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WHEELS

SUPPLEMENT TO THE CANADIAN CHAMPION FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009

Chevy's Traverse combines the best of a minivan and a CUV

By JIM ROBINSON

Metroland Media Group

GM is supposed to be going away from the minivan, but is it really?

New to the Chevrolet lineup is

the 2009 Traverse CUV. While Traverse shares much with the Buick Enclave and Saturn Outlook, Chevrolet's version looks more like a 4X4 SUV when it is, in fact, a minivan.

And that's the clever part of the Traverse. It has all the seven- or eight-seat passenger utility of a minivan, while having that rugged SUV look that remains in vogue these days.

There are four models (LS, 1LT, 2LT, LTZ) separated primarily by trim. All four share one engine, GM's ubiquitous 3.6-litre V6 with variable valve timing. In the LZ/1LT/2LT it produces 281 hp

and 266 lb/ft. The topline LTZ gets a slight boost in power to 288 hp.

The Traverse has a six-speed automatic transmission and comes standard in front-wheel-drive

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