

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

20 November 1998

By Clint Shannon

The first notable event of the year was the "Total Solar Eclipse" which was attended by a respectably sized contingent of Halifax Centre members in February.

A used 17.5" mirror was purchased and will be installed in a Dob truss type scope which will be built by our centre some time in the new year. A used Celestron Ultima 8 SCT was purchased to replace the C8 that we lost and will be mounted on a pier, polar aligned, at St. Croix and will be available for astrophotography in addition to visual observing.

Our waterfront public observing did not take place due to the weather in July and August.

Nova East 98 was considered by all who attended to be a success. There were 40 registrants and families. NE brought in \$1685. We spent \$877 on it which resulted in a profit of approximately \$800.

The St. Croix Observatory's "warm room" building's interior was painted, the roll-off roof tracts were painted black to prevent them from icing up, protective rubber rain flaps were installed over all door locks and the solar panel was installed on the roof and wiring completed. The observatory was well utilized by members this year.

It is ^{WITH} regret that I must report that for all practical purposes the Planetarium located at DAL has ceased operations due to the burn-out of our Centre volunteers who have operated it since it was rejuvenated.

On a sad note, we witnessed the passing away of Dr. Murray Cunningham who was our long-time Honorary President. As a result of the Cunningham family designating the Halifax Centre as the sole beneficiary for donations \$700 was received.

On a happy note, the Centre is indeed fortunate to have Dr. Roy Bishop become our new Honorary President.

The Halifax revised Simon Newcomb Award Criteria was accepted by the National Council and Dave Chapman was appointed to the National Awards Committee.

Dave Lane added to his laurels by becoming the recipient of the Service Award in 1998.

Our present Centre membership is at 164 which is up from 135 in 1997.