



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**From:** Elizabeth Ayers  
Director, Recreation and Sport Services

**Re:** **Hunting by Permission Program Update**

**Date:** June 17, 2022

**File:** 11-7000-01/2022-Vol  
01

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Hunting by Permission Program Update" dated June 17, 2022 from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services, be received for information.

Elizabeth Ayers  
Director, Recreation and Sport Services  
(604-247-4669)

Att. 4

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Community Bylaws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 _____
RCMP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>
	 _____	 _____

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the July 12, 2021, Council meeting, staff received the following referral:

*That staff be directed to conduct consultation with farm owners and other stakeholders regarding the Hunting by Permission program, including: (a) the appropriate rules and areas and properties, including the development of a more detailed map; (b) enforcement strategies; (c) the timing between the hunting application and permit issuance; (d) general education of the public and stakeholders; (e) more effective signage in conjunction with the Hunting by Permission program; and (f) residency restrictions.*

The purpose of this report is to respond to this referral. This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

*Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.*

*1.1 Enhance safety services and strategies to meet community needs.*

### Analysis

#### Background

The use of a firearm in Richmond is regulated through the *Regulating the Discharge of Firearms Bylaw No. 4183* ("the Bylaw") (Attachment 1), which generally prohibits the discharge of firearms within the Municipality. The Bylaw provides for hunting in designated areas where "hunting by permission" is allowed with the necessary permits and permissions in place.

The Bylaw authorizes the Richmond Rod and Gun Club ("the Club") to operate the Hunting by Permission program ("Program"), which they have been doing since the Bylaw was established in 1983. The Program is run on an annual basis for the purpose of safely managing the recreational hunting of waterfowl during the hunting season in Richmond's Agricultural Land Reserve ("ALR"), as shown in Schedule A of Attachment 1.

Three housekeeping amendments to the Bylaw were adopted by Council at the July 12, 2021, Council meeting. The amendments included increasing the required liability insurance to \$5,000,000, changing the fine from a maximum fine of \$2,000 to "be no less than \$1,000 and can be up to \$50,000" and updating the map that highlights the two areas where hunting is permitted.

#### Richmond Rod and Gun Club Hunting by Permission Pass Program 2021/2022 Season

The following table is a summary of the 2021/2022 Program managed by the Club that operated from September 15, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Table 1 – Summary of the Richmond Rod and Gun Club 2021/2022 Hunting Season Statistics

<b>Richmond Rod and Gun Club 2021/2022 Hunting Season Summary</b>	
Number of passes issued	12 Passes
Number of years pass holders had hunted	From 3 to 60 Years (28 year average)
Number of years with the hunting by permission program	From 2 to 20 Years (10 years average)
Number of times hunted with their pass this past season	From 3 to 20 times (average of 11 times)
Number of farms that pass holders hunted within Richmond's ALR this past season	7 properties
Number of times pass holders hunted south of Steveston Highway in the ALR	5 pass holders hunted a total of 61 times
Number of times pass holders hunted east of No. 6 Rd in the ALR	7 pass holders hunted a total of 79 times
Number of pass holders that hunted in both ALR zones	0 pass holders
Richmond residency	6 of the 12 pass holders are Richmond residents

The Club's summary of this past year's Program shows that 12 hunters took part in the Program and that hunting occurred on seven properties in the two ALR zones.

#### *Calls for Service Related to Shots Fired*

There were five calls for service to the Richmond RCMP related to shots fired from September 15, 2021, to March 31, 2022, within the two designated ALR zones. All five of these calls for service files were closed with no charges being laid. During this same period, the City of Richmond's Bylaw Department did not receive any complaints regarding hunting.

#### Program Education and Administration Enhancements

In response to feedback on the Program and to address the Council referrals, staff worked with the Club to improve communications regarding the program, lengthen the time between application request and issuance of a Program pass as well as other procedural improvements, including new map requirements. Enhancements to the Program's Hunters Waiver Form, Farm Access Pass and Hunting by Permission Map of Property were developed and implemented this past season by the Club to increase the "general education and awareness of the program".

#### *Richmond Rod and Gun Club Hunting by Permission Pass Application Process Updates*

The Club requires the following documents be submitted for review in order for a Hunting by Permission Pass to be issued:

- Proof of Federal Government PAL (Possession and Acquisition License);

- Proof of Province of BC's CORE Certificate (Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education Certificate);
- Proof of Lower Fraser Valley Special Area License;
- Proof of a Federal Government Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Proof of insurance, in the amount of \$5,000,000;
- Signed copy of the Program's waiver form; and
- Signed copy of the Hunting by Permission Map of Property ("Property Map") and signature of Property Owner, which includes the detailed aerial map of the property including addresses, adjacencies and distances within the property (NEW).

New this year was the development and implementation of the Property Map which provides the property owner and the hunter with a clear indication of where hunting waterfowl may occur. Using the City of Richmond's interactive mapping software, specific satellite property maps were made for each of the properties where hunters sought the owner's permission to hunt (Attachment 2). These Hunting by Permission property maps included the owner's name(s), addresses, property boundaries, adjacencies and dimensions of the property, so that hunters could show property owners where they were proposing to hunt. Specific wording from the Bylaw on where hunting is not permitted was included on the map. The map must be signed by the property owner and submitted as part of the process outlined above.

The Club required hunters to provide the address and the signature of the landowner before hunting could occur, which created a period of time between "the hunting application and permit issuance". The development of property maps helped to ensure all parties understood where hunting could occur with the property owner's written approval.

The above licenses, certifications and permit requirements combined with the enhancements to the Club's forms ensure that individuals that take part in the Program understand the importance of their legal obligations as hunters. This includes the safe handling of firearms, choice of appropriate firearm, storage and transportation of firearms along with what constitutes ethical practices related to hunting, and recommendations on location and direction of shooting.

#### Enforcement and Signage

To address education, enforcement and effective signage of the Program, staff installed approximately 30 reflective 24"x30" yellow metal street signs (Attachment 3) on each of the City of Richmond roadways that leads into the two ALR zones where hunting is permitted. These signs were installed in September of 2021. The signs state that a "Hunting by Permission Pass" is required along with referencing the Bylaw, highlighting the fine (up to \$50,000) and the Club's contact information.

In order to ensure landowners and residents are aware of and understand the Program, a letter was sent to over 300 addresses within the two ALR zones in October of 2021. The letters detailed the Program, including referencing the Bylaw to provide general information and awareness about the Program. The letter included the requirements that hunters must follow to take part in the Program, including "the written permission of the property owner on the property

they want to hunt on”. Residents were also invited to request “Private Property No Hunting” 8”x10” weather proof signs (Attachment 4) for installation on their property. Staff received a total of seven requests. The letter also invited residents to contact the Manager, Sport and Community Events, with questions or comments. No comments were received.

#### Consultation with Land Owners and Other Stakeholders

Staff consulted with property owners and residents within the two ALR zones, City of Richmond’s Bylaws Department, Richmond RCMP and the Club since the hunting season closed March 31, 2022, to review the impact of the program changes implemented for the 2021-2022 hunting season.

A letter was sent to the same 300 residents reviewing the parameters of the Program, along with a link to a Let’s Talk Richmond online survey that was open from June 9, 2022, to June 17, 2022, for their feedback on the Program.

Below is a summary of key insights from the survey:

- Of the 300 plus letters that were sent, 21 surveys (7%) were completed;
- The respondents to the survey were almost equally split between the two ALR zones;
- Five respondents provided permission this season for hunting on their property as per the Program. The rest of the respondents were not approached for permission to hunt on their property;
- Those that permitted permission for hunting on their property felt safe while the hunter was hunting on their property, and that communications with the hunter were clear;
- Half of respondents support the Program. Farmers in particular also noted that the Program helped to mitigate damage to their fields by waterfowl during the winter months;
- In regards to residency, 60% of respondents did not feel Richmond residency was important as a requirement to hunt;
- There were a number of comments from respondents expressing concern for the safety of the public in general; and
- The majority of respondents were aware of the new signage that was installed. Some indicated that signage could be further increased within the two ALR zones.

Overall, the survey showed a mix of support for the Program, with residents within the ALR zone who were not approached by hunters to hunt on their property being less in favor of the Program, while the farmers who allowed hunting on their property fully supported the Program.

The farmers believe that the Program contributed to the ongoing operation of their commercial farms by helping to manage waterfowl on their fields.

Staff recommend that the Program continue as is, with the new processes and procedures implemented in 2021-2022 in place, and that staff continue to work with the Club on the management of the Program. Staff will review the location of signage in the two ALR zones and add signage as appropriate before the season commences.

### **Financial Impact**

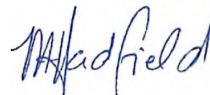
None.

### **Conclusion**

That the City of Richmond continue to work with the Club so that their Program for the hunting of waterfowl in Richmond can continue as a safe and well managed program that benefits commercial farms within the two ALR zones, and provides recreational opportunities for hunters to hunt in Richmond. Through improvements made to the program by the Club and the City of Richmond, there is now greater clarity and awareness as to what is required of hunters before they can legally hunt with permission on private properties within the ALR. Staff will continue to work with the Club, residents, Richmond RCMP and the City of Richmond's Bylaws Department to monitor the ongoing effectiveness and safety of the program.



Gregg Wheeler  
Manager, Arena Services  
(604-244-1274)



Mandy Hadfield  
Manager, Sport and Community Events  
(604-204-8550)

- Att. 1: City of Richmond Regulating the Discharge of Firearms Bylaw No. 4183  
2: Hunting by Permission Map of Property and Signature of Property Owner  
3: Sample of "Attention Hunters" Sign  
4: Sample of "Private Property No Hunting" Sign



CITY OF RICHMOND

# ***REGULATING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS***

## **BYLAW NO. 4183**

EFFECTIVE DATE – March 29, 1983

### **CONSOLIDATED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY**

This is a consolidation of the bylaws below. The amendment bylaws have been combined with the original bylaw for convenience only. This consolidation is not a legal document. Certified copies of the original bylaws should be consulted for all interpretations and applications of the bylaws on this subject.

#### AMENDMENT BYLAW

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

SCHEDULE A No. 6106  
 SCHEDULE A No. 6491  
 SCHEDULE A No. 6941  
 Bylaw 8538  
 Bylaw 10278

June 26, 1993  
 July 24, 1995  
 August 24, 1998  
 November 9, 2009  
 July 26, 2021

The bylaw numbers in the margin of this consolidation refer to the bylaws that amended the principal Bylaw No. 4183. The number of any amending bylaw that has been repealed is not referred to in this consolidation.

## **REGULATING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS BYLAW NO. 4183**

A Bylaw for the Purpose of Regulating  
the Discharge of Firearms

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The Council of The Corporation of the Township of Richmond, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

### **INTERPRETATION**

For the purposes of this Bylaw

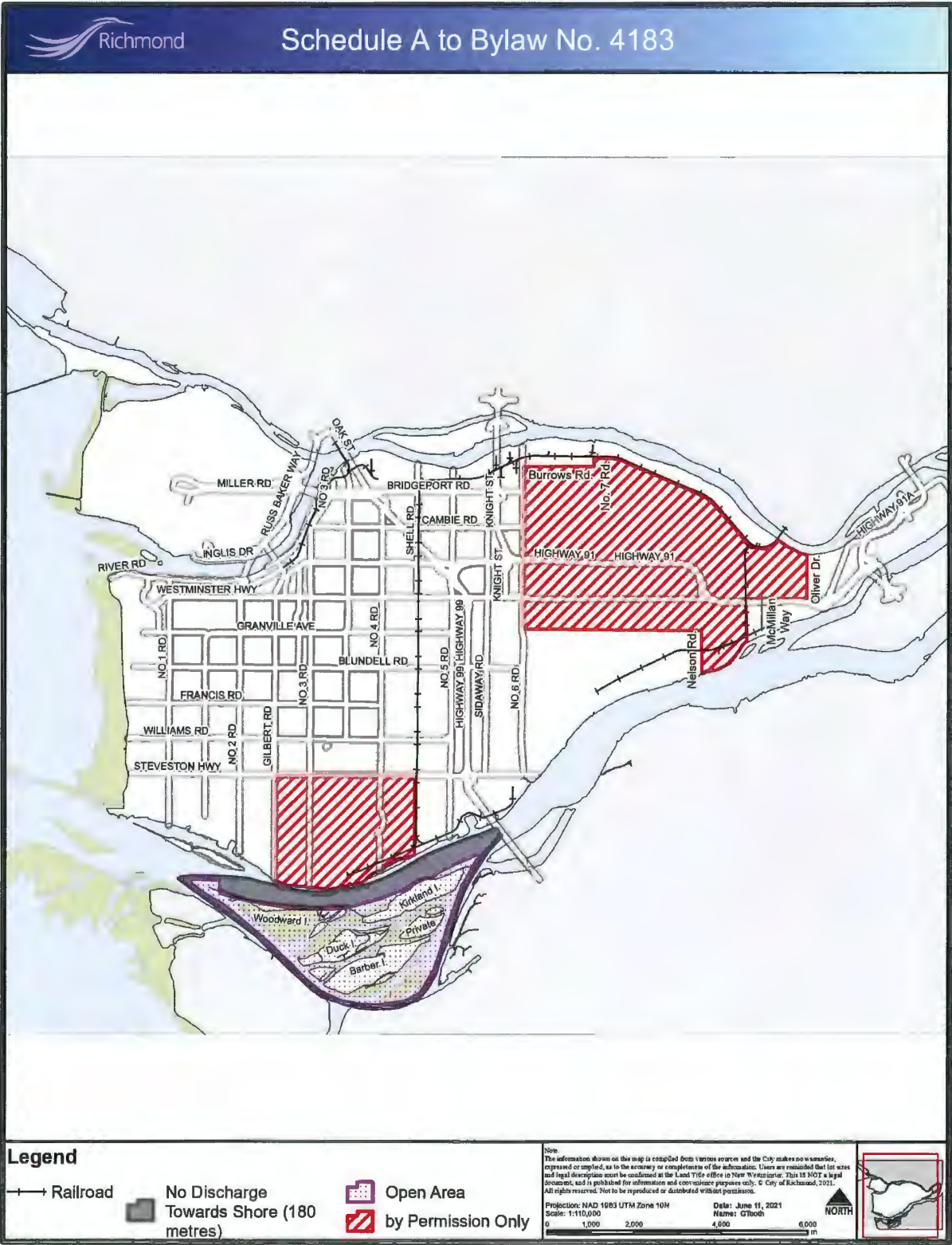
1. "FIREARM" means a rifle, pistol, or shotgun and includes air guns, air rifles, air pistols and spring guns but does not include firearms used for the discharge of blank ammunition in connection with an athletic or sporting event.
2. "PUBLIC HIGHWAY" means highway as defined in the Municipal Act.
3. The provisions of this Bylaw shall not apply to Peace Officers, employees of the Fisheries & Wildlife Branch, employees of the Ministries of Fisheries & Oceans, employees of the Canadian Wildlife Service, or employees of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals required to use firearms in the line of duty.
4. No person shall discharge a firearm within or into the area designated as "closed" on Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw.
5. No person shall discharge a firearm utilizing a single projectile within the Municipality except as specifically provided under section 6 and section 7 hereof.
6. (1) A permit to allow the discharge of firearms within the Municipality shall be required:
  - (a) for the operation of a pistol, rifle, trap and/or skeet shooting range, and
  - (b) for an organized trap or skeet shooting event not located on a shooting range permitted to operate under this Bylaw, and
  - (c) when the discharge of firearms is to be conducted by a person who is the holder of a valid resident trapping licence and a resident hunting or firearms licence issued by the Province of British Columbia who has produced written permission from the owner or the lessee of the lands upon which he proposes to operate his trap line.
- (2) A permit for the discharge of firearms may be issued providing the applicant is covered by an existing public liability and property damage insurance policy in the minimum amount of \$5,000,000.00 validated for the duration of the permit.



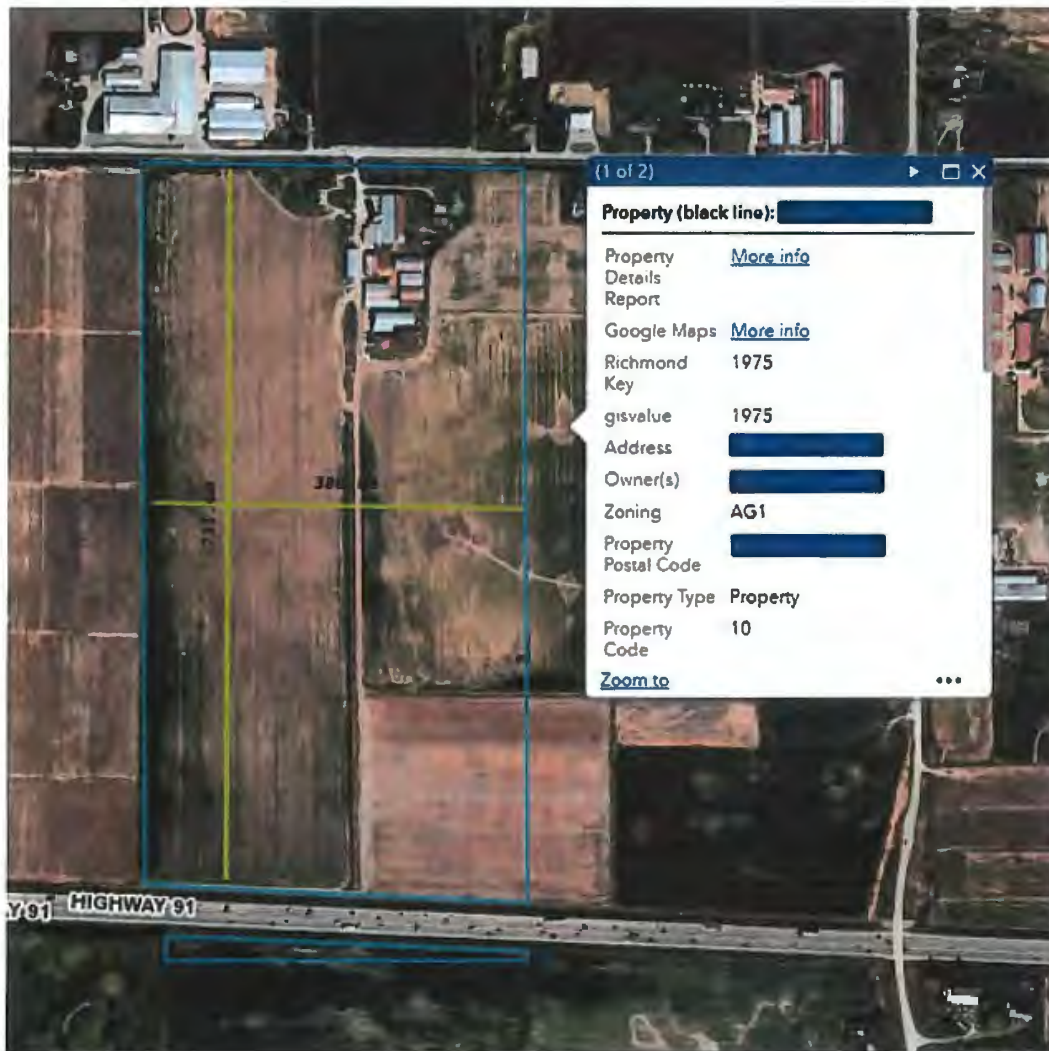
- (3) Any person requiring a permit under this section shall make application in writing to the Council of the Municipality setting forth complete details of the activity or event for which the permit is required.
  - (4) The Council of the Municipality may, after considering the application referred to in section 6(3) hereof, issue a permit subject to such terms and conditions as the Council deems necessary.
- 7. Notwithstanding sections 4 and 5 hereof, but subject to the Migratory Birds Convention Act, the Wildlife Act and regulations thereto, a person may discharge a firearm within the Municipality without first obtaining a permit therefor when:
  - (a) he is engaged in a farm operation and the firearm is discharged for the purpose of protecting his crops or livestock from birds or animals,
  - (b) he is engaged in the humane destruction or slaughter of domestic livestock, or
  - (c) he is engaged in a commercial slaughter-house operation, or
  - (d) he is engaged in shooting on a pistol, rifle, trap or skeet shooting range duly authorized by a permit pursuant to section 6 of this Bylaw.
- 8. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4 hereof a person may, in that portion of the Municipality designated as open hunting on Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, during that part of each year when the hunting of wildlife may be carried out in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia and where that person is a holder of a valid and subsisting licence issued by the Province of British Columbia and as required by the laws of the said Province and of Canada for the hunting and killing of such wildlife, discharge firearms therein without the necessity of obtaining a permit therefor pursuant to this Bylaw.
- 9. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4 hereof, a person may, in the area designated as "hunting by permission only" on Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, if he has a hunting by permission pass issued by the Richmond Rod and Gun Club and validated by the owner of the property, during that period of each year when the hunting of wildlife may be carried out in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia and where that person is a holder of a valid and subsisting licence issued by the Province of British Columbia and as required by the laws of the said Province and of Canada for the hunting and killing of such wildlife, discharge firearms therein without the necessity of obtaining a permit therefor pursuant to this Bylaw.
- 10. Notwithstanding any provisions of this Bylaw:
  - (a) unless authorized by a permit issued in keeping with this Bylaw, no person shall discharge, within the limits of the Municipality, any firearm within 135 metres of any school building, school yard, public park, playground, church, workshop, place of business, dwelling house, farm building, public highway, or other place where persons may be assembled or engaged in work of any kind,

- (b) it shall be lawful for a person to discharge a firearm within or into the Vancouver International Airport with the written permission of the Manager of Vancouver International Airport.
- 11.
  - (a) No person shall discharge a firearm in the area designated as "no discharge toward shore" on Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw unless the firearm is aimed into an adjacent area designated as "open area" on Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw.
  - (b) The area designated as "no discharge toward shore" shall be a strip 180 metres wide measured out from a line drawn parallel to and perpendicularly distant 180 metres from the shore on the outside foot of the dyke as the case may be.
- 12. Any person who contravenes or violates any provision of this Bylaw, or who suffers or allows any act or thing to be done in contravention or violation of this Bylaw, or who fails or neglects to do anything required to be done under this Bylaw, commits an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), in addition to the costs of the prosecution, and where the offence is a continuing one, each day that the offence is continued shall constitute a separate offence."
- 13. Bylaw No. 4106 is hereby repealed.
- 14. This Bylaw is in effect and in force and binding on all persons as from the day following the date of its adoption.

SCHEDULE A to BYLAW NO. 4183



## Hunting by Permission Map of Property and Signature of Property Owner



*\*On the above highlighted property show where on the property hunting will occur. Ensure that the hunting zone is 135 meters from any school building, school yard, public park, playground, church, workshop, place of business, dwelling house, farm building, public highway, or other place where persons may be assembled or engaged in work of any kind within the property area.*

HUNTING BY PERMISSION PASS HOLDERS MUST HAVE THIS SECTION SIGNED BY PROPERTY OWNER BEFORE HUNTING ON HIS OR HER LAND.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Property Owner



# ATTENTION HUNTERS

## HUNTING BY PERMISSION PASS

issued by the Richmond  
Rod & Gun Club required  
for hunting in Richmond

**Bylaw No. 4183**

Those without a valid **Hunting by Permission Pass** are  
subject to fines of up to \$50,000.

For more info visit [www.richmondrodandgunclub.com](http://www.richmondrodandgunclub.com)



**PRIVATE PROPERTY**

**NO  
HUNTING**



City of Richmond Discharge of Firearms Bylaw No. 4183  
Subject to fines of up to \$50,000

