



Canadian Solar Industries Association  
L'Association des Industries Solaires du Canada

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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CanSIA Announces 2006 Solar Awards**

**OTTAWA, ON - January 5, 2007** – In conjunction with its annual conference, the Canadian Solar Industries Association (CanSIA) hosted its 2006 Solar Awards Banquet on November 2, in Ottawa. These awards are presented annually to individuals, organizations and companies who, through hard work and dedication, helped solar energy technologies and systems overcome barriers and enter the mainstream in Canada. CanSIA's awards program accepts nominations for seven categories of outstanding achievements that recognize the efforts put forth by Canadians to make solar a more viable energy source.

Over 80 people were delightfully entertained by Master of Ceremonies Richard Thorne of Carmanah Technologies Corporation, as well as by two excellent keynote speakers, Mr. Fred Schwartz of Intellergy Corporation and Mr. John Wallace of Xantrex Technology Inc.

CanSIA would like to congratulate the following recipients of its 2006 Solar Awards:

### **Solar Political Leader of the Year: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario**

On March 21<sup>st</sup> of this year, Premier McGuinty announced that the Ontario government would be introducing a new incentive program for small-scale producers of grid-tied renewable electricity. The Standard Offer Program, which is the first of its kind in North America, guarantees payment of \$0.42/kWh to solar PV projects under 10 MW for 20 years. As demonstrated internationally, this feed-in tariff mechanism is certain to stimulate the Ontario PV market and is already causing other provinces to consider a similar approach. The Canadian Solar Industries Association commends Premier McGuinty for his role in leading Ontario to greater renewable energy technology deployment.

### **Solar Industry Leader of the Year: Milfred Hammerbacher**

Milfred Hammerbacher has had a significant impact on the solar industry in Canada. As the former president of Spheral Solar Power (SSP), Milfred was actively engaged in industry matters and provided leadership in gaining political support. Milfred was also the leading proponent in SSP's decision to join CanSIA as its first Sustaining Member (highest level of membership). Also of particular importance was SSP's support to hire a government relations specialist to assist with the launch of the Net-Zero Energy Home Coalition, as well as to advocate PV's inclusion in the Ontario Standard Offer Program. Milfred is a prime example of how industry members can make a difference for solar energy in Canada.

### **Solar Thermal Project of the Year: Town of Okotoks – Drake Landing Solar Community**



The Drake Landing Solar Community, located in Okotoks, Alberta, is a carefully designed 52-house subdivision that uses solar thermal energy for its space and water heating needs. The district heating system, consisting of 800 solar collectors mounted on garage roofs, stores energy underground during warmer months for later distribution in the winter. On a typical summer day, the system generates 1.5 MW of thermal power which meets 90% of the residences' space heating needs – something that has never been done before with solar energy. Furthermore, each home is 30% more efficient than conventional residential buildings. Says Rick Quail,

Municipal Manager of the Town of Okotoks: "The Town of Okotoks is honoured to receive the award for Solar Thermal Project of the Year from the Canadian Solar Industries Association. The Drake Landing Solar Community was developed through partnerships with various levels of government and industry. This project is a natural progression in Okotoks' development and delivery of renewable energy initiatives." The solar system was designed by Enermodal Engineering Inc., with equipment supplied by Enerworks Inc.

For more information on the Drake Landing Solar Community, please visit [www.dlsc.ca](http://www.dlsc.ca).

### **Solar PV Project of the Year: Board of Governors of Exhibition Place – 100 kW PV System**

In August 2006, a 100 kW PV system was unveiled on the historic Horse Palace at Exhibition Place in Toronto. "The solar PV system which is the largest system of its kind in Canada is a key element in Exhibition Place's goal of becoming energy self-sufficient by 2010. The project will provide us with the information needed to expand the system to 1.0 - 1.5 megawatts (10 to 15 times larger than this pilot project)", said Dianne Young, CEO of Exhibition Place. "Our ability to make this project a reality is due in large part to our funding partners, Toronto Atmospheric Fund, the Toronto Better Buildings Partnership and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund." Located on Toronto's waterfront, Exhibition Place attracts over 5.2 million visitors a year, which makes this PV project an important demonstration on how solar is entering the mainstream in Canada. The system was designed and is operated by Carmanah Technologies Corporation.



For more information on Exhibition Place, please visit [www.explace.on.ca](http://www.explace.on.ca).

### **Solar Advocate of the Year: Climate Change Central**

As part of their commitment to environmental sustainability, Climate Change Central (C3), based in Alberta, launched the Alberta Solar Municipal Showcase, a renewable energy demonstration project involving 20 municipalities across Alberta. Each project will install a grid-connected solar PV system on a highly-visible public building, so the Showcase will serve as an excellent means of illustrating the potential of solar energy in Canada. This project will study the methods used by each participant to educate the public about solar PV in order to ensure the long-term success of renewable technologies in the province. Says Simon Knight, President & CEO of C3, "On behalf of Climate Change Central I am pleased to accept the "Solar Advocate of the Year 2006". At C3, we recognize the huge potential for using solar energy in Alberta. With our partners we are working to move all forms of renewable energy from a potential to a reality." Funding for this project is provided by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and each participating municipal organization.

For more information on the Alberta Solar Municipal Showcase, please visit [www.lassthosun.ca](http://www.lassthosun.ca).

## **Solar Public Servants of the Year: Donna Sanford & Lee Thiessen, BC Ministry of Environment**

Donna Sanford and Lee Thiessen of the BC Ministry of Environment were instrumental in launching the BC Sustainable Energy Association's SolarBC initiative, which seeks to increase awareness, provide training and facilitate rebates through its Solar Hot Water Program. As well, they have been the leading force behind the BC government's 100,000 Solar Roofs Roadmap Project that is now being undertaken. "Solar energy is a clean and renewable energy resource with both environmental and economic benefits," said Lee Thiessen and Donna Sanford. "We're honoured by the award and look forward to the opportunity to continue our work with a range of partners in support of the 100,000 Solar Roofs initiative." As government support is vital in ensuring the long-term success of renewable technologies, Donna and Lee's dedication is paving the path for a more sustainable, reliable energy future in the province.

For more information on the SolarBC and 100,000 Solar Roofs initiatives, please visit [SolarBC.org](http://SolarBC.org).

## **Solar News Story of the Year: Doug Struck, Washington Post Foreign Service**

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Doug Struck published an excellent article in the Washington Post entitled "*In Ontario, Making 'Clean Energy' Pay - Utilities Ordered to Compensate Homeowners For Power From Solar, Wind, Water Projects*", which addresses the Ontario Standard Offer Program. His focus on homeowners accurately portrayed both the interest generated by small-scale producers of renewable electricity, as well as their importance to the solar industry. Not only was this article widely recognized in Canada, but many readers from the US were also informed of the potential of the Canadian solar industry.

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### **Photo credits:**

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### **About CanSIA**

*The Canadian Solar Industries Association's mission is to strengthen the Canadian solar industry, to increase the professionalism of solar companies, to foster domestic and international markets for solar technologies, and to promote the use of solar to all Canadians.*

[www.cansia.ca](http://www.cansia.ca)