

Aurora



RASC Windsor Centre's Monthly Newsletter September, 2025

RASC Windsor Centre ~ Celebrating 80 Years of Local Astronomy

Photos by RASC Windsor Centre Members

As previously mentioned in the Aurora, 1945 was a big year in Windsor's history. A group of interested amateur astronomers established the Windsor Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Since then, dedicated volunteers have worked together to promote and educate the general public on all things related to the skies above.

To recognize 80 years of service, The Windsor Centre is organizing a celebration dinner on Saturday, November 15 at The Fogolar Furlan. Our guest speaker will be David Levi, a Canadian amateur astronomer, science writer and discoverer of comets and minor planets. Members of the council and other volunteers are working on the archive of historical material for display and presentation. Tickets will soon be available. Shirts and patches have been created to honour the anniversary and are available for purchase.



Meanwhile, it has been a very busy summer of observing, public outreach and fellowship. The July Dark Sky Night at Point Pelee had an impressive turnout, despite the weather forecast and eventual rainout. The Perseids event included two

presentations in the visitor centre and was again well attended, even with the overcast sky hiding most of the meteors. The Tecumseh Cornfest also drew crowds for Solar viewing.

Bookings at Hallam Observatory have been steady. Brian Simpson has continued to lead a great team of volunteers to host visitors. More members are now GLP certified, allowing more flexibility for sky tours.

Labour Day weekend featured our annual Pot Luck & BBQ. This was the first big event to celebrate the new deck! A beautiful First Quarter moon lit the sky for the array of telescopes.



Looking ahead, the autumn season has many opportunities for viewing. Another Dark Sky Night at Pelee is scheduled for October 25 and the Leamington Arts Centre is hosting a display of our Astrophotography (Oct 10-Nov 6).

Take every opportunity available to "Look Up" before the winter season arrives. Enjoy those "Clear Skies" while we can.

RASC National Update

Tom Sobocan, National Council Rep

The new National Board was elected in June and their first meeting with the National Council was September 7, 2025. The new board members are:

- Brendon Roy (Thunder Bay), President
- Betty Robinson (Mississauga), First Vice-President
- Eric Briggs (Toronto), Second Vice-President
- Randy Attwood (Mississauga), Secretary
- Michael Watson (National), Treasurer
- Viktor Zsohar (Yukon), Director

- Dennis Lyons (Winnipeg), Director
- Susan Gagnon (Kingston), Director
- Jenna Hinds (National Member) Ex officio, Executive Director

The Board of Directors is made up of nine directors who are normally elected for three-year terms by members of the Society. The Board appoints from within its ranks four officers as follows:

President, First Vice-President (Chair, Publications Committee; Chair, Constitution Committee), Second Vice-President (Chair Nominating Committee) & National Secretary.

The Board of Directors appoints from within its ranks or from within the membership of The RASC, a Treasurer (Chair, Finance Committee). The Board also includes four Directors-At-Large and the Executive Director of the Society (Ex officio). The Board is the Society's management team, with input from the National Council.

Celestial Events ~ Sep-Oct, 2025

From www.SeaSky.org

September 21 - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 15:55 EDT. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

September 21 - Saturn at Opposition. The ringed planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Saturn and its moons. A medium-sized or larger telescope will allow you to see Saturn's rings and a few of its brightest moons.

September 22 - September Equinox. The September equinox occurs at 14:17 EDT. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.

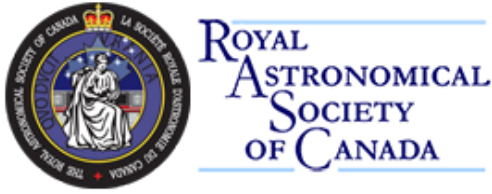
September 23 - Neptune at Opposition. The blue giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Neptune. Due to its extreme distance from Earth, it will only appear as a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

October 6 - Full Moon, Supermoon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 23:48 EDT. This full moon was known by early Aboriginal tribes as "The Hunter's Moon" because at this time of year the leaves are falling and the game is fat and ready to hunt. This moon has also been known as the Travel Moon and the Blood Moon. This is also the first of three supermoons for 2025. The Moon will be near its closest approach to the Earth and may look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

October 7 - Draconids Meteor Shower. The Draconids is a minor meteor shower producing only about 10 meteors/hour. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet 21P Giacobini-Zinner, which was first discovered in 1900. The Draconids is an unusual shower in that the best viewing is in the early evening instead of early morning like most other showers. The shower runs annually from October 6-10 and peaks this year on the night of the 7th. Unfortunately the glare from the nearly full moon will block most of the meteors this year. Combined with the low hourly rate it would probably be best to skip this one unless you are really patient. Best viewing will be in the early evening from a dark location far away from city lights. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Draco, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

October 21 - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 08:26 EDT. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

*"The Moon is the first milestone
on the road to the stars."
~ Arthur C. Clarke, Science Fiction Writer*



Windsor Centre

Minutes of the General Meeting

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Ojibway Nature Centre, Windsor Ontario

General Meeting ~ Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by President Steven Pellarin at 19:33. The chair asked all attending to sign the registration book and noted that the 50/50 draw will take place after the break.

Announcements, Attendance & Introduction of Guests

- Guest: Mohammed Zafar identified themselves as a new member attending their first meeting.
- Guest: Stephen, Community Member.
- Guests: Andy & Sherri of The Windsor Kin Club.
- Guest Speakers: Paul Dopson, Max Dopson & Dominick Dopson, RASC Sarnia Centre.
- Green Laser Training is still available. Members are asked to indicate interest in the Sign-In book.
- Point Pelee Dark Sky Night - June 21st. Members are asked to volunteer to attend and lead viewing sessions with the public.
- Colleen Melody has some of her paintings on display this evening and was at "Art in the Park", June 7-8.
- Leamington Art Gallery will be showing RASC member Astrophotography in October.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

May 20, 2025. General Meeting Minutes were circulated by email, and printed in the Aurora.

- ***Motion to accept both Minutes as presented.***
Moved by Grant Maguire and seconded by Randy Groundwater. Carried.

Presentation ~ Director of Observing

Nancy Ng outlined the viewing opportunities in the night sky from late June through September, and provided a hand-out. Interesting items included:

- Titan, one of Saturn's moons imaged by Cassini.
- Planet positions relative to the Moon.
- Period Meteor Shower, August 12-13.
- Jupiter-Venus Conjunction.
- Summer Solstice, June 20, 122:42 EDT.
- Mars in the constellation Leo.
- Full Moons of the Summer.

Steven Pellarin described the "Point of Collimation" and how viewing objects close to the horizon can be distorted by the increased volume of the atmosphere.

Presentation ~ Hallam Observation Deck Reconstruction.

Steven Pellarin gave a brief update on the deck reconstruction, including pictures of the work in progress. Steve thanked the members who have volunteered their time and effort to the project.

Presentation ~ RASC National Meeting.

Tom Sobocan, National Council Rep, presented a summary of the National Council meeting of June 8, 2025. A handout was provided.

Break

The chair called a coffee break following the presentation at 20:35. The meeting resumed at 20:55.

Guest Speakers ~ RASC Sarnia Centre

Paul Dopson: As President of the Sarnia Centre, Paul introduced their group and explained how they operate, with monthly hybrid meetings in person and on Zoom. They have partnered with the Sarnia Library for a meeting space. With approximately 40 members from Lampton, Kent, Middlesex and Huron Counties, they draw from a large geographic area.

Paul specializes in long duration Astrophotography and shared a collection of his work including:

- B33, Horsehead Nebula
- NGC 7365, Bubble Nebula
- C/2022-E3, "Green Comet"
- M16, Eagle Nebula
- M51, Whirlpool Nebula
- NGC 4565, Needle Galaxy
- NGC 4151, Eye of Sauron
- NGC 281, Pac-Man Nebula
- NGC 2359, Thor's Helmet

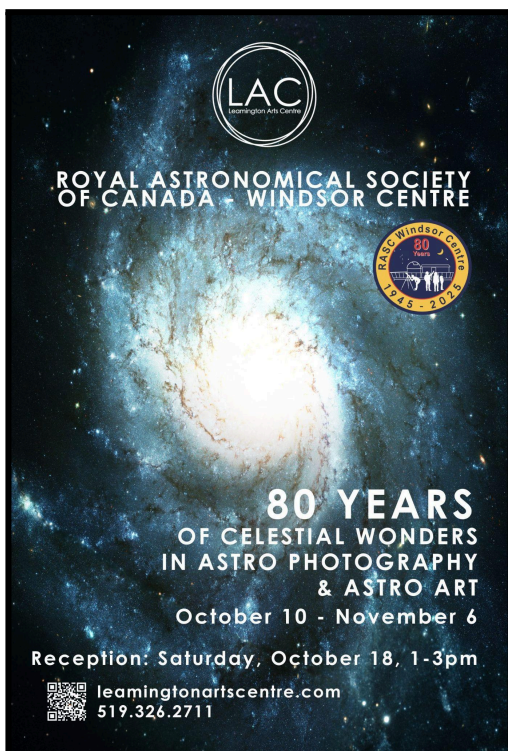
Dominic Dopson: Dominic described the various telescopes he uses with the Sarnia Centre at the Oil Heritage Museum in Oil Springs.

Max Dopson: Max specializes in following NASA and commercial space programs. He produces videos summarizing recent launches under the title "What are they doing inSpace?" Max shared his most recent video and a collection of photos from past events.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 21:52. Carried.

Clear Skies!



80 Years of Celestial Wonders in Astrophotography & Astro Art

October 10 - November 6, 2025
Leamington Arts Centre

2025 is the 80th Anniversary of the Windsor Center of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Our Vision is to inspire curiosity in all Canadians about the universe and our Mission is to encourage an improved understanding of astronomy for all people, through education, outreach, partnership, enjoyment and community. Please help us celebrate by partaking in our exhibit showcasing 80 years of Celestial Wonders through Astro Photography and Astro Art.

"The night is even more richly colored than the day. If only one pays attention to it, one sees that certain stars are citron yellow, while others have a pink glow or a green, blue and forget-me-not brilliance. And without my expiating on this theme, it should be clear that putting little white dots on a blue-black surface is not enough."

~ Vincent van Gogh, Painter