Taurus/Sable (P205/70R14) Sale Price from \$74.75 each MSRP \$115.00

Tempo/Topaz (P185/70R14) Sale Price from S66.95 each MSRP S103.00

F-Series/Explorer (225/70R15) Sale Price from \$104.95 each. MSRP \$161.00

F-Series/Explorer (235/75R15) Sale Price from \$120 25 each, MSRP \$185 oo

## ESTWHEELS OAKVILLE

## Auto show season winds up in New York

By Rob Beintema SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

Tith all the glitz and glamour of a Broadway production, the New York Auto Show played encore to another spectacular year of automotive debuts. The 2000 automotive show season seemed busier than usual, as if designers had made an extra effort to mark the dawning of a new millennium.

As usual, the season opened with early debuts in LA, feature presentations in the automotive capital of Detroit, minor stops in cities like Chicago and Toronto, closing with the grand finale at America's oldest auto show, the New York International Auto Show, which celebrated it's 100th anniversary this year.

The New York Auto Show traditionally allows manufacturers a chance to review the year's debuts, unveil a few last-minute dream cars and reveal the production versions of earlier concepts for the coming model year.

With the culmination of the auto show season, the show floor in New York seemed to be crowded with every kind of car and truck, including 2000 models that are already on sale, 2001 models that will start arriving at dealerships within weeks and 2002 debuts that hint at production vehicles of the future. Pretty confusing for a guy who's still unconsciously writing 1999 on his cheques but here, in no particular order, is a brief look at the debuts of new automotive pipe dreams and the very real products that we'll be seeing in dealer showrooms in the near future.

The New York Auto Show started with a song-and-dance revue of Chrysler's new 2001 Sebring lineup. The Sebring Convertible every vacationer's favorite rental gets a new 2.7L 200 hp V6 and the first makeover since its creation in '96. The Sebring Sedan, with an improved 2.4L 4 cylinder and the optional 2.7L, replaces the Cirrus lineup in Canada. The Sebring Coupe - jointly built with Mitsubishi - offers a torquier 3.0L optional powerplant. All three models are bigger, stronger and



Photo by Rob Beintema

General Motors North American Operations President Ron Zarella introduces the 2002 Oldsmobile Bravada - a new mid-size sport utility vehicle — at the New York International Auto Show. share the wide-mouth grilles and Toyota has responded with a

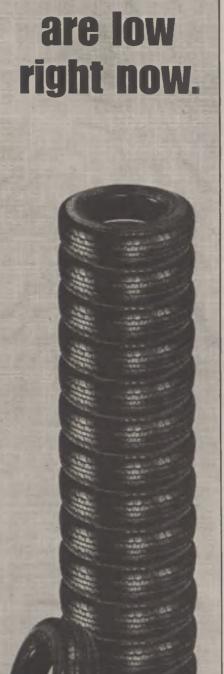
trickle-down design elements of new vehicle in the same class - the larger Chryslers like the 300M and Highlander - a mid-size, compromise sport ute that blends the best After this first car debut howevof both car and truck qualities. er, the New York show - like "Because," as Don Esmond, one of Detroit - seemed to be all about Toyota's VPs said, "sometimes you trucks, trucks and more trucks. feel like a truck. Sometimes you Carlos Ghosn, president of Nissan, in a keynote address, announced

The Highlander joins a faster, plans for a yet-to-be-named Nissan lighter, funkier-styled RAV4, givfull-size V8-powered pickup, one ing Toyota the only one-two punch of twenty-two future products in of car-based sport utes in the indus-GM unveiled four new trucks as I don't know if Ford is resting

on their Focus laurels or just busy building production versions of the many concepts they debuted last year, but outside of the Escape, this has been a lackluster season for Ford concepts - featuring oddball eccentricities like the internethappy 24-7 and Th!nk concepts and a rerun version of the stylish but still-can't-commit-to-it-yet

Of greater import to minivancrazy Canadians, the unveiled 2001 Ford Windstar will probably continue to be the second-best selling nameplate in Canada, surpassed only by Ford's F-Series pickups. Another homegrown success story, Ford's Oakville plant has shipped more than 1.6 million Windstars to over forty different countries. The 2001 Ford Windstar, adding new options like The AdvanceTrac vehicle dynamics system, a rear seat entertainment system, LED turn signals in the side mirrors, and second-row removable buckets,

(See '2002' page C4)



**Our tires** 



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part of a selection that, this year, for

the first time in GM's history, will

see more truck sales than car sales. With the Chevy Avalanche just a

few months away, GM added to its

lineup with the new Yukon Denali

and Denali XL (GMC's version of

the Suburban). These two new

trucks represent the latest step in

replacing the old GMT400 plat-

form with the new GMT800 plat-

2001 GMC Sierra represents yet

another quality kudo for Canada's

unfamiliar with the Bravada, a for-

mer Oldsmobile version of the

compact Jimmy/Blazer sport ute.

There never seemed to be any point

in selling an in-house competitor

with the Chevy Blazer. But the

2002 Olds Bravada - a brand new

mid-size sport ute with car-like

handling - will give Chev/Olds

dealers a new option on the show-

GM Oshawa plant.

And the contract to build the

Most Canadians are probably



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