

SIDE *by* SIDE

Spring/Summer 2022

Volume 37, Number 1



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Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

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(613) 692-7777 ■ info@guidedogs.ca

Cover Photo: Bernie

CLIENT PROFILE – SCOTT REES



Growing up in Williams Lake, in the interior of BC, Scott Rees enjoyed an active outdoor lifestyle. A former competitive swimmer, an avid downhill and water-skier, whitewater kayaker and mountain biker, Scott has adapted to diminished vision and found ways to continue pursuing his love for an active outdoor lifestyle. Coming to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind, and being matched with Kaleb in 2021, has been a part of that journey.

“When I was considering beginning the application process for a guide dog, my wife came across CGDB. I applied and was pleasantly surprised to hear back from the program quickly for an initial interview and I was placed into the program shortly after that. During my time in Ottawa the friendly staff and the experience of bonding with Kaleb made the process very positive and enjoyable.”

Kaleb, who Scott describes as energetic, kind, and gentle, has settled in well with the Rees family, including wife Alex and their young two-year old son Max. “Outside of work he is a wonderful family dog, and quickly became a best friend for my young son Max,” says Scott.

The Rees family loves to get out of the city, and Kaleb has been a great fit. According to Scott, “Kaleb loves going for walks, playing fetch, and playing with other dogs. I’ve been impressed with his ability to guide me on rugged terrain and avoid the hazards of

roots, logs, and boulders. It’s nice to get back to being able to hike.”

Scott’s appreciation for the natural world is evident in his work, as well. In his professional life, Scott has been a civil engineer for fifteen years, and has worked on a variety of mining, hydropower, and river engineering projects throughout North and South America, and Africa.

“I’ve recently been involved with the Klamath River Renewal Project in California and Oregon, which will remove four hydropower dams from the Klamath River to restore the natural river hydrology and fisheries on the lower stretch of the river, and the Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Project in California, which will provide aquatic habitat on the shoreline of the receding Salton Sea.”

It is Scott’s hope that the improved sense of freedom and mobility that Kaleb provides will help him get back to travelling for work in the near future, as well. Having travelled extensively in the past, he had previously lived and worked in Johannesburg for two years. As Scott says, “My travel for work dropped off a number of years ago, at the same time that my eyesight started to deteriorate. I look forward to getting back to travelling for work now that I have Kaleb and will have better mobility.”

In the meantime, back home in Vancouver, whether hitting the hiking trails with Kaleb or summers with the family at the cottage, Scott continues to pursue his passion for the outdoors. He continues to hike and swim and ski – both on the hills and on the water. Scott tells us that he still enjoys all his favourite outdoor sports, “except mountain biking which I will eventually get back into when I come across a good tandem mountain bike.” With Alex, Max and Kaleb by his side, it appears no challenge will slow Scott down. ■

2023 CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION



Striker, our 2022 “Cover Dog”

Please keep the following guidelines in mind before submitting your photos:

- Photos must be of a dog active for Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind; puppy walking, breeding, working (no retired or career change dogs please).
- Photos must have been taken between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.
- Photos must be generic – no names, people, toys, harnesses, training jackets, date or time stamps.
- Only high-resolution* photos will be accepted. Please set your camera or device to its highest quality setting and send us the original sized photo.

Landscape photos only please

*A resolution of 300dpi is usually necessary for printing

If your photos are lower resolution, please ensure they are at least 3MB in size.

Photos submitted for the competition become the property of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Photos should be submitted by email to events@guidedogs.ca by June 30, 2022 or shared via DropBox. Please send the dog(s) name with all photos. Winners will receive a complimentary copy of the 2023 calendar. ■

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind is now accepting photo submissions for our 2023 calendar.

PUPPY WALKING PROFILE – JIM GARRAH

“Lucy, our pet Labrador Retriever, was a very special girl. When she died at the age of 14, we couldn’t imagine going through such a grieving process again, so we didn’t get another dog,” remembers Jim Garrah.

Four years later, however, after retiring from the Upper Canada District School Board as an elementary school teacher and principal, Jim and wife Lynda came upon a Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind display, recruiting people to the Puppy Walker program, and were intrigued by the opportunity. They followed up with a visit to Manotick and received their first puppy, in 2002.

Their newest puppy Rania, a black Lab, joined the Garrah household in the spring of 2021. “She is very affectionate, and smart,” says Jim of Rania. “All of our other dogs usually arrived as much younger dogs, so this was a new kind of experience.”

Over nearly five decades, Jim has been a part of numerous municipal and community boards and organizations. He served first as a town councilor, and later as mayor of Gananoque for seven years, as well. The puppies Jim and Lynda helped raise throughout the years were a permanent fixture at Jim’s side. “As mayor, of course you chair a lot of meetings, and you get invited to go to a lot of different places,” Jim recalls about his time in office. According to Jim, the puppies would accompany him to those meetings and lay at his feet, while he conducted municipal business.



“I would take dogs to those settings and people got to know these are guide dogs and this is what they do as guide dogs. Lynda and I would take the dogs to the 1000 Islands Playhouse and all kinds of events with noise, music, and lots of people around. I think the more things that the dogs are exposed to, the more they are comfortable with.”

As lifelong residents of Gananoque, or Gan as it is affectionately known in Eastern Ontario, Jim and Lynda have been focused for decades on giving back to their community, and they see puppy walking as a part of that work. “Most people like dogs - and dogs with special coats provide many opportunities for social interactions,” Jim explains. These teachable moments are important to Jim. He explains, “ We use these interactions as an opportunity to explain that working dogs have very important jobs and need to concentrate on their handler’s safety. We emphasize that anything which distracts the service dog, such as talking to them or touching



them, can make their job more difficult.” He goes on to add, about the residents of his community, that these days, “People understand both guide dogs and service dogs, in general, and what their rights are.”

In 2021, Jim and Lynda received recognition from Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind for their fifteen years as puppy walkers for the organization. Their efforts in their community to educate and advocate for individuals with vision and mobility issues and the use of service dogs, are well-recognized.

Jim says a common question he receives from residents is, “How are you able to give the dogs back when the puppy walking is over?” In response, Jim says his standard answer is, “We loved our children very much, but we didn’t want them to live with us forever! We wanted them to get jobs and be productive members of society.” Its clear that Jim and Lynda, when it comes to their family, their community and their puppies, have led by example. ■

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PUPPY WALKING STATUETTE AWARD WINNERS

2020

5 years of puppy walking

Laura Dallas, Ottawa ON
Imre Rohonczy, Ottawa ON
Cheryl Silis, Ottawa ON
Shelagh Smith, Toronto ON
Lucia Taggart, Westport ON
Tracey Wright, Ashton ON



2021

5 years of puppy walking

Sylvia Sirett, Almonte ON

10 years of puppy walking

Tamara Glanville, Kanata ON
Bruce Gernon, Surrey BC

15 years of puppy walking

Jim Garrah, Gananoque ON



Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind is very grateful to our volunteers, whose tireless efforts contribute to the success of our organization. Congratulations to the following volunteers who marked milestones in 2020 & 2021:

2020

5 years of volunteering

Mike Begin, Kitchener ON · Laura Dallas, Ottawa ON · Brent Diefenbacher, Toronto ON · Angela Faruki, Brampton, ON · Jane Keeler, Manotick ON · Myriam Landreville, Orleans ON · Janet Lavern, Woodlawn ON · Sue Mackey, Nepean ON · Puneet Mann, Burlington ON · Mary Ruth Martell, Victoria BC · Donna Murphy, Clarendville NL · Wendy Richards, Manotick ON · Imre Rohonczy, Ottawa ON · Fritz Schmidt, Stittsville ON · Mary Sue Shrives, St. Catharines ON · Cheryl Silis, Ottawa ON · Diane Snowball, Orleans ON · Michael Snowball, Orleans ON · Darcy Tremblay, Toronto ON · Yumi Wagner, Ottawa ON

10 years of volunteering

Tamara Glanville, Kanata ON · David Humby, Richmond ON · Erin McDonald, Kamloops BC · Chris Moffit, Orleans ON · Jill Sheppard, Richmond ON · Lina Tsang, Ajax ON

15 years of volunteering

Terryll Devin, South Mountain ON · Scott Faris, Osgoode ON · Nicole Hunter, Whitecourt AB · Heather Kemp, Nepean ON · Cathy Lough, Ottawa ON · Edward K. Mann, Ottawa ON

20 years of volunteering

Jeannie Collingwood, Smithers BC · Jane Estabrooks, Manotick ON · Gill Hunter, Ottawa ON · Sue Morris, Ottawa ON · Hiroko Yoshihara, Richmond BC · Ken Yoshihara, Richmond BC

25 years of volunteering

JoAnne McLeod, Courtenay BC

30 years of volunteering

Doug Barrington, Toronto ON · Kathryn Barrington, Toronto ON · Lori Macnally, Bowmanville ON

35 years of volunteering

Barbara Macey, Bedford NS · Les Macey, Bedford NS ■

2021

5 years of volunteering

Beverly Cleary, Arnprior ON · Heather Hilton, Vernon BC · Tina Kuschel-Ross, Campbell River BC · Jim Laws, Ottawa ON · Vanessa Lloyd, Nepean ON · Brenda MacLaurin, Gloucester ON · Megan Meek, Halifax NS · Warren Meek, Stillwater Lake NS · Mark Mercer, Grande Prairie AB · David Sadler, North Bay ON · Sylvia Sirett, Almonte ON · Jennifer Snider, Ottawa ON · Lenore Tracy, Quispamsis NB · Tracey Wright, Ashton ON

10 years of volunteering

Richard Allan, Perth ON · Bob Brewer, Miramichi NB · Cathryn Davidson, Smiths Falls ON · George Genereux, Gravenhurst ON · Bruce Gernon, Surrey BC · Larry Horton, Paris ON · Genevieve Iwata, Surrey BC · Nedra Park, Bradford ON · Maria Price, Delta BC · Mark Price, Delta BC · Carrie Ramsay, Aurora ON · Mary Sears Sterling, Moncton NB · Debra Smith, Cherry Valley ON · Doug Stockall, Moncton NB · Elaine Wat, Kanata ON · Dennis Winch, Peterborough ON · Ron Woods, Ottawa ON

15 years of volunteering

Sandy Baird, Beamsville ON · Tina Bernier, Stittsville ON · John Deheer, Woodstock ON · Les Drigan, Sault Ste Marie ON · Janice Hickman, Chesterville ON · Ralph Miller, Renfrew ON

20 years of volunteering

Mary Jane Binks, Ottawa ON · Art Ficko, Manotick ON · Brian Mehlenbacher, Ayr ON · Dr. Martin Model, Mill Bay BC

25 years of volunteering

Nora Donaldson, Newmarket ON

30 years of volunteering

Jules Bazinet, Cornwall ON · Barb Stewart, Oshawa ON · George Stewart, Oshawa ON · Vicky Swinburne-Kennelly, Orleans ON ■



CLIENT PROFILE – GERRY NELSON

"Getting back into golf got me up off the couch and back into the swing of things – pardon the pun." Gerry Nelson jokes about finding the motivation to get back out there on a golf course. After losing his sight in 1988, due to complications from childhood diabetes, a trip to hit some golf balls in 1990 helped him realize that if he could still hit a drive, then anything was possible.

Gerry first came to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind in 1991, where he would meet his first guide dog, Ozzie. It was that same year that he would begin to play golf competitively, at the urging of his coach.

A guide dog user ever since, Gerry's guide dogs, all from Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind, would help provide him with the freedom and mobility to get out and walk and exercise, which he loves. "I've always loved animals and I've always loved my independence and mobility. You don't always have to be going somewhere particular. I love nothing better than to saddle up my dog and just go walking anywhere we want to go," says Gerry.

Love of exercise and a competitive spirit would see Gerry go on to become a champion in the world of Blind Golf at the provincial and national level. His love of the game would eventually lead him to help found Blind Golf Canada, in 2012.

"I had played seven or eight years, I'm guessing, before I actually got into hosting some tournaments myself, and sitting on the boards of the Western Canadian Blind Golf Association, and helping to fundraise for tournaments," Gerry says.

"In addition to playing the game and loving to play the game, I know what it did for me, as a blind person. We refer to it as the biggest and best peer support group going. Nobody is sitting

around talking about how blind they are or feeling sorry for themselves. Everybody's talking about the 300-yard drive that was actually only 200, you know. There's a lot of laughter and camaraderie."

There had been talk of forming a national organization for many years, and in 2012, as Gerry puts it, "finally we decided, you know, let's just sit down and do this. So, we did."

That get-up-an-go ethos pervades Gerry's life. In describing what golf means to him, Gerry states, "it's about getting anybody who thinks they couldn't do it, or they can't do it anymore – just to get the message to them that, yes, you can."

Now retired, Gerry has moved from Saskatoon to Meadow Lake, with his new guide dog Woody by his side. Gerry received Woody in April 2021, and despite the challenges of Covid, the move to a smaller community and a harsh winter in their new home, Gerry and Woody continue to get out there and go. "Woody has a great personality. There's so much puppy in him, still. He's very eager to work and he loves getting out there every chance he gets," says Gerry of Woody. "The biggest thing overall is just how wonderful and fascinating and totally beneficial guide dogs have been for me in my life. They've just provided for me a very beneficial way of life. Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind helped me to achieve this."

For Gerry, having a guide dog, "really, really fits my love of exercising. I love to walk and to be able to do it with a gorgeous animal at your side - I think every blind person should have a guide dog. That's just my opinion. I know that it's not for everyone, but they sure are for me." ■



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.

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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.



Christmas Cards – 2 Dogs in Confederation Park

(package of 10 cards with envelopes)

\$12.00 x _____ = \$ _____



Maple Leaf Shirt

S _____ M _____ L _____

XL _____ XXL _____

\$22.00 x _____ = \$ _____



Beanie Baby Buff

Husky Beanie Baby with handmade cape

\$12.00 x _____ = \$ _____



Yellow Baseball Cap

Yellow ball cap with a black lab patch

\$20.00 x _____ = \$ _____



Red CGDB Duffle Bag

Foldable red duffle bag with white logo includes carrying pouch

\$20.00 x _____ = \$ _____



Notelet 8 Puppies

(package of 10 cards with envelopes)

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Cheques payable to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind may be mailed to 4120 Rideau Valley Drive, P.O. Box 280, Manotick ON, K4M 1A3 or fax orders to (613) 692 - 0650.

PUPPY WALKING AND BREEDING PROGRAM

The following litters were born from September 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022:

Cece (BLB) bred to Tom (BLM)
Clara (BLB) bred to Kingsley (GRM)
Praline (CLB) bred to Ullman (BLM)
Thelma (BLB) bred to Bert (YLM)
Topaz (YLB) bred to Jenner (SPM)

YLB – yellow Labrador, bitch YLM – yellow Labrador, male
BLB – black Labrador, bitch BLM – black Labrador, male
CLB – chocolate Labrador, bitch GRM – golden Retriever, male
SPM – standard Poodle, 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 September 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022

Neil Baxter, Farrar Brodhead, Donna Cole, Brent Diefenbacher, Heather Dionne, Deanne Donohue, Gavin Emdin, Diane Grannary, Barry Gray, Sabina Grossman, Jeff Hall, Beverly Hamblin, Christine Hanson, Carl Katz, Tasia Liko, Gena Lynch, Thomas McKinnon, Imre Rohonczy, Carol Rondinone, Karen Salisbury, Debra Smith, Donna Spooner, Jessie Thornton, Rebecca Will, Karen Winsterstein, Tracey Wright, Kathleen Young, Adrienne Zelenka. ■



OBITUARIES AND GUIDE DOG MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

Our People...

Brenda Belanger of Renfrew, Ontario was a fifteen-year volunteer for Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind, before passing away on September 12, 2021. She had many puppies and dogs in her home over the years as a boarding volunteer and puppy walker. Brenda represented the true spirit of the Ottawa Valley, always keen to help others. We offer our condolences to her husband of 49 years, Brent, plus children Aimee and Brett.

Lilo Volkmer of Val-des-Monts, Quebec helped with our donation dogs and was a familiar sight and one of our top fundraisers at our annual Dollars for Dogs walk for decades. She was passionate about Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Lilo, age 95, passed away after returning home from taking a drive to collect some stones to make her garden even more beautiful. Lilo survived the second world war in Europe and made a new life here in Canada. She worked very hard for what she believed in and valued. We will miss her kind heart and gentle spirit.

John Schmidt of Kitchener, Ontario passed away on January 25, 2022. John volunteered for our Guider Donation Dogs Program for more than twenty years, before resigning a few years ago due to health issues. John started volunteering for Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind through the Telephone Pioneers of America and continued to help, following his retirement from Bell Canada. At one time he, as part of a duo, maintained twenty donation dogs. John was incredibly efficient and always very friendly and kind. We offer our condolences to Louise, John's loving wife of 59 years.

Rob Cairns passed away tragically on February 12, 2022, at the age of 51. In 2007, Rob became a quadriplegic after an accident. In 2013, his independence was enhanced when he received his first assistance dog, Orchid, from Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Rob received his second dog, Daphne, in 2021. Rob always said his dogs gave him more independence, and he was a good ambassador for CGDB. Our condolences are offered to his family.

Our Dogs...

Ginny passed away on November 30, 2021, following heart complications, and just four months shy of her fourteenth birthday. Ginny was a career change dog who provided many years of companionship to Anne Armitage. Although Ginny was not a guide dog, the beautiful German shepherd was a regular participant and top fundraiser (with Anne) at the annual Dollars for Dogs Fundraising Walk. Our condolences are offered to Anne.

Havi passed away on December 14, 2021, at the age of thirteen and a half. Havi was a guide dog for Earl Miller for nine years before retiring in 2019. She then remained with Earl in retirement and was a wonderful companion. Our condolences are offered to Earl for the loss of his beautiful golden. ■

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.

CANADIAN GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND EVENTS

Past Events

Guide Dog Motorcycle Ride



The 34th annual Guide Dog Ride on September 12, 2021, was a bounce-back event. In 2020, the event was greatly impacted by the pandemic, plus a downpour of rain, but in 2021 94 riders returned to the event and participated in the 250 km trip through Eastern Ontario, with many coming back for the post-ride BBQ. All proceeds were directed towards the training of guide and assistance dogs. Thanks to organizers David Green and Scott Faris, plus the assistance of many from Ottawa Chrome Divas and Canadian Motorcycle Cruisers Ottawa Chapter. We look forward to continuing Ottawa's longest running charity motorcycle ride again on Sunday, September 11, 2022. ■

2021 Gift-Wrapping Stations at Place d'Orleans & Bayshore



2021 marked Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind's seventh year operating our popular holiday gift-wrapping station at Place d'Orleans Shopping Centre. For the first time, we also added a second station at Bayshore Shopping Centre, to great success. It was another challenging year, due to the on-going pandemic, but thanks to the outstanding efforts of our volunteers – many who volunteered with us for the first time – the stations were fully staffed, and well run; spreading joy and cheer to hundreds of satisfied guests. ■

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The Artists of Stonebridge



The Artists of Stonebridge Show & Sale held in October 2021, marked the 12th annual show, and Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind was honoured to be a Charity of Choice for 2021. Unfortunately, our guide dogs were unable to attend and greet people at the show, but we are hopeful that this year we can once again join our friends, the Artists of Stonebridge, for this wonderful event. Thank you to Artists of Stonebridge for your continued support and partnership. ■

Fairmont Hotels



Nathalie Beauchamp, Director of Sales & Marketing, Jane Thornton CGDB C.O.O & Co-Founder, & Steve Chang, Interim General Manager, Chateau Montebello.

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind is proud of its partnership with Fairmont Hotels in Canada. In February, Fairmont Chateau Montebello donated \$5135 to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. This hotel generously donates \$5 from every pet fee they charge to our organisation. We were also grateful to receive a cheque from Fairmont Chateau Laurier for \$2750 from their pet fee program. We are so pleased that people like to take their pets on holiday with them! Thank you to our friends at Fairmont Hotels. ■

Upcoming Events

International Guide Dog Day



Wednesday, April 27, 2022

38th Annual Dollars for Dogs Fundraiser Walk

Sunday, May 29, 2022 - Andrew Haydon Park, Ottawa

This year marks the 38th consecutive Dollars for Dogs Walk, held each year at Andrew Haydon Park, in Nepean. Once again, we will be inviting all our supporters to raise money through collecting pledges and joining us on the Walk, with or without a dog. In addition to joining us at Andrew Haydon Park, we are encouraging our supporters across Canada to participate by organizing your own walk with friends and family in your own neighborhood. Additional information, registration and pledge forms will be made available on our website, ahead of this year's event. Save the date and join us on May 29th! ■

WESTJET GIFT OF FLIGHT

Win a round-trip for two to any WestJet destination



Tickets are \$20 and available online; by phoning (613) 692-7777; or during regular business hours at the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind's National Training Centre, 4120 Rideau Valley Dr N, Manotick, Ontario. No entry limit per person. Only 705 tickets will be sold.

Purchase your tickets by December 29, 2022, at 12 pm to be eligible for the draw on December 30, 2022, at 10 am

All bookings and travel must be completed by December 29, 2023. Winner is responsible for fees, taxes & surcharges. Valid for any domestic/international destination that WestJet flies to, at the time of booking. Blackout days apply. Visit guidedogs.ca for full contest details.

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Raffle open to Ontario residents 18 years or older, only.
Raffle#M83644 ■

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To:

Now Available



2022 Christmas Cards

Inscription Reads: Season's Greetings/ Meilleurs voeux

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