

## Look at all the puppies we had!



C.O.P.E.'s executive director Debbie Gilbert (above) gives special hugs to one of the new puppies. Below, extra cuddles are provided by Avery Frank (left) and Meredith Cudmore-Keating.

Aurora, a two-year-old C.O.P.E.-trained golden retriever, has given birth to 10 --- count them --- 10 puppies.

The puppies were born August 31st. It was Aurora's first litter.

C.O.P.E is eagerly looking for sponsors and puppy raiser families to help the little ones move on to the next stage in their training development.

By mid-October, when they are about seven weeks old, the puppies will be ready to move in with their puppy raiser families.

Once there, they will begin the training and socialization that will help them become cherished C.O.P.E. dogs.

Sponsorships are also needed to help pay for the puppies' upkeep and training.

C.O.P.E has had 36 puppies, including the 10 newbies, in its 10 years.

Twenty dogs have graduated to become C.O.P.E Service Dogs.



Please do not wake me until breakfast, lunch, or dinner!

# Rotary donates \$10K to sponsor dog



Photo by Stan Howe, Barrie Advance staff photographer

Greg McWatt, president of The Rotary Club of Barrie, and Debbie Gilbert, C.O.P.E.'s executive director, proudly pose with Sprocket. The club decided to sponsor Sprocket's two years of training because of the positive impact the program has in the community.

## Rusty "instant celebrity" at Sym-Tech Automotive

C.O.P.E. is actively searching for sponsors to provide the financial support required to turn its new litter of puppies into the much needed service dogs required in the community.

Sym-Tech Automotive Protection, in Richmond Hill, was one of the community-minded companies to step up almost two years ago to sponsor a dog they named "Rusty".

"The Sym-Tech sponsorship of C.O.P.E. has made a difference for C.O.P.E. and for the Sym-Tech employees," said Laurie Laykish, whose husband, Brad Wells, is president of Sym-Tech. She is also a member of the C.O.P.E. board of directors.

"It is a win-win partnership and the C.O.P.E. people do a great job of keeping Sym-Tech engaged with Rusty," she added.

Rusty was an "instant celebrity" the few times that C.O.P.E. took him to visit the 35 employees at Sym-Tech. A bulletin board was also placed in the staff room so employees could be kept up-to-date on Rusty's progress.

"He is going to graduate from C.O.P.E. this year and is a wonderful male, who is excelling in his program," said Ms Laykish.

C.O.P.E. is extremely grateful for the generous sponsorship of one of its puppies by The Rotary Club of Barrie.

In a ceremony in Barrie, on October 8th, the club officially announced it would be calling its dog, Sprocket.

The club's logo is a sprocket, which represents different individuals moving forward as a whole, said Greg McWatt, president of The Rotary Club of Barrie.



The club decided to sponsor a dog because of the positive impact it will have on the community. Specifically, the club was keenly interested that high school students, at risk of dropping out of school, were involved in the dogs' training.

"That one dog touches so many people," said Mr. McWatt. "We thought it was a good cause for the Rotary."

It is estimated that C.O.P.E. dogs will directly impact the lives of about 40 people during their two years of training.

"The good doesn't stop there," said Selina Frederick, C.O.P.E.'s public relations director.

"Each of the lives, touched by Sprocket, will then go out and impact others and make a difference in their community," she added. "It is truly the snowball effect in action!"



Brad Wells, president of Sym-Tech, shows off Rusty's paw print on his leg. It also happens to be C.O.P.E.'s logo. How is that for support!



## Welcomed support from Casino Rama

Sherry Lawson, Director of Corporate Affairs and Public Relations for Casino Rama, recently attended a C.O.P.E. Service Dogs Puppy Petting session to present a cheque to the charity.

On hand to receive the donation were 10, five-week-old puppies!

C.O.P.E. is grateful for the ongoing, generous support from the Casino Rama Wellness Fund.

## Need a special gift?

Looking for a special gift to buy for the special people in your life? Christmas is just around the corner. There's also birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions.

Why not make a donation in their names to the C.O.P.E. Service Dogs?

We'll send them a letter telling them of the wonderful thing you have done on their behalf and the great use, which will be made of your donation.

Contact C.O.P.E. for more information.

# Selina Frederick joins C.O.P.E. as public relations director

Please join us in welcoming Selina Frederick to the C.O.P.E. team. Selina has been appointed as our public relations director. Her duties are many, including public relations, fundraising, event coordination, communications, resource development, newsletter co-ordination.... and many more "duties as assigned" (just like the rest of us C.O.P.E. people, eh?).

Selina comes to us with a varied background and significant experience in all these areas. Although formally a part-time contract position, we know Selina is seriously committed to the success and growth of C.O.P.E. Service Dogs, and she'll do a great job.

So, you may be hearing from Selina for input or volunteer assistance. She'll be attending some information booths, puppy raiser meetings, and puppy petting sessions.

Let's all welcome her to our team. Here's how you reach Selina:  
Direct line: (705) 424-949 Main office: (705) 734-COPE  
E-mail: selina@copedogs.org



## Commencement celebrates dogs & families

Three graduate dogs and their life partners will officially celebrate their partnership during commencement ceremonies on October 17th.

The dogs and their partners, all children challenged with a disability, went through a matching and training program during the summer.

During the ceremonies, the graduate dogs and their life partners join C.O.P.E. staff, volunteers, and supporters to celebrate the commencement of

their service dog careers. Teams receive official diplomas, special packs, and capes. Puppy raiser families are also honoured for their part in caring for dogs during their training. C.O.P.E. has matched 20 dogs to families and life partners over the last 10 years.



## Watch C.O.P.E. video on YouTube

If you have Internet access, please take a moment to view C.O.P.E.'s heart-warming and educational video on YouTube.

The video was produced by Dare2 Productions, a Barrie-based video, television, and film production company.

To view the video, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). In the search field, enter "C.O.P.E. Service Dogs". From the list that appears, select "COPE Service Dogs".



## C.O.P.E. raised \$5,000 from dragon boat race

C.O.P.E. is elated to have raised just over \$5,000 in pledges made from the Barrie Dragon Boat Festival, on August 22nd.

The pledges were made to the “Baywood Dog Paddlers”, which represented C.O.P.E. in the race. The hearty paddlers are shown in these pictures.

Since the Baywood Animal Hospital and Holistic Blend generously sponsored the boat’s entry, all pledges went directly to C.O.P.E. It was the first time C.O.P.E. had an entry in the dragon boat festival, held at Kempenfelt Bay. C.O.P.E. wishes to thank all the paddlers, volunteers, sponsors, and pledge donors.



## C.O.P.E. is grateful for support from these sponsors

