Report of the CASCA Awards Committee May, 2007

1. The current members of the Awards Committee are: John Landstreet, UWO, 2004-2007 (Chair) Hugo Martel, Laval, 2006-2009 Luc Simard, HIA, 2006-2009 Howard Yee, UofT, 2004-2007

All committee discussions were conducted via e-mail.

2. The terms of Landstreet and Yee end this year, so two new members are required.

Since both the continuing members work in extra-galactic astronomy, it would be approriate to name two new members working on planetary and/or stellar astronomy.

Since both continuing members are bilingual, it is not essential to appoint new members who know French, although it is certainly extremely useful if all the Committee members can at least read both official languages.

- 3. The term of the Chair ends this year.
- 4. During the past year, the Awards Committee has participated in the choice of the R. M. Petrie Lecturer for the CASCA 2007 AGM. Nominations were solicited from the members and from the CASCA 2007 LOC. Several outstanding astronomers were suggested. After discussions with the CASCA 2007 LOC and the Board, Dr Ewine van Dieshoek of the Leiden observatory was selected to deliver the 2007 Petrie Lecture. She has accepted.

The largest task was to select the winner of the 2007 J. S. Plaskett Medal. Eight theses were submitted by as many universities across the country. All were of a very high standard. The Awards Committee recommended that the medal be awarded to Frederic Grandmont (Laval), and this was approved by the Board. Dr Grandmont will address CASCA in Kingston.

As the selection of the Plaskett medallist now requires a lot of reading (eight theses were submitted in each of the past two years), we have tried out the procedure of giving each committee member primary responsibility for presenting two theses to the rest of the committee. This worked reasonably well when the theses were not too far from the specialisation of the committee member, but was more problematic for theses far from the specialities of all Awards Committee members. (Note that in spite of this procedure,

all theses are examined by all committee members; we do not feel that theses outside of all of our fields of particular competence were placed at a significant disadvantage.)

5. We do not have any significant issues to present to the Board, except to remark that the amount of reading has grown quite large in recent years, even with the new "one university - one nominee" rule. We have made some minor changes to the instructions for submission of nominations on the Web pages of the Committee.

John Landstreet for the Awards Committee