



Fact Sheet

July 2009

Mission Statement

The mission of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre: to educate, inspire, and evoke a sense of wonder about the Universe, our planet, and space exploration.

Vision

The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre brings the wonder of space to Earth, while providing a personal sense of ongoing discovery. Through innovative programming, exhibits, and activities, our goal is to inspire sustained interest in the fields of earth science, space science, and astronomy from a Canadian perspective.

Fast Facts

- The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre is a registered charitable organization (10681 2183 RR0001).
- The H. R. MacMillan Space Centre's annual attendance is approximately 120,000 made up of children, teens, adults, and seniors
- Built in 1968, the H.R. MacMillan Planetarium was a gift from lumber magnate H.R. MacMillan to the citizens of Vancouver. Since its opening, more than 5.5 million people have visited the venue.
- In 1979, the Gordon MacMillan Southam Observatory was added through a grant from Mr. and Mrs. G.T. Southam (son-in-law and daughter of H.R. MacMillan), in memory of their son.
- In 1997, the Planetarium evolved into the Pacific Space Centre after completing a successful expansion project that saw the addition of GroundStation Canada (an additional multimedia theatre), Virtual Voyages™ full-motion simulator, and the Cosmic Courtyard interactive exhibition gallery.
- On February 23, 2000, in recognition of the contributions of H.R. MacMillan and his family, the facility returned to the name of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre.
- March 2009: stage-1 of the Cosmic Courtyard revitalization with upgraded exhibits and imagery.

Public Programs

Vanier Park site:

In the 360° Planetarium you are guided through the night sky looking at planets, our solar system and the stars beyond. Moving to the GroundStation Canada theatre you can feel the heat from exploding star materials or learn about the challenges of living in space. Finally, in the Cosmic Courtyard, you can bring the shuttle in for a landing or travel to space in the Virtual Voyages™ simulator.

Weekend programming includes Saturday night astronomy shows plus laser shows on Fridays and Saturdays. Also available on Friday and Saturday evenings (weather permitting), the Gordon Southam Observatory is open for public viewing sessions (by donation).

Outreach programs:

Community astronomy — We provide staff (including our astronomer), telescopes, plus additional space-themed activities and material resources to groups throughout the province. Combining a discussion of astronomy, space and the night sky, the presentation is followed by an observation session.

Starlab: the portable planetarium — Traveling across the province, Starlab allows us to bring stars, constellations and deep sky objects to schools and community centres. Interpreters utilize an extensive database of images and animations to answer students' questions about space science and astronomy.

School Programs

Working with the provincial Ministry of Education to support the science curriculum at various grade levels, the Space Centre's school program reaches 30-35,000 students and teachers throughout the province each year. We offer on-site field-trips consisting of planetarium presentations, workshops, live demonstrations and exhibits. As well, through our outreach programming (Starlab: the portable planetarium; Marsville, etc), we are able to connect with students in other parts of the province. Professional development for teachers is also part of our mandate.

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