



## Paying it Forward: B.C Moms Organize first ever Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides in their community

Ashley and Andrea live in South Delta, B.C and have known each other for eleven years. They met when their sons were babies and became close family friends once when they found out that their boys had been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Together, they discovered LFCDG.

In April, Andrea's son Kayden was matched with Autism Assistance Dog Guide Kansas.

Even though Kayden & Kansas were just matched, his mom Andrea has already seen the impact of a Dog Guide:

*"Introducing my son Kayden to Kansas was finally like taking a breath after 5 long years. Seeing my son running up to meet us at the airport gate will be forever engrained in my memories. It was love at first sight. I can't wait for Kansas to be able to start attending school with Kayden. He has opened up a whole new future for Kayden and I can't wait to see where they head off together."*

To pay it forward and help other families receive a life-changing Dog Guides, both moms decided to organize a Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides in their community. This year will be South Delta's first ever walk.

*"We were inspired to host a local walk even before getting the call about our match because there weren't any walk locations close by," says Andrea. "Our boys have a goal to raise enough money*



to fund the training of another Autism Assistance Dog Guide, so that another child can receive the amazing gift they have.”

Please visit [www.walkfordogguides.com](http://www.walkfordogguides.com) to donate and register for a Walk near you or to participate virtually. Thanks to our national sponsor Pet Valu, all the funds raised go directly towards supporting LFCDG programs and helping Canadians with disabilities get matched with a life changing Dog Guide at no cost.

*“I could never adequately put into words how thankful we are to Pet Valu and the many, many donors who made this dream a reality for our family,” says Andrea. It is life-changing not only for my son, but our entire family. I am so excited about Kayden’s future now that he has Kansas by his side to help navigate all the different areas of life that are difficult for him.”*

## The Early Bird gets the ... \$100 Pet Valu gift card!

Congratulations to Kristina from Ontario for registering for the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides and winning a \$100 Pet Valu gift card in our early bird registration draw. Haven’t registered yet? Don’t worry – be sure to check [www.walkfordogguides.com](http://www.walkfordogguides.com) for details on walk locations near you and to register. If you have any questions, please contact [walk@dogguides.com](mailto:walk@dogguides.com).



# Upcoming LFCDG Events to Support

**Wednesday, May 10th - McHappy Day** – Join us in Oakville McDonalds locations to support McHappy Day. A portion of sales throughout the day will be donated towards LFCDG.

**Sunday, May 28th - Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides** (National Walk Date) . Visit [www.walkfordogguides.com](http://www.walkfordogguides.com) to register for a Walk in a community near you or to participate virtually.

**Saturday, June 24th - Ride for Dog Guides** – Support LFCDG with our annual fundraiser specially catered to motorcyclists. Visit [Ride for Dog Guides](http://Ride for Dog Guides) for more information.



A portion of the proceeds from Oakville McDonalds is going to support LFCDG

McHappy Day.



# Become a Day School Sitter to Help Dog Guides in training Graduate with Honours

Help give our dogs the greatest opportunity to succeed by becoming a Day School sitter!

When in formal training at LFCDG, Dog Guides will stay overnight in our kennels and be looked after by staff. Most of our dogs are able to adapt and enjoy sharing a space with other roommates, but not all thrive in this environment. Some dogs may exhibit signs of stress in the kennel environment, which can negatively impact their training. To ensure all our dogs are at their best, we created our day school program, which was featured on [City TV](#).

We are looking for reliable sitters who can give the in-training dog a break from kennel. These volunteers would drop off the dogs to our training facilities in the morning and pick them up at the end of the day throughout the week. The sitters would also look after the dogs on weekends and statutory holidays.

We are currently looking for sitters who live close to our Oakville and Breslau (Guelph region) facilities. Please visit [Specialty Sitter Volunteer Program - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides](#) for more information and to apply.



## Celebrating 40 Years in the Assistance Dog Industry

Ian Ashworth, Director of Canine Development at LFCDG, is celebrating a very special milestone this year. Ian has been working in the Assistance Dog industry for 40 years, helping people all over the world be matched with four-legged companions.

Ian started his career as an apprentice trainer in 1983 with Guide Dogs for the Blind in the UK. After graduating as a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, he continued to train dogs for the blind and visually impaired for another seven years. Eventually Ian moved his way up to several different positions at Guide Dogs for the Blind UK, including Dog Supply Supervisor, Deputy Breeding Manager, and National Breeding Manager, where he oversaw the largest breeding programs in the world. We are talking about 1,250 puppies each year!



After working in the UK, Ian moved overseas in 2002 to work for The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind in New York in their breeding program for a bit. Finally, in 2007, Ian met the Executive Director of Dog Guides and moved to Oakville, ON... and the rest is history!

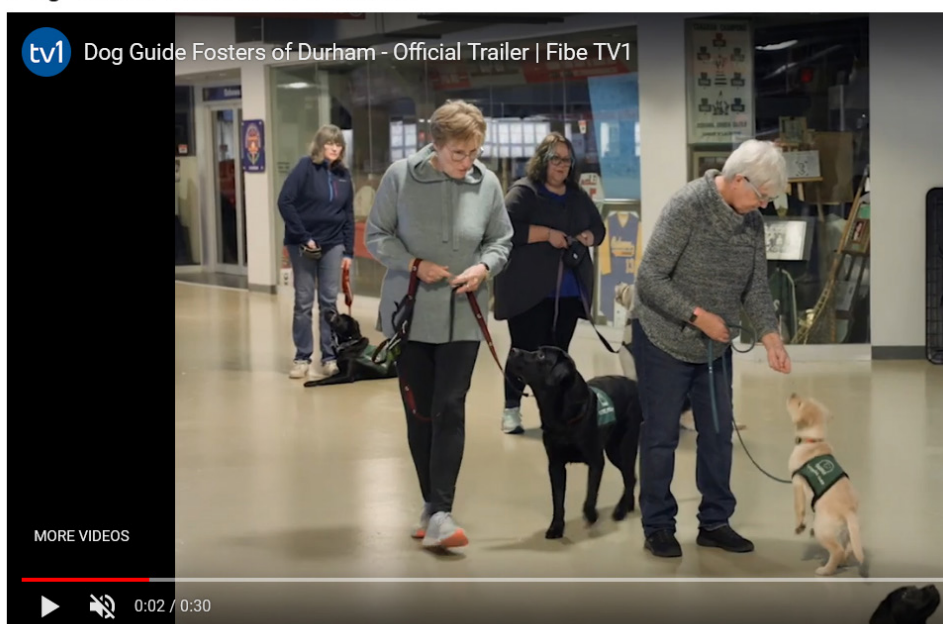
In the 15 years that Ian has been with Dog Guides Canada, he has seen the organization grow from the initial 3 programs; Canine Vision , Hearing and Service, to now 7 programs, Seizure Response , Autism Assistance and the first accredited Diabetic Alert program in Canada as well as a Facility Support program. In his current position as Director of Canine Development, Ian oversees the Puppy and Breeding program, the Early Training Unit, and the Kennel and Veterinary Welfare department. Ian brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to LFCDG, and we are so grateful to have him as a part of our team. Congratulations Ian on this big milestone!

## Dog Guide Fosters of Durham

Foster Families play a very special role at LFCDG, and to showcase all that they do, our friends at **Summerhill Media Inc.** produced “Dog Guide Fosters of Durham.” Watch Jeanette, Esther, Eleanor and Christine’s experiences with fostering in this docuseries. The episodes are available to watch on Bell Fibe TV <https://tv1.bell.ca/fibetv1/shows/dog-guide-fosters-of-durham>.

We are currently looking for fosters in the Toronto, Halton, Guelph, Kitchener, and Niagara regions. If you are interested in applying, please visit [www.dogguides.com/how-to-help/foster-puppy-program/](http://www.dogguides.com/how-to-help/foster-puppy-program/) for more info.

Dog Guide Fosters of Durham



## Special City of Oshawa council Accessibility & Inclusion meeting

Oshawa and Durham region residents are invited to join the special meeting and share experiences and challenges with City Council on May 31, 2023 at 6pm at City Hall (50 Centre St. South, Oshawa) For more information, please email [clerks@oshawa.ca](mailto:clerks@oshawa.ca)

## Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 15 new LFCDG puppies!

- V Litter: Audio & Raiden- 9 puppies born on March 20, 2023.
- W Litter: Gina & Bravo - 6 puppies born on April 5, 2023

**Can you guess the names of V and W litter?**

**Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!**

