

Tree expert adds chimney cleaning business

Chim chimney, chim chimney, chim chim tree?

That might be the tune Bronco Skorupan sings as owner of both SuperPro Tree Experts and Majestic Chimney Services. Skorupan is a rare and lucky bloke. Not only is he an ISA-certified arborist, he's also a Wood Energy Technology Transfer Inc. (WETT) certified chimney sweep.

"When I started the business in 1990, it was a property maintenance service so we offered many different services," he explains of the path that led to dual professions. Wanting to slow down he decided to specialize by becoming a certified arborist.

Skorupan added the chimney sweeping side of his two businesses to extend his working season by a couple of months. People might think his is an ancient practice. They may even imagine Dick van Dyke dancing around the roof tops of London which Skorupan says is fairly realistic. "The methods for cleaning chimneys haven't really changed -- we still use rods and brushes.

The only technological advance is the vacuums."

The purpose of chimney sweeping is to clean soot, the remnants of ashes built up on the chimney over time. A dirty chimney can be a fire hazard.

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Being WETT-certified means Skorupan is trained to work on any wood burning chimney or any combination chimney such as wood-gas or wood-electric.

Skorupan says the chimney sweeping business heats up in the fall as people start getting their fireplaces ready for winter. In the growing seasons he's busy with SuperPro, offering services like stump removal, pruning, fertilizing, stump grinding, planting, spraying, shaping and pruning.

The arborist side of his profession sees him busy from spring until late fall while chimney sweeping can sometimes take him into mid-winter. However, he can do this all year round and notes that snow doesn't stop him from climbing on roofs as much as ice.

While there are times when he works 80 to 90 hours a week, he admits that, "even with both services, there are three to four quiet months. It's hard and it takes a few weeks to adjust to the different paces."

Things can get too quiet for Skorupan, who's actively seeking a third business that would tide him through those times. It's second nature for someone who grew up in his dad's cable contracting and has business in the blood.

While he hasn't quite decided what to do don't be surprised if Skorupan's friends start calling him the Cable Tree Chimney Guy.

You can reach SuperPro and Majestic at 222-7690.



Chimney's Bronco Skorupan is ready to work on the roof tops of Saskatoon —Sun Photo by Greg Pender