


YOUR CAR CARE GUIDE • YOUR CAR CARE GUIDE • YOUR CAR CARE GUIDE • YOUR CAR CARE GUIDE • YOUR CAR CARE GUIDE

For your info behind you, don't drive through unless ordered to; you can't assume traffic will stop for you. If you are stopped at a red light and an emergency vehicle pulls up Wait for your green, then move.

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- Bill McEachern -
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Prevent auto theft!

Here are a few tips to ensure that your car is not one of the growing number of vehicles stolen in the Acton and Rockwood area:

- Don't leave your car unlocked. A surprising number of recent thefts have occurred when the owner carelessly leaves their keys in the ignition. Remove your keys and lock your doors!
- At night, park in well-lit areas and keep valuables out of sight. Apply the parking brake and turn the wheels toward the curb to make the car more difficult to tow away.

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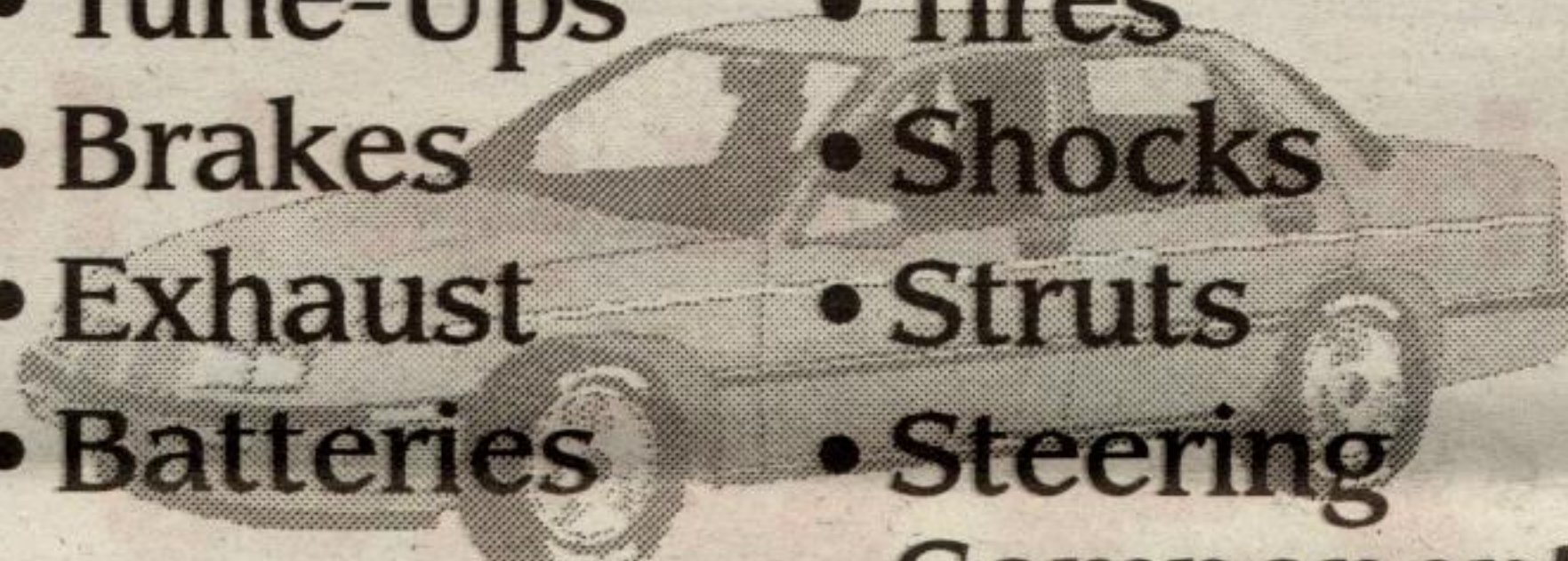


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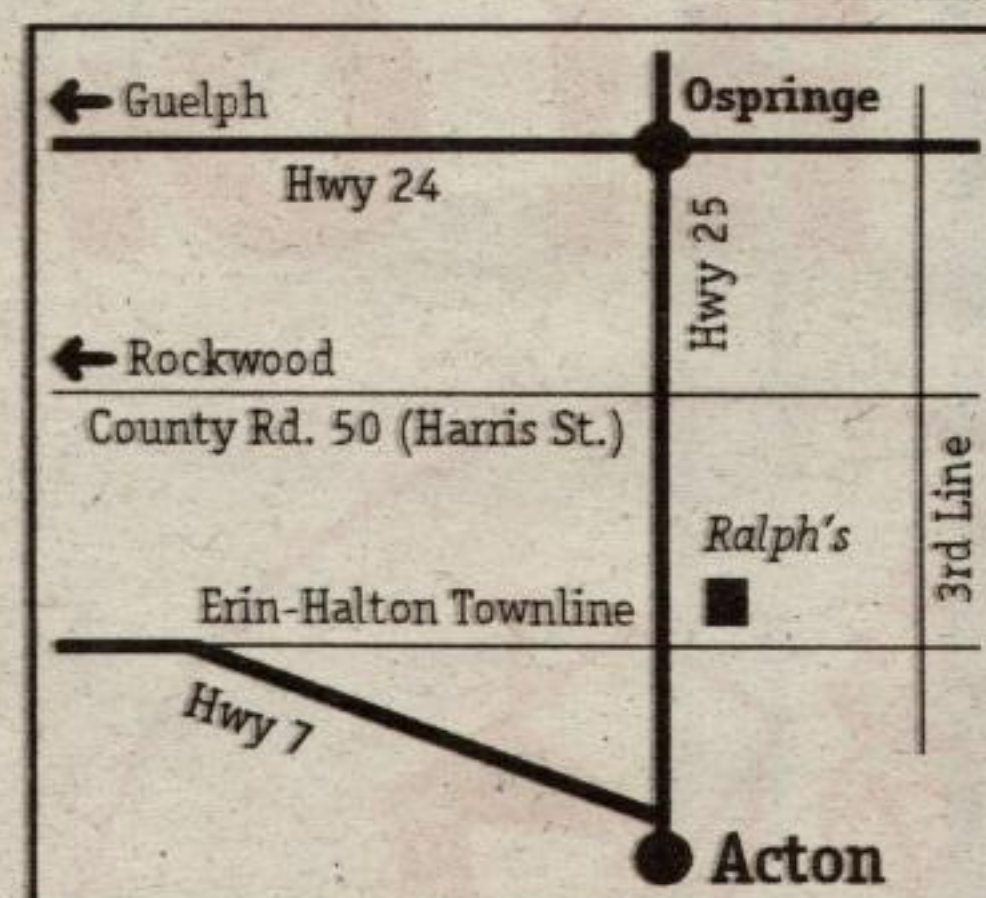
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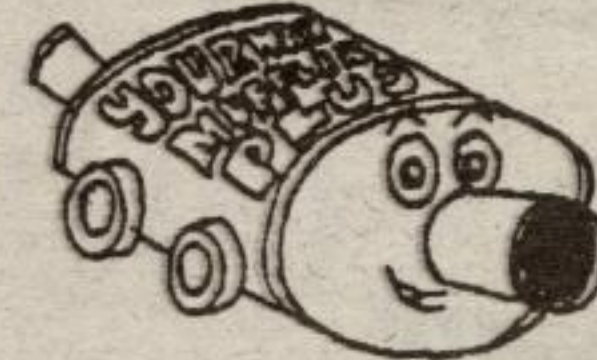
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Is your car ready for this trip?

Cars are a lot like people; when they're in good health they're ready to take on the world. But when they're sick they can ruin your whole vacation. And thousands of vacationing motorists this summer will experience some kind of disabling car trouble.

Some mechanical difficulties cannot be anticipated. When a part such as an alternator fails, it's usually without warning, so preventative measures don't apply.

But when the alternator light comes on because a worn drive belt has been overlooked, that situation need not have happened.

Most highway breakdowns can be avoided through preventative measures done on one's "home turf." So before you leave on your summer trip, find out whether your vehicle is up to the task.

Use this checklist from the Car Care Council of the Automotive Industries Association to give it a good "physical." After all, if your vehicle doesn't enjoy the trip, you probably won't either.

PRE-TRIP CHECKLIST

Cooling System: Coolant at proper level and clean; pressure cap, thermostat and hoses in good condition. Connections tight.

Drive Belts: Check condition and adjustments.

Battery: Check fluid, where applicable. Inspect terminals.

Engine: As a preventative measure, invest in a diagnostic check of electrical, ignition, fuel and emission control systems. Have needed services, including tune-up, performed.

Lubricants: Check all fluids. Change engine oil and filter, transmission fluid and filter, as needed. Lubricate chassis if applicable.

Suspension, Steering and Tires: Check steering linkage, shock absorbers and/or struts. Inspect tires, rotate and balance as required. Check wheel alignments if tire wear so indicates.

Brakes: Inspect brake lining and pads, hydraulic system. Replace worn pads.

Exhaust System: Check for holes in muffler and pipes, loose support hangers.

Windshield Wipers: Check operation of wipers and washers. Inspect blade and arm. Replace as needed. Top off washer fluid.

Lights: Check all lights, turn signals and flashers.

Body: Start out with a clean car, inside and out. Clean and apply wax or other protective coating to paint and trim surfaces. Clean and repair interior fabrics.

NOTE: If your plans include towing a trailer or hauling abnormal loads, consider installing overload shock absorbers for a safer, more comfortable ride.

Another useful addition is an auxiliary cooler to protect the automatic transmission under severe driving conditions.

For more information contact Denise Faguay at the Automotive Industries Association of Canada (613-728-5821).