

EVENT:

**214th Semi-annual Meeting of the American Astronomical Society;
Pasadena, CA, 7-11 June 2009**

TITLE:

Midway Through IYA2009 In Canada: Experiences, Past, Present And Future
(oral presentation)

AUTHOR BLOCK:

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ABSTRACT:

Since our 'soft launch' in early January, tens of thousands of Canadians have experienced a 'Galileo Moment' of personal astronomical discovery through participation in one of our diverse set of activities, with opportunities for new activities and partnerships continuing to arise. Braving the cold of the Canadian winter, amateur and professional astronomers and educators have provided many well attended, traditional star-gazing opportunities. Links with the arts and cultural communities have produced numerous wildly successful, non-traditional opportunities to engage children as well as adults in astronomy discovery. Canadian planetaria premiered their 'Galileo Live!' production this spring. Two Canadian postal stamps featuring iconic observatory domes (Plaskett, CFHT) against striking nebular images from CFHT were issued during 100 Hours of Astronomy. Materials (such as Astronomy Trading Cards, Star Finders, and a light-pollution story for young children) developed for education and public outreach by volunteers from the amateur communities are distributed at all such events, where they are being exceptionally well received. New developments and collaborators continue to emerge, e.g., Canada's Parks Day in July is focusing on IYA. At the nominal 2009 mid-point we are in the midst of delivering literally thousands of events throughout Canada. Concurrently we also continue working with Canadian educators, Aboriginal communities, parks, and others to secure legacy programs that will ensure that IYA benefits extend far beyond 2009.