ESSEX OPINIONS FREE PRESS

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Detroit's "Big 3" automakers have reached back to another generation and found some retro cars that are bringing customers to area showrooms in droves.

Nowhere has this been truer than with Chrysler. The exciting Chrysler 300 series from the late fifties is back complete with optional hemi

engine. The
Dodge
Charger has
returned to
similar success, and
Chrysler has
announced that
the Dodge
Challenger, a
two-door

coupe based on the muscle car originally built from 1970 to 1974, will return. Chrysler says the production model will be close to the concept car that was first unveiled at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit last January.

The Challenger, like the Chrysler 300, will be available with the signature hemi engine, although a small engine option will likely be available.

Windsor's Tom LaSorda, Chrysler group CEO, said last week, "Here's a promise you can take to the bank, the Chrysler Group will continue to build on its rich heritage."

Meantime, across town at GM, the word

is that the world's number one automaker will forge an alliance with Japan's Nissan Motor Company, and France's Renault. This could be round two of globalization. In 1998, Chrysler merged with German automaker Daimler-Benz AG.

GM's share price has been shooting up lately. Look for it to go

through the roof if a deal materializes. That would happen despite the fact that Nissan is struggling in its home market of Japan, and Renault has all kinds of trou-

bles, starting in the executive lounge.

BILL GAY

OPINION

Where does all this leave Ford, the 103year-old auto company that operates worldwide already? The profits from overseas operations have kept Ford rolling when the volatile car market in North America takes one of its periodic dips. Right now, Ford is enjoying strong acceptance of its Ford Fusion, Mustang and Lincoln Zephyr models.

Whatever happens, the industry that, along with agriculture, has been the mainstay of the Windsor-Essex economy for the last century, will continue to be the one that will power the local economy for years to come. Hold on to your hat!

OK, WE'VE HAD THE TRIM...



NOW HOW 'BOUT A CUT?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Camp Day Thank You

Thank you for your support of Tim Hortons Camp Day, when over 2,900 Tim Hortons stores in Canada and the United States donated their entire coffee sales, in addition to funds raised through other Camp Day events and activities, Horton to the Tim Children's Foundation. This special day raised an unbelievable \$7.2 million (Cdn)! Tim Hortons is extremely grateful for your support and for the generosity of our customers, store owners, staff and many special guests who participated in Camp Day 2006.

Thanks in large part to the funds raised on Camp Day, over 11,000 deserving children will attend one of six Tim Horton Children's Foundation camps this year – all expenses paid. Each camp offers a wide range of first-class programs and activities, and the supportive atmosphere encourages campers to embrace new

and unfamiliar challenges. Designed to build self-confidence, self-esteem and leadership abilities, the environment gives campers an experience that can open their eyes to their own potential.

On behalf of Tim Hortons, the Tim Horton Children's Foundation and the thousands of children you have helped to send to camp this year, thank you very much.

Donald B. Schroeder President Tim Horton Children's Foundation

Courtesy is alive in Essex

There are still many people who care about others in our little town.

I had gassed up my van at Canadian Tire Gas Bar when I tried to start it but it would not start. The station attendant allowed me to call my husband, but since he had hip surgery he couldn't help.

A town employee, Al Diemer, asked if I needed any help. He tried to start

the van but it was no use, so he pushed the car out of the pump lane. There was frozen food in the van, so Mr. Diemer took out the groceries and drove me home. He also carried the groceries in and offered to drive me back to the car.

On the way, we stopped at D.B. Automotive and Adam Popov came to the gas bar to check the van. My son arrived, got in the van and, of course, it started.

The next day we tried the van again. It did not start so we called Cottam Towing. The driver arrived and was ready to hook up the van but the van started when he turned the ignition.

To just say thank you is such a little thing. Their courtesy and no charge is very unusual today. They took time from their day and their business to assist a senior. I hope some day we can repay your courtesy. Thank you so much.

Mary Ann Gagnier Essex

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