



LFCDG Happenings

152 Wilson St. and Temporary Training Facility Update

As a reminder of our previously shared update, our lease at 152 Wilson Street in Oakville has been extended until December 31, 2026. This extension allows us to welcome two additional classes while giving us additional time to carefully plan our transition to alternative training operations.

We're also thrilled to share that we have secured a temporary training facility in the plaza at Abbeywood Drive and Pilgrims Way in Oakville, Ontario. This location will serve as the main training hub for the following programs: Facility Support, Autism Assistance, Hearing, Canine Vision and some Diabetes Alert.

Our Oakville Day School program will also begin operating from this new location in early November.

We will continue to share updates as our plans develop and sincerely appreciate your ongoing support, patience and understanding as we navigate this transition together.

Class Is in Session!

The first day of school is an exciting time! Students look forward to new lessons, new challenges, and a whole lot to learn.

For a future Dog Guide, school looks a little different. Their classroom might be a busy sidewalk, a grocery store, a city street or a crowded public space. Their lessons prepare them for the real world and, eventually, a life-changing partnership with a Canadian living with a disability. And just like any education, tuition is steep!

It costs approximately \$35,000 to raise, train and match a Dog Guide with someone who needs one. By sponsoring a Dog Guide scholarship, you can help cover the cost of a Dog Guide's education and give them the opportunity to reach graduation and beyond.

Learn more about the Dog Guides [scholarship-program/](#)



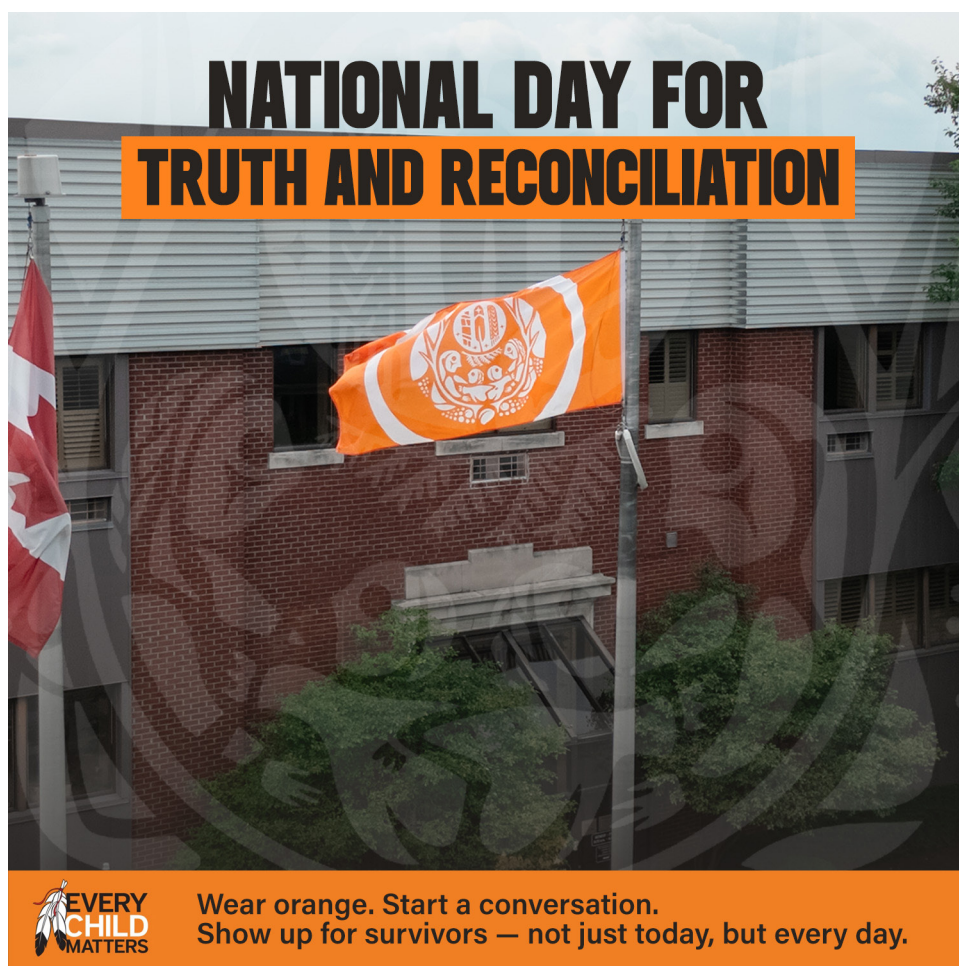
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Every Child Matters

On September 30, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides honours the Survivors of Canada's Indian Residential Schools and remembers the children who never returned home. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the lasting and intergenerational impacts of residential schools on Indigenous Peoples, families and communities.

The orange shirt has become a powerful symbol of remembrance and solidarity, inspired by Residential School Survivor Phyllis Webstad and her experience of having her new orange shirt taken from her on her first day at residential school.

To mark the day, the Survivors' Flag will be raised for the month of September at our Oakville location as a symbol of our ongoing commitment to learning, truth, reconciliation and meaningful change.

We encourage our community to take time to listen, learn and reflect – not only on September 30, but throughout the year.



Howl-oween Dog Costume Contest

With Halloween just around the corner – or should we say, Howl-oween – Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is hosting a Dog Halloween Costume Contest!

Dog Guides, Dog Guides in training, breeding dogs, future Dog Guides and Career Change dogs are all invited to join the fun. To help keep our dogs safe and comfortable, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- **Vests or Harness:** Please do not have the dog wear their costume over their vests or harnesses when out in public.
- **Take it slow:** Gradually build up the amount of time the dog wears their costume.
- **Always supervise:** Keep a close eye on the dog while they're wearing a costume to ensure they don't chew or eat any part of it.
- **Watch for signs of discomfort:** If the dog is scared or reluctant to wear a costume, please reach out to staff for guidance.

Please fill out this [form](#) to enter the contest. Winner will be announced October 29, 2026.

We can't wait to see our Dog Guides community dressed up for Howl-oween!



Graduate Corner

Congratulations to our August and September graduates!

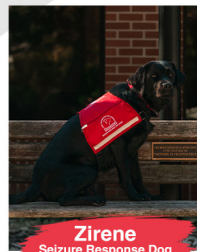
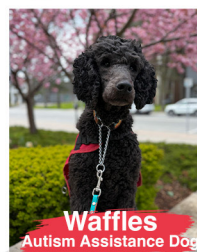
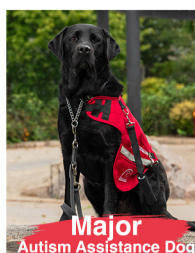
These incredible Dog Guides have worked hard to reach this milestone and are now ready to begin their next chapter with the people who need them most.

Behind every graduating Dog Guide is a community of people who helped make their journey possible. A heartfelt thank you to the foster families, sitters, Day School volunteers, sponsors and donors who played a role in helping these dogs reach graduation.

Your time, care and generosity help change lives – one Dog Guide at a time.

Congratulations to our graduates and their new partners! We can't wait to see all the difference you'll make together.

August & September 2026 Graduates



Dog Guide Etiquette 101: Give Them Space to Do Their Job

This September, we're celebrating Service Dogs, Deaf Awareness Month and Guide Dog Awareness Month – all important opportunities to recognize the incredible independence and support Dog Guides provide every day.

Whether you encounter a Hearing Dog Guide or a Canine Vision Dog Guide, there are a few simple things you can do to help these teams stay safe, focused and confident while working.

When you see a Dog Guide team, remember:

DO'S & DON'TS

When you see a Hearing or Canine Vision Dog Guide team

DO

Give the team space and allow the Dog Guide to focus on their handler.

Ask before interacting with the Dog Guide.

Speak directly to the handler rather than the Dog Guide.

Ask if the person needs assistance and don't be offended if they say no.

DON'T

Pet, call or distract the Dog Guide while they are working.

Cover your mouth when speaking to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Assume the Dog Guide is available to play just because they aren't physically guiding their handler.

Offer food or treats, or allow your dog to approach a working Dog Guide.

Ask why the person needs a Dog Guide. Some people will naturally disclose their disability, others don't want to share that, and that's ok.



Disability Employment Awareness Month (October)

For Stefania Ventura, independence means having the confidence and support to live and work on her own terms. For the past eight years, her seizure-response Dog Guide, Fable, has helped make that possible.

Before Fable, Stefania's epilepsy meant that family and friends were often concerned about her safety. As a result, she faced limitations on living independently, travelling and participating in activities she loved. Fable changed that.

Today, Fable gives Stefania a sense of safety and reassurance throughout her day. She can attend appointments and social events independently, and she feels more confident knowing Fable will be there to support her if she has a seizure.

That confidence has made a difference in Stefania's career as a high school teacher.

Having Fable by her side in the classroom helped Stefania feel safe and self-assured while focusing on her students and her work.

One of Stefania's favourite memories is introducing Fable to her Grade 9 students. Fable quickly became part of the classroom, giving Stefania an opportunity to teach her students something beyond the curriculum — the importance of independence, inclusion, compassion and understanding.

This Disability Employment Awareness Month, Stefania's story reminds us that meaningful employment is about more than having a job. With the right supports, people with disabilities can build confidence, pursue their careers and fully participate in their workplaces and communities.

For Stefania, Fable is more than a Dog Guide. She is a trusted partner who helps her feel safer, stronger and more confident every day.

"Fable is a gift that makes me feel stronger and more assured daily."



Volunteer Corner

Could You Be Part of Their Journey? Join the Day School program!

From the moment a puppy begins its journey, so many people play a part in helping them become a life-changing partner.

A Foster Family provides a loving home during its first year. Day School volunteers support them through the next stage – bringing Dog Guides in training to and from the training facility Monday to Friday and providing a home each weekend and on statutory holidays. Donors and sponsors help make the training, resources and care possible, allowing us to provide Dog Guides at no cost to qualified Canadians.

And thanks to our incredible feeding partner, Pet Valu, Performatrin dog food is provided for our dogs, while veterinary expenses are provided by Dog Guides.

Right now, we need more Day School Volunteers to help with this important part of the Dog Guide journey.

If you live near Oakville or Breslau and can open your home to a Dog Guide in training, you can help keep their journey moving forward – and ultimately help change someone's life.

Every person. Every contribution. Every step matters.

Learn more about becoming a [Day School volunteer](#).

Celebrating Our Foster Family Milestones

Behind every Dog Guide is a dedicated foster family who helps give them the foundation they need to succeed. This month, we're celebrating foster families who have reached incredible milestones – from fostering five Dog Guides to 10, 15, 20 and beyond!

Their commitment, time and love have helped prepare countless dogs for their future careers and changed lives along the way. We're so grateful for every foster family who has opened their home and heart to a Dog Guide in training.

Milestones are based on our current records. If you notice an error or believe we've missed someone, please let us know so we can do our best to update our records.

30+ dogs fostered:

Linda Burton
Yvonne Schmiedendorf
Barrie & Angela Watts

25+ dogs fostered:

Karen Oude-Reimerink

20+ dogs fostered:

Cindy O'Brien
Dolly Murray
Donald MacKay
Janet & Harry Marissen
Joan Matheson
Marlene Creech
Natalie Brown

15+ dogs fostered:

Cheryl Bauman
Gail & Andy Faulkner
Kristina Seidel
Lynn Yamazaki
Michael Lindgren
Ruth & Joseph Schembri
Vandora Moxam

10+ dogs fostered:

Andrea Buetngen
Anne Hudson
Eleanor Rice
Elizabeth Dettweiler
Ellen McCleary

Grace Jutras
Jane Wright
Janet Pankhurst
Jeanne Antoniuk & Mark Falls
Joyce van Voorst
Justine & John Mills
Marta Rozman
Nancy Chiasson
Rachel Laughlin
Suzanne Bowker

5+ dogs fostered:

Angie Romo
Anne Crowe
Art Fernandez
Barb Thomas
Catherine Duddeck
Cathy Hollister
Elizabeth & Tom Opratko
Erika Ahn
Erin Crawford
Esther Rathwell
Frank Powers
Gillian Shortt
Helena Thompson
Jeanette Manning
Jennifer Legare & Blair
Fleming
Karen Jarvis
Karen Kirkpatrick
Karen Sachs
Karen Schmidt

Kathie Becker
Katie Tigchelaar
Kaydi Pyette
Kylie Alston
Laura Robertson
Laurel & Kevin Swinden
Lisa Kruitwagen
Liz Golas
Mandy McTaggart
Mary Elizabeth Dilly
Michelle Worley
Nancy Steger
Nathalie O'Hara
Pamela Tuffnell
Rebecca Lang
Royce Nettleton
Samantha Stambula
Sandra James
Sarah Pelletterio
Sheila Garven
Susan Pink & Rob Bauer
Suzanne Carswell
Tamara Hamilton & Julia
Romagnoli
Tracey Saulesleja
Victoria Longo

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!

Q Litter: Barkley (golden retriever) and Danny (golden retriever) – 6 puppies born June 21, 2026 - 3 golden males and 3 golden females.

R Litter: Marla (black poodle) and Walter (black poodle) – 8 puppies born July 14, 2026 – 5 black males, 1 black female, 1 cream male, and 1 cream female.

S Litter: Gillian (black poodle) and Rufus (cream poodle) – 7 puppies born July 22, 2026 – 2 black males, 3 black females, and 2 apricot females.

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.

