

# WHEELS & CAR CARE

Check the air in your tires—it'll save \$\$

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THE INDEPENDENT  
& FREE PRESS

Halton Hills Community Newspaper

Friday, July 7, 2006

Awareness of alternative fuels remains low

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Special pullout section

8 Pages

Circulation 21,220

## Save cash by keeping your vehicle maintained

Twenty-five years ago a litre of gasoline in Canada cost about 25 cents, but since then we've seen that climb steadily, to the 1.06 cent range for regular gasoline.

And while vehicles have become increasingly fuel efficient—due to better aerodynamics, improved tires and electronic controls—they haven't become the three to four times better it would require to keep up with that discouraging escalation in fuel costs.

The good news is we can do something about controlling our fuel usage with a three-pronged approach involving a better assessment of our vehicle requirements, ensuring that, whether new or old, they are kept properly maintained and changing our approach to how we drive them. Doing so will not only potentially save hundreds of dollars annually, but help Canada meet its commitments to reduce greenhouse gases.

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Canada's auto producers and retailers have joined forces to provide information on fuel efficient vehicle choices through the EnerGuide fuel economy guide and special labeling on new vehicles. NRCan also sponsors an annual awards program that identifies the most fuel efficient vehicles available. To learn more visit NRCan's website at vehicles.gc.ca or call 1-800-387-2000.

Thanks to technological advances some automotive systems don't require as much maintenance as in the past, but others still do and ensuring your vehicle has been maintained according to the manufacturers specifications will help cut fuel costs, keeping cash in your pocket.

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**Pump pain**

As gas prices remain well above the dollar a litre mark, Craig Gray of Georgetown isn't the least bit impressed with the cost of a filling up his van. Market analysts predict the prices will be even higher throughout the summer.

*Photo by Ted Brown*



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