

# Rothney Observatory hosts perseids meteor shower weekend



**Neel ROBERTS**

YOUR UNIVERSE

2018 is not only promising to be a great summer fireball show, the most popular meteor shower of the year will be held by Calgary's Rothney Observatory located just outside of Priddis. The RASC Calgary will host the peak evening Saturday observer's session from 10:00 pm to 02:00 PM but the Rothney Observatory will also be open 3 days before that for an overall of Thursday August 09th to August 12th, 2018 10:00 pm to 2:00 am. What's more is admission is free, but a donation is always appreciated and well worth it. This year during peak you should see about 60-70 meteors per hour whereas in outburst years (such as in 2016) the rate can be

between 150-200 meteors an hour. The moon is very favorable as it'll be near new and below the horizon all 4 nights before the show starts. The Perseids shower event is the result of comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle trailing debris which has been seen since BC and last observed in 1992 but unfortunately not scheduled to return until 2126. Look in the NNE about 70° of the way up in the constellation of Perseus and follow it upward, NE for the night to catch the best fireballs. If that isn't enough reason to come out, there's also 5 planets, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn & Pluto out at dusk so with the variety of telescopes, etc. available for use. So whether you're a first timer or frequent flyer, what's stopping you this time from making the trip to the Rothney Observatory?

Sky watch for the next month:

1. Dawn Moon Occults Aldebaran- Monday, August 06th watch for the Moon to hid Aldebaran from 06:45 am for the rest of the day.
2. Venus Greatest Elongation- Friday, August 17th before sunset, look SWW as the queen planet as it blazes at magnitude -4.32, almost blinding in a telescope.
3. Milky Way Brilliance- This is an excellent month to view our home galaxy without freezing. Best time is after 11:00 pm until dawn.

4 Annual Perseids Meteor Shower- Runs until August 24th with the peak Friday August 11th to Sunday August 13th with estimated rate of 60-100 meteors per hour dampened by the waning gibbous Moon. Best view is starting at 11:00 pm facing the NE in the constellation of Perseids until dawn. Check out this viewing guide for details <https://www.space.com/32868-perseid-meteor-shower-guide.html>.

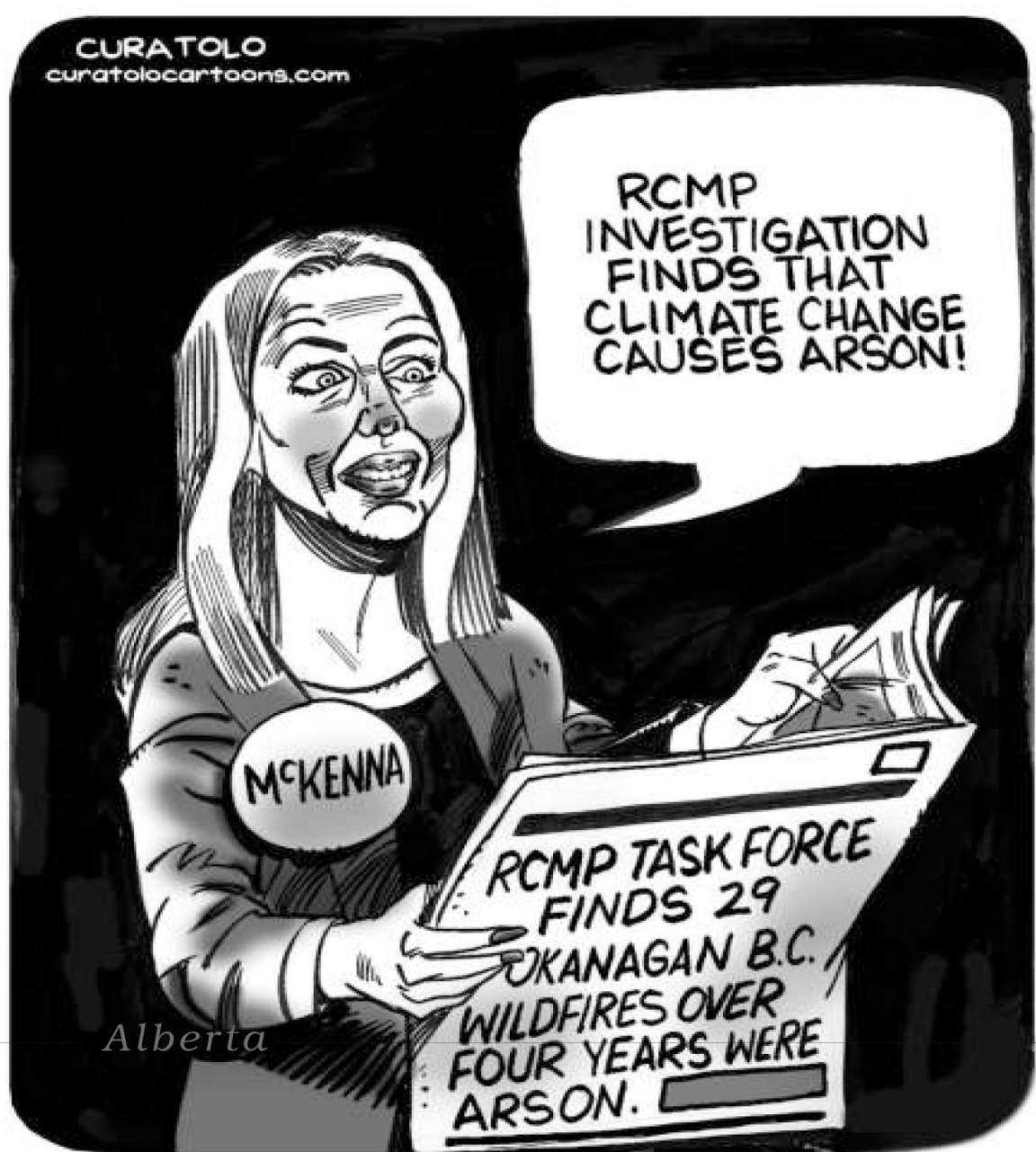
Public Events for the next month:

Annual Milky Way Weekend Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis- Mark down Thursday, August 09th to Saturday 12th from 22:00 to 02:00 am. There will be an array of scopes operated by University of Calgary astronomers and members of the RASC Calgary. See astronomers in their nature habitat, under dark moonless skies. Late night public observing is a unique opportunity to see deep sky objects such as planetary nebula and globular clusters. You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes, and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions. For further information, contact Jennifer Howse at [jhowse@phas.ualgary.ca](mailto:jhowse@phas.ualgary.ca), (403) 931-2366. Their website <https://www.ualgary.ca/rao/> updated regularly.

Happy meteor shower hunting and keep reaching for the Sky!

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1868 with over 5,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at (403) 560-6574, [www.ptccanada.com](http://www.ptccanada.com). The members meet once a month on weekends at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis and you can check out times at <https://www.ualgary.ca/rao/calendar>. Like them at Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272037680377/>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/CalgaryRASC> & YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/RASCCalgary>.

CURATOLO  
curatolocartoons.com



## Letter to the Editor

### We are partners, not enemies

**EDITOR:**

This is my confession, not a sermon. I am writing what I'm struggling about.

It is difficult to love people who always oppose or question whatever I say. We call such people *Yana Yatsu* in Japanese. It means "disagreeable jerk." I can be like that, too.

It takes patience to stay friends with them. Kings used to chop their heads off. The Church burned them at the stake. It's because challenge disturbs peace.

Familiarity is comfortable. Change is annoying. Nobody likes to be kicked out of a warm bed. It's cold outside.

Lately, however, we became more civilized. We realized that no matter how disagreeable, the interaction with opposing views inspires new ideas. In democracy, the adversary plays an important and positive role: it's called "Loyal Opposition."

If you shut them up, you will stop moving forward. Debates between different ideas stimulates a creative mind. We must try to learn to live with and respect *Yana Yatsu*. It's a challenge, but the world will be a better place if you listen to the opponents and compromise. That's a constructive engagement, not defeat.

The most peaceful and comfortable period in Japan's history was the nearly 300-year rule under the benevolent dictatorship of the

Tokugawa Shogun Dynasty. It was the time the whole country was closed shut against outsiders, and new ideas censored. Nobody was allowed to have any contact with foreigners nor to leave the country. Christianity was prohibited, punishable by death unless a recant. Only the Samurai were allowed to carry a long sword and learn the art of fighting.

It was a golden era of arts and culture. Impressionist painters like Van Gogh and Monet were influenced by Japanese artists like Hokusai and Hiroshige. People knew where they stood in society. Ignorance was bliss. Japan was richly cultured but woefully backward. Advanced science and technology were non-existent. Four American steam engine iron battleships in Tokyo Bay in 1853 signalled the end of the comfortable world and the beginning of the modern Japan.

This is why I think the current polarization in public opinions is destructive. The people with different opinions are seen as enemies.

Such attitude burns down the bridge of communication between different peoples and kills creativity. We are all different. That is what makes us human. We must see people who contradict you as partners, not enemies.

Don't call them names. Together, we create a beautiful future.

**TADASHI (TAD) MITSUI  
LETHBRIDGE**