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Somebody Service

PROMPT FAIR COURTEOUS

Drive Clean arrives in town

Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh was at Georgetown's Canadian Tire recently for the official opening of its Drive Clean test and repair facility— one of three accredited locations in Georgetown.

At press time other test and repair facilities in Halton Hills were T & T Auto Repairs at 9989 Trafalgar Rd. and Bratin Auto Muffler Ltd. at 82 Main St. N. Armstrong Garage at 97 Guelph St. is a repair only facility.

Under the Ontario government's recently launched program residents in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton have to have their vehicles, more than three and less than 20 years old, tested for emissions before they can renew their license validation stickers. The test will cost \$30, and drivers will have to shell out even more for repairs if their vehicle fails the test. This year only vehicles with an even model year will have to be tested. Next year owners of odd model year vehicles will have to have them tested.

Chudleigh said when the Drive Clean program is fully operational it should result in a 22 per cent improvement in air quality in the GTA and surrounding area.

Georgetown Canadian Tire service manager Dave Anderson recommends residents not wait until the last minute to book their inspection, which takes about 30 minutes, because they may find the station is already booked. He said people should book their appointment when they receive their renewal notice, about six weeks before their validation sticker expires.

Chudleigh said the program is break-even for the government and the fact it is monitored by the Ministry of Transportation ensures consumers are protected.



The Drive Clean emissions testing facility at Georgetown Canadian Tire was recently opened with MPP Ted Chudleigh (centre) sharing the honors to cut the ribbon with Canadian Tire service manager Dave Anderson (right) and accredited inspector and repair technician Tom Parker. Photo by Ted Brown

About 20 per cent of vehicles fail the test which uses a probe in the tailpipe to measure the concentration of nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide coming from a vehicle. Vehicles only have to meet the emission standards for a vehicle of its model year, with an allowance for deterioration. The average repair bill to fix the problem will be under about \$200.

Once the repairs are made the vehicle owner has to pay \$15 to have it retested.

If the vehicle fails the test again, but the owner has made \$200 worth of repairs at an accredited Drive Clean facility, he will be given a conditional pass certificate that is good for two years.

For more information on the Drive Clean program and a current list of accredited facilities in the area call 1-888-758-2999 or visit www.driveclean.com.

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