

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE STAFF, GRADUATES AND
VOLUNTEERS OF BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

PAW PRINTS

FALL 2015 - ISSUE NO. 32



ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

MESSAGE FROM CEO, WILLIAM THORNTON



As another year comes to a close, so does the end of an era. Verne Blyth has stepped down as Chair of the Board after 9 years of outstanding service. Verne has been on the Board since 2003 and took over as Chair from Norm Sayfy in 2006. We want to thank Verne for his remarkable commitment and support over the years. We are very fortunate that he has decided to stay on as a Director as he has not only been an asset in the Boardroom, but has also been an active volunteer who along with his wife, Linda, has puppy-trained 17 dogs for us. Rupert Bullock who has served on the Board since 2009, will be taking over as Chair and we look forward to his future leadership and guidance.

We are delighted to share with you that we are in the final planning phase of our future Training and Breeding Centre. The new building is going through final approval with the Corporation of Delta and we hope to begin fundraising efforts in 2016. As part of our expansion efforts in the first quarter of the new year, we will be welcoming a new Guide Dog Mobility Instructor and plan to take on three new apprentice instructors for Guide Dog and Autism Support Dog training.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce the launch of our brand new website. Our new website integrates both divisions of our services – Guide Dogs and Autism Support Dogs – and we believe you will find it clean, fresh and easy to navigate. I would like to thank everyone involved and we hope that you like it!

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and generosity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair and Treasurer: Rupert Bullock, B.Comm

Vice-Chair: Tammy Winters (Alberta)

Past Chair: Verne A. Blyth

Secretary: Jeremy Gomersall, B.Eng, ACSM

Director: C. Wayne Reeves, B. Arch

CEO: William S. Thornton, GDMI

ADVISORY BOARD

Ronald Austin

Charlotte Lycett Davis

Charlotte Keller, DVM, DACVO, DECVO

Victor Kern

Graham T. Lewis, DVM, DIP, ACVO

Irene O'Brien, D.V.M.

Norman E. Sayfy, B. Comm

Daniel Schwartz, DVM

Joanne Sutton

FRONT COVER: Henrik & Johanna Sedin, their sons, pony, cat and their dog, Bristol - a BC & Alberta Guide Dogs non-qualifier.
Photo credit: photosbykathryn.com

MEMBER OF:



CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF GUIDE &
ASSISTANCE
DOG SCHOOLS



Legal Name: British Columbia Guide Dog Services
Charity Registration No.: 89131 1763 RR0001



AND THE WINNER IS...

VOLUNTEER PHOTO CONTEST



This Fall, we held a photo contest for our amazing volunteer breeders, whelpers, trainers, and boarders. The winner as chosen by the BC & Alberta Guide Dogs staff, is Barbara Bronson's photo of the dog she is Puppy Training, Ivy (above). For winning the photo contest, Barbara gets to name a puppy. Congrats Barbara!

PATRONS

Leah & Howie Meeker, CM

FOUNDING PATRONS

Allard Foundation

The Arthur J.E. Child Foundation

Percy & Betty Adlington

The Calgary Foundation

Charlotte Lycett Davis

Diamond Foundation

Dorothy & Rondy Dike

Eldon & Anne Foote Fund - The
Edmonton Community Foundation

The Fisher Foundation

Victor & Anna Kern Foundation

Janet Li

Irene Lyttle

John Hardie Mitchell family
foundation

The Nemetz Foundation

Nestlé Purina Pet Care

Novartis Animal Health Canada Inc.

The Robert Tegler Trust

Dr. Hugo Sutton, MD, FRCS(C)

Gordon & Suzanne Thornton

Robin & Kathryn Thornton

William & Linda Thornton

Vancouver Foundation

The Victoria Foundation

Wild Rose Foundation

FOUNDING DONORS

David & Susan Baker

Edmonton Public Teachers (Alberta
Teachers' Association Local No.37)

Greater Victoria Dog Obedience

Training Club

Husky Energy

The Independent Contractors and
Businesses Association of B.C.

Leanne Palylyk Children's
Foundation

Susan & Victor MacKenzie

Qualicum Pet Food & Grooming Ltd.

RC Pet Products

REALTORS® Community
Foundation

Rotary Club of Ladner

Rotary Club of Tsawwassen

Western Community Dog Club

ASD FOUNDING PATRONS

BC Guide Dog Services

Diamond Foundation

Grand Chapter of Alberta -

Order of the Eastern Star

Grand Chapter of British Columbia

and Yukon - Order of the Eastern Star

The Allen & Loreen Vanderkerkhove

Family Foundation

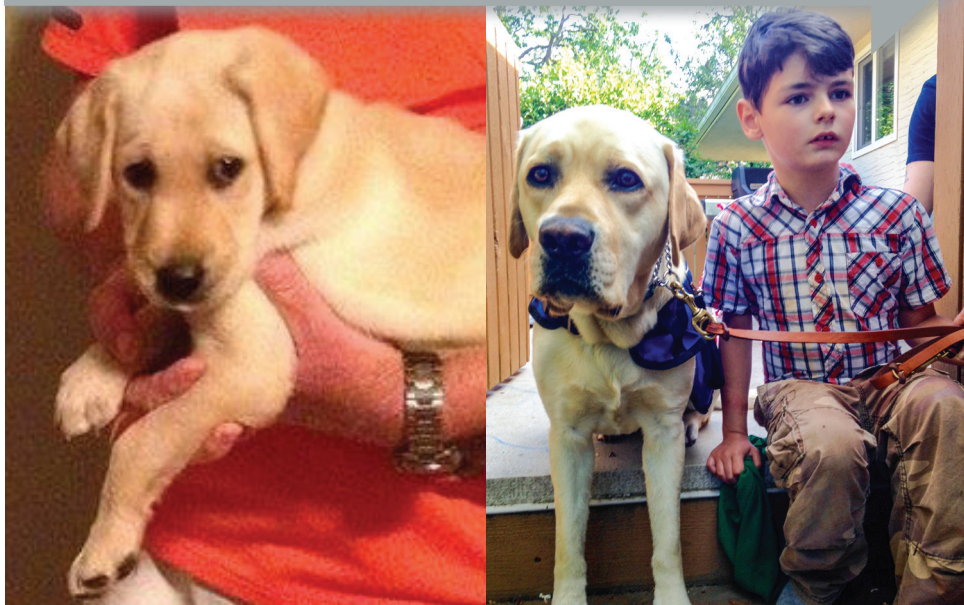
Variety - The Children's Charity

Victor & Anna Kern Foundation



AUTISM SUPPORT DOG TEAM

Asher & Autism Support Dog Landon



Team Sponsor: Variety the Children's Charity

This year we were given an incredible gift. Landon, an Autism Support Dog, has improved our family's lives, and especially Asher's life in so many ways. Asher is a 9-year-old boy, who has severe Autism. He is non-verbal, and is unable to communicate for the most part. Because of his disability, Asher has a lot of challenges with compulsive behaviours.

One of the most life-changing aspects about having Landon with us is that he keeps Asher safe. Because of Landon's training and strength, Asher is not able to run into danger anymore! We have already experienced outings together, that we haven't been able to accomplish in years. At home, Landon helps keep Asher calm and occupied in a safe manner, so we can carry on with household tasks etc.

A good night's sleep is also something that has eluded Asher, as well as the rest of us, for many, many years. On the first night of Landon's arrival, he and Asher both slept **SOUNDLY** and through the night!

We are **SO** thankful to everyone who put so much hard work, finances, and love into Landon and our journey. We couldn't be where we are today, and where our journey will continue to go without the support of so many wonderful people and organizations. - Dot, Asher's Mom



GUIDE DOG TEAM

Amber & Guide Dog Bear



Team Sponsor: Puppy Sponsorship

I received my first guide dog, Tom, when I was thirteen years old and immediately realized how much more independence it gave me. Eight years later, I am now working with my second dog, Bear, and he is reminding me what it is like to put full trust in a dog and to have a bond that grows with each and every day. I have always told people that having a guide dog brings more positives than just having a living being with sight to assist you in mobility and finding things on your day to day routes. It provides a feeling of security, of confidence, and the knowledge that when you mess up and have a 'human' moment, your dog is there to give you a paw. My guide dog not only provides me with comfort and security when we are out walking but when we are at home as well. I honestly don't think I would live completely on my own without having a dog to keep me company and keep an eye on the place.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of the difference a guide dog has made in my life. I am forever grateful for the work that BC & Alberta Guide Dogs has done to make the lives of visually impaired people easier. Tom and Bear have allowed me to live with confidence and ease far greater than I could hope to have without them. Thank you again BC & Alberta Guide Dogs! - Amber



VERY SPECIAL PLACEMENT

BRANDON & PET DOG SAMMY



Our son, Brandon, started walking late at 20 months old. During the warmer days we walked as a family to downtown to drop his Dad off at work. The trip to work would be in the stroller, but the trip home would be this little boy marching his way home. Over the past year, it has been increasingly difficult to get him to walk to the end of the garden path, never mind the end of the block. As he has become more aware of his surroundings, his level of anxiety has increased significantly; often taking half an hour to become comfortable in new situations outside of the home. His use of language is extremely limited and his desire to speak at times seemed non-existent. After some research we learned of the Very Special Placement (VSP) option

with BC & Alberta Guide Dogs. We knew a VSP dog would be a great fit for us.

In mid-August Sammy (a black lab/golden retriever cross) joined our family. It has been a great pleasure to watch our little boy and this beautiful young black lab bond. Brandon loves to blow the whistle at feeding time and is learning how to count and measure out her food. He is excited to take Sammy's lead as we stroll to the off leash area where we all play and run for an hour at a time. Recently he has started calling her from across the yard or requesting her to 'sit'. He is thrilled when she performs his commands and it is a joy to watch him learn that language is a great tool to get what you want. His confidence is building to a point where he often uses language to communicate.

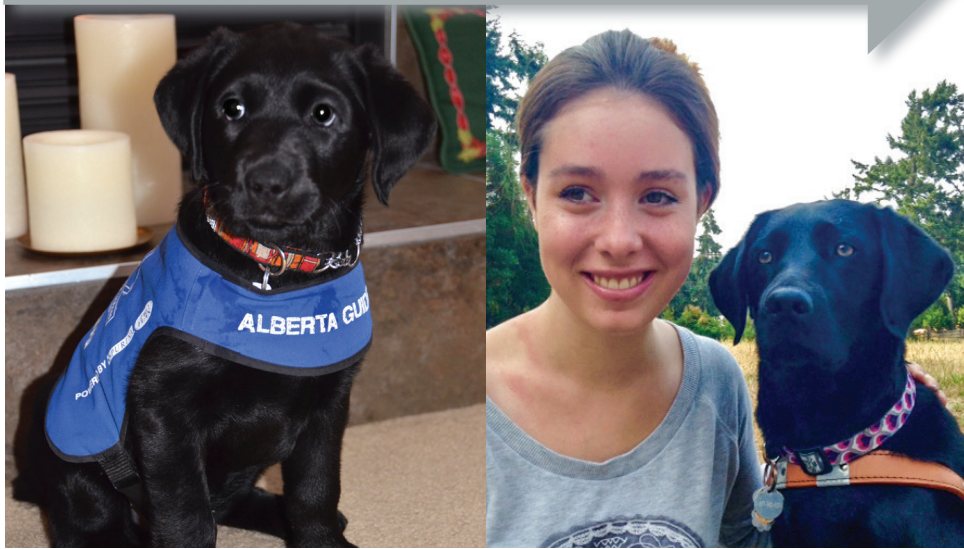
Sammy is loved by everyone in our family. She's been part of our family for only two months, but we can't imagine life without her.

- Thanks again, Brandon's mom, Alison



GUIDE DOG TEAM

Sabrina & Guide Dog Dia



Team Sponsor: Puppy Sponsorship

I received my beautiful new guide dog, Dia, at the beginning of July and she is the most clever partner in crime I could have asked for. She is adored by everyone in my family and my community. She loves cruising for pets and playing chase with our other dogs in our large back yard. In the beginning I was concerned for Dia as I have a fairly unique living situation; I live on an island without sidewalks and take a water taxi to school. Dia is fearless, even trying to get on the taxi before me, and as far as routes go, I only have to show her once and she's got it down.

I can't wait to return to my senior year at highschool with Dia, she will no doubt be the most popular girl there. As soon as she sees me pick up her harness her little tail starts wagging and as soon as it's on, she's a dog on a mission. She will alert me to things such as curbs and doors as well as being able to find things like the crossing button, elevators, stairs and benches. She is focused, looking out for everything, I am much more confident traveling with her. With Dia's ability to weave through crowds so smoothly, I know navigating the halls will be much easier than the white cane.

There is so much love and dedication that goes into raising a rambunctious little puppy into a highly trained guide dog and I want to thank every one who made our partnership possible; from Dia's puppy trainers for raising such a genuine sweet dog to Jaime, Dia's Guide Dog Mobility Instructor for training us both, to all the staff, volunteers and donors from BC & Alberta Guide Dogs for supporting us throughout our training. The independence you have provided me is incredible; there are no words for how grateful I am for all your efforts. - Sabrina



IN THE LITTERBOX

These pups are off to their Puppy Training homes in Greater Vancouver, Victoria and Calgary! Puppy Training is a full-time volunteer job, and is fundamental our success. We want to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to all our amazing volunteer breeders, whelpers, trainers, and boarders for all your time and the loving homes you provide to our pups. We couldn't do it without you!



EVELYN & HANS

BORN: March 9, 2015

WHELPER: Ken L.

PUPPY RAISERS:

Ivy (YLB) - Barb, Calgary
Zora (YLB) - Laurie, Surrey
Polly (BLB) - Vic, Victoria
Charley (BLB) - Debbie, Coquitlam
Kelly (BLB) - Larry & Dorothy, Vancouver
MacLeod (BLM) - Donated to PADS
Hero (BLM) - Jan, Calgary
Lucas (YLM) - Marcel, Calgary
Hamber (YLM) - Bill, West Vancouver
Karl (YLM) - Harold & Heather, Victoria



CAPRICE & COOP

BORN: April 7, 2015

WHELPER: Libby H.

PUPPY RAISERS:

Eugene (YLM) - Maya, Abbotsford
Janson (BLM) - Bob & Jan, Delta
Tyler (YLM) - Lorri-Anne, Victoria
Mr. Mason (BLM) - Diane, White Rock
Rob (BLM) - Sissi, Calgary
Teal (YLB) - Kathryn & Gary, Calgary
Willow (BLB) - Lauren, Calgary



SACHA & GROVER

BORN: May 5, 2015

WHELPER: Wendy C.

PUPPY RAISERS:

Drake (BLM) - Lisa & Trevor, Surrey
Amanda (BLB) - Hugh, Aldergrove
Abby (BLB) - Veronica, S.Surrey
Clive (BLM) - Brad, Calgary



OPAL & MAX

BORN: May 10, 2015

WHELPER: Deb P.

PUPPY RAISERS:

Teddy (GRxBLM) - Jill, Calgary
Freeman (GRxBLM) - Jay & Joanne, New West
Lloyd (GRxBLM) - Linda, Calgary
Tunstall (GRxBLM) - Shelly, Delta
Rasteau (GRxBLM) - Norman & Terry, Calgary
Gizmo (GRxBLB) - Diane, Surrey
Siku (GRxBLB) - Bill & Lynn, New West
Spruce (GRxYLB) - Dianne & Jill, Calgary
Briar (GRxYLB) - Monel, Vancouver

LEGEND

YL: Yellow Labrador Retriever
BL: Black Labrador Retriever

GRxL: Golden Retriever cross Labrador
B: Female M: Male



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



UPDATE FROM A CLIENT

2009 TEAM MAYA & AUTISM SUPPORT DOG, PEPE



Photo Credit: Gord Goble, Delta Optimist

Before we received our Autism Support Dog Pepe in 2009, our family spent more time at home than any young family should. Because of our daughter Maya's profound Autism, we could not imagine a time when ordinary family outings would be possible. Maya was a bolter and minor outings had the tendency to turn treacherous without warning. Unable to guarantee Maya's safety we ended up denying the entire family from simple pleasures like walks to parks and family shopping trips.

It is an extraordinary exercise in trust to accept help for a family struggle that requires immersing strangers into your family and life in order to find a fit to your problem but BC & Alberta Guide Dogs made the process easy and most importantly the results were staggering.

From the first day that we received Pepe we understood what it was like to be an ordinary family. Simple activities that were once dangerous and stressful because of Maya's tendency to run away became simple. Pepe introduced us to the idea of family normalcy. We could travel, vacation, explore and enjoyed being out in our community without concern for Maya's safety. As soon as Pepe was connected with Maya she committed to her job of keeping her safe.

Maya and our entire family live a more fulfilled life because of Pepe. We no longer fear for Maya's safety because she has an Autism Support Dog that takes care of her. As the years have passed Pepe has become an integral part of our family. She is the anchor that keeps Maya grounded and calm in unfamiliar situations and she is the icebreaker for our family that introduces Maya to the world. Pepe invites understanding from strangers and ensures that Maya can exist in spaces that are uncomfortable for her.

Ultimately our Autism Support Dog ensures that Maya can get the most out of life because Autism no longer limits her ability to be out in the community. Regardless of whether it is a new or familiar environment Maya is up for the experience as long as Pepe is nearby. We cannot express enough gratitude to BC & Alberta Guide Dogs for providing Pepe to Maya and improving her quality of life.

- Maya's mom, Nicole



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR
GENEROUS SUPPORT OF BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS!

RIVER ROCK CASINO RESORT

River Rock Casino Resort is Western Canada's only Four-Diamond casino resort that features unparalleled entertainment, gaming and hospitality options. The resort is known for its world-class features. For more information, please visit their website: riverrock.com

PROUD of our people, our business, our community is the brand that unifies all of River Rock's community outreach initiatives and in 2014, River Rock Casino Resort supported over 590 charitable community organizations through financial, in-kind and volunteer endeavors.

The team at River Rock chose to support Autism Support Dogs, a division of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs because we provide professionally trained dogs to children with autism and their families. "Some of our colleagues have children who are autistic so we wanted to lend a helping hand," said Daniel Lay, Director, Operational Readiness at River Rock Casino Resort.

Thank you to the River Rock for their amazing support of our organization!



MACKENZIE INVESTMENTS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Mackenzie Investments Charitable Foundation is an employee-driven foundation across Canada. It is funded by donations from employees as well as clients. Mackenzie Investments matches all employee donations dollar for dollar!

One of the focus areas for the foundation is the social well-being and welfare of underprivileged, challenged and sick children, youth and young adults. Autism Support Dogs, a division of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, fits into

this area of focus and since 2012, our organization has been a Friend Charity to the foundation.

Thank you Mackenzie Investments for supporting our charity and other organizations and communities across Canada!



AROUND TOWN

**LONDON
DRUGS®**

18TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT **GOLF FOR GUIDE DOGS**

Hosted by Leah & Howie Meeker, C.M.



Our London Drugs Golf For Guide Dogs Tournament raised \$30,000! THANK YOU from our hosts Leah & Howie Meeker, CM to everyone who has sponsored, donated or came out to golf! It was a successful event and a great day! We hope to see you again next summer!



For Your Eyes Only 2015 Charity Dinner & Auction



BC & Alberta Guide Dogs would like to extend a big thank you to all the "For Your Eyes Only" 2015 Charity Dinner & Auction sponsors and everyone who attended the event! Your generosity helped us raise \$33,000! Save the Date for our 2016 auction next June!



AROUND TOWN



Puppy Appreciation Party

This Fall we held Puppy Appreciation Parties in Delta, Victoria & Calgary for our Puppy Sponsorship donors. Thank you to all that attended and those who didn't! We hope to see you next year!



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS PRESENTS OUR 15th Annual Trivia Night

Thank you to everyone who attended our **SOLD OUT** Trivia Night in Delta, BC! It was once again a success! We look forward to seeing everyone again next November!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALBERTA

A REAL BLINDFOLD TASTING

Thursday, November 26, 2015
Willow Park Wines & Spirits
10801 Bonaventure Dr SE Calgary, AB

BOOTH AT 8TH AVE PLACE

December 1-3, 2015
525 8th Ave SW Calgary, AB
Come visit us 11am - 1pm daily!

BOOTH AT BANKER'S HALL

December 8-10, 2015
315 8th Ave Calgary, AB
Come visit us 11am - 2pm daily!

BRITISH COLUMBIA

8TH ANNUAL KITZ4KIDS FUNDRAISER

Friday, January 15, 2016
River Rock Casino Resort
8811 River Rd, Richmond, BC

Tickets are \$65.00 and include a lavish buffet, entertainment (The Day Trippers), auction with 100% of proceeds for Autism Support Dogs, a division of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs. Check our website for ticket sales!



COMPANY UPDATES

VOLUNTEER PUPPY TRAINERS NEEDED!

We need volunteers in Greater Vancouver, Victoria/Nanaimo and Calgary to help raise puppies that will become life-changing dogs for blind and visually impaired persons, and children with autism. Our puppies live with volunteer families from 8 weeks of age until they start advanced training. All food and vet costs are covered. Volunteers receive ongoing training throughout the program.

If you have time to dedicate to this rewarding commitment and would like more info, please contact:

GVRD: Linda - 1.877.940.4504

Victoria: Laura - 250.217.3132

Calgary: Sandra - 403.258.0819



Christmas Cards for Sale!



*8 cards for \$20
(four of each pictured above)*

Call your local office or visit our website to purchase your cards!

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!

We are pleased to officially announce the launch of our brand new website! Please visit our new site and let us know what you think!

If you have any questions or comments on the website, email us at info@bcguidedog.com.

BCANDALBERTAGUIDEDOGS.COM



SPECIAL THANKS

Our thanks to the following individuals and organizations who have shown an outstanding long-term commitment to making our work possible by donating goods/services year after year.

Boehringer Ingelheim
Chase River Veterinary Hospital
Elanco Veterinary Canada
Feltham Pet Clinic
Fish Creek 24 Hour Pet Hospital
Dr. Charlotte Keller, DVM, DACVO, DECVO
Dr. Graham T. Lewis, DVM, DACVO
M-pressions Sportswear Limited
Nestlé Purina Petcare Inc.
Nylabone
RC Pet Products
Sue Paege
Scottsdale Veterinary Hospital
Dr. Brian Skorobohach, DVM, DACVO
VetCor Canine Reproductions
Westjet
Zoetis Animal Health



For the latest updates please our website: bcandalbertaguidedogs.com
or follow us on social media:



BC & Alberta Guide Dogs



@bcguidedogs

@abguidedogs

VANCOUVER OFFICE

7061 Ladner Trunk Road
Delta, BC V4K 3N3
Tel: 604.940.4504
Toll-free (Canada):
1.877.940.4504
Fax: 604.940.4506

VICTORIA SATELLITE OFFICE

1027 Pandora Avenue
Victoria, BC V8V 3P6
Tel: 250.413.3095
Toll-free (Canada):
1.877.940.4504

ALBERTA OFFICE

Unit 102 4-14th Street NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1Z4
Tel: 403.258.0819
Toll-free (Alberta):
1.877.258.0819

LEGAL TITLE: British Columbia Guide Dog Services

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 89131 1763 RR0001





BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS



THE 'PAW'FECT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA...



Sponsor a puppy today!

1.877.940.4504 or info@bcguidedog.com
BCANDALBERTAGUIDEDOGS.COM