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Calvary Pentecostal Church roof generating enough power to power about 26 homes



By Jessica Nyznik, The Peterborough Examiner
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Calvary Church lead pastor Paul Malott, left, Ontario Solar Provider CEO Christian Wentzel, Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal and Otonabee Ward Coun. Lesley Parnell take a look at the newly installed solar project on the church's roof on Monday. The 828-panel project is the OSP's first solar project in Peterborough. Jessica Nyznik/Peterborough Examiner/Postmedia Network

The Calvary Pentecostal Church is now pumping out green energy.

The 190-kilowatt solar-power system atop the church was developed, engineered and installed by Toronto-based company Ontario Solar Provider Inc. (OSP).

The more than \$500,000 project took five weeks to install and was connected to the grid last week.

OSP is leasing the Lansdowne St. church's rooftop for its endeavour, with the church getting a royalty share from income sold to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), Ontario's power authority.

With varying angles and sections of the roof, OSP's engineers created a design to work with the building's unique features, with every piece used manufactured in Ontario.

The 828-panel system is located entirely on the south-facing portions of the roof, giving it maximum output.

It'll deliver more than 265-megawatt hours of clean electricity to the province's power grid annually.

That's enough energy to power more than 26 average homes.

An official opening ceremony for the project was held at the church on Monday, with Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister and Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal and Otonabee Ward Coun. Lesley Parnell on hand.

"I believe in green energy - I think it's very important," said Parnell during a speech before a tour of one rooftop section.

The project is not only a fantastic win for Otonabee Ward and the City of Peterborough, but it's also a beautiful project, she said, adding that it can't be seen from Lansdowne St.

"It's revenue for the church, which is revenue for the citizens of Peterborough, and it's taking a lot of emissions out of our environment, so it's a big win-win," she said.

The solar system will reduce the emissions footprint of the province's electricity system by nearly 50 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

Though the project was already in motion when Paul Malott took over as lead pastor at the church more than a year ago, Malott said he's excited about the partnership with OSP.

"In my eyes, this is a win-win - not only can our building here at Calvary be used to create and support green energy, the project also supports great initiatives as well," he said.

Royalties will be used to fund projects that the church plans to facilitate to better the community, said Malott.

And while this is the first solar project for OSP in Peterborough, CEO Christian Wentzel is optimistic it's just the beginning.

"This is our first, but hopefully not our only"; we've done more than 100 in the province - so we hope we'll do much more in Peterborough as a result of this," Wentzel said.

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