

# Milton • Means Business

## New car-themed bar opens on Chisholm Dr.

By MELANIE HENNESSEY  
The Champion

Local classic car enthusiasts will soon have a place to go and check out vintage vehicles in Milton seven days a week.

A new 'nostalgia bar,' aptly named Hot Rods, opened its doors on Chisholm Drive last week and owner Chris Orzech indicated he has big plans for the 17,000-square-foot building that formerly housed Yahooz nightclub and the Milton Cinemas before that.

"We want to do a car-themed bar," he said, noting there'll even be checkered flag table cloths and cutlery stored in toolboxes. "It's going to be a fun place."

Mr. Orzech's three vintage motorcycles and some of his gas station memorabilia are already on display throughout the building.

And within the next couple months, Mr. Orzech and manager Mike Lowry expect to have all their plans in place, including a car museum and gift shop in the back room of the establishment where Mr. Orzech's nine hot rods will be on display.

### Car crazed

"I've been collecting cars, bikes (motorcycles) and gas station memorabilia for years and I finally found a place to store it," he joked.

Mr. Orzech is no stranger to the local classic car scene, noting he's known around town for his 1970 hemi 'Cuda.

The former roofing contractor, who has never owned a bar or restaurant before, said he saw great potential in the building for his classic car-themed bar.

So, he went and spoke with his friend Mr. Lowry — who also owns Rumours Pub and Grill in Oakville — about his hot rod theme, and from there Hot Rods Milton Inc. was born.

Mr. Lowry said they want to make Hot Rods a family-oriented restaurant complete with games, two volleyball courts and frequent barbecues.

"We're trying to turn it into a destination spot," he said.



Servers (from left) Julie Gaboury, Chrystal McDonald and April Murphy join Hot Rods owner Chris Orzech with one of his classic 'Cudas.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Another section of the large building is being transformed into a banquet/conference hall facility that Mr. Lowry said will realistically hold about 250 people.

The upper floor is already being put to use for things like corporate meetings, conferences and private parties.

Currently, Thursday and Saturday evenings at the new bar feature live music by local talent. Saturdays will be country and western-themed, complete with line dancing.

Once the weather gets warmer, there'll

be a barbecue and pig roast on Sunday afternoons, and Mr. Orzech noted anyone who shows up with their classic cars will get a free 'pig on a bun.' Those who are musically-inclined will also have the opportunity to take to the stage for a jam session.

Mr. Lowry noted the response from those who have visited Hot Rods so far has been good. "People are positive on everything they've seen so far," he said.

Mr. Orzech said other future plans include holding murder mystery events,

dinner theatre, poker runs, car rallies and jazz band nights and creating an express lunch buffet.

"We really want to make it a fun family place to be with good entertainment," he said.

Hot Rods, at 121 Chisholm Dr., will celebrate its grand opening May 14. Festivities will include a barbecue, car show and shine and games.

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