

"Space-Time"

Recently there was an exhibition in the Ch'town Mall called "Space - Time!" Jim Bernath is the man behind this ambitious project. Here is just a small sample of what was there for all to see.

- Huge photos of the Space Shuttle Columbia on its maiden flight (photographed by Jim himself)
- Posters of the famous photo of Earth as photographed from 20,000 miles in space aboard the Apollo mission to the Moon 1969.
- Free samples of astronaut ice cream. This ice cream is in solid form resembling a piece of gum, but tasting similar to familiar ice cream.
- Nasa pins, badges, stickers, space stamps
- There were actual switches from the rocket used for the Moon trip.
- A propellant fuel tank from a Russian satellite
- Actual tiles from space shuttles
- A black meteorite
- Piece of the Canada Arm
- One of the more interesting objects was the Moon Machine which cost \$250,000.00 to build etc. It was designed to look for ice or water in 1-2 KM deep into the Moon. The machine weighs about 60 lbs and is 2.5 feet high.
- For the mechanically minded there was a challenge to assemble the pieces of a rocket. When assembled it would measure about 4 feet long and about 10 inches wide.

Jim Bernath takes the space industry very seriously. He is a fine photographer who shoots shuttle launches wherever they occur Florida, Texas or California. Jim is from Vancouver yet he is away from home often. He takes his space exhibition across Canada for about 10 months a year. He goes into school gymnasiums and into malls.

Jim is a friendly down to Earth guy who is patient and eager to fully explain anything to anyone. He offers the unique opportunity to sign any of his Columbia posters. Jim says that his "Space Time" is a labour of love.

Jim is the Secretary Director of CANADIAN SPACE 10. He jokingly informs me that the 10 stands for two things; the count down 10, 9, 8, 7... or 10 as in one up on cloud nine.

Much of the impressive objects on display are loaned to Jim from private individual universities and other sources. As Jim tours across Canada his exhibition grows as people in various areas contribute things that Jim could use. For example A farmer in Saskatchewan provided Jim with the fuel tank from the Russian Satellite. Jim only hopes that some deviant person doesn't steal any of these rare objects.

Related to this is Bart Bourne or Captain Bart who operates the Great Island Adventure Park located in Stanley Bridge. Captain Bart has one of only 6 replicas of the space shuttle in the world. Bart has the added distinction as having the only shuttle replica that is open to the public. Captain Bart would like to see more people coming out to see his shuttle. Bart also now has the former UPEI Planetarium. It is currently in the process of being assembled in Stanley Bridge.

by Chris McCarron



Photo courtesy of Jim Bernath.
Space shuttle Columbia, 1981