

# A Howlin' G ood Time

## OFF-LEASH NEWS



OCTOBER 2017

**Blessing of the Animals**  
**Saturday, Oct 7 | 11am**  
**Cathedral Church of the Redeemer**

**604 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE**

Honouring current and past fur family members.

**Thanksgiving**  
**Monday, Oct 9**

Give thanks for the furry beings that make our lives complete.

**Halloween**  
**Tuesday, Oct 31**

Keep pets safe and have a howling good time!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**River Park Christmas Tree Decorating**

**Sunday, Nov 26 | 11am**

Join us to bring festive spirit to River Park.

### UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

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

Candice



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🌐 [riverparkdogs.com](http://riverparkdogs.com)

🐦 [@riverparkdogs](https://twitter.com/riverparkdogs)

📘 [riverparkdogs](https://www.facebook.com/riverparkdogs)



## Bright Ideas for Park Use



If you walk your dog in River Park around 8pm, you'll notice it's really dark out there!

Less light means it's harder to see your dog and most definitely harder to find their poop.

We're so fortunate to have lights along the trail in River Park. The problem is our dogs often head away from the trail to do their business and there are plenty of areas the light does not reach.

While we can try to be more diligent about keeping the dog within sight, we can use a flashlight and dress up the dog with an illuminated collar or light-up bobble. Bike lights are also an inexpensive option.



It's somewhat festive dressing up the dog! If you're not on board already, please consider one of these options for the dogs' safety and to help keep the park clean.

## \* a note of Thanks \*

We had a week of rain that delayed our plans for a clean-up at River Park. When the weather suddenly turned around, we gave very short notice to join the effort on Saturday, September 16. No matter... 36 people came to help!

We also had support from The City of Calgary, Environmental Education and Community Standards who were on hand to chat and answer questions from park users.

Overall, feedback from volunteers was quite positive. During the clean-up, our group concentrated on bark chip areas and along 14A Street, and reported the park was fairly clean.

As always it's a great opportunity to engage with park members and encourage responsible use of our beloved space. Many thanks to everyone!





## Lost and Found Dogs

This year, we've had a few reports of lost dogs at or near River Park. Using our email distribution list and Twitter, we've had a very high success rate in reuniting families with their dogs.



In August, Ron, a new resident in our neighbourhood discovered his dog escaped from the yard. Thanks to Taylor M and her boyfriend who found and cared for Willie until the dots were connected to reunite him with Ron.

At the end of September, Kathy S was walking Lucy at River Park when something spooked the dog. Lucy bolted and became lost. Lucy was missing for approximately five hours. A woman found her on 14 Street. Kathy picked up a frightened but unharmed Lucy at 2:30pm.

In both cases, Twitter and the email distribution list were wonderful tools to help spread the word and reunite the families.

## Have a Happy Halloween



Does Halloween cause stress and anxiety for your pet? Help them have the best experience possible. Here are some tips to give your furry family member a paw up during the event.

### Decorations

- Pet-proof indoor and outdoor items
- Jack o' lanterns or candles and tails don't mix well

### Costume Tips

- Choose brightly coloured costumes that are comfy and unrestrictive (don't limit movement/senses)
- Watch for choking hazards
- Ensure ID tags are worn

### Mental and Physical Health

- Avoid dressing pets in costume if they show any signs of stress or anxiety
- Ensure your pet doesn't bolt out the door
- Have a quiet spot for them to hang out
- Avoid a bite incident — ensure your pet doesn't get spooked by people in costumes

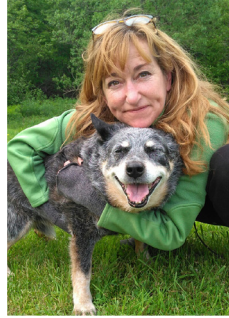
### Treats

- Keep people treats in a secure location
- Chocolate and candies or gum (containing xylitol) are extremely toxic for dogs
- Candy wrappers are choking hazards

Wishing a happy, healthy and safe event for all!

## A Fond Farewell

With a heavy heart, Buff S shared her sad news: *"That dreaded day has come. I doubt that there are many current River Park hounds and their humans that remember Pooka and I but I wanted to let you know. Some of our best adventures and memories were from River Park and I am very grateful that we had our time there."*



*Pooka's last couple of years were spent in "retirement" when we moved to New Brunswick. Some day I hope to get back to scatter some of her ashes in the park. It really was a special place for us. Here's a favourite pic — the last one I have of us before she died."*

On September 4, **Woody** crossed over Rainbow Bridge. He was a longtime River Park member that was well-loved by Pat and Shelley T (his loving family) and many furry friends.

Woody was an ultra sweet Golden Retriever that accompanied Pat on many park clean-ups over the years. Pat and Shelley said their tearful goodbye when Woody could no longer cope with the cancer that took over his body.



Karen W wishes to share a very personal letter of goodbye to **Alfie**, her furry family member. Alfie passed away on September 7.



*Dear Alfie,  
I miss you so much. I know you loved us, your family, but I wonder if you knew how much we loved you? When you would come bounding to me with such a happy grin on your face,*

*I knew you loved me. Then, when we shared a hug and a face lick, did you know I loved you? When you would hurl yourself downstairs to Daniel and play with wild abandonment, even though you were in pain, Daniel knew you loved him. And after the play, when he would carry you back up the stairs, in love and sorrow, did you know? When you would lay your head in our laps and sigh with pleasure from our pats, we knew you loved us. And when our tears would fall on your beautiful fur, did you know we loved you?*

*Alfie, I hope you knew.*

## Paws for Thought

### Annual Blessing Event

Planning to attend the Blessing of the Animals at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer on Saturday, Oct 7 at 11am? It's an opportunity to honour current and past fur-family members. While many people bring their dogs or cats into the church, others bring urns with contents to be blessed.

This event is often held in the first week of October because St Francis of Assisi's feast day is Oct. 4. He was the patron saint of animals.



## Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

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



[How to know if your pet is in pain from Vets to Go](#)



Learn some [reasons why dogs lick](#) from [Mercola Healthy Pets](#)

