

Collecting a Passion

Collections have been steadily growing around Ontario. Some are inspired by childhood passions, while others are made up of objects older than us. Whatever these collections are made up of, there are some impressive ones and some that leave us scratching our heads.

But all of them have something in common: hope. The collector's mentality is about hope, and about what might be coming into their collection. Will tomorrow hold that final piece they've been missing? Will they find that card that is worth hundreds? Will that old wind-up toy actually be worth thousands to the right person?

But not every collector thinks in terms of money. To some, it would be impossible for them to sell their collection. To them, collecting is a distraction: it's a place to go on a bad day. When things go wrong, they can visit their collection, and see the wonders and treasures they have found.

The first-year photojournalism class, who were tasked with finding a collector, and showing off their collections, produced this collection of work.

Text by Marina Sanford



John Hall, owner and curator of the Canadian Piano Museum, has been collecting pianos for over 30 years. A piano tuner and repairer by trade, Hall started his piano museum in 2006 in Vulcan, Alberta, before moving to Napanee in 2009. His collection includes Canada's oldest piano from 1777. Photo by Julia McKay



Marina Boretski poses like a mannequin in the window of her antiques store on Front St. The Belleville native has made a career out of collecting vintage clothing and antiques items. She collects and sells everything from hats and dresses to books and furniture. Photo by Patrick Callbeck



Mike Lebrun of Kinburn Ontario is a collector of antique western style cap guns. Mike has over 200 cap guns that all function including one that is 24k gold. Photo Evan Campbell



Thom Fairley of Kingston has about 80 pairs of sneakers crammed into his John Street home. He began collecting sneakers as a youth and says that the broad range of styles available opened up new avenues for self-expression. Photo by Justin Tang



Shirley and Doug Lloyd show their collection of kerosene lamps in their Napanee home on February 10, 2012. The Lloyds have been collecting kerosene lamps from yard sales all over southern Ontario since buying their first one in Carrying Place, in 1982. Photo by Marta Inanek



Karen Leacock-Brown is the owner of Quinte Antique's, which is the largest antique store in Eastern Ontario. Leacock-Brown has been collecting Royal Doulton Dolls for 20 years. Leacock-Brown also owns the largest outdoor antiques show in Eastern Ontario, The Odessa Antique Show. Photo by Alicia Wynter



The collector (not willing to be named) sitting in front of some of his collection of Second World War paraphernalia, which includes many uniforms, miniatures, displays and books. Photo by Zach Burke



Linda Brookes is a collector of shoes. She has been collecting shoes and boots of every shape, size, colour and style for the last six years. At first, her habit of collecting shoes developed into her own business of selling them, but now she only collects them for herself and friends. Photo by Chelsea Strik



Hockey fan, James Nixon, shows off his collection of Chicago Blackhawks merchandise. Nixon has been collecting items from his favourite hockey team for over 40 years, and still continues on the hunt to add to his collection. Photo by Jenny Robertson



Andrew Smith, a Toronto photographer, wears his favourite Hawaiian shirt and stands proudly in front of the rest of his collection of well over 30 shirts. Besides Hawaiian shirts, Smith is also a collector of western-style shirts, bolo ties, collar tips, tree fungus, records and canes to name a few. Photo by Tom Hicken



Rachel Marlin has been collecting pig paraphernalia for 16 years and her collection has passed 1,000 items. Marlin does not eat anything that contains pork and says, "The only kind of pig I'm missing now is a real one." Photo by Myriam Lublink



Alain Laliberte has been collecting wine labels for over 30 years, and he has an estimated 160,000 different wine labels. Along with collecting wine labels, he also has a vast selection of wine crates that hang on the walls of his basement. Photo by Richard Barday



Albert Pham, first year student at the University of Waterloo, sits on his comic book collection. Albert has been collecting comic books since his childhood and has recently started to collect again. His all time favourite comic book character is Batman. Photo by Nam Phi Dang



Ron Cookman, 68, has been collecting "wheels" - what Cookman calls any vintage/antique toy with wheels attached - since the 1970s. Cookman also collects Royal Dalton Toby Jugs as well as fishing lure and tackle. Photo by Jessica Nyznik