

RASC Calgary Helps Celebrate 50 Years of Star Trek



Known as the official Star Trek Capital of Canada, Vulcan, Alberta will have a new edge to its 24th anniversary of Spock Days held the second weekend of June. Vulcan has gained worldwide attention with its Star Trek name sake and was even chosen in April to launch one of a series of 50th Anniversary stamps courtesy of Canada Post. Since then, the Canadian Mint has also offered similar coins to commemorate the series.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Star Trek franchise and RASC Calgary will be on hand in Vulcan to help celebrate. Since 2009, the RASC Calgary has been holding monthly meetings the second Friday of each month with Vulcan Tourism at the Trek Center. During a typical month, Roland Dechesne starts the evenings off with indoor presentations in the “bridge section” of the Trek Center set up as a theater followed by refreshments and gazing for hours. Karl Iverson Jr., RASC member and main telescope expert operates the 11” Celestron telescope which is on permanent display at the center. Norman and Rosemary Baum members from Carmangay bring their solar scope and provide treats for guests. Wade Williamson of Calgary also brings a variety of scopes from All Star Telescopes occasionally to help out. Local station Vulcan TV has made several clips of the events amongst other media companies. Devan Daniels, co-ordinator for Vulcan Tourism just loves the idea as explained in a 2012 Vulcan Advocate interview along with staff Shannon Clarke and Karen Haller who take turns hosting the Trek Center events. Vulcan Tourism was awarded the RASC Calgary’s “Good Corporate Citizen Award” in 2015 and as President Robyn Foret explained “You guys made it an easy pick for us this year; our awards committee was honored to recognize the efforts you and the other ‘Vulcans’ put forth”.

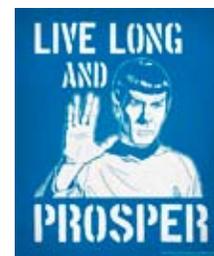
This year, on June 10, the RASC Calgary and Vulcan Tourism welcome the public starting at 19:30. Alan Dyer

will be a returning guest speaker for Spock Days. This year, his topic will be “Chasing the Northern Lights.” Dyer will present an inspiring gallery of still images, time-lapse movies, and real-time videos of the aurora taken from Alberta and from the edge of the Arctic in Churchill, Manitoba. Attendees will have a variety of treats after followed by stargazing including shots of Saturn’s rings with their smartphone via the telescopes.

The next morning will be the annual Spock Days parade featuring a 20” mobile scope as part of the float. Regulars Ann & Emily Morse faithfully show up every year to throw out Freezies and other treats to the several thousand spectators on the streets of the small town.

This year, Leonard Nimoy’s son, Adam will be coming to Vulcan’s second annual Comic Con. Known as the Vul-Con, it will be the weekend of July 8-10th and the RASC Calgary will again be on hand Friday the 8th.

For further information, contact the Trek Center at (403) 485-2994 or check out the RASC special webpage for Vulcan. Also, if you’re ready to brave it on the float, join us Saturday, June 11th, 2016 at 08:30 at the Vulcan arena as there’s a free breakfast before the ride starts at 10:00 am, so bring lots of candy to throw out like the rest of us!



Vulcan hosts Neel Roberts-left, Karl Iverson Jr. center and Roland Dechesne-right before the parade starts.