



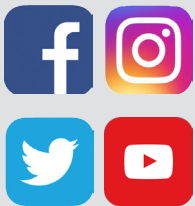
A publication for Lions  
across Canada

# Bark and Roar



152 Wilson, St.  
Oakville, ON L6K 0G6  
905-842-2891  
800-768-3030  
TTY: 1 (905) 842-1585

[Contact Us](#)



## A Letter from your Lions Liaison

I often take my sight for granted. From the moment I wake up to the moment I go to sleep, I rely on my vision for almost everything. I can walk freely, without fear or worry, thanks to my sight.

One of my earliest experiences at Dog Guides was the Canine Vision Challenge. Blindfolded and guided by a Dog Guide in training, I navigated an obstacle course. Though brief, the experience was profound. I felt a mix of discomfort and trust, relying on the Dog Guide to keep me safe. And they did.

Take a moment to consider the simple things you do without thinking. For someone with a visual impairment, these tasks can be challenging. A Dog Guide can make a significant difference, providing independence and confidence.

**Danielle Rosenblum**

Community Partnerships Manager



# 100 Years as Knights of the Blind

*"I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness?" –Helen Keller*

It was 100 years ago, at the 1925 Lions Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio that Helen Keller spoke these immortal words. Thus, initiating a challenge like never before. Lions took this call to Service and began the movement. Her impassioned plea established a legacy of service that remains one of the defining characteristics of Lions Clubs International.

In the spirit of Helen Keller, Lions founded LFCDG in 1983, with the vision to provide Dog Guides at no cost to people who are blind or visually impaired. The first class in the flagship Canine Vision Canada program graduated in 1985. Since then, over 500 clients have had their lives transformed by their Dog Guide.

The partnership between Lions Clubs and the Dog Guides is a testament to the Lions' enduring commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities. Their service has enabled the foundation to thrive, ensuring that Dog Guides remain a life-changing resource for Canadians in need with visual impairments, regardless of their circumstance.

Today, LFCDG has grown from its humble beginnings to being the only school with 7 distinct Dog Guide programs, the largest school in Canada, and over 3,200 graduated Dog Guide teams.

## **The Canine Vision Program**

Canine Vision Dog Guides assist Canadians 14 years or older, who are blind or visually impaired. These Dog Guides provide increased mobility and safety as they are trained to navigate obstacles typically found on daily routes, including:

- Stairs and crowds
- Finding doors, seats and crosswalk buttons
- Assisting in using public transportation

More than just skills, they offer:

- Companionship
- Reduced stress
- Freedom and independence
- Confidence

The impact of a Dog Guide on an individual's life is truly transformational.

## **Meet the Canine Vision Team**

*“Working at Dog Guides for over thirty years is a truly rewarding experience that combines purpose, passion, and community impact. Being part of this mission means witnessing firsthand the transformative bond between people and their Dog Guides. It’s inspiring to see how these incredible animals empower their handlers, fostering greater independence and confidence.” - Greg Clark*



**Greg Clark: Head Trainer**



**Allison Ashworth: Trainer**



**Alissa Silvester: Trainer**

# Client Corner

My name is Khrisstina Engel-Jackowitz. I am a member of the North Newmarket Lions Club and the Founder and President of the Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch. Ten years ago, at the age of thirty-eight, I suffered a stroke, and in a matter of a few seconds, my life changed forever. I lost all my vision. A friend introduced me to Lions and took me to a club meeting, where I met some wonderful people. Little did I know that they worked to provide Dog Guides to the blind.

In November 2015, I attended a Lions Canine Challenge at the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, where I met a Dog Guide for the first time. It was truly an eye-opening experience. I knew having one of these incredible Dog Guides would be a game changer.

In February of 2017, I met my Dog Guide, Nutmeg, who was my best friend, giving me confidence and independence and accessibility to the world, which had been shut off from me.

With Nutmeg at my side, I began to experience and learn all the difficulties, challenges, and rewards of living in this world when you are a little bit different.

Nutmeg was smart, loving, loyal, and most of all dependable. As a team, Nutmeg allowed me to become successful within Lions: organizing events, giving presentations, becoming secretary, and organizing the annual Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides. None of this would have been possible without her.

Nutmeg retired in May 2024 due to illness and sadly passed away. In September, I returned to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides to meet my special new Dog Guide, Gilly. We graduated on October 11, 2024.

Gilly keeps me on my toes, makes me laugh and once again I feel safe to experience the world with independence and confidence. I love Gilly and I know with time, we will be another wonderful team, thanks to the Canine Vision Program.

Thank you to the North Newmarket Lions Club for sponsoring Nutmeg and Gilly, and the Ridgeway Lions Club for sponsoring Gilly. Thank you to the trainers and staff for all the work that you do. A special thank you to the foster families who take care of the puppies, my heart goes out to you knowing you will only have these future Dog Guides for a year. You are my Dog Guide Heroes.

I would also like to thank the Lions Clubs who graciously fundraise to help support the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. These incredible dogs change lives. I would not be where I am without my two incredible Dog Guides, Nutmeg and Gilly.

As Hellen Keller once said, *"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."*



# A Name. A Legend. Countless Lives Transformed – Justice Brian Stevenson

The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides would like to congratulate Justice Brian Stevenson on retiring from an astonishing 50 years as a member of the Alberta Court of Justice. We would also like to thank him for his many years of Service to his community as a Lion, especially his support of LFCDG.

Past International President Brian Stevenson has always had Dog Guides close to his heart and work. He has been a staunch advocate of our Mission sharing with fellow Lions across Canada and being an honoured guest at our facility in Oakville.

*“Lions Foundation is the purest form of service we have as Lions...for Canadians to have independence and enriched lives because of our dogs. That’s purity of purpose. It’s our charity.” -PIP Judge Brian Stevenson*

In celebration of Justice Brian Stevenson’s retirement and his 80th birthday LFCDG invites Lions Clubs to purchase fellowships endorsed by him to recognize outstanding Canadian Lions. Fellowships include:

- Judge Brian Stevenson Fellowship
- Judge Brian Stevenson Progressive Fellowship
- Judge Brian Stevenson Diamond Fellowship

To read more, visit our [website](#). Orders can be placed online at: [Fellowship and Membership Order Form](#).

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/calgary-judge-brian-stevenson-celebrated-50-years>

<https://lionsmd321.com/team/justice-brian-stevenson/>



# Looking Ahead

## Virtual Dog Guides Info Session

For any clubs who would like to attend a virtual info session to learn more about Dog Guides, please contact Danielle at [drosenblum@dogguides.com](mailto:drosenblum@dogguides.com) to receive the invite and link. The upcoming times available are:

- February 10 (Monday) at 4:30pm EST
- March - TBD
- April - TBD



## Walk for Dog Guides - National Walk Date: May 25, 2025

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that registration for the 2025 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides is now open! Be part of our 40th anniversary celebrations with the theme "Bright Futures, Countless Possibilities". Visit the [website](#) to register as a WALK ORGANIZER.

If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to Anna Harris, our National Event Coordinator, at: [walk@dogguides.com](mailto:walk@dogguides.com)



## **Open House – Saturday, April 5, 2025**

Mark your calendars for our Annual Open House. This is when we open our doors to the public to tour our facility, talk to our staff, and meet some clients and future and working Dog Guides.



## **Memorial Forest**

Dedication Service in Breslau, Ontario: **Saturday June 14, 2025**

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Memorial Forest is located on the grounds of the Dog Guide training centre and breeding facility in Breslau, Ontario. the Memorial Forest program has generated great interest among the Lions' family and Dog Guide supporters. As such, the forest will continue to flourish for future generations and assist funding Dog Guides to help change lives.

The cost of planting a tree is \$350. Trees can be purchased online at: [Memorial Forest order form](#)

For more information please visit our [website](#) or contact Jennifer Taciuk at: [jtaciuk@dogguides.com](mailto:jtaciuk@dogguides.com)

# Capital Campaign/New Building Update



The new year brings LFCDG a step closer to its new national training school becoming a reality! Construction of LFCDG's new school is remaining on schedule with steel work beginning to shape the building's structure. Be sure to read The Difference campaign email updates for all the newest progress pictures!

## **New CVC Training Space and Classroom**

In the new facility for the Canine Vision Program, there will be a dedicated training space and separate classroom, as well as an underground mock streetscape. This will enhance learning experiences for both clients and future Dog Guides. Not only will training be more efficient, but the experience staying at LFCDG will be more comfortable and accessible.

## **How Lions Help Make the Difference**

By making special gifts to The Difference campaign, Lions Clubs across Canada are ultimately helping make more special Dog Guide matches possible in the new training school. If your club has not made its mark on this historic project, please join the hundreds of clubs being part of the new national Dog Guide training school that will help people for generations to come.

To schedule a presentation, please contact [thedifference@dogguides.com](mailto:thedifference@dogguides.com) or (905) 842-2891 Ext. 202. For further information or to donate online, please visit The Difference campaign website.



Thank you to the following clubs who have already made a difference with their kindness:

### **District 5M13 \$10K (MB)**

These Manitoba Lions have come together to not only support the new training school as individual clubs, but together as a District. Their gift to The Difference will honour this compassion by naming a Dog Guide kennel.

### **Stony Plain Lions Club \$20K+ (AB)**

With nearly three decades of dedicated support for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, their contributions include naming a work area in the kennel and barrier-free washroom at the new training facility.

### **Ottawa West and Nepean Lions Club \$10,000 (ON)**

Formed in 2023, their \$10,000 pledge to The Difference campaign will name a kennel in the new Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides' school, helping future Dog Guides receive the care and training they deserve.

### **Seaforth Lions Club \$10,000 (ON)**

Since 1992, they've supported Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, and to mark their centennial, they pledged \$10,000 to name a kennel at the new school.

### **Lakefield Village Lions Club \$10,000 (ON)**

Since 2019, the Lakefield Village Lions Club has been a steadfast supporter of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, and their \$10,000 pledge to name a kennel at the new facility further underscores their commitment.

### **Whitefish District Lions Club \$10,000 (ON)**

The Whitefish District Lions Club continues to make an impact by recently pledging \$10,000 to name a pre/post-operation kennel at the new school. Their commitment to guiding those in need is unwavering, reflected in their long-standing support for Dog Guides.

### **Londesboro Lions Club \$15,000 (ON)**

Supporting Dog Guides since 1994, their recent pledge of \$15,000 to name the Kennel Staff Work Area at the new school reflects their commitment to LFCDG.

### **Caledonia Lions Club \$10,000 (ON)**

They have supported Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides since 1992, and their recent \$10,000 pledge will name a pre/post-op kennel at the new training school.

## Leader Lions Club \$10,000 (SK)

Founded in 1960, the Leader Lions Club has supported Dog Guides since 1997. Their latest \$10,000 pledge will name a grooming area at the new facility.

## Dublin & District Lions Club \$10,000 (ON)

Since 2000, the Dublin & District Lions Club has been a proud supporter of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Their latest \$10,000 pledge will name a kennel at the new school continuing their commitment to helping dog guides provide independence and support to those in need.

## Pouch Cove Lions Club \$10,000 (NL)

Since 1994, the Pouch Cove Lions Club has been a steadfast supporter of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Their recent \$10,000 pledge will name a kennel staff work area in the new training facility, reflecting their ongoing commitment to the cause.

## Stayner Lions Club \$10,000 (ON)

Since 1995, the Stayner Lions Club has supported Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, and their commitment endures with a \$10,000 pledge to name a kennel in the new school.



# Thank You for Your Generosity

(Donations September through December)



East Peterborough Lions Club



Kitchener Pioneer Lions Club



Merriton Lions Club



Sauble Beach and District Lions Club

## Ongoing Support

Aldershot Lions Club

Antigonish Lions Club

Association  
International des Clubs  
Lions

Austin & Area Lions  
Club

Baccalieu Lions Club  
Inc.

Balcarres & District  
Lions Club

Blairmore Lions Club

Bonnyville Lions Club

Brimstone Head Lions  
Club

Buctouche Lions Club

Caledon Lions Club Inc

Capreol Lions Club

Carlyle District Lions  
Club

Chapeau & District  
Lions Club

Charny Lions Club Inc.

Club Des Lions  
(Oeuvres)

Cornwall (ON) Lions  
Club

Creston Lions Club

Cupar District Lions  
Club

Delaware Lions Club

Deux-Montagnes Lions  
Club

Dorchester Lions Club

Dorset Lions Club

Dryden Trillium Lions  
Club

Dwight Lions Club

East Peterborough  
Lions Club

Elrose Lions Club

Eston 95 Lions Club

Fenwick Lions Club

Fisherville District  
Lions Club

Fonthill Lions Club

Fort Frances Lions Club

Fredericton Lions Club  
Inc.

Galahad Lions Club

Gore Bay West  
Manitoulin Lions Club

Grand Valley Lions  
Club

Green Capes Trust  
Foundation

Historic Battleford  
Lions Club

Iron Bridge Lions Club

Kamloops Brock  
Central Lions Club

Kamloops  
Paddlewheelers Lions  
Club

Kearney Lions Club

Kenaston Lions Club

Kincardine Lions Club

Kirkfield & District  
Lions Club

Ladysmith Lions Club

Langley Lions Club

Langton Lions Club

Levis Lions Club Inc.

Lincoln Lions Club Inc.

Lions Club of Tring-  
Jonction, St-Frédéric,  
St-Jules, and St-Séverin

Listowel Branch Lions

Marsville & District  
Lions Club

Minnedosa Lions Club

Mosborough Busy  
Busy Lions Club

Nanaimo Lions Club

Nelson Lions Club

North Kamloops Lions  
Club

North Oshawa Lions  
Club

Omeme District Lions  
Club

Peterborough Lions  
Club

Placentia Lions Club

Poplar Hill & District  
Lions Club

Powassan Lions Club

Preeceville & District  
Lioness Club

Regina Beach & District  
Lions Memorial Forest

Regina Beach Lions  
Club

Restoule & District  
Lions Club

Richmond District  
Lions Club

Ridgeway Lions Club

Rosetown Lions Club

Sasquatch Lions Club

Sauble Beach & District  
Lions Club

Scarborough JamRockZ6 Lions Club	Springdale Lions Club	Sunderland Lions Club	Trout Creek Lions Club
Schumacher Lions Club	St. Agapit Lions Club Inc.	Sunshine Coast Lions Club	Udora & Leaskdale Lions Club
Seaforth Lions Club Inc.	St. Albans Lions Club	Sylvan Lake & District Lions Club	Vancouver Yaletown Lions Club
Sheet Harbour Lions Club	St. Davids & District Lions Club	Temiscaming & District Lions Club	Vermilion Lions Club
South Wellington Community Lions Club	St. Joseph Island Lions Club	The Floradale Friends of Dog Guides Lions Club Branch	Welland Lions Club
Sparwood Lions Club	Stephenson District Lions Club	Trepassey Lions Club	Weston Lions Club Inc.
	Storrington Lions Club		Wilmot Lions/Lioness Club

---

### Capital Campaign

Agassiz Harrison Lions Club	Club Lions D Amqui Inc	District U-3	Christmas Telethon
Angus Glen Lions Club	Club Lions de Cap D'Espoir Inc.	Earlton Lions Club	Longue Rive Portneuf Lions Club
Baie Comeau Lions Club	Club Lions de Chandler	Elkford Lions Club	Marmora Crowe Valley Lions Club
Beachburg Lions Club	Club Lions de Trois- Rivieres Inc.	Fairview District Lions Club	Marsville & District Lions Club
Bic Lions Club	Club Lions Les Amis de L'Arche Chaudiere- Appalaches	Foothills Lions Club	Matane D'amours Lions Club
Blyth Lions Club Inc.	Club Lions Val d'Or Inc.	Fort Point Lions Club	MD5M Lions Convention
Botwood Lions Club	Coaticook Lions Club Inc.	Forteau Lions Club	Mill Bay Lions Club
Bowness Lions Club	Cobourg Lions Club	Fortune Lions Club	Millet & District Lions Club
Bridgeport Lions Club	Conception Bay South Lions Club	Garnish Lions Club	Minnow Lake Lions Club
Bridgetown Lions Club	Coniston Lions Club	Harvey Station Lioness Club	Murdochville Lions Club
Bulyea District Lion Club Inc.	Degelis Lions Club	Hickson & District Lions Club	New Westminster Lions Club
Burlington Lions Club	District 19L	Holland & Area Lions Club	North & South Esk Lions Club
Calabogie Lions Club	District 5-SKN	Ignace Lions Club	
Chipman Minto Lions Club	District A-12	Ilderton & District Lions Club	
Chippawa Lions Club	District U-2	Langley Lions Club	
		Lions Children	

Oro District Lions Club	Ripley & District Lions Club Inc.	St. Mathieu Lions Club Inc.	Vegreville Lions Club
Paradise Centennial Lions Club	Riverview Lions Club Inc.	St. Pascal Lions Club Inc.	Ville St Georges Lions Club
Petrolia Lions Club Inc	Riviere-Au-Renard Lions Club	Ste Blandine Lions Club Inc.	Windthorst Lions Club
Port Aux Basques Lions Club	Sept Iles Lions Club Inc.	St-Lambert Lions Club Inc.	Woodville & District Lions Club
Portage La Prairie Lions Club	Sorrento Lions Club	Stoughton Lions Club	
Prince Edward County Lions Club	St. Albert Host Lions Club	Sudbury Lions Club	
Quispamsis Island View Lions Club Inc	St. Anaclet De Lessard Lions Club	Thorsby Lions Club	
Rapid City & Area Lions Club	St. Apollinaire Lions Club Inc.	Toronto Hong Kong Lions Club	
Red Lake District Lions Club	St. Elias Lions Haines Junction	United Towns Lions Club	
		Unity Lions Club	

### Scholarships

Merritton Lions Club	Paradise Centennial Lions Club	Kamloops Aberdeen Lions Club	Saskatoon Lions Club
Camrose Swans & Roses Lions Club	Pitt Meadows Lions Club	Kitchener Pioneer Lions Club Inc.	Saskatoon Millennium Lions Club
Dunnville Lions Club	Richmound Lions Club	Medicine Hat Lions Club	St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club
Kamloops Aberdeen Lions Club	Rockton Lions Club	North Newmarket Lions Club	Wetaskiwin Lions Club
Kitchener Pioneer Lions Club Inc.	Saskatoon Lions Club	Oshawa West Lions Club Inc.	
Medicine Hat Lions Club	Saskatoon Millennium Lions Club	Paradise Centennial Lions Club	
North Newmarket Lions Club	St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club	Pitt Meadows Lions Club	
Oshawa West Lions Club Inc.	Wetaskiwin Lions Club	Richmound Lions Club	
	Camrose Swans & Roses Lions Club	Rockton Lions Club	
	Dunnville Lions Club		

## Fellowships and Memberships

Bonavista Lions Club

Bowness Lions Club

Club Lions Québec-Diabète

Comox Valley Monarch Lions Club

Cremona Lions Club

Creston Lions Club

Estevan Lions Club

Kelowna Okanagan

Mission Lions Club

Kincardine Lions Club

Lamont Lions Club

Langley Lions Club

Levis Lions Club Inc.

Millidgeville-North End Lions Club

Moncton Lions Club

O'Leary Lions Club

Pitt Meadows Lions Club

Port Coquitlam Lions Club

Pouch Cove Lions Club

Saint Romuald Lions Club Inc

Sooke Harbourside Lions Club

Spiritwood Lions Club

Stamford Lions Club

Ste-Perpetue-de-L'Islet Lions Club Inc

Terrebonne Lions Club Inc.

Thérèse-de Blainville Lions Club

Tring St Frederic St  
Jules St Severin Lions Club

Valley East Lions Club

Vancouver Marpole - Grandview Lions Club

Vancouver  
Shaughnessy Lions Club

## Memorial Forest

Brighton Lions Club

Kemble & District Lions Club

Lions Club  
International N-1

Lions Club of Oakville

Londesboro Lions Club

Riverview Lions Club Inc.

St. John's Lions Club

Waterford Lions Club



# Contact Us

We always love hearing about what your clubs, zones, and districts are up to, and we'd be thrilled to share any highlights in our e-newsletter. We're talking stories, messages, club milestones, in memoriams, and anything else you'd like to feature. You can easily submit it online through our [intake form](#).

Also, to make sure you don't miss any important updates or communications, please let us know if your club information changes (contact names, email, phone, address, etc.) For further questions and additional support, please contact your Lions Liaison:

## **Danielle Rosenblum**

Community Partnerships Manager

[drosenblum@dogguides.com](mailto:drosenblum@dogguides.com)

Phone: 905-842-2891 Ext. 300

Visit and follow us at:

<https://www.dogguides.com>

**This email is meant for all Lions, so please share freely within your network.**

**If you know of a club that is not receiving updates from LFCDG, please let us know.**