

BEST WHEELS • OAKVILLE

Auto show season winds up in New York

By Rob Beintema
SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

With 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 its 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 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 trickle-down design elements of larger Chryslers like the 300M and Concorde.

After this first car debut however, the New York show - like Detroit - seemed to be all about trucks, trucks and more trucks. Carlos Ghosn, president of Nissan, in a keynote address, announced plans for a yet-to-be-named Nissan full-size V8-powered pickup, one of twenty-two future products in the pipeline.

GM unveiled four new trucks as 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 platform with the new GMT800 platform.

And the contract to build the 2001 GMC Sierra represents yet another quality kudo for Canada's GM Oshawa plant.

Most Canadians are probably unfamiliar with the Bravada, a former 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-room floor.

Toyota has responded with a new vehicle in the same class - the Highlander - a mid-size, compromise sport ute that blends the best of both car and truck qualities. "Because," as Don Esmond, one of Toyota's VPs said, "sometimes you feel like a truck. Sometimes you don't."

The Highlander joins a faster, lighter, funkier-styled RAV4, giving Toyota the only one-two punch of car-based sport utes in the industry.

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 internet-happy 24-7 and Th!nk concepts and a rerun version of the stylish but still-can't-commit-to-it-yet Thunderbird.

Of greater import to minivan-crazy 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 are low right now.



QualityCare[®] service

THE RIGHT PEOPLE. THE RIGHT PARTS. ALWAYS THE RIGHT PRICE.

TIRES

Grand Name Tires

35% off

manufacturers' suggested retail prices.*

Firestone® Goodyear® Michelin®

Examples:
Taurus/Sable (P205/70R14)
Sale Price from \$74.75 each.
MSRP \$115.00
Tempo/Topaz (P185/70R14)
Sale Price from \$66.95 each.
MSRP \$103.00
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 \$185.00

* All regular tire manufacturer warranties apply. Installation, balancing, taxes and provincial levies are extra. Dealers may sell for less. At participating Ontario Ford dealers only. All dealers may not carry the complete line of advertised tire brands. Ask your Service Advisor for full details. Offer expires May 30, 2000.

BATTERIES

Motorcraft®

Motorcraft Tested Tough Series (WTBXL)
12 Month Free Replacement / 72 Month Warranty

\$84⁹⁹*

Motorcraft Silver Series (WTBXT)
24 Month Free Replacement / 84 Month Warranty

\$94⁹⁹*

* Installation not included.
Applicable to most cars and trucks. Batteries for vehicles with diesel engines are extra. WTBXL 65-750 and WTBXL 65-850 are \$59.99. WTBXL 33, WTBXL 49, WTBXL 50 are \$109.99. Taxes not included. At participating Ontario Ford dealers only. Dealers may sell for less. Ask your Service Advisor for full details. Offer expires May 30, 2000.

SHOCK ABSORBERS

Motorcraft®

SHOCK ABSORBERS/STRUTS

20% off

manufacturers' suggested retail prices.*

* Taxes not included.
At participating Ontario Ford dealers only. Dealers may sell for less. Ask your Service Advisor for full details. Offer expires May 30, 2000.

BRAKES

Motorcraft® Preferred Value

Install Motorcraft Preferred Value front or rear brake pads, on most Ford cars and trucks.

\$99⁰⁰*

Motorcraft Preferred Value Brakes
Includes:
• Parts and labour
• Our lifetime warranty*

* Excludes machining of rotors and drums.
† Guaranteed as long as the original purchaser owns the vehicle.
‡ At participating Ontario Ford dealers only. Dealers may sell for less. Taxes not included. Some conditions apply. Ask your Service Advisor for full details. Offer expires May 30, 2000.

www.ford.ca/offers

YOUR ONTARIO FORD DEALERS.



click here...



Bronte Creek





















www.HaltonSearch.com

An Idea Whose Time Has Come.

- Classifieds • Community News
- Horoscopes • Weather
- Dining Guide • Automotive Directory
- Real Estate Directory
- Real Estate Open Houses
- Community Profiles & Events
- Movie Listings • Pud • City Parent
- Forever Young • Premier Consumer Shows
- The Oakville Beaver • Burlington Post
- Canadian Champion • Flamborough Post
- Halton Life • Shopping News
- Business Directory • Online Coupons
- Media Sponsors • Business & Your Finances

