

Driving the '89 Honda Civic

There is no hidden significance for the late road test report on Honda Civic. The truth is I tried to test drive the newly reintroduced base model and everytime one showed up at the local dealer it got sold before I could put my hands on it.

The base Civic for '89 is difficult to tell apart from its upscale relatives, such as the CX, DX or even the Si. The seats of the base model are upholstered in all-vinyl that comes either in black or blue. The engine is a detuned version of the 1.5 litre OHC four cylinder engine that produces 70 HPs. This compares to the 92 ponies driving the CX and DX models. A four-speed manual transmission is the only option available in the entry-level car.

The rest of the standard equipment in the Civic includes: full carpeting, power brakes, split folding rear seat back, rear glass defroster, remote hatch and gas door releases, trip odometer, halogen headlamps, body side moldings, remote left outside mirror, front mud flaps and 13 inch radial tires—all for \$8,995 plus freight.

Charles Phak



For an extra \$1,000 you can have the CX model with a five speed manual overdrive transmission, 92 horsepower engine, cloth and vinyl seats and wider steel-belted radial tires.

My base Civic test vehicle showed the usual high quality of fit and finish inside and out that one has come to expect from this product. There is plenty of room and good support from the front reclining buckets. There also is a surprising amount of room in the rear. The 98.4 inch wheelbase and the ingenious roofline styling both help.

Driver visibility is excellent and the placing of instruments and controls seems thoughtful and convenient.

My test vehicle started and ran

well throughout the test. The engine was smooth and relatively quiet even on acceleration. I found the gearbox a joy to operate even though I am mainly a "slush-boxer". Cruising at 100 KPH was pleasant and quite effortless.

I found the 70 HP engine to be a valiant performer in most ordinary driving situations but I will not deny that the 92 HP CX version of the engine coupled to the overdrive five speed gear box would be my choice for long distance driving. This combination would produce improved performance, more relaxed high speed cruising and better fuel efficiency.

The brakes did exactly what they were supposed to do and did it well.

The standard steering was responsive and precise and the directional stability was very good. Recent change from a twist-beam rear axle to fully independent rear suspension improves the car's ride and handling.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Honda Civic for '89 continues to be one of the leading contenders in its class.

Energized by riding issues

The guy in the yellow sweater was angry. He stood up and stabbed a finger across the room in my direction.

"You people," he said, "are to blame. The working man gets a pay raise and then you people take it away, and I want to know for what."

I haven't been a politician long enough to consider myself one of "you people," but taking some heat for past tax increases is fair game when a Town Hall meeting is thrown open to the public.

My third one happened last Wednesday night in Burlington, and it was a good session, with Mayor Roly Bird finding time to attend. Even the man in the sweater was friendly when it ended.

"I just had to get that off my chest," he told me.

A lot of people have removed a lot of stuff from their chests over the past three weeks. After holding open meetings in Bolton, Georgetown and Burlington, I've had the chance to speak with a few hundred more folks and feel really energized about the issues.

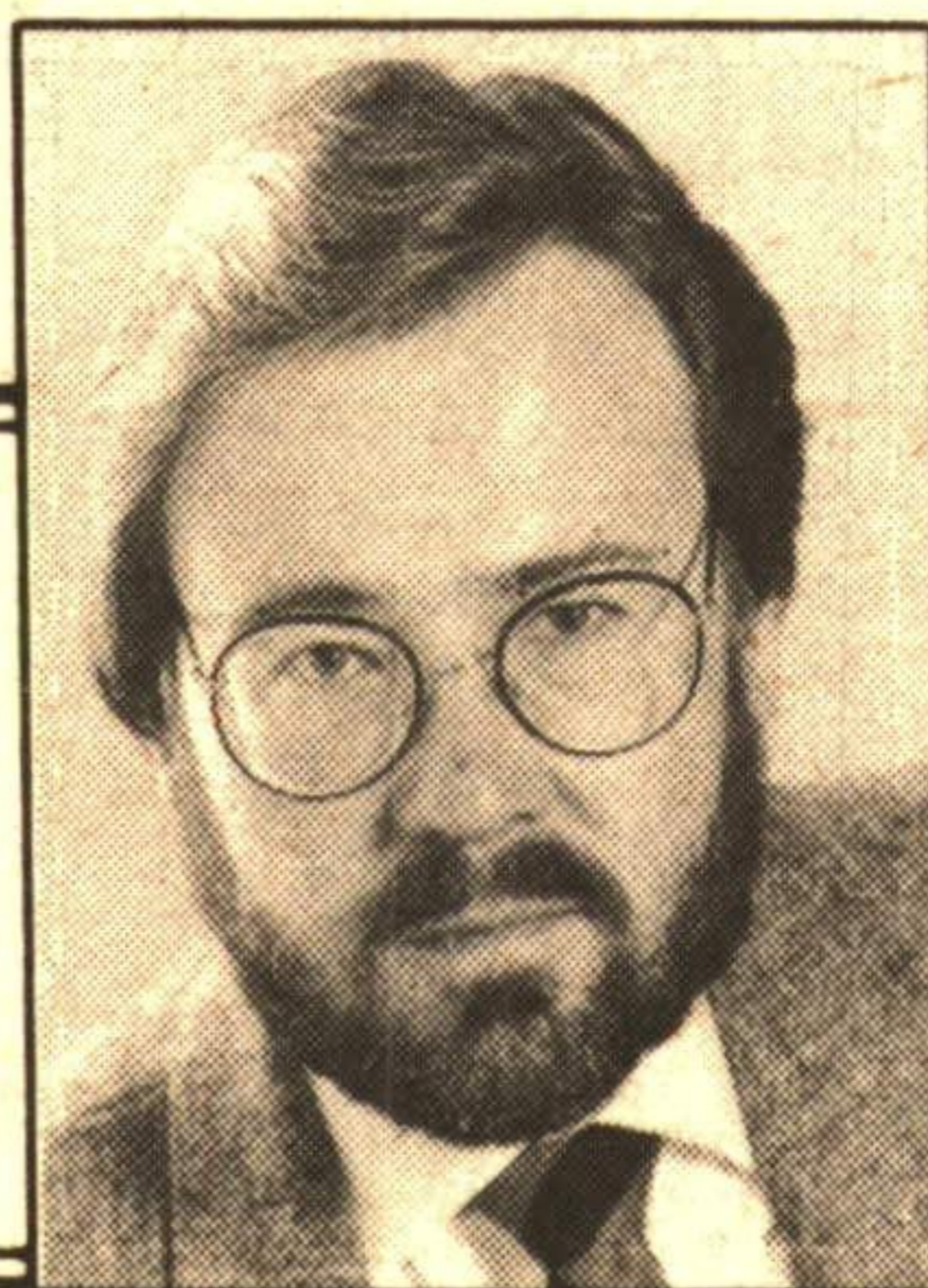
There were a lot of common threads in the hours of discussions. One I've written about here—the deficit—was probably the single issue brought up most. And in all three communities, people spoke out against the current policy of universal social programs. The logic of sending a government cheque to people who don't need it escapes a lot of us.

In Bolton, I heard people telling me they'd be willing to pay more taxes if they thought it would do some real good in getting the country's mortgage paid off. In Georgetown there was real frustration at the pace of deficit-reduction so far. In Burlington, people were encouraging the feds to look towards deep spending cuts, rather than tax hikes—and the point came up that with today's real estate prices the last thing the working stiff needs is less after-tax income.

I can sure sympathize with that. And my first choice for nuking the

Ottawa report

By GARTH TURNER
MP for Halton-Peel



deficit is to have Ottawa rein in spending—the middle class is paying too much of the freight right now.

But there was talk of other things, as well.

People in both Bolton and Georgetown wanted to hash over the Quebec language debate, telling me in no uncertain terms that Premier Robert Bourassa is wrong to discriminate against the anglo minority. They urged me to have the government speak more strongly in support of that group.

Immigration came up in a strong way in Georgetown, and most people seemed happy with changes made to the law which are tougher on refugee claimants.

In Burlington, I'd say second-billing to the deficit was the environment, although this topic certainly came up everywhere. Personally, I was really happy to hear the U.S. administration say last week that action on acid rain is coming soon—that's a major policy shift. But there is a great deal more to deal with—like garbage.

I've spoken with both Frank Bean, chairman of Peel Region, and Pete Pomeroy, Halton chairman, about the impending garbage crisis, and feel a lot better after those meetings. It seems the various levels of government are really working together to get us out of this mess, and I'll do all I can to help.

We need recycling, not landfill.

We need individuals to reduce the waste they and their families generate. We don't need excessive packaging and disposable diapers which take centuries to break down.

Well, I have a thick pile of notes after the meetings, and more notes from my talks with councillors and mayors and community leaders. I had the first meeting with members of my Free Trade Advisory Council in the last few days, and we're working towards a very exciting seminar in Georgetown later this month. All in all, the past weeks have been incredibly busy, but really worthwhile.

Dorothy and I are in Ottawa for a few days. I have some meetings dealing with things like Canada Post and sales tax reform; and a small mountain of paper vibrating on my desk.

The first time we went to Ottawa was after the election to quickly find a place to stay. That was Grey Cup weekend—the city was jammed with people and the streets teeming with traffic. To cap it all off, there was a small earthquake.

The next time we were in the city was before Christmas, when the House of Commons debated Free Trade until after midnight every night and Dorothy ate dinner alone in an empty rented townhouse. Neither one of those trips really impressed my wife so, for a few days between my meetings, we'll play tourist in the nation's capital.

It's a needed investment in my political future.

Public meeting

A public meeting will be held to discuss Andrew Jova's plan to build at second permanent residence on his 10th Concession farm. Council Monday heard that the second residence will house Jova's son and family who'll help run the farming business.

Blood Donor clinic

A Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic will be held Feb. 16, 1.30-8 p.m., E.C. Drury School for the Hearing Impaired, 255 Ontario St., Milton.

Coles' slaw

surreptitiously waged, voted a resounding "no."

Cabbage, like onions, also played a part in another grand building exercise—the Great Wall of China. An Oriental version of sauerkraut made with cabbage and rice wine was part of the laborers' diet. Obviously they knew little about vitamins in those days but generous amounts of vitamins A and C in the cabbage kept workers healthy, something that was not lost on the Chinese.

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So there you are, who'd ever imagine the romance behind those everyday vegetables we all take for granted. We can't say they ever changed the course of history. But who knows? Maybe too much cabbage may have led to the excursions of Ghenghis Khan. Or too many onions may have provoked the War of the Roses. We'll never know. We do know that people who eat these Ontario grown vegetables are going to be healthier than those who don't. And, of course, it takes cabbage to make Coles' slaw.

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Your Week Ahead Horoscope

- ARIES**
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Keep up with the latest developments in technology as continued progress up the ladder to success is indicated.
- TAURUS**
Apr. 20-May 20
Mars in Taurus keeps your energy level high. Going too fast too soon is not the way to make friends.
- GEMINI**
May 21-June 20
Take care of unfinished business. Tie up loose ends and clear the slate. Make room for the avalanche ahead.
- CANCER**
June 21-July 22
Stand by your convictions and don't be blinded to the possible pitfalls in a close relationship. On guard!
- LEO**
July 23-Aug. 22
Take more of the responsibility when it comes to keeping your physical and mental self in perfect health.
- VIRGO**
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Be receptive to change as the coming weeks offer new and unexpected opportunities for progressive improvement.
- LIBRA**
Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Changes in respect to real estate holdings are likely—maybe in the form of a different address, or a change in family style.
- SCORPIO**
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Developments in your immediate environment could be disturbing. It takes the cooperation of all parties to ease tension.
- SAGITTARIUS**
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Study your financial status, with an eye on future security. Maintain a reserve fund to see you through the rough times.
- CAPRICORN**
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Being too aggressive about everything you do makes others back away. Attend to your own problems, and lighten the path.
- AQUARIUS**
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
People who need help seem to gravitate to you. It's amazing the things you learn by turning a sympathetic ear in the right direction.
- PISCES**
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
A change in life's goals is in the works. What was important a few weeks ago, has lost a lot of its punch.



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