

DDO Doings

The Doings of the David Dunlap
Observatory
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www.theddo.ca
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Welcome to a new season of stargazing at the David Dunlap Observatory!

We were busy behind the scenes during the fall, winter, and spring. **TVOntario**, the **Discovery Channel**, **Space**, and the **Weather Network** have all visited us to shoot scenes for upcoming television, so watch for us on your favourite brainy TV channel. The DDO's **75th birthday** was this past May, and the birthday celebrations were a blast, with picnicking, face-painting, birthday cake, and stargazing. We even had an article in the May/June issue of **SkyNews**, Canada's own astronomy magazine.

Upcoming events include lectures from some familiar faces and some new speakers, so stay tuned to our schedule on our website, <http://www.theddo.ca>.

What's up in the sky? **Saturn** is up until late in the evenings and is a great target for any instrument, from the binoculars and telescopes on the lawn to the 74" reflector in the dome. It's easy to spot the rings, which span 300,000 kilometres, and six or more of Saturn's moons.

Jupiter is an early-morning sight, but in the late summer and early fall it will be up in time to see before bed. Keep an eye on this one – when Jupiter recently emerged from behind the Sun, one of its iconic equatorial bands (commonly known as the big brown stripes) was gone! The stripe is known to fade every few years but this time it's gone completely. Observers around the world will be watching for signs of its reappearance. Jupiter was also recently struck by a mystery asteroid, revealed in video astrophotography by two amateur astronomers.

If you miss the **partial lunar eclipse** at dawn in late June, no worries! There will be a much greater **total lunar eclipse** on **December 21st**, and in the meantime we have a busy observing schedule planned at the DDO. There will be plenty of great sights to see from right here, such as the **Perseid meteor shower** in August – it makes a great party and light show!

Hope to see you there!

2010 David Dunlap Observatory Schedule of Events

Date	Speaker	Date	Speaker
19 June 2010	Dr. Roberto Abraham	4 September 2010	Observing Night
26 June 2010	Dr. Anne-Marie Weijmans	18 September 2010	Dr. Michael de Robertis
10 July 2010	Dr. Rupinder Brar	25 September 2010	Dr. Doug Welch
17 July 2010	Paul Delaney	2 October 2010	Paul Delaney
24 July 2010	Star Talk – TBA	16 October 2010	Observing Night
7 August 2010	Elizabeth Harper-Clark	23 October 2010	Observing Night
12 August 2010	Perseid Meteor Shower	30 October 2010	Hallowe'en Observing
21 August 2010	Star Talk – TBA		
28 August 2010	Star Talk – TBA		

365 Days of Astronomy Podcast

On May 31st, to help mark the DDO's 75th anniversary we recorded a special podcast about the history and the future of the DDO that you can still download from the May 31st page at www.365daysofastronomy.org . The daily podcast is one of the activities of the International Year of Astronomy in 2009 that is still continuing.

Contact Us Online

As well as our websites, you can keep track of DDO activities on **Twitter** with our feed at www.twitter.com/ddostars . We also have a **FaceBook** page at www.facebook.com/TheDDO/

David Dunlap Observatory Promo-Wear

Here's your chance to purchase the astro-fashion accessory of the season: the RASC Toronto Centre DDO tee-shirt! Below you'll see our shirt modeled in front of the historic **Lick Observatory** in California. On the back of the shirt is a beautifully silk-screened, colour image of the David Dunlap Observatory with the caption: "**There's no place like Dome!**"

A wide range of sizes is still available for purchase at Toronto Centre member nights at the **Ontario Science Centre**, and at the Observatory. Price: just **\$22**. All proceeds support Toronto Centre outreach activities at the DDO.



In advance of the DDO's 75th anniversary on May 31st, we solicited greetings from other astronomical institutions in the same way that "birthday telegrams" were read out at the original opening ceremony in 1935. Here is a summary of our responses:

We congratulate your facility on its 75th anniversary! I look forward to reading more about it.

-Robert Ade, Chabot Space and Science Center, Oakland CA

As a past Chair of the RASC's Historical Committee, and, of course, as the V-P for Collections and Research at **CSTMC** it is very much my pleasure to extend birthday wishes on the 75th anniversary of the opening of the David Dunlap Observatory.

-Dr. Randall Brooks, Canada Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa ON

On behalf of the staff of the **Dominion Astrophysical Observatory** and of all my colleagues at the **Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics**, I wish to extend greetings to everyone involved in operating the David Dunlap Observatory on the proud occasion of its 75th anniversary.

-Dr. Jim Hesser, Director of DAO, Victoria BC

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of world-renowned David Dunlap Observatory, in Ontario, Canada, please accept birthday congratulations from **Griffith Observatory**, your partner this year in Diamond Jubilees.

-Dr. E.C. Krupp, Director of Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles CA

It is so heartening to see that, on the eve of its 75th anniversary, the DDO will continue the wonderful tradition of Canadian astronomy that it has inspired since the 1930s, and I wish you all the best and continued success with your programs.

-Dr. Harold A. McAlister, Director, Mount Wilson Institute, Mt. Wilson CA

All congratulations to the David Dunlap Observatory on its 75th. I went there once – in 1940, when I was in Toronto, briefly, learning how to fly (R.A.F.) Sadly, I have seldom been to Canada since. We all know that the DDO has had a very distinguished history. I am sure that your next 75 years will be equally fruitful.

-Sir Patrick Moore, West Sussex, England

It is a pleasure to send birthday greetings to the David Dunlap Observatory from your sister organization, the **Astronomical Society of the Pacific**! ...Best wishes from the staff, Board of Directors, and members of the ASP.

Sincerely yours,

-Prof. Bruce Partridge, President, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, San Francisco CA

We wanted to name an asteroid for David Dunlap, for our **LONEOS** program comes across these things with great frequency, but found that he already has a piece of such extra-terrestrial real estate to his credit. So, we have very little else to offer on the occasion of your 75th birthday, except to send our congratulations. It ain't easy being that old.

-William Lowell Putnam, Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff AZ

I'm glad to hear that the David Dunlap Observatory is running strong and conducting public outreach.

-Dean Regas, Cincinnati Observatory Center, Cincinnati OH

Your sister facility, here at the **University of Denver's** historic **Chamberlin Observatory**, founded in 1888, salutes your successes and hopes for your full potential in terms of the Metrus/RASC agreement for operations and for the public benefit. We will encourage our travelling colleagues to consider participating in your new programs, and we wish you all the best in the future.

-Dr. Robert Stencel, Director, Chamberlin Observatory, Denver CO

On behalf of the **RASC Vancouver Centre**, I want ...on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the David Dunlap Observatory, to express heartiest appreciation to the Toronto Centre for its ongoing commitment to maintain the DDO for public education and outreach activities. This is a wonderful way to ensure that the DDO will remain a vital part of Canadian astronomy.

-Prof. Howard Trotter, Simon Fraser University, and RASC Vancouver Vice President

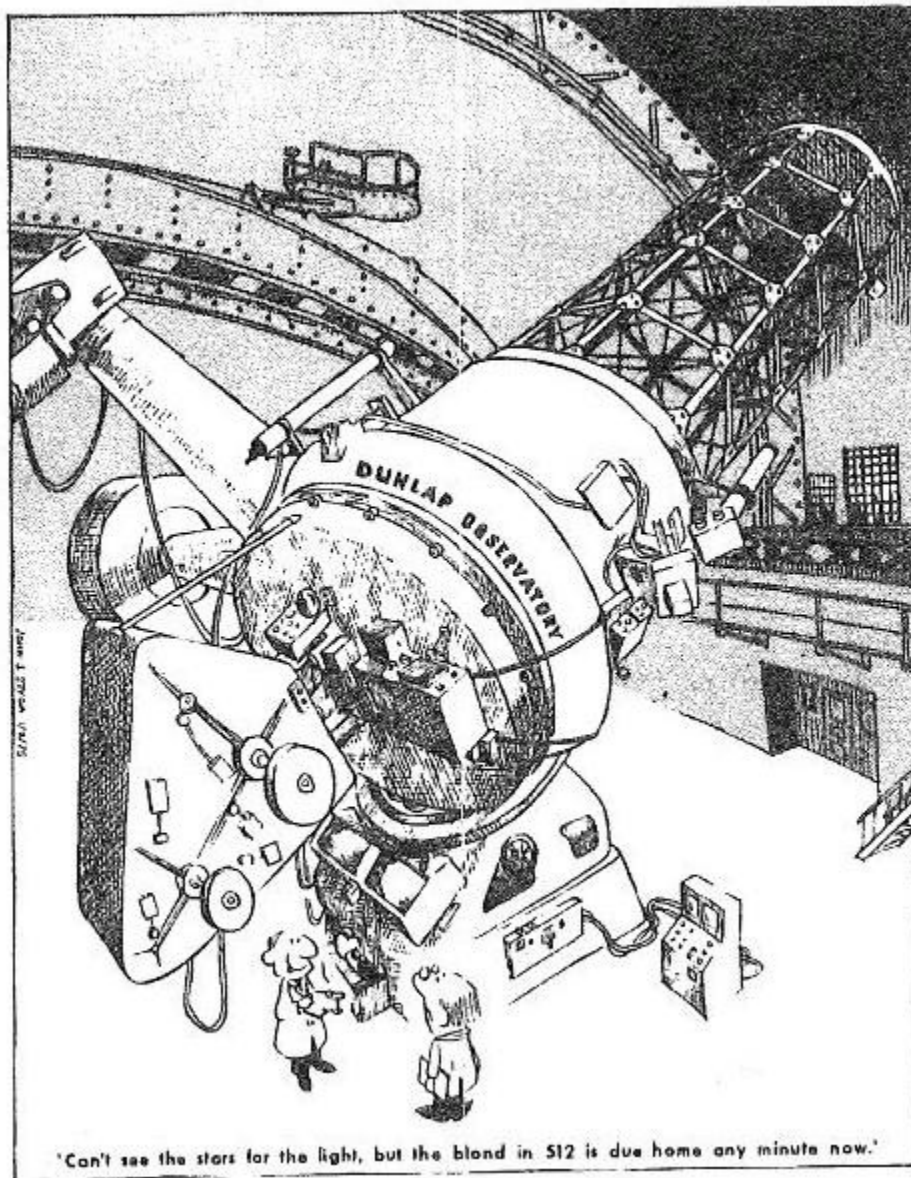
Happy Anniversary, DDO; I am delighted to see that you are in such good hands and still routinely communicating the big picture of the universe around us to the public!

-Prof. Doug Welch, McMaster University, Hamilton ON

Anniversary letters were also received from the following:

Dr. Ian Glass, South African Astronomical Observatory

Dr. Hamed Ismail, National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics, Egypt



This cartoon was originally published in the Richmond Hill Liberal February 13, 1975. It was reprinted in the David Dunlap Doings vol. 8 no. 2 of February 25, 1975 with the caption, "We enjoyed the good-natured reference to our anti-light-pollution campaign and we congratulate cartoonist John Styga of Aurora on his accuracy and attention to detail." Reprinted with permission of the Richmond Hill Liberal.