

**Email: February 14, 2011**

**Subject:** St. Thomas Aquinas - Parking lot lights - Excessive light and light trespass

Attention: Giacomo Corbocio, Superintendent  
HCDSB Facilities Management

**This is in regard to the parking lot lights at St. Thomas Aquinas.** I am writing to detail our areas of concern and request a meeting to discuss how we can work together to mitigate these concerns. Over the past couple of weeks I have left several messages to discuss this but have not heard back from you.

**Residents living adjacent to St. Thomas Aquinas School have experienced** a definite negative impact to their home environment and well being.

**a. Our neighbourhood “backyard feel” has changed significantly to our detriment**

- **The level of light is excessive** – both for a parking lot generally and in particular by comparison to the overall neighbourhood lighting. We wonder how much light is required to park a car?
  - It is well over double the light levels of nearby town street lights
  - It is over 60 times what IESNA standards recommend for sidewalks
- There is a general “light-haze” that even lights up the adjacent trees
- The parking lot is “in-your-face” prominent when viewed from upstairs and elevated decks of adjacent homes
- Even the light standards stand out due to the intensity of light down the poles and the fixtures’ glare

**b. Excessive light trespasses onto adjacent properties.**

- a. There is a glow penetrating rooms along the backs of our homes from these light
- b. Our backyards and patios are illuminated
- c. On some properties there is enough light to read a newspaper several metres inside the property line
- d. Installation of the wooden fence will not prevent this invasive trespass as it comes directly from the pole fixtures over the fence.

**c. Direct glare from these light fixtures** is very evident both onto patio areas and into living rooms

**Hours of operation – The best ways to mitigate issues**

This past week the lights have been on all night, including the weekend. The previous week they were off several nights and over the weekend. To date we have not seen any set operations pattern, no doubt due to ongoing work to finish the school.

**We would like to know the intended schedule and would appreciate you considering the following:**

- That lights not be on:
  - Overnight (generally turned off an hour after events)
  - On weekends (Fri, Sat, Sun evenings) unless there is an activity at the school.
  - On weekdays if there is no evening activity at the school (and in winter months turned off by 7 or 8 pm when no activity).
- That only lights close the school be on if required for custodians on other evenings.

**d. Other Recommendations:**

- a) That the level of lights generally be dimmed to well below street lighting levels.
- b) That glare be addressed by adding shields to fixtures near homes and planting large evergreens as required as buffer.

Many of the above suggestions will benefit the Halton Catholic District School Board by lowering your operating costs, your carbon footprint and needless light pollution. This gesture in sensitivity to both neighbourhood concerns and your stated commitment to operating green facilities will be a strong message to your students and the community that you lead by practice.

We look forward to hearing from you in regards to these concerns.

Charles Johnston  
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Southwest Central Oakville Residents Association  
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