

Solar Eclipse Briefing

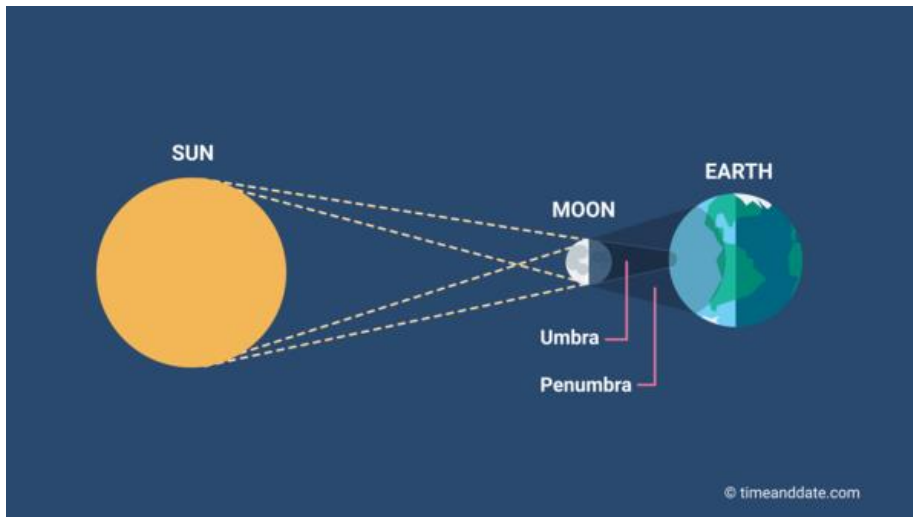
February 28, 2024

Town of Cobourg

Emergency Management Ontario

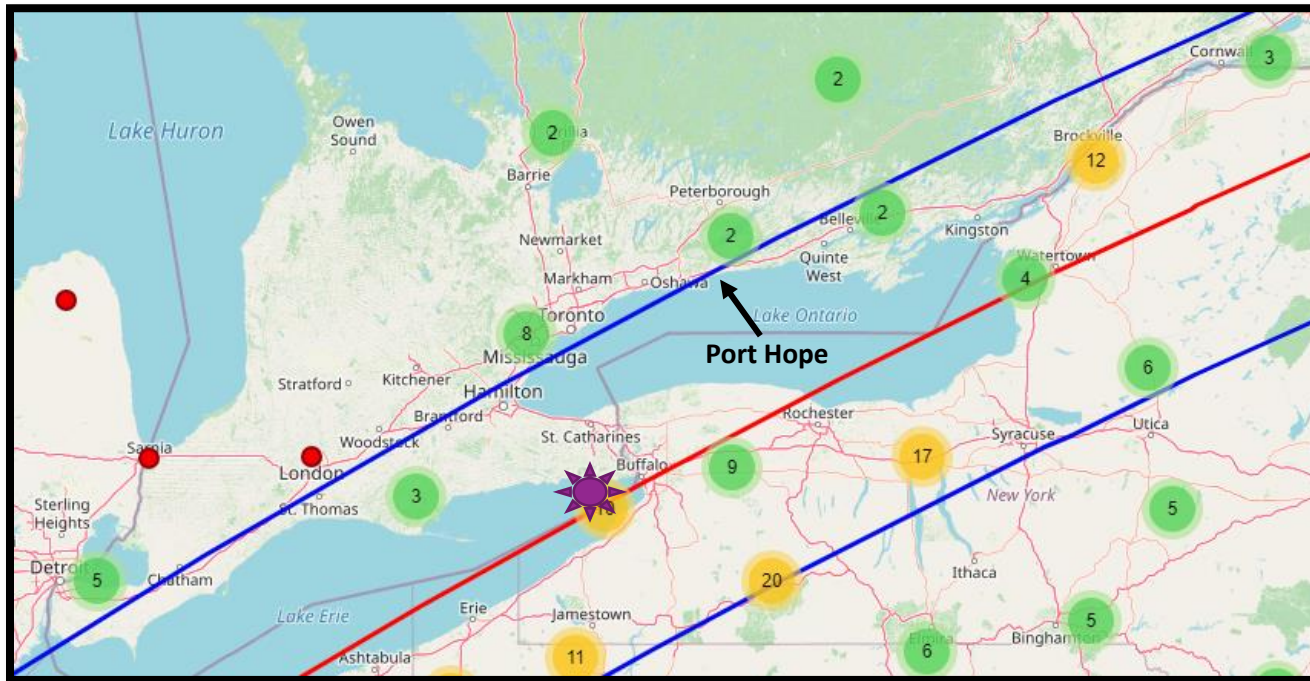
Introduction

- On April 8, 2024, parts of Ontario will experience a **total solar eclipse**
- A total solar eclipse is when the sun's disk is completely covered by the moon's shadow for a short period of time
- Total solar eclipses are rare
 - The last one southern Ontario was 1925
 - The next one in southern Ontario is 2099



Path of Totality

- The path of totality is a narrow path approx. 110 – 115km wide where the sun appears to be completely covered
- If the eclipse is not visible in Niagara region due to weather conditions, other municipalities may experience a sudden influx of visitors



Cobourg Specific Timing

- Partial eclipse begins at 2:06:57pm
- Total eclipse lasts from 3:20:53pm to 3:22:18 (total of 1min 25s)
- Partial eclipse ends 4:32:53pm (total of 2hrs 26min)



Anticipated Impacts

Transportation

- Large influx of traffic before and especially after the event
- In 2017, US states experienced traffic jams 3 to 4 times longer than usual

Local Infrastructure

- Fuel shortages
- Disruption/delays to emergency response
- Gatherings at various locations
- Demand for washrooms

Health

- Potential eye damage
- Fake eclipse glasses being sold
- Hospital overload

Economic

- Beneficial for local tourism, hotel and hospitality businesses

Mitigation Efforts / Considerations

- Amplifying public messaging to promote awareness of the event, the health and safety risks, traffic, personal preparedness, etc
- School boards are altering schedules to reduce potential traffic impacts and mitigate student safety issues
- Similarly, organizations are considering temporarily reducing service levels and alternate work arrangements (e.g., work from home) where feasible
- Traffic management including enhanced monitoring of borders, waterways, highways and emergency detour routes

Provincial Coordination



- EMO has been working with municipalities, Provincial ministries and Federal government partners to coordinate planning efforts.
 - Health and Long-Term Care
 - Energy
 - Education
 - **Transportation**
 - **Solicitor General / OPP**
- EMO is developing a one-pager for CEMC's with preparedness and safety messaging (in-progress)

Local Considerations

- There will be a temporary drop in temperature of 5-8 degrees
- Local school boards have changed April 8th to a PA Day
- Other municipalities in the area are suggesting that if staff can work from home that day, then they are encouraging them to
- Other municipalities are upstaffing Police, Fire and EMS for the event
- Some businesses are asking employees to alter shift start and end times to alleviate traffic on the roads

Town of Cobourg's Planning Efforts

- Attended meetings with Northumberland County, surrounding municipalities and the hospital
- Messaging to go out over Alertable, social media and Town of Cobourg website to help residents stay safe and to alleviate disruptions to municipal services
- The Community Emergency Management Program Committee will have 2-3 meetings prior to April 8th to coordinate the following plans, including;
 - Communications
 - Traffic management
 - Staffing

Links to Further Information

[Cobourg, ON - 2024 eclipse simulator | eclipse2024.org](https://eclipse2024.org/cobourg-on-2024-eclipse-simulator)

[Oshawa, ON - 2024 eclipse simulator | eclipse2024.org](https://eclipse2024.org/oshawa-on-2024-eclipse-simulator)

<https://www.rasc.ca/solar-eclipses>