

Teen climbs Good Hope for cancer: Young mountaineer aims to raise \$1m for charity The Province Monday, July 31, 2006

Page: A13

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Brandon Schupp has become the youngest person to summit Good Hope Mountain -- but his quest is far from over.

Last week, the 13-year-old mountaineer stood atop the remote peak near Williams Lake and remembered the 10,000 Canadian kids fighting cancer and the challenges they face.

"When you compare it to that, this is really a small thing," he said of his climb.

With a team that included Vancouver-Burrard MLA Lorne Mayencourt, Brandon climbed up steep snow slopes, through ice falls and around crevasses to reach the summit.

Each step of the journey was dedicated to a child with cancer -- 10,000 feet for 10,000 kids.

Now, with the help of the Childhood Cancer Foundation, Brandon hopes to raise \$100 for each step. So far, he's climbed \$100,000 toward his goal of \$1 million.

Brandon was inspired to climb Good Hope Mountain after his neighbour's four-year-old son, Cole Petrie, was diagnosed with cancer.

"We were really upset when we found out that Cole had cancer, and Brandon wanted to do something about it," his mom, Ann Freeman, told The Province. "He's a normal 13-year-old that has found his passion -- and compassion -- early in life."

On the peak's summit, Brandon left a "bravery bead" belonging to Cole and a wristband made by his friend and cancer survivor Julie McKinnis.

>From Williams Lake yesterday, the young mountaineer said the experience was "amazing."

"Our summit attempt took 17 hours," he said. "I kind of wish it was harder. It keeps you excited when it's really challenging."

Mayencourt said he hopes to help Brandon with his fundraising.

"While I was climbing, I thought about all the kids I know that have cancer. It's easy to relate the struggle of climbing a mountain to the struggle they face every day," he said.

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