

# Limehouse man wants to keep museum in Halton Hills

By DONNA KELL  
Herald Staff

Where in Halton Hills can you find a Second World War tank, arrays of soldiers clustered around original machine guns, and memorabilia depicting war as a way of life?

The Canadian Military Studies Museum in Limehouse is a private and extensive collection of war machinery, uniforms and archives owned by local resident Frank Grant. Mr. Grant's home and barn are shelter to thousands of war-time exhibits, including items dating from 1750 to more modern battles.

To the public there is no indication the museum exists.

There are no signs on Regional Road 43, into Limehouse, there is no listing in the telephone book under museums. There is, in fact,

very little public recognition for a collection that includes pieces coveted by such museum greats as the Smithsonian Institute.

The circa-1944 tanks, jeeps and motorbikes - many in fully-operational order - are sprawled across the grass near Mr. Grant's barn, to be quickly shuffled inside when drops of rain threaten to spoil enamel that has survived years of wear and tear.

Inside the climate-controlled building are the more perishable treasures. There are photographs shot from a German U-boat as it sunk into the ocean. There are soldiers everywhere - mannequins wearing in detail, the uniforms worn by individual soldiers. Everything is exact, from the embroidered sleeve of Adolf Hitler's bodyguard to the handwritten notes in the packet of a Canadian

soldier, to the cigarette held between the fingers of the soldier manning the first automatic weapon.

But the displays are too crowded to allow general admission. "We've been very, very reluctant to take large groups through the building," said Mr. Grant. "You have to have a building that will allow free traffic flow... that we don't have."

The Grants have been offered a building by a local government in Victoria, British Columbia which will also give the museum operating grants.

News of this offer to the CMM, piqued interest at the Regional government level and "the trumpet sounded," said Mr. Grant.

"There are a lot of people who would like to see the museum stay here including a large contingent from Oakville."

The Oakville group, led by Coun. Janet Mitchell joins others such as Steve Dawkins of the Olde Hide House in Acton, who rally around the CMM.

Mr. Grant says he has waited for a Regional decision on museum fundings, but British Columbia wants an answer.

"It's time to sit down and take a look at this offer," he said. "We've held off for the last six months doing anything with B.C. It's now time that we do something."

Halton staff have not refused to give funds to the CMM outright, but a staff report said "the collection (is) international, very specialized and not in keeping with our focus on Halton's heritage."

"The mechanics of the Region are not set up so that they can do much about this (decision)," said Mr. Grant.

If the CMM relocated to British Columbia, the closest military museum would be the one in Ottawa.

Mr. Grant says "nobody in metro Toronto can get there because of the problem with travel and overnight accommodation."

But for those who have never heard of the Canadian Military Studies Museum (and they are not alone, as Mayor Gord Krantz of Milton admitted last week), the emergence of the CMM into the limelight now, when it is in jeopardy of being lost to the community is like seeing a nova burst into color before it disappears again.

But it can't be helped. Mr. Grant said it would cost about \$500,000 to house the museum exhibits locally. He said he has no inclination to take on that cost.

Although the museum seems to be a monument to war, it is more a tribute to man and his involvement in the events that shape history. "War is not glory," says Mr. Grant.

The idea behind the CMM is "not to glorify, but to understand the memory of why" war ever happens.



Canadian Military Studies Museum owner Frank Grant seems to be chatting it up with a United States Second World War flying ace. The truth is, the mannequin clothed in USAF gear represents one of thousands of exhibits at the Limehouse museum. (Herald photo)

## Barbecue for Ileitis, Colitis

All proceeds raised on June 17 by M and M meats will be donated to the Canadian Foundation for Ileitis and Colitis. Fifty-five M and M meat shops all across Ontario will participate in a special charity day. The shops

will be selling barbecued burgers for 50 cents each. A further 50 cents will be donated to the charity when a customer purchases a box of frozen M and M Tasty Burgers.

## Firearms charge laid

Halton Regional Police have laid charges of possession of an offensive weapon and careless use of a firearm in connection with a disturbance call at a house in Acton, late Friday night.

Police were told that a 41-year-old man was threatening family members with a rifle. When police arrived at the scene all had

left the house except for the suspect. Police say the man was seen in the house carrying a rifle. One shot was discharged by the suspect, police report. The man left the house approximately 20 minutes after police arrived, carrying a loaded rifle, police say. He was immediately arrested without incident. A bail hearing was scheduled for Monday.

## Fail-to-stop charge

Police have laid charges of going through a red light in connection with a two-vehicle collision at the Guelph Street and Hall Road intersection in Georgetown late Saturday afternoon. A 52-year-old Georgetown man

travelling eastbound on Guelph Street in a 1987 Honda was attempting to turn left on to Hall Road when a 28-year-old Glen Williams man, driving a 1981 Chevrolet allegedly failed to stop at a red light and collided with the Honda, police say.

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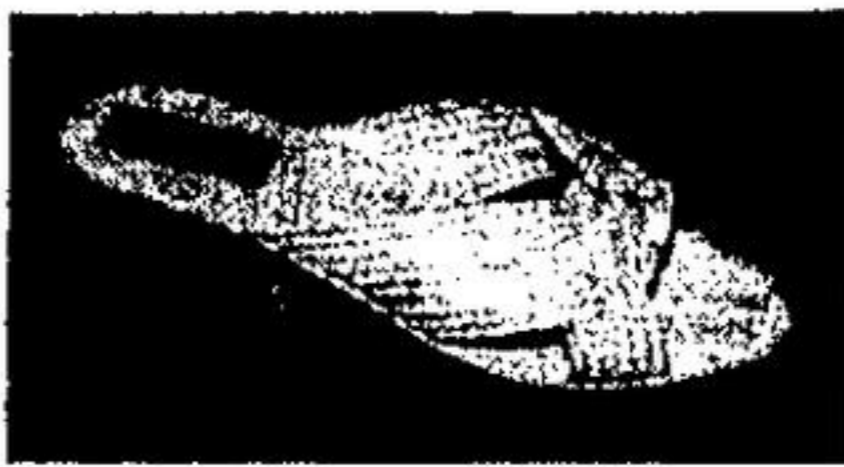
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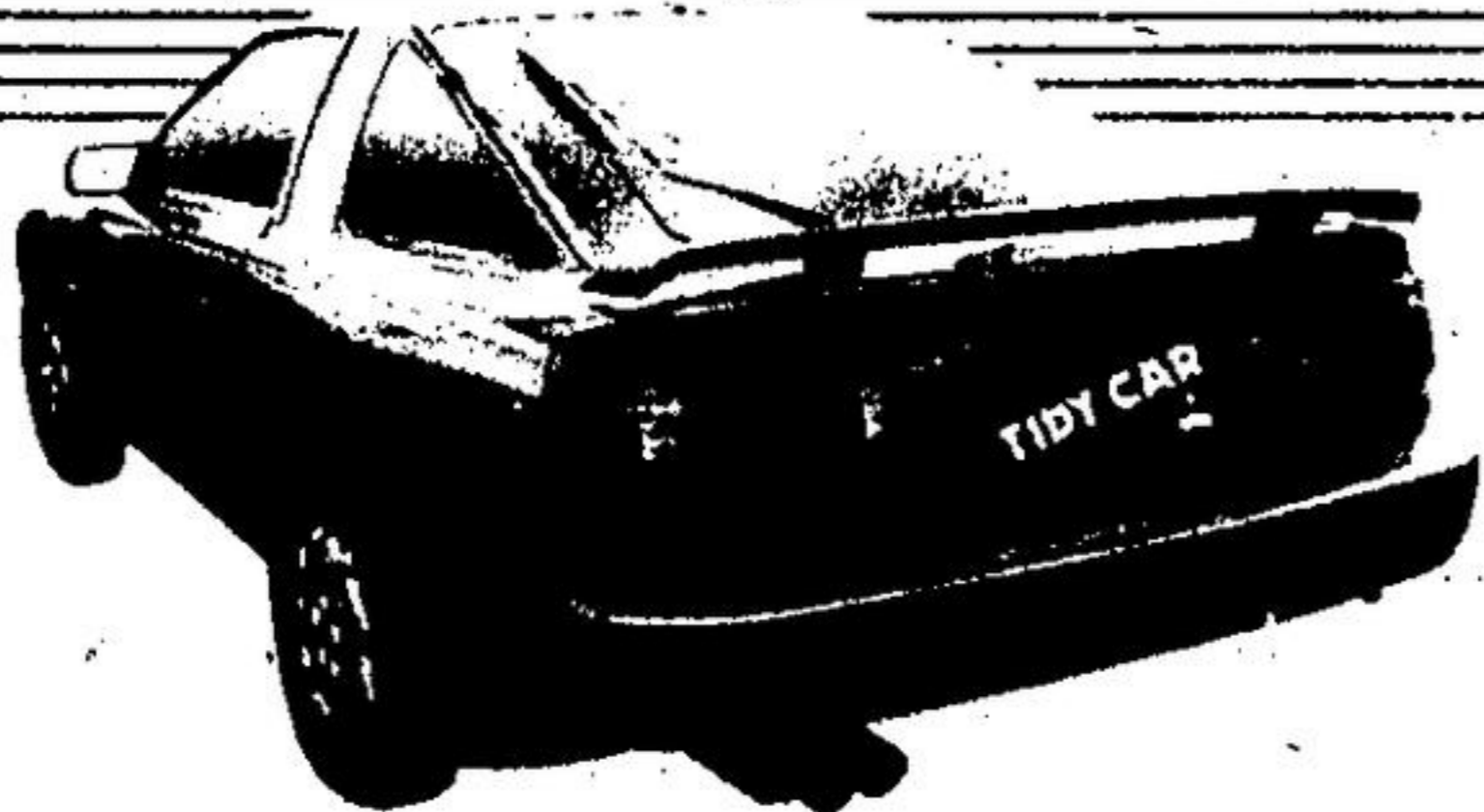
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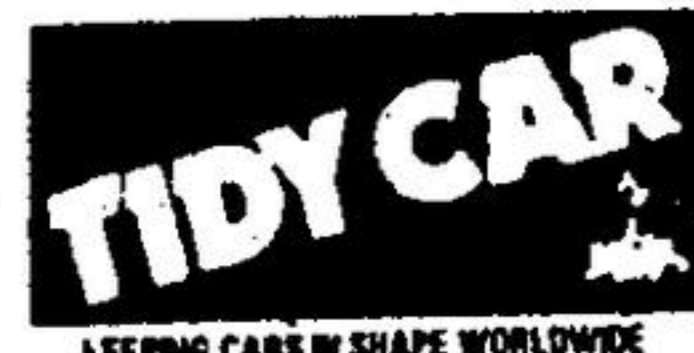
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