

Reason Mohawk Valley is special: An unusual Hot Wheels collection

Deerfield man's cars featured at uticaod.com

DEERFIELD – Where can you find a world record-winning Hot Wheels collection of cars, toys and accessories?

Right here in the Mohawk Valley.

Earlier this month, I sought out this local treasure as part of the Observer-Dispatch's online video series called I "Heart" the Mohawk Valley.

The feature brings attention to the positive aspects of the region and explores the unique people and places that make the region a special place to live.

It is published twice a month and can be found at uticaod.com.

This week, we feature Hot Wheels collector and Deerfield resident Michael Zarnock, who's a two-time Guinness World Records holder for collecting Hot Wheels cars.

In 2003, he earned the world record for collecting 3,711 different cars. Then he won again in 2007 for collecting 8,128 cars.

"And counting," said Zarnock, who said his collection has since grown to about 10,000.

I didn't have to travel very far from the newsroom to get a good look at part of his collection.



ZARNOCK



■ Go to uticaod.com to view the video, as well as others from the series.

There are seven 12-foot glass enclosed areas containing more than 1,000 Hot Wheels cars and accessories at the Children's Museum on Main Street.

"We start from the beginning from 1968, all the way to today," Zarnock said. "That is the only place in the world where you're going to see that many (Hot Wheels) cars and play sets. There are things that you'd never see, that most collectors won't even see."

Zarnock also contributed a rare 1971 Hot Wheels comic book collection to a Hot Wheels exhibit at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.

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