

## I'm Ready For My Close-up! by Zoë Kessler



Who could forget those immortal words spoken by Gloria Swanson in the 1950 film classic **Sunset Boulevard**, as Norma Desmond, an aging film star.

Imagine my surprise when I found out that much, much older aging stars (like, ten plus billion years old) were also ready for their close-ups and were being photographed by eager, talented astrophotographers all over Grey-Bruce.

As a fledgling astronomer, I had no idea this was even possible. Yet there in the dark fields of the E.S. Fox Observatory, the glow of laptop computers accompanies telescope-mounted cameras with special imaging capabilities. The Bluewater Astronomical Society (BAS) boasts several competent astrophotographers, who are only too glad to show you the ropes.

On June 3, BAS is delighted to welcome guest speaker and astrophotographer Stuart Heggie to its monthly meeting at E.S. Fox Observatory (click for map). Heggie is a long-time Grey-Bruce resident with over 20 years' experience in astrophotography, including giving talks at the Ontario Science Centre (Toronto). He'll display some of his spectacular astrophotographs and offer tips on how to take your own.

"The very first thing you should be doing is looking up," says Heggie. Familiarizing yourself with the sky, both day and night, is the best starting place.

Come out to hear about this intriguing hobby and find out if the Andromeda Galaxy (or Comet Lovejoy, or Saturn, or any of the many stars in the night sky) are ready for a close-up.

**"You see? This is my life. It always will be. There's nothing else. Just us. And the cameras. And those wonderful people out there in the dark."** – Norma Desmond

I couldn't have said it better myself, Norma.

Join us at our June 3 meeting, or come out and be one of those wonderful people out there in the dark at our public viewing night on June 12. We won't make you a star, but we can show you plenty.

**Note:** star observing will occur after the meeting weather-permitting.

For details, check out our [COMING EVENTS](#) page.  
(This article also appears in the JUNE issue of MOSAIC  
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