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## TANZANIA TO BALLANTRAE WITH THANKS

Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo from Tanzania visits Ballantrae Public School on Friday to thank the students and staff for donating \$20,000 to build two classrooms for a school in Lugala village. The school and African community formed a partnership three years ago. A gala fundraiser was hosted by the school.

LEARN MORE AT MENNONITES' EARTH DAY SEMINAR IN STOUFFVILLE TONIGHT

# You can sell energy you make back to Hydro One

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
sbolan@yrmg.com

Can a home in the middle of a Stouffville subdivision be powered by solar energy?

Yes. And one local home is proof.

In 2008, Richard Reesor installed 14 solar panels on his roof. The power generated from those panels now provide about two-thirds of his home's energy needs.

"They transfer solar energy, meaning sunlight, into electrical current," the Dougherty

Crescent resident said. "Anybody can buy a solar panel and hook in to run something."

The initial investment was not cheap - about \$20,000, with an anticipated payback of roughly eight years.

Shortly after installing the solar panels, the Reesor home was connected to the Hydro One grid. Mr. Reesor now sells energy to the electricity provider.

"My net cost for electricity is negative. They pay me more than I pay them," he said.

For homeowners with a bit more land and larger home, ground-mounted solar panel systems are also a viable option. These systems are larger and track the sun throughout the day.

The initial cost outlay for a ground-mounted solar panel system is approximately \$90,000, according to Mr. Reesor.

Ground mounted systems can produce 10 kWh of electricity during peak production, as opposed to the roof panels, which can

produce 2.5 kWh during peak production, according to Mr. Reesor.

For people heating their homes with propane or oil, there is another cleaner option - geothermal power.

Constructing a geothermal system is a little more complicated than putting a few solar panels onto a roof, but it's a rather basic concept.

See EARTH, page 14.

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