

Report of the Heritage Committee

1) Committee members

The current members 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

All have been active and recommend that the membership be renewed as is with Rich Jarrell's term to be extended to 2011.

2) Most of the Committee's activities since the December meeting has been to organize the Heritage session for the Victoria meeting. With the very welcome assistance of Paul Feldman, we have 6 people making presentations lead off by Alan Batten as the key note lead off speaker. The focus of this session stems from the 90th anniversary of the DAO and its role and the impact of the institution on Canadian astronomy. The session will be video taped. We will also be planning a similar Heritage session next year in Toronto focusing on the Univ. of Toronto's Astronomy Dept. and DDO.

I have also been approached to help arrange an IYA session at one of the history of science societies, Cdn Sci & Tech Historical Ass'n (CSTHA) or Cdn Soc. for the History & Phil. of Sci. (CSHPS). Those sessions will we expect be more analytical than the sessions in Victoria and Toronto and will reach a different audience. The CSTHA will meet in either Kingston or Quebec City and CSHPS will meet in Ottawa. My recommendation is to have the session at the CSTHA as there is a closer affinity of interests (not to mention that Richard Jarrell and I are both past Presidents of the CSTHA).

3) Paul Feldman, Elizabeth Griffin and myself will continue the video taping of individuals who have had a significant impact on Cdn astronomy over the last half century. To date we have interviewed 8 individuals with some 13-14 hours of interviews all now in digital format. 4 more will be interviewed during the CASCA meetings in Victoria. With one exception, the tapes are open for use and reference. Copyright is shared between CASCA and the Canada Science & Technology Museum where the masters and copies are retained. Individuals interviewed are: Bryan Andrew, Norman Broten, Vic Gaizauskas, Bob Garrison, Ian Halliday, Graham Odgers, René Racine, Amelia Whelau. Don Morton, Harvey Richardson, Sydney van den Bergh and Gordon Walker are scheduled for interviews this week.

4) In planning the Heritage session we had 2 potential speakers decline because the costs were prohibitive for them as they are retired and therefore do not have financial support. I would ask the Board to recommend either 1 day registrations or, for retired members that don't have institutional support, a fee that is similar to that charged students. I anticipate the same problem next year in Toronto. Some historians who may be willing to present do not necessarily have an interest to attend the full conference and technical sessions with the attendant fees.

Randall Brooks
Chair, Heritage Comm.