
Public Invited to 2026 Island Star Party Evenings of August 7 and 8

1 message

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To: Randy Enkin <pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca>

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Victoria Centre

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Notice to Media

2026 ISLAND STAR PARTY TAKES PLACE AUGUST 7 & 8 IN CENTRAL SAANICH

The public is invited to this year's Island Star Party, which will take place under dark skies on the grounds of St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Saanichton on the nights of Friday August 7 and Saturday August 8.

The Victoria Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) sponsors the Island Star Party, which is open to everyone who wishes to observe celestial objects. St. Stephen's Church is located at [7921 St. Stephens Road](#), which is off Mount Newton Cross Rd. just east of West Saanich Road.

Gates will open at 4 p.m. on Friday and will remain open until 11 a.m. on Sunday August 9. Members of the public can drop in during the Star Party free of charge, and people who choose to camp overnight near the observing field are asked to make a donation.

"Our Island Star Party is about sharing our night skies with everyone who is interested in learning more about our universe. Anyone with a telescope is encouraged to bring it along. If you don't have a telescope, you are invited to look through the telescopes we will set up at the Star Party," said Star Party Coordinator Randy Enkin.

There will be door prizes, including a telescope. There will also be activities in the afternoons, and evening programs that will start at 7:00 p.m., including expert speakers and telescope walks. On Friday August 7, we will hear Prof. Deborah Lokhorst of the University of Victoria talk about the MOTHRA telephoto array - a telescope with more than 1000 eyes. On Saturday August 8, Dominion Astrophysical Observatory Director, James DiFrancesco, will talk about "The Coming Generation of Very Large Optical Telescopes".

The RASC Victoria Centre has been involved for more than a century with both amateur and professional astronomy in Victoria and known for supporting public education in Astronomy. The Island Star Party has taken place in the past under the sponsorship of the RASC Victoria Centre and the Cowichan Valley Starfinders.

For more information, please go to our website at <https://victoria.rasc.ca/island-star-party-2026/>

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