

# Final Destination



## Late-Model Pontiac Salvage Yard Keeping the Breed Alive Story and Photos By Don Keeffe

Imagine going back in time to perhaps the early- to mid-1970s and getting the chance to explore the wrecking yards of the day. Rows upon rows of wrecked GTOs and Firebirds as far as the

eye can see. Rare, high-performance engines, transmissions, hard-to-find accessories and body parts, correct wheels and like-new interior parts just waiting to be plucked from their resting places

and taken home for a project that is most likely out of reach for many people today.

While it is not exactly the same as back then, we got that same feeling of excitement when we



This Tremec six-speed is ready to go. The fact that the LS Candy Shop has already dismantled about 1,000 late-model GTOs in the last six years is a testament to their staying power and their huge inventory. They have virtually everything in stock and ready to ship.



These cathedral-port LS1/LS2 heads are used and have been removed and inspected for obvious flaws. They will likely be rebuilt and pressed back into service in pretty short order. Ron and his staff have a very busy mail room and will ship worldwide.



pulled into the The LS Candy Shop in Tonawanda, New York. It is located just outside of Buffalo and is very close to GM's Tonawanda Assembly plant, where the GM LT-series V-6 and V-8 engines are built.

The operation is run by Ron Wang, an upbeat and friendly guy in his early 30s who has built this family-owned business into a powerhouse with a national following.

"We have been concentrating on late-model GTOs, Camaros and Firebirds for the last 10 years or so," Ron explained. "I have had interest in other cars, particularly Dodge Vipers and we do sell Lexus parts, but the LS engine is just too good and too popular to really mess with anything else."

Wang has found that with these cars getting older and very little in the way of reproduction parts available, the demand for high-quality, used parts, particularly for GTOs is quite high. "The dealer stock is pretty much gone at this point, and the cars really aren't old enough for there to be a lot of reproduction parts out there," Ron explained. "The few reproduction parts out there don't fit very well."

Unlike the wrecking yards of the past, the land values are too high to have 30 or 40 acres of cars laying around. Working out of a smaller piece of land means that cars are quickly brought in, stripped down to their unibody and then the bare unibody hulk is sold for scrap.

Fortunately for Ron, business is very good. Since, 2010, they have dismantled more than 1,000 GTOs, so there is enough work to keep



**LS Candy Store Owner Ron Wang poses in front of a supercharged LS2 out of a wrecked GTO that is being readied for delivery. The LS Candy Shop dismantles late-model GM rear-drive cars and also performs upgrades for customer cars. Several were in for work when we visited.**



**This 2004 GTO looks like it had a pretty rough life before a tree fell on it. This one will be stripped of all usable parts and the unibody shell will be sold for scrap. It's a sad end for this one but parts of it will help keep other cars on the road for many years to come.**





Sadly, this is an original WS6 Trans Am and it was a total loss that Ron purchased to dismantle. Many cars are obtained as salvage from insurance companies.



This GTO is a customer car with a fully built engine with TFS heads, F.A.S.T. intake and other goodies. It puts 500 horsepower to the wheels.



There are countless shelves with parts, divided up by systems. This one is full of throttle bodies and other fuel-system hardware.



This aluminum LS block will soon get a full buildup. While iron blocks are everywhere, these are much more scarce.



The LS Candy Shop also covers Gen IV Firebirds and Trans Ams. These are actually customer cars that were in for service, though there were a few similar cars being dismantled the day we visited.



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his employees busy. It is also good enough where he is constructing a new, 15,000-square foot shop plus a 10,000-square foot double-level warehouse. It will be finished in October of 2016.

In addition to parts sales, the LS Candy Store does repair work and performs upgrades for customer cars. If you want to add a supercharger, some suspension upgrades, or the installation of just about any aftermarket performance part out there, Ron and his team can get it done for you. The day we visited, there were several GTOs and Trans Ams in for work.

If you're looking for a used throttle body, a pair of seats, or an entire engine, the LS Candy Shop is a great source for late-model Pontiac fans. They also ship worldwide. For more information, log onto [www.lscandyshop.com](http://www.lscandyshop.com). **PP**



The LS Candy Store staff poses around a customer's GTO. From left: Ron Wang, Dan Salerna, Dan Stock (front), Ralph Jermy, Jason Shultz and Jayro Mazariegos. Not pictured are Randy and Kevin. These guys are very efficient at dismantling late-model GM performance cars.