

Canada Weekly

Volume 8, No. 13

March 26, 1980



Ottawa, Canada

Canada's energy-efficient housing — answers to the energy crisis, 1

Canadian farm aid to Tanzania, 3

Forest industry forecast, 3

International trade relations studied, 3

Assistance for Ugandan university, 3

Hope for accident victims, 4

Largest water pollution plant, 5

Home care firm growing business venture in Western Canada, 5

Grasping at straws, 5

Hospital uses magnesium for heart attack victims, 6

Getting the picture straight, 6

Profits from peat, 6

Popular poplars, 6

News of the arts — budget, festival, magazine, arts briefs, 7

News briefs, 8

Canada's energy-efficient housing — answers to the energy crisis

Canadian households account for 20 per cent of this country's energy consumption at an annual cost of \$6 billion. Canada's planners, builders, architects and scientists are responding to this fact by developing energy-efficient housing technology and design. Canadian government at all levels is supporting their efforts with funding, research and information programs.

Using solar energy as an alternative to costly non-renewable resources seems to be the most attractive approach because its fuel costs are zero. The trend now is to emphasize passive solar heating through design elements rather than heavy reliance on the complex and expensive technology of active solar collector and storage systems. Other renewable energy resources include wind, tidal and biomass energy.

The following examples of innovative housing projects in Canada focus on the use of passive gain solar energy and the recapturing of "waste" energy produced in the normal functioning of the building.

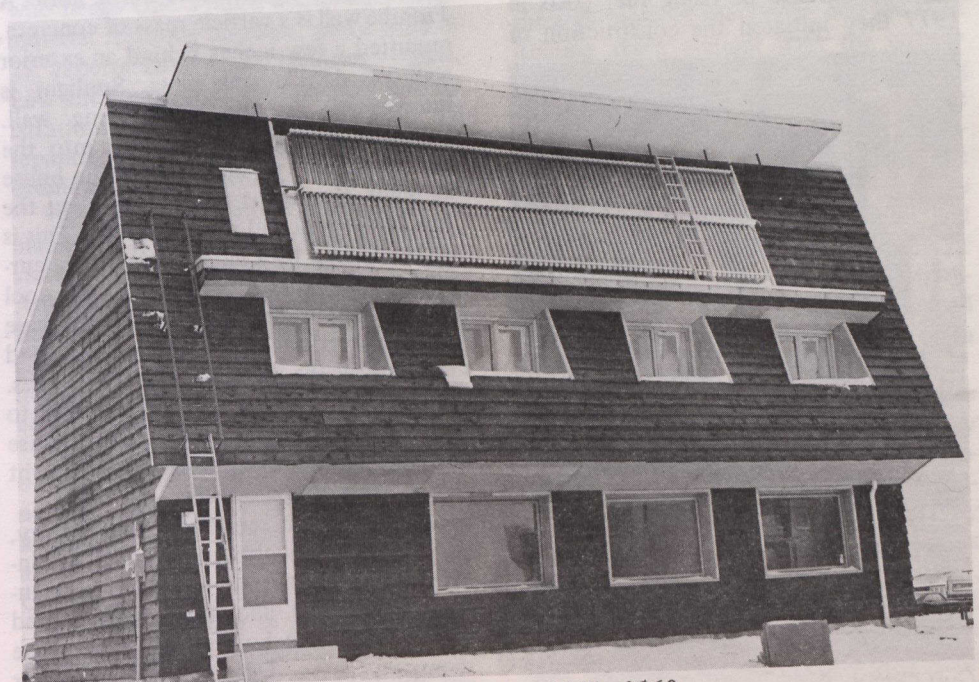
The aim of the designers was to create practical and comfortable dwellings which can trap energy and retain it for maximum use.

Saskatchewan House

No one knew how far heating costs could be reduced, until the Saskatchewan government built a research house in Regina to find out. The project was carried out jointly by the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and the Saskatchewan Research Council.

This two-storey wood frame house, with a floor area of 1,835 square feet, is solar heated, principally by passive gain (44 per cent), and heat from both occupation and the use of electricity (41 per cent). An active solar collection system with 17.8 square metres of vacuum tube collector panels provides the remaining heat.

Its no-nonsense cubical shape exposes a minimum amount of exterior surface



Saskatchewan House in Regina has an annual fuel bill of \$60.

Two-hundred-and-twenty-eight years ago this week... The first newspaper in Canada, the Halifax Gazette, was published.