

Paws for Thought

A Monthly Newsletter for Friends of Dog Guides



DEC
2022



Happy Holidays

From all of us at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, we wish you and your families a joyous holiday season and happy new year. We are so thankful for all the support and generosity we have received this year. Together we will continue to empower more Canadians living with disabilities and medical conditions. Season's greetings!



Holiday Schedule

LFCDG will operate on a holiday schedule from December 23rd-29th. Starting on Friday, December 23rd at 12 pm (EST), the foundation will have limited staff available. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation during the holidays, please visit www.dogguides.com/donate or call 1-800-768-3030 ext. 0. Somebody will be at reception to answer calls and process donations over the phone on December 28th-30th

Giving Tuesday Results

Thanks to you, Giving Tuesday was a success! With your support, we are thrilled to announce that we have raised \$157,299 on Giving Tuesday, enough for 4 new Dog Guides.

"Help" is a Dog Guide's middle name and you were given the chance to name their first. Congratulations to the following successful submissions, our newest Dog Guide's will be named:

1. **Francis**, selected by Frank. Named after Francis of Assisi, who was the patron saint of animals and loved all creatures.
2. **Tuesday**, selected by Nancy. Each time we hear the name Tuesday, we are reminded of the generosity of Canadians on Giving Tuesday who made this match possible!
3. **Metta**, selected by Susan. The name is derived from the Pali language- spoken in northern India- and means loving kindness and positive energy and kindness towards others.
4. **GT**, short form for Garbage Truck, selected by Tyler who has Dog Guide Tyrrell. Mindy, Tyler's Mom, shared the story behind the name suggestion: One of Tyler's favourite things is a garbage truck. When asked what he would name a dog, that's what he responded with. Tyler has been saving up money doing recycling for people in order to donate to the Dog Guide program as a small thank you for his Autism Assistance Dog Guide.

On behalf of all of us at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides and Canadians from coast to coast to coast, thank you for rising to the challenge on Giving Tuesday. Your donations will go on to help someone every day of the week for years to come, not just on Giving Tuesday.

You have donated the leash that unleashes everything!

Holiday Virtual Graduation

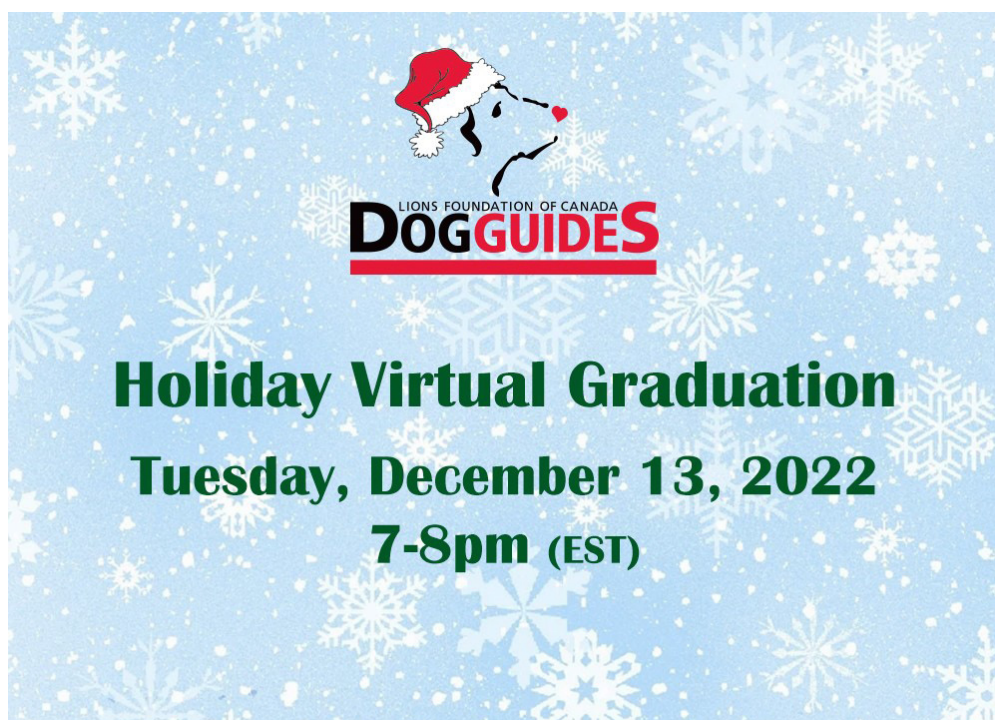
Join us on Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 pm (EST) to celebrate 20+ Graduates in 4 Dog Guides programs! We're so thankful and proud that we were able to match so many amazing teams in 2022. Hear from our CEO, Bev Crandell, our inspiring instructors, our sponsor Pet Valu, a foster family, graduates from each program and maybe even a dog or two!

Mark the date in your calendar!

Use this link to watch on December 13th starting at 7pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82151101648>

The ceremony will be recorded. A link will be made available to watch afterwards.



Dog Guides Gift Guide

This holiday, unleash the potential for more Canadians to receive the life-changing gift of a Dog Guide. The magic of the holidays means our clients can experience safety, independence, and mobility all year round with your support. Your donation will fund toys, equipment, training and more, allowing Dog Guides to be provided at no cost to people with a disability. Visit [Gift Guide - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides](#) to donate.

Give Oakville campaign

From now until December 12th, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is participating in the Oakville Community Foundation's Give Oakville Campaign! We are proud to be listed in the community guide alongside other local charities. 100% of your donation will come to LFCDG, PLUS your gift is eligible to be topped up by the Oakville Community Foundation after the campaign. Visit [Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides – Oakville Community Foundation](https://www.giveoakville.com) to donate and help us reach our goal.



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Holiday Tips

The holidays are here, and we want to share some tips to make it safe and enjoyable for you and your dog.

- For working Dog Guides: if the dog is in harness, do not to distract them and only interact when given permission and if the dog is on a break from working.
- Have your dog in a crate when visitors are arriving. Once things have settled, bring your dog out to greet guests. If they are a Dog Guide, they should be wearing their gear (Halti, collar and leash).
- Such a busy environment might be too stressful for a dog. Remember to give them time to rest during visits if they are over stimulated.
- If other dogs are present, introduce them in a neutral setting.
- Be aware of things that can make your dog sick like poinsettias, grapes, chocolates, Christmas tree water, nuts, candy, chocolate, alcohol and baked goods.
- Do not leave any wrapped food gifts under the tree, on the floor or anywhere that is accessible to the dog .
- Clean up all wrapping, ribbons and bows from gifts so the dog does not ingest them.
- Watch the dog around certain decorations like lights, tinsel, ribbons, candy canes, garland. Make sure they do not eat them.



Congrats Ontario Fall Online 50/50 Raffle Winners

Thanks very much to everyone who participated in our Ontario Fall Online 50/50 Raffle! Because of your support we were able to raise \$25,120! Stay tuned for details on our Ontario Winter Online 50/50 Raffle coming in the new year.

Congratulations to all of our Fall Ontario Online 50/50 winners:

\$12,560 Grand Prize Winner – Danielle P. from Toronto, ON

\$500 Early Bird Winner – Carol T. from Welland, ON

\$1,000 Early Bird Winner – Michael O. from Metcalfe, ON

Online Auction Coming in February

We are excited to announce we will be hosting a national Online Auction in February 2023. We have received some wonderful donations towards this auction, and more are continuing to roll in. If you or someone you know would like to donate an item to be included in the Online Auction please contact Andrea Stevens at astevens@dogguides.com for more info.

Here are a few examples of the types of donations we are currently looking for:

- Experiences (i.e. hotel stay, trip voucher, white water rafting, etc.)
- Gift Cards
- Items that are easy to ship (i.e. Not too heavy)

Thanks very much for all of your support! Be sure to watch for more information on the Online Auction in the January Newsletter.

Client Services Pupdate

Accessible Travel Initiatives – Sunflower Lanyard

As the holiday season approaches it is often accompanied by increased travel. We would like to highlight an initiative that we have learned about through our partnership with Pearson Airport; the Sunflower Lanyard.

This initiative was started at Heathrow Airport in 2016 to support people travelling with invisible disabilities, as a way for them to signal they may need more time or support to get on or off an airplane without having to ask for assistance. This program has now expanded to over 100 airports around the world. If you are looking to learn more about this program, or which airports use Sunflower Lanyards, you can visit Hidden Disability's website

If you are travelling through Toronto Pearson Airport you can request a lanyard a minimum 14 days in advance of travel, or by going to Lost and Found in Terminal 1 or Information Counters in Terminals 1 and 3. For more details visit the airport's website: [Sunflower Lanyards at Pearson | Pearson Airport \(torontopearson.com\)](https://www.torontopearson.com/sunflower-lanyards)

If you know of any other great initiatives that are helping to make travel more accessible, please share them with our Client Services team (client-services@dogguides.com). We are always interested in providing more resources to our clients, and expanding the information on our Life After Graduation page on our website.



LFCDG Gets Special Mention During Question Period

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides got a special mention during question period in the house of commons by NewFoundland MP Churence Rogers.

Mr. Churence Rogers (Bonavista—Burin—Trinity, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity and pleasure to meet with president Michael Foote and other wonderful members from the Lions Club International.

From the provision of disaster relief grants, both in Canada and abroad, to the establishment of community centres, they are the heart of many communities in our country. I would like to express sincere thanks to the 1,400 Lions clubs and over 41,000 Lions members, whose tireless volunteerism is the epitome of community service at the local, regional, national and international levels.

One specific charitable service the Lions Club provides is guide dogs, which help to empower individuals with autism, diabetes, epilepsy, visual impairments and multiple other conditions. Guide dogs are an important investment in fostering inclusive communities. Without the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, the lives of many Canadians would be unquestionably more difficult.

I encourage all Canadians to check out how they can support the Lions Foundation's incredible work. I thank the Lions.

Halton K9 Lions Club Recruiting New Members

The Halton k9 Lions Club is looking for new members to join to help raise money for active clients of Dog Guides with unexpected emergency vet bills. The club meets to discuss fundraising activities and events to raise the money for LFCDG clients. The Halton K9s are hoping to expand the club to members across Canada, reaching more people for fundraising and creative ideas.

The club meets the first Wednesday of every month at 12 PM (EST) from January to June. You are welcome to attend a few meetings to see what we are about before committing to the membership.

Please check out our website <https://haltonk9lionsclub.ca/> or reach out to Vikki at vikkibeswick@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.

Dog Guides in the news

Meet Jaz, the newest addition to New Brunswick court system! He is the province's second Facility Support Dog trained to help victims of crime remain calm as they go through the legal system. [New Brunswick home to second courthouse support dog named Jaz | Globalnews.ca](#)

Pawsibilities Grant Recognition

We would like to recognize the following donors for their contributions to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides and bringing the pawsible to life. Thank you to the Generosity Plus Fund (Oakville Community Foundation) and The Dr. Charles and Margaret Brown Foundation for contributing to LFCDG.



LFCDF 2022 Patron Awards

It is an honour to present this year's Patrons. These are people, companies or organizations who show exemplary service in furthering the cause of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

Individuals:

Larry and Hilda Wainwright

Larry and Hilda Wainwright are wonderful supporters of LFCDG. They create awareness for the organization and its programs everywhere they go, and are constantly fundraising in support of the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides in Maryhill, Ontario. This past year, Larry & Hilda raised over \$20,000 bringing their total to a remarkable \$72,950 since 2014. Larry always says that his fundraising efforts are so others who need a Dog Guide will be able to receive the precious gift he received when he was matched with Otis.



Rob Stanley

Robert Stanley began his involvement with Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides in 2016. He is the key organizer and fundraiser for the Oakville Ride for Dog Guides, and increases his goal each year. For the past three years, Rob has single-handedly arranged for sponsorships from some major national companies for the Oakville Ride. This year, he raised \$6,000 in donations and \$15,000 in sponsorships. Over the last few years he has raised and secured sponsorships totaling \$88,000.

This past summer, Rob promised his supporters he would ride from Ontario to BC and back. Although this ride wasn't a fundraiser, Rob created awareness about the Ride for Dog Guides all along the way. Thank you Rob for all you do for Dog Guides. You have made the ride the success that it is with your dedication, enthusiasm and support.



Philippe Beaulieu and Marilyn Gignac from Boischatel, Quebec

Philippe Beaulieu and Marilyn Gignac live in Boischatel, Québec. Several years ago, their son, François-Xavier died in a car accident while having a seizure. Shortly afterwards, they discovered our Seizure Response program and came to tour the school and learn more about the foundation. They were very impressed and decided that they would create a family foundation in their son's name. Each summer, they organize a significant amateur hockey tournament and ribfest to raise funds and have contributed \$25,000 for one Seizure Response Dog Guide team each year for a total of \$150,000. Philippe and Marilyn, thank you for increasing awareness of our seizure program and the generous gifts to help us provide more Seizure Response Dog Guides to people in Québec.

Corporations

Jim Ruse and staff of the Pet Valu store in Belleville, Ontario

Before Pet Valu became our national corporate sponsor and partner, Jim Ruse and his staff have “shown exemplary service in furthering the cause of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides”. The store hosts the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides in the Quinte, Ontario area. Jim and his staff provide gift bags to walkers and provides space to other small businesses and vendors that support dogs. On top of this, they provide raffle prizes for walkers and have provided prizes for auctions at LFCDG. In addition to all of this, they have hosted Pet Pictures with Santa with proceeds to Dog Guides and have been selling Green Capes calendars for the last few years.

Belleville Pet Valu Store under the leadership of Jim Ruse and his staff always say “yes” when asked for support. Thank you Jim and the wonderful team at Pet Valu. Your dedication and commitment for so many years is so appreciated.



Burlington Veterinary Emergency and Referral Hospital

Burlington Emerg, as we call them, has been providing emergency care to our puppies and dogs since 2016. We were looking for a reliable veterinary clinic to partner with us to provide the necessary care to our dogs outside of regular hours and their team are always so enthusiastic, professional and ready help us in any way they can. They have taken in many dogs and pups over the years with a wide range of emergencies from puppies eating undergarments to life and death situations. Whether it is a conversation at 3:00 am to discuss the critical care of one of our sick dogs or donating 35% of all of our vet bills back to the foundation, they are there to support us. Many thanks to Dr. Lisa Shwarz and her team for their ongoing commitment.

Male Poodles Wanted for Breeding

After Labrador retrievers and lab/golden crosses, the most common breed of Dog Guide at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is the Standard Poodle. Poodles have been a part of the breeding program at LFCDG for many years, and are used primarily for clients with dog allergies. We currently have 9 female and 4 male poodles in our breeding colony. With the goal of maintaining the high standards required for a working Dog Guide while increasing genetic diversity in our breeding population, we are currently looking to connect with poodle breeders who would consider donating stud services to our organization.

Suitable dogs would have the following:

- A 5 generation pedigree
- Health clearances for hips, elbows, eyes, and sebaceous adenitis at minimum
- Moderate energy level, willing to work but able to settle
- Don't display aggression, separation anxiety, or significant prey drive
- Confident in a variety of situations, no significant fears
- Breeder willing to allow a Dog Guides representative to visit and assess the stud dog
- Local to southern Ontario or have access to a veterinarian experienced in collecting and shipping semen
- Negative brucellosis test prior to breeding

Stud owners would have the option to receive a puppy back from a successful litter as a stud fee and receive updates on the puppies' progress in our Dog Guide training programs. If you own or know of a potential poodle stud dog that fits these criteria, please contact Sam Hobbes at shobbes@dogguides.com