

Wheels & Car Care

Wednesday May 24, 2002

A supplement of

The Independent
& Free Press

Serving the Readers of
Halton Hills



Tim Abbott puts his 4X4 F150 through its paces in the water hazard under direction by Dan Wagstaffe as he recently took Wagstaffe's 4X4 101 off-road driver training course. The course is designed to allow owners of 4X4 trucks and SUVs realize the full potential of their vehicle. Photo by Ted Brown

Class is in for lovers of 4X4 vehicles

We see them everywhere, in all shapes, sizes and colours.

We see them loaded with luxury options—leather, power accessories and high performance sound systems that would rival most individual's home systems, not to mention their satellite navigational equipment that would dock an aircraft carrier.

And though the trend—albeit almost a fashion statement—to own a fully-loaded four-wheel drive sport utility vehicle (SUV) has been elevated to the point of a status symbol, very few people actually know how to drive them.

Some find them annoying as they squeeze into smaller parking spots or obstruct the vision of other drivers on the road. And when the SUV driver is intimidated by its size, they can be a bit tough to navigate.

For me, it's when 4X4 owners try to justify owning those gas-guzzling monsters saying they need it to get to work.

I almost laugh. If the weather is so bad one requires a four wheel drive vehicle to get to work, I think it might be advisable to stay home. (Unless, of course, you happen to be a snow plow operator.)

On the other hand, if someone wants to drive one for fun, then admit it. Don't beat around the bush.

It's been estimated that 80 per cent of all SUVs have never been engaged in four-wheel-drive, and even less have been used to their full potential, off the road.

Dan Wagstaffe of Glen Williams has set up a training course to help change that statistic.

Called 4X4 101, the hands-on day long course allows drivers of SUVs and 4X4 pickups an opportunity to learn the full potential of their vehicle, and as a result, possibly enjoy some out-of-the-way places generally inaccessible by traditional two wheel drive vehicles.

Wagstaffe first became interested in exploring

See FANS, pg. 2.

**Austin's
Auto Sales**
905-877-2304

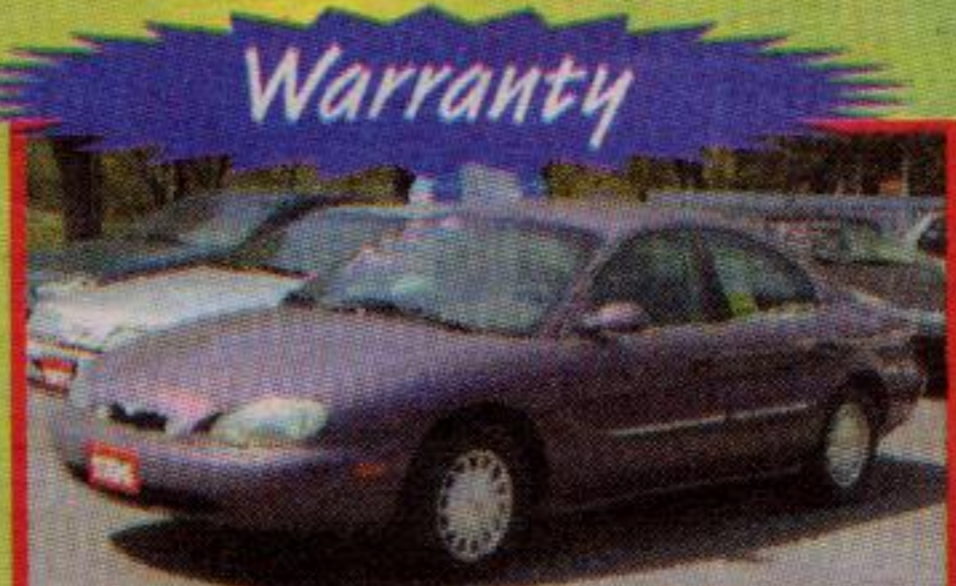
Corner of Maple & Trafalgar
Georgetown

• financing available on all cars



'95 T-Bird
LX
V8, loaded, low kms,
cold air, cert, e-test and
warranty.

\$6,995



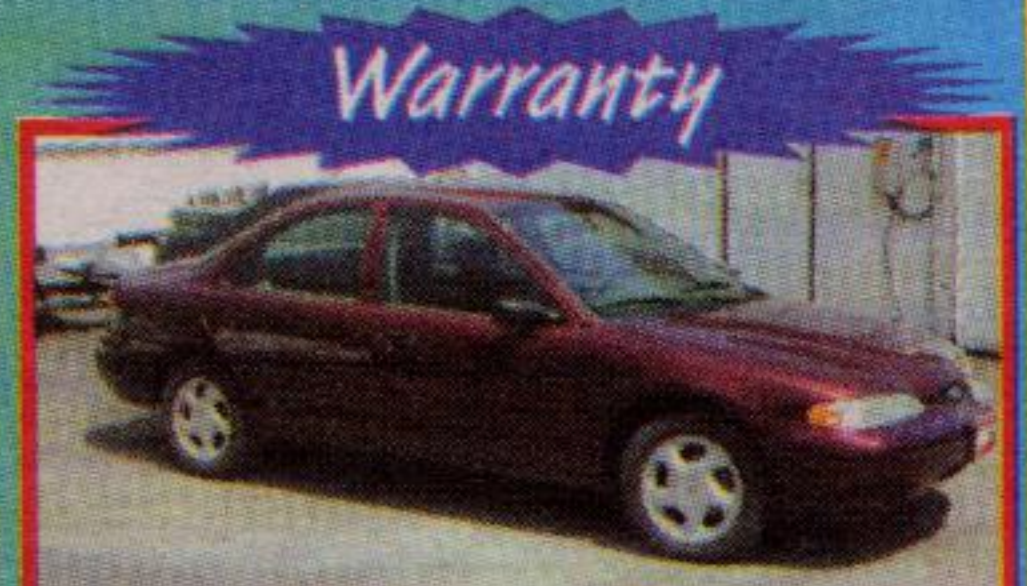
'96 Sable
LS
24 valve, loaded,
sharp, cert, e-test and
warranty.

**REDUCED
\$5,995**



'93 Sunbird
LE
Sporty, 5-speed, 4 cyl.,
economical transport.
Cert, e-test & warranty.

\$3,995



'97 Ford Contour
4 cyl., automatic, loaded
with options, cold air, 75K
on replacement motor,
cert, e-test & warranty.

\$5,995