

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Special pullout section

FIRST LOOK

Four-door muscle car — even with a V6

By Rob Beintema
Metroland Media

The new Brampton-built 2015 Charger probably made a pretty picture, pulling out of the FCA Canada driveway all waxed and shiny, resplendent in red, actually a vibrant shade of Redline Tri-Coat Pearl, to be more specific.

I pushed down on the gas pedal and the engine moan began to build nicely, the power pushing me into the seat back and . . . wait a minute!

I'd been in a hurry, grabbing the keys, hopping in the new car and leaving abruptly without my usual "walk around of appreciation." I was supposed to pick up a V6-powered model but I felt a twinge of doubt.

Had someone slipped me a Hemi V8 version instead?

The easiest solution was to pull over and pop the hood.

And, ahh, the 3.6-litre VVT logo was as plain as day on the Pentastar V6 engine shroud.

But can you blame me for my momentary confusion, what with modern V6 motors making the same kind of muscle as some of the Charger V8s of the past?

Throw in the vast array of current Charger choices - eight trim levels, four different engine choices, optional performance and appear-



The 2015 Dodge Charger, seen here in SXT Rallye AWD trim and dipped in an optional Redline Tri-Coat Pearl paint job. The new-for-2015 Charger offers not only a new face but almost every body panel has been revised or renewed.

ance packages, rear-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive systems mated to a now universal eight-speed automatic transmission. It's enough to make your head spin.

The Dodge Charger first debuted as a cobbled-together response to the Mustang and other muscle cars.

A more polished second-generation version took

centre stage through the Bullitt and Dukes of Hazzard eras of the late '60s and early '70s.

But those glory days diminished through the energy crunch until the final ignominy of a small front-wheel-drive Omni-based Charger hatchback derivative, back in the 1980s. The '80s, just a generally all-round awkward decade, are probably best forgotten by everyone anyway.

The Charger was resurrected in roughly its current form in 2006. A seventh generation version followed a few years later with a new scalloped and indented coke bottle shape, a design shift that fans in opposing camps are still arguing about.

Get over it guys, because the Charger lineup has been renewed once more with a midlife revision for 2015.

The main visual impact comes up front with a new front fascia, new grille, new headlight assemblies with LED DRL surrounds and new available LED fog lamps. Actually, almost every body panel has been revised and Charger changes include new rear fascias, a new hood, new fenders, new front doors, new Dodge signature LED racetrack tail lamps, new heritage colours and an array of new wheel designs.

Inside, you'll find eight all-new interior trim combos, a new three-spoke steering wheel with included controls and available shift paddles, a new seven-inch digital gauge cluster in front of the driver and a new instrument panel topping the centre stack with either an entry-level 5-inch touchscreen display or, in midgrade and higher trims, with the

Continued on page 3

Bratin Auto

82 Main St. N. Georgetown

To book an appointment **905-873-6127**

Like Us On Facebook

TECH-NET
Professional
AUTO SERVICE



Honest, Reliable Service Since 1989
Free Local Shuttle Service
www.bratinauto.com

Is Your Car Cool?

**OIL CHANGE
MAINTENANCE
SPECIAL**

(Includes 30 Point Inspection)

\$49.95*

*Most Vehicles
Expiry June 30, 2015 052115



Ontario Drive Clean
Test and Repair Facility
for all light duty vehicles

**AIR CONDITIONING
PERFORMANCE
TEST**

\$69.95

Expiry July 31, 2015

052115