



Dear Neighbor,

You are an Important Force for Protecting a Unique Naramatian Asset

The Naramata Bench is rightly known for its historic village, the tapestry of lake and farm vistas that takes ones breath away and our unique Ponderosa pine forest. Less well known is our dramatic night sky. Miles from major sources of light pollution, Naramata sits under a precious resource – a magnificent starry sky where we can still see the splendor of the Milky Way.

To preserve this gift, NaramataSlow, a local non-profit dedicated to administering the Cittaslow values of Community and quality of life building, developed our Dark Skies Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to reduce excess night lighting. The deleterious effects of wasteful exterior lighting include disrupted ecosystems, harm to humans and wildlife, wasted energy, and destruction of the precious natural heritage of star-filled skies that inspired our ancestors. And none of this enhances security.

Our goal is to obtain certification for the Naramata Bench from the International Dark Skies Organization as a Dark Skies Community, the first of it's kind in BC and a superb enhancement to our community's standing nationally and internationally. To that end, we are working with the RDOS to update the lighting code to include recent advances in LED lighting, we host stargazing and astrophotography events, and hold educational seminars on appropriate lighting.

You are integral to the preservation of Naramata's beautiful night skies! Use outdoor lighting on an "as-needed basis," in other words, leave outdoor lights off unless someone is outside doing something. For security purposes, use short-duration motion detectors. Make sure the beams from your outdoor lights are shielded to shine downward and don't spill beyond where they're needed. And use warmer color lights where possible.

Naramata and parts of the Okanagan Valley are one of the ever-diminishing areas in BC where we still maintain some of the Province's original splendor.

We hope we can count on your cooperation to maintain that legacy and enhance the beauty and quality of life in our community. To receive the monthly newsletter please e-mail naramataslow@gmail.com and for questions or more information, visit naramataslow.com/projects#darksky

Sincerely,

Miranda Halladay, Dawn Lennie, Kyle Peterson and Elizabeth van Heerden

NaramataSlow - The Dark Sky Initiative

Naramata Cittaslow Association
Box 312, Naramata BC V0H 1N1
naramataslow@gmail.com