

## ***GATEWAY TO THE UNIVERSE***

### ***A Great Success***

GATEWAY TO THE UNIVERSE was a roaring success with an amazing turnout this year. We had 46 attendees from Hanover, Bowmanville, Ottawa, Niagara, Sudbury, Mississauga, the GTA and the North Bay region.

Thursday evening was overcast with some rain, but the rain let up so we could still have our communal campfire. Friday was a perfect day and evening, so telescopes were set up on the beach and many campers were able to share some of the wonders of the night sky. Unfortunately, Saturday evening the 'rain gods' arrived again, so there was no observing, however, we did have our communal campfire and everyone enjoyed the singing and comradery of others.

Our thanks to Debra & Colin, of the Sudbury Astronomy Club, who provided a beautiful shelter for us all to stay dry on the rainy evenings, to Lynn & Mario for providing the firewood to keep us warm, to Steve Keefer for his amazing presentation of his astrophotography, to Bob Chapman who give his 'Life of a Star' presentation and to everyone for the delicious foods provided for our Saturday evening potluck dinner.

After our potluck dinner we had draws of prizes donated by P M Telescope of North Bay & a 50/50 draw. A dimmable red flash light was won by Donna Bonnet, a copy of The Backyard Astronomer book, won by Steve Keefer and a fanny pack to hold eye pieces, won by Randy Currie. The final draw was for an \$86 prize, 50/50 draw which was won by Mario Plante. Congrats to all winners.

A special thank you to staff of Marten River Provincial Park, for their assistance in making GATEWAY TO THE UNIVERSE a success. Finally, our kudos to Bill Montague & Randy Currie, both Directors of the North Bay Astronomy Club, for all the work they put in to make GATEWAY TO THE UNIVERSE enjoyable for all who attended.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year,