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Mazda trims down CX-7 lineup

By **LORNE DRURY**
*Metroland Media Group
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Seldom do we see automakers going downscale with their vehicles these days, but that's exactly what Mazda has done with its CX-7 crossover for 2010.

Hoping to capitalize on a portion of the market dominated by the Toyota RAV4 and Honda CR-V, Mazda has introduced an entry-level GX model to its CX-7 lineup for 2010.

Much like Toyota has done with its Woodstock, Ont.-built entry-level RAV4, the CX-7 GX is front-wheel drive only with an economical 161 hp 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine and a five-speed automatic transmission. This is the same engine featured in the popular Mazda3 models.

For those who want a little more power, Mazda still offers the turbocharged 2.3-litre inline four-cylinder engine, producing 244 hp and 259 lb/ft of torque on the CX-7 GS and GT models, both featuring all-wheel drive and a six-speed automatic transmission.

Pricing and fuel economy are the keys here with the GX, starting at \$27,995 compared with \$32,295 for the GS AWD and \$38,990 for the GT AWD.

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Mazda has added a 2.5-litre, four-cylinder engine to the CX-7 in its new GX base model, bringing it more in line with major compact CUV competitors like the Toyota RAV-4 and Honda CR-V. The

CX-7 has had a minor refresh, or 'refinement' as Mazda likes to call it for 2010, including a revised lower grille treatment.

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