

Visit the Centre of the Universe: **Victoria's Astronomy Interpretive Centre!**

The Centre of the Universe features astronomically exciting adventures.

It sits atop Little Saanich Mountain, past the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, the headquarters of astronomy research and development for the National Research Council of Canada.

The Centre's exhibit gallery highlights the milestones of Canadian astronomy that have placed Canada among the top three countries in its contributions to this amazing science and the world leader in 2005.

You can travel the constellations from Ancient Egypt to the present day in the intimate Starlab Planetarium and identify seasonal constellations.

You can also tour the Plaskett Telescope at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. Named after John Plaskett, the first director of the Observatory, the telescope captured its first images of the night sky in 1918; it was the biggest telescope in the world. Today it is the world's largest research telescope to allow regular public viewing.

The Centre's Evening Star Parties include theatre and planetarium presentations, game shows to challenge and enhance your knowledge, and tours and viewings with the Plaskett Telescope. The staff—always delighted to share their knowledge of what is happening in our universe—will help you planet-hunt and stargaze through smaller telescopes outside, including the 0.4 metre (16") research telescope.

Keep your eyes on the skies and your ears on the news! The Centre hosts the public for special programs when interesting phenomena take place in the heavens. We also offer out-of-this-world gifts, including books and equipment for the beginner to the amateur astronomer and toys and products inspired by stellar events.

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