



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2022

SCIENCE NORTH HOSTS GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR SOLAR SYSTEM PATH (GIIZHIGOONG ETEGIN MIIKAANAH) FEATURING TRADITIONAL ANISHINAABE AND WESTERN KNOWLEDGE

(SUDBURY, ON) - Science North hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Sudbury Solar System Path today, quite fittingly on the summer solstice and National Indigenous Peoples Day. The Sudbury Solar System Path is an outdoor experience that marks out a scale model of the solar system along the shore of Ramsey Lake, or Bitimagamasing in Anishinaabemowin, and features Western and Traditional Anishinaabe Knowledge.

This outdoor installation is a collaboration between the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)-Sudbury Centre; Science North; and Indigenous advisors, created with support from the Greater Sudbury Development Corporation through the Tourism Development Fund (TDF), Petryna Advertising Inc. and Sign City.

“This unique experience will be a welcome addition to our beautiful Ramsey Lake waterfront, joining two of our most notable destinations - Bell Park, which Trip Advisor lists as one of the top five places to visit in Sudbury, and Science North, Northern Ontario’s most popular tourism destination,” said Greater Sudbury Mayor Brian Bigger. “This initiative is borne of incredible community partnerships, and I would like to thank RASC, Science North and the Indigenous advisors who provided invaluable guidance to bring it to fruition.”

“Our Board continues to work with community partners to strengthen the local tourism industry and support our goal of health, safety, and well-being for all community members,” said Lisa Demmer, Chair of the Greater Sudbury Development Corporation (GSDC). “Through the Tourism Development Fund, I am proud that the GSDC is able to support and invest in the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to help deliver this unique opportunity for residents and visitors alike.”

The concept for the Path was brought forward by Norman Hey, from the RASC-Sudbury Centre who has been an amateur astronomer since 1971. Science North worked with RASC and other collaborators to bring the project to life.

“The Sudbury astronomy community wanted to do something that would help people understand the true scale of our Earth and its solar system neighbours,” explained Norman Hey, Secretary for the RASC Sudbury Centre. “We brought our ideas to

Science North, and it was obvious from the start that we had found a partner who could help us bring this kind of project to life. With the generous support of the TDF, Sudbury's most popular waterfront now hosts a space front as well, putting Sudbury in the same league as many of the world's major cities along the beautiful shore of Bitimagamasing. We hope it brings a better appreciation of the true vastness of space and our fragile place in it."

Will Morin, a local Ojibwe educator, storyteller, and artist provided Indigenous knowledge and artwork. Dominic Beaudry, Member of the Science North Northeast Indigenous Advisory Committee and Anishinaabe educator from Sudbury and Manitoulin region provided invaluable guidance with the content and translations. Science North is working with an Anishinaabemwid (one who speaks Anishinaabemowin) from Adikamegshiing (Atikameksheng) to provide the information in this signage in Anishinaabemowin.

Beaudry shared, "I am so excited to be part of the Giizhigoong Etegin Miikaanah project. This will be an engaging learning opportunity for students and all community members to learn about our solar system while enjoying their walk along beautiful Ramsey Lake (Bitimagamasing). Engaging participants in science while learning the Anishinaabe language meets the spirit and intent of the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action. Science North is doing amazing work in the City of Sudbury and with the First Nation communities."

Providing the signs trilingually (Anishinaabe, French and English) was an obvious choice for an outdoor experience built on the success of Science North's award-winning Planetarium show *Under the Same Stars: Minwaadiziwin*, which was playing for free all day as part of Science North's recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day.

In addition to honouring Traditional Anishinaabe Knowledge, celebrating the Anishinaabemowin language, and promoting an understanding of the cultural history of this land, this fun, educational and accessible outdoor experience will engage tourists and locals as they enjoy a walk along the Jim Gordon Boardwalk and learn about the Sun, Moon, Earth and the planets in our solar system. QR (Quick Response) codes will allow visitors to access expanded and frequently updated science content and learn about upcoming astronomical events in and around Greater Sudbury on Science North's website.

Julie Moskalyk, Science Director at Science North shared, "We heard more than ever during the pandemic that our visitors are seeking accessible, educational, science-rich outdoor experiences. This project perfectly aligned with an opportunity to create a new experience that highlights Indigenous and Western astronomy knowledge, features multiple languages and supports people exploring learning beyond the walls of Science North, while being physically active in our beautiful community."

Starting at Science North, the Path will follow the shore of Ramsey Lake (Bitimagamasing) to the end of McNaughton Terrace. At this 2 km scale, the starting point will be the Sun as a 60 cm reflective gold ball on the lakeshore beside Science North. Following the Path each of the eight planets will be represented by a sign with a scaled graphic and information about the planet. The four signs for the rocky planets will

be set along the shore and on the boardwalk beside Science North. The four signs for the gas and ice giants will be on the Jim Gordon Boardwalk.

The Sudbury Solar System Path will be fully installed for the public to enjoy early this summer.

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About Science North

Science North is Northern Ontario's most popular tourist attraction and an educational resource for children and adults across the province. Science North maintains the second and eighth largest science centres in Canada. Science North's attractions include a science centre, IMAX® theatre, digital Planetarium, butterfly gallery, special exhibits hall, and Dynamic Earth: Home of the Big Nickel. Science North, in partnership with Laurentian University, offers North America's first and only comprehensive Science Communication program, a joint Master's and Graduate Diploma program. As part of its mandate, Science North provides science experiences throughout Northern Ontario including outreach to schools and festivals, summer science camps and more, and has a permanent base in Thunder Bay providing outreach to the Northwest. Science North is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For information, visit sciencenorth.ca.

About RASC-Sudbury Centre

The Sudbury Astronomy Club, a designated [Royal Astronomical Society of Canada \(RASC\) Sudbury Centre](http://www.rasc.ca), was founded in 1981 and has the mission of *promoting and increasing knowledge in astronomy and related sciences through public outreach and education*. RASC-Sudbury Centre operates the Ken Odaisky Memorial Observatory located at Camp Wassakwa near Fairbanks Provincial Park. The Centre organizes evening and nighttime star party events at locations across the city, including Science North, and at provincial parks in the region and hosts regular public meetings at the Doran Planetarium at Laurentian University.

RASC-Sudbury Centre and Science North have collaborated for over 30 years on initiatives that engage audiences in astronomy and related sciences and promote tourism throughout the City and region.

For more information, visit <https://sudburyastronomyclub.com/>

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