## Dropping by a car guy's Utopia

I admit I'm a car guy.

Not a 'fanatical-eat-sleep-and-breath-classic-cars-at-all-cost' kind of guy, more an ordinary 'I-like-classic-muscle-cars-but-can't-afford-to-own-one-so-I'll-simply-enjoy-looking' sort of car guy.

And I was able to drop into car guy's Utopia Wednesday morning as I was invited to the official opening of Legendary Motorcar Company's newly-built facility at 8242 Fifth Line, just north of Steeles Avenue in Halton Hills.

For those who aren't in the car guy loop, LMC is THE place to have restoration work done on any classic car.

Owned by Peter Klutt and his wife Vicky, the business has grown from its humble beginnings 17 years ago in Peter's garage in Streetsville, to a 12,000-square foot location on the Fourth Line in Milton in 1990, to its present glory, a 40,000-square foot facility which opened Wednesday.

Simply stated, it's a car guy's dream.

Peter's work is obviously a labour of love—
just having an idle conversation with him, I
could see he has a passion for cars of all sorts.

The new building boasts a showroom displaying 85 cars and Peter said 50 are for sale.

As I wandered through the rows of classics, I felt like I'd entered a time machine, transporting me back to those teenage glory days.

It was unreal. Big block 396 Novas, Camaros and Chevelles were a dime a dozen. Shelbys and Mustangs, Mach 1s and even a 440 Six Pack Challenger were lined up, all looking like they'd just rolled off the assembly line.

A '64 Impala SS, complete with a 300 hp 327, and 16,000 original miles was the almost commonplace in this stable of muscle cars.

It didn't stop there. A '37 Lincoln Zephyr, with a magnificent V-12 engine sat inconspicuously among other classics, along with '55 and '57 Chevy convertibles gracing the collection.

We're talking some mighty valuable iron here. Peter told me a rare 1969 LS7 Camaro was

A TED BIT



**Ted Brown** 

valued around \$300,000 and an even more unique Cobra in the back tipped the scales in the \$750,000 range.

And as impressive as the showroom was, the rear of the building held more surprises.

Rows of partially restored cars, works in progress of sorts, lined the numerous bays. Everything from 60s muscle cars, to rare imports were in the process of having new life breathed into them being rebuilt from the frame up.

A typical restoration takes about 1,000 hours, and when a car is brought in, it is pretty much taken down to the frame, sandblasted and completely rebuilt to its original specs.

In addition to the restorations and sales, the facility also houses the studio for *Dream Car Garage*, a half-hour auto program that airs on the Fox SPEED channel, focusing on classic muscle cars and modern dream cars. Host Tom Hnatiw was on hand to act as MC for the opening as well as show off the new studio upstairs at LMC. You can check it out at www.legendarymotorcar.com.

Perusing that collection of great old cars at LMC was certainly a thrill for me and I can honestly say I've never been in the midst of so many unique and downright mint classic muscle cars before in my life.

I felt like a kid in a candy store. But one thing occurred to me as I looked over the lineup.

That 'candy' might be waaaay too rich for my blood—but still mighty sweet to look at.

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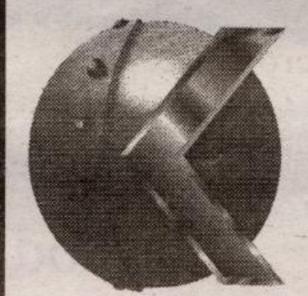
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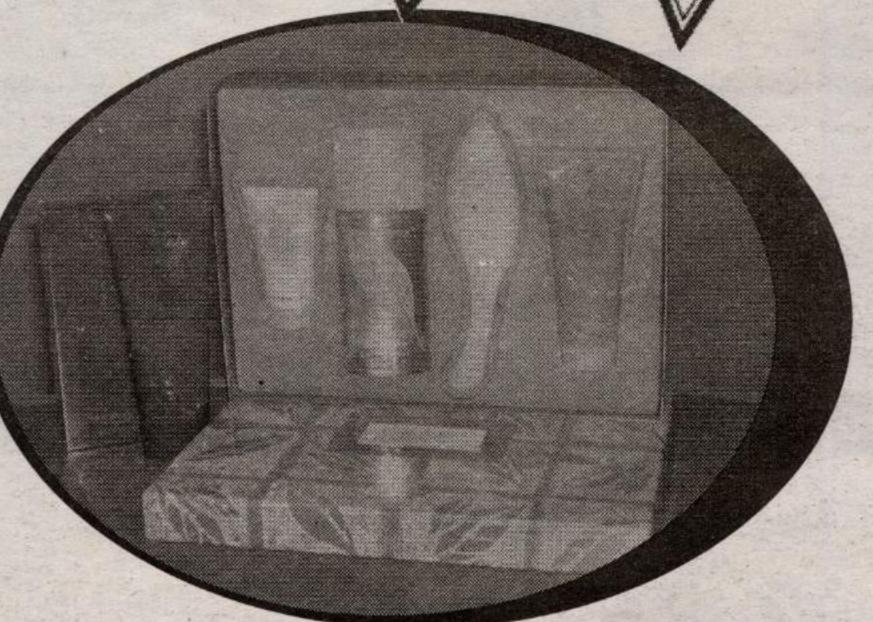
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