



CP photo

Roger Griffiths of Capilano College will lead a 10-member team that will attempt to scale Mt. Gongga in China. Behind him is fellow team member Ed Silva-White, along with equipment to be used on the climb.

B.C. team to climb peak in Himalayas

A Vancouver mountaineering team will attempt to scale Mount Gongga in the eastern Himalayas in China — a peak that has claimed 13 lives in the past 15 years.

If the 10-man team, led by Roger Griffiths of Capilano College, is successful, it will be the first time the 7,590-metre (24,900-foot) mountain has been conquered in 50 years, say the sponsors of the attempt — Labatt's, CP Air and the Toronto Sun.

Griffiths, 36, head instructor of

outdoor pursuits at Capilano, said his team will begin the 25-day climb in the first week of April.

In 1967, four Chinese climbers were swept away by a Gongga avalanche. The cameraman accompanying a U.S. team in 1980 also died in an avalanche and last year eight Japanese climbers fell off a precipice near the top and were killed.

The Canadian team, most of whom are faculty or past and present students at the college, will leave Vancouver March 22.