

Regulus

Newsletter of the RASC Kingston Centre



Vol. 51 No. 2

December, 2024



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Centre Events this month:

- December 4th:
Annual Christmas Dinner at the Mandarin
- December 11th:
Monthly Meeting, at Ellis Hall 226, Queens University. Speaker: Alan Chan of Mt. Stromlo
- December 18th:
Weekly Social, Online.
- December 19: Astrophotography Zoom Session for members
- January 8th:
Monthly Meeting, Online.



I would like to begin my report by thanking the Board of Directors of the Centre, the non-elected officers and volunteers and all members, for making 2024 such an enjoyable experience in amateur astronomy.

Among the Centre's goals, we aim to promote and foster a greater awareness, understanding, and appreciation of astronomy and allied sciences among the public at large, particularly among our youth and in schools, and with any other group/individual who request our assistance. This is only possible with our volunteer's hard work and dedication.

2024 Highlights:

We have normalized our return to in person meetings and have kept Zoom for the winter months of January and February to minimize the risk of driving in poor winter conditions.

Susan Gagnon has been experimenting with recording our meetings for upload to the YouTube channel. Susan is also our primary host for the Wednesday Social Chats on Zoom, with help from time to time from Mark Kaye and John Hurley.

Our meetings have been well attended, and we have had a great time meeting for dinner prior to the meetings, mostly at the Portsmouth Tavern.

Thanks to Michael Bird for arranging dinner reservations. The Social Convenor position is available in 2025 if anyone is interested.

Susan also has the role of Treasurer and has been keeping the Centre finances in great shape. Thanks also to Michael Bird for his role as the Centre's Auditor.

Elena Zanetti has been doing a wonderful job as the Secretary and has stated that she will stand for another term.

John Hurley has been our National Council Representative and keeps us informed on all things to do with the National Organization. John has also stated that he will stand for another term.

Kim Hay has the dual role of Vice President and Librarian. I am grateful that Kim has continued in a role on the Executive, her experience and input are much appreciated. Kim has stated that she will stand for another term as Librarian.

Andrew Godefroy had been the Centre's Newsletter Editor and we thank Andrew for his work on Regulus, and his contributions to crafting our draft ONCA compliant By-Law document. We welcome Roger Hill to the Board of Directors as the new Editor and we thank him for taking on this most important role for the Centre.

Rick Wagner (Past President) continues to present his very thorough and informative "What's Up in the Sky" at our monthly meetings.

Walter MacDonald and I worked on the Solar Eclipse page for the club's website, and it had a healthy number of visits leading up to the Eclipse in April.

Kevin and Walter do a bang-up job keeping the website functional and filled with relevant and current information.

Thanks to Kevin not just for being the equipment coordinator, but also for the many hats he has worn over the years. Another member with invaluable experience and is much appreciated.

And it is with gratitude that I mention our Honourary President David Levy. David is present at most of our Zoom socials and begins the meeting with poetry and quotations.

In 2024 the RASC Kingston Centre Outreach Highlights
Laurie and Devon presented at Bon Echo Provincial Park.

Bruce and Rick participated in an event at Elbow Lake.

Rick and Mark D at Rideau Lakes.

Malcolm Park presented at the February Queen's Open House on Solar Eclipses.

Bruce, Deiter and Kim engaged with Centre of the Universe for Solar Eclipse preparations.

The Science Rendezvous Team was nominated for Science Rendezvous Outstanding Volunteer Group. This includes Laurie Graham, Devon Graham-Ancsin, Elena Zanetti, Susan Gagnon Bruce Elliott, Rick Wagner, Kevin Kell, Kim Hay

Our Secretaries Report has more information, but many thanks to all volunteers.

Centre By-laws

In January 2024 a determined RASC KC executive began the final push, crafting ONCA compliant By-Laws for the centre. The deadline for compliance with the new Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) was October 18, 2024. By the summer these new by-laws were presented to the Centre membership for ratification and were enacted. Many hours of effort went into this project, thanks to all that contributed.

The sky in 2024 was dominated by the Sun: The Solar Cycle, the Solar Eclipse, the Aurora...and a comet.

Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

This eclipse for many began 20, 30 or more years ago, with a Fred Espenak chart and a dream. Kingston and areas were on the path of totality of a solar eclipse! We all looked forward to April 8 in one way or another, until the day finally arrived.

The centre was very much engaged with preparations, with Kim Hay leading the Centre's Eclipse Committee (which included Bruce and Deiter), and engaging with Queen's and other organizations.

Members of the RASC KC distributed viewing aides, made presentations to schools and libraries and engaged in all kinds of Eclipse related public outreach.

(Malcolm's amazing image of the eclipse from Lac Megantic is featured on the front cover.—Ed)

We are officially at the peak of the current Solar Cycle.

Members have been watching the sun's surface produce sun-spots and flares, making beautiful images and time-lapse videos of the sun.

The activity seems to be non-stop. We have had some powerful X-Flares and subsequent CME's this year.

Some CME's impacted Earth producing spectacular Aurorae. Aurora May 10, 2024

I can't speak to the May 10 event, as I was away. Although I did detect these aurorae in the Atacama Desert on my DSLR. But by all accounts, this was a big one. The Planetary KP Index was off the charts.

These events were similarly spectacular, but I think most people would say the best show was on May 10.

C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS)

Nothing captures the imagination like a nice comet. C/2023 A3 T.A. put on a nice display and is the rare comet that mostly lived up to expectations.



Panorama of the great display of Northern Lights of October 10-11th, 2024

T Corona Borealis: We are still waiting for it to blow!

It was anticipated that this might be a big story in 2024, it may yet be.



Fall'N'Stars

Fall'N'Stars was held as usual at Johnson's RV Park, in Prince Edward County in September.

RASC KC were the lead organizers, and it was well attended and fun as always.

Roger Hill was the keynote speaker with Malcolm Park up after him. And there was a presentation from the South Shore group.

Pizza, salad, swap table, door prizes, group photo, Fall 'N' Stars has it all.



RASC KC Observatory

The Centre is in the process of determining the best course of action for the materials stored on Tessa Clark's property. Kevin, Rick and Malcolm did a site visit about a week ago to assess the condition of the materials. There is more to come on this in 2025.

Finally...



Amateur astronomy is alive and well in Kingston, with an active membership pursuing many astronomy interests. If you are interested in the science of astronomy, with the improvement in equipment over the years citizen scientists can participate in many ways. Be it occultation's, photometry, or exo-planet surveys, there's so much we can engage with. And one astrophotography side of things advances in the quality of cameras, mounts and optics are resulting in spectacular photos. Not to be taken for granted, there is nothing like visual observation. No Astro photo, however impressive it might be, can compare to the sight of the night sky naked eye, or the view through an eyepiece.

The RASC Kingston Centre has a diverse membership, with expertise in a wide array of astronomy disciplines to help newcomers get started. It is a pleasure to be a member of this community, and I thank you all for your contributions.

Farewell, my dear Attila: A Tribute from Alan Rahill

This is some news that saddens me deeply. Attila Danko, with whom we created the world's first astronomy weather forecast website, passed away last night (2024-11-28). He is mourned by his spouse Ingrid.

We would have celebrated 25 years of cooperation in 2025. The ClearSkyChart was born in 2000 and has been a key figure for the great success with its idea of a new genre of graphics. In a blink of an eye, we had all the weather and astro-weather information needed to plan astronomy evenings for the next few days/nights. The CSC combined a lot of weather information into a simple graph, which is now copied all over the world.

There is a CSC for all the flags on a North America map through this link to a [google map](#).

Attila was a person of great generosity, a great gentleman, passionate and of exemplary humility.



I didn't expect to be doing this again, frankly.

I was editor of the Hamilton Centre's newsletter (Orbit) for 12 years, but when I stepped down and moved to eastern Ontario I must admit that I'd get a little antsy as the end of the month arrived and I hadn't even started on the next month's issue.

However, it was now someone else's job, and I got to enjoy a new editor's take on things.

Unfortunately, the new editor had to step down to work on her thesis, and no-one else stepped forward. I was asked to take up the reins again, but I said no. Saying "No" to the Hamilton Centre was unusual for me, as I'd only done that twice before, but I felt that, more than most positions, the editor should be local and I was now over 400km from where I used to be.

When Andrew Godefroy had to step away from doing Regulus, I briefly wondered if I could produce a joint newsletter between the Kingston and Hamilton Centres. It was then that I had to admit to myself that I (sigh) maybe, sort of, actually missed putting a newsletter together.

One thing led to another, and now I get to try to follow Andrew. I loved his style of newsletter. It was bright and eminently readable. I have no idea what he does for a living, but since his email address ends with MAC.COM, I assume he is Macintosh devotee, and perhaps has some graphics artistry type of background.

I've been using Microsoft products since the days of MS-DOS 2.1. I'm an information junkie, though, and a firm believer in function over form. The stuff I produced for Hamilton, while vast in numbers, was, frankly, stodgy. It looked like it was made in the days of newsletters produced by typewriters and gestetner forms. Oh, Microsoft Publisher made it easy to fit pictures in, but it could not help with the creative side of things. Orbit just screamed "This was done by someone who only has a Left Brain."

So, looking at Andrew's Regulus, I was gob-smacked at how good a newsletter could look, and while I could not create something like that, I thought I sure as hell could try to copy it. So, with imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, that's what I'm going to try to do.

I hope you will bear with me while I take on the task of ignoring the dominant (and domineering) left hemisphere of my brain as it constantly yells at me "Look at all that wasted white space on the page!"

A promotional poster for the Science Rendezvous Kingston event. The poster features a collage of images showing children engaged in various science activities, such as looking through a telescope, using a microscope, and interacting with a large model of a dinosaur skeleton. The text on the poster includes the event name "SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS KINGSTON", the date "MAY 10TH 2025", the time "10am - 3pm", and the location "Slush Puppie Place & The Tragically Hip Way". At the bottom, it says "Join us for a free Science Festival for the whole family!" and includes the Queen's University logo.

SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS KINGSTON

MAY 10TH 2025

10am - 3pm | Slush Puppie Place & The Tragically Hip Way

Join us for a free Science Festival for the whole family!

Queen's UNIVERSITY

New Co-Coordinator for Science Rendezvous!

Bruce Elliot is taking over from Kim Hay, allowing the RASC Kingston Centre to help out for this event. Thank you, Bruce!

A tent is generally provided by Queen's, so we'll need some volunteers to help with handouts, setting up telescopes for Solar Observing, and providing lots of advice for those just getting started in our hobby.

If there are any questions or offers to help out, please contact Bruce via email: bruce.elliottb@gmail.com



Torah study, a meeting among friends and members, takes place on most Saturday mornings. It is only time that I try to awake before noon. It is a program of Beth Shalom Temple Center, our synagogue. During each two-hour session we continue our discussion of the Torah, which is composed of first five books of the Bible. I am a bit uncertain to my role there. I do begin each session with a poem from my collection of night sky-related poetry. But once when it was my turn to read from Genesis, a passage described how a group of people stayed on the someone's land one night: "Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount". (Genesis 31.54) Without really thinking about it, I added, "And while they were there, they set up their telescopes and enjoyed a lovely evening of stargazing." Most laughed, some were stunned, and possibly one just left.

I love the relationship that the Torah points out that developed between God and Moses. I had the feeling that they became friends. It appeared that God's anger was kindled frequently, with good reason. and that, as our Rabbi pointed out, Moses tried to calm him down. Even though I consider myself agnostic—we cannot know if God even exists—I do take my faith quite seriously. I find it appropriate to think that God has a temper, and even a sense of humor.

As our discussion went on week after week, I suggested the idea that other people might have a similar, personal relationship with God. I suspect that my late wife Wendee did. But before I get to the story I want to tell, it is time to relate just how special Wendee was. Except for eclipses of the Sun and the Moon, Wendee did not come into our marriage with a passion for the night sky, but she built it as time passed. She never tired of urging me to continue and expand my early morning comet hunting sessions. On occasion, as I looked eastward in anticipation of closing the observatory roof, I would see her smiling face. She did not like to climb out of bed before dawn, but when I asked her if she would like to arise early the morning after I discovered my most recent comet in 2006, Wendee replied that she wouldn't miss that opportunity for the world.

Wendee's passion was not at all limited to looking outward, to the sky. She also encouraged me to look inward. Joining the Torah study was her idea. It began my weekly Saturday early

rising. Right from the start I did considerable reading of the Genesis and Exodus chapters, and I began a tradition of reading a poem at the start of each session which I still do. The Torah study is an activity that remains close to my soul, and I look forward to it always.

Wendee's role in Torah study did not affect just me. "She always had profound words to say," relates Dr. Martin Cohen, the leader of our Torah study group. "I will always remember her insights into scripture and what she felt when she looked up into the heavens, and the potentials she saw in all of humanity."

Now for my purpose in writing this article. I like to think that she used that friendship to her advantage on April 8, 2024, during the total eclipse of the Sun. On April 8, we did catch portions of the incoming partial eclipse. But as the dark umbral shadow of the Moon rushed towards us, the clouds thickened and we could not see the Sun. The sky was darkening quickly, and the temperature was plunging so fast that I could feel it plummet. It seemed obvious to me that we were not going to see the total phase of this eclipse. Then I imagined that in Heaven, Wendee turned to God: "God," she said, "Why won't you let Doveed see the eclipse?"

"Well," God smiled as he replied, "Doveed hasn't been that good a boy lately. For example, he still doesn't have a handle on my third commandment. He may be trying, but he hasn't got it yet."

"So what?" snapped Wendee. Let him see the damned eclipse!"

"OK. You're the boss." In the next minute I saw by far the most dramatic total eclipse I have ever witnessed. The clouds parted magically. There was a spectacular corona, and a lovely prominence at the lower limb of the Sun.

After the total phase of the eclipse was over, I witnessed a spectacular display of sunlight glimpsing its way through valleys on the edge of the Moon, an effect called Bailey's Beads. Wendee approached God again and said, "Actually, God, you're the boss."

The smile vanished as God replied, "Yes, I am the boss. But I have tasked you with taking care of Doveed."

I cannot forget that incident. And in a sense, it doesn't matter if it really happened that way or not. It will always live in my memory. I miss Wendee terribly, and wonderfully. She gave me a significantly richer sky, and a much happier life.



Any night of the week can offer up a broad range of viewing wonders. RASC KC Past President Rick Wagner keeps an eye on the sky for us each month, sharing some of the

best viewing opportunities as well as timings to catch your favourite night sky target at its best.

- 01 Dec **New Moon** (01:21EST)
Minor planet 13 Egeria (mag 9.9) at opposition
- 04 Dec **Thin** crescent Moon 3° below Venus; look for earth shine
Mars goes retrograde just NW of M44
- 06 Dec **Moment** of Global Darkness (14:56EST) – nearly 86% of the world’s population is experiencing astronomical darkness (Sun is more than 18° below the horizon.)
- 07 Dec **Jupiter** (mag -2.8) at opposition
- 08 Dec **First Quarter Moon**
- 14 Dec **Geminids** peak, badly impacted by nearly full Moon
- 15 Dec **Full Moon** (04:02EST)
- 18 Dec **Gibbous Moon** just 10’ N of Mars (mag -0.9)
- 21 Dec **Winter** solstice (04:21EST) – Sun is at its furthest south, astronomical winter begins, and the longest night of the year.

- 21 Dec **Another** Moment of Global Darkness (16:44EST) – the Sun is below the horizon for just over 88% of the world’s population
- 22 Dec **Ursid** meteor shower peaks before dawn today; a minor shower of less than 10 meteors per hour but has seen rare outbursts above 100 per hour. The radiant is just off the bowl of the Little Dipper.
Last Quarter Moon
- 23 Dec **Double** shadow transit on Jupiter (03:00EST) – from about midnight to dawn Ganymede and Io and their shadows will be transiting the disk of Jupiter.
- 25 Dec **Mercury** (mag -0.4) at greatest elongation west low in the eastern sky during morning twilight
- 27 Dec **Yet** another Moment of Global Darkness (14:39EST) when just over 86% of the world’s population is in astronomical twilight or darkness (Sun is more than 12° below the horizon – the sky is perceptibly dark to non-specialists.)
- 28 Dec **Thin** crescent Moon 1° right of Antares (mag 1.1) low in the east before sunrise, Mercury (mag -0.4) 9° to their left.
- 29 Dec **Jupiter’s** Galilean moons are clumped into two close pairs just 1.5’ apart, left of Jupiter’s disk
- 30 Dec **Double** shadow transit on Jupiter (06:00EST) – from about 05:00EST Ganymede and Io and their shadows will be transiting the disk of Jupiter until they are lost in morning twilight.
- 30 Dec **New Moon** (17:27EST)

Target for Tonight

Susan Gagnon



Since it is pretty dark at 5:30 pm here in Ontario this time of year we can get an early start at observing on a clear night. This months targets are interesting in that they do not have a lot of bright stars and take a bit of work to sort out. Pisces insinuates itself between Aries, Triangulum and Pegasus, and covers a long stretch of sky below Pegasus. Cetus is below all that, closer to the horizon. The only item in the ETU list that is covered by these constellations is Mira. Mira or Omicron Ceti is a long period variable with a cycle that runs over 332 days. First noted in the 1500's, it was a curiosity due to the way it appeared and disappeared. This giant pulsating red star is now on the road to a less flamboyant future as a planetary nebula with a white dwarf at it's centre.

Constellation	Messier	Finest NGC	Deep Sky Gems	Double Stars
Cetus	77	426	240	HD3125
		936	239	HD9336
			56	78 Cet
			238	66 Cet
			341	
			338	
Pisces	74		278	77 Psc
			34	86 Psc
		NGC253	31	
			59	
			284	

Centre News and Musings



★ Stop the press!
Got news to share? Send your centre news, updates, pictures, sketches, notes, and links to the Regulus editor!

Winter Online Meetings
Just a reminder to all that the January and February 2025 meetings of the RASC-Kingston Centre will be online only, as the

weather and winter road conditions often preclude many folks from gathering in person at Ellis Hall. You can find the Zoom links on the Centre's website, or sent to your email. I'm also going to try to have a couple of pounds of hot wings and a beer since I won't be going to the Portsmouth Tavern for supper! Also, why not join other members every Wednesday on the club's Zoom social?

Weekly Social. Every Wednesday evening when there isn't a monthly meeting, the people of the Kingston Centre get together over Zoom and have a chat. Doveed Levy normally starts things off with a poem, or some other literary reading. Some will report on what they've done, what they're having problems with, what they've observed, or something they're working on. Some people will ask questions, and others will answer.

Astrophotographers! Malcolm sent this along:

Astrophotography Zoom sessions.
We have been talking about having Astrophotography Instruction sessions, and they are going to happen. Our first one will be on December 19th, at 7pm via zoom. The Zoom link will be posted to the RASC Kingston Centre Chat list.

We will have monthly meetings around the full Moon to start with. I think the sequence of topics should go from easiest to hardest.

Our first session will cover the basics of camera settings, gear and framing/composition/processing for Milky Way style astrophotography with a DSLR or Mirrorless camera. I think Milky Way shooting is the most accessible variant of AP and for beginners, a good place to start. Most people have wanted to shoot the milky way at one time or another. But how do you make those images POP? I guarantee you will get some excellent tips. Techniques for Milky Way shots also apply to meteor showers, aurorae, even ISS passes. So for the first session, I've invited a special guest instructor. One of the best in the field. Kerry-Ann Lecky Hepburn will show some of her nightscape Milky Way images and walk us through her process, from start to finish. She will take questions too.

The plan is to follow up with sessions on deep sky imaging, polar aligning, target selection, software and hardware, backyard and portable, solar, planetary, and deep sky.

The meeting will be recorded, but it will not be posted for public viewing. It will be for member viewing only and password protected.

Once the recording has been uploaded, I will post the password to the chat. Please do not share it. In future, the frequency of recording, and whether they are password protected will vary.

So mark your calendars, Dec 19, 7:00pm you don't want to miss it

December Special Meeting

On December the 11th, we will be holding a special meeting for two pieces of new business.

1. We will hold a vote asking you to approve an amended Letters Patent for the Centre
2. We will hold a by-election to elect a director to participate in Board discussions and meetings.

Following this Special Meeting, our presenter will be Alan Chan. Alan is visiting Canada from Australia and reached out to the Centre offering to give a presentation. He is a graduate student at Mount Stromlo Observatory and the Australian National University, Canberra. His recent work includes studying Active Galactic Nuclei as new standard candles for cosmological distance measurement and exploring the implications of dark energy and gravitational waves in the evolution of the universe.

Looking ahead, there will be no Zoom Socials on December 25th or January 1st. Therefore our last Zoom social of 2024 will be on the 18th of December.

The next in person meeting for the centre will be in March.

If you would like to stay active in the centre and are not already signed up, please join our chat list and Facebook group.

Our monthly meetings are being posted on YouTube.

Links can be found at <https://kingston.rasc.ca/>



*And off into the night, I go
To feed my mind,
And ease my soul.*

Like David Levy, I love a good astronomical poem. One of the more famous is The Learned Astronomer by Walt Whitman. It speaks to an astronomical heart that beats in many of us, who, when troubled, head off into the night and contemplate a star-filled firmament, helping to put mind and soul back in harmony.

When I heard the learn'd astronomer by Walt Whitman

*When I heard the learn'd astronomer,
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me,
When I was shown the charts and diagrams, to add, divide,
and measure them,
When I sitting heard the astronomer where he lectured with
much applause in the lecture-room,
How soon unaccountable I became tired and sick,
Till rising and gliding out I wander'd off by myself,
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,
Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.*

Then again, I recently came across a quote from the great Richard Feynman that seems like a reply to Whitman's poetic reporter:

"The stars are made of the same atoms as the earth. I usually pick one small topic like this to give a lecture on. Poets say science takes away from the beauty of the stars - mere gobs of gas atoms. Nothing is "mere." I too can see the stars on a desert night, and feel them. But do I see less or more?"

The vastness of the heavens stretches my imagination - stuck on this carousel my little eye can catch one-million-year-old light. A vast pattern - of which I am a part - perhaps my stuff was belched from some forgotten star, as one is belching there.

Or see them with the greater eye of Palomar, rushing all apart from some common starting point when they were perhaps all together. What is the pattern, or the meaning, or the "why?" It does not do harm to the mystery to know a little about it. For far more marvelous is the truth than any artists of the past imagined! Why do the poets of the present not speak of it?

What men are poets who can speak of Jupiter if he were like a man, but if he is an immense spinning sphere of methane and ammonia must be silent?"

As much as I love Whitman's thought, ultimately, I find I must side with Feynman.

Submitted by Roger Hill

Started at 7:45 pm.

Malcolm Park, our President, welcomed Kingston Centre members and guests. This meeting immediately followed our AGM.

Guest speaker: Tim Trentadue and the evolution of the Lennox and Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area. Started around 2012 by Terrence Dickinson, with initially crowds of 50 to 60 people, the site now welcomes 200 to 300 people with many coming from the Toronto area. Along with Joe Gilker, Tim has volunteered since its inception and they now hold Astrophotography evenings and Laser Guided Tours of the Night Sky.

Rick Wagner presented: Astronomy This Month

Members Reports

Bruce Murray shared 4 images of the Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS, Orion nebula and Jupiter.

Roger Hill purchased equipment for an old EQ5, shared images of the OnStep EQ5 Controller and Modified Canon T1i and Roger was very happy with images taken, unguided.

Malcolm Park shared images of M31, North American Nebula, Veil Nebula, Pickering's Triangle and the Tarantula Nebula in the Large Magellanic Cloud.

The Centre is seeking a volunteer to be the social convener to arrange restaurants and reservations.

The Annual Christmas dinner will be at the Mandarin, December 4th.

On Dec 11, 2024, there will be a special meeting to vote on amended Letters Patent documentation followed by the regular meeting.

Our speaker will be Alan Chan, a Astronomy and Astrophysics student at Mount Stomlo Observatory at the Australian National University.

Every Wednesday (except second Wed meeting night) we have the members Social Zoom Time – to join, send an email request to kingston@rasc.ca On social media we are:

Website at Kingston.rasc.ca.

Facebook at RASC Kingston Centre Group.

Join our Centre at www.secure.rasc.ca/membership YouTube at RASC Kingston Centre with a recent video posted of David Levy's talk with the Montreal Centre, tonight's and past meetings are also located there.

Malcolm thanked all for attending and the meeting ended.

Submitted by Recording Secretary Elena Zanetti

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Kingston Centre

Board of Directors

President: Malcolm Park
Treasurer: Susan Gagnon
Secretary: Elena Zanetti
Vice President: Kim Hay
Editor: Roger Hill
Librarian: Kim Hay
NCREP: John Hurley

Honourary President: David Levy



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2023-2024 RASC Kingston Centre Annual Meeting

Queen's University, Ellis Hall Room 226, Kingston, Ontario and live-streamed on Zoom
November 13, 2024

Meeting started at 7:11 p.m.

Malcolm Park, our President welcomed all.

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting 2024 was presented.

For Motions and Elections only paid-up members of the RASC Kingston Centre will be able to vote. A show of hands in the video or participation windows will be accepted. It should be noted that this is the first Annual General Meeting of the Centre operating under the new set of by-laws that were passed on July 31st, 2024.

Approval of Agenda

Motion 20241113 – 1: Moved by Roger Hill and Seconded by Kim Hay. The Motion carried.

Approval of the minutes for the Annual General Meeting of November 8, 2023

Motion 20241113 - 2: Moved by Elena Zanetti and Seconded by Peggy Hurley. The Motion Carried.

Annual Report of Secretary

Motion 20241113 – 3: Moved by Elena Zanetti and Seconded by Mike Haines. The Motion carried.

This report will be sent to National Office for the National Annual Report 2024.

Report of Treasurer & Financials, Auditors Report – Susan Gagnon

Susan read a summary of the Oct 1 – Sept 30 Treasurer's Report.

Motion 20241113 – 4: Moved by Susan Gagnon and Seconded by Peggy Hurley to accept the financials as presented.

Motion Carried.

Auditors Report: Michael Birds' auditor's report (on screen) was shared.

Motion 20241113 – 5 to approve Auditor's Report | Moved by Susan Gagnon | Seconded by Laurie Graham. Motion Carried.

All other reports are located on our RASC KC website, you must be logged in as a member to view them.

Kingston Centre election of Directors.

Nominees must be a member in good standing and be at least 18 years old.

Secretary: Elena Zanetti – term is expiring. Elena is willing to stand again.

Newsletter Editor: Andrew Godefroy – term is expiring.

National Council Rep: John Hurley – term is expiring. John is willing to stand again

Librarian: Kim Hay, Kim is willing to stand again

Vice President: Kim Hay is willing to stand again

Director-at-large: position available

Auditor for 2023-2024: Michael Bird is willing to stand

Auditor for 2024 – 2025. Nominations from the floor were requested. None came forward.

Motion 20241113 – 6: To elect Michael Bird as Auditor for 2024 – 2025.

Moved by Susan Gagnon and seconded by Kim Hay. The Motion Carried.

Nominations from the floor were requested for the Director position currently held in the Secretary role. None came forward. Acclaimed. Elena Zanetti has accepted another 2-year term.

Nominations from the floor were requested for the Director position currently held in the Newsletter Editor role.

Roger Hill was nominated by Mike Haines and seconded by Bruce Murray. Roger is willing to stand. No other nominations came forward. Acclaimed for a 2-year term.

Nominations from the floor were requested for the Director position currently held in the National Council Representative position.

None came forward. Acclaimed. John Hurley has accepted another 2-year term.

Nominations from the floor were requested for the position of Director without Portfolio.

None came forward.

Our 2024 – 2025 RASC Kingston Centre Board, with positions to be confirmed at the next Board meeting:

Malcolm Park, President

Kim Hay, Vice President

Susan Gagnon, Treasurer

Elena Zanetti, Secretary

Roger Hill, Newsletter Editor

John Hurley, NCREP

Director without portfolio: position is open

Rick Wagner, Past President

Kevin Kell, Equipment Co-ordinator

Kim Hay, Librarian

Walter MacDonald and Kevin Kell, Web Team

Michael Bird, Auditor

Motion 20241113 – 7: To Adjourn.

Moved by Mike Hanes and seconded by Rick Wagner with thanks. The motion carried at 7:45 pm.

About Us

About Us

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

RASC is a national, non-profit, charitable organization devoted to the advancement of astronomy and related sciences. Founded in 1868, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is Canada's leading astronomy organization, bringing together over 5000 enthusiastic amateurs, educators, and professionals. In addition to many national services, our 30 Centres offer local programs across Canada.

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Kingston Centre
(aka Kingston's Astronomy Club)

We are Kingston's Astronomy Club, a local centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, founded on June 2nd, 1961. We hold monthly meetings, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (September-June), via zoom videoconferencing and in person, from 7:00-9:00pm Eastern Time.

- We do public outreach programs in the form of helping the Cubs and Guides, teachers, Science Fairs and many public Education and Public Outreach events.
- We help out our members with questions in astronomy and equipment use, and hold private observing sessions, and also with Queen's University Observatory Open House, on the third Saturday of each month, at Ellis Hall, Queen's University.
- <https://www.queensu.ca/observatory/>
- We support the local Frontenac, Lennox & Addington County Science Fair (FLASF) with a prize in astronomy.
- We are here to answer your questions on astronomy.

JOIN US!

<https://kingston.rasc.ca/join>

Board of Directors & Officers for 2024-2025

Directors:

President: Malcolm Park

Vice President: Kim Hay

Secretary: Elena Zanetti

Treasurer: Susan Gagnon

Editor: Roger Hill

Nation Council Representative: John Hurley

Officers:

Honourary President: David H. Levy

Past President: Rick Wagner

Webmaster: Walter MacDonald

Librarian: Kim Hay

Loan Equipment: Kevin Kell

The **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Kingston Centre** was provincially incorporated as a Not-For-Profit Corporation in September 2005 and has been a registered Charity with the Canada Revenue Agency since September 2006.

CRA Registration #827905720RR0001

Benefits of Membership:

RASC benefits:

- Annual edition of the Observers Handbook
- Bi-monthly RASC Journal (digital)
- Monthly Bulletin of the RASC (digital)

Kingston Centre benefits:

- Monthly Centre Newsletter – Regulus
- Weekly social videoconference chat for members and invited guests.
- On the 2nd Wednesday evening of the month, there are meetings open to the public: In-person in March to June and September to December at Queens, July and August outdoors at Lake Ontario Park; and two in January and February that are video-conference only.
- Equipment loan program