

WHEELS & CAR CARE

Have a merry
Lamborghini Christmas
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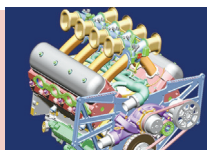
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Corvette wins coveted
engine award

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The second generation Pontiac Wave sub-compact sedan has a new look for 2007 with prominent headlights that flow back into the hood and fenders. The 2007 Wave follows the trend toward taller cabins so five adults can fit easily.

Pontiac takes the next Wave in the sub-compact segment

JIM ROBINSON
Road Worthy

When General Motors stepped up to the plate to take over bankrupt Korean carmaker Daewoo, many said, "why?"

You can still see some Daewoo signs on failed dealerships in some Canadian cities where it offered cars like the mid-size Laganza that an auto colleague rates as probably the worst car he has ever driven with the possible exception of a Lada Signet.

So when GM poured a ton of money into the Korean production plant and started building the subcompact Chevrolet Aveo and Pontiac Wave, there were concerns.

But what happened is both of these sub-compacts sur-

prised a lot of people by being solid little cars that met the expectations of most buyers.

Building on that, GM is now bring the second generation of these cars to Chevy and Pontiac showrooms.

Power for the Wave, as well as the Aveo, is a 1.6-litre, 16-valve four-cylinder producing 103 hp and 107 lb/ft of torque with what Pontiac calls its Variable Geometry Induction System. In a nutshell, it allows the engine to maximize the charge across the rev range combined with an electronic gas pedal that helps improve fuel consumption while reducing emissions.

For this front-driver there is a standard five-speed manual transmission with an optional four-speed automatic.

Fuel economy numbers have not been released, but

based on the 2006 Aveo with the same engine it should be close to 9.7L/100 km (29 mpg city) and 6.3L/100 km (45 mpg) highway.

Pricing for the Wave starts with the Base sedan at \$12,950 with the SE, with added trim starting at \$15,450. Wave is sold as a four- and five-door sedan.

While it may be small, it is equipped to meet Canadian safety standards with standard dual rate front airbags and optional side-impact airbags for increased torso and head protection. Four-channel ABS is available, and in my opinion, well worth the extra cost. Other standard safety features are what you would expect including front-seat belts with front-load limiters, lower anchors for children's seats and height-adjustable shoulder belt anchors.

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