



New Year's Day - January 2018
Moments before our celebration began

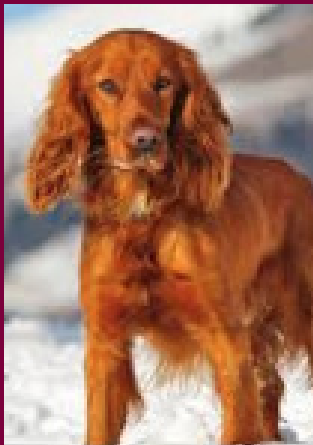


JANUARY 2018

**River Park Clean-Up
Time and Date - TBA**

We're waiting for a Chinook to melt away snow and ice accumulation.

Please watch your inbox and/or Twitter for notice of a group effort.



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If for any reason you no longer wish to receive communication, just let me know.

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A Howlin' G OFF-LEASH NEWS

Event Day at River Park

A slight break in the weather and loads of sunshine was just what we needed to ring in the New Year at River Park.

Although it was still cold in the morning, many dogs and their people came to enjoy some light refreshments and to socialize. It was great to see so many park users have a howling good time. Thanks for joining us again this year.



New Year's Resolutions

While making resolutions for yourself, why not include some for the special canines in your life? No pressure... how about the following ideas?

- Include your dog in activities you can enjoy together (hiking, yoga, [geocaching](#), games)
- Set aside an allowance for occasions, replacement items, special treats etc
- Clean the dog's bathroom (aka the yard), their bowls, bed and blankies more frequently
- Go for off-leash walks at a different park for a change
- Have a leash-walk in a very different environment to pique their interest
- Do a training refresher
- Teach them a new trick to keep their minds sharp
- Maintain their health with an annual exam
- Groom more often (it's good for their coats, plus reduces fur on clothes and furniture)

The dog may not find all of these ideas that appealing but it's all with their best interests in mind.



River Park Needs Some Help

Good times are always waiting for users at River Park. During the holiday season, we had a mix of weather which resulted in a fair amount of snow, some melting and high use.

Unfortunately, we also noticed a few leftover dog deposits for which no one claimed responsibility.

We're waiting for a Chinook to melt more snow so that we can hold a clean-up. In the meantime, if you see a leftover, please help and pick it up. Thank you for your consideration.

a note of Thanks

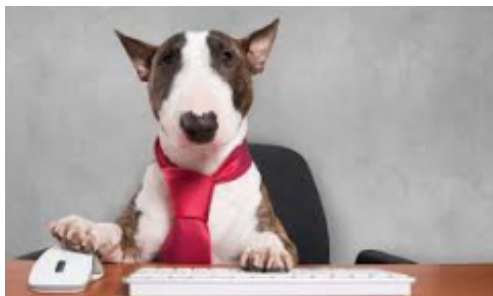
Three of River Park's highly dedicated volunteers are at it again!

Many thanks to **Lynn & Mark M** and **Nancy E** for supplying and replacing two IKEA bag dispensers that were broken in River Park.

As always it's great to have their support. Many people who find themselves in the position of needing a spare or extra bag are also thankful for their efforts. Overall, it helps us maintain a clean park for everyone and every dog.

Announcing the Top Dog Names for 2017

Each year rover.com, America's largest network of pet sitters and dog walkers publishes their list of top dog names. Categories go far beyond male and female and show we're influenced by many things such as pop culture, the internet, nostalgia, cities and travel destinations.



Interestingly according to rover.com, the list doesn't change much from year to year as we humans tend to have our favourites.

If you're looking for inspiration to name a new furry family member or just want to read about a name already chosen, [click here](#) to check out the huge list. For now, following is a list of Top 10 dog names for 2017.

MALE

Max
Charlie
Cooper
Buddy
Jack

Rocky
Oliver
Bear
Duke
Tucker

FEMALE

Bella
Lucy
Daisy
Luna
Lola

Sadie
Molly
Maggie
Bailey
Sophie

Winter Wear Has Gone to the Dogs

During winter cold snaps, many of us skip walking the dog and only let them outside for quick bathroom breaks. At some point though, we and the dogs need to get out and stretch our legs.

No problem, right? We just put on an extra layer and the big boots, grab the dog and off we go.

But a few dogs are fur-challenged or have sensitive feet and some of us are concerned about protecting their feet from products used to melt snow and ice.

If your dog manages better with a little help, check out some of these articles on dog clothing, footwear and more.

[The Canine Journal](#) published [a review](#) on dog boots and winter coats

[Tips and a list of the top 11 dog boots](#) compiled by the [American Kennel Club](#)

[Info](#) on footwear and alternatives to booties in a blog from rover.com

[A list of foot balms](#) for dogs from [The Daily Sheep](#)

If you have a great product that you use, please email riverparkoffleash@gmail.com to share your find with others. Best wishes finding some products that work well for your dog.



Paws for Thought

Some interesting finds to share with everyone this month:

[Tips on finding a good dog trainer](#) from [The Inquisitive Canine](#)



[Companion Animal Psychology](#) lists some of the [best pet people to follow on Twitter and Facebook](#)



[Calgary man builds wintery obstacle course](#) for his dog



Caring for Your Pet In Sickiness and Health

Some great online info to help keep all of our furry family members healthy and happy!

[Pet exercises](#) with [Hideshi Okamoto](#) and [Dr Sophia Yin](#)



Article about [Canine flu in Canada](#) from CTV News



The [facts on arthritis and dogs](#) from [Dr Karen Shaw Becker](#)

