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A Canada Winter

By Rudy Hiebert

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The youthfulness of children, memories, and the young at heart melt the frozen grip of the dreaded season. Not all find it so terrible, just take a walk around the block before it thaws and you will hear snowmobiles and the shrieks of hilarity from kids sliding down the hill. Our hill one winter was the chicken coop roof. The drift reached the eaves as the wind build it up one flake at a time.

The memories of Canadian winters are not all fun and good times. One comes to mind when the storm blew in and our family experienced the term "snowbound" first hand. To our fortune, Father had correctly predicted it by watching for and noticing the sundogs a couple of days previously. He made sure we had furnace oil, feed delivered for the cattle, chickens and so every mouth on the farm had something to eat for a week. The quarter mile corner drifted five feet deep with solid pack hard enough to hold a D-9 Cat as it whittled away at it two days later.

Creativity and resourcefulness reigns in times like this. No time is wasted during a real Canadian winter in the country. Baling twine supplied a new use for raw material to braid a rug for the dog or just parking my boots after making the moonscape like round trip to and from the barn.

Mail was a long awaited sign of relief from the incarceration of what seemed like house arrest. The seed catalog was like a Bible for the spiritually famished pagan. It brought assurance that Spring was not far hence on the calendar and under the frozen ground buried by the days and nights of blizzards and an inch of ice.

When the sun shines during these winters it gives more light than on a smoggy July day. It's a good time to start some seeds. Seeing the seedlings poke out from under warmed soft earth sterilized in the oven between Mom's baking buns and bread sparks more than hope. Pride in our strength and courage to call it another winter sprouts thoughts of a good crop of grain and new spring calves.

While these memories flooded into a greying head, the stove cooled off so I will need to leave you start a stew as I reload the wood box and stoke up the

stove.

Rudy is not looking back on nightshifts and sixteen hour shifts. Writing about his passion and experiences with Amsoil Inc. products and opportunities for more than fifteen years makes work he enjoys like a hobby. Like someone famous said, "If you enjoy what you do, you won't work another day in your life".

Winter Tire Myths Revealed

By News Canada

(NC) ---True or false - your vehicle is only as good as the tires it sits on? While you may have your own opinion on this, Michelin believes that tires are an essential part of your vehicle's safety, handling and performance.

Tire manufacturers like Michelin, as well as associations like Transport Canada and the Rubber Association of Canada, are working to increase awareness of the importance of tires as well as dispelling some common tire myths.

"The biggest tire myth is that they are a low-tech commodity," explains Tony Mougios, Michelin Brand Manager in Canada. "The reality is that advancements in tire technology have improved the quality and performance of today's tires. Few people seem to realize the additional safety obtained from installing four winter tires on their vehicles."

The following is a basic example of a common winter tire myth.

Myth: All-season tires are so good that winter tires are never needed.

Reality: In some parts of the world, where temperatures and snowfalls are moderate, this may be true. But this is Canada - our winter weather is unpredictable and can be harsh. Just ask anyone from Halifax who endured the city's record snowfalls last winter.

The reality is that harsh winter conditions can appear anywhere in Canada, and when they do, the traction and added safety provided by winter tires cannot be beat. Winter tires reign supreme in rural areas where snow can remain on the road for extended periods of time. They provide 25 per cent improved traction over all-season tires.

To learn more about the advantages of winter tires and other advancements in tire technology, visit a local authorized Michelin dealer or visit www.michelin.ca.

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