

Woodstockers celebrate 50th anniversary

NEEL ROBERTS

Bryan Adams' 1985 hit song "Summer of '69" may have been a tribute to the Woodstock festival that took place in mid Aug. of 1969. The average attendee today is about 70 years old as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the concert that took place on Max Yasgur's farm just outside of sleepy Bethel, New York. Little did they know those dates Aug. 15-18, 1969 was around the peak of the Perseids meteor shower. The largest outdoor gig on Earth seemed serendipitous at night with all the fire balls. The

Loaded with memorabilia including pictures and an original video, the site also points out the 50th anniversary taking place August 15-18 this year. The Perseids is peaking around so clear skies will give patrons that extra treat which money can't buy.

Sky watch: Friday, Aug. 9 watch the moon and Jupiter into the night after sunset. A good scope can capture Jupiter during the day. Monday, Aug. 12 watch the moon and Saturn after dark while you're watching the meteor shower; this duo will be a good side show. After 11 p.m. until dawn – the Milky Way. The annual Perseids Meteor Shower runs until Aug. 24. The peak is Monday, Aug. 12 to Tuesday, Aug. 13 with an estimated rate of 10-15 meteors per hour. Best view is starting at 11 p.m. facing the north east in the constellation of Perseids until dawn. Check out this viewing guide for details
Public events for the month:

Annual Milky Way - Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis- Thursday, Aug. 22 to Saturday, Aug. 24, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. There will be an array of scopes operated by the University of Calgary astronomers and members of the RASC Calgary. See astronomers in their natural habitat, under dark moonless skies. Late night public observing is a unique opportunity to see deep sky objects such as planetary nebula and globular clusters. You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes, and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions. For further information, contact Jennifer Howse at jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca, (403) 931-2366. Their website is updated regularly. Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1868 with over 5,000 members and 29 centers across Canada.