



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 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: March 3, 2026 Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Open Action List Refer to Agenda Notes #5: RASC Facebook and X Previous Minutes: February 3, 2026
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approved 2026 Public Meeting dates and speakers b. Confirm Public Meeting agenda c. Zoom/SMU Bookings d. 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: April 26, 2026 Refer to Agenda Notes #4: RASC Request
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #6: Website Update
	5. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Status SCOPE Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Astro-Image Sales 	Discussion	Gregg Dill Tony McGrath	n/a
	6. EPO / Observing Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APS Outreach Event Outcome 	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. Nova East	Information Discussion	Judy Black	n/a
Adjournment				
9:00 PM	Adjournment			(Next meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2026)

Saturday, March 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>Blair MacDonald – An Astrophotographer's Skies - Summer Astrophotography 2025</i>	Presentation	Blair MacDonald
	3. BREAK		
	4. Outreach Opportunities	Information	David Hoskin
	5. Food for the Soul: <i>An Eye Alone</i>	Information	Paul Heath
	6. Update from the Board	Information	Judy Black
	6. What's Up in March?	Information	David Hoskin
4:00 PM	Adjournment Next meeting: Saturday, April 11, 2026 Member Presentations • <i>Jeremy Kuzub – Citizen Science Aurora</i> • <i>Judy Black – Astronomy Humour</i> • <i>Black / Hurley / Russell – Seestar Image Comparisons</i>		Centre Members

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

March 3, 2026 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

held via Zoom - Meeting ID #894 7841 8840

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

Regrets: Tony McGrath (President), Pat Kelly.

Absent: Gerry Brosky.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Peter Hurley in the absence of the President assumed the role of Chair. He thanked members for coming and called the meeting to order at 7:03pm with quorum.

a) Approval of Agenda

No new items were added to the agenda.

260303MN-Mot01

It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the March 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 February 3, 2026

260203MN-Act01: DONE. Judy Black acquired a photo from the May 2026 solar observing session at The Discovery Centre. This photo and one from the 2025 DSW were forwarded to the RASC for inclusion with our Annual Report. Judy noted that with Jenna Hinds leaving the RASC Annual Report may not be produced this year.

260203MN-Act02: DONE. Judy Black contacted Jenna Hinds to determine if the Archives would have an interest in acquiring Roy Bishop's set of the JRASC. They are not interested as they have 2 copies already. If these volumes are stored digitally, the Universities may not want them. It appears there are no volumes of JRASC prior to 1998 on their website; issues prior to 1998 are available on the NASA astrophysics data service.

260303MN-Act01

Judy Black is to approach the SMU Physics Department (through Tiffany Fields), the SMU library, and the Dalhousie Astronomy Club to determine if there is an interest in acquiring this set of books.

2602032MN-Act03: DONE. Jenna Hinds tentatively said yes to attending Nova East on August 14-16, 2026. She will not be asked to present at NE. Also trying to convince her to attend the DSW.

2602032MN-Act04: DONE. At the February 7 public meeting, Judy Black presented a substantial list of presentation topics for the April 11 meeting.

2602032MN-Act05: DONE. Chris Gainor confirmed his availability on May 9, 2026, to address *Arrows to the Moon: How Engineers from Avro Canada Helped put Astronauts on the Moon*.

2602032MN-Act06: DONE. Gregg Dill forwarded 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.

2602032MN-Act07: DONE. David Hoskin will forward the Cliffs of Fundy plans to Board members for their review and input. There was no deadline for input.

2602032MN-Act08: DONE. Judy Black provided the Level 1 Stellarium syllabus at the Public meeting on February 7, 2026, and followed up in the Announce List.

2602032MN-Act09: DONE. Board members provided feedback to Frank Logan regarding the mentorship questionnaire.

2602032MN-Act10: DONE. Jenna Hinds confirmed RASC has an 'official' Facebook page. There is an 'unofficial' Facebook group with our name on it as well that was started by an RASC member, not the RASC. The RASC also does have an X account. It sounds like we are posting to X, but that we can't see the posts. Jenna checked the RASC account and saw no posts, but I think that's because she doesn't have an account. Apparently, someone came to the RASC open house event because they saw the post.

Peter temporarily exited the meeting.

c) Approval of Previous Minutes

No errors were noted in the minutes.

260203MN-Mot02

It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by Vincent Vallee to approve the February 3, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes as circulated.

CARRIED.

Due to challenges with his network, it was agreed that Judy would assume the Chair.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

a) Approved 2026 Public Meeting Dates & Speakers

The approved Public meeting dates were:

- o March 7: Blair MacDonald – summertime photography
- o April 11: Member Presentations – Citizen Science aurora watching, Astronomy humour

Judy has contacted Michael Boschat to determine if he would be willing to do a presentation on solar cycles and sunspots. She also will be contacting Jerry Black, Bob Russell and Peter Hurley (and maybe David Hoskin) to ask if they can present on the differences between the three Seestars and outcomes.

- o May 9 (Chris Gainor – *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 (Blair MacDonald – *Finding Exoplanets*)
- December 5 (also the 2026 AGM)

b) Public Meeting Agenda

For the upcoming meeting, Paul Heath has been contacted regarding the poem. Judy Black will present the *News from the Board* session at the Public meeting.

c) SMU Room Bookings

Tiffany Field brought it to Judy's attention that the May meeting was changed from May 2 to May 9. Tiffany consequently acquired Room AT101 for the changed meeting date.

3. National Council (NC) Report

Judy Black had sent out key points from the previous meeting of Sunday, Feb 22, 2026. Judy had a long discussion with Brendon Roy (RASC President); if volunteers are not acquired, the GA will be cancelled (refer to Agenda Notes #4). The request for volunteers will be noted at the Public meeting on Saturday. The next NC Meeting is April 26, 2026

4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube

Judy noted the information is in Agenda Notes 6. The *What's up in March?* was added on March 1. Jerry had also posted the changed APS event information on the home page.

Judy contacted Craig Levine (former Centre Council member and national RASC President) about the possibility of him having Halifax Centre documentation. He consequently mailed a binder; half of the documents were relevant and will be scanned for inclusion on our Board Minutes page.

5. Financial Update

Gregg Dill stated our bank account was \$22,858.00, which includes the \$5000 that Michelle Lane contributed at the last meeting plus an additional \$2,170.00 dedicated to the SCOPE Fund. This will eventually be put into GICs.

There has been one astroimage sale transaction to date. Jeremy Kuzub has donated his aurora picture for inclusion in the sale.

6. Update: EPO Update

David noted the original dates of the APS event had to be cancelled due to the snowstorm. The alternate dates are Thursday, March 5 with Friday, March 6 as the cloud date; the weather forecast does not look great.

David agreed to attend the Lindsay Lake Farms equinox event on March 20 with March 21 cloud date. Paul Heath did an outreach event with a couple of classes in the Valley.

David and Peter were asked by *The Discovery Centre* if RASC Halifax would be interested in providing a display for Astronomy Day on Saturday, April 25. There could be indoor and outdoor activities/displays and given Artemis would be topical the focus could be the Moon. If the weather cooperates, we could also do evening lunar observing on the boardwalk and daytime solar observing. Judy and Frank volunteered to assist.

7. Update: Parks Canada Agreement

Nothing to report. Peter stated he hoped to have something for the next Board meeting.

8. Update: Stellarium with Alan McCue

The registration information is on our website. Eleven members from across the Atlantic Region have registered so far. Alan McCue contacted Judy to ask if he could put up to nine of the students from the course he had to cancel last minute. The course does have a limit for now; should more Atlantic Canada members apply, he can easily up the number. Judy will be reminding members of the course via the Cnetre's Announce list.

9. Update: SCO

Because Tony was absent, this was deferred to next meeting.

10. Questionnaire regarding Mentorship (Astro-Buddy)

Frank Logan stated Board members had filled in the document. He asked that members have another look at the information they provided to ensure its accuracy, perhaps making their comments a bit clearer. Perhaps at the next meeting, we can determine if it is perhaps fit for the group and ask more people get involved besides the Board. Once there are several cross-disciplines, the document can be made to all members. It could be posted on our website.

260303MN-Act02

Board members are to review the entries they provided in the mentorship questionnaire.

260303MN-Act03

The mentorship questionnaire is to be added to the April 7 Board agenda for discussion about its distribution to the membership.

New Business**11. Nova East Planning Team**

The first meeting was a couple of weeks ago and the next meeting is March 9. Key points to note:

- All of Cherry Hil (observing field) and adjacent sites have been confirmed for Nova East.
- The same format will be used.
- The focus and speakers are still being determined.
- Pat Kelly has agreed to host the Sherman Williams Memorial Walk.
- Matt Paine agreed to do a session on radio astronomy; he had last presented in 2017.
- The 4-tiered observing sessions will go forward provided we have volunteers. The Team will be pro-active to identify those participating at each observation level before Nova East.
 - Tony Schellinck was in agreement to 'train' volunteers to conduct the binocular table.
 - Judy will be making an appeal at the Public meeting, with training to begin when the weather is warmer.
- Potential for Laser Pointer training is being discussed.
- David Hoskin said he would be willing to do a session on solar observing, white light and hydrogen-alpha.
- David Hoskin agreed to conduct the *Walk the Solar System*; he noted it should be better advertised in the Park. Frank had suggested
- Flea market will be held again this year.

David McMullin left the meeting at 7:53 PM. Quorum was maintained.

Only a few changes have been made to the website, e.g., *Sunrise, Sunset, and the Moon in between* on the home page (<https://novaeast.rasc.ca>) have corrected civil, nautical and astronomical twilight times. Other changes to the site will be made as decisions are finalized.

Adjournment

No further business to conduct.

260203MN-Mot03

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Gregg Dill to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm. Our next Board meeting is April 7, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Black, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of March 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 March 3, 2026		
260303MN-Act01	Judy Black is to approach the SMU Physics Department (through Tiffany Fields), the SMU library, and the Dalhousie Astronomy Club to determine if there is an interest in acquiring this set of books.	Open
260303MN-Act02	Board members are to review the entries they provided in the mentorship questionnaire.	Open
260303MN-Act03	The mentorship questionnaire is to be added to the April 7 Board agenda for discussion	Open

	about its distribution to the membership.	
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MOTION LIST (March 3, 2026):

260203MN-Mot01	It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the March 3, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated. CARRIED.
260303MN-Mot02	It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by Vincent Vallee to approve the February 3, 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><u>September 2, 2025</u></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><u>February 3, 2026</u></p> <p>2602032MN-Act01: Judy Black is to ask Jerry Black for a photo from the May 2026 solar observing session at The Discovery Centre. DONE. This photo and one from the 2025 DSW have been forwarded to the RASC for inclusion with our Annual Report.</p> <p>2602032MN-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. DONE. They are not interested as they have 2 copies already.</p> <p>2602032MN-Act03: Judy Black to ask Jenna Hinds if she would be coming down to Nova East on August 14-16, 2026. DONE. Yes (tentative).</p> <p>2602032MN-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. DONE. Possible topics presented at Public meeting February 7, 2026.</p> <p>2602032MN-Act05: Judy Black 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>. DONE. Confirmed he will present on May 9.</p> <p>2602032MN-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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- SCOPE Fund donors (major and general) 2- General donors for calendar year 2025. <p>DONE. Lists included in <i>Nova Notes</i> in 'Message from the President'.</p> <p>2602032MN-Act07: David Hoskin will forward the Cliffs of Fundy plans to Board members for their review and input. DONE.</p> <p>2602032MN-Act08: Judy Black to provide the Level 1 syllabus at the meeting on Saturday and follow-up in the Announce List. DONE. Syllabus presented at the Feb. 7 public meeting; to be included on Announce List follow-up</p>

	<p>2602032MN-Act09: Board members are to provide feedback to Frank Logan regarding the mentorship questionnaire.</p> <p>2602032MN-Act10: Judy Black to inquire about the RASC Facebook page and RASC twitter/X accounts. DONE. Refer to Agenda Notes #5: RASC Facebook and X.</p>
<p>Agenda Note #2 re: 2026 Speakers & Public Meeting Dates</p>	<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>Approved 2026 Speakers and Public Meeting dates (held 1st Saturday of the month unless a holiday weekend)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirmed March 7 – Blair MacDonald (An Astrophotographer's Skies - Summer Astrophotography 2025) • confirmed April 11 (Easter weekend (April 3-6) – Members Presentations (Judy Black - astronomy humour; Jeremy Kuzub – <i>Citizen Science regarding the Aurora Borealis</i>) • confirmed May 9** – Chris Gainor (<i>Arrows to the Moon: How Engineers from Avro Canada helped put Astronauts on the Moon</i>) • June 6 – Michelle Lane and Andrea Misner (Starfinder program) • September 12 (Labour day: September 7) • October 3 • confirmed November 7 – Blair MacDonald (<i>Finding Exoplanets</i>) • December 5 (AGM) <p>** Tiffany Fields has been advised of the change in date from May 2 to May 9; she will make the request to SMU re date change.</p> <p>Speakers/Topics for 2026 (Room & Date TBD)</p> <p>Suggested Speakers / Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Falk (Edmond Halley) • John Badowski • SMU Astronomy and Physics • Tiffany Fields • https://rasc.ca/find-speaker
<p>Agenda Notes #3: Proposed 2026 Board Meeting Dates</p>	<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"> • 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)
<p>Agenda Notes #4: RASC Request</p>	<p>From Brendon Roy, President, RASC (March 1, 2026)</p> <p>We need your help!</p> <p>The General Assembly (GA) Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with several key responsibilities for hosting this year's General Assembly in May. We are also looking for presenters to fill available time slots throughout the event.</p> <p>If you have an observing program, presentation, or area of expertise that you would like to share with fellow members, this is an excellent opportunity to contribute. The General Assembly is one of our Society's most important annual gatherings, bringing members together from across the country. Its success depends on the participation and support of volunteers like you. Without your support, it is likely we will have to Cancel this year's GA.</p> <p>We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with the following roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom/Speaker Hosting: Start a block of talks on Zoom, introduce speakers, manage questions, and assist speakers with presentation access

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website updates: Assist with adapting the 2025 website for the 2026 General Assembly (work already underway) Logo design and pin preparation Ticket sales setup and promotion (via Driven) GatherTown hosting Collecting speaker biographies, presentation details, and preparing thank-you packages Training other hosts in Zoom (for those with strong Zoom experience) <p>We are also looking for speakers on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binocular astronomy targets Explore the Universe and using your first telescope Electronically Assisted Astronomy (either an overview of current smart telescopes or an in-depth review of a specific system) <p>Our goal is to provide a fun, engaging, and educational experience for all members. This General Assembly is truly an event created by members, for members, and your involvement makes it possible.</p> <p>If you are interested in volunteering or presenting, please reply to this email. We would be grateful for your support. Thank you for helping make this year's General Assembly a success.</p> <p>Reply in the forum or president@rasc.ca</p> <p>Brendon Roy, President Royal Astronomical Society of Canada</p>
Agenda Notes #5: RASC Facebook and X	<p><i>Received from Jenna Hinds (February 12, 2026)</i></p> <p>1- RASC has an 'official' Facebook page. There is an 'unofficial' Facebook group with our name on it as well that was started by an RASC member, not the RASC.</p> <p>2- We do have an X; it sounds like we are posting to X, but that we can't see the posts. Jenna checked the RASC account and saw no posts, but I think that's because she don't have an account. Apparently someone came to the RASC open house event because they saw the post on X, so it must be working.</p>
Agenda Notes #6: Website Updates	<p><u>Updates to the Halifax Website & YouTube channel:</u></p> <p>February 6, 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy prepared and Jerry uploaded approved January 2026 Board minutes. <p>February 11-13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy scanned <i>Nova Notes</i> (1981 plus 1960's editions) received from Michelle Lane. Jerry uploaded these editions. <p>February 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jerry updated March meeting information. Judy/Jerry updated Awards page (confirmed Simon Newcomb winners & added Burke-Gaffney Award, 1979-2016) <p>February 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy updated Nova East chart "Sunrise, Sunset, and the Moon in between" <p>February 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jerry uploaded Jan/Feb <i>Nova Notes</i>