



# Wind. For My Community.

Economic development opportunities for rural communities



**canwea**

CANADIAN WIND  
ENERGY ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
DE L'ÉNERGIE ÉOLIENNE

**W**ind energy is an abundant and affordable source of electricity that is becoming an increasingly important part of the energy supply mix in Canada and around the world. In Ontario today, wind energy output powers over 440,000 homes. Across the country, wind turbines meet the electricity demands of over 1.2 million homes – and they do it without polluting the air, depleting precious water resources, or producing waste of any kind.

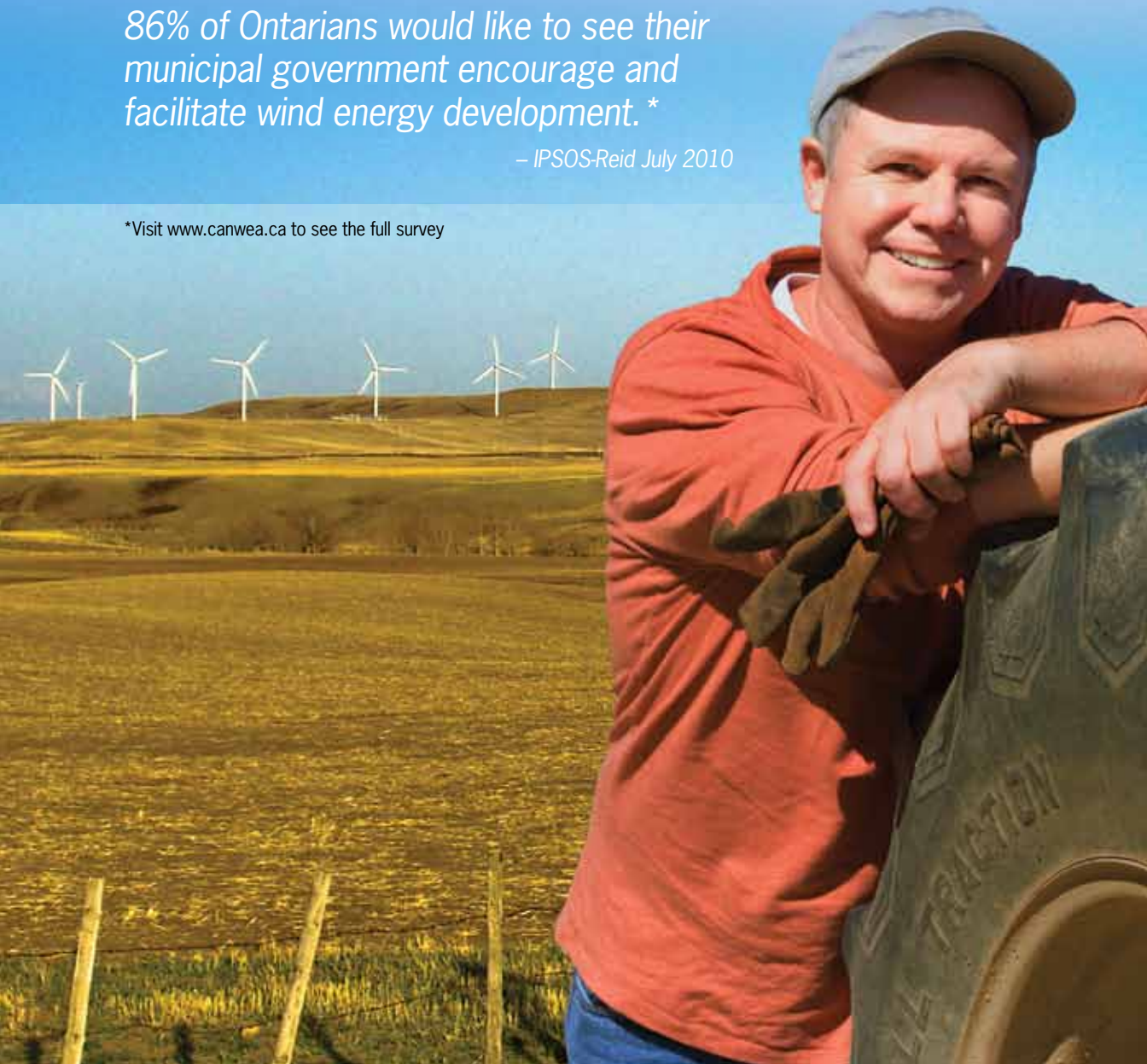
A July 2010 IPSOS-Reid poll commissioned by the Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA) found that nine in 10 Ontario residents support the production of wind energy in their region for its economic and environmental benefits. Over 86 per cent of those polled would like to see their municipal government encourage and facilitate wind energy development because they believe it is important that Ontario's electricity supply become more environmentally friendly.\*

There is much more to wind energy than clean electricity and desirable environmental benefits. Successful host communities realize growth in the form of **new income for rural landowners, net-new tax revenue, employment opportunities** for its trades-people and contractors and the financial benefits and potential spin-off from increased tourism. Canada has many examples of the positive impact wind energy has had in communities where development has taken place. Here are a few examples...

*86% of Ontarians would like to see their municipal government encourage and facilitate wind energy development. \**

*– IPSOS-Reid July 2010*

\*Visit [www.canwea.ca](http://www.canwea.ca) to see the full survey



## Township of Frontenac Islands

**Wind Farm:** Wolfe Island Wind Facility

**Highlights:** \$25 million investment into the community during construction + \$3 million annually

The **197.8 MW Wolfe Island Wind Facility**, made up of 86 Siemens 2.3 MW turbines, is located within the Township of Frontenac Islands. An amenities agreement between the township and TransAlta Corporation, the project's owner, provides \$645,000 per year in revenue to help fund new community services and infrastructure. Add in royalties to landowners, tax payments and operating and maintenance expenses, and the ongoing local economic benefits add up to more than **\$3 million a year**. That is in addition to the \$25 million in direct benefit that flowed to the community during construction, and the time and money spent in the community by the more than 2,000 people who toured the facility during its first summer of operation.

*“ Contributing to the greening of the Ontario power landscape, creating new skilled full-time jobs and adding wealth to our community are all huge achievements. **We celebrate this success.** ”*

**Mayor Jim Vanden Hoek, Frontenac Islands**

*Source: TransAlta News Release, December 23, 2009*

## Erie Shoreline

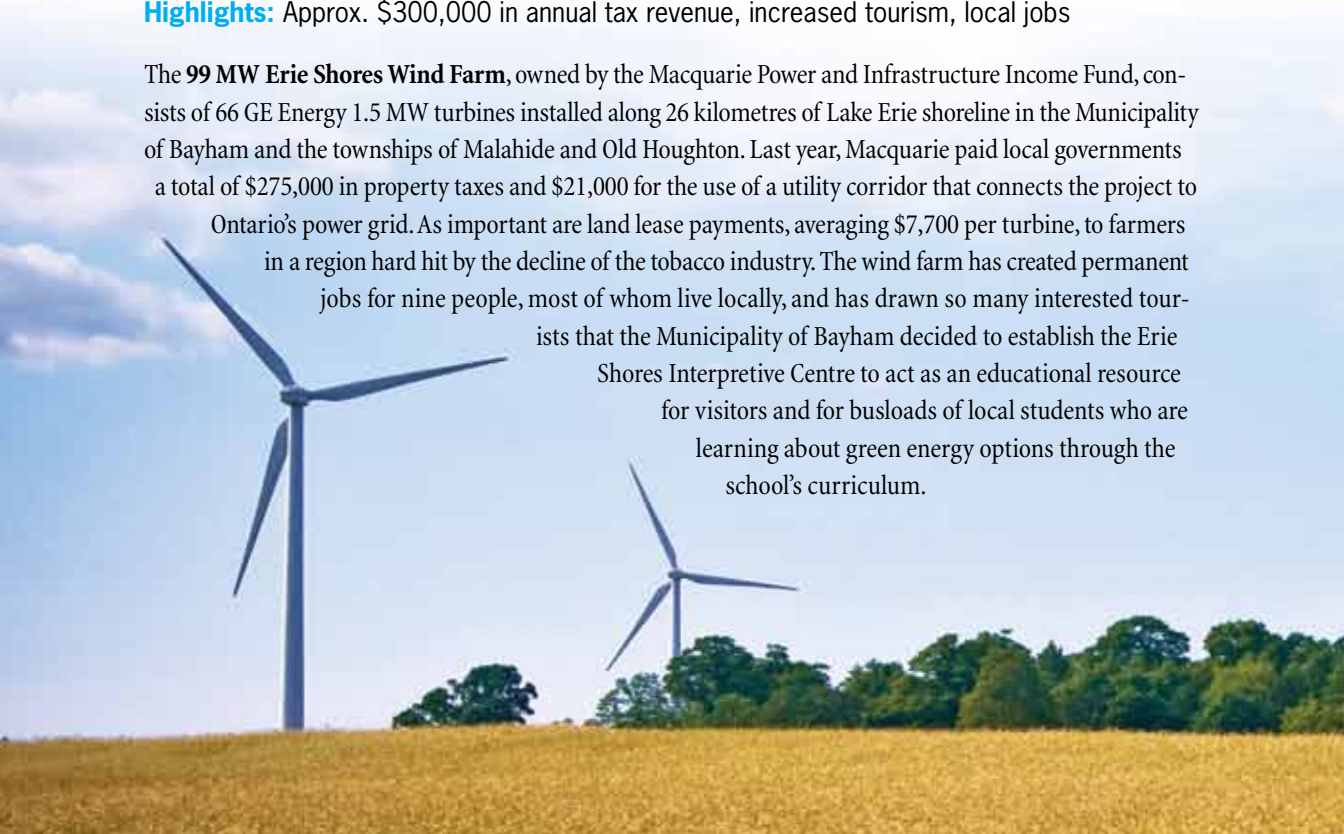
**Wind Farm:** Erie Shores Wind Farm

**Highlights:** Approx. \$300,000 in annual tax revenue, increased tourism, local jobs

The **99 MW Erie Shores Wind Farm**, owned by the Macquarie Power and Infrastructure Income Fund, consists of 66 GE Energy 1.5 MW turbines installed along 26 kilometres of Lake Erie shoreline in the Municipality of Bayham and the townships of Malahide and Old Houghton. Last year, Macquarie paid local governments a total of \$275,000 in property taxes and \$21,000 for the use of a utility corridor that connects the project to Ontario's power grid. As important are land lease payments, averaging \$7,700 per turbine, to farmers in a region hard hit by the decline of the tobacco industry. The wind farm has created permanent jobs for nine people, most of whom live locally, and has drawn so many interested tourists that the Municipality of Bayham decided to establish the Erie Shores Interpretive Centre to act as an educational resource for visitors and for busloads of local students who are learning about green energy options through the school's curriculum.

*“ The Erie Shores wind farm has become a part of our identity here in Bayham. We've actually incorporated a wind turbine into our tourism logo. My advice would be to come to the Erie Shores Wind Farm and see for yourself. They are majestic and sleek. Stand beneath a turbine and listen for yourself. Talk to the farmers and hear what they have to say. ”*

**Lynn Acre, Mayor, Municipality of Bayham**



## Lake Superior near Sault Ste. Marie

**Wind Farm:** Prince Wind Farm

**Highlights:** 357 person years of employment +\$2.6 million in annual local spending

Brookfield Renewable Power's **189 MW Prince Wind Farm** is made up of 126 GE Energy 1.5 MW turbines installed over a total area of 100 km<sup>2</sup> along the Lake Superior shoreline near Sault Ste. Marie. The development and construction of the project, which came on-line in 2006, created 357 person-years of employment and involved 38 local companies. Operations and maintenance activities at the wind farm are carried out by a permanent staff of 17 and result in approximately **\$1.6 million a year in local spending**. Another \$1,016,840 is paid annually as land rental to the private landowners hosting the wind turbines, as property taxes to the Township of Prince, and as road maintenance taxes to the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The company also partnered with the Sault College of Applied Arts & Technology to establish the Renewable Power Training Centre.

*“ The township as a whole is happy with the wind farm. We have 61 of its turbines and I wish we had 60 more. When you consider the revenue, why wouldn't I? We receive taxes from the wind farm, but we don't plough the road, we don't do garbage pick up, and we don't provide policing. For the township, it's a win-win situation. ”*

**Lou Madonna, Reeve, Township of Prince**



Erie Shores Wind Farm

© Macquarie Power & Infrastructure Income Fund

*“ We very early realized the benefits that came with construction of the wind farm, but there was also an attitudinal change. We were working on a renewable energy plan, but when you have a business like Brookfield that actually turns it into reality and people can see it and people touch it, then that acts as real catalyst. ”*

**John Rowswell, Mayor, Sault Ste. Marie**

## Gaspé Peninsula

**Wind Farm:** Baie-des-Sables Wind Farm

**Highlights:** \$85 million in direct spending

The **109.5 MW Baie-des-Sables Wind Farm** began operating on Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula in 2006. Development and construction of the project, which uses 73 GE Energy 1.5 MW turbines, brought more than **\$85 million in direct spending** in the region and more than \$105 million in the province as a whole. In addition to annual royalties to landowners, Cartier Wind Energy is making voluntary payments to the Baie-des-Sables and Métis-sur-Mer municipalities of \$109,500 a year over the 20-year life of the project's contract with Hydro-Quebec, as well as \$30,000 a year for local non-profit organizations.

“ *During the whole construction process, Cartier, the promoter, as well as the general contractor, collaborated with the community to reduce at the minimum the effects of this type of project, for the users of the road as well as for the population. Cartier Wind Energy is respecting its agreements with the municipality with care. The acceptance of the local population greatly helped with the implementation of the wind farm. Since the construction of the wind farm, many people who were living away came back to the area to work on the site.* ”

*Jacques Couillard, Mayor of Baie-des-Sables (during the construction of the wind farm)*

Baie-des-Sables  
Wind Farm



All these projects shared an essential element for success – an open and responsive relationship with the communities in which they are located. The projects have become an integral part of community life. CanWEA believes that wind energy can produce 20% of this country's electricity by 2025; ensuring every project is a good neighbour is an important step in getting there.



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## **Responsible. Sustainable.**

As the voice of Canada's wind energy sector, CanWEA actively promotes the responsible and sustainable development of wind energy. We serve as Canada's leading source of credible information about wind energy and its social, economic, and environmental benefits. Fulfilling its commitment to continuous improvement, CanWEA is currently developing an *Industry Code of Practice* to which our more than 400 members can all proudly subscribe, as well as *Best Practices in Community Engagement* which will help guide their work with local communities.

**Learn more about how wind energy can benefit your community:**

Visit [www.canwea.ca](http://www.canwea.ca), call 1 800 922 6932, or email [info@canwea.ca](mailto:info@canwea.ca)