

Author tells his story

The book on Everest

By STEPHANIE INNES
Staff Reporter

Back in the 1960s when Bruce Patterson was playing basketball and football at Mississauga's T.L. Kennedy Secondary School, dreams of climbing Mt. Everest and writing a book about it had never entered his mind.

Patterson, now 40, is back in Mississauga this week to promote his first-ever book, *Canadians on Everest*, which centres around the 1982 Canadian Mt. Everest expedition he experienced himself.

After graduating from the University of Western Ontario in 1972 with both a BA and Masters of Journalism degrees, Patterson pursued a career in reporting — a profession which took him first to the Oakville Journal Record and in 1974 to The Calgary Herald.

When The Calgary Herald and Southam News bought newspaper rights for the 1982 Canadian Mt. Everest Expedition story, Patterson was assigned the task of accompanying the team and reporting on the journey.

Although he had become familiar with mountaineering through his reporting, Patterson found himself training to actually execute the feats he had previously only written about.

Overcoming, "sewing machine legs," his knees becoming, "quivering appendages just when they're needed most," Patterson soon grew to appreciate the sport of mountaineering with its, "compelling and sometimes fatal attraction."

His training included scaling a



BRUCE PATTERSON

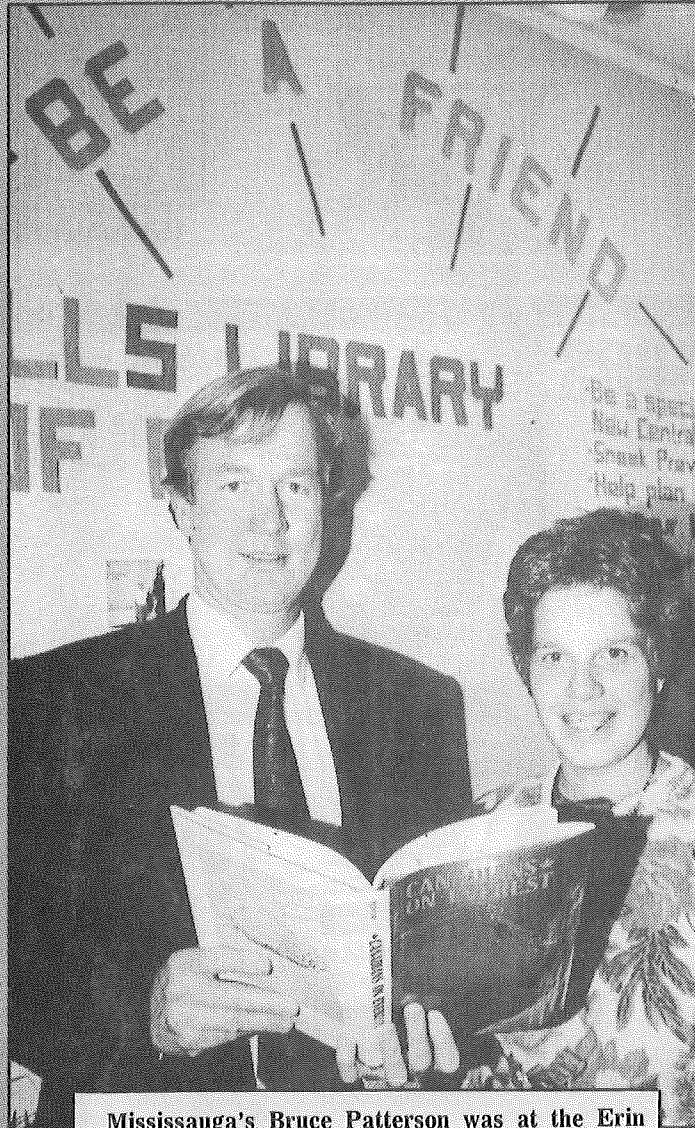
volcano in Ecuador, the Muztagh mountain in China, and learning to use the oxygen tanks required for climbers at high altitudes. He also had to train his body to consume the vast quantities of liquids, up to seven litres per day, required of mountaineers.

Patterson's book give unbiased reportage of the trip, but combines with it a personal look at the emotional side of mountain climbing.

He describes leaving the, "thicker, nourishing air," of Nepal for the high altitudes of Everest that were accompanied by dizziness and headaches, belied by mountain climbers' philosophies.

Tomorrow 7:30 p.m., at the Erin Mills South Library, Patterson will show slides from the Everest expedition, and will be on hand sign books. His book retails for \$29.95 and will be on sale at the library. It can also be found at Coles and W.H. Smith.

High level reading



Staff photo by Chris Horobin

Mississauga's Bruce Patterson was at the Erin Mills Library last week to autograph copies of his new book, *Canadians On Everest*. The T.L. Kennedy Secondary School graduate, who became interested in mountain climbing while he worked as a reporter in Calgary, based the book on his own experiences during a 1982 expedition. It retails for \$29.95 and is on sale at W.H. Smith and Coles outlets.