

Official newsletter from the staff, graduates and
volunteers of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

PAW PRINTS

Fall 2017 - Issue No. 36



MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Each new issue of Paw Prints gives me an opportunity to recognize and thank everyone who has participated in some small or large way, directly or indirectly, in the organization delivering its mandate to our clients. This issue, I would like to recognize the large number of volunteers who put together our 2017 special events and the 1,700 plus guests that attended these wonderful events.

Congratulations and thanks to the organizing committee members in both BC & Alberta and

their energetic teams of volunteers. Of course, a big shout of thanks to the guests who attended, making these events all worth-while. Everyone has played a part in a major fund-raising component of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, culminating in over \$260,000 raised for the cause during 2017. We ran at RunGo Dash for Dogs and the Calgary Marathon. Danced our legs off at Kitz4Kids. Had our ambitions mixed up with our capabilities at Golf for Guide Dogs. Tested our minds at Trivia and outbid ourselves at the Auctions. Well done and thank you! Special thanks to all the sponsors, without them we would not be able to put on these successful events. Thank you all for your kind and generous support.

If you missed this year's fun filled events, I would encourage you to join us next year. As you can see, our events make a substantial difference to the reduction of our waitlist of blind/visually impaired individuals and children with profound autism.

Please do check out our Save the Date section on our own website and in this edition of Paw Prints. I hope that you enjoy the testimonials in this issue and see why your support is important and making a great deal of difference to individual lives. Thank you all for your continued support.



CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF GUIDE &
ASSISTANCE
DOG SCHOOLS



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*Success stories have been edited for space.
Please visit our website for full stories.*



GUIDE DOG TEAM



Don & Guide Dog Gambit

Team Sponsor: Hildegard & Gunter Buschhaus

Gambit and I live in a five-bedroom house on a half-acre property with four fish ponds and gardens. Gambit is my left-hand helper. Not only does she help me get around the yard safely, but she helps me get out of the house every day. Once in a while we catch the bus and go into Sidney, go to the bank and stop at a restaurant and do some shopping. Once a week we walk a gravel path onto a sidewalk down to the swimming pool approximately 3 km away. Three times a week at least we walk a kilometer and a half down to a local pub. Once a week we catch the bus and go visit a friend towards Victoria to watch TV, hang out and enjoy conversation. We both get spoiled and they love her. I am looking forward to travelling by plane to visit my sister and brother-in-law in Alberta. It has taken me a couple of months to actually venture out in new areas and feel confident in our abilities.

I would really like to thank BC & Alberta Guide Dogs and all those people involved in my getting such a wonderful guide dog and companion.

WHAT IS A VERY SPECIAL PLACEMENT (VSP)?

A VSP is a dog that is placed with a child with a disability, but does not require public access.



AUTISM SUPPORT DOG TEAM



Jaz & Autism Support Dog Andy

Team Sponsor: Grand Chapter of BC and Yukon Order of the Eastern Star

Andy is strong. I've never felt a dog so strong, not even close. We waited a long time for Andy. Jaz was never going to be an easy match, and as the backlog of families waiting slowly got reduced, and Jaz aged, we knew it was going to be even more difficult. Jaz is 11. He's strong, smart, impulsive, unpredictable, very fast, and he likes to bolt. Taking him anywhere required your eye, and often your hand, to be on him at all times. Some places we needed both of us there with him. Some places were so hard to take him that we'd basically given up. We both work, and we'd come home tired, worn out, and weak. Weak of body and of will, the will to hold his hand so firm in public, to constantly be pulling him back, the will to give Jaz the freedom he wants, with the safety he needs. Andy is strong. And he is calm. And he is patient. And he is always ready to work. I worried about tethering Jaz to Andy, whether the strain on both of them might be too much. But Andy is strong. He is strong of character. With Andy, I am strong of will, more calm, more patient. I thought that Andy was for Jaz. He was for us. When Andy is working, he is like a Canadian river, a tireless force, and as patient and attentive to every loon and swoon of the character of its bank. We go with the flow. When he is playing, with us or other dogs, he is the model of good behaviour. He is always good natured, and always knows exactly how much of his strength he can use, and he always shares. Yesterday we walked through a neighbourhood untethered. Jaz lovingly holding Andy's jacket handle. Andy is strong. One day I hope to be as strong as Andy.



VERY SPECIAL PLACEMENT



Charlie & VSP Rob

We were in need of a dog. My sons, all three of them, needed a dog. And, I needed one too ... desperately. Our son, Charlie, has autism and he was diagnosed just days before we lost our beloved Lab, Kaya, four years ago. Charlie loves butterfly kisses, signs, and organizing things into rows. He's sweet-natured, primarily non-verbal, and loves to climb. He looks at the world differently and we're constantly curious about what his senses tell him about his environment. Charlie's world largely consists of our family, school, and people who come into contact with him everyday. He spends a lot of time alone but he's mostly happy.

We met Rob on a fall day and my hubby and I knew instantly that he was ours. We could not wait to bring him home! To say our older boys were excited is an understatement! Charlie on the other hand was very skeptical, would run away, and it took a few days for him to even be near Rob. As the snow was melting, Charlie would be outside exploring the backyard, doing his "circuit" and Rob was exploring right beside him. We were amazed that Charlie wasn't bothered that Rob was there and in his space. Since then, the two have become pretty tight backyard buddies!

Sometimes I get sad that Charlie prefers to be alone ... that he's more content with himself than with others. But Rob brings him company, a willingness to share an experience with no judgment. He's calm, curious too and willing to run and play when the time arises. He's game for anything Charlie wants to do ...

I am so excited to see what new things all of my boys will get up to in the years to come as they explore and go on adventures ... and one boy just happens to be hairier than the others.



VERY SPECIAL PLACEMENT



VSP Miguel

We were thinking about getting a companion dog that could also help with some emotional support for our two boys who both struggle with ADD/ADHD. We heard about how special BC & Alberta Guide Dogs are and their VSP program but that is truly an understatement.

After going through the screening process we met Miguel for the first time and instantly fell in love with this gentle soul. He joined our family at the beginning of the year and we haven't looked back since. We are a fairly active and high-energy family which at times drives us in different directions which can cause some stress. Since having Miguel we go on family walks together, eat dinner as a family while Miguel watches from his spot, and have play time in the backyard.

In particular, Miguel has been a blessing for our youngest boy who struggles with sleep issues and ADHD. Miguel sleeps at the foot of his bed all night and as a result we are all sleeping better. Our oldest son, also with ADD, has really taken to training Miguel working with him on recall, walking (supervised) and games. Miguel also loves to wake us up by running to each room and gently nudging us with kisses. What a great way to start the day!

Finally, we were worried about getting a younger dog but Miguel is so well behaved as his trainer has done an amazing job. We would like to say thanks to BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, they are making a difference in families' lives making life that much better especially those with challenges.



NON-QUALIFIER DOGS

All of our dogs are bred with the goal of becoming a Guide Dog or Autism Support Dog; however for various reasons, some of the dogs don't make it all the way through advanced training. These 'non-qualifier' dogs, are sometimes placed with other individuals or organizations where they can still be beneficial to many people. Below are some photos of some of the amazing places our dogs are continuing to be superstars! Olive (top) has been adopted by the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia; Ella & Elly (bottom left) have been adopted by staff at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver where they are part of the Canine Ambassador Team; and, Winnipeg and Calgary have been sent to the Baráthegeyi Guide Dog School in Hungary where they will be part of their breeding program. These dogs will always be part of the BC & Alberta Guide Dogs Team but we are happy they are doing jobs that they are best suited for!



DONOR FOCUS

Jupiter Resources



A new member of our donor family this year is Jupiter Resources Inc., a Calgary-based independent exploration and production company. Founded in 2014, they are one of the top 25 producers of natural gas in Canada and strive to give back through both a community investment and an employee matching funds program.



"Our community investment program is an employee driven effort and is focused on helping build strong, safe communities that we are proud to both work and live in," says Tracy McNulty of Jupiter Resources. She goes on to say "we look to invest in organizations that are truly making a difference and BC & Alberta Guide Dogs was a great fit."

Puppy-in-training JUPITER has been to the Calgary office twice now and the staff have been most welcoming and excited to see his progress. One office window even sports numerous photos of him! Everyone can't wait

for when he finishes his puppy skills demonstration and gets his jacket taken off so they can have a chance to say hi. "It's always the highlight of our day when we get to visit with JUPITER and see how he's grown. He's truly part of our team and we're very proud to be associated with such a great organization" said Tracy.

We couldn't ask for better, or more interested, donors and look forward to a long relationship with Jupiter Resources Inc.!



IN THE LITTERBOX

These pups are currently living with their Volunteer Puppy Trainers in Vancouver, Victoria and Calgary! Puppy training is a full-time volunteer job, and is fundamental to 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.



MADISON & GROVER
5 PUPS - JULY 31, 2017



POPPY & MAX
4 PUPS - SEPT 26, 2017



JACUZZI & GERRY
6 PUPS - OCTOBER 20, 2017



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

LONDON DRUGS

London Drugs has been our principal Golf for Guide Dogs sponsor for 4 years and we couldn't be more grateful for their support.



Founded in 1945, London Drugs has stores in more than 35 major markets throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The pharmacy is still the heart of their business, but today they also offer a full service computer department, cosmetics ranging from lipgloss to high-end face creams, furniture, cameras, high quality photo finishing, cordless phones and plasma televisions. More people buy their small appliances in London Drugs than any other place in Western Canada. All told, they serve over 45 million customers each year, and are still growing.

Thank you London Drugs, for everything you do for us! You were a huge part of making this 20th Annual Golf For Guide Dogs a record year - raising almost \$55,000!



SIMPSON & ASSOCIATES

Simpson & Associates has been supporting BC & Alberta Guide Dogs since 2012. Most recently the company was the Diamond Collar Presenting Sponsor for our 12th Annual 'Ties & Tails' Charity Auction & Gala this past summer.

Established in 1994, Simpson & Associates Executive Search Inc. is a boutique executive search and recruitment firm providing premium search consulting services on a retainer basis to client organizations throughout Canada, the United States, and internationally. Their clients range from entrepreneurial, "start-up" ventures through to large, multinational organizations.

Thank you Simpson & Associates! Your amazing support was vital to the success of this year's 'Ties and Tails' Auction & Gala raising an amazing \$55,000!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



**BC MASONIC FOUNDATION
\$3,000 DONATION**



**RCMP PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK
\$2,000 DONATION**



**MISTER BLAKE FOUNDATION
\$5,000 DONATION**



**HILDEGARD'S CROSS CANADA WALK FOR
THE BLIND ENDOWMENT FUND- \$16,000**

**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR THEIR
ONGOING SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY!**

For full donor stories and more, please visit our blog:
bcandalberttaguidedogs/dogblog

WANT MORE PUPPY UPDATES? FOLLOW US!

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DOGS ABOUT TOWN



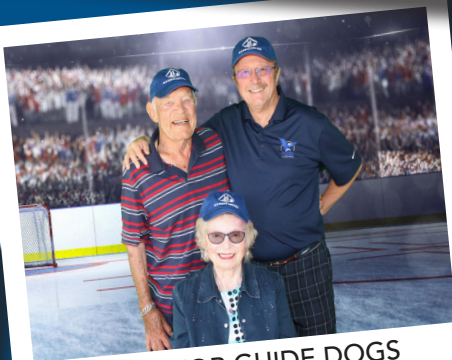
DOG DAYS OF SUMMER BOWEN ISLAND, BC - RAISED \$2,200



**CALGARY MARATHON TEAM
CALGARY, AB - RAISED \$6,725**



**TIES & TAILS AUCTION & GALA
VANCOUVER, BC - RAISED \$55,000**



**GOLF FOR GUIDE DOGS
RICHMOND, BC - RAISED \$55,000**

SAVE THE DATE

DELTA TRIVIA NIGHT SOLD OUT

Saturday, November 18, 2017
Sacred Heart Gym, Delta, BC

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 28, 2017
Check our website to donate!

KITZ4KIDS FUNDRAISER

Friday, January 19, 2018
River Rock Casino
Richmond, BC

RUNGO DASH FOR DOGS

Saturday, February 24, 2018
Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC

CALGARY TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, April 28, 2018
Marda Loop Communities
Association Hall, Calgary, AB

'TIES & TAILS' AUCTION & GALA

Saturday, May 12, 2018
Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
Vancouver, BC



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Welcome Gideon & Mac to Puppy Sponsorship!

Please join us in welcoming Gideon and Mac born July 31, 2017 to proud parents Madison and Grover. Their littermates include siblings Ace, Beau, and Sierra. Mac will live in the Greater Vancouver area with his Puppy Trainers. Gideon will live in Calgary with his Puppy Trainers.



It costs up to \$35,000 to raise and train a Guide Dog or Autism Support Dog. Our dogs are provided to recipients FREE OF CHARGE, thanks to the generosity of sponsors like you.

To sponsor Gideon and Mac, call 1-877-940-4504, email puppysponsorship@bcguidedog.com or visit our website: bcandalbertaguidedogs.com.

GIVING TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 28, 2017

GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that happens each year after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year, Giving Tuesday is November 28, 2017.

It's a time when Canadians, charities and businesses come together to celebrate giving and participate in activities that support charities and non-profits.

This Giving Tuesday, you can help us breed, raise and professionally train guide dogs for blind/visually-impaired individuals and autism support dogs for children with moderate to profound autism and their families. Please look for an email closer to the date for ways to donate to our Giving Tuesday Campaign!



LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



BECOME A BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS VOLUNTEER!

BC & Alberta Guide Dogs needs volunteers to help out in the various stages of raising puppies and dogs that will become life-changing dogs for individuals who are blind/visually impaired and children with autism.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Volunteer Puppy Whelping** MUST 30 MIN DRIVE FROM LADNER OFFICE (approximately 10 week commitment)
- **Volunteer Puppy Trainer** LOWER MAINLAND, VICTORIA/NANAIMO, AND CALGARY (approximately 16 month commitment)
- **Volunteer Dog Boarder** SOUTH DELTA ONLY (approximately 20 week commitment)

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.bcandalbertaguidedogs.com

In BC: info@bcguidedog.com 1-877-940-4504

in AB: info@albertaguidedog.com 1-877-258-0819



SPECIAL THANKS & PATRONS

PATRONS

Leah & Howie Meeker, CM

FOUNDING PATRONS

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The Arthur J.E. Child Foundation
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FOUNDING DONORS

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Grand Chapter of Alberta - Order of the Eastern Star
Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon - Order of the Eastern Star

The Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove Family Foundation
Variety – The Children's Charity
Victor and Anna Kern Foundation

SPECIAL THANKS

Boehringer Ingelheim
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Elanco Veterinary Canada
Fish Creek 24 Hour Pet Hospital
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Toll-free (Alberta):
1.877.258.0819





BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

GIVE THE 'PAW'FECT GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Starting at \$15/month, you can help provide life-changing pups with the training to become a Guide Dog or Autism Support Dog. Your sponsored pup will send you regular 'pup'dates and photos as you follow them on their amazing journey to change someone's life!



SPONSOR A PUPPY TODAY!

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puppysponsorship@bcguidedog.com

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