



For immediate release

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Are you road ready? CAA provides you tips to get ready for fall and winter driving

Thornhill, ON – As temperatures start to dip and our roadways get slicker with the change of season it's time to give your car its seasonal check-up.

Motorists spend a great deal of time on the road during the summer months giving their vehicles a good work out. The toll of Canada's changing seasons can easily turn minor car maintenance problems into automotive emergencies.

"Any weak or faulty component on your vehicle is vulnerable in extreme cold spells and could give out," says Edyta Zdancewicz of CAA South Central Ontario. "Poor tires, weak batteries and malfunctioning lights can all become a hazard in bad weather. Add poor road maintenance and you could be spending more money than expected on your car."

To ensure your vehicle is ready for another fall and winter CAA South Central Ontario suggests a complete vehicle check-up. In the month of October CAA is offering several FREE car care seminars for motorists to keep their families and others on the road safe. To register: visit www.caasco.com/worstroads or call 1-877-588-2088.

Seminar locations and dates:

Kingston, On – October 3, 10am-12pm, Car Medics Inc, 37 Rigney St.

Oakville, On – October 17, 10am–12pm, Mark's Auto Service, 318 Wyecroft Rd.

Markham, On – October 24, 1-3pm, Markham Auto Repair & Service, 16 Laidlaw Blvd.

How to get your car fall and winter ready? CAA suggests you check the following:

- **Battery:** Cold-weather starts require a fully charged battery. Typically batteries last 4-5 years, but their strength should be checked regularly. The connections should be cleaned and tightened with no corrosion. Consider purchasing a CAA Green battery to help the environment also.
- **Engine:** Is it time for a tune-up? Faulty wiring, worn spark plugs, a sticking choke or emission control devices that need attention can all lead to hard starting. A diagnostic checkup of your engine is a good seasonal investment. Visit any CAA Approved Automotive Repair Service facility or CAA Car Care Centre for details.
- **Oil:** Oil is your vehicle's lifeblood. If necessary, have your oil and filter changed with a multi-grade oil, such as 5W-30 or 10W-30, works well in almost all engines and has a flowing consistency that meets varying temperatures. Consider going eco-friendly with Safety-Kleen's Eco-Power oil available exclusively at CAA Car Care Centres.
- **Tires:** The traction between the tires and the road surface determines how well your vehicle starts, turns and stops. Ensure that your tires are properly inflated and in good condition. Winter tires are the best option for areas that receive heavy snowfall. All four tires must match for best performance. Check out CAA's big savings winter tire sale at www.caasco.com and get up to \$500 off a new set of winter tires.
- **Brakes:** Brakes should be checked and, if needed, serviced to ensure even braking. Ensure your brakes are properly aligned and have good lining on their pads. Check brake and power-steering fluids.
- **Windshield wipers:** Replace all worn our blades and ensure you fill the reservoir bottle with a winter-grade fluid. Typically blades should be replaced annually.

CAA South Central Ontario is a not-for-profit auto clubs offering insurance, travel and roadside services. There are more than 1.8 million CAA members in Ontario and 5 million members in Canada.

Media Contact:

Edyta Zdancewicz
Media and PR
Specialist
60 Commerce Valley
Drive East,
Thornhill, ON L3T 7P9
ez2@caasco.ca
Office: (905) 771-3194
Cell: (416) 209-4930