



1986 PLYMOUTH CARAVELLE POLICE CAR - BRETT BALSDON

When my Son-in-law came for a visit to Canada last Christmas, I realized I needed another car so we could both be mobile. Back in February I went onto Kijiji Classic cars and almost immediately saw this red car that I thought was a Diplomat.

1986 Plymouth Caravelle POLICE CAR

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It turned out to be a 1986 Plymouth Caravelle that was an old police car. I e-mailed the seller and we chatted a bit and I found out that it was a 318 motor, rear wheel drive (I'm not a front wheel drive guy).

"Then I was really interested because it looked in good shape and the interior was mint."



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As the car was situated in Edmonton, I made arrangements with some family in Leduc and headed up to check it out. My Brother-in-law is a retired heavy duty mechanic so I dragged him along and we went for a look. After looking at the car and taking it for a quick spin (of course Murphy's Law gave us a snow storm at the exact time) we both agreed it was worth the buy – we haggled a bit and soon I was driving back to Leduc with a 38 year old cop car.

I got the insurance inspection done Thanks to friend and co-member Barry Manning with only a backup light not working. Then I was off to the races. I cleaned and waxed it all up and proceeded to get used to my new-to-me wheels. The stock police six spoke rims had new Toyo winter tires on them so I bought some American Racing centreline rims with Cooper Cobra tires for the summer driving season



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After a while I took the car to Rick's Carline Muffler and had him put on a dual exhaust system which smartened it some and made for a better drive. Someone had previously put a Demon carb on it but it was cranky and wouldn't run smoothly and bogged a lot which bugged me. So I got a 670 Holley avenger and put it on and now it's running much better and great response. I did a little investigating and I discovered that the Canadian Caravelle was the same as a Gran Fury except for the colour of the front grille.

I also checked out the suspension and it does not have the heavy duty police suspension so that is what makes me think it was a police Capt's car with the police spotlight to make it look official. Plus with the nice interior I don't think it was a squad car with anyone barfing in the back seat.



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"So all in all I'm really happy with the purchase and it's pretty much like a new car and I'm sure it's got lots of life left in it."