

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Announcement of Symposium

Section III (Science) of the Royal Society of Canada is to hold a Symposium "Chemical Evolution in the Universe" during the annual meeting of the Society at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, this coming summer. The Symposium will take place between 9:00 a.m. and noon on Wednesday, June 6, 1973, with the following four invited speakers as participants:

DR. RICHARD L. SEARS University of Michigan

The Origin of the Chemical Elements and Stellar Evolution

DR. BARRY E. TURNER National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Greenbank, W. Virginia
Interstellar Molecules

DR. PETER M. MILLMAN, F.R.S.C. National Research Council of Canada

Interplanetary Material

DR. DAVID W. STRANGWAY University of Toronto

The Moon

The talks will be addressed to an audience of scientists in general. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Further details, such as the exact location of the meeting, can be obtained nearer the time from

DR. J. D. FERNIE

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Meeting of SCITEC

SCITEC (The Association of the Scientific, Engineering, & Technological Community of Canada) will hold its Fifth Annual Conference and Business Meeting on May 3rd-4th, 1973, at McGill University, Montreal.

The general theme of the conference will be: PRIORITIES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR CANADA.

Emphasis will be placed on Natural and Human Resources, with special emphasis on Energy, Population Growth, and Regional Disparities.

The conference will conclude by establishing Priorities for the Scientific Societies and SCITEC.

The Teaching of Astronomy

I am about to embark on a survey of the teaching of astronomy in the elementary and secondary schools in Canada. I want to find the answers to such questions as (1) what astronomy is taught in what grades of what schools; (2) how does astronomy fit into the science curriculum as a whole; (3) to what extent is astronomy an optional part of the science curriculum; (4) what training and preparation do teachers have for the teaching of astronomy; and (5) what methods, aids and books are used in the teaching of astronomy? From these answers, I want to find out what professional and amateur astronomers can best do to promote and improve the teaching of astronomy in the schools.

In this survey, I shall contact various officials and consultants within the departments of education in the provinces. It is essential, though, that I have the independent and personal views of teachers. Therefore if you are involved in teaching (especially science) in the elementary or secondary schools, and/or if you have strong views or novel ideas on the subject, I would appreciate hearing from you. My address until July: Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge, England. My address after July: Department of Astronomy, University of Toronto, Toronto M5S 1A7, Ontario, Canada.

JOHN R. PERCY
Associate Professor
David Dunlap Observatory

Notes from Newfoundland

Our annual meeting was held in October, resulting in the following election of officers: President, Dora Russell; Vice-president, Randell Dodge; Secretary, Bill Hurley; Treasurer, Dr. Peter Lockwood.

In November, we had a talk on UFO's, led by Garry Dymond. The subject was argued backwards, forwards and spacewards, but in spite of all efforts, we failed to solve the problem. Nonetheless, it provided an entertaining evening.

In December, we produced our usual Star of Bethlehem program in our little 24-seater planetarium.

One project we have under way is worthy of mention, and may perhaps be emulated by some other centres.

George Draskoy, our Park Interpretation Supervisor, suggested we might plan a pamphlet for park use, showing a map of the summer skies and containing some general information. This we have completed, and the pamphlet ought shortly to be off the press. We hope to follow up the good work next summer by bringing our telescopes out to one of the parks some clear night. If this works out well, we shall do more of this sort of thing.

DORA RUSSELL
President, St. John's Centre

NFCAAA Meets in Hamilton

On Saturday, November 4, amateur astronomers from Southern Ontario and Western New York gathered in Hamilton for the Fall Meeting of the Niagara Frontier Council of Amateur Astronomical Associations. After a very short business session, five very interesting presentations were heard.

Martin Connors, from the London Centre, spoke briefly about his trip to the Canadian Rocket Range at Churchill, Man. Martin was there to measure changes in our ionosphere, and had many interesting remarks to make about our Far North.

Hamilton Centre's representative on the speakers list was Norman Green who spoke about "Planetariums, Past and Present". He traced the development of the planetarium from ancient star globes to orreries, to the modern million dollar "Theatre of the Stars".

Joe Italiano spoke briefly about the Summer Seminar of the NFCAAA held at Syracuse last July. This is a "camp-out" astronomical meeting for members of the NFCAAA.

An invited guest at the meeting was Dr. Tom Bolton of the David Dunlap Observatory. His topic was "Black Holes". Dr. Bolton traced the development of the theory of black holes and showed how astronomers were trying to develop techniques for observing these. One startling statement was that our entire Universe may be a black hole, since the observable Universe fits the theoretical model, both in observed radius and in the density of matter!