

# Has 50 years of Star Trek changed the world?

When Leonard Nimoy died last year, it brought great sorrow around the world, especially to our small community, who welcomed him more than six years ago.

Marked as the greatest influx of visitors to Vulcan in recent history, that one event changed the world's perception of our town forever. When I travel our great nation and the globe, people are "fascinated" to hear I'm from Vulcan and now there's even a good chance they know where it is. Maybe not exactly up there with renowned Banff or spacey Roswell, but let's face it, 50 years of Star Trek made the difference. In the mid '60s, most of the people involved with the show were relatively unknown.

Bill Shatner and Leonard Nimoy had a few Hollywood gigs like *Twilight Zone* and *Night Gallery*, and while they made some ground during the original 1966-1969 airing of the series, it was not until the 1970s



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

syndicate reruns that its popularity started its stratospheric climb. Travel to others planets and worlds was still a plan, and communicators are now known as smartphones. Yet today the world is hardly recognizable, especially from a technological point of view.

While the sci-fi broadcast was meant to intrigue us with futuristic space travel, it accelerated many other inventions like computers and telecommunication devices, which would make going back to the 1960s lifestyle impossible.

## **Skywatch**

On Friday, June 10, look southwest after sunset,

halfway up, and the moon will be squeezed between a planet and star visible to the naked eye — but catch Jupiter's moons with binoculars.

On Friday, June 3 in the southeast after sundown, Saturn will be as bright as Vega with titled rings under binoculars even spottable at daylight with a strong telescope.

On Wednesday, June 15 to Saturday, June 18, look north-northwest as Algol will dip, touching the horizon for a short time at about 10 p.m. before rising again.

Wednesday, June 22 is officially the summer solstice. We will have 16 hours and 33 minutes of actual daylight that day. The sun officially rises at 5:22 a.m. and sets at 9:45 p.m. with high noon at 1:38 p.m. followed with a full moon at night.

## **Public events**

Mark down Friday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar and join us at the Trek Station for our monthly stargazing.

We will be the feature attraction that evening — June 10 is the first day of Spock Days — and plan to be there most of the evening.

A short indoor presentations will followed by telescoping the skies with the 11-inch telescope outside .

Refreshments are provided and all are welcome to this free event.

The monthly stargazing sessions take place the second Friday of each month.

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

Have you ever wanted to be in a parade float? The Royal Astronomical Society of Calgary Spock Days has entered a float in the Spock Days parade for more than seven years. and it's always a blast!

We invite you to join us for the one-hour ride through Vulcan. All are welcome to join us on Saturday, June 11, at 8:30 a.m. The float departs at 10 a.m.