

# Canada's Stonehenge, a Vulcan County treasure

Vulcan might have made world news about Star Trek many times since Leonard Nimoy's visit, but the county holds a little talked about gem estimated to be about 5,000 years old.

Known locally as the "Majorville Medicine Wheel" is actually an ancient calendar believed to be built as a Sun temple by the then indigenous Oxbow people.

Visible on Google Earth, it is accessible via prairie road about 25 kilometres almost straight east of Milo just before the Bow River. Email me at [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com) if you want an accurate map.

Professor Emeritus Gordon R. Freeman of the University of Alberta has spent much of his career studying this and other similar objects.

In his 2009 book, *Canada's Stonehenge* ([www.canadastonehenge.com](http://www.canadastonehenge.com)) he goes into great detail how the decades-old controversy about Stonehenge



**Neel Roberts**  
The Sky's the Limit

containing a calendar. Surprising new discoveries at the site display the beautiful ancient 4,300-year-old solar and lunar calendars for the first time in history.

When I checked out the site a few years ago in the summer, it was fenced off by the Alberta government as a heritage location since 2010, but is always open to visitors. The best time to go is late spring to early fall when conditions are dry.

Roads are not maintained and a four-wheel drive is recommended. Many make a picnic day out of it, and for archeology/history buffs, it's a dream come true made right here

at home.

## Sky watch

On Friday, July 8 look west after sunset for a crescent moon between Jupiter and Regulus until they set at about midnight.

On Saturday, July 16 after sunset, look south for Saturn, Moon and Mars as they cross the night sky.

On Friday, July 29 Jupiter, Mercury and Venus will follow the sun until they are all down by 10:30 p.m.

On Thursday, July 28 look in the southern sky a few hours before dawn as it expected debris from comet 96P Machholz will fall at a rate of 15-20 per hour. With a slender, waning crescent moon, it will be easy to enjoy.

## Public events

Mark down Friday, July 8 at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar and join us at the Vulcan Tourism and Trek Station for our monthly star gazing kicking off the Vul-Con weekend. The topic is the summer sky. A short indoor presentation

is followed by telescoping the skies with the 11-inch telescope outside. Through the telescope, there's also an opportunity to snap your own pictures of celestials objections with your smartphone through the telescope. All are welcome, and there is no charge. Refreshments are provided.

For further information, phone Vulcan Tourism at 403-485-2994 or visit [www.vulcantourism.com](http://www.vulcantourism.com).

Join us for some good times and great viewing under wonderfully dark skies at the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's annual Star-B-Q, which takes place Friday, July 8 to Sunday, July 10 at the Eccles Ranch Observatory, just north of Caroline. Camping is \$20 per vehicle, and the Saturday buffet is \$21 per person.

For further information, phone Roland Dechesne at 403-510-4330 or email him at [Roland.Dechesne@crl.com](mailto:Roland.Dechesne@crl.com), or visit <http://calgary.rasc.ca/starbq.htm>.