

Side *by* Side

Fall/Winter 2021

Volume 36, Number 2



Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

We provide *freedom* to Canadians

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Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

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Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

We provide *freedom* to Canadians

A puppy + a year of obedience
and socialization + 6 months
of guide dog training = **FREEDOM.**

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind is a Canadian registered charity that has trained and provided guide dogs since 1984. Puppies live with volunteers who raise and train them in obedience and socialization. Then, after twelve to eighteen months, the dog will enter formal guide dog training. When the dog is ready, it is matched with a person who is blind and will undergo an eighteen day training course with the individual before graduating as a working guide dog. The full process for the dog takes approximately two years.

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind receives no regular government funding and operates solely through donations and fundraising.

Mike Hodgins of Shawville, Quebec says, "It gives me independence. If I didn't have a guide dog, I'd be straining going around with a cane, trying to feel my way, or walking on someone's elbow, and so this way I can go out by myself, and I don't have to hang onto that person's elbow. We're partners."

Bryan Gutteridge of Chilliwack, British Columbia says, "A guide dog can help a person lead a normal, productive life, young or my age, and have confidence traveling around with your guide dog side by side. A White Cane is an obstacle finder, but a guide dog is an obstacle avoider."

Guide Dogs assist individuals who are blind get from "Point A to Point B". While it sounds basic, there is a lot that goes into the training and the job of a guide dog.

Learn more at guidedogs.ca ■

Read Side by Side online

Help save on printing and postage costs. The latest edition and past issues of Side by Side are available on our website at www.guidedogs.ca. New issues are posted in May and October. If you wish to read Side by Side online, please contact us to be removed from our Side by Side mailing list. Whether it's in print or online, be sure to read Side by Side twice per year to stay up-to-date about Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind.

(613) 692-7777 info@guidedogs.ca

Client Profile – Mike Nemesvary and Onyx IV

“Onyx brings so much happiness and companionship to my life, combined with enhanced independence and security”, says Mike Nemesvary.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1961, Mike was on the ground floor of freestyle ski competition. His mastery of aerials competition began with a gold medal at the 1976 Ontario Winter Games, followed by three Canadian national junior and two senior titles. By 1985, Mike was ranked third in the world with eleven international titles and awards.

His accomplishments included more than forty titles in his sport, including three World Cup victories, eleven Canadian and five British championships. However, an accident that same year, while working out on a trampoline left him a quadriplegic.

Mike’s first assistance dog was Sassy. His second was Jigger. Mike says his dogs have contributed to his self-identity and raised his quality of life substantially. In 2020, Mike trained with and received Onyx. Mike says, “Onyx and I have had many outings to my weekly adaptive weight training at the City of Ottawa’s Jack Purcell Community Centre, many strolls through the Baxter Conservation Area, and many trips on Para Transpo (Ottawa’s public accessibility transit system) into Ottawa and Barrhaven (a south Ottawa suburb) to attend personal, medical and business matters”.



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Mike and Onyx didn’t have as much opportunity to interact in large social gatherings in their first year together, but Mike says, “Onyx was very sociable and engaging in ‘my bubble’, family and frontline workers in the home.” With some of the restrictions lifted, larger gatherings are in the future and Mike looks forward to seeing how Onyx will interact, as she is a very intelligent, happy, and adaptable dog.

Mike adds, “My training experience was very positive. I would highly recommend Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind for other individuals, as all three of my working dogs rose to the challenge of helping me throughout all my experiences and travels here in Canada and around the world. Suffice to say, my life wouldn’t be nearly as rich and complete without the assistance dogs.” ■

CGDB

would like to thank the many Ontario stores that have supported us through the sale of Nevada break-open tickets in the past year:



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45 Main Street East, Smiths Falls
678 Kennedy Road, Toronto
300 Sidney St. N., Trenton
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891 Campbell Avenue, Windsor ■

Puppy Walking and Breeding Program

The following litters were born from March 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021:

Dara (YLB) bred to Everest (BLM)
Lady III (GRB) bred to Sapo (GRM)

YLB – Yellow Lab, bitch
BLM – Black Lab, male
GRB – Golden retriever, bitch
GRM – Golden retriever, male



A sincere thank you to puppy walkers whose dogs have completed the Puppy Walking Program and breeding stock boarders whose dogs have been used for breeding from March 1 2021 to August 31, 2021:

Sarah Armstrong, Tina Bernier, Brenda Deugo, Ramona Diepenbrock, Nancy Dunham, Kelly Foy, Kath-leen Ramsay, Shelagh Smith, Jennifer Snider, Becky Sylvester, Robert White, Kim Whitehorne. ■

Obituaries and Guide Dog Memorial Tributes

Submissions may be sent to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind, 4120 Rideau Valley Drive North, PO Box 280, Manotick, ON, K4M 1A3; or by email to info@guidedogs.ca.

Our People...

Jean-Marc Chenier trained with Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind in the summer of 2012, when he received his guide dog Pedro. Jean-Marc was a true gentleman and was always keen to praise Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. He regularly attended our annual Dollars for Dogs fundraising walk in Ottawa with Pedro, before Pedro passed away. Jean-Marc passed away on June 7, 2021, and we offer our sincere sympathy to his loving wife, Rollande.

Thomas Thompson passed away on June 26, 2021. Tom graduated with a BA from the University of Western Ontario and from a special course in computing skills from the University of Manitoba. He was a systems analyst for the RCMP for their main frame computer at Headquarters in Ottawa for almost thirty years, a career in which he took much pride and thoroughly enjoyed. Tom had three guide dogs over twenty-seven years and was saddened when his deteriorating health precluded him from getting his fourth. We offer sincere condolences to Tom's loving wife, Barbara.

Our Dogs...

Lincoln

It is with a very heavy heart that I must let you know that Lincoln passed away. His health has been failing and I had to make the hardest decision ever to let him go, but I was honored to be able to allow him to pass with dignity.

Submitted by Catherine Gardner ■

Thank You!

to the following businesses that have donated goods or services to CGDB:

- Aventix Animal Health
- Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd.
- Elanco Animal Health Canada
- Merck Canada Inc.
- National Alternate Media
- Purina Canada
- RC Pets
- Ren's Pets
- RNF Pet Products Inc.

Client Profile – Sabine Laubental & Stella

"Stella has impacted my life in a very positive way", says Sabine Laubental, who trained with and received her guide dog in September 2020, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sabine traveled on her own from Victoria, British Columbia to the National Training Centre of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind for the training course. "My experience was very positive. Due to Covid-19, I was the only student, so I received one on one training". Sabine had a patient and encouraging Instructor, who exposed her to a variety of training situations, including lots of traffic work, going onto trains and buses, and into busy shopping malls that included training on escalators and elevators. Sabine and Stella also did obstacles work and walked up roads with no sidewalks. The training was all to prepare the two to head home and put that experience to work in their daily routine. Sabine adds, "When I returned home with Stella, I

received follow up sessions to ensure my training was applied correctly in my own community. I was so grateful to have that extra support."

"Stella and I often run errands together, going to the bank, grocery store, pet store and even downtown. She is really well behaved wherever we go, including on transit. We walk for more than an hour each day." Stella is Sabine's first guide dog. She has always been a dog lover and as her vision started to deteriorate, the idea came naturally to apply for a guide dog. Sabine says, "I had always seen myself getting a guide dog in the future." Now, she has Stella, a yellow Labrador retriever crossed with a golden retriever, a dog that was specifically chosen for her. "They really did an excellent job matching our personalities," says Sabine. "You put the harness on her and she's ready to go to work. And then when the harness comes off, she's just a dog, a wonderful dog."



Sabine has maintained her independence as Stella provides safety in the daily activities of life. Sabine adds, "Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind did an exceptional job making a good match for me. I'm a senior and Stella is a calm, quiet dog, just a perfect match. Not only is she a great companion but I am able to rely on her to move me safely around my community, thanks to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. ■

Ways to support CGDB

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Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

We provide *freedom* to Canadians

Operating solely through donations since 1984. Thank you for your support.

Monthly Pre-authorized Debits - Arrange for automatic monthly withdrawals from your bank account on the 1st or 15th business day of the month. You'll need to complete a PAD agreement - email donations@guidedogs.ca to request this agreement. A tax receipt will be issued at the end of the year for the total amount donated.

Monthly Credit Card Donation - Phone our office at (613) 692-7777 to set up a monthly donation on the 1st or 15th of each month. We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express. A tax receipt will be issued at the end of the year for the total amount donated.

Online Donation with The Royal Bank (RBC) - This is available only to RBC clients at this time. Select Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind as the Payee and enter donation amount. You must have your Individual Donor ID which can be requested by email at donations@guidedogs.ca by giving your name and address, or by phoning our office at (613) 692-7777 and speaking to someone in our Donations Department.

Cheques/Money Order - Make payable to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Cheques and money orders can be mailed to PO Box 280, Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A3.

Cash - Donate in person at our National Training Centre 4120 Rideau Valley Drive North, Manotick, Ontario..

Online Donation via Credit Card - Visit our website at guidedogs.ca. You can donate using Visa, Mastercard and American Express. A tax receipt is issued immediately and emailed to you.

Gifts of shares, stock options, life insurance, bequests, wills, capital property - Please call us for more information or have your legal or financial representative contact us at (613) 692-7777.

**I would like to support Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind
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- I have enclosed a cheque in the amount of \$ _____.
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Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind
4120 Rideau Valley Drive North
PO Box 280
Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A3
(613) 692-7777

**Donate online at
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Our Clients Say...

Raven has helped me remain fit by walking with me every day. It is wonderful and not taken for granted by me that I can just go for a walk anytime and know that I have eyes to help keep me safe. So far, Raven and I have gone to several stores, and for nice walks. It was a wonderful surprise when I got a call the week before Thanksgiving asking if I can be available to train the following week. Because of the pandemic, training was shortened to ten days and happened at my home. The trainer would come early every morning and leave in the late afternoon. We usually did several walks in a day. I felt fortunate that the training happened and was so enjoyable. I missed the usual (residential) class situation at the school, but I thoroughly enjoyed this process, and it certainly was memorable. ■



*Karoline Bourdeau with Raven
Toronto, Ontario*



*Robert McCulloch with Noble
Sherbrooke, Quebec*

Guide dogs enable you to go further in life. Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind has respect for their clients and their dogs. They take a person's lifestyle into consideration to make sure they get the right dog for them. Getting a guide dog from Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind has changed my life and given me more freedom. It's definitely life changing. ■



*James Stainton with Mollie
Sherwood Park, Alberta*



*James Noseworthy with Riggs
Fredericton, New Brunswick*

For me, a guide dog is mostly about safety. I am safer with my guide dog. I love freedom. I love being independent. My independence is enhanced thanks to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind and my guide dog. ■

With a long cane, I walk down the street and bump into people and things. A guide dog takes you around. My efficiency in travel is greatly increased, and the time it takes to travel has decreased. Companionship is also important. A White Cane doesn't make you feel better on a bad day. Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind has given me independence and increased mobility. ■

Having a guide dog has allowed me to venture out in all seasons and all-weather conditions. My guide dog has enhanced my life greatly. Dini and I run all our errands together, including shopping, banking, and the pharmacy. When my previous guide dog, Chimo, retired in June 2020, I expected to be without a guide dog for months, but just a few weeks later, Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind informed me they had a dog for me. A very professional, able, and pleasant trainer from Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind came to my community and trained me with Dini, one-on-one, for three weeks. Given the pandemic, I feel that Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind has gone above and beyond, continuing to supply guide dogs through 2020 and 2021. Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind has been an enormous benefit to me, especially during these trying times. ■

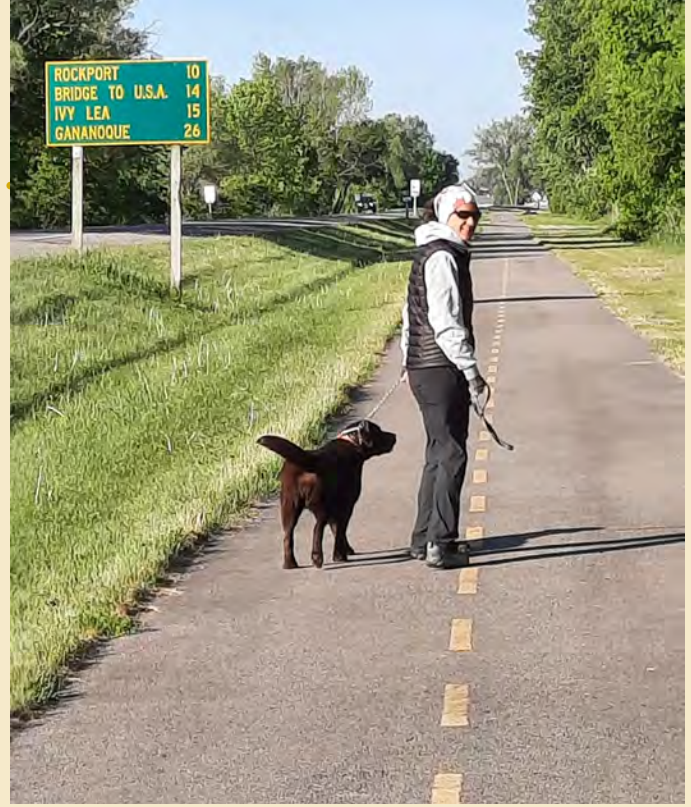


*Robert Lafontaine with Dini
Kitchener, Ontario*

CGDB Events

Dollars for Dogs Virtual Walk

The pandemic forced us into another format change for the 2021 Dollars for Dogs Fundraising Walk as it went virtual. Despite the removal of the social aspect of the event, we still had some very generous fundraisers participate, walking in their own neighbourhoods and communities. Sarah Gibbons of Mallorytown, Ontario participated for the first time, and sent out this email message after completing her walk on May 30, 2021, "Good morning family, friends, and neighbours! We did it! Thanks to your very generous monetary sponsorship, Tia and I proudly walked the bike path this morning, and as a team, I am very happy to report that together we raised just over \$1500 for Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind!" Thank you to Sarah, and everyone else who participated. Our top fundraisers included Sheila, Kathryn, Louise, Anne, Donna, Sharon, Anna and the aforementioned Sarah. Well done everyone! ■



Rennsport Region Porsche Club of America

Mont Tremblant, Quebec is the venue of the charity laps runs that Rennsport Region Porsche Club of America do as a club to raise money to support local charities. This is one of the favorite events of the year! Many PCA members are dog owners, and as Porsche enthusiasts, they realize that their ability to enjoy their favorite pastime is very sight dependent. Given that the work of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind provides guide dogs, it was decided that our organization should be a recipient of a donation from the 2021 event to assist in the training of a pup. Thank you to the Rennsport Region Porsche Club of America for your support! ■



Dining in the Dark 11

was scaled back but it returned after missing a year due to the pandemic. We thank Chances R Restaurant who host the event in support of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Pictured here: Mike Bouris Chances R owner, with his children, and Jane Thornton, Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind C.O.O. & Co-Founder. Sign up to their email list at chancesr.ca and be ready when the next Dining in the Dark is announced. ■

The Artists of Stonebridge Annual Art Show & Sale

will take place on the weekend of October 23 & 24, 2021 at Cedarhill Golf and Country Club, 56 Cedarhill Drive, Ottawa. We are excited that Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind is a charity of choice for a third consecutive year. The show is open from 10am-4pm both days. Admission is free, but donations to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind are accepted in lieu of an admission fee. ■

Remember you can always visit the events page at www.guidedogs.ca to keep updated on our latest events.



Artists
of Stonebridge

Paint the Town

11th Annual Art Show & Sale

October 23rd and 24th
10am - 4pm

Showcasing Original Pieces from Local Artists

Cedarhill Golf and Country Club
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
Holiday Gift Wrapping
Place d'Orleans
December 10 - 24

For more details or to sign-up email
events@guidedogs.ca

Jim Watson Retweeted

Jim Watson @JimWatsonOttawa · 3h

Very honoured to have this beautiful dog from Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind named after me. Watson is a 17 month old black lab and is being trained by city employee Barbara. Thank you for this kind gesture!

12 9 235

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind Gift Shop

If you live in the Ottawa area, you may call us and order by phone.
We'll assemble your order and have it ready for curbside pick up.



- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <p>1. Toque – red with black Lab “Bogart”</p> | <p>\$17.00 x _____ = \$ _____</p> |
| <p>2. German shepherd in trees notelets
(package of 10 cards with envelopes)</p> | <p>\$12.00 x _____ = \$ _____</p> |
| <p>3. CGDB Calendar (Available as of November 1, 2021)</p> | <p>\$20.00 x _____ = \$ _____</p> |
| <p>4. Christmas cards – chocolate Lab puppy in snow
(package of 10 cards with envelopes)</p> | <p>\$12.00 x _____ = \$ _____</p> |
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Personalize Your Custom ID Tag _____
with up to 4 lines on the front _____
of the tag (NOTE: Limited to a _____
max of 4 lines) _____</p> | <p>\$6.00 x _____ = \$ _____</p> |
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* Items may not be exactly as shown. All prices include taxes.
Visit our **online gift shop at www.guidedogs.ca** for these and
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CGDB can use your donated points to get our guide dogs to Canadians in need all across the country!



Visit bit.ly/cgdbaeroplan to donate points today!

The AeroPlan Member Donation Program

Do you have AeroPlan points that you'll just not get to use? Do you know you can donate them?

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind trains and provides guide dogs to Canadians across the country. AeroPlan points help greatly with our travel expenses so that we can help even more Canadians. In the past year, we have used close to 500,000 AeroPlan points to obtain free flights for clients, and staff flying to work with clients and their guide dogs. ■



2021 CGDB Honey

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CGDB Guide Dogs Etiquette

For the safety of both the guide dog user and the guide dog, please consider the following when you meet someone with a guide dog.

Do not pet the dog: Full concentration is needed to ensure the safety of the team.

Do not distract the dog in any way: This includes calling, whistling, or waving. Hand gestures and eye contact are a distraction.

Do not give the dog food or treats: Guide dogs have a strict diet and routine.

Only the guide dog handler gives commands to the dog.

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind
4120 Rideau Valley Drive North
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The Newsletter of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

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