

SIDE *by* SIDE

Fall/Winter 2026

Volume 41, Number 2



We provide *freedom* to Canadians

Registered Charity #10684 6819 RR0001 • guidedogs.ca

Follow Us!

Instagram

@canadianguidedogs

Facebook

@CanadianGuideDogsfortheBlind

X

@CDNGuideDogs

guidedogs.ca

info@guidedogs.ca



Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

4120 Rideau Valley Drive North,
PO Box 280, Manotick, Ontario
K4M 1A3, Canada

Tel.: (613) 692-7777
Fax: (613) 692-0650
Email: info@guidedogs.ca

Founding and accredited member of
International Guide Dog Federation.

Accredited member of Assistance Dogs
International.

Member of Canadian Association of
Guide and Assistance Dog Schools

Member of Council of North American
Guide Dogs Schools

Registered Charity #10684 6819 RR0001

Board of Directors

Edward K. Mann	Chair
Mary Jane Binks	Vice-Chair
Robert Meredith	Treasurer
Brian Scott	Secretary
Shane Bennett	Director
Donna Tessier	Director
Jane E. Thornton	Director

Cover photo: CGDB Puppy
Printing: The Printing House

Side by Side Vol 41 #1, Pg 2



PUPPY WALKERS WANTED!

Help provide a canine
companion with a
loving home for 12-18 months
before entering formal training
to become a guide dog.

Sign up online for a
virtual info session

guidedogs.ca/raise-a-puppy

READ SIDE BY SIDE ONLINE

Help save on printing and postage costs. The latest edition and past issues of Side by Side are available in both document and audio format on our website at guidedogs.ca. New issues are mailed 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 – MADELEINE D

Madeleine's life has been shaped by a love of adventure, learning, and embracing new opportunities. Growing up in the Georgian Bay cottage country in Ontario, she developed an active lifestyle that continues today. She now works in the federal public service in Ottawa and enjoys traveling, reading, spending time with friends, and playing blind soccer. Accompanying her through many of life's experiences is Wilfred, her guide dog from CGDB.

Wilfred is Madeleine's second guide dog. Her first guide dog, Apollo, was matched with her in 2017 and supported her through many major milestones. Together, they navigated university studies in Social Work, a career in the human rights field, a move to Whitehorse, Yukon, and countless hiking, camping, and canoeing adventures. After Apollo retired in 2025, Madeleine was fortunate to be matched with Wilfred, beginning a new chapter in her guide dog journey.

When she first decided to apply for a guide dog, Madeleine explored several schools before choosing CGDB. The decision came down to instinct and the positive connections she felt with the trainers and staff.

"After meeting with the trainers, I simply had a feeling that it was the right school for me," she says.

Over the years, CGDB has remained a constant source of support. Madeleine fondly remembers staying at the training residence with her first guide dog, where she learned alongside other students and had valuable time to build a bond with Apollo. While receiving Wilfred was a wonderful experience, transitioning from a retired guide dog to a new partner came with challenges. After

spending many years working closely with Apollo, it took time to adjust to a different dog and develop a new relationship. With patience, training, and support from CGDB, Wilfred proved to be the perfect match.

Today, Madeleine and Wilfred enjoy exploring Ottawa together. Whether they are walking along the Rideau Canal, traveling to nearby cities, or simply heading out for the day, Wilfred brings enthusiasm to every outing. Madeleine says his eagerness to work makes even routine trips, like going to the office, more enjoyable.

Their daily routine reflects their different personalities. Wilfred is an early bird, while Madeleine describes herself as a night owl. After breakfast, they make their 25-minute walk to work through Ottawa's busy streets. Once there, Wilfred settles in for a nap until he's needed again. Evenings may include soccer practice, time with friends, longer walks, or relaxing at home. No matter the schedule, Wilfred always finds time to play with his favourite toys and keep things lively.

For Madeleine, guide dogs have provided more than mobility support. They have given her confidence, independence, and the reassurance of having a trusted partner by her side.

For those considering a guide dog, her advice is simple: remember that guide dogs are still dogs. They have strengths, challenges, and off days just like people do. By maintaining realistic expectations and giving both yourself and your dog grace, it is possible to build a rewarding partnership that makes navigating the world feel a little less daunting and a lot more possible. ■

PUPPY WALKING PROFILE – CARMEN R



Carmen has been helping shape the future of guide and service dogs through the Puppy Walking Program of CGDB. Over the years, she has dedicated her time to raising and socializing puppies, helping them develop the skills and confidence they need for their future careers. Today, that role belongs to Liv, an energetic young puppy who keeps Carmen busy and brings plenty of joy to her days.

Carmen's introduction to the world of guide dogs came through a documentary about a similar program in the United States. Inspired by the life-changing impact these dogs can have, she began looking for opportunities in Canada after she moved back and discovered CGDB. The Puppy Walking Program immediately appealed to her as a meaningful way to contribute while helping puppies prepare for their important work ahead.

As a puppy walker, Carmen plays a key role in introducing puppies to everyday experiences and environments. From parks and busy sidewalks to office settings and public transit, each outing helps build a puppy's confidence and prepares them for the situations they may encounter as future guide or service dogs.

One lesson Carmen has learned throughout her years as a volunteer is the importance of early exposure. She believes that introducing puppies to a wide variety of people, places, sounds, and routines at a young age helps them adapt more easily as they grow.

"The earlier they are exposed, the faster they learn and adjust," she explains. Building those experiences early helps create a solid foundation for future training and success.

Carmen and Liv enjoy spending time exploring together. Walks to the park are a favourite activity, giving Liv opportunities to experience new sights and sounds while practicing her training. They also spend time navigating public spaces, helping Liv learn how to remain calm and focused on different environments.

One of Carmen's favourite memories involves a bus ride when Liv was about six months old. During the trip, a passenger boarded with a working dog. Carmen was curious to see how the young puppy would react and wondered whether Liv might become distracted. Instead, Liv remained calm and respectful throughout the encounter. It seemed as though she understood that the other dog was working and should not be disturbed. Once the working dog left the bus, however, Liv quickly returned to her playful puppy self. The experience was a reminder of how intelligent and perceptive these dogs can be, even at a young age.

For those considering becoming a puppy walker, Carmen encourages them to embrace the opportunity. While the role requires commitment, patience, and consistency, the rewards are significant. Watching a puppy learn, grow, and move closer to a future career helping someone gain independence is an incredibly meaningful experience.

Years after Carmen first joined the program, she continues to find fulfillment in helping puppies like Liv take their first steps toward changing lives. Through the dedication of volunteers like her, future guide and service dogs receive the strong foundation they need to succeed.

**Did you know you can donate
your AÉROPLAN  points?**

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!



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 day of each 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 day 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

(Registered Charity No. 10684 6819 RR0001)

☐ I have enclosed a cheque in the amount of \$_____.

☐ I would like to make a one-time donation of \$_____ charged to my credit card.

☐ I would like to make a regular contribution of \$_____ charged monthly to my credit card.

Credit Card No. _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

Type of Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX

CVV: _____

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. / Miss / Dr. (Please circle preferred salutation)

First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

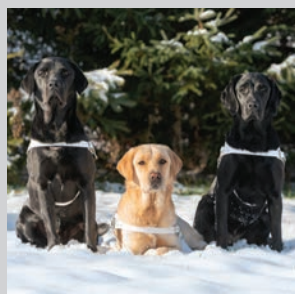
Please send donations to:

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind
4120 Rideau Valley Drive North PO Box 280
Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A3
(613) 692-7777

Donate online at guidedogs.ca

CANADIAN GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND GIFT SHOP

You may call and order by phone. If you live in the Ottawa area and would like to pick up your order, we'll assemble it and waive all shipping and handling fees!



2026 Christmas Cards

(package of 10 cards with envelopes, Inscription reads: Season's Greetings/ Meilleur voeux)

\$14.00 x _____ = \$ _____



Maroon Sweatshirt with CGDB Logo

S _____ M _____ L _____

XL _____ XXL _____

\$40.00 x _____ = \$ _____



2027 CGDB Calendar

Available as of December 1st

\$20.00 x _____ = \$ _____



CGDB Fleece Lined Toque - Red

\$20.00 x _____ = \$ _____



Coast to Coast T-Shirt

S _____ M _____ L _____

XL _____ XXL _____

\$25.00 x _____ = \$ _____



Dog Tag *

With your choice of colour, customize your ID tag with up to 4 lines of text on each side

Black _____ Blue _____

Red _____ Pink _____

\$8.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Custom Text

SUBTOTAL	\$ _____
ADD 25% SHIPPING & HANDLING	\$ _____
DONATION	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Card Type ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AMEX **Expiry** mm/yy _____

Name on Card _____

Card # _____

* Items may not be exactly as shown. All prices include taxes. Visit our online gift shop at guidedogs.ca for these and a larger selection of merchandise. Call us and order by phone and we'll assemble your order and have it ready for you at our National Training Centre.

KIDS CORNER

Children 12 and younger

Hey kids! Do you want to win a terrific prize. Print our colouring contest page by visiting www.guidedogs.ca Just 4 Kids. When you are done colouring, have your parents mail the sheet to us. We pick winning entries every six months for kids 12 and younger.

Here's a hint!

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind uses white harnesses for our guide dogs. A white harness will give you bonus points and a better chance to win.

You may scan and email your entry to events@guidedogs.ca or mail your colouring contest entries to:

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind
PO Box 280
Manotick, ON, K4M 1A3

Congratulations to our latest winners!

Ages 5 and Under: Brooklyn, Stittsville, ON

Ages 6-8: Abigail, Ottawa, ON

Ages 9-12: No submission



ouichef



— GET PREPARED FOR — The Holidays

9" Frozen Tourtière

made by Peter Wannis, Oui Chef

\$25 each

ORDER BY CALLING OUR OFFICE

613-692-7777

Deadline Nov 13 at 5pm

Payment required at time of order

No Cancellations



Ready for Pick up at CGDB from Tuesday Dec 1st

*Please note: Tourtière pie may differ in appearance from image shown.
Photo is for illustrative purposes only*

PUPPY WALKING AND BREEDING PROGRAM

The following litters were born.

Elena (YLB) bred to Leiff (BLM)

YLB - Yellow Labrador, bitch

BLM – Black Labrador, 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.

Ada Cheng, Stephanie Ferrand, Shauna Gadiant, Beverly Hamblin, Karen Kavanaugh, Anne Kennedy, Julian Kung, Jacqueline McKenzie, Tim Nason, Carole Presley, Michelle Rich, Debra Smith, Doug Thicke, Mark Uhrbach, Julia Worswick, Kathleen Young. ■



OBITUARIES AND GUIDE DOG MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

Our Dogs

Harlow a cherished member of the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind family, who was born in March 2013 and passed away in June 2026. As a guide dog breeding stock mother, Harlow raised two litters and contributed to the lives of 20 puppies, helping shape the future of countless guide dog partnerships. Deeply loved by her family and all who knew her, Harlow's legacy will live on through the generations she helped create.

Submitted by Cathryn Davidson

Gus II, a retired Guide Dog who was born in March 2012 and passed away in July 2026. Throughout his years of service and retirement, Gus brought independence, confidence, and unwavering companionship. More than a guide dog, he was a loyal friend whose gentle presence enriched the lives of those around him. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.

Submitted by Diane Parker

Only submitted tributes are published. Please limit to 25 words. 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.

CLIENT PROFILE – MICHAEL T



Four-year-old Michael is a loving, caring, and energetic little boy who is always ready for his next adventure. Whether he's swimming, exploring parks, or heading out for a walk, he loves spending time outdoors, especially with his Autism Service Dog, Boe, by his side. This fall, Michael will be starting Senior Kindergarten, another exciting milestone in his journey.

Michael has always loved dogs, so when his family learned about Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind's Autism Service Dog Program, they knew it was an opportunity worth pursuing. They hoped a service dog would not only become a loyal companion for Michael but also help him build safety skills and confidence while going out in the community.

From the very beginning, the family's experience with CGDB was positive and supportive. The application, matching, and training process exceeded their expectations, and they felt encouraged every step of the way.

"The communication was outstanding," Michael's family shared. "Everyone was welcoming, supportive, and helpful." They also felt that Boe was the perfect match for Michael.

Training was a memorable experience for the whole family. Along with learning important handling and safety skills, they had the opportunity to bond with Boe and watch the connection between him and Michael develop.

"It was easy, enjoyable, and memorable," they said. "Watching Boe and Michael bond and figure each other out was so much fun."

Since joining the family, Boe has become an important source of comfort and support in Michael's daily life. When Michael begins to feel overwhelmed, Boe's calm presence can help him regulate his emotions before situations escalate. Michael often finds comfort in petting Boe or lying beside him, using that connection as a calming sensory experience. The pair also share many of the same interests. They love being outdoors together, whether they're visiting parks, going on walks, or enjoying car rides. Michael is always ready with Boe's leash in hand, eager to include his best friend in every adventure.

Boe accompanies Michael on appointments and store outings, helping him cope with tasks that Michael may not enjoy. At home, their bond is evident in the family's bedtime routine, as Michael helps get Boe settled for the night and always makes sure to wish him goodnight. Since welcoming Boe into their lives, the family has noticed fewer meltdowns, smoother outings, and greater confidence. Michael is proud of Boe and loves showing him off, while also keeping a watchful eye on his trusted companion.

For families considering an Autism Service Dog, Michael's family says the commitment is well worth it. The milestones, confidence, and positive experiences that come from the partnership are incredibly rewarding. They are deeply grateful to CGDB for the support they received and for the opportunity to watch Michael and Boe grow together as best friends. They look forward to many more milestones, adventures, and memories in the years ahead. ■



CANADIAN GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND EVENTS

Past Events



International Guide Dog Day – April 29

To mark International Guide Dog Day, Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind partnered once again with our friends at Morning Owl Manotick.

On April 29, Morning Owl Manotick joined the celebration by collecting donations in support of CGDB and selling special featured cupcakes. Throughout the day, CGDB staff and guide dogs in training connected with the community and share more about our work. We're very grateful to the team at Morning Owl Manotick for their generosity and continued support in raising awareness and funds for International Guide Dog Day! ■

Family BBQ and Lifestyle Event – Sept. 14

The Prince of Wales Retirement Home welcomed residents, families, and community members for their annual Family BBQ and Lifestyle Event, offering a cheerful afternoon of sunshine, great food, and friendly games. Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind was delighted to take part, featuring CGDB branded souvenirs and Catch the Ace tickets at our table while chatting with seniors and visitors about our mission and the impact of guide dogs in training.

The day was filled with laughter and community spirit, and we extend our sincere thanks to the Prince of Wales Retirement Home for their generous donations and warm hospitality. Events like this highlight the meaningful connections that help us continue changing lives, one guide dog team

at a time. ■



42nd Anniversary Dollars for Dogs Walk – May 31

The 42nd Anniversary of our Dollars for Dogs Fundraising Dog Walk, held at Andrew Haydon Park in Nepean, was a wonderful success! We were delighted to welcome so many of our volunteers, clients, and supporters – and their furry friends of all shapes and sizes – to the park for our annual 4-km walk. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who took part—your enthusiasm and generosity helped make this year's walk our most successful one. ■



Dickinson Days Parade – June 5

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind was pleased to participate in the Dickinson Days Parade on Friday, June 5. The beautiful weather made for a wonderful evening of celebration as several of our puppy walkers joined the parade with the guide dog puppies they are raising. Our van proudly displayed our logo as it made its way through the community, delighting spectators and helping raise awareness about the important work we do. ■

Catch the Ace –Ongoing

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind is excited to once again participate in the Catch the Ace Lottery hosted by the Kin Club of Russell. Tickets can be purchased in participating store locations (visit the EVENTS page at guidedogs.ca to find stores near you and to see when ticket sales go live) or online at kinclubofrussell.ca/catch-the-ace. Remember to select Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind as your charity when participating in this lottery, as we receive a percentage of the ticket sales. If you experience issues purchasing tickets, please call Catch the Ace Help Desk at 613-445-6483. Lottery No. – RAF 1460560. ■

Upcoming Events

Purdy's Christmas Chocolate Sale

Celebrate the holiday season with delicious treats from Purdy's Chocolatier while supporting Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind! When you place an order through our fundraiser, CGDB receives up to 30% of your purchase which goes directly toward helping us provide guide dogs and autism service dogs. Enjoy the same great prices you'll find in Purdy's stores while checking off your holiday shopping list. Visit the Events page on our website to place your order and make a sweet difference this Christmas!

Holiday Gift Wrapping

We are excited to return to Place d'Orléans for our annual holiday gift wrapping fundraiser this year. As the Christmas season draws closer, be sure to check the Events section of our website for updates, additional

We're Searching for VOLUNTEERS

You can help us anywhere in Canada!

A flexible volunteer opportunity for individuals, families or service clubs. Contact us to get more information on how you can help in our Donation Dogs Program.



Contact us at (613) 692-7777 or events@guidedogs.ca

details, and opportunities to volunteer at our gift-wrapping station. Your support helps make this festive fundraiser a success. ■

Christmas Wine Fundraiser

Get ready for the holiday season by ordering your favorite wines from Henry of Pelham Estate Winery while supporting Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Watch for this year's promotional code, which will be available soon on our website at guidedogs.ca. Visit the Events page for full details and information on how your purchase can help support our guide dog programs! Orders close Monday Nov 16 at noon. Pay for delivery in Ontario or free pick up from CGDB as of Monday Nov 30th ■

HEAD TO GUIDEDOGS.CA AND CLICK ON THE EVENTS TAB FOR MORE INFO. ■



White, Milk or Dark Chocolate?
Purdys has you covered this holiday season!

Indulge in your favourite Purdy's chocolate & support CGDB! Visit the **EVENTS** page on our website to learn more

***Ottawa Area Only**

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind would like to thank the many Ontario stores that have supported us through the sale of Nevada breakopen tickets in the past year:



Absolute Discount Store	5 - 355 Wentworth St. W, Oshawa
Big Bee	1528 Barton Street East, Hamilton
Big Bonus	601 Upper James St, Hamilton
Bradford Multimart	605 Holland St W, Bradford
Circle K 1088	106 Sutherland Dr., Kingston
Circle K 116	135 George St. N, Peterborough
Circle K 1280	299 Greenbank Rd, Nepean
Circle K 1290	891 Campbell Ave, Windsor
Circle K 1382	221 Ferndale Dr. S., Barrie
Circle K 301	700 Balmoral Dr Brampton
Circle K 64071	343 Wellington Road, London
Circle K 68013	45 Main St. E Smith Falls
City Mart	527 James Street North, Hamilton
Corvette Smoke & Gift	678 Kennedy Road, Unit 107, Toronto
Dave Smoke Plus	284 Orenda Road, Unit 6, Brampton
Dollars Delight	9 - 201 Williamson Drive W, Ajax
Eso Corner Convenience Store	69 Oxford Street West, Dumbro
Glen Ross General Store	1305 Glen Ross Road, Frankford
Hasty Market #4	574 James Street, Unit 8, Hamilton
Hilltop Variety	58 Wellington Road 7, Unit 4, Elora
International News Stand	640 Mohawk Road W, Unit K36, Hamilton
MacEwan Alexandria South	470 Main Street South, Alexandria
Malton Variety Mississauga	4025 Brandon Gate Dr., Unit D,
Mr Convenience	2 - 64 Elizabeth Street, Brighton
Mrs. Coopers Convenience	241 High Street, London
New George Convenience	2A - 500 George Street S, Peterborough
Nun & Zizi Convenience Store	1405 Ottawa St. North, Suite 104, Kitchener
Park Royal Gifts & Variety	2425 Truscott Drive, Mississauga
Piggly Wiggly	282 King Street East, Newcastle
Sam's Place	3320 County Rd 48 RR1, Havelock
Seacliff Stop and Shop Variety	401 Seacliff Drive E, Leamington
Shooters Downstairs Lounge	68 Dennis Street, Sault Sainte Marie
Silvercreek Convenience	680 Silver Creek Blvd, Unit 4, Mississauga
Southdown Convenience	1375 Southdown Road, Unit 7, Mississauga
Sunrise Convenience	383 Elgin St. N, Unit 14, Cambridge
Westdale Lottery Services	1151 Dundas Street W, unit K1, Mississauga

Thank you!

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

Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd.

Merck Canada Inc.

National Alternate Media

Nestle Purina PetCare

The Newsletter of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

4120 Rideau Valley Drive North, P.O. Box 280
Manotick, Ontario
K4M 1A3

Tel.: (613) 692-7777

Email: info@guidedogs.ca



To:



2026 Christmas Cards Now Available

Order form on Page 6