

Space flight was uplifting

At age 90, Star Trek legend William Shatner reminds us anything is possible

The world so badly needed William Shatner's most elevated experience Wednesday morning.

We needed something wild — extraordinary, if you will — to text, email, tweet and talk about rather than the constant COVID-19 conversation chewing our away at our mental health.

The down-trodden tone of COVID-19 news, especially for Albertans, is enough for anyone to hourly pronounce: "I'm going to bed and covering up my head."

Seeing a 90-year-old man — but who is really counting, right? — literally jettisoned into space in a rocket needs to not only be rousing heralded and welcome ... but with a hearty embrace to subtly remind us anything is possible.

We need that
Born in Montreal in a Jew-



Tait on eight

ish family, Shatner became a North American icon playing Captain James T. Kirk in 1966 in Star Trek on NBC.

Along with other Trekkies — Lt. Commander Scott, Lt. Sulu and, of course, Dr. Spock — Shatner's character zoomed around in the Starship Enterprise. It was science fiction, of course, with good versus bad — all at the speed of light. And, faster.

But despite the Enterprise's warp speed and its ability to effortlessly glide through galaxies, the altimeter on the television report card — the proverbial ratings — was barely moving.



William Shatner, right, with Planet Labs co-founder Chris Boshuizen on the landing pad near Van Horn, Texas, Wednesday. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

Through 79 episodes over three seasons, NBC pulled the plug on the show — remarkably, Star Trek never got higher than No. 3.

Perhaps it was ahead of its time even though — when you really think about it — a

man walked on the moon's surface mere months after cancellation.

Shatner couldn't shake the stereotype role of comfortably sitting in a spaceship's commander's chair with his hand, calmly, on the rudder. Yet, his

popularity remained and still is a household name for people who remember the television series, whether they were fans or not.

Personally, I wasn't. But I certainly knew who he was, and his obvious fascination of space and all of its unexplained wonder.

Shatner has a long list of television and film credits, including documentaries, including hosting The Truth is in The Stars on Bell Media's The Movie Network.

In 2018, Shatner flew to Cambridge, England, to meet the formidable scientist Stephen Hawking. Oh, to be a fly on the wall off the room where that interview took place.

Shatner's aura — mystical, adventurous, quirky, anything-goes — is easy to take. It challenges us to look beyond and be curious.

After a 10-minute flight in

space, speeding at 2,800 km/h and landing safely in a west Texas desert, Shatner emerged from the white top of the spacecraft jubilant and emotional.

He sent history books back to the printer: Shatner became the oldest person to go into space.

His example to push the envelope is something we all can learn from. To keep going.

We are going to get through COVID-19. But we have an important journey still before us.

The epic line from Star Trek: "Where no man has gone before." For some, that could be seeing a sliver of hope in this cruel pandemic. How reassuring William Shatner leads the way.

cttait@postmedia.com

@camtait

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS



SUPPORTED BY
VOLVO
Volvo of Edmonton

KidSport
So ALL Kids Can Play!

MOST UNIQUE

Campio Brewing Co.
Panini's Italian

Honourable Mentions:
Pink Gorilla and Bianco

BEST HAWAIIAN

Tied: Buster's Pizza (MacLeod) and
Nitza's Pizza (Sherwood Park)

Honourable Mention:
Rebel

BEST MEAT

Panini's Italian Cucina
Nitza's Pizza (Sherwood Park)

Honourable Mention:
Coliseum Steak & Pizza

BEST VEGGIE

Boston Pizza (Beverly)
Rosso

Honourable Mention:
Rebel

BEST VEGAN

Pink Gorilla
Panago

Honourable Mention:
Pizza 73

BEST GLUTEN FREE

Panago Pizza (Stadium)
Pink Gorilla

Honourable Mention:
Campio Brewing

BEST DONAIR

Sir Donair & Pizza
Nitza's Pizza

Honourable Mention:
U.F.O

BEST SAUCE

SOHO
Secret Pizza

Honourable Mention:
Domino's Capilano

BEST CRUST

Buster's Pizza
Campio Brewing & Co.

Honourable Mention:
YEG on Wheels

KidSport's pop-up family-friendly drive-in movie event, *The Jason Gregor Pizza Pigout*, supported by Volvo of Edmonton, took place on Friday October 8th at the EXPO Centre Parking Lot. With full bellies and warm hearts, we can say it was a huge success with thanks to all the corporate partners, volunteers, and attendees! And of course, it's no pizza pigout without the pizza so an extra large, deep dish sized thank you to the generous 20 local pizzerias who donated their dough (over 900 pizzas) to help us raise some dough.

Funds raised go towards the KidSport 'So ALL Kids Can Play' Grant Program which helps pay for sport registration fees for families that face financial barriers. With the impacts of COVID-19, the need couldn't be more real for KidSport families, and we would like to thank everyone who helped to get local kids off the sidelines and into the game. Learn more at KidSportCanada.ca

The People's Choice Awards votes are in! The people came, the people ate, and the people voted on their favorite pizza pie in each of the 9 categories. Winning pizzerias get a Jason Gregor signed certificate claiming their 'Best of' title and bragging rights for an entire year.

KidSport highly recommends that you give one or all of these places a call tonight for dinner, who cooks dinner on a Friday night anyways?! Enjoy the dough and thanks again to everyone for helping us to #CarboutforaCause