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The 2012 Volkswagen Eos is one of the new breed of retractable hardtops that are taking over the convertible market. It has undergone its first redesign in 2012.

Volkswagen Eos is truly a four-season convertible

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The Volkswagen Eos with its retractable hardtop has so much going for it.

So I'm surprised it doesn't sell in greater numbers in Canada than it does.

Maybe our short top-down season turns a lot of potential buyers off. Why spend money on a convertible when you only get to enjoy it a few months a year?

But in my opinion, the short summer season is all the more reason to buy a convertible. I want to enjoy every last minute of sunshine before the dreary winter months are upon us.

In fact, the new breed of retractable hardtop convertible makes so much sense in our climate. It gives you the best of all worlds—a convertible in the nice weather and a hardtop coupe the rest of the year.

And the Volkswagen Eos adds one more twist. It also has a power sunroof so that if you don't want to drop the top entirely, you can go part way with just the flick of a switch to put the sunroof either in the

tilt or open position.

For the 2012 model year, the Eos has undergone its first major update since introduction in 2007.

The basic shape is unchanged, but the front now features the wide VW signature grille, standard fog lamps and a new headlamp design. The rear gets LED tail lights.

Power still comes from a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine that produces 200 hp and 207 lb/ft of torque. The engine is mated with a six-speed direct shift gearbox (DSG) with Tiptronic to allow

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