

## Solar panels power Landon

**GREEN ENERGY:** The project, which cost an estimated \$26,000, will pay for itself via a deal with the Ontario Power Authority

By MARK MELNYCHUK, SPECIAL TO QMI AGENCY

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**The solar panels installed on the roof of the Fred Landon branch library can be seen from Wortley Road. The solar panel initiative is a partnership between the City of London, Old South Community Organization and the London Public Library. (Sue Reeve, The London free Press)**

The sun didn't show up, but that didn't stop the solar celebration at a London public library branch.

City officials, including Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best, and members of the public crowded the Landon branch library in Old South Friday for the unveiling of 14 solar voltaic panels. Installed on the roof, the panels are already helping to power the building.

The addition is part of the library's "greening up" program, which teaches environmentally friendly energy solutions. You can watch the panels at work on a TV screen in the library or on the web, at [landonlibrary.solarvu.net](http://landonlibrary.solarvu.net) A gauge shows in real time how many watts of electricity are being harnessed, along with other fun facts. So far, the panels have produced more than 125 kilowatt hours, the equivalent of 45,000 AA batteries.

"I think that makes it more real for people, so that they can really see that this has a real world-impact," says Josh Morgan, vice-chair of the public library board.

Morgan wouldn't rule out other libraries getting solar panels. But those steps don't end with libraries: DeCicco-Best highlighted the attention London has received from international companies interested in solar projects.

"This is going to be a great pilot project that's actually going to set a benchmark for others to come in the future," she said.

The project cost an estimated \$26,000 but will pay for itself thanks to a contract with the Ontario Power Authority to buy all the green power the panels produce.