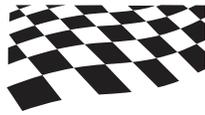


Drive for Deirdre



PEKING TO PARIS 2019



Newsletter No. 4

March 2019



Chris and the car at an Arthritis Society event in downtown Victoria.
Photo by Owen Russell



The car receives its final oil changes before departure

Drive for Deirdre Campaign Progress

We are pleased to report that more than half of our target has been reached. Thank you to all who have made contributions to the Arthritis Society since our last newsletter.

In early March we were invited to an Arthritis Society event where the focus was on the treatment of patients suffering from Juvenile or Childhood Arthritis. The illness is more common than most chronic childhood diseases and is especially hard to treat. Young children do not understand the need for painful injections and other forms of treatment. Parents suffer too as they see their child try to cope with the effects of the disease.

Research into Childhood and other forms of arthritis is one of the major functions of the Arthritis Society. More information can be found at: <https://arthritis.ca/what-we-do/research> and <http://tinyurl.com/y3vjxec2>

The Car: It's on its way to China!

The VW Beetle has completed various tests on the 'road to readiness'. The car starts, runs, stops and handles very well. The engine has completed the early break-in mileage, the brakes are bedded in and the transmission has had the first few hundred shifts. In short, it is alive and well.

Final preparations included sourcing an approved fire extinguisher and loading the car with tools and spare parts. We have been advised to keep the weight down so deciding what to take and what to leave behind is very important.

We were informed by the car shipping company that they wanted the car two days earlier than originally requested. This necessitated some last minute

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rushing around but Number 42 is now in a container with car Number 5, the 1931 Ford Victoria of Lee Harman and Bill Ward, also from the Pacific northwest area. The Ford and the VW will be reunited with their respective teams in late May, two days before the start of the event in Beijing.

Thanks to Various People

The car preparations have been greatly assisted by Robert and his team at Beetle Auto Service here in Victoria. Local VW enthusiasts know that this shop not only performs high quality service, they also provide great advice based on years of experience. The entire team will be with us—in spirit—all the way to Paris. Beetle Auto Service is a great example of a family business that includes three generations and hopefully with more to come in the years ahead.

Island Graphics in Victoria donated the “Drive for Deirdre” logo and other decals for the car—thanks Pete! Door numbers and rally plates will be installed in Beijing.

Thank you also to patient neighbours who have endured various sounds from the workshop for the last year, and to Bob in particular for his help and encouragement along the way.



Our thanks to Beetle Auto Service and Island Graphics



Next Steps

The preparations will move from the automotive to the personal in April and May. Visas are required for China and Russia. Canadians are welcome to travel for short durations in Mongolia and Kazakhstan without the need of visas. Once crossing the Russian-Finland border, the ‘hard borders’ will be over and the rest of the run is in the European Union.

Medical preparations are being addressed with respect to immunization and basic precautions. The first aid kit must not only stock the usual emergency supplies, but also must have—gulp—IV devices included. Presumably this is to reduce the supplies in the two first aid vehicles that accompany the Rally.

We will be sending out a further newsletter near the end of May which include details of how you can follow our progress, both in blog form and via a satellite tracking device which is installed in the car.



Car No. 42 departs for Vancouver and its trip to China