

HOME, LAWN & ENERGY

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4 Pages



Photo by: David Mead

An overhead view shows the newly installed solar panels on the BRC Business Enterprises 35,000 square-foot manufacturing facility on Armstrong Ave. in Georgetown.

The panels are expected to generate enough electricity to power 30 homes for a year.
Photo by David Mead

Local firms helping to lead the way in solar power technology

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Things are literally looking up for solar energy production in Ontario and Georgetown is at the industry's forefront with a unique project.

Entrepreneur Bill Melnik, who owns the BRC Sustainable Elements ergonomic furniture manufacturing company on Armstrong Ave., jumped into the solar energy business 18 months ago and is enthusiastic about its potential both as a growth industry and

an environmentally friendly source of electrical power.

Over the past couple of months, the BRC location and the ISPA Woodworking plant— also on Armstrong Ave.— have had commercial solar generators installed 10 feet above the roof on massive steel grids that are integrated into the buildings.

The 308-kilowatt, 35,000-square-foot BRC facility produces enough power for 30 homes per year and has a lifespan of some 30 to 50 years.

See **GIANT**, pg. 3



Solarform president Bill Melnik (left) raises a toast and prepares to cut the ribbon along with Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette to officially mark the startup of a solar energy generator atop one of his other businesses, BRC Sustainable Elements. Two businesses on Armstrong Ave. now have these solar "systems" on their rooftops and another has signed on to have one installed soon.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

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