

## **Our Night Sky for September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Tomorrow night you may have heard that there is an Eclipse of the Harvest moon. In Prince George we are just on the very narrow edge of visibility. This eclipse is called a Penumbral eclipse. Solar or lunar eclipses occur because the moon's shadow or the earth's shadow or the moon itself line up in the sky to perfectly cover our view of the sun or the moon. The moon's orbit is not a circle but an ellipse. The distance and apparent size vary. it is simply a coincidence that from time to time the moon appears to be the exact same size as the sun and the moon can for a few minutes cover it completely. For this eclipse the earth's shadow will partly cover the moon. There is no place where the moon is completely covered, and in Prince George we are right on the edge of any visibility. On Tuesday just at moonrise look due east at about 7:45 pm. As the moon rises the top of the moon will be lopped off slightly and the small shadow will be gone in about fifteen minutes. So, this not much to look for, but March 13, 2025, we will have a pretty good view of a total lunar eclipse. If I'm reading the charts correctly, we will have an excellent view including almost an hour of full eclipse around midnight. During the evening we can enjoy several of the planets that are once again easy to find in Our Night Sky.**