

# **RASC Kingston Centre Annual Report 2023**

Last Updated: 2023 November 06 -v5



## **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.



Partial Annular Solar Eclipse from Ellis Hall at Queens University with a Canon T7i, 75-300mmlens and solar filter on a tripod – Kevin Kell

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## **President Report**

### **Annual Presidents Report 2023**

**Kim Hay**



As I start this report, I would like to thank our Executive , chairs of the various committees and volunteers in helping too run our Centre in a very smooth fashion.

Our Vice President Malcolm Park who came on board in December 2022 and who filled in the last year of a two year term. Malcolm has been instrumental in helping out members with Astro-photography and telescopes. Susan Gagnon our Treasurer who has kept the Centre in line with expenses and looked after the books over the last four years. Elena Zanetti who has taken our minutes for our regular meetings and Executive meetings. With the help of ZOOM recordings the minutes are out for our members to read and catch up on what is happening in a very quick turn around. John Hurley who is our National Council representative. John has attended the meetings over the last year (along with the President) and reported back to the members on the happenings of the RASC. We all know that the last few years have been tumultuous and have had a bit of a financial issue. However, we have a new Executive Director (Jenna Hinds) less staff, and a Financial Committee (of which Susan Gagnon is on) that have looked after the budgets and expenses. Along with the Board of Directors , the RASC is on the road to righting the ship. Though the waters will still be a bit choppy, the swells have calmed down and we are on our way to becoming calm again.

Our Past President, Rick Wagner, has presented What's Up in the Sky, and provided technical information in our local chat list for all things Astronomical. Kevin Kell our Equipment Loan Coordinator has been busy trying to cull unused equipment we have stored in the RASCKC shed and other places. Andrew Godefroy, our Newsletter Editor (Regulus) has produced a very good Newsletter every month.

Our Website team, Walter MacDonald and Kevin Kell, who look after all the updates, and any issues that arise. Kevin also looks after getting members signed up to the website, and to our local chat list. Also an unofficial committee but a band of Online wizards ( Kevin Kell, Susan Gagnon, Elena Zanetti, John Hurley, Make Kaye) who have helped with meetings for ZOOM and streaming to YouTube and also our Socials on Wednesday nights.

Michael Bird, who is the Centre's Auditor, and has started looking after the Social Convener task. The Librarian (Kim Hay) who looks after the library books stored in the shed, and looks for any new books to include in our library. The list is online if your looking for a book to borrow!

Last but not least is our Honourary President and member David Levy. David has opened our meetings and Social gatherings on Wednesday's with Quotes and Literary Poems. Such wonderful words, from a wonderful person.

The past year of the RASC Kingston Centre has been busy with participation in Outreach activities from the Science Fair to Science Rendezvous. The FLASF(Science Fair) and thank you Bruce Elliott for heading up the Judging, and Graeme Hay for helping out. We participated in the 2023 Science Rendezvous with Queen's University (Laurie Graham, Devon Graham-Ancsin, Elena Zanetti, Susan Gagnon Bruce Elliott, Rick Wagner, Kevin Kell, Kim Hay), and plans are underway for the May 11, 2024 event. Come out and enjoy the fun! Also included are the Queen's Open House events, which just included a Partial Solar Eclipse. This is the trial for the big one on April 8, 2024. Thank you to our volunteers, Laurie Graham, Devon Graham-Ancsin, Elena Zanetti, Susan Gagnon, and Kevin Kell. If I have missed anyone, I apologize, as your volunteering is greatly appreciated.

Planning sessions with the University on the Total Solar Eclipse in April 8, 2024 are underway. Meetings via Teams with Queen's Staff and Centre member Bruce Elliot are providing the plans that are being prepared that will be made available on the website. There is co-operation with the Counties Tri-Board, and the City of Kingston.

Please check out <https://www.queensu.ca/physics/2024eclipse> which is the main conduit for information on the Eclipse.

The Centre itself has purchased Solar Viewers and Eclipse glasses, and have been handing them out to members since September , and will be available going forward. We also handed them out at Science Rendezvous, talking up the Partial October 14, 2023 Solar Eclipse and the Total Solar Eclipse in April 2024.

Outreach events at Elbow lake (Rose-Marie Burke, Rick Wagner), and helping other RASC Centres with outreach (Ottawa) at Rideau Ferry Locks (Rick Wagner , Mark DesLauriers).

Peggy Hurley, gives Astronomy talks to the residents at the Royale Retirement Residence in Kingston. A great way of outreach. In September I assisted Peggy , along with John on a Solar talk. The Ha PST was setup outside for residents to have some views of the Sun.

We started having hybrid meetings in January, and counting our November meeting have had 9 meetings. July and August we were off, but held a potluck at the home of John & Peggy Hurley and in August there was a meeting up at Lake Ontario Park (LOP.) These are a lot of fun!

We had our Fall 'N' Stars event on Sept 15-17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with RASC Belleville as lead, with over 30 people attending. Clear weather on Friday night, some cloud interference on Saturday, but a great pass of the ISS along with the Soyuz rocket body. There were also a couple of Space X satellite passes. Talks on Saturday afternoon, and pizza and salad, with lots of goodies and coffee to keep us awake!

RASC Kingston Centre is the lead for the 2024 Fall N Stars co-hosted event with RASC Belleville Centre at the Johnson's RV park in Prince Edward County. There are projects that are being worked on for the 2024 year.

We have a great Centre and lots of experienced members. We try our hardest to present topics for all. If there is something that you would like to see or hear, let us know!

I don't want to repeat the Secretary's report, but I just want to thank all of our Executive, Committee's and volunteers, you are appreciated.

I want to thank you , the members for letting me serve as your President for the last four years. I do ask that you support your new Executive, and if so compelled to come forward and lend a hand. There are lots of jobs to do in the Centre, and the more volunteers we have , the less everyone has to do, and there is more time for the enjoyment of our hobby Astronomy.



## Vice President Report 2023– Malcolm Park



I attended Board meetings and participated in email discussions on the KCRASC exec list.

I assisted KCRASC members with software and equipment questions.

Attempted to collimate the Torus telescope with an Ocal Collimating Camera.

I arranged a Zoom meeting to discuss the future of the Torus Telescope.

I will attend the NC meeting on Nov 5th filling in for the President as she is unable to attend.

Malcolm Park

# Secretary Report



## 2023 Annual Report of the Secretary of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Kingston Centre Elena Zanetti

Thanking all our members and their contributions, the Kingston Centre was established in 1961 and we are in our 62<sup>nd</sup> year. Our membership stands at 72 and we are in good financial health. We held 9 Regular hybrid meetings at Ellis Hall Room 226, Queen's University, on Zoom and livestreamed on YouTube for members and guests. On non-meeting weeks, we held Zoom socials, well attended by our members. On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, John and Peggy Hurley hosted a get-together and pot-luck BBQ for our members at their home. In August, one of these socials was held outdoors at Lake Ontario Park. In the Fall, we again met for dinner at local restaurants before our monthly meetings. Our member's chat list and Centre Library keep us connected and informed.

We held four Executive Meetings to discuss budgets, National Council concerns, programming, outreach, and our Centre equipment holdings.

Outreach and Events: We hosted a table at Science Rendezvous, May 13<sup>th</sup>, a family-friendly event with 1,500+ people attending and hosted by Queen's University. Our volunteers, Kim Hay, Kevin Kell, Rick Wagner, Susan Gagnon, Bruce Elliott, Laurie Graham, Devin Graham-Ancsin, and Elena Zanetti gave out solar viewers, age-appropriate astronomy games and information, and had fun interacting with the public. "A Night Under the Stars" at Elbow Lake on August 10<sup>th</sup> was well attended with over 30 people joining Rose-Marie Burke and Rick Wagner for a talk and telescope tour of the night sky. Rick Wagner and Mark Deslauriers joined Gary Boyle at an Ottawa Centre event at Newboro Locks on August 19<sup>th</sup> for a Parks Canada Learn to Camp weekend, offering a talk and telescope viewing for families attending. Fall'N'Stars, held jointly with the Belleville Centre at Johnson's RV Park in Prince Edward County, was well attended Sept. 23-25. When available, our volunteers assist Queen's University Observatory with their monthly meetings and observing sessions. This includes monthly Saturday night sessions as well as their daytime October 14<sup>th</sup> Partial Solar Eclipse event. Cloud cover with breaks did not deter 100+ people from enjoying views of the event. Thank you to Susan Gagnon, Laurie Graham, John and Devin Graham-Ancsin, Kim Hay, and Kevin Kell for bringing their personal equipment and sharing their knowledge with the public.

Awards: In June, Susan Gagnon had her name added to the Messier Certificate plaque and Andrew Godefroy received his Explore the Moon certificate. Later in the summer, our President, Kim Hay, received her Explore the Universe Certificate and pin. Our Centre's Leo Enright Award in Astronomy was awarded

March 31<sup>st</sup> to a student at Lehurst College Middle School at the Frontenac Lennox & Addington Science Fair. Bruce Elliott led the judging assisted by Graeme Hay and Andrew Godefroy.

The Sky This Month by Rick Wagner, David Levy Reads Poetry, National Council updates by John Hurley and our Member's Observing Reports are regular features of our monthly Regular Meetings. Guest speakers included:

January 11 – Scott Young, RASC Winnipeg Centre, Manitoba Museum. "DOME@HOME: Astronomy Talk Shows for Virtual Astronomy".

February 8 – Tim Trentadue and Joe Gilker, Dark Arts and Astrophotography, Lennox & Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area, "DSVA & Astrophotography".

March 8 – Dr. Laura Fissel, Assistant Professor, Astronomy and Astrophysics, Queen's University. "Scope on a Rope: Stratospheric Balloon Astronomy".

April 12 – Dr. Kristine Larsen, Professor – Geological Sciences, Central Connecticut State University. "Women in Astronomy: Past, Present, and Future".

May 10 – Member's Night: Rick Wagner, "Clusters and HR Diagrams". Kevin Kell, "Virtual Tour of the Lennox & Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area".

June 14 – We were fortunate to have Blake Nancarrow, RASC Toronto Centre, RASC National Observing Committee Chair, as a guest speaker, "Get Certified". He passed away in September and he will be missed.

September 13 – Member's Night. "What I Did This Past Summer." Roger Hill, "A New Pier for Seaway Observatory". Bruce Elliott, "What's Up in the Sky at Snug Harbour and Beyond!". Rick Wagner, "Python and the Jupyter Notebook". Malcolm Park with a Starfest presentation.

October 11 – Member's Night. "Passions and Projects." Stefan Jackson, "Jackson Observatory Build". Andrew Godefroy, "Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program".

November 8 – Annual General Meeting followed by our Regular meeting. Shelley Jackson on her Astrophotography journey, other member presentations.

December 13 – Social dinner planned with no meeting this month.

Looking forward to 2024 and clear skies.

# Treasurer Report

## RASC Kingston Centre Treasurer Financial Report for Executive Board and Auditor, October 6, 2023.



### Summary as of 2023-10-01:

Income \$6670,  
Expenses \$6738 for a  
loss of \$67

Total assets \$34,996.08.

### Fund Status: Spreadsheets, Open Office (4.1.3)

Cash	\$ 6.00
Fall'n'Stars	\$ 758
Observatory	\$23,722
Operating	\$ 8,511
Reserve	\$ 500.00
Special Projects	\$1,500.00

### Membership at the time of reporting is 67.

#### Income

Kingston Centre membership income (\$1426) at a transfer rate of \$22.31 per member from National, is the Centre's second source of income, exceeded again this year by the generous donations of members and others (\$2192). Fall'n'Stars (\$257) completes the major sources of income this year. Fall'n'Stars account will be rebalanced to \$500 when profit is transferred to Operations later this month. GIC returns, as expected are much improved this year at \$171.

#### Expense

A large boost in Outreach spending took place this year in an attempt to prepare for next years eclipse in April, bringing the total up to \$1535. This year an effort was made to reimburse volunteers for mileage when travelling to events or parking if local. Meeting related spending is up and by all estimates the changes over the last few years are a great investment. Meeting room rental at Queen's, Zoom meetings and invited remote speakers as well as inperson speakers tallied to \$1067. Zoom has been a boon to executive communications and adhoc meetings by members to work on technical problems. The weekly Wednesday Social hour is also a great chance to share tips, seek help and celebrate success.

#### Banking details.

We remain with the RBC branch on Gardiner's Road, hours are good and the location convenient for the Treasurer. Fees creep up with items like e transfers so we may reconsider this choice of institution. E transfers are popular all round

and here to stay. While the Centre readily receives e-transfers, all outgoing amounts remain cheques and this is preferred as a security issue.

### **Notes for the Auditor**

Financial year October 1 to September 30 (2022-2023)

Treasurer: Susan Gagnon (2015-2023).

**Records:** within the 2022-2023 Treasurer Deposit and Expense Binder please find the following,

- Michael Bird's letter of November 2022 stating that he was willing to stand as auditor, and AGM 2022 minutes with a motion nominating Mr. Bird and its approval.
- General Ledger: Central spread sheet, all transactions.
- Payments, all cheques (#355-#386) 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.
- Profit vs. Loss Statement
- Balance Sheet reconciling the General Ledger accounting and the RBC accounts

### **Process**

Four members of the executive have signing authority for the Centre. Two signatures are required for every cheque and one must be the Treasurer's. I look forward to the report from the Auditor and any feedback from the executive or membership.

Thank you for the privilege of serving the Centre as your Treasurer.

Sincerely,



Susan Gagnon

Treasurer

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Kingston Centre

Profit vs. Loss 2022-2023		
	Income	Expense
Membership Fees	\$1,426.03	
Donations at National	\$661.54	
Donations at Centre	\$1,434.00	
Donations Canada Helps	\$96.00	
GIC Interest	\$171.11	
Calendar	\$320.00	
Misc Sale	\$20.00	
Star Party	\$2,534.85	
Balance Correction from 2022	\$4.08	
RASC Fees	\$2.86	\$61.48
Calendar		\$409.70
Star Party		\$2,457.98
Library		\$111.28
Bank fees		\$51.00
Dir & Officer Insurance		\$432.00
Exec admin (All)		\$57.27
Misc Purchase (solar film)		\$229.18
Regulus		\$101.40
Observatory		\$71.17
Invited Speaker		\$283.04
Meeting Rent and supplies		\$547.92
Awards		\$20.00
Ed and Outreach includes Vol travel		\$1,431.16
Science Fair		\$103.60
Zoom		\$226.00
Memorial purchases		\$143.48
	\$6,670.47	\$6,737.66

Balance Sheet 2022-2023		
	Ledger	RBC
Cash	\$6.00	\$6.00
Fall'n'Stars	\$757.72	
Observatory	\$23,721.60	
Operating	\$8,510.76	
Reserve	\$500.00	
Special Projects	\$1,500.00	
Chequeing RBC		\$20,065.93
GIC 0008		\$5,000.00
GIC 0011		\$5,090.41
GIC 0013		\$5,000.00
Totals	\$34,996.08	\$35,162.34
Uncashed 350		-\$20.00
Uncashed 352		-\$146.36
Final Balances	\$34,996.08	\$34,995.98
Difference	\$0.10	

## Auditor Report

I have reviewed the financial statements for the Kingston Center RASC for 2022 - 2023 and discussed with the Treasurer Susan.



As of 06<sup>th</sup> October, the club operated with a net loss of \$67 for the year and is reporting assets of \$34, 996. A detailed breakdown is available from the club executive.

I am willing to continue in the role as auditor for the 2023 – 2024 year if requested.

Susan continues to do an excellent job!

Michael Bird  
Auditor  
**RASC Kingston Center**



The edge of Hurricane Ophelia at Fall'N'Stars 2023 – Kevin Kell

Annual Financial Statements as submitted to RASC National Office.

\*Note: These are \*last years\* 2022 Centre Treasurer’s Annual Report and will be replaced with the 2023 early in 2024 when they become available and this document will be updated.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Centre Treasurer's Annual Report – 2022</b>				
2					
3	The annual <del>Centre</del> 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	<b>Instructions</b>				
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 <del>Centre's</del> name (e.g. XYZ_Centre_2019.xls)				
7	3 Email to Adela Zyfi <del>mempub@rasc.ca</del>				
8					
9	<b>REVENUE</b> <i>Enter all amounts rounded off to the nearest dollar.</i>				
10	<b>Category</b>		<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description of category</b>	
11	<b>Membership Revenue</b>				
12		Membership Fees- <del>Centre</del> fee	1,217	This is the amount of <del>Centre</del> fee received by the <del>Centre</del> .	
13		Membership Fee - Affiliate		Revenue from Affiliate whose membership is with a different <del>Centre</del>	
14		Membership Fees - Other		Any other fees for <del>Centre</del> programs or services collected from members, e.g. observatory fees	
15		<del>Centre</del> Newsletter		Any revenue from fees charged for the <del>Centre</del> newsletter	
16	<b>Donations / Fundraising</b>				
17		Donations	1,500	Donations received by the <del>Centre</del>	
18		Fundraising		This is anything that raises money for the <del>Centre</del> and includes sponsorships for special projects or grants received.	
19	<b>Sales Revenue</b>				
20		Sales of Observer's Handbooks	20	Direct reselling of the OH to members and 3rd parties.	
21		Sales of Observer's Calendars	460	Direct reselling of the OC to members and 3rd parties.	
22		Other Publication Sales		same as above	
23		RASC Promo items		Direct reselling of RASC promotional items to members and 3rd parties.	
24		Other Sales		same as above	
25	<b>Subscription Revenue</b>				
26		Astronomy / Sky & Telescope		If your <del>Centre</del> administers a direct subscription	
27		Other			
28	<b>Events Revenue</b>				
29		Star Parties	3,155	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	<b>General Assembly Revenue</b>				
35		General Assembly		Profit/loss for hosting a General Assembly	
36	<b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>				
37		Interest and Dividends	28	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	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>6,380</b>		
45					

Annual Financial Statements as submitted to RASC National Office.

\*Note: These are \*last years\* 2022 Centre Treasurer's Annual Report and will be replaced with the 2023 early in 2024 when they become available and this document will be updated.

A	B	C	D	E
5				
7	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
8	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description of category</b>	
9	<b>Sales Expenses</b>			
10	RASC publications	252	Cost of purchasing OH, Calendar, other RASC pubs.	
11	Other Publications	113	SkyNews Bulk Purchase	
12	Newsletter	184	Cost of producing Centre newsletter. Mailing? Distribution?	
13	RASC Promo items		Cost of purchasing RASC promotional items	
14	Other			
15	<b>Event Expenses</b>			
16	Star Parties	262	Any expenses from your star parties	
17	Annual Dinner		Any expenses from your Annual Dinner	
18	Astronomy Day		Any expenses from your Astronomy Day	
19	BIYA Event		Any expenses from your Beyond IYA events	
20	Meetings	426	Zoom, speaker honouraria	
21	Other Events	372	Science Fair, poster production, outreach handouts, display shelter Science Rendezvous	
22	<b>Travel Expenses</b>			
23	General Assembly and Council Meetings		Use this account to record any expense for reimbursing Rep to attend Council meetings / General Assembly.	
24	<b>Administrative Expenses</b>			
25	Office Administration	44	Society Office processing fee, postage, etc.	
26	Equipment and Supplies	33	Stationery, office supplies, envelopes, etc.	
27	Insurance	432	D and O	
28	General Expenses and Audit			
29	Awards	339		
30	Donations		Any expenses relating to donations	
31	Advertising			
32	<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>			
33	Observatory and Site Expenses	346		
34	Library	9		
35	Depreciation			
36	Miscellaneous		Any items not covered by the above.	
37	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>5171</b>		
38				
39	<b>SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON OPERATIONS</b>	<b>1,209</b>	Operating surplus or deficit for most recent fiscal year. Surplus	
40				
41	<b>BALANCE SHEET Summary</b>			
42	<b>ASSETS</b>			
43	Current assets	35269	Bank account(s) balance, petty cash, GIC, term deposits, etc.	
44	Long-term assets		Value of telescopes; observatory, land owned, buildings	
45	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>35,269</b>		
46	<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
47	Current liabilities	208	Accounts payable, deferred revenue.	
48	Long-term Liabilities	0	Loans, mortgages	
49	<b>EQUITY</b>			
50	Net Equity	35,061	Net equity	
51	<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>35,269</b>		

# National Representative 2023- John Hurley



The National Council is made up of Centre representatives appointed to the position of National Council Representative by their respective Centres. Its role is to advise the Society's Board and Committees in matters of interest to Centres and the Society in general and to help facilitate the Society's goals and mission. These Terms of Reference shall be interpreted in accordance with Section 8 of the Society's By-Law #1.

This year NC is to meet 6 times instead of the usual 4 meetings three times a year ( 2 at the GA ). The date were:

Feb 5, 2023

Apr 2, 2023

Jun 3, 2023

Sept 24, 2023

Nov 4, 2023

Dec 3, 2023

These meetings last between two to two and a half hours and are conducted over Zoom.

This year we were working with the Board to better understand the role the National Council has with the Membership and with the Board of Directors. The new Policy guiding the NC is to go to the Board for approval in Dec of this year. We also worked with the Board to put in place better oversight of the Society's Financials, and are on track for a much lower deficit this year then last year and hope to have a balanced budget by the end of 2024. The Society is looking into ways to increase revenues and one idea is to encourage people to donate to the National Society on a regular basis, such as a monthly donation through your credit card or a regular payment through your bank account. As part of this program the donor was to get a free Calendar or some other item depending on the size of the donation.

As always any questions about the National Council and the RASC Board please contact myself or any of the Kingston Executive and we will do what we can to get you your answers.

John Hurley

RASC Kingston Centre, National Council Rep

# Librarian Report 2023- Kim Hay



The books are housed in the RASC Kingston Centre shed which is at the home of the President.

A few new books were added to the Library this year.

The Canadian Space Program – From Black Brant to the International Space Station by Andrew B. Godefroy (Signed copy)



Figure 1: Image by DariuiszSankowski Pixabay

Eclipse Bulletin -Total Solar Eclipse of 2024 April 8 Fred Espenak and Jay Anderson- Colour Edition

The book listing is on the website. You must be a member in good standing to borrow books from the Library. <https://kingston.rasc.ca/library> . These are loaned out for a month at a time, with pickup and drop off at the meetings, or other arrangements made.

We spent our budget this year, and also asked for extra funds for the Total Solar Eclipse Book by Fred Espenak and Jay Anderson.

Currently there are a few duplicates in the library, which will be culled out. Possible additions would be Lunar Books, with maps. A new Book out on the market is by Robert Reeves called Exploring the Moon.

A project for 2024 is to have atlases or maps of each of the RASC Observing Certificates, so they could be loaned out to achieve these certificates.

### **Certificates:**

- Explore the Universe
- Explore the Moon
- Messier Catalogue
- Finest NGC Objects
- Isabel Williamson Lunar

### **Observing Programs**

- Deep Sky Gems
- Deep- Sky Challenge
- Double Stars



In memory of Terence Dickinson

# Editor Report -2023

## RASC-KC Editor Annual Report 2023 - Editor – Andrew B. Godefroy



This is my first annual report as the RASC Kingston Centre editor. Over the past year I have overseen the production of *Regulus*, the centre's newsletter of record since 1973.

Fellow executive Kevin Kell had been expertly filling the role of editor since 2020 and thus when I came into the position in November 2022 as a relatively junior member of the club, I had big shoes to fill. Given that time and resources were always constrained, my concept for the newsletter going forward was to modernize the look and feel of the journal as much as possible while at the same time templating as much of its layout as I could. The goal was to ensure that *Regulus* remained a relevant and germane contribution to the centre's long-term health, while at the same time leveraging whatever efficiencies one could without sacrificing the overall quality of the newsletter in the process.

The newsletter serves as one of the primary means by which the Kingston Centre shares and records its activities. As Kevin Kell noted in a previous Editor's report "websites come and go, information disappears in the ether, emails get deleted, etc.", but the newsletter happily endures. It provides a means to host important information on centre activities, such as the Annual General Meeting or Star Fests, as well as highlight the work of the centre's membership whether it be sharing one's latest Astro image, an equipment hack, or news of the completion of an observing program certification. Combined with other astronomy news, insights, member's photos, and book recommendations, *Regulus* continues to serve as a nexus for the Centre's interests writ large.

*Regulus* is published as a (roughly) monthly periodical between September and July, with the option of a bi-monthly issue appearing during the July - September timeframe. This accounts for the fact that the club does not meet regularly during the summer break, nor are the main contributors expected to produce their monthly columns during this period.

The modernization of the newsletter began with simple improvements - updating the banner, masthead, and tombstone information, as well as templating the various monthly columns and including photos of the authors such that readers would find a degree of familiarity and connection with their favourite pieces. The intent was to put a very human face on the newsletter such that it spoke not only to the veterans of the club but also welcomed the newcomer.

*Regulus* is fortunate in that it already enjoyed a decent slate of regular contributors from amongst the centre's membership. The regular columns appearing in *Regulus* during 2022-2023 were as follows:

- a. President's Nook – Kim Hay
- b. Editor's Eyepiece – Andrew B. Godefroy
- c. Skyward – David H. Levy
- d. The Sky This Month – Rick Wagner
- e. Meeting Minutes – Elena Zanetti
- f. Astronomer's Bookshelf – Andrew Godefroy

The intent is to continue growing this list during the 2023-2024 cycle so that *Regulus* can always depend on a steady state of materials for each issue.

From November 2022 to October 2023 *Regulus* was published 11 times. The average page count per issue was 10, though some issues ran longer. Articles and updates were purposely kept short, reflective of current reading habits that preclude many from consuming longer pieces. A good deal of illustration, photos, and hyperlinks have also been added to the pages of *Regulus*, again, reflecting evolving practices by which people both search for and consume information.

The *Regulus* newsletter is currently laid out using simplified desktop publishing tools – specifically *MS Office, Swift Publisher 5, and Adobe Acrobat* on an Apple M1 platform running Ventura. The workflow consists of 3 phases – preproduction, production, and postproduction – organized within a calendar month. Preproduction spans weeks 1 to 3 and consists mainly of regular author submissions and editorial research and filler; production spans all of week 4, with typically 2-3 days for post-production peer review, editorial corrections, and remit to the Centre president for validation and release to the membership.

Heading into the next cycle, I plan to continue improving the overall quality of the newsletter with further tweaks and additions. Specifically, I would like to replace the standard RASC logo on the masthead with an improved version of the Centre's Martello tower logo and am currently working with a graphic designer to deliver improved digital files that may be applied broadly across centre products. I would also like to add a couple new standing monthly columns. Susan Gagnon will be delivering the first of these columns with her 'Constellation Deep Dives' – a piece that aims to highlight the rewards that may be achieved by investing more observing time more deeply on a constellation's offerings rather than simply star hopping through several constellations in a single evening. Other regular columns I would certainly consider are ones focused on lunar and planetary observing, equipment reviews, new software applications, tips for the young/beginner amateur astronomer, and astrophotography. There are many aspects of the hobby that appeal to members, and I will strive to ensure that there's a little something for everyone in the newsletter going forward.

It's been a privilege to serve as the editor this past year and I'm grateful for the opportunity to interact and contribute with my colleagues towards this

wonderful pursuit. I would encourage all members to consider adding to *Regulus* going into the next year with their own contributions, either big or small. All is welcome.

Editors of *Regulus*:

Valerie Kirkwood	1973-1975
Susan McDougall	1975-1976
Doug Baker	1977
Leo Enright*	1978-1988
Mark Kaye	1989
Bill Broderick	1990-1994
Peter Kirk	1995
Kevin Kell	1996-2003
Vacant	2004
Doug Angle	2005-2006
Joe Benderavage	2007
Walter MacDonald*	2008-2018
Grame Hay	2019
Kevin Kell*	2020-2022
Andrew B. Godefroy	2022- present

\*Leo Enright and Walter MacDonald tied as the longest serving editors to date, while Kevin Kell holds the distinction as being the only Centre member to date to serve as editor twice.



From Science Rendezvous 2023 – Kim Hay

# Reports from Officers and Committees: Equipment



## RASC Kingston Centre Equipment Coordinator Annual Report 2023 - Kevin Kell

The RASC Kingston Center maintains a collection of Equipment and Loan Equipment.

I have been the Coordinator for so many years I have forgotten what it is like not to be doing this. The Equipment Coordinator is an appointed position by the Board and was basically the way RASC-KC tries to keep track of items in our possession.

The lists are available in the members only section of the website [kingston.rasc.ca](https://kingston.rasc.ca) : Members, Equipment.

The first two documents are the complete master list of equipment <https://kingston.rasc.ca/system/files/Equipment-202303.pdf> and <https://kingston.rasc.ca/system/files/LoanProgram-202303new.pdf>

It is a double edged sword, trying to protect the equipment from damage and loss, and keeping the Loan Equipment out in circulation. Over the last few years we have strayed too far into the protection and not enough into the circulation. Over time however, equipment depreciates and at some point in time the benefit outweighs the risk/cost.

We have adopted a policy of:

\* Because of the expense/value of the telescopes marked with \* only RASC-KC members who have been a member for at least one year, are known and trusted, and will take care of and return the equipment in a timely fashion are eligible.

In the meantime, over the next few months, I will be making a concerted effort to get the Loan Equipment out circulating again.

In 2013 the Center purchased a storage shed that was assembled in our (Kim & Kevin) back yard. That purchase allowed the Equipment collection to be concentrated in one spot, rather than spread around our home, and other member homes, just sitting there. Our longterm hope is that if the Centre ever purchases/leases property the equipment storage can be relocated there.

Another duty of the job is equipment maintenance. Last year we (with help) have repainted the Tardis Observatory housing the Torus telescope and performed an overhaul of the 60cm Venor telescope.

This year the Barney dobsonian telescope is having a new mount built, the Sky Quality Meter was repaired and I started bringing small pieces of kit to inperson meetings in the hopes of it going out.

We are taking steps to resolve the status of the Dome, now in storage for almost a decade, and the Torus telescope, forming a Torus Task Force and consulting with expert optician Peter Ceravolo.



The Barney Dob – Kevin Kell

## **AGM November 9, 2022 Minutes by Elena Zanetti**

Meeting started at 7:04 p.m.

Queen's University, our past in-person meeting location, is situated on the territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek. We want to acknowledge that we are stewards of this land and respect the peoples and land we are on.

The Agenda for the Annual 2022 meeting 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.
  - Approval of Agenda Motion 2022110901 Moved by Kim Hay seconded by David Levy. Approved.
  - Approval of Annual Meeting minutes November 10, 2021 (sent in October Regulus newsletter and on screen) Motion 2022110902 Moved by Elena Zanetti seconded by David Levy. Approved.
  - Report of Secretary – Presented by Elena Zanetti
  - Highlights of year read out to members. Motion 2022110903 Moved by Elena Zanetti seconded by Susan Gagnon. Approved. This report will be sent to National Office for the Annual Report 2022.
  - Report of Treasurer & Financials, Auditors Report – Susan Gagnon
  - Highlights were presented by Susan (report sent in October Regulus newsletter and on screen). Michael Birds' auditor's report (on screen) was shared. Motion 2022110904 Moved by Susan Gagnon seconded by John Hurley to accept the financials as presented. Approved.
  - All other reports are located on our RASC KC website, you must be logged in as a member to view them.
  - Kingston Centre elections. Nominees must be a member in good standing and be at least 18 years old.
  - Vice-President: open
  - Secretary: Elena Zanetti has come forward (2022-2024)
  - Newsletter Editor: Andrew Godefroy has come forward
  - National Council Rep: John Hurley has come forward
  - Librarian: Kim Hay has come forward
  - Auditor for 2022-2023: Michael Bird has come forward
- Nominations from the floor were requested and none came forward. Positions stand as above. All other reports are located on the Website, you must be logged in as a member to view them. The remaining Board consists of: Kim Hay, President. Susan Gagnon, Treasurer. Past President, Rick Wagner. Equipment Co-ordinator, Kevin Kell. Web Team, Kevin Kell and Walter MacDonald. Vice-President remains open.
- Auditor for 2023
  - Motion 2022110905 Moved by Rick Wagner seconded by Rose-Marie Burke that Michael Bird will audit the books for 2023. Approved.
- Thank you to Kevin Kell for working on the Regulus newsletter as Editor for many years, much appreciated, along with all the contributors. We welcome Andrew Godefroy as Editor.
- Questions? None
- Annual General Meeting and elections meeting adjournment with thanks at 7:24 p.m.

## 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**