

From the Eyepiece

By: Mark Kaye

What a hugely busy month it has been since my last column. I have not done a lot of astronomy during that busy time, unfortunately. My brother and his wife had a new baby, so I did get to spend a bonus weekend at The Observatory when we made an unscheduled visit. I spent one evening finishing up the winter Messier objects on my to do list, but clouds prevented getting far enough into the spring sky. The last three objects will have to wait until some clear skies come along. Maybe March break.

I did make time to get to the National Council meeting. The meeting went very smoothly, especially considering the introduction of new conferencing technology to the proceedings. Kim Hay was iced into Kingston and Alan Whitman teleported in from outside Penticton way. Both agreed that it worked, but it was a lot better to be there in person. So smoothly in fact, that there is not a lot to report.

There will not be a fee increase this year. The "Observer's Handbook", BOG and the calendar continue to make money enough to subsidize dues. It was briefly noted that if this stops, fee increases would not be far behind. The National Council will need a new Treasurer at the 2004 G.A. Michael Watson has held the job; so get in touch with him if you have an interest in taking over. He can tell you what the job will entail. I think that a good head for numbers would be a plus. This is a nominated position, so notice will have to be given to National council.

The Awards committee has selected Alister Ling, Edmonton Centre, to be the recipient of the Newcombe Award. I cannot think of a more deserving person. Alister is a regular contributor to the "Handbook". He also writes for several periodicals. He has a keen eye and observing skills to back up his written works. Dave McCarter RASD London Centre member was selected for the service award. Please

give the London Centre a chance to acknowledge this achievement before talking to Dave about it. He had not been told before the council meeting and might not be told until the next London Centre meeting. Dave is an active observer who volunteers a ton of his time to get telescopes out into the public eye.

Two new honorary members were appointed to fill two (unfortunate) vacancies. Jean Mees and Jay Pasachoff will be offered memberships in the society.

Probably the only complicated part of the day came with a discussion on the proposed by law amendments. At the October meeting, it was proposed that the status of several committees be changed. This requires a by-law amendment. A committee had been struck to study the role of committees in the RASC and the way that they are created. Patrice Scattolin reported for the committee and proposed that the amendment to the committees be stopped, the whole way we establish committees be changed and adopted into the by-laws and then the changes could be made to the committees that was proposed in the by-law amendments after the way we make committees was changed. Confused yet? Good, then I will go on. Right now there are two types of committees: Standing and Special. Standing committees, as the name suggests, always exist and are part of the by-laws. Special committees are created for set period of time and are not set in the by-laws. The Computer Use Committee is a good example. Like it or not, computers are a part of the RASC for good. When this special committee was first made, who could foresee that it would become a long running committee? But to make this committee a standing committee requires a by-law amendment. That would be all well and good if by-law amendments were free, but each time we change a word of the by-laws, it costs us money. Patrice's committee suggested that we stop the changes, make one specific change to the by-laws to allow us to set up what amounts

to three levels of committees. These would be basic core ones like finance that would require a by-law amendment to change. A set of standing committee rules that allowed for council to change them at their need without going to a by-law change and then special committees, ones that are formed for a specific function and time period. Couple this with Peter Jedicke's proposed changes to what the chair of standing committees would be allowed to do and we have a whole lot of things happening to committees. In the end, it was decided that we would go ahead with the proposed changes to the by-laws, but Patrice could continue trying to restructure the way we create committees. This would require further by-law changes in coming years, but hopefully, eventually, would allow for a streamlining in the way committees are created in the RASC. [Roger, see why I was reluctant to tackle this on an empty stomach?]

The Vancouver General Assembly committee reported that all is going well in preparation for

ANOTHER ASTERISM?

BY: BRUCE S. WEBER

We have all probably had it happen when cruising the night skies with our trusty scopes. I know I did. It happened in August of 2001, shortly after setting up my 8" SCT in the backyard observatory. I call it the 'Crabapple Observatory' because my wife's crab-apple tree had to be sacrificed to allow construction in the best part of the yard.

Anyway, I was cruising through Pegasus and near Homam (the bright star upper right in the picture); I noticed an outstanding group of stars that instantly reminded me of an Old West Coffee Pot. The stars range from Mag. 8 to Mag. 10, not bright enough for the naked eye but easily seen with a scope in the bright light polluted skies of Mississauga.

this year's gathering. Information is now available from Vancouver centre on the program and how to book accommodations. The dates for this year's assembly will be June 27/29. The Ruth Northcott lecturer will be Dr. Gordon Walker.

The final item was from Bob Parry of Vancouver Centre. A telescope retailer there, Heavens and Earth, has proposed to sell telescopes to any centre that is interested. Each centre could order a 25cm Dobsonian for 660 dollars delivered as long as the scope are club property and continue to carry a small plaque saying where the scope came from.

The next National Council meeting will be held in Vancouver on June 27th.

It is clearing this evening. Hopefully I will have something to write about for next month's "Orbit". Until then, clear skies!

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/mark.kaye/>

Coordinates of star (SAO108112) at "spout's point: RA 22hr 42m 13s, Dec +11deg 05min 45 sec.

My friend Pat Freeman of Dayton, Ohio took the pictures for me on Nov. 11/01 (15 min @ f/6.3, Konica Centuria 800 film).

I hope that others will find the time to have a look at 'Weber1 (Coffee Pot) in Pegasus'. Give it a try.

Asterism (noun): a grouping of stars not recognized as a constellation. Other well-known asterisms include the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper, the Square of Pegasus and the Summer Triangle.



Trillium Foundation Update

By: Grant Maguire

The Hamilton Centre is still pursuing a grant from the Trillium Foundation. The process has been set back a bit, but I am back on track now. I have arranged a meeting with a representative for Monday April 7, 2003. I will be telling her a bit about the club, and our activities. I will be discussing various projects and our ability to secure a grant to support them. We have been discussing various projects and have grouped them into three packages:

Program	Description	Why Required
1a	LCD Projector	New technology advancements require the need for better audiovisual presentation equipment.
1b	New Gate at front of property	Due to the fact that the property is vacant a lot, we have been subjected to unauthorized entry and use of the property. In order to make the property a safer environment for members and the community a secured gate needs to be installed.
1c	New Signage	Proper Signage is require to raise the profile of the property to the public, Indicating, times for public availability.
1d	Replace or repair the dome	Our facility has suffered over the years from lack of proper maintenance. The dome requires a major repair or replacement.
1e	LX class telescope	In order to raise the profile of our facility to the public we would like to install a Meade LX class telescope.
1f	Improved landscaping around parking area	Some trees need to be removed and smaller shrubbery needs to be planted. The design of the entry way needs to be re-evaluated.
1g	New computer system	The present computer system is piecemealed from donated equipment. We need to upgrade our system to present day equipment.
	Total	

2a	Expand meeting area of warm room; add running water; heated washroom at the warm room	Expanding the observatory would make it a more inviting place for members and the public, especially a heated washroom.
2b	Redesign entrance to better deal with headlights including appropriate landscaping.	With more and more members taking astro-photographs, the parking area needs to be separated from the viewing area.
	Total	
3a	Rebuild website	A new and exciting Website is required to take us into the new information age, to better inform our member and the public.
3b	New computer system	
3c	LCD projector	
3d	Replace /repair dome	
3e	New gate at front of property	
3f	New signage	
3g	Redesign entrance to better deal with headlights including appropriate landscaping.	
	Total	
4a	Expand meeting area of warm room; add running water; heated washroom at the warm room	
4b	LX class telescope	

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding projects please let me know. I am very excited about the prospect of the Hamilton Centre receiving a Trillium grant. You can contact me at maguires@lara.on.ca.

Girl Guide Camp Looking for Members to Demonstrate their Telescopes

By: Grant Maguire

One of our members, Mr Tom Blunt would like to invite members to demonstrate their telescopes on Friday June 13, 2003 at a Girl Guide Camp at Fifty Point, Stoney Creek, which his wife is leading.

This years theme for the camp is "Space", and she was wondering if it would be possible if some of the members would come to Fifty

Point on the Friday night to do a short presentation and demonstration of their telescopes. Although the moon may be very bright that night, many of the girls would still enjoy. The camp is an area camp, so there would be in the neighbourhood of 100+ campers. If you can help or have any suggestions Hamilton area Girl Guides would be grateful. Please contact Tom at tblunt@cogeco.ca

Moon Phases Year 2003

All times are Universal Time

Lun#	New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
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+0990	2003/01/02 20:23	2003/01/10 13:15	2003/01/18 10:48	2003/01/25 08:34
+0991	2003/02/01 10:49	2003/02/09 11:12	2003/02/16 23:52	2003/02/23 16:46
+0992	2003/03/03 02:35	2003/03/11 07:16	2003/03/18 10:35	2003/03/25 01:52
+0993	2003/04/01 19:19	2003/04/09 23:41	2003/04/16 19:36	2003/04/23 12:19
+0994	2003/05/01 12:15	2003/05/09 11:54	2003/05/16 03:36	2003/05/23 00:31
+0995	2003/05/31 04:20	2003/06/07 20:28	2003/06/14 11:16	2003/06/21 14:46
+0996	2003/06/29 18:39	2003/07/07 02:33	2003/07/13 19:22	2003/07/21 07:02
+0997	2003/07/29 06:53	2003/08/05 07:28	2003/08/12 04:49	2003/08/20 00:49
+0998	2003/08/27 17:27	2003/09/03 12:35	2003/09/10 16:37	2003/09/18 19:03
+0999	2003/09/26 03:10	2003/10/02 19:10	2003/10/10 07:28	2003/10/18 12:32
+1000	2003/10/25 12:51	2003/11/01 04:25	2003/11/09 01:14	2003/11/17 04:15
+1001	2003/11/23 23:00	2003/11/30 17:17	2003/12/08 20:37	2003/12/16 17:43
+1002	2003/12/23 09:44	2003/12/30 10:04	2004/01/07 15:41	2004/01/15 04:46

Beginners Observing Group

By: Ken Lemke

New to the wonderful hobby of amateur astronomy??

We are pleased to announce the formation of a "Beginners Observing Group". The objective of the Group is to help individuals become more familiar with the night sky, assist with equipment questions as well as address any other questions or difficulties that may come up. The Group is a no cost benefit of RASC Hamilton Centre membership.

Activities include:

- Use of the RASC's "Exploring the Universe" programme as a guide. This programme introduces you to major stars, constellations, double stars, deep sky objects, the solar system and Lunar features.
- Participants will receive a copy of the "Exploring the Universe" programme, information on recording observations, recording forms for those who wish to complete the Certificate programme or

simply wish to record their observations, and other information, as required.

- Regular presentations geared to Beginners will be made at General meetings and regular articles will be in Orbit.
- An e-mail network has been established to keep participants informed of activities, facilitate discussion, and to broadcast answers to questions that come up.
- Currently, we have established the third Thursday and third Saturday of each month as our regular meeting times (8:00 PM at the Observatory), clear skies permitting. We will probably start later as the hours of daylight increase.
- "Meetings" will consist of a brief Q & A session in the Observatory, followed by an evening of observing — with experienced observers available to assist.
- As of this writing, we have three very experienced observers assisting the Group: Steve Barnes, Bob Botts and Gary Colwell — thank you gentlemen!!

- When we have exceptional observing skies, or a special observing event (comet, lunar eclipse etc), we will have spontaneous observing nights, and participants will be alerted by e-mail.

It is recognized that we all have other obligations in life, and participants won't be able to make all sessions. This is meant to be a FUN and relaxing activity, and there are no obligations. Participants can learn about the night sky at their own pace.

As of this writing there are approximately 25 participants, and we held our "kick off" meetings on Mar 20 and 22, 2003 with 13 participants being able to attend. At the "kick-off" meetings we introduced the "Exploring the Universe" programme, met one another, discussed what individuals were hoping to get out of the Group, and answered numerous questions.

On Thursday night, we were clouded out and Gary Colwell provided the Group with a virtual tour of the March sky on his computer, in addition he provided helpful hints on how to use certain guide stars to locate other stars. We were also treated to a video of some awesome Auroral displays. Individuals, who had never been to the Observatory were given a tour and introduced to the array of telescopes available for members to use.

On Saturday, we repeated the format, except the skies co-operated and Gary provided a tour

Observatory Tour a Wild Success!

By: MJ Spicer, Director, Public Education

As members know, the Hamilton Centre offers tours of the Les Powis Observatory as part of its public outreach program. Each year groups

of the sky using a sky pointer (a real neat device). After the visual tour, the group viewed some of the celestial treats (M-42, Beehive, Jupiter, etc) in Steve Barnes TV-101 refractor and the Observatory's Marsh refractor.

The interesting thing we learned was that not all participants were new to the hobby; some had been away for a while and wanted to get back into observing.

From feedback, I think everyone had a good time, learned some helpful tips and are looking forward to future sessions. A hidden benefit that became evident was the comradery and enjoyment that comes when sharing your hobby with others.

As we will constantly have new members joining the Centre who will want to join the Group, we will be repeating the "orientation" regularly – so it's never too late to join the Group.

If you are interested in joining or assisting with the Group, please let me know. I can be reached by e-mail at cfs@worldchat.com (day time) or klemke@attcanada.ca (night time or week-ends). My phone is 905-634-5168 (day time) or 905-639-5127 (night time and week-ends).

Enjoy the Night Sky
Ken Lemke

such as guides and scout packs, college classes and families call the observatory at (905) 689-0266 to schedule an evening appointment for \$40. Depending on the size of the group and conditions at the site, the evening's program may include some of the following activities:

1. Slide presentation on the observatory and its construction;
2. Short introduction to amateur observational astronomy;
3. Guided tour of the Observatory dome and Marsh 5" refractor;
4. Slide presentation on wonders of the night sky;
5. Observing the night sky (if weather permits) as a group;
6. Individual observing through one or more telescopes.

The first group tour of 2003 capped off the birthday celebrations for Melanie Verrier's young son. He and 15 friends, accompanied by six parent chaperones, were at the observatory before 7 pm on March 15th. The weather that evening was exceptional - warm and clear with very steady air. Bob Botts was setting up his new Meade 12" SCT in the parking lot and Derek was nearby with his 5" refractor under the watchful eye of Steve Barnes. According to them, seeing that night was the best in years and they were collecting outstanding movie pictures of Jupiter and Saturn using their Toucam ccds and laptop computers.

Inside the observatory, the Verrier group had come prepared. The youngsters knew a lot about astronomy and the room was alive with their questions: "Why is there a red light?" "Is the Marsh a refractor?" "Why is the map of the Moon upside-down?" "Why is there a white bag on the telescope counterweight?"

The parents were no slouches, either and could tell a Schmidt-Cassegrain from a Maksutov-Newtonian! The children toured the dome and Marsh refractor in groups of 5 or 6. I am pleased to report that no one fell down the stairs or bumped heads with the scope. They were surprised at the large number of telescopes in the Chilton building and very excited by the real-time images of Jupiter and Saturn shown on my laptop using an electronic CCD eyepiece and an 11" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Rings of Saturn and belts on

Jupiter were counted, the Cassini division and 4 Jovian moons were identified, and constellations and stars were named.

Unfortunately, there were too many children and not enough Hamilton Centre volunteers present, to have each child actually look through a telescope. Heather Neproszel and I had set up our Nexstar go-to scopes, which were quite popular. I encourage members to assist on public observing nights and on tour nights. It's easy to man one of the Centre's telescopes and to show novices a night sky wonder!

After 2 hours, the birthday group left the observatory. You hear a lot about how wild and uncontrollable children are these days. I marvelled at how polite, well behaved and well informed this group had been. Why, not one child had even asked to go to the bathroom! I invited them to come again on a public night (the second and fourth Friday of each month) when telescopes are available to look through! Thank you for coming, Melanie.

I am looking forward to our next tour. Please advertise the Centre's tours. The cost is low and helps the upkeep of our observatory. The tours are an important part of our Centre's public education program and a source of new members. Your assistance at the site is very much appreciated, too.

Photo by: Gary Colwell



A new astronomy club in Mississauga By: Randy Attwood, Toronto Centre

Many Toronto Centre members in the west end of the city and Greater Toronto Area (GTA) find it difficult to make it to meetings at the Ontario Science Centre. Over the past few years, travel across the top or bottom of the city to the DVP at the dinner hour has taken longer and the travel time is more and more unpredictable. It is possible that there are Hamilton Centre members who live in the west GTA who have the same problem making their way to Hamilton Centre meetings.

I am pleased to announce that there will soon be a new amateur astronomy club in Mississauga. The purpose of the club is to provide an opportunity for amateur astronomers in the west end of the GTA to meet regularly and exchange ideas and information about amateur astronomy.

The first meeting of the Mississauga Astronomical Society will take place Friday, April 11, 2003 at the Mississauga Campus of the University of Toronto. The meeting will start at 8:00 pm in room SE2082 in the South Building. The meeting will last approximately two hours. Parking is free after 7:30 - please use parking lots 4 or 5. For a map of the site please check <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/maps/erindale/>

The agenda for the first meeting is as follows:
Mississauga Astronomical Society Welcome and Introductions
Speaker: Randy Attwood The Sky Tonight

Speaker: Brian Cheaney Observing the December 4, 2002 Total Eclipse from Australia

Speaker: Chris Malicki Remembering the Space Shuttle Columbia

Speaker: Randy Attwood Observing the May 15, 2003 Lunar Eclipse

Speaker: TBD

Meetings will take place once a month on Friday evenings. After April, the next two meetings are on May 9 and June 6. The University of Toronto campus in Mississauga is at 3359 Mississauga Road North, between Burnhamthorpe and Dundas. The campus is served by Mississauga Transit routes 29, 44 and 81.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Although not affiliated with the Toronto Centre, I envision many RASC members will participate. All the organizers are active Toronto Centre members. This is not a new centre of the RASC. Whether or not it becomes a centre will be up to the membership. This would not happen for a few years, at least. For now, the new club will need some time to find its legs.

I would like to thank the Hamilton Centre Board for supporting this new organization and for providing space in ORBIT to make the announcement to the membership.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the new club, have any questions about it or wish to get involved in helping to run it, please contact Randy Attwood at 905-624 4629 (evenings) or by email randy.attwood@rogers.com. Watch for our web site at www.mississaugaastronomicalsociety.ca to appear soon.

Randy Attwood joined the RASC in 1970 and is a Life Member of the Society. He was President of the Toronto Centre from 1982-1986 and President of the Society from 1998-2000

Niagara Centre - Annual Banquet Ivan Semeniuk guest speaker Saturday evening, April 12, 2003

The Niagara Centre of the RASC would like to extend an invitation to our colleagues in astronomy to join us for our Annual Banquet at our new venue. We are pleased to welcome Ivan Semeniuk as our guest speaker for this year's Annual Banquet. Ivan has been the astronomy reporter for the Discovery Channel's daily science news program, Daily Planet (formerly @discovery.ca), since 1999. He has also written about astronomy for SkyNews, New Scientist and Sky & Telescope. Ivan was the club's guest speaker in the early 1990s, and is looking forward to visiting again with the Niagara Centre.

The banquet will be held Saturday evening, April 12, 2003, at the Delphi Hall in Niagara Falls. We look forward to seeing many club members and guests at the banquet. We hope everyone will stay for the music & dancing after Ivan's talk. Recently constructed, the Delphi Banquet Hall features a beautiful setting and excellent food. It is a new addition to Chatters Eatery & Bar which is the location of the Niagara Centre's 'post-meetings'.

This event has drawn members from the southern Ontario RASC centres and the western/central New York astronomy clubs and has over the years been a great opportunity to meet with a wide cross-section of astronomy enthusiasts in a social setting.

New This Year: Music and dancing! We've had many requests for further entertainment after the dinner, speaker, and door prizes to round out the evening, so this year we have it.

We hope that our long-time attendees will be pleased with our new venue - your feedback would be appreciated.

Here is a summary of Ivan's talk:

Aristotle's Forest – Exploring the New Cosmology

We are living in the golden age of cosmology. For the first time in history a coherent picture of the universe and our place in it is beginning to emerge. The result is rather like finding our way out of a vast forest that our intellectual ancestors, the ancient Greeks, first plunged into 2,500 years ago.

In this wide-ranging presentation, Discovery Channel producer and astronomy columnist Ivan Semeniuk explores the results and implications of a new scientific revolution by focusing on three questions: Where in the universe are we? How did we get here? Are we alone?

The Evening's Program

5:30 p.m. Doors open. Bar opens

6:30 p.m. Deluxe Buffet Dinner

8:00 p.m. "Aristotle's Forest - Exploring the New Technology" by Ivan Semeniuk

9:00 p.m. Draws for door prizes, 50/50 draw

9:30 p.m. - 'till? Music and Dancing

Tickets are \$45. To order tickets, please send a cheque payable to Niagara Centre, RASC to the mailing address below:

Niagara Centre, RASC, P.O. Box 4040, St. Catharines, ON. L2R 7S3

For more information, please contact:

Joyce Sims, Banquet Ticket Sales, at 905-262-5276

Alternative Contacts:

Glen Pidsadnick, Niagara Centre President, at 905-468-7419

John VanderBrugge, Niagara Centre Secretary, at 905-935-9355

The Wonder of the Heavens

By Gary Colwell

In the West, the amber sun slips low o're yonder hill,
Where pinprick points of light, soon the vast expanse will fill.
While shades of rainbow colour dance their dance in pastel hues,
The blazing skies burn red and ochre mid the darkening blues.

As twilight wanes and yields itself to velvet skies of black,
The distant orbs of fire, one by one come slowly back,
To shine their light and touch the souls of those who view their glow,
And wonder in the splendour of this nightly stellar show.

Like diamonds in a setting, set in purest finest gold,
The stars in heaven shine, with luminescent light of old,
The planets move in symphony amongst the sea of stars,
Like once nomadic troubadours, go Jupiter and Mars.

The mighty hunter rises from his sunlit chamber thus,
His faithful hound to follow led by brilliant Sirius,
He'll grace the sky with bow outstretched, with shield and sword at bay,
To hunt the night from rise till set, then sleep another day.

With smoky tendrils reaching out across the face of night,
The Milky Way winds endlessly midst myriads of light,
The graceful Swan and Lyre, tell their tale among the stars,
While Hercules and Perseus, engage in ancient wars.

From time to time a streak of light will break the silent skies,
Its brief short life, its fading trail, you see it as it flies,
Then slowly moves a bright lit speck, a traveler in the night,
This distant orbit wanderer, a lonely satellite.

From ages past in clouds of dust, in cold dark space afar,
A comet glides with outstretched tail, toward its beckoning star,
While in the north, a pale green glow, casts shadows 'cross the sky
Aurora Borealis shimmers o're the earth so high.

Your mind takes in celestial sights too wonderful it seems,
For mortal man to comprehend, beyond his deepest dreams,
Its awesome realm primordial, its depth too far to measure,
In silent still amazement, you gaze upon this treasure.

You look to the horizon, pinkish light floods into view,
The night has passed, the morning comes, midst golden drops of dew,
For yonder in the east, the day begins with sweet refrain
Yet but a little while and it will all begin again.

Computer Upgraded at the Leslie V. Powis Observatory

By: Grant Maguire

It is my pleasure to announce that the computer at the Leslie V. Powis Observatory has been upgraded. We have to thank Mark Kaye and Roger Hill for contributing many hours of time and equipment to make this a reality.

Thanks to Mark Kaye, and his donation of a case, plus some parts that Roger had, the following upgrades were performed:

- 1) From a Pentium-166 to a Pentium III-550.
- 2) From 64 to 256 Megabytes of RAM.
- 3) From 1.2 to 6.4 gigabytes of hard drive

space.

- 4) From a 10 to a 100 megabit per second network card.

- 5) From a generic sound card to a SoundBlaster PCI-128.

- 6) The modem is now a USR Sportster 33.6 internal model. It is NOT a winmodem.

The upgrades were performed in two stages, the first at Roger's place of business, since he has all the tools necessary, including very high speed internet access:

Stage 1:

- a) Put the new motherboard, CPU and memory in the case Mark provided.
- b) Add in the video card, sound card and modem.
- c) Upgrade the hard drive partition from FAT16

to FAT32.

d) Use Symantecs "Ghost" utility to clone the old hard drive to the new one.

e) Install all the new drivers for all the new hardware, and delete the old drivers.

f) Test it as much as possible.

Stage 2:

a) Reconnect all the cables.

b) Configure the weather station to use a different COM port.

c) Configure the UPS to use a different COM port.

d) Ensure that the printer works.

e) Test the answering machine.

Stage 2 was performed at the Observatory:

2003 Sidewalk Astronomy Program

By: Grant Maguire

Here are the dates for this years Program:

Friday May 9, 2003

Friday June 6, 2003

Friday July 4, 2003

Friday August 8, 2003

Friday September 6, 2003

Friday October 3, 2003

Annual RASC Hamilton Centre Banquet

The Hamilton Centre is pleased to announce its annual banquet this year.

When: Saturday May 10, 2003

Where: Holiday Inn Select,

2525 Wyecroft Road, Oakville Ontario

Time: Happy Hour 6:00 pm Cash Bar

Buffet Banquet 7:00 pm featuring carved prime rib au Jus and

Grilled Boneless Breast of Chicken (Lemon Terragon)

Featured Speaker: 8:00 pm Alan Dyer

Cost: \$45.00 per person

Topic: The Amazing Sky We all love astronomy because of the memorable views it provides of wonderful sights in the sky, scenes that often go totally unnoticed and unappreciated by our non-astronomy friends. Over the last few years Alan has been capturing some of these beautiful scenes on film. In a multi-media talk complemented by music and animations, he'll tour us through an amazing sky using images he has taken in Canada and around the world on various expeditions to eclipses and to the southern hemisphere. This is a non-technical "sight-seeing tour" suitable not just for astronomers but also for all those who live with astronomers. So no worries about film speeds and f-stops. Just sit back and enjoy the view.

Alan Dyer is one of Canada's best-known astronomy writers and is familiar to RASC members as associate editor of Sky News magazine and a contributor of deep-sky lists to the Observer's Handbook. He also serves as a contributing editor to Sky and Telescope, with a specialty in telescope and equipment reviews. Alan is the co-author with Terence Dickinson of the new edition of The Backyard Astronomer's Guide, published in 2002. He is also the coauthor of several other amateur astronomy guidebooks, including Advanced Sky watching, the Definitive Guide to Astronomy, and Sky and Space: An Insight Travel Guide. He can be seen on occasion as a guest expert on CBC Newsworld, the Discovery Channel, and Canada AM, and on local TV and radio around Alberta. He explores the sky from the backyard of his home in rural southern Alberta where he can pursue astrophotography under dark night skies.

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