

## About the Facilitator



**Chris Vaughan** is a professional Geophysicist and Astronomer (graduate of University of Toronto, 1982) with a passion for public outreach and education.

He is the recipient of the 2013 Andrew Elvins Award for Promotion of Astronomy from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Toronto Centre and the author of a weekly astronomy news bulletin for non-astronomers, called Astronomy Skylights, with subscribers worldwide.

Since 1996, Chris has been visiting classrooms, hosting science-themed assemblies, running science clubs, and holding Star Parties for schools and other groups around the GTA. A Mineral Exploration Geophysicist since 1980, Chris has given many classroom presentations on geology, rocks and minerals, mining, and archaeological age dating. He has served two terms as president of the Canadian Exploration Geophysical Society.

Chris is an operator of the David Dunlap Observatory's 1.88 metre Great Telescope, co-creator and regular presenter in their Skylab planetarium, and a Star Talk speaker at their public programs. He is also a regular presenter of The Sky This Month at the monthly Recreational Astronomy Night meetings of the RASC Toronto Centre, held at the Ontario Science Centre.

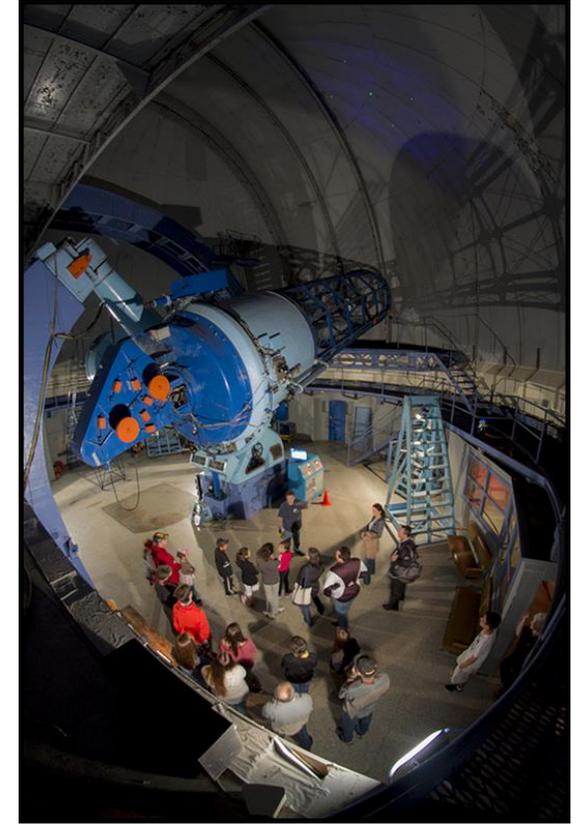
An astronomy enthusiast since elementary school, and a lifelong learner, Chris has recently been learning to speak, read, and write Mandarin.



Photo credit: Benjamin Lappalainen  
www.blapphoto.com

AstroGeo  
Specialists in Science Outreach

189 Clark Avenue  
Thornhill, ON  
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# AstroGeo

Specialists in Science  
Outreach in the  
Greater Toronto Area

Astronomy • Earth Science  
Observatory Tours  
Star Parties • Teacher Support  
Classroom Presentations

**School groups, science camps, clubs, and corporate teams are invited to book their tour to the historic David Dunlap Observatory!**



## What We Do

AstroGeo specializes in public outreach and education in the Greater Toronto Area, with an emphasis on astronomy and earth science.

Through AstroGeo, groups of all ages can book their visit to tour the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) for fun or to engage in our scientist-led educational programs. All tours incorporate Skylab planetarium presentations, hands-on activities, and observing (weather permitting). Customized experiences, are available upon request.

The educational programs have been designed to complement the Earth and Space, and Optics, units of the **Ontario curriculum**. The programs have been created to include numeracy, literacy, history, and art components, and can be delivered during DDO visits or at your location.

Teachers are encouraged to contact AstroGeo for training in astronomy and earth science, including use of the best software and apps, and recommended websites.

*All of our instructors have current Vulnerable Sector Screening Certificates.*

## About the Observatory

The David Dunlap Observatory, located in the heart of Richmond Hill, Ontario, houses the 1.88 metre (74") Great Telescope, the largest optical telescope in Canada, and the world's largest telescope available for regular public viewing. The historical facility, opened in 1935, is still fully operational as a public outreach and education destination.

*Please note that, as a heritage structure, the observatory is not wheelchair accessible at this time and that many of our attractions are accessed via stairs.*

## Observing

Weather permitting, members of AstroGeo evening tour groups are invited to observe through the Great Telescope and a variety of smaller astronomical telescopes set up outside on the beautiful grounds. During daytime tours on sunny days, two methods of viewing the sun are available, including the unique solar disk in H-alpha light through our specialized solar telescopes. Instruction on safe solar observing, with and without telescopes, is a major component of every solar observing session.



The 74" Great telescope at the David Dunlap Observatory,  
[www.billlongo.com](http://www.billlongo.com)

## Educational Programs & Classroom Presentations

All AstroGeo tours or classroom visits can include our specially designed Educational Programs and hands-on activities led by trained scientists and linked to the Ontario curriculum.

### Available programs include:

- General Astronomy and Stars
- Solar System Motions
- Clocks and Calendars
- Solar Science and Space Weather
- Planetary Science
- Exoplanets
- Optics
- Astronomical Equipment
- Rocks and Minerals
- Mining and Mineral Exploration
- Age Dating for Archaeology and the Environment

## Star Parties: We come to you!

An astronomer will work with you to schedule your party at the best time, and bring to your location professional-grade equipment to give visitors a look at the best night-time sights. Each party includes a tour of the sky with a star-pointer, stories and information, answers to questions, and assistance with attendees' own equipment. These are all-ages events.

## Contact Us

### AstroGeo

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