No decisions have been made yet, but we may try several variations on our normal routine this year. If you have any opinions or ideas on this matter, please send them to our illustrious President!

Of course, with everyone thinking about the history of KC on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our founding, there was also some discussion about the different rooms at Queen's University that we have used over the decades. Although there is a diversity of opinion amongst the membership, Hank's ruminations on the subject are quite thought-provoking:

ON THE BENEFITS OF A SMALL MEETING ROOM: I loved it at MacC[ory Hall]: everyone was close together. Sure it was crowded but everyone was close enough to chat (even during presentations). People spoke up more and it was hard to avoid newbies or strangers.

ON THE DRAWBACKS OF A LARGE MEETING ROOM: ...Members sat in little groups, anyone who didn't want to do the stairs stayed at the top, the



Centre executive sat in the front row—we were all over the place. The equipment and the room cost were great but the room, nope. Except for the break, nobody was close enough to chat or interact.

### ON THE DECLINE IN ATTENDANCE:

As far as meetings go I think the Internet made a big change: people in the past had to go to the library alone and unguided, or to a meeting like ours, to learn. Now everyone can surf the web at home and learn and do and even chat all you want.

Hank is correct in this last point of course, but that simply means that our membership will be doing more online and less face-to-face. Our website, e-mail list, newsletter, FaceBook page, and our new Internet-accessible robotic telescope (stay tuned, hopefully this mention does not jinx it!) will be enough to keep Kingston Centre a relevant part of our members' lives as we increasingly interact in cyberspace.

Finally, the idea of holding this month's 50th anniversary meeting in the very same room that our founding meeting occurred to a few people. Unfortunately this is not possible since that room no longer exists due to reconstruction activities on campus (it is only accessible by TARDIS now!). Thanks to **Kevin Kell** for pointing that out, and saving us all the embarrassment of wandering around looking for a non-existent meeting room! ★



## Blast from the Past

John A. Paterson

### THE FUTURE

THE YEAR 1895 IS NOW WITH US, and astronomers are still building upwards to the sunlight of perfect knowledge, and slowly conquering inch by inch the unknown, which is not unknowable. The myriad songs which Nature sings to all her children are being year by year more clearly interpreted, and the jarring discord of error is being separated from the Creation's diapason of praise. What not long ago was insoluble is now taught to our children in the schools as a matter of common knowledge. The records of the sky are year by year more truly read, and the mountain tops commence to glow with the dawn of coming triumphs.

*“Build to-day, then, strong and sure,  
With a firm and ample base,  
And ascending and secure  
Shall to-morrow find its place.  
Thus alone can we attain  
To those turrets where the eye  
Sees the world as one vast plain  
And one boundless reach of sky.”*

—From the *Transactions of the Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto*, 1894, pg. 163. The poem is from *The Builders*, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

## Contest!

Walter MacDonald

CONTESTS WERE A COMMON FEATURE of the early newsletters of our Centre, so I thought it would be fun to have a new one here:

For almost half a year now, *Regulus* has contained a subtle memorial to **Leo Enright** in each issue. Can you find it? It may not be what you think it is!

Send your answer(s) to the Editor. There is no prize other than the bragging rights associated with being the contest winner! ★

IN OUR LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR little time was lost getting to our speaker for the evening. **Rachel Kuzio de Naray** has recently accepted a position as Research Associate in the Department of Physics at RMC. Dr. Kuzio de Naray's research interests include observational cosmology, dark matter distribution in galaxies, galaxy kinematics and dynamics, their metallicity and evolution, spectroscopy, and the distance scale.

The talk, *The Dark Side of Spiral Galaxies*, began with a review of observations that have led to the current understanding of the existence of dark matter if not a full understanding of its nature. This process included a systematic listing of what we see, what we think it means and the subsequent dashing of hopes as the evidence proves us wrong again. This of course refers to the early measures of radial velocity as a function of distance from the galactic centre. So what is known now that we did not know in the 70s?

Of the many candidates for dark matter with cute names like MACHOs and WIMPs, the Weakly Interacting Massive Particles seem to be winning. Once again we are caught in a scale trap as happened with Newtonian and Quantum physics. A model for a single galaxy does not work for clusters of galaxies and vice-versa.

There has been a move to underground detectors to find evidence of WIMPs. As with neutrinos it is expected to be a bit of a wait. Vera Rubin is credited with saying that the ratio of bright to dark matter is about 1 to 10 and that is similar to the ratio of knowledge to ignorance in the matter. This does not seem to dampen the enthusiasm that our guest has for her topic. Her response to the ever increasing stack of what we don't know seems to be, "bring it on." This seems to be a healthy state for a research scientist.

Along with an impressive list of published papers, Dr Kuzio de Naray has a good deal of experience with

mentoring and community outreach. Please visit the RMC website for the link to her CV for further reading on the subject if you do not know where to begin. The talk was thoroughly enjoyed and I thought that the Q & A session was very good with many insightful questions. by our members It was disappointing that the weather kept so many away.

We had a small social break with some snacks and prize draws. The executive then rounded out the evening with a board meeting afterwards.

I hope that everyone is ready for 2011. 2011 will be the Centre's 50th anniversary. There will be cake at the January meeting and we will attempt on that night to link up with **Brian Hunter** at Herstmonceux for a tour of the observing facilities at the castle.★

## Greetings from BC!

Angelika Hackett

CONGRATULATIONS to the Kingston Centre on its 50th anniversary! These greetings are coming from the west coast where I've been living for more than 26 years now. I first attended Kingston Centre meetings in the late 1970s when **Leo Enright** was President, and I remember how welcome I felt among such an enthusiastic and interesting group of people. After a short period as President and Secretary of the centre I moved out west, but still keep in touch with **Ruth and Terry Hicks** and **David Levy**, and I still feel an attachment to Kingston. Since I don't have much opportunity to attend local meetings here in Vancouver due to other commitments, I decided to keep my membership with Kingston rather than switch centres. I always enjoy reading about all your activities and projects and wish you well for decades to come!★

## KC's Heavy Hitters

Walter MacDonald

AMONGST THE PAGES of our Centre's website is one that lists all the council positions for our entire history: [kingston.rasc.ca/council-history.php](http://kingston.rasc.ca/council-history.php)

A quick tally reveals the top-serving members:

Name	Years of Service
Leo Enright	23
Kevin Kell	17
David Stokes	16
Kim Hay	15
David Maguire	11
Susan Gagnon	9
Hein Van Asperen	8

Half a dozen members are just one or two years from attaining the 8-year mark. Congratulations and thank you all!

### LONGEST RUNS IN A POSITION:

David Stokes	Librarian . . . 13 years (1981-1993)
Leo Enright	Editor . . . . . 11 years (1978-1988)
John Hurley	Treasurer . . . 7 years (1998-2004)
Steve Hart	Secretary . . . 6 years (2005-2010)
David Levy	VP . . . . . 6 years (1980-1985)
Peggy Hurley	President . . . 3 years (1996-1998)*

\*Peggy gets this one, since she served the most years as president (four), but it should be noted that Kim Hay and Denise Sabatini also each did three-year stretches as President.★