

New stamp unveiled at Vulcan star gazing event

BY **STEPHANIE LABBE**
VULCAN

A monthly star gazing event in Vulcan turned out to be more than just looking through telescopes at the constellations.

On April 8 at the star gazing event, more than 100 people showed up for a special announcement about a new stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Star Trek.

“We had clear skies and over 20 degrees after night fall, which is unheard of for April,” adds Neel Roberts, event co-ordinator for the stargazing events.

The usual presentation was held by the RASC for a half hour and then representatives from Canada Post were there to release the new Spock stamp for public viewing. Following the stamp announcement, the stargazing took place until 10:30 p.m.

The next stargazing event will be Friday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Roberts says everyone in attendance loved the new Spock stamp that was released for viewing. It has not yet been announced by Canada Post officials when the new stamps will be available for purchase, but they will be available across the country.

Roberts says it was cool to have representatives from Canada Post come all the way from their main headquarters in Ottawa to make the announcement of the new Spock stamp in Vulcan.

The idea of doing a Star Trek themed stamp was brought to Jim Phillips, director of stamp services for Canada Post, from his stamp services team.

Phillips says they generally get ideas for new stamps from the public and from the stamp services investigating what’s going on nationally and internationally.

With Vulcan being the Star Trek capital of Canada, Canada Post officials felt it was fitting to do a special announcement and do some extra things for Vulcan. Phillips says they’re going to do a customer appreciation day in Vulcan at one point as well, involving these new stamps.

“We built a compelling enough story that would fit with our mandate of Canadian postage stamps, so we brought that to the committee and they loved it,” adds Phillips.

He adds it’s a popular venture, because no matter what generation people are, a vast majority of people grew up on Star Trek.

Canada Post didn’t set out to do a Spock stamp for the 50th anniversary of Star Trek, but as Phillips says, “one can’t do a Star Trek stamp without Spock.”

After Canada Post finishes its social media campaign, officials will announce the release of the Star Trek stamps and they will be available while supplies last.

“It’s in the class of a commemorative stamp, so commemorative stamps commemorates people, places, things — in this case, we are commemorating



Canada Post officials projected the stamp on the wall of the Trek Center with opportunities to take pictures next to it.

Photos by Neel Roberts

the 50th anniversary of Star Trek,” adds Phillips.

Commemorative stamps are only available for a limited time and in a limited production run. Canada Post only printed a limited amount of these stamps and once they are all sold, they won’t be re-printed.

“I’m pretty sure these are going to go very, very fast,” adds Phillips.

There will be a number of different stamp-related formats and configurations for sale for coin collectors and for Star Trek fans.

“We’re working closely with Star Trek.com and CBS, a licence holder of Star Trek,” adds Phillips.

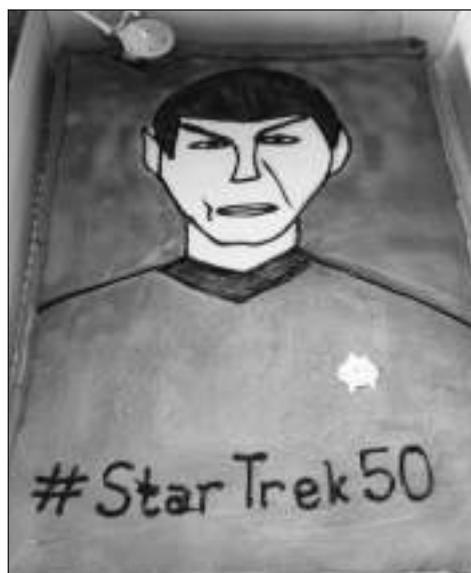
These announcements have been huge in the social world. Everyone wants to know when they’re going to be available for purchase and loves the idea.



Devan Daniels, manager of Vulcan Tourism, receives a portrait of the newly-unveiled Spock Stamp from Sally McMullen with Canada Post. Below, Sally McMullen from Canada Post peeks at Jupiter through the 11-inch Celestron Telescope.



Karl Ivarson Jr. explains the 11-inch telescope to a photographer.



A cake was made to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 1966 airing of Star Trek.



Vulcan Town council gives the “live long and prosperous” sign, from left, Mayor Tom Grant and councillors Rick Howard, Georgia-Lee DeBolt, Paul Taylor, Sue Dow and Lorna Armstrong. Unavailable for photo was John Seaman.

