

Dr. A. Vibert Douglas Award Winner for 2012

The major award of the RASC Kingston Centre, the A. Vibert Douglas Award, named after the founder of the Kingston Centre will be presented for: Service (including longstanding dedication, or a recent contribution or contributions to the Centre or the Society) and/or an astronomical achievement (including a discovery, invention, literary presentation, or related achievement, any of which may be a recent and one-time matter or an achievement over many years).

Mark Coady has been an associate member of the Kingston Centre for some years and recently became a regular member. He has volunteered with vigor to lead the Fall'n'Stars star party for three years now (2010-2012) and has assisted before that. Mark has also made contributions to the light pollution abatement front, both serving for some time on the RASC Light Pollution committee, and giving many local presentations in and around his home base near Peterborough.

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Novice Award Winner for 2012

This award goes to the novice astronomer who has demonstrated great interest and enthusiasm in the learning of Astronomy and who has taken Taurus by the horns, marking a path in their log book as they venture into the galactic void and beyond. This novice astronomer has realized the "at the eyepiece" enjoyment and educational value of astronomy as a hobby and a science.

Rose-Marie Burke is the latest recipient of this award. Her enthusiasm for Astronomy and her participation from the moment she joined the Centre have been an inspiration to long-time members as well as new. Her photography experience along with her single-handed resurrection of the barndoor tracker will be a great asset to the group for many years. We look forward to her continued fellowship.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, December 17 6:00p.m.
Special Seasonal Holiday Dinner
Aunt Lucy's Restaurant, Kingston

Monday, January 21, 7p.m.
Speaker: TBA

Monday, February 18 7p.m.
Speaker: TBA

Monday, March 18 7p.m.
Speaker: TBA

Meetings are held at Queen's University,
Ellis Hall, Room 324. ★

Reports & Other Items

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

NEXT STEP: ORBITAL SKYDIVING!

On October 14th **Felix Baumgartner** successfully skydived from an altitude of 39km and went supersonic. After a 90-minute ascent by balloon, it only took him 8 minutes (including ~4 minutes in free fall) to return to Earth.

AN ICON PASSES

Astronomy icon (and honorary RASC member since 1993) **Sir Patrick Moore** passed away at age 89 on December 9th. In addition to his many books, he also hosted *The Sky at Night* television program for 55 years. ★

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New on the RASC Web

kingston.rasc.ca/pics/astroday/1984/astday1984.php

NINE NEW PHOTOS have been added to the Centre's website (and also rasc.ca) showing Kingston Centre's 1984 Astronomy Day display. These were found lurking in the Society's archives during a recent trip to National Office in Toronto.

Kim Hay: Awesome pics Walter. That is before my time. My first Astronomy Day was at the Frontenac Mall, where I first met **Ruth Hicks**. Then the first meeting I went to, **Denise** was the president. I had joined in 1988. Wow...

Hank Bartlett: Good photos and what an impressive display. It is amazing how much room they were given compared to what you would get today at a mall. Of course before the information age Astronomy was a secret society hiding alien contact and keeping nerds off the street. Note how everyone in the pics are dressed nice shirts and slacks; today it is jeans and astro T's. Maybe we lose some scientific credibility by dressing down. Maybe we should try lab coats.

Ten years later in 1994 was the first astro day I ever saw; I met **Leo**, had a long talk, and joined the RASC later that year.

Walter MacDonald



rasc.ca/ga79-song-contest-1

The Kingston Trio performs at the 1979 GA song contest.



rasc.ca/jedicke-and-levy-tv

Peter Jedicke and David Levy on cable TV in London in 1979.



rasc.ca/archives/1990s

28 images from the 1993 GA; some of KC members.



Kevin Kell has added Transit of Venus pix to the KC site:

Index of /pics/transit2012	
Name	Last modified Size Description
Parent Directory	-
hankbartlett-venustransit2012/	13-Jun-2012 20:29 -
transitofvenus-kevinkell-canon540/	13-Jun-2012 08:23 -
transitofvenus-kimhay-canon540/	13-Jun-2012 08:24 -

kingston.rasc.ca/pics/transit2012/

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:

walter.macdonald2 (at) gmail (dot) com

or:

Walter MacDonald
PO Box 142
Winchester ON K0C 2K0

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KAON: Susan Gagnon
Webmaster: Walter MacDonald

KAON Report: October 13

Kevin Kell

THIS WAS ANOTHER in the long line (ten years in the modern era) of Kingston Astronomical Outreach Network (KAON) public observing sessions at the Queen's University Ellis Hall Observatory.

The night started off with Timbits and hot chocolate for all, courtesy of the night's speaker: **Prof. Stephane Courteau** (Queen's University) who spoke on The New Queen's Observatory.

The Observatory Coordinator, **Nathalie Oullette**, introduced the speaker who started his talk to a room full of about 50 people—not bad for a rainy cold dark October night.



The talk included a good history going back as far as the data went, an explanation of the recent history of the observatory and the acquisition of the newest telescope, a Celestron 14" with Edge HD Optics.

Afterwards tours were given of the new scope in the dome, including its amazingly simple (compared to the old Torus scope) command processes (very much like the Meade handpaddles).

The last people left around 9:30 p.m. and there were still a few



Timbits leftover!

We passed out a lot of free astro goodies and will have to replenish the goodie bag for Monday's Centre meeting.

So the upshot was that the new telescope is operational but has not really been used yet except for engineering tests...we've had a lot of cloud and rain of late!

Oh...and one more thing: Stephane announced that the old 16" Torus telescope would be turned over to the RASC Kingston Centre. ★

Meeting Report: October 15

Kevin Kell

WE TOOK THE SPEAKER TO DINNER at the Queen's Inn sports pub on Brock Street where seven members were also present. Afterwards, we arrived on site at Ellis Hall Room 324 to find the meeting signs we had posted on Saturday night gone. We had technical difficulties in getting the anymeeting.com broadcast set up and after wrestling with two computers, started the meeting at 7:15 without broad-casting. We worked on a second computer in the background and eventually got the broadcast up and running with an attached USB webcam and microphone.

Our guest speaker was **Dr. Jean-Marc A. Noël** of the Department of Physics at RMC. The topic for his lecture was *Northern Lights! Everything You've Always Wanted To Know About Aurora*.

Susan Gagnon ran through several announcements, including

the upcoming elections and annual general meeting to be held on Monday, November 19th, 7 p.m. in this room Ellis Hall 324. A one page handout was available to people listing the various duties of the four positions up for election: secretary, editor, librarian, national council representative.

RASC 1st Vice President **Colin Haig** made an unannounced appearance at the meeting, driving all the way from Hamilton. He spent some time chatting with folks and dropping off some outreach material.

We had 25 people attending—a very good turnout—and I believe it was a very good meeting. We had time to stop and chat with a lot of new faces.

Dr. Noël gave a 60 minute talk on particle physics as applied to aurora and satellite orbits. He was presented with our last RASC-KC coaster set as a thank you.

We launched into a 15 minute break where people were taken upstairs to look at the new Queen's 14" Celestron telescope. Afterwards we had members' observing reports (mostly aurora images!) from **Rose Marie Burke, Hank Bartlett, Rick Wagner, Kevin Kell, and Kim Hay**.

A table of astro goodie giveaways was a popular hit and people picked up a lot of items ranging from Moonfinders to Starfinders, brochures, red material for flashlights, and more.

Kim Hay promoted the *Exploring the Universe* Program certificate and in support of that we sold three copies of the *Beginners Observing Guide* 5th edition for \$5 instead of the regular \$20. There will be more at the next meeting.

The *RASC 2013 Calendars* did not arrive for the meeting. They will almost certainly be available at the November meetings (both KAON on

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SAT/SUN, OCTOBER 6/7

Rose-Marie: Went outside to check the sky, it was clear. Windy and cold though, so I decided to set up the camera and point it at Cygnus, since there's a minor meteor shower going on. So I get the camera, get it set up for continuous 30 second exposures (one of these wonderful things you learn at RASC meetings!) and go to set the tripod up outside. I get out there, look up, there's a lovely slow "fireplace spark" meteor running right through Cygnus to the north. But...what is that...to the west?? Clouds. CLOUDS, doggonit! Rats.

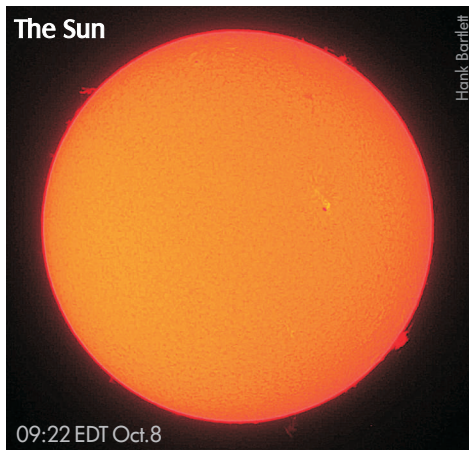
At least I got to see that one lovely [meteor](#).

MON/TUE, OCTOBER 8/9

Hank: I was just out for some H-alpha; there may have been an eruption at [SS1585](#) around 9:15 a.m. EDT, there was a bright region diminishing but lengthening at this time.

Also naked eye [Venus](#) is still out there and rather easy if you shade from the Sun, take a straight line from Sun to Moon, Venus is 39° from Sun and 48° from Moon but 7° above the baseline between the two.

Kevin K & Walter reported an aurora in progress ~8p.m., and other members also observed it:



Mark K (~9p.m.): I am driving east on the 401 and when I went to change lanes, I looked over my shoulder and went, wow, there is aurora. So bright I can see it in the car with all the lights around and the reflections inside the car. It was as high as overhead at times. Of course, now that I am nearing my Observatory, it is raining.

Kim: Mark called, put out on the list, we went out, and amazing. There were spikes, sheets, and it was pulsating. NW, NE, N, then it went to the zenith.

Rose-Marie: Kevin and Kim, you running that radiojive?

Kevin: Radiojove is operational but only picks up Jupiter and the Sun. We have not observed any effects from aurora.



Rose-Marie: I grabbed my camera and tripod, trotted on down to the dock, managed to catch a few shots, the sky had cleared just in time. I missed the best of the brightest, there was a blob of green glow on the northwest horizon as I headed down the hill and got set up, it faded just as I got things ready. But...managed to catch a few, and saw a beautiful display of pulsating auroras zipping out of the north and over my head.

And....damned rotten (*insert strong expletives here*) CLOUDS are back.

Kim: I woke up and went outside around 3:00 a.m. and though the moon was up, there were clouds in Kingston, it was clear and the aurora was still going. No visible spikes, but it was pulsating and coming in waves, it was very cool. The spikes are visible in the images.

I took several more pictures and of course the moon and Orion and Jupiter. It was cool, no wind, but quite quiet and lovely.



SAT/SUN, OCTOBER 20/21

Rose-Marie: I missed out on the Percies, now I missed out on the Oreos. Damned clouds!!!

Walter: In Winchester there were intermittent clear breaks through the evening, but otherwise cloudy.

TUE/WED, NOVEMBER 6/7

Rose-Marie: FINALLY...some clear sky, and I wasn't half dead tired from moving firewood or whatever. Dragged out the 10 inch and hooked up the new super-duper eyepiece. Some rather unladylike language was involved when BigWetNose voiced her displeasure at my going out in the backyard without her, and Dad

thinking she had to go out, and turning on all the lights out back. More unladylike language after I convinced them both to go back inside and shut off the lights, and then tried to aim it at something. Not having used the scope for the past 5 months I forgot how to focus the eyepiece and was looking at blobs. Got that straightened out, and then set out to find **Jupiter**. Little spotting scope was way off, took a few minutes to adjust. Having found Jupiter and focusing knob, I then got to peer at that big planet, saw the banding. Once my eyeball was sufficiently blown out, I then went in search of the **Orion Nebula**. Found it. Actually saw the four itty-bitty stars in the midst. Wow.

Spent about an hour and a half playing with the toy until my too-tall body voiced its displeasure about cramping in my back. Next project: build a platform on which to place the telescope so that the eyepiece is at a more comfortable height.

And the new eyepiece? I like it. Much easier to see things with my glasses. I'm still laughing about the size of the thing, like having a pickle jar stuck to the side of the scope.

TUE/WED, NOVEMBER 13/14

Rose-Marie: Finally, a clear dark night with **aurora**! Just spent a couple hours over at the cemetery field freezin' my toes and fingers off. Just thawing out here with a hot cup of coffee and may head out again, depending on conditions.

Kim: Very nice. I noted on our way out of Kingston last night around 9:30 p.m. that aurora was up and running. Got home and took a few images, but have not had a chance to view it. They were a pale green, and some small spikes were present.

Hank: Glad you got out, didn't notice anything here and there were no indicators online when I checked.



Keep the images coming.

Rose-Marie: By golly I did catch one! Forgot to mention earlier that I saw at least a dozen decent **N. Taurids** last night, 'twas frustrating because when I had the camera pointed one way they'd fall just out of the field of view. I see in this shot that I did indeed catch at least one of them. I'm sure there was another one later on in the evening but I'm having trouble finding it. Most of the good ones were short and bright.

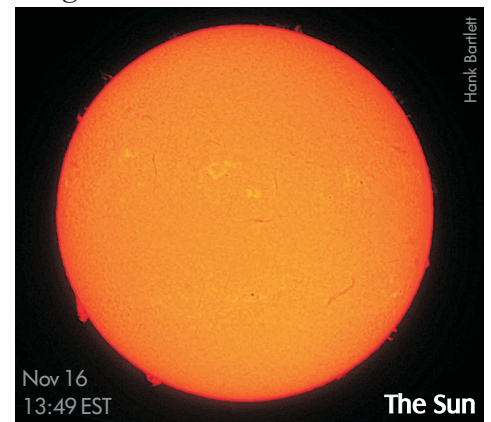


Tim Seitz: I decided to go over and camp out on Wolfe Island last evening and rode the 11:20 p.m. ferry over. I was out stargazing with my 10 power binocs between 12:00 and 2:30 a.m. last night. Looking North over Reed's Bay, I saw my first **northern lights** in several years, Beautiful. Looking South and up, I saw the best **Orion, Sirius and Jupiter** ever this year. After I couldn't take the cold anymore, I went into my (by then) warmed-up trailer and slept

soundly. At 6:30 a.m. when I awoke, I saw a brilliant **Venus** to the east. All this from my lot on Wolfe Island last night. I caught the 7:45 a.m. ferry home and am typing this to you now at 9:30 a.m.

FRI/SAT, NOVEMBER 16/17
LEONID MAXIMUM

Kevin K and Rose-Marie reported cloudy conditions. **Mark Kaye** reported some clear sky around 4:30 a.m. The previous afternoon **Hank** imaged the Sun:

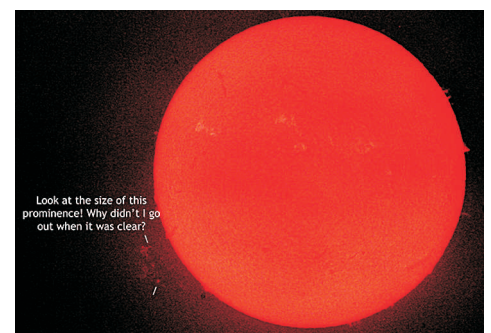


SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Hank: Dang why didn't I go out earlier today when it was almost clear? No I had to be a dumbass and clean the oven. This image is way over processed to try and eliminate the hazy cloud. Ignore that and look at the size of this **prominence**, this is where the blast was on the 16th.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Your editor saw the close con-



...Observing Reports: Oct-Nov 2012

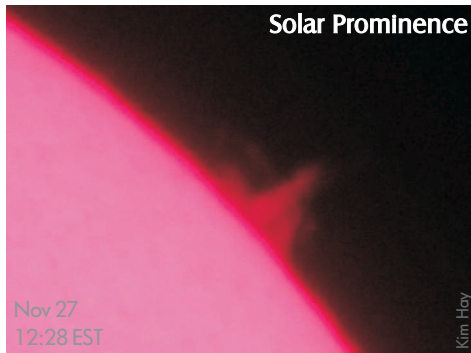
junction of *Venus* and *Saturn* low in the SE in *Virgo* this morning at 06:30 from *Oshawa*.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Kim: So, while being at home, and enjoying some holidays, I spent about an hour outside with the sun and scopes.

There is a new group coming on the sun, which I viewed through white light.

The **prominences** are a little on the low side, but there is one large one I imaged with the Canon Powershot, A2400 IS zoomed in with the 2x barlow and 12mm eyepiece in the Solarmax 60.



I also took some images through the reflector, of which tripod is a beast, but they did not turn out so well, since the cloud from the North slowly made its way south.

I also sketched the sun in H-alpha. Great day...then the clouds came.

KAON Report: December 8

LAST NIGHT was a nice cosy little meeting, with only about 15 people there. It was held in the observatory room on the 4th floor. The speaker gave a straightforward presentation about how distances to far stars and galaxies are measured—not one of the more glamorously exciting aspects of Astronomy, but the timing for me was good. I had just watched the section in my DVD course on the same subject and it's good to get more than one perspective, es-

Hank: Awesome!!! I hoped you would get out. The clouds rolled in while I was at the gym but I did get to check it out too. Yes the proms are low, some good surface filaments and active regions. Keep shooting the pics.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

Rose-Marie: I actually saw the **Moon** for a few minutes this morning when I took Beastie out for her first morning walk. Got fingers crossed but hopes not too high for the Geminids.

MON/TUE, DECEMBER 3/4

Kevin K: It was cloudy last night despite the clear sky clock saying otherwise...no Jupiter imaging still. And it passed opposition on Sunday. This morning, more cloud and some fog but **Venus** did appear along with a very dim **Saturn**. No sign of Mercury to the naked eye.

Mark Kaye: All three morning planets were visible from Knowlton Lake this morning and I was able to follow **Venus** into the daytime, despite the thin haze. **Saturn** was not difficult, Venus a breeze, and **Mercury** was very tough. ★



Rose-Marie Burke pecially if it involves equations. Put an equation in front of me and my eyes start to glaze over, make me sit there for more than 20 minutes with math and my head starts to droop, my mind wandering elsewhere, like thinking about do I have enough laundry in the bin to justify a full load.

I also got to see the new telescope, hadn't gone up and looked at it yet. Too bad it was another dreary cloudy night. ★

2012 KC AGM

Kevin Kell

The 2012 Annual General Meeting of the RASC Kingston Centre was held on Monday, November 19th from 19:05 to 20:03 EST. About 20 members were present.

Paper copies of the written reports were handed out at the start of the meeting.

Steve Hart has stepped down as Secretary. **Brian Hunter** has stepped down as National Council Representative.

The new slate is:

President Susan Gagnon
Vice President Kim Hay
Treasurer Kevin Kell
Secretary Kim Hay
NC Rep vacant
Librarian David Maguire
Editor Walter MacDonald
Auditor Doug Angle

The President Reported on the Centre activities for 2012. Accepted.

The Treasurer presented the financial report for the year. Accepted.

Reports were presented from the Vice President (written), Librarian (written) and National Council Rep (verbal) and the Auditor (written).

At the close of the AGM, two awards were announced: the Novice Award went to **Rose Marie Burke** and the Douglas Award was presented to **Mark Coady**.

The regular meeting went ahead with presentations from:

Brian Hunter: What time is it?

Rose Marie Burke: aurora

Leslie Roberts: new camera images

Kevin Kell: meteors and AMS data

We ran late, the web streaming/recording netbook failed completely (we have two hours of no video and no audio) and we switched over to another laptop for presentations.

The annual reports are online in the members-only section of the Centre's website. ★

The Kingston Astronomy Outreach Network (KAON) held an open house at the Queen's University Ellis Hall Observatory on Saturday November 10th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. It was full attendance with over 90 people in a room for 80—*i.e.* it was crowded, hot, and jam-packed.

Dr. Dave Hanes gave the talk on “Majestic Jupiter” to a crowd that involved a lot of little ones...some were too little and had to leave early. **Nathalie Ouellette** gave him the

short introduction and he launched into the talk around 7:40 p.m.

I attempted to record it but ran into software issues yet again with Adobe Flash, Firefox, Chrome, Safari and Windows 7. Grrrr! I did get a backup audio recording, which when I can get it off the proprietary recorder, will put it online with our other semi-successful recordings.

It was cloudy so **Susan Gagnon**, **Kim Hay**, **Brian Hunter** and myself did not stick around to work the

observing deck. The talk was a long one and ended after 8:30 p.m. We left by 8:45. At least three of our members were also in attendance: **Tim Seitz**, **Bruce Elliott**, and **Rose Marie Burke**. Good to see you all!

We set out a table of astro goodie giveaways including RASC Moon gazer cards, light pollution cards, IYA solar cards, RASC Starfinders, centre brochures, green laser brochures, and red tablecloth material for flashlights...and all were gone at the end of the night. ★

...Dr. A. Vibert Douglas Award for 2012

All of this shows his above and beyond-ness dedication to furthering Astronomy in the public domain.

Afterword by Mark: I am overwhelmed and completely humbled to have been chosen as the recipient of the Dr. A. Vibert Douglas Award for 2012. I will endeavour to live up to the confidence you have all shown in me.

The picture...with me holding the



award includes the accompanying letter from Susan (which I suitably framed) and the brass thing is a working model of Sir Isaac Newton's first telescope. Now isn't it so fortuitous that I bought this scope at the Fall'n Stars swap table this year? ★

...continued from page 1

...Meeting Report: October 15

Saturday, November 10th and the centre meeting on Monday, November 19th). The price will be \$20 each with discounts for more than one copy. Remember this is a fundraiser for us!

Rose Marie reminded us about an astrophotography talk by **Michael S. Adler** to the Kingston Field Naturalists.

Hank Bartlett: The meeting last night was excellent, a bit of the old style. I found the talk was mind-boggling but also intriguing and thought-provoking; there could have been a hundred questions if there were time. The movies were excellent as well; wouldn't be great to do that on an aurora night.

The scope mount was much smaller to me once it was stripped down, of course I had not been in the dome in a couple of years either.

Thanks to the exec for their hard work.

Rose-Marie Burke: Yes, I too enjoyed the meeting. I'm glad Hank said it was mind-boggling. Math has never been my best topic, I could follow the gist of it, but don't spot-test me on it five minutes later. Interesting to see how those pretty lights in the sky affect modern technology. It was good to see a larger turnout for this one.

Paul Winkler: I agree with Hank, excellent meeting all around. Very professional pics by the members! I was very glad to see them, as I found

the view of the aurora from my part of Kingston on the 8th of October to be virtually nil.

Regarding the old Queen's scope, thanks to the Exec but also thanks to **Brian Hunter** for his obvious enthusiasm and involvement with getting the scope “lent” to us! I appreciated his little tour of the new telescope very much.

Susan Gagnon: A meeting is nothing unless the right folks show up! Thanks to all for coming out. By the way when I asked Nathalie to speak I said she could go into a fair bit of detail if she kept all the math to one slide. Our speaker last night must be a good teacher, there were quite a few equations and no one ran from the room screaming in the end. ★

...continued from page 3

Blast from the Past: The Herschelien Telescope Song

Sir John Herschel

Requiem of the Forty-feet Reflector at Slough, to be sung on the New Year's Eve, 1839-40, by Papa, Mama, Madame, and all the Little Bodies in the tube thereof assembled:—

In the old Telescope's tube we sit,
And the shades of the past around us flit;
His requiem sing we, with shout and with din,
While the old year goes out and the new one comes in.

Chorus of Youths and Virgins.

Merrily, merrily, let us all sing,
And make the old Telescope rattle and ring.

Full fifty years did he laugh at the storm,
And the blast could not shake his majestic form;
Now prone he lies where he once stood high,
And searched the deep heavens with his broad bright eye.
Merrily, merrily, &c.

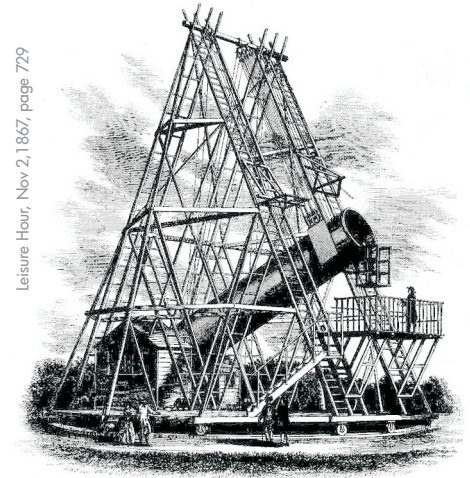
There are wonders no living wight hath seen,
Which within this hollow have pictured been;
Which mortal record can ne'er recall,
And are known to Him only who makes them all.
Merrily, merrily, &c.

Here watched our father the wintry Night,
And his gaze hath been fed with pre-Adamite light;
While planets above him in mystic dance
Sent down on his toils a propitious glance.
Merrily, merrily, &c.

He has stretched him quietly down at length,
To bask in the starlight his giant strength;
And Time shall here a tough morsel find,
For his steel-devouring teeth to grind.
Merrily, merrily, &c.

He will grind it at last, as grind it he must,
And its brass and its iron shall be clay and dust;
But scathless ages shall roll away,
And nurture its frame in its form's decay.
Merrily, merrily, &c.

A new year dawns and the old year's past,
God send us a happy one like the last,
A little more sun and a little less rain,
To save us from cough and rheumatic pain.
Merrily, merrily, &c.



Herschel's 40-Foot Telescope: After standing for half a century, the iron tube was lowered to the ground and the wooden structure demolished in 1839. The Herschels gathered inside the tube for their New Year's sing-song.

The tube remained in the garden, sitting on stone blocks. In 1867 a tree fell on the tube, but a 3-metre section of the tube still survives today and is on display at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

With its 48-inch mirror, this was the largest telescope in the world and was not surpassed until Lord Rosse's 72-inch *Leviathan of Parsonstown* saw first light in 1845. ★



God grant that its end this group may find
In love and in harmony fondly joined;
And that some of us fifty years hence, once more,
May make the old Telescope's echoes roar.

Chorus, fortissimo.

Merrily, merrily, let us all sing,
And make the old Telescope rattle and ring. ★

ONE OF THE DUTIES of the Centre Executive is to produce a report on the year's activities. As your president it is my pleasure to be able to prepare this report for 2012. As I write, the Centre membership seems to have reached a stable number of 66, changing little over the last few years.

The Centre continues to run meetings 10 months of the year (leaving July and August without):

JANUARY 14TH: **James Silvester** (Queen's/RMC) spoke on a new analysis of stellar magnetic fields, rotational velocities and the distribution of rare elements.

FEBRUARY 11TH: Astrophotography: many members participated and all manner of technique was discussed, from very low end, point and shoot at the eyepiece to software issues with CCD cameras.

MARCH 10TH: miscellaneous observing related reports and short slide shows, National Council meeting report from the day's teleconference and promotion of several upcoming events including the Lennox and Addington County dark sky destination at the Sheffield Conservation Area and **Terry Dickinson's** efforts to assist them in promoting it.

APRIL 14TH: Notes from an executive retreat, Astroday plans, Sheffield Conservation site visit, prospective sites for the transit of Venus in June.

MAY 12TH: Member presentations: comet video, deep sky and solar photos.

JUNE 9TH: Transit of Venus reports!

SEPTEMBER 17TH: Observing reports including Fall'n'Stars activities, more transit reports!

OCTOBER 15TH: **Dr. Jean-Marc Noel** (RMC) spoke on Northern Lights: Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Aurora.

NOVEMBER 19TH: AGM and member contributions.

DECEMBER 17TH: End-of-Year/Holiday-Celebration Dinner at Aunt Lucy's Restaurant, 6 p.m.

From January to June the meetings preceded the KAON session at the Queen's Observatory. These sessions always provide an enjoyable talk and a great chance to help out on the deck with telescopes and binoculars. There is always a Kingston Centre contingent on hand to participate and it is good fun with a turnout that is often up to 70. Attendance is consistently high now that the talk is held in a more spacious classroom. Many stay after the talk and visit the deck scopes. September marked a KC meeting night change to the 3rd Monday of the month as the combined KAON/Meeting night did not yield the benefits that were expected.

Beyond KAON, there was more public outreach...

MARCH 31ST: **Mark Coady** was at Armour Hill in Peterborough and did public night sky observing for Earth Hour.

APRIL 28TH (ASTRONOMY DAY): KC members **Kim Hay, Hank Bartlett, Susan Gagnon, Brian Hunter, Kevin Kell** did a solar session at Confederation Park downtown.

APRIL: The Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington Science Fair; the Centre's tradition of donating a prize was continued.

Mark Coady was very busy with half a dozen outreach events:

MAY 26TH: at Quinte Mall parking and did public solar observing along with Belleville Centre members.

MAY 26TH: at Emily Provincial Park did night sky observing for Girl Guides camping there. (YES, two events in one day!)

MAY 30TH: at Warsaw Caves

where he did night sky observing for Grade 9 and 12 students from Cawthra Park Secondary School in Mississauga who were camping there.

MAY 31ST: at Frink Outdoor Education Centre; did night sky observing (with Belleville Centre) for students camping there.

JUNE 5TH: Transit of Venus for approximately 50 people attending a Parish Fun Fair.

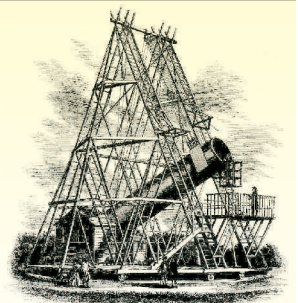
JUNE 14TH: at St. Anne's Church in Peterborough; did public solar observing.

JUNE 5TH: Transit of Venus, two groups provided assistance to the public at Lemoine's Point with **Dieter Brueckner**, and others at Fort Henry hill where various members attended.

JUNE 15TH: **Susan Gagnon** and **Doug Angle** provided observing

continues next page...

The career of Herschel's 40-foot was inaugurated by a concert held within the tube, just as its end was celebrated half a century afterwards.



“God save the King” was sung in it by the whole company, who got up from dinner, and went into the tube, among the rest two Misses Stow, the one a famous pianoforte player, some of the Griesbachs, who accompanied on the oboe, or any instrument they could get hold of, and I,” Caroline in her ninetieth year continues, “you will easily imagine, was one of the nimblest and foremost to get in and out of the tube. But now!—lack-a-day!—I can hardly cross the room without help.” She was then a giddy girl of only thirty-seven! But when the concert was held in the tube at the end of the great telescope's career, she was in Hanover, never destined again to see the noble work of her “best and dearest of brothers.”

—James Sime,
William Herschel and His Work

entertainment for camped out BioBlitz participants on Amherst Island.

JULY 13TH: **Susan Gagnon** and **Tim Sietz** did a demonstration and observing session for Girl Guides at Carruthers House and were eaten alive by mosquitos.

OCTOBER 23RD: **Hank Bartlett** was at Brownies. It was cloudy, so no observing, just an evening of meteorites, chat, and constellations. Left copies of star maps, star finders.

Fred Barrett continues to contribute to the *Frontenac News* with his *What's Up in the Sky* column.

EXECUTIVE EFFORTS

The Centre benefits greatly from the executive members who are always working away in the background, thinking of new ways to do things etc.

Kim Hay increases the Centre footprint with facebook, local ads for meetings, and the holiday dinner out.

Kevin Kell keeps our books and the Centre website in shipshape and prompts communication when the rest of us have fallen silent. The house on Colebrook Road is always keen to take on a new project or six.

Walter MacDonald continues to monitor Centre activities and thanks to his careful recording of the observing reports we know that there are clear skies in Kingston area once in a while. His efforts with *Regulus* are always beautiful and informative.

Our National Council Rep, **Brian Hunter**, has done a magnificent job of keeping Kingston on the radar at National, and by all accounts it is done with no effort whatsoever! Not like the old days where you really had to work at it.

David Maguire keeps our library growing with excellent book choices and devotes a fair bit of personal real estate to the project.

The executive also sent out a membership survey in the form of a

mail-in postcard to get meeting feedback. With a mailout last year for the 50th anniversary and the post cards this year the executive sees benefit in an annual "real" mailout beyond the regular website/email contact.

Doug Angle remains the caretaker of the Venor scope and arranged to have it re-coated this summer. That included driving it to a U.S. site and back.

The Centre continues to search for an affordable home for the centre scopes where they can be enjoyed under suitable skies. A real estate contact was made in an effort to find those little known corners of the countryside.

We also had times of minimal effort and maximum enjoyment!

MARCH 29TH: the Queen's Cave Lecture where **Chris Impey** spoke to a full auditorium with a video overflow room on "The Search for Life in the Universe."

MAY's KAON speaker was **Terry Dickinson** on "The Largest Telescope in the World." (Chile).

JUNE 5TH: there was a members' gathering for the transit of Venus. Some members who do outreach all year, every year, wanted a chance to take their own photos and socialize with friends.

AUGUST 17TH: Five Centre members sampled the Elbow Lake Biological Research Station (Queen's) as a potential observing site.

SEPTEMBER 14TH TO 16TH: Fall'n'Stars dark sky camping weekend with Belleville Centre.

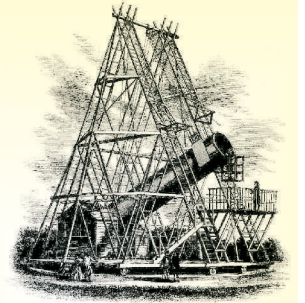
Several members make the rest of us envious with their personal efforts. **Winchester Observatory's** photometric data collection, **Starlight Cascade's** all-sky cameras and Radio Jove, and **Kevin Fetter's** regular satellite chasing reports on

spaceweather.com. The Centre is lucky to have several avid astrophotographers who share their work regularly, from full sky stellar and aurora, to deep sky and solar.

This year we acknowledge the contributions of two individuals: after a long hiatus the Novice and the Dr. A. Vibert Douglas awards will be presented to **Rose-Marie Burke** and **Mark Coady** respectively.

With the New Year on the horizon and a new executive chosen tonight we look forward to another year of making time for Astronomy in our busy lives, to share our enthusiasm with the public and each other, and to encourage the integration of Astronomy and its allied sciences into lives that often devalue science and deny the need in society for critical thought. ★

Before the tube was fitted with the great mirror, many of the visitors who flocked to see William Herschel had the curiosity to walk through it. Among



them was the King. Close behind him was the Archbishop of Canterbury, who found it difficult to proceed, till the King turned to give him his hand, saying, "Come, my Lord Bishop, I will show you the way to heaven."

—James Sime,
William Herschel and His Work

Starlight Cascade Update

We have now cracked the top 200 in Canada: #199 out of 48,069 and cracked the top 4000 in all of SETI #3,935 out of 1,342,720. As an added side effect, all of the computer systems help heat the home in the winter, offsetting baseboard electric heaters.

SETI@HOME