

# SKYNEWS



Mare Serenitatis  
by  
Charles Banville

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## NOVEMBER AGM MEETING

**Sunday, November 18th @ 6pm**  
**At the "Moon Under Water"**  
**Brewpub & Restaurant**  
**350 Bay St**

[www.victoria.rasc.ca](http://www.victoria.rasc.ca)

## On the Cover

### Mare Serenitatis

Image of the large Mare Serenitatis (dia. 670 km). Notice the long series of ridge in the eastern region of the Mare known as Serpentine Ridge. The small crater Bessel (dia. 15 km) also stands out. The large crater north-east of the Mare, with its central peak is Posidonius with a diameter of 95 kilometers.

## Presidents Report

### Laurie Roche



Two years ago I took on this position as President knowing that there was work that would have to be done, events to be planned, people to interact with and some exciting activities to expect to keep track of. What I

didn't realize would happen was the camaraderie and the support from everyone that made this such a pleasure to be in the RASC. I want to thank John MacDonald for simply being there for me on call when I needed an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on, Sid Sidhu for keeping such a positive attitude and an work ethic to emulate, to Joe Carr for bailing me out of situations that I got myself into and to Li-Ann for keeping us on the straight and narrow . To Sherry and Nelson for working hard to get things done on time and a special thanks to Malcolm who was more patient than he should have been when he asked innumerable times for the president's report for Skynews....yesterday!

Thank you to all the council members who came to meetings, gave their considered thoughts and opinions, initiated lots of ideas and steered us in the right path. And to all the

rest of the members who worked tirelessly for so many events during the two years, from the scores of community events, to a very successful Astronomy Day, and to my mind, the culmination of our public outreach, the Transit of Venus. last June. There were so many individual times when I said to myself that I was very lucky to have so many good people around me that events went smoothly in spite of any problems that may have arose.

I am sorry that I am not there to turn over the reigns to Nelson and the new Executive but I am certain that the RASC Victoria Centre is in very good hands and I look forward to continuing on the Council in a supportive role as we prepare for next year and all the celebrations for our 100th Anniversary in 2014 and the National General Meeting. Best of Luck to everyone and I will see you in December.

Oh, and regrettably, we were oh so close but from our vantage point at a beach north of Cairns in Australia we missed the totality of the Eclipse because of a very large black cloud. We saw some of the beginning and we saw some endings but not the the important middle. So sad.... but I am not feeling too bad as there are mountains to climb, Barrier Reefs to snorkel through, beaches to walk and warm air to enjoy. I really can't ask for too much more.

Clear Skies,

## November AGM and Speaker

The [Thirty Meter Telescope](#) Project  
Dr. Luc SImard of HIA and UVic

A team of scientists, engineers, and project specialists is busily planning and designing what eventually will become the most advanced and powerful optical telescope on

Earth. When completed later this decade, the Thirty Meter Telescope will enable astronomers to study objects in our own solar system and stars throughout our Milky Way and its neighboring galaxies, and forming galaxies at the very edge of the observable Universe, near the beginning of time.

Dr. Simard will talk about the science, technology and the human factor of the TMT project.

*Luc Simard is an astronomer at the National Research Council of Canada's Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics. He obtained his B.Sc. from Queen's University in 1990 and his Ph.D. from the University of Victoria in 1996. From 1996 to 2002, he held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of California, Santa Cruz and the University of Arizona, Steward Observatory. He joined NRC-HIA in 2002. His research interests include galaxy formation and evolution, image processing and astronomical instrumentation. He is currently working on developing instruments for the Thirty Meter Telescope. Luc Simard is the Group Leader for TMT Instrumentation.*

## Council Reports

by Sherry Buttnor, VP2

Hi RASCals, here is my report for November, from your overworked and underpaid VP2 (or is that overpaid and underworked?)

### Memberships

Renewed: 12 (thank you!)

Dropped: 1

Total: 169 on the Membership list

**HIA/CU Liason:** Clyde (HIA) has nothing to report, no reply from Eric (CU).

**Transport Canada:** nothing to report.

**Plaskett:** Nothing to report. Last I heard from Dave, there was an issue with the imaging

system. No imaging nights scheduled in the foreseeable future for us.

## Editorial

by Malcolm Scrimger

Over the past few years I have enjoyed providing my volunteer time to the RASC Victoria centre in many roles. Most members have known me in two of them, Newsletter Editor and Astronomy Cafe. I always enjoy the challenge of putting a good edition of our newsletter together and meeting the many new members that have come to Astronomy Cafe. These include one evening when Bob MacDonald of "Quirks and Quarks" fame - who I invited - came by one evening and met those that were present. This was a wonderful surprise to me as well as everyone else who was there that evening. I also very much enjoy the outreach activities that Sid and other volunteers have arranged to do for the public and sky events like the Transit of Venus and the many amazing sky events we have had in 2012.

In October I informed council that I was stepping down as editor of the Skynews as I needed the time for other things. I will still be involved in Astronomy Cafe in a limited way.

## Astronomy Podcasts

by John MacDonald

You might want to check out the CBC Radio one program series starting tonight at 9 PM and continuing every night this week. It is called "The Universe Within" and features the Director of the Perimeter Institute, Neil Turok. He is a cosmologist with an especially good way of conveying the science clearly. You can download podcasts when they appear if you cannot listen at 9 each evening. The website is - <http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/podcasts/>



At Astronomy Cafe on October 15th Charles Banville setup the Centre's Bausch & Lomb Magic Lantern which was used to show the 30 Carpenter & Westley astronomy themed slides at Astronomy Cafe. The slides have since been digitized and placed online on our [Zenfolio website](#).

**ASTRONOMY CAFE**



**Fairfield Community Centre**  
1330 Fairfield Rd. Victoria,  
7:30pm - 10pm  
Call Malcolm at (778) 430-4136 for directions and information.  
New comers are especially encouraged.



**New Observers Group**  
Hosted by Sid Sidhu  
1642 Davies Road, Highlands. Call (250).391-0540 for information and directions.



Here is an interesting image from the set. The DAO under Construction at Little Saanich Mountain between 1914 - 1918.



**Email Lists**  
**Observer / CU Volunteers / Members**  
Contact Joe Carr to subscribe  
[web@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:web@victoria.rasc.ca)

**NEXT MEETING**

**Wed Dec 10th, 2012 7:30pm**  
**University of Victoria A104 Bob Wright Bldg. 3800 Finnerty Rd.**

RASC Victoria Council for 2011 / 2012

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Past President<br>John McDonald<br><a href="mailto:pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca">pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca</a> | Secretary / Recorder<br>Mark Bohlman<br><a href="mailto:secretary@victoria.rasc.ca">secretary@victoria.rasc.ca</a>     | National Representative<br>Chris Gainor<br><a href="mailto:nationalrep@victoria.rasc.ca">nationalrep@victoria.rasc.ca</a> |
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