

GRAND & TOY
 30% OFF OFFICE SUPPLIES
 10% OFF FURNITURE
 Only With 
 ECONOMIST & SUN
 294-2200
 Stouffville Tribune
 640-2100
 FOR MORE INFORMATION

WHEELS

Toyota 4Runner offers "no surprises" dependability

ROB BEINTEMA
 METROLAND STAFF

No surprises. It was the first phrase that came to mind as I sat in the '99 Toyota 4Runner. Most of a vehicle's personality — its characteristics, qualities and any of its flaws — are usually best discovered through extensive driving and testing. But whenever I pick up a test car or truck, I tend to drop into the driver's seat and just sit there quietly for a while, looking around, trying to absorb the styling, the ergonomics and the feel of the vehicle before I get too used to it.

and start to overlook all the little idiosyncrasies and nuances that separate it from the competition.

No surprises. This 1999 model couldn't be anything but a 4Runner. Toyota's compact sport utility first debuted in 1984 as a unique pickup truck derivative with two doors and a removable fiberglass roof.

But even after three generations and a myriad of cosmetic and engineering upgrades, the 4Runner stays true to its heritage and original styling cues.

The look gets freshened up every year or so and this year is no exception.

The only real change to the outside of the vehicle for '99 is a redesigned bumper and grille.

And sales are going very nicely, thank you, so don't expect any major redesign for the next few years. Overall exterior styling is sleek, trim and refined.

For customers who prefer to make a bolder statement, the 4Runner's truck image can be boosted with upscale option packages that include integrated fog lamps, running boards, splash guards, roof racks and the Land Cruiser-wanna-be look of big-shouldered fender flares.

Inside, no surprises. Well, that's not entirely true. Everything's located just where you'd expect to find it and the fit and finish are up to Toyota's usual standard of excellence.

But I must admit to always being a little surprised at the comfortable amount of traveling room in the 4Runner, considering its compact truck size. Sure, everything's slightly on the small side, from seats to doors, but there's adequate headroom and shoulder room for everyone on board.

I'm tall, so it's always a pleasant surprise to find enough legroom in the second row, even with the 4Runner's front buckets ratcheted all the way back.

Up front, the dash is tucked up nicely away from the knees. It takes a while

to get used to the wrap-around-the-ribs front buckets, but the contoured form-fitting seats offer good lateral support and are comfortable over the long haul.

The pistol-grip auto shifter is too far forward for any size driver, but it's not really a major concern in an automatic. Between the front seats, a deep centre console offers storage and two cupholders. Two well-designed cupholders for rear passengers unfold neatly from the back of the console.

Switches, controls and gauges are sensibly laid out on a dashboard that includes a dash-mounted ignition, power rear window switch and an electronically controlled transmission switch that allows you to select normal or sport (higher rev shifting points) transmission bias.

Inside you'll also find some of the other across-the-board upgrades for 1999, including automatic headlights and standard overhead console with map light. Two new auxiliary power ports are nestled side by side next to the cigarette lighter. With another power port located in the rear cargo area, the total of four different 12V outlets should be more than enough for any family's collection of cell phones, notebook computers, coolers and gameboys.

See EXPERIENCE, page 30.

YOUR TORONTO AREA MAZDA DEALERS

Invite You to Experience the "RESTYLED"

2000 MAZDA 626

- * Larger Wheels
- * AM/FM/CD
- * Newly Designed Interior
- * Standard Power Windows, Locks & Heated Door Mirrors
- * Remote Fuel Door Release
- * Rear Seat Heater Ducts
- * European Inspired Suspension
- MANY MORE FEATURES...
- (SEE YOUR MAZDA DEALER TODAY!)

4.9% FIN
 Up to 48 Mos.



MAZDA 626 LX V6
 FROM \$24,995 OR \$339/mo OR 4.9% FIN

626 LX I4 Only **\$299** OR **\$22,590** OR **4.9%** FIN UP TO 48 MO

24 HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE • 5 YEAR/100,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

Markham
 Kovac Mazda
 5396 Hwy #7
 (905) 294-1210

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MAZDA.CA. ASK YOUR DEALER ABOUT MAZDA'S UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE GRADUATE PROGRAM. Offer available on retail purchases of new 2000 Mazda 626 LX. Purchase price offer excludes \$795 for cars. (Finance example for \$10,000 at 4.9% APR, 48 months at \$229.84 per month, C.O.B. is \$1,032.32 for a total of \$11,032.32. *Mazda Personal Lease Rate: Offers available on new retail leases only. Leases are based on 48 months. Other lease terms available. Total lease obligation for the 2000 Mazda 626 LX I4 (model #F4LST0A000) is \$16,904, which includes security deposit of \$400 and down payment of \$3,000 (includes freight and P.D.E. of \$795). Total lease obligation for the 2000 Mazda 626 LX V6 (model #F4LV70A000) is \$19,472, which includes security deposit of \$400 and down payment of \$3,000 (includes freight and P.D.E. of \$795). All 7.95% 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, \$40/1000 km per km applies. License, insurance, taxes and other dealer charges extra. Dealer may sell assets for less. Offers available from September 2, 1999 for a limited time only. Lease and Finance O.A.C. for qualified customers only. See your dealer for details. Offers cannot be combined.

Get in. Be moved.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Scott Hadley, General Manager of Northtown Ford in Thornhill, is pleased to announce the appointment of Jill Forsyth to the position of Fleet manager, effective immediately.

Jill brings 13 years experience in sales, leasing and fleet with Ford and a wealth of automotive expertise to her new position.

Jill looks forward to her new position with Northtown Ford and she welcomes all of her friends & customers to drop by to say hello.



7120 Yonge St., Thornhill

just north of Steeles

(905) 889-7343



NOW AVAILABLE

The All New Re-Designed 2000 Mazda 626

- V6 Automatic • Power Windows
- Remote Keyless Entry • AM/FM/CD
- Power Mirrors • 16" Alloy Wheels
- And much, much more

Lease from

\$339

Purchase from

\$24,995

*48 month lease, \$3,000 down includes freight & P.D.E. 1st, Security, licence, taxes extra. O.A.C.



KOVAC mazda

294-1210

Get In • Be Moved

5396 HIGHWAY #7