

**CASCA Heritage Committee:
Biennial Report to the Board, November 2020 – Summary**

Member	Term	Affiliation
Elizabeth Griffin <i>Chair</i>	2018–21	DAO/NRC
William McCutcheon	2019–22	University of British Columbia
Eugene Milone	2018–21	University of Calgary
David Pantalony	2018–21	Science Curator, CSTM, Ottawa
John Percy	2017–21	University of Toronto
Tim Robishaw	2018–21	DRAO/NRC
Randall Rosenfeld	2018–21	University of Toronto
Ian Shelton	2017–21	(University of Toronto)
David Turner	2017–21	Saint Mary's University
Gordon Walker	2017–21	UBC and UVic
Jasper Wall	2018–21	University of British Columbia

Committee membership

Membership renewals will be taking place this year following the Annual meeting, and will be reflected in the next Report. All members listed above are continuing as members of the Committee.

Book (update): *The History of Canadian Radio Astronomy*.

This is very much a work in progress. The submission date for the MS has had to be revised as a result of the prolonged indisposition of the Senior Editor (Jasper Wall), but the publisher (Springer) is fully understanding of the situation. Pandemic-enforced lockdowns have also been tough to work with, not least because some contributing authors have proved difficult to locate by email. All have had to contend with the difficulties of working under abnormal conditions, and we admire and thank them for their fortitude and forbearance.

Committee activities

At the request of Dennis Crabtree, and in preparation for a CASCA-50 feature at the upcoming annual meeting, members prepared short obituary notices for more than half of the 44 or so CASCA Charter Members who have now passed on.

Percy gave a 2½-hour oral-history interview about the University of Toronto Mississauga and its history, and a 2-hour oral-history interview about the University of Toronto's Scientific Instrument Collection (utsic.org) as well as about his career at the University of Toronto. Both were for the University of Toronto Archives.

Robishaw has scanned and archived all the materials relating to Canadian radio astronomy among the items in Richard Jarrell's collection, as deposited at the DRAO by Martha Jarrell; they include audio tapes made by Richard. Electronic copies will be placed in the public domain.

The DRAO has named five of its conference and screened rooms in honour of Jack L. Locke, Arthur E. Covington, Gladys A. Harvey, Norman W. Broten and Roy Hamilton. Robishaw is producing a poster about the career of each, for display in the corresponding room.

Shelton has been supporting improvements and restorations currently under way on the David Dunlap Observatory buildings at Richmond Hill (Toronto). Following the sale of the DDO by the University of Toronto to a land developer in 2008 and the subsequent transfer of ownership

to the City of Richmond Hill in 2017, the buildings and half of the original land are now protected by a Cultural Heritage Landscape designation and recognized as a “National Historic Site”. Over the past year, the City of Richmond Hill has been implementing parts of its ambitious Master Plan to restore the Observatory buildings and transform the surrounding grounds into a vibrant urban park. Power and water services have been modernized, drainage issues addressed, and the external structure, including windows, doors, railings and elevated walkways, lovingly restored (see richmondhill.ca/en/find-or-learn-about/ddo-ongoing-projects.aspx). The City of Richmond is also providing a rich set of Astronomy Outreach Programs at the Observatory (richmondhill.ca/en/find-or-learn-about/ddo-programs.aspx).

Griffin has joined a new group of enthusiasts (chiefly librarians and archivists and based mainly in the US) to raise awareness of the plight and neglect of astronomy’s legacies of data (chiefly photographic) from the past. We are watching this group keenly to see where it could lead.

Publications

R.A. Rosenfeld, *Charles Messier and the RASC: When Did Society Members Turn to Observing Deep-Sky Objects?*, JRASC 115, 1 (2021 February), 28–35

R.A. Rosenfeld, *Exploring the History of Colonialism and Astronomy in Canada*, JRASC 115, 2 (2021 April), 89–95