

The automobile is an expression of man's desire for freedom

I wanted to take a few lines to explain the genesis of this column. My theory, (and I must confess that it is not entirely an original one), is that the automobile is an expression of man's desire for freedom. Freedom from the confines of geography. If you don't like the scenery, jump in the car and drive for a few hours and change it. Freedom from the limits of time. If you need to get somewhere quick, there is nothing better.

Your car (or truck) is on call for your use, at your convenience, and allows you to travel farther, faster, and more comfortably than any other method of transportation that I can think of.

At the same time, the automobile is an outlet for man's expression of beauty. You only need to cast a glance at some of

the absolutely stunning pieces of rolling artwork that men like Bugatti, Ferrari, Citroen, and Porsche have created in their quests for speed and safety.

There is no logical reason any person needs a seven passenger off-road vehicle, or a two seat convertible, yet they exist. They exist because we desire their ability to make us feel free or we admire their beauty or capabilities. They allow us to express our own desires.

The automobile is an outlet for man's expression of competition. I have read that the first car race commenced about 30 seconds after the second car was built.

MOTOR MOUTH



MIKE CORCORAN

I, for one believe it. Indeed, Hemingway himself (the poor misguided ink stained wretch) felt that there were only three sports—mountain climbing, bull fighting, and automobile racing.

Everything else was just a game. (I have also heard the quote with deep sea fishing as opposed to mountain climbing; so if any of you can confirm this one let me know.)

My point is, that the automobile has probably shaped more of our lives, in more meaningful ways, than almost any other device created by the human race. It has allowed us to shape our communities, place them where we would like to

live. It can be the source of great joy, and endless frustration.

My vision of this space in our community newspaper is to provide helpful information, and great stories about our cars. How to drive them better, and safer. How to acquire them. How to take care of them. Tell us some of your great car stories.

Frankly, I would like to help us all use them as a source of liberation, instead of a place to eat breakfast, and shave on the way to work.

By the way, when you ask for a few lines, and take up this much paper and ink to make your point, THAT'S the way you become known as a motormouth.

—Mike Corcoran is a former amateur road racer, a high-performance driving school instructor and the lease renewal manager at Georgetown Chrysler

Five ways to prepare your car or truck for winter's worst

Don't let the memories of balmy summer drives, lull you into complacency. There's tough driving ahead as the nights close in and winter's trials and tribulations loom. Tough times for the driver, tough times for the vehicle.

The wise driver knows that this is the time to prepare for what winter will throw at us. A little preparation now can save a whole lot of grief a couple of months down the road.

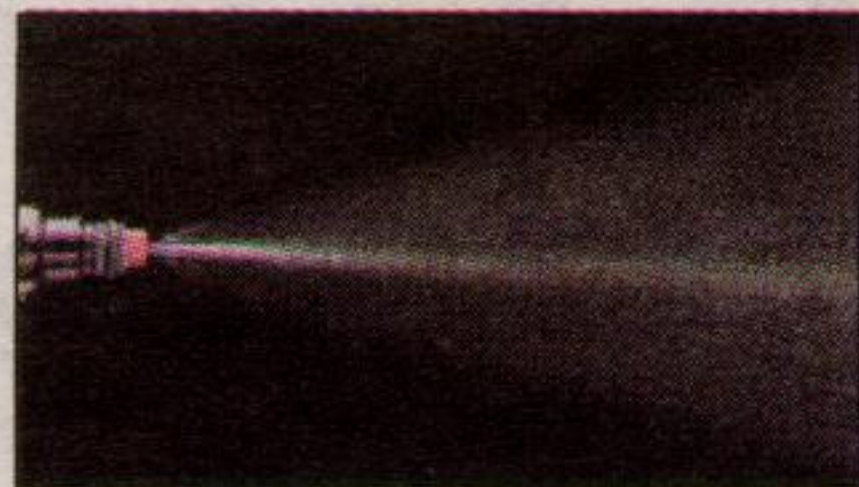
Here's a 5-point checklist to help you get your vehicle into shape for the wild weather that's on its way:

1. Now's the time to change the oil and filters. Peg Campbell, Fram product manager, says that Fram® X2 Extended Guard filter uses state-of-the-art technology to trap 96% of foreign particles the first time they pass through the engine, and it provides protection for up to 11,000 kilometres. The secret lies in Triad fibre technology that traps and holds the dirt, and a double metal screen construction for long life. This product is available at your local automotive parts store.

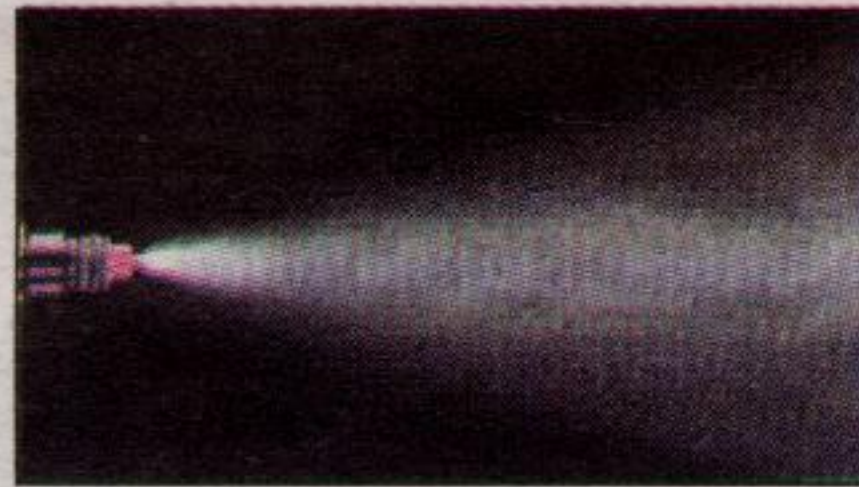
2. While you are at it, change the air filter, too. Your engine has sucked in 14,000 litres of often polluted summer air, for every five litres of gas burned. Fram uses that same Triad fibre technology in its air filters, too. It traps harmful dirt in the fibre's microscopic chambers without blocking airflow.

3. Check your plugs and ignition wires. Carbon build-up or gap erosion will mean slower start-ups, which drain an already cold-weakened battery. Increased exhaust emissions and poor fuel economy may also result. Experts often recommend Autolite® Platinum and Double Platinum plugs which, because of their platinum-coated tips, virtually eliminate gap erosion.

4. Make sure the fuel injectors are clean. Clogged injectors can cause higher fuel consumption and sluggish performance. Add Prestone® Fuel Injector Cleaner to just one tank of gas, and restore performance and acceleration that were lost due to injector deposits



DIRTY FUEL INJECTOR



CLEAN FUEL INJECTOR

5. Antifreeze/Coolant does not last forever. Test its potency and replace it if necessary. Prestone lines of Antifreeze/Coolants are designed to protect a range of vehicles of all kinds, from light cars to heavy trucks and diesels. Most call for a 50/50 mix of fluid and water. Check your manual for details.

For more winter car care information, check out the website at www.fram.com or www.prestone.com.

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