

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
Standing Committee on Observational Activities
Programme for Solar Eclipse of July 20, 1963

Bulletin No. 6

May 27, 1963

OBSERVING SITES AND FIELD STATIONS IN QUEBEC

With July 20th rapidly approaching, members will be eager to complete their plans and we hope this bulletin will be helpful to those who are considering coming to the Province of Quebec to observe the eclipse.

OBSERVING SITES

In selecting an observing site in Quebec, it should be kept in mind that the sun will be only about 26 degrees above the horizon at totality. On our survey trips down through the eclipse zone we found many long stretches of road with excellent western horizons. We attach copy of the list that originally appeared in the April 1963 SKY AND TELESCOPE of locations recommended by F. J. DeKinder of the Montreal Centre. The member who wants to observe from the roadside should have no difficulty in finding a suitable spot, provided he makes allowance for the heavy traffic there is bound to be on that day. It would be advisable, though, for those who have equipment to set up or who need electrical power to make arrangements well in advance with residents of the area for the use of their facilities. Topographical maps can be obtained from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa, Canada, for fifty cents a copy. As these maps are on a large scale, be quite specific as to district when placing your order.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

We are sorry that we cannot undertake to arrange overnight accommodation for anyone. However, we have obtained leaflets on camping sites, inns and motels and enclose copies with this bulletin to those on our mailing list who have already indicated their intention of travelling to Quebec. The fact that the eclipse occurs in late afternoon gives one a wider choice of accommodation. Additional information can be obtained from the Province of Quebec Tourist Bureau at 12 rue Ste. Anne, Quebec, P.Q., or 1013 Dominion Square, Montreal, P.Q.

FIELD STATIONS

The Montreal Centre is establishing field stations at Grand'mere and Plessisville and possibly a third station closer to the U.S. border. These will be enclosed areas on private property, thus ensuring that the observers will not be hampered by spectators. Although observations will be at an amateur level, the Centre is anxious to maintain a high standard of efficiency. For this reason, admission to the field stations will be limited to personnel with definite assignments. The Montreal Centre will be glad to add to its numbers other members of the Society who want to participate in the organized programme. If you are interested, please write to the undersigned without delay for the Centre would like to know as soon as possible, preferably not later than mid-June.

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SPECIAL ECLIPSE TRAIN FROM MONTREAL

The Montreal Centre is sponsoring a special train that will leave Montreal shortly after noon on the day of the eclipse, arriving in the vicinity of Grand'mere before 4:00 p.m. E.D.T. For the return trip, the train will leave around 7:30 p.m., arriving back in Montreal around 11 o'clock. This will give everyone plenty of time to view the partial phases of the eclipse as well as totality. There will be an opportunity to obtain light refreshments in nearby communities and box lunches will be available on the train. The return fare will be approximately \$4.50, with children under twelve years of age travelling for half fare. The sale of tickets will be handled by members of the Montreal Centre.

This special train would seem to solve a problem for those who have no private means of transportation. You make the trip with others who share your interest in astronomy and you have no worries about traffic or time of arrival. A leaflet giving full particulars will be available shortly. Please let me know if you would like to receive a copy.

R.A.S.C. PENNANTS

There will be many members of our Society on the highways heading towards the eclipse zone. If any of us should meet by chance - whether on isolated stretches of the Alaska Highway or on the crowded roads of Quebec - it would be rather nice to have some means of identifying each other, and such contacts might be very helpful to those travelling in unfamiliar country. We have therefore purchased for re-sale a supply of small pennants with the initials "R.A.S.C." in white on a blue field. The price is twenty-five cents.

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Please let us know about your plans as they develop. In a subsequent bulletin we intend to list all those who will be participating in our Society's programme and we would like to include your group.

5162 Belmore Avenue,
Montreal 29, Canada.

Isabel K. Williamson,
National Co-ordinator 1963 Eclipse.

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LOCATIONS RECOMMENDED BY F. J. DeKINDER FOR OBSERVATION OF THE ECLIPSE

North of the St.Lawrence

- On Route 19B from Grand'mere to St. Tite, five miles beyond the village of St. Georges, 1 and 1/4 miles past Herouxville.
- Northwest of Grand'mere, seven miles beyond Grandes Piles. This is on Route 19, which eventually leads to La Tuque.
- Southeast of Grand'mere to St. Narcisse, thence to a place one mile from St. Stanislas, which is on 19A.
- Near the road going left from Batiscan, when coming up the St.Lawrence on Route 2 from Three Rivers. It is only about 60 miles from here to Quebec City.

South of the St.Lawrence

- On the road from Gentilly to St. Pierre, 1 and 1/4 miles before reaching the latter village; also on the road turning right (away from the river) at this point.
- On the road between Plessisville and Lourdes, five miles from the former.
- Any location on the roads between Black Lake and Plessisville.
- On Route 2B, four miles northward from Lambton to La Guadeloupe.
- A country road runs southeast from Lambton to St. Hubert, close to and parallel to the central line, past Mount Sebastien. Locate on the road three miles east of St. Sebastien-de-Beauce toward Courcelles.
- On Route 24, drive northward from Lac Megantic, the largest town in the zone of totality near the Maine border. Pass through St. Hubert and observe in the vicinity of St. Ludger.