

Media Release -- Monday, May 10, 2010



PADS PACIFIC
ASSISTANCE
DOGS

**PADS 13th Annual Mothers' Day Brunch & Charity Auction
Over the Top this year!**

On Saturday, May 8th, over 350 supporters of PADS came together to celebrate a great tradition in a very special way.

In the new venue - the Executive Plaza Hotel (North Rd. at Lougheed Hwy.) Coquitlam, after a fabulous brunch, over 300 fabulous auction items were snapped up – some for record breaking prices.

A PARALYMPIC TORCH donated to PADS by Patti Russell -- was personally autographed by John Furlong and used on March 10th, 2010 as part of the official Paralympic Torch Relay was carried in by Patti Russell wearing her Paralympic uniform and followed by a succession of very special people and dogs. Poppy – the PADS trained therapy dog now working for Canuck Place was part of the torch parade. Poppy and PADS' Director of Client Services, Ron Tymrick, were followed by a number of clients with their service dogs and several PADS Dogs in Training with their Puppy Raisers.

This Amazing Auction Item was a big favourite but Nickleback Tickets, a Caribbean Cruise and Whistler Escapes were only a few of the auction items donated to PADS by generous donors and bought by supporters – many for more than retail value.

This event, like every other fundraiser for PADS was organized and “staffed” by a dedicated team of volunteers. Approximately 95 % of work done by Pacific Assistance Dogs Society is made possible through the ongoing efforts of these dedicated volunteers. As one long-time volunteer has said, “It takes a village to raise an assistance dog. We are eternally grateful to that village of people dedicated to PADS.

To get involved yourself, or simply find out more about PADS, please visit the website www.pads.ca.

PADS breeds raises, trains and places highly skilled assistance dogs with persons who have a physical disability or who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Assistance dogs reduce dependence on others and enhance quality of life. PADS clients are affected by conditions such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, polio and post-polio syndrome, arthritis, spinal cord injuries and partial or complete deafness. Dogs are trained to their utmost potential and then carefully matched by temperament and skill set to client personality and needs. PADS is the only assistance dog school in Canada that is fully accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI), and places service, hearing and therapy dogs throughout Western Canada.

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