

# THE CELESTIAL OBSERVER

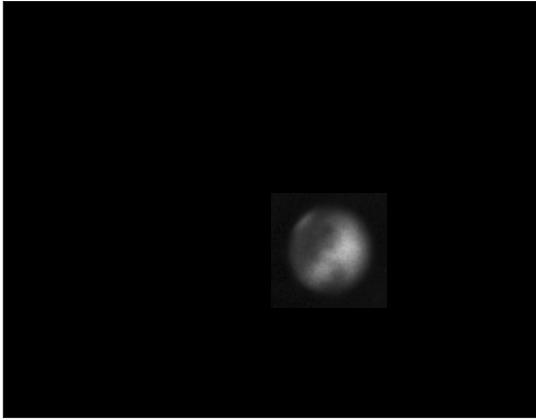
newsletter of the

## Oshawa Astronomical Society

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Mars as seen on July 21, 1986, when it was only 60 million kilometres from Earth. Although not as spectacular as it will be in the autumn of 1988, Mars nevertheless dominated the summer sky, rivaling Jupiter in brightness and telescopic detail.

(12" Questar, eyepiece projection, TP 2415 film, and a 1/8 second exposure).

## A History of Astronomy in Durham Region

Possibly the first astronomical organization in Durham Region was the Lake Ontario Astronomical Association. It was founded on July 7, 1977 (the date of its organizational meeting) and held a total of 11 meetings during its lifetime. The president, and driving force behind the LOAA, was Ray Grotenhuis. With his departure for University, the LOAA fell into dormancy just two years after it was founded. Fortunately, the secretary-treasurer of the LOAA, William Kinsman, kept records of what went on at meetings, and thus we can look back at the activities of this group:

The LOAA held eight meetings in its first year, the programs of which were summarized as follows in their 1977/78 report:

July 7/77	Organization Meeting: Adopted constitution; held elections
August	13 Observational Evening at the home of Mr. J. Ralph
Sept 30	General Meeting: Film "The Universe" shown at Paul Dwyer High School, Room 41
Feb 15/78	Observing Program: short talk by W. Kins- man on "Star Time and Clock Time"
April 2	Observation Evening at Lakeview Park
April 8	Special Meeting. Film on "The Crab Neb- ula" and talk by Dr. C.T. Bolton "The Discovery of Black Holes"
June 2-3	Exhibition in mall of Oshawa Center. Gained three new members. Noted names of 29 interested persons.
June 28	Annual Report. Talk on "Telescope Build- ing" by R. Grotenhuis.

The report also mentioned that without support from the membership, the Association would be in trouble. At the end of its first year the LOAA had "no instrument, and ... no home place from which to observe regularly."

Financial records show that during its existence, 41 members Joined by paying the \$2 membership fee, up to and including the very last meeting on January 20, 1979. Excerpts from the minutes of the last three LOAA meetings are as follows:

- Oct 11/78 7:45 pm, Room C-250, Durham College Constitution amended, James Tremblay elected vice-president. Report of a visit to Stellafane, by James Tremblay. Discussion on establishing a regular observing site on CLOCA property. Telescope mount (under construction) by Beaton & Tremblay examined. Talk of forming a telescope making group.
- Dec 8 Room C-249, Durham College. Discussion on sources of large financial help, for the building of an observatory. Report on the "Construction of a Primary Mirror Mount" by J. Tremblay. Continued discussion of a possible observatory site.
- Jan 20/79 Public meeting arranged by Durham College in Room C-113. Speaker: Dr. David Strangway on "The Origin and Evolution of the Solar System".

In a letter to Mr. W.M. Campbell of CLOCA, dated December 16, 1978, the LOAA executive stated that:

Tentative long-range plans picture one larger telescope permanently located at the observing site. A wooden frame shelter, with a roll-off roof, would house a telescope of 18" diameter, weighing possibly 1 ½ tons. The shelter for the instrument would be about 12' by 15'. An instrument of this calibre would be used for photographic work, as well as for direct observation.

In addition, the letter defined the LOAA as a voluntary cultural association of persons interested in Astronomy, to the extent of telescope building, and observation of the heavens with portable telescopes.

January 20, 1979 marked the end of the LOAA and the beginning of a two year intermission which was to end in November 1981 with the formation of a second group, the Durham Region Astronomical Society.

TO BE CONTINUED

The OAS for 1987

The 1987 OAS membership (as of Feb 15) is given below to encourage communication among OAS members. Want to go observing or just "talk Astronomy"? Give someone a ring!

Ghislain	Chabot	000-0000
Steve	Chomniak	000-0000
Renee	Cotton	000-0000
Allan	Dell	000-0000
Jim	Housego	000-0000
Don	Jamieson	000-0000
Kim	Kanstein	000-0000
Walter	MacDonald	000-0000
Nicole	Michaux	000-0000
Scott	Ramsay	000-0000
Peter	Wotherspoon	000-0000

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Please send news and/or articles to:

Walter MacDonald,  
Editor, TCO,  
759 Glencairn St.,  
Oshawa, Ontario  
L1J 5B1

