Canada's Top Astronomy Club awards Vulcan Tourism for its participation

BY NEEL ROBERTS
VULCAN

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Calgary) (RASC) recognized Vulcan Tourism for their many years effort to help promote astronomical efforts in Canada, specifically their contributions for preserving the dark sky and corporate involvement to encourage stargazers.

Since 2010, Vulcan Tourism has partnered with the RASC Calgary to merge its Star Trek theme with astronomy.

Since then, hundreds from across Canada (and as far as Australia) have visited the Trek Center for this specific reason.

While locals take an interest in the events, it's by far the long-distant participants that show the greatest curiosity.

"Our home is their home" notes Devan Daniels as he accepted the award, while being applauded by 50 people at the April 10 meeting.

Partakers have been allowed to snap pictures of the sky with their smartphones the second Friday of the month with the assistance of telescope

Photo by Neel Roberts

Devan Daniel receives an award from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada for Vulcan Tourism's promotion of astronomical efforts in Canada.

expert Karl Ivarson Jr.

Before that, Roland Dechesne gives a detailed presentation of the science of the heavens followed by astrophotography show and tell by Norm Baum of Carmangay.

Participants not only leave amazed, but many return which re-affirms why the Trek Center won the 2015 award.

"We don't give out that award every year and it sometimes is difficult to find a good corporate citizen and proponent of light pollution abatement," says Robyn Foret, president of the Calgary RASC Chapter. "You guys made it an easy pick for us this year."

The Calgary centre is one of 29 across Canada of a more than 4,000 national membership and has been experiencing robust growth in southern Alberta.

Commenting on this trend, Foret explains the hands-on outreach has produced unprecedented growth.

"We are growing and retaining new members as never before."