

Car in the running for award

Infiniti G20 scores high

About the time you read this I'll be pondering my votes in the seven categories for the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Car of the Year Awards which will be announced Feb. 13 at the Toronto International Car Show.

Probably the toughest category is Best Family Sedan. AJAC members have already shortened the long list to three finalists which are the Volkswagen Passat, Subaru Legacy Turbo, and our test car, the Infiniti G20.

Not making the cut were some really fine automobiles such as the Buick Regal, Isuzu Stylus, Nissan Sentra, Toyota Tercel, and a few more I would have thought were shoe-ins like the Pontiac Grand Prix GTE, BMW 318is, and the lovely little Mercury Tracer LTS.

The Infiniti G20 is one of the newest cars on the market the Passat having been on sale since last winter while the Legacy is a turbo-charged version of last year's winner in this category.

Infiniti was created by Nissan

much as Acura by Honda and Lexus by Toyota; ergo, to add an prestige division and go after the upper levels of the market. Infiniti concentrated on putting out their big Q45 sedan first as Lexus did with the LS 400. But you can't have a showroom with just one model in it, so both firms have little brothers, in Infiniti's case the G20.

My meeting with the little Lexus was a disappointing one so I approached the G20 with expectation of finding a re-badged, semi-leather covered version of the parent division's best selling family sedan, in Nissan's case, the Stanza.

The G20 is very much in the same mechanical mould as the Stanza from the 2.0-litre, 16-valve engine to the patented viscous coupling (limited slip) system in the front drive transaxle. The overall shape comes from a Nissan called the Primera which is not sold on the continent.

The G20 is very much in the new "cabin forward" design approach to people packaging.

Using a transverse engine placed as far forward of firewall means the front seats can move forward opening up back seat space for people of North American proportions.

This is about as close as any Japanese manufacturer has come to building a small BMW. Priced at an even \$26,000 it has much in common with the BMW 318is. And like the BMW it comes without a few things a car in this class should have like illuminated mirrors in the sun visors, tilt wheel, and fully-adjustable passenger seat being three of them.

The interior, however, leaves the baby Bimmer far behind. Cabin forward architecture means passengers win in terms of accommodation. The seats are nicely styled with North Americans in mind, although rotary knobs for seat adjustment seemed a bit odd. Not only is the cabin big, the trunk is a welcome surprise. Using a special hinge design, the short deck lid actually folds up and forward toward the rear window making loading a



The Infiniti G20 is the second vehicle to be announced in the Infiniti lineup. The car is aimed directly at the smaller offerings from the German prestige makes.

breeze. The trunk is like a tunnel, very much in the Audi 90 mode.

As one would expect, fit of panels is exemplary and the conspicuous red paint of the test G20 certainly was pleasing. This is set off by understated alloy wheels on low profile rubber.

As far as handling, the G20 and the Passat GL are two of the finest front-drive cars on the market today - no question. The G20 feels more "four square" on the road, the Passat tending to have a tail-heavy presence during land-change manoeuvres. That can be chalked up to the G20's shorter wheelbase. The down side is road irregularities come through the steering system and into the hands. Turn-in is the outstanding feature here and that's unusual in a front-driver.

To accomplish this, the G20 lifts the front multi-link suspension system directly from the mighty 300ZK super sports car.

Multi-link technology is also to be found at the rear.

With discs at all four corners coupled to anti-lock brakes you can use all the suspension and power the engine generates and make the most of it. As expected in this type of car, the gear shift and nicely-selected ratios compliment the driver who makes use of the deep-breathing of the 16-valve engine with an eye on the tachometer.

Finding the right line on

sweeping curves is as simple as loosening up on the steering wheel and letting the car take you through. Here is where the multi-link suspension and the viscous coupling in the differential earn their keep.

With the cruise control on and the roof rolled back, 90 kmh touring is done with very little wind noise thanks to the slippery shape and 0.30 drag coefficient, pretty good for a four-door sedan designed to haul five people and their luggage.

Any car, to me, must have an element of enjoyment to the way it drives and the amount of work it can perform; and this is where the Infiniti G20 scores high.

A Mrs. affair

The Heart and Stroke Foundation together with Carolyn's Modelling Agency present the Mrs. Mississauga Halton Peel Region Pageant 1991 and Fashion Show.

The event will take place at Meadowvale Theatre, Wednesday, May 29 at 8 p.m.

Anyone living in the Halton Peel Region can be a contestant in the pageant. Prizes are in excess of \$10,000. There will be no bathing suits in the pageant and no talent. Training in presentation will be provided by Carolyn's Modelling Agency.

Anyone wishing to be a contestant or sponsor the Mrs. Mississauga Halton Peel Region Pageant can do so by calling 542-8885. Deadline for entry is April 15, 1991. For ticket info call 542-8885.

GST seminars

You may be tired of hearing the term "GST" but if you are a provider of a business service, and you do not know everything there is to know about how the GST applies to you and your clients, come to the Mississauga Civic Centre at 7 p.m. on January 29.

The Halton Peel Communications Association has arranged for Mark Lee, a Senior Auditor with the Excise Branch of Revenue Canada to provide information on how the GST affects individuals who provide photography, public relations, marketing, writing, graphics and other similar services to their clients. Depending on your annual billings, you may or may not be required to collect GST.

Following a brief presentation by Mr. Lee, the meeting will provide the forum for a question and answer period. Come armed with your questions, or fax them ahead of time to Fred Travis at Revenue Canada (Fax # 973-1691).

"GST and You" will take place in the Tower Garden Cafe of the Mississauga Civic Centre on January 29. Admission is free for members of the HPCA and \$5 for non-members. For further information, contact Nancy Wood at 271-8574.

EXPERIENCE & RELIABILITY



Isn't it nice to know that, in uncertain economic times, there is a company which has been at the forefront of the travel business in Halton since 1976 offering you quality service and reliability. We at Roos Travel Agency take pride in our work and your satisfaction.

During the upcoming fall and winter season, please drop in to see us for an unbiased view of the Canadian Travel Market. All of the recommended product we sell, we guarantee.

Call someone who cares.



ROOS TRAVEL AGENCY

ASSOCIATE NETWORK

232 GUELPH STREET, GEORGETOWN L7G 4B1

873-2000



Tooth Chatter
by
ALEX TRENTON,
Denture Therapist

TIPS FOR DENTURE WEARERS

- Dentures should be scrubbed well and the inside of the mouth cleaned twice daily.
- Swab or brush the inside of your mouth to remove food debris and collections of bacteria which can irritate your gums.
- Return your denture to your mouth while still wet, by inserting it sideways and then rotating it into place.
- If you have a partial denture, remove it by placing your fingernails over the clasp and use a pulling motion.
- Clean your partial denture in the same way you would clean a full denture. Remove the debris from around the clasps, since they rest directly against natural teeth, and can cause the natural tooth to deteriorate if left unclean.
- When you clean your dentures, you should fill the basin half full with water, or place a towel in the sink, so that if you drop your denture, it will not break.
- Never use scouring powder or bleach on your dentures!
- Calculus or tartar deposits may be removed more easily from the dentures by brushing, after soaking them in a cup of water to which 2 teaspoons of white vinegar have been added.
- As a general rule, all dentures, partial and complete, should be taken out of the mouth at night. They should be placed in a container of water, as dentures will warp if left out to dry for long periods...If you use a cleaning solution to soak them, the denture should be rinsed thoroughly before you return it to your mouth.

A.W. Trenton, D.T.,
Denture Clinic, 18 Church Street,
Georgetown, Ont. L7G 2A5
(416) 877-2359