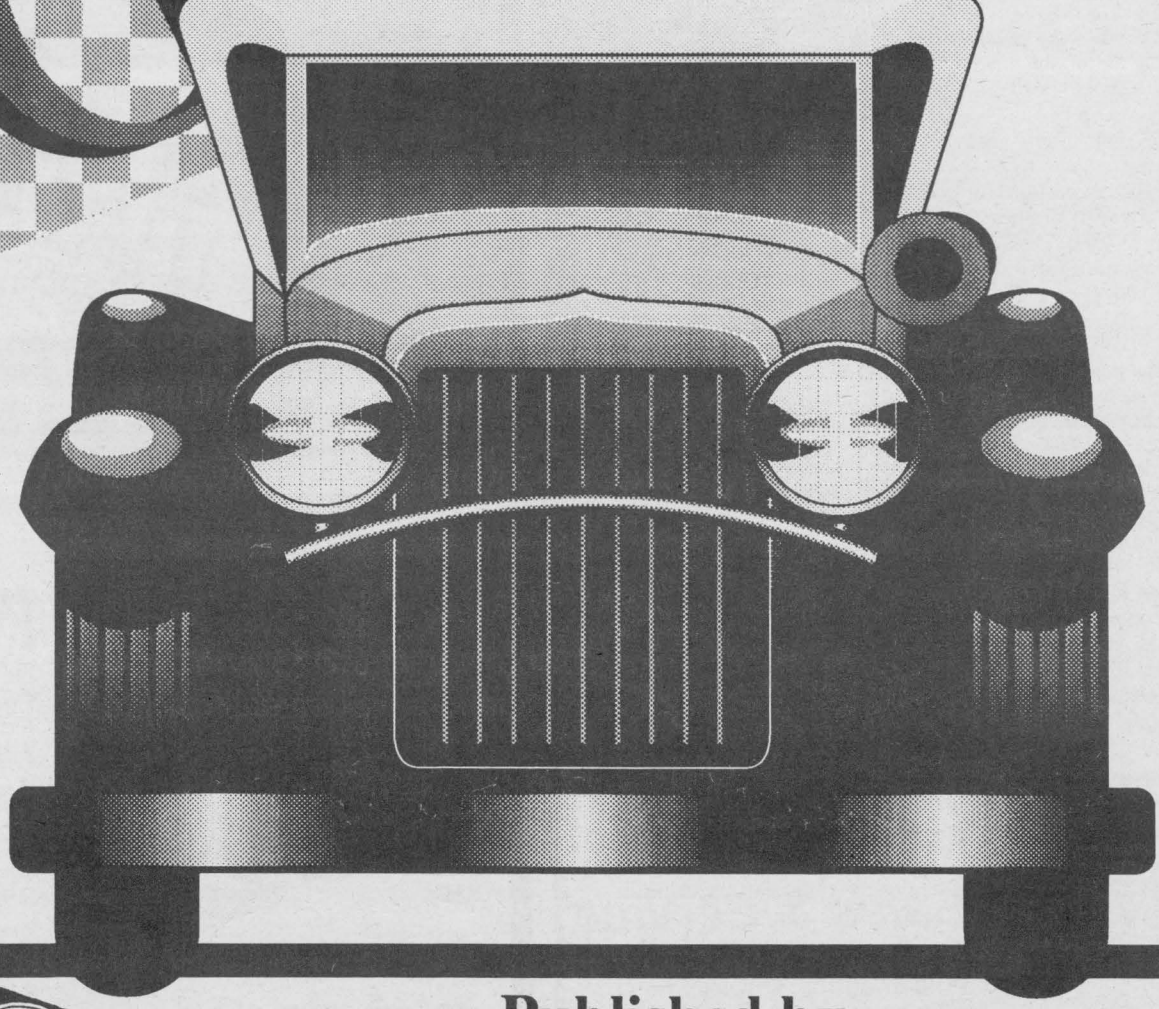
FALL CAR CARE & Buyer's GUIDE



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Tough Tales a collection of stories about Ford pickups

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

They have more than a few milestones to celebrate. Since they were introduced in 1948, million have been sold world wide. The F-Series line has been North America's best selling full sized pickup for 21 consecutive years, 33 years in Canada. For many years, Ford trucks have captivated the market with innovative ideas like the F-Series debut in '48, the Y-block engine in '53, the integrated cab in '61, supercabs in '74, anti-lock rear brakes in '87, standard third door on extended cabs in '97 and the fourth door as standard equipment on all supercabs in '99.

The writers of this book are real people who tell about real life. Owners and fans of Ford F-Series Ford trucks write about their experience with their pick up trucks in Tough Tales. Edited by Eastern Ontario Author Judy Scott, this compilation of stories about the most famous truck of all makes for a fun read. These people have humour, pathos and attitude and they love their little trucks.

Among those inside the covers of this book is a local gent who is well known for his love of Ford trucks, Lee Shaver. In fact there are those who even call Lee, "Henry" after the man who began the line of Ford cars ad trucks.

If Henry Ford could see the 2000 series, he would be astounded that is certain, and he would be happy to meet Lee. This man is the best advertisement for Ford that ever sat behind the wheel of a truck.

Cars are built, driven and permanently parked, but trucks seem to go on forever. They get new lives in various jobs and run forever. They haul, they plow, they get us to destination and they run when they would rather remain stalled. They fade in colour brilliance, their fenders rust and the miles pile on their spindles, still they endure.

Lee called his work, "Good As Any And Better Than Most"...The first Ford he recalls was a 1934 Ford with a flathead V8 engine. "It ran quiet and smooth and handled like a dream on the road



Love those little Ford Pick'em ups!!

and through the fields. I never told my dad, but it would also go like the wind." When first married in 1948, Lee established his own sand and gravel business using a 1942 Ford 3-ton. In 1950 he purchased a brand new 3-ton Mercury M 155 with a flathead V8 that clocked 110,000 miles hauling loads of 6 to 7 tons...and he still owns this one, with original engine, fan belt and fuel pump. He notes his first true pickup was a 1951 F-1, "A beautiful thing." In 1954 along came an F-100, a smooth rider with the longer spring Ford used after 1953. Two years later a 1956 F-100 came to live with the Shavers...a style leader, very fast, easy to handle with a 272 overhead valve V8. Lee did not like the style of the 1957 to 59 trucks and their fenders rusted too easily and so it was not until the 1961-62 models came out that he was in the market for another Ford F-100. Next on his list came a 1965 with twin I-beam suspension, and his first 6 cylinder engine.

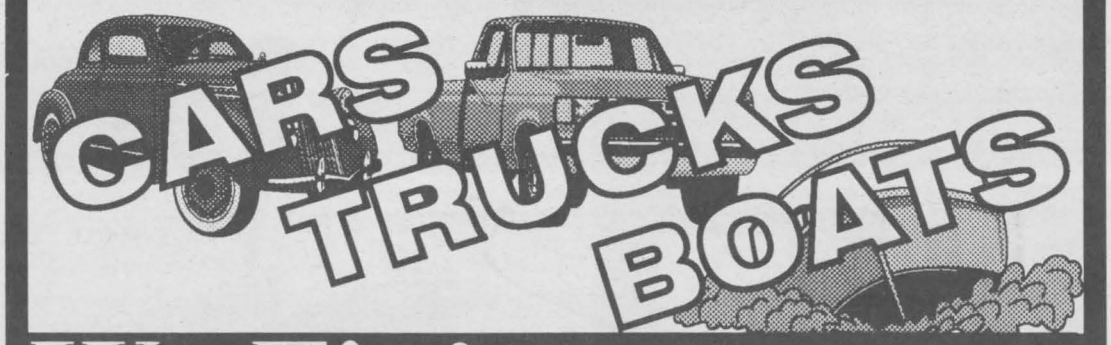
Always a V8 powerplant man this was a break with tradition. A good truck this little number did a great job for Shaver Sand and Gravel. A Farm and Ranch Special was bought in 1969, a strong, solid truck which was powered by a 360 V8. Another F-100 in 1974 and then a 1978 F-150 Explorer, with power steering and an automatic transmission (firsts for Lee) which served as a truck and a car. A used 1968 F-100 for the snowmobile franchise he acquired was able to make round trips to Toronto to pick up four snowmobiles and parts each trip, a payload of some 2200 pounds. No slouch either this old girl carried her load at 75 miles an hour headed for home. This truck was sold to a farmer, with a lot of miles under her tires. Lee guaranteed it for five years and the engine lasted some ten more, reinforcing his belief in Ford engines.

Between 1969 and 2000, he had four more Ford pickups, the latest a 1996 F-150 4x4 which makes numerous trips for coffee each week as well as working in the business he still operates at the age of 70. In his 54 years in business, he has always used Ford trucks, boasting, "They are as good as any and better than most." He says his 1974 Ford tandem dumper truck, T-750 has over a million miles on her and that proves to him what he believes about those Ford trucks.

Various fans write about their exploits with Ford trucks, the F-100 Series, they speak glowingly of their trucks. Even those non-truck types will enjoy reading about "Man Magnet" a 1998 rented jet black F-150 XLT that turned more than one head in her direction and that of her female colleague..."We swore that whenever we needed a rental again we would settle for nothing less than a luxurious Ford truck!"

Included in the book is a trivia quiz, historical notes, a glossary and cartoons by Bill Slavin. Ms. Scott used the Net to get her tales and is ready to compile a sequel with stories of Ford trucks again...Published by General Store Publishing Tough tales is available in most bookstores. Whether a tale about grandpas old Ford or reliving memories of youth in that old pickup dad purchased new, you'll like this smultzy read. It is a fun read and even if you are not a Ford fan you will enjoy reading about those who are and learning why they are. The affinity people have for these pickups is amazing.

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Bill Smith

Buster's Cruise Night a popular weekly event

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

"Happy Days...Cruisin' all through the night"...

The sparcity of Cruise Nights in Eastern Ontario, they are few and far between and the interest shown by car owners led Robert Morin of the Kemptville Snack Shack to believe there was a need. "We had no idea it would explode like it did," says Bob as we talk. "We are really, really happy with how things turned out."

Buster's Cruise Night is different from the usual Cruise Nights hosted in places like Cornwall. Usually it is a "guys only" night; but Bob and his gang decided that the wives and children of these guys deserve to come out and join the fun. "We wanted a night where everyone came along and hung out, and it seems to be working well."

Some may wonder what a Cruise Night is...well it is a evening where guys and gals, big and small, old and young get together with their antique, vintage or hot rod vehicle and show it off...like in the 50s when the guys used to hang out at the burger joints and try to out-do one another with their flashy paint jobs and reworked engines (Check out the movie American Grafitti). "When the whole family is involved it leads to new friendships and pretty soon a group is informally created that does a pile of Sunday cruising or attends Cruise Nights in various places."

"A lot of time and effort went into the organization of these Tuesday night events and some pretty good fellows have come on board to sponsor nights or events." Among these are Ginsberg Gingras (Trustees/Accountants), JED Express, Parcol/UAP, McQuinn Pro Finishing Products and Dave Shaw Custom Rads. "Dave has been with us since the start,"adds Bob. "When we began it was up to us but then this summer we have had support from various businesses and people who want to do their part to make it bigger and better. We have given a lot of stuff this year

Please turn to page 6



Bea Duncan in the "Fill up the Rad contest."



Cruise Night at the Snack Shack a real treat.





Saving the environment also saves money

As a parent, you may feel the conflict of using your vehicle and preserving the environment for your children's future. But the two concepts don't have to be in conflict with one another, if you practice some easy car care tips that will help to save the environment, and help to save you money too!

Today's car is about 130% more energy efficient than the cars of 23 years ago. If it uses less energy, it creates fewer emissions. Even the fuel we use is different - all automotive gasoline is now unleaded. Most of the parts or components in a new car you buy today are either made from recycled materials or are recyclable. Even the auto wreckers aren't wreckers any more - they're auto recyclers.

Car Care is a win-win situation says Car Care Canada. Besides helping the environment, a properly maintained and operated vehicle runs more efficiently, is safer, and should last up to 30 % longer. The following Ups can put you on the road to environmentally conscious car care.

Keep your engine tuned-up - a misfiring spark plug can reduce fuel efficiency by as much as 30%. Follow the service schedules listed in the owner's manual. Replace filters and fluids as recommended. You'll help cut down on air pollution and save money too.

Check tires for proper inflation. Under inflation wastes fuel - the engine has to work harder. Wheels that are out-of-line (as evidenced by uneven tread of vehicle pulling) also rob energy. And, properly maintained tires last longer, meaning fewer scrap tires have to be disposed of, and less cost to you.

Most of the fluids used in cars are potentially harmful to the environment. When you look for a repair facility, try to look for one that has a recycling program for engine oil and other engine fluids.

If you are a do-it-yourself, be sure to dispose of used motor oil, anti-freeze/coolant, tires, and old batteries properly. Call your local government for recycling sites. Never dump used oil or anti-freeze on the ground or in streams, and never mix different automotive fluids or chemicals together into one container. If you mix the chemicals together it means your local recycling or hazardous waste program can't dispose of the fluids/chemicals properly, but if you leave them in separate containers they can be properly recycled or disposed of. Call your local municipality to find out more details.

Good driving habits are also important. You can get the most out of your vehicle while minimizing environmental damage. Here are some fuel saving tips:

- Observe speed limits. Mileage decreases sharply with high speed.

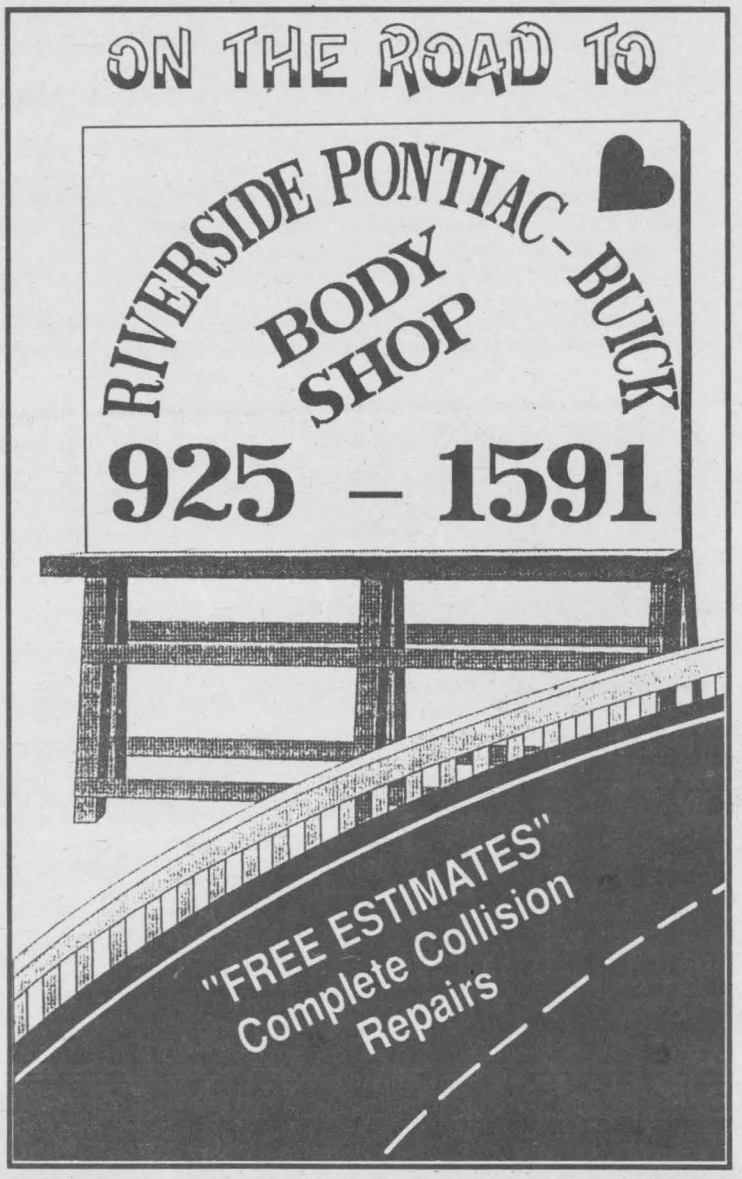
- Drive gently. Avoid sudden accelerations and jerky stop-and-go actions. Use cruise control on open highways to keep speed as steady as possible.

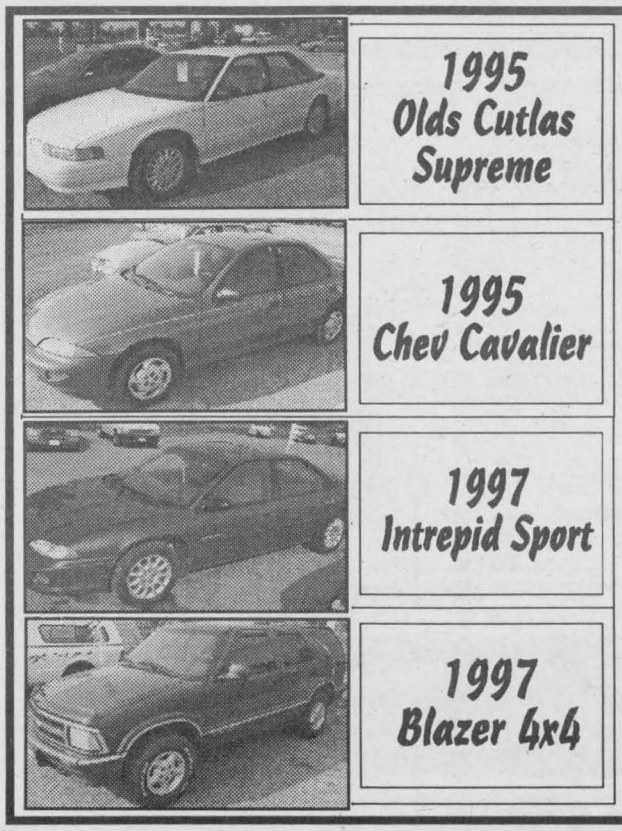
- Avoid excessive idling. Shut off the engine while waiting for friends or family. Today's vehicles are designed to "warm up" fast, so forget about those five-minute warm-ups on cold winter mornings.

- Plan trips. Consolidate daily errands to eliminate unnecessary driving. Try to travel when traffic is light to avoid stop-and-go



Tim at G\T Auto immersed in the brake system.





Getting down to the fine details

One of the most important rituals of fall is to give your vehicle a good old fashioned cleaning. Old or new, all vehicles benefit from being kept clean and thoroughly waxed. Not only will regular cleaning and waxing help prevent corrosion and rust, proper car care may even increase the future resale value of your vehicle.

The best advice is to make sure your tools and cleaners that will be used are the most efficient you can find. Equally important is to collect all your equipment before hand to avoid extra trips to the store or spending time locating the right cloth, sponge or bucket.

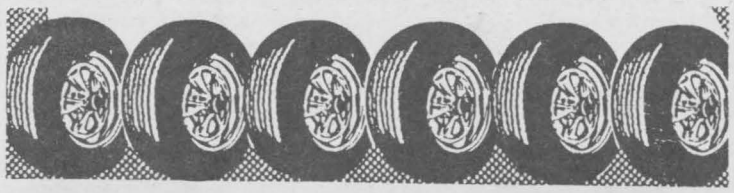
Save time up front and avoid smearing during the wash process by first hosing off loose dirt and debris, especially in those areas where the grime and dirt tends to collect.

Waxing your vehicle not only makes it look great, it is vital protection for the paint. And there is no getting around it, today's vehicles need to last as long as possible.

Let the wax dry and then buff gently using a terry cloth or a leather or synthetic chamois.



Cindy at AutoPro checks the fluids in this beauty.



Clean-Up for Winter!



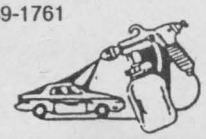
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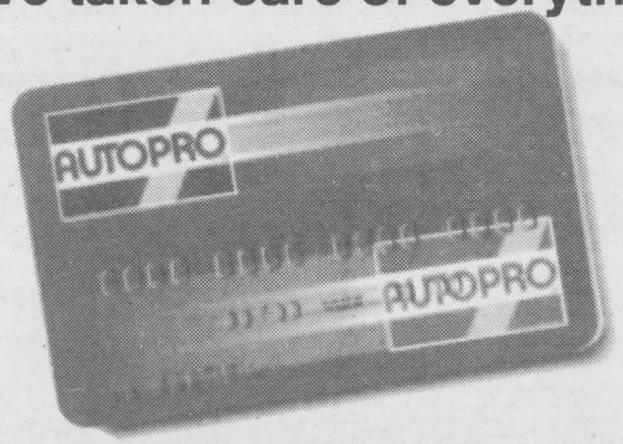
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CONTINUED

Busters

Continued from page 3

as prizes, this has certainly been the biggest year yet with well over $6000 going out over the summer."

Started in May of 1998, an average of 100 cars arrive each week from as far away as New York State, Quebec and Kingston. "Anyone can join us,"says an enthusiastic Bob. While each Cruise N[illegible] does not necessarily mean events will be held, about a dozen do take place throughout the summer. From wheel changing contests to radiator filling (With a paper cup after walking a plank!!) to piston tossing, there is fun for everyone. "We all have a a really good time, the atmosphere is great in Kemptville," notes Bob. This writer attended a Cruise Night at the Snack Shack and as the lot filled up rapidly, the hoods were opened, the sun glistened off the deep, dark paints and the chrome reflected everyone who came by to check out the Fords, Dodges, Chevies, Studebakers, Hudsons, Caddies, and Pontiacs, the trucks and the cars. There were certainly some beauties. From the early 30s to the late models there was something to please every enthusiast. The General, from the Dukes of Hazard TV show even turned up and drew a crowd. The soft tops, the pickups, the channelled and chopped, the originals, the slightly modifieds, the souped-up speedsters...they were all there and on view. And the people who drive these machines are so nice and such a fun loving group, it was a terrific evening all around. (I really MUST get that '56 going soon!!)

Bob owns a 1953 Chevy Sedan Delivery Truck that is simply awesome and rather unique in the area. His attitude is catching and as the races and prizes flow, he keeps things relaxed and fun. His banter is great and it seems almost like a family reunion. Participation is about 100%, as everyone gets involved. "We have always done what we do, and when more sponsors come along we do more," explains Bob, "Like the night JED wanted to sponsor a Night, we did our regular things and they added what they wanted, it was a BIG Night!! Just think we had 100 cars and with all the prizes over one-half got something to take home."

It is clearly evident that on any Buster's Cruise Night in Kemptville everyone has a lot of fun!

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How do I find the right mechanic?

If you want your vehicle to remain in excellent, dependable working order, you know that you have to give it some tender loving care in the form of regular and preventative maintenance. Don't wait until it breaks until you fix it - that could cost you a great deal of money. The average Canadian consumer spends more than $700 per year on maintenance. By practising regular maintenance you can reduce that amount and prolong the life of your vehicle.

But how do you find a mechanic/automotive service technician, you can trust? Rule number one for finding a good mechanic/technician: don't wait until you're desperate for help. Finding an automotive service technician you trust, is like finding a doctor or a minister - you need to build a relationship based on trust and mutual respect. These things don't happen overnight.

Most of the business for a repair garage is from referrals. The only way to get referral business is from satisfied customers. So, if you are looking for a new automotive service technician, ask around. Ask your friends, relatives, business associates, church members - anyone you can think of. You'll probably get a more reliable feel for who is good and who is not by getting several opinions instead of just one.

If you get a chance, drop in and meet the technicians who will be working on your car. Is the shop tidy and well organized? Do they have the latest computer equipment? Is there evidence that the mechanics in the shop take regular training courses on the latest automotive and diagnostic technology?

The days of the mechanic under the hood with a screwdriver, tuning things until they sing just right, are a distant memory. Now, they have to be computer literate technicians, interpreting the communications between the on-board computer system and the diagnostic computers in the shop.

Whether you go to an independent garage, a department store, or a franchised repair centre doesn't matter all that much. In the end, it all comes down to trust. You're looking for somebody who is willing to tell you which repairs should be made immediately, which can be delayed without affecting safety, and which are completely optional for performance upgrades.

Look for an ASE certified automotive technician or a PRO technician. ASE's mission is to improve the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians. ASE was founded in the United States in 1972, but it has only recently begun testing in Canada.

ASE automotive service technicians have the credentials to prove their competence in a variety of automotive sectors and specialties. If your automotive technician has an ASE patch on their uniform, it means they passed a tough automotive test designed to evaluate whether or not the technician's skills are up-to-date with the latest automotive repair techniques. It provides you with a valuable yard stick by which to measure the knowledge and skills of your technicians.

A PRO automotive service technician subscribes to a strict code of ethics. The PRO Program emphasizes three key points: Professionalism, Responsibility to the industry; and Obligation to the public.

Car Care Canada notes that you can help your automotive service technician to help you, too. When you take your car in with a problem, tell the technician what the symptoms are (not what you think the problem is). Describe whether it happens when the car is warm or cold, at highway speeds or in the city, stopping or accelerating, etc.

Get to know your car, too. Read through the owner's manual so you know what to expect.

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