



September is a month of awareness, access, and action

It's a time to shine a light on the power of inclusion—removing barriers and celebrating the independence that comes when people and their Dog Guides work as a team.

This month, we recognize Deaf Awareness Month, honouring the Deaf and hard of hearing community and the importance of equal access to communication. We also mark Guide Dog Access Awareness Month, highlighting the vital role guide dogs play in opening doors and ensuring freedom of movement for people who are blind or visually impaired.

At Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, we see these values in action every day through our Hearing and Canine Vision programs. With trust, determination, and partnership, Dog Guide teams transform challenges into possibilities—building confidence, safety, and independence.



Urgent Appeal Update

We have launched the most urgent fundraising campaign in our history. Construction on our new national training school, which will help us train and match more Dog Guides with Canadians in need, has been paused due to an unexpected \$20 million shortfall. This setback puts not only the project, but the long-term future of our mission, at risk.

The support from our community has been truly heartwarming. But we still need your help! We need to raise \$20 million by the end of October, with 5 million coming from public donations. The remaining funds will be sought from the government, Lions Clubs, corporate partners, and major donors.



How Can I Make a Difference?

- Donate to help us reach our goal: www.dogguides.com
- Fundraise by starting a campaign in your community or online: <https://events.dogguides.com/event/difference/home>
- Spread the word by sharing our story with friends, family, and networks

Every action, whether big or small, brings us closer to completing the training school and ensuring Dog Guides are there for Canadians who need them most. Together, we can finish what we started.

Upcoming Events and Fundraisers

Fundraising Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 4 | 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

152 Wilson Street, Oakville, Ontario



Join us for a full day of treasure hunting and community fun. Explore tables filled with gently used items at our rummage sale, treat yourself to homemade goodies at the bake sale, and keep cozy with a warm coffee or tea.

We are collecting gently used items and baked goods to make the day extra special. If you would like to donate or bake, please reach out to events@dogguides.com.

Fall Launch: Dog Guides Halloween Shirts

Our “Howlloween” Long Sleeve Tee - available in black or white - has arrived, just in time for spooky season. This limited design is available for \$30 in the Gift Shop on Mondays and Wednesdays or through our online shop. Don’t miss out on adding this festive piece to your collection.



Community Spotlight

Every month, we are inspired by the generosity of those who host events in support of Dog Guides. This month we are shining the spotlight on the MBBLC. They are holding “The Great Dog Day” fundraiser on Saturday, September 27th from 11am to 3pm at Trinity Anglican Church in Cambridge, Ontario. It’s a “splendid Saturday of dog-filled delights and good old-fashioned fun” with all proceeds going to LFCDG. There will be a parade, try your paw at dog painting, fund photo opps, a raffle and more.

If you are interested in hosting an event of your own for Dog Guides, we would love to hear from you. Contact us at events@dogguides.com.

Graduate Corner

This August we celebrated the graduation of new Dog Guide teams across our Seizure Response, Service, Autism Assistance, and Facility Support programs. Surrounded by families, foster homes, sitters, volunteers, and instructors, the event was a true celebration of teamwork, dedication, and new beginnings.

The August ceremony included numerous heartfelt speeches, a beautiful song by one of our graduating clients, and the graduation of our first Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Wellness Service Dog, Ranger!

We are thrilled to see each Dog Guide and their partner start this exciting new chapter together and wish them all the very best on their journeys.

LFCDG Happenings

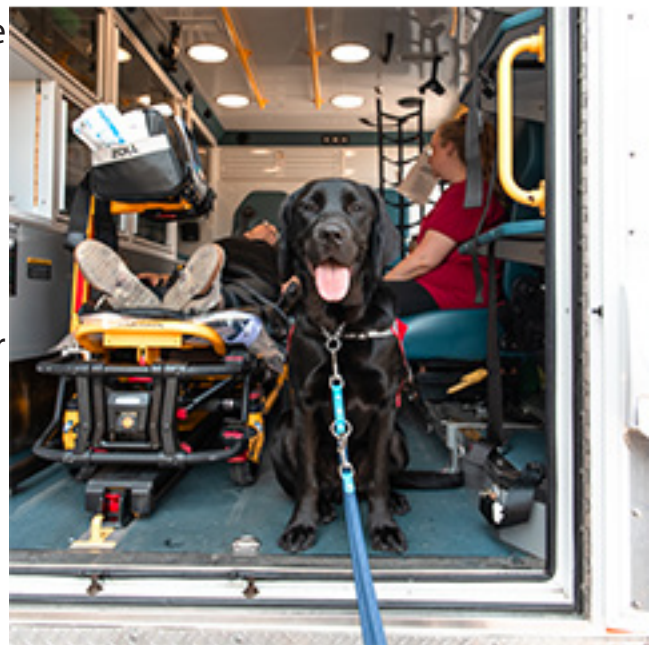
A Day of Training with Durham Region First Responders

It was a day filled with learning, teamwork, and community spirit as our Dog Guides joined forces with Durham Region paramedics for a very special training session.



Together, we walked through real-life scenarios, giving first responders the chance to practice how to safely interact with and transport assistance dogs in an emergency. With guidance from our trainers and the dogs themselves, paramedics gained hands-on experience and best practices they can carry with them into the field. This knowledge helps protect both handler and dog when it matters most.

To extend the impact even further, we captured the day on video so that all 400 plus paramedics in the region will have access to this valuable resource.



We are deeply grateful to Sarah Moir from the North Oshawa Lions Club, whose passion and dedication made this partnership possible, and to the entire Durham Region paramedic team for their openness to learn and commitment to safety.

Sarah reflected on the experience, sharing, "Every opportunity I love educating people about Dog Guides. Talking with the paramedics and hearing their questions made me realize important information needed to be gathered and shared with our first responders. I am excited to see this gap being filled."

This collaboration is a shining example of what can happen when communities come together to support one another. We are proud to stand beside Durham's first responders and to play a part in their life saving work.

Volunteer Corner

Foster Tails: Meet Pickle

Say hello to Pickle, an 8-week-old bundle of energy already learning the skills that will one day help change someone's life as a Dog Guide.

Pickle is currently being fostered by Tanya Allison, who has been opening her heart and home to future Dog Guides since 2023. Tanya has seen the incredible transformation that comes with raising a puppy destined for a life of service

Tanya shares:

"Fostering a Dog Guide puppy is one of the most rewarding journeys I have ever taken. Watching them grow from a clumsy, playful ball of energy into a calm, confident, and well-mannered companion is incredible. We are currently fostering our third puppy, Pickle. He is adorable, a bit mischievous, and full of potential."

All the love and work we put into the puppy makes the goodbye worth it. Knowing this dog will change someone's life by providing independence, safety, and companionship fills my heart and makes me proud to be part of an organization that gives such a meaningful gift."

Fostering a Dog Guide is not just about raising a puppy. It is about shaping a future filled with independence, safety, and companionship. Families like Tanya's make an impact one paw at a time, helping prepare these remarkable pups for the life-changing work ahead.

