

Meet Ryan and Kazam



Anyone who has met Ryan and spent any time talking to him will realize that this is a young man who is truly going places fast, with a wonderful sense of humor and optimism along the way. Not that unusual for a bright young man most would say, but Ryan is blind. He can see bright colors, but that's about it. His hearing is only slightly better. Helping him navigate his daily routine is a very good-looking Golden Labrador Retriever named Kazam, a highly trained guide dog that 'sees' where Ryan is going. Ryan has a portable microphone device that teachers and others who need to talk to him can use. His hearing aids act as receivers.

With his vision impairment and a hearing defect, Ryan was a perfect candidate for a dog from Alberta Guide Dog Services. Though often viewed as a 'dog organization', Alberta Guide Dog Services is in reality an organization about people. When evaluating blind and visually impaired applicants' suitability for guide dog training, they only see ability and not the disability. All individual guide dog training programs are tailored to the needs of each individual.

The REALTORS® Community Foundation has been supporting charities like Alberta Guide Dog amongst many others for 25 years. In doing so, the Foundation has returned over \$2.8 million dollars to Edmonton & area charities during that time. It is supported by REALTORS® who generate fundraisers and donate hundreds of volunteer hours each year!

"My guide dog Kazam gives me the confidence to move at a fast pace, go places I want, and to and look and feel at home in new places" says Ryan. That's obviously working as he started attending Grant MacEwan University in 2010. Founded in 1971, MacEwan has a long tradition of learner access and quality education. MacEwan also offers a diploma in Disability Studies and is recognized

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Continued on page 3

Home safety tips for seniors 3



Protect your cottage for winter months 4



Open Houses 7



Home safety tips for seniors

(NC)—More than half of all injuries experienced by Canadian seniors are due to falls. According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, nearly half of all injuries among seniors occur in the home, and 15 per cent of falls occur in the bathroom or stairs. Since the likelihood of serious injury, or even death, increases as you age, take steps to increase safety in the home.

“Many seniors limit their daily activities and, ultimately, their quality of life to avoid getting injured,” says Kelly McCain, a senior director at Royal LePage Canada, “However, a few safety measures at home can improve life all around for Canadian seniors.”

To stay safe while maintaining your independence, McCain offers these suggestions:

Ensure all rooms and hallways in your home are well lit and clear of obstacles. Reduce slipping hazards by removing non-

rubber-backed throw rugs and mats on hard flooring surfaces, such as hardwood or ceramic floors.

Install nightlights near stairs and eliminate all clutter. Make sure that there are solid handrails on both sides of the stairway. If you have wood stairs, consider installing a carpet runner down the middle or adding traction strips to provide steadier footing.

In the bathroom, make sure that your tub and shower surfaces are non-slip. Install grab bars in your bathtub or shower and purchase rubberized or non-skid bath mats. Increase safety in the shower by purchasing or renting a bath seat. Some are designed specifically to make your entrance and exit from the tub easier. If you require the use of a bath seat, a hand-held shower head will work best.

Consider purchasing a wireless phone set that allows for a phone on each floor of the



Photo supplied by News Canada

home, and populate the digital phone book on all telephones with emergency contact numbers.

Follow these simple safety tips and spend

less time worrying, and more time enjoying your home. More information is available at www.royallepage.ca.

www.newscanada.com

Meet Ryan and Kazam

Continued from Front

throughout Alberta as a Centre for Excellence in that field. MacEwan enables people with disabilities to exercise their rights to participate as valuable citizens who contribute positively to our society. MacEwan's Services to Students with Disabilities offers a range of services, courses and other academic activities to students with disabilities.

Thanks to the synergy between three great organizations; the REALTORS® Community Foundation, Alberta Guide Dog Services and Grant MacEwan University, Ryan and his guide dog Kazam are a winning team. They work, play and go everywhere together. We know Ryan is going to go places, and fast! And that's what it's really all about, isn't it?

For more information on MacEwan's Students with Disabilities program contact src@macewan.ca

For more information on Alberta Guide Dog Services contact info@albertaguidedog.com

And for more information on the REALTORS® Community Foundation contact ref@ereb.com

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For more information or to purchase tickets contact:
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