

60 YEARS OF SERVICE



The annual "Walk-A-Dog-Athon" in Brampton. Lion Dan Boyle of Georgetown raised over \$300 for Canine Vision, Canada.

Canine Vision Canada important to Lions

One of the projects close to the hearts of Lions is their work with the blind. For many years the Georgetown Lions have been substantially involved in providing financial assistance to one of the best known service activities, the Leader Dog School for the Blind, in Rochester, Michigan.

In 1983, the Lions of Canada decided that this service club be provided in Canada, and with this decision the Lions Foundation of Canada was born. The first project of this new foundation was to locate facilities in which dogs and blind persons could come together and be trained as a team this giving the blind independence to travel most places without the accompaniment of a human companion.

An old school was located in Oakville and was completely renovated by teams of Lions on weekends and nights, to provide sleeping quarters, training facilities, kennels, lounge and dining facilities.

The school, "Canine Vision Canada" was officially opened in 1986 and graduated the first team that same year. The school is currently graduating more than one hundred teams per year.

The cost of training and matching a dog to a blind person is approximately \$6,500 and all costs are borne by the foundation. Travel costs to and from the school are borne by the sponsoring Lions Club. Queries about the school may be directed to the Lions Club in your area or to Lion Kaare Soberg P.D.G.



A continuing project of
LIONS FOUNDATION OF CANADA

HINTS ON HELPING

- You can help some blind people all of the time; and you can help all blind people some of the time; but...
- It's always appropriate to offer your help, just don't be surprised if he'd rather do it himself. And when he does do it, it isn't necessary to applaud.
- If you are helping, and aren't sure exactly what to do, ask an expert — the one you're helping.
- Grabbing his cane is definitely out; so is patting his dog guide, except during off-duty hours. Even then, ask the master.
- If a blind person gives you permission to walk with him, don't grab his arm — let him take yours. After that, it's something like dancing; from the motion of your body, he can tell when you come to curbs or steps or turns. To avoid surprises, he may want to walk a half step behind you.
- He may not want to hurt your feelings by telling you you're going too fast — or to slow — for him. If you pay attention, you ought to be able to judge after five or ten steps.
- Do your feelings bruise easily? When people don't recognize your voice over the phone, for instance? If so, when you run into a blind man you know, start off by mentioning your name.
- If there's a blind person alone in the room, tell him when you come in. Especially if you're wearing sneakers. Same when leaving.
- Shaking hands doesn't have to be awkward if you both know what's happening. Your blind acquaintance may start to raise his hand — but not be sure you've seen it. Or you may want to shake his hand. Easy: say something, like "Shake hands, friend."
- To repeat: Blind is not deaf. Don't shout. Also blind is not dumb. If you have a question for the blind person, about what he likes to eat, for instance, ask him — not his companion.
- Don't sweat over substitute words for "see", "look", or even "blind." And don't avoid them where they fit. You can talk about blindness itself — if it comes up, and you both feel comfortable about it.
- In a restaurant, guide your blind friend's hand to his chair-back; take it for granted he knows how to sit down. Unless it's his regular haunt, offer to read the menu (prices too, if he's interested). No rules — only common sense — about when to offer help with the food, or in finding the bread or the salt.
- If it's his turn to pick up the check, and he offers, it's OK to spar a little out of politeness; but let him.
- As for your own feelings: pity is absolutely out, and sympathy is sometimes appropriate, but sensitivity always helps. Take it from there.



Crazy Boat Race popular

The Georgetown Lions Club took over sponsorship of the Crazy Boat Race in 1987 from the Georgetown Jaycees who had run the event successfully since 1966. Recipient of proceeds from this annual event has been the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Halton where monies have been directed to research and service in Halton County.

The concept of the Crazy Boat Race is to navigate a craft, manned by 2 to 8 people (16 years and older) who may be brave enough to ride the one and one half mile course down the frigid waters of

the Credit River in early spring.

Safety is the prime objective of the event. All crew members must wear life jackets and suitable clothing. Monies are raised through pledges from employers, co-workers, family, relatives and friends.

Launch site for the race takes place on the property of Lion Bill Hunter in Terra Cotta.

The committee chaired by Lions Bob Sullivan (1987), Bill James (1988), Bob Gordon (1989), and Mark Rush (1990) spend several months each year preparing for the event. Entry forms have to be mailed, maps

prepared, advertising and many phone calls. The end results make the work most rewarding. In the past four years more than \$45,000 has been raised for M.S.

The success of the Crazy Boat Race requires the effort of every member of the club. We are also aided by many groups such as the Halton Regional Police, St. John's Ambulance, Rover Scouts, expert canoeists, Lioness Club and the Brampton Radio Club. Without the aid of these groups we would be hard pressed to reach the success level we now enjoy.

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CONGRATULATIONS ON
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TO THE COMMUNITY