

# Solar Eclipse Briefing

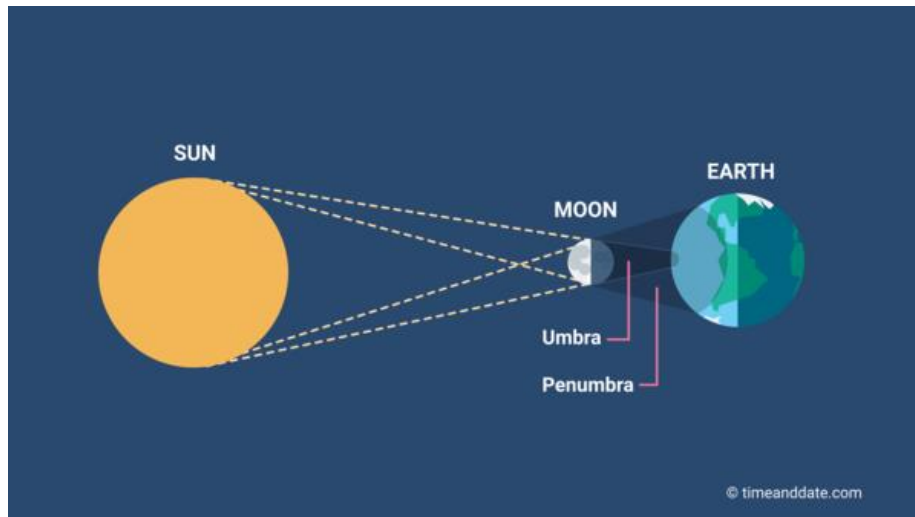
March 6, 2024

County of Essex

Emergency Management Ontario

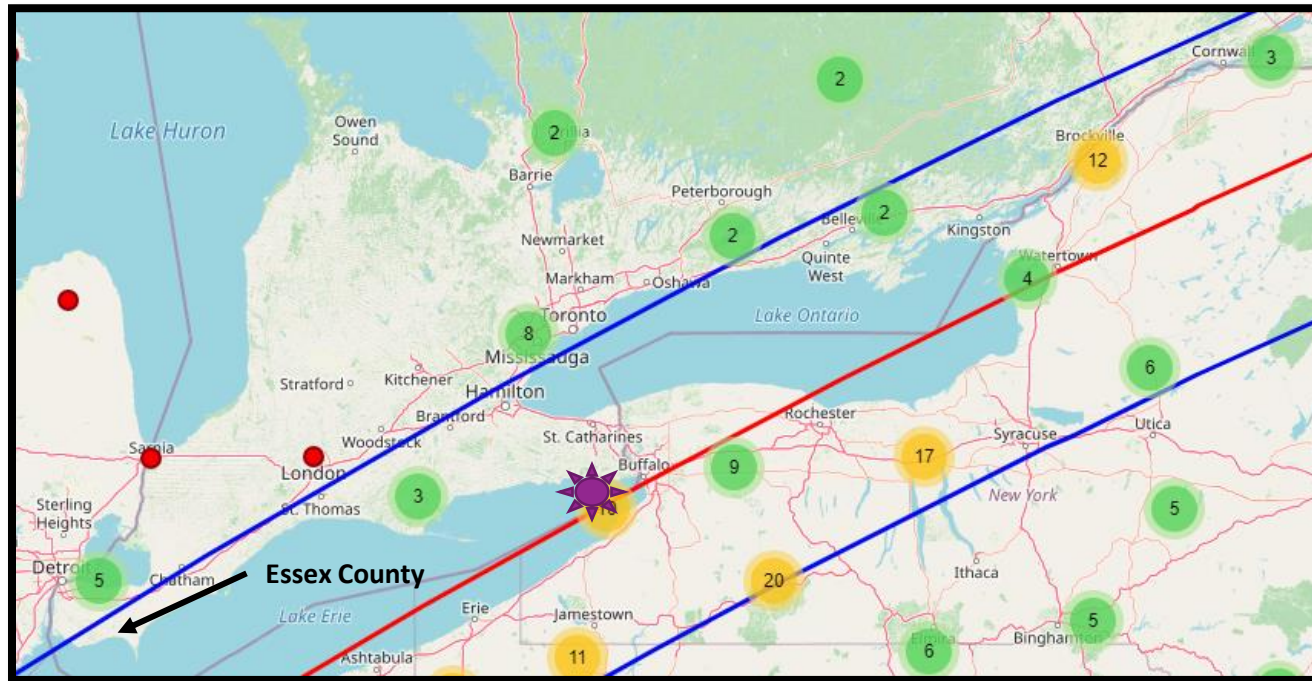
# Introduction

- 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



# Specific Timing

- Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve (Point Pelee)
- Partial eclipse begins at 1:58:11pm
- Total eclipse lasts from 3:12:50pm to 3:16:06pm
- Partial eclipse ends 4:27:58pm (total of 2hrs 29min)



# 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

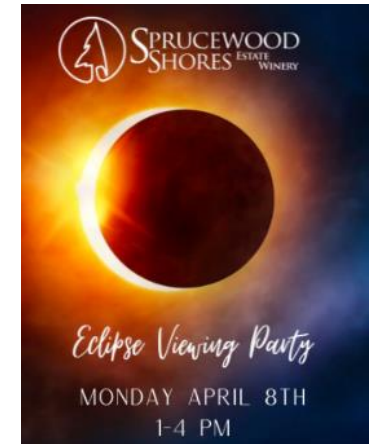


- EMO has been working with municipalities, Provincial ministries and Federal government partners to coordinate planning efforts.
  - Health and Long-Term Care
  - Energy
  - Education
  - **Transportation**
  - **Solicitor General / OPP**
- EMO is developing a one-pager for CEMC's with preparedness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



# Local Planning Efforts

- Essex County
- Township of Pelee
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Elgin County



## TOTAL ECLIPSE SAILING

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America. Join us on the Pelee Islander II to witness this spectacular celestial event.

**Date:** April 8, 2024

**Time:** Depart Leamington Terminal at 1300  
Arrives at West Dock at 1430. Watch the eclipse on the ferry or West Dock, Pelee Island.  
Depart Pelee Island Terminal at 1600

**Cost:** Round trip. Adult (over 12 years) \$15 | Child (6-12) \$7.50  
Child (5 years & under) FREE | Senior (65+) \$12.50

**Limit:** 6 passenger fares per booking

Passenger fares go on sale February 29, 2024  
Reservations by phone only, please call: 1.800.661.2220

Only 300 passenger fares are available  
Regular Terms & Conditions apply  
Regular Ferry Operations; vehicles permitted

### Modified Sailing Schedule for April 8, 2024

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>0700 - Depart Pelee Island Terminal</p> <p>0900 - Depart Leamington Terminal</p> <p>1100 - Depart Pelee Island Terminal</p> | <p><b>Total Eclipse Sailing:</b></p> <p>1300 - Depart Leamington Terminal</p> <p>1600 - Depart Pelee Island Terminal</p> <p>1800 - Depart Leamington Terminal</p> |
|--|---|

**Pelee Island Transportation Services**  
[www.ontarioferries.com](http://www.ontarioferries.com)  
 1.800.661.2220



## EXPERIENCE THE SOLAR ECLIPSE!

MONDAY, APRIL 8TH, 2024

### Public Viewing

The locations listed are the best spots in Elgin County to view the Eclipse, which offer free public parking.

- 1 Port Glasgow Beach
- 2 John E. Pearce Provincial Park  
26551 Lakeview Line
- 3 Fingal Wildlife Area  
34499 Fingal Line
- 4 Port Stanley Main Beach
- 5 Port Stanley Little Beach
- 6 Port Bruce Beach
- 7 Port Burwell East Beach
- 8 Aylmer Wildlife Management Area  
10594 Paucenda Rd.

More information at [elgincounty.ca](http://elgincounty.ca)

**#ElginCounty**  
Share your experiences with others!