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\$39.99

Oil Change Plus*

Includes:

- Oil & filter change (up to) 5 litres of Castrol 5W/30 or 10W/30 oil
- Rotate and inspect 4 tires
- Multi-Point Inspection: visual suspension and brake check, battery performance test, fluid level top-up (max 1 litre), under hood and under vehicle inspections



*Terms and conditions apply. Speak to a Service Advisor for details. Synthetic and other grades of oil extra. Environmental disposal & shop supply fees may be charged where permitted by law. © CAA and CAA logo trademarks owned by, and use is granted by, the Canadian Automobile Association. (0585-06/13) CODE: OIL+RGA

\$25 OFF
Air Conditioning Service and Repair*

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\$25 OFF
Coolant System Service*

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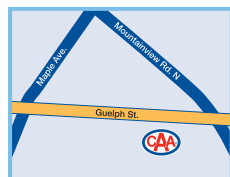
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Offers end August 31, 2013. Visit us at:



**CAA Car Care Centre
Georgetown**

178 Guelph St.

905-873-1622

Email: cccgeorgetown@caasco.ca



Car Care Centre

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A Ted Bit It's all my editor's fault that I did it...

I don't handle change very well.

I'm one of those people who is content to carry on in my happy little existence, facing the world the same way each day.

I don't make hasty decisions. I've been known to drive The Sidekick to the brink of insanity, simply because I'm cautious.

Having said that, this past week I've undergone a load of changes and I'm holding The Sidekick responsible, to a point. The change involves a vehicle— well, actually, a bunch of vehicles, all parked at Brown Farm.

Earlier this year, The Sidekick bought my daughter's car, after she purchased her boyfriend's car out of a lease. (Okay, it's already becoming complicated.)

The Sidekick's old car was for sale. With a wedding fast approaching, it was parked behind the shed until she could sell it. I'm still waiting for that to happen.

In the meantime, the air conditioner in my SUV died—it was no longer cool. I considered having it repaired, but as I considered repairing a/c in a 12-year-old vehicle— my cheque book still stinging from repairing my tractor a/c—I decided to put up with it as it was.

The Sidekick started pressuring me about our 'old vehicles' at home.

With that, she planted the seed. So it's a tiny bit her fault this all happened.

But my editor is really to blame.

You see, I've never owned a brand new vehicle. Every time I entertained the thought, there always seemed to be something else that needed money thrown at it. For years, I was able to stave off the siren call of a new vehicle. I could always fall back on the "Oh, you lose so much depreciation on a brand new vehicle— it makes much more sense to buy a used one" mind-set.

Years ago, I chatted with a Toyota salesman. He commented on my SUV.

"Geez Ted, you sure drive a vehicle a long time, like 10 years," he said.

"That's because I drive a Ford," I countered. He shook his head— I got him.

He did say when one drives a vehicle for 10 years, like me, the depreciation issue ultimately becomes a moot point.

In late June, I was sent to a photo shoot

next door to the local Ford dealership. In the lot was a truck— not a new truck, but a really nice truck. I looked at the price on the windshield.

"Hmmm, seems like a lot of money for a used truck," I thought to myself.

A salesman appeared— a very soft-sell salesman, you know, the kind that I'll actually carry on a conversation with. We talked price, and I asked 'the question'.

"So how much would the same truck be brand new today?"

He pointed out the 'Ford Employee Pricing' sale was in effect, and threw out a ballpark figure. I mentally racked up the future costs of the used truck, (which was on the verge of needing tires, brakes, and whatever) versus the Ford employee price for the new one— complete with full warranty. He suddenly had my attention. There wasn't much difference and it made no sense to buy a used one.

We sat with his boss (who I've known for years) and they had a truck in their inventory that ticked almost every box in my 'wants' list. It also had enough 'toys' to make any red-blooded guy smile.

The Sidekick and I took it for a test drive— the odometer read 4.7 kilometres.

Okay, I've never in my life driven anything that only had 4.7 kilometres on it!

I was a bit intimidated with the 'control centre' of this vehicle. Geez, I may have to get my MSc in Electrical Engineering just to operate it.

I signed the deal last week, and picked it up Tuesday night. During that time, I sold my SUV and posted my 1999 F150 online, causing my email to take numerous hits— lots more changes.

But the bottom line— I'm now the proud owner of a BRAND NEW F150.

My kids and my sisters congratulated me, saying it was long overdue, The Sidekick is happy she finally convinced me, and I'm enjoying the fact the a/c is working like new— well, because it is new.

And about my editor being partly responsible? Actually, it's all his fault.

He sent me out to take the photo, damnit— right next door to Concept Ford.

—Ted Brown can be reached at
tbrown@theifp.ca



**TED
BROWN**

*'I've never in my life
driven anything that only
had 4.7 kilometres on it!'*