

Lifelong Learning – Some Astronomy Resources in the GTA

Some rough notes to introduce the key ideas of astronomy:

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/~astro/basics.htm>

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Astronomy Clubs. In addition to the RASC Centres mentioned below, there are astronomy clubs in many cities and towns in Ontario:

<http://www.skynewsmagazine.com/pages/clubs.html>

Astronomy News. One source is:

<http://skyandtelescope.com/news>

Books on Astronomy. Any written by Terence Dickinson, published by Firefly Books, especially *Exploring the Night Sky* and *Extraterrestrials* for young people, and *NightWatch*, *Summer Stargazing*, and *The Universe and Beyond* for anyone. Also Dan Falk's *Universe on a T-Shirt*, and *In Search of Time*.

The Canadian Astronomy Education Website, created by the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) and supported by the PromoScience Program of NSERC, and by Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade:

<http://www.cascaeducation.ca>

David Dunlap Observatory. P.O. Box 360, Richmond Hill ON L4C 4Y6. The observatory is presently being operated by the Toronto Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, but the future of the Observatory and its outreach programs is uncertain.

<http://www.theDDO.ca>

McMaster University, W.J. McCallion Planetarium, Department of Physics and Astronomy, 1280 Main Street W., Hamilton ON L8S 4M1. Planetarium programs. (905) 525-9140x27777.

<http://physwww.physics.mcmaster.ca/planetarium/>

Mississauga Astronomical Society: (now the Mississauga Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada): monthly meetings, star parties, and occasional public events in the Mississauga area. Hosted by the University of Toronto at Mississauga.

<http://www.mississaugaastronomicalsociety.ca>

Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Road, Toronto ON M3C 1T3. Wide variety of curriculum-based programs for students, teachers, and the public, including planetarium programs and *OmniMax* films. (416) 696-3140.

<http://www.OntarioScienceCentre.ca>

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has branches or Centres in: Ottawa, Kingston, Mississauga, Niagara, **Toronto**, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Sarnia, Windsor, and Thunder Bay. Many have programs for schools and the public.

<http://www.rasc.ca/x> where x is the name of the Centre

Royal Ontario Museum, Education Department, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto ON M5S 2C6. Wide variety of curriculum-related programs for students and teachers, using mobile planetariums. (416) 586-5801.

<http://www.rom.on.ca/schools/visits/>

Star Chart: You can make a custom star chart, for any place, date, and time, at:

http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/skychart/article_1220_1.asp

Also: good star charts at: <http://www.skymaps.com>

Sky Information On-Line. One source (in addition to www.cascaeducation.ca) is:

<http://stardate.org>

SkyNews, Box 10, Yarker, Ontario K0K 3N0. Astronomy from a Canadian perspective; edited by Terence Dickinson; the best magazine resource on astronomy for students, libraries and the public.

<http://www.skynewsmagazine.com>

University of Toronto, Department of Astronomy, Toronto ON M5S 3H8. Public open house on the first Thursday evening of each month. Occasional public lectures. The Royal Canadian Institute also has occasional public lectures on astronomy as part of its Sunday afternoon series at the University of Toronto.

<http://www.astro.utoronto.ca/lectures.html>

University of Toronto Astronomy and Space Exploration Society, an undergraduate student organization which presents a regular series of excellent public lectures each year.

<http://asx.sa.utoronto.ca>

York University, Department of Physics and Astronomy, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto ON M3J 1P3. Tours all year, day or evening, by appointment. Public tours on Wednesday evenings. (416) 736-2100x77773.

<http://www.yorku.ca/observe/>

Some References on the History of Astronomy in Canada

On the Canadian Astronomical Society's education webpage, click on any of the links under "Canadian Astronomy":

http://www.cascaeducation.ca/files/canadian_astronomy.html

For the history of the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Toronto:

<http://www.astro.utoronto.ca/history.html>

The Cold Light of Dawn, by Richard Jarrell, University of Toronto Press, 1988. An authoritative and comprehensive history of Canadian astronomy, up to 1988.

Looking Up, by Peter Broughton, Dundurn Press. A wonderful history of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.