

New S.W. Ring Road shedding too much light for Calgary's Rothney Observatory

Human beings are naturally gravitated to light, but astronomy is one of the exceptions to the rule.

The 2012 PBS documentary *The City Dark* well explains that disappearing night skies are detrimental to all living on earth. While some light is necessary, the less the better. That's what motivated multi-generation rancher Sandy Cross to donate a quarter section of land near Priddis to start the Rothney observatory almost 50 years ago.



Neel ROBERTS
YOUR UNIVERSE

far as High River and beyond in 50 years given Highway 23/2A is also known as 530th Avenue and Blackie's Highway 799 RR272 is also marked 264th street.

If we extrapolate past progress, the Rothney observatory is inevitably doomed to lose the dark sky it inherited in the 1970s.

Vulcan, currently not a dark sky community, needs to wise up like Bon Accord, or disappear

into the bright sky by the end like Eamon's did more than 50 years ago of this century.

Sky watch for the next month:

- "Spock Days" Full Moon — On Friday, June 9 look SEE as it rises over the Trek Center we'll have on display at our meeting.
- Saturn at Opposition — Monday, June 15 is the best time in a decade to view its rings in a maximum tilt of 27 degrees towards the Earth before and after sunrise/set.
- New Moon Delight — On Saturday, June 24 the moon will not be visible in the night sky and is the best time to observe faint objects such as galaxies and stars all night.
- Longest Day of the Year/Full Moon — Sunday, June 20 is officially the summer solstice at 10:24 p.m. MDT and we will have 16 hours and 30 minutes of actual daylight. Sun officially rises at 5:22 a.m. and sets at 9:42 p.m. with high noon at 1:38 p.m.

Public Events for the next month:
Monthly Public Stargazing at the Trek



Photos by Neel Roberts

Dr. Gordan Freeman amazed the audience with his decades of expertise of the sun temple.

Center. Mark down Friday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar and join us at the Trek Center for our monthly stargazing. Special "25th Spock Days Anniversary" indoor presentation on the "summer sky" followed by scoping the skies with the 11-inch telescope outside and much more. Refreshment provided, all welcome and no charge. Held the second Friday monthly at 7:30 p.m. For further information contact the Trek center at 403-485-2994 or online at: www.vulcantourism.com.

Royal Astronomical Society of Calgary Spock Days Float. Have you ever wanted to be in a parade float? We've been doing this for more than eight years and it's always a blast. We invite you to join us for the one-hour ride through Vulcan. A lot of fun and all welcome Saturday,

June 10 at 8:30 a.m. Float departs at 10 a.m. and the parade usually lasts about an hour. Bring candy if you wish to throw out to the audience, but not necessary.

Happy Father's Day and welcome to summer.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada — the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with more than 4,000 members and 29 centres across Canada. He welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 or email: Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com. The members meet the second Friday monthly at the Trek Center at 7:30 p.m. Find out about membership at: <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2017.htm>.



An ariel shot of the Majorville Medicine Wheel function actual reveals St. Patrick's day of March 17 is the actual spring equinox.