

# Operation Dismantle gets little support at public meet

by Carol Dimock

The world's arsenal of nuclear weapons has destructive power equal to four tons of TNT per person on earth.

There are enough nuclear weapons to destroy the earth 20 to 20 times.

There is more destructive power than food on this earth.

These are some of the chilling facts learned by those who attended the public meeting on nuclear disarmament in St. John's United Church in Elmvale on Sept. 21st.

Milton Little and Ms. Janet MacDougall, from the steering committee of the Toronto Branch of Operation Dismantle, explained "the mess we're in, how we got there, and how we're going to get out of it."

Today's "peaceniks" are very different from of the 1960's, Little says. of the 1960's, Little says. They come from all levels of society and all age groups, and are not protesting against society in general but against the horror of a nuclear holocaust.

"We have no chance of surviving a nuclear war," says McDougall, "either personally or as a nation."

"We have elected the people who got us into this mess", says Little. "there is rotten leadership on both sides. We have to take our share of the blame, for letting the governments get away with it."

"But we're waking up - people are going to protest and complain, and we can stop it", says Little.

Some people claim that a balance of

## IN THE NEWS

Don Stuart, a Barrie jewellery designer and Teaching Master at Georgian College, is the recipient of a gold award as the result of the 1982 Canadian Jewellery Awards Competition.

Stuart's entry was a circular brooch designed to be used as a cloak or kilt pin.

Hand crafted in sterling silver with inlays of brown coral, copper ore, walrus ivory, silver ore, ebony, tropical yellow wood, cocobola and opal, the brooch placed first.

nuclear arms is a deterrent to war.

Operation Dismantle explains deterrence as the ability to destroy an enemy totally, and thus scare him so much he won't attack. When both sides have this ability, it's called mutual assured destruction, or MAD.

Either side could throw away 50 per cent or even 80 per cent of their nuclear bombs today, and still have enough left over to destroy the whole world several times over. Despite this, the USA and the USSR make new nuclear bombs equal to 150 Hiroshimas every

single day of the year. MAD.

The world spends \$600 billion a year on arms, when it would take only \$25 or \$30 billion a year to feed, clothe, house, educate and give medical care to the world's needy people (up to subsistence levels).

The idea of a universal referendum on disarmament, originated in 1977 by Operation Dismantle, was to give the people of the world and not just their governments a vote in the arms race.

Over 100 municipalities across

Canada, and over 30 in Ontario, have agreed to hold a referendum on disarmament in their upcoming municipal elections. Little says that pressure on the level of government closest to the people, the most accessible level, may get quickest results.

The next step would be a Canada-wide vote, and then a world-wide referendum through the U.N.

Operation Dismantle suggests that Canada could propose the world vote in the United Nations. The UN General Assembly

would have to agree on the working of the ballot. Then it would be up to each nation to conduct a national referendum on general disarmament, using the UN-approved ballot. UN observers would monitor the referenda. The results would go back to the United Nations.

It is estimated that 80 per cent or more of the human race would vote for balanced disarmament if given the chance. Such a mandate will have a powerful effect on the governments of nations, bring the issues into sharp

focus and mobilize public opinion.

In 1978, at the first UN Special Session on Disarmament, virtually every government in the world agreed with the

following statement: "Mankind is confronted with a choice: we must halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation."

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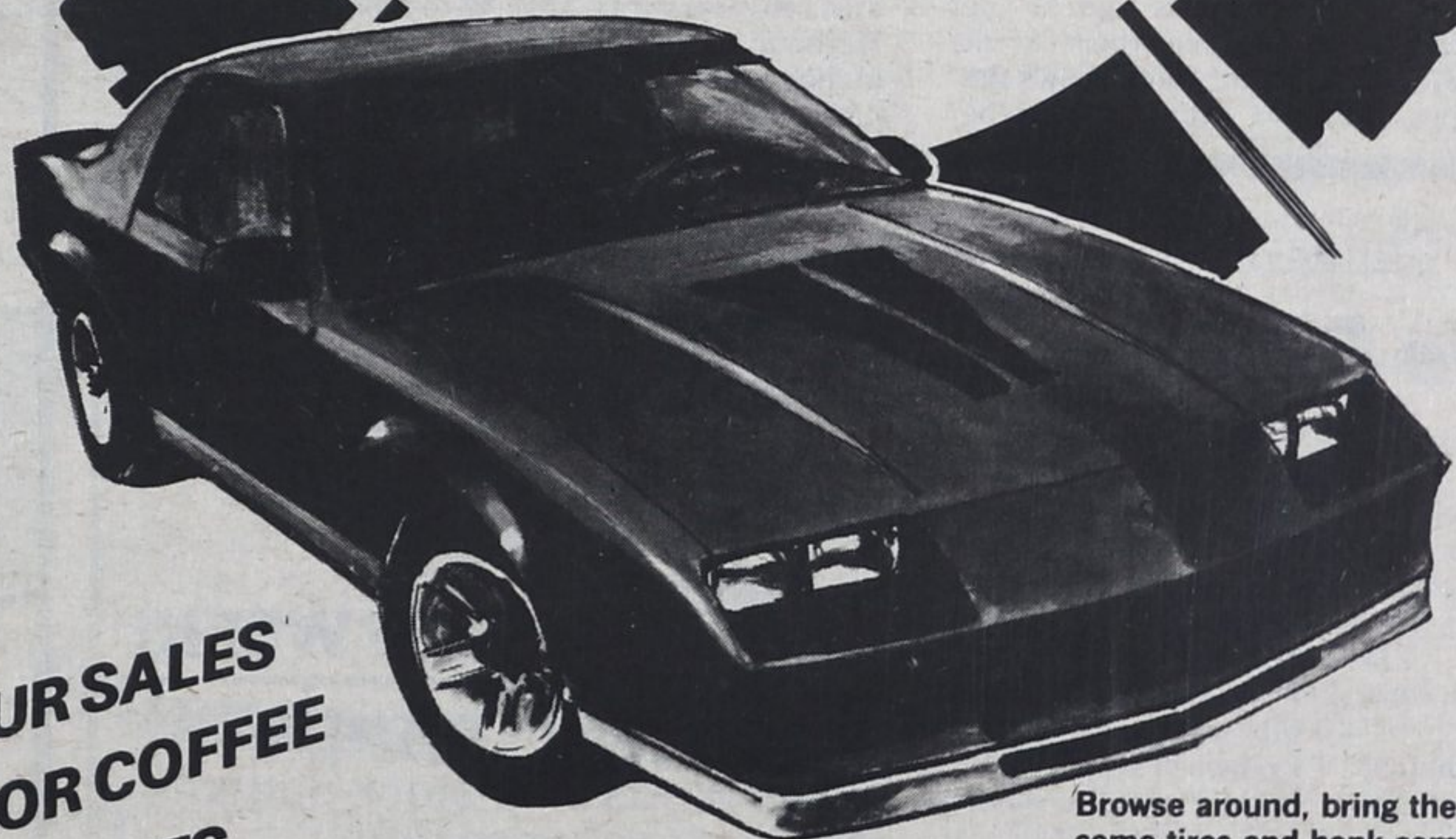
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