

MINUTES OF THE  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE  
March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1995

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

The meeting convened at 19h11 at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, Halifax.

1) **Approval of the Agenda**

Approval of the agenda was moved by TH/CS.....Motion carried.

2) **Approval of the Minutes of the February Meeting**

Minutes to be amended, in item (10) Burke-Gaffney Award to Larry Bogen with Blair MacDonald a very close second.

Approval of the February minutes was moved by CS/DT.....Motion carried.

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

Databases are maintained by Ian Anderson and Pat Kelly. It may be desirable to rationalize these at some time.

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

a) President (DL)-

The National Council meeting was very productive. The Publication Revitalization Committee was given \$7,000 to produce a sample issue of **Astronomy Canada** in place of the late summer issue of the Bulletin.

In order to change the publications of the Society, changes to the Constitution will be required. Mike Watson's proposed changes to the Constitution were passed by the National Council but will require ratification by the members at the General Assembly.

b) First Vice-President (BM)

The letter regarding the School-based Astronomy Program discussed at the last meeting has been redrafted and is ready to be sent to the schools as authorised at the last meeting. DL has a list of addresses.

c) Second Vice-President (SM)

There are still a few Nova East T-shirts remaining. The new Halifax Centre T-shirt is not selling very well.

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

e) Treasurer (IA)

A second \$5,000 one year GIC has been purchased, interest @ 7.75 %. The Centre membership to date is the same as last year.

f) NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)

No formal report was presented. The submission of articles was encouraged.

g) National Council Representative (PK) **No Report.**

h) Librarian (CS) **No Report.**

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

5) **Tonight's Agenda (DL)**

The introduction of tonight's speaker will be done by Dave Turner.

6) **Results of the Nova East Meeting (DL & MLW)**

A meeting was held to discuss the change in dates for Nova East. There was a long discussion which included the future of Nova East itself.

It was agreed that in 1995, Nova East will be held on the weekend of July 29-30. The dates for 1996 will be either August 31-September 1 or later in September.

There will be a discounted pre-registration and registration will be mandatory.  
The usual site at Fundy National Park has been booked.

7) **Observatory Land Search Committee Report**

(a) **Centra Incorporation (DL & JY)**

A problem has been encountered with our submission to the Provincial Government. A second submission with additional details will be required. A lease with Annapolis Group Inc. (Minas Basin Pulp and Power) can not be entered into until the Centre is incorporated.

(b) **Lease Report (JY)**

A formal legal opinion has not yet been obtained on the lease. The lease is generally acceptable.

There was a protracted discussion of details associated with leasing and operating an observing site, including insurance, taxes and lease terms and conditions.

Motion: Be it resolved that the president of the Centre with others, as may be necessary, be empowered to sign and execute the lease as provided by Minas Basin Pulp and Power for the observatory property at St. Croix, NS. The signing shall not occur until the receipt of positive legal advice and following a meeting with the Hants West planning department.

Moved by MLW/BM.....Motion Carried.

Amendment: That the wording "execute the lease as provided" be changed to "execute a lease as provided".

Moved by BM/PG.....Motion Carried

8) **Science Fair 1995**

The Science Fair is coming up within the next week. Judges will be required.

9) **Carribean Eclipse 1998 (RB)**

In February 1998 there will be a total solar eclipse visible in the Carribean. This is a preliminary inquiry to determine the level of interest in combining a winter vacation with an astronomical expedition.


10) **Long Executive Meeting (DL)**

The third Friday in April was suggested as the date. This will have to be confirmed.

11) **Other Business (DT)**

Dave Turner reminded those present that Sydney Vandenburg would be at SMU in early May.  
*van den Bergh*

The meeting was adjourned at 20h03 on a motion by BM.

  
Thomas A. Harp  
Secretary