

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!

Bill Miner of Syracuse wrapped up the session by exhibiting a new drive for a telescope, that he had manufactured at a very low price.

Following the papers session, many of the persons present adjourned to a nearby restaurant for a delicious meal. The day ended with a gathering at Ken Chilton's house, where the participants had a chance to exchange notes, make new friendships and rekindle old ones.

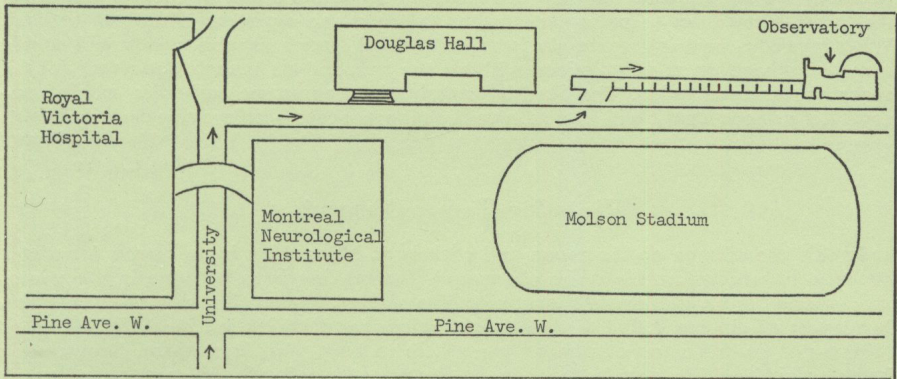
How to Find the Montreal Centre Observatory

Our little Observatory building is located on the upper McGill campus behind Molson Stadium. Many people have told us that they had difficulty in finding it. We admit that it is rather inconspicuous, especially when the surrounding trees are in leaf. We hope the chart, shown below (which may not be exactly to scale) and the following directions will be helpful.

1. Proceed up University past Pine Avenue.
2. Pass under archway that connects Royal Victoria Hospital and the Montreal Neurological Institute.
3. Take FIRST turn to the right. (It looks like a parking lot but is actually a road).
4. As you proceed along this road, Douglas Hall (a college residence) is on your left, and then the upper entrances to Molson Stadium on your right.
5. Just past Douglas Hall on your left is a flight of wooden stairs leading to a practice football field which is surrounded by a steel fence.
6. Leave your car in the parking area at the foot and mount the stairs.
7. At the top, pass through the gate, turn sharp right and follow the fence to the Observatory at the corner of the field. It is a grey stucco building with an aluminum dome.

The Observatory is open to visitors every Saturday evening year round. You will be very welcome.

Montreal Centre



Apollo 17: The Beginning, We Hope

It is probably not often that an amateur gets to visit the largest spacecraft centre in the world. It must be indeed rare that he can tour Cape Kennedy and witness the launch of a mighty Saturn V rocket at the same time. However, such was the good fortune for five of us from Ottawa and Vancouver last December when we drove southward to cover the activities and launch of Apollo 17.

Cape Kennedy sprawls along an 84,000-acre section of the north-eastern Florida