

International Year of Astronomy – Edmonton – Kick-Off Event

Where: TELUS World of Science

When: January 10th, 2009, 11 AM to 5 PM

11:00 am – 5:00 pm To honour the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first astronomical observation with a telescope we have asked members from Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) to bring down their telescopes for public display. This is a splendid opportunity to talk to an enthusiastic group of observers and learn about the night sky and the instruments they use to explore the universe. Perhaps you would like to bring down you own telescope and set it up and share your enthusiasm with the public. We welcome all telescopes. Telescopes will be set up in the main lobby.

Children's activities on astronomy will be held throughout the building including assembly of star finders, colouring planets, telescopic observing of objects in the building, stellarium astronomy software in the DOW computer lab.

Fragments of the meteorite fall that that occurred on 2008 November 20 (Marsden Meteorite) will be on display, and local meteorite experts will be on hand to answer questions about the event and meteorites in general.

Have you ever wondered how astronomers make the telescope mirrors and lenses? Come and watch a local expert in action and observe telescope mirror and lens grinding demonstration.

Display and information booths representing the RASC, light pollution, and the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve

Noon – 4:00 p.m. Sasiri Bandara book signing by the Gift Shop. Sasiri Bandara, currently a grade 12 student at **M. E. LaZerte School**, released the second edition of his book *Our Solar System and Beyond* in 2007. The book is available at the Teachers' Book Depository and the Telus World of Science gift shop. Mr. Bandara will be available to sign his second edition. What a great opportunity to meet a talented young astronomer and author.

1:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Pubic Observatory open during the afternoon and evening, weather permitting. During the afternoon, come and hunt for solar activity through the observatory's solar telescope, and in the late afternoon and early evening you might get a look at Jupiter. Who knows what wonders will unfold after sunset?

Main IYA Presentation

Media and Invited Guests: (limited seating)

2:00 p.m. Kick-off event begins and introduction of the International Year of Astronomy
2:20 p.m. Information on the year's events.
2:30 p.m. Presentation, "Galileo and the invention of the telescope" by Dr. Robert Smith
3:00 p.m. Power Point presentation of astronomical images with background music.
3:10 p.m. full dome show: Infinity Express
Media interviews
3:40 p.m. Refreshments in Star Light Room
Dr. Robert Smith book sale and signing, "Hubble: Imaging Space and Time"
Sasiri Bandara book signing
4:00 p.m. Program ends

Passport and reward:

Passport stations will be set up throughout the activity, where individuals can go to to get their passport stamped. They are rewarded in the end with a planet mobile that they can build and take home.

TWOSE Membership incentive: DVD “Eyes on the Skies” giveaway