

# 7 DAYS

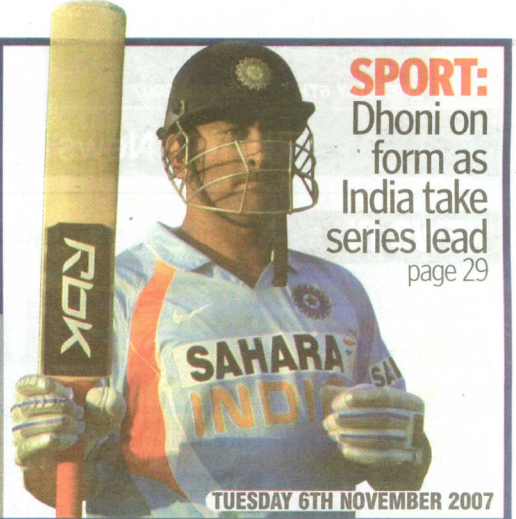
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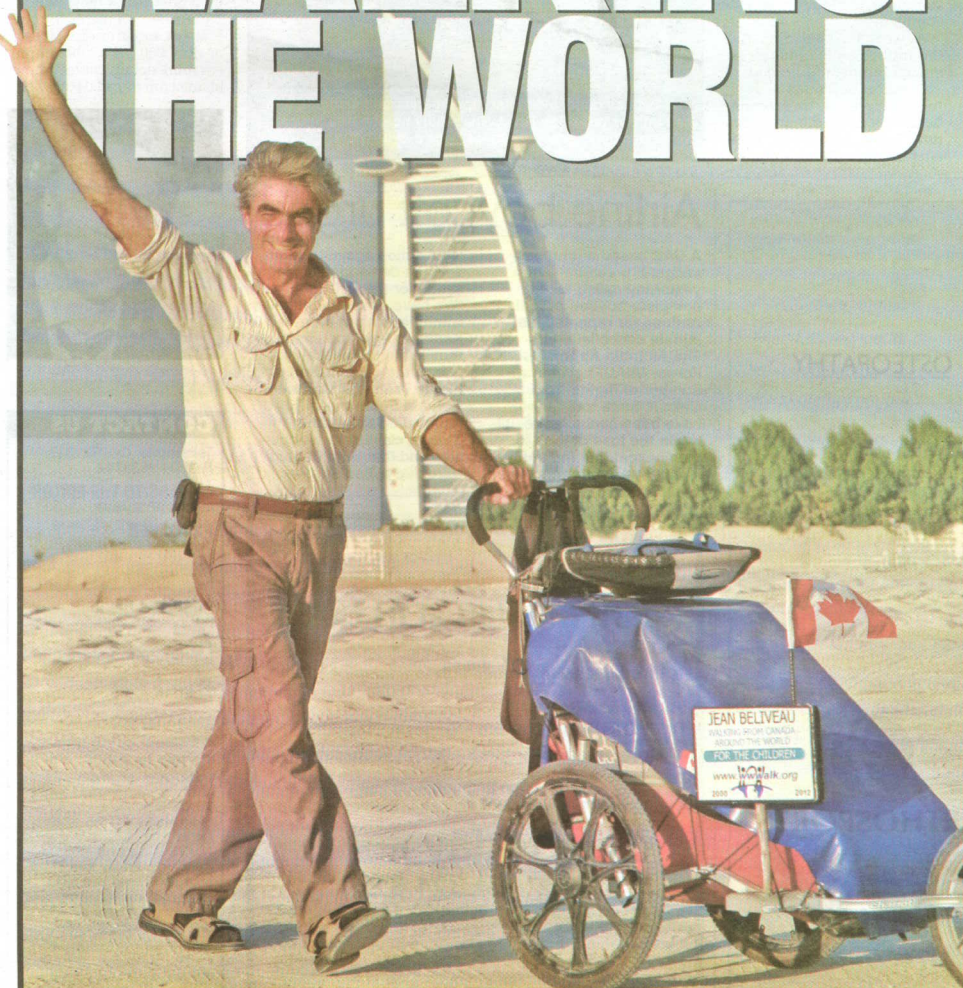


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TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2007

BPA audited daily circulation: 67,870

# WALKING THE WORLD



## Canadian adventurer in Dubai before next stage of 12-year trek

A father-of-two who left his home and family seven years ago to walk around the world for peace has landed in Dubai ahead of the next stage of his 12-year journey.

And 35 pairs of shoes later, Jean Beliveau is now anxious to complete his journey and get home to wife Luce, son Thomas and daughter Elisa Jane. The 52-year-old, who left Montreal, Canada on August 18, 2000, in a bid to walk around the planet to promote 'Peace and non-violence to the profit of the children of the world', arrived in the emirate last week en route to India where he will continue the mammoth task.

He said: "I am actually a year ahead of schedule, which is good because I want to go home now. I see my wife only once a year - I stall my journey for one month and she comes to see me. The next time will be in Bangladesh in March.

"I also became a grandfather while I was in Texas. I saw my grandchild for the first time five years later in Hamburg, Germany, when someone paid for the airfare for them to visit me."

Jean, who says he was spurred on for the challenge by a mid-life crisis, has so far walked from Montreal in Canada down through North and South America to Brazil, before flying to South Africa where he walked across the continent and then headed to Europe. He has just passed through Turkey and Iran

to finish his walk of the Middle East here in Dubai. The next stop is India, then South and Eastern Asia, Australia and finally New Zealand before flying back home to Canada.

And the entire trip is dependent on the goodness and generosity of the people he meets on his way.

"In Algeria I was operated on for free by a kind-hearted doctor," he said. "I have been fed and sheltered all the way by brilliant people. Iran's people were particularly generous and welcoming."

Discussing places he's slept he laughed: "I've slept in jail, under bridges, at schools, hospitals, religious places and I also have a tent. I've even slept at a cemetery - it's very quiet and everyone around you is sleeping so at least you know you won't be disturbed!" Despite missing his wife and children, being attacked by two men in South Africa and the odd encounter with a lion, Jean says he could never give up and go home.

"I am doing this for a good cause," he said. "For the children and for myself. It is challenging - physically and mentally - but I am learning so much about cultures and meeting so many wonderful people. I am determined to do my best and live the present." Jean's walk coincides with the United Nations International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.

To learn more about his trip visit [www.wwalk.org](http://www.wwalk.org)

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