



DECEMBER 2019

**River Park  
Christmas Party and  
Tree Decorating  
Sunday, Dec 15  
Time 10:30am to 12:30pm**  
Join us to bring festive spirit  
to River Park.



**SAVE THE DATE  
New Year's Day Fun  
River Park  
Sunday, Jan 1  
11am to 1pm**  
Ring in the New Year with  
canine and human friends.

#### UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

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

Candice



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## Christmas Spirit and Community Building in River Park

Celebrate the holiday season with the Friends of River Park team on **Sunday, Dec 15 from 10:30 to noon**. We'll decorate the bulletin board and four trees near the fountain. **And this year Mrs Claus will join us at 11:30!**

You and your dog can enjoy some light refreshments (while quantities last) and mingle with park users. This is also one of the best opportunities to introduce yourself and find out a few dog owners' names.

If you plan to bring decorations and/or help decorate, keep in mind we always follow simple rules to ensure the safety of dogs, children, trees and the park:

1. Decorations **must be non-breakable**
2. No tinsel or bits that can end up inside dog's tummies or spread throughout the park
3. Items must be hung out of dogs' reach



Please note we can't guarantee security of donated items. All are saved for future use in the park.

Although we ensure there are no glass ornaments, breakage occasionally occurs. If you see something broken in the weeks to come, please pick it up. The area will remain decorated until one or two months after Christmas.

This is one of our favourite events that brings the community together. Hope you can join us to create warm festive spirit at River Park!

Lastly, in the spirit of the season, here is The Christmas Song (a dog version).

*Doggie sleeping by a gentle fire  
Nap time filled with silly dreams  
Thoughts of playtime, walks and many tasty treats  
And making "furends" by any means.*

*Every doggie knows it's important to be good  
Santa Paws keeps watch throughout the year  
For good behaviour at the park and in the hood  
Extra points for listening with both ears.*

*They hope Santa Paws is on his way  
With lots of toys and goodies loaded on his sleigh  
And every doggie must pretend not to hear  
The arrival of Santa Paws and his reindeer.*

*Pleasant dreams to all the doggies near and far  
High hopes for Santa Paws to come  
Four paws crossed that he has a sturdy sleigh  
And leaves the treats on Christmas day.*



## A River Park Update

Oh look! A dapper and cheery fellow recently appeared in the middle of River Park.

Mr Snowman will keep park users company throughout all weather until the middle of February.



Thanks to **Lynn and Mark M** for decorating the River Park fountain for various occasions each year and again for Christmas 2019!

We're so grateful for their incredibly kind community spirit.

## Chicken Dog Bickies



Spoil your pooch during the holiday season. If you like to bake, here's the perfect opportunity to try out a new recipe for dog treats.

### Ingredients

2 cups cooked chicken (finely chopped)  
2 cups whole wheat flour or white flour  
1 container (5.3-ounce) non-fat plain yogurt  
3/4 cup water  
1 egg, lightly beaten

Mix ingredients in a medium bowl. Place/flatten onto baking sheets (little spread occurs). Bake 12-14 minutes at 350 degrees. Refrigerate or freeze.

## Keeping Our Pets Safe During the Holiday Season

Our pets are very important family members and many of us feel strongly about including them in all aspects of the holidays.

While many homes transform during the holiday season, we sometimes inadvertently create a few hazards for our pets. Here are some tips to make sure festivities are incident-free for the furry ones! May every dog enjoy a fun and safe holiday season.

### Toxic Plants

Steer clear of seasonal plants such as holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and lilies. Keep in mind, pine needles can result in stomach upset or puncture if ingested. Check out this [alphabetical list of toxic plants](#) for dogs from the [UK Kennel Club](#).

### Decorations and Packages

Avoid an intestinal blockage or accidental poisoning. Tinsel, string, ribbon, cloth and various package adornments may be irresistible for pets. Ensure reservoir water for live trees is inaccessible as sap from the tree can be toxic. Use safe, unbreakable items to decorate and store gifts out of sight until the big day.

### Electrical Cords

Secure cords to baseboards as they're tripping, tangling and electrocution hazards.

### Pet Gifts

Buy non-toxic toys from a reputable supplier. Watch for items with bits and parts that can be easily chewed off and ingested.

### Food

Watch the amount of treats they consume. Just like us, overindulging can cause tummy upset.

Be careful that your furry family members don't sample or devour any chocolate, gum or candies with Xylitol (sweetener) or rich and fatty human foods. And please note Xylitol is extremely toxic to dogs as even small amounts of it can cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), seizures, liver failure or even death.

### Entertaining / Activity / Noise

To reduce stress, make sure they have a quiet place to hang out. Inform well-meaning children and guests that pets need respect and space too.



## Paws for Thought

Some interesting finds to share with everyone this month.



A video of a dog helping to decorate a Christmas tree from [The Dodo](#)



Read an article from [CNN](#) citing that owning a dog lowers your risk of dying by 24%



Grab a coffee and read a few health articles from [American Kennel Club](#)



Watch 5 videos from The Best Dogs of [BBC Earth Youtube](#)

