

# Dog Guides of Canada

from District A-12 Lions Foundation of Canada Chair Lion Les Stevens  
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## Canine Baby Alarm

Making the decision to have a baby is a tremendous responsibility - but imagine being hearing impaired and wondering how you manage caring for the new little person about to enter your life. That is Kimberly's reality - and her attitude is to "Bring it on!"

Shortly after they married, Kim and Ted started to talk about having a baby - but they were worried about how they would manage if Kim couldn't hear their baby's cry. Kim explored many options, especially when she found that hearing aids were no longer effective for her. Kim then learned about the Lions Foundation of Canada's Hearing Ear Dog program.

These Dog Guides alert their handlers to various sounds in the home, such as a telephone ringing, a baby's cry, a knock at the door, or an activated smoke alarm.

"Buddy is my ears. He can alert me to important sounds such as my baby crying, and takes enormous pressure off me. I feel more freedom and confidence as a result," says Kim.



## District A-12 Dog Guide Sponsorship

It is stories like this that inspire me to promote the Dog Guides of Canada as much as I can. The benefits go beyond the simple mechanics of the dog's tasks, they alter the lifestyle for the complete family.

District A-12 has sponsored only one dog guide in the last three years, although individual clubs, including Elmvale Lions and Killarney Beach Lions have sponsored others. We have some donations towards the next sponsorship, so I wish to encourage all clubs to donate towards the completion of this dog this year. Send your donation to me, or direct to Lions Foundation of Canada, but ensure that it is marked for "District A-12 Dog Guide Sponsorship".

## Purina Walk for Dog Guides

Dog Guides of Canada does not receive any government contribution towards expenses. All costs are covered by corporate, service group or individual donations and fund raising events. The biggest event is the Purina Walk for Dog Guides.

The recommended date for holding the Walk was moved from October to May earlier this year, in effort to avoid clashing with many other events. This means that there were two Walks at some locations in the financial year. This May, there were over 200 Walks in Canada, compared to about 70 in the previous complete year. In the complete 2005/2006 year, income from the Walks exceeded \$600,000.

The number of Walks in District A-12 doubled from five in 2004/2005 to ten. However, because some clubs held two Walks, income rose from about \$25,000 to over \$37,000. Well done

**Alliston Lions**  
**Elmvale Lions**  
**Gravenhurst/Bracebridge Lions**  
**Huntsville Lioness**  
**Stephenson Lions**  
**Tottenham & District Lions.**

**Barrie Council of Blind  
Gilford & District Lions**  
**Midland Lions**  
**Sundridge Lioness**

*You have made a difference*

If any club would like information about the Walk, please contact your LFC Chair, Lion Les Stevens.