

I fear I've become a yuppie

I must admit that it's with considerable shame and humility that I sit down to pen this column.

You see, I'm afraid I've become a yuppie. Now it's not because I have switched to drinking high brow espresso coffee or some exotic cappuccino.

Nor have I suddenly begun to wear Italian loafers (with little tassels on them) or \$1,000 tailored suits.

I haven't even booked an appointment with an interior designer to give the farmhouse a new look.

And I most certainly haven't adopted the use of those annoying catch phrases like "Wanna do lunch?" or "My people will be in touch with your people..."

Nope, I haven't made any of those changes in my life. What I did was much more simple.

I bought an SUV.

Now before all those hisses and boos build to a crescendo, I must make a few confessions, that might absolve me, if only a little.

First of all, I didn't buy it because it has four-wheel-drive, and can go through 10 feet of snow to get me to work on THE worst morning of the winter.

My theory has always been that if the weather is so bad that two-wheel drive can't get me to work, I really shouldn't be going.

But having said that, having the option of using four-wheel-drive to get me back home (which is located on one of the least maintained roads in Halton Hills) after a major daytime snowstorm, is a bit comforting.

I didn't buy it because I'm suddenly going to take up off-roading, or have developed a burning desire to drive 20 miles into the bush to pick wild blueberries or something equally inane.

I won't be making a weekly winter pilgrimage to Collingwood to enjoy a weekend of skiing, nor do I intend to take up camping (but two

A
TED
BIT



Ted Brown

of my kids have already put their dibs in to 'borrow' it for Canada Day weekend.)

Hell, I don't even have a big dog that I have to transport somewhere to go for a walk.

And the cat doesn't 'do' car rides.

Nope, to be honest, I bought it for totally different, unorthodox reasons.

The first one was revenge.

Now I can pull up behind yuppie drivers in their European sports cars and flash my high beam halogen driving lamps in their rearview mirror, searing their eyeballs (and perhaps the hair off the back of their neck) much the same as they have done to me all these years while seated in my poor little aging sports car.

When I pull up beside those same drivers at the traffic lights, I can peer down into their cars and catch them scratching something inappropriate, or fumbling to find whatever it was they dropped into the crack between their seats.

Putting the revenge issue aside, there have been other unique revelations since I became an 'SUVer' late last week.

I now sit high enough to see both ways down the tracks when I cross a railroad bridge.

I can load groceries in the rain with the back door up—and stay dry.

And I can pass almost anything on the road.

Except a gas station.... with gas at (sigh) 85 cents a litre.



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Safety Recall

10 different Mastercraft axes

Canadian Tire is voluntarily recalling a total of 10 Mastercraft branded axes. It has been determined that due to manufacturing inconsistencies, some of the units may develop loose heads, possibly causing the head to detach from the handle. Below is a list of the 10 different products affected by the recall. All were sold between July 2002 and April 15, 2004. Products purchased before and after these dates are not affected.

Item	Product No.	Item	Product No.
2 1/4-lb axe	57-5108-2	5-lb 36" axe	57-5123-4
2 1/2-lb axe	57-5112-0	6-lb maul	57-5126-8
4-lb axe	57-5117-0	8-lb maul	57-5128-4
1 3/4-lb 18" axe	57-5106-6	1 1/4-lb hatchet	57-5104-0
3 1/2-lb 36" axe	57-5116-2	Axe splitter	57-5127-6

How to identify this product

The Mastercraft axes and mauls being recalled can be identified as follows:

- 1) Product number appears on a label on the handle of the axe or maul
- 2) It was purchased between July 2002 and April 15, 2004

Action to take if you have purchased this product

Canadian Tire has not been notified of any safety incidents relating to these products, but given the potential safety issue, is requesting that customers discontinue the use of this product immediately and return it to their nearest Canadian Tire store for a full refund.

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