

Our Night Sky for May 18 th, 2026

Happy Victoria Day. Officially today is birthday of the current reigning monarch. But it will always be linked to Queen Victoria who was known as the Mother of Confederation for her roll in the founding of the nation of Canada.

By now you can probably look to the northeastern sky and spot the W of Cassiopea a bit north and the great swan Cygnus rising horizontally and the upper wing will lead us to the constellation Lyra and the bright star Vega. Keep this group in your thoughts because it will slowly climb during the coming weeks and be easy objects to find all summer long.

In the west tonight as Venus slides toward the horizon, it is joined by a barely there new moon and followed by Jupiter above and left.

For the next few months we can work our way through some of the constellations in our southern sky. As the path the outer planets follow across our skies rises higher in the south. This path is called the ecliptic and the constellations bellow this path are southern constellations that we only see briefly in the short summer darkness. But defiantly the highlight of the southern skies is hidden here. This is also the area of the sky were you can, under ideal conditions see the enormous globe of stars that is the core of the Milky Way galaxy. Follow the summer milky way overhead to the south. If you are under very clear skies with near perfect darkness, you may see this enormous ball of stars. We are located in the middle of one of the arms of stars that swirl around this globe of stars that is about 30,00 light years across, a memorable sight in our Night Skies.