



## RASC Halifax Centre Board of

## Directors Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2025: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Via Zoom – Meeting 814 9385 6630**

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: December 2, 2025 <b>Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Open Action List</b> Previous Minutes: October 28, 2025
<b>ONGOING ITEMS</b>				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates</li> <li>b. Proposed 2026 Public Meeting dates and speakers</li> <li>c. Confirm Public Meeting agenda</li> <li>d. Zoom/SMU Bookings</li> <li>e. Guest Speakers &amp; Ideas for Future Presentations</li> </ul>	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Tony McGrath  Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #2: Speakers &amp; 2025/2026 Public Meeting Dates</b>  <b>Refer to Agenda Notes #3: Proposed 2026 Board Meeting Dates</b>
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<b>Next Meeting: December 7, 2025</b> <b>Sept7/25 NC Meeting Report: circulated Oct 9/25 via email</b>
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #4: Website Update</b>
	5. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial status</li> <li>Calendar sales (4 left)</li> <li>Library sales to date</li> <li>GIC Reinvestment</li> <li>SCOPE Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion with Michelle Lane</li> <li>Astro-Image Sales</li> <li>Investment of Principle</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Discussion	Gregg Dill  Tony McGrath	n/a
	6. EPO / Observing Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APS Observing Session</li> </ul>	Information Discussion	David Hoskin	n/a
<b>UPDATES / REPORTS</b>				
	7. 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
	8. SCO	Discussion	Tony McGrath	n/a
	9. Stellarium with Allan McCue	Discussion	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #5: Stellarium</b>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>				
	10. 2025 AGM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominated Board members</li> <li>Proposed appointed positions</li> <li>Amended AGM Agenda</li> </ul>	Discussion	Judy Black Peter Hurley Gregg Dill	<b>Refer to Agenda Notes #6: AGM Election, Appointments</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proceeding clarifications</li> <li>• Auditor report (Dave Chapman)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to <b>Agenda Notes #7: Amended AGM Agenda</b> (circulated Nov 7/25)</li> <li>• Refer to <b>Agenda Notes #8: AGM Proceedings Clarifications</b></li> <li>• Refer to <b>Agenda Notes #11: 2025 Auditor Report</b></li> </ul>
	11. 2026 Board Reference Manual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main text</li> <li>• Appendix A: Calendar</li> </ul>	Discussion Approval	Judy Black	Pre-circulated November 7, 2025, via email
	12. Astroimaging Contest	Decision	Judy Black	Refer to <b>Agenda Notes #9: Contest</b>
	13. Donated Telescope	Decision	Tony McGrath	Refer to <b>Agenda Notes #10: Donated Telescope</b>
	14. Renewal of Parks Canada Agreement	Discussion Decision	Peter Hurley	n/a
<b>Adjournment</b>				
9:00 PM	Adjournment			<b>Next meeting (pending approval): January 6, 2026</b>

### RASC, Halifax Centre – Public Meeting

Saturday, December 6, 2025: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 833 2390 8079

Time	<i>Member &amp; Public Meeting</i>		
	BREAK following AGM		
1:00 PM	Item		
	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Montage</li> </ul>	Information	David Hoskin
	2. <b>Special Presentation:</b> <i>Paul Gray – Starmus La Palma 2025</i>	Presentation	Paul Gray
	3. Outreach Opportunities	Information	David Hoskin
	4. Food for the Soul	Information	No Poem this month
	5. Update from the Board	Information	Tony McGrath
	6. Astroimage Contest: and the winners are....	Information	Blair MacDonald
	7. What's Up in November?	Information	David Hoskin
4:00 PM	Adjournment <b>Next Public Meeting: January 10, 2026</b>		

### Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

December 2, 2025 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

held via Zoom - Meeting ID #814 9385 6630

**Present:** Tony McGrath (President), Peter Hurley (Vice-President), Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Judy Black (Secretary), David Hoskin, David McMullin, Matt Dyer, Vincent Vallee (arrived 7:35pm).

**Guest:** Paul Gray

**Regrets:** Lisa Ann Fanning.

**Absent:** Jeff Donaldson.

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Tony called the meeting to order at 7:01pm with quorum. Judy noted Vincent Vallee indicated he would be arriving late. Paul Gray had requested sitting in on this Board meeting and he had been sent the meeting link.

#### a) Approval of Agenda

David McMullin noted an incorrect date on the public meeting agenda. It was noted that both the November and December *What's Up?* were posted by Jerry on the website. The astroimaging contest winners will be announced as part of the *News from the Board*. Blair had been contacted about making the announcement but because he wasn't sure if he would be there Tony agreed to make the announcement.

**251202MN-Mot01**

It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the December 2, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated with the amendment.  
CARRIED.

**b) Review of Action Lists**

From September 2, 2025

**Action 1:** Open. Peter will follow up on this later in the week.

**Action 11:** Open. Judy will begin the process over the fall months.

From September 30, 2025

**Action 9:** Closed. All reports have been received including the Auditor and draft financial reports.

From October 28, 2025

**Action 1-9:** Closed.

**c) Approval of Previous Minutes**

David McMullin noted minor errors in the minutes. The national RASC audit process being completed in two parts was discussed.

**251202MN-Mot02**

It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the October 28, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes with amendments.  
CARRIED.

**ONGOING ITEMS**

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

**a) 2026 Public Meeting Dates**

The proposed Public/Members meeting dates were January 10, February 7, March 7, April 11, May 2, June 6, September 12, October 3, November 7, December 5. December 5 would also be the 2026 AGM date.

**251202MN-Mot03**

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

**251202MN-Act01:** Judy Black to request Jerry post the 2026 Public meeting dates on the Centre's website.

**251202MN-Act02:** Tony McGrath to site the Public Meeting dates in the update from the Board.

**b) 2026 Public Meeting Speakers**

Dr. Baron would be offered the January, February or March dates for his presentation. Blair MacDonald and Devin Williams would then be slated for the two remaining months. April 11 would be astronomy humour. May is open. Michelle Lane and Andrea Misner would be invited to present the Starfinder program.

**251202MN-Act03:** Judy Black to contact Dr. Baron to determine the date of his presentation.

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

The proposed Board meeting dates are slated for the Tuesday before the Public meeting – January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, April 28, June 2, September 8, September 29, November 3, December 1. It was noted the dates could be changed in January by the newly elected Board.

**251202MN-Mot04**

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

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

Judy Black reported the next meeting is December 7 (the day after our AGM). This is a special meeting of the NC in that Tony, as President, and his counterparts in the other Centres are being invited to the meeting. The financial statements to the end of October 2025 as prepared by the RASC Treasurer Michael Watson and the proposed budget will be presented for discussion. Judy noted the majority of the funds received annually have not been received as yet, that they are normally received in October to January from sales of the *RASC Observer's Handbook*, *RASC Observer's Calendar*, other publications, membership renewals and year-end donations. Because of this, it should be recognized there may be a deficit. The next meeting will be in February 2026; date to be approved by the NC.

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

Judy noted this had been discussed earlier and corrected. Jerry put a link on our website regarding the astroimage sale.

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

##### **a) Financial Status**

Gregg Dill stated our bank account was somewhat reduced to \$17,900.00 GIC s valued at \$18,000 was purchased at the Diwali rate of 2.9% for 18 months. Gregg noted the draft financial statement was sent earlier today to members. Because of a suggestion from the Auditor, SCOPE Fund donations was separated from the total revenue for ease of comparing year to year.

There is quite a difference in surplus this year compared to last year. We saved \$645 on our insurance. The purchase and income on merchandise were both down substantially. The insurance renewal has not been received as yet.

##### **b) SCOPE Fund**

It was queried as to whether or not we matched the \$5000 donated by Michelle Lane. Gregg stated we have \$4820 of the \$5000 needed to match funds. It was hoped the astroimaging sales would make up for the shortfall. Paul Gray posted in the meeting chat that he would bring the Fund to the \$5000 needed. He was thanked by all members!

Tony had spoken to Michelle last week about the SCOPE Fund, in particular when to close it out. The agreement was to December 31. It was suggested that a presentation be done in January 2026.

**251202MN-Act04:** Tony McGrath to discuss closing the SCOPE Fund in January 2026.

##### **c) RASC Observer's Calendar**

Only 1 RASC Observer's Calendar is now available. The other 14 have been sold.

##### **d) Library Book Sale**

It was queried as how much was received from the Library book sales. Gregg reported \$298.00 to date.

##### **e) Astroimages: Sale and Contest**

Judy reported the sales site is now up for members and all others to purchase the images. There is one glitch that Allan Sutherland of APS needs to fix; Jerry will make note of what purchasers should look for when placing an order. Tony inquired where to access the survey for members to vote for the People's Choice; the link was sent via email on November 24 but is not yet on our site.

**251202MN-Act05:** Judy Black to ask Jerry Black to post the link to the People's Choice survey on our website.

#### **Updates/Reports**

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

Since we last met, Pat Kelly did outreach with the Windsor Cubs and scouts at the end of October.

In November, David was in Bridgewater to conduct solar observing with new member Benjamin O'Toole and the Astronomy Club there. Mr. O'Toole is sending a proposal to Nova Scotia Power regarding grants given to smaller communities for their observatory project (specifically a telescope and camera). David did provide a letter of support to the project. David was in Parrsboro to present to 30 Young Naturalists and their parents on a moonless, cloudless evening. He also conducted a session with the Bedford Beavers.

On December 20, Dave Chapman and David Hoskin are going to the Deanery Project for the winter solstice; Dave will discuss constellations and David will discuss telescopes indoors then some solar observing if the weather cooperates.

David also attended an information session with the Seniors College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS); Tony Schellinck was there. SCANS was looking for new presenters. David will be working with Tony to review one of Tony's courses and to put his own stamp on it.

Allan Sutherland of Atlantic Photo Supply (APS) had requested another public outreach session at APS in February or March 2026. The only challenge will be the weather. It may not be the best site for observing DSOs but we could consider lunar observing at the First or Last Quarter. Jupiter should also be available in the early evening.

**251202MN-Act06:** Judy Black to include APS Outreach event on the January 2026 agenda.

#### **7. Update: Centre Library Book Sale**

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. Some books are free for the taking with donations welcomed.

It was agreed the books will be sold during intermission and following the meeting up to 4:00 PM. The monies from the book sale goes to the SCO Maintenance Fund to allow finances for immediate SCO needs, and astroimage sales goes directly to the SCOPE Fund. It was agreed the remaining books would be brought to the January meeting, after which they would be donated.

#### **8. SCO**

Tony McGrath noted he is looking at the generator and solar panels. He suggested that in lieu of purchasing new cases for the eyepieces that the current cases would suffice with the addition of desiccant. Tony will purchase the desiccant for this purpose then send Gregg the invoice. SCO inventory has been finished but Tony wants to review it with Gregg before circulating it to the Board for comment.

#### **9. Stellarium Training**

Judy stated she had been in contact with both New Brunswick and St. John's regarding the training; she is waiting for their members' decision. There is no fee; he considers this part of his volunteer time with the RASC. 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. Participants will have to have Stellarium uploaded to their device prior to the course. Class size is not an issue; pre-registration is required. The course is being conducted under the auspices of the RASC. Level 2 could be arranged with Ian Bain (Mississauga or Toronto Centre) if interest is shown to do so; no date has been established for level 2 training. Level 3 is under revision following the death of Blake Nancarrow.

Discussion about the preferred course date (January 7 or March 10). The January date does not give enough time to properly promote it to our members as our next Member Meeting is January 11. Between the upcoming holiday season and the fact that our next member meeting is not until *after* the proposed January date, our Board determined the March date would be preferred. Once a date is set, Allan McCue will set up the Zoom session and will forward course info to the registrants.

**251202MN-Act07:** Judy Black to contact New Brunswick and St. John's Centres to advise them of our preferred date of March 10, 2026 for the Stellarium training.

Paul Gray left the meeting at 7:53 PM.

#### **New Business**

#### **10. 2025 AGM**

Although Peter Hurley was the Nominating Committee Chair last year, the Board as a whole acted as the Nominating Committee this year. The question was raised as to who was to present the election and appointment portion (Sections 3 and 4) of the AGM. Peter agreed to conduct the election. It was noted that if the 3 calls for nominations from the floor goes unanswered, then nominations are closed; there is no need for a motion to close nominations unless further nominations are made. All polls have been predetermined and are numbered to make it easier for Jerry to launch during the meeting.

Tony, as Centre President, will emcee the AGM. David Hoskin agreed to emcee the Members meeting as per usual. Judy is waiting to hear from Paul Heath regarding another poem instalment. The astroimaging sale and contest results will be part of the *News from the Board*. Blair MacDonald was asked about presenting the astroimage portion; Judy is waiting to hear whether or not he will be available to do so.

Members agreed to Peter Hurley's suggestion to include the Bridgewater Astronomy Club information in the News from the Board. They are showing the movie *Interstellar* with proceeds going towards an observatory in their community.

The Auditor's Report was included in the Agenda Notes #11. Some of Dave Chapman's suggestions are already being addressed, such as the inventory and eyepieces.

**251202MN-Act08:** Gregg Dill to contact Dave Chapman regarding a nomination for 2025-2026 Auditor at the AGM.

### 11. 2026 Board Reference Manual

The Board Reference Manual was circulated to members on November 7 then re-circulated on November 20 with revisions. No questions were raised and no suggestions for additions or change were made. The calendar was based on all position descriptions and Centre policies along with external events. The Board contact list was not included nor will it ever be included in the Manual because of the RASC and our Centre confidentiality policies in place. The Board list will be circulated to the newly elected Board in January, and the Reference Manual will be sent to the two new members.

### 12. Astroimaging Contest

Jerry Black will provide the link to the people's Choice Award on our website. Blair MacDonald and Jerry Black acted as adjudicators and have determined winners in each of the three categories - Deep-Sky, Wide Field and Solar System. The People's Choice Award has yet to be determined although there does seem to be one photo that is the runaway winner. APS has again generously provided prizes for all 4 categories.

### 13. Donated telescope

A person contacted the Centre regarding a Celestron Powerseeker 127 EQ they would like to donate to the Centre. Jerry suggested it could even be given away as an advertised door prize at a meeting, e.g., the AGM (perhaps limited to those who attend and don't already own telescopes). The scope is in her possession so far but Tony could pick it up.

Because it has not been advertised so far, the telescope would be advertised for the January meeting. Tickets to be given at the door as people arrive. The donor should be invited to attend the meeting.

**251202MN-Act09:** Tony McGrath 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.

### 14. Parks Canada Agreement

Peter Hurley noted the partnering agreement that covers our interaction with their dark sky designation, including the DSW and our Centre contributions to its planning and implementation. It is a 5-year agreement that expires this year. Peter and Tony Schellinck met with 2 Parks Canada representatives – one from Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site and the other from the Regional Office in Halifax. A first read-through has been done and another iteration to be done before Christmas. Peter will circulate a document for review once a draft has been developed. Once approved by the Board, signatures will be required.

No major changes are expected. One change could be regarding the number of campsites offered to our volunteers and the number of nights required. The section regarding dispute resolution has to be reviewed. Peter and Tony were thanked for their work on this. Peter noted the light audit conducted in October and that it should not be conducted after October 1 when the Park closes and their lights turned off. The light audit includes SQM readings as part of the documentation of changes in light pollution.

Gregg noted the discussion on the Light Pollution Abatement (LPA) Discussion Forum acknowledged Halifax Centre as the only Centre doing a great job at monitoring the DSP. Reporting back to the LPA group has not been done to date, and there is no national RASC staff member managing reports.

### Adjournment

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

#### 250902MN-Mot05

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Peter Hurley to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm. Our next Board meeting is January 6, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Black, Secretary

### ACTION LIST (as of December 2, 2025):

From September 2, 2025		
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-Act01	<b>Judy Black</b> to request Jerry post the 2026 Public meeting dates on the Centre's website.	Open
251202MN-Act02	<b>Tony McGrath</b> to site the Public Meeting dates in the update from the Board.	Open
251202MN-Act03	<b>Judy Black</b> to contact Dr. Baron to determine the date of his presentation.	Open
251202MN-Act04	<b>Tony McGrath</b> to discuss closing the SCOPE Fund in January 2026.	Open
251202MN-Act05	<b>Judy Black</b> to ask Jerry Black to post the link to the People's Choice survey on our website.	Open
251202MN-Act06	<b>Judy Black</b> to include APS Outreach event on the January 2026 agenda.	Open
251202MN-Act07	<b>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.	Open
251202MN-Act08	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to contact Dave Chapman regarding a nomination for 2025-2026 Auditor at the AGM.	Open
251202MN-Act09	<b>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.	Open

#### MOTION LIST (December 2, 2025):

<b>251202MN-Mot01</b>	It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the December 2, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated with the amendment. CARRIED.
<b>251202MN-Mot02</b>	It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the October 28, 2025 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes, as circulated. CARRIED.
<b>251202MN-Mot03</b>	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Tony McGrath to approve dates for the 2026 Public Meetings. CARRIED
<b>251202MN-Mot04</b>	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve dates for the 2026 Board of Directors Meetings. CARRIED.
<b>251202MN-Mot05</b>	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by Peter Hurley 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>	<p><u><b>April 29, 2025</b></u></p> <p><b>250429MN-Act04: Peter Hurley</b> will approach Dave Robertson regarding the Announce List message regarding the need for Laser Pointer training and the Transport Canada Agreement with the RASC.</p> <p><u><b>September 2, 2025</b></u></p>

	<p><b>250902MN-Act01:</b> Peter Hurley will contact the RASC regarding Dave Robertson as an LP Trainer for our Centre and for access to the LP database.</p> <p><b>250902MN-Act11:</b> Judy Black to send RASC Halifax Centre documentation to the NS Archives.</p> <p><b><u>September 30, 2025</u></b></p> <p><b>250930MN-Act09:</b> Annual reports must be received by <b>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.</p> <p><b><u>October 28, 2025</u></b></p> <p><b>251028MN-Act01:</b> Tony McGrath and Jerry Black to acquire confirmation of picture prices and obtain the correction of the website to accept both pickup and delivery options.</p> <p><b>251028MN-Act02:</b> Gregg Dill to confirm PayPal funds are transferred to our TD bank account.</p> <p><b>251028MN-Act03:</b> Tony McGrath to resend Dr. Baron's message to Board members.</p> <p><b>251028MN-Act04:</b> Judy Black to contact Allan McCue to obtain details of the Stellarium course (length, cost) and his availability.</p> <p><b>251028MN-Act05:</b> Judy Black to contact the New Brunswick Centre and Saint John's Centre to determine their interest in participating in a Stellarium Course.</p> <p><b>251028MN-Act06:</b> Judy Black to circulate the report of the October 19, 2025, National Council meeting to Board members.</p> <p><b>251028MN-Act07:</b> Gregg Dill to forward list of contributors to Tony McGrath.</p> <p><b>251028MN-Act08:</b> Judy Black to forward thank you letter draft to Tony McGrath.</p> <p><b>251028MN-Act09:</b> Judy Black and Tony McGrath to send letters to the contributors.</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.</p> <p><b>Confirmed Location &amp; Speakers for 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (AT101) December 6 – Paul Gray (Starmus 2025)</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed 2026 Speakers and Public Meeting dates (held 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month unless a holiday weekend)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 10 – Dr. David Baron or Blair MacDonald (Mars &amp; Summertime astrophotography)</li> <li>• February 7 – Dr. David Baron or Devon Williams (Mars or JWST)</li> <li>• March 7 – Blair MacDonald (summer photography)</li> <li>• April 11 (Easter weekend (April 3-6) – Astronomy humour (all members)</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> <li>• Devon Williams, PhD (JWST) – agreed to speak</li> <li>• Allan McCue (Calgary Centre) – Willing to provide a Stellarium Course, especially if we invite members from NB and St. John's Centres to participate</li> <li>• Michelle Lane &amp; Andrea Misner re "Starfinder" program – perhaps in May/June or September time frame to allow for teachers to use the program and for evaluation.</li> <li>• Astronomy Humour – favourite astro cartoons from members and they would provide a brief explanation</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(As suggested by David Turner) David Baron of the American Astronomical Society's Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) – presentation about his book <i>The Martians</i>, regarding Percival Lowell and the "canals" on Mars</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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tiffany Fields</li> <li>Rob Thacker</li> </ul> </li> <li><a href="https://rasc.ca/find-speaker">https://rasc.ca/find-speaker</a></li> </ul>
<b>Agenda Notes #3: Proposed 2026 Board Meeting Dates</b>	<p><b><u>Proposed 2026 Board Meeting dates (if held Tuesday before Public Meeting)</u></b></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>We should approve the January date then review and approve the remaining dates in January with the "new" Board of Directors</p>
<b>Agenda Notes #4: Website Updates</b>	<p><b><u>Updates to the Halifax Website &amp; YouTube channel:</u></b></p> <p><b>October 6, 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jerry uploaded video of meeting (Oct.4/25).</li> <li>Revised meeting date and Speaker. Added descriptor as provided by Pat Kelly.</li> </ul> <p><b>October 6, 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jerry uploaded December What's Up?</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda Notes #5: Stellarium</b>	<p>Judy contacted Allan McCue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Course: Stellarium Level 1</b></li> <li>Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 (alternate date, if needed: 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><u>Correction:</u> 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 there for now as it is being refined by Ian.</li> <li>Here is the link to the program on the RASC site.</li> </ul> <p>Judy also contacted New Brunswick Centre (June MacDonald) and Saint John's Centre (Randy Dodge) to determine their interest.</p> <p><b><u>Question:</u></b></p> <p>1- When to notify members – (a) via Announce list now and at Dec 6<sup>th</sup> meeting or (b) at Dec 6<sup>th</sup> meeting followed by announce list 3-4 days after the meeting?</p>
<b>Agenda Notes 6: Election at AGM, Appointment in 2026</b>	<p><b><u>Roster for Election at AGM (Dec 6/25)</u></b></p> <p>President – Tony McGrath (Board member since 2023; 3<sup>rd</sup> of 3 years as President)  Vice-President – Peter Hurley (Board member since 2019; 1st of 3 years as V-P)  Secretary – Judy Black (10 of 10 years)  Treasurer – Gregg Dill (member since March 2019; Treasurer since 2024; 3 of 5 years)</p>

	<p>Directors:</p> <p>Gerry Brosky (year 1)  Matthew Dyer (member since 2020; year 7 of 10)  David Hoskin (member since 2020; year 7 of 10)  Frank Logan (Year 1)  David McMullin (member since 2025); year 1 of 10)  Vincent Vallee (member since 2025); year 1 of 10)</p> <p><b><u>Roster for Reappointment by Newly-elected Board in January 2026</u></b> (Terms limits determined by term on the Board of Directors)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nova Notes – Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee</li> <li>2. Observing Chair – David Hoskin</li> <li>3. EPO Chair – David Hoskin</li> <li>4. Governance Review Committee Chair – Judy Black</li> <li>5. NC Representative (must be a Director) – Judy Black</li> <li>6. Dark-Preserve Committee – Peter Hurley</li> <li>7. Webmaster – Jerry Black</li> <li>8. SCO Manager – Tony McGrath</li> <li>9. Nova East Planning Committee – Chris Young, Judy Black, David Chapman, Tony McGrath, Michael Gatto, Vincent Vallee</li> </ol>
<p><b>Agenda Notes 7: Amended AGM Agenda</b></p>	<p><b><u>Annual General Meeting (AGM)</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approval of 2025 Agenda (poll 1)</li> <li>b. Approval of AGM Minutes (December 7, 2024) (poll 2)</li> <li>c. Appointment of Auditor for 2025-2026 (poll 3)</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Reports</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Q&amp;A regarding pre-circulated reports (Note: reports are not read at the AGM)</li> <li>b. Financial reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024-2025 Auditor Report – David Chapman (poll 4)</li> <li>• Treasurer Report – Gregg Dill (poll 5)</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Approval of Pre-Circulated Annual Reports (with any amendments) (poll 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President Report – Tony McGrath</li> <li>• VP Report – Peter Hurley</li> <li>• Secretary Report – Judy Black</li> <li>• National Council Representative Report – Judy Black</li> <li>• Dark-Sky Preserve Committee – Peter Hurley, Tony Schellinck</li> <li>• Education &amp; Public Outreach (EPO) Chair – David Hoskin</li> <li>• Governance Committee – Judy Black</li> <li>• Nova East Star Party – Chris Young</li> <li>• Nova Notes – Lisa Ann Fanning, John McPhee</li> <li>• Observing Chair – David Hoskin</li> <li>• St. Croix Observatory (SCO) – Tony McGrath</li> <li>• Webmaster – Jerry Black</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b>Call for Nominations and Election of 2024 Board of Directors</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Nominating Committee Report – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominations for Board of Directors</li> <li>• Elections for Officer and Director positions (poll 7)</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> <li>4. <b>Call for Nominations for Appointed Positions</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Nominations for Appointed Positions</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <b>By-Law No. 1 Amendments</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No amendments are recommended this year</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <b>Adjournment of AGM (poll 8)</b></li> </ol> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The AGM agenda was slightly modified to make it easier for Jerry to post online for those attending via Zoom:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Included the poll numbers (1-8) for Jerry's reference</li> <li>2- Revised the wording of the polls based on those from 2024 (and suggestions made in Agenda Notes #8).</li> </ol>

<b>Agenda Notes# 8: AGM Proceedings Clarifications</b>	<p>I have also been going through some portions of the <i>Robert's Rules of Order, Twelfth Edition</i> (2020) to clarify the following proceedings.</p> <p><b>1. Motion to Close or Reopen Nominations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>(Robert's, 46:18)</b> - After the Nominating Committee has presented its report and before voting takes place, the chair must call for further nominations from the floor.</li> <li>• <b>(Robert's, 30:8)</b> - In the average society, a motion to close nominations is not a necessary part of the election procedure and it should not generally be moved. When nominations have been made by a committee or from the floor, the chair inquires 3 times whether there are any further nominations; and when there is no response, he declares the nominations are closed.... When no one wishes to make a further nomination, the motion serves no useful purpose.</li> <li>• <b>(RASC Halifax Centre By-Law No 1, 7.4.2):</b> If the number of Candidates nominated and confirmed to run for the Board does not exceed the maximum number of Directors by the Close of Nominations, the then confirmed candidates shall be deemed elected by acclamation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> There will not be a poll for the motion to close nominations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a- If no one responds to the three calls for further nominations to the Board (46: 19-20), it can simply be stated "Without objection, nominations are closed."</li> <li>b- With no further nominations, it can be stated the Board has been elected by acclamation.</li> <li>c- Poll #7 was drafted should there be a need for election of an officer or director.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Voting regarding Yes, No, and Abstentions</b>  <b>(RASC Halifax Centre By-Law No 1, 9.1.8):</b> Every member who is personally present or attends through a telephonic, electronic or other communication facility shall have one vote and no more.</p> <p><b>(Robert's 4:35):</b> The chair first calls for the affirmative vote, then calls for the negative vote (no matter how nearly unanimous the affirmative vote may appear). The chair does not call for abstentions in taking a vote, since the number of members who respond to such a call is meaningless. To "abstain" means not to vote at all.</p> <p><b>Conclusion 1:</b> The choice for abstentions will not be called when voting is conducted at the meeting in person.</p> <p><b>Conclusion 2:</b> "Abstention" has been removed from the choices in all polls conducted on-line.</p> <p><b>Suggestion:</b> Once the online poll has been opened, no more than 45 seconds should be allotted before closing of the poll and results cited.</p>
<b>Agenda Notes# 9: Contest</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Thanks to the efforts of Jerry Black, the contest was advertised through Astronomy Nova Scotia and our Centre's Facebook. He actually targeted specific pictures and commented how they could enter the contest and provided a link to it.</li> <li>2- Blair MacDonald and Jerry Black acted as adjudicators for the contest and have determined a winner in Deep-Sky, Wide Field and Solar System categories (not to be named until the contest winners are officially announced at a public meeting. Allan Sutherland of APS has again agreed to provide a 12"x18" canvas print for all 4 categories (the 3 mentioned above plus People's Choice). At the winners announcement, they will be informed that they will be informed in January as to how they can acquire their prize.</li> <li>3- Blair MacDonald suggested that for future contests, we contact Kalin Mitchell [CTV weatherman (<a href="mailto:kalin.mitchell@bellmedia.ca">kalin.mitchell@bellmedia.ca</a>) who has an interest in astronomy] to request our contest be broadcast and that anyone residing in Nova Scotian can enter. He could be contacted soon to determine his interest in doing this and how to proceed should he say 'yes'.</li> </ol>
<b>Agenda Notes #10: Donated Telescope</b>	<p>Loredana contacted the Centre regarding a <a href="#">CELESTRON POWERSEEKER 127EQ</a> they would like to donate to the Centre. Jerry suggested it could even be given away as an advertised door prize at a meeting, e.g., the AGM (perhaps limited to those who attend and don't already own telescopes).</p> <p>Decision to be made as to whether we accept the donation or suggest where it could be donated.</p>
<b>Agenda Notes #11: 2025 Auditor Report</b>	<p><b>2025 Annual Report: RASC Halifax Auditor's Report (FY October 2024 – October 2025)</b></p> <p><b>Preamble</b></p> <p>This is my third year as auditor. I reiterate that I have no training in accounting or auditing beyond balancing my personal cheque book. What follows is more of a "reality check" on the RASC Halifax</p>

Treasurer's report to be presented in December at the 2025 AGM. I trust this fits the need.

**Statement**

**I have reviewed the Treasurer's Report and find that it is a faithful account of the Centre's financial dealings in the time period.**

Luckily, I recalled enough of previous audits so that I was not starting "from scratch." There were no unusual circumstances to complicate the accounts. FY 24/25 was a "quieter" year. One new activity was the successful drive for donations to the SCOPE initiative to create an endowment to fund maintenance and improvements to the Centre's Saint Croix Observatory and associated inventory. I have encouraged the Treasurer to account for that independently of the usual Centre finances.

**Depreciation of Assets**

The annual depreciation of assets is acceptable, based on previous practice, but I continue to be disappointed that there has been little progress on reviewing and freshly revaluing the assets. This is particularly important now that we have a plan and fund to manage the maintenance and update of SCO. My recommendations:

- The current Capital Equipment Depreciation document should be discontinued and archived.
- In spring 2026, a subcommittee consisting of the SCO Manager, the Treasurer, and other members should perform a fresh inventory and valuation of the assets. This would be the starting point for the 2026 Financial Report with no depreciation in 2026; in following years the depreciation rate should be 10%.
- Systems or items no longer in use or not expected to be used should be liquidated.
- The various SCO eyepiece collections should be consolidated and inventoried. Surplus eyepieces should be liquidated; the remainder should be stored properly at SCO for the use of members on site. Perhaps individual eyepieces should be identified as RASC-owned to prevent accidental disappearance.

Respectfully Submitted,

*DMF Chapman*

David M F Chapman, FRASC  
2025 November 30