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arts-and-leisure

ENTERTAINMENT

## First Emperor arrives at Aberdeen Centre

BY TRACY SHERLOCK Special to the News

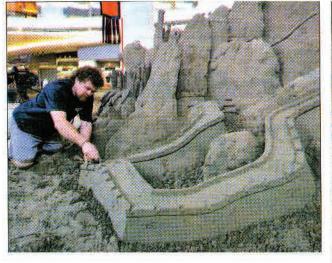
A china's first Emperor, Qin Shihuang, was a tyrannical ruler who wanted to live forever. To further his quest, he had a life-size army built, and initiated the building of the Great Wall of China.

Aberdeen Centre is commemorating his life with its new display: Return of the First Emperor, One man, two wonders of the world, which opens July 24 and runs until August 30.

The show will include a sand sculpture of the Great Wall of China as well as life-size replicas of Qin Shihuang's terracotta warriors and horses.

"We wanted to plan something for the kids that is interesting, but also educational," said Joey Kwan, promotion and public relations manager at Aberdeen Centre.

Qin Shihuang strove to complete the Great Wall during his reign between approximately 250-210 BC. Initially, wall sections had been built to protect individual states, but Qin Shihuang unified China into one state and he wanted to safeguard Show includes life-size replicas of terracotta warriors and Great Wall sand sculpture



**Sandemons** Fredd Dobbs (above) and Charlotte Kolff (right) put the finishing touches on a sand Great Wall of China at Aberdeen Centre.

him to build a life-size terracotta army, complete with six-foot-tall warriors, horses and chariots. The army was buried with him.

The terracotta sculptures were discovered in 1974 by accident, and current estimates are that there are more than 7,000 figures in the site, which is still

with their horses, chariots and weapons, they are masterpieces of realism and also of great historical interest."

For the show at Aberdeen, there will be 10 soldiers and two horses, all of which are replicas



the entire country with a unified "great" wall.

Today, more than 2000 years later, the wall is reported to be the only man-made structure visible from outer space.

One hundred metric tons of sand will be trucked into the central atrium at Aberdeen Centre to create a 33-foot by 16foot version of the monument.

The show also includes replicas of Qin Shihuang's Terracotta Warriors, which were built to help the Emperor rule from the afterlife, Kwan said.

Emperor Qin Shihuang is reported to have had an immense fear of death, which prompted

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being excavated today.

"Qin ... is buried, surrounded by the famous terracotta warriors, at the centre of a complex designed to mirror the urban plan of the capital, Xianyan," according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. "The small figures are all different; of the originals borrowed from Ontario's Royal Exhibitions. The replicas have distinctive facial features, hairstyles

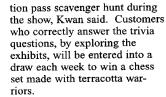
> and armour that identifies their ranks in the military formation.

There will also be a surprise on Saturdays and Sundays: one terracotta warrior is a living warrior, who will come alive and show off his battling skills for

the crowd, Kwan said. A summer show is becoming

a tradition at the mall: two years ago they hosted Jurrasic Alive, a show of animatronic dinosaurs, and last year they had a display about organic farms.

There will be a free excava-



When customers spend \$20 or more at any Aberdeen Centre merchant or restaurant, they will receive one complimentary miniature terracotta warrior, while quantities last. There will be five collectibles in all, with one alternating style available each week.

Return of the First Emperor, One man, two wonders of the world, runs July 24 to August 30. The show is open the same hours as the mall: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday to Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday to Saturday.

The mall is located at 4151 Hazelbridge Way. For more information visit www.aberdeencentre.com.