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Pages 10 and 11.

## Kwanlin Dun delays vote

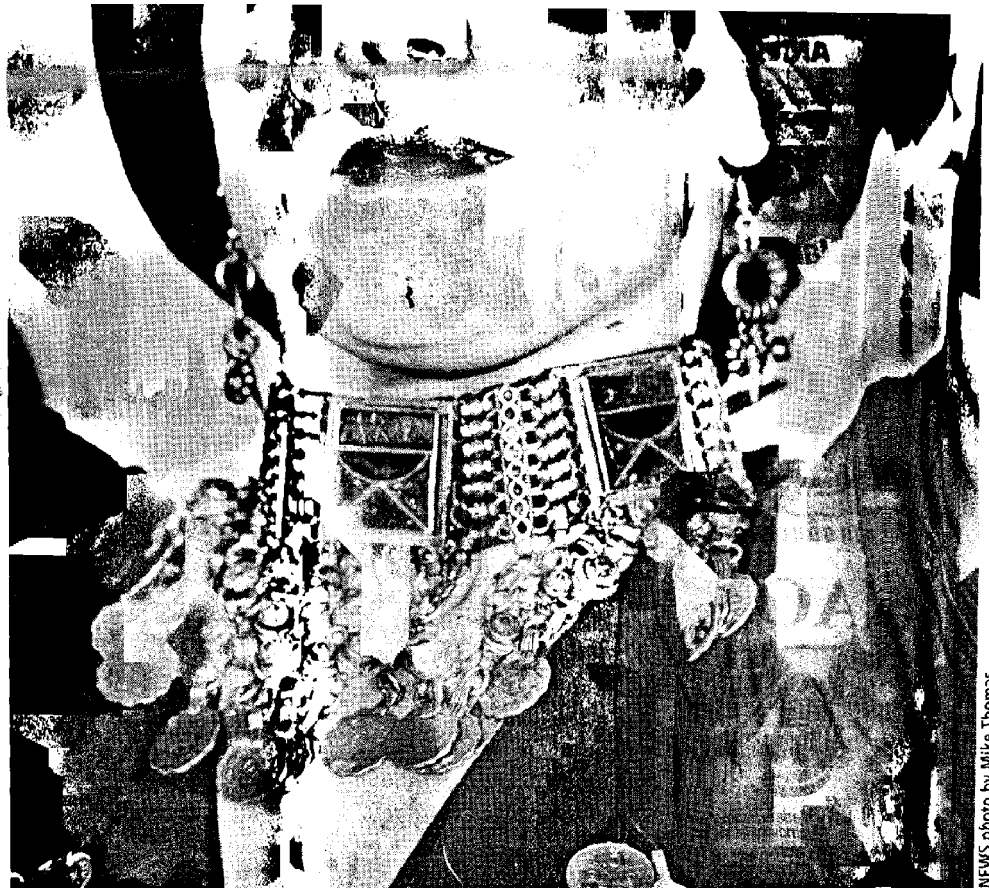
PAGE 2



## Keeps on truckin'...

With the help of a \$130,000 customized truck and a modicum of courage a British adventurer is wandering the world...

Page 40.



NEWS photo by Mike Thomas

Carmen Zawyrucha performs the American Tribal style of bellydancing. See story on pages 14 & 15.

## City council nixes B&B PAGE 5

*For full article, see next page...*

## SPORTS AND RECREATION

# Brit adventurer circles the planet in a super truck

By Chris Arthurs  
News Sports Reporter

**B**arrelling along Miles Canyon Road at more than 150 kilometres an hour, Chris Charlton exudes all the confidence of a man eager to spend the next three and a half years traversing the globe by land, sea and air.

Charlton has spent the last two decades wandering the world,

going to go from Alaska to Patagonia, f--- it! I might as well do the whole damn world," he joked.

So exactly what is required to undertake a project of this magnitude?

A whole lot of money, vast amounts of supplies and one amazing vehicle.

A year ago, Charlton began preparations for a global expedition that will take him through

the trip is the \$130,000, customized 2004 Land Rover Defender 110.

Four months ago, the truck was nothing more than a \$65,000 2004 base-model Land Rover.

Another \$65,000 in modifications later and Charlton pulls into each town along his route with a customized machine that turns heads.

Alterations made to the vehicle include everything from physical

capable of carrying the car almost 1,300 kilometres before refueling, a propane barbecue, a fridge-freezer capable of freezing food in desert climates, a queen-sized tent that folds down off the roof and hovers above the ground for protection against dangerous animals and just about everything else imaginable.

"I don't mind roughing it — I've done that," said Charlton. "I spent four years in the British military.

"I know what roughing it is all about, but for this length of time you've got to have the ability to make it somewhat comfortable, and it's even more important because people will be joining me."

For people interested in taking part in Charlton's journey there are a couple of options.

The expedition's progress can be tracked on Namaste's website, [www.namaste.co.uk](http://www.namaste.co.uk). And Charlton will be writing a monthly newsletter to update people on the trip's development.

The more adventurous enthusiasts can actually join him on his journey providing they cover their costs and are comfortable living out of a backpack.

"Half the fun of this trip is that I love meeting new people and I don't know who will be joining in," said Charlton.

"Anyone, I mean anyone, can join this trip. If you send me an e-mail saying you want to join this trip, either you tell me when and I'll tell you where or you tell me where and I'll tell you when.

"Having people join this trip is not about making money; it's about sharing the experience."

Charlton is documenting his expedition with a video camera, photographs and journals, and when his trip is finished in three and a half years, he plans to write a book and possibly license the rights to his footage for use in a documentary.

"If all I end up with is really great home movies, then that's enough," he said. "But I hope to do more with the footage to promote certain issues around the world.

"The aim of this whole thing is to have lots of fun and make a difference in any way that I can along the way.

"Whether it's helping mend a broken arm, or helping to build a school or simply trying to raise awareness of the issues that some people face, I just want to make a small difference."

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NEWS photo by Chris Arthurs  
Chris Charlton... "The aim of this whole thing is to have lots of fun and make a difference in any way that I can along the way."

jumping out of airplanes, rafting down raging rivers and climbing some of the world's tallest peaks.

And now he is setting out on the road trip of a lifetime.

"This is a bit of a personal odyssey for me," said Charlton, who was in Whitehorse last week.

The idea of driving around the globe actually started off as a much more tame idea about 20 years ago.

He had always wanted to see the Canadian Rockies, so he planned a trek through British Columbia.

A few years passed and the idea grew to encompass the entire Western Hemisphere: A yearlong, 4x4 trek from Alaska to Patagonia.

A few more years passed and Charlton's vision expanded once again.

"I thought to myself, 'If I am

110 countries and up the highest peak on each of the seven continents.

He sold his house in England, mobilized his management consultancy business and began work on a state-of-the-art vehicle that would be capable of taking him on the 200,000-kilometre journey.

Re-organizing his business, Namaste (a Nepalese word meaning, 'I bow to the divinity within you') is key to the success of the adventure; about half of the \$500,000 Charlton estimates the trip will cost is slated to come from business he conducts along the way.

"I've arranged the business so I can run it from anywhere in the world from my laptop," he said. "I can stop overnight and be up and running in business the next day."

The other vital component of

spatial changes, the addition of necessities like a hot shower and water-filtration pump, to engine modifications that have improved the truck's overall horsepower and fuel economy.

"You don't see many dashboards with a button for hot shower do you?" said Charlton.

"It really was good fun, though, to put this thing together. It was great to be able to create a bit of a toy, really."

The vehicle is more than just a toy, however. It is designed to be functional, practical and suitable for four people to live out of for extended periods of time.

In addition to the shower that runs off a pre-heater in the engine and get its water from a 50-litre storage tank specially fitted under the driver's seat, the Land Rover also sports a two-tank fuel system