



Ross Watson

Living Without Limits

“Fate alone will fail to bring you to positive opportunities. You need to actively put your self in the path of change and let faith in yourself take you to new experiences.”

When Ross Watson talks about taking risks, teamwork, and personal dignity, he truly speaks from experience. An outdoor enthusiast for over 20 years, Ross was the first blind climber to attempt North America’s highest mountain, 20,320 foot Mount McKinley, in Alaska, in 1990. After 21 days on the mountain and only 6 hours from the summit, a severe storm on the upper reaches of the mountain forced Ross, and all but two members of the team, to descend. Five days later, the expedition realized success when two climbers reached the summit. In 2000, Ross fulfilled a lifelong dream by organizing and taking part in an expedition to be the first blind climber to summit Canada’s highest mountain, 19,640 foot Mount Logan in Canada’s Yukon. On May 25, 2000 after 19 days of 60-kilometer winds and -35°C temperatures, Ross and his three teammates reached the West Summit of Mount Logan.

“Challenging yourself in a physical environment helps us get in touch with our values and focuses us on the personal strengths that are necessary for us to grow as individuals in our personal, spiritual and professional lives.”

In addition to these climbing exploits, Ross represented Canada in the Para Olympics in the 15 and 30-kilometer Nordic events in 1988.

From 1994 to 2001 Ross was a member of a panel that reviewed Alberta’s Human Rights Commission and related legislation and supported 54 changes to Alberta’s Human Rights Act.

From 1995 to 2001, Ross served two terms as a municipal councilor, receiving the highest percentage of the popular vote in both his election campaigns.

In 2002, Ross was appointed Operation Eyesight Universal’s (O.E.U.) Canadian Ambassador of Vision.

In July 2005, Ross will participate in a traverse of the central mountain range on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic.

Ross is a dynamic speaker, who has made numerous radio and television appearances and has spoken to associations and conferences from the Canadian Arctic to New York State. Drawing on his unique mountain climbing experiences and an uncompromising belief in the power of personal goals, teams, dreams and ambition, Ross delivers a memorable keynote on the rewards of taking risks and striving for success. Ross speaks on his belief that:

- ? **Action is the first step in creating change**
- ? **Freedom, individuality and unity are the bases of a good team.**
- ? **The fear of failure has defeated us more often than we have failed**
- ? **Risk is essential to personal discovery**
- ? **We all have a summit in us.**

Ross leaves his audiences motivated and inspired to believe in themselves, take risks, and achieve their own personal Summits of Success.

"If Ross Watson pursued his adventures with perfect vision they would be remarkable. As a blind person his achievements set him in a class apart from ordinary adventurers."

- One Step Beyond WorldWide

Partial Client List:

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