

RASC Kingston Centre Annual Report 2021

Last Updated: 2023 November 04



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 70 (2022Sept) 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.



Door Prize Table at Fall'N'Stars 2021

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President Report

Annual Presidents Report 2021
Kim Hay



We continued this year having our Virtual ZOOM meetings (with Kevin Kell, who works his technical wizardry to get the ZOOM, and YouTube streaming working) . Social gatherings on Wednesday Night's show runner is Susan Gagnon and has done a fantastic job inviting all to participate and have general conversations. These events can run about 1.5 hours to 2 hours depending on the subject matter.

In total we have had 10 Zoom Regular Meetings (including December 2020), which also included our Annual Meeting tonight. The December 2021 meeting will also be a Virtual ZOOM event, and with no Banquet this year still due to Covid restrictions.

We have had 41 Social Wednesday nights so far, and will continue this into 2022. Since we have had no direction from Queen's University , on when they will open up to the Public. The Executive has discussed about keeping the Socials going even if we do get to start meeting in person. We are always looking for more individuals who would like to run a Social night so the we can have more volunteers.

In a way the ZOOM meetings across the country have been a great tool to see other Centre's talks and presentations, and how sharing ideas can help other Centres, resulting in a true Astronomy Community. We get to see friends from coast to coast to coast , and from the comfort from our home. I believe that this tool will be with us going forward.

Though we did not have any in person events, we still carried on with some Virtual Events. The Frontenac Lennox & Addington Science Fair (FLASF)was held on March 28th to April 1st. Our Outreach to students at Leahurst College on March 30th, 2021 was appreciated and certainly helped the students with their Science curriculum.

As usual we took the Summer months (July, August) off and had no meetings but carried on with our Social nights on ZOOM.

Fall N Star's was held at the Johnson RV Park with RASC Belleville Centre on September 10-12, 2021. Covid protocols with masks with distancing were in place. It was just nice to see our friends who we had not seen in 16 months. Several Kingston Centre members also received their Green Laser Pointer training and are now certified and ready to use the GLP in the designated areas, and train others.

The rest of our meetings September to December have been online and open to the public and other RASC Centres and members.

The Executive has been exploring new ideas for 2022 but we encourage our members to bring ideas forward. I personally would like to thank all of our Executive, Directors, Volunteers, speakers and presenters (David Levy's Introduction and Poems, Hank's Sun Spot, Rick's What's up in the Sky) who are true gems to our Centre. Thank you to our member's for being here, we could not do this without you.

We have a FaceBook page, which is moderated by Hank Bartlett and the Twitter account is looked after by Kim Hay.

The Executive would like to thank Asser ElGindy (Secretary) and Francesco Ambrogi (Librarian) for doing all the work they did for the Centre and Outreach. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

I would encourage that some of our members consider filling the vacant positions (Secretary, Librarian)to help our Centre. If there is any area that you would like to help out with, this can also be discussed. The Centre does carry Liability Board Insurance.

This Centre is yours and we need your input and help to bring you the Centre you want.



A 20cm Dobsonian with patio stones and a stand for low elevation targets – kevin kell

Secretary Report



2021 Annual Report of the Secretary of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Kingston Centre Submitted by Acting Secretary Kim Hay

We had 10 Regular meetings, including this Annual Meeting on November 10th, 2021. December 2021 meeting will be online via ZOOM. Our meetings had guest speakers, or our members presented to us. We had David Levy starting us off with a hello and Hank's Sunspot (Hank Bartlett) and Rick's What's up in the Sky (Rick Wagner) which are monthly presentations.

Minutes were taken for all Regular meetings, which were also recorded on ZOOM and are on the Kingston Centre YouTube channel. Invitations were sent out on Face Book, Twitter and the Rascals email list, and on our website.

We also had three Executive Meetings to discuss Centre business, but the Executive also has many discussions via the email board list.

December 9,2020- The RASC Robotic Telescope with Jenna Hinds

January 13, 2021- Members Presentations

February 10, 2021- Judy Black President Halifax Centre "How Observant! An Introduction to Observing"

March 10,2021- Dave Lane: Observatory Director of St. Mary's University speaking on the Robotic Telescopes, Ralph (Burke-Gaffney Observatory), Little Ralph, and his own ARO (Abbey Ridge Observatory).

Also in March the FLASF Science Fair 2021 (March 28-April 1) went ahead virtually this year, and the Leo Enright Science Fair award for 2021 was awarded to Reed of Kingston Christian School . Reed's project was on Rocket ships. Thank you to Bruce Elliot, Elena Zanetti, and Graeme Hay to help judge this event and deliver the prize. Our Event poster was published on the FLASH website, FB, Twitter, and the Queen's Astronomy Website.

A Virtual Astronomy Session with Leahurst College on March 30, 2021 was arranged and presented by Bruce Elliot, Graeme Hay , Francesco Ambrogi and

Kevin Wenkoff. This consisted of 4 segments with a presentation from each on How old is the universe How big is the universe : What is the Universe made of?, and Facts about the universe! This helped the students along with their Science Curriculum on Astronomy. Topics included It was very well received and very much appreciated.

April 14, 2021 VP Laurie Graham spoke on "A Tale of Two Torqued Terrestrial Bodies"

May 12, 2021- Mark Coady Light Pollution Victories in Peterborough

June 9, 2021 Dr. Doug Johnstone- Up All Night: Life at the Summit of Maunakea from NRC Herzberg U of Victoria, and Robert Bates Astrophotography- Globular Clusters from RASC Belleville Centre

July-August- no monthly meetings were held

September 8, 2021 - Guest Speaker Murray Paulson from RASC Edmonton Centre who spoke on Finding Meteorites.

Fall N Star's September 10-12, 2021 hosted by the RASC Belleville Centre was held in Prince Edward County, Johnson RV Park. Full Covid protocol was in effect.

October 13, 2021- Members Meeting with a new twist- A Quiz....Put those thinking caps on.

November 10, 2021- Our Annual meeting and Regular meeting to follow with main speaker Rick Wagner.



December 8, 2021 still to come. But this will be a virtual meeting as well. The Secretary for 2020-2021 Asser ElGindy resigned this position in September. At that time the President took over the minutes and prepared this document for submission and approval by the Centre to be forwarded to the National Society. This position is open for Election at the Annual Meeting.

Treasurer Report

RASC Kingston Centre Treasurer Financial Report for Executive Board
and Auditor, October 11, 2021.



Summary:

Income \$3254.65,
Expenses \$2235.23 for a
net gain of \$1019.42,
Total assets \$33895.81.

Fund Status: Spreadsheets, Open Office (4.1.3)

Cash	\$ 46.00
Fall'n'Stars	\$ 448.08
Observatory	\$22785.90
Operating	\$ 8615.83
Reserve	\$ 500.00
Special Projects	\$ 1500.00

Membership at the time of reporting is 80.

The fiscal year was fairly quiet as it was a full year of pandemic lock-downs etc. Outstanding liabilities total \$78.25 in uncashed cheques. After the Auditor's review and the passing of this report at the AGM there will be a balancing of the Fall'n'Stars account to \$500. RBC statements show \$5 more in the bank than on the Treasurer's books.

Income

As is often the case in the Kingston Centre membership income (\$1480) is almost matched by the generous donations of members (\$1191). Calendar sales (\$110) and GIC income (\$183) complete the major sources of income in any given year and this year in particular.

Expense

Zoom has cut our meeting space expense. For a comparison with our in-person past this is how the costs compare. Queen's meeting rental \$362 (\$45 per meeting, 8 events), vs Zoom fees per year \$226 (\$4.35 per meeting, 52 events minimum as there were executive meetings, committee meetings and trouble shooting sessions carried out with Zoom).

Director and Officer insurance (\$432) is unchanged. Invited speakers for regular monthly meetings (\$200). Outreach spending remains limited to SkyNews (\$170), a virtual Science fair (\$103), and kit handouts from our stock of star finders etc. for isolated school requests.

Banking details.

We remain with the RBC branch on Gardiner's Road, hours are good and the location convenient. We save fees by downloading e-statements. We do not however conduct any business online.

Future fundraising.

Binoculars and tripod regifted to Kingston for future fundraising remain in limbo. The executive will have to decide how to move forward on this issue. Running a lottery is time consuming and an outright sale may be in order. In 2021-02 an account was set up to receive donations through Canada Helps. This will place our name on the list of Charities offered to people wishing to donate. It is to raise the profile of the Centre only, donating through Canada Helps has always been possible. E-transfer of funds to the Centre has also been arranged.

Notes for the Auditor

Financial year October 1 to September 30 (2020-2021)

Treasurer: current Susan Gagnon (2015-2021), past Kevin Kell (2010-2015)

Records: within the 2020-2021 Treasurer Deposit and Expense Binder please find the following,

- Executive Meeting motion of 2021-10-12 appointing Michael Bird Auditor.
- General Ledger: Central spread sheet, all transactions.
- Payments, all cheques (#310-#328) 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.
 - Papers submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency and the Province of Ontario.
 - Equipment: inventory to be presented at the AGM November 10, 2021.

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.

Process

Three members of the executive have signing authority for the Centre. Two signatures are required for every cheque and one must be the Treasurer's. The only snag, which should be temporary, is getting the appropriate reports from National's new database, Driven. I apologize to the Auditor for the 4th quarter reports and my less than elegant extraction of detail from the said database. I look forward to the report from the Auditor and any feedback from the executive or membership.

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

Addendum: See 2020-2021AGM minutes electing Stephen Craig as Auditor. Also on file emails showing his subsequent resignation.

Annual Financial Statements as submitted to RASC National Office.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1			Kingston Treasurer's Annual Report – 2021			
2						
3			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.			
4			Instructions			
5			1 Using your financial statements, complete this spreadsheet by filling in the category which most closely matches your chart of accounts.			
6			2 Be sure to rename this spreadsheet to reflect your Centre's name (e.g. XYZ_Centre_2019.xls)			
7			3 Email to Adela Zyfi mempub@rasc.ca			
8						
9			REVENUE <i>Enter all amounts rounded off to the nearest dollar.</i>			
10			Category	Amount	Description of category	
11			Membership Revenue			
12			Membership Fees- Centre fee	1,480	This is the amount of Centre fee received by the Centre.	
13			Membership Fee - Affiliate		Revenue from Affiliate whose membership is with a different Centre	
14			Membership Fees - Other		Any other fees for Centre programs or services collected from members. e.g. observatory fees	
15			Centre Newsletter		Any revenue from fees charged for the Centre newsletter	
16			Donations / Fundraising			
17			Donations	1,191	Donations received by the Centre	
18			Fundraising		This is anything that raises money for the Centre and includes sponsorships for special projects or grants received.	
19			Sales Revenue			
20			Sales of Observer's Handbooks		Direct reselling of the OH to members and 3rd parties.	
21			Sales of Observer's Calendars	400	Direct reselling of the QC to members and 3rd parties.	
22			Other Publication Sales		same as above	
23			RASC Promo items	1	Direct reselling of RASC promotional items to members and 3rd parties.	
24			Other Sales		same as above	
25			Subscription Revenue			
26			Astronomy / Sky & Telescope		If your Centre administers a direct subscription	
27			Other			
28			Events Revenue			
29			Star Parties		Record here revenue received from organizing a star party.	
30			Annual Dinner		Revenue received for the dinner	
31			BIYA Event		Any Revenue received from a Beyond IYA event	
32			Astronomy Day		Any Revenue received from an Astronomy Day event	
33			Other Events		Please identify the specific event (for inclusion in upcoming years)	
34			General Assembly Revenue			
35			General Assembly		Profit/loss for hosting a General Assembly	
36			Miscellaneous Revenue			
37			Interest and Dividends	183	Revenue from interests and dividends	
38			Advertising		Advertising revenue	
39			Observatory site revenue - members		Observatory site access fees from members.	
40			Equipment rentals/loans		Equipment loan program fees from members.	
41			Public services, events, outreach		Revenue from non-members for services provided (e.g. Astronomy evenings)	
42			Miscellaneous		Anything not listed above, please specify.	
43						
44			TOTAL REVENUE	3,255		
45						

	A	B	C	D	E
46					
47					EXPENDITURES
48					Category Amount Description of category
49					Sales Expenses
50				460	RASC publications Cost of purchasing OH, Calendar, other RASC pubs.
51					Other Publications
52				108	Newsletter Cost of producing Centre newsletter. Mailing? Distribution?
53					RASC Promo items Cost of purchasing RASC promotional items
54					Other
55					Event Expenses
56				52	Star Parties Any expenses from your star parties
57					Annual Dinner Any expenses from your Annual Dinner
58					Astronomy Day Any expenses from your Astronomy Day
59					BIYA Event Any expenses from your Beyond IYA events
60				426	Meetings Any expenses from your Meetings
61				104	Other Events Any other expenses from events not listed above - please identify
62					Travel Expenses
63					General Assembly and Council Meetings Use this account to record any expense for reimbursing Rep to attend Council meetings / General Assembly.
64					Administrative Expenses
65				40	Office Administration Society Office processing fee, postage, etc.
66				77	Equipment and Supplies Stationery, office supplies, envelopes, etc.
67				432	Insurance D&O
68				45	General Expenses and Audit Bank account(s) balance, petty cash, GIC, term deposits, etc.
69					Awards
70					Donations Any expenses relating to donations
71					Advertising
72					Miscellaneous Expenses
73				128	Observatory and Site Expenses
74				37	Library
75					Depreciation
76				327	Miscellaneous Website
77				2236	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
78					
79				1,019	SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS Operating surplus or deficit for most recent fiscal year.
80					
81					BALANCE SHEET Summary
82					ASSETS
83				33,901	Current assets Bank account(s) balance, petty cash, GIC, term deposits, etc.
84					Long-term assets Value of telescopes; observatory, land owned, buildings
85				33,901	Total Assets
86					LIABILITIES
87				0	Current liabilities Accounts payable, deferred revenue.
88				0	Long-term Liabilities Loans, mortgages
89					EQUITY
90				33,901	Net Equity Net equity
91				33,901	Total Liabilities and Equity
92					

Librarian Report 2021- Kim Hay



Past Librarian- Francesco Ambrogi

This position was taken up by Francesco Ambrogi at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Since then he has created an E-Library that includes all electronic publications that are open to the public. This was updated on the Kingston Centre website and is available for all members.

<https://kingston.rasc.ca/index.php/library/books>

The Book listing is up to date with all donations and any purchases to the Centre and is located online as an excel sheet.

The Book Library is located at the RASC Kingston Centre's Astronomy Shed.

This position is open as Francesco has stepped down to pursue his Studies.

Submitted by Kim Hay



Reports from Officers and Committees: Editor



2021 November 10

Editor Annual Report 2021 for the RASC-KC Annual General Meeting

Kevin Kell

Thanks to Graeme Hay for stepping up in late 2019 to fill the role of Editor for RASC-Kingston. He put out issues in February, March, May, August and October of 2020. Unfortunately he could not stay. I volunteered and was appointed by the Board of Directors and produced the first edition in 2021 January.

It took several issues of development using Libreoffice Writer to get to where we are in November. Typically it takes between 4-6 hours to take all of the material and put it together into a draft issue. Several proofs follow, including the last as it is sent to the Board for final proofing. Generally I try to publish in the first few days of the month.

I thank all of the contributors, especially those regular contributors! Regulus would be much thinner without them and members would be much less informed about Astronomy in general! Thanks to Stephen Craig for his "Galaxy-a-Day" project, Hank Bartlett for his "Sun Spot", Rick Wagner for his "Whats Up in the Sky", David Levy for his shared column "Skyward", Kim Hay for her "President's Tidbits", and Asser El Gindy for his meeting minutes.

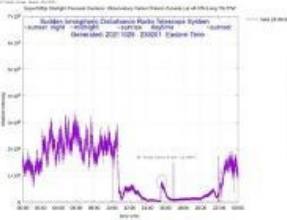
Up to today, we have published 11 issues (Jan-Nov) this year, totalling 133 pages. We have also dropped the self-imposed 10 page limit. This was created back when we stopped mailing paper to all members (\$1k/year cost saving measure) but offered free paper to any who asked. Mailing costs for more than 5 pieces of paper in an envelope goes up dramatically, so we tried to keep it to five doublesided pages. The last issue of Regulus came in at 21 pages!

My term ends in November 2022 but I would be more than happy to step aside sooner and allow any member with any interest whatsoever in publishing a newsletter to do so!

A newsletter is a tool used by organizations to share relevant and valuable information with their network of members, prospects and the general public. Newsletters give direct access to the target audience's inbox. It is also used as a historical record, recording information that might otherwise be lost over the course of time.

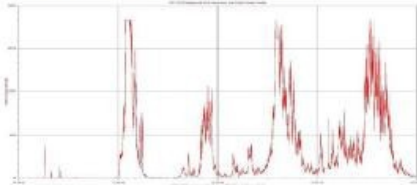


The remnants of AR2887 CME and X1 flare – Kim Hay



In addition, the SCGO Supersid system detected the event in what would normally be the radio quiet daytime.

As did the SCGO Radiojove system, needing a data recalibration as it went off the scale! Radiojove shows it started around 15:28 and concluded around 15:50 UTC



MEETINGS

RASC-KC Wednesday Weekly

Social videoconference. 7pm Eastern all weeks except the 2nd Wednesday of the month. For members and their guests. Email list subscribers receive the link weekly 1 or 2 days beforehand. Next Social: Wed 2021 November 17th

RASC-KC Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 2021 November 10th a virtual Zoom meeting at 19:00 EDT with the Annual General Meeting, followed by the Regular Meeting. Members will be emailed a zoom registration link, others may watch on our youtube channel.

In This Issue

- * X1 class solar Flare – Kim Hay & Kevin Kell
- * President's Tidbits – Kim Hay
- * In The November Sky - Rick Wagner
- * Annual General Meeting Agenda
- * Treasurer Financial Report – Susan Gagnon
- * Skyward for November – David Levy
- * Noise – Rick Wagner
- * Historic list of invited speakers to RASC Kingston 1963-2021– Kevin Kell
- * RASC-KC Solar Cycle 25 Monthly Review - Hank Bartlett
- * RASC-KC September Meeting Minutes – Kim Hay
- * National Council Notes-John Hurley
- * SCGO Radiojove detection of Jupiter-Io-A Event – Kevin Kell
- * A Galaxy a Day Images – Stephen Craig

General design parameters:
 - front page – a large image on the front page with some descriptive text, short paragraphs meeting information, table of contents
 - historical information – minutes, appointments, reports, etc
 - current listing of the Board or Executive
 - astro images

I have been the newsletter editor a few times, 1996-2003, a few single issues here and there over time and then again from 2021-present.

- Past Editors
- 1978-1988 Leo Enright
 - 1989 Mark Kaye
 - 1990-1994 Bill Broderick
 - 1995 Peter Kirk
 - 1996-2003 Kevin Kell
 - 2004 Brian Hunter
 - 2004-2005 Doug Angle
 - 2006-2008 Joe Benderavage
 - 2009-2019 Walter MacDonald
 - 2019-2020 Graeme Hay
 - 2021- Kevin Kell

We maintain an archive of all known Regulus Newsletters on our website at kingston.rasc.ca

Reports from Officers and Committees: Equipment



2021 November 10

Equipment Annual Report 2021 for the RASC-KC Annual General Meeting
Kevin Kell

The Equipment Coordinator maintains two sets of items, one for the Equipment Loan Program and the other, everything else left over. Some of the duties are: to maintain the equipment, to keep it stored safely, to maintain loan records, to update the inventory documents below annually and report to the Board.

The Equipment Loan Program is designed for short-term loan to our own Members. In general there are varying restrictions to the loan, depending on the equipment. Some is onetime use only (perhaps a few days) and can be items like a video projector, the meteorite collection, etc. Some is for longer use, typically a month or two and are items like telescopes.

Since the COVID19 Pandemic, the loan program has been on a huge timeout/hiatus. Two items are out on repair loan and only a few hours have been making the rounds.

Members with website accounts can sign in to kingston.rasc.ca and look in the "members" section to see <https://kingston.rasc.ca/equipment>

There they can find the following PDF documents:

Equipment-Inventory-2020-0929.pdf 12.97 MB
Equipment-LoanProgram-2020-0929.pdf 9.43 MB
Equipment-Manual-Barney-2006-0801.pdf 2.5 MB
Equipment-Manual-Douglas-2003-0307.pdf 2.19 MB
Equipment-Manual-Fitzgerald-2008-0113.pdf 1.47 MB
meadeLX200GPS_manual.pdf 1.42 MB
manual-meadelx200gps2019June04.pdf 156.84 KB

This year we purchased paint to do some preventative maintenance on some equipment, but the actual work did not happen and will have to wait until the warmer spring 2022



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