

Space exploration might move forward in 2020



NEEL ROBERTS
Sky's the Limit

President Donald Trump's creation of the US Space Force on June 18, 2018 might move explo-

ration to light speed.

"We stand at the birth of a new millennium, ready to unlock the mysteries of space, to free the Earth from the miseries of disease, and to harness the energies, industries and technologies of tomorrow," said Trump.

Futurist Alvin Toffler penned the best seller *Future Shock* in 1970 in which he predicted many things that came true.

According to a BBC article

almost four years ago (www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-36675260), space colonization/exploration was one of them.

You can catch a short documentary on the book on YouTube and compare notes of what has actually happened. Toffler died in 2016 but his work lives on.

Watch for the long-awaited accelerated development in space exploration and astronomy research in 2020.

SKY WATCH

The Quadrantid meteor shower, which goes for about a week, peaks on Saturday, Jan. 4 after dusk. It's best viewed on a moonless night in the Bootes constellation, in the northeast-east. You could see up to 50-100 meteors per hour.

On Monday, Jan. 20, look southeast around 5 a.m. to watch a crescent moon and Mars rise into the dawn.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, look southeast around 7 a.m. as a crescent moon and Jupiter rise in the sky.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, look south-southwest around 5 p.m. as a crescent moon and Venus set into the night.

PUBLIC EVENTS

On Saturday, Jan. 25, starting at 8 p.m., come out for our first session of 2020 at the Wilson Coulee Observatory near Okotoks. Dress warmly even when daytime temperatures seem mild. Happily, the Sid Lee building is heated. For more information, contact Jack Milliken at calrascsec@telus.net or calgary.rasc.ca/RecurringEvents.htm#recOG.