

# Summer job takes students on journey

**MICHAEL LEA**  
The Whig-Standard

Three post-secondary students — and the Kingston community in general — got some good news yesterday.

The students, one from St. Lawrence College, one from Queen's University and a third from another university who lives in Kingston, were told they got summer jobs on a new program called Join the Journey, which is intended to help the city become the most sustainable community in Canada.

The \$64,750 in funding for their task was announced yesterday by Minister of the Environment John Gerretsen under Ontario's Community Go Green Fund, which is designed to help people reduce their impact on climate change by moving to a lower-carbon lifestyle.

Also announced was \$16,728 to go to SWITCH Kingston's Alternative Energy Cluster to organize the 1,000 Solar Rooftops Challenge, an effort to make Kingston the first city of its size to have at least 1,000 homes with rooftop solar systems.

Gerretsen also brought a promise of \$2 million for the city in gas tax revenues for 2009-10,

helping to expand and improve transit service in Kingston.

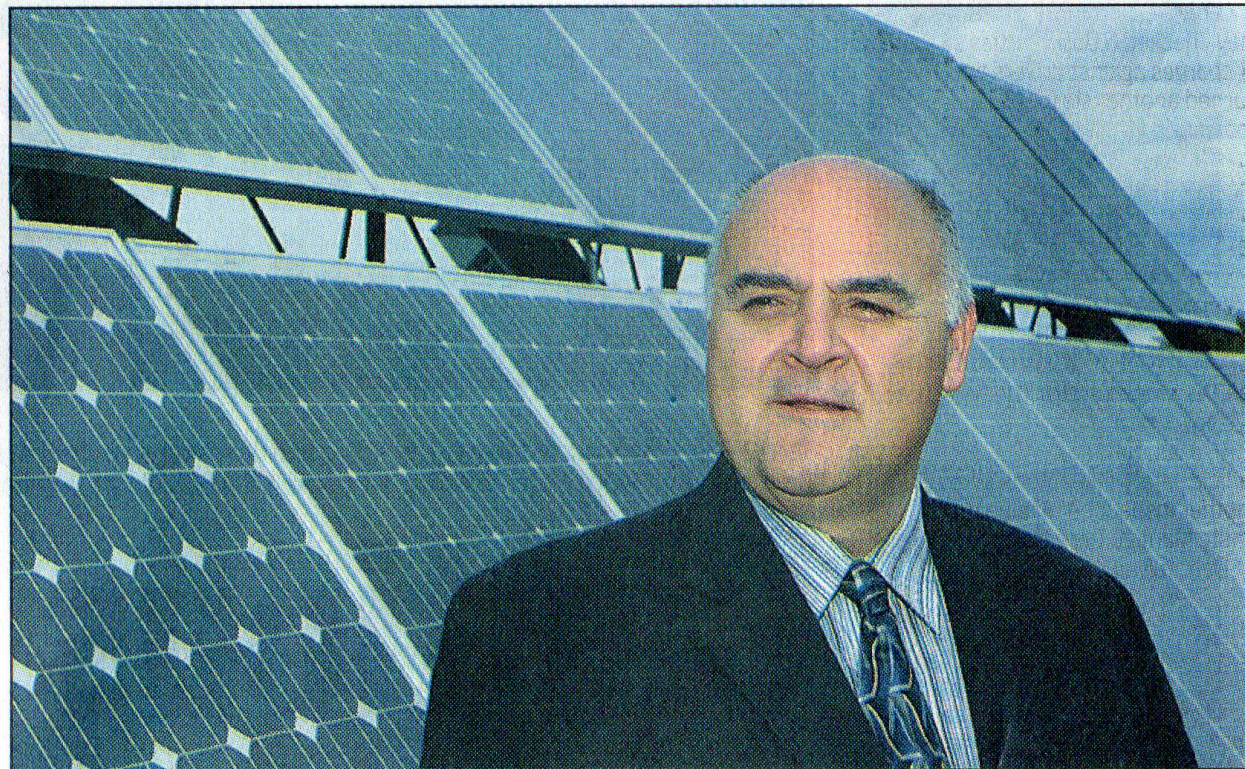
The Join the Journey program will be run out of the Kingston Sustainability Centre on Princess Street, said project manager Randy Cluff.

A total of 11 students will be hired to design and run the door-to-door program, the remaining eight students from local high schools to begin in early July. The purpose is to "foster behavioural change in things that we do in our daily lives," said Cluff.

He said the program will focus on energy conservation and efficiency, water conservation and efficiency and waste recycling. The students will also be at weekend events and at the Sustainability Centre. The effort will last until the end of August.

"This campaign is designed to go out into the community and seek pledges from people to take action."

People will be shown how they can change their day-to-day lifestyles to reduce their environmental footprint and a later measurement will determine just how successful they have been. All that data will become part of the research into environmental change at St. Lawrence College.



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**Randy Cluff, project director at the Sustainability Centre, stands in front of the solar panels at St. Lawrence College's Energy House following Friday's funding announcement. He says the Join the Journey program will focus on energy conservation and efficiency, water conservation and efficiency and recycling.**

"The whole premise of this is an opportunity for youth to be engaged in the community at a grass-roots level," said Cluff. "We certainly believe that youth are the true agents of social change

and they will be the ones that will be driving to the vision of becoming Canada's most sustainable city."

"It's a real exciting program. And it provides an opportunity

for 11 students in the community to have a great summer job and to be doing something that's meaningful."

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