



Royal City Men's Club

RCMC Newsletter

June 2019

June Meetings

Michel Fich - Distant Planets and the Search for Life – June 13th 2019

Presentation:

In the past twenty years our knowledge of solar systems in the Universe has changed dramatically. We have gone from one solar system (ours! THE Solar System) to almost 3000 separate solar systems. These 3000 stars have in total over 8000 planets in orbit around them. The next question that is most-often asked is: Is there life on any of these planets? In this talk I will review how we found all of these planets and what the possibilities are for detecting extraterrestrial life on them and elsewhere.

Bio:

Michel Fich Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy University of Waterloo Mike Fich is an astronomer specializing in studies of star formation, the interstellar medium, and the structure of galaxies. His recent research activities have focused on “small scale” formation studies of low and intermediate mass stars, circumstellar disks, and the formation of proto-solar systems. A faculty member at the University of Waterloo since 1986, Dr. Fich received a B.Sc. from Waterloo in 1978 and M.A (1981) and Ph.D. (1983) degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He then spent three years as a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Washington in Seattle. During the past decade much of Dr. Fich's efforts have been devoted to astronomical instrumentation projects, primarily at sub-mm/far-infrared wavelengths. He is currently the Canadian leader in (1) the HIFI instrument on the Herschel Space Observatory, an ESA/NASA/CSA project; (2) SCUBA-2, a wide-field submillimeter camera for the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawaii; and (3) CCAT, a large (25 meter diameter) submillimeter telescope planned to be built at an elevation of 5600 meters in the Atacama region of Chile by an international team including Cornell University, the California Institute of Technology, the University of Colorado, the University of Cologne, and a growing number of Canadian universities. Dr. Fich is also working on new projects that are still in early development stages and that involve a variety of space satellite missions. Dr. Fich grew up in Southern Ontario, lives in rural Erin Township in a low-tech solar and ground-source heated innovative-designed home. He is the father of two brilliant sons who have grown up and moved on to professions in areas of modern high-technology. His principle hobbies, outside of astronomy, are in music (especially playing his guitars), wilderness canoeing and growing roses. He volunteers in several community organizations.



9:30 Refreshments – 10:00 Speaker

Mike Dixon - Agri Food Sector- Various Technologies -Thurs. June 27th. 2019

Presentation:

A presentation related to exploiting space exploration life support technology in terrestrial agri-food sectors including various technology transfer examples to the plant made medicine sector and issues like food security in the North.

Bio:

Dr. Mike Dixon is a Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences and Director of the Controlled Environment Systems Research Facility (CESRF), University of Guelph. He served as Chair of the Department of Environmental Biology from 2003-2008. Dr. Dixon joined the University as a NSERC University Research Fellow after earning his PhD from Edinburgh University in Scotland and holding a post-doctoral position at the University of Toronto. As project leader for the Canadian research team investigating the contributions of plants to life support in space, Dr. Dixon formed the Space and Advanced Life Support Agriculture (SALSA) program at the University of Guelph. This program currently represents Canada's main contribution to the international space science objectives in biological life support and collaborates with NASA and the Canadian and European Space Agencies. The CESRF is among the world's leading research venues for technology developments and research dedicated to studying plant and microbial interactions in advanced life support systems. The technical "pull" of space exploration has aided the development of a wide range of technologies that have spun off into applications in terrestrial agri-food sectors and most notably the phyto-pharmaceutical (medicine from plants) sector in recent years.



9:30 Refreshments – 10:00 Speaker

Future Meetings

Future general meetings for July 2019 are on

Thurs. July 11th. and Thurs. July 25th.

Activities & Events

Coffee/Breakfast 10:am
at the **Boathouse** or the
AirPark Café:50 Skyway Dr. **Guelph Airport**

Thurs. June 6th. and Thurs. June 20th.

This is an informal get together and all RCMC members are welcome.

Future Activities:

Elora Race Night: Monday September 23rd. 2019

Contact for Events & Activities - Ray Biffis: col.biffis@gmail.com

Other News

There is a new What's New section on the Home page of our website. This will give you quick links to any new information which has been posted on the website.

If you have any new content for the website, please send to Ritchie Zelk at edna.ritchie@sympatico.ca

Membership

Please send any updates to your entry in the Membership Directory, including any change in email address, to Del Campbell. **519-826-0679**
susan-delcampbell@sympatico.ca

Members are encouraged to invite male friends and acquaintances to our meetings.