



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2026: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

[Via Zoom – Meeting 894 7841 8840](#)

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents / Notes
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Agenda Review Action List Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting 	Information Approval	Tony McGrath	Pre-circulated: Agenda: February 3, 2026 Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Open Action List Previous Minutes: January 6, 2026
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approved 2026 Public Meeting dates and speakers Confirm Public Meeting agenda Zoom/SMU Bookings Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #2: 2026 Speakers & Approved Public Meeting Dates Refer to Agenda Notes #3: Approved 2026 Board Meeting Dates
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Next Meeting: February 22, 2026
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #4: Website Update
	5. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Status SCOPE Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Astro-Image Sales Update: Library Book Sales 	Discussion	Gregg Dill Tony McGrath	n/a
	6. EPO / Observing Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APS Outreach Event (Friday, February 23 with Saturday, February 24 storm date) 	Information Discussion	David Hoskin	n/a
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	7. Parks Canada Agreement	Discussion	Peter Hurley	n/a
	8. Stellarium with Allan McCue	Discussion	Judy Black	n/a
	9. SCO	Discussion	Tony McGrath	n/a
NEW BUSINESS				
	10. Questionnaire re mentorship	Discussion Decision	Frank Logan Vincent Vallee	n/a
	11. Revised RASC Halifax Centre Business Card	Information Discussion	Frank Logan	Refer to Agenda Notes #5: Revised Business Card
Adjournment				
9:00 PM	Adjournment			(Next meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2026)

RASC, Halifax Centre – Public Meeting

Saturday, February 7, 2026: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 892 3925 4195

Time	Member & Public Meeting		
1:00 PM	Item		
	1. Welcome & Introductions • Photo Montage	Information	David Hoskin
	2. Special Presentation: <i>Devin Williams</i> – Building Galaxy Outskirts: The Role of Galaxy Mergers and Cosmic Environment	Presentation	Devin Williams (in-person)
	3. SCOPE Fund Presentation		Tony McGrath Michelle Lane
	4. BREAK		
	5. Outreach Opportunities	Information	David Hoskin
	6. Food for the Soul:	Information	
	7. Update from the Board	Information	Tony McGrath & Judy Black
	6. What's Up in February?	Information	David Hoskin
4:00 PM	Adjournment Next meeting: March 7, 2026 <i>Blair MacDonald</i> – Summertime Photography		

* Times are for Board of Director information only and for informing presenters of the length of their presentations; they will not be published on the Halifax Centre website. Times will be adjusted for each meeting.

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

February 3, 2026 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

held via Zoom - Meeting ID #894 7841 8840

Present: Tony McGrath (President), Peter Hurley (Vice-President), Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Judy Black (Secretary), Gerry Brosky, Matt Dyer, David Hoskin, Frank Logan, David McMullin.

Regrets: Vincent Vallee

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tony thanked members for coming and called the meeting to order at 7:03pm with quorum.

a) Approval of Agenda

Tony requested SCOPE Fund donor acknowledgements in *Nova Notes* be added to the agenda; it was suggested this could be discussed as part of Item #5. Judy asked for the Nova East Planning Team to be added under New Business as Item #12.

260203MN-Mot01

It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the February 3, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated with the amendments.
CARRIED.

b) Review of Action Lists

From September 2, 2025

Action 1: Open. Peter will try to do it later this week.

Action 11: Open. Judy will prepare documentation before the next Board meeting for forwarding to the Archives.

From December 2, 2025

Action 4: Closed. Michelle Lane will be attending the upcoming meeting to present the cheque.

From January 6, 2026

Action 1: Closed. Tony stated the thank you letter has been mailed to SMU.

Action 2: Closed. The cheque to Allan Sutherland was delivered by Judy Black.

Action 3: Closed. David has the cards in his car for bringing into the meeting.

Action 4: Closed. The APS outreach dates have been determined and will be discussed further in the EPO Update.

Action 5: Closed. Member have been notified of the Stellarium training registration at our last meeting, in our website and will also be in *Nova Notes*.

Actions 6: & 12 Closed. The Communications Strategy had been forwarded to Peter Hurley, Vincent Vallee and Frank Logan. Peter stated he had read the document and did agree the strategy should be discussed but not at this meeting.

Action 7: Closed. The updated Board contact list was disseminated.

Action 8: Closed. The Centre's Annual Report has been forwarded to the RASC; however, Judy noted photos were required. Jerry Black had forwarded a picture to her that had taken at the DSW Sky Circle. David Hoskin suggested asking Jerry Black to capture a frame from video of The Discovery Centre solar observing session in May 2025.

260203MN-Act01

Judy Black is to ask Jerry Black for a photo from the May 2026 solar observing session at The Discovery Centre.

Action 9: Closed. Gregg stated the report was in the process of being prepared.

Action 10: Closed. Gregg submitted both the Board list and financial report to the RJSC.

Action 11: Closed. This is being addressed in Agenda Item #10. Frank noted he had forwarded the Excel spread sheet.

Action 13: Closed. Peter has had challenges reaching Tony Schellinck, but he will send the email out tomorrow.

c) Approval of Previous Minutes

No errors were noted in the minutes.

260203MN-Mot02

It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the January 6, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes as circulated.
CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

a) Approved 2026 Public Meeting Dates & Speakers

The approved Public meeting dates were:

- February 7: Devin Williams – galaxy mergers
- March 7: Blair MacDonald – summertime photography

In mid-January, Mary Lou Whitehorne and Judy Black visited Roy Bishop where she obtained 4 boxes of Roy's books. She went through them and sorted the 4 boxes into topics. There were very few books that were tossed. There were some interesting ones - 2 books by Simon Newcomb that she offered to Dave Chapman as 'prizes' to winners of the RASC Simon Newcomb Award, 4 by Percival Lowell about Mars, Flammarion's astronomy, and books about the Apollo mission written by and about astronauts. What was most interesting were those books printed in the mid- to late 1800's! It was suggested that we wait until the March meeting to bring them in for members to view. Roy doesn't want any money for his books.

Roy also has the full collection of the Journal of the RASC from its first volume. They are hard cover editions. It was suggested that if the Journal was to be stored anywhere in Canada that the RASC would be the best place. The RASC could be approached to determine if the Archives would like them; the only challenge would be the delivery method. It was questioned whether SMU or Dalhousie would be interested in them.

260203MN-Act02

Judy Black to contact Jenna Hinds to determine if the Archives would have an interest in acquiring Roy Bishop's set of the JRASC.

260203MN-Act03

Judy Black to ask Jenna Hinds if she would be coming down to Nova East on August 14-16, 2026.

- April 11: Member Presentations and Astronomy humour

As a way of encouraging members to step forward, Peter Hurley suggested providing members with examples of possible topics to give them a better idea of things they can bring forward. Judy noted that in earlier editions of *Nova Notes*, there was mention of at least one meeting per year where members stepped forward.

260203MN-Act04

Judy Black to search older editions of *Nova Notes* to discover possible topics that can be brought to the meeting as suggestions for the April 11 meeting.

- May 2 (Chris Gainor – *Arrows to the Moon: How Engineers from Avro Canada, helped put Astronauts on the Moon*)
- Judy Black noted the most recent of the RASC Bulletin had announced the date of the 2026 RASC GA as May 2-3 which would conflict with our meeting date. Members agreed to move the date of the Public Meeting to Saturday, May 9 (Mother's Day is May 10). It was agreed that members who cannot attend can join in by Zoom or watch in later on YouTube.

260203MN-Act05

Judy Black is to contact Chris Gainor to determine his availability on May 9, 2026, to address *Arrows to the Moon: How Engineers from Avro Canada, helped put Astronauts on the Moon*.

- June 6 (Tentative: Michelle Lane & Andrea Misner re the *Starfinder Program* (<https://observatory.smu.ca/bgo-about/star-finder>)),
- September 12
- October 3
- November 7
- December 5. December 5 would also be the 2026 AGM date.

Blair MacDonald would be available in the fall to present planet hunting and observing exoplanet transits, leaving three meetings without a guest speaker.

b) Public Meeting Agenda

For the upcoming meeting, Paul Heath has been contacted regarding the poem. Tony McGrath and Judy Black will present the *News from the Board* session at the Public meeting. The door Prize should be removed from the agenda. In its place will be the SCOPE Fund Presentation with Tony McGrath and Michelle Lane.

David Hoskin confirmed the Centre has 6 Galileo scopes, courtesy of David Chapman. A couple were used and had parts missing but there certainly were four; they come with 2 eyepieces – one similar to that of Galileo use and a modern Plössl. At some future date we could use one of those as door prize. Beginners and accomplished astronomers alike could enjoy it.

c) SMU Room Bookings

No change to room confirmations received.

3. National Council (NC) Report

Judy Black reported the meeting notes she had forwarded at the previous meeting matched the content of the minutes of the January meeting so nothing further to report. The next NC meeting is Sunday, Feb 22, 2026.

4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube

Judy noted the information is in Agenda Notes 4. The *What's up in February?* was added on February 1.

Judy noted that Michelle Lane provided older copies of *Nova Notes*, including the missing year of 1981, 1960, 1961 and partial editions of 1962, 1964, 1965. Judy will scan and add them to the *Nova Notes* publications on our website.

5. Financial Update

a) Financial Status

Gregg Dill stated our bank account was \$17,631.00, which includes \$2,170.00 dedicated to the SCOPE Fund. The rest of the SCOPE Fund money is in GICs. The total income from the Library book sale was \$313.00; however, there may be some monies still coming forward from a member.

Frank Logan requested clarification of how general donations made while renewing memberships were received by the Centre. Gregg stated it would show up on our bank account. The RASC makes a monthly deposit and they itemize members fees (Canadian and American) and the donations made through the RASC renewal. Gregg noted that last year there had been \$579.00 donated during membership renewal with the RASC taking 3% of the monies received (\$17.30).

Gerry Brosky suggested that at some point it would be good to acknowledge donors. Our members would then know that others are contributing to the Centre. Peter suggested the list of donors should be included as a separate document in the Annual Report presented at our Centre's AGM.

b) Nova Notes Donor Acknowledgements

Michelle Lane is presenting the final cheque to the Fund; the next edition of *Nova Notes* could include the list of donors that helped bring it to the current balance. It was suggested the "major donors" and "general donors" be thanked for their gifts.

260203MN-Act06

Gregg Dill will forward two donor lists to Tony McGrath for inclusion in his *Message from the President* in the Jan/Feb Nova Notes edition:

- 1- SCOPE Fund donors (major and general)
- 2- General donors for calendar year 2025

Members agreed that going forward all donors (SCOPE Fund and general donations) should be acknowledged on an annual basis in a special report at the AGM.

It was questioned as to whether all donations through membership renewals should go to the SCOPE Fund. Gregg explained that because the SCOPE Fund was an endowment fund that monies would be tied up for a few years. Our bank account is flush now but tying money in the fund would prohibit access when monies are needed for special initiatives, etc. We do have money earmarked for SCO maintenance in addition to the Fund. If there is 'excess' funds, it was suggested they go into GICs in lieu of the endowment.

David McMullin left the meeting at 7:52 PM. Quorum was maintained.

6. Update: EPO Update

David confirmed APS agreed to Monday, February 23 with Tuesday, February 24 as the cloud date. David will mention that at the meeting. APS is already advertising on their site. Dave Chapman has added the information to Astronomy NS and Jerry added it to our website and Facebook page. Hopefully the sky gods smile on us and it's not too cold.

The Cliffs of Fundy group is hosting an observing session at Glooscap Campground on February 15 at 6:30pm. This group working to get a dark-sky designation for the Parrsboro area. They have an annual Fundy Shore winter carnival and the observing session would be part of it. David and Mi'kmaq elder Gerald Gloade were invited to attend. This group is associated with the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geo-Park. Perhaps we could get someone from the group to be a speaker at our Centre about their Park and plans, especially in light of New Brunswick/Stéphane Picard attempting to make acquire dark-sky designation for their Fundy shore.

Lindsay Lake Farms in the Musquodoboit Valley requested a star gazing event around the time of the equinox. David agreed to attend on March 20 with March 21 cloud date. The Farm is a business with bison and give farm tours and talks.

260106MN-Act07

David Hoskin will forward the Cliffs of Fundy plans to Board members for their review and input.

Updates/Reports

7. Update: Parks Canada Agreement

No progress has been made.

8. Update: Stellarium with Alan McCue

The registration information is on our website. Members have been told about it in two meetings plus two times through the Announce List. Not sure how the New Brunswick and St. John's Centre are promoting it.

For members to better understand what is being offered in Level 1 and Level 2 Stellarium training, a course syllabus could perhaps be included. Part 2 is taught by another instructor and could be organized as a region following Level 1 training.

260106MN-Act08

Judy Black to provide the Level 1 syllabus at the meeting on Saturday and follow-up in the Announce List.

9. Update: SCO

Tony plans to organize a work party to get a few things done once the weather improves, perhaps in March or April. This would include returning the eyepieces to the Warm Room, removing the solar panels from the Warm Room roof, and examining the generator.

New Business

10. Questionnaire regarding Mentorship (Astro-Buddy)

Frank Logan stated a document was being proposed for members who would willing to volunteer to assist other members requesting help. He created an Excel sheet listing some of the possible different ways we could clarify different types of telescopes, programs, equipment and other available information to help them find a mentor when in a jam. Being a mentor would be totally voluntary; they could determine the amount of time they want to dedicate to this, how they want to be contacted (phone, email, discussion list, etc.), times of availability, etc. There would be no obligation for members to be included on the list. Frank requested members to consider columns that could be added and to make suggestions for removing unnecessary or redundant columns. The chart would be offered as a PDF and in Excel.

260106MN-Act09

Board members are to provide feedback to Frank Logan regarding the mentorship questionnaire.

11. Revised RASC Halifax Centre Business Cards

This was circulated in Agenda Notes #5. Frank also sent an email with two possible 'cards', one containing our RASC logo and QR code, the other with the RASC website, Facebook, and "X", and our Centre website. Members agreed the QR code should be printed and be available at EPO events, our meetings and all events done with partners. It was recognized the public may not a QR code reader or don't know what to do with it. One of the purposes is to encourage younger folk to get information about and from us.

It was suggested that copies of these two documents should be in the hands of our volunteers and a copy on our table at the DSW, Nova East and other Centre events with the Discovery Centre or other groups.

Frank suggested that future Centre productions include the QR code and that QR codes could be produced to contain small amounts of information as well as the link.

Frank also noted a possible problem with the national RASC Facebook page that is apparently no longer operated by the RASC. Not sure if Twitter/X is still being active.

260106MN-Act10

Judy Black to inquire about the RASC Facebook page and RASC twitter/X accounts.

12. Nova East Planning Team

Judy Black noted she hoped to have a Nova East Planning Team meeting later this month. She asked Board members to think about suggestions for themes and potential speakers for this year's event.

Adjournment

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

260203MN-Mot03

It was moved by Tony McGrath and seconded by Gregg Dill to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm. Our next Board meeting is March 3, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Black, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of February 3, 2026):

From September 2, 2025		
250902MN-Act01	Peter Hurley will contact the RASC regarding Dave Robertson as an LP Trainer for our Centre and for access to the LP database.	Open
250902MN-Act11	Judy Black to send RASC Halifax Centre documentation to the NS Archives.	Open

From February 3, 2026		
260203MN-Act01	Judy Black is to ask Jerry Black for a photo from the May 2026 solar observing session at The Discovery Centre.	Open
260203MN-Act02	Judy Black to contact Jenna Hinds to determine if the Archives would have an interest in acquiring Roy Bishop's set of the JRASC.	Open
260203MN-Act03	Judy Black to ask Jenna Hinds if she would be coming down to Nova East on August 14-16, 2026.	Open
260203MN-Act04	Judy Black to search older editions of <i>Nova Notes</i> to discover possible topics that can be brought to the meeting as suggestions for the April 11 meeting.	Open
260203MN-Act05	Judy Black is to contact Chris Gainor to determine his availability on May 9, 2026, to address <i>Arrows to the Moon: How Engineers from Avro Canada, helped put Astronauts on the Moon</i> .	Open
260203MN-Act06	Gregg Dill will forward two donor lists to Tony McGrath for inclusion in his <i>Message from the President</i> in the Jan/Feb Nova Notes edition: 1- SCOPE Fund donors (major and general) 2- General donors for calendar year 2025.	Open
260203MN-Act07	David Hoskin will forward the Cliffs of Fundy plans to Board members for their review and input.	Open
260203MN-Act08	Judy Black to provide the Level 1 syllabus at the meeting on Saturday and follow-up in the Announce List.	Open
260203MN-Act09	Board members are to provide feedback to Frank Logan regarding the mentorship questionnaire.	Open
260203MN-Act10	Judy Black to inquire about the RASC Facebook page and RASC twitter/X accounts.	Open

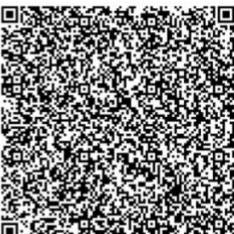
MOTION LIST (February 3, 2026):

260203MN-Mot01	It was moved by Gregg Dill and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the February 3, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated with the amendments. CARRIED.
260203MN-Mot02	It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the January 6, 2026, RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes as circulated. CARRIED.
260203MN-Mot03	It was moved by Tony McGrath and seconded by Gregg Dill to adjourn.

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
Agenda Note #1 re: Open Action List	<p>September 2, 2025</p> <p>250902MN-Act01: 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>250902MN-Act11: Judy Black to send RASC Halifax Centre documentation to the NS Archives.</p> <p>December 2, 2025</p> <p>251202MN-Act04: Tony McGrath to discuss closing the SCOPE Fund in January 2026</p> <p>January 6, 2026</p>

	<p>260106MN-Act01: Tony McGrath and Judy Black to draft the thank you letter to be sent to SMU.</p> <p>260106MN-Act02: Gregg Dill to forward a refund cheque to Alan Sutherland.</p> <p>260106MN-Act03: David Hoskin will bring RASC Halifax Centre business cards to the upcoming meeting for members.</p> <p>260106MN-Act04: David Hoskin to contact Alan Sutherland regarding the proposed dates for the APS Outreach event.</p> <p>260106MN-Act05: Judy Black to contact Alan McCue for Stellarium training registration details.</p> <p>260106MN-Act06: Judy Black will forward the Communications Strategy to Peter Hurley.</p> <p>260106MN-Act07: Judy Black to forward the 2026 Board Contact List to Board members.</p> <p>260106MN-Act08: Judy Black to draft the Centre Report for Tony McGrath to edit and forward to the RASC as they requested.</p> <p>260106MN-Act09: Gregg Dill to forward the annual financial report to the RASC as they requested.</p> <p>260106MN-Act10: Gregg Dill will submit the financial report and 2026 Board list to the RJSC.</p> <p>260106MN-Act11: Frank Logan and Vincent Vallee to develop an outline of a strategy for the questionnaire development and consequent implementation.</p> <p>260106MN-Act12: Judy Black to forward the Communications strategy to Frank Logan and Vincent Vallee.</p> <p>260106MN-Act13: Peter Hurley will forward information regarding the dates of the DSW and the National Park campsite booking date.</p>
Agenda Note #2 re: 2026 Speakers & Public Meeting Dates	<p>2026 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events Members' Meeting dates and known speakers are posted on the RASC(HC) website. All are scheduled in our Zoom account.</p> <p><i>Approved 2026 Speakers and Public Meeting dates (held 1st Saturday of the month unless a holiday weekend)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 7 – Devon Williams (CFHT & galaxy mergers) confirmed March 7 – Blair MacDonald (Summertime Photography) confirmed April 11 (Easter weekend (April 3-6) – Members Presentations confirmed (Judy Black - astronomy humour) May 9 – maybe Chris Gainor? June 6 – Michelle Lane and Andrea Misner (Starfinder program) September 12 (Labour day: September 7) October 3 November 7 December 5 (AGM) <p>Speakers/Topics for 2026 (Room & Date TBD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blair MacDonald (Planet Hunting) <p>Suggested Speakers / Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Gainor - <i>Arrows to the Moon: How Engineers from Avro Canada helped put Astronauts on the Moon</i> Dan Falk (Edmond Halley) John Badowski SMU Astronomy and Physics Tiffany Fields https://rasc.ca/find-speaker
Agenda Notes #3: Proposed 2026 Board Meeting Dates	<p>Approved 2026 Board Meeting dates (if held Tuesday before Public Meeting) All are scheduled in our Zoom account. February to December dates to be approved by the newly elected Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 3 • April 7 (Easter weekend (April 3-6)) • April 28 • June 2 • September 8 (Labour day: September 7) • September 29 • November 3 • December 1 (December 5: AGM)
Agenda Notes #4: Website Updates	<p><u>Updates to the Halifax Website & YouTube channel:</u></p> <p>January 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry revised meeting date and speaker for Feb 2026 Public meeting with info provided by our speaker Devon Williams <p>January 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy scanned and Jerry uploaded Board minutes (Jan1989-Dec 1989). <p>January 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy scanned and Jerry uploaded Board minutes (January 1989 – November 2001) and the 1997 AGM minutes
Agenda Notes #5: Revised Business Card	<p><u>(email from Frank Logan (Jan. 17/26))</u></p> <p>Most people these days don't collect those and would prefer to collect info via their digital device. With this in mind, and from what I have seen in the business world, especially from the younger people, I've mocked up a new card that maybe we can talk about. These cards could be printed on paper, but would be better done on plastic, as they are not for handing out. A lot of newer cards these days just carry a QR code. Interested people would just scan your card, or any display media we would have on hand with the QR code. I've attached a sample that you can test with your phones, tablets, or any device which scans a QR code.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">   </div>