

## INSIDE:

- A Ford Ranger Preserved
- Preventative Maintenance for Your Vehicle
- Simple Ways to Improve Fuel Economy

*PLUS: Advertising and Special Offers  
from Local Car-Care Experts.*

MAY 2012

# SPRING CAR CARE



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE WINCHESTER PRESS





# Have you driven one lately?

Terry Tims of Morewood owns a classic Ford pickup. His 1978 F100 Ranger XLT gets plenty of attention when he puts it on the road. Its Ford red and white colour scheme, featuring plenty of chrome trim and dual chrome exhaust extensions, makes it stand out. The hauler came from the original owner in Alberta, where it was used to tow a horse trailer on a weekly basis. Tims found it at the Adesa Ottawa Public Auction after it had gone to Quebec for a short stay.

**Featured on our cover**

"I got it at the auction," Tims told the Press. "It caught my eye and I couldn't resist. It was an incredible deal."

The Ford has 66,000 original miles on it and is powered by a 400 cu. in. V8 engine. The power train includes an automatic transmission geared for towing. The inner fender wells are galvanized steel. The body has always been undercoated and is original, with the exception of the bumpers, which were replaced. The interior is also original and in great condition.

"It's just for fun," he said. "I sure get lots of looks when I put it on the street."



Press Photos – Van Bridger





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*\*See us for details*

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**Take care**  
At Rob's Automotive Services in Vernon, technician Rob Mockett said this year's early spring season has had many car owners bringing their vehicles in sooner for inspections to ensure tip-top operating throughout the spring and summer months.



**Slowin' down safely**  
Have your brakes been inspected lately? Mechanic John Montgomery is pictured here performing work on an automobile's brake system at W.J.L. Boyd & Sons, Winchester.



**The magic of maintenance**  
Proper maintenance can extend the life of your vehicle and reduce the chance of incurring costly, unexpected repairs. Pictured here reviewing a file is Winchester Automotive Services technician Paul Kozmin.

## Preventive maintenance for your vehicle

Drivers looking to lengthen their vehicle's lifespan can employ preventive maintenance that should keep a car running strong for years to come.

**Air filter** – A dirty air filter can negatively effect fuel economy and make it seem as though a vehicle is constantly going uphill in a stiff wind. When a dirty air filter is replaced, drivers will notice an instant impact on how the car drives and are likely to save a few dollars at the filling station as well.

**Belts and hoses** – A hose in poor condition can appear bulging or brittle, and should not feel too soft or too hard. If a hose exhibits any of these symptoms, replace it. A belt that's worn or frayed should also be replaced.

**Brake fluid** – Drivers should

routinely check the vehicle's brake fluid. Without sufficient brake fluid, the brakes' lifespan decreases dramatically. Check the brake fluid levels on a monthly basis.

**Motor oil** – Check motor oil levels after every fill-up. If motor oil levels are low, add more oil. If oil is significantly low after each fill-up, consult a mechanic just to be safe.

**Exhaust** – Once a year, be it at a routine tuneup or should repair work be necessary, ask your mechanic to check the vehicle's emissions. In addition, inspect the muffler and exhaust pipe for holes, particularly after winter.

**Power steering** – Power steering fluid should also be inspected on a monthly basis. It helps to also inspect the pump for any leaks.

**Tires** – Keeping tires properly

inflated pays numerous dividends. Properly inflated tires make it easier for the engine to operate, lowering fuel costs while also decreasing wear and tear on the engine. The owner's manual should list a recommended tire pressure, and the local filling station likely has an air pump.

Maintaining tires also involves checking for wear and tear. Uneven wear could indicate the tires are misaligned. Discuss this with your mechanic.

**Transmission fluid** – When checking transmission fluid, do so while the car is running and after the engine has warmed up. Always be certain to put the parking brake on when checking transmission fluid. If the vehicle needs transmission fluid, add the recommended fluid but be careful not to overfill.



**Time for a change**  
Apprentice mechanic Shane Buske of D & J Motors in Winchester is pictured here performing an oil change on a customer's vehicle. This activity is an essential part of good car maintenance.  
Press Photos – Uhrig, Smith-Millar

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- Check front end parts for improper wear
- Check the condition of your tires. You can lose traction in summer as well as winter.
- Check the spare tire and operation of the jack
- Front-end alignment should be completed at least once a year
- Complete a brake inspection
- Check all lights
- Check condition of radiator, belts and hoses
- Check the proper operation of seat belts
- Check exhaust system for any leaks or loose parts
- If your vehicle is equipped with A/C and you enjoy the cooler inside temperature, have the system inspected

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The 1st Winchester Timberwolves created model cars from scratch this season, and recently raced them at Winchester Public School. Pictured, at the left-hand side of the track, are: Landon Keats-Hardy (back), Patrick Daoust, Bruce Porteous, Cindy Merkley, and Jasmine Merkley. Right-hand side: Shawn Sinclair (back), Tyson Merkley, Jacob Sinclair, Kent Merkley, and Blake Watters.

## Model cars bring merriment to Winchester wolf pack

WINCHESTER  
The 1st Winchester Timberwolves have worked diligently this season to create model cars from blocks of wood. The youth spent plenty of time cutting, sanding, painting, and decorating their miniature vehicles.

In fact, the young Scouts Canada members put their handcrafted cars to the test in April, during a race that took place at Winchester Public School. Tyson Merkley's car beat out leader Kent "Akela" Merkley's vehicle to claim the title of "2012's fastest wagon."

"A great time was had by all," reported leader Cindy "Mang" Merkley. She noted that the speed of two vintage cub cars, made by David Whetter and Trevor Watters, were tested against the modern 2012 versions. "Stay tuned for next year's exciting race," said Merkley. "We can hardly wait to see what the boys will come up with next year." For more information about the Winchester Timberwolves and Otter programs, contact Bert Hill by phone (at 613-774-2047) or via email (at bert7hill@gmail.com).

BGM Autobody RV Repairs celebrated its grand opening in Chesterville in April. The business now operates in two locations (the other establishment, an autobody shop, is located near Metcalfe). Owner Brian Maloney is pictured here at the new venue.

Press Photo – Smith-Millar



## BGM roves into RV territory

CHESTERVILLE  
Big changes have arrived at 2909 County Rd. 7 – in the form of Recreational Vehicles (RVs). BGM Autobody RV Repairs has set up shop in Chesterville. Business owner Brian Maloney decided it was time to expand his autobody shop near Metcalfe and specialize in RV repairs at another location.

"I'm one for challenges," said Maloney. "I was looking for other challenges, and I felt the need was there for the RV repairs."

Both RV body work and mechanical fixes can be performed at BGM's Chesterville location.

In addition, the Chesterville venue sells RV-related parts and accessories, such as

hitches, cleaning products, and roof vent covers, just to name a few examples. Automotive accessories like hood stone deflectors and vent shades are also sold at the Chesterville site.

Besides mechanical RV repairs and body work (such as siding repairs, window replacement, and spot painting), BGM is prepared to deal with a specific problem RV owners frequently encounter: water leaks. That's why Maloney said BGM not only offers testing via a pressurizing system that can detect water leaks, but also performs repairs that will stop the trickling H2O damage in its tracks.

So, why set up shop in Chesterville? "I'm a country boy at heart," Maloney said. "I chose to keep my building in the country surroundings. I love the area."



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Mechanic Troy Wilson (pictured here inspecting a customer's car) has entered into a business partnership with Derek Taylor of Akcent Motor Sales to establish an automotive repair division.

Press Photo – Smith-Millar

## Akcent expands services

WINCHESTER  
According to the team behind the wheel of Akcent Motor Sales Automotive Repairs Centre, business is running as smoothly as – well – a well-oiled machine.

Derek Taylor, who has owned Akcent Motor Sales for 18 years, recently forged a business partnership with mechanic Troy Wilson for the automotive repair division. The Dawley Drive business has expanded from simply selling vehicles to performing repairs and other essential services offered by most repair shops.

“Now we have a full automotive repair centre,” Taylor said.

Taylor noted that Wilson is a competent and experienced mechanic, having worked

for years in the industry; namely, for Chrysler, Ford, Mercedes, and Honda.

Wilson noted that he always wanted to run his own business, but decided to put in his time working for dealerships, in order to enhance his skills and gain experience.

“I knew I was going to do my own thing, sooner or later... [I enjoy] the flexibility of being my own boss – even though now I work 10 times harder!” Wilson added with a laugh.

Despite the expansion, the Winchester business will continue to sell vehicles.

Taylor noted that Akcent Motor Sales is currently open Wednesday evenings and Saturdays “to accommodate our customers,” he said. “I think that’s important.”

# The car of your dreams...

by Amanda Smith-Millar and Matthew Uhrig

**QUESTION:**

“If you could have your dream car, what would it be, and why?”

**ANSWERS:**

“It’d be a car that didn’t need gas and you didn’t need to plug in. Because of the price; the cost of electricity and gas.”

– Sheri Francis, Winchester

“I just need to have wheels. It just needs to work!”

– Ellen Cole, Winchester

“I have my dream car: It’s a Chevy Silverado 1500HD!”

– Charlotte Coons, Winchester

**Word on the Street**

“I’d like a convertible. Maybe a T-Bird? A Mustang would be nice, too. I saw a Mustang not too long ago. And I thought: ‘That’s kind of nice!’”

– Colleen Porteous, Winchester

“A Dodge Journey, because it’s a little bit bigger than our SUV. It’s a good family vehicle.”

– Thomine Robert, Mountain

“If I had my pick of a car, it would be a Model T Ford. It is auto in the simplest form, basic mechanical system [no computers] and lots of history. Now if I can get my dream shop built, I could restore my dream car.”

– Vince Zandbelt, Winchester

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# Simple ways to improve fuel economy

Improving fuel economy is nothing new to many motorists, but some might still be surprised at the myriad ways they can get more bang for their buck with regards to fuel costs.

• **Don't break the law.** Obeying the speed limit might save your life, and it can also save you money. Typically, fuel economy decreases rapidly as a car reaches and surpasses 90 kilometres per hour.



You can change your driving habits to decrease gas waste. Pictured here filling up a customer's car is Rod Blanchard of Winchester Service Centre. Press Photo – Smith-Millar

• **Empty the trunk.** Though it might be more convenient to keep your golf clubs in the trunk of your car, extra and unnecessary cargo in a vehicle's trunk drastically reduces fuel economy. An extra 100 pounds in a vehicle can reduce kilometres per litre by as much as two per cent.

• **Stop idling.** Many people let their car idle for several minutes on cold mornings. But today's newer vehicles don't really need to idle to warm up, and idling can be very taxing on fuel economy. If you still insist on letting the vehicle idle, a few seconds of idling should be enough to warm the engine up.

• **Embrace cruise control on long drives without lots of stopping and starting.** Maintaining a constant speed, which a vehicle does when drivers utilize cruise control, can help save fuel, as it's less taxing on an engine to continue at one speed than it is to constantly switch back and forth between high and low speeds.

• **Inflate the tires.** Poorly inflated tires lower gas mileage and also pose a safety hazard. Properly inflated tires can improve gas mileage by as much as three per cent. Ideal tire pressure is different for each vehicle, so check your vehicle's owner's manual for recommended tire pressure. Some vehicle manufacturers also include the recommended tire pressure on the vehicle itself, be it in the driver's side door jamb or in the vehicle's glove compartment. Tire pressure printed on the tire's sidewall might not be the ideal tire inflation for your particular vehicle, so always adhere to the manufacturer's recommendation instead.



Customer Kris Don is pictured here fuelling up his 2006 Chevy Silverado at Ben's Pioneer Gas Bar in Winchester.

Press Photo – Smith-Millar

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## MEET THE TEAM



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Bill Walsh (left)

Formerly of WJL Boyd Chrysler, 43 years as a licensed mechanic with the last 3 years at Strader Motor Sales

Lee Hess

33 years of experience as a licensed mechanic with the past year at Strader Motor Sales

### SALES

David Cassell (standing)  
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Open house opportunities

Springtime is a popular season for open houses, such as the event that took place at Car-O-Line Autos in Chesterville. Friends, business associates, and clients were welcome to drop by the 26 Queen Street location on Sat., May 12 to celebrate Car-O-Line's 28th year in business. Pictured with this Ford Explorer Sport Trac are co-owners Caroline and Colin Abbott.

Press Photo – Smith-Millar

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# What to do in the event of an accident

Whether you're driving to work, running errands, or heading up to the cottage, chances are that you will be in at least one minor collision during your lifetime.

So, avoid becoming a nervous wreck by knowing what to do when a collision occurs. After you've been in an accident, experts agree that you should remember to:

- **Move your vehicle off the road.** If the collision is minor, move your car into the nearest parking lot or driveway.
- **Call 911.** Have your driver's licence and proof of insurance ready when you make the call. Once the authorities have been notified, write down the other driver's name, insurance details, and policy number, as well as all information related to their car.
- **Do not discuss accident details.** Avoid conversations or disputes surrounding the accident by not recounting the details with the other drivers and passengers, and never admit fault.
- **Keep your claim number.** The officer

onsite will assess the accident and determine who is at fault. They will then write a report and give you what is called an accident claim number. It is very important to keep this information handy and in a safe place for future reference.

- **Call your insurance company.** If the accident is your fault, call your insurance company as soon as possible. If it's not, use the other driver's policy information to avoid paying a deductible.

"Even the most minor collision can be quite stressful, but the process involved in getting back on the road is quite simple," says Mauro Convertini, an insurance and claims expert for Aviva Canada. "Once you've visited your local collision repair centre, your insurance company will actually handle the damage appraisal, give you a repair estimate, and arrange for a rental car."

More information is available from your insurance broker or online at [avivacanada.com](http://avivacanada.com).

— News Canada



**Dealing with damage**  
There are many factors to consider after a crash. Patrick Wood, an autobody technician with D's Collision Center in Winchester, is pictured here fixing a customer's vehicle following an accident.

Press Photo — Smith-Millar



**Stay inspected**  
Continued vehicle maintenance and care is the key for long-term viability of many automobiles. Kelly's Garage in Winchester is available to help owners keep their vehicles on the road longer, and in the best possible operating condition. Pictured is technician Doug Kelly.

Press Photo — Uhrig

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