

Prime Minister meets Canadian ski champions



Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (far right) meets three top Canadian skiers in his Parliament Hill office. From left are: Steve Podborski, Ken Read and Gerry Sorensen. The three were recognized earlier in the House of Commons. Miss Sorensen, 22, is in her first season of World Cup skiing and recently won her first downhill race in Haus, Austria. It was the first downhill victory for a Canadian woman since Nancy Greene won in 1968.

CP Laserphoto

Brothers design do-it-yourself chimney cleaner

Two Canadians have designed a brush to help do-it-yourself chimney cleaners.

Yves and Yvon Beaudoin, 26-year-old twin brothers, are self-employed heating contractors. In the spring of 1979, they decided to branch out into chimney sweeping, but they found the equipment then on the market less than satisfactory.

The brushes had wire bristles that bent out of shape and were often too soft to clean effectively, said Yvon. The brushes also had to be pushed or pulled down the chimney from the roof, with the use of rods or weighted ropes. The rods would not bend through the 90-degree angles found in some chimneys, he said.

After consultations with engineers, the Canadian Safety League, the federal fire marshal's office, chimney manufacturers, professional sweepers, hardware retailers and homeowners, the design of the E-Z Chimney Sweeper evolved and the brothers invested \$60,000 to set up Beaudoin Sweepsteel Limited in Toronto to manufacture and market their product.

The use of fireplaces and wood stoves is increasing and homeowners are learning

that chimneys must be cleaned regularly to prevent fires that begin inside the chimney in accumulations of creosote.

The sweeper is designed to be used at the base of the chimney from the fireplace damper or chimney cleanout door.

A brush, equipped with wide, flat, spring steel bristles and screwed on the end of a 35- to 45-foot spring steel snake is pushed up the chimney a few feet at a time, using a sliding, scissor-grip handle. A clutch-and-spring mechanism inside the handle grips the snake firmly when the handle is squeezed and slides up and down the snake when released.

The snake is held in control by, and stored on, a large, lightweight carrying frame. Round, square and rectangular brushes are available in sizes ranging from seven to 12 inches. The complete unit weighs less than ten pounds and sells for between \$115 and \$150.

Until the sweeper is widely available through retail outlets and catalogues — next spring, they expect — they will be selling to consumers through their Toronto factory.

"Sun" comes indoors

The National Research Council of Canada has brought the sun indoors at its new solar testing centre near Toronto.

The "sun" is a simulator, built by Vortex Industries of Vancouver (see *Canada Weekly* of November 5, 1980). The 100,000-watt lamp produces light with the same intensity and spectrum as real sunlight in Canada.

The simulator is now in operation at the council's National Solar Test Facility built for research by industries and scientists. The \$1.4-million facility has been added to the Ontario Research Foundation in Mississauga.

The lamp can be rented for \$100 an hour to test solar panels or run experiments in a climate never marred by clouds, haze or nightfall.

The artificial sun provides constant conditions ideal for setting and enforcing national standards for solar products. The new facility can test equipment both inside and outside and will expose solar equipment to rigours such as thunderstorms and winter climate to determine how they weather and age.

Proposals to radio conference

The federal government is seeking comments on a series of Canadian proposals for changes in international radio regulations affecting maritime distress and safety, among other issues.

The comments will be used in preparation of final Canadian proposals to the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) on Mobile Telecommunications to be held in Geneva, March 3-26, 1982. The conference is organized by the International Telecommunication Union, a United Nations specialized agency. The department expects to publish the final Canadian proposals for submission to the International Telecommunication Union by July 3.

Among the draft Canadian proposals are items recommending establishment of a navigational and meteorological warning system; a ship-to-ship navigation safety channel; and a family of radio frequencies (at 4, 6, 8, 12 and 16 megahertz) in support of a future global maritime distress and safety system. Other proposals deal with channelling of the high frequency maritime mobile radiotelephone service.