

Geezers-to-be trade sports car for sedan

Members of the shocked and appalled community are advised to skip this column, which is awash in blatant stereotypes.

As we passed a gleaming Crown Victoria on the parkway the other day, I reflected that certain automobiles could be classified as geezer cars.

Geezer cars tend to be large, stately and impeccably free of dents, rust or bumper stickers proclaiming affiliations to sports teams or radio stations.

No furry dice or "Baby on Board" signs can be seen dangling seductively in the immaculately polished rear window.

The owners usually prefer muted colours like maroon



Kate Gilderdale

or hunter green, and often drive in the fast lane at 75 clicks, blissfully unaware that traffic is now backed up to Newmarket as a result.

You will never find a geezer car with its windows open (naturally they all have air conditioning), blasting Meatloaf to a captive audience on a sweltering Sunday afternoon.

It is my totally unscientific theory that the next generation of geezers – the ones who would ignore a publication called *Seniors Today*, but cheerfully embrace the same periodical under the pseudonym *Forever Young* – will have to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into ownership of this type of automobile.

This is because they – we – are in permanent denial when it comes to growing old gracefully, or even growing old at all.

Whole rafts of geezers-in-waiting are either on the shortlist for one of those incredibly uncomfortable looking new Beetles or have bought themselves an expertly refurbished classic sports car.

Because of its value and prestige, this collector's item spends about seven months of the year in mothballs, lest it become sullied by such annoying natural phenomena as snow and sleet.

Thus its owner is obliged to clear his or her garage of all the stuff normal people keep in their garages – gardening tools, bicycles, ski equipment, humidifiers, tents and the detritus of last year's yard sale – in order to find a spot where the car can languish throughout the long winter months.

Lesser mortals of my vintage – myself included – boldly drive about in sturdy, utilitarian boxes, the kind which never go out of fashion because they have never been in fashion.

All efforts to drive them into the ground having been exhausted, their owners pose as reverse snobs, whose creed is that you should never judge people by the car they drive.

In reality, their paltry income – earned by doing what they love rather than building a real career – automatically disqualifies them from buying the Harley or E-Type Jag they secretly covet.

There are advantages to the lifestyle of the cash-strapped and obscure, however.

When someone dings your car you are not prostrate with grief; if anything, the latest dent adds a certain cachet, assuming you even notice its appearance.

And most self-respecting thieves are unlikely to cast your vehicle more than a cursory glance before moving on to something cool.

Anyone like to trade their TR6 for a practical, carefree 1986 Tercel wagon?

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