

This 40,000-square-foot car park protects your precious ride from all of the elements—criminal and climatic

Joshua Knelman – Toronto Life Magazine – May 2005



In a secret bunker at the north end of the city lies row upon row of shiny Corvettes, Ferraris, Porsches, Aston Martins and Bimmers. Near the back sits a pristine black Lamborghini with sparkling \$20,000 rims. “A car is a passion, a piece of art on wheels,” says Gary Shapiro, the self-professed “king of cars” and overseer of this extravagant scene.

For security reasons, I can’t tell you where Auto Vault—his automotive kingdom—is located, but Shapiro, with his shoulder-length blond hair and gold sunglasses, is the driving force behind what he calls “Canada’s first car condo,” a 40,000-square-foot storage garage for infrequently driven (but constantly babied) luxury rides. Strolling through the premises, he points to an impressive array of security measures: cameras, alarms, motion detectors and security guards. He mothers his high-end charges as if they were his own children.

“I love cars, I love people,” he smiles. The first car he owned was a 1974 Mustang Fastback. It was true love. Since then, he has sold cars, restored cars and, now, with partner Peter Seligman, he houses them. Keep your precious roadster here and Shapiro ensures it’s driven indoors every two weeks, the battery trickle charged, the tire pressure monitored and the exterior washed down. If there’s dent or a scratch that needs fixing, no problem—Auto Vault can arrange detailing and body work.

When you’re ready to hit the open road, your wheels are delivered to your home or office and picked up when the joyride’s over. Standing in front of a security monitor, I ask Shapiro if he’s seen *Gone in 60 Seconds*, a second-rate movie about a gang of thieves on a quest to steal 50 cars in a single night. In response, he whispers, “We have a rule: we don’t talk about that here.”