



**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWN OF PERTH**

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Town of Perth Enters into Agreement to Develop Solar Park

Town of Perth – Although it will still take a few months for the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to review the application, the Town of Perth hopes to partner with Canadian Solar Solutions Inc. (CSSI) to turn some 60 acres of the former Darou Farm/Wildlife Rd. landfill site property into a 10 MW solar park. The park would consist of approximately 50,000 large solar panels mounted on racks, generating enough renewable energy to power approximately 1,000 homes, about half the households in town. The development of the solar park is contingent upon approval of CSSI's plan by the OPA.

CSSI, an international solar cell manufacturer headquartered in Ontario, initially approached the local environmental group ecoPerth regarding this project, and asked them to help refine the proposal. What is particularly exciting about this partnership is the broad range of community benefits that have been incorporated into the business plan. CSSI will be responsible for all capital and operational costs associated with the project, and will pay to the town \$40,000 per year for 20 years, based on full production of 10MW. Not bad for land that has been largely set aside as a buffer for the landfill site, and is therefore not compatible with many other uses.

But that is just the start. Upon commencement of construction of the solar facility, the agreement between the Town of Perth and CSSI provides the town with \$400,000 to rehabilitate the heritage stone house on the Darou site and to make other improvements. The Town also receives a \$20,000 non-refundable option payment upon signing.

Then there are a number of substantive community benefits that have been built into the agreement, including annual payment of \$3,000 to each of three community organizations: the Food Bank, YAK, and the Friends of Stewart Park Festival. That's a total of \$9,000 each and every year, for 20 years totalling \$180,000 that the company will donate to these vital community organizations.

CSSI has agreed to provide \$20,000 per year for the next five years to ecoPerth to help facilitate the uptake of renewable energy technologies by local residents and businesses. And to top it all off, they are donating 10 kW solar demonstration system to ecoPerth, which should bring another \$10,000 a year to the local environmental group for the estimated 40+ year life of the system.

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CSSI proposes to call the solar park the “Wendy Laut Solar Park”, after a prominent Perth Councillor, businessperson and volunteer who passed away earlier this year. A group of friends of hers have been working since her passing to develop a large-scale project she would have been proud of, and as she was a long-time supporter of renewable energy.

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