

Light Pollution Abatement Report 2020

Kingsville ON.

February 24 I attended the Council meeting in Kingsville and gave a presentation on light pollution from the RASC perspective I had associate with me, Bill Jamieson, who is a Kingsville resident that arranged the presentation. We were well received and the Council took the time to ask questions regarding Light Pollution as they have been dealing with resident complaints regarding greenhouse lighting. The presentation went very well. I included an introduction to RASC and our LPA mission statement, as well as our concerns on the effect Light Pollution is having on Point Pelee DSP and our Hallam Observatory. I thought I would just have 5 minutes to show the PowerPoint and that would be it. It turned out the council was very receptive. We had submitted some bylaws from several communities as guidelines for Kingsville. Every council member expressed gratitude for the presentation and for the information we provided and there was about 20 minutes of open dialogue between myself and the council members. There was a member of the "Ontario Greenhouse Growers Association" in the audience and when he tried to speak out Mayor Santos told him he was not allowed to speak out as this meeting was not a public open discussion type.

On October 26th 2020 Kingsville enacted a Nuisance By-law 96-2020 regulating odour and lighting in the Municipality of Kingsville. Requiring greenhouses to install light blocking curtains.

Since then Councillor Laura Lucier moved that the Town of Kingsville demonstrate leadership in Dark Sky Compliance by committing to reduce light pollution, light trespass, skyglow, and glare, and decrease excessive light levels within the Municipality by the following;

1. That the Municipality install and supply in any new installations or construction only Full Cut-off lighting that is fully Dark Sky Compliant in municipally owned lighting, including municipal buildings, parking lots, recreational facilities, and street lighting;
2. And Further that as Municipally owned luminaries and fixtures are replaced they are brought into Dark Sky Compliance as quickly as possible making every effort to reduce glare, light trespass, and sky glow;
3. And Further that private development, through Site Plan Agreements and the Development Manual or other methods, be required to install only Full Cut-off Dark Sky Compliant street lighting for lighting of all future municipal roads;
4. And Further that Administration bring forward a By-law regarding Outdoor Illumination By-Law encompassing best practices as utilized in other municipalities. This By-law to be brought forward to Council for consideration on or before June 30, 2021.

I am in the process of providing information to Kingsville regarding the requirements for outdoor lighting to become a Dark Sky Compliant community.

An email sent to Mayor Santos: Dec 14 2020

Mayor Nelson Santos

RASC Windsor is in full support of a proposal to implement Dark Sky Compliance measures for the Kingsville community including street, parks, recreational and parking lot illumination. We feel that it is important for all communities to become proactive in light pollution abatement and especially for smaller rural areas where Dark Skies are easily obtainable with properly controlled illumination. Your recent Bylaw concerning the greenhouse light pollution was a giant step and I am pleased that your neighbour Leamington followed suit. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is nationally and internationally active in Light Pollution Abatement policies and has a large reservoir of technical data in support of LPA. We also have many contacts who can supply information and support. We are willing to assist you in any way we can.

Starr Livingstone

Light Pollution Abatement Officer

RASC Windsor

Reply:

Thank you Starr,

Always great to hear from you. I appreciate those ongoing efforts. We absolutely need to strike a balance and of course also need to be cognizant not to create any unintended consequences. There will be challenges at some of our recreation facilities around night games as well as ensuring security lighting at some parks, but having said that the security lighting is not any different than requiring cut off lighting in our parking lots.

I look forward to council accepting the resolution and seeking administration's pursuit of an updated bylaw that will achieve improvements here.

Wishing you all the best
Nelson

All the best,

Nelson Santos
Mayor of Kingsville

Leamington ON.

On October 27 2020 I attended the Zoom Council meeting of Leamington and gave a presentation on light pollution from the RASC perspective. At that Meeting Ruth Orton, Director of Legal and Legislative Services for Leamington brought forth a comprehensive report as well as a draft By-law 79-20. Which had several options for Council to consider. It was decided that

the Administration be directed to seek public comment in connection with draft By-law 79-20, being a by-law requiring the abatement of interior greenhouse light and summarize those comments in a further report to be presented to Council in December.
A portal was set up on Leamington's site for public comment.

I sent out an email to Point Pelee advising them of this opportunity for input to Council. There was a large response. 1,293 people responded as well as letters from Caldwell First Nations, Essex County Field Naturalists, and Point Pelee National Park all supporting the By-law. Leamington Council did not expect such a response and even though there was Pushback from OGVG the went ahead and passed a fairly comprehensive By-law requiring the greenhouses in the area to install black out curtains or have their lights off from 8:00 PM till 2:00 AM until such time they are compliant with black out curtains. This provision came into effect January 1 2021.

Other communities in the area such as Tecumseh, Essex, and Lakeshore are also considering similar By-laws to be Dark Sky Compliant. I intend to work with these communities in 2021 to bring these By-laws into effect.

Starr Livingstone
Light Pollution Abatement Officer
RASC Windsor