



NOVA

NEWSLETTER OF THE VANCOUVER CENTRE RASC

VOLUME 2006 ISSUE 6

75 YEARS

SEPT/OCT 2006

75 Years of History	1
President's Message	3
Observing Sites	4
For Sale	5
Upcoming Events	6
Paul Sykes	7

Looking Ahead

Remember, you are always welcome to attend meetings of Council, held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm in the G.M.S.O.

Nov. 9: 75th Anniversary celebrations.

Dec. 14: AGM.

Next Issue Deadline

Material for the January Nova should be submitted by Monday, Jan. 1, 2006. Please send submissions to:

Gordon Farrell
(gfarrell@shaw.ca)

75 Years of Vancouver Centre History

by William C. Fearon

The history of the Vancouver Centre starts when several members of the RASC Victoria Centre (but living in Vancouver) decided to form a centre for Vancouver. On Tuesday, November 10, 1931, in room 101 of the then-Physics building, a group of amateur and professional astronomers met to form the centre.

With Dr. Daniel Buchanan as the Honorary President and Dr. Gordon Shrum as the centre president, a new centre was born. Dr. Buchanan gave the first lecture titled, "The Making of Worlds" (an address on Cosmology).

A month later in December, another meeting was held. This meeting was dedicated to Telescopes and their Makers. Six of the members showed off some of their telescopes, ranging from a 3-inch Zeiss refractor to a 10-inch Newtonian reflector not yet finished. This meeting was also covered by reporters from the *Vancouver Sun* and *Province* papers.

The next meeting, the first of the new year, saw the passing of a petition for admission to the

RASC as the Vancouver Centre. Along with the petition, the dues of \$2 per member were sent as well. The speaker, Dr. J.A. Pearce (Dominion Astrophysical Observatory – Victoria) spoke on Observing Variable Stars and sending reports to the American Association of Variable Star Observers to help track the light cycles of various stars. As this did not require large telescopes, it was something any amateur astronomer could do to help professional astronomers.

On February 5, 1932, the National Council of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada gave its blessing to the new centre.

The year saw meetings during the summer at various members' homes, with other members and the public invited for observing and discussions on Astronomy. On August 17, Sir Frank Dyson, KBE, LL.D, FRS, Astronomer Royal of Great Britain, came to Vancouver and gave a talk on the contribution of the Royal Observatory to Navigation and Astronomy. The

continued on page 8



President's Message

November marks our 75th year as a Centre in the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. This is a significant milestone. The University of British Columbia was our incubator with most of the early members being faculty from the Departments of Astronomy and Physics at the university. Our Society has broadened its base considerably over the years and now amateur astronomers from diverse backgrounds are the group's mainstay. As an example of how far the membership has diverged, I can use myself as an example. I have a degree in Philosophy and spent my working career in the financial services industry. I didn't discover the night sky until 10 years ago and my colleagues will tell you that I am still climbing a steep learning curve.

Our first council consisted of 8 members, two of whom were especially prominent among the UBC faculty and were adding their own contributions to that very same curve. Daniel Buchanan, a mathematician and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, was our first Honourary President. He wrote six papers on mathematical astronomy and established an international reputation. Gordon Shrum, Head of the Physics Department, Dean of Graduate Studies, later Head of B.C. Electric, one of the founders and first Chancellor of Simon Fraser University, was our first President.

continued on page 6

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About RASC

The Vancouver Centre, RASC meets at 7:30 PM in the auditorium of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre at 1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver, on the second Thursday of every month. Guests are always welcome. In addition, the Centre has an observing site where star parties are regularly scheduled.

Membership is currently \$58.00 per year (\$34.25 for persons under 21 years of age) and can be obtained by writing to the Treasurer at the address below. Annual membership includes the invaluable Observer's Handbook, six issues of the RASC Journal, and, of course, access to all of the club events and projects.

For more information regarding the Centre and its activities, please contact our P.R. Director.

NOVA, the newsletter of the Vancouver Centre, RASC, is published on odd numbered months. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Vancouver Centre.

Material on any aspect of astronomy should be e-mailed to the editor or mailed to the address on page 5.

Advertising

Nova encourages free use of its classified ads for members with items for sale or swap. Notify the editor if you wish your ad to run in more than one issue.

Commerical Rates

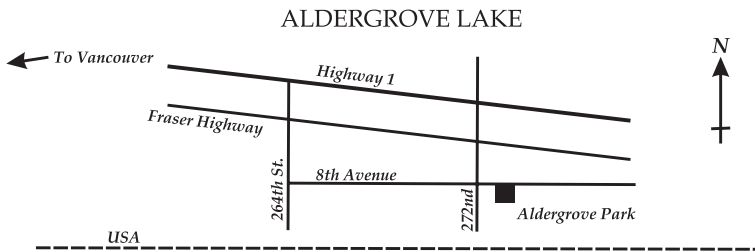
1/4 Page: \$15.00 per issue

1/2 Page: \$25.00 per issue

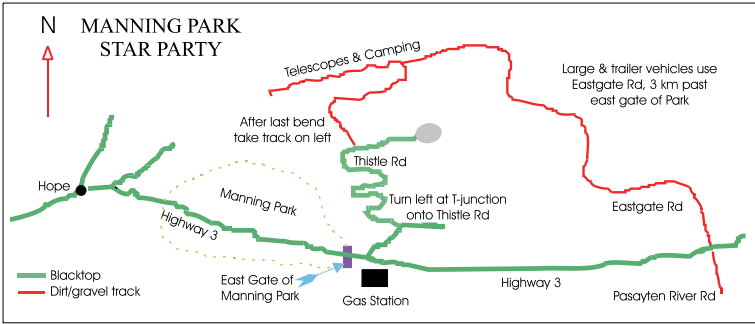
Full Page: \$40.00 per issue

Rates are for camera-ready, or electronic files. Payment, by cheque, must accompany ad material. Make cheque payable to: RASC Vancouver Centre.

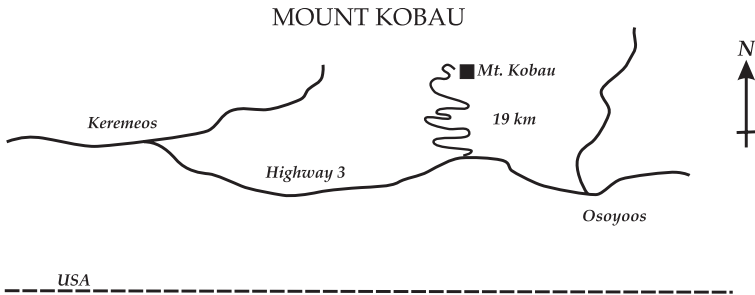
Observing Sites



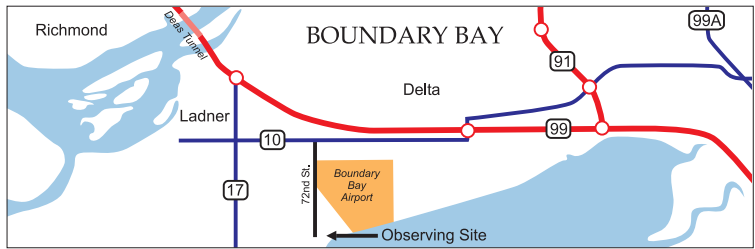
Dale McNabb Observatory in Aldergrove Lake Park (RASC Vancouver Centre's regular viewing site)
Contact Mike Penndelton (604-888-1505) or Howard Morgan (604-856-9186)



Site of the annual star party organized by the RASC Vancouver Centre



Site of the annual Mt. Kobau Star Party organized by the Mount Kobau Astronomical Society



Site of the regular Saturday night star party. On the dike at the foot of 72nd St.

FOR SALE

RASC MERCHANDISE

Available for purchase after meetings:

Calendars	\$14.00
Golf Shirts	\$30.00
Sweat Shirts	\$30.00
Centenary Mugs	\$ 7.00
Beginners' Guides	\$15.00
Observers' Guides	\$20.00
Cloth Crests	\$11.00
Lapel Pins	\$ 6.00
L.E.D. Flashlights	\$22.00

'INTES' Russian Made Precision
Quartz Clock Drive

Speeds: Sidereal, Lunar & Adjustable

Adjustable for Observer's Latitude
Power: 12 volts DC 80 mAmps
(Very low power consumption)

Works with battery or AC adaptor

Suitable for scope to 30lbs

\$80 or OBO

Contact Seamus Dunne

604-327-7262

seamus@xtcfx.ca

ASTROCOMPUTING

SpaceBase™ (604-473-9358,59).
Affiliated since 1992 with RASC
Vancouver, our link to RASC Net,
RASC Members only chat area.
Future data distribution hub for
CARO Project. Features include
latest HST images, current world
space news and astronomy pro-
grams.

LIBRARY

The centre has a large library of
books, magazines and old Nova's
for your enjoyment at the GSO.
Please take advantage of this club
service and visit often to check out
the new purchases. Suggestions
for future library acquisitions are ap-
preciated.

RASC-VC on the Internet

<http://www.pcis.com/rascvan/> or

<http://www.rasc.ca/vancouver>

H.R. MACMILLAN SPACE CENTRE

The Pacific Space Centre Society
is a non-profit organization which
operates the H.R. MacMillan Space
Centre and Gordon M. Southam
Observatory. Annual Membership
(\$30 Individual, \$80 Family) in-
cludes a newsletter, Discounts on
Space Camps, special programs
and lectures, Vancouver Museum
Discounts, and free admission to
the Space Centre. Admission to the
Space Centre includes: Astronomy
shows, Motion Simulator rides, mul-
timedia shows in GroundStation
Canada, and access to the Cosmic
Courtyard Exhibit Gallery. For Mem-
bership information, call Mahi
Jordao at 604-738-7827, local 237
for information. You can also reach
them on the Internet at [http://
www.hrmacmillanspacecentre.com/](http://www.hrmacmillanspacecentre.com/)

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!

New members, did you know?
The Vancouver Centre has 8 tel-
escopes available for loan free of
charge! We have telescopes rang-
ing from 60mm to 10" diameter.
For more information see Wayne
Lyons, Director of Telescopes in the
meeting room of the GSO *after* the
members meeting. All telescopes
are to be picked up and returned at
the GSO. The loaner period is for
one month, to be returned after the
next meeting. Telescopes are not
allowed to circulate outside of these
meetings. You can now reserve 2
different telescopes per year and
use what is left at the end of the
meeting anytime. Wayne can be
reached at 604-467-2956.

Your greatest opportunity as a
member of the R.A.S.C. is to take
advantage of the company of other
enthusiasts to increase your knowl-
edge, enjoyment and skill in as-
tronomy.

The best thing you can do to
gain the most from your member-
ship is to get active! Take in the
club meetings; engage other mem-
bers with questions; come out to ob-
serving sessions (also known as
"star parties"), and, by all means,
volunteer to take part in our many
public events.

Observing takes place at
Boundary Bay on the dike at the
south end of 72nd St. in Delta (see
map on p. 4). We are there most
clear Thursday/Friday nights. Con-
tact Jason Rickerby at 604-502-
8158.

RASC
1100 Chestnut Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 3J9
604-738-2855

Upcoming Events

November

14 – 75th Anniversary of
Vancouver Centre

December

12 – AGM

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Vancouver Centre

Our Vision: To be the centre of excellence for amateur astronomy in the Greater Vancouver area

Our Mission: To promote the appreciation and discovery of the universe amongst amateur astronomers.

The Vancouver Centre's aims are to:

- ❖ Share our understanding of the universe
 - ❖ Connect with the community
 - ❖ Satisfy curiosity
 - ❖ Encourage observation
 - ❖ Contribute to the advancement of the science of astronomy
 - ❖ Enjoy the wonders of the night sky
-

continued from page 3

Another early member of our Centre, also from UBC, was Paul Sykes, who was both a lecturer and administrator in Physics. He was active in his astronomy pursuits, joining the R.A.S.C., attending conferences and conducting the “In Transit” presentations at member meetings. He eventually became a Life Member of our Society and was on the committee that planned our 50th Anniversary celebrations (we draw your attention to a separate article in Nova recap-ping Paul's career).

Paul Sykes passed away in October 2005 at the age of 87 and left us a generous gift as his legacy. We had a plaque prepared to commemorate this occasion, which reads as follows:

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Vancouver Centre

Is Pleased to Recognize

The Generous Gift from Former Member

Paul Sykes

On the Occasion of its 75th Anniversary

November 2006

The Vancouver Centre extends its most sincere gratitude to Paul's family in memoriam.

As an astronomy society our Vision is “to be the centre for excellence in amateur astronomy in the greater Vancouver area.” We see our Mission as “promoting the appreciation and discovery of the universe amongst amateur astronomers.” Our activities, a number of which I will enumerate, measure our effectiveness in meeting our objectives. I think they are particularly noteworthy because, as a volunteer group, members

share their time and talents by choice.

Beginning with our Member Meetings, we have an opportunity to share the unfolding knowledge of the universe among ourselves and with the general public. Members' Nights are a chance to gain practical knowledge and information that may increase our own enjoyment of our chosen hobby. Field Trips to places like Pine Mountain, Oregon, Jack Newton's former observatory in Victoria, AMEC's Keck and Atacama Cosmology Telescope projects are chances to see practical applications of astronomy.

We have undertaken efforts to participate in ‘hands on’ observing and imaging. In early 1991, plans were developed for an observatory at Aldergrove Lake Re-

continued on page 7

Paul Sykes – In Memoriam

Paul Sykes was born in Hummelston, Pennsylvania USA in 1918. He acquired his interest in astronomy at an early age. During his teens he published his own monthly astronomical column and gave at least one lecture on the subject.

As an officer in the United States Air Corp, he served in the Pacific during WWII and attained the rank of Captain. He was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, the U.S. Air Medal, the Oak Leaf and Cluster and the Bronze Star. Following the war he attended UBC where he earned a degree in Physics in 1948. He then

rejoined the United States Air Force and attended the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology, studying nuclear physics. He worked on the NERVA Project, a nuclear rocket development effort situated in the Nevada desert, and rose to the rank of Major.

Paul was appointed a lecturer and administrator in Physics at UBC and remained there until retirement in 1983. Besides his teaching requirements, his job included the supervision of teaching assistants and the arrangement of lab duties.

He actively pursued his interest in Astronomy, attending con-

ferences and R.A.S.C. meeting regularly as well as conducting the “In Transit” presentations at member nights. He became a Life Member of the R.A.S.C.

In addition to astronomy Paul was interested in local and provincial politics and was an accomplished pianist.

Paul Sykes passed away in October 2005 at the age of 87 and left a generous gift of \$200,000 as his legacy. The Vancouver Centre wishes to express its most sincere gratitude to Paul’s family in memoriam. ★

continued from page 6

gional Park, in partnership with the GVRD. The project was completed in the spring of 1992 and operated for a number of years. In 1995, spurred by the Halifax Centre’s supernova discovery, our centre undertook a second observatory project—CARO—located in the McNabb Research Forest in Maple Ridge. The first image with a cookbook camera was taken in 1996. The observatory remains a work in progress.

In the parlance of the real estate profession, what counts is “location, location and location.” It is the same for observatories. As trees overtook the skyline surrounding the Aldergrove Lake observatory, the sky became less accessible and, ultimately, vandals made off with the equipment. Security was clearly an issue.

CAROp, on the other had, suffers from too much security as well as a lack of proximity to the majority of potential users. Our challenge now is to find a better site where we can make use of that equipment and the subsequent improvements in technology.

Other observing activities include the star parties at Manning Park, Mt. Kobau and, more recently, Merritt. On the local scene, the search for dark sites like Boundary Bay, Campbell Valley and Aldergrove Lake Regional Park is an ongoing effort in the light polluted sky of the lower mainland.

Eighteen months ago we were presented with an opportunity to participate in an exciting, multifaceted joint venture by one of our own members. Chris Graham has a keen interest in astronomy and

owns a 20" F8.1 Ritchey Chretien telescope on a Paramount ME fitted with a CCD camera and filter wheels. It is housed in a dome in a dark site in New Mexico, USA and can be operated over the internet. Chris invited the Vancouver Centre to share the learning curve and the viewing time. We now have an operations room and an active group of volunteers learning the various aspects of the equipment. We have partnered with the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre in Victoria for image archiving and are looking for an educational link for data downloading. The Chris Graham Robotic Telescope enables us to pursue astronomy with state of the art technology during the Vancouver winter months, a truly unique opportunity for which we are very grateful.

continued on page 8

continued from page 1

meeting was well attended.

The October meeting saw the introduction of what is now called "In Transit." This is a short talk of what is up in the night sky at this time, for both amateur astronomers and the public.

The January 10, 1933 meeting saw our membership standing at 71 and Mr. Paul Sykes gave the monthly "In Transit." Meetings throughout the year saw talks by such astronomers as Dr. J.S. Plaskett (the Director of the DAO – Victoria) and Dr. M.Y. Williams (Geology – UBC). As well the summer star parties continued with four in June alone. Also noted: delays in the delivery of the Journal of the RASC. The highlight of the year was a trip to Victoria to visit the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. As well, a Telescope Makers group was formed.

1934 saw Dr. Walter M. Gage transfer his membership from Victoria to Vancouver and give a talk

on Variable Stars at the January meeting. He became our secretary at this time, as well. In September, UBC granted the centre members library privileges at its library. Centre membership was 68, with a balance of \$66.23.

The year 1935, saw our first female council member. Mrs. G.M. Robson became 2nd Vice-President of our centre. The January meeting was on Old and New Radioactive Substances. In December, membership stood at only 48 (with only 37 paid up).

In 1936, the first speaker of the year was Dr. D.C.B. Duff on "Laboratory Methods in Bacteriology." In April, discussion was about the great auroral displays of January 15 and March 14. November's talk featured Dr. Gordon Shrum on "Atomic Collisions." The talk saw a demonstration of artificial radioactivity in silver. A silver coin was exposed to some slow neutrons and the resultant beta ray activity was demonstrated

by means of a loudspeaker and a Geiger counter. In the process, the silver was changed to cadmium. It was explained that this type of transmutation is common in Supernovae. Finally, there was a demonstration of the intense activity of very penetrating gamma rays. The radon and beryllium sources were provided by the University of Saskatchewan and its Cancer Commission.

The highlight of 1937 was the election of the centre's first female president, Mrs. Laura Anderson.

In 1939, the highlight was the beginning of World War II. The October meeting saw Mr. Sidney Smith, Vancouver barrister and retired naval officer, talk on "The Defence of Merchantmen During the Last War." Despite the war, meetings would continue.

The year 1940 saw Dr. R.M. Petrie (DAO – Victoria) talk on "Atmospheres of the Planets" at the April meeting. October saw

continued on page 9

continued from page 7

The Vancouver Centre also reaches out to the community. We have partnered with the GVRD on both daytime and nighttime activities. Their Perseid meteor shower event at Aldergrove Bowl attracts over 600 visitors, many of whom are families. They are both an audience and a potential source of new members for our organization. Mars Watch in 2003 was a spectacular success with more than 20,000 curious visitors showing up for a once in a lifetime look at the Red Planet. We hold other view-

ing events during the year and provide volunteers to operate the telescope at the Gordon MacMillan Southam Observatory.

Our largest annual event by far is Astronomy Day, held each spring. Our telescope displays, "How To" seminars, viewing opportunities (both day and night), snacks and refreshments, raffles and our outstanding speakers are well received by attending Vancouverites.

In sum, we have achieved considerable success in reaching the goals we have set for ourselves

and we have a number of significant opportunities on which to move forward. The financial gift from Paul Sykes is one of the tools that will enable us to do so. Where we go from here and how we get there is the purpose behind our strategy session planned for Wednesday, November 15th at the Strathcona Community Centre. We invite interested members to attend the meeting. We look forward to another 75 years as interesting as the last. Active member participation will make that happen.

– Ron Jerome ★

continued from page 8

Captain Angus Paterson of Frederick Goertz Ltd. (Scientific Instrument makers), talk on the "Gyro Compass." At the end of the year, membership stood at 41.

For 1942, we only have the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$99.36.

For 1943, we only have the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$148.76.

In 1944, the high point was Dr. H.D. Smith on the Time Scale of the Universe, covering the recent work by S. Chandrasekhar and Miss Tuberg. This was followed in December by Mr. R.E.G. Langton talking about "Cosmic Rays." Centre balance was \$60.23.

In 1945, we only have the balance sheet showing a balance of \$135.04.

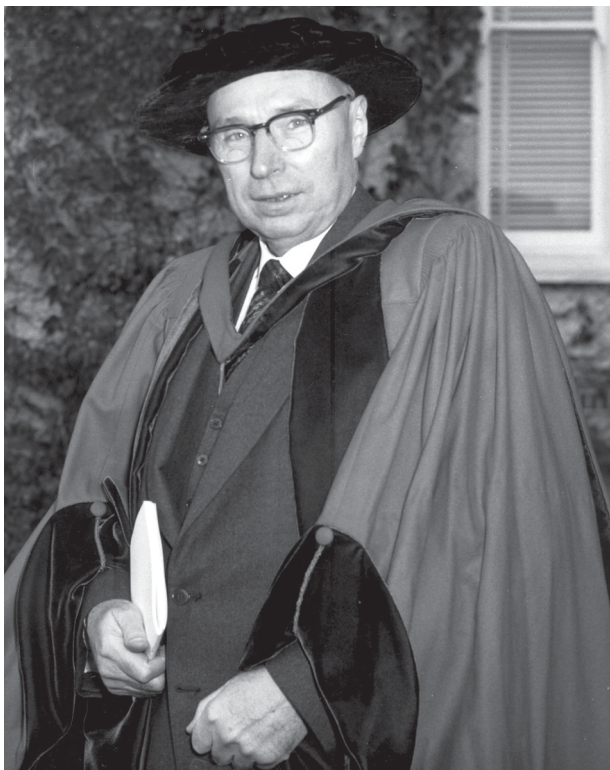
Nothing worthy of entering into the records happened in 1946, 1947 and 1948,

as only the names of who is on council are provided. The April meeting saw Mr. Paul Sykes (of UBC) give a talk on "Microwave Radio Astronomy."

The year 1949 saw talks by Dr. G.L. Pickard on Oceanography, Lt. Cmdr. C.A. MacDonald (a Past President of the RASC – Vancouver) on Tides, Dr. K. Mann

on Cosmic Radiation, Mr. P.N. Daykin (member) on Polishing a Mirror and finished the year with Dr. A.M. Crooker with a demonstration of some Simple Optical Devices.

In 1950, Dr. Anne B.



Dr. Gordon Shrum, our Centre's first President

Underhill came to talk about "Some Distinguished Women Astronomers." Dr. F. Kaempffer of UBC talked about "Space Travel." In May, the centre started its sidewalk astronomy program at UBC (to begin with) as often as possible. The year ended with Dr. Gordon Shrum talking about Aurora.

The year 1951 saw much of the same with talks on subjects ranging from constellations, the solar system, meteors and comets, nebular hypotheses and stellar energy generators. All were given by members of the centre, indicating

a broad and diverse degree of knowledge in the membership. Dr. Gordon Shrum also becomes our Honorary President for the Centre.

The years of 1952 and 1953 saw no minutes filed.

The highlight of 1954 is Dr. Shrum's talk at the AGM on "The Peacetime uses of Atomic Energy."

In 1955, a visitor from UBC's Math Department talked on "Moving Clouds in Ursa Major," but his/her name is not recorded. At the end of the year we had 43 members. In February, the PNE asked us to set up and man a display on astronomy. This is something that would

be done on and off for the next 40 years.

1956 saw membership climb to 66; the Telescope section under Mr. Hedgecock become more active; and dues increased. At the AGM, Mr. P.E. Argyle of the DAO spoke on "The Artificial Satellite and the International Geophysical

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continued from page 9

Year.”

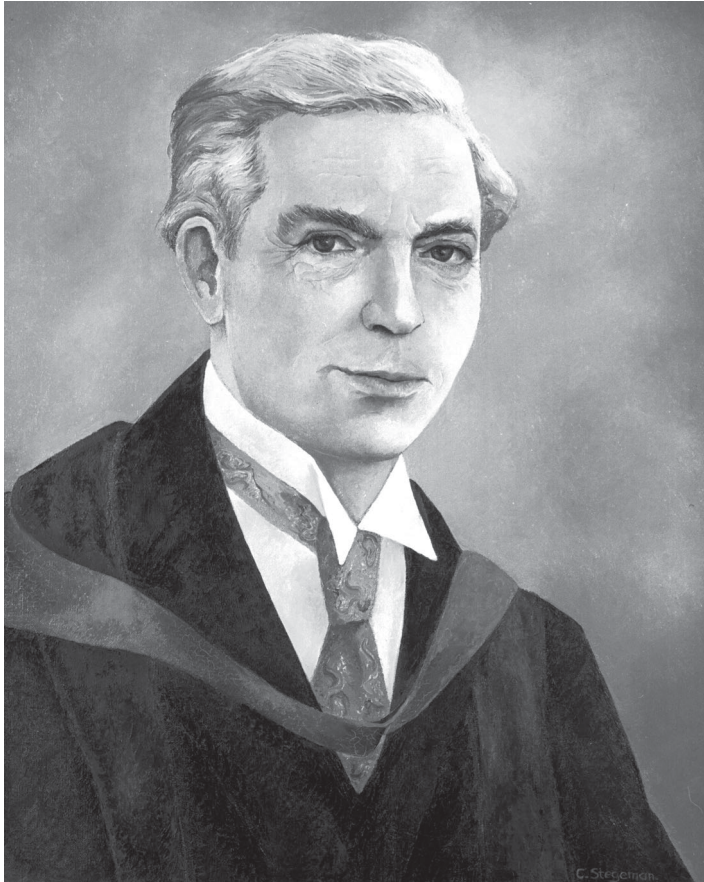
1957 saw more of the same until October. The meeting of 12 November, 1957 saw 253 people turn out to hear Mr. F.K. Bowen (UBC Dept. of Electrical Engineering) talk about “The Russian Artificial Satellites.”

The years 1958 through 1968 saw pretty much the same kinds of visitors, members’ nights and guest speakers with highlights such as Miss Ruth J. Northcott (Astronomy at the David Dunlap Observatory), members being urged to check out the tail of the Comet Ikeya-Seki (Oct. 65), Dr. Gordon A. Malker (Interstellar Smog) and Dr. Micheal W.

Ovenden (The Formation of the Constellations). On 10 October, 1967, Mr. Dave Rodger (the Curator of the New Planetarium) came to tell us about the H.R. MacMillan Planetarium. September 1968 would see us move our centre to the Planetarium. 1968 would also see the introduction of NOVA for the first time in Novem-

ber.

No minutes or meeting reports are in the record for the period of 1969 through the end of



Dr. Daniel Buchanan, our first Honorary President

1977. However, we did host the 1972 General Assembly here.

In 1978, dues are increased to \$16. Balance sheet showed \$1,232.92. Monthly meeting reports now show that members are getting to see Planetarium shows as well. In November, Mr. David Rodger informed us of the donation of an observatory by the

Southam family (now known as the Gordon MacMillan Southam Observatory).

In 1979, the highlight was the Solar Eclipse, seen from Vancouver. A profit of 2,116.77 was realized on the sale of Safe Solar Viewers to schools and the public.

The highlight of the year was the establishment of an observatory for the Vancouver Centre on property owned by member Art Holmes. Everything except a building was done by year’s end.

1981 saw us move our after meeting socializing to the GMSO. Later in the year we moved our library to the GMSO, too. National dues went up to \$20. To meet our needs, the

Centre voted to add a surcharge to the centre members to help with Centre costs. The high point of the year was the 50th anniversary of our Centre. Thanks to David Hurd and the Planetarium, a modest amount of alcohol was available. Mrs. Joanne Dodge made the Cake. Those Past Presidents that

continued on page 12



continued from page 10

were available came to speak.

The highlight of 1982 was a total lunar eclipse, which saw us get lucky with the winter weather for a change. All of the local TV stations had reporters present.

1983 saw a return to the staples of our Centre—monthly meetings on astronomy-related topics and Planetarium shows. In August, David Dodge went to the Vancouver Museum and Planetarium Association to discuss the fees the centre was paying. (We were paying \$100 per year as an affiliate and \$10 per meeting to rent the auditorium. Unfortunately no record shows whether he succeeded or not, but currently we do not pay any rental fees.) Also, Mr. Art Holmes moved away from Langley, and the Vancouver Centre had to close down its observatory. At the end of the year we had 43 members and a balance of \$6,800.00.

The year 1984 saw the centre get back to the routine. The year ended with a membership of 122 and a balance of \$7,983.00.

The high point of 1985 was the Centre decision to incorporate as a non-profit society under the Societies Act of BC.

There were two high points in 1986; the first was our incorporation and our constitution; and the second was Dr. Anne B. Underhill speaking on “Wolf-Rayet Stars, Old and New Ideas.” Dues were increased to \$30 per year.

1987 saw a visit by Mary Grey (National President – RASC) in September and Dr. John

MacDonald (of MacDonald-Dettwiler and Associates in Richmond) agreeing to become the centre’s new Honorary President.

The year 1988 saw the Vancouver Museum and Planetarium Association replaced by the BC Space Sciences Society. This was the first time we were invited to set up a booth at the Fraser River Festival (which we would do every year until it was cancelled last year) by the GVRD. The Centre sponsored a trip to TRIUMF at UBC. The Planetarium raised our room rental to \$75 per meeting. This was later amended to \$25. (On a personal note, the author joined the RASC Vancouver Centre on Astronomy Day. I was volunteering at the GMSO in two months and helped out at the Perseid Meteor Watch.) The Perseid Meteor Watch was attended by almost 1,700 people but the weather did not cooperate. The last big Mars watch then followed (best until 2003). And dues went up to \$40.

In 1989, the Vancouver Centre decided, with the approval of the members and the GVRD, to place a telescope and observatory at Aldergrove Lake Park. We also volunteered at this time to host the 1991 GA.

1990 saw the Centre members continuing to observe and gather to talk about observing.

1991 had two highlights. First, the 1991 GA in May. Despite not having the weather we would have liked, it all went well. The second highlight was the approval by the GVRD of the Aldergrove

Lake Observatory.

In 1992, the highlight was the completion of our observatory. But this was dampened by the death at a young age of one of the observatory’s main movers—Dale McNabb. In his honour, the council chose to rename the Aldergrove Lake Observatory as The Dale McNabb Memorial Observatory.

1993 was a slow year for the Vancouver Centre as no major events happened.

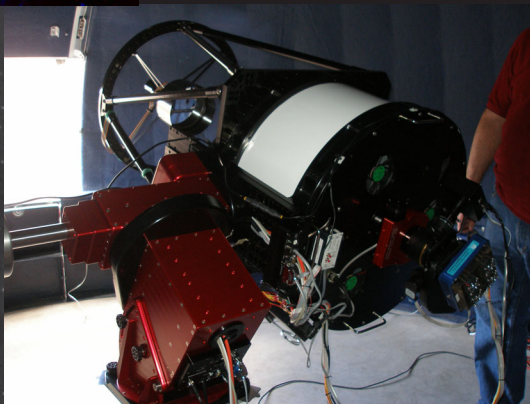
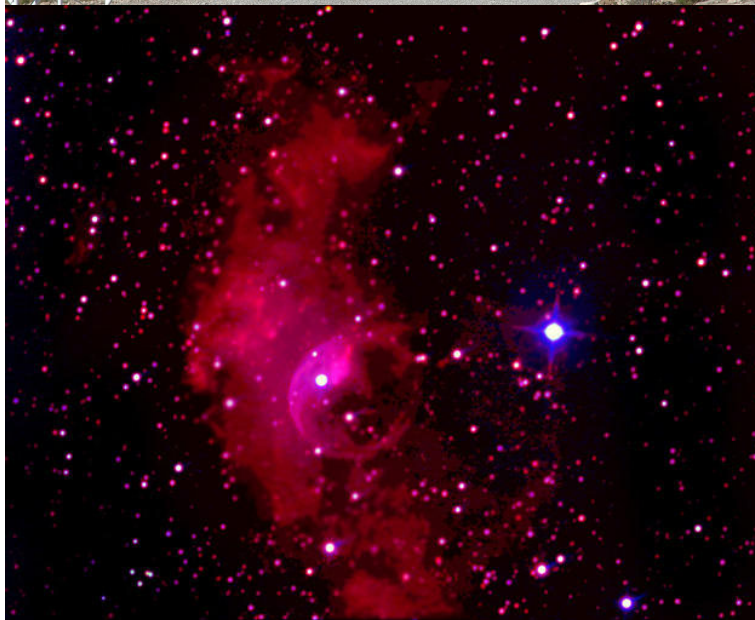
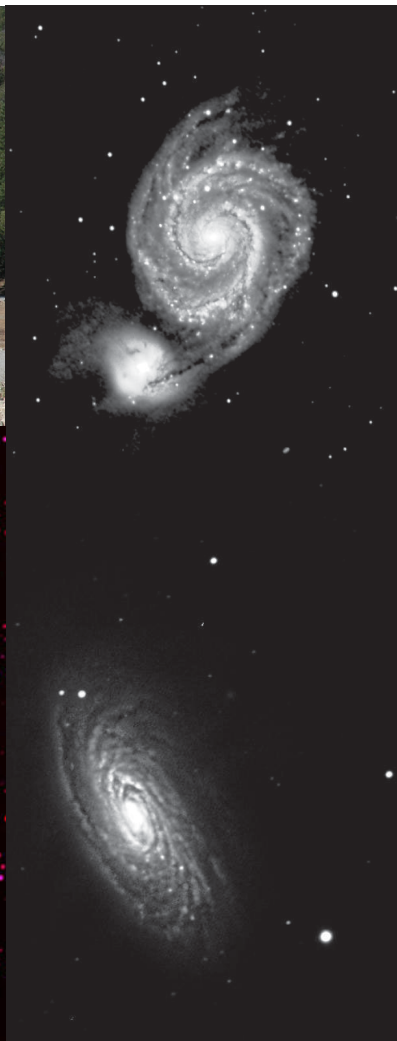
The two highlights of 1994 were the visits of Ray Villard (of the Space Telescope Science Institute) and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada’s own David Levy who spoke on the upcoming impact of the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with Jupiter.


The years of 1995 to 2002 were similar with good talks from visitors and members.

The year 2003 saw the Vancouver Centre host the GA again. But this GA coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Royal cachet to the title of our society.

The year 2004 would have been an ordinary year except for the discovery that someone had entered the Dale McNabb Memorial Observatory and stolen the telescope and its mount. No trace has ever been found.

Thank you for your patience in reading this brief history of the Vancouver Centre. ★





*To R.A.S.C. Vancouver Centre
Happy 75th Birthday !!!
From Sagewood Software
And The "Scavenger Hunter" Task Force !!!*

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Proud To Serve Vancouver's Astronomical Community



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