

April 20, 2026

Notice to Media

2026 INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY TAKES PLACE THIS SATURDAY APRIL 25 AT THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM & THE DOMINION ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY

This Saturday will feature International Astronomy Day events for 2026 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. A full slate of activities, which has been set for the day, is outlined below.

Daytime events at RBCM

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 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, and there will be a display on the recent Artemis II mission to the Moon.

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.

At the RBCM, former DAO director Dennis Crabtree will speak on the Photographic Legacy of the DAO and its founder, John Stanley Plaskett, at 10:30 a.m.; space historian Chris Gainor will discuss the flight of Artemis II at 11:30a.m.; Lauren Harrison will speak on Women in Astronomy at 12:30 p.m.; and astrophotographer Megan Meraz will talk at 1:30 p.m. about capturing the night skies with a camera.

Interview opportunities

Experts and speakers from the RASC and Centre of the Universe will be available for media interviews all this week through Randy Enkin, at pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca (250)588-4904.

Evening events at the Observatory

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

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 for the evening events at the Centre of the Universe 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. <https://centreoftheuniverse.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.

More information on Astronomy Day is available at the Victoria RASC website at <https://victoria.rasc.ca>

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