

## Highlights:

**I: ASX hosts the Canadian Premiere: *Orphans of Apollo* – Feb. 20, 2009**

**II: Symposium was a great success!**

**III: Win Free Tickets: *Orphans of Apollo***

**IV: ASX Elections coming soon**

**V: New Air & Space Museum**

**VI: International Space News**

**VII: Other Astro/Space Events**

Dear Astronomy and Space Enthusiasts,

We hope you had a fantastic time at this year's Symposium. We hope that you were educated by Taryn Tomlinson and Dr. Ying Du, and were excited and inspired by Anousheh Ansari's talk. Each Symposium takes about 8 months of careful planning and preparation, and we are very thankful for the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and executive members. Thanks for a job well done!

With Symposium out of the way, February is usually a time for rest and relaxation at ASX. Not so this year. After hearing about the great work that ASX has done, space filmmaker and businessman Michael Potter approached us to run the Canadian Premiere of his new movie *Orphans of Apollo* on February 20<sup>th</sup>. This documentary chronicles the adventures of a group of space entrepreneurs who attempted to buy the Mir Space Station! Be sure to get your tickets as soon as possible for this amazing event.

For other news and events please see below.

Clear Skies,  
ASX

## I. ASX to host the Canadian Premiere of *Orphans of Apollo*

**DATE & TIME:** Friday February 20, 2009,  
7:30 PM – 10:00 PM (Doors open at 7)

**LOCATION:** University of Toronto  
St. George Campus, Earth Sciences Auditorium  
5 Bancroft Ave

**ADMISSION:**  
Students and Seniors: \$10 (with ID)  
Public: \$15

**TICKETS:** <http://uofttix.ca/view.php?id=454>

**TRAILER:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br0vqXJ39pg>

This amazing documentary tells the little known story of the rebel space entrepreneurs behind *MirCorp*, and their attempt to open up the final frontier for commercialization. Director Michael Potter will be there to give a talk and answer questions. Reception to follow.



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If you did not receive this e-newsletter directly, and would like to hear about future ASX news and events, please email [space.society@utoronto.ca](mailto:space.society@utoronto.ca) with subject line "Newsletter Signup". We also invite you to join our Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2226718345>

## II. Symposium was a great success!

Thanks to everyone who made it to ASX's 6th annual Symposium on January 23rd. We had a successful event and were honoured to have our featured speakers share their time with us, teach us and inspire us.

Photos will be up on our website soon: <http://asx.sa.utoronto.ca/>



## III. Win Free Tickets to *Orphans of Apollo* Premiere!



What do you think about ASX's events and newsletter? What types of topics and events interest you? ASX wants to know! We are conducting a survey draw for five (5) sets of VIP tickets to the Premiere of *Orphans of Apollo* on Feb. 20th. Answer a few questions for a chance to win a pair of VIP tickets!

If you have already bought tickets, that is not a problem. If you win, we will upgrade your purchased tickets to VIP, and you can bring another two friends for free! Make sure you fill out the survey **by Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9AM EST**. The winners will be notified by email.

Survey Link: <http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=1154962>

## IV. ASX Elections coming up soon (in March)

Do you want to be a part of one of the largest space and astronomy groups in Toronto? ASX will be holding its 7<sup>th</sup> annual elections in March. ASX has done some great things in the past, from organizing events for over 1000 people, to hosting astronauts, to receiving over \$70,000 in scholarship funding. Our members and executives are students, faculty, alumni and community members, ranging in age from 18 to 83. We come from a wide variety of backgrounds: not only engineering, astronomy and the sciences, but also history, philosophy, religion, business, and art. ASX is an intercultural and interdisciplinary organization. All that is required to join is that you have a passion for space. If you are interested in applying for an executive or coordinator position, email us at [space.society@utoronto.ca](mailto:space.society@utoronto.ca) with the subject line "2009 Elections", **before March 1, 2009**. More info: <http://asx.sa.utoronto.ca/about/>



## V. Launch of the New Air & Space Museum

The Toronto Aerospace Museum is being rebranded as the Canadian Air & Space Museum with the goal of becoming the leading space museum in Canada. This museum is going to embrace the story of the Canadian space industry in a big way! The following is a YouTube video that offers a history of the Toronto Aerospace Museum and outlines the vision for the NEW Canadian Air & Space Museum.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVUecjpPow4>

## VI. International Space News



### Iran launches its first satellite into space

Iran has built and launched its first rocket, the Explorer-1. This launch puts the country as the 11<sup>th</sup> nation to launch its own rocket into space. Officials have said that the development of space technology is to develop its telecommunication infrastructure, provide better monitoring of earthquakes and enhance its security.

More info: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22995937/#storyContinued>

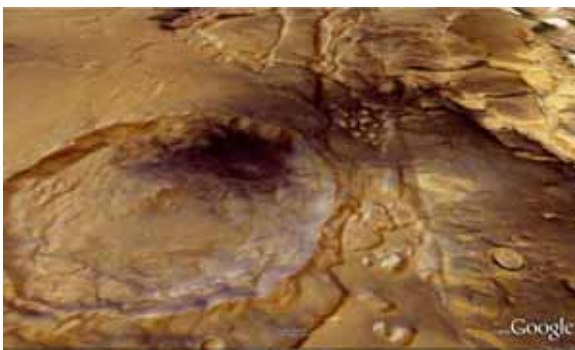
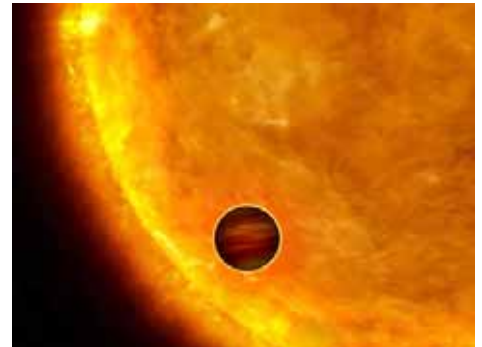
### New Exoplanet Discovered

European Astronomers using the COROT space telescope have discovered a new extra solar planet orbiting a distant star. This rocky world, dubbed COROT-Exo-7b is about twice the size of Earth, but is much too close to its sun to be habitable. The planet is approximately 10 trillion kilometers from Earth. It would take 457 light-years to make the journey (or 12 hours at Warp 9).

Discussion: <http://www.facebook.com/topic.php?topic=7268&uid=2226718345>

More info:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/space/20090203/sc\\_space/scorchedearthsmallhotplanetfound;\\_ylt=AhdW7tW3IzMzDjs4rUbJIOSHqsgF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/space/20090203/sc_space/scorchedearthsmallhotplanetfound;_ylt=AhdW7tW3IzMzDjs4rUbJIOSHqsgF)



### Google Mars

While no human Mars mission is currently being planned, once we get there, we'll have no trouble getting around. NASA and Google have teamed up to develop a 3D model of the Red Planet. Based on the popular Google Earth and data from NASA Mars missions, the program allows users to explore Mars from the comfort of home. Just like the real thing (almost)!

More info: <http://www.google.com/mars/>

### NASA to help stimulate the economy

In an unexpected move, the US Senate has more than doubled the amount of money earmarked for NASA to \$1.3 billion. About one third of the money, \$450 million, has been allocated to decrease the 5 year gap between when NASA retires the shuttle, and the new launchers will be completed.

More info: <http://www.space.com/news/090210-senate-nasa-stimulus-bill.html>

Discussion: <http://www.facebook.com/topic.php?topic=7273&uid=2226718345>

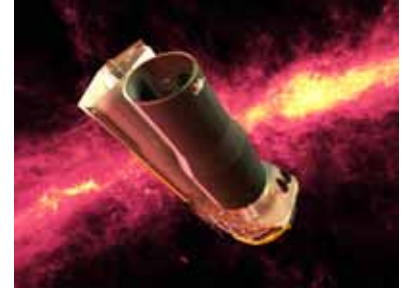




## VII. Other Upcoming Astronomy/Space Events (free unless specified)

**Every Monday (starting Feb. 2, 2009), 7 – 9 PM**  
**Live telescope broadcast and online interactive forum**  
York University Department of Physics and Astronomy  
This is a free event, broadcasted over the internet

Website: <http://www.physics.yorku.ca/observatory/>  
More info: <http://www.yorku.ca/mediar/archive/Release.php?Release=1600>

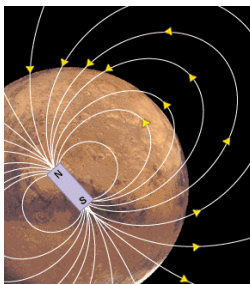


**Thursday February 5, 2009, 8:10 PM**  
**U of T Dept. of Astronomy & Astrophysics Public Lecture & Tour**  
**Canadian Telescopes, past and future**

Prof. Ray Carlberg  
40 min talk + 40 min. observing  
McLennan Physical Lab Building, Room 103 (MP103)  
More info: [http://www1.astro.utoronto.ca/~gasa/public\\_talk/iWeb/Next\\_Tour.html](http://www1.astro.utoronto.ca/~gasa/public_talk/iWeb/Next_Tour.html)

**Tuesday February 11, 2009, 4 PM**  
**Aboriginal Astronomy - Open Panel Discussion**  
Panelists include Frank Dempsey (Scientist, Amateur Astronomer, and Ojibwa), John Percy (Astronomer/Educator)  
Cody Hall, 50 St. George Street

More info: <http://www.fnh.utoronto.ca/aaw.html>



**Wednesday February 18, 2009, 7: 30 PM**  
**Mars: A Magnetic History**

Dr. Sabine Stanley, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, University of Toronto  
Imperial Oil Auditorium at the Ontario Science Centre

More info: <http://toronto.rasc.ca/content/RM-2009-02-18.shtml>

**Thursday February 19 – Sunday February 22 2009**  
**Spacefest 2009 - "The Ultimate Space Show"**  
Featuring the largest gathering of pioneer astronauts, expert astronomy speakers, and the world's largest Space Art exhibit  
San Diego, California

\*If you are interested in this event, please email us at [space.society@utoronto.ca](mailto:space.society@utoronto.ca). Several ASX members have already booked their tickets (not a free event).

More info (incl. pricing & schedule): <http://www.spacefest.info/>



## Last Chance Events at the Ontario Science Centre



### FACING MARS exhibit

Ends Sunday February 22, 2009

Now FREE with entrance admission

More info: <http://www.facingmars.ca/>

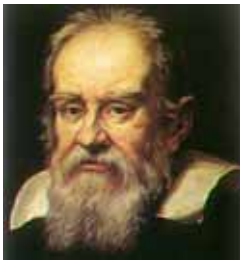
\*Admission to the Science Centre is not free

### Roving Mars IMAX

Ends Sunday February 28, 2009

\*Tickets are not free

More info: <http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/imax/default.asp?filmdetail=Roving+Mars>



Tuesday February 24, 2009, 6:30 PM

### Free Public Lecture – Italian Culture Institute

#### Galileo's Legacy

Professor John R. Percy, Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics, U of T  
496 Huron Street (North of Bloor St, Toronto)

More info: [www.iictoronto.esteri.it/](http://www.iictoronto.esteri.it/)

Tuesday March 3, 2009, 7:30 PM

### Institute of Theoretical Astrophysics, Sackler Lecture

#### Black Holes: End of Time, or a New Beginning?

Professor Roger Blandford (Kavli Institute, California)

More info: <http://www.cita.utoronto.ca/>



Thursday March 5, 2009, 4:30 PM

### Free Public Lecture: Trying Galileo

Professor Tom Mayer (Augustana College, Illinois)  
Madden Hall, St. Michael's College,  
100 St. Joseph's Street

For national space events, refer to CSS discussion lists at <http://www.css.ca/discussionlists/>.  
CSS Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=12706081197>