



# LIONS NEWS

A quarterly publication for Lions  
across Canada



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## Lions News is Back!

I am delighted to welcome back the quarterly Lions e-Newsletter! A forum for sharing all the happenings in the Lions world around Dog Guides. I am thrilled to be a part of this incredible community now, and to have this platform to celebrate the remarkable work Lions Clubs are doing to support Dog Guides. There is a special relationship between Dog Guides and Lions Clubs, and this is an opportunity to celebrate that. Happy reading, and share far and wide.

Warmly,

Danielle Rosenblum

Community Partnerships Manager

## Newsletter Naming Contest

As the newsletter relaunches, we need an official name. We want to celebrate Lions while keeping you up-to-date and in the know on all things Dog Guides.

We will be holding a naming contest. This is a newsletter for Lions, so let your creativity roam and your Lion pride roar.

If you or your club would like to submit a suggestion for the name of our newsletter, please email me at [drosenblum@dogguides.com](mailto:drosenblum@dogguides.com) for your chance to win a swag bag of items from our Gift Shop! Please send me your suggestions by **August 1, 2022**.

# Building the Future of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is entering a new and transformative phase based on its strategic plan, priorities, and vision: "To provide the very best experience for Canadians with disabilities who can benefit from a Dog Guide".

When Lions across Canada established the Lions Foundation in 1983, it was to train a very specific type of Dog Guide to help people who were blind or visually impaired. As society evolved over the decades, so did the need for special assistance dogs to help people with a broad range of disabilities.

There is pride in being the only school to train and match Dog Guides in seven distinct programs. However, our current training school in Oakville, Ontario is at maximum capacity for both dogs and people. It is also not fully accessible for the individuals we serve.

The time has come for a proper facility to meet the needs of our national school and the growing demand for Dog Guides. So... Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is moving...just 10 minutes from our current location!

A state-of-the-art training school will be built, which will be the first of its kind in Canada. Building completion is targeted for early 2025. This new facility will help us serve more Canadians and do so in an entirely accessible and comfortable environment for the best results.

## **Highlights include:**

- 89,000 sq. ft. training school that is designed and built specifically for Dog Guide training.
- Fully accessible for people with disabilities
- 36 comfortable client bedrooms for people in training with their Dog Guide.
- Dedicated training spaces and classrooms for each of the 7 Dog Guide programs.
- A larger and improved kennel, with indoor and outdoor spaces for dogs to learn, play and relax.
- A expanded veterinary clinic for all puppies and dogs in training

# The Difference Campaign

Please stay tuned for details in September as LFCDG embarks on 'The Difference Campaign' to raise \$25 million. Together we can make a difference, building the largest service dog school in Canada and increasing our impact by matching more special Dog Guides with recipients.

The Lions portion of the campaign is being led by the Lions' Leadership Campaign Committee chaired by PCC Polly Voon, former Director for British Columbia and as Chair of the Board of Directors in 2005.

*"A new school will allow LFCDG to train more dogs and most importantly help more people from the west coast to the east coast of Canada. The better experience that we provide for our Dog Guides and clients, the bigger difference we can make."* said PCC Polly Voon

## ***The Difference***

Campaign for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides



## The Lions Foundation Makes a Difference

Every day, the Lions Foundation is transforming the way people live by creating exceptional partnerships between people and Dog Guides. Being matched with a specially trained Dog Guide is a key that can unlock the potential of people with disabilities in ways almost no other intervention can.



# First VP's Visit Goes to the Dogs!

On May 27th, the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides was honoured with two special visitors - first Vice-President, Lion Brian Sheehan and his wife, Lion Lori Sheehan. The Sheehans took time from their personal travels to stop by the breeding facility in Breslau, Ontario (west of Toronto) for a Dog Guide demonstration, tour and tree planting. And of course, they took a few moments to cuddle with some adorable puppies!

*"As a member of the Bird Island Lions Club, we are part of District 5M, which includes Lions Clubs from Manitoba and Northern Ontario," said Lion Brian. "So, we are always hearing about the amazing work that Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides does. Seeing first-hand how these Dog Guides are trained, and how they are able to empower people living with various disabilities, is truly incredible!"*

The Sheehans were hosted by PID Lion Art Woods and Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides CEO, Bev Crandell, and

joined by numerous Lions and supporters from the area. Bev provided an overview of the 7 programs at Dog Guides. Trainers demonstrated how an Autism Assistance Dog Guide and Service Program Dog Guide help their clients with everyday tasks, providing safety, and empowering them with confidence and independence. Bev also took the group through plans for an exciting new state-of-the-art national training school in Oakville, Ontario. The new facility is tentatively scheduled to open in 2025. A capital campaign is set to launch in September.

*"This new facility will be the first-of-its-kind purpose-built Dog Guide training school in Canada," said Bev. "When a dog's potential is unleashed, so is a person's. Demand for services is growing, and this new building will allow Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides to increase our ability to provide Dog Guides to more Canadians living with disabilities."*

In recognition of the Sheehan's visit, Lion Art also presented Lion Brian with his own tree in the President's Grove of the Memorial Forest. The trees in the forest are living tributes, symbolizing strength, shelter and durability. The visit was completed with a special tour of the puppy building. Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides has its own breeding program, welcoming new litters of puppies on a regular basis. The dogs include Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers and Standard Poodles; breeds that exhibit the best combination of stability, intelligence and willingness to work.

Note: Since releasing this article, Lion Brian E. Sheehan, from Bird Island, Minnesota, USA, was elected to serve as international president of Lions Clubs International at the association's 104th International Convention, June 22 through June 28, 2022. Congratulations!



# Lions Clubs Gather in Montreal for International Convention

The biggest Lions event of the year was back in person, and Canada got to show what we are made of by hosting Lions from all around the world. The Palais des Congres de Montreal saw thousands of Lions pass through as they were able to once again gather in person. Pins were traded, plenary sessions were attended, and elections held. But no matter where you went or what you did, the feeling of celebration was always there as Lions finally came together again to share what is at their core, To Serve.

This year, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides was lucky enough to send a contingent of staff to mix and mingle with some of our biggest supporters. Lions' clubs provide approximately 20% of LFCDG funding and it was very special to be able to reconnect with old colleagues and meet some new. The convention offered an opportunity to share our Mission and the critical work being done at the Foundation. And of course, five of our most important and furriest team members helped to prove our point, and made our booth impossible to resist.





# DGE Weekend at Lions Foundation of Canada

## Dog Guides

The DGE Orientation Weekend - for incoming Lions District Governors (DGEs) - was hosted by the foundation from June 9th to June 11th. This important annual event was cancelled in 2020 and done virtually in 2021, so it was a special treat to be able to host our most senior lions from across the country in-person. Thank you to all the LFCDG staff who were involved in the planning and running of the weekend - it really takes a village! The feedback survey indicated that attendees were extremely satisfied and reported learning a great deal about our Dog Guides programs. For many this was their first exposure to the impact Dog Guides have and the increased freedom, independence and joy they can bring.

There are over 1500 Lions clubs in Canada and getting our message out to all of them can be a challenge. Each year donations from Lions Clubs and Lions Districts represent up to 20% of Dog Guides funding. During the pandemic, Lions donations have been down. We hope DGE Orientation Weekend will generate support and advocacy for our work across Canada.

The weekend was filled with presentations, tours, and fun canine challenges. Thank you again to everyone for making the weekend a success! It was great to have this event back in-person again and see everyone enjoying themselves.



# Events and Fundraisers

## Saskatchewan Raffle Sets Record-Breaking Sales

### And the winner is: Lion Allan Tirk

Lion Allan is a 10-year Lion and Immediate Past President of the Saskatoon Downtown Lions Club, and this year's Grand Prize winner of the Blue Jays Weekend Raffle.

The Raffle Draw was made in Richmond, SK where local Mayor Brad Miller helped Raffle Coordinator Lion Gordon Ziegler determine a winner. As the pictures show, the tickets were poured back and forth several times to "stir them up" before Mayor Brad tossed a significant amount of the 4558 tickets towards Lion Gordon who caught but one of them – the one with Lions Allan's name on it.

Saskatchewan Lions were back in full force with a record year. A total of 84 Lions Clubs turned in \$22,105 in ticket purchases. The previous record was \$18,412 set in 2019.

Many, many thanks to all Clubs and individuals who bought and promoted this most valuable and appreciated project. And to all Saskatchewan Lions in supporting Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Foundation.



# St. Margaret's Bay Lions Road toll Supports Dog Guide Program

For the first time in three years, the St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club held a road toll fundraiser. They were out collecting on Saturday, June 4 at the entrance to the Sobeys plaza at Hammonds Plains Road and Highway 103, exit 5.

The toll started at 8:00 a.m and ran until 6 p.m. All cash donations were gratefully accepted in support of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program.

Michael Hart, president of the SMB Lions Club, said, "We have been doing this locally since 1993. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the money we've raised has provided 23 trained dogs to support the independence and safety of the people they've been matched with."



The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program trains dogs for vision and hearing support, seizure and diabetes alerts, general service (including retrieving dropped items, and opening and closing appliances, doors, drawers, etc.), autism assistance, and facilities support (for example, providing support to people who have been in traumatic situations).

Photo: Tony, who lives in Nova Scotia, and his canine vision dog, Hero. Photo credit: Lions Foundation of Canada. The St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club is part of the Lions and Food Bank Hub, a Bay Treasure Chest partner.



## Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides



The Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides is a national fundraising walk held in local communities in each province across Canada. It raises funds to help Lions Foundation of Canada continue to fulfill its mission.

Each walk is organized by local volunteers with support from Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, including many Lions Clubs. Communities host walks in the Spring and Fall.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Walk this year. Lions really came together to make the event a success:

[Lions Club of Stouffville](#)

[Annual Walk Aims to Raise Money for Training Dog Guides](#)

[Walk this Sunday in Sudbury to Raise Funds for Dog Guides](#)

## Ride for Dog Guides



A fundraising event specially catered to motorcyclists. Ride for Dog Guides was first started in 2009 by the Saltwater Retreads and the Enfield/Elmsdale Lions Club in Nova Scotia. The event has since grown with new locations. All proceeds support the seven Dog Guide programs at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. We were able to raise over \$26,300 in the Oakville Ride this year.

[Motorcycles Roll by for a Good Cause](#)

# Dog Guides in the News



## More Than Just A Service Dog

A service dog guide from the Lions Foundation of Dog Guides has allowed Tammy Walsh to keep her independence in her own home while navigating life in her power chair. [Video](#)



## Olive the Hearing Dog Guide

Hearing Dog Guide Olive helps Ottawa Woman Identify Sounds ([CTV News](#))

[A hearing dog guide helps Ottawa woman identify sounds | CTV News](#)



## Akito and Mochi

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides helps provide Canadians with the canine assistance they need to make every day a little bit easier. Like Oakville's Akito McIntosh whose life has been made immeasurably better with his Autism Assistance Dog Guide. [Video](#)



## My Service Dog Guide Changed My Life - A Tribute to Fanta

[CBC story with Alex and Fanta](#) - This First Person article is the experience of Alex Lytwyn who lives with cerebral palsy. My service dog changed my life, and then the unthinkable happened | CBC News

# Meet the Board

<b>Angela Sharbot</b>	Chair Elect; Director, Manitoba, NW Ontario, Nunavut
<b>David Hollyoake</b>	Past Chair of the Board
<b>Brennan Beaumont</b>	PCC – Treasurer; Director, New Brunswick
<b>Frances Sawiak</b>	Director, Alberta, Northwest Territories
<b>Garry Beaudry</b>	Director, Saskatchewan
<b>Janet Marissen</b>	Secretary; Director, Ontario
<b>Linda Baltzer</b>	Director, Nova Scotia
<b>Mel Foat</b>	Chair of the Board
<b>Richard Simonson</b>	Director, British Columbia and Yukon
<b>Robert (Bob) Genereux</b>	PDG
<b>Sam Sanderson</b>	Director, PEI
<b>Sam Wells</b>	Director, Newfoundland and Labrador

# Incoming Directors

<b>Nancy Chaisson</b>	Ontario
<b>William (Willie) Brown</b>	Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario, Nunavut
<b>Susan Sangster</b>	New Brunswick
<b>Paul Cousins</b>	PEI
<b>Maurice Pouliot</b>	Director, Quebec



# How You Can Help

The Pandemic changed the world. Fundraising, supporting, and helping took on a different meaning and how it was accomplished shifted immeasurably. As normal (whatever that means) returns, we hope you are able to continue your mission to serve and that includes supporting Dog Guides once again, or for the first time. Here are some ways to get you rolling once again:

**Memberships and Fellowships** – To recognize the dedication and service of individual Lions. All Memberships and Fellowships can be purchased by a club to recognize a Lion's outstanding service and achievement.

**Sponsorship** – Sponsoring a Dog Guide team covers a portion (or all) of the approximately \$35,000 that it costs to raise and train a puppy and ultimately place the Dog Guide with an individual across Canada at no cost to them.

**Single Donation** – One time donations of any amount that will be used to support LFCDG work.

**Leave a Legacy Gift** - You can make a large impact on the future of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides with a planned gift.

**Memorial Gifts** – commemorate the life of a loved one, two and four-legged, at our Memorial Forest and Pet Memorial Wall in Breslau.

**Support or hold an event** – Support as a sponsor, whether with products or cash, or host your own fundraiser. It's a unique marketing opportunity. Our biggest annual event is the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides.

**Gift Shop** – Purchase some Lions Foundation swag, for yourself or someone special. This not only provides funding, but is great promotion.

**Volunteer** – The gift of your time is extremely valuable. There are many volunteer opportunities to fit a variety of skills, capacity levels and interest.

For further details, and even more opportunities and ideas, visit the How to Help section of our website

# Milestone Celebrations

Lions Club International's 105th birthday

Goderich Lions Club 100 birthday

## In Memorium

Earl Einerson - past Director of the Board from Nova Scotia

## Contact Us

We want to hear about what your clubs are up to, and would love to share some highlights in our e-newsletter. Please send me any stories, messages, in memoriums, etc. that you would like shared.

To ensure you receive important updates and communications, please notify us if your club information changes (contact names, email, phone, address, etc.). If you already have a directory, you can simply forward it to me. Bonus: no extra work.

For further questions and addition support, please contact your Lions Liaison:

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