RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2026: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Via Zoom - Meeting ID 872 0694 2517, Passcode 846533

Agenda Items				
Time	**Item**	**Purpose**	**Responsibility**	**Support Documents / Notes**
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions • Approval of Agenda • Review Action List • Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting	Information Approval	Tony McGrath	Pre-circulated: Agenda: September 29, 2026 ***Refer to Agenda Notes #1: Open Action List*** Previous Minutes: September 8, 2026
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers 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***: November 20, 2026* ***Refer to Agenda Notes #4: NC Report***
	4. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion	Judy Black	***Refer to Agenda Notes #5: Website Updates***
	5. Financial Update • Financial Status • SCOPE Fund • Astro-Image Sales • Signing Authority (Change Needed – Gregg, Judy, Dave Lane) • 2027 RASC Calendars	Discussion Decision	Gregg Dill	*n/a*
	6. EPO / Observing Report	Information Discussion	David Hoskin	*n/a*
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	7. SCO	Discussion Decision	Tony McGrath	*n/a*
	8. Parks Canada Agreement	Information Discussion	Peter Hurley	
	9. Nominations Committee	Discussion	Judy Black	Members need to inform Nominations Committee if they are allowing their name to stand for re-election and for what position.
	10. RASC Halifax Centre Discussion & Announce Lists	Information Discussion Decision	Tony McGrath	All members are to provide potential solutions to moving our discussion list from the SMU server.
	11. Nova East Recommendations	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to attachment in previous email.
NEW BUSINESS				
	No New Business			
Adjournment				
9:00 PM	Adjournment			**(Next Board meeting: Tuesday, November 3, 2026)**

Saturday, October 3, 2026: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Via Zoom - Meeting ID 878 2409 3540, Passcode 533599
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/XBYbsTRpRSSRjLUVQogl-A

Time	*Member & Public Meeting*		
1:00 PM	Item		
	1- Welcome & Introductions • Photo Montage	Information	David Hoskin
	2- Food for the Soul:	Information	Paul Heath
	3- Special Presentations: **Matt Paine:** *Radio Astronomy for Beginners - Meteor Scatter and Skip*	Presentation	Matt Paine
	4- BREAK		
	5- Outreach Opportunities	Information	David Hoskin
	6- Update from the Board	Information	Tony McGrath
	7- What's Up in October?	Information	David Hoskin
2:30 PM	Adjournment **Next meeting: Saturday, November 7, 2026** Guest speaker - Blair MacDonald (*Finding Exoplanets)*		

* 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 – Meeting Notes

September 29, 2026 - 7:00 PM – 7:50 PM
held via Zoom - Meeting ID #872 0694 2517

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

1. Welcome & Introductions
Quorum was not met. Discussion began at 7:07pm regarding what business could be done without quorum. Judy suggested two items be discussed: RASC Calendars and Nova East Recommendations.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

a) Approved 2026 Public Meeting Dates & Speakers
- October 3 – Matt Paine *Radio Astronomy*
- November 7 – Blair MacDonald *Finding Exoplanets*
- December 5 – John Badowski *Fermi Paradox*

Tony agreed to present the News from the Board. Three items were suggested:
1- Announcement of the RASC General Assembly being hosted by Kingston Centre on June 4-7, 2027;
2- Availability of the RASC Observer's Calendar for $25.00 pickup in person at a meeting, or postage to be added if mailed;
3- Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is December 3, 2026 at which elections will be held. We are looking for

20260929Act-01: Judy Black will purchase cookies, chips and pop for the Public meeting on October 3.

Paul Heath will be forwarding a poem by Friday.

3. National Council (NC) Report
Judy had forwarded a written report for both the June and September NC meeting (in Agenda Notes 4). Pat Kelly

noted there should be clarification as to the type of training that had been conducted by Dennis Lyons. Judy will make the minor edit to clarify it was GLP training, then forward again.

4. Update: EPO Update
David Hoskin and Judy Black attended the Hal Con Science Fiction Book Fair on September 26; they talked to 36 attendees. October 16 is the tentative date for half of the students from Avon High School to visit SCO; Peter volunteered to assist. November 6 is the second date for the school. David is waiting to hear back from a Bedford Scout group. Judy and Jerry will be presenting at their granddaughter's Guide group in Kentville, date TBD.

5. Parks Canada Agreement
Peter will provide a report of what has transpired with respect to the Agreement via email to Board members.

NEW BUSINESS

6. RASC Calendars
2027 RASC Calendars are now available for bulk purchase at $15.95 per calendar with resale price of $25.00. It was agreed to purchase 20 for the Centre. They would be picked up at the meeting or an additional $5.75 postage fee would be charged (includes tax).

> **20260929Act-02:** Judy Black to place an order with the RASC for 20 *2027 Observer's Calendars*.

7. Purchase of Cards
Tony McGrath suggested we should send a sympathy card to Dave Chapman whose wife recently died. It is to be signed from the "RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors". He also inquired about sending a card to Tiffany Fields but members agreed it would be best to wait until after the baby is born.

> **20260929Act-03:** Tony McGrath to purchase and mail a sympathy card to David Chapman.

> **20260929Act-04:** The Board is to purchase and mail a card to Tiffany Fields after her child is born in January/February 2027.

8. Nomination Committee
The Nominations Committee meets on October 6, 2026 at 1 PM. Peter Hurley (Vice-President), David Hoskin (Director), and David McMullin (Director) have confirmed they will allow their names to stand for re-election. Tony is stepping down from the Board but wishes to be re-appointed as SCO Manager.

> **20260929Act-05:** Judy Black will contact Mark Mander regarding a nomination as Director on the Board of Directors.

9. Nova East
The Nova East Planning Team will be meeting on October 6 at 7 PM for the wrap-up meeting. Mark Mander had sent a thank you to Telescopes Canada but he felt it would be good for the Board to send one as well. Judy will have the letters to Telescope Canada and Atlantic Photo Supply (APS) at the meeting on Saturday for Tony's signature.

Mark and Judy Black had discussed recommendations for 2027 for presentation to the Board and then discussion by the Team. She presented the list to the Board and requested their input. She thanked Tony for the input he provided prior to the recommendations being formalized. She noted that one change is that members of the Nova East Team will be asked if they could take on an aspect of the event from start to finish; more details on this to come.

> **20260929Act-06:** Judy Black to forward the list of Nova East 2027 Recommendations to Board Members for comment.

Adjournment
It was noted that should business require approval by the Board, there is a provision in 6.5.3 of the Centre's By-Law No. 1:

> From time to time, the Board of Directors may choose to do business via electronic media according to procedure determined by the Board. Such procedure shall set out the rules for making, seconding, discussing and voting on motions. The Secretary shall record successful motions in this manner, and the results shall be reported at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

No further business to conduct. Meeting closed at 7:50pm.

Our next Board meeting is November 3, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
Agenda Note #1 re: Open Action List (as of June 2, 2026)	**September 2, 2025** **250902MN-Act11**: **Judy Black** to send RASC Halifax Centre documentation to the NS Archives. **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. **May 5, 2026** **2600505MN-Act04: Peter Hurley** will ask Dennis Lyons if the National Parks staff would be covered under the RASC insurance. **2600505MN-Act05: Peter Hurley** will inform Kejimkujik National Park staff of the start to LP training for national park staff. **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. **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. **260602MN-Act-03: David Hoskin** will contact Stacey Smith-Campbell to confirm a table at the September 26, 2026, Sci-Fi themed book fair. **260602MN-Act-04: Judy Black** will investigate replacement material for the SCO compost toilet, its cost and replacement method. **260602MN-Act-05: Judy Black** will contact Paul Gray then Curt Nason to determine potential to go forward with the Confederation Star Party concept. **260602MN-Act-06: Judy Black** will forward the Centre's Executive list 1955-2026 to Peter Hurley. **DONE** during the Board meeting. **260602MN-Act-07: Judy Black** will add "Announce List" to the September 2026 Board agenda
Agenda Note #2 re: 2026 Speakers & Public Meeting Dates	***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. ***Approved 2026 Speakers and Public Meeting dates*** *(held 1st Saturday of the month unless a holiday weekend)* • confirmed November 7 – Blair MacDonald (*Finding Exoplanets)* • confirmed December 5 (Public Meeting + AGM) – John Badowski (*Fermi Paradox)* ***Suggested Speakers / Special Presentations:*** • Paul Gray: Perseid Showers – Report of NE Citizen Science Project • Dan Falk (Edmond Halley) • John Badowski • Dalhousie Astronomy • SMU Astronomy and Physics • Tiffany Fields • https://rasc.ca/find-speaker

Agenda Notes #3: Approved Board Meeting Dates	***Approved 2026 Board Meeting dates*** All are scheduled in our Zoom account. February to December dates to be approved by the newly elected Board. • *November 3* • *December 1 (December 5: AGM)*
Agenda Notes #4: NC Report	From Judy Black - National Council (NC)Report **1. Highlights from NC Meeting, June 14, 2026** a) The Board is working on development of a survey it will be sending out to members later this year. It will assist the Board in updating the Society's Strategic Plan. b) Update from the Light Pollution Abatement Committee: They have been working on two new dark sky sites and a new Dark Sky community designation. c) A new book about Helen Sawyer Hogg is about to go to the printers and we are looking forward to getting this out to the public. d) Membership dues increased as of July 1, 2026 by $5.00 for 2026; this means the base membership is now $116.00. This is the first increase since 2022 and is well below the rate of inflation. e) Dennis Lyons reported 11 Parks Canada staff have been GLP-trained in 3 national parks: Elk Island, Fundy and Kejimkujik; Georgian Bay should be the final training session this year. f) Election of Officers (by acclamation): Judy Black (Chair), Charles Ennis (Vice-Chair), John Hurley (Council Recorder). **2. Highlights from NC Meeting, September 20, 2026** a) Ground Rules, developed and implemented in 2022, were reviewed for new members in attendance and as a reminder to other members. Refer to Ground Rules at end of this report. b) Kerry Zentner (membership & publications) and Nawed Asif (office & finance manager) were introduced by ED Sandhya Mylabathula. Reem Kalifeh has been hired as a parttime communications person. A replacement for Randall Rosenfeld as the archivist has been hired. c) There has been a glitch in getting the website up and functioning. d) Financial statements presented by Treasurer Michael Watson (his report sent as a separate document). We are now in a new budget season and the Board is making plans for 2027. The proposed budget will be presented to the NC for its consideration at the November 2026 NC meeting. The Board is exploring the feasibility of a 50/50 draw as a fund-raiser. e) Chair, EPO Committee: Brenda Shaw replaces Karim Jaffer. f) Charles Ennis now has a channel – *Asterism Detective*. Charles has been collecting nearly 20,000 sky stories form 800 cultures worldwide since June 2021 for the World Asterisms Project. In the *Asterism Detective* YouTube Channel he posts weekly episodes describing those skies from around the world.  (https://www.youtube.com/@AsterismDetective) g) ***Biggest News!*** Malcolm Park, president of Kingston Centre, formally announced their Centre will be hosting the hybrid ***2027 General Assembly*** – June 4-7, 2027 – at the Ambassador Event Centre (100 rooms at the attached hotel have been blocked). Theme: ***Come Together***.

	It will be a single stream with no concurrent sessions. With the theme chosen, they want everyone in attendance to be in the same room throughout and it will be 100% live-streamed. They have hired a company to provide the needed AV support; French and English captions will be provided. Registration to begin mid-January 2027; Go/No-Go date is 2 April 2027. If insufficient registrations received, all funds will be reimbursed. GA swag is being considered; it will have to be pre-ordered with registration to ensure no leftovers. The Board noted it is supporting the GS but that it also has to guard the RASC bottom line. There will be no monies available for travel expenses for awards recipients, Board and NC members. Respectfully submitted, Judy Black NC Representative, RASC Halifax Centre - - - - - - **National Council Ground Rules** 1. Whether an NC member or a guest, all information presented and the consequent discussion, are confidential. 2. Windshield Rule – It is better to look ahead (through the windshield) than to dwell on what has happened in the past (rear view). Provide positive insight as to how the RASC can best go forward. We can learn from the past decision processes, but we will not be determining who was involved in the past. Tackle problems, not people. 3. Listen to and respect others when they're talking. Don't interrupt, disregard, or diminish what is said. 4. Agree to disagree and disagree without being disagreeable. Everyone has a right to a different opinion. Express your disagreement in a constructive way, i.e., look for common ground and do not make it personal.
Agenda Notes #5: Website Updates	***Updates to the Halifax Website & YouTube channel***: **September** • Uploaded September 8 Public meeting video to Centre's YouTube channel • Updated September 29 meeting info on *Home* and *Upcoming RASC Events* pages

Invitation & Link to Board Meeting

If unable to attend, please advise the Secretary (Judy Black) – jblackns@icloud.com

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026
Time: 07:00 – 09:00 PM Halifax
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87206942517?pwd=F0Za6MdVPWxBbRwxBSF3isCbzRniqf.1

Meeting ID: 872 0694 2517
Passcode: 846533

Invitation & Link to Member & Public Meeting

If unable to attend in person, you are invited to a **Zoom meeting.** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Date: Saturday, Oct 3, 2026
Time: 01:00 PM Halifax

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/XBYbsTRpRSSRjLUVQogI-A