New Ford Ranger offers refined ride

The all-new global Ford Ranger may boast proven pickup truck toughness and capability, but this means tough, not rough.

With a brand-new chassis, steering system and suspension, Ranger offers a smooth and quiet ride, car-like comfort, as well as precise steering.

Ranger is rare in the pickup segment by prioritizing driving dynamics as a core product quality and its chassis engineers have delivered a pickup that is agile, stable, precise and comfortable.

Among the highlights of the chassis is an all-new frame that is longer and stiffer, and has been engineered to get the job done, day in and day out.

Along with new front and rear suspension, it enables a more refined ride and quiet cabin environment. Ford has also introduced a new rack-and-pinion steering system in the all-new Ranger for more accurate steering control.

To further enhance ride comfort, engineers inserted hydro mounts on Ranger's frame between the rail and cabin. New frame provides backbone

A longer wheelbase and increased track, both front and rear, were adopted for improved drivability and passenger comfort.

Sure-footed both on-road and off, Ranger easily absorbs undulations with an extended 3,220 mm wheelbase– the longest in class. The front and rear track on the 4x4 model is 1,560 mm and 1,59 0mm on the 4x2 model.

—Metroland Media Carguide Magazine

The new Ford Ranger mid-size pickup is engineered for a global audience.

Korean autos dominate

Korean automakers dominated the 11 categories of the Best New Car awards staged by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC).

The overall 2012 Canadian Car of the Year or the 2012 Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year will be announced on February 16th, 2011, at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto.

The winners were announced last week following tabulation of votes cast over four days by automotive journalists from across the country.

The winners by category were:

BEST NEW SMALL CAR (under $21k), Hyundai Accent

BEST NEW SMALL CAR (over $21k) Hyundai Elantra

BEST NEW FAMILY CAR (under $30k) Kia Optima

BEST NEW FAMILY CAR (over $30k) Kia Optima Hybrid

BEST NEW LUXURY CAR Mercedes-Benz C-Class C350 4MATIC Sedan

BEST NEW PRESTIGE CAR (over $75k) Mercedes-Benz S-Class S350 BlueTEC 4MATIC

BEST NEW SPORTS/PERFORMANCE CAR (under $50k): Hyundai Veloster

BEST NEW SPORTS/PERFORMANCE CAR (over $50k): BMW 1 Series M Coupe

BEST NEW SUV/CUV (under $35k) Dodge Journey

BEST NEW SUV/CUV ($35k-$60k) Volkswagen Touareg TDI Clean Diesel

BEST NEW SUV/CUV (over $60k) BMW X3

The results were compiled by the international accounting firm KPMG and kept confidential even from AJAC until the announcement was made.

Winners were determined from more than 40,000 individual data points established in the testing of 170 different vehicles.

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0% FINANCING† FOR UP TO 84 MONTHS

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2011 Mazda3 — Well equipped from $17,995. Excludes HST. GT model shown. Finance from $99†† bi-weekly (AT) 0% APR for 84 months

2011 Mazda6 — Well equipped from $25,895. Excludes HST. GT-I4 model shown. Finance from $142†† bi-weekly (AT) 0% APR for 84 months

2011 Tribute — Well equipped from $25,295. Excludes HST. GT-V6 model shown. Finance from $139†† bi-weekly (AT) 0% APR for 84 months

2011 CX-7 — Well equipped from $28,495. Excludes HST. GT model shown. Finance from $157†† bi-weekly (AT) 0% APR for 84 months

2011 CX-9 AWD — Well equipped from $40,395. Excludes HST. GT model shown. Finance from $237†† bi-weekly (AT) 1.9% APR for 84 months

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†0% APR Purchase Financing is available on all new 2011 Mazda vehicles. 84-month term available on 2011 Mazda3, Mazda6, MX-5, RX-8, Tribute and CX-7. Other terms vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $25,295 for the new 2011 Tribute GX-I4 (WVXD51AA00) with a financed amount of $25,000, the cost of borrowing for an 84-month term is $0, monthly payment is $297.62, total finance obligation is $25,000. ††Financed Pricing for new 2011 Mazda2 GX (B5XB51AA00)/2011 Mazda3 GX (D4XS51AA00)/2011 Mazda6 GS-I4 (G4SY61AA00)/2011 Tribute GX-I4 (WVXD51AA00)/2011 CX-7 GX (PVXY81AA00)/2011 CX-9 GS AWD (QXSB81AA00) is $15,595/$17,995/$25,895/$25,295/$28,495/$40,395 financed at 0.9%/0%/0%/0%/0%/1.9% over 84/84/84/84/84/84 months equals bi-weekly payments of $88/$99/$142/$139/$157/$237 with $0/$0/$0/$0/$0/$0 down payment, cost of borrowing is $499/$0/$0/$0/$0/$2,761 with a total obligation of $16,094/$17,995/$25,895/$25,295/$28,495/$43,156. As shown, Offered Pricing for 2011 Mazda2 GS (B5SB51AA00)/2011Mazda3 GT (D4TY61AA00)/2011Mazda6 GT-I4 (G4TY61AB00)/2011Tribute GT-V6 (WXTZ71AA00)/2011CX-7 GT (PXTJ81AA00)/2011CX-9 GT AWD (QXTB81AA00) is $19,895/$26,225/$33,890/$36,795/$38,695/$47,595 financed at 0.9%/0%/0%/0%/0%/1.9% over 84/84/84/84/84/84 months and equaling bi-weekly payments of $113/$144/$186/$202/$213/$279 with $0/$0/$0/$0/$0/$0 down payment, the cost of borrowing is $637/$0/$0/$0/$0/$3,253 with a total obligation of $20,532/$26,225/$33,890/$36,795/$38,695/$50,848. All offers include freight, P.D.E. and fees. Offers exclude HST. Licence, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid until November 30th, 2011 while supplies last. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details. *4.9 L/100 km (58 MPG) Highway/7.1 L/100 km (40 MPG) City – Based on ENERGUIDE Fuel Consumption Rating for the 2012 Mazda3 GS-SKY sedan with 6-speed automatic transmission. These estimates are based on Government of Canada approved criteria and testing methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary. MPG is listed in Imperial gallons.