

damage occurred in the second event but it was a very close shave. The new telescope had been unbolted and slid to the edge of it's pier ready to fall over or be stolen. Fortunately the intruders left, perhaps unsure of what to do with such a device.

The telescope has been removed and will be re-installed when major security arrangements are completed. They are already underway and to date consist of a tall steel lamp standard and security light, an alarm system and heavy steel door gate under construction. Other measures are in the planning stages. Donations will be gratefully received to pay for these unexpected capital expenses. Peter told us all, "we are determined to deal with this problem" Randy added an important comment: other than these unexpected costs all others have been fully paid.

Steve described the current insurance situation. Sun Alliance has dropped a variety of policies including those formerly covering buildings in remote sites such as ours. Other firms are working on quotes. Our liability insurance is still in effect.

Steve showed a variety of photographs illustrating the many recent improvements in both security and in aids to help operate the dome. Al DesRosiers was doing some routine maintenance when he discovered the hatch drive was on the verge of failure via a worn universal joint. It is being rebuilt.

Business

Council Meeting, Steve reminded Council members of a meeting scheduled on Tuesday February 10th at his home. He added that members are welcome to attend these meetings as observers. Please call Steve in advance to ensure seating room.

The **50/50 draw**, the winner indicated the other half of the ticket had been left in the bowl where it could stay with the entire proceeds (\$16) donated back to the club.

New members/guests: Three new faces were introduced after break period.

Main Presentation: Due to an unforeseen technical glitch the main presentation was postponed to the February meeting.

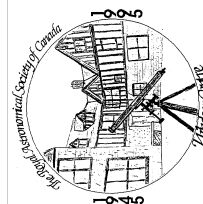
Wrap up Presentation: Dan Taylor did a short talk giving more information on the topic of local light pollution abatement measures in the works. He had noticed the City of Windsor was planning to introduce it's first legislation "back to front". It will start with private developers and then proceed to public lighting.

He encouraged all members to become involved by offering to serve on local committees. "This is our only really good chance to do something positive about light pollution". Promote dark skies via the huge energy savings in placing light only where it is needed.

Meeting adjourned by Steve Mastellotto at 9:50 p.m.



AURORA



March 2004 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 29, Number 7

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

8:00 p.m.

at

Ojibway Park Nature Centre
5200 Matchette Road

Speaker: Steve Mastellotto

Topic: "Kitt Peak"

Upcoming Events

Messier Marathon: Saturday March 20th at Hallam Observatory. Observing begins promptly at dusk.

Club Outing: A special trip is being organized to The Detroit Science Center for Saturday March 27. We plan to visit the planetarium, IMAX theatre and enjoy the exhibits. See Steve Pellarin for details.

April Meeting/Astronomy Day/Earth Day: A special note that the April Meeting **will not** be held on Tuesday April 20th. We have an exciting weekend planned starting with a special meeting on Astronomy Day - Saturday April 24th with Ivan Semeniuk as our guest speaker (time and location to be announced). Then on Sunday April 25th we will once again participate in Earth Day at Ojibway Park.

Summer Picnic: Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday June 12th at Hallam Observatory. More details to come.

General Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2004

President, Steve Mastellotto: New President Steve Mastellotto asked members to read the minutes from the last meeting. One error was found, Robin Smallwood occupies the position of director Public Relations, not Public Education. Pierre Boulos made a motion to accept them with the correction, Peter Bondy seconded and the motion was carried.

Steve then thanked past president Randy Groundwater for his many years of service to Windsor Centre. Randy's astronomy column in the Windsor Star has helped introduce people to Astronomy and indirectly to Windsor Centre.

Steve then asked Randy to give a eulogy for Henry Lee, deceased on January 6th 2004.

Randy told us Henry, born in Windsor in 1920, had been a student of Cyril Hallam when he taught at Paterson Collegiate. Randy was only twelve when he met Henry and first became interested in Astronomy. Henry served Windsor Centre in many positions including President for many years. Only two members from Windsor have received service medals from National, Henry Lee and Cyril Hallam. A true Renaissance man Henry had a wide ranging field of interests.

Randy showed a photo of Henry and Cyril taken in 1947. He had also found an old meeting notice hand addressed by Henry and returned marked "Address unknown". It had been mailed with a 1 cent King George stamp.

Failing health in recent years restricted Henry's activities to occasional Windsor Centre visits, always accompanied by his devoted wife Mamie. A key to Henry's life was always "A calm mind and tranquil thoughts".

Steve asked for a minute of silence in his memory.

Reports

Correspondence Secretary, Joady Ulrich: Joady had nothing to report.

Treasurer, Ken Garber: Ken reported there was approximately \$5,000 in our account at the start of the meeting. However a number bills and invoices had been brought to the meeting for payment. Ken had three 2004 observer's calendars for sale. He reported we currently have 125 fully paid members.

Newsletter Editor, position open: Past Newsletter Editor Steve Mastellotto will only be able to produce the Aurora Flyer containing meeting minutes once a month. The Aurora Newsletter will be put on hold until a new editor comes forward. Tom Sobocan, assistant editor is a heavily loaded high school teacher. At the moment he cannot handle the full job.

Public Education, Randy Groundwater: Randy had finished giving his first presentation of the year prior to the meeting. He arrived after having given an astronomy

presentation to a group of 80 to 90 school teachers.

Members were asked to volunteer by bringing up to three telescopes to the observatory this coming Thursday evening between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. There will be 18 Girl Guides present for an introduction to the night sky. See Randy for coordination.

Public Relations, Robin Smallwood: Robin explained that public events would be delayed until March when more planets will be in better viewing positions.

Light Pollution, Dan Taylor: Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu reported In Dan's absence that Windsor City Council has adopted a major study on light pollution abatement. Bylaws should follow in the usual course of political events. Susan commented favourably and explained this is a very major first step forward to reducing local light pollution.

Dan Taylor is assisting a Star reporter write an article to be published in the next two to three weeks.

LaSalle and Essex have a full cutoff street lighting commitment. In the county other communities have an interest in full cutoff street lighting. The general idea is to install full cutoff fixtures in new developments and replace existing fixtures over a period of time.

Director of Observing, Robin Smallwood: Robin asked what members may have observed since last meeting. Saturn, the lunar eclipse and observing all six stars in the Trapezium, a tight formation of stars at the centre of M42 in Orion were reported.

Using a lap top computer and "PowerPoint" Robin showed a series of the most recent (and excellent) Mars Rover shots.

Sadly we learned the Hubble Space Telescope will soon become "space junk" as it can no longer be serviced given the loss of the space shuttle Columbia and crew. Hubble has advanced astronomy enormously. Further discoveries surely can be made by replacement orbiting telescopes.

Saturn is the planet of most interest at this time and Robin showed some fabulous shots of it's ring system and moons visible in small telescopes. We can try to see the smaller Encke gap outside the Cassini Division in the A Ring.

The Sun has a new series of spots of interest to solar observers. There is no need to have a telescope and sun filter. Robin suggested tapping into solar images on the SOHO web site was an easy way to see wonderfully detailed solar images.

Venus is an excellent object, very bright in evening skies. Watch it over a period of time to see it's phases change.

Observatory Committee, Peter Bondy: Peter described the circumstances of a second break in suffered at the observatory. The first was a wakeup call and the second confirmation there is a major crime problem in remote areas of Essex County. No