

MINUTES OF THE
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE

January 21st, 1994

Present: Ian Anderson, Roy Bishop, Larry Bogan, Paul Gray, Patrick Kelly, Dave Lane, Blair MacDonald, Shawn Mitchell, Doug Pitcairn, David Turner, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Sherman Williams, Joe Yurchesyn

The meeting convened at 7:07 P.M. at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, Halifax.

1) **Approval of the Agenda**

Approval of the agenda was moved by MLW/BM. Motion carried

2) **Minutes of the December Meeting**

The minutes were amended to change "Murry Forbs" to "Murray Forbes" in item 12.

Approval of the minutes from the December meeting, as amended, was moved by MLW/BM. Motion carried

3) **Business Arising from the Minutes of the December Meeting**

There was none.

4) **Reports from Members of the Executive**

a) President (DL) **No report.**

b) First Vice-President (PK) **No report.**

As the Bedford School Board did not place its usual order for handbooks this year, we will have extra ones to return.

c) Second Vice-President (MLW)

\$150 has been processed through the centre for N.S.P.A.C. We have renewed the centre's membership in the International Dark-Sky Association and have purchased one of their slide sets for educational purposes.

d) Secretary (PK)

The annual survey for *Astronomy* magazine's astronomy listing arrived.

e) Treasurer (IA)

Moved by MLW/BM that the centre reimburse John DenHollander's membership in full in exchange for his 1994 handbook should he request it. Motion carried

f) NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)

The deadline for the next issue is within twenty-four hours.

g) National Council Representative (JY)

The minutes from the last national council meeting arrived and are available to anyone who wants to read them.

h) Librarian (SM)

SM reported that he will be starting the new circulation system for books at this meeting. Having taken the library home over the Christmas break to do a full inventory he decided to measure our inventory in units of milk crates. The library has six such units of books, three of which are now back. In addition, there are two milk crates of past issues of the *Journal*, *BULLETIN*, etc.

i) Observing Chairman (PG) **No report.**

5) **Upcoming Meetings (DL)**

PK stated that he was willing to do a talk in September or October on the current state of Earth engineering for interstellar travel.

6) **Agenda for Tonight's General Meeting (DL)**

David Tindall would be doing the handbook talk (on the brightest stars section); Paul Gray would be doing his usual "What's Up"; Shawn would mention the library changes; Dave Lane had some slides showing the results of the Hubble repair mission and Roy had some "surprise" slides.

7) **Revised Job Descriptions (final approval?) (JY)**

JY reported that the descriptions were essentially unchanged with two exceptions: there would be a permanent councilor position to oversee the NOVA EAST star party, and the titles of first and second vice-presidents would be reversed so that the first vice-president was in charge of public relations while the second vice-president would be in charge of handbooks and other society publications.

Moved by JY/SM that these recommendations be adopted. Motion carried

8) **Messier Certificates (local and national?) for Paul Gray and John Reppa (PG/DL)**

Paul Gray's form will be sent to the national council in time for the March meeting. A completed form was received from John Reppa and all seems to be in order.

Moved by MLW/BM that the Halifax Centre award John Reppa the centre's Messier Certificate and forward his application to the national council for the national award. Motion carried

9) **Change to Constitution Regarding Term Limits (JY/DL)**

Moved by JY/PK that the necessary steps be taken to amend the centre's constitution so that article 8.06 (2) reads "Not more than five..." Motion carried

10) **Purchase of Books for the Library (SM)**

SM reported that he was almost finished making a list of books to purchase. BM was willing to donate several bonus coupons from the Astronomy Book Club.

11) **Solar Eclipse Planning (DL)**

The Saint Mary's Astronomy and Physics Department will be hosting a public event for the eclipse. It would be great if the centre could participate jointly. DL and BM will coordinate the planning.

Moved by DT/BM that the Halifax Centre purchase up eclipse viewers in the lesser amount of 400 units or \$500 worth, for use during the eclipse. Motion carried

12) **Asteroid Finder Charts from Saskatoon Centre (DL)**

DL will be putting an announcement regarding this produce in the next NOVA NOTES.

Due to time restrictions, items 13 and 14 were skipped to get to item 15.

15) **National Merchandising Proposal (DL)**

DL circulated the attached document *A Proposal to the National Council of the R.A.S.C. from the Halifax Centre* for discussion.

Moved by DT/PG that the proposal be adopted and forwarded to the national council for their consideration.

Due to time restrictions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 P.M. and would reconvene at a time and place to be decided at a later time.

The meeting reconvened at 7:11 P.M. on February 16th at the residence of Dr. David Turner, 56 Shalimar Crescent, Cole Harbour.

15) **National Merchandising Proposal (DL) CONTINUED**

As there had been considerable time to discuss this proposal before the meeting reconvened, DL felt that it would be best to attempt to develop Halifax Centre merchandise as a stepping stone to a national proposal. Based on the discussion that followed the motion was withdrawn.

The business now returned to cover items 13 and 14.

13) **Land Search/Observatory Committee Report (DL)**

Winter has prevented much additional searching although it appears that the road in to the site on Highway 14 is plowed. The committee will set the date for a meeting at the February regular centre meeting.

14) **Ballroom Gallery Exhibit Declined (DL)**

Subject line says it all. See attached letter dated 9401.19.

16) **Summer Public Observing Dates (PG)**

The public observing session in Dollar Lake Provincial Park will take place on July 15th (rain date will be the 16th); August 5th (rain date will be the 6th); and August 12 (no rain date) for the Perseids. The August 5th event will be a special event due to the Canadian Field Naturalists convention which will be held in Halifax that weekend.

MLW outlined a proposal from N.S.P.A.C. (See attached document *Donation Opportunities for NSPAC.*)

Moved by BM/PG that N.S.P.A.C. be permitted to promote themselves and solicit donations at all 1994 centre observing events provided that they supply the manpower. Motion carried

17) **May Banquet (DL)**

DL needs a volunteer to coordinate the May banquet. In the ensuing discussion it was decided to make some changes in the format this year, namely that it would not be held in May and it would not be a banquet!

Moved by DT/DP that the banquet be moved to replace the June meeting.Motion carried

DP will coordinate a potluck, possibly at Saint Mary's University. The May meeting will be a regular meeting and will be held on the second Friday of that month.

18) **Year End Business (DL)**

All of the necessary annual reports for the national office are taken care of. PK will collect copies of minutes from the 1993 meetings and forward a copy to the provincial archives as well as to the library.

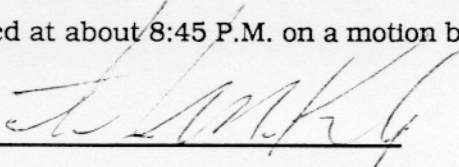
19) **Plan to Encourage Youth Membership (DL)**

This item was deferred.

20) **Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:45 P.M. on a motion by MLW.



Patrick M. Kelly
Secretary

A Proposal to the National Council of the RASC from the *Halifax Centre*

Updated: January 18, 1994

Introduction:

The executive council of the *Halifax Centre* believes that the sale of astronomically-related merchandise has the potential to become a significant source of revenue for the society. It is our opinion that sources of revenue other than membership fees will become more important in the future of the society.

Motivation:

The *Halifax Centre* has begun planning a long-term project to establish a permanent observing site and observatory. It is recognized that funding for this project will not be available from normal sources. Therefore, the *Halifax Centre* has a need to create a new source of revenue.

Proposal:

The *Halifax Centre* proposes to undertake the merchandising of astronomical products on behalf of the National RASC according to the following conditions:

1. Items marketed would include products incorporating the RASC logo: such as clothing and novelties, and other specialty products of an astronomical nature. It could also include society publications if desired by National Council.
2. The *Halifax Centre* will fund all up-front costs associated with the development of new products, promotion, and the maintaining of inventory.
3. The *net* proceeds will be divided equally between the *Halifax Centre* and the National Society and be dispersed on an annual basis.
4. The *Halifax Centre* recognizes the right of the National Council to remove a product from sale if deemed not to be in the best interests of the society.
5. The products would be marketed using the national RASC name.
6. The *Halifax Centre* will require the right to use the national RASC logo.
7. Reasonable free advertising space in appropriate National Society publications will be required. Access to the mailing list of the National Society may also be requested for direct marketing of products to members.

8. The *Halifax Centre* recognizes the right of the National Council to terminate this venture if deemed to be in the best interests of the society. The society would assume the cost of the existing inventory. The product designs would remain the property of the *Halifax Centre*.

Conclusion:

The *Halifax Centre* strongly believes that this proposal, if implemented, will be beneficial to both the National Society and the *Halifax Centre*. The *Halifax Centre* has a strong background in generating revenue through product marketing. This has been demonstrated by record setting Handbook sales, profitable GA's, *Halifax Centre* promotional item sales, etc.

We request that the National Council give this proposal consideration.