

## RENOVATIONS 3: GOING GREEN FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### WHY SOLAR PANELS? WHY AT WESTDALE? WILL YOU MAKE A PLEDGE?

*The United Church promotes the Greening Sacred Spaces program to help faith communities make their places of worship and their homes more sustainable and energy efficient – more people- and-planet-friendly. Care of the earth community is deemed the most pressing spiritual issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

*The roof of Westdale United Church is ideally suited for solar panels.*

*The roof is high and above shadows. It faces south, and has a high tilt that makes it efficient at catching the sun's rays even in the winter.*

*Solar panels on the roof of the church provide three major benefits:*

1. Solar panels are a good investment for the church.

The solar panels are being placed on the roof under a contract with the Province of Ontario's microFIT program. The 10kW solar panel array will produce about 11,500 kWh of electricity annually. For the first 20 years of their operation, the church will be paid a fixed rate for this electricity that will result in an estimated annual revenue to the church of \$9,240. While the total cost of installing the solar panels is high (\$94,000), the revenue from the electricity they produce will pay this cost off in 10 years. After that, all of the revenue from the solar panels can be used for the work of the church. Whatever donations are made to the cost of the solar panels will make the day that the solar panels contribute all of their revenue to the church's budget come that much quicker!!

2. Solar panels provide clean energy at a critical time.

The bright summer sun means that the solar panels will produce the most electricity at a critical time. Peak electricity demand occurs on hot summer days when air conditioners are humming. After the solar panels are installed, they will be used to help meet this energy demand with green energy as opposed to burning coal.

3. Use of solar panels provides environmental benefits.

The largest benefit of the solar panels will be for the environment. Burning coal to make electricity releases large quantities of deadly particulate air pollution and also mercury, which contaminates local fish. Burning coal also releases about one kilogram of CO<sub>2</sub> to the air for every kilowatt-hour of electricity produced. The church's solar panels will keep 11,500kg of this greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere EVERY YEAR, as well as lowering particulate and mercury pollution levels.

**A donor form is enclosed.  
Consider making a pledge to  
Renovations 3: Going Green!**

*Westdale United is a  
participant in Environment  
Hamilton's Climate Change  
Champions. We have pledged  
to reduce our carbon footprint!*