

1970 Dodge jump-started love story that continues today

BY TIM KELLY
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They love to show off their gleaming, gorgeous hunks of chrome and metal, but how many classic car owners can claim the vehicle they display got them the girl.

Stouffville's Kari Salo can.

And he still has the wheels — well as close a car as he could find to the original — and, more importantly, the girl to prove it.

Kari and his wife, Sioux, were

just teenagers in 1974 when the car-crazy boy was driving his 1970 Dodge Dart, a prototypical muscle car. Sioux took one look at the car, maybe the guy wasn't so bad either, but really says she just wanted to take a ride in that car.

Fast forward four decades to this month and the pair were at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Antique and Classic Car show describing the merits of their 1968 Dodge Dart beauty. They were joined by about 400 other clas-

sic cars and 1,200 spectators who enjoyed beautiful weather and a great show.

Sioux confirms the 40-year-old tale and says four-wheel adventures have been a joy for the couple ever since they met in the '70s.

NOT FOR SALE

"We even took the kids to Florida in a '33 Ford," she said.

She is a full partner in her husband's car passion.

"I love it, it's our hobby. I always know where he is, we've always

done it together," she said.

For Kari, a love of cars started as a child in his native Finland and continued when he came to Canada as a 10-year-old.

He said he took every shop class he could in high school and has always had stacks and stacks of car magazines in his garage along with a car he can work on.

But pride of place goes to the white Dodge Dart on display that museum show.

He talks with pride about the

GTS, 383 four-barrel big block, that can cover the quarter mile in 12.90 seconds.

While classic cars can be an expense, "race cars are a money pit that for every dollar you spend, you get back 30 cents," said Kari, adding he can break even on a display car such as the Dart.

But it's not for sale.

"I've put too much into it and I love it," he said.

"It's on our bucket list to do this," said Sioux.



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