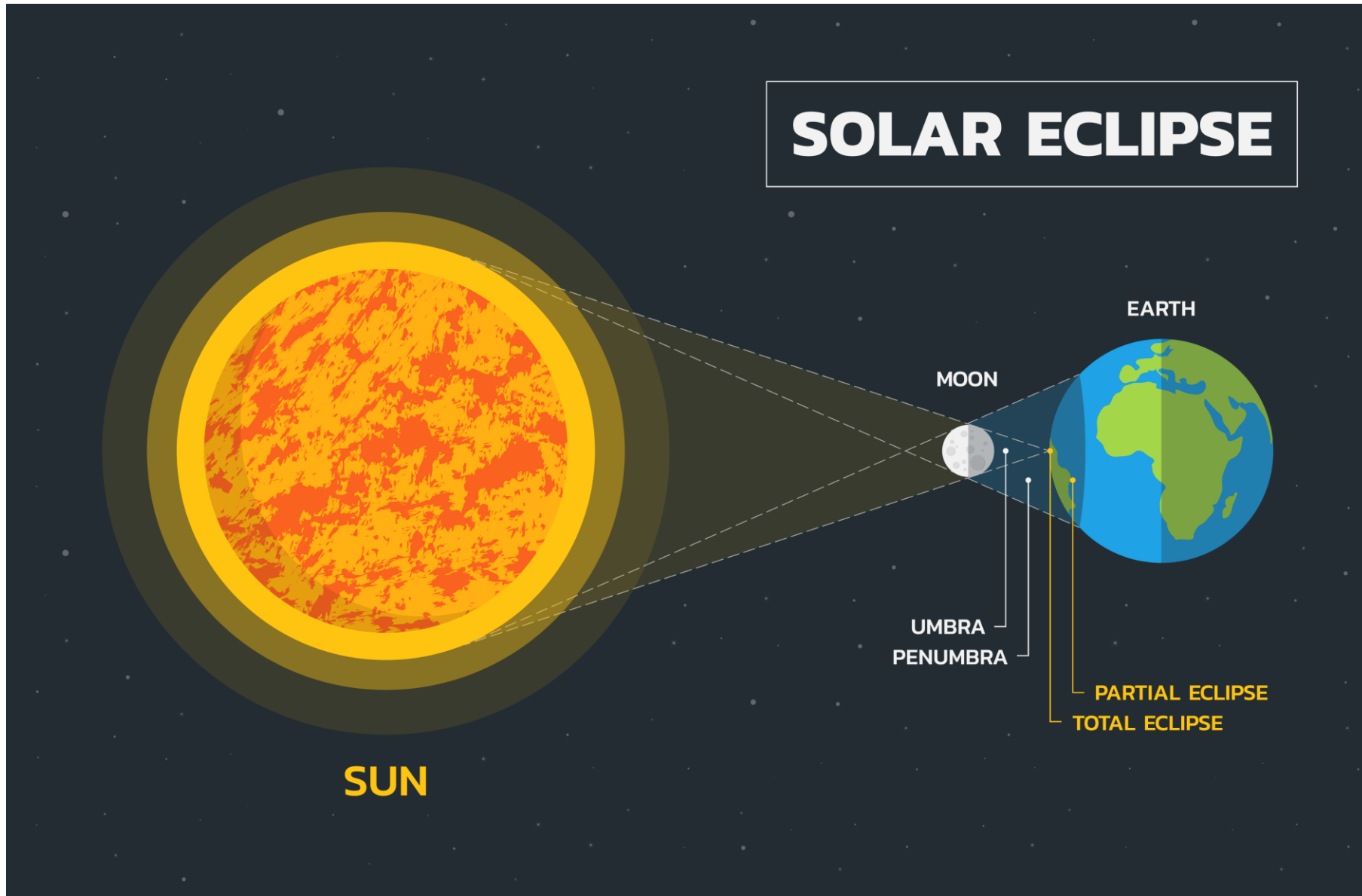


April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

Background

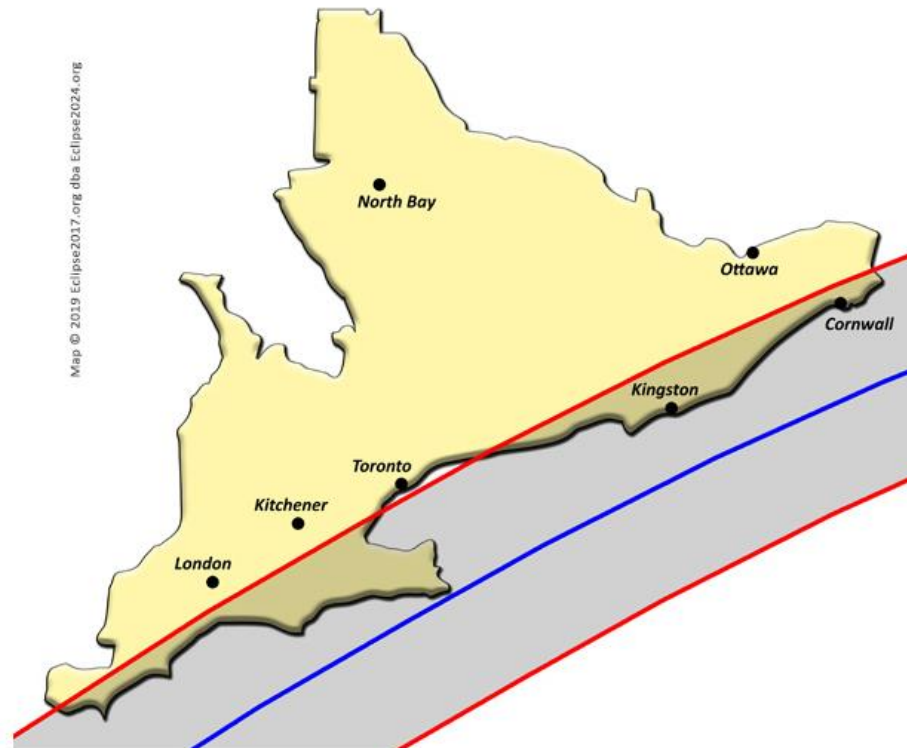
- One of nature's most spectacular and rarest phenomena is coming to Niagara on April 8, 2024.
- Niagara will be one of the few places in Canada that will be in the path of a total solar eclipse.
- A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon completely covers the sun resulting in the moon casting a shadow over Earth.
- Totality is a narrow path approx. 100 -115 km wide where the Sun appears to be completely covered for a short time.
- The 2024 eclipse will be the first visible in parts of southern Ontario since at least 1925. The next one will be in 2144.

SOLAR ECLIPSE



The Experience

- The experience will vary significantly depending on location within the province. Most parts of Ontario will only see a partial eclipse while all of Niagara will experience a total eclipse.
- A small accessible part of Ontario will be under the path of totality making Niagara one of the few places



2017 Case Study

- Parts of the United States experienced a total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.
- Resulted in a huge influx of people from urban areas to less populated and rural areas.
- University of Michigan Study (2018):
 - Estimated that up to 7.4 million visited the path of totality on eclipse day which may have been the greatest temporary mass migration of humans to see a natural event in U.S. history.
 - Largest audience for any scientific, athletic or entertainment event recorded with 88% of American adults viewed the total eclipse directly or electronically.

2017 Case Study

- Presents a positive opportunity for tourism and local businesses. However, it is important to ensure that emergency plans and procedures are in place to protect public safety and ensure that the event remains positive.
- While some viewers may attend organized events and viewing areas, others will choose to view it individually or in spontaneous/private gatherings.
- The influx of people may stress infrastructure and resource capacity. Significant volumes of traffic are likely leading up to and immediately after the eclipse. Emergency response agencies may be impacted or strained.

Regional EM Next Steps

- Continue to lead the three working groups.
- Develop event-specific plans and procedures.
- Coordinate with partners to develop a unified approach to managing the eclipse.
- Develop and offer additional REOC training.
- Prepare the REOC for a full activation.
- Continue to advocate for provincial and federal participation.
- Dark Skies full-scale exercise October 2023.