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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: News/Science/Education/Section Reporters

H.R. MacMillan Space Centre's legendary star projector Harold announces semi-retirement

Vancouver, BC, June 17, 2013 – After 45 years of loyal service, Harold – the star projector at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre – is semi-retiring. Harold's expected last day of full-time employment will be Sunday, July 28 after which he will be leaving on his first vacation in almost half a century. He will return to work at the Space Centre on a part-time basis in early November.

Harold joined the Space Centre in March 1967 after undergoing training at the Carl Zeiss Jena factory in East Germany and defecting to Canada. Named after a character from a popular cartoon, Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids, Harold settled happily into his new Vanier Park location and made many friends and acquaintances in the neighbourhood.

During his employment with the Space Centre, he has used a combination of smaller projectors, gears and motors to accurately recreate an amazing night sky and wow visitors for decades. Over the course of his career, he has presented more than 75,000 shows.

Harold has also played host to a number of dignitaries and celebrities, including His Royal Highness Prince Philip who was personally introduced to him in 1970, as well as Margaret Trudeau and her sons, and Star Trek's William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy.

"While we are sad to say goodbye to Harold as he heads off on a well-earned and overdue vacation, we know he won't be far from the hearts and memories of the seven million people who have visited the Space Centre since his arrival. When he returns from vacation, we will sit him down and discuss with him how much he wants to work during his semi-retirement," said Rob Appleton, Space Centre executive director.

Harold has launched his own Twitter account, [@harold_hrmsc](#), and will keep his fans updated on his activities before, during and after his vacation. His Space Centre colleagues invite his fans to send well wishes to Harold via Twitter or regular mail and he will respond with a personalized response. Regular mail well wishes can be sent to:

Harold
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre
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Harold will also be taking a mini-break when the planetarium shuts down for renovations July 3 to 5. He will be back in action on July 6 and will be the sole presenter of planetarium shows up until his departure.

Final Harold shows: Harold's Solar System; Sky Tonight; Night Watch; Mansions in the Sun; and Electric Company Theatre's You Are Very Star. Visit www.spacecentre.ca for show times.

This summer, the planetarium will undergo installation of a full-dome digital projection system which has been adopted by other planetariums across Canada. Using a Colorspace system with

six video projectors to create a 4K image, the new projection system will replace the 35mm slide-based full-dome system that's been in use for decades.

The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre is a non-profit community resource that brings the wonders 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.

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