



## BACKGROUND

### Fort Henry Hosts Celestial Event to Celebrate Total Solar Eclipse in Kingston, Ontario

#### Free Family Event Offers Daylong Entertainment and Spectacular Views in the Path of Totality, PLUS Fort Henry Is Open All Weekend

**Kingston, ON** – Fort Henry is blasting off early this spring, offering an astronomical celebration around history-in-the-making: the 2024 total solar eclipse. The celebration begins with the Fort open all weekend for self-guided tours from Friday, April 5, to Sunday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Then on Monday, April 8 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. guests are invited to experience the peak of the eclipse from the peak of Point Henry, from inside Fort Henry's historic limestone walls.

Admission to the family-friendly viewing event is free for all and includes educational speakers, live music/entertainment, children's activities, solar viewing glasses, and a vibrant array of artisan/food vendors. Kingston Transit is operating free for the day to make travelling around Kingston effortless.

#### **Featured Guests:**

**Host:** Bill Welychka, the Midday Announcer on Kingston's BIG 96.3 and Host/Producer for Global Kingston, is a distinguished and well-known Canadian television personality and author. Formerly a MuchMusic VJ, he has done more than 5,000 interviews with personalities from film, TV, royalty, politics, sports, and music.

**Featured Educational Speaker:** Bob McDonald; renowned Canadian science journalist, host of CBC Radio's Quirks & Quarks, contributor to CBC Television's The National and numerous TV programs, and author of six bestselling science books. An Officer of the Order of Canada and a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, McDonald has received accolades for his significant contributions to science promotion, including the Michael Smith Award. He holds 13 honorary doctorates, two honorary College degrees, and serves on the board of Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory.

With eclipse seekers both local and visiting expected to congregate throughout the path of totality, guests are asked to pre-register for the free event at [fort-henry-solar-eclipse-kingston.eventbrite.ca](https://fort-henry-solar-eclipse-kingston.eventbrite.ca). Guests are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations for the



Kingston Food Bank.

### Eclipse Viewing Event Highlights

- Date and Time: Monday, April 8, 2024, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Admission: Free (does not include admission into the Lower Fort if desired)
- Location: Fort Henry, Kingston, Ontario

### Activities Include:

- **Children's Activities:** Activities and games curated specially to align with the solar eclipse theme.
- **Educational Guest Speakers:**
  - Bob McDonald: Explore the mysteries of the cosmos with the acclaimed science journalist.
  - Nicholas Swidinsky: Queen's graduate student in Physics studying to find the Dark Matter in the Universe using rare radioactive decays.
  - Lindsay Brant: Star Stories - Poetic Celestial Connections: Sharing personal poems and the significance of the sky, stars and cosmos for Mohawk people.
- **Live Music/Entertainment:** Willy Nilly, Savannah Shea, and The Mill Rights

### Media Contact:

Amanda Liebeck  
Communications and Media Relations Officer  
St. Lawrence Parks Commission

### More Information on the Solar Eclipse:

Queen's University, Department of Physics, Engineering Physics & Astronomy, have launched a dedicated [website](#) to provide comprehensive information about the upcoming total solar eclipse.

### About Fort Henry

Fort Henry was built between 1832 and 1837, designed as the key site in a network of fortifications for the defense of the Rideau Canal and the Kingston harbour. Garrisoned by British soldiers until 1870, and abandoned by Canadian troops in 1891, Fort Henry fell into disrepair. In 1936, the Fort underwent restoration and opened as a living history museum in 1938. Now a National Historic Site, Fort Henry has seen millions of visitors pass through its gates, entering the realm of 19th century military life. Guests experience self-guided tours, scenic views, heart-pounding musical performances and precision military demonstrations by the Fort Henry Guard, a highly disciplined group of student recruits trained as British soldiers from 1867.

**Social Media**

Facebook: [@FortHenry1832](#)

Instagram: [@FortHenry1832](#)

X: [@FortHenry](#)

#FortHenry