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# Summit to Aim For

### Ex-teacher to climb Mt Kilimanjaro for Make-A-Wish Foundation

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

rene Carroll of Milton may be I slight in build and small in stature at 5' 2", but she has largescale aspirations.

The 55-year-old retired teacher decided earlier this year that she wanted to help raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation by climbing the tallest freestanding mountain in the world, Mount Kilimanjaro. Each year, the Make-A-Wish Foundation assists terminally ill children by fulfilling their special wishes. The goal for each climber that is going on the trip is to raise \$6900 or the average cost to make a wish come true for a terminally ill child. All the money raised goes to helping a child.

Mrs. Carroll, who retired from teaching this year, says she first heard about the climb while listening to CFRB. "I heard about a request for a group of 30 adventurous people to fly to Africa to climb Mount Kilimanjaro for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. I've handled thousands of kids in my 29year teaching career, so surely I could climb 19,340 feet for such a worthwhile cause."

Since she decided to take part in the climb, she's been getting prepared physically for the challenge ahead. "I'm running, walking, and hiking and I'm doing this with my neighbour's dog."

Mrs. Carroll will begin her adventure on December 27 when she flies to Amsterdam and then makes a connecting flight to Tanzania, the site of Mount Kilimanjaro. It will take four days just to reach the summit and two days for the descent. And the climb should be a gruelling one, though she says it's more like tough hiking as opposed to mountaineering. Instead of grampons and picks, she and her fellow hikers will don hiking attire and the required hiking boots.

She says the biggest challenge of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

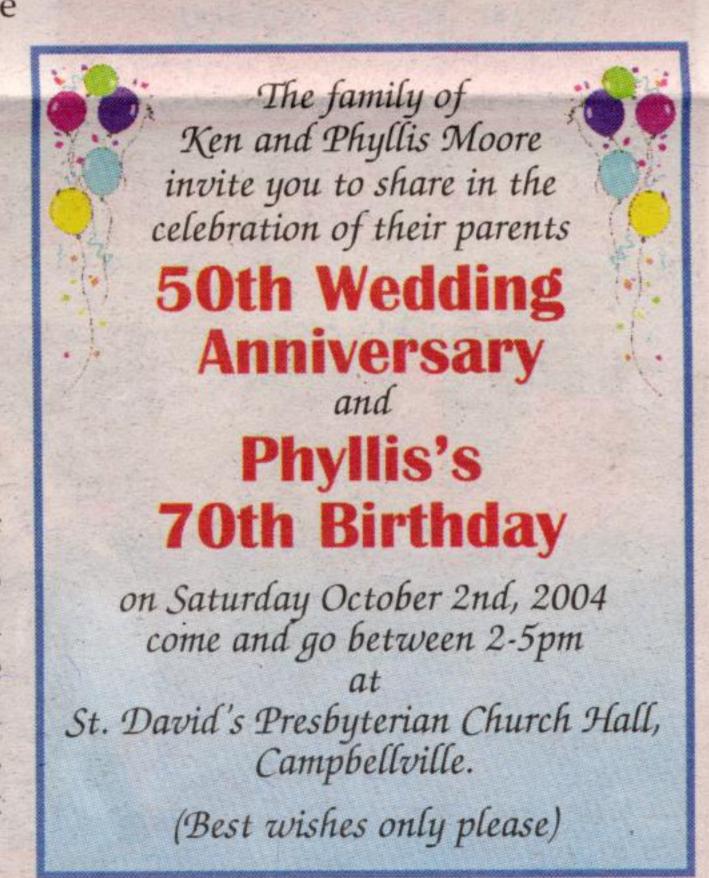
Irene Carroll, who plans to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro for the Make-A-Wish Foundation enjoys time-out with some of her former pupils.

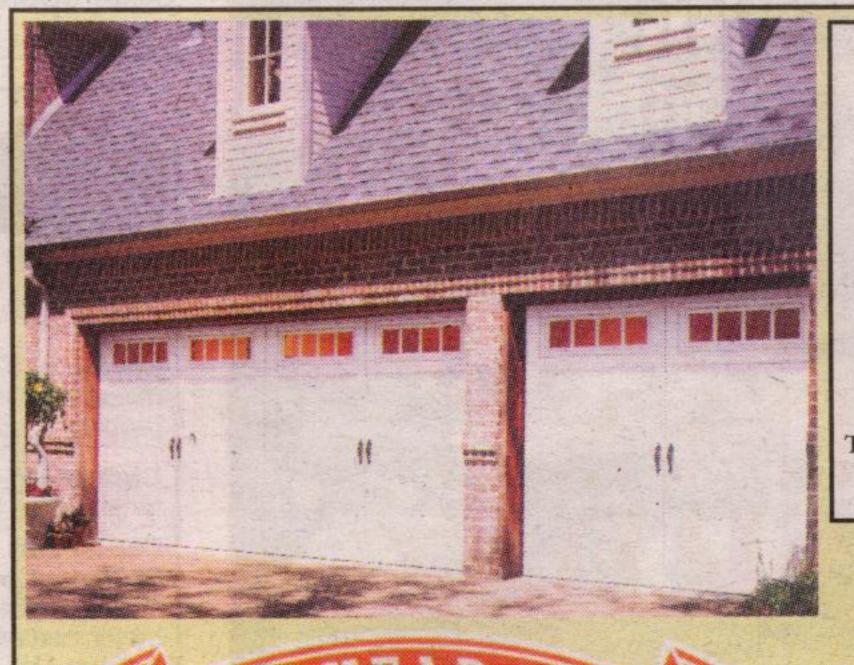
the climb will be getting accustomed to lower oxygen levels. Closer to the summit, known as Uhuru Peak, the oxygen level is depleted to 50 per cent.

The highlight of her climb will be reaching the summit where she plans to wear a t-shirt given to her by her former Grade 1 students from Park Public School in Georgetown. The t-shirt, which was especially made for her climb, features a Canadian flag as well as the names of children from her class.

At this point, Mrs. Carroll has raised \$6000, but she still needs to raise an additional \$900 to help out a terminally ill child by the end of October. Cheques, made payable to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, can be sent to Mrs. Carroll, care of the Halton Compass, at 35 Crawford Crescent, Box 129, Campbellville, ON LOP 1B0. Donations are tax deductible.

For information on the Make-A-Foundation, log Wish onto www.makeawish.ca. If you would like to take part in the climb, contact Jill Maslanka at 905-890-2221.







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