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**A fireball shoots across downtown Edmonton in this image taken from video sent to CTV Edmonton by Andrew Bartlet, late Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008.**

**Massive fireball lights up the night sky**

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ctvcalgary.ca

People across Western Canada are still talking about a massive fireball that cut through the night sky on Thursday.

The object was spotted at around 17:30 MST and was spotted by people living in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and even North Dakota.

The object is believed to have been a meteor, but according to Alan Dyer with the Telus World of Science in Calgary, confirmation of what it was and where it landed may not be known for a few more days.

The spectacular light display in the night sky demanded the attention of many who were either at home, driving or just outside.

"All of a sudden the sky just lit up and I saw this huge ball of fire coming down from the sky," said Albertan Sandy Wallin.

It seemed, depending on where people caught the light show, there were varying descriptions. Most witnesses described the event at first as a reddish or orange light that blazed across the sky and then exploded into a fireball.

Rob Westland witnessed the object while driving his son home from volleyball practice in Patricia, Alberta. He described the fireball as white, blue and green and the entire event lasted only seconds.

People living in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan believed the light streaked near the provinces' borders and made contact with earth there.

"I saw this brilliant light coming down from the sky to the south and... it was so bright that it almost blinded me to look at it," said Donna Wesley, who was driving at the time.

Davidson Family was driving from Red Deer to Edmonton when he saw the luminous object that he said had a tail.

"I hear like this thing, it's like a jet or something, and I look and it's like this big white flash."

"As it goes through the atmosphere at ultrasonic speeds, huge speeds, it causes the air around it to glow and light up," Alan Dyer said. He believes the object is likely a meteor or "meteorite" if it hit the

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**CTV Edmonton security cameras caught the meteor approach and then create a massive flash in the skyline on Thursday evening, Nov. 20, 2008.**

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**Amateur astronomer Alister Ling, based in southwest Edmonton, captured a bright flash in the sky from a camera that constantly monitors the sky.**

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**CTV Saskatoon Extended: Eyewitnesses describe the fireball**

**CTV Newsnet: Paul Delaney, astronomer, York University**

**Canada AM: CTV's Mike Ciona, saw the sky light up northwest of Saskatoon**

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earth. "By all reports, it was very quick, very fast, and so that suggests it's from the asteroid belt, it's a piece of natural space debris."

A CTV map details the area of western Canada where the flash was reportedly visible.

Dyer says there are a number of cameras across the province for university researchers and it will take time for them to go through the photos to figure out what it was.

If the meteor was captured by more than one of the cameras, it may be possible over the next couple of days to triangulate exactly where it touched down -- if it did.

"There's a very good chance it was what we call a bull's eye, which is a meteorite crossing the sky at extremely quick velocity -- very, very fast -- and as it hits the atmosphere at about 400,000 feet, travelling at about 60 kilometres per second, this is the incredible light show that it creates," said Edmonton space educator Randy Atwood.

Atwood said the meteor was probably no bigger than a grapefruit, and may have broken into small pieces before hitting the ground, or it may have burned up entirely before touching down.

"It was a beautiful show and some people might have thought it was just over the hill, and that it was the size of a house," he said.

Officials at the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) confirmed whatever was seen was not man-made and does not pose a threat to security.

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**Geoff**  
Sitting in my north facing brightly lit livingroom(Cold Lake, Alberta), dark outside about 530PM,light caught my eye out the window in the dark night. The treeline, a hundred meters north became dimly visible, silhouetted against the sky for two seconds then faded. Lightening was my first thought.

**Bill**  
much ado about nothing....for pete's sake it was just a lost tool bag that WOMAN astronaut Heidemarie lost out in space a day ago...geesh

**Osmanli**  
i have seen an similar event in 1999 over Ankara, Turkey. But it was an obvious one big rock entering the atmosphere horizontally and moving quite fast.

There was a very bright light over the whole Ankara City during the combustion of asteroid for about 3-4 secs. after combustion completed there was a massive trail of combustion behind it.

But after i see the video of this event in Canada i can tell that that one is look like something different.

why?  
-in event at Ankara there was a single color bright light, this one has multiple colors.  
-in event at Ankara there was a bright yellowish white light during the whole combustion and it was the same amount of light for all burning period, in Canada event it is quite different the amount of light is changing, sometimes no light.

what can it be?  
in my opinion, in Canada event there were possibly more than one rock which are having different chemical compositions. This is how you can explain different colors.

Which are a group of rocks traveling together in a unique order, maybe couple rows of rocks entering the atmosphere with different distances btw. every rock.

possible explanation of system:  
1st line: h(5km)j(2km)k(1 km)l&k(1km)  
(1km)  
2nd line: u(3km)g  
(5km)  
3rd line: z(9km)t  
(4km)  
4th line: r(1km)o(6km)p  
(xkm)

" " " " " "

(every letter is indicating a rock with different chemical composition, a is showing smallest, z is showing biggest radius, (x km) indicating distance btw rocks(distances just for explain system better, not real!), lines moving together, bigger letter should emit more light)

that is how you can explain the brightness of light is changing during the event.

i hope i am helpful. have a good day.

**Mark**

I did not see the meteor myself, but i have several relatives in Lloydminster who saw it, All of them described a light similar to a spotlight or camera flash, My aunt ran outside after seeing the light and could visually make out a smoke or vapor trail which crackled in the aftermath of the meteor.

**william**

It has also been seen from the regina sask area as well. I was driving 10 km south of the city when the whole sky lit up and flickered for about 2 seconds. My friends wife saw a large meteor and (thinking it wasnt that far) we considered going to try to find it...turns out to be 1000 kms away.....

**Sylvia**

I was traveling on the Deerfoot in Calgary when around 5:30 pm a bright orange light iluminated the sky for a couple seconds. I did not see an object and now I realize it must have been the same event.

**Steve**

I am sure Bruce Willis rose to the occassion and averted us from certain doom.

**john**

Superman ???

**Jelena Cenic**

I saw this light actually a few days ago ( may have been Monday or Tuesday night!). I live in NW Calgary. It was about 10 pm (not sure precisely) and my husband and I were outside of our house, when this fireball lit up on the sky ( towards east/northeast). It looked like a really big firework's trick, except single ball and much bigger. Since it was dark and it only lasted 1-2 sec. I couldn't judge the distance. I wasn't sure whether it "flew over/past Nose Hill park, or it just shot down like the wireworks before they descend to the ground. Unfortunately my husband didn't see it , so we couldn't discuss it, but he did notice my astonishment. Well, since I was the only one that saw it, didn't bother talking more about it except just note that it was interesting!  
Jelena

**Dan**

it was just the price of oil going down in a blaze of glory



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