

## Celebrating Victoria Day in Canada

### All About Canada's Victoria Day



Celebrated the Monday before May 25.



Celebrates the former Queen of England.



All federal buildings and organizations close for the day.



Usually celebrated with parades, concerts, fireworks, bbqs and picnics.



Only country in the world to celebrate this day.



All tourist attractions remain open.

Canada has long celebrated Victoria Day to honor Queen Victoria of England, a woman responsible for shaping key events in Canadian history. The official holiday, however, hasn't always been observed on the same day. In 1952, the Canadian government officially designated the Monday before May 25 as Victoria Day, meaning the holiday can fall anywhere between May 17 and May 24, depending on the calendar. A nationally observed holiday in Canada, Victoria Day traditionally falls on the Monday before Memorial Day in the United States, making it a day reserved for ushering in the summer season.

Residents of Quebec, however, celebrate the day Journée des patriots, or National Patriots Day, on the same day as Victoria Day, commemorating the struggle of the patriots of 1837 through 1838 on their quest towards democracy.

## History of Victoria Day

Victoria Day celebrates the May 24, 1819, birth of Queen Victoria, who ruled the British Empire from 1837 until she died in 1901. Canada introduced this holiday in 1845 during its days as a British colony. Interestingly, it's the only country in the world to formally celebrate the late monarch's birthday, despite the global reach of the 53-member Commonwealth of Nations.

Queen Victoria holds an important place in Canada's history. Upon her coronation, rebellions were breaking out in both upper and lower Canada (then considered "British North America"). Following the rebellions, Queen Victoria granted amnesty to exiled rebel leaders, allowing them to return to Canada. She also helped negotiate land treaties between the Crown and First Nations (categories of indigenous people) during her reign, which remain in effect today.

**Due to safety precautions and localized restrictions, some events may be canceled in 2021. Please check official websites and local news for up-to-date information about this year's events.**