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Rise in gas has predictable consequence, says Chudleigh

The recent rapid rise and continued volatility in gasoline prices has had its predictable consequence as sales of new cars and trucks plummeted in August.

"This is just one of the ways higher fuel prices will take a significant bite out of our economy," said Ted Chudleigh, MPP Halton and Opposition Critic for Economic Development and Trade. "Reduced sales lead to reduced manufacturing and that leads to job losses."

Despite large incentive programs aimed at purchasers, seasonally adjusted new vehicle sales plunged 10.2 per cent in Ontario, which accounted for half of the decline in sales across Canada.

"If this is an indication of the effect that high oil prices will have on our economy we should be very concerned," said Mr. Chudleigh. "Homeowner's haven't yet adjusted to high fuel prices nor have businesses who must deal with higher shipping costs in addition to higher heating and travel costs. When these costs hit, Ontario's economy will take a serious blow."

Mr. Chudleigh said the policies of the Liberal government will not provide a soft landing for business and unless changes are made, people in Ontario will be hit hard but the falling economy.



DAVE REDINGER

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Tires are directly affected by air pressure. Low tire pressure will reduce the tire's ability to carry load, cause over heating, premature wear and waste fuel... The side of the road is not the best place to shop for new rubber.

Dave Help!

I have a 2000 Honda Civic with approximately 90,000 kilometers. When I drive slowly I hear a squealing noise which I think is coming from the front wheels. Lately I notice that when I apply the brakes the noise goes away. Do I need new brakes or is it just something simple?

Paula

Sounds as if you have a brake pad that's dragging. The majority of the vehicles on the road today have some form of disc brake design. Disc brakes have several advantages, one of which is the ability to absorb a lot of hard use. However; this design requires regular maintenance. Have your mechanic inspect the brakes and advise you. As this is a safety item don't put off this repair. Brakes should be inspected and serviced every 6 months, usually before and after the winter season.

Hi Dave:

I have bought a Ford Escort ; it has been standing for the last 12 months and at present it is still standing. The problem is that when it starts there is a tappet rattle. It sounds more like it's coming from the injectors. Any ideas?

This a tough question to answer without listening to the car. A properly running engine; once it has reached operating temperature, runs smoothly and silently. Sounds as if you may have a more serious problem than just noisy tappets. Most Ford engines adjust the valve lash hydraulically. Valve lash is directly affected by oil pressure. If the oil pressure is low noisy tappets are one of the warning signs. Have the engine inspected by a professional. Some noises can be the precursor to costly engine failure. Sorry...

Dave Redinger a mechanic with over 40 years of experience operates his shop "DOCTOR H HONDA SPECIALISTS" in Toronto for the last 24 yrs. Dave can be heard every Saturday morning at 9:00 on "THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MECHANIC". Email your questions to: stikky@ca.inter.net or AM740.ca



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