



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Royal BC Museum Looks to the Stars on International Astronomy Day

VICTORIA, BC – The Royal British Columbia Museum, the Victoria Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) and CRD Parks have teamed up to present International Astronomy Day, a free family friendly celebration of the stars and planets at the **Royal BC Museum** on **Saturday, April 21** from **10 am to 4 pm** and with telescope viewing of the night sky at the **Centre of the Universe** from **7 pm to 11 pm**.

Astronomy Day activities range from telescope views of sun-spot activity and telescope mirror-grinding demonstrations, to displays on astrophotography and engaging of children's programs. Visitors will have an opportunity to talk with astronomers from the University of Victoria and the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics at our "Ask an Astronomer" booth – can you stump the professionals?

At Astronomy Day you can expect to: be entertained by *June Bugg and the Ugly Brothers* with their music inspired by the cosmos; see where you fit in our scale model of the solar system; look through a working model of Galileo's first telescope; learn how to combat light pollution and take back the night skies; and kids can make their own sundial or take home a model of their favourite planet.

Astronomy Day events at the Royal BC Museum will be followed in the evening (from 7 pm to 11 pm) with a star party at the *Centre of the Universe* at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory on West Saanich Road. A variety of telescopes will be set-up by the RASCALS (members of the Victoria Centre of the RASC) so visitors can get up-close and personal with the cosmos.

Admission to all events in the museum's Clifford Carl Hall, Newcombe Conference Hall, and outside courtyards is free. Regular admission applies to the museum exhibits and IMAX Theatre. Admission to telescope viewing outside the Centre of the Universe is free as well. Regular admission applies to all centre programs and exhibits.

Astronomy Day at the Royal BC Museum is jointly produced by the museum and the Victoria Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, in partnership with CRD Regional Parks, the National Research Council of Canada, Pearson College of the Pacific, Capital Regional District Parks and the University of Victoria.

For more information on Astronomy Day, please phone Scott Mair at 250.889-8021 or visit the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's website at <http://victoria.rasc.ca>.

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