



ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

September 2020 Bulletin

Image Credit: Rick Stankiewicz



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Forms a 2024 Total Solar Eclipse Task Force



In a little more than three and a half years from now, the path of totality of a total solar eclipse will pass through Canada. Totality will be visible in parts of the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador on Tuesday, April 8, 2024. The total solar eclipse seen in the United States in 2017 revealed that there is much to do to prepare the general public for a total solar eclipse.

The RASC Board of Directors has formed the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse Task Force. Its objectives are to:

1. Produce and distribute information to the general public on observing the eclipse, with the emphasis on safety and correcting disinformation;
2. Provide information to municipalities along the eclipse path to help them prepare for the eclipse, using data and lessons learned from the 2017 total solar eclipse;
3. Provide information and support materials to all RASC Centres, especially those along or near the eclipse path; and
4. Build an information network to supply information and contacts to the media.

The Task Force will partner with various organizations—English and French speaking—in areas of education, medicine, and government.

Professional and amateur astronomy organizations will be invited to participate, as well as various university astronomy faculties along the eclipse path. RASC Centres situated along the eclipse path will be invited to participate.

The first steps for the Task Force in the next few months are to define a timeline of activities and priorities and to approach potential partners.

Lessons Learned from the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse

The American Astronomical Society (AAS) formed a task force to prepare for the 2017 total solar eclipse. Results from the eclipse were published by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in [Celebrating the 2017 Great American Eclipse: Lessons Learned from the Path of Totality](#).

These lessons include ways in which municipalities along the eclipse path can prepare for the invasion of eclipse watchers on eclipse day.

The AAS has formed a task force for the upcoming eclipse. The RASC Task Force has been invited to participate, and the two task forces will work together to prepare for the eclipse.

Canadian Cities on the Eclipse Path

Ontario: Leamington, Chatham-Kent (boundary), St. Thomas, Brantford, Hamilton, Burlington, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland, Belleville, Kingston, Brockville, Cornwall

Just outside the path: Windsor, London, Mississauga, Toronto (GTA), Ottawa

Quebec: Montréal, Drummondville, Sherbrooke

New Brunswick: Fredericton
Just outside the path: Saint John, Moncton

Prince Edward Island:
Just outside the path: Charlottetown

Newfoundland and Labrador: Gander
Just outside the path: St. John's

2021 and 2023 Annular Solar Eclipses

Two solar eclipses in the next few years will be visible across the country. An annular eclipse will be visible in northern Ontario and Quebec in June 2021, and another annular eclipse will cross the southwestern United States. Both will be visible as partial eclipses across much of Canada.

These eclipses will give the Task Force an opportunity to promote the safe viewing of the eclipses and to promote the RASC and partner organizations in preparation for the 2024 event.

The 2024 total solar eclipse will be the last one seen in Canada until 2044. It will be an ideal opportunity for millions of Canadians to enjoy this rare, natural phenomenon. It will also be a perfect opportunity to promote the activities of the RASC to Canadians.

More information on the activities of the Task Force will be published in future issues of the RASC Bulletin.

Randy Attwood
Chair, RASC 2024 Total Solar Eclipse Task Force

Meet the RASC



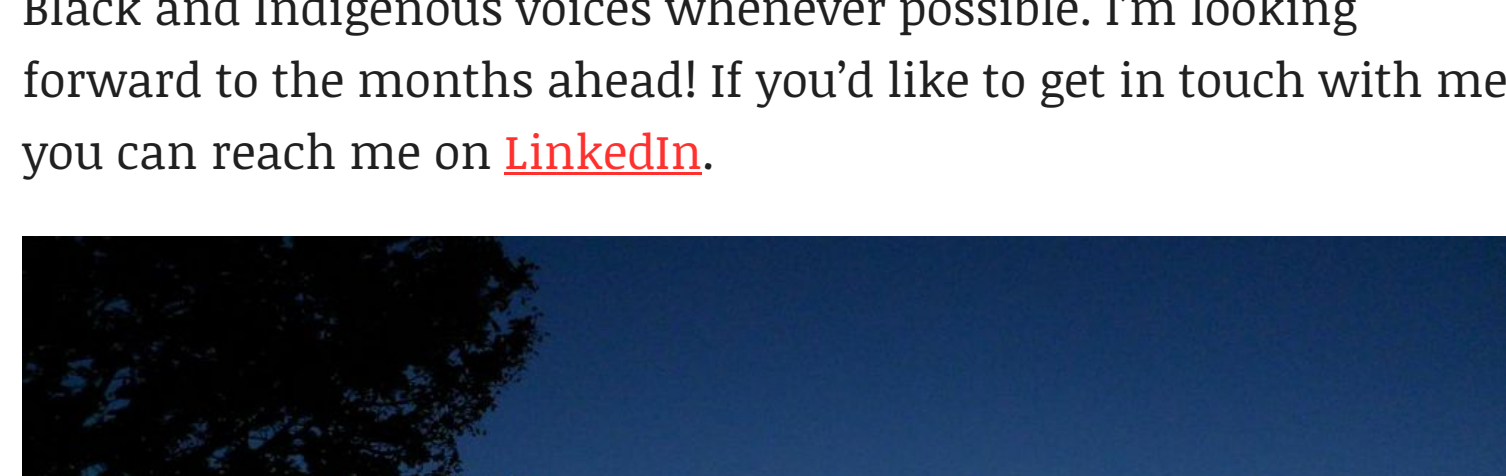
Marina Miller
Vancouver Centre

Since childhood, I've always been curious about the world.

I think I got this from my parents who were both biology majors and science lovers. They also taught me compassion and to keep an open mind, which is likely why I care so much about social justice issues. My grandfather Karl Miller, honorary president of the Vancouver Centre and previous national treasurer, fostered my interest in astronomy from a very young age. Although I have yet to start observing with a telescope on my own, I'm fascinated by the mysteries of the universe (and taking pictures of the moon!). I like thinking about the human condition: specks of star stuff in the vastness of space, seemingly alone.

This is one reason why we need to cherish our planet and all the people on it. I'm currently wrapping up a degree in Geography and Environment from Simon Fraser University, and I have done work in this field throughout my degree.

I joined the I&D Committee after becoming involved in the Youth Committee and going to the 2019 GA in Toronto. As we take on more initiatives, I'm excited to help make the RASC a more diverse and welcoming organization. As a queer woman, I also hope to represent my community while learning about it at the same time. My activism will remain intersectional; I aim to center Black and Indigenous voices whenever possible. I'm looking forward to the months ahead! If you'd like to get in touch with me, you can reach me on [LinkedIn](#).



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Information on COVID-19

ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

WHAT IT IS

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some can infect animals, and some can infect humans. COVID-19 is a new disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 that was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019. COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic in March 2020.

Those who are infected with COVID-19 may have little to no symptoms. Symptoms of COVID-19 are often similar to other illnesses.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of COVID-19 can:

- take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus
- be very mild or more serious
- vary from person to person

SPREAD

Coronaviruses are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

- respiratory droplets when you cough or sneeze
- close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- touching something with the virus on it, then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands

These viruses are not known to spread through ventilation systems or through water.

PREVENTION

The best way to prevent the spread of infectious is to:

- practice **physical distancing** at all times
- stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others
- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are sick
- when coughing or sneezing:
 - cover your mouth and nose with your arm or tissue to reduce the spread of germs
 - immediately dispose of any tissues you have used into the garbage as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, such as toys, electronic devices and door knobs
- wear a **non-medical mask or face covering** (i.e. constructed to completely cover the nose and mouth without gaping, and secured to the head by ties or ear loops) to protect the people and surfaces around you

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

If you have symptoms of COVID-19:

- stay home (isolate) to avoid spreading it to others
- if you live with others, stay in a separate room or keep a 2-metre distance
- call ahead before you visit a health care professional or call your local public health authority
- tell them your symptoms and follow their instructions
- if you need immediate medical attention, call 911 and tell them your symptoms

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CORONAVIRUS:

1-833-784-4397 canada.ca/coronavirus

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