

# Hobby evolves into business for G-FORCE's White

BY JOHN DEBRUYN

Gary White loves to build and collect models — that is why he opened Acton up to the world of exotic and rare models through G-FORCE.

White sells and displays his work at his John Street apartment. "I started the business three years ago, as a hobby when I used to collect Star Wars toys. Then people became interested in what I had and wanted to buy stuff off me. That's when I started up this store."

G-FORCE is a toys and collectibles store that Gary runs when he has free time. He imports hard-to-get models and toys from Toronto or out of Canada and makes them available to people in and around Acton. "I buy models and build and/or paint them for the customer, depending on their demands." Most models are likenesses of movie or television characters such as the Penguin off of "Batman Returns," the Terminator, Predator and robots and aliens introduced by the Star Wars movies. The name G-FORCE he explains with a shrug, "I don't know, it just sounded like a catchy, science fiction name. Maybe it has something to do with the fact my name starts with a G."

Gary makes a tidy profit from

his business, but it takes a lot of his spare time. "Most of my money is tied up in inventory," he says, commenting on the shelves upon shelves of models that clutter his workroom. Gary does not rely on his business to pay the bills as his occupation is a video-editor. "I edit tapes for commercials and shows; I make the finished product."

"I have done commercials that you may have seen on T.V. and I have edited for a handy-man show on Channel 11. Right now business is kind of slow but we hope it will pick up again next year."

All of Gary's models are picture perfect — every figure seems to have been slaved over for hours. Gary admits he works on his models diligently and is obsessed by detail. "I'll work many hours just doing the paint on a model, and if I make one tiny mistake I will sand it all down and re-do the entire job."

Gary is so confident in his building of models that he entered two of his favourites in a competition. His Terminator model won second prize in the Robot category while his Predator model won first prize in the Alien category. When asked in a recent interview what makes his models special he says, "I add unique twists to the model."



Gary White builds and sells models and collectibles out of his John Street home. He specializes in hard-to-get models of movie likenesses. Gary is shown here with his prize-winning Predator model. (John DeBruyn photo)

The characters on his shelves each have creative additions made to them. His Predator model has a tear in its mesh clothing which has green blood oozing out and one of his Terminator models stands pointing a gun in its hand, which is a feature Gary added himself. These small but distinctive alterations make his models special and unique.

Gary hopes that increasing interest and enjoyment in his and commercially available models will boost his business's success, and sincerely believes that there is a lot of people in Acton that would enjoy model building if given the chance.

"There are a lot of people out there, they just need the opportunity to get into it."

Gary is giving everyone that opportunity.



BEAUTIFUL BASKETS: Diane Leferink (left) and Joanne Rauwerda, Coffee Break co-ordinators with the Bethel Christian Reformed Church, recently assisted in the assembly of baskets to be donated to ASSIC for distribution this Christmas. (Eric Balkind photo)

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