

April 2, 2026 Notice to Media

2026 INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY ACTIVITIES SET FOR SATURDAY APRIL 25 AT THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM & THE DOMINION ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY

International Astronomy Day events for 2026 will take place Saturday April 25 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) presents family-friendly Astronomy Day activities at the RBCM with solar telescopes for safely viewing the Sun outdoors in front of the museum on Belleville St. Inside the RBCM there will be displays from the University of Victoria Physics and Astronomy Department, Camosun College, the Shawnigan Lake High School, and the Centre of the Universe. RASC volunteers and Science Venture staff from the University of Victoria will engage children with hands-on activities.

“International Astronomy Day is about making space science accessible to everyone,” said Randy Enkin of the RASC Victoria Centre. “From safely viewing the Sun during the day to exploring the night sky through telescopes, these events are designed to spark curiosity and connect people with the universe around them.”

All the astronomy and responsible lighting 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 on Astronomy Day, Asteroid

Hunters at 11a.m., A Beautiful Planet 3D at 1p.m., and Deep Sky at 3p.m.

Speakers at the RBCM will include Lauren Harrison speaking on Women in Astronomy, and former DAO director Dennis Crabtree speaking on the Photographic Legacy of the DAO and its founder, John Stanley Plaskett.

Evening programming will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Centre of the Universe, located next to the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (5071 W. Saanich Road).

The Centre of the Universe will be open, with access to exhibits, the planetarium, and guided tours of the historic Plaskett Telescope. Weather permitting, RASC members will offer public telescope viewing at both locations.

A featured talk at 7:30 p.m. by University of Victoria professor of astronomy Jon Willis will explore the search for life beyond Earth.

Tickets are required and must be reserved in advance. Tickets are available by donation to support astronomy outreach at the Centre of the Universe. Gates open at 7:15 p.m., with programming starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go live April 14 at 5:00 p.m.: <https://centroftheuniverse.org/events/2026/4/25>

The RASC Victoria Centre has been associated for more than a century with both amateur and professional astronomy in Victoria and its mandate for public education in Astronomy.

For more information please go to the Victoria RASC website at <https://victoria.rasc.ca>

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