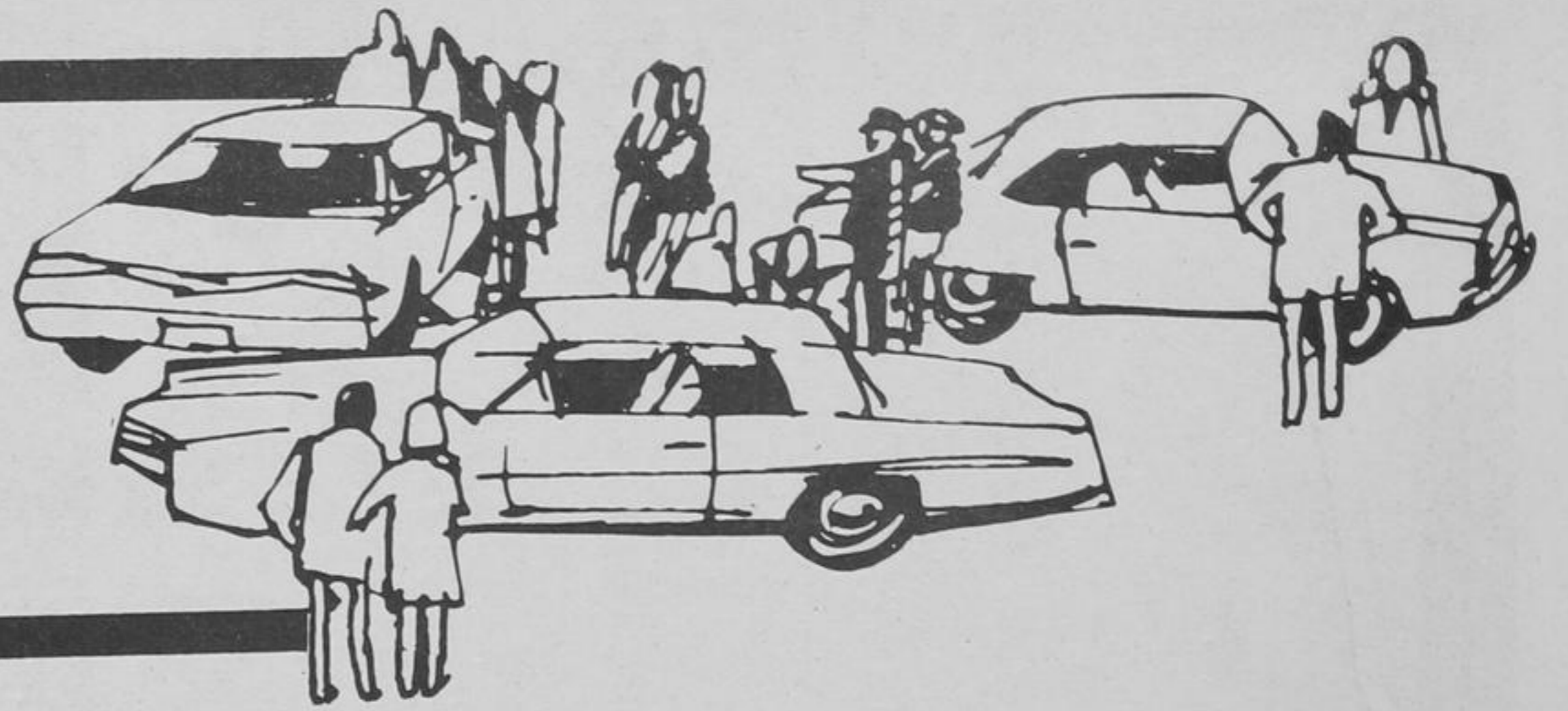


# The Liberal FALL AUTOMOTIVE SECTION



## Avoid cold-weather car worries

October is a good time to winterize the family automobile. Cold weather and even snow frequently arrive unexpectedly.

Be prepared and you'll avoid back-ups at overburdened service stations and dealerships.

Not only will winterizing insure a safer, less frustrating cold-weather driving season, but it also can help save gas.

A tune-up is an essential ingredient in total winterizing.

According to the Ontario Motor League, an efficient-running engine can increase fuel economy by as much as 15 per cent.

So, the first step is to get your car tuned.

### Be specific

When asking for a tune-up, however, the Motor League cautions car owners to state exactly what they want the mechanic to do.

Simply stating that you would like a tune-up performed is vague and can lead to misunderstandings — more, and often less than you bargained for.

So, be specific.

### Usual items

Normally a tune-up consists of:

- adjustment or replacement of spark plugs, as required
- adjustment or replacement of points
- new condenser, if necessary
- oil and filter change
- air filter change, if necessary
- adjustment of engine timing
- inspection of heat riser valve
- carburetor adjustment, if required
- PCV valve change, if necessary
- tighten or replacement of belts
- replacement of ignition

### Guidelines for tire selection

With both safety and budget in mind, the Tire Industry Safety Council offers some basic tire selection guidelines.

**FIRST**, go by the book. Before considering options to the tires that came with the car, check the owner's manual, a dealer or the tire instructions affixed to the car.

Tire replacement recommendations for any vehicle should take into account size limitations, car handling efficiency and other safety considerations.

Never select a smaller tire than those that came with the car.

It might affect ground clearance, instrument accuracy and the suspension system of the car and is not designed to carry the vehicle load.

There are three tire types or constructions — bias, belted bias and radial tires. All must meet government safety standards.

**SECOND**, play the tire mating and mixing game correctly.

It is best to try and keep the same construction and size of tire on all four wheels.

Never mix different tire constructions on the same axle.

If a pair of radial tires is used with bias or belted bias tires, the radials always go on the rear axle.

**THIRD**, if your old tires wear out before you think they should, have an expert check them to find out why.

It may be better tire maintenance will help you make your new tires last longer.

wires, if necessary

### Other checks

Since this particular tune-up will be for winter driving, have the mechanic also check and change or correct antifreeze solution; inspect water hoses and exhaust system for leaks; and check battery charge and capacity.

Also ask the mechanic to thoroughly clean battery terminals and grease them to guard against corrosion — a major inhibitor to engine starting, especially during cold weather.

### Battery strength

If the battery is weak or old, replace it before it lets you down.

When the temperature drops, the condition of your battery usually determines if your car starts.

A brand-new, fully-charged battery at 32 degrees F. is only 60 per cent efficient; at zero degrees, 46 per cent — and at 20 below, 30 per cent.

Think what happens to a battery which is handicapped by old age or poor condition!

### Oil weight

When having the oil changed, the Motor League advises motorists to make sure the weight of oil they've been using will perform satisfactorily in winter.

A multi-grade oil such as 10W-30 and 5W-30 works well in almost all engines. It has a flowing consistency that will adjust itself to varying temperatures.

The lower number refers to its ability to flow adequately in cold weather (the lower the number, the more cold it will withstand).

The higher number means the oil will maintain its ability to lubricate when hot.

Ask your mechanic for his recommendations for oil weight in your particular area and change if necessary.

Mount snow tires after they are inspected for



### Oh! that heat

When a car's cooling passages become clogged with corrosion deposits, boil-over can result... sometimes leading to costly repairs. If your

car is two years old or more, many recommend you should change your coolant every year and avoid trouble.

cuts, bruises or wear at this time, too.

### Personal checks

Now, here are some items to check yourself. The auto club advises rechecking them several times throughout the winter season:

Check to see that all lights, turn signals and emergency flashers are operating properly. Keep headlamps clean for greater visibility.

Check windshield wiper blades and replace if more than one year old or dirty. Periodic cleaning

with household cleaning fluid can often renew the wiping power of dirty blades and extend their life.

Fill windshield cleaning fluid reservoir, adding a solution that contains anti-freeze for winter use.

Make sure heater and defroster are working properly and have them repaired if necessary.

### Winter equipment

Finally, the Motor League urges motorists to carry these items in their cars during the winter.

They'll prove invaluable if needed:

- reinforced tire chains
- sand or traction mats (make sure sand is dry and store in plastic trash bags)
- small snow shovel
- ice scraper and snow brush
- flashlight
- jumper cables
- dry cloth

By taking care of these duties now, motorists should be prepared for

any unseasonal or unexpected winter driving factors that may occur.

And their cars should operate more efficiently in the cold weather, too.

### Save 50% of gas

Is it possible to double the mileage obtained from a gallon of gasoline?

Such expectations may seem out of reach for most motorists, but evidence exists that such fuel savings are possible.

A car owner brought his vehicle in for an emissions and fuel economy test. When his undermaintained car was examined in "as is" condition, gasoline usage was measured.

After the car was completely tuned up, it was retested for fuel economy.

A 55 per cent improvement in fuel economy was realized.

### Potential high

While this saving is hardly typical, it is not inconceivable.

Add to engine condition other maintenance items and the manner in which the car is driven, and the potential to save fuel is enormous.

According to the experts, many factors can cost you at the gasoline pump.

One oil company states that underinflated tires can lose a mile a gallon in fuel economy.

A malfunctioning choke can cut mileage by 30 per cent as well as lead to engine damage.

### Operation important

Engines operating at idle get no miles per gallon. So avoid needless idling.

Warming up an engine on a cold morning is a waste of time and gas. As soon as the engine is running smoothly, proceed at a moderate speed.

Also, when waiting for long periods of time, shut off the engine.

If your engine should flood, do not pump the accelerator. Instead, crank the engine steadily until the car starts.

In manual transmission cars, get to high gear as soon as possible.

First gear uses about 30 per cent more fuel than second, and second uses 15 per cent more fuel than third.

Avoid jack rabbit starts. A driver who tromps on the gas pedal uses four times as much fuel as the feather-footed motorist.

Other fuel-wise maneuvers include avoiding sudden stops and starts necessitated by following other vehicles too closely; get out of the lane-hopping habit and keep good control of the car when cornering and climbing hills.

### Drive sensibly

And perhaps the most effective gasoline-saving maneuver of all. Drive at sensible speeds. Traveling at 80 m.p.h. is not only against the law.

A car at 80 m.p.h. consumes 25 per cent more gas than one going only 50 m.p.h.

The most efficient mileage is achieved at about 28 miles per hour.

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