

2023

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

THE POWER OF ONE HEART

REMEMBERING
PADS CABER

NEW DIGS

TO BETTER SERVE
ALBERTANS

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE

SHEDDING LIGHT ON
INVISIBLE DISABILITIES



EMBRACING CHANGE

This year has brought many successes and challenges. As always, the resilience of the PADS village has not wavered, and is fueled by our mission made visible by our 33 new teams. We are looking ahead to 2024 with anticipation as more growth and opportunities are on the horizon.



I'm so very grateful for our people! Whether you are a supporter, client, staff or board member we could not do what we do without you. The care that exists in our village continues to amaze me, from those that show up selflessly on a random Tuesday to rake leaves to new partners like Willow Park (see article on opposite page) that have come alongside with such enthusiasm and belief in our mission and are helping us meet the growing need for life-changing dogs in the Calgary region.

This year has also not been without losses. We said goodbye to many special dogs and people. This issue highlights two of these pillars in our community:

- The legendary PADS Caber, who blazed a path in his career at Kim's side as "The Dogfather" of the Canadian Justice Facility Dog industry (see page 4 & 5).
- Our beloved friend, PADS champion, and Past President Nancy Kemble - founder of the "PADS Cold" worked tirelessly for PADS right into her

final days. Our organization is better for her legacy of light and love.

- Our friend, donor and longtime volunteer Neil McLean lost his valiant battle to cancer but continues to change our organization through his legacy (see back cover).

It also a year when I have experienced a continual flood of "joy joy" notifications in my inbox. It seemed daily there are puppies arriving, dogs passing their final testing, matches being made and—at long last—fabulous events happening in our communities. We were thrilled to be selected by our friends at the Calgary RCMP Veterans Association who chose us as the first Charity recipient for their annual golf tournament – raising over \$24K in support for our life-changing program.

I'm also proud to share that we've placed a record number of working teams this year – and the quality of these teams (as reflected in our annual client survey scores) are truly exceptional. I'm so proud of all that our team has accomplished.

Finally, we appeal to you to support our "Healthy Pups. Life-Changing Futures." campaign. This will fund not only our veterinary care but also what the nearly 200 puppies-in-training love most: our kibble supply!

Thank you for your support and ongoing belief in our mission,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Watamanuk".

Laura Watamanuk
Executive Director



MISSION

PADS supports people with disabilities and community care providers by partnering them with certified assistance dogs.

VISION

Our clients enjoy life-changing independence and wellness through partnerships with PADS certified assistance dogs.

PADS BOARD

Christine Coletta, Board Chair
Rob Walker, Past Chair
Laura Watson, Vice Chair
Cara Pavlokovic, Treasurer
Debbie Carver, Secretary
Kristy James, Director
Lisa Hoglund, Director



COVER PUP

PADS Caber (2008-2023)
Photographer: Beth Holbrook

NEW DIGS TO BETTER SERVE ALBERTANS

In 1999, in response to the increasing need for assistance dogs in Calgary, PADS embarked on a strategy to expand operations and build a greater community in that region. In 2017 we opened a fully equipped training facility on Centre Avenue in the Southeast. In February of 2023, we were told that the space we were using would not be available to us due to our landlord's business expansion. It is time for growth and change!

After six years subletting from our friends at Chasin' Tails in the Meridian Neighborhood of Calgary, we were informed that they needed the space PADS has been using to expand their thriving business. While we were happy that their business was growing, their plans for expansion meant that we were suddenly searching for a new home for our Calgary Training Centre.

The search began and after some local news coverage, the Calgary community came through! Many people reached out to us about their potential spaces. But finding a space on short order that would accommodate our many dogs and people is trickier than one might imagine.



Luckily, in mid-May the owner of Clever Canines reached out to let us know that they had recently opened their new facility and the space they were vacating might just fit the bill for PADS.

The Alberta team was quick to visit the space to see if it would suit our current needs, as well as provide room for future growth of the program. To everyone's relief and delight, it was ideal and the lease was signed at the end of August of 2023.

Preparations began for the big move, and in no time, and thanks to the generosity of **Two Small Men with Big Hearts**, we officially moved in to our new facility at 304 55th Ave SW on September 15, 2023.

Before training and classes could be held in the new space, some minor renovations were required. Once these were completed, puppy classes resumed the first week of November.

There is still a lot of work to be done - first up was replacing the abundant orange with PADS blue! But with the help of our new partners, the Willow Park Charity Golf Classic, 2024 is going to be a busy and productive year!

The new home of PADS Calgary
Photo credit: Maxwell Mawji

WILLOW PARK FORE CALGARY GROWTH

We are delighted to announce that PADS has been selected as the recipient of the 2024 Willow Park Golf Charity Classic. Since 1988, the event has donated over \$12.2 million to Calgary charities. This would not be possible without the generosity of Willow Park directors and members, and through the support of sponsors, players and volunteers.

The generous proceeds of the tournament will go to support the renovations and accessibility upgrades of the advanced training wing of our recently leased Calgary Training Center, which will be named in recognition of their generosity. We are excited for our bright future serving teams in Calgary thanks to their help!

To learn more please visit pads.ca/willowpark

PADS Zinnia & Sinclair
Photo credit: Maxwell Mawji





THE POWER OF ONE HEART

This summer the PADS community said goodbye to the extraordinary PADS Caber, Canada’s first Justice Facility Dog. While those closest to him grieved his passing privately for a few days, when the news became public, the floodgates opened and messages of condolences and support poured in from around the globe. As we read each in turn, we were reminded not only of the beauty of Caber’s spirit and the many gifts he left with others but also of the powerful way he embodied our mission of changing lives, one incredible dog at time.

For those of us lucky enough to have met PADS Caber, to know him was to feel his impact. He had this incredible way of making each person he met feel like the centre of the universe - most of all the children he supported.

His impact—and that of his partner, Kim Gramlich—on the world was significant. Together they paved the way for over 80 Justice Facility Dogs now serving across Canada, earning him the nickname of “the Dogfather”.

Kim once said she could write a book about Caber (and we hope she will someday) but there would be so many chapters! One would be dedicated to the people at PADS whose fire and passion made Caber possible. Starting with Caber’s Puppy-Raiser Jamie; Keryn his trainer who saw his potential to do this work; Ron Tymrick (now retired) who believed in the radical idea Kim presented to him - that a dog could help victims. The Ladies Auxiliary Fraternal Order of Eagles #20 and RBC Foundation that sponsored Caber’s training; and the countless others that supported his journey.

There would be a chapter about the difficult bumps along the road and overcoming barriers; and about the people and systems that didn’t yet understand the way Caber had the ability to make the victim experience an infinitely easier one.

There would be countless chapters dedicated to those Caber helped, starting with the story of Laura. Laura was a beautiful 15-year-old who was murdered the day Caber

graduated from PADS. Laura’s family and friends were among the first to benefit from Caber’s love. And the story of the little girl Caber accompanied to court, making him the first accredited facility dog in BC to do so. There was also the case where—according to Crown Counsel—the offender would not have been convicted were it not for Caber’s integral support to the teenage victim through her testimony. Inevitably there would be stories of countless other agencies who started Justice Facility Dog programs, inspired by Caber’s work.

There would be a chapter called “the things I’ve seen, the things I’ve done.” With stories of travel to places like Dallas, San Diego, Washington, New York, Toronto, Fort McMurray and Moose Jaw! It would include pictures of Caber visiting the FBI to share knowledge with their Justice Facility Dog teams; then later serving as the only Canadian team alongside them in Vegas after the Route 91 shootings. There would be photos of him “in jail”, at the Empire State Building, Parliament, the White House, on the USS Midway, in planes, trains and automobiles. It would include stories of requests to attend weddings and funerals and even once a marriage proposal.

There would be silly stories about puppy dreams in meetings and snoozing so hard he once rolled off a stage during an important keynote speech. There might even be a paragraph dedicated to all of the people Caber has kissed!

**Born in
Langley, BC**

**Puppy-Raised
in Calgary, AB**

**Placed with Kim Gramlich & Delta Police
Victim Services—supports victims of crime
and trauma and their families.**

**First child supported in
BC court by Accredited
Facility Dog**

**Justice
Dogs
Found**



2008

2010

2015

201

The book would contain so much gratitude. Appreciation to Delta Police who—from the beginning to the end—have provided unfaltering support. To Crown Counsel, Winston Sayson, who is a huge reason dogs work in courtrooms in Canada today.

It's also important to note that if there is a book someday, there will most certainly be a chapter about Caber and Kim; their love and respect for each other was magical. In so many ways, two hearts came together—fusing into one—incredible change makers in our world.



“Every time Caber makes a child giggle or makes a distraught victim smile, my heart grows a bit bigger. One day it might simply burst from the pride I feel for my boy.”

Kim Gramlich, PADS Client

Caber had one more lesson to share. How one mighty heart—that beat not only in his chest, but in Kim’s as well—could transform the hearts of thousands, not with words, or carefully crafted arguments... simply by showing up. With a wagging tail, a megawatt smile... Or with a gentle touch, a caring gaze or by catching tears in silent tenderness. Run free Caber, you’ve been a very, VERY good boy.

To read more about Caber, read the words of those whose lives he touched, watch videos about his life or give in his memory—to ensure there will be more Justice Facility Dogs—visit pads.ca/caber

BY THE NUMBERS

2132
VICTIMS
OF CRIME
& TRAUMA
SUPPORTED

15 YEARS
4 MONTHS



20 DAYS
OF LOVING
& BEING
LOVED

288
PRESENTATIONS
15K
PEOPLE REACHED



9 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE



FOUNDING A CANADIAN INDUSTRY

80 ACCREDITED JUSTICE FACILITY
DOGS ACROSS THE NATION



Photo credit: Beth Holbrook

Justice Facility
Canada
ed

Visits FBI to share knowledge
Later the same year supports
victims of Vegas shootings

Caber hands his responsibilities over to PADS Puma
and is officially adopted by Kim & Rob. He enjoys four
incredible retirement years!

Farewell &
thank you
sweet boy!



6

2017

2019

2023

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE **VISIBLE**

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), while not immediately evident to others, significantly impacts an individual's life. This invisible disability has many different symptoms and no two cases are alike, however, what sets this condition apart is its hidden nature, making it challenging for those affected to receive understanding and support.

Joe says that his military career really started when he joined the army cadets at 12 years old. His love of the uniform then had him enlisting in the Canadian Armed Forces as soon as he was able. He served his country for 17 years and his deployments included UN-sanctioned missions in Cambodia and Bosnia.



HIDDEN STRENGTH, UNSEEN BATTLES

Sustaining various injuries during his military career, Joe retired from service and tried to live the civilian life in a small town southeast of Edmonton. However, the various symptoms of his PTSD prevented him from feeling safe in public settings. Every day was a struggle and he found himself unable to do the simplest tasks.

Joe & PADS Turtle

Photo credit: Miranda Turenne

TOGETHER FOR THE UNSEEN HEROES

Historically a private person by nature, Joe was nervous about the PTSD Dog application process when his wife and biggest supporter, Joanne, suggested he apply. He admitted that the interview process was difficult, but with the help of his wife, and the team at PADS, once completed, he found it to be an uplifting and enlightening process. Matched with PADS Turtle in the summer of 2023, Joe has his peace of mind back and now, with Turtle by his side, can return to the things he once loved, like browsing in the aisle of his favourite store, Canadian Tire.



“In the short time I have been partnered up with PADS Turtle, I have done things I would have never even considered before. Simple day-to-day things that most people take for granted.”

Turtle was Whelped by **Joanne Madeo**; Puppy-Raised by **Fred & Nancy Wade, Pam & Rob McGregor, Lauren Hamilton, and Madeline & Troy Kapiczowki**; Advanced Sitting was done by **Carmen & Jenny Kinas**; and Puppy Sponsored by **Scotia Wealth Management**.

To learn more or to help support our PTSD program, please visit pads.ca/ptsd

POPPIES GROW PADS PTSD PROGRAM

We are delighted to report that earlier this year, PADS and our PTSD Service Dog Program for Veterans and active military was approved by the BC and Yukon Legion Command to receive funding through the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Fund. Specifically, donations through the Poppy Fund will be directed to PADS expenses related to breeding, raising puppies, training dogs, placement, team training, and client support for PADS PTSD program.

Over the past year, members of our team have had the privilege of visiting Legions around the province. Meeting this extraordinarily generous community of people has been a wonderful experience. It's been particularly moving to have some of our PTSD Dog recipients speak and share about the impact that this generosity has had on their lives and how poppies are growing our program and honouring Veterans in new ways!

To learn more about our partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion, visit pads.ca/legion



SNUGGLES NOT STRUGGLES

PADS recognizes that not all of our dogs follow the same path. When a dog shows that the working life is not for them, our team works hard to find a different option. One of these options is the life of a Very Important Pet (VIP). VIP dogs are special, well-trained dogs that make wonderful additions to families with children that have physical or mental disabilities who would benefit from having a dog in their life.

In 2020 the Drury Family adopted VIP Surf, as the prospect of getting a puppy—while managing the health of a child with Cystic Fibrosis—seemed an impossibility. With Surf by her side, Jillian’s once dreaded “respiratory therapy” sessions, became snuggle time with her new best friend!



“Surf has added fun and laughter back into our lives. He also gets all of us outside more. We are so grateful to PADS!”

Jillian, now 14 years old, is, in many ways, a typical teenager. She and Surf are still inseparable and he is always there for her when she needs him. Melissa, Jillian’s mom, comments that “Surf has been a fantastic addition to the family, he’s brought joy and some stress relief to the whole family.”

Jillian & PADS Surf
Photo credit: Melissa Drury



Surf was Whelped by **Tara Doherty**; Puppy-Raised by **Juanna Somerton**; Advanced Sitting was done by **Lisa Davis** and **Jamie Moore**; and Puppy Sponsored by **The Greygates Foundation**.

To learn more about or to support our VIP program, please visit pads.ca/vip

WARM, STEADY **LIGHT**

Each month, countless PADS donors give a recurring gift that changes lives. Because of them, PADS has the assurance that our most essential necessities are covered. They choose the amount that’s right for them and receive monthly updates from PADS.

Join them today! Become a member of this very special group that provides constant, steady support; changing lives, one dog at a time!

Learn more at pads.ca/monthly-giving



PADS Queenie
Photo credit: Beth Holbrook

A LIFE OF LOVE & LEGACY: NEIL MCLEAN

Our village lost an incredible member this past spring when Neil McLean lost his battle with cancer. The McLean family has done many things for PADS over the years so it came as no surprise that they would honour their beloved husband and father, Neil, by supporting PADS in his memory. As they had raised PADS Autumn, it seemed fitting the family sponsor the puppies of her latest litter, the BC Bird Litter.

The McLean Family has been part of the PADS village for over six years.

Neil and Liz, along with their daughters Lindsay and Carla, started their PADS journey by puppy-sitting PADS Kylo back in 2017. Then, after raising PADS Truffle, they were hooked.

After Truffle, they raised PADS Autumn who in 2022 was selected for the Breeding program.

Then on Father's Day, 2022, PADS Doppler came into their lives. While none of them knew what was ahead, Doppler proved to be the best puppy for an important role, accompanying Neil to all his doctors appointments. Doppler was the one thing that kept the spark in the room and could make everyone smile with his quirky

personality during Neil's six-month battle with cancer.



“Our family had the privilege of raising PADS Autumn II and decided to sponsor her newest litter in honour of Neil.”

This summer Liz moved to Vernon. She recently begun puppy-sitting again, with Doppler (who ultimately decided that the working life was not for him) as a loving mentor in our Okanagan Puppy-Raising program. Welcome back to the village Liz - you were missed!



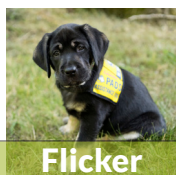
Neil and PADS Autumn
Photo credit: Liz McLean

To learn more about donating on behalf of a loved one, please visit pads.ca/the-gift

MEET THE BC BIRD LITTER



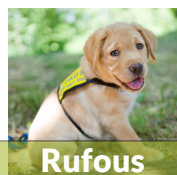
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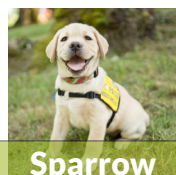
Flicker



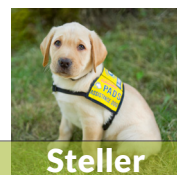
Piper IV



Rufous



Sparrow



Steller



Towhee

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 pads.ca

REGISTERED CHARITY

89225 2347RR0001



PADS Finch & Sparrow
Photo credit: Bill Ng