



STAFF REPORT

TO: Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Roni-Lee Roach, Executive Secretary
SUBJECT: Request for Beer Gardens at Lake Days – June 13th, 2026
MEETING DATE: May 26th, 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to get Council's approval for the Kinsmen's request to hold a beer garden event during Lake Days celebrations on June 13th, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Lake Cowichan holds an annual Lake Days event on the second weekend of June.

Local service clubs and organizations have hosted Beer Garden events during the festivities. In the past few years, the Beer Garden event has been held on the Saturday during park events at Saywell Park.

Historically, staff have approved the use of Saywell Park for the event activities through its Park Use Agreement and Council has been required to approve the Beer Garden event due to the necessity for a liquor license and the licensing requirements.

IMPLICATIONS

a. **Financial:**
None.

b. **Policy/Legislation:**

- **Liquor Control and Licensing Act (SBC 2015, c. 19)**

→ authorizes the actual beer garden (liquor service) via a Special Event Permit

- **Community Charter (SBC 2003, c. 26)**

→ authorizes a municipal council to regulate, permit, and approve the event and use of land.

c. Strategic Priority:

N/A.

d. Sustainability:

N/A.

e. Communication:

None required.

f. Staffing Implication:

N/A.

Options:

- 1) To grant approval for the beer garden event subject to the conditions outlined.
- 2) To not grant approval for the beer garden event.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending Option 1

That Council approve the request by the Lake Cowichan Kinsmen for the use of a portion of Saywell Park for the operation of a beer garden on Saturday June 13th, 2026, from 12 noon to 6:00 pm subject to the conditions as follows:

- Fencing of the area to be utilized for the beer garden;
- Adequate security for the beer garden is provided;
- The requirement for a Serving it Right certificate(s);
- Obtaining the required special occasion license;
- Notification of the local RCMP of the event; and
- proof of liability coverage with the Town named as an additional insured in the amount of \$2 million for each occurrence.

Signed:

Roni-Lee Roach

Roni-Lee Roach, Executive Secretary

Concurrence:

John T

John Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment – Kinsmen Letter

park 2026-08

May 10, 2026

Town of Lake Cowichan
39 South Shore Road
Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0

RECEIVED MAY 11 2026

Re: Request for Approval to Operate a Beer Garden – Annual Lake Days Festival – June 13, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Lake Cowichan Kinsmen, I am writing to request permission from the Town of Lake Cowichan to operate a beer garden on June 13, 2026, as part of the Annual Lake Days Festival celebrations.

We appreciate the Town's support and guidance provided during last year's approval process and would like to confirm that all requested requirements will again be addressed for the 2026 event.

Specifically:

- A secure fenced perimeter will be installed around the beer garden area to clearly define and control access to the licensed space.
- Security personnel and event volunteers will be present to monitor entrances, ensure compliance with liquor service regulations, and maintain a safe environment for attendees.
- All individuals responsible for liquor service will possess valid Serving It Right certification.
- The Lake Cowichan Kinsmen will maintain a minimum of \$2 million in liability insurance coverage for the event and will provide proof of insurance upon request.

Our goal is to provide a safe, well-managed, and enjoyable event for the community while fully complying with all municipal and provincial requirements.

We respectfully request the Town's approval to proceed with the beer garden for the 2026 Annual Lake Days Festival. Please let us know if there are any additional requirements, documentation, or applications needed to complete the approval process.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to hosting another successful community event in Lake Cowichan.

Sincerely,

Drew Carmichael
Treasurer, Lake Cowichan Kinsmen