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Six Star Review

THE MAGAZINE FOR CANADIAN SUBARU OWNERS
Winter/Spring 2002

One car company designs every vehicle to handle all the challenges of driving in Canada. One car company engineers every vehicle to keep you safe and in control in every type of Canadian weather. One car company designs every single vehicle from the ground up with the superior traction and control of full-time All-Wheel Drive. Subaru.

Every vehicle in the Subaru line-up delivers on all of these points. Each is built to the exacting standards that has earned Subaru unrivaled customer loyalty. Every Subaru dealer throughout Canada is dedicated to making Subaru ownership an unsurpassed experience. Its all part of a 26-year labour of love that defines the Subaru difference in powerful terms. Safety. Performance. Comfort. Adventure. It's what Subaru means by The Beauty of All-Wheel Drive®.



The Subaru Privacy Mission Statement

Subaru Canada, Inc. respects your right to privacy. Any information you supply to us is strictly guarded and will be used solely to help us serve you better. We do not sell our owner mailing lists. On occasion, however, we do partner with reputable companies that we feel are of interest to our owners in order to provide you with value-added products and services.



...down under and different!

- Behind the Wheel • News • Previews • Owner's Spotlight •
- Tech Talk • Accessories • Cool Stuff •



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The ABC's of Safety: Air bags. Buckle up. Children in back.







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ARE THESE PEOPLE CRAZY?



Sixty-seven teams began Eco-Challenge 2001 in New Zealand on the morning of October 21, 2001 when Race Director Mark Burnett (yes - the guy who's famous for Survivor) fired the starting gun at 7:38 a.m.



Ten non-stop, sleepless days later, 59 teams crossed the finish line, completing a race that required skills in mountain biking, trekking, mountaineering, whitewater and lake rafting, and horseback riding. Team Eco-Internet crossed the finish line first after achieving the precarious balance between strategy, sleep and pure strength.



The ability to perform without sleep played a vital roll in how well teams performed in this race. "The last night was certainly the toughest for us," said David Zeitsma, Captain and navigator of Canadian Team Subaru Outback. "It was the 5th night of the race and we had only slept for 5 hours total." They had kept up a consistent light jog all day. At about 6:00 pm they passed another team and the resulting adrenaline rush kept them moving as they fought their way up a 2,500 ft. slope.

"As the night wore on, however, the lack of sleep caught up to us," said Zeitsma. "Like being drunk, my field of awareness was reduced to about 5 metres in front of me. I was hallucinating all sorts of wild and wonderful things. Before night fell we had agreed to push straight through to the finish line but the temptation to sleep was great. We pulled out our sleeping bags and settled down for an hour of sleep to wait for first light. At the time it all seemed very logical but when I woke up with a clearer head I felt beaten. The sleep monster got the better of us."



Canadian Team Subaru Outback at Eco-Challenge 2001

Dave Zeitsma, Lawrence Foster, Sarah Wiley and Richard Browne who together make up Team Subaru Outback, made a strong effort to finish eighth in the 370 kilometre race, even with that extra hour of sleep.

Watch your TV listings for coverage on Discovery Channel in April.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Team Subaru Outback at EcoChallenge 2001



Hollyford Track, New Zealand



Subaru Triathlon Team Update

Behind the Wheel 4

A message from Norio Osakabe
Chairman, President and CEO Subaru Canada, Inc.

Owner's Spotlight 5

Matt Pommer of Rossland, B.C. has the knack for being in the right place at the right time.

Product Previews 6

2003 Forester - All-new models for 2003
2002 Legacy L Special Edition
2003 Baja - A unique addition to the 2003 Subaru line-up

Tech Talk 8

All-Wheel Drive Logic
Balanced Engineering

Subaru Accessories 10

Want a super sedan? How about a wagon that's a little on the wild side? Then check this out... great new accessories for your WRX!

Featured Story 12

New Zealand - an opposite attraction!

Subaru News 17

Canadian Cross-Country Ski Team Sponsorship
Montreal Dealers' Association Charity Support for HuMouR en Sante
Sara With her Subaru Tattoo!
New Advertising Campaigns for 2002

Cool Stuff 18

Subaru Ironman Canada - 2001 Results & 2002 Update
Ronald McDonald House - "Subaru Adopts a Room"
Toddle for Tots at the Toronto Zoo
Subaru Triathlon Series
Subaru Adventure Racing Series
Subaru Canadian & World Rally Updates
Eco-Challenge, New Zealand 2001

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Norio Osakabe

BEHIND the WHEEL

Happy New Year from everyone at Subaru Canada Inc. and from our 100 Subaru dealers across Canada.

Exciting things happen at Subaru and last year was no exception. In 2001 we introduced the six-cylinder engine in the Outback H6 and H6 VDC models. We also added the long awaited turbo charged Impreza WRX sedan and wagon to the new Impreza line-up. This new turbo Impreza WRX is World Rally inspired, and to prove it, we went out and dominated the Canadian Rally Series at all levels of competition. See the Canadian Rally story in Cool Stuff.

All that said, we did save some excitement for this year. Even this magazine has taken on a new look. It's sleeker and more refined - just what Subaru owners are used to. In this issue you'll read about the new 2003 Forester that's set to arrive this spring and you'll get the scoop on an exciting and playful new product that's coming this fall - the Subaru Baja.

At Subaru, we're dedicated to developing products and sponsoring events that support active Canadian lifestyles. Read on to find out just what we mean. Then, once you're through, go on out and enjoy the day.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year,

Norio Osakabe
Chairman, President and CEO
Subaru Canada, Inc.



"For us, we feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. I am a survivor of a heart valve transplant... Another one of us had a kidney removed... The third has ligaments that feel like knives... Despite this we finished 1st in the Master's Division," said Bart Carswell, Team "Bigger, Harder, Faster."



RALLY 'ROUND SUBARU

It's not difficult to figure out how to become great at rallying. Simply place an excellent driver behind the wheel of a superb car, place a talented co-driver in the passenger seat and then back them up with a dedicated crew!

As you might guess, though, in Worldwide, North American and Canadian rally circuits, Subaru has quite capably crossed the line between good and great.



Richard Burns - sponsored by Subaru - became the first English driver to win the 2001 FIA World Drivers' Championship. Down under, Subaru driver Possum Bourne was, for the sixth straight year, Australian Rally Champion. Closer to home, Subaru's Tom McGeer and co-driver Mark Williams, in their Subaru Impreza WRX, won both the North American and the Canadian driving and co-driving Rally Championship titles. Not to be outdone, fellow Subaru teammates John and Clarke Paynter took first place in the 2001 Canadian Production GT Championship while Patrick Richard and Ian McCurdy won the North American title. Add to that the fact that Subaru also took the top manufacturer in both the Canadian and North American championships, and Subaru is just about all anyone is talking about in the rally scene.

If you think
you can cut the mustard

- or the snow - visit the Web site,

www.adventureracingcanada.com/

or follow the links from www.subaru.ca
for more information.





THIS SERIES IS ALL-ADVENTURE!



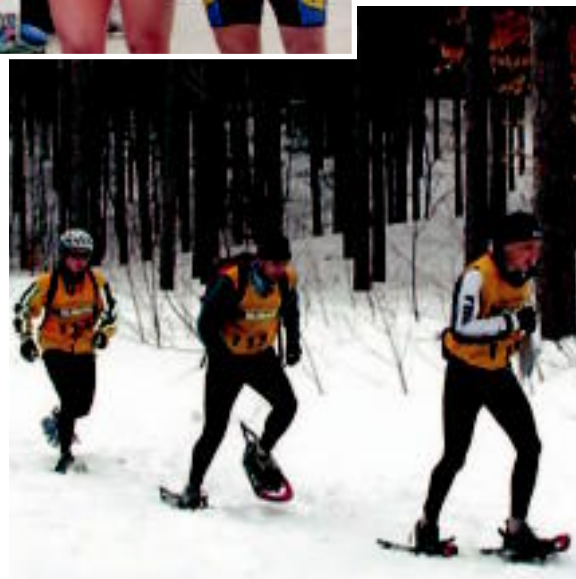
The Subaru Adventure Racing Series is a multi-sport team challenge putting teams through a course that tests physical and mental conditioning.



"I have only ever mountain biked twice before... I pushed my mind and body past all limitations," observed Margot Somerville of Team 3M'S. The races combine trekking/trail running, mountain biking, paddling and navigation, with cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing added to the mix in the winter. If you think the trails are a ride in the park, though, think again!

"While it started off well enough, this biking section can only loosely be described as "biking," said Stephanie MacDonald of Team Jabooti Booters. "I think it would be more accurately described as a hike through knee-deep muck."

Teams are also expected to complete special tests located throughout the course that are designed to challenge and confuse. If you watch Survivor, Adventure Racing is kind of like an entire season of immunity challenges rolled into one event.



"Participating in adventure racing reminds me of being a kid again," mused Jeff Stock. "Spending the whole weekend running around in the woods with my friends, getting wet, dirty, tired, bumped and bruised."

Urban Races are designed to be completed in three to five hours by competitors of all ability levels. Enduro Races take place in wilderness locations and take between five and eight hours to complete. For "extreme" racers, there are 24-30-hour Outback Races and, new to the series, Winter Enduro Races.



matt pommer

Owner's spotlight

Matt Pommer of Rossland, B.C. has the knack for being in the right place at the right time.

Matt purchased a Subaru Forester when he moved to the Kootenays in B.C. in 1998. He figured that with the steep mountain roads and the high volume of snow, having a car that was built to perform under these conditions could be a life saver. Last fall, though, well before the snow began to fall, Matt was able to really put his Subaru to the test.

It was a beautiful fall day and Matt was out fishing along the Columbia River. "We came across a car that had become stuck on a steep, sandy incline," says Matt. "The driver had already contacted a local towing company so I stayed to see if I could be of help."

Lucky he did, because when the tow-truck arrived, and attempted to pull the car out, the tow-truck got bogged down in the sand. What's a Subaru owner to do? Help, of

course! "I attached a chain to the tow-hook of my Forester and pulled the tow truck out of the sand," laughs Matt. "I admit I was surprised at how easily the Subaru was able to tow the truck."

"This experience just reinforces my confidence in the ability of my Subaru to perform under any circumstances," says Matt. When his lease is up next year, Matt has not decided whether he will renew, or buy new. "Either way," he says, "I will be driving a Subaru!"



We consider all Subaru owners to be celebrities in their own right! If you're an owner with a story to tell, write us at:

Subaru Stories

P.O. Box 35, Stn. D, Etobicoke, Ontario M9A 4X1
Include a photo if you like or send an e-mail message to: tracy@jonescommunicationsgroup.net
Please note: photos cannot be returned.



Product *Previews*

It's going to be another exciting year at Subaru
so buckle up and read on!



FORESTER®

2003 Forester 2.5 XS

The All-New 2003 Subaru Forester

Experience the 2003 Subaru Forester and discover the best of both worlds. The all-new Forester combines the ruggedness of an SUV with the comfortable ride and handling of a refined sports sedan.

One look at the 2003 Forester and you'll spot its exciting new styling. Look deeper and you'll realize it just keeps getting better. The Forester has always been a performer. With the legendary traction and control of Subaru full-time All-Wheel Drive, it holds the road in the sharpest turns and delivers assuring safety in rain and snow. And now this performance level has been kicked up a notch.

The all-new Forester delivers enhanced handling and braking performance, as well as a host of new safety features that put it in a class of its own. Visit our Web site to find out more and discover for yourself how Forester delivers you the best of both worlds. 2003 Subaru Forester. The smarter way to build an SUV. Arriving June 2002.

www.forester2003.ca



Stylish new interior design

Premium leather interior package



CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES...

This year, at the annual Ronald McDonald House Toddler for Tots at the Toronto Zoo, charitable spirits far outshone uncharitable weather. Over 1,400 toddler participants spent the day on a fundraising safari that helped raise over \$150,000 for Toronto's Ronald McDonald house.

Subaru Canada Inc. is proud to support this organization's cause of aiding families in need. In fact, we have adopted a room at the Toronto Ronald McDonald house. This provides the sponsorship needed to ensure that the costs associated with maintenance and operation of this room are taken care of.



Before



After



Lisa Bentley

TRIATHLON IS THREE TIMES BETTER

Now there's more reason than ever to look forward to the 2004 Olympics, thanks to the Subaru Triathlon Team and the Olympic's newest sport - triathlon. The team has been expanded to provide the opportunity to support both current and future Olympic athletes.



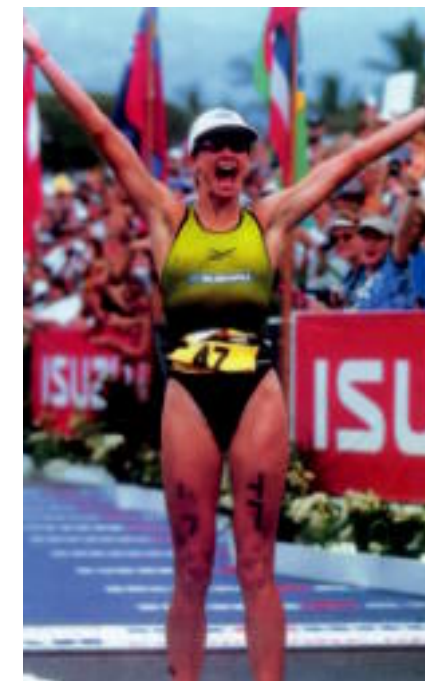
Kathy Tremblay

Triathlon Coach Lance Watson of Victoria, British Columbia, one of the premier triathlon coaches in the world, will coach the team. Three new junior members, Kathy Tremblay of Gatineau, Quebec, Alicia Kaye of Pickering, Ontario and Natasha Filiol from Guelph, Ontario will join Lori Bowden, of Victoria, British Columbia and Lisa Bentley of Caledon, Ontario. Lori and Lisa "grew up" with Subaru, and are now among the best triathletes in the world. Lori's the 1999 Ironman World Champion, and four-time Subaru Ironman Canada champion. Lisa won Ironman New Zealand in both 2000 and 2001.

As the title sponsor of both the Subaru Ironman Canada Triathlon, and the Subaru Triathlon Series, a 12 race series in Ontario, Subaru is the largest sponsor of triathlon in Canada, perhaps even the world.

Check out the Web site www.trisportcanada.com, or follow the links from www.subaru.ca for more information.

Lori Bowden



COOL STUFF



2000 Ironman World Champion
Canada's own Peter Reid



THERE'S NO LEAD IN THESE BUTTS... JUST A LOT OF IRON!

The 2001 Subaru Ironman Canada Triathlon was held for the 19th time in Penticton, British Columbia with a record-breaking 1,992 triathletes taking part, many turning in better-than-ever results. Peter Holubar of Calgary, Alberta set a new course record for the men's 55-59 age group and Sister Madonna Buder, competing in her 11th Subaru Ironman Canada, bettered her own mark in the 70+ age group, finishing in 14:46.

The big winner of the day was current Ironman World Champion, Canadian Peter Reid. He won his second

consecutive Subaru Ironman Canada title in just 8 hours, 27 minutes and 47 seconds.

In the women's race, Gillian Bakker of Winfield, British Columbia persevered to claim her first-ever Ironman victory. Bakker survived a flat tire and tough running conditions to post an overall time of 10:04:27.

Mark your calendars for the 2002 Subaru Ironman Canada Triathlon, to be held in Penticton on Sunday, August 25, 2002.



2002 Legacy L Special Edition Wagon

The Legacy for all occasions!

This spring watch for the 2002 Subaru Legacy L Sedan and the Legacy L Wagon to step out in style with new Special Edition models. These newly equipped Special Editions will have all of the standard Legacy L features, plus larger 16" GT type alloy wheels, low profile 205/55R16 Bridgestone Potenza tires, keyless entry, four-lamp halogen headlights, multi-reflector fog lamps, and body-coloured, power heated door mirrors. Both sedan and wagon models are available in the season's hottest colours, Silver Stone Metallic and Black Granite Pearl.



2002 Legacy L Special Edition Sedan

Don't wait for a formal invitation, though. Stop by your Subaru dealer to check out what the hottest Legacys are sporting! You're always welcome.

LEGACY.

BAJA™

More sport. More utility.
More attitude.



2003 Baja

www.subarubaja.ca

Looking for some adventure? Then you'll be ready for the new style-meets-adventure 2003 Subaru Baja when it arrives in the fall of 2002. The Baja is an entirely new type of vehicle that combines the freedom and ruggedness of a compact truck with the driving dynamics and safety of a sports sedan. It has room for four people plus all their "stuff." And, thanks to the Subaru patented Switchback™ system, it will accommodate a variety of outdoor equipment such as bikes and skis.

Baja comes standard with all sorts of sporty perks like Subaru full-time All-Wheel Drive, a heavy-duty raised suspension and four-wheel disc brakes with ABS. You'll also get the luxury items like leather-trimmed upholstery, CD player, air conditioning and a power moonroof. So go ahead, show the Subaru Baja a good time - it can handle it.



Easily accessible storage, designed
for adventure gear.

Accessories may not be available as shown above on Canadian Subaru vehicles. See your dealer for details.

TechTalk

Subaru AWD explained

In our last issue, we defined Torque, Power and Traction, pointing out that these often-interchanged terms actually describe very different conditions.

These definitions are very important when we talk about an AWD system because all three terms come into play at different times as you try to accelerate, turn or decelerate.

Subaru basically uses three different AWD systems:

1. The manual transmission uses a viscous-coupling centre differential.
2. The regular automatic transmission uses a computer controlled Multi-Plate transfer clutch system (MPT).
3. The Variable Torque Distribution (VTD) automatic transmission uses a computer controlled planetary gear centre differential.

The most common by far is our automatic transmission equipped with Multi-Plate Transfer clutch system (MPT) shown below. So we thought this would be a good place to start.

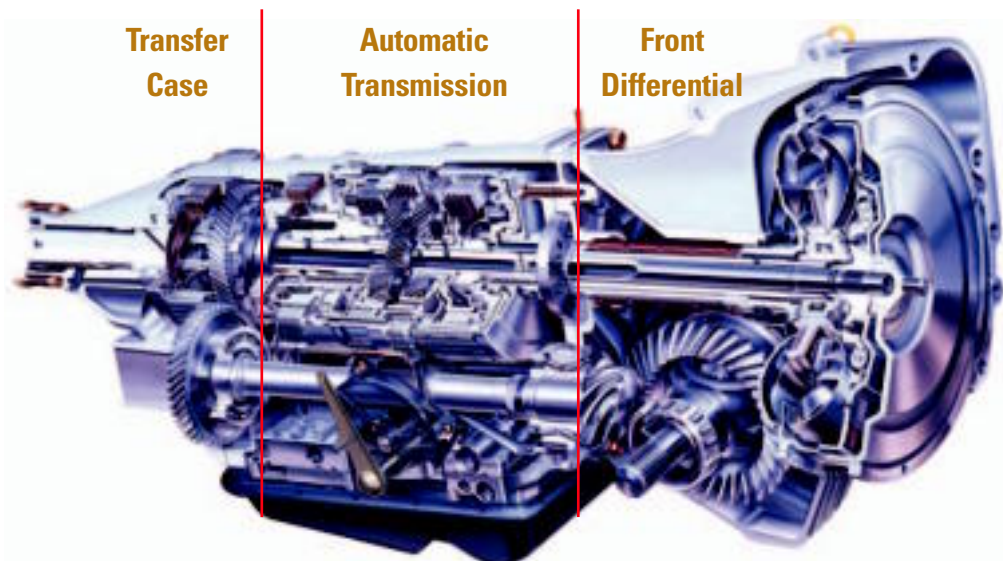
The strength of the Subaru AWD is that it was designed to be an AWD from the start. It is not adapted from a Rear Wheel Drive or a Front Wheel Drive set-up. Therefore, the transmission is actually three different components all in one: the front differential, the automatic transmission and the rear transfer case. This compact and simple package is no bigger than most Rear Wheel Drive transmissions. The first such transmission was introduced by Subaru in 1987 and has been perfected ever since with a totally new generation of this transmission introduced in 1999.

AWD Logic

How does it work?

All Subaru AWD transmissions send power to All Four Wheels - All The Time. This is important, because as many long time Subaru customers will tell you, Subaru All-Wheel Drive will make most drives more enjoyable; especially in adverse conditions such as rain or snow, and at all speeds.

The MPT automatic transmission AWD system is computer controlled and will read conditions such as vehicle speed, throttle position and engine torque output to identify the best torque distribution between the front and rear wheels.



Active Torque Split Type Full-Time AWD / 4-EAT

Subaru News

Hats on to Subaru

Subaru Canada Inc. may have its roots in Japan, however, lately, the feeling is quite Nordic! As Canada's National Cross-Country Ski Team trained enthusiastically for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, exciting news hit the trail that Subaru Canada had signed a three-year sponsorship deal. The agreement, known as a "Hat Sponsorship," allowed the Subaru logo to appear prominently on team toques and hats at all racing and training venues. Subaru congratulates the entire Canadian National Cross-Country Ski Team for their stellar performance in Salt Lake, and wishes them the very best as they compete internationally throughout the year.

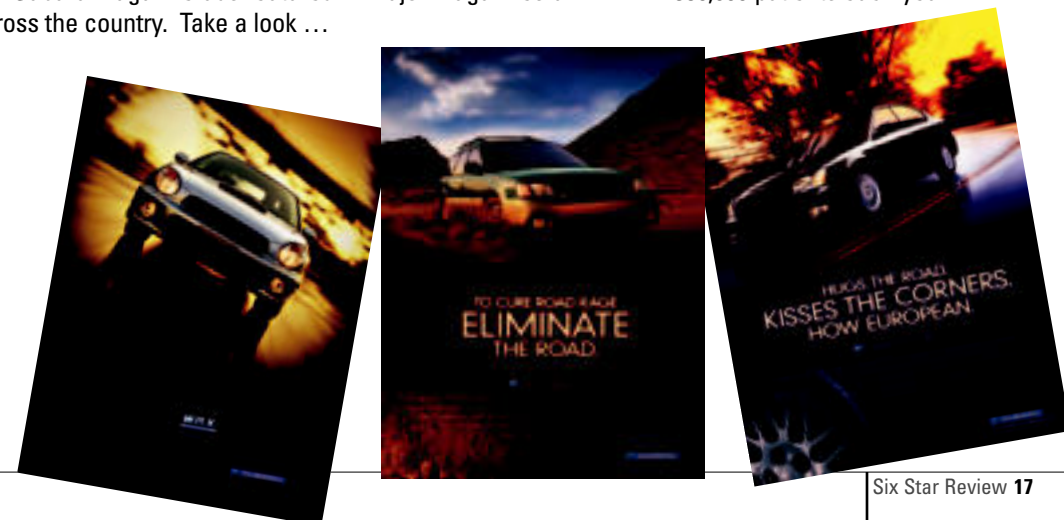
Subaru will also become title sponsor for the Canadian Continental Cup Series, the World Junior trials, and the National Championship Sprint Race. And, when they're not racing, the team will ride in style and comfort with the use of three Subaru vehicles for training and racing activities at Canmore, Thunder Bay, and Mont Ste-Anne.

And, comfort they deserve! Canada's National Cross-Country Ski Team is made up of individual athletes who have reached this level through years of training. The team participates in the Olympics, World Championships, the prestigious World Cup and national events and Continental Cups in Canada and the USA.

For more information on Cross-Country Canada and Canada's National Cross-Country Team go to <http://canada.x-c.com/subaru.htm>.

New Subaru advertising

This spring you'll be able to see some exciting new Subaru magazine ads featured in major magazines all across the country. Take a look ...



Sara with her Subaru tattoo!



Sara With Her "Heart on Her Sleeve"

Sara, who's 2 years old, from St. Marc sur le Richelieu, Quebec, is a big Subaru fan! Her father owns two Subaru vehicles. She very proudly wears her Subaru washable

tattoo! As Sara said, "My Dad loves his Subaru - he owns two of them. We had fun taking my picture with my Subaru washable tattoo on my arm!"



This laugh's on Subaru

The Subaru Dealer's Association of Greater Montreal helped the Hospital Maisonneuve-Rosemont Foundation of Montreal laugh its way all the way to the bank by sponsoring HuMouR en Sante. The fundraising event, held at the Molson Centre in Montreal, saw some of Quebec's best comedians gather to poke fun and raise money for the Foundation. The Hospital, with a staff of over 5,000, is one of the largest in Montreal, receiving more than 350,000 patients each year.



Traditional family life in Homestay



City of Queenston on Lake Wakatipu

Do drop in

It is said that Canadians and New Zealanders are quite similar by nature. We share many of the same character traits such as a laid-back attitude and a generally positive outlook. There are differences, though, the biggest being the New Zealanders' habit of "dropping in." "In New Zealand, we would not think twice about going for a drive and dropping in on friends or relatives along the way," says Martin. "Kiwis are not laid back about their sports, though. Rugby is a passion and cricket is a favourite summer pastime. Hiking, skiing, sailing and fishing are popular amongst locals and tourists alike.

Whether you're laid back or a chronic adventure seeker, New Zealand will meet your greatest expectations. It's a

paradise of dramatic fiords and sounds, endless sandy beaches, lush green rainforests, stretches of fertile farmland, powerful glaciers, fascinating caves, and entertaining cities, including Wellington, the capital. There is also a great variety of ways to get around and many excellent places to stay.

Make sure you take the opportunity to visit New Zealand and scratch it off your personal life's "To Do" list, over and over again.

Bourne to drive

Possum Bourne, a native New Zealander, began his on-the-road career as a milk tank driver. He acquired the name Possum at the age of 15, when he swerved to avoid a possum, hit a bank, rolled over and totalled his first car. Now Possum, a Subaru World Rally driver for the past 19 years, is known as the most successful rally driver in the Southern Hemisphere.



When he's not racing, Possum and his family drive one of their three Subaru cars: a 2001 Subaru Outback, a 2000 RSK B4 Twin Turbo Subaru Legacy and a 1997 Subaru Impreza STI WRX Version 3. Since Possum loves both Subaru and New Zealand, we figured who better to give us the real down-under scoop?

Q - What is your favourite quick getaway in New Zealand?

A - If the weather is good and we want a nice family day we like to head to Kariotahi, a West Coast ocean beach.

Q - What about for a family vacation?

A - If we have some time we like to go to Rotorua on the North Island mainly because there's lots to do there for a family. We like going on the luge, which is a downhill ride. They have tracks for beginners and tracks for experts.

If we are able to get to the South Island, then Queenstown is the place we really like. It is quite tourist orientated but it is the adventure capital of the world I think. You name it - if it's outdoor fun you are looking for, you will find every type here. In winter there are all sorts of snow sports including skiing. In summer you can enjoy parasailing, tramping, jet boat rides, helicopter tours, etc.



Usually, this ratio is 60% front and 40% rear to match the vehicle's weight distribution, but under certain circumstances such as hard acceleration or extremely slippery surfaces, the system will go to 50% front 50% rear to insure stability and surefootedness. As indicated in the second diagram, front wheels are driven through a set of gears while the rear wheels are driven through a set of clutches.

Rear Wheel MPT Clutches

Front Wheel Transfer Gears



Active Torque Split Type Full-Time AWD / 4-EAT

It is the pressure put on these clutches that the AWD control unit manages. If the unit were to send full line pressure to these clutches at all times, half the power would be sent to the rear wheels and half to the front, but this would make going around corners very difficult and would adversely affect fuel economy. By varying the amount of pressure applied to the clutches the system can keep the rear wheels driven at all times, sending only enough pressure to transmit 40% or 50% of the torque to the rear wheels. In this way the vehicle will maintain traction at all four wheels at all times without the binding on turns associated with 4WD vehicles, and still get the best fuel mileage possible. Luckily, Subaru has over thirty years of experience in AWD technology and some very intelligent programmers.

Visit our Web site at www.subaru.ca and click on our AWD demo. You'll find some good information.

Balanced engineering vs modifications

Balanced Engineering:

Subaru vehicles are designed to have the best possible balance between safety, performance and fun to drive characteristics. Engineers spend years perfecting a vehicle before it is released.

Fuji Heavy Industries engineers (the manufacturer of Subaru in Japan) have been coming to northern Canada for the last ten years to test their vehicles. For example, the drive train of the WRX Turbo was in northern Canada for one month in February 2000 being tested for cold start, driveability and a multitude of other tests to make sure that it performed flawlessly in our very special climate once introduced. Engineers spend this time testing and rewriting engine and transmission control programs and send the information back to Japan on a daily basis. They also do hot weather testing in Arizona and a multitude of other tests around the world. After a few years of this kind of testing and fine tuning, these engineers are proud to release their masterpiece (in this case the new Impreza) to the market.

Modifications:

Imagine the look on these engineers' faces when they hear that an Impreza WRX driver wants to modify his vehicle to make it better. True, you can put wider wheel and tire combinations to make the vehicle stick better to the ground but you give up driver comfort and fuel economy. You can put in a larger exhaust system and get slightly better performance under certain conditions but reduce reliability, longevity and perhaps even cold startability. The fact is that the vehicle is engineered and balanced to perform under every condition known to man; any modification to this finely tuned system will throw off this balance. Not to mention what it can do to the warranty of the vehicle. Modified parts will affect the vehicle in ways that are difficult to foresee. Of course, some modifications can be carried out to personalize your vehicle, and the best person to tell you what can be done and how it will affect both the vehicle and your warranty is, of course, your Subaru dealer.



Subaru ACCESSORIES

Check out these great new accessories for your WRX.

► Front Ground Effects Package (Wagon)



► Performance Gauge Package



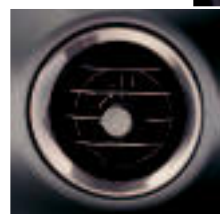
► Titanium Shift Knob

WRX®



► Audio Upgrade Package

► 17" BBS Alloy Wheels

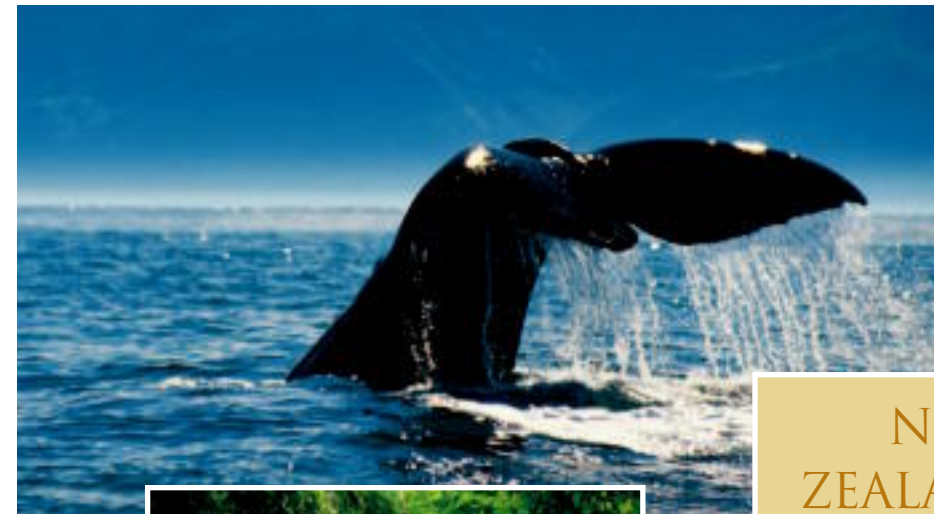


► Carbon Fibre Trim Kit



► Rear Waist Spoiler (Wagon)

Tempted? Then visit your local Subaru dealer and they'll help create a WRX dream of your very own.



Whale Tail off the Kaikoura Coast



NEW ZEALAND IS LORD OF THE RINGS

There's no disputing a new commercial enterprise hit town - The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

Filming of the Trilogy took place all over the spectacular landscapes of New Zealand. The sheer volume of people involved in the production was amazing - digital wizards, medieval weapons experts, stone sculptors, linguists, costumers, make-up designers, blacksmiths and model builders.

This is where thousands of Kiwis found their fifteen minutes of fame as extras. Casting directors had to screen people for claustrophobia and allergies since many had to wear special prosthetics to look convincing. Finding extras to be elves also proved to be difficult. The script called for fair-skinned, utterly beautiful, tiny people - that's a tall order.

The boon to the country did not end when filming wrapped up, either. A group of Kiwis have started a tourism venture to take Lord Of The Rings fans to places where the Trilogy was filmed.



Hollyford Track, South Island

As Steve Martin, Manager of New Zealand and Australia Travel Information Service in Toronto, says, "Every half-hour the physical geography can change drastically. The challenge for tourists is to slow down enough to enjoy it."

"You've got to give yourself at least two weeks, preferably three, to really experience New Zealand," says Martin. "And, give yourself time to make lots of stops along the way. That's the only way that you'll really enjoy the beauty New Zealand offers."

By taking your time, you also get the pleasure of experiencing the wonderful hospitality of New Zealanders. Kiwis are genuinely touched when people come from other countries to visit. Much of that comes from the fact that, by basic geography, they are quite isolated. But, a lot of it also comes from being content with their lives. While there are places with a higher standard of living than New Zealand, there are few with a better quality of life. The air is fresh, the water is clean and even the larger cities are inviting.

If you want to be right you must stay to the left.

You can take your pick in New Zealand. If you want to relax and see as much as possible, buses and coaches link up with rail and ferry operators to take you the length of the country. Air travel is available to many destinations. If you want to do your own thing you can drive yourself. New Zealand's tourist routes are well maintained, well signed, and the main roads are all paved. Keep in mind, though, in New Zealand, the left side is the right side and the right side is the wrong side.



Lady Knox Geyser, Waiotapu, Rotorua

What to do, what to do?

There is no lack of resources to help educate you. The Internet is a great resource. The official Web site for travel to New Zealand, <http://www.purenz.com>, tells you everything you need to know.

Another great Web site, www.goway.com, has all sorts of fascinating tidbits, including the Down Under Dictionary. Since Kiwis speak the same language as Aussies (Australians), you might want to brush up on "Strine" before you go. That way, when someone asks you "Oweryerdoon?" you will know to answer "Grouse" of course!

Take time and smell the flowers

Travelling throughout New Zealand is wonderfully simple - just watch out for the sheep. While the population of people in New Zealand is 3.3 million, there are some 103 million sheep.

Distances from one place to another are not great, especially when you compare them to driving across Canada. Like Canada, however, New Zealand has a complete geographical diversity - beaches and mountains, rivers and plains and glaciers. The big difference is that, in New Zealand, they are all fairly close to one another.



Sea kayaking with one of the locals

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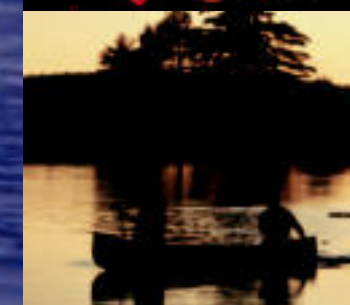
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Abel Tasman National Park



"Hongi" – a Maori greeting

New Zealand

an opposite attraction!

New Zealand is a country without snakes or dangerous wild animals. There are no health risks and you don't have to take any vaccinations before you go. Our Canadian dollar goes a long way, especially considering tips in restaurants are minimal and service charges are not added to hotel or restaurant bills. Plus, the country has just one time zone.

If that's not enough to convince you to visit New Zealand, what the country does have is outstanding scenery, genuinely nice people, and lots and lots to do.



The Port of Auckland

The water drains counter-clockwise

New Zealand lies in the South Pacific, 2,000 kilometres east of Australia and 7,200 kilometres south of Hawaii. Since New Zealand is in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons among other things are opposite to those in North America. January is the warmest month of summer and July is the coolest month of winter. While the north is warmer than the south, the climate throughout the country is moderate.

There are two main islands, the North and South Islands, separated by the 15-mile wide Cook Strait. From the top of the North Island to the bottom of the South Island, New Zealand is 1,600 kilometres of pure beauty.

New Zealand is surrounded by more than 5,000 kilometres of coastline, with beautiful golden sand on the east coast and iron-rich black sand on the west coast. The west coast is less populated



Skiing, Treble Cone, Wanaka



Mount Cook (Aoraki), Southern Alps



Abel Tasman National Park



Take a walk on the wild side

and more rugged than the east coast and, with its prevailing winds, surfing is a Kiwi (New Zealand people, as opposed to kiwi fruit, which is, of course, food) passion.

New Zealand is divided into six geographic regions, all with a distinct set of attractions! The Auckland and Northland Region has city life, sailing, islands, beaches and is home to the largest city in New Zealand, Auckland, which is almost completely enclosed by water and is covered in volcanic hills. Even more interesting, the Central North Island Region has volcanic action as well as lakes and Maori culture. For those who don't know, the Maori are a native tribal people, with a spiritual attachment to the land. Maori have a strong sense of place and past, and while they have always maintained their identity, in the last 20 years they have renewed their culture.

For true survivors, the Taranaki and River Region features wild scenery, surf and rural life. The Centre Stage Region abounds in urban fun and coastal discovery. The South Island Region is where you will find mountain scenery, forests, lakes and pioneering history. And high flyers will find adventure, luxury living and snow sports in the Southern Lakes Region.

"Ta" to our "mate" Steve Martin from the New Zealand and Australia Travel Information Service for giving us a "decko" into New Zealand with his "bonza" photos.

Have you ever wondered what people do when they come on holiday to Canada? How do they decide where to go and what to do? The possibilities seem endless. The same is true in New Zealand.

Wine has been produced in New Zealand since Europeans first settled. With latitudes close to those of the great European wine regions, it is not surprising that a wide variety of award winning wine varieties and styles are produced there. In fact, there are 358 vineyards throughout New Zealand along a spectacular Wine Trail. And there are plenty of wine and food festivals to keep anyone gastronomically grateful.

For a completely different experience, why not try a nature trip? Ecotourism appeals to visitors who want a first-hand experience of the natural environment and local communities. You can experience whale watching in Kaikoura, bush walking in the Waitakere ranges, diving to the Rainbow Warrior wreck in Matakura Bay, penguin watching at Nugget Point, or you can do the Waipoua Forest walk in Northland. If you're interested, search at www.ecotours.co.nz, the official site of Ecotours New Zealand. There are also mystery tours that send you in pairs on a scavenger hunt throughout the country in search of items typical of New Zealand, such as Vegimate, Gum Boots and Buzzy Bees. (You'll have to visit there if you want to know what these things are.) Last year the New Zealand Tourist Office offered this trip. Now, companies like New Zealand and Australia Travel Information Service in Toronto are working on developing trips like these for Canadian tourists.