

PRESS RELEASE | For Immediate Release

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Goats and Sheep Get to Work at Parry Sound Solar Site

Lakeland Solutions and the Town of Parry Sound pilot a natural approach to vegetation management at the SPEEDIER solar site

Parry Sound, ON — [July 22, 2026] — Lakeland Solutions and the Town of Parry Sound are putting a new kind of clean-energy crew to work at the SPEEDIER solar site: approximately 75 goats and sheep.

The four-legged team is part of a sustainable vegetation management pilot project designed to help control tall grass, brush, and invasive growth around the 500-kilowatt solar farm consisting of 1,620 solar panels at 57 MacFarlane Street. As vegetation has grown across the former landfill site, some of it has begun shading the solar panels and limiting their ability to generate clean energy. The pilot uses managed grazing as a low-impact way to help keep the site clear, productive, and better aligned with Parry Sound's net-zero goals.

Project SPEEDIER was created to help the Town of Parry Sound work toward becoming a net-zero smart community. The project includes a solar PV system, battery storage, EV charging, and other distributed energy resources that support local energy resilience and greenhouse gas reduction.

"This is exactly the kind of practical, creative approach that supports the Town's sustainability goals while making responsible use of municipal land" said Mike Kearns, Director of Public Works Parry Sound.

Unlike traditional clearing methods that can require heavy equipment, intensive labour, and repeated maintenance visits, goats and sheep naturally browse vegetation in and around hard-to-reach areas. At the SPEEDIER site, that means the animals can help reduce shading on the solar panels while contributing to a more nature-based approach to land stewardship.

"One thing I love most about sustainability is finding solutions that create benefits beyond their original purpose," said Olivia Cordner, Lakeland Solutions Intern. "Growing up on a farm and now pursuing Environmental Engineering at the University of Guelph, it's been a joy helping with an initiative that supports clean energy production while creating opportunities for environmental stewardship, agriculture, and community collaboration. This project shows what's possible when we bring people together around a shared goal and work with nature to achieve it."



*Seventy-five goat and sheep from The Big Crunch Grazing arrive at the Lakeland Solutions SPEEDIER site in Parry Sound to help sustainably manage the vegetation overgrowth.
Photo credit: thom morrissey photography*



*Goat and sheep get to work at the Lakeland Solutions SPEEDIER solar site in Parry Sound
Photo credit The Big Crunch Grazing.*



The pilot began on July 20th and is expected to run for approximately nine days. The work is being provided by The Big Crunch Grazing, an Ontario-based vegetation management provider.

While the goats and sheep may be the stars of the show, the goal is practical: to test whether managed grazing can help maintain solar production by controlling vegetation and supporting a more sustainable approach to infrastructure maintenance.

For the Town of Parry Sound and Lakeland Solutions, the project is one more example of how local partnerships, clean energy, and a little creative thinking can work together to move sustainability forward — one bite at a time.

About Lakeland Solutions

Lakeland Solutions is a division of Lakeland Generation based in Bracebridge, Ontario. The Solutions team specializes in energy innovation providing *sustainable solutions* for the electrical energy industry, delivering value to a diverse range of clients and stakeholders. One of these solutions is the SPEEDIER solar project: a grid that builds towards a net zero smart community in the Town of Parry Sound. The SPEEDIER solution was proposed to help address the need for costly system upgrades required for the growing energy demands of the community. As vegetation growth began affecting solar performance, project partners looked for a solution that would align with SPEEDIER's sustainability objectives, leading to the managed grazing pilot.

www.lakelandsolutions.com

www.speedier.ca

About The Big Crunch Grazing

The Big Crunch along with their goats and sheep provide a sustainable way to transform areas that were once filled with unwanted weeds, back into clean, healthy pastures, valuable conservation areas and protected parks.

www.thebigcrunchgrazing.com

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