

Svelte Seville surprises with speed and style

I can still see this four-door 1991 Cadillac out on the fast track at Shannonville Raceway with three Players Challenge Camaros in hot pursuit. They just couldn't catch it.

Mind you, the driver was an exceedingly competent journalist from Quebec, and the Camaro drivers were more in my league. But three or four years ago, no Cadillac, no matter how it was set up, would have held its own with pseudo-racecars.

The car in question is the

Seville STS which was, to many, one of the three standouts of the 162, 1991 models brought together for the annual Automotive Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Car of the Year Awards.

In the Best Luxury Sedan category, the Seville STS was just sort of sitting there along with heavy hitters like the Audi V8, BMW M5, Eagle 2000 GTX, Infiniti Q45, Lexus LS 400 and ES 250, Volvo 940 SE, Saab 9000 Turbo and the Buick Park Avenue. Although the 30 voting AJAC members' agree-

gate votes put the big Lexus, the Infiniti and the M5 into the finalists category, I felt it was a shame the STS was overlooked.

Walking up to the car, it has a much more handsome look than siblings like the Fleetwood, even though it shares the same nose treatment. With massive but quite elegant 16-inch alloy wheels, the even bigger tires really fill out the wheelarches which may explain the hunched-down, sort of bad-boy stance.

If it wasn't for the name of the steering wheel, I would have been hard pressed to say I was in a Caddy. The seats are power adjustable and in a really nice, creamy tan leather which co-ordinates with the exterior paint which is one of the deepest metallic greens I've seen. The back seats and door trim are in the same gorgeous supple leather.

The blue-vacuum instruments scream "GM" and I've got to say the dials, levers, and buttons for lights and wiper/washer controls are definitely yestertech.

But turn the key and a 200 hp, 4.9-litre V8 grunts into life giving out the kind rich, fruity sounds through the twin exhausts you only get from a well-tuned V8. Blip the pedal and the backpressure bursts a bark letting everyone know you've got the power to hold your own in any crowd.

All the power in the world means nothing if you can't use it.

The STS has what GM calls "Computer Command Ride" which constantly monitors driving conditions and selects from three pre-set modes of suspension damping for optimum handling. Tie that into huge Bosch II anti-lock brakes filling the alloy wheels and you have a contender.

During the AJAC testing Nov.



All dressed up and ready to hold its own in any road company, the 1991 Cadillac Seville STS impresses with its power and handling.

1-3, there were more than 3,000 registered test drives by the journalists and corporate members. One of those was myself and the head of PR for another large automaker. We drove from Shan-

Luxury Sedan, I booked the same car for testing in the real world, aka Highway 401 and found it everything I had remembered.

Knowing my love of small displacement, multi-valve engines, my wife was astounded to hear I wouldn't mind having a Cadillac to drive around in.

This is the kind of car which only appeals to a knowledgeable few who want Euro pace with panache but demand North American build content.

The Lincoln LSC is like that but is hampered by having only two doors whereas the Seville STS is a four-door sedan.

Priced at \$53,364 (GST price \$47,998) this is one of those cars which deserves more recognition than it is now getting from potential buyers looking towards Munich and Tokyo.

Road Worthy

By JIM ROBINSON

nonville with verve to Napean and back. "We've simply got nothing like this, nothing," he muttered.

Feeling confident it would make the AJAC short list in Best



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New rules will allow homeless to vote

Municipal Affairs Minister Dave Cooke introduced changes to the Municipal Elections Act Wednesday which will allow homeless people to vote in municipal elections.

"Homeless people have been disenfranchised by the current system," Cooke said. "The changes I am introducing will provide new ways for people without a fixed address to meet the residency requirement."

The legislation will also restrict election contributions and the use of surplus campaign funds. And it will make it easier for electors to have alleged campaign financing irregularities investigated.

The legislation includes a number of other amendments — allowing municipalities to provide election information in languages other than English and French and providing an alternative form of ballot for visually impaired electors.

LEN TUITMAN AND STAFF PRESENT

GREEN THUMB GARDENING

WINTERIZING ROSES

Your prize winning hybrid teas, floribundas and grandiflora roses require special protection for the winter. The purpose of this is to insulate and protect the graft union and canes from the low cold winter temperatures and drying winds which constantly rob the plant of moisture. The most important part of the plant to protect is the base around the grafted portion.

The best time to winterize your roses is after several heavy frosts have defoliated the bushes. It can be a mistake to cover roses too early in the season. Field mice may move into the winter covering and damage the plants by eating the bark. The best solution to this is to delay winterizing the bushes until later in the season.

Before starting, remove any leaves that are still hanging onto the plant. Then apply a thick layer of mulch around the base of the plant. A mulch made of dry tree leaves works well. Then cover the plant in 1-1/2 - 2 feet of dry soil. Plastic, reusable rose collars makes the job quick and easy. It is a strip of perforated heavy plastic that snaps together into an open-ended cylinder. This is slipped over the plant and filled up with mulch and/or soil. It holds the material neatly around the plant yet permits drainage as well. If you store the soil or protective material in an area where it won't freeze, you can winterize your roses easily once the ground is slightly frozen.

Climbing roses can withstand most winters but they do much better the following season if they are taken down from their trellis and laid on the ground. Cover the entire plant with straw or leaves. Tree roses are another special situation, the area to be protected is at the top of the stem. They can be dug up and laid into a 2 foot trench for the winter. In spring it can be replanted in an upright position.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace!

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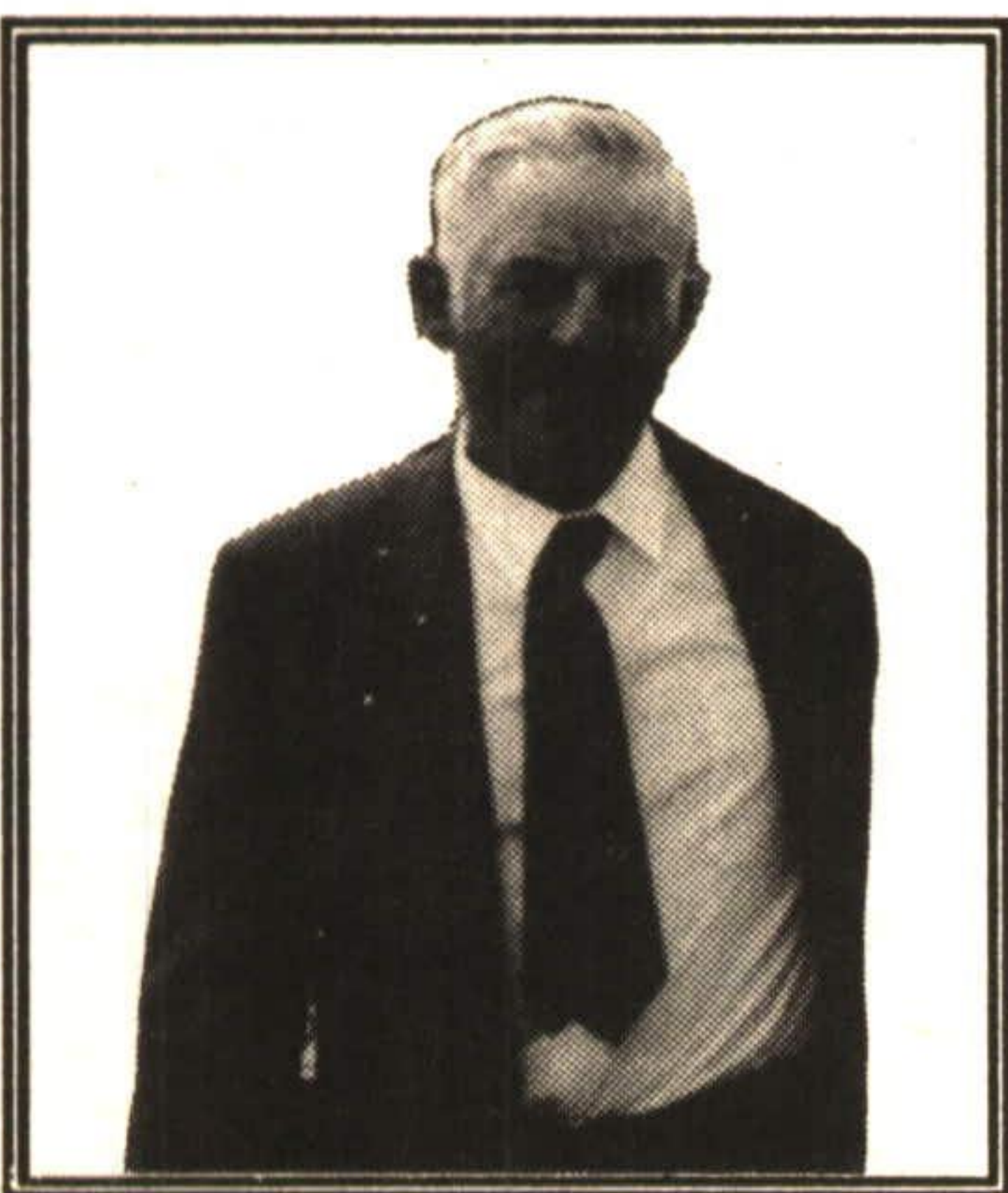
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