

SPORTS

KING WEEKLY SENTINEL



Local 'Good Guys' can finish first!

By JEFF DONER

For over 20 years The Good Guys Carting Dogs club has helped raise funds for various charities and brought smiles to countless faces.

Founded in 1987 by Carol Ralston and Jan Kay, the two started out with classes to teach their own dogs how to pull/draft carts, wagons and sleds.

"I had a Newfoundland dog that was born in '86 and I went to an obedience class because he was a little hard to handle and I met Jan a month after I started class," said Ralston. "So we did it and thought, 'we're going to organize as a group and get together.'"

The two then created an eight-week training course that still takes place every spring on Monday nights in Schomberg.

Once the dogs are trained and ready for action they accompany the team to charity events and fundraisers (if their owners wish) where they give rides for \$2 per child.

Over the years, the Good Guys have visited numerous events that started with Barrie Winterfest in the late '80s and have raised money for a slew of charities including Canine Vision (of the Lions Foundation), the Farley Foundation, Camp Quality, Children's Wish Foundation, Variety Village, United Way and many Humane Societies in the area.

Ralston said they have raised over \$3,000 for charities in the past year alone.

"Whoever asks us to come, the money goes towards whatever they are fundraising for. If they don't have a charity of choice, we make suggestions," said Ralston. "One we like to support is The Farley Foundation, which is a fund that is held aside for those who have limited income and have a pet that needs veterinary care and they can't afford it."

This year the Good Guys also raised money to help the Caledon fire department buy oxygen masks for pets.

Another favourite over the years is taking the dogs to Drysdale's Christmas tree

farm. There the dogs would pull Christmas trees to people's cars for a donation to Camp Quality.

Ralston maintains that all breeds big and small can be useful and help others.

"Small dogs have their purpose to even if they can't carry kids," she said, pointing out that smaller dogs are taken to events as "petting dogs."

Some of the breeds that have participated with the Good Guys range from Newfoundland and Bernese Mountain dogs to beagles and cockapoos.

Ralston also gave kudos to the owners for their support and hard work.

"Everybody who is a part of it donates their own time and gas," she said. "They don't get any compensation in any way shape or form."

Ross Hamilton is one of those owners who over the years has donated more and more of his time to the club.

"My wife and I started about six years ago," he said. "We had a pup that had lots of energy, so we wanted to try and find something that would kind of settle him down and give him a purpose."

"We ran into The Good Guys Carting Club at a pet show and met Carol and Jan and found out that they did the classes in Schomberg, so that spring my wife signed up for the classes with our dog Timex. He took to it right away, finished the classes that summer and starting going to the charity events."

Hamilton now has two dogs that take part in the drafting/carting events and said it has been a blast.

"We have a lot of fun. The club has a lot of really good people and this way the dogs can actually contribute to the community. Half the fun for us is seeing the smiles on the kids' faces."

"Sometimes there are kids who are apprehensive or scared and by the end of it they are smiling and don't want to get off, they just want to keep going."

If you're interested in having The Good Guys Carting Dogs out to your event or for more information on the classes, visit www.thegoodguyscartingdogs.ca.



ALL NEW

motoring.CA



YOUR LOCAL AUTO SOURCE

Your Local Auto Source for Hometown Auto Related Stories and News...
from a Grassroots, Independent Perspective.

