

**IYA2009 Report to the CASCA Board  
May – November 2009**

[www.astronomy2009.ca](http://www.astronomy2009.ca) ou [www.astronomie2009.ca](http://www.astronomie2009.ca)

*Overview: As IYA2009 formally nears completion, the efforts of 100s if not 1000s of volunteers and collaborators throughout Canadian society have led to more than 3,300 events, more than 1 million ‘Galileo Moments, and millions more having experienced an impact of astronomy in their daily lives. The national partnership of amateur and professional astronomers has raised astronomy awareness to a new level. Globally 148 countries have participated in IYA2009, with each reporting comparable success. Plans are taking shape both nationally and internationally to ensure that IYA2009’s education and public outreach (EPO) legacies are achieved. On behalf of our partnership I summarize some of the significant IYA2009 activities on the national scale since the May, 2009 report, as well as briefly report regarding positioning ourselves to ensure the legacies of the IYA2009 in Canada.*

## 1. Organization

Through the generous support of the Trottier Family Foundation we were able to hire Programme Manager Kim Breland, who has helped to bring all of our projects to life and to co-ordinate activities among our partnership of professional (the Canadian Astronomical Society-CASCA) and amateur (Fédération des astronomes amateurs du Québec-FAAQ, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada-RASC) astronomers.

The IYA2009 Executive Committee comprised of seven people [Jim Hesser, Doug Welch (CASCA), Rémi Lacasse, Damian Lemay (FAAQ), Kim Hay, Dave Lane (RASC) plus Kim Breland] continued to meet roughly every three weeks via telecon. Since the award of the NSERC PromoScience grant, John Percy has joined most telecons, at least for those portions in which he was most interested.

An Advisory Board of 17 members and 3 consultants has provided insightful advice and responded effectively when consulted on specific issues.

A set of list-servers (hosted by the RASC) enable communications with the liaisons in the partner organizations, as well as with science centres, unaffiliated (with the RASC) astronomy clubs, and a growing list of persons interested in science education in Aboriginal communities. Since early May weekly electronic updates on IYA2009 activities internationally and nationally have gone out to all the list-servers we’ve established.

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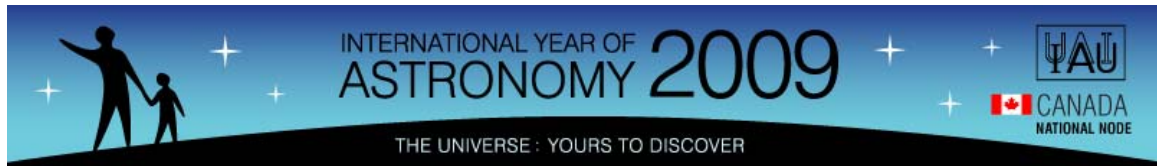
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In August we conducted a poll of our collaborators to provide mid-course input to our activities during the last four months of 2009. While some respondents expressed disappointment in the level of national IYA2009 publicity in Canada, overall the responses indicated people were enthusiastic and generally feeling pleased about how things were going, as well as about their participation in local IYA2009 events.

The true pillar of IYA2009's success in Canada rests not in the formal structure, successful as it manifestly has been. But rather the success rests with the many hundreds of volunteers from the three partner organizations plus even greater numbers from many collaborating organizations such as science centres, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), the National Research Council (NRC), the Perimeter Institute, library and parks systems, arts and cultural groups, the media (e.g., CBC and Radio Canada, community newspapers), etc. These individuals and organizations enthusiastically embraced the IYA2009 vision to create diverse opportunities for Canadians of all ages to pause in their busy lives to connect briefly with their astronomical heritage and future.

## 2. Significant accomplishments mostly with National impact since May

Our IYA2009 aim has been to create long-lasting legacies by focusing on public education, with emphasis on reaching out to children and youth. It is impossible to capture the importance or impact of the 1000s of local events created by the tireless, inspiring and inspired volunteers. As a proxy, I summarize below a few of the IYA2009 activities with national or regional scope and impact that have occurred since May, many of which did not directly involve our partnership's Executive Committee.

**Galileo Moment Goal Achieved:** On 27 October we surpassed our ambitious goal for >1,000,000 Canadians to experience a "Galileo Moment" of personal astronomical discovery sometime this year. More than 3,300 events are registered on our website, [www.astronomy2009.ca](http://www.astronomy2009.ca). They have occurred in every province and territory. (Both numbers fail to reflect the true impact of IYA2009 in Canada, which is much vaster.)

**Implementing the Education and Public Outreach Legacy:** Under the terms of the CASCA-administered NSERC PromoScience grant to the three partners (PI John Percy), Ms Julie Bolduc-Duval was hired as part-time EPO coordinator. Julie has a B.Sc. degree in Physics and Astronomy from UVic, is completing a graduate-level teaching diploma program at the Université de Sherbrooke, and is a physics and astronomy professor at the CEGEP de Thetford.

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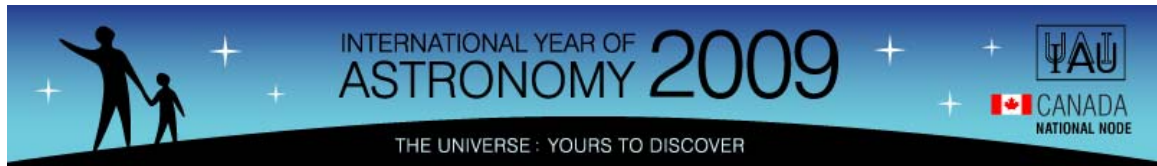
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The Canada Science and Technology Museum has created a very well done, bilingual, virtual astronomy guide for IYA2009:

[http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/schoolzone/virtual\\_programs.cfm](http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/schoolzone/virtual_programs.cfm)

Between February and July 2009 it was downloaded >7,000 times. NRC's Centre of the Universe staff is also transforming some of their activities into on-line versions they hope to release before the end of 2009.

Attached to this report is a handout Julie prepared for distribution at two major teachers' conferences in November. Julie attended the Science and Technology Awareness Network (STAN) conference, 9-10 Nov., while John Percy attended the Science Teachers of Ontario conference. Through these conferences important new contacts have been made offering new opportunities for leverage towards achieving our legacies.

One of the goals of IYA2009 in Canada (and of our NSERC PromoScience grant) is to reach youth and underserved audiences. Julie prepared this short explanation: "But what is an underserved audience anyway?!? The definition could vary from place to place but here are the main groups we've decided to include in our definition:

- Aboriginals
- Inner-city youth
- Rural/remote areas
- Immigrants

These groups often have less access to science activities in general and the kids from these communities sometimes don't do as well in schools."

**Collaborations in Science Education with First Nations Communities:** Efforts to build relationships with Canada's Aboriginal communities and their science education activities continue. During the August Saskatchewan Summer Star Party/RASC General Assembly, Wilfred Buck and Rockford McKay presented a fascinating programme about First Nations astronomy in Manitoba that they have developed over several years. They take it to >50 First Nations schools and 60,000 students in Manitoba. They have been collecting stories from Elders and arranging very nice illustrations to present them, so that First Nations children will know that their ancestors had knowledge and stories of the night sky and that Greco-Roman knowledge is not the only way to think of the sky. They created a First Nations IYA2009 Calendar, too. Their approach and implementation reinforce the power of the IYA2009 vision for recording and sharing Aboriginal astronomical knowledge developed by Albert and Murdena Marshall, Cheryl Bartlett and others over the past three years. Wilfred has written a great article about his

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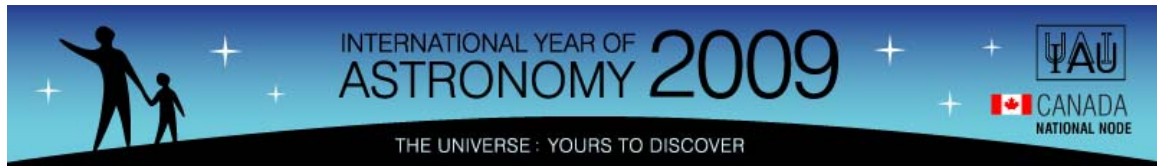
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3

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findings:

[http://www.mfnerc.org/images/stories/FirstNationsJournal/Volume2/008\\_buck.pdf](http://www.mfnerc.org/images/stories/FirstNationsJournal/Volume2/008_buck.pdf)

The Green Teacher's Fall 2009 on-line edition thoroughly reviews the Two Eyed Seeing approach to science education grounded in the experience of our Nova Scotia partners:

<http://www.greenteacher.com/contents86.htm>

Through Julie's participation in the STAN conference we learned of other organizations with whom we might partner to promote improved science education and outreach with underserved communities, ACTUA: <http://www.actua.ca/>

Yvonne Mosley, Executive Producer, Maritime Television and Production Services of Nova Scotia, has particular interest in First Nations communities. She has worked with, and been inspired by, Cheryl Bartlett and Albert, Murdena and Lillian Marshall for years, Yvonne secured funding for a national programme now underway aimed at providing an opportunity for Aboriginal youth to work with Elders on astronomy stories using television and electronic media.

**Star Finders:** A major reprinting (175,000) of the RASC's very popular Star Finder (planisphere) was widely distributed for outreach during the second half of IYA2009 and is available for Beyond IYA activities. FAAQ members provided the translation and raised funds for reprinting of the French version.

**Canadian Space Agency:** From the International Space Station, Astronaut Robert Thirsk filmed an invitation to all Canadians to participate in IYA2009 activities. Dr Thirsk's video debuted at the RASC's Annual General Assembly in Cyprus Hills and has been prominently featured on [www.astronomy2009.ca](http://www.astronomy2009.ca) since August. Moreover, astronaut Julie Payette carried two items of astronomical significance, one specifically identified with IYA, during her Shuttle mission to the ISS: <http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/missions/sts-127/ofk.asp> Also, the CSA issued a new bi-lingual space astronomy poster that beautifully complements the NRC's Canadian Skies poster; both are being widely distributed to educators.

**Commemorative Coin:** The Royal Canadian Mint released its stunning IYA2009 souvenir coin in August, a mintage of 10,000: see [www.mint.ca/astronomy](http://www.mint.ca/astronomy) .

**Québec Travelling Exposition:** The FAAQ organized a travelling exposition titled "L'Astronomie et les Hommes" which crisscrossed the Province during 2009, and which will continue (probably at a lesser pace) during 2010. For more information go to

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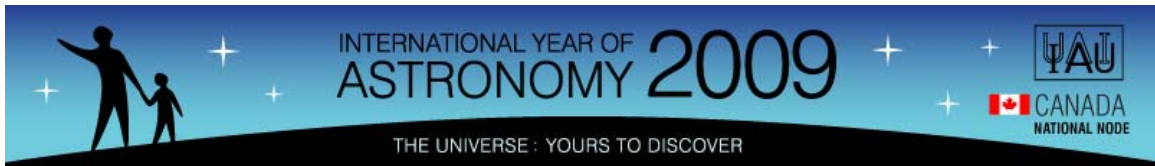
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<http://www.faaq.org/2009/exposition.htm>

**IYA2009 Publications and Media:** Articles about Canadian astronomy and the development of new frontier facilities appeared in two publications:

<http://www.labbusinessmag.com/> ;

[http://www2.cifar.ca/media/files/reach\\_spring\\_09\\_english-web.pdf](http://www2.cifar.ca/media/files/reach_spring_09_english-web.pdf)

John Percy described a grand Canadian IYA2009 cultural success, Tafelmusik's *The Galileo Project*, in CAP Journal #7: <http://www.capjournal.org/issues/07/index.php>

Although not yet national, the University of Victoria's Theatre Department held the first staged reading of a new play that I found to be very powerful. To my knowledge this is the only new, full-length play based on Galileo created during 2009. See:

<http://ring.uvic.ca/09dec03/galileo.html>

During July and August Montréal science journalist Andrew Fazekas did a special stargazing/astronomy radio column for CBC Radio One that was nationally syndicated and ran in 20 different cities across Canada on Wednesdays during the 'drive home' period.

Science journalist Dan Falk had an excellent, two-part IYA2009 special, *Looking Up*, about the impact of astronomical discoveries starting with Galileo on CBC's *Ideas* programme: <http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/features/looking-up/index.html>

The Dunlap Institute's Ivan Semeniuk is now working on a three part series of short (5 minute) television features for Daily Planet that cover current topics including dark matter, black holes and exoplanets. In the 2010 he is planning to be more active in producing online videos for the DI site, which he indicates could also be posted by CASCA (or, I assume, a future national EPO website).

**Dark Skies Awareness:** One of Canada's IYA2009 primary goals was to create more dark skies preserves and awareness of the deleterious effects of light pollution (including at radio and other wavelengths). This was as well a global emphasis for 2009. During the IAU General Assembly, a detailed resolution on Light Pollution prepared by the IYA2009 Dark Skies Cornerstone team was approved; see

<http://www.astronomy2009.com.br/08.pdf>. Its first paragraph reads, "An unpolluted night sky that allows the enjoyment and contemplation of the firmament should be considered a fundamental socio-cultural and environmental right, and that the progressive degradation of the night sky should be regarded as a fundamental loss."

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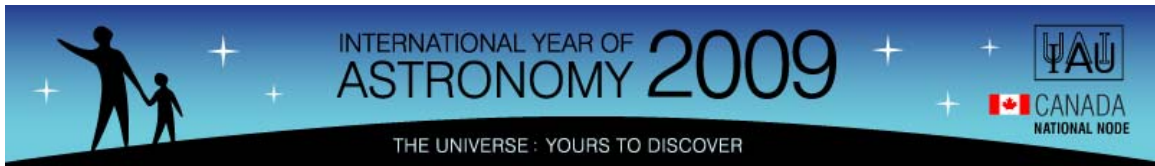
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Members of the FAAQ's light pollution abatement team demonstrated a new approach to building understanding of light pollution issues. They held very successful meetings in Montréal as well as in Québec City on light pollution abatement for municipal planners and engineers. The meetings focused on education about light pollution and on strategies for change. Turnout was much stronger than predicted, drawing planners from over a 100 km away in both cases, and the feedback forms were unanimously very positive. Their approach seems to be a great way to cut through red tape and get directly to decision makers. A short article will soon appear in JRASC.

New dark sky preserves were announced, including Kouchibouguac National Park, NB and Grasslands National Park.

The Victoria Centre RASC produced colourful, informative Light Pollution cards, which they have made available to light pollution abatement activists in the RASC and FAAQ. They can be seen at <http://victoria.rasc.ca/LPA/>

**Canadian Parks:** Saturday 18 July was Canada's Parks Day. Kim Breland led the development of a press release coordinated with the Canadian Parks Council calling attention to the many programmes that took place in Canadian parks that weekend and throughout the summer. We hope that this is the start of a more effective national partnership with Canadian parks to share the excitement of astronomy with the public.

**National Science and Technology Week:** IYA2009 partnered with the organizers of National Science and Technology Week (16-25 October). Eric Chisholm (NRC-HIA) played a major co-ordination role at the national level. He writes: "Occurring annually, NSTW is the best established and largest coordinated national outreach effort led by Federal Departments, federally funded scientists in universities and other federally funded partner organizations. This year NSTW partnered with IYA2009 and ran events from coast-to-coast....It should be noted that this year was a complete record setting year with three times the number of participating organizations and events! One of the more interesting facets to this was that, while there were many astronomy specific events included under the NSTW banner, many of the other unrelated events launched by our federal partners featured an astronomical twist and/or theme and almost certainly made mention of the fact that it was IYA2009. The end result was that the outreach became two-sided with one directed externally towards the public and the second internally towards our federal partners. Many groups such as NRCan and Parks Canada were able to reference astronomy in the context of their research by discussing satellites and atmospheric pollution and it should be noted that the National launch event at the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa revolved around an astronomical theme, The

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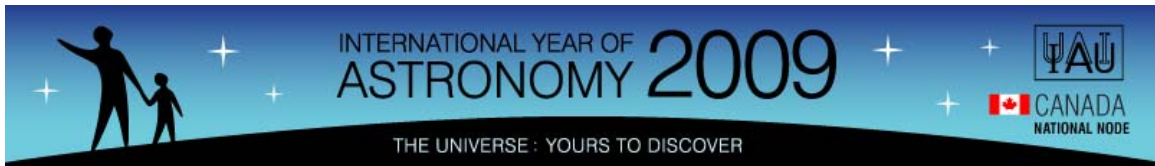
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Universe and Our Place In It

(<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=e56f33ac-0346-4e45-a011-36ca74bd95ef>). In fact, this year the NSTW champion was Canadian astronaut Bob Thirsk who was aboard the ISS and who recorded greeting messages for both IYA2009 and NSTW. The overall theme of 'exploration: the past, present and future' had people looking towards space and the stars.”

With the help of Scott Young, Robert Lamontagne and Damian Lemay, we issued a press release about the international cornerstone, Galilean Nights, which coincidentally occurred during Canada’s NSTW and offered further incentive for volunteers to engage the public through observations of the moons of Jupiter.

While we on the national committee of the Canadian IYA2009 partnership can only bask in their reflected glory, the **Perimeter Institute**, an IYA2009 partner organization, delivered during NSTW an amazing programme of presentations by top scientists accessible to anyone in the world; see <http://www.q2cfestival.com/> (We did help to create enhanced international awareness of their impressive EPO efforts.)

Both during and beyond NSTW, in many communities partnerships have been developed with local **libraries**. A particularly impressive effort was spearheaded by John Percy with the Toronto Public Library, the second-busiest in the world. A 12-page brochure appeared in the Globe and Mail, highlighting the fall programs. IYA2009 got about 2/3 of a page, with lots of graphics. IYA2009 is also highlighted on their website: [http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pro\\_index.jsp](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pro_index.jsp)

**She Is An Astronomer:** Over the summer this IYA2009 cornerstone mission was re-energized internationally. Brenda Matthews agreed to spearhead an effort to develop a Canadian professional astronomy presence in the international "She Is An Astronomer" cornerstone and succeeded in getting a number of younger Canadian research astronomers to contribute their profiles; see <http://www.sheisanastronomer.org/>.

**CASCA and FAAQ Galileo Lectures:** Doug Welch provides this impressive summary. The twenty-two lectures listed below, however, underestimate the impact of the series. From personal knowledge I am aware that the Victoria lecturers have given their talks many more times in local events or in schools that were not officially registered as

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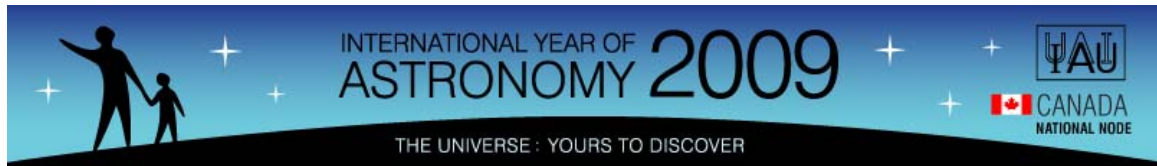
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CASCA GLs. This successful CASCA contribution to IYA2009 could easily be extended within the context of a re-vitalized WESTAR programme and its availability advertised through the list-servers we've established.

Date	Host	Location	Lecturer
10 Jan	Ontario Science Centre	Toronto, ON	Ray Jayawardhana
13 Mar	NRC & Royal Society of Canada	Ottawa, ON	Christine Wilson
3 April	Astronomy Nova Scotia	Halifax, NS	Ray Jayawardhana
6 April	Trent/PAA	Peterborough, ON	Ray Jayawardhana
16 April	Pangnirtung High School	Pangnirtung, NU	Stéphane Courteau
2 May	Ontario Science Centre	Toronto, ON	Laurent Drissen
14 May	Science North	Sudbury, ON	Stéphane Courteau
29 May	U Waterloo/Waterloo RASC	Waterloo, ON	Laura Ferrarese
6 June	Ottawa RASC	Ottawa, ON	Roberto Abraham
11 Sept.	U. Northern B.C.	Prince George, BC	Luc Simard
16 Sept.	Edmonton RASC	Edmonton AB	Laura Ferrarese
17 Sept.	Calgary RASC	Calgary, AB	Laura Ferrarese
18 Sept.	UWO/London RASC	London, ON	Chris Pritchett
1 Oct.	Le Musée du Fjord	La Baie, QC	Luc Simard
22 Oct.	Lakehead U./Thunder Bay RASC	Thunder Bay, ON	Chris Pritchett
23 Oct.	Astronomy Nova Scotia/Halifax RASC	Halifax, NS	Christine Wilson
23 Oct.	HR McMillan Space Centre	Vancouver, BC	Laura Ferrarese
6 Nov.	Mississauga Centre, RASC	Mississauga, ON	Roberto Abraham
17 Nov.	McMaster U./Hamilton Amateur Astronomers	Hamilton, ON	Roberto Abraham
20 Nov.	UWO/London RASC	London, ON	Luc Simard
24 Nov.	Telus World of Science	Calgary, AB	Chris Pritchett
3 Dec.	Okanagan Science Centre	Vernon, BC	Chris Pritchett

But that's not all! In Québec the FAAQ organized a parallel series of 23 public astronomy lectures, as detailed in the following table taken from

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8



<http://www.faaq.org/2009/conferences.htm>:

Série de «Conférences Galilée»

TABLEAU DES RÉSERVATIONS

Date(s)	Endroit	Nom du conférencier(ère)	Titre de la conférence
28 septembre	<a href="#">Musée de la Civilisation à Québec</a>	Jean-Pierre Luminet	L'oeil de Galilée
29 septembre	centre municipal de Cap-Rouge 4473 rue Saint-Félix à 19H30	Olivier Hainaut	"400 ans pour un facteur 1000"
11 Février	St-Raymond	Pierre Chastenay	Où est le centre de l'Univers ?
20 Mars	Rouyn-Noranda	Pierre Chastenay	Où est le centre de l'univers
16 avril	Québec, Musée de la civilisation	Robert Lamontagne	Terre 2.0?
20 avril	Longueuil, à l'École Nationale d'Aérotechnique	René Doyon	À la recherche de planètes extrasolaires"
22 avril	Laval, Rosemère et Boisbriand.	René Racine	Vers des télescopes gigantesques
6 juin	<a href="#">St-Elzéard de Beauce</a>	Pierre Chastenay	Le Ciel de Galileo Galilei
25 juillet	<a href="#">Domaine St-Bernard, Mont-Tremblant</a>	Pierre Chastenay	Où est le centre de l'Univers ?
4 septembre	Rivière du Loup	Pierre Chastenay	Le Ciel de Galileo Galilei
14 septembre	Longueuil, à l'École Nationale d'Aérotechnique	Paul Charbonneau	Activité solaire et changement climatique
15 septembre	Rimouski, Cégep	Robert Lamontagne	Terre 2.0?
23 septembre	Laval, Rosemère et Boisbriand.	Laurent Drissen	Splendeurs et misères des étoiles massives
8 octobre	Drummondville	Pierre Lacombe	Dans l'ombre de Galilée
9 octobre	<a href="#">Musée Nature et Sciences Sherbrooke</a>	Robert Lamontagne	TERRE 2.0
23 octobre	<a href="#">Musée Nature et Sciences Sherbrooke</a>	Pierre Chastenay	Le Ciel de Galileo Galilei

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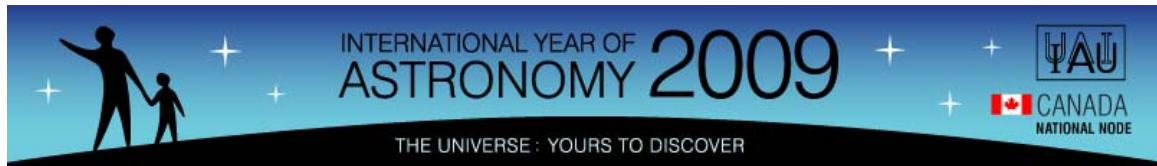
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9

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29 octobre	Baie-Comeau, À déterminer	René Racine	Les télescopes, de Galilée à aujourd'hui
31 octobre	Baie Comeau, <a href="#">Jardins des glaciers</a>	René Racine	Changements climatiques, version astronomique du phénomène,
3 novembre	Club les Boréalides Lac St-Jean Cégep de Saint-Félicien	René Doyon	A la recherche de planètes extrasolaires
11 novembre	Cégep André-Laurendeau	Pierre Chastenay	Le Ciel de Galileo Galilei
13 novembre	Les Vagabonds du Ciel de Lanaudière Inc Polyvalente Thérèse-Martin de Joliette, 13h30	Robert Lamontagne	Terre 2.0?
16 novembre	Auditorium de l'ENA, 5555 PI de la Savane à St-Hubert	Pierre Chastenay	Le Ciel de Galileo Galilei
17 novembre	Chibougamau	Robert Lamontagne	Terre 2.0?
A été remise au début de 2010	Club Mars de Lévis, à l'UQAR - Campus de Lévis, local 2060	Paul Charbonneau	Activité solaire et changement climatique

### 3. Future Activities and Approaches

As I wrote last May, “serious planning for IYA2009 began in Canada in 2005. The best early decision made, bar none, was to approach the RASC and FAAQ to partner with CASCA. In my opinion, the strength of the resulting collaboration is one of IYA’s true successes.” From what I have learned, it appears that our close, respectful partnership between CASCA, FAAQ and RASC, in which all national IYA2009 decisions have been taken together, may be unique among the 148 IYA2009 nations (my impression is that professionals generally dominated decision making in most countries). At the IAU General Assembly it was widely acknowledged that amateurs are making a huge contribution to IYA2009 success in most countries. This global recognition of amateur astronomy can only be good for the future of astronomy and indeed of the world.

At their AGMs over the summer the governing bodies of both the FAAQ and the RASC committed, as did CASCA Board last May, to continuing our national partnership to conduct “Beyond IYA” activities. The commitment to build in coming years upon the IYA2009 successes in Canada was also a premise of the successful PromoScience application submitted by our partnership.

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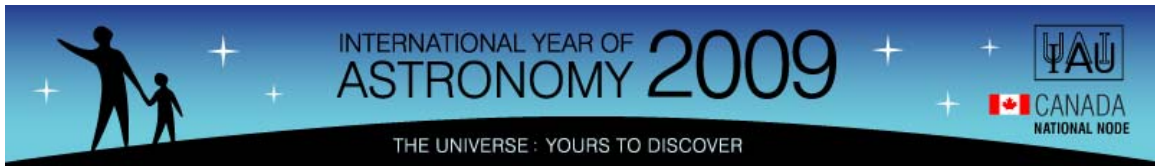
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10





In Rio last August the IAU – representing the world’s professional astronomers – endorsed an ambitious long-range plan focusing on the development of astronomy research capacity in countries presently lacking it, which leads quickly to a focus on Africa, a populous continent where professional astronomy is significantly underdeveloped. This plan requires the IAU to do serious fund raising and will absorb a great deal of the IAU’s attention in the coming months and years. However, the IAU understands that IYA’s globally successful EPO activities with their strong ties to amateur astronomers merit continued support and is committed to doing so. The IYA2009 was never foreseen as a “one-off” event to last for one year, but as a means to create lasting structures for collaboration, lasting self-sustaining activities and innovative concepts for communication of astronomy. Past President Catherine Cesarsky continues ably to lead the IAU’s IYA2009 and beyond co-ordination.

An IAU “Beyond IYA” position paper was sent to SPoCs on 2 December for comment before it is officially distributed. Importantly, it indicates that they are close to having agreement on a “Beyond IYA2009” logo to accompany the iconic figures for use in future promotion of activities. The online resources produced during IYA2009 by the Secretariat, the various projects and by the stakeholders will be preserved after 2009. The main IYA2009 website will be maintained by ESO. They are recommending that individual countries should find ways to keep their national websites and resources, following some guidelines from the IYA2009 Secretariat. Moreover the IAU envisions that many of the cornerstone projects will continue, and will evolve based upon the lessons learned during IYA.

In Canada detailed “Beyond IYA2009” planning is not as advanced as I had hoped, but this simply reflects that everyone has been intensely engaged in delivering IYA2009 programmes in the past few months. However, two important steps are being taken.

First, following a suggestion of Kim Breland reflecting her analysis that the nature of the Programme Manager’s job is going to change radically (and generally become much less demanding/interesting) starting 1 January 2010, we have agreed with Kim that her position as Programme Manager will conclude 31 January 2010. This will allow, as she recommended and the Trottier Family Foundation agreed, the unexpended Trottier funds to be applied to increase the Education Coordinator’s (Julie Bolduc-Duval) time on building the EPO legacies of IYA2009. From her vantage point of unparalleled knowledge of IYA2009 events in Canada, Kim is now focusing almost exclusively on preparing the final report and documenting backup information to substantiate elements of the report. We envision this report as laying the foundation for future fund raising, as well as enabling us to respond with minimal effort to the IAU’s request for national reports when it issues the template.

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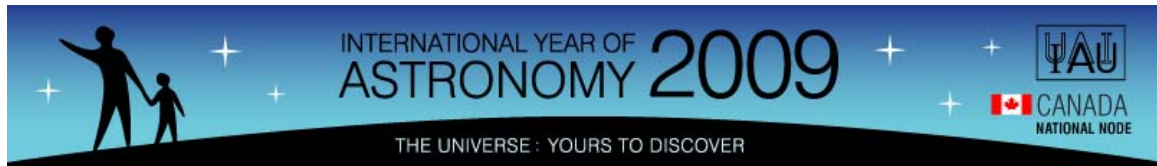
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Second, we concluded that the [www.astronomy2009.ca](http://www.astronomy2009.ca) web site should be archived and deactivated on approximately the same time scale, which is 4-5 months earlier than I anticipated in my May report. Our fully bi-lingual website, with content generously and expertly managed by Andy Woodsworth, has contributed greatly to IYA2009 in Canada. Many have commented upon how remarkably effective the simple ‘Galileo Moment’ counter has been: its steady advance towards and then beyond our 1,000,000 goal became something that drove many to look repeatedly at the site. However, for Beyond IYA2009 activities, different features seem to be called for, as obviously is a new domain name. We are entering into discussion with Marc Jobin (Planétarium de Montréal), the site’s wonderfully supportive technical expert, about the best way to achieve these goals, and welcome input from all three partner governing Boards.

A national Canadian astronomy website was, of course, one of the LRP 2000 ambitions that never materialized, in spite of extensive conceptual planning efforts that Dennis Crabtree, Jayanne English, John Percy and I made. The magnitude of the associated budget proved daunting, especially with no identified mechanism for funding. Achieving a ‘Beyond IYA’ website supporting the related ‘Beyond IYA’ activities strikes me as being worthy of consideration by the LRP 2010 panel.

#### 4. Closing Remarks and Appreciations

As the formal end of IYA2009 approaches, it is impossible for me to thank adequately all who have contributed to its success. It has been a thrill to work with so many talented, dedicated and generous individuals and organizations on this project. However, I feel compelled to mention specifically a few special contributors, starting with the unbelievably hard working members of the IYA2009 Executive Committee, Kim Breland, Kim Hay, Rémi Lacasse, Dave Lane, Damien Lemay, Doug Welch, and of our web gurus, Marc Jobin and Andy Woodsworth. Early contributions that were absolutely central include those of Dennis Crabtree, Jayanne English, Peter Jedicke, John Percy and Scott Young; upon reflection, it is remarkable how many of IYA2009’s national successes have benefitted from one initial draft proposals after another authored by John Percy that helped the rest of us focus and achieve success. To them and all of our collaborators an astronomically-sized Thank You!

During 2009 and into Q4 of FY09-10, with the excellent support I’ve received from NRC-HIA, I have been able to represent Canada and our partnership at the Opening Ceremonies, and to make IYA2009 presentations at the AAS meetings (Jan. & June

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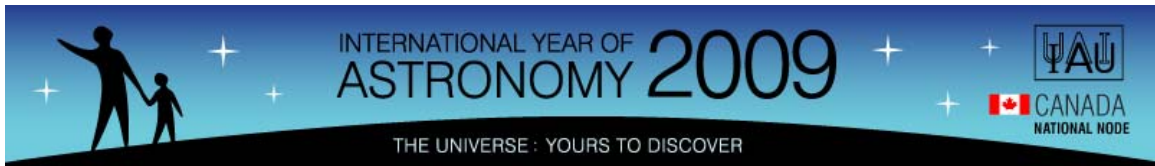
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2009, Jan. 2010), CASCA, IAU General Assembly, RASC AGM, and am planning to participate in the IYA Closing Ceremonies and the Communicating Astronomy with the Public 2010 meeting. In my presentations I emphasize the contributions of amateurs to IYA2009 success at every level alongside acknowledgement of the generous contributions of our many, diverse collaborators throughout Canadian society.

Finally, for readers looking for an unusual gift idea, three Canadian IYA2009-related items might be of interest:

1. For kids, award winning Canadian science writer Jacob Berkowitz's new book, "Out of this World: The Amazing Search for an Alien Earth" (Kids Can Press);
2. Diane Nalini's CD, 'Kiss Me Like That,' of beautiful jazz vocals with astronomical themes <http://www.dianenalini.com/buyCDs.html> (Diane is a Guelph University physicist under her second surname, de Kerckhove) ;
3. the Royal Canadian Mint's IYA2009 commemorative coin:  
<http://www.mint.ca/store/coin/30-sterling-silver-coin-international-year-of-astronomy-2009-prod650001>

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13

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