

Pathfinder Hybrid truly a premium product

From page 1

the line with enough power to chirp the tires, even though, as tested here in Platinum Premium trim, it weighs in at roughly 128 kg heavier than a comparably equipped regular Pathfinder.

The tow rating of 1,589 kg (3,500 lb) is less than the V6's rating of 2268 kg (5,000 lb).

The Pathfinder Hybrid blends the gasoline engine and electric motor power through Nissan's Intelligent Dual Clutch System and then streams that power through a latest-generation Xtronic CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission).

While front-wheel drive versions are available in the larger U.S. market, Nissan Canada has pared the hybrid choice down to two trim levels - the mid-range SV and a top-of-the-line Platinum Premium model, both coming standard with the Nissan All-Mode 4X4-i system that allows drivers to select from a choice of 2WD/AUTO/4WD lock modes.

According to Transport Canada numbers, the net result is an optimistic 7.8/7.1L/100km (city/hwy) fuel economy rating. And Nissan Canada boasts a 22 percent saving in fuel economy over the normal V6, along with a potential 1,000km range from the same-size 73-litre gas tank.

Nissan designers and engineers emphasized that they were determined not to make design compromises because of the hybrid system, so the compact battery pack fits under the third row seats without affecting passenger room or luggage space. But the compromise here might be the hybrid system itself.

Under optimum conditions the gasoline engine will shut down almost as

soon as you ease off the throttle and the tachometer will continue to register zero revs as you sit at the intersection waiting for the green light. You might even maintain some EV coasting with a feather-light touch of the gas pedal.

Unfortunately, the Idle Stop feature does not work if you use the HVAC system which seems surprising given Canada's freeze-or-fry seasonal climate extremes. If you're heating the car in winter, or cooling it in summer, the gasoline engine idles constantly like any other gasoline engine.

Given the upscale model positioning of the Pathfinder Hybrid trim choices that might not bother premium SUV customers because it eliminates the occasionally clunky transitions of the engine shutting down and coming on-stream again.

But it makes the electrically underpowered hybrid system seem like a half-hearted effort.

My mileage over the course of more than 1,000 km averaged around 10L/100km (comb).

Your mileage may vary, as they say, but I doubt it will be any better because I was shooting for the best results possible, running without HVAC regardless of the weather, coasting at the first hint of a distant stoplight change and not inching forward in stop-and-go traffic. Just, in general, tiptoeing around town.

The Pathfinder Hybrid is truly a premium product with all the bells and whistles, and with amenities comparable to any luxury SUV.

But my inclination would be to save the \$4,000 premium in favour of a non-hybrid Pathfinder.

Think Fred's for Your Freight

Freight up to 20,000 lbs
Dock level or ground
Enclosed Trailer

FRED'S TOWING
SINCE 1958
905-877-4471
Georgetown



Provider for **CAA** and all auto clubs.

INSIST
ON
FRED'S

Your local **Halton Experts** and **Accident Specialists** for all your boosts, lockouts, fuel deliveries and towing needs.



15 YEARS IN A ROW!

46 Guelph St.,
Georgetown

REAL. DURABLE. OIL.

THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SPECIALISTS

- 2 Locations - Serving Georgetown & Orangeville for 21 Years
- Warranty Approved • Quality Products • No Appointments

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBER

5 ARMSTRONG AVE, GEORGETOWN MON-FRI: 8-6 SAT: 8-4
905.877.9394 www.superlubequakerstate.com

We do ALL Automotive Maintenance

QUIK AUTO REPAIR

CAA Approved Vehicle Repair Facility

KROWN™

Serving Halton Hills & Georgetown Since 1985

354 Guelph St. Unit 21, Georgetown
905-877-8220
bstephens@quikautokrown.com

TURNER automotive

905-877-8731 Full Service For Domestic & Imports And Complete Diesel Service & Tuning

"We Will Not Be Undersold!"

SPRING TIRE SALE

We Guarantee the **LOWEST PRICE** on any advertised brand name tire!*

COUPON

SPRING SPECIALS
Bring in this coupon and we will perform a **diagnostic scan** of all fuel related sensors, check vehicle spark plugs and all tune up related parts.
YOU ALSO RECEIVE: • Up to 5 litres of oil
• New oil filter • Check and top up all fluids including brake fluid, transmission fluid, power steering fluid.
• Visual inspection of belts, hoses, cooling system and electrical systems

PLUS RECEIVE • FREE INSTALL of Summer tires, (if on rims) tire balance & rotation, front end suspension check & brake inspection

FOR ONLY \$ **49.99** + TAX for most vehicles
Limited Time Offer

\$90 Value • NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY \$90 Value

ENGINE LIGHT ON?

FREE SCAN

Coupon must be presented. Offer expires May 31, 2014

\$90 Value

Bring in this coupon and receive:

COOLING SYSTEM EXCHANGE

REMOVE 100% of old coolant and replace it with **NEW!**

The only system that completely replaces all of your coolant.

GREEN LIFELONG

\$109.99 \$139.99

Offer expires May 31, 2014

Cost-Saving Guaranteed Work!
www.turnerautomotive.ca

20 Armstrong Ave in Georgetown
(Near Mountainview Rd. N) **FREE Shuttle Service**