

John Bentley, of Bentley Limousines, stands beside his made-in-Georgetown 1957 Chevy limousine. The unique car, believed to be the only one of its kind in Canada, will be officially unveiled Sunday. (Inset right) Bentley stretches out inside the car which boasts a CD player, DVD, flat-screen TV and super sound system.



Photos by Ted Brown

Unique '57 limo to be unveiled Sunday

When John Bentley of Bentley Limousines and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette unveil Bentley's newest addition to his fleet Sunday afternoon, the public will see a very unique automobile.

Bentley Limousine now has a 1957 10-passenger Chevy limousine available to rent out for weddings, proms and even dinner theatre outings.

"To the best of my knowledge, it's the only 10-passenger 57 Chevy limo in Canada," says Bentley, "There was an eight-passenger in Montreal a few years back, but I understand it was sold to the U.S."

Bentley's 57 has some unique options added to it, and he's only too proud to display them.

In addition to a super sound system and a CD player, the car also features a flat screen TV, equipped with a DVD player as well.

The interior is designed with brides in mind, having a flat floor for easier access, and even the door is eight inches wider than usual, so brides' dresses can be accommodated easier.

"It's quite a head-turner," says Bentley, "And it draws lots of attention when I have it out on the road."

The bar is unique, as it has fibre optic lighting in the back of it, featuring a silhouette of the Toronto skyline, and the ceiling is also illuminated with fibre optics.

Bentley's greatest bragging rights is that the car was 100 per cent built in Georgetown, using the parts from three separate 57 Chevys to create the one.

The front was from a local Georgetown car, and the roof was taken from a station wagon, while the tail end was taken from a Caledon-area car.

"It was all assembled in Georgetown," he says.

The original vehicle was stretched in the fall of 2002, but Bentley didn't acquire it until April of 2003. When he got the car, it was basically a shell.

"I added a 454, 400-horse(power) Chevy engine, right out of the crate," says Bentley, "And it's bolted to a four-speed automatic TR700 tranny."

In addition, the car sports three air-conditioning units and two-tone leather interior. The hood is painted in ghost flames, and sports a metallic silver colour.

Bentley says 1957 stretch limos weren't uncommon, since a company called Stage Way made 20 of them in 1957, under contract with General Motors. The originals were eight-passenger models, and featured six doors.

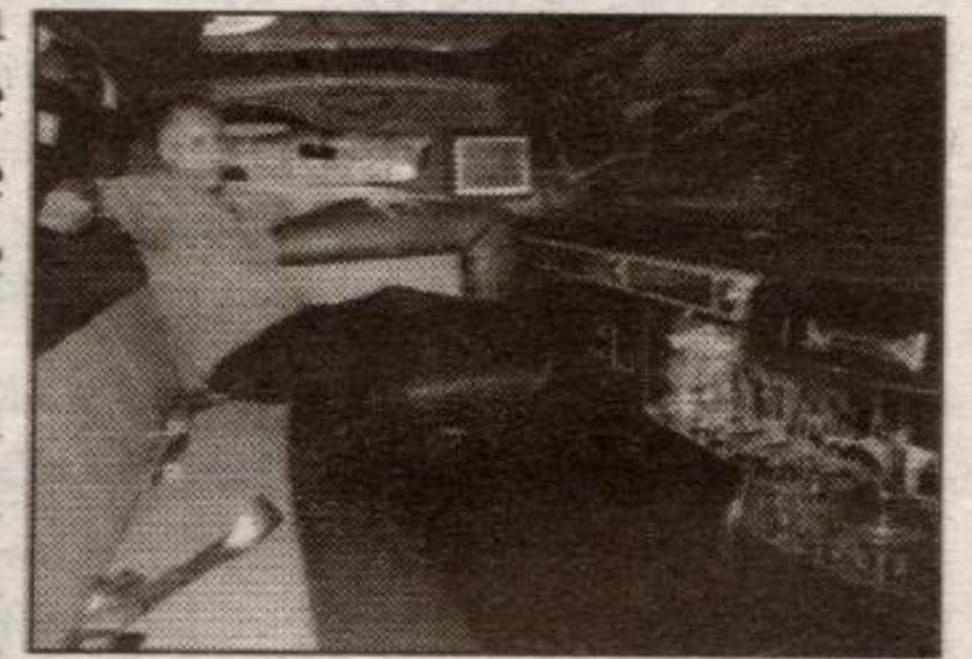
Sunday afternoon, at the Georgetown Canadian Tire parking lot, Bentley intends to unveil his newest addition, and from 2-5 p.m. all of his cars—two Rolls Royces and one limousine bus—will be on display. The unveiling will take place at 2:15 p.m.

In addition to music and entertainment, there will be a raffle in aid of William Osler Health Centre Foundation. The draw will take place at 5 p.m.

The first draw is for a ride in the 57 Chevy which includes dinner at Mattina's Cucina Ristorante, followed by a second prize for dinner for two at Boston Pizza, and third prize for 50 per cent off dance lessons at the Halton Hills School of Dance.

Bentley has been in the limo business for 22 years, and has been located in Halton Hills since 1990.

—By Ted Brown, staff writer



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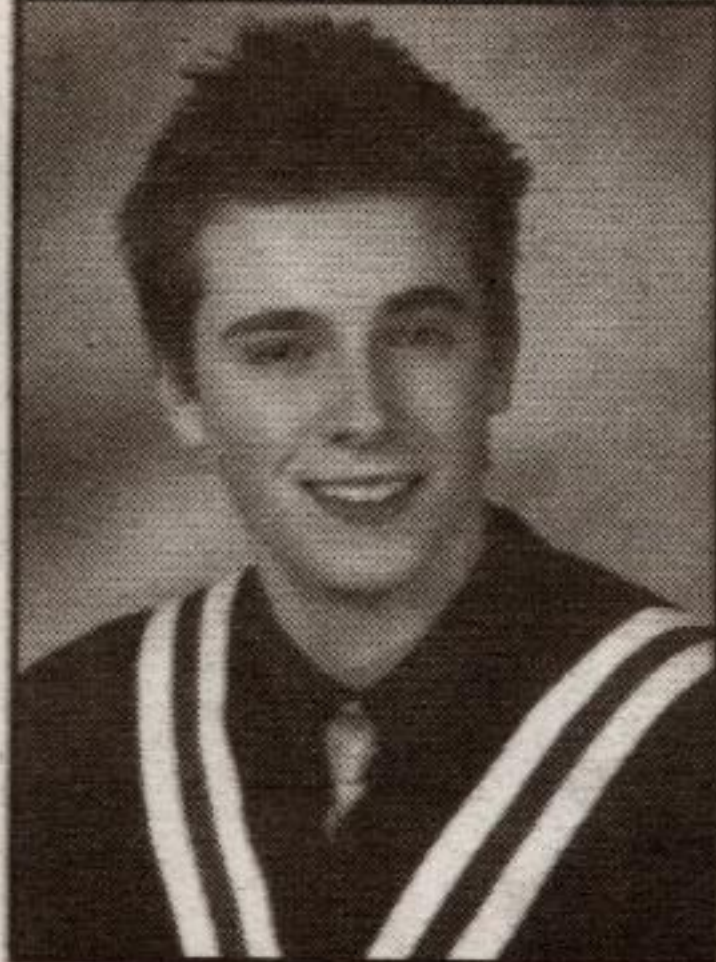
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Love Mom, Dad, Lauren, Tory-Beth & Colter.

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