



Multi-Cultural and Diversity NEWSLETTER



CANADA DAY (CANADA)

July 1- On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act created the Canadian federal government. The BNA proclaimed 'one Dominion under the name of Canada,' hence the original title of the holiday, 'Dominion Day.' It was officially renamed 'Canada Day' by an act of Parliament on October 27, 1982.

TANABATA (JAPAN)

July 7- Meaning "Seven Evenings" is a Japanese star festival, derived from Obon traditions and the Chinese star festival, Qi Xi. The festival is usually held on July 7, and celebrates the meeting of Orihime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair). The Milky Way, a river made from stars that crosses the sky, separates these lovers, and they are allowed to meet only once a year. This special day is the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.



FIRST MUHARRAM-ISLAMIC NEW YEAR (ISLAM)

July 7- Islamic New Year, 1447 AH. The first of Muharram marks the first day of the first month (Muharram) of the Islamic year. Muharam lasts for 29-30 days depending on the moon sighting. It begins at sundown the previous day. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.





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ASHURA (ISLAM)



July 16-The tenth day of the first Islamic month (Muharram). For Shi'ite Muslims, this day mourns the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Devout Shi'a commemorate this day of sadness with retelling the story of the battle fought in Kerbala.

SIMON BOLIVAR DAY (VENEZUELA, ECUADOR)

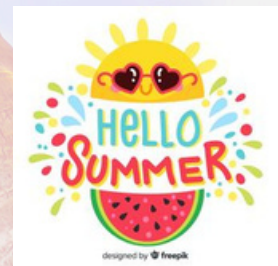
July 24-Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was one of South America's greatest generals. His victories over the Spaniards won independence for Bolivia, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. He is called El Libertador and the 'George Washington' of South America.



OH-HARAI-TAISAI (SHINTO)



July 30-During the Grand Purification Ceremony, Japanese worshippers walk through a large ring of woven grass and reeds that are placed at the entrance of the shrines as an act of inner purification for sins and offenses committed during the first half of the year. This sacred ritual is observed twice early.





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Other observations

1. **July 6- Dalai Lama's Birthday (Tibet and Buddhist)**
2. **July 10- Martyrdom of the Báb (Bahá'í)**
3. **July 11- Nadaam Festival (Mongolia)**
4. **Umi no hi (Japan)**
5. **July 20- Munoz-Rivera Day (Puerto Rico)**
6. **July 21-Guru Purnima (Jain and Hindu)**
7. **July 21- Wassana/Dhamma Day (Buddhist)**
8. **July 31- Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola (Spain)**

REFERENCE

**Khanna, A., Mody, P., Powers, S., Raza. R. (2024. Multicultural Calendar 2024.
Toronto:**

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Happy Summer