



## Behind the Scenes at 2013 TestFest: Part 3

Fair play and Judgment Day

### CARS

Steven Bochenek

October 29, 2012

Share on Facebook

Share on Twitter

Share on Pinterest

**My most recent article** inaccurately described Thursday as the final day of judging. Actually, Friday was.

*Mea culpa.*

I also said how lovely it would be to NOT be hungover on that final day. Well, after Thursday's award ceremony, yet another prediction turned out inaccurate too. For pretty much every journalist, Friday began with a bit of a rusty engine.

To keep the judging honest, the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) rules demand that each of the over 80 journalists here test and rate each of the category winners to determine the best of the best. Voting for the category winners opened at 10 a.m. on Friday and had to be completed by 5 p.m. for a given journalist's vote to qualify. However the vehicles were available from 8 a.m.

There were eleven testing categories, and the winners were announced at Thursday's awards show. Fortunately, by Thursday afternoon I'd tested seven of them:

**Best New City Car** **Ford Focus EV**

**Best New Small Car (under \$21K)** **Mazda3 Skyactiv Sedan**

**Best New Small Car (over \$21K)** **Hyundai Elantra GT**

**Best New Family Car (under \$30K)** **Honda Accord Sedan**

**Best New Family Car (over \$30K)** **Ford Fusion Hybrid**

**Best New SUV/CUV (\$35K-\$60K)** **Hyundai Santa Fe Sport 2.0T**

**Best New Sports/Performance Car (over \$50K)** **Porsche Boxster**

If you're good at math, you know four winners remained to test on Friday:

**Best New Prestige and Performance Car (over \$75K) [Porsche 911 Carrera S](#)**

**Best New Luxury Car [Cadillac ATS](#)**

**Best New Sports/Performance Car (under \$50K) [Ford Focus ST](#)**

**Best New SUV/CUV (under \$35K) [Ford Escape 1.6 L EcoBoost](#)**

I arrived early at the testing site and began final drives at 8 a.m. It's remarkable how well a responsive Porsche 911 clears the cobwebs on a sunny Friday morning in wine country.

#### **Final Winners: TBA in 2013**

On February 14, winners will be announced for the 2013 Car of the Year, Canadian Utility Vehicles of the Year, Best New Technology and Best New Design awards. If this date has no other immediate significance to you, try this experiment. Invite your girlfriend to the press announcement at the Metro Toronto Convention at 8 a.m., but tell her it's a surprise that she'll love when she gets there.

#### **Surprises of the Week**

I never would have called the Honda Accord Sedan winning Best New Family Car under \$30K. Yes, it's good value for money and did not seriously underscore in my voting, but I expected the Mitsubishi Lancer AWC or Nissan Altima to beat it soundly.

Furthermore, though I still hadn't tested it by the time the Ford Focus ST was hailed Best New Sports/Performance Car under \$50K, I was still gobsmacked. There'd been so much gushing feedback from other writers about the Hyundai Genesis Coupe, Veloster Turbo and the Fiat Abarth. I drove the Focus ST on Friday and it still wouldn't have been my choice. But that's why they have scores of us there. The numbers don't lie.

I'm already looking forward to many more surprises next year.

[« PREVIOUS ARTICLE](#)

[RANDOM ARTICLE](#)

[NEXT ARTICLE »](#)



Add a comment...

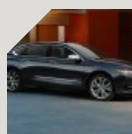
Facebook social plugin

**Life is full of firsts.**  
Celebrate life's milestones – then get financially prepared for them.



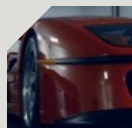
[rbcadvicecentre.com](http://rbcadvicecentre.com)  RBC Royal Bank

## **MORE STUFF**



**2014 CHEVROLET IMPALA: JUST OFF THE PRODUCTION LINE**

It's not just a police cruiser anymore.



**VIDEO: THE AUTOMOTIVE LIFE**

An ode to cars, all around the world.



## REVIEW: 2013 CHRYSLER 200 S

Are you ready to love an American car again?



## THE POLICE LAMBORGHINI

Stay classy, Dubai?



## OUR TOP 5 CAMAROS

Chevy's pony cars have had a wilder ride than Ford's, but that just means they've been more fun.

Recommended

### 3 Steps for a Faster PC

Three easy steps:

1. **Click** "Start Download".
2. **Run** the quick scan.
3. **Fix** the errors.

★★★★★ "winner of over 100 5-star awards"

# FACEBOOK FAVOURITES

**Recommendations**

[Sign Up](#) Create an account or [Log in](#) to see what you

**Video: Drew MacIntyre's Incredible Save**  
One person recommends this.

**смотреть, метеором!**  
Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

**Trading Places at the Gym**  
Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

**The Lockout According to Big Rick Foley**  
8 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

CARS  
 CULTURE  
 FOOD+DRINK  
 HEADLINES  
 MONEY+WORK  
 SPORTS+HEALTH  
 STYLE  
 TECH  
 WOMEN  
 ABOUT  
 ADVERTISING  
 TERMS OF SERVICE  
 PRIVACY POLICY

Website by



COPYRIGHT 2006-2013  
 XY MEDIA VENTURES LIMITED.  
 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

PUBLISHED ON 2013-04-30 11:18