

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1994

1994 has been an eventful year, both for the Kingston Centre and for Astronomy generally. In this report, I will try to touch on as many of these events as I can. I apologize in advance for missing anything (or anyone), or for any bias in reporting!!

(NOTE: If you have any comments on this report, I can still incorporate them because this report won't be finalized until 1994 actually ends — at which point my report will be updated and published in *Regulus*...)

The year started out with the first of two financial windfalls for the Centre: \$50 was received from the sale of the Centre's mirror grinding machine to the North York Astronomical Association. The grinder had been gathering dust at Queen's University for many years, but I am happy to report that it has been in active service for much of this year since being moved to its new home.

Asteroids made a big impact this year (if you'll pardon the expression!): both Terry Dickinson and Art Covington received perhaps the highest of honours with the naming of an asteroid for each of them. I'm sure it was several months before their feet touched the ground again!

The Centre held another successful Astronomy Day on Saturday, April 16. Many thanks to Ian Levstein (our Astronomy Day coordinator), Bill Broderick, and everyone else who helped out.

In April, the Centre experienced another "first": an Astronomy Workshop. This event was the brainchild of our Past President, Christine Kulyk. It was quite successful and well received by the members who attended it, and I expect there will be a second Workshop in 1995 (right Christine?!).

May 10th brought us an annular solar eclipse and the Centre's second financial windfall: \$600 was realized from sale of eclipse viewers. Oh, and of course many Centre members saw the eclipse too!

"Looking Up", A History of the RASC was finally published after several delays. This is a fine book and a definite must-have for any RASC member.

The annual RASC General Assembly was held in St. John's, Newfoundland over the Canada Day Weekend this year. The Kingston Centre was well represented, as usual. I should point out that Kingston Centre is a significant player on the national scene: Terry Hicks has just completed 2 years as National Treasurer, Kim Hay has taken over the RASC promotional items, Leo Enright is the Beginner's Observing Guide Editor, and I have just been appointed National Librarian. One practical upshot of all this is that Kingston Centre has had 3 votes on National Council during the last two years!

It goes without saying that our Honorary President, David Levy, had an incredibly busy year! Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 put on a big show in July when it collided with Jupiter. Many Centre members had their 'scopes in overdrive during impact week as the impact scars paraded across Jupiter's southern hemisphere. Thanks to the efforts of several members, this spectacle was shared with members of the public at several provincial parks: on July 9 at Bon Echo, on July 11 at Presqu'île, and on July 13 at Sandbanks.

August brings with it the annual Perseid meteor shower. The 1993 Perseids put on a good show, but the 1995 Perseids will be marred by a full moon. This provided added incentive to get out and watch the 1994 Perseids. Despite mixed weather, some Centre members were able to watch this year's shower. As in July, members volunteered their time and effort to share the event with the public at local provincial parks: on Aug 8 at Presqu'île, and on Aug 10 at Charleston Lake (Terry Dickinson's annual public star night) and at Sandbanks.

Several Kingston members attended the Syracuse Summer Seminar on the Persied weekend in August. Jupiter's impact scars and the Perseid meteor shower were observed, and many excellent talks were heard over the weekend. Hopefully more Centre members will attend Syracuse in future years.

The RASCNet continues to gather momentum. Centre member Mark Kaye has been the driving force behind this network. And Kingston is connected to the max — by 4 local nodes! This is a great way to correspond with other amateur astronomers across Canada, and I encourage everyone to get involved in this!

The Centre's GA Committee is rolling along towards its date with destiny in 1997. This is a very exciting project, since Kingston Centre has never before hosted a General Assembly. For those of you who have never been to a GA, mark 1997 on your calendars — there's no excuse for missing it when it's right here in town!

On a sad note, I must report that Stan Hanna and Mark Kaye have moved out west. Of course this is good news for the Centres that they'll be joining out there... Good luck guys!

In December I had the pleasure of awarding the A. Vibert Douglas Award for 1994 to our Treasurer, Kim Hay. Kim has been a very important part of the Kingston Centre for several years now. Congratulations Kim!

I would like to thank several people for helping me through my first year as president: Christine Kulyk, Leo Enright, Kim Hay, Ruth Hicks, Gord Taylor, Bill Broderick, and Cathy Hall. I would also like to thank Ian Levstein and Peggy Torney for going "through the window" so that we could enjoy the use of the slide projectors at a couple of our meetings! Last, but not least, I would like to give special thanks to all those who gave talks at meetings, whether it was a full-blown 2 hour presentation or just a few slides.

In closing, I hope that 1995 will prove to be every bit as eventful as 1994 has been!

Clear Skies!
Walter MacDonald.