

over a year. It started as an association of manufacturers and sellers of wood stoves, but has since grown to include consumer interests as well — safety, insurance, availability of wood and so on. In February 1978, CWEI hosted a two-day workshop/conference in Toronto which brought together an international panel of speakers on subjects ranging from marketing wood stoves to research, insurance and wood handling.

The Insurers' Advisory Organization of Canada has an obvious interest in the safety and insuring of wood-heated dwellings. It is a voluntary non-profit organization funded by 52 general insurance companies who collectively write about 60 per cent of fire and casualty insurance in Canada. Ted Belton, president of the organization, was one of the speakers at the CWEI workshop in Toronto. As had others, he stressed the importance of proper stove installation to the safety of the home-owner, and consequently to his insurance company.

"Wood-burning appliances must be vented into chimneys that can withstand much greater heat than is the case with an

oil furnace," Belton told the conference. "The householder should be made aware of the danger inherent in the build-up of creosote (an inflammable waste material), particularly with the burning of 'green' wood, usually the only kind available in January and February in Canada.

"The only guarantee a buyer has that the unit itself is safe is to be sure it carries either a CSA or ULC (Underwriters' Laboratory of Canada) label. So manufacturers and dealers must be willing to submit their products for testing and must publicize the value of the labelling to potential customers."

Costs and savings

Stove purchase prices vary widely according to the type, the space one wants to heat, and where in Canada one lives. Prices can range from \$300 to \$1,200 or more, depending on the size and degree of sophistication of the stove. Recently, to encourage the use of alternative fuels, the Federal Government exempted wood-burning stoves from federal sales tax.

The cost of wood and the savings that

can result compared to oil are also dependent on a number of variables. The size and type of unit, how one operates it, and prices for buying and transporting wood are the principal ones. EMR's renewable resources branch recently commissioned a study to determine how much fossil fuel could be saved when a house was heated with wood. The researchers created a range of situations, taking into account efficiency of the unit, method of transportation and distance from source, and type of wood used.

Results of the study ranged from a maximum of 120 gallons (543.53 litres) of oil *per cord* saved with an exceptionally efficient wood heater and woodlot 16 km away, to a loss of 21 gallons (95 litres) *per cord* by a householder driving 120 km for his wood and burning it in an open fireplace.

The department will be publishing a catalogue for consumers who intend to use wood as the main source of heat for their homes.

(The foregoing, edited article, written by Blaise Downey, was reprinted from Habitat, Vol. 21, No. 3, 1978.)

Sophisticated Canadian business jet challenges competition, claims exceptional service



The Challenger business jet of Canadair Ltd. of Montreal, which should enter commercial service this year, has successfully completed its first flight. The jet features high-lift/low-drag subsonic airfoil, high bypass turbofan engines, and the technology of the wide-body fuselage which reduces structural weight for increased performance and comfort. The company, which has firm orders for 109 of the aircraft with a letter of intent to purchase another 25, claims that the aircraft is the "longest-range business jet in the world".