

Our founder receives Order of Ontario

By Nicki Cruickshank, Barrie Examiner
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Half of Jane Boake's life has gone to the dogs, and that's the way she likes it.

The Barrie resident and teacher at Nantyr Shores Secondary School, in Alcona, has also dedicated the past seven years to building her charity, Canine Opportunity, People Empowerment (C.O.P.E.) from the ground up.

"I had big hopes for it, and it's been challenging starting a charity from scratch," said Boake, founder of C.O.P.E. in Barrie. "It's progressed quite well over the years and I always hoped it would get to this point."

Boake received the Order of Ontario for founding the innovative service dog training program, which helps the disabled and youth at risk of leaving school early.

She accepted her award from David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, on January 28th, in a ceremony at Queen's Park. Twenty-eight new appointees also received the award at the ceremony.

"I didn't even know I was nominated until they called me a few months ago," Boake said in disbelief. "It was a huge shock to find out and it's very humbling to receive the award. It's also great that C.O.P.E. gets recognized."

Boake started C.O.P.E. in 2003, after taking time off teaching to start a family.

"I brought the dogs to school the first three years to work with special needs students," Boake said. "C.O.P.E. is mostly volunteer-operated, aside from one full-time and two part-time staff."



Jane Boake (right) was one of two appointees invited to join the Honourable David C. Onley and his wife, Ruth Ann, at the head table, during the Order of Ontario reception and dinner.

Hard work results in COPE accreditation

After more than one year of hard work, C.O.P.E. has obtained its international accreditation from the Assistance Dogs International, Inc. (ADI).

The organization, based in Santa Rosa, California, acts as an international regulatory body for the assistance and service dog industry.

Obtaining the accreditation was important to all who interact with C.O.P.E., said Debbie Gilbert, C.O.P.E.'s executive director.

"It lets them know we meet or exceed high international standards," she added.

In 2008, Debbie started work on obtaining the accreditation. In October 2009, a team of ADI reviewers conducted a detailed review of all aspects of C.O.P.E. In January 2010, the hard work was finally rewarded when C.O.P.E. received its accreditation.

Debbie said obtaining the accreditation gave her a "sense of achievement and recognition that we do what we do exceptionally well by international standards."

For more information on the ADI accreditation, see Debbie's article on Page 4.



C.O.P.E. receives \$30,000 donation

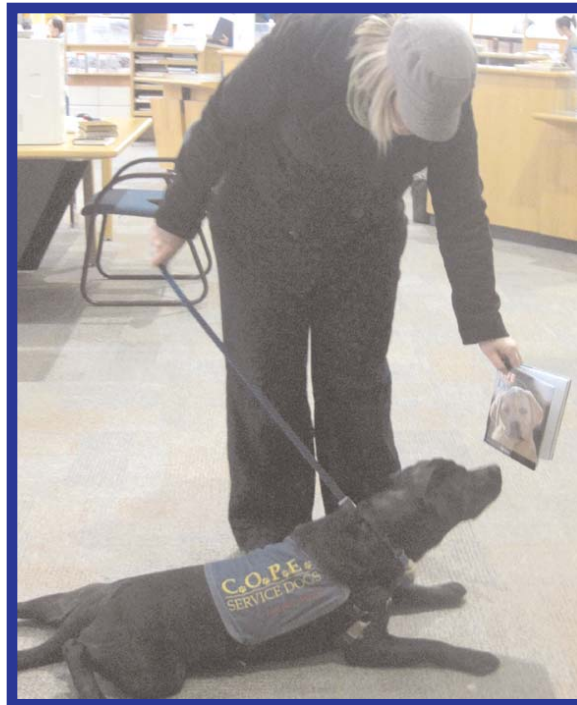
It was with deep gratitude that C.O.P.E. accepted a \$30,000 cheque from the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Canada. On hand to celebrate the generous donation was (left to right) Susan Cohon, wife of George Cohon; Selina Frederick, C.O.P.E.'s public relations director; Devon Friedman, RMHC's manager of communications and development; Jane Boake, C.O.P.E.'s founder; Debbie Gilbert, C.O.P.E.'s executive director; and George Coho, RMHC's founder. Mr. Coho has been a long-time supporter of C.O.P.E. Of course, there were lots of C.O.P.E. puppies on hand to celebrate the great day. The cheque, presented in November 2009, is being used to sponsor three puppies --- McFlurry, Big Mac, and Golden Arches. C.O.P.E. would also like to acknowledge the on-going support of Rory McKinnon, franchise owner of McDonald's Restaurants in Alliston and Angus. Further gratitude is extended to Jason O'Neal, franchise owner of McDonald's Restaurants in Barrie and Bradford.

Lefroy Harbour Resorts donates \$10,000

C.O.P.E. wishes to express its appreciation to Lefroy Harbour Resorts for its generous contribution of \$10,000. Lefroy Harbour Resorts is a highly regarded, full service marina, which has been based in Innisfil for more than 35 years. Its' kind donation has been used to sponsor a puppy the staff voted to call "Beacon".

"It is very clear that the company's staff is a caring and community-minded group of people," said Selina Frederick, C.O.P.E.'s public relations director.

"The staff took an active interest in sponsoring Beacon and we truly appreciate their kind donation," she added.



Usually surrounded by golden retrievers, do you think Adler is asking his puppy raiser, Averil Walker, for a book on black labradors?

Fund support

We are excited to announce that we have formed a committee dedicated to moving C.O.P.E. forward through fundraising and public awareness campaigns.

If you would like to be part of this creative, enthusiastic team, please contact C.O.P.E.'s public relations director Selina Frederick. She can be reached at (705) 424-9494 (direct line), 705-734-2673 (main office), or selina@copedogs.org (e-mail).

Currently, our team is working on the following projects:

- 2011 charity calendar
- dragon boat race
- information booths
- shop and support gift card program.

Watch this section for fundraising projects and ideas for how you can support C.O.P.E.'s growth!

Here are some ideas you might like to try:

Share Your Talent

There is a lot of talent in our C.O.P.E. family. Consider offering a workshop on a subject you know: knitting, gardening, organizing, dancing, or writing. Charge a fee for your seminar with all or some of the proceeds going to C.O.P.E. We can help you organize and structure the event.

Turn Fundraising into FUN-raising!

Host a party! You can have a fancy dinner and charge \$40 per couple. Your guests enjoy a fun time with their friends, a meal, and a charitable receipt for it all! What about hosting a birthday party or other celebration and ask that in lieu of gifts, friends and family give money to C.O.P.E.?

Think Spring Cleaning

Turn your clutter into a charitable donation! Organize a street sale, or have your own garage sale, and donate the money to our programs.

Puppy raiser families love their work

One year after their much loved 14-year-old Alaskan Malamute died, Mary Juretic and her family got news they were receiving a C.O.P.E. puppy to raise. Mary knew it was fate.

Mary and her family, which lives in Alcona, received the pup last October.

Among other things, the pup has kept them laughing. There was the time she discovered what happens to metal when it is frozen.

"She went to pick up a lanyard hook that was outside and found it stuck to her nose and mouth," said Mary. "She was very surprised and shook her head to get it off."

They also discovered how much the pup loves to multitask.

"When playing with her toys, she prefers to play with at least three toys at the same time," said Mary.

McFlurry (or Flurry, as they like to call her) received her name from her sponsorship by the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Even before she received Flurry, Mary was acquainted with C.O.P.E. through her job as an educational assistant at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, in Innisfil. For seven years, she has worked with children with special needs. One of the students has a C.O.P.E. dog she uses to assist her.

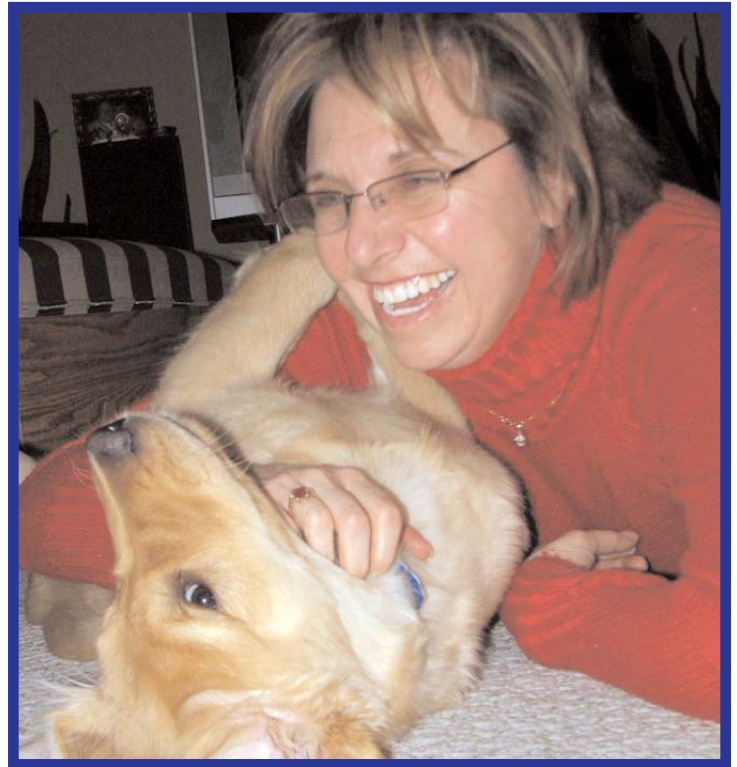
Then, Mary heard that C.O.P.E. was looking for puppy raisers for a

batch of 10 puppies that had been born last August.

"I knew of this program for over a year but I never knew what an amazing and multi-faceted program it was," said Mary. "The fact that I'm not only helping raise a dog that will benefit a person with a disability, but that we had a part in keeping a young person on track in school, means a lot to us."

After experiencing the blues because her two teenager daughters were growing up, Brenda Evans, of Barrie, decided she, too, would like to be a puppy raiser. She thought this would be a perfect opportunity to learn how to raise a dog and it would give one of her daughters, who is still in high school, the community volunteer hours she needed.

Her husband, Dave, was initially hesitant but in no time he, too, was won over by Archie (officially called



Mary Juretic with Flurry, when she was 15-weeks-old.

Golden Arches because the Ronald McDonald House Charities also sponsored him). Now, Dave loves to take Archie on field trips to the Barrie Library, the farmers' market and even on the bus system.

Brenda even takes him to her night classes at Georgian College.

"The teachers and student, alike, are very disappointed if he should miss a class," she said.

"Every day is memorable when you are raising a puppy," said Brenda. "They are experiencing everything for the first time and you are re-experiencing it right along with them."

The C.O.P.E. puppies-in-training are placed with puppy raisers from the time they are about eight weeks old, until they are matched with their life partners, or move on to do their life's work, about two years later.

C.O.P.E. has 14 puppy raiser families. However, it is always looking for more. For more information, contact C.O.P.E. at 705-734-2673 or info@copedogs.org



C.O.P.E.'s hard-working, community-minded puppy raisers are an integral part of our organization. Here they are with their families after a Christmas potluck dinner.

C.O.P.E. receives international accreditation

By Debbie Gilbert
C.O.P.E.'s Executive Director

We are happy to announce that Assistance Dogs International, Inc. (ADI) informs us that C.O.P.E. Service Dogs successfully met all the professional standards and requirements necessary to achieve full accreditation status.

ADI President Peter Gorbing writes: "...full accreditation represents a significant achievement for the staff and management of C.O.P.E. Service Dogs. It is indicative of your organization's strong commitment to upholding the highest professional standards of excellence within the assistance dog industry. Congratulations once again on this important achievement."

ADI is a coalition of not-for-profit organizations that trains and places assistance dogs. It also acts as the international regulatory body for the assistance and service dog industry.

The purpose of the ADI is to improve the areas of training, placement, and utilization of assistance dogs, as well as staff and volunteer education.

Members of ADI meet regularly to share ideas, attend seminars, and conduct business. The business

matters include activities, such as educating the public about assistance dogs and the legal rights of people with disabilities partnered with assistance dogs. The organization also sets standards and establishes guidelines and ethics for the training of these dogs. Further, it helps to improve the utilization and bonding of each team.

Accreditation is a voluntary peer review process for member organizations to officially measure its compliance with ADI's established ethical and operational standards.

These standards have been developed and refined in the various ADI committees over the years.

The ADI Accreditation Manual, which is comprised of the specific standards to be evaluated during the survey, was developed and fine-tuned by the ADI Accreditation Committee.

To meet the high standards and achieve accreditation, C.O.P.E. Service Dogs underwent a detailed and lengthy review and upgrading of all aspects of the business. This included reviews of the administration processes, program-related matters, training standards, and professional development of



staff and volunteers.

In October 2009, three peer reviewers spent 24 hours visiting our program. They met with one high school principal, three life partners, two board members, three volunteers (including one puppy raiser), and three High School Assistance Dog Program students.

Four instructors also enjoyed introduction and debriefing meetings with the executive director. They also had a full tour of our Nantyr facilities and observed a High School Assistance Dog class.

We'd like to thank all the staff, volunteers, students, and canines who made this achievement possible!

Order of Ontario

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"We have 16 dogs in training and each is raised from puppy stage by a volunteer family," she added. "We have volunteers at our information booths at events, running the website, and puppy-sitting when families go away."

Boake said although the award is nice, she'd still love her work just as much if she didn't receive it.

"It's very satisfying to me, and I love going to work every day," she said. "I love to see how these dogs impact a child's life, and although it's hard work, it all pays off in the end."



C.O.P.E. is extremely proud of the quality of its High School Assistance program and the high standards placed on the dogs participating in the program. During a training session at the Bear Creek Secondary School, in January, the Barrie Fire Department helped to teach the dogs to become comfortable with emergency services. In this training session, the dog learned to handle strange sights, sounds, and smells.