

RASC Kingston Centre Annual Report 2020

Last Updated: 2023 November 09



Introduction

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is a Nation-wide, non-profit, charitable organization devoted to the advancement of Astronomy and related sciences. The Society dates back to 1868 when 8 amateur astronomers founded an astronomical club in Toronto. An expanding group obtained a charter in 1890, and the name The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada was adopted in 1903 with the permission of King Edward VII.

The RASC Kingston Centre was established in 1961 and currently has approximately 63 (2020Sept) members. We meet monthly for two hours at Queen's University in Kingston Ontario. There are presentations from excellent speakers and members are encouraged to share their latest interest. These meetings are free to the public and guests are always welcome. Since COVID19 struck in early 2020, we have held monthly virtual Zoom videoconferencing socials for members and their guests.



Eyepieces and Tomatos.. always good to have a 2nd hobby!

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President Report

Annual Presidents Report 2020
Kim Hay



This past year has certainly knocked us all into a tailspin. All of our lives have changed from being with family, friends and in all that we do. But we have managed to carry on, be safe and continue to do so.

The reports from our Executive members have shown that the Centre still does the Centre's business, perhaps not in the way we are used to, but we have carried on.

I think one of the best features to have come from our lockdown for Covid is the introduction of ZOOM by the National Office, has opened a pathway for communication with each other, a broader link with all our members, and with sharing astronomy with other Centre's. Attending other Centre's meeting's has been a delight with great talks.

Each Centre has either used the National Account or has purchased an account of their own to use for their communications. Kingston Centre is no different. We purchased our account in April and have been using it ever since. With regular meetings, board meetings and our weekly Social on Wednesday night, we have been able to chat and share in a very open and friendly forum. My hope is that we can broaden this ZOOM account to start doing live Observing sessions at various members observatories, or just have great talks with smaller groups. This is a great platform for committees or new committees to share ideas.

We all shared the view of Comet NEOWISE this summer with many images from our members. Our Star parties became virtual with sitting in on many of the RASCANADA YouTube video's and other Astronomical Societies around the world.

Kingston Centre has had nine new members over the summer and early fall. They were welcomed with a letter of invite to the Socials right away.

Outreach still continues with Susan Gagnon working with the Guides over a ZOOM connection. Two of our newest members are doing outreach with their own scopes (safely of course) and by participating in the RASC EPO committees.

Our Centre does need your help with ideas for our upcoming 2021 year. Topics for meetings, perhaps filling in a position that is vacant, or helping with a small project. Your Centre is only as good as the ideas that come from our members to shape our Centre.

Next year 2021 the RASC Kingston Centre will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary. There are some ideas in the works, but if you our members have a suggestion, please let your Executive know.

Lastly I want to personally Thank our Executive (Vice President Laurie Graham, Secretary, Kevin Kell, Treasurer Susan Gagnon, Past President Rick Wagner, Graeme Hay our Editor of Regulus ,Walter MacDonald our webmaster & his team and Hank Bartlett our FB moderator for keeping our members and the Public in touch and interested in Astronomy.

The year 2020 has not been kind to us, but we are together in Astronomy and in sharing the universal sky.

Kim Hay
Nov. 10, 2020



Solar observing from the shores of Lake Ontario

Secretary Report



2020 Annual Report of the Secretary of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Kingston Centre – Kevin Kell

Introduction and Background

In this our 59th year (1961-2020), the RASC-KC is holding its own as a Centre. Membership numbers have been relatively stable around 65 for the last 10 years and our financial status is good.

We have been provincially incorporated as a not-for-profit since 2005 September and as a federally registered charitable organization since 2006 September. We have been running short of a full slate of Executive for some years now, with many Executives doubling up on duties and jobs that required work.

Since then we have been working with a fixed \$23/member fees and have run small surpluses in 9 of the last 10 years. Donations to the Centre continue to contribute more than membership fees, but this cannot continue as donations for public outreach and for a centre observatory will not happen if there is no outreach and no observatory.

The Executive is still in the older governance model (members directly elect Officers), awaiting the proclamation of provincial legislation to start the move to the new Board of Directors model (members elect Board of Directors, Board appoints Officers) , along with a volunteer or three to get the draft done.

Future Goals

Our search for observatory land is now well over a decade old and has not had any success in locating land for purchase or long term lease. Without a central meeting place for observing groups, work parties, or outdoor social events, the Centre is in a holding pattern with much of its library, equipment, and outreach material in storage at member's homes. We are looking at additional member benefits such as paid access to a remote telescope. Surveys show that interested members want to drive the telescope, not simply submit observation requests.

The past year

COVID – how can we have a report on 2020 and not talk about COVID? Our last regular inperson events were our monthly meeting on February 13th and an Astronomy on Tap event on February 27th.

Our March meeting was cancelled and our first virtual meeting using the Zoom videoconferencing platform was held on 2020 April 9th. Regular monthly meetings continued virtually in May, June, September through December.

Starting on 2020 April 29th, we now hold an additional virtual Weekly Social Chat on Wednesdays for 1 hour. This is an informal coffee house style with a host moderator and any and all members and their guests can show off a few images, ask questions, etc. It has been a big success and will continue for the foreseeable future.

2019-2020 Meeting Summaries:

Thursday 2019 November 14th was the Centre's Annual General Meeting and Elections. Nominees must be a member in good standing, be at least 18 years old, be mentally competent and cannot be bankrupt).

President – no nominees or volunteers

Vice President- no nominees or volunteers

Treasurer – Susan Gagnon Acclaimed (2 year term) Carried Motion AGM2019-05

Editor- no nominees or volunteers

NC Representative- no nominees or volunteers.

Appointment of Auditor – Stephen Craig acclaimed. Carried Motion AGM2019-06

The remaining Board consists of: Treasurer Susan Gagnon, Secretary Kevin Kell, Librarian Kim Hay.

The Board will ask for volunteers or nominees going forward and make appointments as needed. At a minimum we require a President, Secretary and Treasurer.

After which the invited guest speaker Patrice Scattolin from Montreal spoke about his Winter Star Party experiences.

Thursday 2019 December 12th the Centre did not hold a Regular Monthly Meeting but rather gathered for a Holiday Dinner at a local restaurant with a tableful of door prizes!

Thursday 2020 January 9th: a regular meeting without an invited speaker featured member presentations: Laurie Graham-Planetary Nebula, Rick Wagner-Whats Up in the Sky, Hank Bartlett- ISS transit of the Moon. Following the break were observing reports from Brian Hunter, Rick Wagner, Steve Craig, Bruce Elliott and Kevin Kell.

Thursday 2020 February 13th: a regular meeting without an invited speaker featured member presentations: Peggy Hurley-Stonehenge, Rick Wagner-Whats Up in the Sky. Following the break were observing reports from Graeme Hay, Kevin Kell, Bruce Elliott, Steve Craig, Rick Wagner, Hank Bartlett, and Peter Hutchison.

Thursday 2020 March 12th – covid cancellation

Thursday 2020 April 9th – first test virtual meeting with RASC National Zoom account. Susan Gagnon gave a remote tour of her observatory. David Levy read some poetry. Was terminated early by another witless user that shutdown our meeting.

Thursday 2020 May 14th: a regular meeting with an invited speaker featuring Phil Groff, Executive Director of the RASC, speaking on the State of the RASC. Regular segments followed: Rick Wagner-Whats Up in the Sky. Following the break were observing reports from Steve Craig, Mark Kaye, Rick Wagner, Kevin Kell, Brian Hunter, Mark Deslaurier, Hank Bartlett.

Thursday 2020 June 11th: a regular meeting without an invited speaker featured member presentations: Rick Wagner-Whats Up in the Sky, Steve Craig-Battersea Observatory, Hank Bartlett-Hanks Sun Spot. Following the break were observing reports from Rick Wagner, Bruce Elliott, David Levy, Mike Hanes, Keith Neumark, Graeme Hay, Ian Levstein, Paul Winkler, Graeme Hay, Kevin Kell, Kim Hay. July, August no regular meetings.

Wednesday 2020 September 9th a regular meeting with an invited speaker featuring Paul Gray (RASC Halifax Centre, speaking on “Construction of a backyard observatory”. Following the break were regular segments: Rick Wagner-Whats Up in the Sky, Hank Bartlett-Hanks Solar Spot, followed by observing reports from Graeme Hay and Bruce Elliott.

Wednesday 2020 October 14th - a regular meeting without an invited speaker featured member presentations: Kevin Kell –small job volunteer list, Rick Wagner-Whats Up in the Sky, David Levy-poetry reading, Hank Bartlett-Hanks Sun Spot, Susan Gagnon on the National outreach virtual meeting and a local Pathfinder virtual outreach sessin. Following the break were observing reports from Rick Wagner, Bruce Elliott, Mark Deslaurier, Asser ElGindy.

Wednesday 2020 November 11th – Annual General Meeting and Elections for Secretary, Editor, Librarian, National Council Rep. No invited guest speaker but with member presentations after the AGM.

Wednesday 2020 December 9th – normally our Holiday Dinner but Covid Cancelled. A regular meeting with a scheduled invited speaker: Jenna Hinds (RASC National Office).

Kevin Kell, RASC-KC Secretary, 2020Nov03
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The Lennox and Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area

Treasurer Report

RASC Kingston Centre Treasurer Financial Report for Executive Board and Auditor, October 1, 2020. - Susan Gagnon



Summary:

Income \$3,636.62,
Expenses \$1,667.69 for a
net gain of \$1,968.93,
Total assets \$32,876.39

Fund Status: Spreadsheets, Open Office (4.1.3)

Cash float \$ 5.00
Fall'n'Stars \$ 500.00
Observatory \$22592.69
Operating \$ 7778.70
Reserve \$ 500.00
Special Projects \$1,500.00

Membership at the time of reporting is 65.

At a glance one can see that financially we are in good shape despite this unusual year or perhaps because of it. While we chose to purchase a Zoom account for the Centre, a year of Zoom is equal to 4 months of meeting room rent at Queen's. Fiscal year end finances outstanding liabilities are limited to \$28.25 for the latest SkyNews bulk purchase of 50 copies.

Income

While membership fees are a major source of income (\$1232.24), once again this is surpassed by the generous donations of members (\$1344.92). In addition to cash donations we received donations in kind totalling \$240. GICs have surely peaked this year at \$283.50 as interest rates are on the decline. Calendar income shall guarantee a small profit as we now request only numbers as preordered.

Expense

Expenses once constant have been overturned this year with the cancellation of public meeting space. The Zoom account plus meeting room rent came to \$482.50 (\$200+\$282.50). This is more than the usual \$360, but for the year's subscription to Zoom we get an additional -3 meetings a month as well as our regular monthly meeting. This contract runs until April of 2027 with expected continuous use as in person meetings will most likely be prohibited until that date at the earliest.

Director and Officer insurance (\$432) remains the same. Invited speakers to add variety to meeting content and this year we did well for our \$246.55. Starfinders and Lunar maps from National (we pay shipping only) are well stocked up and there are no events in the near future for giving any of these away so no purchases this year to date or anticipated for the remainder of 2020. SkyNews copies that were also part of our outreach giveaways, are currently being sent to the Kingston Library system as usual while Lennox and Addington have declined our offer due to lack of access by the public. The remaining 46 copies are being distributed in Amherstview from a local grocery store as a free handout. The number we order can be increased if there are other suitable sites for distribution by members.

Banking details.

We remain with the RBC branch on Gardiner's Road. hours are good and the location is convenient for the Treasurer. When assistance is needed it is not difficult to arrange time. We save fees by downloading e-statements. We do not however conduct any business online.

Future fundraising.

Ideas are welcome for the time when we may be able to engage the public again.

Notes for the Auditor

Financial year October 1 to September 30 (2019-2020)

Treasurer: current Susan Gagnon (2015-2020), past Kevin Kell (2010-2015)

Records: within the 2019-2020 Treasurer Deposit and Expense Binder please find the following,

- . Summary: AGM minutes November 2019 appointing Stephen Craig Auditor.
- . General Ledger: Central spread sheet, all transactions.
- . Payments, all cheques (#291-#309) issued and deposit slips.
- . Reports: all monies received through RASC national through direct deposit to the Centre.
- . Bank: All e-statements received from RBC.
- . Investments: all statements referencing GIC status.
- . CRA: papers submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency
- . Equipment: inventory to be presented at the AGM November 14, 2019.

In addition to the binder i have included: Profit and Loss (1 page). a sorted Ledger account (all transactions separated by Income vs. Expense). Balance Sheet reconciling the General Ledger accounting and the RBC chequing and GICs as well as the cash on hand (1 page).

Process

3 members of the executive (Treasurer, Secretary, President) have signing authority for the Centre.

Two signatures are required for every cheque and one must be the Treasurer's. As Treasurer I continue to hone my book keeping skills to keep things tidy and transparent. As i have said before, the books for the Centre remain uncomplicated and CRA and National reporting is not onerous. I look forward to the report from the Auditor and any feedback from the executive or membership.

Sincerely,
Susan Gagnon
Treasurer
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Kingston Centre



The airstrip at "Nirvana" north of Bon Echo

Profit Loss Statement
2019-2020

Line		Category	Income	Expense
100	INCOME	Membership fees	\$1,232.24	
110	INCOME	Donations RASC	\$391.12	
120	INCOME	KC Donations	\$953.80	
140	INCOME	GIC Interest	\$283.50	
160	INCOME	Calendar	\$360.00	
170	INCOME	Handbook	\$25.00	
175	INCOME	Sales Misc	\$35.00	
176	INCOME	Donations for memorials	\$0.00	
180	INCOME	StarParty	\$65.37	
181	INCOME	Lottery reimbursement	\$0.00	
182	INCOME	Honouraria	\$0.00	
500	EXPENCE	RASC CC fee		\$48.01
510	EXPENCE	RASC Shipping		\$0.00
520	EXPENCE	Calendar		\$0.00
530	EXPENCE	Handbook		\$0.00
535	EXPENCE	Purchase Misc	\$290.59	
536	EXPENCE	Memorial Expences		\$0.00
540	EXPENCE	StarParty		\$0.00
620	EXPENCE	Admin Treasurer		\$92.97
625	EXPENCE	Library		\$0.00
631	EXPENCE	Bank Admin fees		\$45.00
632	EXPENCE	Dir&Off Insurance		\$432.00
640	EXPENCE	Regulus		\$4.41
650	EXPENCE	Observatory		\$67.77
700	EXPENCE	Room Rent Meeting		\$282.50
701	EXPENCE	Invited speaker		\$246.55
720	EXPENCE	Ed and Outreach		\$227.53
730	EXPENCE	KFLA Science Fair		\$20.95
740	EXPENCE	Web Site		\$0.00
741	EXPENCE	project start up		\$0.00
745	EXPENCE	Zoom		\$200.00
Income total			\$3,636.62	
Expense total				\$1,667.69
Profit			\$1,968.93	

Balance Sheet		
Ledger	2020-10-01	Totals
Opening Balance	\$32,876.34	
Cash	\$5.00	
Fall'N'Stars	\$500.00	
Observatory	\$22,592.69	
Operating	\$7,778.70	
Reserve	\$500.00	
Special Projects	\$1,500.00	\$32,876.39

RBC		
Chequing Balance RBC	\$17,739.23	
GIC 0008 RBC	\$5,000.00	
GIC 0009 RBC	\$5,075.00	
GIC 0011 RBC	\$5,090.41	\$32,904.64
Outstanding liabilities		
Cheque 306	-\$28.25	\$32,876.39

RASC Kingston Centre..



The North Frontenac Dark Sky Preserve viewing area

Auditor Report 2020- Stephen Craig



I have reviewed the financial statements for the Kingston Centre for 2019-2020. I find them to be clear and easy to follow.

In my opinion the records are accurate and conform to generally accepted accounting standards.

I look forward to working with Susan again in the future.

Stephen Craig, Auditor



The full Moon in trees

Annual Financial Statements as submitted to RASC National Office.

Centre Treasurer's Annual Report – 2020

The annual Centre Treasurer's Report allows the Society to present a consolidated view of our total fundraising and activities in support of astronomy. This information is published in our annual report and used in support of grant applications and for strategic planning purposes. Your assistance in submitting this information is very much appreciated.

Instructions

- 1 Using your financial statements, complete this spreadsheet by filling in the category which most closely matches your chart of accounts.
- 2 Be sure to rename this spreadsheet to reflect your Centre's name (e.g. XYZ_Centre_2019.xls)
- 3 Email to Adela Zyfi mempub@rasc.ca

REVENUE

Enter all amounts rounded off to the nearest dollar.

Category	Amount	Description of category
Membership Revenue		
Membership Fees- Centre fee	1,232	This is the amount of Centre fee received by the Centre.
Membership Fee - Affiliate		- Revenue from Affiliate whose membership is with a different Centre
Membership Fees - Other		- Any other fees for Centre programs or services collected from members, e.g. observatory fees
Centre Newsletter		- Any revenue from fees charged for the Centre newsletter
Donations / Fundraising		
Donations	1,345	Donations received by the Centre
Fundraising		- This is anything that raises money for the Centre and includes sponsorships for special projects or grants received.
Sales Revenue		
Sales of Observer's Handbooks	25	Direct reselling of the OH to members and 3rd parties.
Sales of Observer's Calendars	360	Direct reselling of the QC to members and 3rd parties.
Other Publication Sales	35	Levy book
RASC Promo items		- Direct reselling of RASC promotional items to members and 3rd parties.
Other Sales		- same as above
Subscription Revenue		
Astronomy / Sky & Telescope		- If your Centre administers a direct subscription
Other		-
Events Revenue		
Star Parties	65	Record here revenue received from organizing a star party.
Annual Dinner		- Revenue received for the dinner
BIYA Event		- Any Revenue received from a Beyond IYA event
Astronomy Day		- Any Revenue received from an Astronomy Day event
Other Events		- Please identify the specific event (for inclusion in upcoming years)
General Assembly Revenue		
General Assembly		- Profit/loss for hosting a General Assembly
Miscellaneous Revenue		
Interest and Dividends	284	Revenue from interests and dividends
Advertising		- Advertising revenue
Observatory site revenue - members		- Observatory site access fees from members.
Equipment rentals/loans		- Equipment loan program fees from members.
Public services, events, outreach		- Revenue from non-members for services provided (e.g. Astronomy evenings)
Miscellaneous	291	reimbursement for unsold books returned to National
TOTAL REVENUE	3,637	

EXPENDITURES

Category	Amount	Description of category
Sales Expenses		
RASC publications	0	Cost of purchasing OH, Calendar, other RASC pubs.
Other Publications	170	Sky News
Newsletter	5	Cost of producing Centre newsletter. Mailing? Distribution?
RASC Promo items	0	Cost of purchasing RASC promotional items
Other	0	
Event Expenses		
Star Parties	0	Any expenses from your star parties
Annual Dinner	0	Any expenses from your Annual Dinner
Astronomy Day	0	Any expenses from your Astronomy Day
BIYA Event	0	Any expenses from your Beyond IYA events
Meetings	730	room rent, speakers, zoom
Other Events	74	Science Fair, Door prizes for public events late 2019, early 2020
Travel Expenses		
General Assembly and Council Meetings	0	Use this account to record any expense for reimbursing Rep to attend Council meetings / General Assembly.
Administrative Expenses		
Office Administration	48	Society Office processing fee, postage, etc.
Equipment and Supplies	93	Stationery, office supplies, envelopes, etc.
Insurance	432	
General Expenses and Audit	45	Bank account fees
Awards	0	
Donations	0	Any expenses relating to donations
Advertising	0	
Miscellaneous Expenses		
Observatory and Site Expenses	68	
Library	0	
Depreciation	0	
Miscellaneous	0	Any items not covered by the above.
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1665	
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS	1,972	Operating surplus or deficit for most recent fiscal year.

BALANCE SHEET Summary

ASSETS		
Current assets	32976	Bank account(s) balance, petty cash, GIC, term deposits, etc.
Long-term assets	200	Value of telescopes; observatory, land owned, buildings
Total Assets	33,176	
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	0	Accounts payable, deferred revenue.
Long-term Liabilities	0	Loans, mortgages
EQUITY		
Net Equity	33,176	Net equity
Total Liabilities and Equity	33,176	

Librarian Report 2020- Kim Hay



The Library is housed in the RASC KC Astronomy shed. All books are catalogued and on the shelves waiting for use by the members. The listing is on the rasc.kingston.ca/books as 20190121 library book listing.xls.

Take a look and if there is a book you would like , we can arrange something to get the book to you.

Prior Covid 19 books were taken to the meetings that were tied into what was being discussed that night for members to sign out.

The Library list was updated to include the books that were donated via Mark Kaye by Seamus Boyle.

We did purchase a new books 2020 year called "2021 Night Sky Almanac: A Month-by-Month Guide to North America's Skies from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada- Author Nichol Mortillaro.

The Librarian is always looking for suggestions for book purchases, and themes for meeting nights for books for loan. Please contact me at kim@starlightcascade.ca.

Kim Hay
Librarian

Reference Information

Board of Directors: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Librarian, National Representatives

Executive Committee: Board of Directors, Webmaster, Equipment Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, Social Convenor

Mission Statement of the RASC Kingston Centre

The mission of The RASC Kingston Centre is:

- in conjunction with the objectives of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, to promote and foster a greater awareness, understanding, and appreciation of astronomy and allied sciences among the public at large, and particularly among our youth and in the schools, and with groups and individuals who invite our assistance;
- to provide for our members a rich variety of services and programs related to their growth in, and enjoyment of, amateur astronomy;
- to acquire and maintain a library, astronomical equipment, and as need arises, other property, such as may be judged useful for pursuing our astronomical objectives;
- to work in conjunction with the Society and other Centres of the Society to further the progress and welfare of astronomy in Canada.

We are provincially incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation (September 2005) and are a registered Charity with Revenue Canada (September 2006),

CRA Registration #: 827905720RR0001