



## RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 6, 2026: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Via Zoom – Meeting 821 0983 6021, Passcode 112053

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents / Notes
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Agenda</li> <li>Review Action List</li> <li>Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting</li> </ul>	Information Approval	Tony McGrath	Pre-circulated: Agenda: January 6, 2026 <b>Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Open Action List</b> Previous Minutes: December 2, 2025
<b>ONGOING ITEMS</b>				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved 2026 Public Meeting dates and speakers</li> <li>Approve 2026 Board Meeting Dates</li> <li>Confirm Public Meeting agenda</li> <li>Zoom/SMU Bookings</li> <li>Guest Speakers &amp; Ideas for Future Presentations</li> </ol>	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #2: 2026 Speakers &amp; Approved Public Meeting Dates</b>  <b>Refer to Agenda Notes #3: Approved 2026 Board Meeting Dates</b>
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<b>Next Meeting: February 22, 2026</b> <b>Refer to Agenda Notes #4: NC Report</b>
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #5: Website Update</b>
	5. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Status</li> <li>Calendar Sales</li> <li>SCOPE Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Astro-Image Sales</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Discussion	Gregg Dill Tony McGrath	n/a
	6. EPO / Observing Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APS Outreach Event</li> </ul>	Information Discussion	David Hoskin	n/a
<b>UPDATES / REPORTS</b>				
	7. Parks Canada Agreement	Discussion	Peter Hurley	n/a
	8. Stellarium with Allan McCue	Discussion	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #6: Stellarium</b>
	9. Astroimage Contest - results	Information	Peter Hurley	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #7: Astroimage Contest</b>
	10. SCO	Discussion	Tony McGrath	n/a
	11. Update: Library Sale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remaining books</li> <li>Book Sales</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	Judy Black Gregg Dill	n/a
	12. Donated Telescope	Discussion Decision	Tony McGrath	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #8: Appointments</b>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>				
	13. Appointments	Decision	Peter Hurley	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #9: Appointments</b>
	14. RASC Reports	Information Discussion	Judy Black Gregg Dill	n/a

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RASC Halifax: Centre, Treasurer</li> <li>RJSC: Board List, Year-end financial statement</li> </ul>			
<b>Adjournment</b>				
9:00 PM	Adjournment			<b>(Next meeting: February 3, 2026)</b>

**RASC, Halifax Centre – Public Meeting**  
 Saturday, January 10, 2026: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM  
**Via Zoom - Meeting ID 892 3925 4195, Passcode 267146**

Time	<i>Member &amp; Public Meeting</i>		
1:00 PM	Item		
	1. Welcome & Introductions • Photo Montage	Information	David Hoskin
	2. <b>Special Presentation:</b> <i>David Baron – The Martians</i>	Presentation	David Baron
	3. BREAK		
	4. Outreach Opportunities	Information	David Hoskin
	5. Food for the Soul: <b>Red Eye Watching</b>	Information	Paul Heath
	6. Update from the Board	Information	Tony McGrath, Judy Black
	6. What's Up in January?	Information	David Hoskin
4:00 PM	Adjournment <b>Next meeting: Febraury 7, 2026</b> <i>Devin Williams – Galaxy Mergers</i>		

**Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting**  
**January 6, 2026 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**  
**held via Zoom - Meeting ID #821 0983 6021**

**Present:** Tony McGrath (President), Peter Hurley (Vice-President), Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Judy Black (Secretary), Gerry Brosky, Matt Dyer, David Hoskin, Frank Logan, David McMullin, Vincent Vallee.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Tony called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with quorum; all members were in attendance.

**a) Approval of Agenda**

David McMullin noted an incorrect date for the *What's Up?* on the public meeting agenda. Tony requested Halifax Centre Plan for 2026 be added to the agenda as Item #15.

**260106MN-Mot01**

It was moved by Gerry Brosky and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the January 6, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated with the amendments.  
 CARRIED.

**b) Review of Action Lists**

From September 2, 2025

**Action 1:** Open. Peter will follow up.

**Action 11:** Open. Judy has been in contact with the Archives request how to add files to the account.

From September 30, 2025

**Action 9:** Closed.

From December 2, 2025

**Action 1-3:** Closed.

**Action 4:** Tony will be getting in touch with Michelle Lane to determine the presentation of the cheque..

**Action 5-6:** Closed.

**Action 7:** New Brunswick and St. John's Centres have agreed to the March 10 date for the Stellarium training. Our members will be notified via all Centre formats.

**Action 8:** Closed. Dave Chapman was appointed Auditor at the Centre's AGM.

**Action 9:** Closed. The telescope will be awarded as a prize at the February 7 Public Meeting; Tony will confirm whether the donor will. Be attending when he picks up the telescope.

**c) Approval of Previous Minutes**

No errors were noted in the minutes.

**260106MN-Mot02**

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Frank Logan to approve the December 2, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes as circulated.  
CARRIED.

**ONGOING ITEMS**

**2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers**

**a) Approved 2026 Public Meeting Dates**

The approved Public meeting dates were January 10 (David Baron – *The Martians*), February 7 (Devin Williams – the CFHT and galaxy mergers), March 7 (Blair Macdonald (summertime photography), April 11 member contributions and Astronomy humour), May 2, June 6 (Michelle Lane & Andrea Misner re the *Starfinder Program* (<https://observatory.smu.ca/bgo-about/star-finder>)), September 12, October 3, November 7, and December 5. December 5 would also be the 2026 AGM date. Blair MacDonald would be available in the fall to present planet hunting and observing exoplanet transits.

**b) 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Dates**

The proposed Board meeting dates were tentatively approved in December with the understanding they would be reviewed with the two new members; the dates could be changed by the newly elected Board. Members agreed there was no problem with meeting at 7 PM on February 3, March 3, April 7, April 28, June 2, September 8, September 29, November 3, and December 1.

**260106MN-Mot03**

It was moved by Tony McGrath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the dates for the 2026 Board of Directors Meetings.  
CARRIED.

**c) Public Meeting Agenda**

For the upcoming meeting, Paul Heath has been contacted regarding the poem. Judy Black will conduct the *News from the Board* session.

**d) SMU Bookings**

SMU room bookings have been confirmed thanks to Tiffany Fields. Members agreed a thank you letter should be sent to SMU to thank them for their ongoing support.

**260106MN-Act01**

Tony McGrath and Judy Black to draft the thank you letter to be sent to SMU.

**3. National Council (NC) Report**

Judy Black reported the next meeting is Feb 22, 2026. She noted a complete report would be forwarded once the NC minutes have been circulated. She highlighted two items mentioned in the Agenda Notes:

- a) *Policy C11: National Council Terms of Reference* was approved by the RASC Board on December 18, 2025.

- b) The EPO Update included information about the NOVA program and its fee structure, the Novice Seasonal Observing Activities (that Tony Schellinck had a hand in developing), and the Artemis II launch documentation and videos. Centre Presidents and EPO Chairs will be apprised of the documentation for these programs.

#### **4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube**

Judy noted the information is in agenda notes 4. It was noted the Library was removed from the website as previously suggested by David Hoskin.

#### **5. Financial Update**

NOTE: Gregg was accidentally logged out of the meeting for a couple of minutes.

##### a) Refund to Alan Sutherland of APS

Jerry Black had inquired whether Alan Sutherland had been refunded for the APIX purchase made for test run purposes; photos had not been printed. Gregg noted two purchases had been made. The first \$31.40 had been refunded in full as it fell within the one month allowed for refunds. He noted there is fee added to PayPal transactions. Members agreed unanimously that APS should be refunded the full amount of \$31.40 for the second transaction and that the Centre would cover the applicable transaction fees.

##### **260106MN-Act02**

Gregg Dill to forward a refund cheque to Alan Sutherland.

##### b) Financial Status

Gregg Dill stated our bank account was somewhat reduced to \$17,251.00. Our insurance and calendar payments have been made.

##### c) SCOPE Fund

Gregg reported approximately \$3000 remains in our account that are attributable to the SCOPE funds. Jenna Hinds had agreed to post our Astroimage sale for the next few months in the RASC monthly Bulletin.

##### d) RASC Observer's Calendar

All RASC Observer's Calendar have been sold.

##### d) Library Book Sale

Gregg reported \$298.00 has been received through sales to date.

##### e) Astroimages Sale

There have been no transactions to date. It will be promoted at the upcoming public meeting and through the various Centre media.

#### **Updates/Reports**

#### **6. Update: EPO Update**

On December 20, Dave Champan and David Hoskin were at the Deanery Project from 1:30pm to 7:00pm to conduct a solar and night observing session. Approximately 12-14 attended. Randall Rosenfeld dropped by.

Lindsay Lake Farms in the Musquodoboit Valley requested a future star gazing event. David will work with them to determine the type of event and potential dates.

Business cards have been handed out at these events.

##### **260106MN-Act03**

David Hoskin will bring RASC Halifax Centre business cards to the upcoming meeting for members.

Members discussed potential dates for the APS event around the dates of the First Quarter Moon when Jupiter and open clusters could also be seen. It would be dark by 7:00pm. Four dates were determined:

- Friday, January 23 with Monday, January 26 storm date
- Friday, February 23 with Saturday, February 24 storm date

**260106MN-Act04**

David Hoskin to contact Alan Sutherland regarding the proposed dates for the APS Outreach event.

**7. Update: Parks Canada Agreement**

No work was done on this over the holidays. Peter will be in touch with Tony Schellinck.

**8. Update: Stellarium with Alan McCue**

Details about the program are outlined in Agenda Notes #6. Judy will be contacting Alan regarding the registration login to forward to our members and those of the other Centres.

**260106MN-Act05**

Judy Black to contact Alan McCue for Stellarium training registration details.

**9. Update: Astroimage Contest Winners**

The winners are summarized in the agenda notes. This was included on the agenda to ensure the outcome was in Centre documentation. Winners are indicated in the astroimage website. Peter encouraged members to go to the site to look at the incredible images submitted this year. Judy noted there has been an update to the astroimage contest site with updated submission deadline, etc.

**10. Update: SCO**

Tony plans to organize a work party to get a few things done that can be done at this time of year. A copy of the current SCO astronomy inventory that he hopes to finalize had been forwarded to members. Members were asked to provide comment on the draft documents previously forwarded.

**11. Update: Centre Library Book Sale**

The library is gone from the website. Remaining books will be brought to the meeting on Saturday and will be sold for the same prices as last meeting - 2 for \$15, 3 for \$20, 4 for \$25.00, 5 for \$30. Those books not sold will be donated.

7:48 PM – David MacMullin left the meeting. Quorum was maintained.

**12. Update: Donated Telescope**

This was addressed earlier during discussion of the action list.

**New Business**

**13. 2026 Appointments**

Peter Hurley noted there were two vacancies: Communications Chair and Nominating Committee. He noted the Vice-President collaborates with the Communications Committee to develop the strategy. Peter will give it some thought before the next meeting. There are some components of the strategy that are not being done.

**260106MN-Act06**

Judy Black forward the Communications Strategy to Peter Hurley.

Frank Logan volunteered to design the t-shirt for 2026 Nova East and to be part of the Nova East planning team. No further nominations were made.

**260106MN-Mot04**

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Tony McGrath to approve the nominations for the 2026 appointed positions as circulated with the noted additions.  
CARRIED.

**260106MN-Act07**

Judy Black to forward the 2026 Board Contact List.

#### 14. Required Annual Reports

a) The *RASC* requested annual Centre and financial reports. Members were asked to suggest photos to be included with the report.

##### **260106MN-Act08**

Judy Black to draft the Centre Report for Tony McGrath to edit and forward to the RASC as they requested.

##### **260106MN-Act09**

Gregg Dill to forward the annual financial report to the RASC as they requested.

b) The *Registry of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC)* require an annual financial report plus the updated Board Contact list. There is an annual fee when the reports are uploaded to the RJSC site.

##### **260106MN-Act10**

Gregg Dill will submit the financial report and 2026 Board list to the RJSC.

#### 15. 2026 Halifax Centre Plan

Tony McGrath noted he had developed a Centre plan. The primary goal is to help more people feel that the RASC Halifax Centre is their Centre to shape and share. The question is how we get them to participate however they can. This can be done using the following strategies:

- 1- Request that they participate in small specific roles. This could be a one-time opportunity, a couple of hours maybe.
- 2- Shadow volunteers to see how things are done; for example, attend a Board meeting, shadow a Board member or attend an outreach event to see how simply they can participate in but not lead an event. This could demonstrate that it is not as onerous a task to volunteer as thought.
- 3- Encourage member-led projects, workshops, etc. Perhaps members have an interesting aspect of astronomy they could briefly present or organize.

It was recognized the total number of people pre-COVID who attended in person was almost equivalent to the combined Zoom and in person numbers now realized. Tony recognized that people now have different means of connecting electronically. Peter noted that outreach is the exception because it is personal and interactive.

Frank Logan questioned whether we could poll member about their willingness to help members who require assistance, be it help with equipment being used, observing programs, processing software, etc. There may be many willing to help others requiring assistance but no one is asking. Frank was willing to design something for the questionnaire to facilitate connecting members wanting assistance and those who can help them. It should not be a difficult task if all we are asking is for people to volunteer their time when needed by a fellow member.

To avoid privacy challenges, the list would be available to Halifax Centre members only and would not be shared outside of the Centre and certainly not put on our website. Perhaps this could be addressed by the national RASC; however, this would probably be downloaded to the Centres to do because of funding challenges at the national level. Judy noted we do not have access to member lists of other Centres. There would be two national committees that would have an interest in acquiring and developing experienced knowledgeable volunteers - EPO and astroimaging. The observing committee is more into program development.

We should also be looking at other electronic methods of communicating to be more interactive with youth in particular.

##### **260106MN-Act11**

Frank Logan and Vincent Vallee to develop an outline of a strategy for the questionnaire development and consequent implementation.

##### **260106MN-Act12**

Judy Black to forward the Communications strategy to Frank Logan and Vincent Vallee.

Vincent inquired about the dates for Nova East and the Kejimikujik Dark-Sky Weekend. The booking date for Kejimikujik National park site is February 11.

**260106MN-Act13**

Peter Hurley will forward information regarding the dates of the DSW and the National Park campsite booking date.

**Adjournment**

No further business to conduct. Tony thanked everyone for their time.

**250902MN-Mot05**

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Vincent Vallee to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm. Our next Board meeting is February 3, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Black, Secretary

**ACTION LIST (as of January 6, 2026):**

<b>From September 2, 2025</b>		
250902MN-Act01	<b>Peter Hurley</b> will contact the RASC regarding Dave Robertson as an LP Trainer for our Centre and for access to the LP database.	Open
250902MN-Act11	<b>Judy Black</b> to send RASC Halifax Centre documentation to the NS Archives.	Open
<b>From December 2, 2025</b>		
251202MN-Act04	<b>Tony McGrath</b> to discuss closing the SCOPE Fund in January 2026.	Open
<b>From January 6, 2026</b>		
260106MN-Act01	<b>Tony McGrath</b> and <b>Judy Black</b> to draft the thank you letter to be sent to SMU.	Open
260106MN-Act02	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to forward a refund cheque to Alan Sutherland.	Open
260106MN-Act03	<b>David Hoskin</b> will bring RASC Halifax Centre business cards to the upcoming meeting for members.	Open
260106MN-Act04	<b>David Hoskin</b> to contact Alan Sutherland regarding the proposed dates for the APS Outreach event.	Open
260106MN-Act05	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact Alan McCue for Stellarium training registration details.	Open
260106MN-Act06	<b>Judy Black</b> will forward the Communications Strategy to Peter Hurley.	Open
260106MN-Act07	<b>Judy Black</b> to forward the 2026 Board Contact List to Board Members.	Open
260106MN-Act08	<b>Judy Black</b> to draft the Centre Report for Tony McGrath to edit and forward to the RASC as they requested.	Open
260106MN-Act09	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to forward the annual financial report to the RASC as they requested.	Open
260106MN-Act10	<b>Gregg Dill</b> will submit the financial report and 2026 Board list to the RJSC.	Open
260106MN-Act11	<b>Frank Logan</b> and <b>Vincent Vallee</b> to develop an outline of a strategy for the questionnaire development and consequent implementation.	Open
260106MN-Act12	<b>Judy Black</b> to forward the Communications strategy to Frank Logan and Vincent Vallee.	Open

260106MN-Act13	<b>Peter Hurley</b> will forward information regarding the dates of the DSW and the National Park campsite booking date.	Open
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**MOTION LIST (January 6, 2026):**

<b>260106MN-Mot01</b>	It was moved by Gerry Brosky and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the January 6, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated with the amendments. CARRIED.
<b>260106MN-Mot02</b>	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Frank Logan to approve the December 2, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes as circulated. CARRIED.
<b>260106MN-Mot03</b>	It was moved by Tony McGrath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the dates for the 2026 Board of Directors Meetings. CARRIED.
<b>260106MN-Mot04</b>	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Tony McGrath to approve the nominations for the 2026 appointed positions as circulated with the noted additions. CARRIED.
<b>260106MN-Mot05</b>	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Vincent Vallee to adjourn.

**AGENDA NOTES**

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
<b>Agenda Note #1 re: Open Action List</b>	<u><b>September 2, 2025</b></u> <b>250902MN-Act01: Peter Hurley</b> will contact the RASC regarding Dave Robertson as an LP Trainer for our Centre and for access to the LP database. <b>250902MN-Act11: Judy Black</b> to send RASC Halifax Centre documentation to the NS Archives.
	<u><b>September 30, 2025</b></u> <b>250930MN-Act09: Annual reports must be received by October 31, 2025</b> from the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer (if possible), Editors of <i>Nova Notes</i> , NC Rep, and chair/Co-Chairs of EPO, DSP, Nova East, Observing, Webmaster and SCO Manager.
	<u><b>December 2, 2025</b></u> <b>251202MN-Act01: Judy Black</b> to request Jerry post the 2026 Public meeting dates on the Centre's website. <b>251202MN-Act02: Tony McGrath</b> to site the Public Meeting dates in the update from the Board <b>251202MN-Act03: Judy Black</b> to contact Dr. Baron to determine the date of his presentation <b>251202MN-Act04: Tony McGrath</b> to discuss closing the SCOPE Fund in January 2026

	<p><b>251202MN-Act05: Judy Black</b> to ask Jerry Black to post the link to the People's Choice survey on our website</p> <p><b>251202MN-Act06: Judy Black</b> to include APS Outreach event on the January 2026 agenda</p> <p><b>251202MN-Act07: Judy Black</b> to contact New Brunswick and St. John's Centres to advise them of our preferred date of March 10, 2026 for the Stellarium training</p> <p><b>251202MN-Act08: Gregg Dill</b> to contact Dave Chapman regarding a nomination for 2025-2026 Auditor at the AGM</p> <p><b>251202MN-Act09: Tony McGrath</b> to contact the donor of the Celestron Powerseeker 127 EQ to advise them of it being offered as a door prize at the January 10 Members meeting, and to invite them to attend</p>
<p><b>Agenda Note #2 re: Speakers &amp; 2025/2026 Public Meeting Dates</b></p>	<p><b>2025 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events</b> Members' Meeting dates and known speakers are posted on the RASC(HC) website. All are scheduled in our Zoom account.</p> <p><i>Approved 2026 Speakers and Public Meeting dates (held 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month unless a holiday weekend)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 10 – Dr. David Baron (The Martians) <b>confirmed</b></li> <li>• February 7 – Devin Williams (CFHT &amp; galaxy mergers) <b>confirmed</b></li> <li>• March 7 – Blair MacDonald (Summertime Photography) <b>confirmed</b></li> <li>• April 11 (Easter weekend (April 3-6) – Judy Black emcee (Astronomy humour (<i>favourite astro cartoons from members and they would provide a brief explanation</i>))</li> <li>• May 2</li> <li>• June 6 – Michelle Lane and Andrea Misner (Starfinder program)</li> <li>• September 12 (Labour day: September 7)</li> <li>• October 3</li> <li>• November 7</li> <li>• December 5 (AGM)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers/Topics for 2026 (Room &amp; Date TBD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blair MacDonald (Planet Hunting)</li> </ul> <p><b>Suggested Speakers / Special Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dan Falk (Edmond Halley)</li> <li>• John Badowski</li> <li>• SMU Astronomy and Physics</li> <li>• Tiffany Fields</li> <li>• Rob Thacker</li> <li>• <a href="https://rasc.ca/find-speaker">https://rasc.ca/find-speaker</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Notes #3: Proposed 2026 Board Meeting Dates</b></p>	<p><i>Approved 2026 Board Meeting dates (if held Tuesday before Public Meeting)</i> All are scheduled in our Zoom account. February to December dates to be approved by the newly elected Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 6</li> <li>• February 3</li> <li>• March 3</li> <li>• April 7 (Easter weekend (April 3-6))</li> <li>• April 28</li> <li>• June 2</li> <li>• September 8 (Labour day: September 7)</li> <li>• September 29</li> <li>• November 3</li> <li>• December 1 (December 5: AGM)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Notes #4: NC Report</b></p>	<p>Last NC meeting was held Sunday, December 7, 2025. Additional information will be provided once the draft minutes have been circulated. Key discussion and decision included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected NC Recorder – John Hurley of RASC Kingston Centre</li> <li>• Members agreed to forward the draft <i>Policy C11: RASC National Council Terms of Reference</i> to the RASC Board of Directors for consideration and approval. (Note: The Policy was approved at the Board meeting held December 18.)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New RASC Archivist Ian Sanford looking forward to taking on the task, replacing Randall Rosenfeld who retired and moved out-of-province.</li> <li>• New Membership &amp; Publications Coordinator at RASC Office – Kerry Zentner replacing Michelle Bass.</li> <li>• Financial Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Membership is down from 4200 to 4000. No decision made to consequently increase membership fees!</li> <li>○ Sales in the USA were pushed last year and are now showing benefits. RASC will be more conservative regarding 2026 sales projections. Even though membership is down, there are other sources of revenue. NOTE: The shipping house used is not shipping to the USA due to the documentation required; shipping is now done by staff.</li> <li>○ A 5-figure donation will be made in December</li> <li>○ Matching donation program in December (\$20,000 to be matched for potential \$40,000) NOTE: Announcement on January 1<sup>st</sup> cited \$80,000 raised.</li> <li>○ Back payment of \$6000 from Firefly also received.</li> <li>○ JRASC ahead of revenue compared to 2024 but behind in budget; a donation was made to keep the Journal functioning.</li> <li>○ Bulk of income for Observer's Handbook (OH) comes in Oct/Nov.</li> <li>○ Calendar revenue will show in November financial statements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parks Canada agreement regarding LP training is being done at the national level. To begin in late May/early June.</li> <li>• EPO Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>NOVA</b>: only a few more adjustments to make before being made available to centres via Centre EPO chairs and President. NOVA is a beginner program that provides basic astronomy information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parts 1 and 2 have 6 modules with documentation for presenters to use for presentations and handouts for participants. Cost /part for non-members = \$60, for members \$30, for Youth \$10. NOTE: 20% of fees collected go to the RASC with 80% coming back to the Centre.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Novice Seasonal Observing Activities</b>: Four seasons of observing targets intended for group activities for Scouts, Guides, etc. Can apply to national for certificate if all 4 seasons completed. There are templates for stickers and certificates.</li> <li>○ <b>Artemis II Launch – February 2/26</b>: A document and videos will be provided in early January to those Centres who want to organize an event immediately before and during the Artemis launch.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Notes #5: Website Updates</b></p>	<p><u><b>Updates to the Halifax Website &amp; YouTube channel:</b></u></p> <p><b>December 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerry uploaded video of AGM &amp; Public meeting (December 6, 2025).</li> <li>• Revised meeting date and Speaker for January 2026 meeting. Added descriptor provided by David Baron.</li> <li>• Posted Nov/Dec <i>Nova Notes</i></li> <li>• Reposted December 2025 AGM draft minutes after errors found in first version</li> <li>• Astroimage contest front page was updated to reflect 2026.</li> </ul> <p><b>January 1, 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerry uploaded January <i>What's Up?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Notes #6: Stellarium</b></p>	<p>Judy contacted Allan McCue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Course: Stellarium Level 1</b></li> <li>• Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Course is usually held ± 1 week of full moon.</li> <li>• Instructor: Allan McCue (Calgary Centre)</li> <li>• Start time: 7 PM Atlantic / 7:30 PM NL) for 2.5 hours.</li> <li>• No fee; he considers this part of his volunteer time with the RASC.</li> <li>• Stellarium will be shown on the desktop version for PC, Mac or Linux - the mobile and web-based versions are not being addressed in this course.</li> <li>• Class size is not an issue; pre-registration is required.</li> <li>• It is part of the RASC Stellarium training and will be counted towards a Stellarium certificate. He will notify the national RASC of who completed the course so that it will be counted towards their Stellarium certificate.</li> <li>• Level 2 and Level 3 are taught by Ian Bain (Mississauga or Toronto Centre). Level 3 does not show up for now as it is being refined by Ian.</li> </ul> <p>New Brunswick Centre (via Curt Nason) and Saint John's Centre (via Randy Dodge) have been invited.</p>

<p><b>Agenda Notes #7: Astroimage Contest Winners</b></p>	<p><b>Adjudicated Categories</b> The contest this year was adjudicated by Blair MacDonald and Jerry Black. Prizes were provided by Atlantic Photo Supply - 8x12 Canvas Wrapped Prints for all 3 categories and the People's Choice Award.</p> <p>The winners of the adjudication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide Field: Harvest Moon Rising - David Hoskin</li> <li>• Solar System: Moon - Paul Gray</li> <li>• Deep-Sky: Heart Of the Heart IC1805 - Jeff Donaldson</li> </ul> <p><b>People's Choice Award</b> Determined by members via Monkey Survey. The 2025 winner was a photo entered into the Wide Field category. Congratulations to Barry Burgess - Cosmic Coastline.</p>		
<p><b>Agenda Notes #8: Donated Telescope</b></p>	<p>Loredana contacted the Centre regarding donation of a <u>CELESTRON POWERSEEKER 127EQ</u> to the Centre. Jerry Black had suggested it be given away as an advertised door prize at a meeting.</p> <p>Although the original thought was for it to be given at this upcoming meeting, it is being suggested it be postponed to the Febraury meeting to allow more time for advertising and to hopefully get the donor to attend.</p>		
<p><b>Agenda Notes #9: Appointments</b></p>	<p>There is one vacant position. Because the Library is gone, there is no appointment for a Librarian. The 2025 Nova East Planning Team determined there would not be chair designated; however, Judy Black and Chris Young will prepare reports and report to the Board when requested and throughout the planning process and at event conclusion.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Honorary President Governance Review Committee Education &amp; Public Outreach (EPO), Chair Observing Chair Nova Notes, Editors Webmaster DSP Committee, Co-Chairs Communications Chair Nova East Planning Committee</p> <p>SCO Manager</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Patrick Kelly Judy Black David Hoskin David Hoskin Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee Jerry Black Peter Hurley, Tony Schellinck <b>vacant</b> Chris Young, Gary Weber, Judy Black, David Chapman, Tony McGrath, Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Michael Gatto, Vincent Vallee Tony McGrath</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Honorary President Governance Review Committee Education &amp; Public Outreach (EPO), Chair Observing Chair Nova Notes, Editors Webmaster DSP Committee, Co-Chairs Communications Chair Nova East Planning Committee</p> <p>SCO Manager</p>	<p>Patrick Kelly Judy Black David Hoskin David Hoskin Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee Jerry Black Peter Hurley, Tony Schellinck <b>vacant</b> Chris Young, Gary Weber, Judy Black, David Chapman, Tony McGrath, Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Michael Gatto, Vincent Vallee Tony McGrath</p>
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