

## news

# Journey of a lifetime

## Two Swiss friends take on the world with a jeep

Serena Black  
Citizen staff

Two men from Switzerland who are living out their long-time dream of traveling around the world are making their second trip through Prince George.

After two and a half years, they've visited 30 countries. They started in Switzerland, moved throughout southern Europe, northern Africa, most of Asia and down through Australia before heading to North America.

"We want to show people all the good things you can do if you put all the energy you have into it," said Samuel Weishaupt, one of the travelers.

Weishaupt and his travel teammate Philippe Büchel decided when they were in their early twenties. They spent two years working full time, spending weekends building the vehicle they've now taken almost around the world.

Whenever they have to switch continents the jeep and everything they have must fit into a 20-foot square container, which is placed on a cargo ship.

While in Canada, the two are staying exclusively in the West.

"We had to decide what parts we couldn't do. Canada is just so big you can't see everything; of course there is more we want to see," said Büchel.

"We can come back to Canada because it's a stable country, whereas you might not be able to in Asia - especially since we're driving. Here, we can always come and rent RV and visit more, but you can't do that in other places."

They spent three days in Prince



Samuel Weishaupt and Philippe Büchel, from Switzerland, stopped to catch salmon along the Tashenshini River in the north, as part of their trip around the world.

Submitted photo

George as they made their way north to the Yukon, and are now staying another three days before heading south into the United States and eventually to South America.

"We haven't got to explore much yet, but the people here are very nice. Every city we see is different, and that's what we like," said Weishaupt.

The trip was originally supposed to happen in just two years, but has been extended to

just under four years.

They were in Australia when they reached year two and decided to extend the trip.

They went back to Switzerland for a month to tell their family and friends, before taking off to finish their trip.

"Our family was a little worried when we said we were going to keep traveling, but they've always encouraged us. They want us to live out our dreams," said Weishaupt.

They said one of the biggest lessons they've learned is to make sure to ask very specific questions, because it's hard to communicate and understand different cultures sometimes.

Their travels have really opened their eyes to how many different ways of living there is.

"We have lived almost all our lives in Switzerland, which is developed and has good laws and is a good life. But we have seen in other countries where people

don't get that kind of life," said Weishaupt.

Büchel said some countries have little to no rules when it comes to driving.

"Some countries don't have any laws about driving. If you get into an accident or something you just have to get out of there as fast as you can, even if it's not your fault," he said.

Büchel said they haven't had any accidents themselves, but it's something they are worried about.

The world travelers said, while they've seen a lot of places they could see themselves moving to in the future, they understand it's different to visit a country than to live there.

"There are three pairs of shoes. In one, you are a tourist, in another you're staying and working, and the other you're retiring there. We see the best when we're just visiting," said Weishaupt.

The travelers have received help and sponsorship along the way. When they broke down outside of Whitehorse just a month or so ago, a shop sponsored a new axle and the labour.

"It means so much to us that people are so generous. Those guys were awesome," Weishaupt said.

People can follow their journey and even provide sponsorship by visiting their website, [www.oncearoundtheworld.com](http://www.oncearoundtheworld.com). The guys said they hope that by doing this trip they are inspiring people around the world to believe in themselves.

"We want to tell people: Live your dreams, don't dream your life," said Weishaupt.

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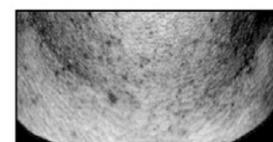
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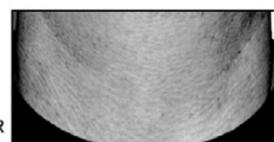
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