

New Trek series gets passing grade

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Last night the Miklos family beamed me aboard, or should I say, a- basement.

I invited myself over to find out what Hamilton's most Star-Trek- struck family had to say about the eagerly awaited debut of the popular show's latest TV series spin-off, Star Trek: Voyager.

Erin, Csaba, Lyla, Mihaly and father Desmond huddled together in front of the TV in their basement, turned out the lights and said things like:

LYLA: "They're in the Delta quadrant, why don't they just find the Wormhole to get out?"

CSABA: "No, that's the Gamma quadrant that has the Wormhole."

LYLA: "Oh, yeah."

Oh, yeah, indeed.

It all started when the family lived in Baffin Island in the 1970s, and there wasn't always much to do but watch what TV they could get.

"I was an original TV pirate," joked Desmond Milos, referring to the satellite dish he needed to intercept signals up there.

"The kids got really used to watching Star Trek on the CBC."

Did they ever get used to it! Erin's room is a shrine to Star Trek and Star Trek: The Next Generation.

Lyla's room is populated with dozens of figurines and larger porcelain figures of virtually every Star Trek and Star Trek spin- off character.

The family is intimately involved in the area's Star Trek fan club machinery -- Erin, 17, and Csaba, 18, have helped organize Star Trek conventions and charity runs and have helped set up a couple of "ships," or clubs in the region -- the Imperial Klingon Battleship Fleet (IKBF) which has members throughout the peninsula, and the USS Exodus in Hamilton.

When City TV had a huge SkyDome screening of the last episode of The Next Generation last year, Erin was standing in full costume right beside VJ Monica Deol for the whole telecast.

And what did they think of last night's show?

"I liked it but it could have been better if there was more depth of character," said Mihaly, 14.

"It has a lot of potential," said Csaba. "The battle scenes and the special effects were good."

"But it had the same problem as the first Star Trek movie," added Erin. "They were saying, 'Look at all the neat effects,' but not getting into the characters."

Lyla, 20, felt that the story was a strong one but that it wasn't focused enough.

"They started going all over the place."

But she liked the female commander, Captain Janeway, and hopes they give her an on-board romance.

"But she's got a boyfriend at home," Mihaly said.

"Yeah, but he's 75 light years away."

Anyway, Lyla will be sending a full critique to the show's co-creator and executive producer Jeri Taylor.

"I wrote to her last year asking, with tongue firmly in cheek, for an audition. Amazingly, she's written back -- twice. And she asked me to write and tell her what I think of Voyager."

She better listen.