

Bring it on Ol' Man Winter, I'm ready

It was a common reaction Monday morning—the ground was white, an array of big fluffy snowflakes ambled lazily down from the sky, and the trees were transformed into a magical state from the whiteness.

And most of the commuting world was in a snit. I was no exception, and grumbled as I backed my car out of the garage, making new tracks in the driveway.

"Gawd, I hate winter," I said, as two of my daughters sat in the car with me.

Those two kids had opposing views of the sudden arrival of winter. One was smiling, saying "Oh, isn't it pretty, Dad?" while the other grumbled almost as much as her dad.

It was pretty clear that one daughter is a driver, the other isn't. (You guess which is which.)

We drove down my unplowed road, and my car, with its 70,000 kilometre-worn tires wasn't responding too aggressively to the conditions.

I figured assertive action was most definitely in order, cuz DAMMIT I HATE WINTER!!!

By the time I had dropped off my youngest daughter at the high school, and struggled to make my way up a sloping grade, my mind was made up. If I can't avoid winter, I'm gonna damn well be prepared to do battle.

Last spring, when the sun was shining and the birds were singing, I had an opportunity to purchase a set of four slightly used Blizzak snow tires. For those who aren't in the know, Blizzak snow tires are the 'Mother' of butt-kicking winter tires to ever be released in North America.

They're mean little buggers, to say the least.

And my set have been sitting, waiting patiently for this very scenario to be played out.

Once in the office, it took me only a few minutes before I got on the phone and made the appointment to have them installed.

On my lunch hour I set out to find some other weapons against winter—windshield washer fluid, you know that blue coloured stuff, and I

A
TED
BIT



Ted Brown

also dug out my gloves from the trunk of the car.

Finally, when my show scraper/brush was in place, I was only one set of installed Blizzaks away from doing serious battle with Ol' Man Winter.

The next morning I awoke to hear the radio reports about Buffalo and Fort Erie being buried in snow. My eldest daughter had just driven through that area Monday afternoon, so she was my eyewitness to the amount of winter havoc that was happening in that area.

I'm sure an evil smile crossed my face, as I headed to the garage, ready to see snow tires installed on my car.

"Just wait til Ol' Man Winter gets a piece of this," I thought to myself, my theme music playing in my head. "He'll think twice before messing with Ted Brown."

The tires were installed, and my car was backed out into the snow in the parking lot.

I sneered defiantly up into the sky. The car looked like it was ready to do some serious off-roading. My drive on the highway proved those tires were well balanced, and amazingly quiet.

I tried a couple spinouts in the snowy parking lot and found they responded beautifully.

As I backed my car into its parking spot, another thought went through my mind.

"Okay Ol' Man Winter, show me what you've got—I'm ready for you."

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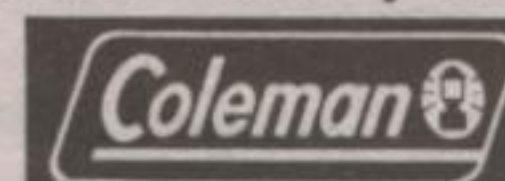
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