



From left, Vern looks west down the Bow River, pondering the day's activities. Vern relaxes as he listens to Freeman Hues' smooth sax music outside Kensington's Plaza Theatre. Vern takes a moment from his weekend around town for a picture with his roommate Barry Fellows.

# adventures with Vern

By **VERN**  
with help and photos  
by Barry Fellows and Bill Mitchell

Let me introduce myself — Vern is the name. I've lived all four years of my life in West Hillhurst.

I guess I'm a lot like most 28-year-olds (dog years, of course) as I dig Green Day and Eminem but really chill to the classic rock sounds of the Stones and Aerosmith.

My favourite flick is *Beethoven*, paws and hands down.

My girlfriend is a sweet golden-haired retriever named Rielly who lives up the street, but I am a dog, and I do admit I can

have a bit of a wandering nose at times.

I have a few roommates; they like to think they own me but hey, I get free food and a nice warm place to sleep and when we're outside they even pick stuff up for me. I think of them as my staff or my posse, it's not a bad gig at all really.

Mom and dad were standard poodles and dad even did a stint on television.

Let's be clear though — I may be a pet to some, but I like to set my own standards and I go for nothing but the best.

That's why I love Calgary. I mostly hang-out at my roomies' place during the week, just taking it easy, but I like to do the town on the weekend.

Speaking of going to town ... Kensington

is one of my favourite outings. My posse takes me along the Bow River first so I can get my ya ya's out before I paw the pavement.

The green areas and pathways are a real treat. After a nice riverside jaunt, I lead the pack down 10 St. to my favourite establishments. I'm a discriminating, well-groomed customer and visit the finer spots whenever I can.

Some of those shops even allow me inside to do my own shopping just like I was one of them humans. And with the days getting shorter, I do need new winter gear.

Anyhow, this was a typical weekend out in Kensington.



Vern is a popular guy who's always making new friends. Above left, he chats with new pal Jacob on 10 St. N.W. Below, from left, he shows he's a star just like Brad Pitt, attempting desperately to not be noticed as he leaves The Verve restaurant. Greg from The Source explains snowboard technology to a fairly puzzled Vern — not sure how those snowboards work with four legs. After a busy day in Kensington, Vern unwinds with a nap on his bed.