

**April 23, 2024**

**Notice to Media**

**2024 INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY ACTIVITIES  
SET FOR SATURDAY MAY 18 AT THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM  
& THE DOMINION ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY**

International Astronomy Day events for 2024 will take place on Saturday May 18 at the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (DAO) and the Centre of the Universe from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The Victoria Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) is proud to sponsor family-friendly Astronomy Day activities, which will begin outside the RBCM at 10 a.m. with solar telescopes for safely viewing the sun in front of the museum on Belleville St.

Inside the RBCM there will be astrophotography and displays from the University of Victoria Physics and Astronomy Department, Camosun College and the Monterey Middle School Astronomy Club. RASC volunteers and Science Venture staff from the University of Victoria will engage children with hands-on activities. All the astronomy presentations, displays and workshops are free, while regular admission still applies for regular RBCM exhibits and films. The RBCM will show astronomy-related IMAX films around Astronomy Day.

Speakers at the RBCM will include Nathan Hellner-Mestelman, who will talk about the mind-boggling dimensions of our universe, Professor John McDonald on the stars, Amy Archer on how the night sky guided thousands of people who took the Underground Railroad to freedom, and Simon Smith, who will tell the story of our Milky Way galaxy.

The Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory and the RASC Victoria Centre will host evening activities at Observatory Hill, 5071 West Saanich Rd., that evening from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Visitors with tickets will be admitted to Observatory Hill starting at 7:15 p.m.

The Centre of the Universe exhibits will be open that evening, and the Observatory, including the historic Plaskett Telescope, will be open for tours. RASC members will have their personal telescopes set up for public viewing if weather permits.

There will be a presentation that evening by DAO astronomer Trystyn Berg on how the search for metals in distant objects tells us how stars and galaxies are changing over time.

The public viewing on the evening of Saturday May 18 at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory will be followed by further public viewing events at the DAO this spring and summer on selected Saturdays.

**Entry to the Observatory grounds for all public evenings in 2024, is by ticket ONLY. Tickets are FREE but require reservation. To obtain your entry ticket and further information on Saturday Star Parties, please go to <https://centreoftheuniverse.org/events/2024/5/18/star-party>. Tickets will be available starting Monday May 6 at 5 p.m.**

The RASC Victoria Centre is proud of its history and association with both amateur and professional astronomy in Victoria and its mandate for public education in Astronomy.

For more information please go to our website at <https://www.victoria.rasc.ca>

*Contact person:* Randy Enkin [pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca) (250)588-4904