



LFCDG Happenings

Help Us Continue Training Dog Guides in Oakville

As of October 1, 2026, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides will be leaving our Wilson Street location in Oakville. While our staff are working hard to ensure a smooth transition, our commitment remains unchanged: we will continue training and matching life-changing Dog Guides through our Breslau campus and additional training locations in the Halton region.

To make this possible, we need your help.

One of the most important ways our community can support us is by volunteering with our Day School program. As we transition out of our Oakville facility, we will no longer have access to the kennel space to train our dogs. Day School volunteers will play a critical role in helping us continue training the number of Dog Guides our clients depend on each year.

Without enough Day School volunteers, we won't be able to graduate as many Dog Guides as planned.

Day School volunteers provide a loving home for a Dog Guide in training for approximately six months while bringing the dog to and from training Monday through Friday. Each evening and weekend, the dog returns home with its volunteer family, allowing our trainers to continue working with more dogs than would otherwise be possible.

Not only is this a rewarding opportunity to make a direct impact on someone's independence, but it also offers all the benefits of having a dog in your life without the lifelong commitment of ownership.

If you've ever considered volunteering with Dog Guides, now is the time. Your support will help ensure we can continue training future Dog Guides in the Oakville area while we work toward establishing a permanent training facility.

To learn more about becoming a Day School volunteer, please visit www.dogguides.com or email dayschool@dogguides.com. Together, we can ensure more Canadians receive the Dog Guides they need to live with greater confidence, independence, and mobility.

We are committed to keeping our community informed throughout this transition and will continue to share updates as plans are finalized and more information becomes available.



Program Openings

We continue to welcome new applicants to our Dog Guide programs!

Expressions of Interest for our Seizure Response and Hearing Dog Guide programs are now closed. However, we will continue to accept re-applications from successor clients who have previously received a Dog Guide from us. If you are a successor client, please email client-services@dogguides.com for more information.

Our Facility Support Dog Guide program remains open to new applicants.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a Dog Guide, please keep an eye on our website, social media channels, and future newsletters for updates on additional program openings.

Graduate Corner

Celebrate Recent Graduates!

Congratulations to our newest Dog Guide teams! We are so proud of each graduate as they begin this exciting new chapter together.

These life-changing partnerships are only possible thanks to the incredible dedication of our foster families, Day School volunteers, sitters, donors, and sponsors. Thank you for helping make these matches possible!

Be sure to visit our [YouTube channel](#) to watch our newest teams graduate and celebrate this special milestone with us. Congratulations once again—we wish everyone many wonderful adventures together!



Honouring retiring dog guides

We recognize and celebrate the remarkable Dog Guides whose service has come to an end, as well as those who have crossed the rainbow bridge. Each of these extraordinary dogs made a lasting difference in the lives of the people and communities they served. We are deeply grateful for their loyalty, dedication, and the independence, confidence, and companionship they provided throughout their lives.

Bay
Beasley
Bernie
Betty
Cashew
Darwin
Dollar
Eclipse
Fender
Fido
Fiesta
Fred
Giselle
Gwynn
Heart
Harvey
Hesper

Inez
Irv
Jemma
Journey
Jovi
Keller
Kendall
Macie
Marley
Nori
Ogden
Paddy
Pesto
Poppy
Preston
Reid
Rosie

Sam
Shylo
Stanley
Teanna
Velo
Velvet
Vera
Whisky
Wilma
Wish
Wynter
Yoshi
Yuba
Yumi
Zippy
Zoodle

Supporters Spotlight

Summer Events Update from the Events Team

It's been a busy summer for the Events Team! From community fundraisers and signature events to the national Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides, we've been inspired by the incredible support shown across Canada.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, participated, donated, and helped make this season a success. Your support is changing lives.

Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides Donors

The 2026 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides campaign was once again an amazing national success, with more than 200 Walks taking place across Canada.

Communities of all sizes joined together to celebrate our mission, honour Dog Guide teams, and raise essential funds to support the placement of Dog Guides at no cost to Canadians.

Our Finance Team is still hard at work counting, processing, and reconciling donations, and we look forward to sharing the final fundraising total once everything has been finalized. We are incredibly grateful to every walker, donor, volunteer, sponsor, and organizer who helped make this year's campaign such a success.

Ride for Dog Guides

We also celebrated the completion of the 2026 Ride for Dog Guides, proudly presented by the Green Capes Trust Foundation. This year's riders came together to achieve an incredible fundraising milestone, raising more than \$40,000 in support of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

This year's Ride was especially meaningful as it was dedicated to the memory of Robert Stanley.

Since joining the Ride in 2016, Robert became one of the event's most dedicated supporters, raising more than \$127,000 to help provide Dog Guides to Canadians at no cost. His passion, generosity, and commitment to our mission inspired everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

We are honoured to celebrate Robert's legacy and the lasting impact he made on the Dog Guides community.



Thank You to Our Sponsors and Partners

Our events would not be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors and partners who believe in our mission and help make these experiences possible.

A heartfelt thank you to:

- Pet Valu, our proud National Title Sponsor of the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides
- Green Capes Trust Foundation, presenting sponsor of the Ride for Dog Guides
- JP Morgan
- RBC Royal Bank
- Wells Fargo

Your support allows us to continue providing life-changing Dog Guides at no cost to Canadians with disabilities and medical conditions.

The Difference Campaign Shout Out

Among those supporting the campaign are Oakville residents and philanthropists John Cleghorn and Gail Selley. Reflecting on the importance of the project, they shared, "As lifelong dog lovers and our shared pride in the remarkable enabling tradition of Oakville's Dog Guide Program, we are proud to support The Difference Campaign and the construction of a new national Dog Guide school. The need for a modern, purpose-built training facility is clear, and our need to respond to the continuing demand for Dog Guides across Canada is urgent. Dog Guides is an Oakville institution that has benefited from the generosity of our community for many years. Now is the time for Oakville residents to come together and help make this much-needed training school a reality."



Piper Foods Inc.

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is proud to announce a generous \$150,000 donation from Piper Foods Inc. in support of The Difference Campaign, the fundraising initiative to build a new national Dog Guide School in Oakville.

Piper Foods Inc.'s gift will support the Kitchen & Pantry and Beverage Station, a welcoming space that will serve Dog Guide recipients, volunteers, staff and visitors from across Canada as they experience the new facility.

For more than 40 years, LFCDG has proudly called Oakville home.. The new state-of-the-art National Training Centre will build on that legacy, expanding our capacity to serve more Canadians for generations to come in a fully accessible, purpose-built facility.

Piper Foods Inc. has had a long-standing relationship with LFCDG providing a portion of McHappy Day proceeds from its six McDonald's restaurants in Oakville, for many years.

"We are honoured to support a project that will leave a lasting legacy in Oakville while transforming lives across Canada," said John and Marg Piper, owners of Piper Foods Inc. "Dog Guides has been an important part of this community for more than four decades, and we have seen firsthand the independence and confidence these remarkable dogs provide. We are proud to help create a national training centre that will serve Canadians for generations and ensure Oakville remains the home of this life-changing organization."



A Historic Partnership - The Good Guys Carting Dogs & Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

The Good Guys Carting Dogs was a volunteer group that, for more than 35 years, trained draft dogs and provided cart, wagon, and sled rides at community events to raise funds for charitable causes. A longtime supporter of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, the group regularly donated proceeds from events such as Barrie Winterfest and participated in many Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides events. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, declining membership and the retirement of many dogs and handlers led to the group's difficult decision to disband. As a lasting legacy, The Good Guys recently made a donation to The Difference Campaign to sponsor the naming of a dog kennel in the new Dog Guides facility in honour of the group's founders, Carol Ralston and the late Jan Kay, recognizing their vision, leadership, and the group's enduring commitment to Dog Guides.



The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides gratefully thanks everyone who made The Good Guys Carting Dogs such a special part of our community, founders Carol and Jan, the dedicated trainers, volunteer handlers, assistant trainers, event volunteers, and the remarkable dogs whose hard work and spirit brought joy to countless children while supporting Dog Guides and other charitable causes. Your legacy of service and generosity will continue to make a difference for years to come.





Litter Update

We're excited to share the arrival of several new puppies who have joined the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides family. Welcome to the world, little ones!

G Litter: Link (yellow lab/golden X) and Gibbs (black lab/golden X) – 9 puppies born February 27, 2026 – 2 black females, 2 yellow males, and 5 yellow females.

H Litter: Venture (black lab/golden X) and Alix (yellow lab/golden X) – 6 puppies born March 8, 2026 – 1 black male, 3 black females, 1 yellow male, and 1 yellow female.

J Litter: Yasha (yellow lab) and Pippen (yellow lab) – 5 puppies born March 18, 2026 – 4 yellow males and 1 yellow female.

K Litter: Yasmin (black lab) and Pippen (yellow lab) – 3 puppies born March 24, 2026 – 1 black male, 1 black female, and 1 yellow female.

L Litter: Opa (yellow lab/golden X) and Gibbs (black lab/golden X) – 7 puppies born April 22, 2026 – 1 black male, 3 black females, and 3 yellow females.

M Litter: Ren (cream poodle) and Emru (cream poodle) – 2 puppies born April 24, 2026 – 1 cream male and 1 cream female

N Litter: Fame (yellow lab/golden X) and Gibbs (black lab/golden X) – 1 puppy born May 13, 2026 – 1 yellow male

O Litter: Bubbles (black lab/golden X) and Emry (black lab) – 1 puppy born May 19, 2026 – 1 black male

P Litter: Dahlia (black lab) and COPE True Blue (black lab) – 9 puppies born May 25, 2026 – 2 black males, 5 black females, 1 yellow male, and 1 yellow female.

If you live within 45 minutes of our Oakville or Guelph facilities and would like to get involved, please [apply online](#). Thank you for helping us prepare the next generation of Dog Guides.

