

On top of the world

The 13-member Canadian team which climbed Mount Everest this year achieved two important firsts in conquering the 8 848-metre mountain: it put the first North American woman on the top and established a new, more difficult route in China.

Sharon Wood and Dwayne Congdon, both of Canmore, Alberta, reached the summit on May 20 after battling hurricane winds and severe cold during 12 hours of continuous climbing via the little-known north side of Everest in China. At the top,



Canapress

Sharon Wood conquers Everest.

they flew Canadian and Chinese flags to symbolize the friendship between the countries and planted a flag of the Continental Bank of Canada, a major expedition sponsor.

Miss Wood is considered one of Canada's foremost mountain climbers. Her first major achievement was an ascent of Canada's highest peak, Mount Logan in the Yukon, with an all-female team. She has successfully climbed a number of extreme slopes in South America and was the first North American woman to scale the south face of Aconcagua in Argentina, the tallest mountain in the Western hemisphere. She has also recorded a solo climb of two 6 000-metre peaks in Peru ■



Denis Drever

The Canadian team with former Minister of International Trade James Kelleher. Front row from left: Jane Fearing, Dan Griffith, Dave McNab and Laurie Skreslet. Back row: James Doyle, Albi Sole, Mr. Kelleher, Sharon Wood and Dwayne Congdon and Bob Lee. Team leader Jim Elzinga and Barry Blanchard are not in the photo.

Cycle tour ends

Richard Beecroft of Ottawa pedalled his tricycle into Toronto on August 19 and became the first disabled person to circumnavigate the globe by cycle. Mr. Beecroft, a multiple sclerosis (MS) victim, began his 40 000-kilometre odyssey in Toronto in September 1983 to raise public awareness about the disease.

More than 50 000 Canadians have MS, which is incurable and affects victims unpredictably, causing anything from paralysis to blindness.

During the journey, Mr. Beecroft cycled an average of 90 kilometres a day at about 15 kilometres an hour and used up three tricycles, six pairs of cycling shoes, 33 tires and three tricycle seats. In Toronto he was welcomed by Mayor Art Eggleton and a crowd of well-wishers ■

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