



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

The RASC is a group of astronomy professionals, amateurs and educators. Founded in 1868, the Society obtained approval for its Royal title from King Edward VII in 1903. Among other ventures, the mandate of the RASC is to stimulate interest, and to promote and increase knowledge, in astronomy and related sciences.

The RASC currently has over 5000 members throughout Canada and the world, including about 110 members in the NB Centre. Annual membership fees for the RASC NB Centre, which include the National fees, are \$78 for Regular members and \$40.75 for Youth members (under 21 years of age or a student under 25). Family memberships are also available. Membership applications can be made through www.rasc.ca.

As a RASC member you receive the bimonthly Canadian astronomy magazine *Sky News*; the annual *Observer's Handbook*, which is found in practically every professional observatory worldwide; and access to an electronic copy of the bimonthly *RASC Journal*. Their combined cost is about equal to the Regular member's fee.

Other benefits of membership include:

- discounts on RASC merchandise and publications, available through the E-Store on the RASC Web site
- discounts at Budget car rentals in Canada and the USA, and at Delta Hotels and Resorts across Canada
- option for the RASC Group Home & Auto Insurance Program
- free use of the NB Centre's telescopes, which include an 8" Dobsonian reflector and a Coronado PST solar scope
- free access to a good selection of astronomy books in our Centre library
- access to various RASC email lists

Astronomy Mentors

If you have questions about how to get started as a stargazer, what to look for in the sky or how to use a telescope, the following members of RASC NB will act as a mentor as their time permits. If you do not live in these areas they might be able to find a contact where you live.

Saint John

Chris Curwin: ccurwin@nbnet.nb.ca

Curt Nason: nasonc@nbnet.nb.ca

Mike Powell: mike3002@nbnet.nb.ca

Fredericton

Don Kelly: donald.kelly@rogers.com

Chris Weadick: Chris.Weadick@gmail.com

Moncton

Yvon Hachey: yvon.hachey@gmail.com

Emma MacPhee: emmamacphee@yahoo.ca

Miramichi

Roger Pitre: roger.pitre2@gnb.ca

New Brunswick Star Parties

New Brunswick has three parks that have earned designation as a Dark Sky Preserve (DSP) by the RASC: Mount Carleton, Kouchibouguac and Fundy. In addition, the Irving Nature Park (INP) in Saint John is designated as an Urban Star Park. Annually, RASC NB and park staff work together to host a public star party at each of the DSP parks and at Mactaquac. RASC NB members supply a variety of telescopes for daytime and evening observing. Events are also held at the INP.

2018 Star Parties / Events

Kouchibouguac: June 15/16

Mount Carleton: July 13/14

Mactaquac: August 10/11

Fundy: August 31 / September 1

Kouchibouguac: September 14/15

INP: July 20 (21 if cloudy) and

September 14 (15 if cloudy)

RASC NB Outreach

In addition to star parties, RASC NB members are active in promoting astronomy education through visits to schools; presentations to youth groups such as Scouts, Guides and Young Naturalists; presentations for seniors and other adult groups; solar and evening observing sessions with telescopes to supplement the above visits to schools and groups; public observing sessions to celebrate Astronomy Week, Fall Astronomy Day, International Observe the Moon Night, Earth Hour, and other events. If you are interested in our FREE outreach services, please contact one of our mentors above or email: president@nb.rasc.ca.

Light Pollution Abatement

The goal of the RASC **Light Pollution Abatement Program** (LPAP) is to reduce the present levels of light pollution in urban and rural areas by advising federal and provincial governments and departments, municipalities, communities and businesses on light pollution abatement. **Light Pollution** is the combined effects of glare, light trespass and sky glow. In some cases light pollution can actually reduce the safety and security it is intended to provide, since light may be directed where it was not intended.

Glare is the visual discomfort resulting from insufficiently shielded light sources in the field of view. The light source itself hinders a person's ability to see details not directly illuminated by the light. This degrades safety and security. **Light Trespass** is misdirected light that invades neighbouring property. It creates a nuisance by shining into bedroom windows and other areas. Light should be directed to where it is needed. Artificial **Sky Glow** is caused by light scattered off dust and large air molecules over a city. Poorly designed lights misdirect part of their beams upward, wasting energy and obliterating the view of the night sky.

Responsible lighting practices to reduce light pollution include using full cutoff fixtures that direct light only where it is needed, avoiding the use of high wattage bulbs where lower intensity is sufficient, and using amber lights rather than white, which have a significant blue component. Blue light can affect the circadian rhythm of people and animals, affecting their well being.

Public Observing Etiquette

RASC NB members are proud of their telescopes and greatly enjoy showing you the wonders of the night sky. We ask that you follow these guidelines to protect our equipment and maximize enjoyment for everyone.

- Do not use white or bright lights around the observing area as they reduce the ability of others to see in the dark. Cover the lights with red transparent material. If you must use a white light, use it sparingly and pointed only at the ground.
- Do not grab a telescope as that could damage it or move it off the target. Fingerprints are difficult to remove from the glass of the telescope and eyepieces.
- Do not bring drinks or food around the telescopes. Accidents happen. Spills can damage the equipment and likely will incur the wrath of the astronomer.
- Avoid loud or boisterous behaviour.
- Do not smoke around the telescopes; respect the sensitivity of others. If you must smoke, do it downwind from the observing area and away from the crowd.
- If you have small children, please stay with them.
- Dogs should not be brought to the observing site at night. Among a crowd in the dark, they and their leashes are tripping hazards.
- We welcome questions on astronomy and equipment, but do not monopolize our time when others are waiting to look.
- Have fun. We do, and we thrive on hearing your Wow! when you use our scopes.



Royal Astronomical Society of Canada New Brunswick Centre

RASC NB meetings are usually on the third or second Saturday of the month, with the exceptions of July, August and December. We rotate our meetings among Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John, and possibly have one yearly in another location such as Miramichi. Meetings usually run from 13:00 to 16:30. Upcoming meetings are posted on our website and social media:

<https://rascnb.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/RASC.NB>

<https://twitter.com/RASCNB>

Our free meetings are open to the public. They consist of two or three astronomy talks by members and special guests, observing reports where members recount what they have seen in the sky lately, imaging reports for the astrophotographers in the group to share their successes, and Show & Tell, Buy & Sell where members display their new equipment or things they are willing to sell.

Experience is not required. We are all beginners in some aspect of astronomy.