

# Calgary Centre Secretary's Annual Report 2022

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**Centre:** Calgary Centre  
**Submitted by:** Peter Brackett  
**Date:** April 14, 2023

**Established:** 1958 : 2023 is the 65<sup>th</sup> year for RASC, Calgary

**Membership:** 579 as of Nov 9, 2022

**Assets:** Meetings held at the Calgary Central Library  
Wilson Coulee Observatory – just north of Okotoks- Multiple Scopes on site  
Eccles Ranch Observatory- Conservation Easement- yearly Star Party site  
RALPH KLEIN PARK OBSERVATORY- underdevelopment in SE Calgary- planning stages  
Extensive Telescope and Binoculars for rent program

**Partnerships:** with University of Calgary ROTHNEY ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY  
TELUS SPARK SCIENCE CENTRE  
City of Calgary, City Libraries, schools

**Outreach:** 3-6 monthly public events and educational outreach programs

## Special Projects:

2021-22 Funding raising and planning development of the RALPH KLEIN PARK OBSERVATORY  
Major renovations of the buildings at the Wilson Coulee Observatory  
plus additional observing equipment

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## Centre Contact Information

**Centre name:** Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Calgary Centre

**Centre address:** R.A.S.C., Calgary Centre

Updated Apr 2023: PO Box 22099  
Calgary RPO Bankers Hall, Calgary, AB, T2p 4J5

Previous address was: PO Box 20282  
250, 300 5th Ave. SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 4J3

**Centre Telephone:** 587-573-4197 Peter Brackett cell

**Centre email:** Secretary [Peter.Brackett@shaw.ca](mailto:Peter.Brackett@shaw.ca) 2021-22 /  
Bruce Foster- [jbfoster@icloud.com](mailto:jbfoster@icloud.com) 2022-23

**Centre websites:** <http://calgary.rasc.ca>  
[Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Calgary Centre \(RASC\) - Group | Facebook](#)  
[Calgary RASC \(@CalgaryRASC\) / Twitter](#)

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## **Centre Executive- 2021-2022**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role(s)</b>
Phil Langill	Honorary President
Simon Poole	President
Steve Donaldson	1st Vice Pres
Heather Laird	2nd Vice Pres
Russ Dueck	Treasurer
Bruce Foster	Secretary
Roland Dechesne	Past President

### **Council**

Phil Tracey	Councilor
Andrew Bennett	Councilor
Larry McNish	Councilor
Fred Ritter	Councilor
Adriana Stone	Councilor
Patricia Jeffery	Councilor
Myrna Fleury	Councilor
Daniel Boychuk	Councilor
Steve Donaldson	NC Rep
Eric Klaszus	NC Rep\WCO Coordinator
Robyn Foret	NC rep\Casino Coordinator

### **Committees**

Judy Sterner	Library
Jack Milliken	Observing Committee
Doug Thorp	Youth Group Comm
George Grant	TFR coordinator
Peter Brackett	ERO Coordinator

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## **Centre Activity Report Nov 2021-Nov 2022**

2022 was another very active year for the Calgary Centre

In person and hybrid general meetings were restarted in Sept 2022 at the Calgary Central Library, previously just online

Calgary Centre's Public Outreach efforts hosted many public events with many being online only meetings until the fall of 2022 when we started hybrid in person and online meetings at the Calgary Central Library.

Simon Poole delivered many topics while handling all the Calgary RASC Presidential duties with help from weekly volunteers.

Centre Members also continued to show support to our communities of interest, the University of Calgary (Rothney Astrophysical Observatory Public Nights), Alberta Provincial Parks, and the Banff and Waterton National Parks.

Special mention to Ken and Bev From, owners of All-Star Telescope for their long term support of the Calgary Centre, and for their generous sponsorship. Nicholas Kennett is continuing with All-Star Telescope, moving it to Edmonton

## Membership

At the end of November 2021, the Centre had 475 members. This had grown to 579 as of Nov 9, 2022.

Calgary celebrated exceeding this 500-member level and the additional national council representation based on exceeding 500 members.

At our public events volunteers highlight Centre activities and the benefits of RASC membership to encourage attendees to join the RASC.

## Key Activities

Our Social Media web information managed by Roland Dechene and Larry McNish continues to attract growth and likely help to sustain awareness to the public concerning our activities in the Calgary Centre and support the membership level we currently maintain

Our Youth Group lead by Doug Thorp helps with the addition of new Youth Members and their families.

Jack Milliken organizes both our Observer's Group and New Observer's to Visual Astronomy (NOVA) with active online monthly meetings.

Our [Calgary Centre of the RASC | Inspiring Interest and Knowledge of Astronomy](#) home page has been updated via a support person per a Canada Summer Jobs grant while maintaining links to our legacy support online information. Larry McNish, our long-time technical support Guru worked with Christian to continue to connect the new webpages with our extensive legacy online information

Our Calgary Centre Facebook page also promotes events and encourages participation of members in sharing their astronomical areas of interest and astronomical events. Many members submit their work though this site increasing awareness of astronomical events to the community. Meetup, Twitter and YouTube are also used to disseminate astronomical information to the community.

Our new Calgary Group organized by David Brown Promoting Amateur Research and Scientific Exploration of the Cosmos (PARSEC) has had series of high level technical online presentations which have been well received.

PARSEC: Nuts and Bolts talks for 2021-22		
Date	Speaker	Topic
January	<i>Phil Langill</i>	exoplanets.
February	<i>Gary Billings</i>	eclipsing binaries
March	<i>Denis Vida</i>	Meteor Camera
April	<i>Laurie Sibbald</i>	Backyard Exoplanet Transit Measurements.
May	<i>Richard Harshaw</i>	Double star speckle measurement.
June	<i>Terry Bridges</i>	Trans-Neptunian objects.
Oct 2022	<i>Rick Wagner</i>	RASC Remote Telescope in California
November	<i>Dr Phil Langill</i>	Review of the published results of the Asteroid moon Plus did an introduction to Mira software

George Grant organized our Telescope For Rent Program (TFR) and moved it to a local Calgary storage site and restarted it in September 2021.

## General Meetings

Active programs promoting events with Meetup.com encourages the interested public to attend our events, usually augmenting attendance significantly and supporting healthy membership sustenance. We have attracted many attendees from outside our geographic area and Canada via the online presentations

General meetings were held on the third Thursday of the month online hosted by the Calgary Public Library and featured the following main speakers and topics:

General Meeting Speakers and Topic		Attendees	
Date	Speaker(s)-Topic	Online	Total
20-Jan-22	<i>Dr. David Grinspoon - Venus</i>	218	218
17-Feb-22	<i>Various - Astroimaging: The Best of the Night Sky</i>	373	373
17-Mar-22	<i>Roland Dechesne – Are We Alone?</i>	140	140
21-Apr-22	<i>Dr. Abbie Stevens - How Do Scientists See Black Holes?</i>	203	203
19-May-22	<i>Dr. Gregory Sivakoff - The Fast and the Furious: Jets from Black Holes as We Enter the JWST Era</i>	140	194
16-Jun-22	<i>Sophia Gad-Nasr - The Dark Side of the Universe</i>	131	281
21-Jul-22	<i>Dr Samantha Lawler- Megaconstellations of satellites are ruining the night sky for everyone</i>		
28-Sep-22	<i>Dr. David Pankenier - Chinese Astronomy and Cosmology</i>	75	150
20-Oct-22	<i>Dr. Sarah Rugheimer - How to Find Life on Another Planet?</i>	100	225

## Public Education

Centre member Don Hladiuk appears on the CBC radio Eye-Opener show the first Monday of every month presenting Sky Highlights for the month.

## Casino

Robyn Foret did his usual incredible job organizing the 2022-23 casino on Dec 30,31. We have been reaping the benefits from the casino funds for various public related projects

## Wilson Coulee Observatory

Eric Klaszus and team led the continuing upgrade of our Wilson Coulee Observatory (WCO) with new drywall and walls, painting, AV system etc. with the help of many of our members and other volunteers.

Judy Sterner continued to re-organized the WCO's library and work to catalog our material.

The PARSEC and other members organized the addition of cameras and scopes including meteor tracking

Ian Binmore of Bow River Brewing loaned a 14" Planewave Telescope <https://planewave.com> for science projects.

WiFi access was added to WCO to facilitate remote camera activity and onsite meetings.

Judy Sterner, Librarian and Andrew Bennett, Library Volunteer did an amazing revamp of the RASC Calgary Centre Library. For details see the March Starseeker [ss202303.pdf \(rasc.ca\)](#)



WCO - Wilson Coulee Observatory



The revised library is an open-concept design focused on welcoming members to: • browse the library collection, • sit down for some reading while taking a break from those cold winter observation sessions, • sign out or return reference material, and • purchase items for sale.

### **Ralph Klein Park Observatory Building Plans**

Robyn Foret again has been the driving force in organizing the casino funding and the actual planning of an observatory building within the SE boundaries of the City of Calgary.

### **Eccles Ranch Observatory**

Peter Brackett took over the role of site coordinator and had a team doing the site maintenance with a July long weekend star party organized by Roland Dechene

### **Other Activities**

The Centre newsletter, The StarSeeker edited by Carole Benoit is distributed electronically and published monthly

The Alberta Star Party (ASP) organized by Jason Nishiyama was held in September at the Starland Count campground near Drumheller and enjoyed excellent observing conditions under dark skies.

Russel Dueck used his professional expertise to handle our extensive financial transactions and reporting.

### **Public Outreach**

Some events included the Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show, Ambrose University Star Night, Mount Royal University star night, Cross Conservation Area Star Night, Fish Creek Park Star Night, Lunar Eclipse viewing, girl guide and scout nights and other local events

### **National and Calgary Light Pollution Abatement committee**

Calgary RASC members carrier out significant work for LPAC

### **Peter Brackett**

*Secretary, Calgary Centre 2021-2022*