

*Time for a spring tune-up?*

# Preventative maintenance is easy and saves money

With spring approaching, it's time to begin a simple program of preventative vehicle maintenance. In 1993, Canadians spent an average of \$660 dollars on repair work according to the Canadian Automobile Association. With a regular program of preventative maintenance, smart do-it-yourselfers can save time and money.

"We have developed a program designed to keep vehicles running smoothly. With our program, soon to be do-it-yourselfers will discover that preventative maintenance is easy and inexpensive," says Norm Hudecki, director of technical services for The Valvoline Company.

Our five point system includes checking the following:

the lubrication system; battery; tires; fuel system; overall inspection.

## The Lubrication System

Motor oil prevents critical engine parts from rubbing against each other and wearing down.

Changing the motor oil is an inexpensive way to protect a vehicle's engine and avoid costly repair work, improve fuel economy and keep it running smoothly. "We recommend changing the motor oil and filter every 5,000 kilometers, but check your owner's manual for the manufacturer's recommendation," says Hudecki.

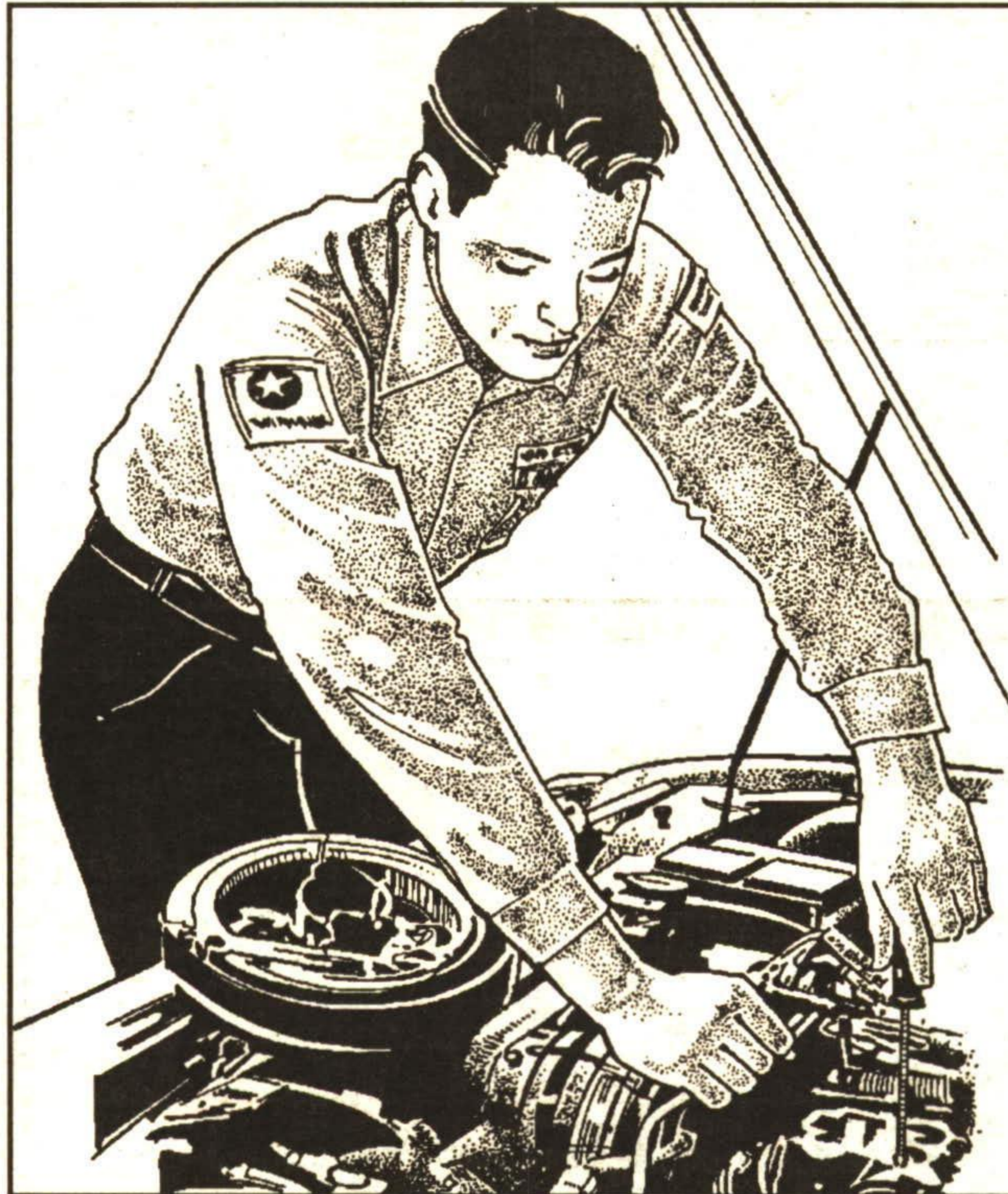
According to the Canadian Automobile Association, changing the motor oil and filter on a regular basis can save up to six per cent on gasoline bills.

"We recommend selecting a quality motor oil, such as Valvoline's All-Climate 5W30 to prevent engine wear, remove damaging contaminants and to provide engine protection," says Hudecki. Choosing this motor oil will provide you with more than 2.5 per cent better fuel economy, saving you money on your gasoline bills.

Consider selecting a synthetic motor oil for maximum engine protection including improved heat dissipation, reduced engine wear and extended vehicle life.

## The Battery

Each year, a trained technician should check the



battery to make sure the terminals are clean to avoid battery corrosion and make sure the vehicle's battery terminals are secure for maximum power.

## Tires

Proper size, inflation and rotation can improve the vehicle's fuel economy, handling and extend the life of the vehicle.

Rotate tires regularly and make sure they are rotated from front to back for proper alignment. Poor alignment will wear down the tires, increase fuel costs and cause the vehicle to vibrate. Vibrating will cause the vehicle's steering system and suspension to wear prematurely.

Inflate your tires. Underinflation creates excessive

heat which reduces tire life and eventually causes tire failure. Underinflated tires will increase rolling resistance and lower fuel economy. Check your owner's manual for the correct tire pressure.

## Fuel System

Fuel additives are relatively inexpensive and can prevent damaging deposits from building in your fuel line, keeping your engine running smoothly and avoiding costly engine or fuel line repairs. Using a super concentrated fuel injector cleaner once a month can help to remove damaging deposits that form at the base of the fuel injector and intake valve. This will increase fuel efficiency.

## Overall Cleaning and Maintenance

A spring tune-up includes cleaning and maintaining the outside of your vehicle. By cleaning and maintaining your vehicle, you will enhance its resale value. This includes:

Weekly washing to protect the vehicle against acid rain that can cause corrosion and damage the vehicle's paint job. Remove winter salt and dirt by spraying the outside and underside of the vehicle. Be sure to include the backs of the wheel wells and rocker panels. This will prevent premature rust, corrosion and extend the life of the vehicle;

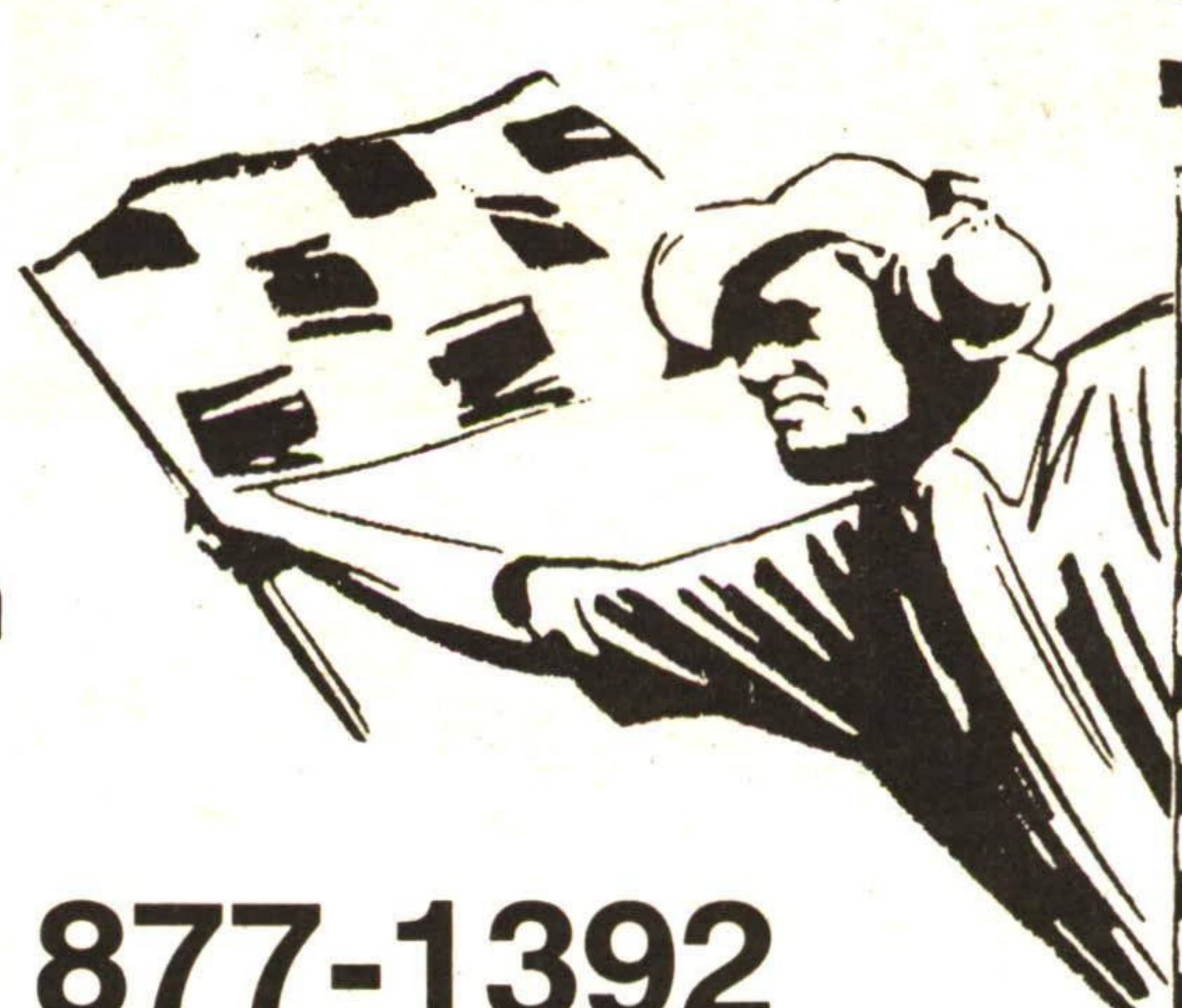
Replace winter's windshield washer fluid with water and a dash of soap;

Waxing your car two to three times per year. Use car accessory products to keep the car's interior from drying out in the hot summer sun;

Remove the extra weight from the vehicle. For every 45 kg of weight, such as roof racks and personal items, you increase our gasoline bill by two per cent;

Check your head lights, tail lights and brake lights for broken bulbs and moisture from tail lights, brake lights and head lights with a dry cloth. To prevent corrosion and rust from building in the socket use a silicone-based product for an airtight seal. Replace any bulbs that are burnt out or broken.

A regular program of preventative maintenance will improve your vehicle's performance and reduce repair costs.



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