



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: Solar Eclipse in Burlington on April 8, 2024

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward, Councillor Rory Nisan, Ward 3 and Councillor Angela Bentivegna, Ward 6

Date to Committee: March 4, 2024

Date to Council: March 19, 2024

Motion for Council to Consider:

Direct the Director of Corporate Communications and Engagement on behalf of City Council to invite the public to join them at Spencer Smith Park to view the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024, from 3:00-3:30 pm; and

Recess the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, April 8 at 2:30 pm and reconvene at 3:45 pm; and

Direct the Director of Corporate Communications & Engagement to:

- communicate the event on all city community engagement and social media channels, highlighting the necessary safety eye protection measures
- update the Burlington Beach page promoting this event on [eclipse2024.org](https://www.burlington.ca/eclipse2024.org)
- engage with Burlington Public Library and Tourism & Economic Development to promote the viewing event; and

Direct the Director of Recreation, Community & Culture and the Director of Transportation to:

- coordinate the event through traffic management and crowd control measures using signage, road or sidewalk barriers
- promote eyesight safety precautions onsite by distributing certified solar eclipse glasses for members of the public, through partnership with the Department of Physics and Astronomy at McMaster University.

Reason:

On April 8, 2024, a spectacular and rare celestial event is set to unfold over North America – a total solar eclipse. The Moon will align perfectly between the Earth and the Sun, casting temporary darkness across parts of Canada, including Burlington.

A total solar eclipse has not occurred in southern Ontario since 1979 and is not projected to occur again in Burlington until 2144.

The path of the eclipse will pass over Burlington Beach at Spencer Smith Park, which will be in total darkness for approximately one minute and thirty seconds, beginning at 3:18 pm.

Outcome Sought:

This event marks a unique, historical opportunity to highlight and promote Burlington as a solar eclipse viewing destination for residents and tourists alike. This event could attract significant interest in and attention to Burlington, with the potential to generate tourism-based revenue and business to the city.

Most importantly, it aligns with the City's Vision to Focus to build a Burlington that grows and moves, shows environmental leadership, and engages citizens through community events.

The event shall be free to all event attendees. Any costs for this event shall be covered by the City of Burlington share of the Municipal Accommodation Tax.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Share with Senior Staff

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: Approved

City Manager: Approved

CC: Maureen Healey – Executive Director of Tourism Burlington
 Anita Cassidy - Executive Director of Burlington Economic
 Development
 Lita Barrie - Chief Executive Officer of Burlington Public Library