

## From The Editor

Ev Rilett

February was a terrific month for club recognition.

Mark Kaye was nominated for and received the Service Award from the National Office of the RASC. Heartfelt congratulations from myself and I'm sure from the entire Hamilton Centre and the rest of RASC. See pages 3 & 4 of Orbit.

The second recognition comes from abroad, England. Ray Fautley found our club via the internet while researching his family genealogy. Roger Hill knew William Fautley and responded with a wonderful write up. Read about this on page 4 of Orbit.

Then we had another internet interest coming from a group called GEOCACHERS. This is a sport using GPSr's to locate hidden treasures. They want to bring interest to our club and theirs. Please read below to find out more.

It is fabulous to see wonderful things happening to any organization. Hamilton has a fantastic history filled with recognition and rewards. I have no doubt it will continue for many years to come.

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*Photo by Roger Hill Feb 9 2006*

## First Person On The Moon

Kevin Hobbs (sharing)

You've probably all already seen this ... but just in case... On July 20, 1969, as commander of the Apollo 11 lunar module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. His first words after stepping on the moon, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," were televised to earth and heard by millions. Then, just before he re-entered the Lander, he made the enigmatic remark "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky." Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no "Gorsky" in either the Russian or American space programs. Over the years many people questioned Armstrong as to what the "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky" statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled. On July 5, 1995, in Tampa, Florida while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26-year-old question to Armstrong. This time he finally responded. Mr. Gorsky had died, so Neil Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

In 1938 when he was a kid in a small Midwest town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbour's yard by the bedroom windows. His neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky. "Sex! You want sex? You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!" **TRUE STORY!**

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Hamilton Steam Museum located at **106 Parkwood Crescent, Hamilton, ON L8V4Z7**, hosts our General Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month

### **March**

2 – General Meeting

9 – Board Meeting - TBA

24-Messier Marathon–rain date 25

### **APRIL**

6 - General Meeting – TBA

13 – Board Meeting – place TBA

## **THE HAMILTON CENTRE OBSERVATORY:**

**From Highway 6 North of Hamilton.**

*Take Concession 7 East eastbound, cross Centre Road.*

*Continue on 7E, keep going past railroad tracks, to near end.*

*Observatory driveway is on the right just before the stop sign.*

### **From Mississauga or Milton.**

*Britannia Road past Highway 25, Guelph Line, Cedar Springs Road to End. South 1 Block on Milborough Townline to Concession 7 East.*

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

*The observatory phone number is (905) 689-0266.*

## **YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President - Les Nagy - 905 388 1011 – [president \(at\)hamiltonrasc\(dot\)ca](mailto:president(at)hamiltonrasc(dot)ca)

Past President – Steve Barnes – [sbarnesat\(worldchat\(d0t\)com](mailto:sbarnesat(worldchat(d0t)com)

Telescope Scheduler – Steve Barnes - [sbarnesat\(worldchat\(d0t\)com](mailto:sbarnesat(worldchat(d0t)com)

Treasurer – John Williamson – [John.Williamson\(at\)sympatico\(dot\)ca](mailto:John.Williamson(at)sympatico(dot)ca)

Secretary – Victor Grimble – [secretary\(at\)hamiltonrasc\(dot\)ca](mailto:secretary(at)hamiltonrasc(dot)ca)

Recorder – Roger Hill – 905 878 5185 – [Roger.Hill\(at\)simpatigo\(dot\)ca](mailto:Roger.Hill(at)simpatigo(dot)ca)

Director at Large – Ken Lemke – [klemke\(at\)worldchat.com](mailto:klemke(at)worldchat.com)

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**Observatory** – 905 689 0266

## **LIST SERVERS**

Check out our newest addition of communications. We have a **new website** found at

<http://www.hamiltonrasc.ca/new> .

Also, we have a new forum linked from the new homepage including an interactive calendar which members can contribute to, found at the following:

<http://www.hamiltonrasc.ca/forums>

Les Nagy will be making improvements to their appearance and function as the weeks go on.

There are two list servers available for members to receive and contribute with informative conversation. Our local centre list. Get in touch with Mark Kaye (see Board of Directors List) and he will sign you up.

There is also the national list. Members must go the national web page to sign up for.

<http://www.rasc.ca/computer/rasclist.htm>

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Public Education is very important at the Observatory. Among other events, our Centre is involved with Girl Guides, Scouts, and other groups interested in a guided tour of the night sky. We generally give a brief discussion, a slide show or other visuals, and then a tour outside with two or three different scopes. This gives the guests a chance to decide for themselves which type of telescope they like best.

It is wonderful to see the look on a child's face the first time they look through a telescope. Also, if you know of a group that may be interested in an evening under the stars call for a booking.

Call a board member to find out more. Your help is always welcome.

## **MONTHLY SWAP MEET**

Feel free to bring in any astronomical items you no longer need in your collection. It might be just what someone else is looking for. A table will be set up each month for items to be swapped that evening. So, clear out that closet space and make room for some new, slightly used astro ware.

## **LOCKS HAVE BEEN CHANGED AT THE OBSERVATORY**

- If you are a Key Holder please make sure you get your new key from John Williamson.
- If you are interested in becoming a key holder, you must be a member in good standing for one year, sign a release form and take a short Observatory Security Training evening.
- Please forward any questions you may have to Board Members.

**A Very Special  
Submission To The  
Royal Astronomical  
Society Of Canada,  
National Office**

Mark Kaye Service Award  
Nomination Letter

The Hamilton Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada would like to nominate Mr. Mark Kaye for the Service award. Not just for outstanding service to the Hamilton Centre, but to the Society as a whole.

About a decade ago, Mark Kaye showed up at a Hamilton Centre meeting. He introduced himself to me. He told me he that his wife and his young family had recently moved back to southern Ontario, and he was 'shopping around' for an RASC centre. We found this out after the regular meeting, when we invited him to our usual 'after meeting' at a local watering hole. His reputation had preceded him, and I recognized his name. Fortunately for us, Mark decided to join the Hamilton Centre. This reversed a trend, since we lost Alister Ling to Edmonton and Peter Ceravolo to Ottawa.

In the intervening years I have come to know Mark Kaye quite well. He is a modest and unassuming fellow, which, considering his accomplishments, is quite a feat. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Centre every year he has been eligible, as the National Representative for

many of them, and President for three consecutive years.

Each year, Mark hosts two barbecues. One is held at his cottage near Kingston, and the other is held at the Hamilton Centres Observatory. In the case of the latter, he organizes the entire event, donating meat and buns, and ably manages to cook for dozens of people. His well-traveled meat thermometer is always at the ready, on guard protecting all! The event has become a fixture on the Centres calendar, and despite some atrocious weather over the years, is always well attended.

One of his most visible accomplishments, though, is that he helps run the RASCList. As one of the moderators, he does such a superb job that only occasionally does the list get off-topic. It is to his eternal credit that most people know the line has been crossed just before Mark steps in! Considering the varied personalities of the people across Canada, he accomplishes this task with a deft and sure touch. He also manages all of the Centres lists, whether they be the Board list, the announcement list, or the general chat list.

As Hamilton Centre President for three years, Mark had his share of problems. For the first time in its history, the Centre was forced to expel a member. Despite heroic attempts to find some way out of the predicament, when the task became inevitable, Mark ensured that the process was followed to the letter. Again, that deft and sure touch was appreciated, as tempers flared and discussion got heated. That same attitude was enormously helpful in getting the healing process started. In the final year, the Centre applied for, and received, a major grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Although Mark was not in favour of this effort, there is no doubt that without his calm and steady hand on the tiller, no-one in the Centre would have dreamed of even applying.

Mark's organizational and motivational talents aside, he is a master of construction and repair. As an example, he took an old 10" mirror in an ancient rickety mount and turned it into a fine classic Dobsonian. The scope is built like a tank, and is an absolute joy to use. Marks attention to detail and skill turned an unused liability into one of the Centres most useful telescopes.

Mark has given more talks to more Centres than anyone who is not an RASC President. By now, most people who have attended Centre meetings across Canada have had a chance to see slides of his cottage near Kingston, one of the few buildings anywhere with a telephone pole through the bathroom. An 'outside the box' thinker, we have all been entertained by tales of LEDs throughout his cottage that indicate whether the roof on his rooftop observatory is open or closed. He has little thought of trying to keep his devices to himself, and shares freely all the tips and techniques that he has created over the years to make the observers life easier. Not content to merely pass on his own

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#### *Service Award Nomination Cont'd*

ingenuity, Mark is also very quick to point out where he picked up a good idea, giving credit where credit is due.

Each year, Mark changes the locks at the Hamilton Centres observatory. He ensures that we have enough keys to hand out to those who need them. When we ran into some difficulty with vandalism, he ensured that the gate could be locked, too. During this time, he would be one of the

#### **A Very Special Response To A Special RASC Submission**

Congratulations to Mark Kaye

Last week, the Awards Committee deemed the nomination for a Service Award for Mark Kaye worthy and recommended to RASC National Council that the award be granted. On Saturday, February 11th, at the National Council meeting in Mississauga, National Council agreed, and the award was approved.

Roger Hill (Hamilton Centre National Representative), Les Nagy (Hamilton Centre President) and Peter Jedicke (RASC President) informed Mark at the first available opportunity. Mark Kaye becomes the 12th Hamilton Centre member to receive the Service Award.

first on-site, trying to repair the damage, cleaning out the locks that had been siliconed or epoxied, and helping to put together the video surveillance system.

Mark Kaye would be an asset to any Centre in the country. The Hamilton Centre is truly fortunate to have him as a member. We have no doubt that our Centre, and the Society as a whole, would be a much poorer place without him.

For these, and many other reasons, the Hamilton Centre would like to submit Mark Kaye for consideration to receive the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Service Award.

Sincerely, and on behalf of the Hamilton Centre,  
Roger Hill, Former Hamilton Centre President and recipient of the Society's Service Award, 1999.

The Service Award was established in 1959 and, on recommendation of the Awards Committee of the National Council, this bronze medal is presented to members who have performed outstanding service to a Centre or to the National Society.

The Service Award is a major award of the Society given to a member in recognition of outstanding service, rendered over an extended period of time, where such service has had a major impact on the work of the Society and/or of a Centre of the Society. The Award is given to only by resolution of the National Council, on recommendation of the Awards Committee.

To be eligible for the Award, a recipient must:

- a) Be a member in good standing. (A Service Award may be made posthumously to a member who would otherwise have been eligible)
- b) Have been a member in good standing for at least ten (10) consecutive years prior to the date of nomination for the Medal
- c) Have rendered substantial service of a well-defined nature to the Society and/or a Centre over a period of at least ten years, or more. Such service should have had a major, constructive impact and would involve a very substantial and continued commitment on the part of the nominee.
- d) Not have received a Service Award before.

Previous Hamilton Centre winners are:

W.T. Goddard (1964), W.S. Mallory (1965), William J. McCallion (1966), Herbert Fox (1968), Norman Green (1970), Frank Schneider (1972), Ken Chilton (1976), Les Powis and Jim Winger (1984), Eric Orr (1988), and Roger Hill (1998).



## **A Very Unique Request Of The Hamilton Centre**

A unique email request was received by the Hamilton RASC and an answer went back to this fellow. Here is his request and answer.

### **Comment:**

*I am a genealogist collecting information on the FAUTLEY family name, so would be very interested to know about the Fautley connection with your organization. Currently I have over 2800 names in my computer files and am constantly on the look out for others, particularly those outside the UK. If you would be so kind as to reply to me by email, I would much appreciate any help that you might be able to give me.  
Regards from Norfolk, England,  
Ray Fautley (now 83 years old.)*

### **Response:**

Dear Mr. Fautley:

I had the very great privilege of knowing William "Bill" Fautley for a couple of years towards the end of his life in the early '70's.

Bill was a very active amateur astronomer in the Hamilton Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. At the time, he was head of the ATM group, the Amateur Telescope Makers. Back then, if you wanted a good telescope, you either had to be independently wealthy, or

you built it yourself. Bill was one of the people who helped kids like me (I was a teenager at the time) realize their dreams of owning a good telescope.

He was a very pragmatic man, full of that all too rare commodity: Common Sense. I must admit that I don't know if this was due to lessons learned over a very long time, or if he was just naturally gifted that way, but to many of us, it didn't matter. If you needed an answer to what seemed like an insurmountable problem, Bill was the fellow you spoke to. I can't remember ever being disappointed.

He was not just a help, he was generous to a fault. I was one of the lucky ones, in that my parents had bought me a home made telescope from someone who was 'trading up'. However, one of the problems with it was that the tripod legs were not the strongest, and one night, one of the legs broke. I was devastated, since my telescope was now unusable. Bill asked for the pieces of tripod leg and built me a new one. I don't know if the oak he used was left over from some project, or if he went out and bought the wood, but I was very grateful. He wouldn't accept any payment, but that I should use the telescope. I still have it, and my son uses it occasionally, the tripod still has one of the legs made of Fautley oak.

He was not just generous, he was an inspiration. He was always pushing people to do better. Whether it was to look a little bit longer at something in the sky, trying to eke out the last little detail, or getting you to try your hand at sketching lunar craters. He had the happy knack of being able to find different things to do with a telescope to keep the hobby fresh and interesting. He let you know that although the sky is vast, even if you live as long as had (he was well past retirement age at this point), you'd never run out of things to interest you, engage you, enthrall you, or challenge you.

The ATMs would meet at Bills workshop every second Wednesday of the month. The problem was that it was not just the people who were building telescopes who showed up. The meetings at Bills place just had to be attended. You just never knew what would happen. There were projects on the go that had to be critiqued, criticized, encouraged or celebrated. It was just one of those places that you had to go to.

When Bill passed away (and I can't give you the date, I'm sorry), the Centre lost something. The ATMs bravely tried to carry on, and managed to for a few years, bouncing around from place to place. It was never the same, though.

To commemorate a life well lived, and as a memorial to the man, the Centre created the Fautley Award. This is given annually to the member who has made the most impact to the Centre, or to the person who has most advanced amateur astronomy in the previous years.

Thirty five years after meeting the man, I am still a member of the Hamilton Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. In no

*Fautley Cont'd*

small part is this due to the example of people like Bill Fautley. I must also admit to being inordinately proud to have been a recipient of the Fautley Award a few years ago.

Unfortunately, I cannot tell you

who he was married to, where he was born, if he had any children, or any other details of this true gentleman.

I know that every family has a few skeletons in it's closet, but there are also a few praiseworthy people, too. Bill was one of the latter.

Roger Hill  
Milton, Ontario Canada



*Photo by Steve Barnes*

**Geocache At Our Site**

Our centre received this email request:

Hello Hamilton RASC, I am looking for permission to place a "Geocache" near your Observatory in Flamborough. I am not sure if you are aware of Geocaching, but it is a sport where we use GPSr's to locate 'hidden treasure' (usually a Tupperware container with dollar store trinkets and a log book) hidden in the woods. You can see the extent of this at the following page:

<http://www.geocaching.com> and our local group:  
<http://www.ontgeocaching.com>

The reason I would like to place a 'cache' at your location is to bring attention to your wonderful observatory. The cache would not be large - anything from a film canister attached to a metal gate to a small plastic container. The seekers would just find the container, sign the logbook and return the container to the hidden location. I would like to make this a puzzle cache so that the seekers would have to go on the Internet and look up some sort of information - probably having to do with astronomy - that would then be translated to read the coordinates for your location. I would like to link to your page and highlight what you do.

Anne Hogan

We've responded by allowing them to hide their treasures at our site. This could turn into a great relationship. Maybe some new members for us? All you GPSr's out there might like to get involved at their end. Sounds like fun.