

Why Do Canadians Celebrate Victoria Day?

For many Canadians Victoria Day weekend marks the beginning of summer. In some towns and cities across Canada, it is celebrated with picnics, parades and fireworks. But you may be asking why do we celebrate this Queen's birthday?

Queen Victoria was born on May 24th, 1819 and she was queen for just over 63 years. Queen Victoria was Queen when Canada became a country in 1867 and she also chose Ottawa as our capital. After she died in 1901 the Canadian government declared that her birthday, May 24th or the second last Monday in May, would be a national holiday in her honour.

Until 1956 Canada celebrated the birthday of the British monarch, king or queen, on that day. In fact, in Canada, the official birthday celebration of Queen Elizabeth II is celebrated on Victoria Day even though her real birthday is April 21st.

What do the following words mean? Please use your own words.

1. Picnic
2. Parade
3. Fireworks
4. Celebrate
5. Declared
6. Honour
7. Monarch (not a butterfly)
8. Official