

# Former Acton man tangles with K2

BY BRAD HAMMOND

The Acton Tanner

Acton native Peter Arbic flew from his home in Alberta to spend Christmas with friends and family in Acton. The trip was a joyful end to a year spent attempting to scale K2 as part of a three-man team.

K2, located in the Himalayas, is 8,616 meters high (28,250 feet) and is the second highest mountain in the world. Mount Everest is the highest.

Arbic and his teammates were hoping to be the first Canadians to reach the summit of K2. Their plan was to scale the mountain Alpine style — carrying all of their supplies and equipment on

their backs, considered the fastest and most dangerous style.

Over a period of two months, Arbic and his teammates went up K2 eight times, following the same route and acclimatizing their bodies to the altitude.

Arbic states, "We eventually had to abandon our chosen route because one of my partners became quite sick. We decided to try an easier route because we felt if we stayed on the original he would die.

"Our main goal was not to climb the peak, but to come home alive. About 50 per cent of the climbers who were able to reach the summit died on their way down because they didn't have enough strength."

After six weeks, Arbic and his teammates were within one day's climb of the summit. "We ended up caught on the mountain for seven days because of horrendous weather," explains Arbic.

Their climb for the summit was eventually abandoned because of the weather, safety reasons and for their own personal health.

Arbic explains, "We did about 95 per cent of the climbing so I'm not really interested in attempting K2 again. We were more relieved that all three of us were able to come home alive."

Peter's sister, Christine states, "Peter is a pretty exciting guy, but I'm always worrying about what

he is doing and how he is. It's frightening to realize that he may not be coming home every time he attempts a new expedition."

Peter currently lives in Alberta where he owns Canadian Alpine Guides. "My future goals are to stay closer to home, climb the Rockies and maybe start to slowly settle down," jokes Arbic.



HOME, SWEET HOME: Peter Arbic celebrated the holidays with his family after spending most of '93 on K2. Happy family members are, left to right, mom Rena, sisters Andrea and Christine, Peter and father Ray. Sister Marie Vickery is in front. (Brad Hammond photo)

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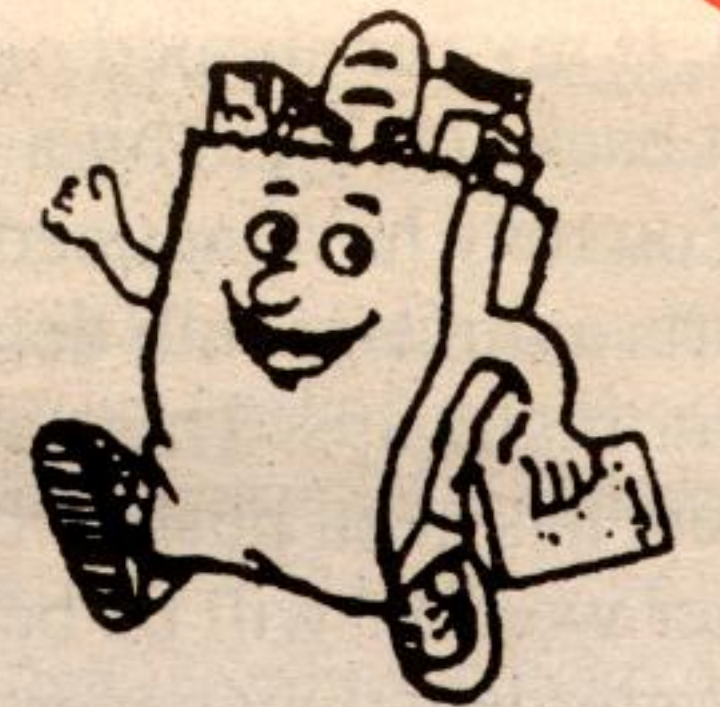


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**RULES:** One entry per person.

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