

MINUTES OF THE  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE

October 20th, 1994

Present: Ian Anderson, Roy Bishop, Larry Bogan, Nat Cohen, Paul Gray, Tom Harp, Patrick Kelly, Dave Lane, Blair MacDonald, Shawn Mitchell, Doug Pitcairn, Clint Shannon, David Turner, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Joe Yurchesyn

The meeting convened at 19h07 in the board room at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

**1) Approval of the Agenda**

Approval of the agenda was moved by DT/JY. .... Motion carried

**2) Approval of the Minutes of the September 16th Meeting**

Due to a lack of time to examine them, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

**3) Business Arising from the Minutes**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

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

a) President (DL)

DL sent a letter to Dr. Murray Cunningham thanking him for the donation of his Maksutov telescope.

b) First Vice-President (PK)

The 1995 observing calendars had arrived and would be for sale at the meeting.

The 1994 handbooks had been returned to the national office so that we can receive our 1994 handbooks in time for the November meeting.

We have ordered another copy of Beginners Observing Guides.

The Discovery Centre wishes to sell calendars and BOGs on consignment.

A letter had been received from the Saint Mary's library requesting the we end their subscription to NOVA NOTES, presumably because they do not or cannot pay the \$5 annual fees. There was some discussion on sending them a free copy, but due to changes in the way that the library displays its current periodicals, it was decided that we should simply cancel their subscription as requested.

c) Second Vice-President (MLW) **No report.**

d) Secretary (PK) **No report.**

e) Treasurer (IA)

IA circulated a final copy of the financial report.

IA felt that based on the increased amount of money that was being handled as a result of publications and merchandise, that some new policies should be adopted to make record keeping easier. It was decided to hold a meeting, before the November meeting, of IA, DL, SM, PK and any other interested people to look at these issues.

f) NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)

The deadline for the next issue will be the November meeting.

g) National Council Representative (JY)

DL explained the postal screw-up that resulted in most members not receiving their August issue of the *Journal/BULLETIN*.

h) Librarian (SM)

There is nothing new on the library front.

There are centre and NOVA EAST T-shirts still left for sale.

Moved by MLW/PG that the remaining NOVA EAST T-shirts be sold for \$10 to clear them out.  
..... Motion carried

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

**5) Tonight's Agenda—Need Meeting Reporter (DL)**

DT volunteered to do this meeting.

**6) Upcoming Meetings (DL)**

DL reported that he had a lead on a speaker for January.

**7) Nominating Committee Report (MLW/JY)**

The executive for 1995 will consist of: President: David Lane; First Vice-President: Blair MacDonald; Second Vice-President: Shawn Mitchell; Secretary: Tom Harp; Treasurer: Ian Anderson; NOVA NOTES Editor: David Lane; National Council Representative: Pat Kelly; Librarian: Clint Shannon; Observing Chairman: Paul Gray; Councilors: Doug Pitcairn, David Turner, Mary Lou Whitehorne and GAZER.

**8) Observatory Land Search Committee Report (DL/SM/JY)**

Several people have visited the site in Gore.

A meeting was held with the planning and development officer for the county. All recreational facilities fall under the regulations that apply to industrial zoning.

Fundraising ideas were discussed, including the continuing sale of merchandise, a monthly 50/50 draw, a special projects grant from the national council, the Canadian Space Agency, a fundraising letter to our members and keeping our operating costs down.

Moved by the observatory land search committee that a letter be drafted by the observatory land search committee, undersigned by the president and the chair of the committee, soliciting tax-deductible donations which are to be used to fund the centre observatory project. The letter will be approved by the president and the two vice-presidents prior to distribution to the entire membership. .... Motion carried

Based on the some of the comments in a letter that was sent by Roy Bishop, it was felt that the motion that was to be put forward at the general meeting should be amended to widen the scope of the area in which an observing site would be located to include all of Hants County.

**9) Nova East Report (DP)**

The Thanksgiving Day time seemed to work out well. There were 24 registered people, including some new faces. This was encouraging as it was decided to try no advertising this year to see what would happen. The one drawback was that there were fewer public this year, due to most of the campgrounds being closed.

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

This was deferred due to a lack of time.

**11) Other Business**

a) MLW reported that David Chapman had already been awarded a national membership certificate.

Moved by MLW/JY that in light of his already having been awarded a national membership certificate, the motion from the previous meeting to award him one be rescinded. .... Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 20h01 on a motion by SM.

During the regular meeting the proposed observatory site was presented by Dave Lane.

Moved by SM/BM that the motion that was printed in NOVA NOTES be accepted.

Moved by JY/TH that the motion be amended to change the reference to Gore to Hants County. .... Motion carried

..... Motion carried as amended by a vote of 26 to 2.

**Patrick M. Kelly**  
Secretary