

Our Night Sky for January 12 th. 2026

If you enjoy the long winter nights, you may not have noticed yet, but sunset is about a minute later each night since winter solstice on December 21 st. The early evening access to dark skies is often washed away by frequent cloudy weather and sometimes it is just too cold to stand out in the night. So, I would suggest having items of interest noted and ready for the occasional pleasant evening. An easy to spot asterism is the summer triangle. You might remember an evening last summer when you spotted Vega, a brilliant blue - white star high overhead at the zenith and part of the constellation the harp Lyra. If you went on to find the other stars of the summer triangle, Deneb and Altair. These are all bright stars Deneb in Cygnus the swan and Altair a bright white star in Aquila the Eagle. All easy to find and often offer routes to other sky objects. This time of year, it is a little harder to spot but they are all still very bright stars but grouped near due north and northwest. Altair sets at about 7:30 in the northwest, but Vega just skims the horizon and begins climbing into the northeastern sky by about midnight, its lowest point is 2 or 3 degrees above the horizon marking it as circum-polar. This leave Deneb which at its lowest point is almost 10 degrees above due north, about an hour behind Vega.

Open house at the Prince George Observatory resumed last Friday and you are welcome to visit Friday evening through the next few months. Just search online for Prince George observatory for more details of Our Night Sky.