

# A BUDDING ENTREPRENEUR

Stephen Hull was recently featured in the June 2011 issue of Powell River Living Magazine (see below).

As a businessman Stephen takes every opportunity to promote his products. His business is called DOG GONE GREAT and he makes “Healthy, all natural treats for your dog! No chemicals or preservatives used”. To order or for more information call The Hulls 604-483-8978 or email [steps@pracl.ca](mailto:steps@pracl.ca)

**DOG  
GONE  
GREAT**  
was a big  
hit at  
Powell  
River's  
Blackberry  
Festival.



Powell River Living Magazine  
June 2011

## Doggie treats

Life is dog-gone great!

By Lesley Thorsell

Local entrepreneur Stephen Hull has partnered with the new Creative Rift Studio to showcase Dog Gone Great dog treats.

Stephen started his business with help of from the Steps to Employment Program of Powell River Association for Community Living. Steps is a pilot project jointly funded by the Ministry of Social Development and Community Living BC whose focus is Customized Employment. That means individualizing the employment relationship based on the strengths, needs and interests of the person with a disability and matching with the specific needs of the employer. It's all about the ability of the person, not the disability.

Stephen went through a process called Discovery. The themes that emerged were his love of people, entertainment and animals. To test the waters, Stephen began participating in community events like Kathaumixw and the Powell River Film Festival.

He then explored self-employment. To involve as many themes as possible, the idea was presented to make dog treats and sell them fairs and other events.

While selling at local fairs, Stephen connected with Mischa Brooks-Thoma. When Mischa and business partner Jillian McPhail decided to open a store, Creative Rift, they invited Stephen to sell his dog treats at their store. Mischa has been very welcoming of Stephen. "I enjoy hav-



**WHAT A TREAT:** Stephen Hull hands over biscuits to be shared with another lucky dog.

ing Stephen here, helping him to be part of the community. It is wonderful to be able to assist a fellow entrepreneur with his business," said Mishca.

Stephen's parents, Pat and Janet Hull, participate in the baking of Stephen's dog treats. They say that since Stephen began his Dog Gone Great biscuit business, they've seen him benefit from many opportunities to interact with his customers. "This is so much more than social interaction. It allows Steve to offer something

of value," they say.

While talking with Stephen through his communication device he said: "It makes me happy and proud."

Drop by Creative Rift, 4471C Marine, down the stairs from Rocky Mountain Pizza and meet Stephen and check out his dog treats.

Stephen is also selling dog treats at the Outdoor Market in the Blue Cat Square every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 am to 5 pm. [PRL](http://www.prl.ca)