

A Dark Sky Viewing Area in Uxbridge¹

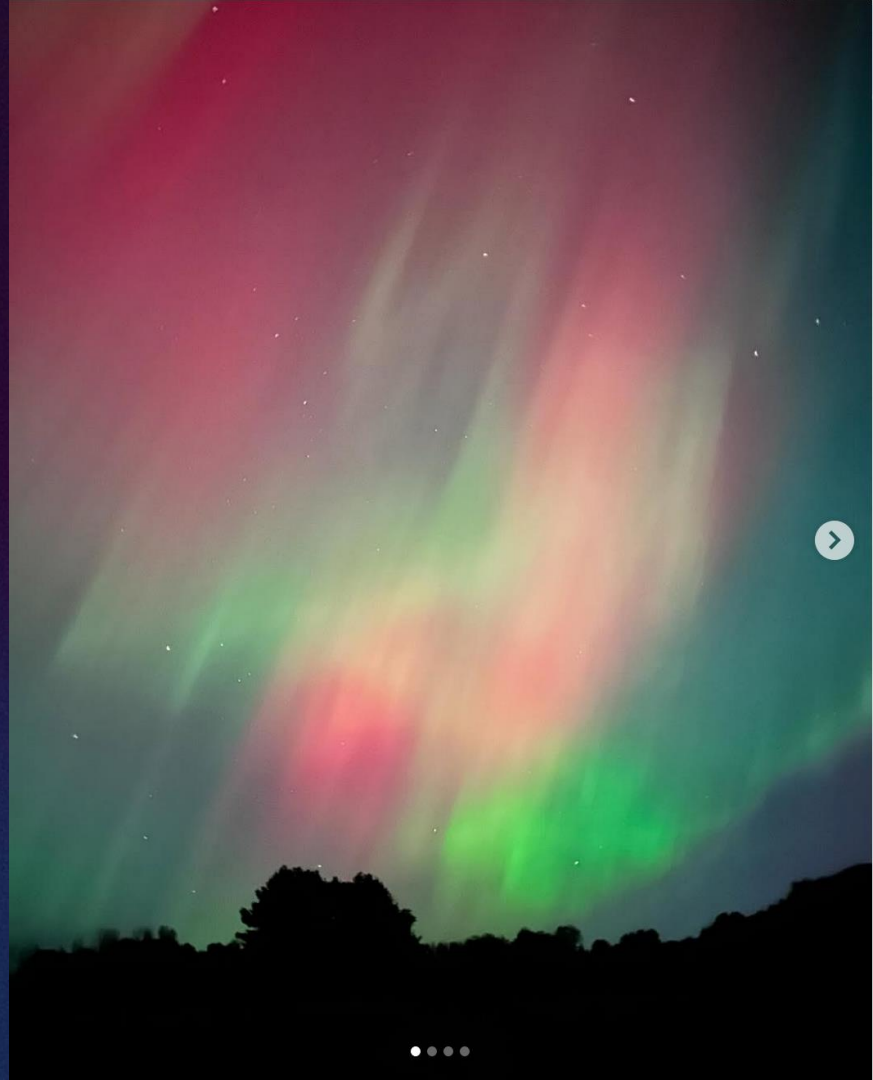


Uxbridge Township Council Meeting
January 2024

Professor Hanno Rein (University of Toronto)
Carly Davenport (Bird Friendly Uxbridge)

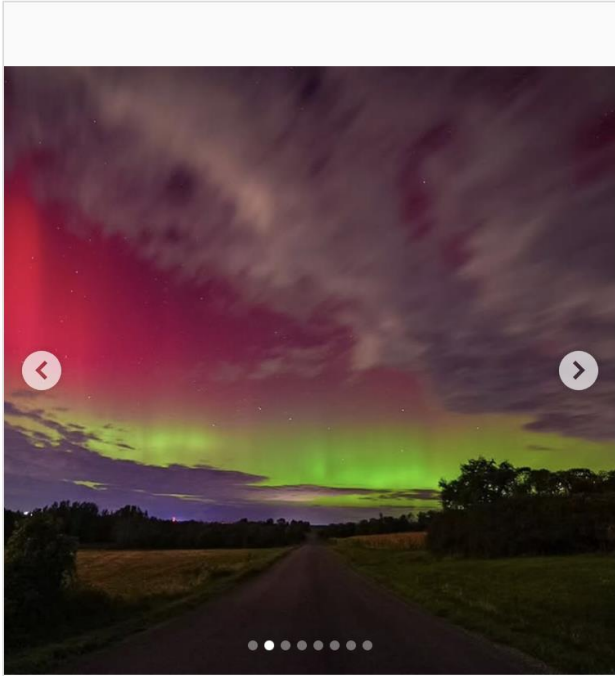
Aurora in Uxbridge

Photo credit: Dave Barton



- Large number of people drove out to Uxbridge during the auroras
- From all over the GTA
- Dark skies in Durham Region already used for promoting tourism

Instagram Log In Sign Up



durhamtourism • Follow
Durham Region

durhamtourism About last night...
🥰 ✨

Did you catch a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis in #DurhamRegion?

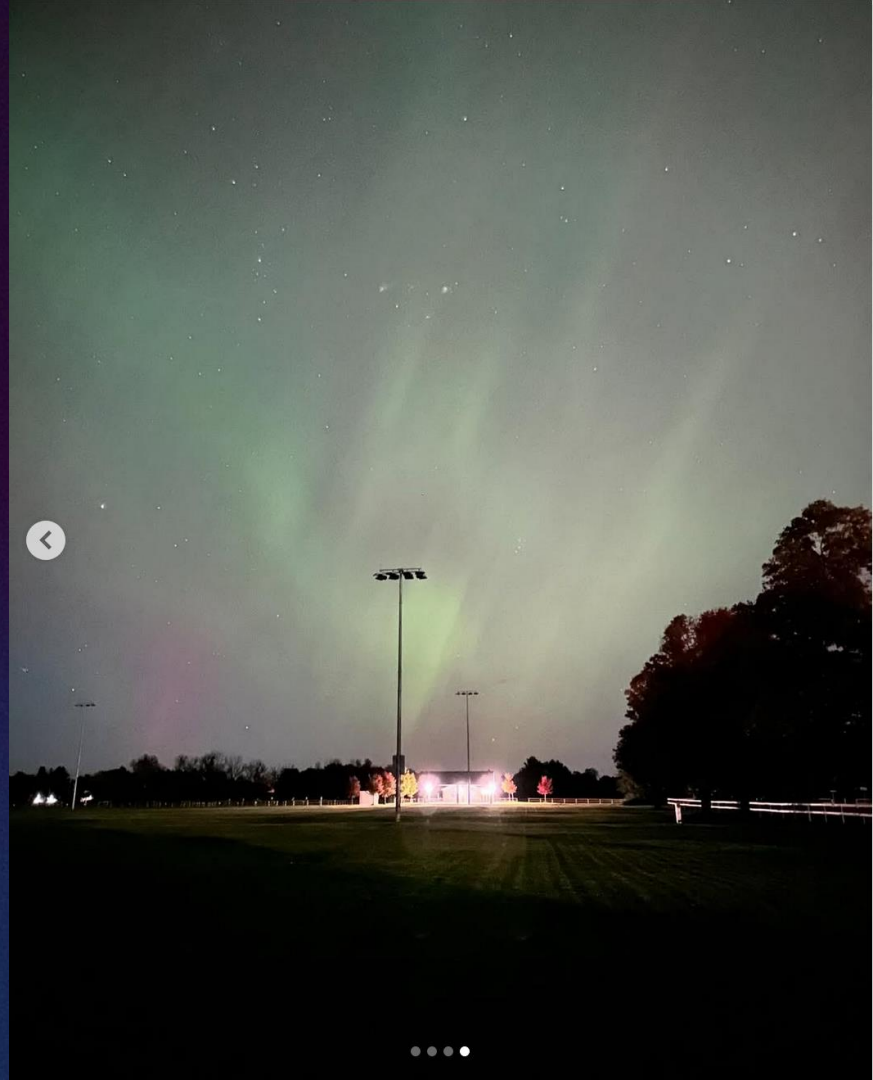
To say we are speechless would be an understatement. This beautiful show of northern lights was spotted throughout all of our vibrant communities—from Clarington to Pickering, to Brock, Uxbridge, and Scudog

Liked by **ottawariverlifestyle** and others
October 11

Log in to like or comment.

Light pollution

Photo credit: Dave Barton





Light pollution over Goodwood in 2003 before and during blackout.
Photo credit: Todd Carlson

Biological impact

- Effects extend beyond loss of night sky visibility
- Diurnal and nocturnal species affected



Photo credit: Burt et al. 2023, Illustrated by Debby Kaspari

Artificial Light At Night (ALAN)

*“Predicted to constitute
a significant
anthropogenic pressure
on natural biological
systems”*
Sunder et al., 2020

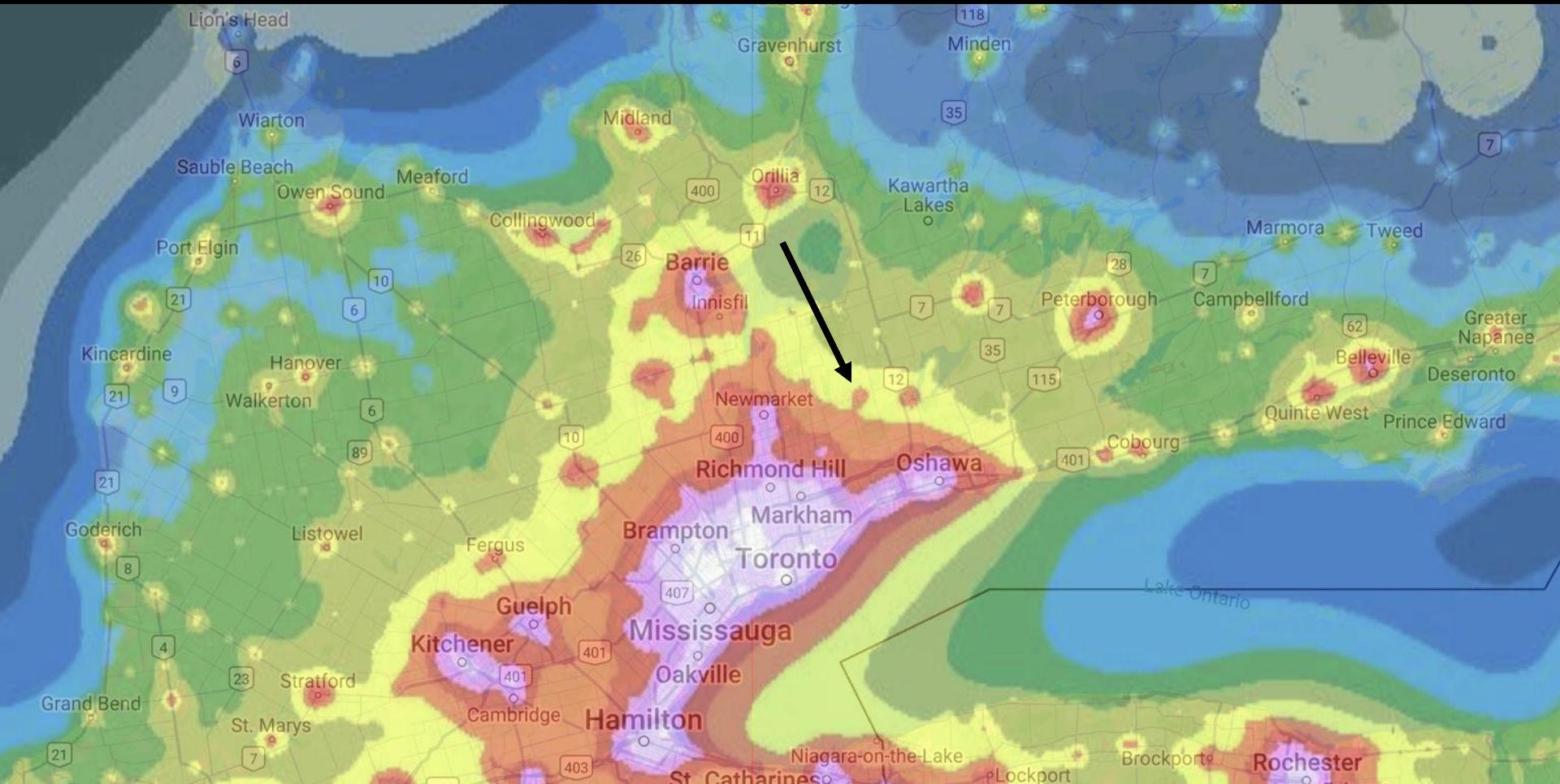
Strong effects on:

- Hormone levels
- Onset of daily activity
- Number of offspring
- Predation
- Cognition
- seafinding/migration navigation

Proposal:
A Dark Sky Viewing
Area in Uxbridge

Why Uxbridge?

Credit: darkskymap.com



Dark Sky Viewing Area

- Concrete/gravel pad
- Low impact
- Low cost



Lennox & Addington
Dark Sky Viewing Area
Photo credit:
napaneetoday.ca

Dark Sky Viewing Area

- Protection from bright car lights
- Washroom
- Power for telescopes

Lennox & Addington
Dark Sky Viewing Area
Photo credit:
naturallyla.ca



Possible locations

- Urban Provincial Park



- Glen Major



Certification

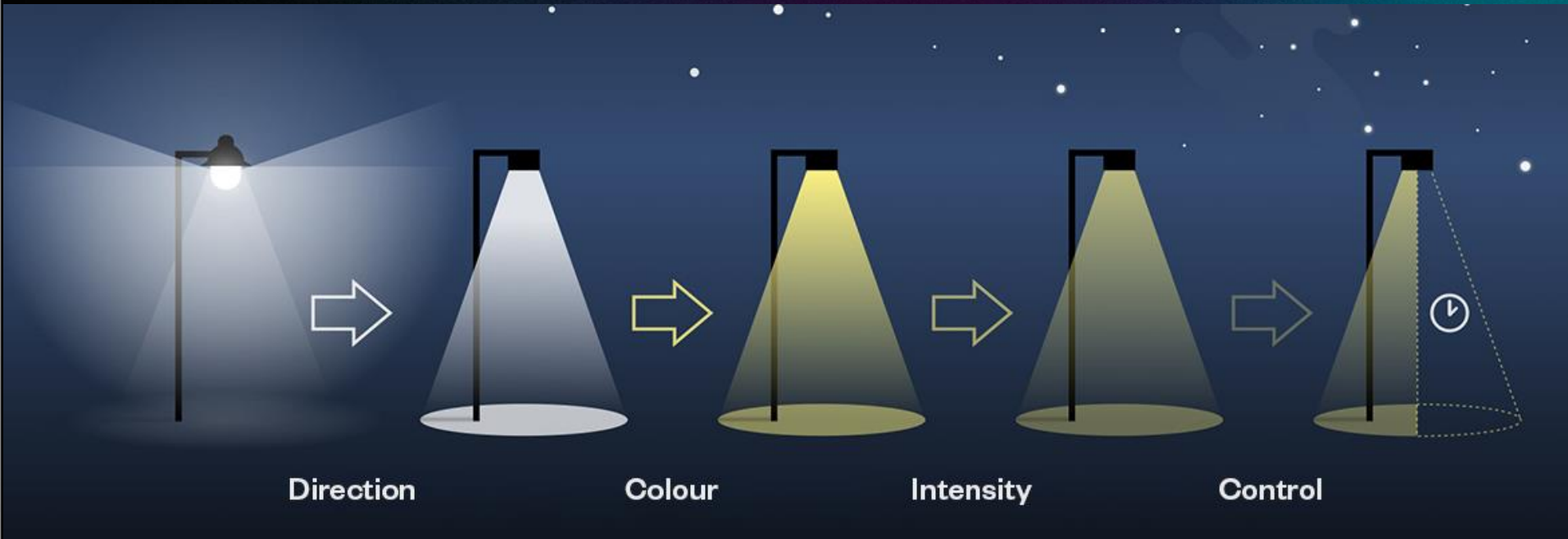
- Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
- Measurements on location
- Formal application process



Benefits for Township:

- National recognition of commitment to light pollution abatement
- Destination for viewing the night sky in the GTA
- Engage neighbouring municipalities and landowners in discussions about reducing light pollution in the community

How to reduce light pollution



UofT Scarborough, ASTC02: Practical Astronomy

