

From: [Michael Indge](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Fwd: Chemainus Lake Inquiry
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023 5:46:34 PM
Attachments: [mnc150logo_c1c20e15-8ab5-4ea3-9b6d-3579e016c9e1.png](#)
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Good evening to all Council Members, and Mayor, of North Cowichan,

I had previously sent an e-mail to North Cowichan Parks requesting limited, after hours access to Chemainus Lake, and have been directed by Keona Wiley, Parks Manager, to forward my letter to this e-mail address for request authorization (email chain included below).

I have been fishing recreationally at Chemainus Lake (with appropriate license) and have noticed that the lake has American bullfrogs in it, an invasive species that is known to kill/eat local animals and reptiles, and which is listed as Schedule C wildlife under the British Columbia Wildlife Act (https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/13_168_90#ScheduleC).

Schedule C animals, as per the Wildlife Act/BC hunting regulations, can be "captured or killed...at any time in BC" (https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/lower-mainland/wildlife/species/species_lists.htm) and American bullfrogs are often harvested for their edible meat, though they are generally caught at night as they are nocturnal.

While Section 8:1 of the Crown 'Land Use Policy' authorizes the use of Crown land for hunting/fishing, Chemainus Lake falls under the Municipality of North Cowichan (with Chemainus River being operated jointly), and has a Dawn to Dusk curfew, with vehicles being subject to a fine as per Bylaw 3626 if remaining in the park between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am ([https://www.northcowichan.ca/assets/Municipal~Hall/Bylaws/Parks%20 and Public%20 Places_R egulation_Bylaw.pdf](https://www.northcowichan.ca/assets/Municipal~Hall/Bylaws/Parks%20and%20Public%20Places_Regulation_Bylaw.pdf)).

The Bylaw includes the provision in 2-K that one cannot remain in the park between those hours "unless authorized by the Municipality," and so I am looking to receive Municipality approval for after hours use of Chemainus Lake for harvesting American bullfrogs for personal consumption as allowed in the BC Wildlife and Hunting Act.

It would not be dead of night use, rather only using it after it has become dark enough for the bullfrogs to become active, and would only be for an appropriate amount of time to harvest enough for reasonable personal consumption (I would imagine an hour would suffice).

I would be using my kayak though appropriate safety procedures would be followed so that it would not be reckless endangerment for myself, or a liability issue for the Municipality:

- a personal flotation device with whistle would be worn at all times
- a cellphone in a water-tight protector would be worn around my neck at all times
- a safety kit, including tossable line, flotation device for kayak re-entry, a water pump, etc, would be stored on the kayak
- family would be aware of my location

- appropriate lighting (wearable headlight, flashlights, including extra for backup) would be used to navigate the shoreline of the lake as the bullfrogs would be active on the lily pads (so I would not be venturing towards the middle of the lake...not to imply that precautions would only be needed if paddling to the middle)

The frogs would be humanely dispatched immediately upon capture as it is illegal to capture or transport them while alive (https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bullfrog_.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwic14ug44-AAxWpHDQIHTXaD1wQFnoECAwQBg&usg=AOvVaw2_dicjg2IKX1Y4MrAP_XA6), though again, hunting is allowed, it is only capturing/transporting them while alive that is illegal so as to prevent further expansion of the invasive species.

Again, I am hoping to obtain Municipality approval for limited after hours use of the lake to hunt American bullfrogs for personal consumption as allowed under the BC Wildlife Act and Hunting-Trapping Act, with respect to the Municipality Park Bylaws,

Thank you for your consideration ,

Michael Indge

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A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Michael Indge.
