



# Festival Presentations & Workshops

## Featured Guest Presentations

*Sponsored by – Northwestern Air Lease Ltd.*



We are thrilled to bring you a cast of renowned “guest presenters” who will share their knowledge, personal experiences and insights regarding the science or inner workings of our world, space and the universe around us.

They will also bring to life the magic of our dark skies and how important they are for science, culture and the environment.



### Friday Featured Keynote Presentations

Fort Smith Centennial Arena (dinner area)

**7:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

- Dr. Roberta Bondar
- Nicole Mortillaro



Presenters bios: <http://www.tawbas.ca/dark-sky-festival.html>

### Saturday Evening Presenters – Question & Answer Session

Pine Lake Festival Site (*on the Sky Circle*)

**8:30 pm to 9:30 pm**

- Dr. Roberta Bondar
- Nicole Mortillaro
- Roland Dechesne



## Afternoon Workshops & Seminars

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Do you have a desire to feel cerebral or to just sit back and relax while being entertained? The festival offers just that during our afternoon Stellar Seminar & Workshop sessions.

The seminars and workshops are intended to provide you with a pragmatic enlightening of your knowledge and appreciation of the sciences relating to astronomy, the environments of Earth and space, as well as the universe that everything exists in.

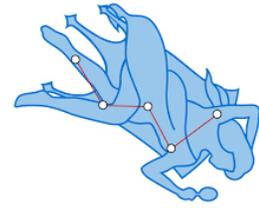
*Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.*  
- Carl Sagan (1934-1996)

## Friday Afternoon Workshops & Seminars

Fort Smith Centennial Arena (room locations to be posted)

### 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

- Workshop: Light Abatement  
- Roland Dechesne
- Seminar: Basic Astronomy and Our Night Sky  
- to be announced



### 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

- Seminar: Cosmos 954 – Operation Morning Light  
- Mike Couvrette
- Workshop: Aurora & Astro Photography  
- to be announced

## Saturday Afternoon Workshops & Seminars

Pine Lake Festival site (locations to be posted)

### 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

- Seminar: Are We Alone? – Scientific look at the possibility of aliens  
- Roland Dechesne
- A second seminar/workshop is being planned – details coming soon.



### 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

- Seminar: Meteorite Impacts – the Earth Gets Smacked  
- Mike Couvrette
- Workshop: Telescope Use and Selection  
- to be announced

## Workshop and Seminar Descriptions

**\* We are still finalizing details for some of the workshops and seminars.**

Additional information will be posted as it becomes available.

### Light Abatement Workshop (Roland Dechesne)

4 out of 5 people on Earth, including 99% of those in the USA and Europe, live under light-polluted skies. More than 1/3 of humanity can no longer see the Milky Way, even on a crystal-clear night. In some places people never experience a true night sky as it is perpetually masked by the glow of an artificial twilight.

Light pollution affects everyone and most ecosystems, disrupting the natural day-night pattern and shifting the delicate balance of our environment. The good news is that light pollution, unlike many other forms of pollution, is reversible. Each of us can make a difference!

In this workshop, Roland will assist you with advice and some simple steps that you can take at home and in our community to reduce light pollution.

## Basic Astronomy & Our Night Sky

Newcomer to the hobby of astronomy? In this seminar, your presenter will take you through a casual tour of the night sky as viewed from your backyard.

This “crash course” in basic stargazing will guide you through the basics of what you can see in the sky, how the sky changes over the year, identifying the main constellations in all four seasons and ways to better see the sky with your unaided eye or a simple telescope or pair of binoculars.

## Cosmos 954 – Operation Morning Light (Mike C)

Headline CBC: *Norad tracks a fireball streaking across the skies over the NWT. Cosmos 954, a Soviet satellite, crashes near Great Slave Lake, scattering radioactive waste across a 124,000 Km<sup>2</sup> swath of the NWT, Alberta ...*

That was Jan. 24, 1978 when Cosmos 954 came crashing down. Northerners, Mike C included, can remember guys in Hazmat suits in the YK Inn hotel lobby telling us “*There’s nothing to worry about ...*”

This seminar will revisit “Operation Morning Light”, its aftermath and look at some other infamous satellite and space vehicle failures.



## Basics of Aurora & Astro Photography

Wondering if your camera is good enough to photograph the aurora or make star trails? Let our talented presenter walk you through the basics of night-time photography.

For this casual, hands-on session, bring your camera and learn how to prepare for a quiet evening of photographing the night sky and the aurora borealis. Discussion topics can range from camera selection right through to the camera/video settings you should be using as well as site selection and preparation.

## Are We Alone? – Scientific Possibility of Aliens (Roland Dechesne)

Be prepared to let your imagination wander a bit or run completely wild as Roland goes through his paces and examines the possibilities of alien life somewhere out there. Using the logic of science and taking into account the vastness and diversity of the universe, he will make a case for life on another planet or moon, or maybe not!

## Meteorite Impacts – Earth Gets Smacked (Mike C)

Since the formation of our home planet Earth, it has been bombarded by objects from outer space and many of them have left their marks in a big way. In this presentation we look at the science of meteoroids and the resulting impact sites across the globe, including Pilot Lake, and on our solar neighbors.

The presentation includes a scaled down demonstration of a meteorite impact!

## Telescope Use and Selection

Join us under one of the canopy tents to learn more about telescope use and the differences between a refractor, reflector or the compact Schmidt–Cassegrain telescope. Find out how the different types of mounts work and their uses in astrophotography. Have that nagging question of what would be the best telescope for you to buy answered, and much more.

