

Our community outreach program has evolved and improved over the years. Basically we are a science resource for our community. We service the general public in a host of ways:

- We schedule open house sessions that are offered on a drop-in basis (usually Friday evenings) in season. Dates are publicized on our website, with up-to-date news of any changes that might be necessary.
- We frequently publicize special events such as meteor showers or lunar eclipses. Events feature informative audio-visual presentations, knowledgeable personnel on hand to answer questions, and astronomical equipment ready for use.
- Once a year, we offer a nine-week course for new observers in visual astronomy (NOVA). This has proven to be very popular, with participants often saying they have always been interested in astronomy but had never had a chance to get involved. Unfortunately astronomy is often only lightly covered in our school system, as not all teachers are well-trained in astronomy, and many offer just the basics.
- We offer our facility as a teaching resource. Tours may be booked by teachers, youth group leaders, and other community groups. The leaser simply selects an available evening and we host the group in an age-specific topic-specific event. For each tour, we also have a lot of educational material to offer to the participants. We try to make sure that everyone leaves with something in their hand: a sky map or a planisphere, but always something that will get them back out under the sky with a parent or a friend.
- On clear nights, our tours emphasize hands-on exploration of the sky. We have a large number of small telescopes for participants to use, finding that it is much more satisfying for the individuals to learn the sky and find celestial 'deep-sky'-objects on their own, rather than just to be shown things.
- We regularly have a booth in the Prince George Recreation Market, held on an annual basis in the fall.
- We participate in the July 1st celebrations in Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park (formerly Fort George Park). We have our own canopy for our display, which features telescopes and other equipment on display, plus solar viewing, etc.
- Once a year (usually during September, weather permitting), we host the Fort St. James Star Party. This is an observing extravaganza, held in conjunction with Parks Canada personnel at the Fort St. James National Historic Site. They make an area available for telescope setup, washroom facilities, and a camping area for observers to use after late-night viewing. It has proven to be very popular over the years.
- One of our members undertakes a weekly 90 second CBC radio broadcast, describing the week's astronomical events, to inform and educate. These broadcasts cover over 1400 square kilometers and population of 80,000.
- The same member also provides occasional CBC Radio interviews covering occurrences in the night sky. These interviews cover half or the entire province, depending on the program.

- We have a real-time network of two cameras that track meteor falls near Prince George. Please see <http://www3.telus.net/rascpg/> . There are hopes to expand the network across more locations across northern BC.
- We also host occasional community events. The Bob McDonald presentation this September 2015 was very popular.
- Volunteers have been very active over the last decade or so maintaining and upgrading our facility to better serve the public. Amongst many improvements we may list (but are not limited to) are: the conversion of the 24" telescope from manual to fully 'go-to' operation (in which a computer moves the telescope to user-selected objects on the computer screen), motorized rotation of the dome (now also computer-controlled), motorizing the shutter on the dome (avoiding a long hand-crank), upgrading the mirror from mediocre to excellent optical quality (the original mirror figuring was flawed), addition of a sensitive wide-angle camera (the output of which is sent to a small monitor in dome and to a large monitor in the classroom), the construction of a spectrograph (in progress), the installation of four fully serviced piers outside on the observing deck which will accommodate a wide variety of small telescopes, the acquisition of a powerful green laser to point to objects in the sky, augmenting our already extensive library of astronomy dvd presentations, and the addition of video streaming so that out-of-town people can participate in NOVA presentations.

There are a limited number of science opportunities for children or families in Prince George as there are no flashy science centres with paid professionals offering popular science to the public. In conjunction with Exploration Place, with whom we frequently offer joint presentations, we are the science destination in Prince George. We do this on very small budgets with volunteer presenters. Our success is largely because of the imagination and inventiveness of our personnel to do a lot with a little. Funds invested with us pay great dividends, which include imbuing young people with a taste of science, and hopefully a thirst for more.