

We Support an Outdoor Illumination By-law in the Town of Whitby

Dear Mr. McKay,

We, the undersigned, request that the Town of Whitby plan for light pollution abatement when considering applications for development, and enact an outdoor illumination by-law under the Municipal Act, for improving the future of nighttime outdoor lighting in our community. Evidence of light pollution includes:

- the increasing opaque glow in our night sky as evidence of energy wasted needlessly;
- lighting that produces glare in our “line-of-sight”, which is blinding and is a safety hazard to pedestrians and motorists; and
- unshielded and excessive lighting that intrudes into nearby homes, yards and natural areas.

Please approve official plan policies to include light pollution abatement within the approvals process for development applications, site plan control, and the issuance of building permits, and enact an outdoor illumination by-law that would prohibit:

- aiming/shining light upward into the sky, where it serves no useful purpose;
- unshielded light that intrudes onto private properties and into natural areas as light trespass;
- excessively bright light that exceeds recognized industry recommendations; and
- glare in our “line-of-sight” onto roads and private properties that can create a hazard for motorists and pedestrians.

Through these initiatives, the municipality can improve nighttime aesthetics, visibility and public safety, conserve energy in our community, protect the night sky for its natural value and scientific interest, and thereby ensure the cultural and environmental heritage of the night sky for present and future generations.

Thank you for your attention.