



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2026: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 825 6504 9495

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: April 7, 2026 Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Open Action List Previous Minutes: March 3, 2026
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approved 2026 Public Meeting dates and speakers CHANGE of April Board date to May 5/26 Confirm Public Meeting agenda Zoom/SMU Bookings Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to agenda Notes #2 from Matt Dyer Refer to Agenda Notes #2 from Frank Logan 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black Matt Dyer Frank Logan	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
	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 Astro-Image Sales 	Discussion	Gregg Dill Tony McGrath	n/a
	6. EPO / Observing Report	Information Discussion	David Hoskin	n/a
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	7. Parks Canada Agreement	Discussion	Peter Hurley	n/a
	9. SCO	Discussion	Tony McGrath	n/a
	10. Nova East	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #5: Nova East Planning Team Report
	11. Mentorship Questionnaire	Discussion Decision	Frank Logan	n/a
NEW BUSINESS				
	12. International Dark-Sky Week (April 15-20, 2026)			Refer to Agenda Notes #6: IDS Week
Adjournment				
9:00 PM	Adjournment			(Next Board meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2026)

Saturday, April 11, 2026: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 825 2740 5251

NOTE: April 1 - Notice of meeting went to the RASC Communications person for advertisement in *the RASC Weekly Bulletin* for week of April 6.

Time	<i>Member & Public Meeting</i>		
1:00 PM	Item		
	1. Welcome & Introductions • Photo Montage	Information	David Hoskin
	2. Special Presentation: Member Presentations • Jeremy Kuzub – <i>Citizen Science Aurora Borealis</i> • Black / Hurley / Russel / Hoskin – <i>Seestar Image Comparisons</i> • Paul Heath – <i>Suns in the Classroom</i> • Judy Black – <i>Astronomy Humour</i>	Member Presentations	Various Members
	3. BREAK		
	4. Outreach Opportunities	Information	David Hoskin
	5. Update from the Board	Information	Judy Black / Tony McGrath
	6. What's Up in April?	Information	David Hoskin
4:00 PM	Adjournment Special Presentation: Friday, May 8, 2026 Next meeting: Saturday, May 9, 2026 Chris Gainor <i>Arrows to the Moon: How Engineers from Avro Canada helped put Astronauts on the Moon</i>		

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

April 7, 2026 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

held via Zoom - Meeting ID #825 6504 9495

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

Regrets: Gregg Dill (Treasurer).

Absent: Pat Kelly, Vincent Vallee.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tony McGrath thanked members for coming and called the meeting to order at 7:01pm with quorum.

a) Approval of Agenda

Four items were added to the agenda: Dobsonian Donation, Ireland culture offer, Roy's Library and the RASC LPA Conference.

2600407MN-Mot01

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Tony McGrath to approve the April 7, 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.

Action 11: Open.

From March 3, 2026

Action 1: Open.

Action 2, 3: Closed.

c) Approval of Previous Minutes

No errors were noted in the minutes.

2600407MN-Mot02

It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by Frank Logan to approve the March 3, 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:

- April 11: Member Presentations – *Citizen Science aurora watching, Smart telescope image comparisons, astronomy humour, Suns in the classroom.*

Thanks to the initiative of Frank Logan, we are invited to join the RASC Kitchener-Waterloo session on May 8, 2026 where Pierre Langlois, the Program Planetary Exploration and Space Astronomy Missions Manager for the Canadian Space Agency, will be addressing their Centre. Members agreed to share this with the membership at the upcoming meeting.

- May 9 (Chris Gainor – *Arrows to the Moon: How Engineers from Avro Canada, helped put Astronauts on the Moon*)
- June 6 (Speakers TBD - *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)

Matt Dyer noted that during The Discovery Centre solar observing session last spring, there was a table set up by *Galaxia*, a company that services satellites. The concern raised was whether there a strong astronomy component to it. They should be approached to determine if they could present something of interest to our membership in September or October, perhaps asking for details as to what they would cover.

260303MN-Act01

Matt Dyer to contact Galaxia to determine if they could present to our September 12 or October 3 Public meeting.

David Hoskin noted John Badowski is teaching a course through SCANS on the Fermi Paradox. Members agreed he should be asked to provide the highlights of his program at our Centre's AGM/Public meeting.

260303MN-Act02

David Hoskin to ask John Badowski to address the Fermi Paradox at the December 5, 2026 AGM/Public meeting.

b) Change to date of April Board Meeting

Judy Black suggested that given the Centre's public meeting date was shifted to May 9 the April 28 Board meeting should be changed to May 5, 2026 to allow for 4 weeks between Board meetings. Members all agreed to the April/May date change.

c) Confirm Public Meeting Agenda

Given Paul Heath is doing a presentation at the next public meeting (Suns in the Room), he has informed us there will not be a poem for the *Food for the Soul* segment. Tony McGrath agreed to address *News from the Board*.

3. National Council (NC) Report

Nothing to report. The next NC Meeting is April 26, 2026

4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube

Judy noted the information is in Agenda Notes 4.

5. Financial Update

With Gregg Dill's absence, this was deferred to next meeting.

6. Update: EPO Update

David noted the Lindsay Lake Farms equinox event went ahead despite the weather; he presented to 15 people. At the end of his talk the skies had cleared to provide a view of numerous objects. They gave David \$100.00 – he used 25.00 towards his gas and donated the remaining funds to the Centre in the Farms' name. There may be another session at the summer equinox.

Ben O'Toole (Bridgewater) hopes to bring 15-25 students and parents to SCO around the week of the New Moon. April 17 is a regularly scheduled SCO public observing; this might be optimal for this session. The SCO 16" Dobsonian could be used. It was agreed the April 17 date was appropriate with April 18 as the cloud date. Tony will bring the eyepieces out for this session. David Hoskin said he would bring his Seestar; it was noted other members might do so as well. It was suggested the Thurlow Binoculars should also be set up for use. Peter suggested educating them on how to look through an eyepiece and show them the various pieces of equipment at SCO that evening. Frank Logan suggested sheets on how to find and describing the objects being shown.

260303MN-Act03

David Hoskin will contact Ben O'Toole to get information from him regarding expectations for the session.

An inquiry was received from Tom Calderwood of the AAVSO about the variable star observing project regarding alpha Cygni stars. Some of Ben O'Toole's students are applying for university astronomy programs and they have an interest in this.

The Astronomy Day display at *The Discovery Centre* is April 25, 2026.

7. Update: Parks Canada Agreement

Nothing to report.

8. Update: SCO

Tony has a shopping list and two volunteers (Mark Mander, Dave Robertson). When a weather window opens up, they will head out. David Hoskin also volunteered. Once a date is known, a notice will be sent to members to ask if others would care to join.

9. Nova East (NE) Planning Team

The Nova East report is in Agenda Notes #5. There have been 2 meetings so far and the next is April 13, 2026. In the report was the motion that had been pre-circulated to the Board for approval:

20260326NovaEast-Mot01:

It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin that the dates of Nova East 2026 be changed from the nights of August 14-16 to the nights of August 12-15, 2026.

CARRIED unanimously via email.

Judy provided highlights of the report. A Nova East logo is being developed that would differ from the t-shirt design. Because of Mark Mander's suggestion at last year's NE to have a ball cap as part of the fundraising, the ball cap will have the NE logo (not the t-shirt design). There would also be a flea market again this year. The next meeting is April 13, 2026.

10. Mentorship Questionnaire (Astro-Buddy)

Frank Logan stated we have 6 volunteers with multiple pieces of equipment, electronic packages and methods of contact. The questionnaire has been revised since the previous Board meeting. It can now be opened to Members to determine if others are interested and can apply themselves to that. We can then determine how best to share with the membership. The mentorship questionnaire should wait for distribution until after the membership is culled. Frank will draft something for distribution once we reach this point.

Frank noted that our current announce list includes past and non-members. The announce list was originally intended as the means of communication to current Halifax Centre members, not past or non-members. Someone should go through the list the list and compare it to the RASC membership list. Past and non-members should be removed but some consideration made for emeritus members. It was agreed an emeritus list should be brought to the Board for

their consideration. If individuals want to stay on the mailing list as a non-member or a member of the public, they can remain on the Centre's Discussion list.

260407MN-Act04

Peter Hurley volunteered to revise the Announcement email distribution list with the assistance of Jerry Black, and to provide an emeritus list for the Board to consider.

New Business

11. International Dark-Sky Week

Judy Black raised this item. The week of April 15-20, 2026 is International Dark-Sky Week. She contacted her counterparts on the National Council to determine if others were participating. To date, only Belleville Centre reported participation on April 18. She inquired whether or not this was something we wanted to recognize and participate. The April 17 (New Moon) SCO event could be promoted as part of this week. It was agreed that members plus guests would be invited to celebrate the Week, but it would not be broadly broadcast to the general public.

12. Dobsonian Donation

Tony has received a donation for a 13" Dobsonian Odyssey 1 with a 2" friction focuser and Telrad view finder. It was not known if eyepieces were included. Tony noted we don't have a use nor storage space for it. It was agreed that persons offering equipment should sell their equipment on Astro Buy&Sell or donate to a local school with an astronomy program. Perhaps Ben O'Toole would have an idea as to what other schools have astronomy programs. New Brunswick Centre may have an interest.

260407MN-Act05

Judy Black to contact Curt Nason to determine an interest in the 13" Dobsonian.

260407MN-Act06

Judy Black to contact Timothy Doucette to determine an interest in the 13" Dobsonian.

13. Offer from Culture Ireland

Tony had received an email from Ann Cleare who inquired if our Centre was interested in hosting her recently produced site-specific, indoor/outdoor, music theatre piece about the night sky, entitled *Nocturne*. Several potential groups and sites were discussed. Ann Cleare should be informed our Centre is not equipped nor have the volunteer base to handle a venture such as this. Perhaps they should contact larger Centres or other Dark-Sky sites across Canada that would have the capability such as Toronto, Victoria, or Calgary.

260407MN-Act07

Tony McGrath will inform Anne Cleare of our decision and provide other contacts to her.

14. Dr. Roy Bishop's Library

Judy has 4 boxes from Roy's personal library. He wanted to make sure they had a good home, and they could be given away versus being sold. Members agreed the books should be brought to the April 11, 2026, Public meeting; donations to the SCOPE Fund would be appreciated. Members will be told of the books when the reminder of meeting is sent.

15. RASC Light Pollution Abatement (LPA) Conference

Gerry Brosky noted it was a bit overwhelming as they viewed LPA from numerous angles. It was a very impressive although huge and long meeting. It struck Peter that the LPA was a challenging topic to discuss with dark-sky sites. The members that attended from our Centre did agree we should participate but that we should go slow. It should be thought about carefully.

Tony's take of it is that it is a local issue, i.e., it will be accomplished by people on the ground. This could be daunting. Assuming this event occurs at the same time every year, perhaps the Centre should contact the municipality regarding lighting, such as that on the two inter-city bridges that have a street light system and shouldn't require the additional lighting. Perhaps we could approach some local politicians such as Tony Mancini (municipal) and Claudia Chender (provincial) to discuss their interest in this and to determine what could be done.

Frank Logan suggested a one-pager developed by the RASC to provide the science / proof for why protecting the night skies is a benefit to all., and to back up the local groups. There should be support from the RASC LPA Committee.

Gerry Brosky suggested picking a broadly effective single point of entry, such as streetlights that can be dimmed. It would be interesting to determine if anyone has done it and what the research show in terms of times of dimming, cost savings, etc. Make dimmer lighting a social norm, much like the smoking issue was years ago. It would be interesting to get an introduction to who decides the lighting in HRM

260407MN-Act08

Tony McGrath, Peter Hurley, Frank Logan and Gerry Brosky will contact Tony Mancini and Claudia Chender to discuss lighting after the Centre has done some background research.

Adjournment

No further business to conduct.

260203MN-Mot03

It was moved by David Hoskin to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. Our next Board meeting is May 5, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Black, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of April 7, 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
From April 7, 2026		
260407MN-Act01	Matt Dyer to contact Galaxia to determine if they could present to our September 12 or October 3 Public meeting.	Open
260407MN-Act02	David Hoskin to ask John Badowski to address the Fermi Paradox at the December 5, 2026, AGM/Public meeting.	Open
260407MN-Act03	David Hoskin will contact Ben O'Toole to get information from him regarding expectations for the session.	Open
260407MN-Act04	Peter Hurley volunteered to revise the Announcement email distribution list with the assistance of Jerry Black , and to provide an emeritus list for the Board to consider.	Open
260407MN-Act05	Judy Black to contact Curt Nason to determine an interest in the 13" Dobsonian.	Open
260407MN-Act06	Judy Black to contact Timothy Doucette to determine an interest in the 13" Dobsonian.	Open
260407MN-Act07	Tony McGrath will inform Anne Cleare of our decision and provide other contacts to her.	Open
260407MN-Act08	Tony McGrath, Peter Hurley, Frank Logan and Gerry Brosky will contact Tony Mancini and Claudia Chender to discuss lighting after the Centre has done some background research.	Open

MOTION LIST (April 7, 2026):

260407MN-Mot01	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Tony McGrath to approve the April 7, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated with the amendments. CARRIED
260407MN-Mot02	It was moved by David McMullin and seconded by Frank Logan to approve the March 3, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes as circulated. CARRIED.
20260326NovaEast-Mot01	It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin that the dates of Nova East 2026 be changed from the nights of August 14-16 to the nights of August 12-15, 2026. CARRIED unanimously via email.
260407MN-Mot03	It was moved by David Hoskin 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>March 3, 2026</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>260303MN-Act02: Board members are to review the entries they provided in the mentorship questionnaire.</p> <p>260303MN-Act03: The mentorship questionnaire is to be added to the April 7 Board agenda for discussion about its distribution to the membership.</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><u>Approved 2026 Speakers and Public Meeting dates (held 1st Saturday of the month unless a holiday weekend)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> confirmed April 11 (Easter weekend (April 3-6) – Members Presentations (Judy Black - astronomy humour; Jeremy Kuzub – <i>Citizen Science regarding the Aurora Borealis</i>; Black/Hurley/Russell/Hoskin – Comparison of Seestar & Dwarf Images) <p><u>From Frank Logan:</u> Consequent to discussions during Nova East Discussions, Frank Logan reached out to the Canadian Space Agency to acquire a speaker for one of our meeting or perhaps at Nova East. He was told the Kitchener-Waterloo Centre was organizing a virtual presentation and that we were invited to attend. Judy Black has confirmed participation with the K-W Centre.</p> <p>Date: Friday May 8, 2026 Time: 7:00 PM Eastern / 8 PM Atlantic CSA Speaker: Pierre Langlois</p> <p>Judy has requested the link from the K-W Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> confirmed May 9 – Chris Gainor (<i>Arrows to the Moon: How Engineers from Avro Canada helped put Astronauts on the Moon</i>) confirmed June 6 – Speaker(s) TBD (<i>Star Finder - The David Lane Astronomy Outreach Program at Saint Mary's University</i>)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 12 (Labour day: September 7) October 3 confirmed November 7 – Blair MacDonald (<i>Finding Exoplanets</i>) December 5 (AGM) <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>From Matt Dyer, March 8/26 For anyone who was at The Discovery Centre last spring, there was a table set up across from us with a local satellite company. I did some digging and the name of the company was <i>Galaxia</i>, offering full satellite life cycle services, as well as the ability to run in-space software applications. If I recall from my talking to them, they were more focused on the software side of things and used off the rack launch systems. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to reach out to them to see if they had anyone who might be interested to talk more about what they do?</p>
Agenda Notes #3: Approved Board Meeting Dates	<p>Approved 2026 Board Meeting dates (if held Tuesday before Public Meeting)</p> <p>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"> April 7 (Easter weekend (April 3-6)) April 28 or May 5? June 2 September 8 (Labour day: September 7) September 29 November 3 December 1 (December 5: AGM)
Agenda Notes #4: Website Updates	<p>Updates to the Halifax Website & YouTube channel:</p> <p>March 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated April meeting information. <p>April 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed Stellarium training information. <p>April 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustments made to Public Meeting agenda on Events page.
Agenda Notes #5: Nova East Planning Team Report	<p>(From Judy Black & Nova East Planning Team)</p> <p>Members of the Nova East Planning Team (NEPT) (alphabetical order by last name): Judy Black (Team Lead), Dave Chapman, Gregg Dill, Lisa Ann Fanning, Michael Gatto, Frank Logan, Mark Mander, Tony McGrath, Vincent Vallee, Chris Young.</p> <p>Meetings Held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 17, 2026 March 9, 2026 <i>Next Meeting:</i> April 13, 2026 <p>Highlights & Decisions Made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Mark Moore at Smileys Provincial Park confirmed our booking of “the group site for those dates and this includes the field you use as well.” This includes our usual observing field, the lower field and the ‘island’ opposite the Events Building (except for the Park Host site). 2- Paul Grey proposed a change in date of Nova East to accommodate a mini-workshop and Perseid observing session on August 12/13. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No astronomer breakfast on August 12-14. b. No astronomer lounge nor any other ‘official programs would be offered on August 12-13. <p>Consequently, an email was sent to the Board March 5, 2026, requesting a change to the dates of the Nova East Star Party to August 12-16 with a motion. Responses were received from all members and the following approved motion should be noted in the Board minutes.</p>

	<p>Motion: It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin that the dates of Nova East 2026 be changed from the nights of August 14-16 to the nights of August 12-15, 2026. Carried unanimously.</p> <p>3- Format for the evening August 14 to morning August 16 would be kept simple as has been the case for the past 2 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No astronomer breakfast on August 12-14. b. No astronomer lounge nor any other 'official programs would be offered on August 12-13. c. The Park's Events Building would be required only for the nights of August 14 and 15, not for the 12-13. <p>4- Confirmed Speakers & Presentations (official title of talks TBD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Friday evening: David Hoskin – Solar Observing, white light & hydrogen alpha – talk to include equipment, safety, solar flares and sunspots b. Saturday morning – Jerry Black, Peter Hurley – Small Scope/Seestar observing c. Saturday afternoon – Matt Paine: <i>Radio Astronomy</i> d. Public / Saturday evening Keynote – Wayne Harasimovich: <i>The Artemis Project</i> e. <i>Sherman Williams Memorial Walk</i>: Pat Kelly <p>5- Budget / Prizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gregg Dill provided a draft budget to members (see below) b. Chris Young and Dave Chapman organizing the prizes. c. Allen Sutherland (APS) has agreed to provide a telescope as a DOOR PRIZE. <p>6- Observing Sessions (being offered; format not determined)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Wednesday Perseid orientation session + Thursday AM Perseid Showers – led by Paul Grey b. Friday & Saturday Evenings: sky tour, binocular observing, telescope field (eyepiece observing, digital) – presenters TBD. We are looking for ways to identify telescopes participating in this exercise. <u>Note:</u> the presenters and format of each segment is still under discussion. c. Saturday afternoon: solar and planetary observing (includes the Seestars) <p>7- Nova East Tagline, Logo, T-shirt Design, Ball Caps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Distinction has been made between 'tagline' and 'theme'. b. <i>Tagline:</i> Not yet decided. For the past several years it has been "The Stars Belong to everyone." Members agreed a change was needed; suggestions are being considered. c. <i>Theme:</i> TBD d. <i>NE Logo:</i> Frank Logan suggested that Nova East should have a logo of its own. He and Michael Gatto will be working on this for presentation at a consequent NEPT meeting. e. <i>T-shirt design:</i> This will reflect the theme once it has been determined. f. <i>Ball Caps:</i> Suggested at last year's Nova East. Colour TBD. Members agreed the NE logo would adorn the cap, not the t-shirt design. <p>8- Family Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Walk the Solar System / Solar System Scavenger Hunt:</i> David Hoskin is willing to conduct the Walk. Frank Logan and David will be discussing an alternative Scavenger Hunt with prizes. b. <i>Solar & Planetary Observing:</i> Besides solar observing, we could offer to view planets. <p>9- Flea Market will again be held this year for books and equipment.</p>
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Agenda Notes #6: IDS Week	<p>From Judy (April 1, 2026) I have asked my NC counterparts if they are doing anything for the April 13-20 International Dark-Sky Week. I will report if anyone responds. Here are the two links I forwarded to them for info. Do we want to be involved in any way, even if only messaging regarding dark skies (RASC Halifax Facebook, for our members, send message for inclusion on Kejimikujik site, etc.)?</p> <p>https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/international-dark-sky-week-events-info-ida/</p> <p>https://darksky.org/news/international-dark-sky-week-2026-how-to-get-involved/</p> <p>Response from Belleville Centre: The Belleville Centre will be at the Quinte Mall, Belleville all day on April 18th to promote our club and the initiative to establish a Dark Sky Preserve in Prince Edward County. With any luck, we will follow up with some observing that evening at Zwick's Park.</p>
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AGENDA NOTES

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirmed June 6 – Speaker(s) TBD (<i>Star Finder - The David Lane Astronomy Outreach Program at Saint Mary's University</i>) • September 12 (Labour day: September 7) • October 3 • confirmed November 7 – Blair MacDonald (<i>Finding Exoplanets</i>) • December 5 (AGM) <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>From Matt Dyer, March 8/26 For anyone who was at The Discovery Centre last spring, there was a table set up across from us with a local satellite company. I did some digging and the name of the company was Galaxia, offering full satellite life cycle services, as well as the ability to run in-space software applications. If I recall from my talking to them, they were more focused on the software side of things and used off the rack launch systems. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to reach out to them to see if they had anyone who might be interested to talk more about what they do?</p>
Agenda Notes #3: Approved 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"> • April 7 (Easter weekend (April 3-6)) • April 28 or May 5? • 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>March 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated April meeting information. <p>April 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed Stellarium training information. <p>April 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments made to Public Meeting agenda on Events page.
Agenda Notes #6: Nova East Planning Team Report	<p>(From Judy Black & Nova East Planning Team)</p> <p>Members of the Nova East Planning Team (NEPT) (alphabetical order by last name): Judy Black (Team Lead), Dave Chapman, Gregg Dill, Lisa Ann Fanning, Michael Gatto, Frank Logan, Mark Mander, Tony McGrath, Vincent Vallee, Chris Young.</p> <p>Meetings Held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 17, 2026 • March 9, 2026 • <i>Next Meeting:</i> April 13, 2026 <p>Highlights & Decisions Made:</p> <p>10- Mark Moore at Smileys Provincial Park confirmed our booking of “the group site for those dates and this includes the field you use as well.” This includes our usual observing field, the lower field and the ‘island’ opposite the Events Building (except for the Park Host site).</p> <p>11- Paul Grey proposed a change in date of Nova East to accommodate a mini-workshop and Perseid observing session on August 12/13.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No astronomer breakfast on August 12-14. b. No astronomer lounge nor any other ‘official programs would be offered on August 12-13.

	<p>Consequently, an email was sent to the Board March 5, 2026, requesting a change to the dates of the Nova East Star Party to August 12-16 with a motion. Responses were received from all members and the following approved motion should be noted in the Board minutes.</p> <p>Motion: It was moved by Judy Black and seconded by David Hoskin that the dates of Nova East 2026 be changed from the nights of August 14-16 to the nights of August 12-15, 2026. Carried unanimously.</p> <p>12- Format for the evening August 14 to morning August 16 would be kept simple as has been the case for the past 2 years.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> No astronomer breakfast on August 12-14. No astronomer lounge nor any other 'official programs would be offered on August 12-13. The Park's Events Building would be required only for the nights of August 14 and 15, not for the 12-13. <p>13- Confirmed Speakers & Presentations (official title of talks TBD)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Friday evening: David Hoskin – Solar Observing, white light & hydrogen alpha – talk to include equipment, safety, solar flares and sunspots Saturday morning – Jerry Black, Peter Hurley – Small Scope/Seestar observing Saturday afternoon – Matt Paine: <i>Radio Astronomy</i> Public / Saturday evening Keynote – Wayne Harasimovich: <i>The Artemis Project</i> <i>Sherman Williams Memorial Walk</i>: Pat Kelly <p>14- Budget / Prizes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gregg Dill provided a draft budget to members (see below) Chris Young and Dave Chapman organizing the prizes. Allen Sutherland (APS) has agreed to provide a telescope as a DOOR PRIZE. <p>15- Observing Sessions (being offered; format not determined)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday Perseid orientation session + Thursday AM Perseid Showers – led by Paul Grey Friday & Saturday Evenings: sky tour, binocular observing, telescope field (eyepiece observing, digital) – presenters TBD. We are looking for ways to identify telescopes participating in this exercise. <u>Note:</u> the presenters and format of each segment is still under discussion. Saturday afternoon: solar and planetary observing (includes the Seestars) <p>16- Nova East Tagline, Logo, T-shirt Design, Ball Caps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Distinction has been made between 'tagline' and 'theme'. Tagline: Not yet decided. For the past several years it has been "The Stars Belong to everyone." Members agreed a change was needed; suggestions are being considered. Theme: TBD NE Logo: Frank Logan suggested that Nova East should have a logo of its own. He and Michael Gatto will be working on this for presentation at a consequent NEPT meeting. T-shirt design: This will reflect the theme once it has been determined. Ball Caps: Suggested at last year's Nova East. Colour TBD. Members agreed the NE logo would adorn the cap, not the t-shirt design. <p>17- Family Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Walk the Solar System / Solar System Scavenger Hunt: David Hoskin is willing to conduct the Walk. Frank Logan and David will be discussing an alternative Scavenger Hunt with prizes. Solar & Planetary Observing: Besides solar observing, we could offer to view planets. <p>18- Flea Market will again be held this year for books and equipment.</p>
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Agenda Notes #6: IDS Week	<p><i>From Judy (April 1, 2026)</i> I have asked my NC counterparts if they are doing anything for the April 13-20 International Dark-Sky Week. I will report if anyone responds. Here are the two links I forwarded to them for info. Do we want to be involved in any way, even if only messaging regarding dark skies (RASC Halifax Facebook, for our members, send message for inclusion on Kejimikujik site, etc.)?</p> <p>https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/international-dark-sky-week-events-info-ida/</p> <p>https://darksky.org/news/international-dark-sky-week-2026-how-to-get-involved/</p> <p><i>Response from Belleville Centre:</i> The Belleville Centre will be at the Quinte Mall, Belleville all day on April 18th to promote our club and the initiative to establish a Dark Sky Preserve in Prince Edward County. With any luck, we will follow up with some observing that evening at Zwick's Park.</p>
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Approved May 5, 2026