



July 2014

“The NSD Scoop”

“Enriching the quality of life and enhancing the independence of individuals and families living with special needs.”

NSD Spotlight

From weekend sitting to serving on the NSD Board of Directors, the Bertrand Family stays busy supporting our cause



Our family's experience with National Service Dogs (NSD) has been nothing short of life changing. It started seven years ago when I participated in The NSD Ride with our daughter Gabrielle. The ride was enjoyable as it brought together a group of like-minded caring riders. The most telling part of the event however was the testimonial from the mother of a child with autism who had received a Service Dog from NSD. Her family's story left me feeling deeply grateful and compelled me to reach out in a greater way in support of NSD. The need to do more was awakened.

Since that initial fundraising ride for NSD in 2008, our family proudly raises funds for NSD and participates in the Evening Enrichment Program, and Weekend Sitter and Evening Sitter Program. Time and time again we see how National Service Dogs literally change the lives of families in so many ways. Working with NSD is a very fulfilling and enjoyable commitment for our family. Participating as a member of the NSD Board of Directors seemed like a natural step in our service and support of NSD, our family's favourite charity.

If you have not yet had the pleasure of experiencing an NSD Graduation, I urge you to attend one. Seeing the fruits of our collective efforts along with the joy of the graduating families is touching. The need for Service Dogs is great. It is our sincere hope that you will continue in your support so that we can change more lives for the better with our amazing dogs. Thank you for all that you do for NSD; you are making a difference!



The NSD Ride



Chinese Proverb: *When someone shares something of value with you and you benefit from it, you have a moral obligation to share it with others.* There was a whole lot of sharing going on July 13, 2014 at the 9th Annual NSD Ride.

Once again, the Ride was sponsored and road captained by 1st C.A.V. (Canadian Army Veterans), Gulf-Kuwait Motorcycle Unit. We are thankful for their ongoing kind and generous contribution to the NSD Ride. As our road captain, John, would say, "It never rains on John's parade" and indeed the sky told us it should have rained, but it did not!

Riders enjoyed Starbucks coffee while waiting to have their pictures taken in front of the Schneider National Ride of Pride truck honouring our Canadian veterans. They were joined in the pictures by three celebrity pups from the Irish litter, born on St. Patrick's Day to be National Service Dogs. Charm, Clover and Cian all shone in their roles as ambassadors for NSD; well-done puppy raisers!

Thank you to Chef Cathy, Grill-master Jim and NSD Elvis, Certified Service Dog for PTSD team. We appreciate the great lunch you prepared and everyone enjoyed watching NSD Elvis at work. Good job! Thanks to Pillers, Weston's and Frito-Lay, for their support.

Lunch was followed by prizes for our top five fundraisers who collectively raised \$5,669. Fantastic! First place went to Iceman and Ripley who raised \$2,447. Two puppies will be named in honour of their nephews, Jake and Matteo. Eight week old NSD Trapper from our E litter has been sponsored by Skip in honour of 1st C.A.V. Past President, Trapper. We are thankful for the continued support of Harry Watts who contributed the money raised from the sale of his book, "The Dispatch Ride". The CMC (Canadian Motorcycle Cruisers) was in attendance for the 9th straight year and we appreciate their dedication to this event! Early calculations show we have surpassed our goal with a total of **\$11,078** and pledges are still coming in! The comradery in the room over lunch and prizes was overwhelming. What a fantastic group of volunteers, sponsors, riders and supporters! The success of the 2014 NSD Ride is because of you! Thank you for sharing!

Please stay tuned to our webpage for details on the 2015 NSD Ride. The date will be announced in the Fall edition of The Scoop; be sure you're included on our mailing list. *Best, Judy*

Puppy Program Update

With the flush of springtime litters now memories away, some caretakers have had their summer taken over by the "E" litter. Ruth and Walter Wisotzki, who are taking care of Betta, hadn't planned a summer vacation which is just as well; it was more of a working summer for them. Betta produced seven puppies to NSD Oscar, four black males, one black female and one yellow male and one yellow female, Edge, Elton, Fraser, Trapper, Lovat, Eylet and Emi who was named after a fallen soldier.



They are a nice even litter in size and are pretty calm. That being said it was fun to watch Walter and Ruth holding them all on leashes with puppies going every which way. Betta having spent the past few weeks devoted to her charges decided it was time to pass parental responsibilities to her step-sister, Golden Retriever, Cedar. The last time I was there Cedar was having a great playtime with the puppies and was very gentle, while Betta decided it was safer to watch from the safety of the playpen. These playful bundles of fun will begin life soon with their puppy raisers who will give them the one on one attention that they now need.

As for Ruth and Walter.....time for their summer to start!

We are now waiting for any of the other broods from the NSD breeding program to come into season so we can plan the next round of puppies. We plan our breeding for two years ahead so that we have sufficient dogs for the training program, so the "E" litter will come back for advanced training anytime from May 2016.

Puppy Program News

We have planned a couple of summer events to make sure our puppies get the best exposure to life.

We have a **Walk in the park** planned soon. This event is for older puppies and a lesson where we'll devote time to teaching raisers how to deal with distraction while out walking their puppies. What better way to do this than at the park where there will be ducks, geese, chipmunks, squirrels and of course the domestic dog. Summer will also mean lots of children, bikes, skateboards and water features so a host of activity all perfect to distract our puppies. Puppy raisers, please watch out for this scheduled event and bring appropriate clothing plus high value treats for the dogs. Please bring your Halti's too in case you need them!

Shopping trip: We'll be visiting a local plaza and Walmart, after which we'll take a short walk to a large pet store. In Walmart we'll be practicing leash walking skills and control work for distraction. Some of the basic obedience training will be tested as older puppies get lots of meet and greet training. A walk around the pet section in Walmart with fresh animal food smells could be a challenge to some dogs but something they must learn if they're to be successful in later life. During this session we'll take a short walk to a local pet store to test for animal distraction too. All in all a fun way to visit shops without spending a dime!

By Garry Stephenson, NSD Breeding and Puppy Program Manager

Garry's Tips for Summer

Health Issues

It's that time of the year when the heat wave is here so please be careful when traveling with your puppy. Keep the window's tight shut or only an inch or two down so they can't stick their heads out. The roads are dry and dusty and it's easy for small stones to fly up and end up in your dogs eye and the pollen can cause eye infections too. Of course never leave your puppy in an unattended vehicle without the air conditioning running. It takes only moments for the car to heat up and no matter how many notices are posted on the internet there are still unnecessary fatalities.

Water

Be sure that your puppy can drink only from safe water sources. Any ponds and lakes should be avoided as the bacteria is higher in hot weather. When ducks and geese frequent the water and beaches this gives raise to Coccidia and many other mini parasites. Even standing water in the yard or in the bottom of plant holders can be toxic or harmful. Blue algae can be fatal so check the water status of anywhere that your visiting.

BBQ's

Be sure to crate your puppy when there's a family BBQ going on. Not all family and friends are as dog savvy as we'd like and it's easy for the puppies to get food that they shouldn't have and also easy for them to find cooked bones or other items in garbage bags. Cooked bones can be fatal as they can be very sharp and can lodge in the intestines and bowel; they have even been known to pierce through the stomach walls and cause major problems. Often folks think it's okay to give a free handout to a begging puppy but that can be a behaviour that's hard to change so best not to expose your puppy to that idea.

That's all for now folks and we hope that your summer goes well and without incident!



NSD Events

Annual Open House

**Sunday, August 24, Noon to 4:00 p.m.,
NSD Training Centre, 1286 Cedar Creek Rd, Cambridge**
Drop in to our Training Centre for our Annual Open House. The afternoon will include a BBQ, children's crafts, tours, Certified Service Dog demonstrations, and volunteer awards. Contact Judy@nsd.on.ca or call ext. 10 for more details.

PAWLOOZA!

**Saturday, August 16, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
The Plunkett Estate, 9282 Elviage Dr., London, ON**
Would you like to volunteer at Pawlooza, London's festival for dogs and pet lovers? We are looking for weekend sitters and puppy raisers to join us for this ultimate party for dogs. We'll only need you for a couple of hours and then you are free to enjoy the festival. Please email Laura@nsd.on.ca or call ext. 13 to join in the fun.

NSD Merchandise

Okay, Okay, we realize that *winter* is a dirty word now as we are all enjoying the summer sun, but its never too early to plan for the frost and sleet. Last year Chris McArthur's mittens were such a hit, she's ordered matching scarves for 2014. All proceeds are donated to NSD so if you want to be cozy when the snow starts flying, email chris@nsd.on.ca or call ext. 16 now to order your NSD scarf.



Promote Your NSD Fundraiser

Are you organizing an event in support of National Service Dogs? Provide us with all the details and we'll add it to the next issue of "The Scoop." Contact judy@nsd.on.ca or call ext. 10 to promote your event.

Summer is a great time to visit

Planning a visit to Waterloo Region? Organizing a bus tour? Just curious to know what we're all about? The spring and summer months are a great time to visit National Service Dogs. Situated on 7 acres in the country, our training facility is a fun and educational experience for dog lovers of any age. To arrange a tour please contact laura@nsd.on.ca or call ext. 13.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you have a couple of hours once a week, once every two weeks or once in a while, we can use your help with:

Puppy Raising

- Help us socialize and train our puppies-in-training by welcoming one into your home for app. 16 months

Weekend Sitting

- Help provide a relaxing weekend for a dog in Advanced Training

Fundraising

- Work with our staff to ensure the success of various fundraising events.

Building Maintenance

- Assist with general painting and repairs, including building kennels, completing electrical work and plumbing, mowing and gardening

Interested in volunteering? please contact Breana at volunteer@nsd.on.ca.