

# Leunig's turns to the sun for power

## Loan and incentives help bistro install rooftop panels

By Dan D'Ambrosio  
*Free Press Staff Writer*

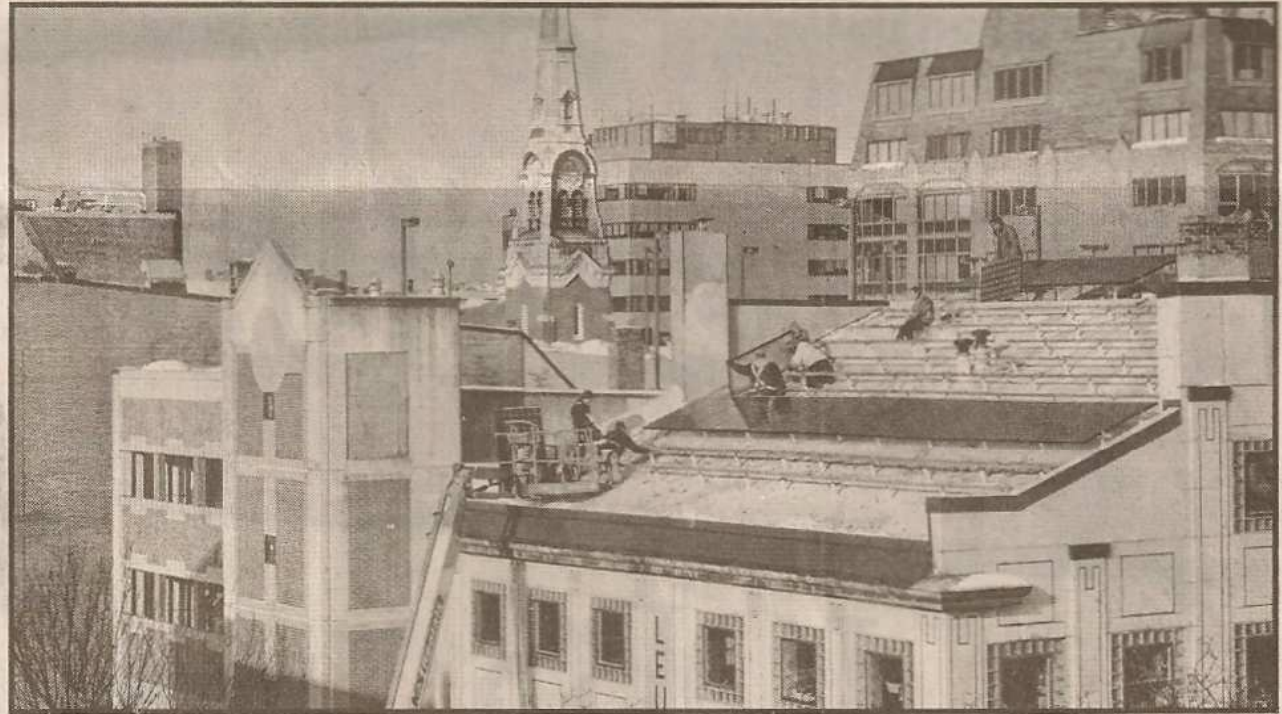
Leunig's Bistro & Cafe owner Robert Fuller has flipped the switch on an array of 120 solar panels on his roof that will generate about 20 percent of the electricity his building requires.

The array will service the 10,000-square-foot building.

The system cost Fuller about \$180,000 to install; \$49,900 of that came in the form of a zero-interest, five-year loan from Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office. Thanks to the CEDO loan and other incentives including state tax credits, Fuller said Friday he hopes to pay off the system in about 10 years instead of the 25 years he was planning on originally.

"I'm concerned about global warming, and I wanted to do something within my ability, and encourage others to take similar action, to help stem the tide of global warming," Fuller said. "We have to do what we can while we're here. I don't want the next generation dealing with a worse problem than we have now."

Funding for the CEDO loan came from the Community Development



*Free Press file*

**Workers installed solar panels on the roof of Leunig's Bistro in Burlington last month.**

Block Grant-Recovery program, part of the federal stimulus package.

"It was important for the CEDO Economic Development team to find a use of CDBG-R funds that not only supports downtown business but also conserves energy at the same time," said Larry Kupferman, CEDO director, in a statement.

Fuller said he is looking next at replacing the low-voltage halogen bulbs used in his restaurant with more energy-efficient LED lighting. He said that

although there are other businesses in his building, including Danforth Pewter, the "lion's share" of the power goes to the restaurant.

Changing to LED lighting will require new, larger fixtures, but Fuller said he is "pretty close" to making the switch.

"Halogen lighting chews up a lot of energy," he said.

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