

RASC Awards for 2020

Service Award

The RASC Service Award is a major award of the Society given to a member in recognition of outstanding service to the Society and/or a Centre, rendered over an extended time of at least 10 years.

This year, two individuals who have committed much of their personal lives are being recognized.

Dennis Krause (Okanagan Centre)

Mr. Krause is recognized for over a decade of service, including time as Centre Secretary, Treasurer, Director, and numerous committee roles. He has tackled bylaw reform due to the new BC Societies Act, as well as grant applications and fundraising. Dennis not only supports the Okanagan observatory, he helped make the facility accessible to mobility-challenged visitors.

Steve Holmes (Kitchener-Waterloo Centre)

Mr. Holmes has served two terms as Centre President and is a passionate advocate for astronomy. He helps people to use the Tilker's Observation site; teaches astrophotography; and he is always ready to provide technical assistance. Mr. Holmes is said to have "volunteered for everything" over many years and continues to inspire stargazers of all ages.

Qilak Award

No RASC member was nominated this year.

In 2018, there were multiple nominations. The committee hopes that those nominees who have continued their effort in public outreach will be nominated again for their work through to 2021.

Newcomb Award

John A. Read (Halifax Centre)

For writing a collection of astronomy-themed books to inspire children and beginning observers. John has created several books, and at least one is now available in over ten languages. He has a clear, direct writing style that appeals to first-time stargazers, making astronomy fun and reducing technical complexity. John is now assisting others in publishing new books.

Chant Medal

The Chant Medal of the Society was established in 1940 in appreciation of the great work of the late Prof. C.A. Chant in furthering the interests of astronomy in Canada. It is awarded to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada on the basis of the value of the work carried out in astronomy and closely allied fields of the original investigation.

Dr. Michel Duval (Centre francophone de Montréal)

Dr. Duval is a chemist and amateur astronomer, recognized for his work in successfully determining the Black Drop Effect seen during transits of Venus and Mercury are caused by the formation of diffraction halos. His insight from the 2004 Venus transit was validated with the 2012 Venus and 2016 Mercury transits. In 2017, he showed the diffraction halo effect contributes to the solar eclipse Diamond Ring effect.

Ken Chilton Prize

The prize, named for Kenneth E. Chilton of the Hamilton Centre is awarded annually to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada, in recognition of a significant piece of astronomical work carried out or published recently.

Peter Pekurar (Kitchener-Waterloo Centre)

For work on advancing the coating process for telescope mirrors. Mr. Pekurar developed a new method to apply reflective silver coatings to telescope mirrors. This process is an advancement over previous methods, simplifying the process for amateur use.

Fellow of the RASC

This is the Society's most senior award and the highest honour the Society can pay to a member. Candidate's service and contributions to the Society must have had a significant positive impact on the work of the Society over an extended period, beyond that of the Service Award. Fellows must have contributed to the Society's success in attaining its stated objectives, mission, and vision, with at least half of their service at the Society level, in addition to any contributions at the Centre level.

There are two outstanding individuals recognized as belonging to Fellows of the RASC.

Randall Rosenfeld (National Member)

For over a dozen years, Randall Rosenfeld has served our Society in a multitude of ways. He has led Committees on History, Membership & Promotion, and Green Laser Pointer safety. As the Society's archivist, he has opened windows into our history and created over 50 insightful and engaging articles for the *Journal* of the RASC. He is a wonderful ambassador to the CASCA professional community and most recently is curating the new Dorner Telescope Museum.

David M.F. Chapman (Halifax Centre)

For over 30 years, Mr. Chapman has been an inspiring communicator and champion of good science. A life member of the Society active since 1984, he has served as Centre Librarian, Vice President, and President of the Halifax Centre. His innovative approach resulted in the Halifax Centre's Simon Newcomb Award becoming a Society award; his dark-sky programs led to the Kejimikujik National Dark-Sky Preserve, and he forged relationships with the Acadia First Nation and has brought awareness to Mi'kmaw calendrical systems, and he has shared this through new media. David's international outreach efforts, editorial leadership of the *Observer's Handbook*, contributions to JRASC and other publications, participation on national committees and contributions to the Society are outstanding.

President's Award

This award is given at the President's discretion, usually once a year, to a member (or members) who has/have made an important contribution to the Society.

Barry Shanko, Vancouver Centre

Mr. Shanko served as speaker coordinator for the Vancouver Centre for 31 years and was active in RASC public outreach efforts in the Vancouver area. In his life he had to overcome many economic and health challenges but became known for his ability to attract outstanding speakers from around Canada and the

U.S. for Vancouver Centre events. Unfortunately, Mr. Shanko passed away unexpectedly just before his 60th birthday on 2020 May 2.