DRIVE

FALL 2018

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A Special Supplement To The Winchester Press

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Brian Girard at G&B Automotive is doing something he has always dreamed about – owning and operating his own garage. Gifted with skill, experience and a genuine appreciation for his clients, he is ready and able to offer complete car service to his customers. Providing the best automotive service experience possible is his goal.

Morin Photo



Prevent breakdowns with battery care

Many drivers have experienced the misfortune of getting into their vehicles only to realize their engines won't turn over. Although there may be plenty of reasons why a car will not start, quite frequently a dead battery is to blame.

Car batteries can last for five years or more when properly cared for, but many batteries wear down and become inefficient within three years of daily use. Car batteries deteriorate with every charge from a vehicle's engine. Naturally, drivers who are stranded by dead batteries wish they had done more to prevent their battery dying while they're on the road. Certain factors might offer clues as to how much life vehicle batteries have left.

• **Longer start time:** A dying battery may cause the engine to crank, but it can be slow to start or not seem to exude a lot of power.

• **Cranks but doesn't start:** You may turn the key to hear the engine trying to turn over, but it won't. Even if the vehicle eventually starts, have the battery checked and, if necessary, replaced by a mechanic.

• **A jump start has been necessary:** Batteries that have required a jump or multiple jumps are on their last legs and should be replaced immediately.

• **Dim lights or check engine indicator:** Batteries power the electric components in a vehicle, so dim lights could be indicative of a loss of power. Having the "check engine" light come on also can be a clue.

• **Extreme temperatures:** According to Firestone, hot or cold temperatures can shorten a battery's life. If you live in an extreme climate, your battery may not last as long as the manufacturer suggests it should.

• **Short driving trips:** People who take many short trips (less than 20 minutes each) may find their batteries do not have enough time to fully recharge, shortening their life expectancy.

• **Pungent aroma:** Leaking and corrosion around the battery terminals can cause battery issues. If there is a rotten egg smell under the hood, it may be a leaking battery on its way to dying.

Drivers can have their vehicle batteries tested by mechanics. Batteries can be replaced at home or at a garage. Servicing the vehicle frequently can prevent performance inefficiencies and help determine if any components are straining the battery and causing premature loss of battery life.

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At Precision Diesel all things diesel are welcome. The professional, and knowledgeable staff repair all types of diesel powered vehicles including agricultural and industrial equipment, tractors, generators, backhoes and more. Here, Simon Hall, the parts and service co-ordinator, ensures clients are expertly looked after. *Morin Photo*

Did you know?

Vehicle identification number etching, or "VIN etching," is a theft deterrent in which an automobile's VIN, a 17-character code consisting of letters and numbers unique to each vehicle, is etched onto the vehicle's windows. Some manufacturers may etch the VIN onto the windows of all of their vehicles, while others may not.

Dealerships may charge VIN etching fees to buyers of new vehicles, but buyers should always consult their insurance companies before agreeing to pay such fees. Some insurance providers do not discount premiums for vehicles with VIN etching, while others might. Drivers who want to save money on etching fees but still do all they can to deter prospective car thieves may want to purchase their own VIN etching kits.

Three necessities to check before the big freeze hits

It's tough enough for you getting out of a warm bed on a cold winter's day, so imagine what it's like for your vehicle that's been outside overnight to face the sub-zero frigid elements. Prepare your ride for winter driving in Canada by having your local service centre check these essential components first.

Battery

Your battery provides all electrical power for your car. It powers the ignition, fuel systems and any onboard computer systems. A routine inspection of the battery is the only way to determine if it will last the winter. Batteries should generally be replaced every five years. Don't forget to keep a set of jumper cables in the trunk, so you will not be left stranded should you need a boost.



Winter tires

Made to perform in icy, frigid conditions, winter tires are crucial for a safer driving experience. "We always advise our customers to put on four winter tires that match the vehicle's specifications. For ease of installation, purchasing alloy or steel rims with your new tires is a smart investment. Don't forget that certain vehicles require tire pressure monitoring system sensors to be installed in each new rim," says Darryl Croft, OK Tire automotive expert.

Fluids

Just as your doctor always advises to drink plenty of fluids during cold and flu season, it's important for your vehicle to maintain healthy fluid levels as well. Your automotive expert will look for low fluid levels in your power steering, transmission, brakes, motor, coolant/antifreeze and windshield washer. If fluid levels are low in any of these areas, it could mean there is a leak that could lead to serious problems on the road.

For winter, it's especially important to maintain your antifreeze levels. Your radiator is filled with a 50/50 mix of water and antifreeze, which keeps the water from freezing or boiling in extreme temperatures. Replace your summer washer fluid with a winter version that has a special de-icing fluid to melt away windshield ice.

Find more information at www.oktire.com.

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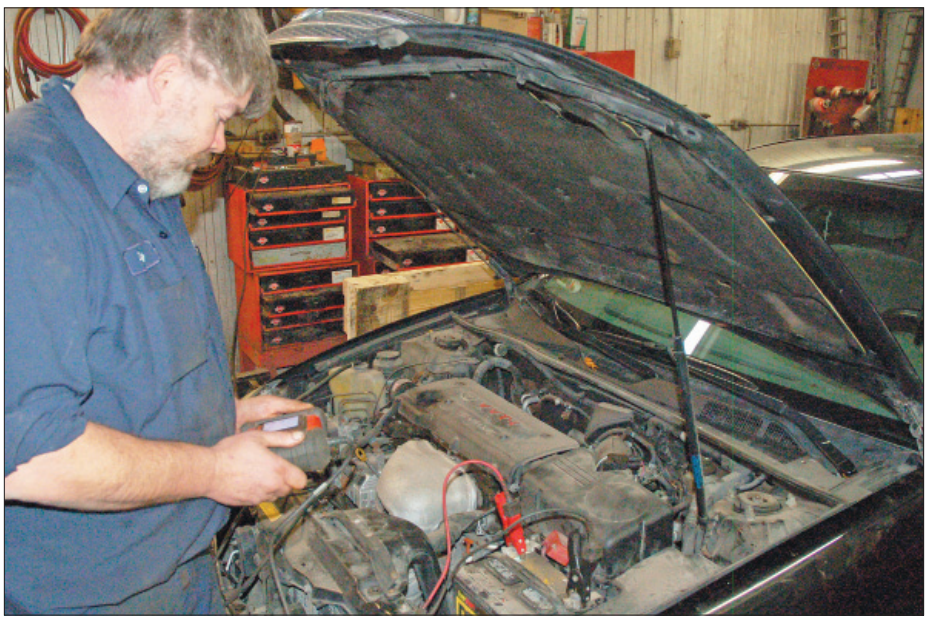

ALL CHARGED UP AND READY TO GO

Raymond Kelly's Garage offers full maintenance for your car. From tires to towing and everything in between, Raymond Kelly's Garage does it. Here, Doug Kelly takes a look at this car's battery's performance as he gets the car ready for winter conditions. Making sure your vehicle is in the best condition it can be is always a good idea at this time of year.

Morin Photo

Signs rotors may need to be replaced

Because a lot of friction is generated, rotors, like brake pads, need to be replaced periodically. However, drivers may not know when these components need to be changed or if other services can be done to prolong the life of the rotors a little longer.

The first step is to inspect the braking system. A healthy brake rotor will be smooth and have an uninterrupted surface that is free of dust, grooves and grit. If brake pads have caused grooves to form, the pads or the rotors may need to be replaced.

Another tactic is to listen for brake noise. Mechanics state that noise is commonly associated with bad brake rotors. If the rotors produce squealing or squeaking noises or even scraping noises while braking, they may need to be replaced. Warped rotors also may produce vibrations that can be felt when the brakes are applied. A pulsing or rough feeling can vibrate through the entire chassis.

Speak with a qualified mechanic to see if a lathe can be used to shave off a little of the rotors and get a few more miles out of them. Otherwise, to ensure safe, adequate braking, rotors will need to be replaced.

Habits that damage your car

Kissing the curb with your tire or waiting a few more kilometres to top up your motor oil may seem harmless, but the damage you're doing is often hidden and detrimental to your vehicle's lifespan.

"Becoming aware of the mistakes we make as drivers is the first step to preventing serious damage to your car," explains Darryl Croft, OK Tire automotive expert. "The other is to take your car in for regular inspections. Your technician will be able to rectify any issues before serious harm is done or safety is a concern."



Curb your enthusiasm

In colder temperatures, braking distance will change. This leaves drivers more susceptible to slipping and sliding, inevitably grazing the curb with their tire. Winter tires are designed to improve your braking performance in cold weather, making this seasonal tire transition a must for Canadian drivers.

Potholes abound

Although many drivers are often unaware that they've hit a pothole, subsequent repairs can soar into the thousands of dollars. If you accidentally drive over a deep pothole in the road, don't wait to have your tires inspected or you could be facing greater damage to other costly vehicle parts. It could also throw off your wheel alignment, which may result in uneven and premature tire wear. Switching to your winter tires is also a good time to have your alignment checked.

How low can you go?

Cars are more efficient these days. For example, drivers can receive alerts when fluids get to critically low levels so there's enough time to act before damage can occur. Going in for regular check-ups to ensure fluid levels are topped up is a key part of preventative maintenance, significantly increasing the number of years of service you'll get from your car. Make sure that fluids are replenished often and your car and wallet will thank you for it.

Are you under pressure?

Under-inflation is one of the leading causes of tire failure. If tire pressure is too low, too much of the tire's surface area contacts the road, increasing friction. Increased friction can cause tires to overheat, which can lead to premature wear, tread separation and blowouts. Be sure to check your tire pressure once a month and before long road trips. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendation even in winter.

Find more information at www.oktire.com.

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LEVELLING UP

Winchester Automotive Services, a Napa Autopro-branded business, was recently on the receiving end of industry success. With 30 years of Napa affiliation under its belt, the County Road 43 shop has earned gold-level member status for 2018. The high marks come after an inspection of the business' building, its overall operation, and customer satisfaction surveys. It's a feather in the cap for owner Bob Fetterly, who acquired the shop in 2016 following the retirement of longtime operators Bob and Jannie Van Noppen. The Van Noppens first opened the shop in 1980, and Fetterly was a tenured employee before the sale. Pictured celebrating the latest achievement is: Casandra Spruit (left), Marvin Kenney, Justin Garvey, Geoff Spruit, the Van Noppens, Fetterly, Allan Berkelaar, Jenny Whitteker, and Shawna Stoodley. *Rushford Photo*



LOOKING AFTER YOUR CAR

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DC Autocare celebrated its' second year anniversary Thurs., Nov. 1 and recently expanded their services to include DOT inspections as well as full vehicle detailing with the intention to offer used vehicle sales in the future. DC Autocare provides general repairs and maintenance on all makes and models with the utmost integrity and honesty at fair pricing. See their ad to find out how to save $15.00 off their labour rate on vehicle repairs for the month of November. *Schoch Photo*

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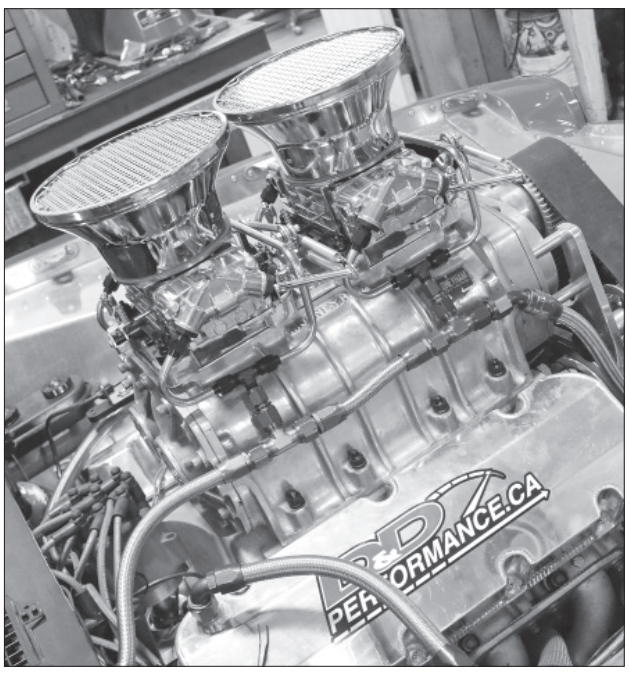

D&D PERFORMANCE

Travis Barkley (left) and Graham Cook are two of the experts that help get your ride running right at D&D Performance. Whether it's building your custom engine, rebuilding a tractor engine or simply regular maintenance on your family vehicle, they can do it all. When it comes time to switch out those tires, keep in mind that D&D Performance are the only shop in Chesterville with a wheel alignment machine so they can get the job done right.

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As industry evolves, it's best to strap in and be invested in the ride.

At Winchester's D's Collision Center, being at the forefront of today's standards and repair techniques is key to all decisions made at the Dawley Drive shop.

The efforts are paying, with the recent receipt of Gold Class standing from I-Car, the country's premier collision training association.

"Gold is where a lot of today's industry leaders are heading," Phil Carkner, a co-owner at D's, said. "For us, it's something to be proud of… It's a big step and it was one of our goals."

The recognition comes after the business promoted training for all of its employees throughout the past year, investing a significant amount of dollars – all of it aimed at generating a significant return.

Not only was Carkner looking to increase the shop's workload, but he saw it as imperative to have D's technicians at the top of their games.

Going through I-Car's certification process meant all shop floor employees went through a rigorous training schedule.

As much as the success is a display of team effort, D's owes its gold standing to the technicians involved in the training, some of whom have earned platinum standing of their own. This means their skills are at another level, making them some of the best in the collision repair industry.



Winchester's D's Collision Centre is celebrating its recent receipt of Gold Class standing from I-Car, as well as platinum recognition for four of its employees. Pictured are Catlin Boyer (left), Dave Warren, co-owner Phil Carkner, Patrick Wood, and Blair Froats. *Uhrig Photo*

"For their future career paths, having this attached to them sets them apart – it builds them value as an employee," Carkner said.

Certification of this type is also ideal in an era when insurance companies are gauging the value of certain shops, setting some above others when dealing with customers whose vehicles require repair.

"We looked to set ourselves apart.... There aren't a lot of other shops [locally] that have reached this level," Carkner said.

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