

Our Night Sky for August 11th,2025

Many years ago, a young mother in Edmonton woke up her two sons in the middle of the night bundled them up and guided them outside into the pleasant August night. We had no idea what was happening but settled on a blanket under a pretty dark sky. Mom explained that she had heard on the radio that there was a meteor shower tonight and let's see if we can spot some. My memory fails me somewhat, did we see a lot, I don't remember but we saw a few. Enough to continue the tradition into our teen years and again with my young family years later here in Prince George. My children now share the Perseid meteor shower with their children, off and on now for more than fifty years, Thanks Mom.

Late on August 12th, our planet flies through the center of a stream of debris left by comet Swift Tuttle. The comet last came by in 1992 and won't be back until 2126. But every year we fly through the rocky dusty debris and are rewarded by what is generally agreed to be the best meteor shower of the year. There are meteor showers throughout the year; some are wider or denser, but the Perseids are usually the favorite because of the mid summer timing and the chance to enjoy a pleasant summer evening. But we may be a little disappointed this year since the moon is near the radiant in the east, nearly full all night long. Closer to sunrise you may spot a close conjunction of Venus and Jupiter and Saturn a bit further south, lots happening in Our Night Sky.