



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 2026: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 817 6664 1853

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: June 2, 2026 Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Open Action List Previous Minutes: May 5, 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	Tony McGrath	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: June 14, 2026 (Election of Officers 2026-2027)
	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	n/a
	6. EPO / Observing Report	Information Discussion	David Hoskin	n/a
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	7. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Cleanup date Compost material in toilet Maintenance Crew needed 	Discussion	Tony McGrath	n/a
	8. Wireless Microphones	Information Discussion	Judy Black	n/a
	9. Nova East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report Ad in RASC Monthly Bulletin (send June 5 for June 8 release) 	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #5: Nova East Planning Team Report
NEW BUSINESS				
	10. Confederation Star Party	Information Discussion	Frank Logan	Pte-circulated report
Adjournment				
9:00 PM	Adjournment			(Next Board meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2026)

RASC Halifax Centre – Public Meeting
Saturday, June 6, 2026: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

NOTE: May 28 - Notice of meeting will be sent to the RASC Communications person for advertisement of public meeting in *the RASC Weekly Bulletin* for week of June 1.

Time	Member & Public Meeting		
1:00 PM	Item		
	1. Welcome & Introductions • Photo Montage	Information	David Hoskin
	2. Special Presentations: <i>Star Finder - The David Lane Astronomy Outreach Program at Saint Mary's University</i> <i>Look Up at the Stars – A RASC Halifax Centre Educational Observing Program</i>	Member Presentations	Michelle Lane Tiffany Fields Mackenzie Mayduk Tony Schellinck
	3. BREAK		
	4. Outreach Opportunities	Information	David Hoskin
	5. Update from the Board	Information	Tony McGrath Judy Black
	7. What's Up in June?	Information	David Hoskin
4:00 PM	Adjournment Next meeting: Saturday, September 12, 2026 TBD		

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

June 2, 2026 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
held via Zoom - Meeting ID #817 664 1853

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

Regrets: Gerry Brosky, Gregg Dill (Treasurer)

Absent: Vincent Vallee.

1. Welcome & Introductions

With quorum met, Tony McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

a) Approval of Agenda

Three items were added to the agenda: 10- Confederation Star Party, 11- Laser Pointer Training, 12- Announce List.

20260602MN-Mot01

Moved by David McMullin and seconded by Frank Logan to approve the June 2, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated with the additions.

CARRIED.

b) Review of Action Lists

From September 2, 2025

Action 1: Closed. Peter was in touch with vacationing Dennis Lyons; when Dennis returns, they will discuss future actions.

Action 11: Open.

From April 7, 2026

Action 4: Closed. Will be addressed later in the agenda.

Action 5: Closed. Curt Nason did send info to his membership but no further response receives. Tony had also placed it in the Presidents Forum.

Action 6: Closed.

Action 7: Closed.

Action 8: Open. Gerry and Tony will be attending a meeting of Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) being held as part of a Halifax conference later in June. The IES sets standards for lighting design, etc. This is an exploratory phase. Tony Mancini is interested in chatting with our Centre.

From May 5, 2026

Action 1: Closed. Tony is speaking on June 6.

Action 2: Closed. Concept of putting "meet" back into "meeting" introduced at the May public meeting. Tony suggested name tags to put names to faces at meetings.

Action 3: Closed.

Action 4: Open. Dennis hasn't answered Peter's email inquiring about insurance.

Action 5: Open. Peter will get further details about training of Kejimikujik National park staff training.

c) Approval of Previous Minutes

No errors were noted in the minutes.

20260602MN-Mot02

It was moved by Tony McGrath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the May 5, 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

- June 6 (*Starfinder Program; Look Up at the Stars*) – both presentations have been added to a revised agenda that Judy will forward to David Hoskin. Paul Heath has agreed to have a poem ready for June 6.
- September 12
- October 3

Wayne Harasimovitch was unable to attend Nova East but his Artemis presentation may be of interest to members. It was also suggested that this could be a meeting where we use the "put meet back into meeting" concept. It should be a big draw with that topic. Matt Payne couldn't attend Nova East; it was suggested he could address radioastronomy via Zoom. It was noted that members and amateur radio operators would have an interest. Tony has contacts with amateur radio operators (as does Wayne).

20260602MN-Act01

Judy Black will contact Wayne Harasimovitch to inquire if he would be available for either September 12 or October 3 to address Artemis.

20260602MN-Act02

Judy Black will contact Matt Payne to inquire if he would be available for either September 12 or October 3 to address radio astronomy.

- November 7 (Blair MacDonald – *Finding Exoplanets*)
- December 5 (Public+ AGM) – John Badowski (*Fermi Paradox*)

3. National Council (NC) Report (refer to Agenda Notes #5)

There is nothing more to report since our last meeting. Next NC meeting is June 14, 2026. Tony noted the RASC Annual Meeting is coming up on June 21; the *RASC weekly Bulletin* has advertised it the past two weeks.

4. RASC Halifax Centre Website and YouTube

Judy noted the information is in Agenda Notes 4. Additions to agenda notes #4 were noted:

- May 28 Imaging session with Blair was uploaded
- June 2: What's Up? was uploaded
- Nova East under revisions

5. Financial Update

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

6. Update: EPO Update

A solar observing session with students at Woodlawn Highschool will be held June 4; Dave Chapman will be assisting.

The offer of a free table at the Sci-Fi themed book fair being hosted by Hal-Con Sci-Fi and Fantasy Association was discussed on September 26, 2026. David Hoskin and Tony McGrath agreed to go. It is an opportunity to advertise our Centre.

20260602MN-Act03

David Hoskin will contact Stacey Smith-Campbell to confirm a table at the September 26, 2026, Sci-Fi themed book fair.

7. Update: SCO

a) SCO Spring Clean-up:

It was determined the cleanup would be June 13, 2026 with arrival at 10am; members would be asked to bring their own lunch. It was noted that ticks are bad at SCO. Peter noted that they aren't present on the gravel observing pad area. Judy stated this emphasized the importance of removing weeds from all walking areas: the pads to the Storeroom, parking to the Storeroom, and in the driveway (especially near the rocks adjacent to the Warm Room and Observatory). All buildings will require cleaning inside.

b) Maintenance Chores:

A few members will be required to do chores such as solar panel removal and determining why there are electrical challenges. Tony will bring equipment will be brought to determine where the problem may lie with the observatory power.

c) Compost material in toilet:

Replacement of the toilet material has not been addressed for the past 10 years. Frequency of replacement and how to replace it is unknown. Judy will look in the Centre files for information about the compost toilet.

20260602MN-Act04

Judy Black will investigate replacement material for the SCO compost toilet, its cost and replacement method.

8. Proposal for wireless mics

Judy stated there was great news – the wireless mics arrived this afternoon. Jerry Black has them powered and a couple of mini tests were conducted earlier this evening. The total cost was \$324.24; Gregg will be sent an invoice. Judy also noted that an invoice should be received soon regarding our annual Zoom fee.

9. Nova East (NE) Planning Team

Judy noted there has been exciting changes/additions to the website. The Home page now sports the new logo and masthead. Thanks to suggestions from team members, the "t-shirt" menu was changed to "merchandise". Thanks to Dave Chapman, a page for the Telescope Medics has been added; this allows registrants to put faces to the names. The treasurer email has been added to "contact us". Photo page that had been giving us grief but Jerry has corrected that. The door prizes are listed and shown on both the home page and the Links page. What is missing is the promo video that Jerry is working on now that the schedule is confirmed. Judy thanked Frank for the t-shirt design depicting our 2026 theme.

Judy stated that this was team effort; everyone pitched in. She thanks all the members for the great job – Dave Chapman, Gregg Dill, Maichael Gatto, Frank Logan, Mark Mander, Tony McGrath, Chris Young. Our goal was to announce the website is live for registration at the June 6 Public meeting.

It was noted that sites 4-8 in the observing field are reserved for the Telescope Field evening observing sessions. Judy will register our Keynote speaker once she determines her son's name for inclusion for name tag purposes; this will also inform Tony of their t-shirt and toque order for inclusion in the tallies.

Tony had confirmed with the Park that the cost for the group site is \$40 per night with no additional cost per person per night as there was in past years.

New Business

10. Confederation Star Party (refer to Agenda Notes #7)

Frank Logan had noticed that some members from the New Brunswick Centre had attended our star party. He investigated how our two Centres had jointly conducted a star party for numerous years. In keeping with the fact that PEI no longer has a Centre, he was suggesting that combined NB-NS Centre did a joint one-night star party in PEI. He reviewed the proposal with members. The long-term goal would be to generate enthusiasm, participation, and local interest in amateur astronomy so that PEI amateur astronomers would re-establish a dedicated RASC PEI Centre. There is a requirement for 20 people signing a petition to form a Centre.

Nova East will be advertised in the upcoming *RASC Weekly Bulletin* which means it will be advertised to RASC members across Canada. One of the challenges is that NB Centre hosts 5 star parties, all but one occurring near

New Moon. We may have to suggest a non-New Moon event but rather be a lunar and DSO event so as not to conflict with star parties.

Frank noted that this was not intended to happen this year but rather to be mapped out in greater detail in the coming months with an eye to have an event next summer. It is not known if there are PEI residents who are registered with either NB or our Centre.

It was noted we might get some assistance from national office once New Brunswick agrees this project could go forward. Paul Gray might have some insight into involving New Brunswick; also, a zoom session may be set up to include Frank, Paul and Judy to discuss before the approach to New Brunswick.

20260602MN-Act05

Judy Black will contact Paul Gray then Curt Nason to determine potential to go forward with the Confederation Star Party concept.

Frank was thanked for the great proposal and the work he has done to present this.

11. Laser Pointer Training

Peter noted our first training session was in March 2023 with Dennis Lyons. All certifications of the those originally trained have expired; it was noted that some were retrained the following year to stagger recertification requirements. Dennis is away at the moment but when he returns, we will have a training session to resolve the situation. In 2024, Peter was designated as our Centre Trainer but having let his certification expire, he may have to renew before re-training anyone. He will also determine if Peter, once retrained, can conduct the training or whether Dennis would prefer to do it himself.

All training for Parks Canada is being done by the national RASC and at this point it may only be Dennis Lyons conducting the training. It was hoped there is another National Trainer to assist him. The database of our records is supposedly up to date but Peter discovered the files aren't there.

12. Announce List

Peter and Jerry had been tasked to acquire a short list. Peter thanked Jerry Black for his assistance in this project. The Announce List is the mechanism to keep members apprised of 'official' Centre news (Board, events, Centre. Meetings, reminders of national GA and AM, etc.). The Discussion List is for everything else – observations, going out to SCO, etc.

There are 119 active Halifax Centre members, but 355 email addresses in the Announce List. Going back 10 years, the highest was 160 in 2022. The Announce List only has email addresses, no names. Jerry went into the Driven database to pull out over 300 records containing names and email addresses. He had a match of names and email for 315 who are members or have been members in the past. There are some complications regarding current vs. expired memberships and determining emeritus status.

Definition of "emeritus" is required. Dictionary definitions suggest that for our Centre this term would refer to Board members and committee Chairs. Judy has compiled the list of executive and committee chairs from 1955-2026. Frank noted that emeritus status in some organizations meant executive positions only (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer).

20260602MN-Act06

Judy Black will forward the Centre's Executive list 1955-2026 to Peter Hurley.

Several strategies on how to reduce the list was discussed. It was noted that Pat Kelly might be able to provide some insight as to how he managed the list in the past. It was suggested that we wait until September so that further work can be done to cull the list. Because this isn't an urgent issue, members agreed to wait until September for further discussion.

20260602MN-Act07

Judy Black will add "Announce List" to the September 2026 Board agenda.

Adjournment

No further business to conduct.

260203MN-Mot03

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Frank Logan to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Our next Board meeting is September 8, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Black, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of June 2, 2026):

From September 2, 2025		
250902MN-Act11	Judy Black to send RASC Halifax Centre documentation to the NS Archives.	Open
From April 7, 2026		
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
From May 5, 2026		
260505MN-Act04	Peter Hurley will ask Dennis Lyons if the National Parks staff would be covered under the RASC insurance.	Open
260505MN-Act05	Peter Hurley will inform Kejimikujik National Park staff of the start to LP training for national park staff.	Open
From June 2, 2026		
260602MN-Act-01	Judy Black will contact Wayne Haraimovitch to inquire if he would be available for either September 12 or October 3 to address Artemis.	Open
260602MN-Act-02	Judy Black will contact Matt Payne to inquire if he would be available for either September 12 or October 3 to address radio astronomy.	Open
260602MN-Act-03	David Hoskin will contact Stacey Smith-Campbell to confirm a table at the September 26, 2026, Sci-Fi themed book fair.	Open
260602MN-Act-04	Judy Black will investigate replacement material for the SCO compost toilet, its cost and replacement method.	Open
260602MN-Act-05	Judy Black will contact Paul Gray then Curt Nason to determine potential to go forward with the Confederation Star Party concept.	Open
260602MN-Act-06	Judy Black will forward the Centre's Executive list 1955-2026 to Peter Hurley. DONE during the Board meeting.	Closed
260602MN-Act-07	Judy Black will add "Announce List" to the September 2026 Board agenda.	Open

MOTION LIST (June 2, 2026):

260602MN-Mot-01	Moved by David McMullin and seconded by Frank Logan to approve the June 2, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting agenda as circulated with the additions. CARRIED.
260602MN-Mot-02	It was moved by Tony McGrath and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the May 5, 2026 RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors meeting minutes as circulated. CARRIED.
260602MN-Mot-03	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Frank Logan to adjourn.

UPDATED AGENDA NOTES (as of June 2, 2026)

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
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<p>Agenda Note #1 re: Open Action List</p>	<p><u>September 2, 2025</u></p> <p>250902MN-Act11: Judy Black to send RASC Halifax Centre documentation to the NS Archives.</p> <p><u>April 7, 2026</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>May 5, 2026</u></p> <p>2600505MN-Act04: Peter Hurley will ask Dennis Lyons if the National Parks staff would be covered under the RASC insurance.</p> <p>2600505MN-Act05: Peter Hurley will inform Kejimikujik National Park staff of the start to LP training for national park staff.</p> <p><u>June 2, 2026</u></p> <p>2600602MN-Act01: Judy Black will contact Wayne Harasimovich to inquire if he would be available for either September 12 or October 3 to address Artemis.</p> <p>2600602MN-Act02: Judy Black will contact matt Paine to inquire if he would be available for either September 12 or October 3 to address radio astronomy.</p> <p>2600602MN-Act03: Judy Black will Stacey Smith-Campbell to confirm a table at September 26, 2026, Sci-Fi themed book fair.</p> <p>2600602MN-Act04: Judy Black will investigate replacement material for the SCO compost toilet, its cost and replacement method.</p> <p>2600602MN-Act05: Judy Black will contact Paul Gray then Curt Nason to determine potential to go forward with the Confederation Star party concept.</p> <p>2600602MN-Act06: Judy Black will forward the Centre's executive list 1995-2026 to peter Hurley. DONE during the Board meeting.</p> <p>2600602MN-Act07: Judy Black will add "Announce List" the September 20267 Board Agenda.</p>
<p>Agenda Note #2 re: 2026 Speakers & Public Meeting Dates</p>	<p>2026 Approved Public Meeting Dates and Events Public 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 June 6 – Michelle Lane, Tiffany Fields, Mackenzie Mayduk (<i>Star Finder - The David Lane Astronomy Outreach Program at Saint Mary's University</i>) - June 6 – Tony Schellinck – Halifax Centre's EPO program – "Look Up at the Stars" • September 12 (Labour day: September 7) • October 3 • confirmed November 7 – Blair MacDonald (<i>Finding Exoplanets</i>) • confirmed December 5 (Public + AGM) – John Badowski (<i>Fermi Paradox</i>) <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: Approved Board Meeting Dates</p>	<p><u>Approved 2026 Board Meeting dates (if held Tuesday before Public Meeting)</u> 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"> • <i>September 8 (Labour day: September 7)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 29 November 3 December 1 (December 5: AGM)
Agenda Notes #4: Website Updates	<p>Nova East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates made to Nova East website, mostly to pages not yet made visible (Schedule, Speakers, T-shirt) <p>May 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uploaded June meeting to YouTube. <p>May 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustments made to Public Meeting agenda and descriptor on Events page. <p>May 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uploaded astroimaging session conducted by Blair MacDonald <p>June 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uploaded <i>What's Up in June?</i>
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, 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"> 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). 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"> No astronomer breakfast on August 12-14. 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> Format for the evening August 14 to morning August 16 would be kept simple as has been the case for the past 2 years. <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. Confirmed Speakers & Presentations (official title of talks TBD) <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 Budget / Prizes:

	<p>a. Gregg Dill provided a draft budget to members (see below)</p> <p>b. Chris Young and Dave Chapman organizing the prizes.</p> <p>c. Allen Sutherland (APS) has agreed to provide a telescope as a DOOR PRIZE.</p> <p>6- Observing Sessions (being offered; format not determined)</p> <p>a. Wednesday Perseid orientation session + Thursday AM Perseid Showers – led by Paul Grey</p> <p>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.</p> <p>c. Saturday afternoon: solar and planetary observing (includes the Seestars)</p> <p>7- Nova East Tagline, Logo, T-shirt Design, Ball Caps</p> <p>a. Distinction has been made between ‘tagline’ and ‘theme’.</p> <p>b. 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.</p> <p>c. Theme: TBD</p> <p>d. 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.</p> <p>e. T-shirt design: This will reflect the theme once it has been determined.</p> <p>f. 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> <p>8- Family Activities</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Solar & Planetary Observing: Besides solar observing, we could offer to view planets.</p> <p>9- Flea Market will again be held this year for books and equipment.</p>
<p>Agenda Notes #7: Confederation Star Party Proposal</p>	<p>As proposed by Sgt. Frank Logan, CD (ret), Director of RASC Halifax Centre</p> <p>CONFEDERATION STAR PARTY</p> <p>Mission Statement The Confederation Star Party exists to reunite the Maritime astronomy community by bringing RASC members from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick together with the amateur astronomers of Prince Edward Island. The mission of the CSP is to honour the collaboration that shaped the early years of what became Nova East, strengthen inter-provincial partnerships, and help spark a renewed culture of amateur astronomy on PEI.</p> <p>Vision Statement The vision for the Confederation Star Party, is a reconnected Maritime astronomy community in which Prince Edward Island plays an active role. By establishing an annual gathering on the Island, the event aims to inspire new observers, strengthen provincial collaboration, and create a sustainable culture of public engagement with the night sky.</p> <p>Core Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuild Maritime Collaboration: Strengthen ties between RASC Halifax Centre and RASC New Brunswick Centre, while supporting renewed astronomy activity on Prince Edward Island. • Grow Public Engagement: Provide accessible observing, talks, and hands-on learning for Islanders of all ages. • Support Dark-Sky Awareness: Promote responsible lighting, environmental stewardship, and appreciation of PEI’s natural nightscape. • Encourage New Membership: Create pathways for PEI residents to join RASC and encourage awareness, fostering the reformation of a new RASC PEI Centre. • Celebrate Maritime Astronomy Heritage: Honour the shared history of COW, Nova East, and create tri-provincial cooperation.

	<p>Guiding Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusivity: Welcome beginners, families, and seasoned observers equally. • Collaboration: Programming and decisions shaped jointly by NB and NS volunteers, with PEI voices encouraged. • Education: Prioritize learning through talks, workshops, and guided observing. • Stewardship: Protect the natural environment and model best practices for dark-sky preservation. • Community Building: Foster friendships, mentorship, and long-term engagement across the Maritimes. <p>Program Overview</p> <p>The Confederation Star Party offers a balanced mix of observing, education, and community activities. Attendees can expect dark-sky observing sessions, guided telescope tours, beginner-friendly workshops, daytime presentations, solar observing, and informal social gatherings. The program is designed to be accessible to newcomers while still offering depth and challenge for experienced observers, ensuring a rewarding experience for all levels of interest.</p> <p>Audience & Community Impact</p> <p>The event will serve amateur astronomers from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island residents curious about the night sky, families seeking educational outdoor experiences, and those interested in science. By hosting a major astronomy event on the Island, the Confederation Star Party will help cultivate local interest, support for science literacy, and strengthen Maritime connections through shared exploration of the night sky.</p> <p>Long-Term Aspirational Goal</p> <p>The goal for the Confederation Star Party is to generate enough enthusiasm, participation, and local interest in amateur astronomy that Prince Edward Island's amateur astronomers re-establish a dedicated RASC PEI Centre. Once reestablished Centre would assume ownership of the Confederation Star Party, transforming it into their signature annual event, and being a symbol of the Island's return to the national astronomy community.</p>
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