

# A gentle, positive distraction - until the middle of April

*A muscle car can change your outlook, writes Ted Brown*



**TED BROWN**  
Column

Now that we've survived February, I find most people I talk to share the same sentiments as me.

We're all totally sick of winter!

I'm sick of biting, cold wind, I'm sick of having to get the tractor out to clean up the lane, and most recently I'm sick of torrential rain, cold aching joints and numb fingers as well as all those other things that accompany this season.

Now I know what you're thinking, "Why doesn't he stop whining and just go somewhere warm, and get away from the cold?"

Many of my colleagues do just that - but unfortunately with a barn full of 46-plus sheep, all starting to give birth right now, my conscience just won't allow me to place them in the care of someone else. I must oversee them myself.

But recently, I found a way to create a gentle distraction, something to take my mind off the cold, blowing snow, and it also is preparing for the coming spring.

As many of you are aware, I have a "summer car" that I've had for more than 20 years. It's called the L'il Red Rocket.

And last summer, I fulfilled a longtime dream - I

acquired a late model Mustang GT, which I purchased intending to "replace" the L'il Red Rocket.

The only problem, I didn't sell it. Sentiment got in the way, so I now have a car collection.

Hey, I'm sure Jay Leno started the same way.

So it's been sitting in storage since last July.

The Mustang was placed in storage in October when the insurance expired, and will be back on the road in April.

During the winter, I investigated the options available to insure the L'il Red Rocket for a reasonable premium this summer.

I priced out the cost of insurance for it, and learned I could insure it as a collectible. Naturally there are some restrictions on the car with a collectible status. It's can't be driven for work, or parked in a public parking lot, but that doesn't really bother me. It's simply available to go for a tour, attend a cruise night, or maybe go out for dinner at the pub with The Sidekick.



Graham Paine/Metroland

**Andrew Mckenzie, 19, leans in to take a photo of this FORD GT, at the 5th annual Marques d'Elegance that filled the grounds of Paletta Mansion with Italian exotics and super cars, North American muscle cars and vintage automobiles.**

Part of insuring the L'il Red Rocket involved having it appraised, and submitting photos of the car from numerous angles - front, back, engine compartment, trunk and interior.

Before I could do that, I had to get it out of the shed, vacuum the interior, wipe down the body and park it outside in the bright sunshine, against the white snow.

I gotta tell ya, it looked mighty fine. That car still

looks really good for 24 years old.

And the best part?

The insurance coverage starts March 1 - that's today!

So long as the roads are dry, I can now be on the road six weeks earlier than with the Mustang.

Now I admit it, the L'il Red Rocket, sporting about half the 400-plus horsepower of the Mustang, is not really a substitute for the muscle car.

But it's a lot of fun to

drive and has great handling with a smooth shifting five-speed manual transmission.

Now you're probably thinking, "Hey, driving that car is still weather-dependent to go out on a tour, right?"

Yes, but at least it's still an option, and if the weather co-operates, that's positive inspiration to get me through these remaining wintry weeks.

Even when the weather is crappy over the next few

weeks, I know that fun car is parked in the shed, ready to go at the turn of a key - and that's a pleasant distraction that I can enjoy until the green patches finally show through the snow.

And then the stars will align and life will once again be in order.

Until, of course, till next winter.

*- Ted Brown is a freelance writer for the IFP and can be reached at tedbit@hotmail.com.*

## Better check bylaw before you dispatch a coyote

A reminder to Ted Brown regarding his column of Feb. 15, where he wrote "sometimes there is a good reason to dispatch a

coyote", that due to the Town of Halton Hills' misguided and poorly written Discharge of Firearms By-law, that to discharge a fire-

arm in rural areas you must be 150 metres away from any structure, in any direction.

If the coyote is within the

area of his house or barn, he must kindly request the coyote move outside the area of any structures.

With the town's unguid-

ed definition of a firearm, this also includes a Nerf Gun, as they fall into the definition of a firearm in the same bylaw.

But Ted should know this as he sat in with the group of fools that passed the bylaw.

**Brian Olsen**

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