

Lighthouses prove flat Earth theory is 'fake news'



NEEL ROBERTS
Sky's the Limit

Don't you hate it when someone is lying to you?

Many thought the original "Flat Earth Society" went out with the idea of the sun revolving around the Earth, but it came back with a vengeance a few years ago.

The best pair of eyes can see about 5 kilometres. The reason you can see the mountains an hour away is because you only view the upper portion (peaks) whereas the lower (foothills) is below the curvature of the Earth,

but it is 100 per cent present.

If you remember your high school trigonometry, the right-angle Pythagorean Theorem model $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ proves a circular Earth limits your vision even at an elevated level. For example, a lighthouse light 130 feet above sea level would be visible to this viewer at a distance of 20.2 miles.

Check out flatearth.ws for a variety of experiments proving the Earth is not flat. American astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson has a wonderful video, which can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLPPE3_DVCw, which "demonstrates the absurdity of a flat Earth."

Chances are you gave up your belief of Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy and Great Pumpkin simply because the evidence overrode it — and besides

you could not take all the mockery once you're in high school.

However, I'd bet you believe completely believe in Antarctica even though you'll probably never make it. Why? Cold hard facts always win no matter who tried to hijack the narrative.

Sky watch

Download your monthly chart at skynews.ca/canadas-night-sky-may-june-2020.

On Monday, June 8, before dawn, look south as Jupiter rises into the morning.

On Tuesday, June 9 before dawn, look south as Saturn rises into the morning. On Friday, June 19, look northeast-east at about 4:15 a.m. as the Venus occultation ends and rises with the moon into the dawn.

Saturday, June 20 is officially the summer solstice, and we will have 16 hours and 19 minutes of daylight. The sun rises at 5:23 a.m. and sets at 9:42 p.m.

Neel Roberts, a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-657 and Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com.