

feature

Over the years I have met many wonderful people who were either buying or selling an accessible home. But I have also met a number of outstanding business owners who I have come to depend on. Ronny and Daniel Wiskin from ReliAble Living are two such individuals.

The recent Grand Opening of the ReliAble Living Centre (RLC) was a celebration I was happy to witness. The Honourable David Onley, the 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, proudly cut the ribbon at the ceremony. His Honour has championed disability issues for many years and stresses that accessibility is an overarching theme of his mandate.

***“Having lived with disability since childhood, accessibility and barrier-free living are concepts that are very close to my heart....With accessibility, we can make Ontario a truly inclusive society, one in which the full range of human ability is both welcomed and supported. ...I commend Ronny Wiskin, and his mother and business partner Susan, for founding the ReliAble Living Centre.”***

*The Honourable David Onley*



*His Honour David Onley speaking at the Grand Opening.*

The ReliAble Living Centre is unique. Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, central to seven of the city’s major hospitals, it showcases products that enhance accessibility and barrier free living in both residential and commercial settings. The Centre’s opening is timely. Some type of a disability will touch one in two people in their life-



# The Grand Opening of the ReliAble Living Centre

By Jeffrey Kerr

*His Honour David Onley, Ronny Wiskin, Marilyn Wetston, Paul Rosen (Sledge Hockey goalie, Gold medal winner in Torino) at the Grand Opening*

time. As a result, renovations or adaptations for accessibility are increasingly becoming common to provide home and commercial safety solutions.



*Jeffrey Kerr with Ronny and Daniel Wiskin at the Grand Opening.*

The core of the RLC provides a simulated living space using universal design principles. It showcases the possibilities of having a barrier free home that is functional and aesthetically pleasing.

Access from the first floor to the second is via a staircase that meets the built environment AODA standards, a portable stair track or a LULA Glass elevator.

A variety of products and well appointed rooms showcase accessibility options including barrier free bathing/showering fixtures, adjustable height kitchen work surfaces/cabinetry and many others products not yet commonly available in Canada.

The ReliAble Living Centre also houses a training facility to educate building trades’ people, healthcare professionals and the public about accessibility standards and more.

I have collaborated on a variety of projects with both Ronny and Daniel. In addition to providing me

with knowledge about specific products appropriate for the families I work with. Ronny also offers an additional valuable service. He provides an inspection for house or condo purchasers to ensure the potential modifications can actually be made – and at what cost. His insight is key to providing my clients with the right information to help them make a decision on choosing the perfect home or condo for their situation.

***“The inspection service that we offer identifies the barriers that are present in the home in addition to offering solutions and cost estimates. We ensure that the buyer has a clear understanding of what is involved to make the home or condo accessible before finalizing their purchase.”***

**Ronny Wiskin**

I recommend buyers include a condition for both a traditional home inspection and an inspection for accessibility in their purchase agreement, and also plan on a visit to the ReliAble Living Centre at 200 Spadina Avenue in Toronto.

For more information on buying and selling wheel friendly, barrier free real estate or to discuss investing in wheel friendly rental accommodations contact:

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