

Make sure your woodstove is ready for Winter

by **Tex McLeod**

It can be easy to overlook the one thing that we'll depend on the most this winter — the woodstove.

More than anything else, your wood burning stove needs the same care and preparations in order to maximize heating while ensuring safety for your family. With a little effort now, you can avoid problems when you're hosting family and friends.

Getting started

The most important thing woodstove owners should consider as they prepare to operate their stoves is to make sure there aren't any obstructions in the chimney. Regular servicing and cleaning is the best way to prevent build-up like creosote or animals from blocking the chimney. Similarly, a simple visual inspection can

spot corrosion in metal chimneys, or in the case of a masonry chimney, cracked bricks or white stains indicating potential problems. These can lead to dangerous chimney fires and should be corrected immediately - for a list of qualified "WETT" certified technicians in your area check out www.wettinc.ca.

Some other steps woodstove owners should consider includes adjusting the loading door and checking all the gasket seals. A tightly sealed door will prevent smoke and gases from leaking into the room and ensure that there is the right amount of air being drawn into the burning chamber through combustion air inlets, key for efficient and safe burning. Seals around the glass panels and ash-pan openings should similarly be checked or replaced.

Fire brick and baffle plates should be checked to make sure they are keeping the fire contained and burning safely. Some modern appliances utilize a combustor to greatly reduce emissions? If you have one of those appliances make sure the combustor has been cleaned and is firing.

Replacing your woodstove

For those of you in the market for a new woodstove, consider a new, advanced combustion EPA woodstove, insert or fireplace.

These units have a clean glass and a beautiful fire. They also make life easier by getting the same amount of heat while using one third less wood as a conventional stove. Burning the smoke makes for a great fire and results in substantial reductions in smoke production and creosote deposits.

Reductions are typically in the neighbourhood of 50% to 80%. This translates into almost negligible smoke emissions.

Older stoves can emit 40-80 grams of smoke per hour while newer advanced combustion stoves emit only 2-5 grams of smoke per hour. If you are not sure about how much smoke your stove is releasing, take the chimney test. The next time you use your woodstove, go outside and look at your chimney. If there is a thick, black smoke, return inside to adjust the air inlets till you have cleaned up your stove emissions. Of course, you can avoid constantly adjusting the inlets by using a new advanced combustion woodstove. Only then can you be confident that you are burning cleanly and safely.

Essa Historical Society news

Essa Historical Society held its October meeting at the Thornton Library. president Brian Baker opened the meeting with prayers and a minute's silence was held for Art Grose.

Art made a lovely plaque for Egbert cemetery and several members then worked at clearing the old cemetery and the Society then erected the plaque in keeping with other historic sites that we have honoured

After Secretary Olive Lee read her minutes, roll call

was given by a war time memory. Gathering milkweed pods for parachutes, the Junior Red Cross collecting money and writing letters and sending parcels to our soldier friends kept us busy. Our youngest person, Patricia Hammond, visited her uncle's grave, Lawrence Davis, in Wales 50 years later.

Learning the poem "In Flander's Fields" was done by all. Brian recalled one thousand bombers flying over to Germany. Gas was coloured for farm use and

rationed. Latin books for sugar and butter were given out to house wives. Establishing Edenvale airport was recalled. V.E. Day was recalled by all and if you lived in a town and as teacher you marched your class to the park for a service.

After dinner, you attended another church service and all went their ways to celebrate.

Our guest speaker for this meeting was Susan Stein who was living in former Czechoslovakia now

Slovakia and Czech Republic during those war years. Her father was a civil engineer and built roads and bridges. He made trips to England quite often and his English friends warned him that Germany was going to start something in 1938.

By 1939 war had been declared and Germany was busy rounding up people for concentration camps and gas chambers. They were forbidden to have a radio but her father had one and he listened to the news

under the bed covers. On June 6, 1944 when Normandy was invaded they knew that they would be liberated someday. In 1945, Russia took over in this area. She was able to take her family to visit her homeland.

They saw historic sites in her hometown of Bratislava, the school she and her husband attended as well as the church where they were married and her eldest son Mike was baptized.

The Brewery established in 1874 by Peter's

grandfather and great-uncle was visited.


Prague is a most beautiful city. At Hradcany castle, they have the changing of the guard.

We who lived in Canada in doing all we could to help in the war effort and prayed that we would never see another one.

This Remembrance Day we now have 42 casualties in Afghanistan. Arnold and Florence Banting served refreshments.



Santa Claus took a break from the North Pole on Friday and fly into Cookstown to bring in the Annual Light Up Night. The kiddies whispered in Santa's ear what they are dreaming of this holiday season, while receiving candy canes and hugs from the man himself. With only 41 days left until treats are left under the tree (sorry folks), residents of Cookstown are lucky he could take time from his busy schedule to attend. photo by Susan Stein



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