

RASC celebrating its 150th anniversary this summer

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) has had the privilege of hosting Canadians to the skies since 1868, so it's no surprise the society has become the largest astronomy club in the country.

Started on Dec. 1, 1868 as "The Toronto Astronomical Club," the society now has over 5,000 members.

RASC is celebrating its 150th birthday, in Calgary June 28-July 1, when the society holding its general assembly.

A special website, rascga2018.ca, has been set up to explain all the details, but tickets are expected to sell out soon. Not only will there be back-to-back lectures with demonstrations, tours to the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller and Rocky Mountains, and much more, Vulcan County is also part of the plan.

A special, all-day tour has been planned for Wednesday, July 4, to see both the Majorville Medicine Wheel and Carmangay Sundial, with bonus stops, too.

This is all being done by local residents and RASC members, so if you



Neel Roberts

The Sky's the Limit

want genuine Alberta hospitality at its best without paying a premium, this is it!

Sky watch

On Saturday, June 16, look northwest-west at dusk to see Venus next to a thin crescent moon.

On Monday, June 18, look northwest-west at dusk to see Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation of Leo, next to a crescent moon.

Thursday, June 21 is officially the start of summer in the northern hemisphere. We will have 16 hours and 33 minutes of daylight on June

21, when the sun rises at 5:21 a.m. and sets at 9:54 p.m.

On Wednesday, June 27, after sunset in the southeast, Saturn and a full moon will be up all night before setting together at dawn in the southwest.

Public events

A guided tour to the Majorville Medicine Wheel and Carmangay sundial takes place on Wednesday, July 4. You can't buy this type of tour anywhere, so take it while you can. The cost is to be finalized as it's on a shared basis, but go to rascga2018.ca/schedule/first-nations-stone-cairn-site-tour for details.

As a bonus, we will also visit the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park on the Siksika Reserve and the Carmangay tipi ring site. The day finishes with a barbecue on a ranch. Space is limited and expected to sell out fast, so book your spot today!

Neel Roberts, a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 and at Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com.