

COMMERCE

Dog walking a 'groovin' business

Queen's grad turns her school-funding job into full-time endeavour

BUSINESS BEAT

KRISTEN KADIS has come a long way since she moved to Kingston seven years ago and opened a dog-walking service to put herself through school.



FRANK
ARMSTRONG

Kadis, who came from Vancouver, has finished her Queen's University history and politics degree and has grown her business, Dogs Vangroovin', into a full-time endeavour.

The education has helped with the business, she said.

"I apply it every day in my job - the dogs are very interested," Kadis quipped. "There's the politics of dogs."

The politics of canines aside, Kadis was inspired to open Dogs Vangroovin' - www.dogsvangroovin.com - because dog-walking services were big businesses in Vancouver. She figured she could make decent money part time while attending school.

She named the company Dogs Vangroovin' after the pet name, Vangroovin', which many people call Vancouver.

She bought an old van and started the service with her own two dogs and one client.

She now has a groovy new van, leases a large property for the dogs off Highway 2 and walks as many as 15 dogs a week, sometimes twice a day.

Walks are 90 minutes off-leash and usually take a half-day, when transportation is factored into the time.

"I go rain or shine," said Kadis. "The only time I won't go is when it's going to be really icy, and it would be really dangerous for the dogs."

Lightning storms might also keep her home, she said.

A new Kingston real estate company has been named one of Canada's 100 most innovative and promising companies.

KeyCanada Real Estate Listings Inc. was selected among 100 finalists of the Red Herring Canada Top 50 competition. Cormac Trainor, president of KeyCanada, said the company is excited to be recognized at such an early stage.



Kristen Kadis of Dogs Vangroovin' walks with some of her canine customers in a field east of Kingston.