

The members of the committee as established at the Kingston meeting and as shown on the CASCA website are:

Chair:

Randall Brooks (2006-09) Canada Science and Technology Museum

Members:

Vic Gaizauskas (2007-10) HIA/NRC

Elizabeth Griffin (2006-09) HIA/NRC

Richard Jarrell (2005-08) York University

Nathalie Martimbeau (2007-10) Harvard University

David Turner (2006-09) Saint Mary's University

There has been more exchanges of messages than usual both between committee members and with others seeking information and advise.

The Committee has been discussing possible sessions at the next two CASCA conferences though there is not total agreement on these initiatives or the focus of the themes. Comments from the Board would be appreciated.

For Victoria we envision one session on a theme related, on it's 90th anniversary, to the Plaskett telescope, its site selection, the astronomers and technical staff, its instrumentation, and their impact on spectroscopy. We'd also include in a call for papers, a request for papers dealing with Mt. Kobau and the QE II Telescope and the history of DRAO. We feel we will be able to fill a session with little difficulty.

For Toronto, with the probably closure of DDO, we feel that a special session on that Observatory, its staff and instrumentation would be appropriate along with the Astronomy Department's role in public education and promotion of astronomy locally and nationally. We envision an extended session with evening public lecture by a noted astronomer familiar with DDOs inner workings, staff and successes. Suggestions for who would best present that lecture are being gathered.

In response to the Board's query as to those astronomers who have been recored on video, the list to date includes: David Andrew, Norm Broten, Vic Gaizauska, Bob Garrison, Ian Halliday, René Racine, and Amelia Wehlau. The original tapes (1-2 hours of interviews) and DVD copies are preserved in the Canada Science and Technology Museum's archives and copies are also copied on one of the Museum's network hard drives which is regularly backed up. We have gathered signed copyright forms and permissions for future use from each of those interviewed. Hence, the videos may be used by researchers, for the media or for exhibitions. To date, none of the interviewees has chosen to restrict use of the videos. Paul Feldman has been the lead for this project but others who know the work of the interviewees have also participated in the interviews as well. Paul and I are hoping to organize more interviews around the time of the Victoria conference. Costs to date for the tapes, digitization and copying to DVD have been covered by the Museum.

I have been consulted on the imminent closure of the DDO by 3 individuals concerned about the loss of the historic facility. Members of the committee also discussed the preservation of the plate collections though this does not appear to be a issue. The motion adopted by the CASCA Board a couple of years ago related to preservation of historic plate collections will help ensure appropriate action is taken should preservation become an issue. Two possible options have been identified should it become necessary. We are also concerned that some of the key instrumentation be preserved and the Museum's curator of Physical Sciences, Dr. David Pantalony (a UofT grad who is very familiar with the University's various instrument collections), will be monitoring the situation and is prepared to work with Observatory staff to try to preserve representative artifacts including, if appropriate, the historic instruments personally collected by C.A. Chant.

Other matters on which I, as chair, have been consulted included a proposal from the British Astronomical Association to the RASC to develop a list of active members since the RASCs founding. This, of course, would include many CASCA members. I pointed out that Peter Broughton's book, Looking Up, provided the names of most of those for which the BAA might be looking for information on. The BAA was looking for the RASC to develop an on-line database. Since Looking Up is now out of print, I suggested that the RASC might consider having it scanned and put on their website as a PDF. The author agreed that that would be an appropriate plan though I have not hear if there has been any follow up with the RASC National Council.

Randall Brooks
Committee Chair