



# SKY EXPERIENCE 2024

NEW BRUNSWICK ECLIPSE RETREAT



April 7- 9th, 2024



CLIFF VALLEY  
astronomy



# HOW SPECIAL ARE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSES?

Besides being incredibly already rare in frequency, several decades can pass before another total eclipse visits the same location. In New Brunswick's example, the last Total Solar Eclipse was in 1972 and even back then it only visited a small portion of the northeast corner of the province.

The real reason is the visceral experience you'll live as the Moon begins to journey across the face of the Sun. Slowly the sky begins to dim, and as they both begin to align almost perfectly, you don't just notice almost night-like darkness but the temperature cooling as well. The wildlife begins to act as if it is nightfall, including total silence from usually vocal animals like birds, an obvious sign that something amazing is happening.



For avid astronomers, astrophotographers, photographers, the opportunity to capture the three sequences of the totality.

It begins from the corona (diamond ring), then Bailey's beads to the final corona which is the only time you can see with your own eyes the Sun's most outwardly layer.

The sun's atmosphere has a ring of white to the yellow haze around the edge of the Moon and the expected time of totality will be around 2 minutes.

*What an amazing experience you'll remember for the rest of your life and most a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!*







When the great complete solar eclipse visits New Brunswick on April 8th, 2024, it will have been more than 52 years since the previous complete solar eclipse visited our province. Back in 1972 it only passed through a small portion of the province coming across the picturesque Acadian Peninsula in the Northeastern section of the province. The eclipse will be by all accounts the most special celestial event in Eastern Canada, if not, all of Canada. It will cross from West to East nearly in the central region of New Brunswick as this presents a very accessible event as most people will be fewer than 60 minutes from the path of totality. Thusmaking New Brunswick the most attractive jurisdiction in all of Canada for this important once-in-a-lifetime celestial event for most people!



Doaktown is a beautiful rural community in central New Brunswick along the upper valley of the powerful and beautiful Miramichi River. It provides the perfect location as it will sit within a handful of kilometers from the centre of the path of totality of the complete solar eclipse path. The area is sought by avid eclipse chasers from around the world, avid amateur and professional astronomers, and photographers to observe and capture that so rare moment.

Where, the eclipse reaches its corona which is when the Moon completely covers the disc of the Sun just allowing that so very magnificent halo of light all around the edge of the cosmic embrace both discs share for several seconds. This presents the climax of the entire process that progresses in a little more than a couple of hours. Doaktown's real strength does not only rely on its fortuitous location on the map as one of New Brunswick's most famed regions with its beautiful nature.







Its people and its business community and amenities make it the ;natural choice for us to plan and create the best eclipse adventure package in all of Canada.

We will cater to a niche market targeting national and international eclipse chasers, accomplished astronomers, and photographers.

Find why our offering is perfect for you, for the once-in-a-lifetime chance to enjoy the great total solar eclipse of 2024





We have built an agenda designed to keep you busy and inspire your creative thinking. In addition to all the astronomy events, we've enlisted presenters that will discuss birds and wildlife and will take you on a birding excursion.

At night we will have some of eastern Canada's most proficient and avid astronomers, who will provide some amazing stargazing in the amazing dark skies of Central New Brunswick with several high-end telescopes. We also have some great photography topics planned as well as several cameras, astronomy, and Astrophotography equipment, and product demonstrations





# RETREAT ACCOMMODATIONS



We are partnering with Storeytown Cottages and the Ledges Inn to bring you the event from their properties, with amazing views and access to the Miramichi River

Storeytown Cottages is a campus of rustically beautiful and cozy cottages and cabin suites that feature standard and deluxe amenities hot tubs, firepits, and Starlink Internet.

Besides these great accommodations, their private property will serve as the base for most of the sky and nature observation activities. You'll also get to experience the bird and wildlife reactions to the complete eclipse.



# The Ledges



For the adventurer who feels more at home in a more contemporary setting, the Ledges Inn is your perfect choice. It will also serve as the venue for most meals and entertainment activities. The Inn contains ten rooms and is located near the centre of town and overlooks the Miramichi River from the south shore."

Now that we've covered where you'll lay your head and eat and play let's dive into the play aspects with the amazing and informative speakers and presentations we've lined up for you.





**PONDS RESORT**  
NATURE RETREAT



Discover Pond's Resort, a place where the timeless beauty of the Miramichi River converges with modern comfort. Established in 1925, we've welcomed generations with our rustic charm and warm hospitality. Join us to experience the best of the region.

**Cabins:** Cozy, rustic havens for all seasons, less than an hour from New Brunswick's capital. Immerse yourself in Miramichi River history.

**Geodomes:** Find serenity in nature with riverfront views, saunas, hot tubs, and moonlit nights.

**The Lodge:** Spacious accommodations for group getaways, where memories are created and bonds are strengthened.

**Facility:** Explore the wilderness, swim, hike, or simply relax by the riverbank with a good book - it's your time to enjoy.

Come and be a part of our legacy at Pond's Resort.



# ALL-INCLUSIVE MEALS SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS

You'll be provided with a culinary experience that will impress your gourmet taste buds with nutritious and locally sourced ingredients from Atlantic Canada. Every evening supper will consist of three-course meals paired with wine and craft beverages to create the most satisfying gastronomical experience.

All your breakfast and lunches will provide a wide selection of choices from the healthy eater to the health-conscious eater. Attention and care will be provided to any dietary restrictions, food requirements, allergies, and sensitivities. You'll be able to pick your options in the days leading up to the event.

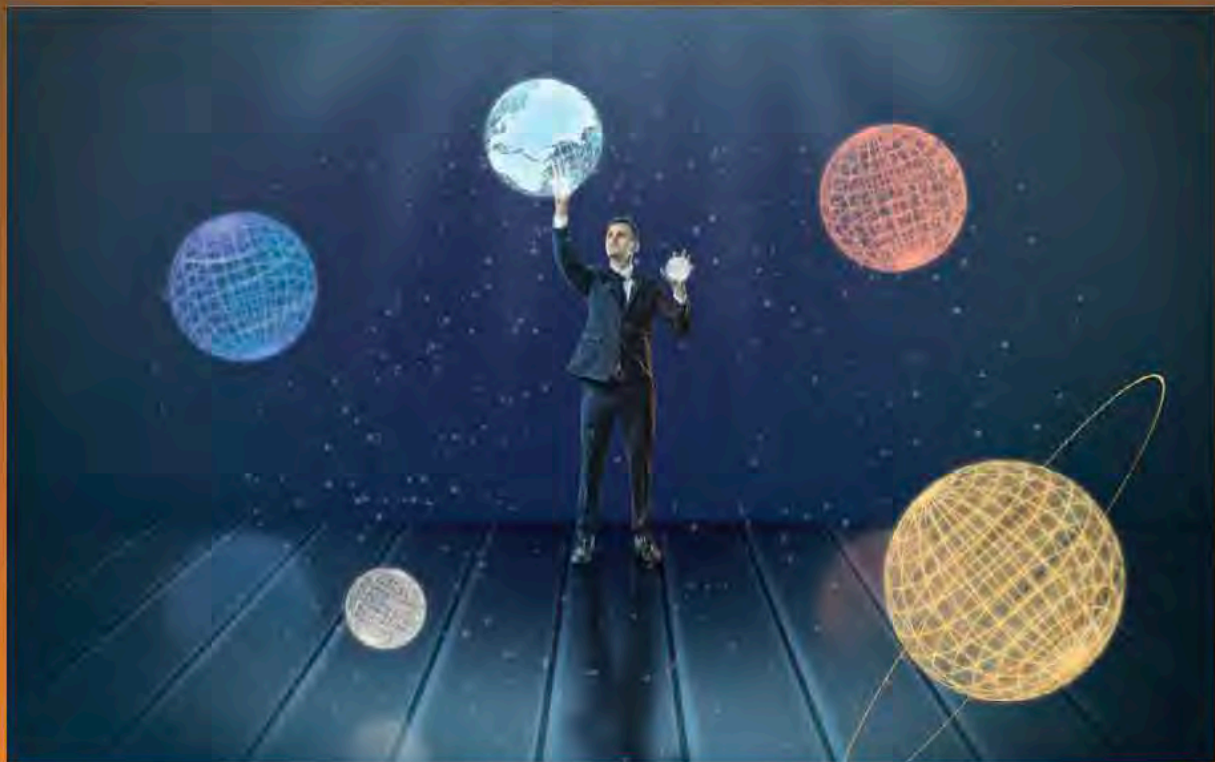
Your accommodations will include a snack basket upon your arrival.

We've also partnered up with wine and beverage partners to provide the perfect accompaniments whether with your meals or for a socializing by the fireplace.





# OUR PACKAGES



Packages include:

- Two-and-a-half days of activities
- Presentations
- Accommodations
- Morning Yoga with Susan Zurawski
- Star party ( weather permitting)
- All meals.

As a thank you for choosing Sky Experience 2024 , you will also receive a "swag bag" upon arrival.



## BUILDING 1

**ROOM #1** is on the upper level. Both have queen beds, balconies, and a fireplace.  
\$1,700 double occupancy  
\$1,300 single occupancy

**ROOM #2** is on the upper level. Both have queen beds, balconies, and a fireplace.  
\$1,700 double occupancy  
\$1,300 single occupancy

**ROOM #3** on the main level is our smallest room, with a double bed and a balcony. It is also our most accessible room as there are no stairs.  
\$1,400 double occupancy  
\$1,000 single occupancy

**ROOM #4** on the lower level has a king-size bed and a ground level walk-out.  
\$1,400 double occupancy  
\$1,100 single occupancy

# The Ledges

**ROOM #5** A large, stunning room on the lower level of the main lodge, featuring a California king size bed and windows on three sides of the room, as well as an outside entrance on the river side. You can lie in bed and watch the river flow past your windows! Also features its own full private bath. \$1,700 double occupancy  
\$1,300 single occupancy

**ROOM #6** on the lower level is a queen size room. This building also houses most of the common areas (the great room, dining room, and loft).  
\$1,400 double occupancy  
\$1,200 single occupancy

## BUILDING 2

**ROOM #7** is a large room on the upper level with two queen beds & a balcony. They also have an outside entrance.  
\$1,500 double occupancy or  
\$2,000 quad occupancy

**ROOM #8** is a large room on the upper level with two queen beds, private bath, fireplace and a balcony. They also have an outside entrance. \$1,700 double occupancy or \$2,400 quad occupancy

**ROOM #9** is a large room on the upper level with two queen beds, private bath, fireplace and a balcony. They also have an outside entrance. \$1,700 double occupancy or \$2,400 quad occupancy

**ROOM #10** Our final double room, located at the far end of the second building. Offering two queen sized beds, propane fireplace, full private bath, and a rear balcony with a river view. . \$1,700 double occupancy or \$2,400 quad occupancy.

**ROOM #11** is in the second building and has a queen bed, balcony, and a fireplace. \$1,700 double occupancy or \$1,400 single occupancy.





# Storeytown Cottages

The Storeytown Cottages Package Options Located just minutes outside of Doaktown, Storeytown Cottages is a wildlife and nature small cottage resort popular with outdoor adventurers of any season to take advantage of the powerful Miramichi River for fishing, kayaking, tubing, & other seasonal activities drive sport and hobby enthusiasts to this tourism destination from snowmobilers more.

## COTTAGE #1

The Hilltop is a two-bedroom with Queen beds, a full bathroom, and an open space full kitchen, dining, and living room complete with wood stove and its very own hot tub. Book as a group of 6 (3 double occupancies) for \$3,600 or \$1,800/couple. Double occupancy (1 queen bed bedroom) for \$1,900/couple Single occupancy for \$1,400

ONE ROOM SOLD

## COTTAGE #2

The River Hut is a two-bedroom with Queen beds, a full bathroom, and an open space full kitchen, dining, and living room complete with a wood stove and beautiful deck overlooking the river banks of the Miramichi River. Book as a group of 4 (2 double occupancies) for \$3,000 or \$1,500/couple. Double occupancy (1 queen bed bedroom) for \$1,600/couple

Single occupancy for \$1,200

ONE ROOM SOLD

## COTTAGE #3

The Big Oak is a large three-bedroom cottage with a hot tub a queen and a double bed in each bedroom. It has two full bathrooms. The main living area offers a big open space full kitchen, dining, & living room complete with a wood stove deck overlooking the river banks. Book as a group of 6 (3 double occupancies) for \$4,650 or \$1,550/couple. Double occupancy (1 queen bed bedroom) or \$1,700/couple. \$1,850 for the Big Oak Suite. Single occupancy for \$1,400

TWO ROOMS SOLD

## COTTAGE #4

The Acom Lodge is a large three-bedroom cottage with a queen and a double bed in each bedroom. It has two full bathrooms. The main living area offers a big open space full kitchen, dining, and living room complete with a wood stove and beautiful deck overlooking the river. Book as a group of 6 (3 double occupancies) for \$4,200 or \$1,200/couple. Double occupancy (1 queen bed bedroom) for \$1,500/couple. Single occupancy for \$1,250

ONE ROOM SOLD

## KITCHENETTE SUITES (4)

Four individual suites are available at the main building that also houses a communal hot tub offering the perfect hotel-style option for the adventurers who enjoy the simple but comfortable setting these suites to offer. Each suite has a full bathroom, a kitchenette area, a small table with chairs, LCD TV, a coffee maker, a pull-out couch, and a Queen bed. Book for \$1,500 for double occupancy or \$1,500 for single occupancy.

ONLY ONE LEFT



# PONDS RESORTS PACKAGES

## One Bedroom Studio with Kitchenette - (Cabin 1 & 2)

1 bedroom with queen bed, bedding & towels, non-cooking kitchenette includes: microwave, Keurig coffee pot, toaster, dishes, utensils, bar frig, Bath with shower, electric heat, heat pump (heat/cool), BBQ on deck, use of barrel saunas on site, and a FREE view of the Miramichi River. Single Occupancy \$1,250 plus HST. Double Occupancy \$1,600 plus HST.

## One Bedroom Studio with Kitchen - (Cabin 9)

1 bedroom studio with full kitchen, cooking, queen bed, bedding & towels, full bathroom, propane fireplace, heat pump (heat/cool), BBQ on the deck, use of barrel saunas on site, and a FREE view of the Miramichi River. Single Occupancy \$1,250. Double Occupancy \$1,600 plus HST.

## Two Bedroom Cabin with Kitchenette - (Cabin 3-4-5)

2 bedrooms with queen bed, bedding & towels, non-cooking kitchenette includes: microwave, Keurig coffee pot, toaster, dishes, utensils, bar frig, full bathroom propane fireplace, heat pump (heat/cool), BBQ on deck, use of barrel saunas on site, and a FREE view of the Miramichi River. Group/Two Double Occupancy \$3,000 plus HST. One bedroom Double Occupancy \$1,600 plus HST.

## Deluxe 2 Bedroom Cabin with Kitchen - (Cabin 6-7-8-10)

2 bedrooms with queen bed, bedding & towel, cooking, full kitchen, #6 has full bathroom, electric fireplace, heat pump (heat/cool) #7,8,10 has bathroom with shower, bedding & towels, wood fireplace, heat pump (heat/cool), BBQ on deck, use of barrel saunas on site, and a FREE view of the Miramichi River. Group/Two Double Occupancy \$3,500 plus HST. One Bedroom Double Occupancy \$2,000 plus HST.

## GeoDomes (4 on site)

1 queen bed downstairs, bedding & towels, 1 single mattress in the loft, kitchen nook includes: microwave, Keurig coffee pot, toaster, dishes, utensils, bar frig, Bath with shower and towels, propane fireplace, heat pump (heat/cool), private hot tub 2- person, BBQ on deck, use of barrel sauna, and a free view of the Miramichi River. Double Occupancy \$2,200 plus HST.





# OUR SPEAKERS: RICHARD ZURAWSKI



Richard Zurawski has a weekly science question and answer show on Q104 (radio) in Halifax (Q-Files). And has previously been an on-air meteorologist and science reporter for the CBC, CTV, GlobalTV, and Rogers Media.

He was an elected HRM (Halifax Regional Municipality) Councillor for District 12 & served for four years (2016-2020). He also had the role of the Green Renewal Critic the Green Party of Canada shadow cabinet.

He is in the final stages of my PhD at MSVU, specializing in Climate Change and the media. He also has a B.Sc in physics and an M.A. (Research) in education. He lectured+ at Saint Mary's University and Mount Saint Vincent University from 2011-2017.

As a documentary film maker Richard has produced, written and hosted numerous science and history documentaries, broadcast domestically and abroad. He has syndicated three children's television series, Wonder Why?, The Adventures of the AfterMath Crew and WiseWeatherWhys.

He has published four books, the first about Maritime weather, the second about climate change, the third about the media in science, and his fourth, The Science Files - Questions and Answers From A to Z is based on the questions and answers of his on-air listeners. His work to promote science and learning on all levels was rewarded in November of 2013 with the Discovery Centre's Science Champion Award.



# OUR SPEAKERS: TREVOR JONES



Trevor Jones is a full-time astrophotographer and content creator sharing his 10+ years of knowledge and experience on his resource-sharing platform, AstroBackyard. With a background in graphic design and marketing, his videos reach nearly half a million YouTube subscribers, providing learners with equipment options, image acquisition tools, and advanced image processing techniques. Trevor's involvement in astrophotography extends to the greater community as a photography contest judge, dark-sky advocate, and public speaker. He is especially passionate about making this hobby more accessible (and fun) to those who are new to their astro journey.

## Presentation : **An Introduction to Deep-sky Astrophotography:**

Trevor Jones, from AstroBackyard, will describe his process of photographing stunning deep-sky objects, like galaxies and nebulae, from his own backyard. From building a beginner-level astrophotography kit to image processing tips and tricks, this presentation will open your eyes to what is now possible using amateur equipment. His simplistic approach will help you avoid the frustration & confusion many astrophotography beginners face, and set you on a path to success.



# OUR SPEAKERS: ASHLEY NORTHCOTTE



Ashley Northcotte is a geographer, educator and communication professional who has worked in education, technology, and the government sector as an environmental advocate. Over her career, Ashley has been committed to driving environmental protection through communication plans, education campaigns and public outreach. In her current role as a STEM communicator, Ashley focuses on making astrophotography and astronomy more accessible and inclusive through digital media. As a Dark-sky Advocate/Delegate with the International Dark-Sky Association, Ashley spreads awareness about the negative and harmful environmental impacts of light pollution to drive local and global change.

Presentation: **Light Pollution is Getting Worse. We Can do Better.**

Artificial light from urban areas continues to threaten the human experience of viewing an unspoiled night sky full of stars. But losing our ancient connection to the stars is just one part of a much larger problem. An increase in light pollution worldwide has long-lasting damaging effects on nature, humans, and the environment. Learn how we can largely reverse these negative effects by taking simple actions so future generations don't pay for our mistakes.



# OUR SPEAKERS: EDMAR XAVIER



Edmar Xavier, founder and CEO of EXA group Canada has been active in developing economic, social and environmental solutions for communities in rural and coastal areas. Since the age of 12 years old he has been determined to enter a career in tourism, as he knew tourism is the best strategy for sustainable development. Edmar began creating the social, economic, and environmental responsibility model from then there is a continuous implement by aligning with international premises such as the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Goals. In 2021 EXA Group Canada migrated to Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada. The Strong Farm and Rural Shores Destinations came together with the expansion stage of the program with the Eastern Shore Research Development project with technical visits, and lots of stakeholder networking. EXA Group Canada was invited to participate in the READI program and lead research in rural areas of Canada by directing the research and development models of the Strong Farm Destinations program. From September 3rd, 2022, to April 30th, 2023, Edmar Xavier conducted technical visits in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories for TIAC (Tourism Industry Association of Canada), with financial support from the Government of Canada.

## Presentation **Strong Farm & Rural Shores - Tourism, Sustainability & Rural Development**

How to become an activist in one of the 2030 Agenda solutions? What is the impact of AstroTourism on the planet's regeneration? Do you want to be a conscious tourist and live authentic experiences? Learn about the Strong Farm & Rural Shores Destinations program's relationship with Sky Experience 2024 and the impact on rural communities in New Brunswick.



# OUR SPEAKERS: Jason Dain



Jason comes to us from Stillwater Lake, just west of Halifax Nova Scotia. Originally from Ottawa, Ontario, he moved to New Brunswick after university for a few years before moving to Nova Scotia. Jason works as a Product Manager for a software company.

Jason started photography with his first Nikon DSLR in 2015. Shortly after getting the camera he became interested in birds and dove into birding and bird photography. Since then, Jason has photographed birds across Canada and around the world and has visited 17 countries.

In addition to nature photography, Jason is also an accomplished Astrophotographer. He shoots with his two Skywatcher scopes and mounts every clear night he can get from his backyard. Jason's work has been recognized nationally and internationally both on social media and in print and has been recognized with 2 NASA APOD selections.





# PAYMENT PLAN

## **Cliff Valley Astronomy has an affordable payment plan:**

- 40% at the time of booking
- 30% on July 1st, 2023
- 30% on February 1st, 2024

## **Waiting List**

If Experience 2024 sees all its packages sold by May 31st, a waiting list will be offered with a deposit of \$250 required but 100% refundable if no cancellations create open available vacancies.

## **Cancellation policy and late cancellation penalties:**

- Cancellation by September 1st, 2023 = 100% refund
- Cancellation by November 30th = 75% refund
- Cancellation after February 1st = 50% refund





# SPONSORS

ECLIPSE

SUN



EARTH



MOON





# EVENT ORGANIZERS



Cliff Valley Astronomy is a start-up specializing in creating astronomy experiences, events and astrotourism destinations promotion for stargazers of all levels. Our corporate mission is to Make Memories Out of This World!

We offer numerous services such as Private Star Parties, Corporate Events, Consultation Services on Astrotourism, promotion of Dark-sky Destination Partners and production of special events. Our innovative company constantly seeks tourism partners, clients, new hires, franchisees and opportunities to improve your bottom line by making people look up. As good corporate citizens, we partner with non-profit organizations by donating our services and prizes to raise funds and donating a portion of our profits annually.

[www.cliffvalleyastronomy.com](http://www.cliffvalleyastronomy.com)  
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EXA Group Canada is a research and development company focused on sustainability and regeneration of rural, indigenous and remote communities for economic growth and development opportunities, with tourism as a tool for sustainable development and regeneration. The startup operates in the public and private sector, presenting solutions for communities and companies. EXA Group Canada creates engagement and partnerships to promote innovation and technology and develops events and opportunities to advance education and knowledge about tourism, sustainability and rural development.

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