

# Fall lunar eclipse will be a Sunday evening delight

Sunday, Sept. 27 after supper will be a special full moonrise.

Known as the Harvest Moon by farmers which extended light at night to complete bringing in the crop, it'll come up in near semi-eclipse mode around 7:30 p.m. in the east.

It'll reach maximum eclipse at 8:47 p.m. so a lot of time for photographs and deep observation.

It'll de-eclipse for about two more hours before back to normal. It is a wonderful naked eye object, but appreciated even more through binos of the telescope.

You should be able to capture pictures with your smartphone and the RASC will be set up that evening at the Trek centre for this special event starting at 7 p.m.

It will be an excellent evening for friends, family or the plain curious.

The last four of the 24-month tetrad series, there



The last eclipse of April 4, 2015 attracted visitors mostly from outside of Vulcan who got up as early as 3 a.m. to come out.



**Neel  
ROBERTS**

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won't be any more for almost three years in Jan. 31, 2018 while the next tetrad will be in 2032 (17 years from now), so enjoy this one while you can.

#### **Sky watch for the next month:**

- Midnight Lunar rise and Star eclipse — Friday (going into Saturday), Sept. 4, look NEE as the moon rises with Aldebaran in eclipse, but comes out from behind after about half an hour.

- Pre-Dawn Crescent Moon with Venus and Mars — On Thursday, Sept. 10 just before sunrise look east before 7 a.m. to catch Venus and Mars next to the crescent moon. Jupiter is not far behind before dawn.

- Zodiacal Light — is a faint, roughly

triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic or zodiac. Discovered by the astronomer Giovanni Domenico Cassini in 1683 and later explained by Nicolas Fatio de Duillier in 1684, it's trying to find and the best time is from Friday, Sept. 11 for two weeks in the east morning twilight.

- Partial Solar Eclipse — Sunday, Sept. 13 peak is at 12:52 a.m. and starting before that. You can view online as this will be over South Africa and Antarctica for about 4.5 hours.

#### **Public Events for the next month:**

Monthly public stargazing at the Trek Center. Join us Friday, Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. for our regular meeting. Short indoor presentation followed by outside observing. Topic will be "Fall in the sky" followed by stargazing through the 11-inch telescope and more, weather pending. Special "Star BQ" at Maycroft the next evening, so join us free of charge. Experts on hand the second Friday monthly at 7:30 p.m. to explain the heavens, teach scoping skills and help you develop your knowledge of our sky. For further information, contact the Trek Center at 403-485-2994 and the website [www.vulcan-tourism.com](http://www.vulcan-tourism.com) will be updated regularly.

Happy Fall and shorter days.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of



Photos by Neel Roberts

**Vulcan Tourism Manager Devan Daniel peeks though the 11-inch Celestron Telescope to see the eclipsing climax. Below, the moon as it approaches totality. Many participants can take such shots with a smartphone through the equipment used at the meetings.**

*the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with more than 4,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 or e-mail [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com).*

*The members meet the second Friday, once a month at the Trek Center in Vulcan at 7:30 p.m. and you can check them out at <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2015.htm>.*

