

Nissan NX fast and finished

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8.6 seconds and the dreaded CRX Si also at 8.6 seconds. At the Nov. 1-3 Automotive Journalists of Canada Car of the Year test days we had 162 vehicles in five major categories to test. I used this opportunity to get back into the NX2000 and compare it directly to its closest competitors. The only thing to come even close in terms of speed was a Isuzu Impulse Turbo.

It takes a bit of body English to get inside because the NX2000 is built pretty close to the ground. Once inside, you're gripped by a set of molded sport buckets. The passenger seat also rocks forward and the back folds down to make putting something or someone small in the back seat easier. But for one or two people, this car is

very nicely finished inside and those seats guarantee great comfort over long distances. The instrument pod features two huge analog gauges for rpms and speed and a host of idiot lights. The leather-wrapped steering wheel was just the right shape and feel.

This is a hatchback which has the usual rear parcel shelf to conceal valuables. These cars come with a T-Bar roof which is a step up of the moon roofs found in the last generation of micro-GTs such as the CRX.

The stereo is placed above the heating/ventilation controls on this model and the cup holders do the job nicely. If you have one of those plastic carry cups with the handles, open the glovebox cover and you'll find a depression with

a ridge which grips those babies nice and tight so they don't spill.

Along with antilock on its four disc brakes, the NX2000 comes with a viscous coupling limited slip differential which automatically diverts power to which ever front wheel has the greatest traction. Nissan says the system

results in superior traction and improved steering control under difficult road conditions such as accelerating onto the 401 from a ramp or trying to make time down a gravel road.


I have mixed feelings. A limited slip diff is a great thing on a rear-wheel drive car.

On a front-drive car, the wheels already have enough to do let alone moving power back and forth from one corner to the other.

That aside, the NX2000 takes the micro-GT concept into its next phase being a bit larger, a lot better finished, and a whole lot faster.

Family fun race
In celebration of national ski week, Glen Eden Ski Area will be hosting a slalom family fun race which will include prizes. Fun for the whole family runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 20. For more information, call Bob Falle at 878-5011.

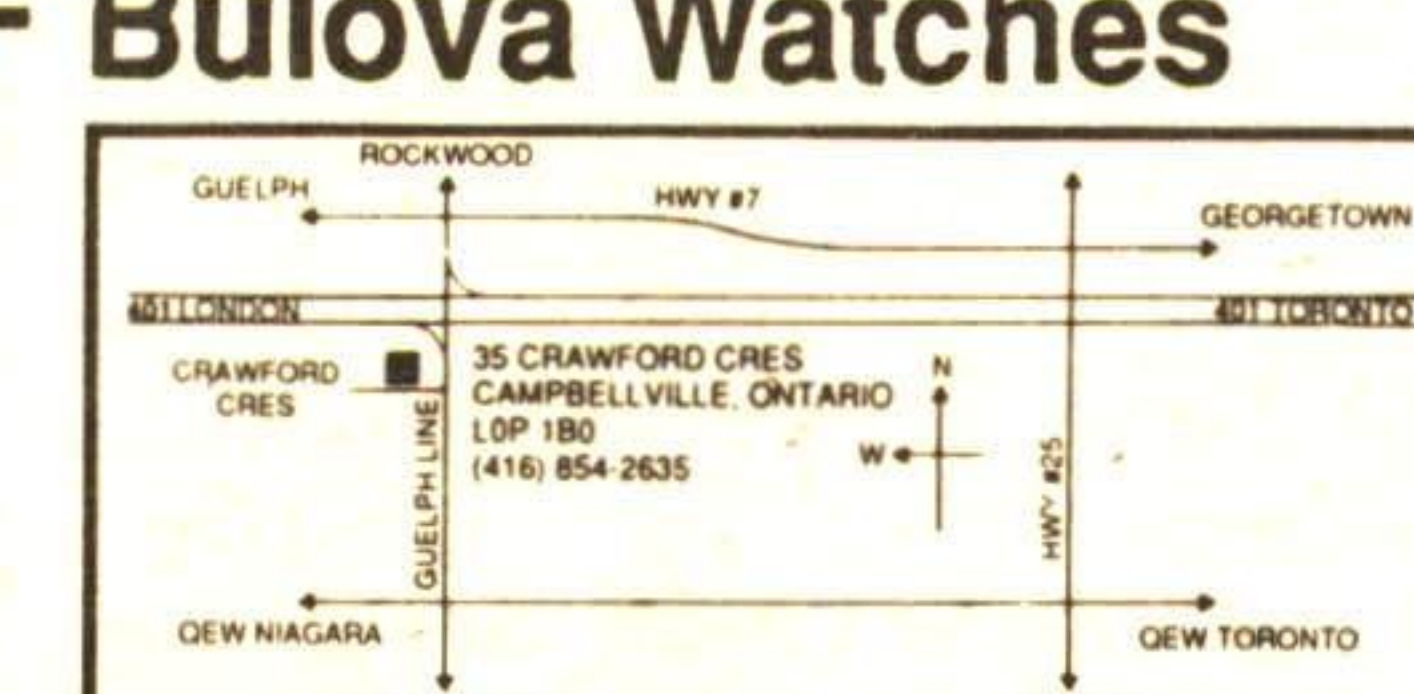
Torchlight parade
The torchlight parade is a colorful event performed by members of the Glen Eden ski school and pro patrol. It will begin at 6 p.m. on Jan. 25. For more information, call Bob Falle at 878-5011.



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