



March 24, 2026

**Dear Mayor Carolyn Amyotte and members of Council
c.c. Alana Solman – CAO
Connie Parent - Clerk
Municipality of North Kawartha**

Re: Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park – Request for Letter of Support for Dark-Sky Preserve Application

Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park was recently approached by the Environmental Advisory Committee with the Municipality of Trent Lakes regarding the potential creation of a Dark-Sky Preserve within the park boundary. I am reaching out to kindly request a Letter of Support for this initiative, which is an important component of our application to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC).

Overview of the Dark-Sky Preserve Initiative

- The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is a nationally recognized organization committed to astronomy outreach, scientific literacy, and the protection of natural night skies. Their endorsement—along with the support of valued partners like you—will demonstrate the collaborative value and community benefit of this effort.
- All RASC Dark-Sky Sites must provide educational and experiential opportunities while protecting the nocturnal environment by limiting the use and placement of artificial light at night.
- We are currently in the early stages of assessing the feasibility of establishing a Dark-Sky Preserve at Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park through RASC.
- If approved, the designation would apply only to the regulated park boundary and would not include any private properties.

Commitment to Indigenous Involvement and Partnership

- As part of this initiative, we are also seeking meaningful engagement and partnership with Indigenous communities connected to the land. We recognize the cultural, historical, and astronomical knowledge held by Indigenous peoples and see this project as an opportunity to support shared stewardship, incorporate Indigenous perspectives on the night sky, and explore potential collaborative programming. We value any guidance, participation, or interest Indigenous partners may wish to bring to this process as it develops.

Thank you very much for considering this request. Your support would be greatly appreciated and would help advance a project that benefits our community as well as the broader effort to preserve and enjoy the night sky.

Please let me know if you need any additional information or would like to set up a call to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Tyler Speck | Park Superintendent - Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park
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Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks