

Opinion

Car costs rise

The cost of owning and operating a car has climbed to about \$575 a month - up from \$556 this time last year, according to the Hamilton Automobile Club, which recently released its CAA "Car Costs 1991-1992" brochure.

The Car Costs report is based on figures provided by Runzheimer International, a management consulting firm that provides service to accurately measure costs of transportation, taxes, meals, goods and services, lodging and housing.

Car Costs data reveals that it now costs the Canadian motorist an average of \$6,891 per year of \$574.25 per month to operate his or her automobile. In fact, the only motorists who can expect to pay less than \$500 a month are those who own sub-compact cars and live in a low-cost province like Alberta, where the average cost per month is \$493.33.

CAA Car Costs for 1991-1992 are based on a 1991 Ford Tempo GL with a 2.3 litre, 4 cylinder engine which is driven 24,000 kilometres per year. The four-door sedan is equipped with standard and optional accessories including AM-FM stereo, automatic transmission, power steering, power disc brakes, rear window defogger, an engine block heater and heavy duty battery.

Both operating and ownership costs are up over last year. Operating costs - those which are directly related to the number of kilometres driven - have risen to 8.5 cents per kilometre from 8.15 cents last year representing an increase of 4.3 per cent. Operating costs include gas and oil, six cents per kilometre maintenance, 1.74 cents per kilometre and .76 cents per kilometre for tire wear.

Ownership costs change little with the amount driven. They include insurance (\$100 deductible comprehensive, \$250 deductible collision, \$500,000 inclusive third party liability) \$878 per year; snow tires, \$61 per year; licence and registration fees, \$105 per year; depreciation, \$2,849 per year and finance expenses, \$958 per year. Ownership costs totalled \$4,851, up three per cent from last year.

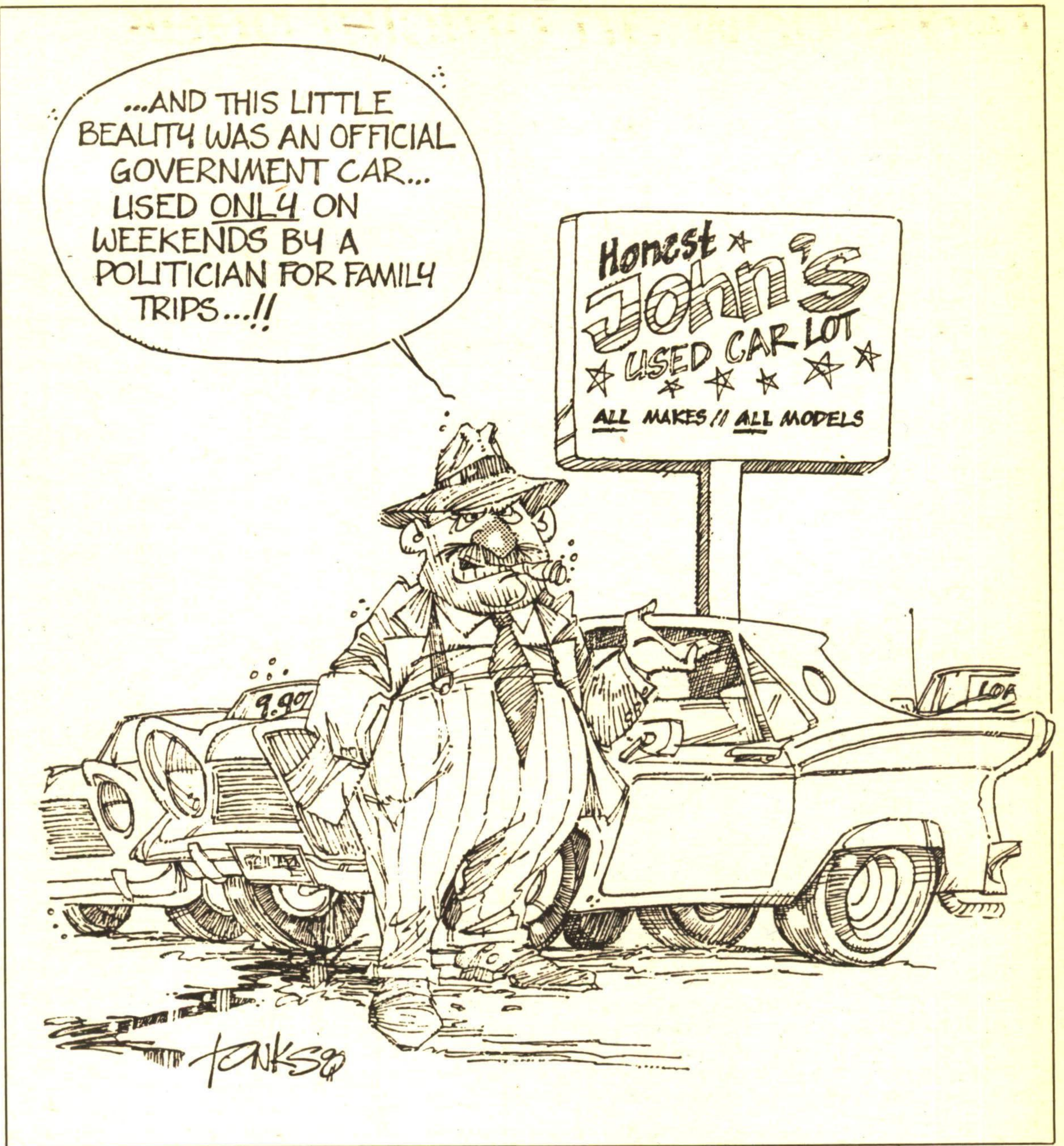
Car Costs includes calculations for annual driving distances of 16,000, 24,000 and 32,000 kilometres with gasoline priced at a national average of 57.6 cents per litre. The average per kilometre cost is determined by combining operating and ownership costs.

For example, a motorist driving 16,000 kilometres per year will encounter expenses of about \$1,360 in operating costs (16,000 km at 8.5 cents) and \$4,851 in ownership costs, for a total of \$6,211 or 38.8 cents per kilometre (\$6,211 divided by 16,000 km).

HAC President Richard Congdon says that despite the increase in owning and operating a car, Canadians still attach great importance to the convenience and freedom an automobile provides. "Unfortunately," he says, "many Canadians attempting to economize on operating costs are being driven to the United States where gasoline is not taxolined." According to CAA's calculations, a motorist who accesses the United States frequently can enjoy savings of close to \$500 per year on fuel costs alone by purchasing gasoline in the U.S. rather than buying excessively-taxed Canadian gasoline. "No doubt this is hurting the Canadian economy in general and the tourism industry in particular," says Congdon.

Statfacts....

According to Statistics Canada visible minorities have a higher level of schooling than other Canadians. A full 60 per cent of visible minorities have some post-secondary education, as compared to 50 per cent of other Canadians. About 20 per cent of visible minorities in the labor force had university degrees, compared to 12 per cent of other Canadians. Filipinos have the highest level of education among visible minorities with three quarters having a post-secondary education, and one third possessing a university degree.



Our Readers Write

Premier lauds Legion's achievements

The following letter to members of the Royal Canadian Legion was submitted by Georgetown's Branch 120 for publication:

The occasion of Legion Week, Sept. 15 to 21, gives us opportunity to reflect on the many good works of the Royal Canadian Legion.

The Legion performs an important role in our society, providing veterans with a source of support and fellowship while reminding us all of the inhumanity of war. You can take tremendous pride in the contribution you have made to this tradition of service and to the lives of Canada's veterans.

In recent years, the Royal Canadian Legion has

dramatically expanded its scope of public service. We now see the Legion actively involved in many community services and charitable causes. From youth education programs to providing welfare services to ex-service personnel, the Legion is an organization that reflects compassion and pride in our communities.

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to the members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Provincial Command, during Legion Week. Congratulations on your many accomplishments and good luck in the years to come.

Bob Rae,
Premier of Ontario

92° And Waiting

If you thought it could never happen
In this great and prosperous land.
Tho' hot and humid for old folks
They cue up in a line and stand.
They stood in line for hours.
Some old, some even lame.
They stood to receive what was rightfully theirs,
The cheques - that never came.
Did the P.O. hold the cheques back?
Was it force the government lacked?
Could not each give a little?
And agree on the d.... contract!
Both of them share the disgrace of it.

Both must share the blame.
They held the old as hostage
To their everlasting shame.
So get on with government business.
On with the bloody mail too.
Give a little to others
And it will come back to you.
When the next election cometh
And your ballot you must sign
Remember the old and the ailing
Who stood in the P.O. line.

Nan Wheeler

Halton Hills

WEEKEND

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