

1

2024 Total Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024

Colleen McCabe Health, Safety, Emergency Risk Manager 2024-03-20



- Occur somewhere on earth every 18 months
- Specific location a rare event
 - Once every 400 years
- Next total solar eclipse in Northumberland County
 - > 2399 (375 years)





Path of totality

Passes through southern Ontario

Approximately 180 kms wide



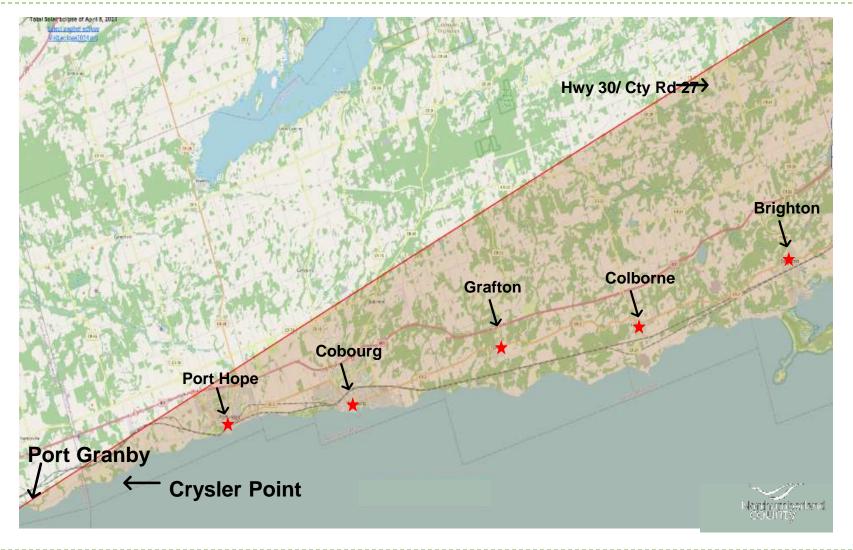


Why so special?

- 2017 total solar eclipse (USA)
 - Largest temporary mass migration
 - Larger than any scientific, athletic or entertainment event ever recorded
 - 88% of American Adults viewed the eclipse
- > 2024 total solar eclipse
 - Longer totality event
 - Covers larger urban area
 - 42 million in path vs 12 million in 2017



Path of totality in Northumberland



Eclipse timing



Location	Partial	Full Totality	Totality Duration
Port Hope	14:06:47	15:20:59	0m 55.5s
Cobourg	14:06:59	15:20:56	1m 21.5s
Colborne	14:07:24	15:21:02	1m 51.7s
Grafton	14:07:12	15:21:00	1m 34.7s
Brighton	14:07:39	15:21:10	1m 59.9s



What to expect

- Gradual dimming of natural light
- Sky will go dark
- Drop in temperature 5-8 degrees
- Changes in wildlife and plants
- Emotional experience





What to prepare for

- Influx of people
 - Impact to health care services
 - Increased demand for emergency services
 - Increased use of internet and cell service
 - Traffic congestion
 - Potential mass exit
- Increased demand on local services
- Number of visitors unknown
- Weather variables
- Unknown gathering sites





County preparedness

- Hazard Identification Risk Assessment
- Mock exercise
- Total solar eclipse workshops and presentations
- Collaboration with CEMCs and evacuation partners
- Provincial working group
- Enhanced monitoring
- Communications plan
- Continuity planning





Health and safety

Eye safety

- Never look at the sun without protection
- Only use ISO 12312-2 special filtered certified glasses
 - Purchase from a reputable vendor
- Never use regular sunglasses
- More information on County website



Emergency preparedness for residents

- Make a plan
- Have an emergency kit
- Be prepared to take care of you and your family for up to 72 hours





Questions?

- Northumberland County
 - northumberland.ca/NoCoEclipse
- NASA
 - science.nasa.gov/eclipses/media/resources
- Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
 - ▶ rasc.ca