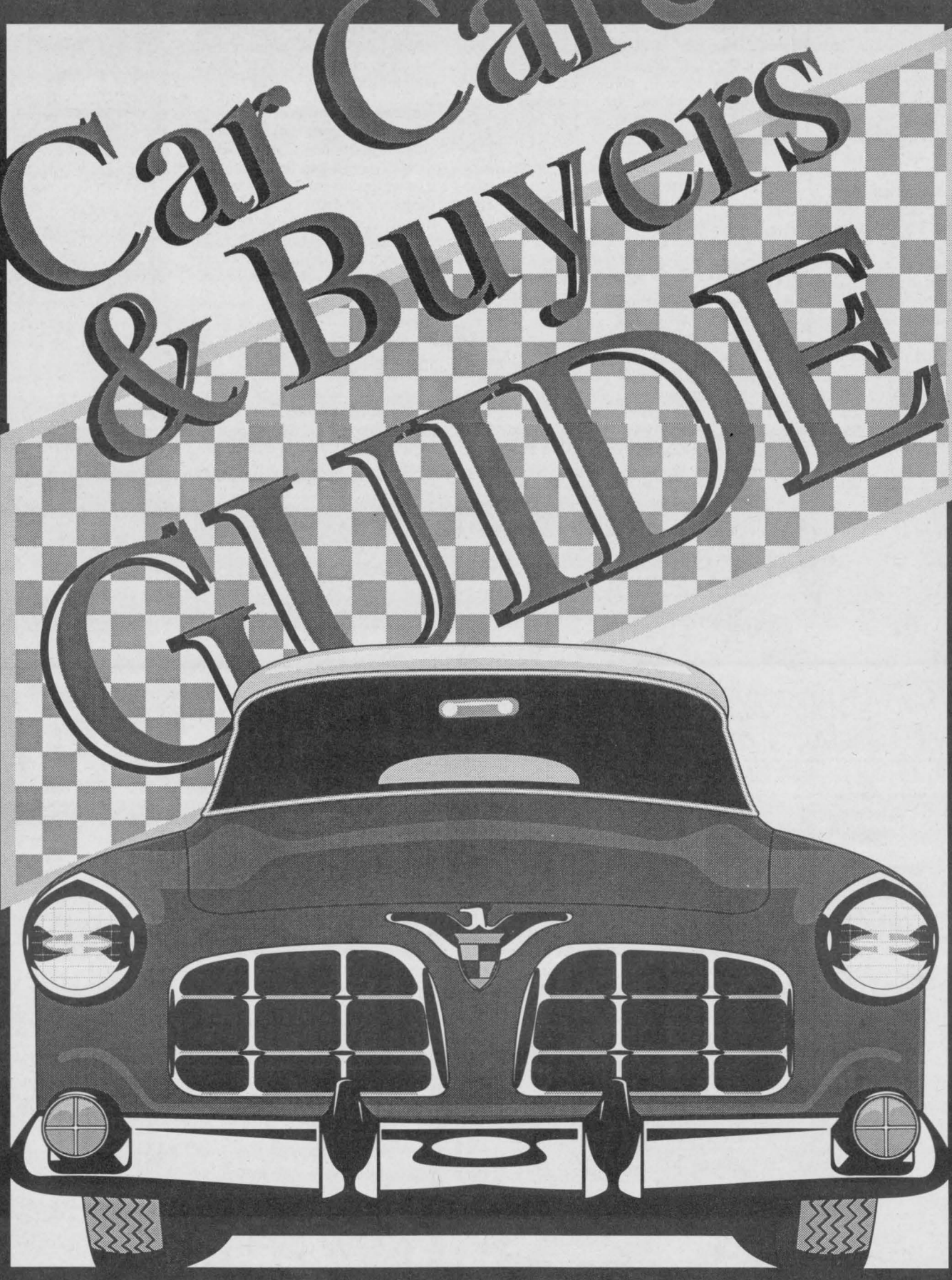
SPRING

Car Care & Buyers GUIDE



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Ethanol-transportation through fermentation

Although ethanol is the best known basis of alcoholic beverages such as spirits, beer and wine, it also has many uses in the production of industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals and, more recently, as a transportation fuel.

Various uses

Ethanol burns more completely than gasoline and diesel fuel and can be used in several ways as transportation fuel:

* In gasoline vehicles--It is becoming a common practice in North America to blend ethanol with gasoline at concentrations of seven to ten per cent by volume. This high-octane fuel often called gasohol can be used in most gasoline-powered vehicles without any engine modifications.

* In special factory-produced vehicles--A mixture of 83 per cent ethanol and 15 per cent gasoline (E85) is currently being used as a viable fuel for a growing number of light-duty vehicles in the United States. These vehicles can operate on a proportion of ethanol mixed with gasoline up to the 85 per cent limit, as well, some buses and trucks powered by modified diesel engines can run on nearly pure ethanol.

* As a gasoline component--Ethanol may be used to manufacture ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE), which can be blended with gasoline to reduce air pollution and boost octane ratings (to prevent engine "knock").

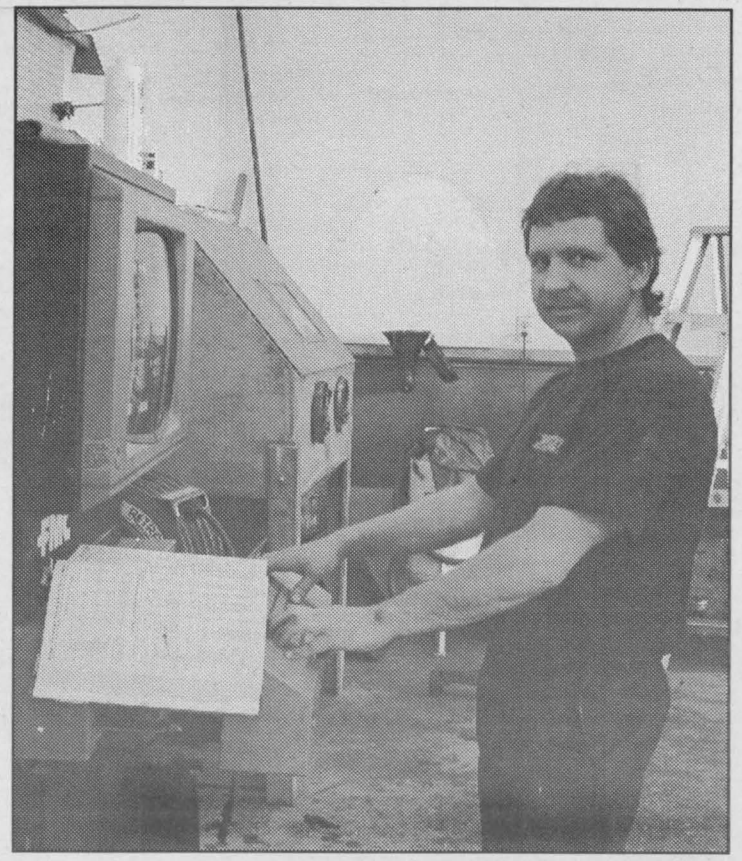
Environmental benefits

As well as its cleaner emissions, the ability to reduce ethanol from plants (through fermentation of wood waste and grasses, as well as grains such as corn, wheat and barley) is particularly appealing from an environmental perspective. Plants trap carbon dioxide, one of the principal greenhouse gases, so growing plants for the purpose of reducing ethanol fuel could actually help reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

A viable alternative?

The high cost of producing ethanol continues to be a barrier to widespread use. Its future as a transportation fuel will depend primarily on competition between it and other fuels in the marketplace and more importantly, on our ability to produce it at a cost that will make ethanol economically attractive.

Free pamphlets and booklets on alternative transportation fuels are available by calling toll free at 1-800-387-2000. Fax: (819) 994-1498. You can also visit Natural Resources Canada's web site on alternative transportation fuels at http://alt-fuels.nrcan.gc.ca.



Gary McInnis of Gary's Automotive keeps current in auto repairs as his customers prepare for summer travel. Using the latest in computer diagnostics Gary checks this car.

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Vacation car check list important



Roger of Morrisburg Autopro is busy changing tires on this limousine in preparation for the wedding and graduation seasons.

Planning to explore Canada in your car during your spring or sumemr vacation? Or, are you driving to the cottage this summer? Canada is certainly a beautiful country aand there is so much to see and do on your summer vacation, but if your family vehicle will be used on the trip, have it checked out before you head out. It could mean the difference between an economical family vacation and a disastrously expensively one.

Like most Canadians you probably experienced a relatively mild winter, so you may be tempted to think that your regular spring maintenance on your vehicle is not required. Think again. The winter months, no matter how mild, can cause normal deterioration of certain vehicle parts, like rubebr hoses and belts, exhaust brackets, fluid level depletions.

If you are one of the millions of Canadians who will be vacationing in your family vehicle, it is recommended you follow some simple advice and avoid the last minute rush for needed maintenance or repairs. It could save you time and money. Planning pays off.

Before you leave on your trip, have the following systems checked and serviced as needed:

* cooling system.
* engine system, including an oil and filter change.
* engine and electrical systems.
* undercar, including brake and exhaust systems, tires, suspension and wheel alignment.
* transmission, verify fluid levels etc.
* lights
* windshield wipers and fluid.

And do not forget the interior and exterior appearance of your vehicle...family travel can be hard on a vehilce. For example, a minor upholstery tear can turn into a gaping hole during a family vacation. A hole in the carpet at the accelerator pedal can become a safety hazard if it catches your heal in an emergency. A dragging mud guard can turn into a dangerous projectile for the car behind you. Consider repairing those mińor problems before you leave so that they do not become major problems on the trip.

It is really quite simple, practising these simple preventative maintneance techniques can save you lots of time and money on your vacation. Replacing a bracket on your exhaust system befroe you leave wil cost under $20.00, replacing your entire muffler on your vacation will cost you considerabley more money, as well as a great deal of your vacation time.

Have a safe and fun filled vacation.

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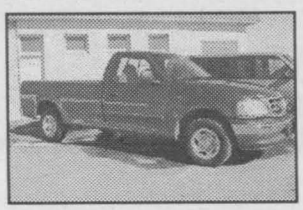

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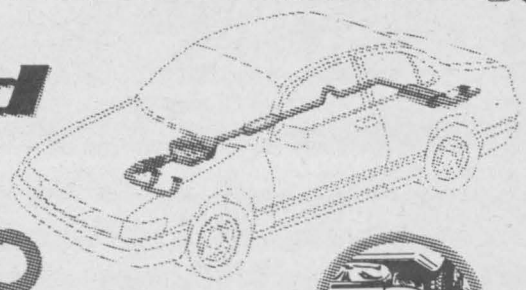

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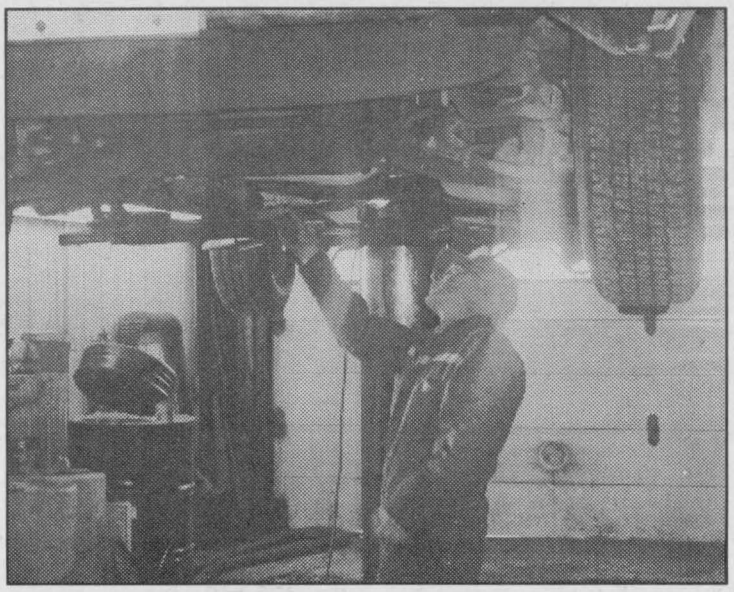
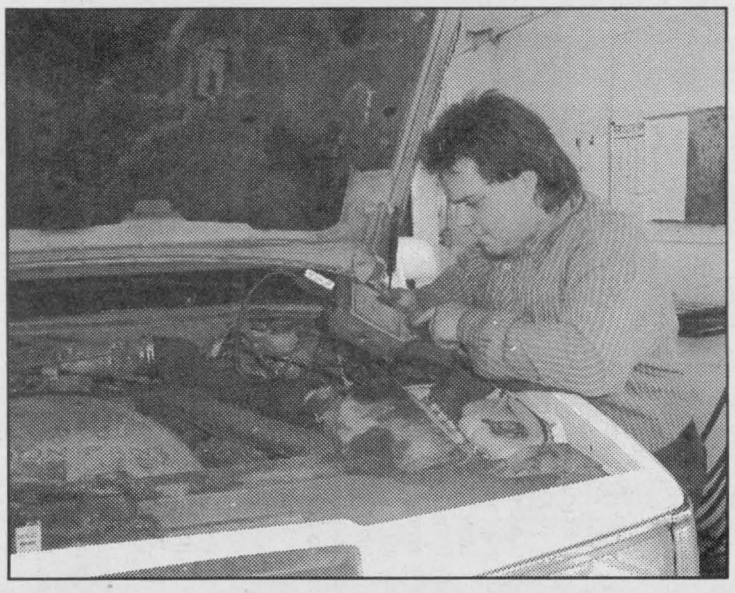


Bob Darrach of The Williamsburg Garage checks the underside of this vehicle, as the owner prepares for many summertime miles.



Allan Markell of Autopro in Morrisburg is busy under the hood as he uses a diagnostic metre to find any problems in this car.

Spring into action with a quick tune up

Most people do a little seasonal cleaning around the house and in the garage this time of year, but often times neglect to clean their vehicles as well. If you live 24 kms from your job, you travel more than 13 hours a month in your car just going to the office. Simple errands or visiting with family and friends and even more driving. And what about travelling? Spring and summer are the best time for off-the-wall road trips with your favourite group of friends or personal getaways with your significant other. It's pertinent your car is prepared for any long haul.

The extreme heat and high temperatures can create added stress on a neglected engine. Be sure to check or change the spark plugs if necessary. Use a premium product like Autolite Double Platinum Spark Plugs. Made with one of the most durable metals in the world, these plugs maintain optimal performance longer. They provide platinum-to-platinum firing, virtually no gap erosion and top fuel efficiency over their lifetime. Plus, they are designed to mirror Original Equipment specifications for distributor less ignition systems (DIS), the most common ignition system in today's engines. The spark plugs in a DIS engine fire twice as often as those in a conventional distributor ignition system, which is why it's important to use a spark plug designed specifically for this type of engine.

Please turn to page 5

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CONTINUED

Tune up

Continued from page 4

It's also important to check your filters, but not just the oil and air filters. The cabin air filter inside the car should also be changed. Didn't you know you had one? You're not alone. A cabin air filter is designed to help reduce pollens, bacteria and dust-which are usually at an all-time-high during the spring and summer. Use a filter by a trusted name like FRAM. The brand's ComfortAire filter is available for most cars and light duty trucks that have cabin air filters.

"The cabin air filter was developed to help the people inside the vehicle," explains Peg Campbelton, FRAM brand manager. "Many people are concerned about pollens, bacteria and exhaust gases from other vehicles, but few know that many vehicles have filters to alleviate these problems."

You should also check your main fluids and top up if necessary. Finally, keep your tires properly inflated to the correct pressure to ensure a longer life, better fuel economy and a smoother ride. So whether you're planning an exciting road trip, or just commuting as usual, make sure you're prepped your car for the ride.

-News Canada

Shop Canadian



Garry Tracey of GT Auto in Cardinal checks brakes on this customers car. See Garry for all of your cars repairs and needs.



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Don't be spending more on fuel than you need to

Are record high gas prices putting a damper on your summer travel plans? If your car is not in top working condition you could be paying more to fuel up than necessary. Don't let energy costs keep you from enjoying your vacation-tune-up your car to start saving on gas and spending more on fun!

~Change your oil and filter. Do it yourselfers will find changing the oil and filter easy using the FRAM SureDRAIN system. It allows you to quickly drain the dirty oil from your engine without creating a mess or being splashed by hot oil. Using a quality filter will help keep that oil clean by straining the impurities. The FRAM Extra Guard with SureGRIP filter traps up to 96% of harmful particles the first time the oil passes through. The SureGRIP feature provides a non-slip finish making the product easier to install.

~Replace your spark plugs. A fouled spark plug will make your engine run rough and will waste gas. Make sure your ignition has a perfect start every time by using a high quality plug. Autolite Double Platinum Spark Plugs use premium materials to give longer lasting fuel efficiency.

~Check your ignition wires. The energy from the spark plug is carried to the engine by insulated ignition wires. If the insulation is weak, brittle or cracked,

~Boost your performance with a fuel additive. If you're experiencing a loss of power or hesitation during acceleration, a fuel additive could help. Some can remove buildup,like Prestone Fuel System Cleaner, while others can raise the octane of regular gasoline to improve performance. All additives, regardless of the grade of gas you use, will benefit from your vehicle's fuel system.

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Teen drivers should plan for safe driving courses

As we approach summer, many young Canadians are making plans for a warm, fun-filled summer as they leave the cares of school behind. Those plans should include time for safe driving courses according to safety experts.

Statistics gathered by Mothers Against Drunk Driving shows traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 19 year-olds in Canada and the second-leading cause of death for 20 to 44 year olds. The crash rate for teens exceeds that of other age groups by a wide margin.

A study undertaken by MADD Canada and the Traffic Injury Research Foundation sponsored by Allstate Canada shows that summertime holds the largest risks for young drivers and particularly males. At all ages, men die more often then woman as a result of traffic accidents. Also the majority of crashes involving youth take place on weekends and on relatively clear roads. In many cases, there are young passengers injured or killed in accidents in which youths are driving.

Safe driver training is essential for teenagers, according to Allstate Canada president Mike Haskell. "Experts tell us immaturity is a contributing factor to the high rate of auto crashes and deaths of teenagers. Youthful exuberance can lead to tailgating or avoiding seat belt use, for instance," he said. "Good training by responsible schools can overcome a driver's lack of experience and save a lot of lives and misery this summer," said Mr.Haskell.

Parental vigilance is also important, say safety advisors. There is a great deal of information available from organizations like MADD Canada and companies like Allstate. Allstate has an interactive driving game and a symbolic parent-teen drive safe agreement on their website at www.allstate.ca. Mr. Haskell adds, "Parents can test the driving skills and knowledge of their children before turning over the keys to the family car.

News Canada



Spring signals motorcycle weather and some nice bikes are on the road already.

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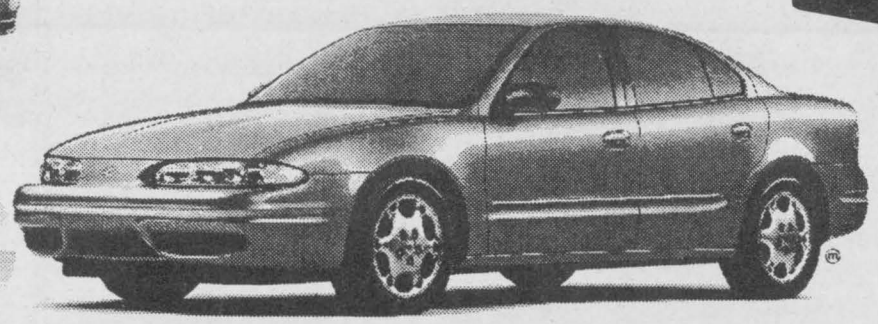

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