

PRINTED MATTER

**Hamilton Centre RASC  
BOX 1223  
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# Orbit

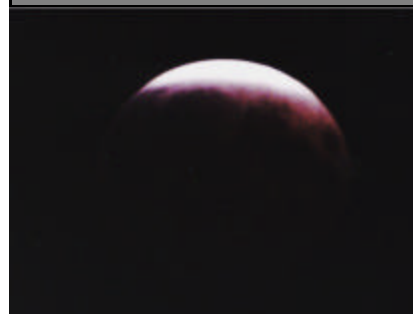
# Orbit

March/April/May 1997

Volume 30, Issue 3



The Official Publication  
of the Hamilton Centre  
of  
the Royal Astronomical  
Society of Canada



## **Lunar Eclipse:**

March 23 brought us the fabulous lunar eclipse. This photo shows the the eclipse nearing its 95% maximum.

Photo by: Colin Haig



## **Comet Hale Bopp as seen across from the Observatory:**

That same evening, as twilight was settling, we were treated to excellent clear skies and the comet was spotted easily over the farm land just North of the Observatory. Photo by: Colin Haig

## **Contents:**

Editorial	Colin A. Haig	2
The President's Monthly Report	Richard Petrone	3
Minutes of January Board Meeting	Colin A. Haig	5
The Care and Cleaning of Optics	Les Nagy	6
London Centre 75th Anniversary	Joe O'Neil, London Centre	10
Space Calendar	NASA	11
Hamilton Centre Info and Calendar		18
Membership Application Form		19

Best wishes to you for March, April, and May! As you have noticed, Orbit has been missing in action, mostly due to your trusty editor being strapped to an airplane lately. However, lack of content and cost reduction measures are other important factors involved in the decision to go to a lower publication frequency.

At several of the board meetings in the past few months, we have been reviewing costs, and attempting to find ways to reduce them. Fortunately, due to the hard work of many individuals, the number of public nights, fund raising efforts, the donation jar, and elimination of maintenance costs, we have more cash in the bank right now than at any time in the past couple of years. This is good news, and means that the Hamilton Centre is stable and should be able to carry on, barring any unanticipated major cash outlay. However, for us to maintain our positive financial state, we will have to continue to look at cost reduction and fund raising options.

Our observatory is very expensive to run, considering insurance, electricity, telephone, and maintenance costs. Over the past three months, your board has done a lot to discuss options. The real need was to be able to save approximately \$300-\$600 a year, a sum which could be easily had by eliminating electricity or telephone. It was decided that electricity was essential, and telephone was required for safety reasons, since the site is somewhat isolated. So, the notion of reducing Orbit to a bi-monthly publication was re-introduced, and it was agreed upon that this was a sensible course of action. Many of our fellow Centres in the RASC such as London, Kingston, Victoria, and Niagara have been looking at ways to reduce their publication costs, and based on input from those Centres, we have decided to go to a bimonthly Orbit.

The costs for Orbit include printing (approximately \$30 to \$35 per issue), and mailing (approximately  $0.50 \times 30 = \$15$  if there is a high turn out of people who pick them up). This results in a savings of about \$50 every second month, or \$300 in total. So, by cutting down on



# Membership Application

Application for Membership in the Hamilton Centre of the RASC. Annual membership officially commences October 1. We welcome people of all ages, skills, and interests in things Astronomical. Please make your cheque payable to: "RASC Hamilton Centre" and mail to the Treasurer c/o the address on the back. Associate membership is for those in other Astronomy Clubs. Please state the club. Full members receive: The Observer's Handbook (\$20 value), Journal of RASC (\$70 value), SkyNews (\$22 value), and many other great privileges, including discounts on popular magazines, supplies and cool stuff. There is a Free 3 month Trial available - send no money! Info: Leave a message at: (905) 689-0266. ☆

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION		
NAME:		
ADDRESS (1/2):		
ADDRESS (2/2):		
CITY:		
POSTAL CODE:		
DAY PHONE:	(    )	
EVE PHONE:	(    )	
E-MAIL:		
PAYMENT OPTIONS		
ADULT	@ \$49.00	
ASSOCIATE	@ \$30.00	
YOUTH (under 21)	@ \$35.50	
VOLUNTARY DONATION:		
TOTAL:		
Circle one:	NEW Member	RENEWAL

# Centre Calendar

Orbit - Spring 1997

**Monthly Meetings** are held by the Hamilton Centre at McMaster University Medical Centre Ewart Angus 1A4 8pm on the First Thursday of the month.

May 1 - Speaker to be announced

June 5 - Speaker to be announced (NOTE: We may be moving to the Spectator building around this time).

## Observatory Directions: From Hamilton or Guelph:

- ◆ Hwy 6 N of Hamilton, take Concession 7 East eastbound, cross Centre rd.
- ◆ Continue on 7E, keep going past the rail tracks, proceed to near the end.
- ◆ Our gate is on the south side on the last lot (south west).

From Mississauga or Milton:

- ◆ Britannia Road past Hwy 25, Guelph Line, Cedar Springs to end
- ◆ South 1 block on Milborough TownLine to Concession 7 East.

Our gate is on the south side on the last lot (south west)

Hamilton Centre Observatory 43° 23' 26" N 79° 55' 22" W

NAME	Phone	E-mail Address
Observatory	689-0266	<a href="http://ad-here.com/RASC/">http://ad-here.com/RASC/</a>
Astronomy emailing list	subscribe	<a href="mailto:bigbang@ad-here.com">bigbang@ad-here.com</a>
Past President: Roger Hill	878-5185	<a href="mailto:roger@ad-here.com">roger@ad-here.com</a> Fax: (905)878-3974
Secretary: Dave Coulson	634-4436	
General: John Kezys	648-5542	<a href="mailto:kezys@operatns.mohawkc.on.ca">kezys@operatns.mohawkc.on.ca</a>
Education: Carmen Martino	643-7283	
President: Rich Petrone	547-2589	<a href="mailto:petrone@physun.physics.mcmaster.ca">petrone@physun.physics.mcmaster.ca</a>
Councillor: Les Nagy	387-0690	<a href="mailto:lnagy@netaccess.on.ca">lnagy@netaccess.on.ca</a>
1st VP: Mike Jefferson	648-8919	
Curator: Ellen Ricks		
Librarian/Recorder: Ray Badgerow	692-4184	<a href="mailto:667883@ican.net">667883@ican.net</a>
Editor: Colin Haig	577-4074	<a href="mailto:chaig@vizbiz.com">chaig@vizbiz.com</a>

Orbit - Spring 1997

Orbit frequency, we should be able to maintain the facilities and activities that you so enjoy.

Some of the other changes that you can expect are few purchases of books, equipment, materials or supplies, and minimal maintainance. So, if there is work that needs to be done, it should really be approved by the board before any cash is spent. In other words, if you don't wish to be reimbursed, the Hamilton Centre will be grateful for your donation, and can issue a tax receipt. Otherwise, get board approval first.

The good news is that some of the most expensive things that needed attention were handled last year. This included a new roof and dome door on the Marsh building. Temporary repairs were made to the Chilton building, and a number of tune ups were done on the equipment.

In the near future we will not be spending money that we do not have. However, longer term, we will need to make major repairs to the Chilton building due to problems with its brick work. The cinder blocks have cracked straight through, or the mortar is crumbling on 3 of four walls. The walls actually move almost a full inch when you slam the door or pull it open. This means we will have to do some kind of work on it in the next year or so. If you have access to some skilled labour to assist, it is sorely needed, and will be greatly appreciated.

On another note, dozens of people have been out to the site over much of February, March and April, to enjoy the comet, Mars, and the Lunar eclipse. It constantly amazes me how much is going on in the sky at any one time. Many of us have had a look at Mars at high power through Bob Bott's refractor in the dome, and have been treated to fine views of large surface detail and polar caps. On the night of the 23rd, you could watch the comet, the lunar eclipse, and Mars all by just spinning around. Some folks including Derek Baker captured the event on film. I made an attempt with video, and Stephen Barnes was out with a new Meade 8" SCT for prime focus and piggy back photography.

The other significant event has been the Rich Petrone's resignation. Rich has done a lot to build enthusiasm in the club over the past 6 months



or so, and has done a lot to bring back the fun and enthusiasm. Rich's research will be taking him away for several month again to the Far North. We will miss his energy, sense of humour, and hope to see him again in the fall. In the mean time, Roger Hill has stepped back in to the president's shoes, and will guide us to the end of the year.

This issue includes notes from both Richard and Roger, and a number of other goodies.

Best wishes to all of you, and keep looking up!

- Colin Haig ☆

## RASC Comet Hale-Bopp Guide Book Available



Comet Hale-Bopp Guide Book  
by Don Hladiuk

This guide book is a collection of material available on the internet from various astronomical sources. The information provided is intended to help plan a successful observing session and obtain a view of this celestial visitor. It is an excellent reference for teachers, amateur astronomers and members of the news media.

The cost is \$10.70, taxes and shipping included. Send payment with your order. The book can be ordered through national office by phone, fax or email:

RASC National Office  
136 Dupont St.  
Toronto, ON.  
M5R 1V2

Telephone: 416-924-7973  
Fax: 416-924-2911  
email: rasc@istar.ca

19 -[Feb 02] NEAR, Solar Conjunction  
19 - Mars Lecture, Pasadena, California  
19 -[Feb 01] Giant and Dwarf Stars Lecture, Balboa Park, California  
20 - Galileo, 2nd Europa Flyby (Orbit 6)  
20 - 35th Anniversary (1962), Friendship 7 Launch (John Glenn)

22 - Thor-2A Delta 2 Launch (Norway/USA)  
22-28 - Supernova 1987A - Ten Years After Workshop, La Serena, Chile  
23 - Galileo, Orbital Trim Maneuver #21 (OTM-21)  
23 - Asteroid 1991 CS Near-Earth Flyby (0.2229 AU)  
23 - 10th Anniversary (1987) of Supernova 1987A Explosion  
24 - Asteroid 64 Angelina at Opposition (10.3 Magnitude)  
24 - Comet Hale-Bopp Lecture, Los Angeles, California  
25 -[Feb 02] Intelsat 801 Ariane 4 Launch  
26 - Progress M-34 Launch (Russia)  
26 - Asteroid 386 Siegena Occults PPM 153989 (9.1 Magnitude Star)  
26 -[Feb 02] Galileo Lecture, Balboa Park, California  
27 -[Jan 31] Bernard Lyot's 100th Birthday (1897)  
28 - Comet Hale-Bopp Crosses the Ecliptic Plane

### March 1997

?? - Feng Yun-2B Long March 4 Launch (China)  
?? - Iridium-2 Delta 2 Launch  
01 - Asteroid 139 Juewa at Opposition (10.5 Magnitude)  
01 -[Jan 30] Southern Michigan Amateur Astronomy Conference, Michigan  
01 - 15th Anniversary (1982), Venera 13 Venus Flyby/Landing (USSR)  
02 - Mercury Passes 0.8 Degrees from Venus  
02 - Asteroid 16 Psyche at Opposition (10.3 Magnitude)  
02 - Asteroid 71 Niobe at Opposition (10.5 Magnitude)  
03 - 25th Anniversary (1972), Pioneer 10 Launch (Jupiter/ Saturn Flyby)  
03-05 - All-Sky X-Ray Observations in the Next Decade Workshop, Wako, Japan  
04 -[Feb 05] Comet Hale-Bopp Directly Above The Sun (1.04 AU)  
04 -[Feb 05] Comet 1997 B1 Kobayashi at Perihelion (2.062 AU)  
04-08 - Workshop on Mutual Events and Astrometry of Planetary Satellites, Catania, Italy  
05 - Tempo-2 Atlas-2A Launch  
05 - 15th Anniversary (1982), Venera 14 Venus Flyby/Landing (USSR)  
**06 - RASC Hamilton Centre Meeting 8pm MUMC 1A4**  
07 - John Herschel's 205th Birthday (1792)

**15 - RASC Hamilton Centre "Amateur Astronomy, Weather, and the Internet" Workshop - by Rich Petrone**

☆

05 -[Jan 31] Comet Hale-Bopp Lecture, Balboa Park, California  
 05 - Control of Small Spacecraft Workshop, Breckenridge, Colorado  
 05 - 30th Anniversary (1967), Lunar Orbiter 3 Launch  
 06 -[Jan 31] Comet 1997 A1 Closest Approach to Earth (3.17 AU)  
 06 - Galileo, Orbital Trim Maneuver #19 (OTM-19)  
 06 - Comet Holt-Olmstead Perihelion (2.15 AU)  
 06 - Venus Passes 0.3 Degrees South of Jupiter  
 06 -[Feb 01] Building Real Buildings on Mars Lecture, Boston Massachusetts  
**06 - RASC Hamilton Centre Meeting 8pm MUMC 1A4**  
 07 - Chinese Year 4634 Begins  
 07 - Mercury Passes 1.4 Degrees South of Neptune  
 07 - Venus Passes 0.2 Degrees South of Uranus  
 07 - Asteroid 936 Kunigunde Occults PPM 265431 (9.1 Magnitude Star)  
 07 - Asteroid 511 Davida Occults PPM 119290 (10.2 Magnitude Star)  
 07 - 20th Anniversary (1977), Soyuz 24 Launch (USSR)

08 - 5th Anniversary (1992), Ulysses Flyby of Jupiter  
 10 -[Feb 05] Soyuz TM-25 Launch (Russia)  
 10 - Asteroid 451 Patientia Occults GSC 2471-1267 (9.8 Magnitude Star)  
 10 - Comet Shoemaker-Holt 2 Closest Approach to Earth (1.9245 AU)  
 11 - STS-82 Launch, Discovery, Hubble Space Telescope Servicing Mission 2  
 11 -[Feb 02] VSOP-Muses-B M-5 Launch (Japan)  
 12 - Mercury Passes 1 Degree South of Jupiter  
 12 -[Jan 29] Apollo to Landsat Lecture, Washington DC  
 12 -[Jan 31] Components Fit For Space Seminar, Swindon, U.K.  
 12 - 50th Anniversary (1947), Sikhote-Alin Meteorite Shower  
 13 -[Feb 02] USAF Titan 4B Launch (1st Launch of Titan 4B)  
 13 - Mercury Passes 0.9 Degrees South of Uranus  
 13 - Workshop on Solar Sail Propulsion, Pasadena, California  
 13-16 - 3rd Mtg of Eur. Planetary Cometary Observers, Violau, Germany  
 14 - 25th Anniversary (1972), Luna 20 Launch(Soviet Moon sample return)  
 14-16 - Geology of Earth from Space Educator Conference, Pasadena, CA

**15 - RASC Hamilton Centre "Telescope Collimating and Maintenance Workshop" at the McMaster BSB B148 - by Les Nagy**

15 - JCSat-4 Atlas-2AS Launch  
 15 - Wagman Winterfest, Russellton, Pennsylvania  
 16 - Galileo, Orbital Trim Maneuver #20 (OTM-20)  
 16 - Iridium-1 Delta 2 Launch  
 16 - Jupiter Passes 0.2 Degrees North of Uranus  
 17 -[Jan 29] Carl Sagan Public Memorial, Pasadena, California  
 18 - Asteroid 445 Edna Occults PPM 068862 (6.9 Magnitude Star)  
 18 - Asteroid 100 Hekate Occults PPM 128061 (9.3 Magnitude Star)

# The President's Report by Rich Petrone

## President's Report

Well as March progresses so does comet Hale-Bopp's climb northward. If you haven't had the opportunity to see it yet the time to do so is going to be in the next couple of weeks, as the comet makes it's close approach to the sun. As March progresses the time to view is changing from a disgustingly early morning rise to just another very late night, which I certainly prefer.

I am sad to declare that my time in Churchill this past month did not yield any spectacular Hale-Bopp shots as I had hoped. I confess that on the clear nights I found it very hard to go outside with camera and binoculars in -70 oC and lower temperatures (with that good old wind chill). I did however, see what is so far, the most spectacular auroral display I have ever seen.

While speaking of aurora, now is a good time to plug our next meeting. Bruce Collier will be our main speaker at our March general meeting, and he will be speaking on the aurora and air glow. If you haven't seen Bruce give this type of talk make sure you do not miss his patented light show. And just a reminder that our April speaker is Dr. Denis Shaw of McMaster University, who will be speaking on the Martian Meteorite and life on Mars.

We will also be holding a workshop, despite the fact that they are thought to be a waste of time, at the observatory on Saturday, March 15, at 7:30. The topic of the workshop will be the postponed, Weather and the Internet talk that was originally scheduled back in January.

I am still working on putting together a workshop on introductory astrophotography in April.

I am going to cut this month's report short (Yeahhh!!), but I am going to leave with another plea. The club in its struggle to regain the size, resources and atmosphere it once had desperately requires volunteers. For the past few years now it has been the same few (very few) people who have been doing everything for the club. We have been finding it hard to keep the ship afloat when there is nobody writing for orbit,

or using the club's facilities, or more importantly helping out with the running of the club (i.e. through the board of directors or with the public education programs).

With the proposed changes that you read about in last month's Orbit to our membership classes I am hoping that some of these problems will be alleviated and new life breathed into the Hamilton Centre.

However, we need help now. It has been very difficult to conduct the Centre's business this year due to the small numbers on the board. So please, if you are at all interested in helping out your club now is the time that we need your help to turn the corner and bring the club back to what it once was. I hope to see you at the workshop on the 15th and the general meeting.

Remember to hang by your thumbs and happy observing!

Cheers,

Richard Petrone  
525-9140 x24082  
petronrm@mcmaster.ca☆

## Minutes of March Board Meeting

Board meeting March 18, 1997 9:45pm At Observatory

Board Members present: Roger Hill, Rich Petrone, Colin Haig, Mike Jefferson, Les Nagy, Dave Coulson

Regrets: Ray Badgerow, John Kezys, Ellen Ricks, Carmen Martino

Absent: none

Members present: Bert Rhebergen, John Wallace

Recorder: Merrin Macrae

## Space Calendar Courtesy of NASA <http://newproducts.jpl.nasa.gov/calendar/>

There's Something Happening Just about Every Day!

[ Note: M = Magnitude, Occ. = Occults ]

### February 1997

?? - Mabuhay-1 Long March Launch (Philippines/China)

01 - Rover Roundup, Santa Monica, California

01 - Venus Passes 1 Degree South of Neptune

01 - Asteroid 20 Massalia Occults 9.4 Magnitude Star

02 - 20th Anniversary (1977), Burnup of Salyut 4 Space Station (USSR)

02-05 - 6th Annual US-Finnish Auroral Dynamics Workshop, Melbourne, FL

03 - [Jan 29] Carl Sagan Public Memorial, Ithaca, New York

03 - Comet Russell 4 Perihelion (2.23 AU)

04 - [Feb 05] Mars Pathfinder, Trajectory Correction Maneuver #2 (TCM-2), Ok

04 - Asteroid 84 Klio Occults PPM 091967 (9.9 Magnitude Star)

04-05 - In Situ Resource Utilization Meeting, Houston, Texas

## NEW BUSINESS

### MOTION TO CHANGE FORMAT OF MEETING

motion to change format - motioned by Les, seconded by Colin; all in favour

motion by Rich to have John Wallace as a part of the board:

motion seconded by Colin;

all in favour

## MONEY

Les - we are breaking even financially (i.e. \$3300; we have ~\$3450 in bare essential expenses over the next year)

the phone is a problem; costs money, and it is bad public relations (people upset that we don't phone back)

Les motions that we get rid of the phone to save ~\$400 per year (\$30 per month);

seconded by Mike Jefferson.

Discussion?

Roger - cost a lot to put phone in originally

Mike - why is observatory costing us so much?

Les - Orbit, Hydro (\$400-\$600/yr), Rental fees for rooms (but not a problem after August), phone, snow plowing) - these are the basic expenses.

Bert - phone is ESSENTIAL - if something goes wrong, it is a safety measure. Bert would be uncomfortable w/o a phone. If bad PR is a problem, ditch the answering machine. For safety security, phone is ESSENTIAL.

Les - counter Bert's argument: 90% of the time we are up here, somebody has a cellular telephone. At the moment, Les has an answering machine that members can use at any time (this can replace the current phone & answering machine).

Colin - is in complete agreement with Bert for 2 reasons: (i) - 2 occasions needed to call police (RE: attempted break-in). (ii) we do a lot of public nights - you need a phone for this. Why not have increase fees to cover the cost of the phone - 2 ways to do this: (a) up the cost from \$20/key to \$30/key (for key holders) to cover the phone cost - this wouldn't be an

issue. (b) Public Ed. Nights for which we charge \$35, we should up to \$40-\$45 to cover the cost of the phone.

Les- also, have more public Ed. Nights.

Colin - why not charge \$50 for public ed nights.

Roger - why not charge \$3 per head.

Rich - planetarium \$35/show/evening

Les - we can raise money doing planetarium shows too.

Rich - let's vote. All in favour of ditching the phone? Les = yes, everyone else = no.

Roger - should we bring this before the membership at the next general meeting?

Les - no. let it die for now.

MOTION DEFEATED

#### TRAILOR

John Wallace - I have a trailor that I would like to put here for the summer. What do we think?

Roger - that would be a sticky insurance situation. If something goes wrong, the insurance company may not cover you.

Les - Also, people may vandalize. Also, what if your propane tank blew up? The observatory might not be covered.

Roger - essentially, we want to do it for you personally, but we don't think that we can take the risk.

#### BI-MONTHLY ORBIT

Colin - wants to have bimonthly report rather than monthly. we've discussed it previously months ago - general feeling is that we need to be monthly to keep up membership interest.

But, if you consider the workload of everyone else on the board, everybody's job takes <6 hrs/month; I am putting in easily over 6 hours per issue. Too much time!! Therefore, Orbit is too much of a (a) time expense and (b) financial expense

many clubs have quarterly reports, etc.

Les - can we have a bi-monthly orbit, but then a monthly "current events" sheet that would not be given out, but would be distributed at

ticipants in discussions and debates within Council.

Expressions of interest and nominations, supported by a brief description of the individual's qualifications, should be sent as soon as possible to Doug Hube, Chairman of the RASC Nominating Committee, 8950 Windsor Road, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2A2. e-mail: hube@phys.ualberta.ca FAX: 403-492-0714 ☆

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## RASC Journal Call for Articles

The RASC Journal needs your articles!!

This message is a general call for popular-level material for the RASC Journal. The April issue is at press and we're short a couple of items for the June issue. That could be feature articles, notes of interest, centre reports, reports on astronomy activities in your area, photos, suggestions for column ideas, reprint suggestions from your centre newsletter, letters, observing techniques, etc. You can send your ideas or material to me (dlane@ap.stmarys.ca) or to the editors: Pat Kelly (pkelly@tuns.ca) and Dave Turner (turner@ap.stmarys.ca). It *\*is\** your Journal, now lets support it!

Dave Lane, Halifax Centre, Editorial Board, RASC Journal



related to tree removal and have appropriate insurance etc.

A number of individuals have indicated they are unsure of our rights regarding the maintenance of the property. As quoted below, our lease specifically permits removal of trees:

“Section 2: The Landlord covenants with the Tenant as follows:

...

(d) To allow the Tenant to cut down timber and remove trees from the property, if required.”

We can think the wise folks who set up this lease initially for this and other clauses. A copy of the lease is available for your examination.

If you are interested in the tree project, contact a member of the board or get involved with the tree committee.

- Colin Haig☆

## National Librarian

The RASC Nominating Committee seeks suitable candidates for the position of National Librarian, effective July 1, 1997. Election is for a term of 3 years. According to the Society's Bylaws, the National Librarian's duties include (i) responsibility for the safekeeping of all library materials housed at National Office; (ii) overseeing the operation of the Library including lending, acquisitions and cataloguing; (iii) chairing the Library Committee; and (iv) such other duties as may be prescribed by National Council. (Please consult the 'RASC Manual' for more details.)

The National Library is primarily a reference library for the history of Astronomy. In general, the books do not circulate but contents of the slide and video collections do.

It is deemed desirable that the holder of this office live close enough to Toronto that he/she can spend at least a few hours each month at National Office fulfilling the responsibilities of the office.

The National Librarian is a voting member of National Council. Therefore, suitable candidates should be willing and able to be responsible par-

meetings where Orbit won't be?

Rich - we can try it. We're not getting many articles anyway, are we?

Colin - It's getting harder to produce a decent sized Orbit (It can be done every 2nd month, but not every month).

Mike - why not do Orbit every 3 months (go to a quarterly); then, have a “current events” sheet for the months in between. All the sheets have to do is inform the members of what is up and coming.

Les - let's let Colin handle the issue. Let's not make a motion to go every 2 months - it's Colin's work that goes into it, so let him decide.

Rich - so, essentially bi-monthly; Colin can decide on what he is going to do. We'll do a “calender” on the off-months.

Colin - we just save \$300 bucks a year, so now we can pay for the phone!!!!

end of discussion.

## REPORTS

LES (treasurer)

- we have ~\$3300 in the bank (except for what came out for the phone). We have 30-50 members right now (in total; some associate). We have basically barely enough \$ to cover the expenses for the year. The differences in the past have been made by donations and basically by people putting down money to cover things. So, essentially, we can't spend money on little things - you can spend \$ if you want to “donate” it, otherwise, don't spend ANYTHING!!! We're going to do more public nights, and we'll get more \$ from membership returns from U of T press. With this, we should break even.

I submitted our letter to Canada Trust saying that we only need one signature from and exec. Officer for a cheque to be valid.

I conclude.

MIKE (VP)

(a) I can't attend the National board meetings discussion by Colin about how we can information about meetings w/o actually being there.

ROGER (Councillor at Large) - nothing to report

DAVE (secretary) - had to leave early; nothing to report.

RICHARD (President)

Rich: (a) "I quit."

"I submit my resignation as president, but I will retain a position on the board {handed out copies of resignation letter}"

Les - motioned to accept the resignation

Roger - seconded the motion

BRIEF RECESS SO EVERYONE CAN READ LETTER

Discussion:

sentimental sappy junk from Roger and Colin

Roger - I don't think we have any choice but to accept the resignation.

But, we still need to have a president.

Les - in full agreement with Roger. Rich's letter is self-explanatory. But, where do we stand now? We have to have a president. Without one, corporation folds, right?

Roger, yes, we MUST have a president. So, we'll have to nominate someone.

Les - for someone to be a president, they must have been on the board for at least 2 years (not consecutive years). The only eligible people here are Roger and Mike. Roger has been president for the last 2 years; we won't victimize him with being president. When does this resignation become effective?

Rich - April or May - therefore, it is not effective immediately.

Rich - if there is no more discussion regarding my resignation, let's vote.

all in favour? 5 in favour, 1 abstention

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL DISCUSSION REGARDING FILLING THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION

Colin - motioned that Roger take over as president when Petrone leaves.

Mike - seconded motion.

DISCUSSION:

Roger - reason for doing this - Hamilton Centre means a great deal to me. I will not willingly see it die. This nearly happened 2 years ago - but, through the efforts of a lot of people in this room, we've slowly built the club back up.

Les - thank you, Roger, for taking on this burden. My concern is that we'll "burn you out". Roger, are you doing this out of desperation?

Roger - The issues: (i) I don't see anyone else stepping forward; (ii) I don't want to see the club tearing itself apart over what to do about this; (iii) since I was the last president before Rich, hopefully the members won't have a problem with me stepping back in since Rich can't finish the term. Those are the circumstances leading to my being president again. So, to answer your question, yes. But, I won't be on the board next year.

Vote: 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS

date of next board meeting? April 17th, 1997 at observatory; 8pm.

Les - motions to adjourn

Mike seconded motion

All in favour

MOTION CARRIED, MEETING ADJOURNED. ☆

## Minutes of April Board Meeting

Roger Hill, Mike Jefferson, Les Nagy, Colin Haig, Dave Coulson met with the intention of convening a board meeting, as scheduled. Members Bob Botts and Bert Rhebergen were in attendance. The board meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. However, a Tree Committee was formed to manage the process of trimming trees. The tree committee includes Bob Botts as its head. The Hamilton 1812 Ships Company has expressed an interest in removing trees from the property to help build their interpretive centre and museum. The Ships company is a non profit organization like ourselves, and promotes history. The Company re-enacts the War of 1812 and does a number of events at locations like Stoney Creek Battlefield House. This will involve taking out a number of trees, mostly on the south side, to free up the ecliptic. They will cover all issues