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THE OFFICIAL DEER RIDGE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER





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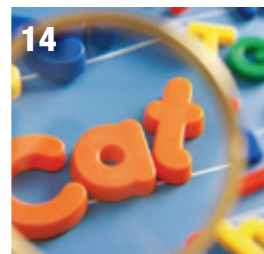
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The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be accurate, but is not warranted to be so.

Great News Publishing and Deer Ridge Community Association does not endorse any person or persons advertising in this newsletter. Publication of any advertisements should not be considered an endorsement of any goods or services.

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Alberta Health Care	403-310-0000
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ATCO Gas – 24 Hour Emergency	403-245-7222
Calgary HEALTH LINK 24/7	811
Calgary Police – Non Emergency	403-266-1234
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter	403-234-7233
Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-387-5437
Kids Help Line	1-800-668-6868
Child Safe Canada	403-202-5900
Distress/Crisis Line	403-266-4357
ENMAX – Power Trouble	403-514-6100
Poison Centre - Alberta	1-800-332-1414
HOSPITALS / URGENT CARE	
Alberta Children's Hospital	403-955-7211
Foothills Hospital	403-944-1110
Peter Lougheed Centre	403-943-4555
Rockyview General Hospital	403-943-3000
Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre	403-955-6200
South Calgary Urgent Care Health Centre	403-943-9300
South Health Campus	403-956-1111
OTHER	
Calgary Humane Society	403-205-4455
Calgary Parking Authority	403-537-7000
SeniorConnect	403-266-6200
Calgary Kerby Elder Abuse Line	403-705-3250
Alberta One-Call Corporation	1-800-242-3447
City of Calgary	311
Social Service Info & Referral	211
Community Mediation Calgary Society	403-269-2707
RNR Lockworks Ltd.	403-479-6161
Road Conditions – Calgary	511
Weather Information	
Gamblers Anonymous	403-237-0654

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all that participated in our Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday June 20th. We are welcoming new members to the community association Board of Directors. A new president, Mrs. Dawn Wallace; a new 1st Vice-President Mrs. Karen Stevenson and a new Director at Large Mr. Adolpho Scollo.

The AGM was also attended by other members of the community as well as Councillor Peter Demong and representation from the City of Calgary. Thank you so much for your active participation.

Community Festival Success!

The Community Festival was held on Sunday June 25th. It was a great event full of food, music, and people having fun! Thank you to all that came and participated. Also, thanks to the Cornestone Music Café for organizing and the volunteers from the community.

Squeaky Clean

Lots of people came out to the Community Clean Up Day on June 25th. All those garages are now squeaky clean and ready for the summer! Thanks to the community of Queensland and other community volunteers.

Tennis courts getting some LOVE

Our tennis courts are getting a well-deserved make over. Keep your heads up for work during the fall this year.



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Deer Ridge Community Association



Box 43052
 Calgary, Alberta
 T2J 7A7
 Visit our website at www.deerridgeca.com
 If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at DeerRidgeCA@gmail.com

Board of Directors & Community Contacts

EXECUTIVE		
President	Dawn Wallace	403 606 7331
1st Vice President	Karen Stevenson	403 278 3353
2nd Vice President	Alana Somers	403 466 8100
Treasurer	Kim Waytowich	
Secretary	Barb Chapin	403 285 9482
PAST PRESIDENT		
Past President	Bob Hall	403 278 6817
DIRECTORS AT LARGE		
Director at Large	Lanis Anderson	
Director at Large	Laurie-Anne Bulmer	
Director at Large	Tracey Burch	
Director at Large	David Burns	
Director at Large	Luz Jaimes	
New Director at Large	Adolpho Scollo	
COMMUNITY COORDINATORS		
Movie in the Park Coordinator	Alana Somers	403 466 8100
Casino Coordinator	Bob Hall	403 278 6817
Ice Rink Coordinator	Bob Hall	403 278 6817
Tennis Court Coordinator	Larry Lemieux	403 278 2199
Trico Representative	Karen Stevenson	403 278 3353
Newsletter Advertising	Great News Publishing	403 263 3044
Newsletter Coordinator	Luz Jaimes	

WE NEED YOU! CONTACT US TO VOLUNTEER AND GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

OUR VISION

We will be a safe community with established programs and facilities, committed volunteers, and we'll be financially stable.

OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life in Deer Ridge for today and the future by establishing and fulfilling the common goals, needs and interests of our community.



DEER RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



"Movie in Yellow Slide Park"

Saturday, August 19, 2017 7:00pm

- Free Children's Activities
- Free Hot Dogs and Beverages
- Movie Presentation at Dusk

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a free night of food and entertainment for the whole family!



Deer Ridge Community Association
 Box 43052, RPO Deer Valley SE, Calgary, AB - T2J 7A7
 Tel: 403-606-7331 | Email: DeerRidgeCA@gmail.com | Website: DeerRidgeCA.com
 Facebook: [Deer Ridge Community Association](https://www.facebook.com/DeerRidgeCommunityAssociation) | Twitter: [@DeerRidgeCA](https://twitter.com/DeerRidgeCA)

VOLUNTEER FORM



Yes, I am interested in being a volunteer!

The continued success of various events as well as maintenance and improvements of facilities is dependent upon involvement of Deer Ridge residents. We invite you to join us in the fun!

We are updating our 2017-2018 list of volunteers; those who may be able to commit in advance and those who are unable to commit but interested. Please select from the list below and return by mail, or visit www.DeerRidgeCA.com and fill out the on-line feedback form.

Deer Ridge Community Association, PO Box 43052, Calgary, AB T2J 7A7 | Tel: 403-606-7331

Email: DeerRidgeCA@gmail.com | Website: DeerRidgeCA.com
Facebook: Deer Ridge Community Association | Twitter: @DeerRidgeCA

Deer Ridge Community Association Volunteer

- **Community Clean-Up** (set-up/take down, assist City staff directing people and receiving items, community signage and posters)
- **Fundraising Casino**
- **Family Winter Skate** (set-up/take down, food and beverage service, event preparation)
- **Ice Rinks** (Nov – March: maintaining surface ice)
- **Tennis Courts** (May – Oct: maintaining court surface)
- **Children's Christmas Party** (December: event preparation)
- **Volunteer Recognition** (Spring: event planning)
- **Membership Drives** (Aug – Oct: preparation and delivery of membership forms)
- **Movie at Yellow Slide** (Summer: event preparation, set-up/take down, food & beverage service, contact businesses for raffle prizes, community signage and posters, bouncy castle monitor)
- **Community Festival** (set-up/take down event tables, community signage and posters)
- **Community Gardens** (building new garden structures, painting, prepping beds at start of season, post-harvest activities)
- **Special Projects: playground rebuilds, pathway to rinks and gardens,. Etc.** (ongoing: planning, cost estimates, coordination with The City, organizing volunteers construction)
- **Association Board Member or Committee Member** (various roles to suit individual's time available to volunteer)
- **Doesn't matter to me.** I'll help with whatever is needed

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ideas or Comments :

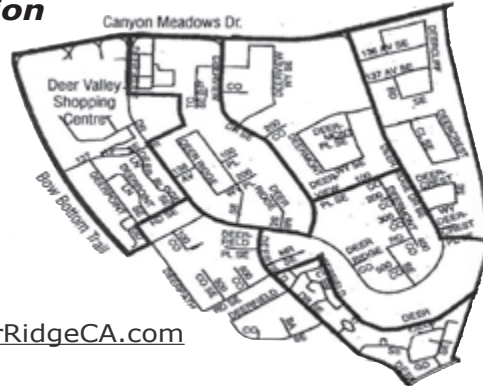


Summer Safety Tips for Kids Who Love the Outdoors

1. Apply **sunscreen** with SPF 15 or greater to reduce the intensity of UVRS that cause sunburns. Apply it 15 to 30 minutes before sun exposure.
2. Drink plenty of **water and fluids** when you go outside to avoid dehydration and keep them refueled.
3. Limit **sun exposure**, especially between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm. UV rays are strongest at these times, especially in the summer.
4. **Beware of shade.** Many people think sitting in the shade is a simple sun compromise. Shade does provide relief from the heat, but it offers parents a false sense of security about UVR protection. You can still sunburn in shade, because light is scattered and reflected. A fair-skinned person sitting under a tree can burn in less than an hour.
5. Taking time to ensure the **outdoor play areas** around your home are safe protects children from injuries in their own backyard.
6. When you are out on the trail, whether **hiking or camping**, protect yourself from mosquitoes and other bugs like ticks using insect and tick repellent.
7. Drowning is among the leading causes of accidental death in children. Take precautions (supervision is key!) when close to the water and enroll on a swimming survival program.
8. **Keep Cool!** As temperatures rise, heat exhaustion becomes a concern. Symptoms include fatigue, extreme thirst, and muscle cramping. If a person doesn't cool down and rehydrate herself, heat exhaustion can lead to heatstroke (signs are headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and lack of sweat), which is potentially fatal.
9. **Boat Safety** Children should wear life jackets at all times when on boats, docks or near bodies of water. Adults wear life jackets for their own protection, and to set a good example.
10. **Helmet safety** is extremely important, particularly during the summer when kids spend lots of time outdoors riding bikes. Kids should always wear a properly fitting helmet.



**Deer Ridge Community Association
Membership Request / Renewal
Form**



Thank-you in advance for your support!
Membership fee \$15.00

Online membership payment available at DeerRidgeCA.com

Name:

Additional Family Members:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number(s):

Email Address(s)*:

* Please note your email address will be added to our electronic mailing list used for notifications of upcoming community events and information. We do not share your information.

Membership Request & Payment options:

Mail completed form & cheque payable to:	Deer Ridge Community Association PO Box 43052, Calgary, AB, T2J 7A7
Online:	DeerRidgeCA.com/Membership

Two membership cards, printed with last name(s), will be mailed to your household.

Deer Ridge Community Association PO Box 43052, Calgary, AB T2J 7A7 | Tel: 403-606-7331 |
Website: DeerRidgeCA.com | Email: DeerRidgeCA@gmail.com | Facebook: Deer Ridge
Community Association | Twitter: @DeerRidgeCA



Library Connect

Check out the September-October issue of *Library Connect*, your ultimate guide to free back to school Library programs, reading recommendations, and events happening this fall. Visit calgarylibrary.ca to download a copy of *Library Connect* or pick one up at your local community library.

Forest Lawn Library Nature Playground

The Forest Lawn Library Nature Playground is open! The new outdoor space inspires active, fresh-air-filled play. Play is a priority at the Library, because it's central to how kids learn and grow. The nature playground was made possible thanks to generous funding from the Canada 150 Infrastructure Program. Visit today!

Free Online Resources

Did you know your Library card gives you access to free online tutoring? Brainfuse is an online resource aligned with the Alberta curriculum for students in Grade 2 to Grade 12. Get expert online help with your homework at calgarylibrary.ca/resource/brainfuse from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Support for adult learners is also available.

The Calgary Public Library's E-Library offers many other resources for learners of all ages. At calgarylibrary.ca/online-resources you'll find language learning courses Rosetta Stone and Mango Languages, eBooks and eAudiobooks on OverDrive, Flipster Magazines, online learning services Lynda.com and Gale Courses, and much more.



FAMOUS FIVE DISTRICT

The sunny days of summer are coming to a close and parents and youth are starting to think about the fall activities. Girl Guides in your community welcomes all girls ages 5 and up to join them for a year of fun, friendship and adventure as they explore their community, their world and themselves. Girl Guides promotes teamwork, self-esteem, confidence building and environmental awareness in an atmosphere of self-discovery and leadership. Register your daughter today, on-line at www.girlguides.ca. We look forward to her participation.

We're also looking for women to be leaders in a team of women to guide the girls in their learning. Training is available, no experience is necessary. It isn't necessary for you to have a daughter. Contact Pat Istead at isteads@telus.net for more details. Join us to make friends, learn and support young girls in our community.



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Dr. Morris Gibson School (Okotoks)
Tuesdays 5:30 – 6:30pm Ages 7 - Adults
Thursdays 5:30 – 7pm Ages 12 - Adults

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FOR ART'S SAKE

Festivities in August

By Alex Bonyun

August is a great month to get out and experience art in our community for free! Whether it's an outdoor festival, or an indoor celebration, there's so much for you to see! Downtown you can take in Olympic Plaza on a warm August day with the Spaghetti Western Music Festival (August 20, noon - 9pm), Canada's alt-country music festival, or celebrate Canada 150 with Happenings (August 18, 5 - 9pm), the free visual art party with live music and creative activities inside Arts Commons. Another way to enjoy music outdoors this summer is at Calgary ReggaeFest (August 17 - 19), a three-day festival in Shaw Millennium Park.

For anyone looking for a bit of theatricality in their August, the Calgary Fringe Festival (August 4 - 12) returns to Inglewood this year with a unique line-up of unexpected, unforgettable performances. Calgary Opera's Opera in the Village festival is making the move from East Village to the newly unveiled Enmax Park with the hit show South Pacific (August 10 - 20, 8pm nightly).

If you're looking for a stroll through some of Calgary's character neighbourhoods Inglewood's Sunfest (August 5) and Marda Loop's Marda Gras Festival (August 13) are back again for another great year.

For something a little quieter with a slice of nature, the Calgary Dragon Boat Race & Festival (August 12 - 13) is a fun way to kick back on the banks of the Glenbow Reservoir and root for your favourite team! And, if you've never checked out GlobalFest (August 15 - 26), Calgary's largest display of fireworks is a fantastic way to enjoy music and culture from around the world, while being wowed by a truly explosive display.

For a full list of Calgary's festivals this August, indoor and outdoor, you can visit calgaryherald.com/life/swerve/swerve-festival-guide-2017-august.

This column is provided by Arts Commons. Located in the heart of Calgary's vibrant downtown core, Arts Commons is home to six distinct performance venues.



Councillor, Ward 14
Peter Demong

www.calgary.ca/ward14
eaward14@calgary.ca or
403-268-1653

Greetings!

Are you enjoying the summer? I hope you are! Summer is part way through, but I am sure some of the best weather is still to come.

Ward 14 Communities BBQ

The Ward 14 Communities BBQ is about one month away. Things are starting to fall into place—although I am sure there are still many surprises in store. This year the BBQ will be on September 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of Southcentre Mall. Visit www.calgary.ca/ward14bbq for more info, or www.calgary.ca/ward14connect for email updates.

As for potential surprises, the list of exhibitors continues to grow along with the list of kind sponsors. To start, Spolumbo's is the newest food sponsor. Instead of the traditional burger, you can have one of their delicious sausages on a bun.

I also want to introduce Pacific Developments as the newest financial sponsor. They join United Communities, Mattamy Homes, No Bull Bookkeeping, Genstar, and Great News Publishing on the list at this early point. Another big thank you is also owed to Waste Connections of Canada (formerly Progressive Waste Solutions) for donating money, and for helping clean up afterwards.

Thank you to all of them, and Southcentre Mall for the venue!

Ward Boundary Changes

In case you weren't aware, there is a municipal election coming on October 16. Because Calgary is continually evolving and changing shape, ward boundaries must constantly change shape too. 58 communities will find themselves in a new ward next Council term. It is important that you check your ward so that you know what candidates are running in your ward and where to find your designated voting station. To check your ward, visit www.electionscalgary.ca, or call the Elections & Census Office at 403-476-4100 (Option 2).

Unfortunately, Ward 14 will be losing three communities: Maple Ridge, Silverado, and Willow Park. I can't overstate what a pleasure it has been to serve these communities. I spent many nights meeting the people there, and many days advocating for them at City Hall. More importantly, within them I have made many friends.

Thank you to all the residents, and volunteers of those beautiful communities for joining me in the endeavor of making them the best they can be. I look forward to doing the same with Douglasdale and McKenzie Lake as we welcome them into Ward 14.

New rules for fire pits in Calgary

I can confidently say that building a good relationship with your neighbours is very important. Not only is it nice to have the friendly mood in the community, but it is maybe the best thing you can do to keep the area safe.

Everyone should try their best to be a good neighbour, but there is just no way that everyone is going to agree about everything. That is why we have set some rules—that we call Community Standards Bylaws—as guidance for being a good neighbour.

We have recently finished a review of those bylaws, and there have been some changes. Perhaps the most notable of those changes is to rules about fire pits. For example, you must now make sure your flame is extinguished by midnight on weekdays, and 1 p.m. on weekends.

If you are interested in learning more, I suggest you visit calgary.ca/firepits. If you have a concern or complaint about fire pits, call 311.

I will write again for September. Until then, feel free to contact me at any time.

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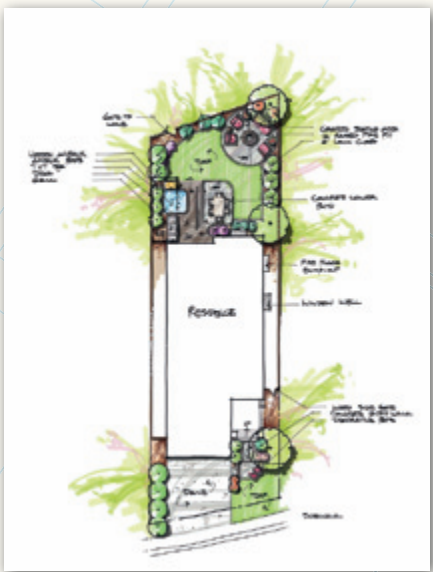
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RESIDENT PERSPECTIVES



5 Spelling Tips for Summer

Summer's for slowing down, but not for shutting down! We want to keep our kids sharp, ready, and excited for the new school year. Here are five spelling tips you can do with your kids to improve their spelling skills this summer. Remember, all language arts skills – reading, writing, listening, and speaking – are related. When you read, write, speak, and listen with your child, you're strengthening those spelling skills. Try incorporating these five great spelling game ideas into your child's summer routine and watch their spelling skills improve by leaps and bounds!

1. Do a scavenger hunt. Find items that begin with a certain letter. First to find ten items wins an extra ten minutes of bedtime story reading. Bedtime reading is precious.
2. Be an artist. With your children, draw or cut out pictures of people, items, and events that start with a certain letter. Be creative and exaggerated for emphasis and vocabulary-building. "F is for fireworks, fishing, frolicking, fast footraces, freedom, fresh fruit, family, friends, and fields full of flawless flowers." Exhibit these pictures for the whole family to appreciate.
3. Play word games in the car. Kids really don't need to be in front of a screen all the time. For each five minutes on a ride, spot as many items as you can that begin with a certain letter. Make a list. After five minutes, change the letter.
4. Keep a summer journal. Writing helps spelling like no other activity.
5. Have a pen pal. Kids love getting mail. Snail mail is more fun than email, and it gives your children something to look forward to!

Remember, summer is the perfect time to relax, but it's also important to keep your kids on track. There is no reason to be bored this summer when there are endless, fun and educational spelling activities. Enjoy!



MLA Calgary - Fish Creek
Richard Gottfried
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403-278-4444 403-278-7875 calgary.fishcreek@assembly.ab.ca
www.richardgottfried.ca @GottfriedMLA gotfriedmla

As we approach the dog days of summer I hope that you have taken in a few of the great Calgary attractions of July such as the Calgary Stampede and FolkFest. A huge shout out to all who joined or volunteered at my 2nd Annual Stampede BBQ.

Although many of the outcomes will be decided by this publication date, I wanted to let you all know that I welcome the opportunity to be involved in the political process and would encourage all of you, regardless of political affiliation, to do the same. Having the opportunity to be involved in the formation of parties is the essence of the democratic process at the grassroots level. It is also important for us to inform and educate leaders of the future, our youth, that decisions made by their local representative have a direct impact on their lives now and for generations to come. I am an eternal optimist and so I push forward with hope for a better tomorrow, but all of us need to remain committed to respectful dialogue while seeking positive societal solutions, even when we agree to disagree!

As August rolls along, I would like to highlight a favourite pastime of my mine, the Calgary Dragon Boat Festival held at North Glenmore Park August 12-13. Having worked in the airline industry for 20 years for a Hong Kong based company, I was able to form many great and lasting connections within the Chinese community. I have always been proud to honour and support diversity, including the Asian culture, in Alberta. Our collective heritage is worthy of celebration, it enriches all of us who take time to experience it. I would encourage you to check out this great family and sporting event. Paddles Up as they say!

If you are looking for a great day trip outside of Calgary, look no further than Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. Located South and West of Calgary the provincial park offers more than 20-day use areas in which to enjoy a picnic, hike or a trail ride. Some of the world's most beautiful scenery can be found in our glorious foothills. There is also an interpretive centre open daily to the public from which activities are staged and informa-

tion on trails and hikes are available. The hikes range in length and level of difficulty, with some being wheelchair accessible, so the great outdoors beckons us all.

My business and community outreach will continue through the summer and fall, so if you see me or one of my staff at a local business or event, please stop and say hello.

Do not forget about our summer photography contest! We want you to send your best photos to the office or via social media to be entered into a lucky draw. Please include the hashtag or subject line #captureyycfishcreek. Enjoy the last moments of Calgary's sacred summer sun, and stay tuned for our fall schedule of MLCafe's. In the meantime, send me a note, make a call, or schedule an appointment, as I always love meeting my constituents!

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More info: calgarypride.ca.



Photo by JMacPherson

CIRCLE THE WAGONS
3951 TRASIMENE CRESCENT SW
SEPTEMBER 9, 11 AM – 11 PM

This year's traveling carnival of local food, beer, music, art and performers will be proudly hosted at Currie. Currie boasts Canadian Pride, and to help further amplify the celebratory energy from Canada's 150th anniversary. More info: circlethewagons.ca.



YW WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES
STEPHEN AVENUE AND OLYMPIC PLAZA
SEPTEMBER 19

Hundreds of men and women will step onto Stephen Ave. in high heels to show their support for women and children who are victims of family violence. More info: walkamile.ca.



YOUR COMMUNITY/CITY EVENTS AT A GLANCE...

The Market on Stephen Avenue – Tuesdays until Sept. 5, 11 am – 5 pm

Bring your enviro bags and coolers! You'll find up to 60 vendors; from fresh food (produce, breads, pastries, etc) spices, sauces, treats, art, fashion, jewelry and so much more! Found on Stephen Avenue between 1 Street East and 2 Street West. More info: inquiries@dmeinc.ca.

Honens Festival – Various Venues, Sept. 7 – Sept. 10

The award-winning Honens Festival returns for a four-day festival of music with a side of maple syrup! To mark Canada's 150th birthday, this celebration of piano showcases some of the country's brightest classical music stars alongside Honens Laureates through innovative performance projects and dynamic community concerts. More info: honens.com.

Beakerhead – Various Locations, Sept. 13 – Sept. 17

One of the world's most original spectacles of art, science and engineering, will erupt this September when the fourth annual Beakerhead hits Calgary. Look for mechanical creatures, multi-story art installations, famous and soon-to-be famous scientists and inventors, and performances by people and machines. The dose of quirky spectacle will include more than 65 events. More info: beakerhead.com.

Techstock 2017 - 3553 31 Street NW, Sept. 14

This is an annual event hosting 30+ start-up companies and researchers who showcase their innovations to the public. This year they explore how technology and social innovations are making a profound impact on our society and driving change in areas such as sustainability, health, education, gender equality and more. More info: innovatecalgary.com/events/techstock/

Railway Days – Heritage Park, Sept. 23 - 24

There is fun for the whole family at Railway Days! As one of the few sites in North America with two steam locomotives, our trains take centre stage for two days with demonstrations, hands-on activities, and exciting exhibits. More info: heritagepark.ca.

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YARD BUSTERS LANDSCAPING: Snow removal \$129.95. Some conditions. Landscape construction and yard renovation: stone patios, walks, raised beds and rock walls, synthetic grass, sod and trees and shrubs, landscape lighting, water features and decks and fences and superhero window cleaning. Licensed. Insured. Seniors discount. Phone: 403-265-4769. yardbusterslandscaping.com.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT? Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! www.communitymediation.ca, 403-269-2707.

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Dogs, Yellow Spots, and Lawns

By Jennifer L. Scott, D.V.M.

When I sold some of my Labrador puppies I was amused by the number of people wanting a male dog, “because girl dogs destroy the lawn with those big yellow spots”. Well our male dogs have taken out their share of grass, as well as some trees and expensive perennials of mine. As both an avid gardener and a veterinarian let me pass on what meager advice I can give.

Urine contains nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, all three ingredients of fertilizer. Thus, a urine spot with the dead grass is always surrounded by dark green rapidly growing grass, too much of a good thing. Urine would make a great fertilizer if you could catch it and dilute it before spreading it over your lawn. Not me!

The nitrogen content of urine scalds grass more severely than the urine acidity. Nitrogen breaks down to ammonia and “burns” the grass. This is the same as over-fertilizing your lawn. Salinity or salt content of urine rises in concentrated urine. Large amounts of nitrogen

and salt are impossible for the natural buffering of the soil to overcome and the grass dies.

The urine pH or how acid or alkaline the urine is can also kill the grass. This varies with the individual dog’s metabolism and diet. Baking soda and commercial products available at pet stores and veterinary clinics will alkalinize or acidify the normally slightly acid canine urine. Products include tablets and dog rocks or water pucks to put in the pet’s water bowl. These products as a rule are safe in most dogs, but unfortunately some may be harmful in individual dogs inclined to form stones in their bladders. I have not found a product that I think works. Most soils are slightly alkaline and can readily withstand the normally slightly acid canine urine. Certainly, Calgary’s clay soil tends to be alkaline as a rule.

Diluting the urine immediately with large amounts of water is effective but impractical if your dog is loose and alone in the backyard. You can build up the soil’s natural buffers by leaving grass clippings on the lawn or by spreading compost, peat moss, or wood ashes on the grass.

Train your dog as a puppy to piddle in one place in the yard. It is more difficult to train an adult dog used to using the entire lawn but you can with persistence and patience.

Garden centers have products that may help you repair or prevent those yellow spots. I have found most of these products too labour intensive for my taste.

A friend sent me an e-mail saying Martha Stewart swears that by giving her chows two tablespoons of tomato juice in their food twice daily their urine never causes lawn spots. Never tried it, give me some feedback if you try it and it fails or works. Adjust the amount of juice to your dog’s size.

My solution is to train my dogs outdoors like I do indoors. Since I like a nice green lawn, I trained my four large dogs on my last property to use one section of the lawn and I promoted the growth of crab grass in that area. Nothing kills crab grass for long and from a distance it looked same as the rest of the lawn. Now I have trained my dogs to use the gravel dog run and one pees on gravel more readily than grass.

Be positive, it might be possible to have a happy dog and a beautiful lawn. Good luck!

Councillor Peter Demong
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