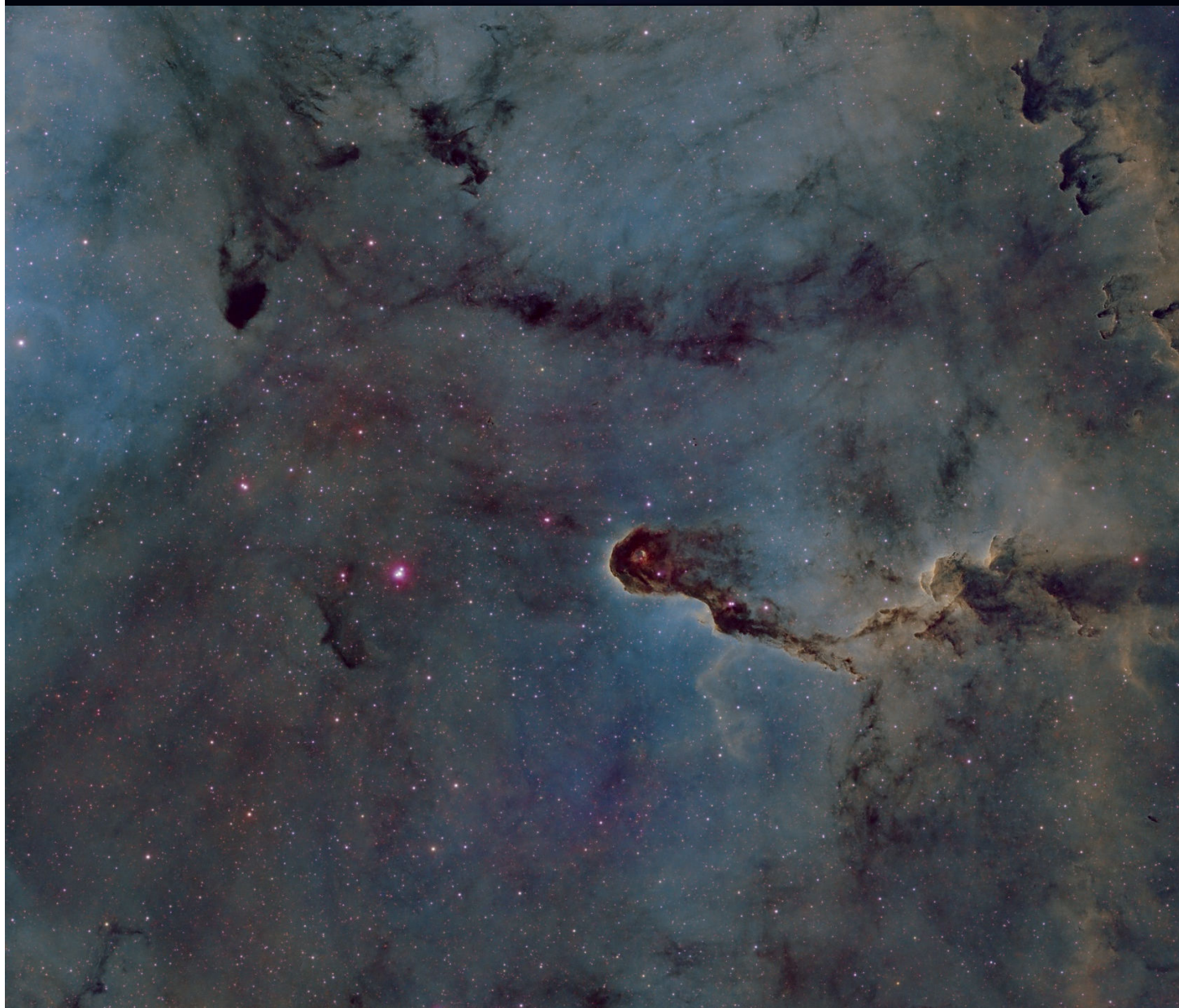


SKYNEWS



*Dan Posey, Elephant's Trunk (IC1396) "A combination of data from two telescopes during first light for my Tak."
Location: Cobble Hill 2025-04-19*

May 2025

A big cover page image means your editor does not have to write very much. So one important note: Join in the fun of International Astronomy Day on May 3!

Randy Enkin, pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca



President's Message

I mentioned outreach would be the focus of a future message. At its heart, outreach is core to the modern service mission of the RASC and has defined my time with the organization.

It's no surprise I'm going to focus on it now with Astronomy Day around the corner on May 3! You will hear much more about that from the event organizers but I just have to reiterate that Astronomy Day is a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community and share some of the joys that astronomy brings all of us. It takes an incredible amount of work to put on these events and Astronomy Day always sticks out as not only a standalone success, but often marks the return of clear skies and the start of the regular summer star parties at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory and other initiatives we put on through the year.

Now, speaking of outreach, you may be surprised at how intertwined it is with our history. Before the DAO was completed in 1918 there had already been several public groups that travelled to the site. The first occurred in 1915 with luminaries from the local community visiting the site on the newly installed road. The second major visit was the newly formed RASC membership touring the now completed building and mechanical parts in October 1916. J.S. Plaskett served as the first honorary president, with W.E. Harper, R.K. Young, C.S. Beals, J.A. Pearce and other astronomers regularly becoming members and serving key roles as they joined the staff. All of this matters because from the opening of the DAO public were welcomed to the hill during daylight hours and for two hours of viewing each Saturday night. These were traditions carried from the earlier Dominion Observatory built in Ottawa, and carry through to the modern RASC Victoria. I will likely write more on outreach at the DAO in future columns, so suffice to say it was deeply entrenched.



In 2013 RASC with the fledgling Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory took the lead in reigniting public programming at the DAO after the Centre of the Universe faced closure. It's when I first took interest in public outreach and gave me the incredible opportunity to operate the same telescope I was writing my thesis on. These public nights have been running since then alongside the continually expanding programs for local schools, the local community and tourists put on by the FDAO.

While an important focal point, the activities on the hill are only a snapshot of the efforts put in by RASC members. The infamous school program, eclipses (yes Randy, solar AND lunar), sidewalk astronomy, the annual RASC Star Party and the Saanich Fair are all examples of how public outreach has continued to grow for society. I hope everyone has an opportunity to enjoy Astronomy Day, whether as a volunteer or attendee, and that it sets the stage for another summer of meaningful connections with the local community.

Dan Posey, President@Victoria.RASC.ca



**675 Belleville St
Victoria BC**



10:00am to 3:00pm

- RASC WELCOME TABLE
- "ASK AN ASTRONOMER" TABLE
- FAMILY ACTIVITY CENTRE
- ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY
- TELESCOPES SHOW AND TELL
- SOLAR VIEWING
- RESPONSIBLE LIGHTING
- SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL
- STELLARIUM SKY SIMULATION
- CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE
- UVIC PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
- SCIENCE VENTURE
- CAMOSUN COLLEGE

RASC Additional Information 

International Astronomy Day May 3 2025

This year's featured speakers









Free Admission

Celebrate with Victoria's astronomy community



**5071 W Saanich Rd
Victoria BC**



7:30pm to 11:00pm

- PLASKETT DOME TOURS
- PLANETARIUM SHOWS
- TELESCOPES WITH THE RASC ON THE DECK
- CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE GALLERY
- GUEST SPEAKER
DR. GERALD SCHIEVEN
- CHILDREN'S PRESENTATIONS
- CHILDREN'S CRAFT AREA
- RASC INFORMATION TABLE
- GIFT SHOP

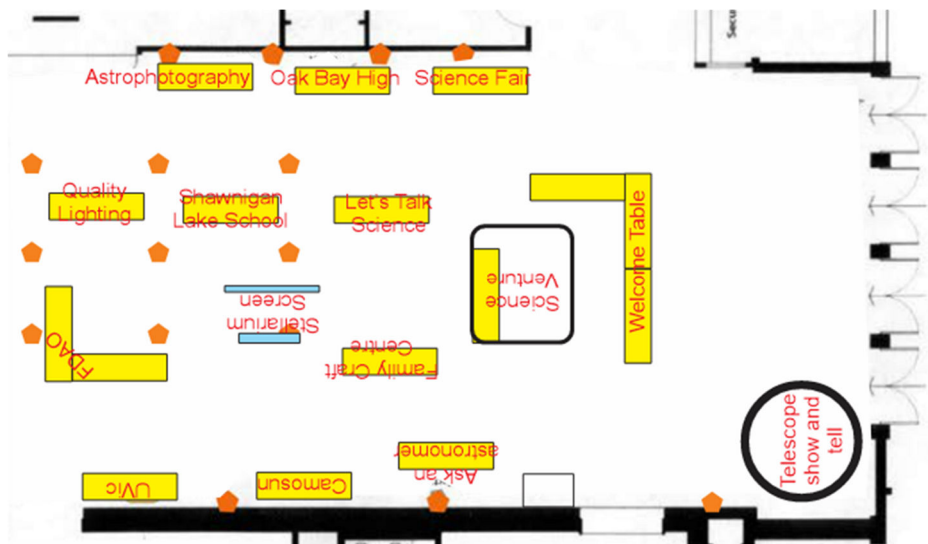
Centre of the Universe Information and Tickets 

<https://victoria.rasc.ca/astro-day-2025/>



<https://centreftheuniverse.org/events/2025/5/3/star-party>

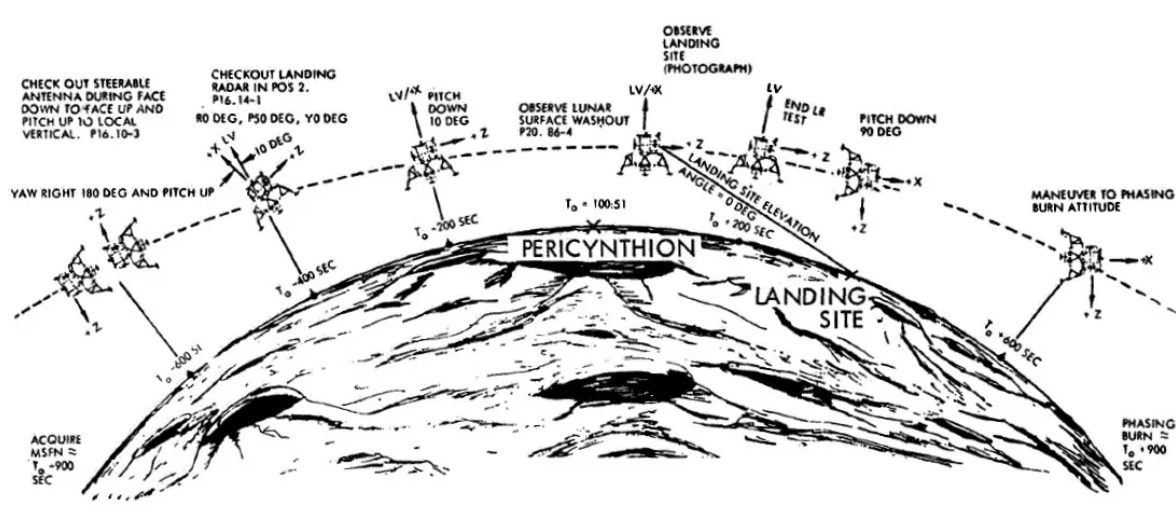
<p>Saturday May 3 Set-up: 8:00-9:30 Tear-down: 15:00-16:00</p>	<p>Speakers: 10:30 Nathan Hellman-Mestelman, "The Language of the Stars" 11:30 Brock Johnston, "Imaging Saturn through its Orbit" 12:30 Amy Archer, "Sir James Douglas ... Astronomer ... Black Pioneer ... Politician" 13:30 Dr. Chris Gainor, "Canada and The Hubble Space Telescope"</p>
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PLEASE BRING OLD RASC HANDBOOKS AND ASTRONOMY JOURNALS FOR THE WELCOME TABLE



May Astro-Events (Pacific Standard Time = UT-8)

May 3	<p><u>International Astronomy Day</u></p> <p>10:00-15:00 Royal BC Museum</p> <p>19:30-23:00 Centre of the Universe</p>
May 4	<p>06:52 First Quarter Moon</p>
May 5	<p>19:00 AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom</p> <p>Saturn's ring aligned with sun. Note, Saturn rises at ~4:24 just south of Venus.</p> <p>Mars in the Beehive (M44)</p>
May 8	<p>Celia Payne-Graposchkin, born 1900. She discovered that the stars are made mostly of hydrogen and helium.</p> 
May 12	<p>19:00 AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom</p> <p>09:56 Full Moon</p>
May 14	<p>19:30 Room A104 in the Bob Wright Centre, University of Victoria RASC Meeting</p> <p>Bryn Lonsbrough, University of Victoria, "Galaxy Clusters and Galaxy Formation in the Early Universe"</p> <p>Followed by Coffee, Cookies and Conversation in the Astronomy Lounge on the 4th floor of the Elliot Building. Alex Schmid will open up the Centre RASC Library which is located in this lounge.</p>
May 15	<p>In 1836, during an annular eclipse of the sun, British astronomer Francis Baily first saw the phenomenon now known as Baily's Beads, the round "droplets" of sunlight that filter through the mountains and valleys seen on the edge of the moon.</p>  <p>www.MrEclipse.com ©1999 F. Espenak</p>

May 16	Nancy Grace Roman, born 1925. “Mother of the Hubble Space Telescope”.
May 18	Apollo 10 liftoff, 1969
May 20	04:59 Last Quarter Moon
May 19	NO ASTROCAFE! Victoria Day
May 21	<p>Apollo 10 lunar orbit, 1969</p>  <p>The diagram illustrates the Apollo 10 lunar orbit sequence. It shows the spacecraft's path around the Moon, starting from Earth orbit and ending with a phasing burn. Key events and timestamps are labeled: ACQUIRE MSFN at $T_0 - 900$ SEC; YAW RIGHT 180 DEG AND PITCH UP at $T_0 - 600$ SEC; CHECK OUT STEERABLE ANTENNA DURING FACE DOWN TO FACE UP AND PITCH UP TO LOCAL VERTICAL at $T_0 - 400$ SEC; CHECKOUT LANDING RADAR IN POS 2 at $T_0 - 200$ SEC; OBSERVE LUNAR SURFACE WASHOUT at $T_0 + 100$ SEC; OBSERVE LANDING SITE (PHOTOGRAPH) at $T_0 + 200$ SEC; END LR TEST at $T_0 + 400$ SEC; MANEUVER TO PHASING BURN ATTITUDE at $T_0 + 900$ SEC. The diagram also shows the spacecraft's attitude (pitch, yaw, roll) and the landing site location on the Moon's surface.</p>
May 25	Thales of Miletus predicts eclipse in 858 BCE. According to Herodotus, the change of day into night was interpreted as an omen, and interrupted a battle in a long-standing war between the Medes and the Lydians in Anatolia. The earliest historical event whose date is known with precision to the day.
May 26	<p>20:02 New Moon</p> <p>Apollo 10, splashdown, 1969</p>
May 26	<p>19:00 AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom</p> <p>LAST ASTRO CAFÉ OF THE 2024-2025 SEASON. We'll start again on September 8!</p>
May 29	Images taken during a total eclipse of the sun in 1919 by Arthur Eddington to demonstrate the “bending of light” (really the bending of space-time) near the sun, as predicted by Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity.

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