Town Council c/o Stacy Blair, Clerk 175 Bridge Street Carleton Place, ON, K7C2V8 Mayor Black, Mr. Pascal Meunier and Members of the Council,

I respectfully request the Town Council review what other towns are doing around urban farming and consider amendment to <u>Animal Control By-law 122-2018</u> to allow a small number of hens to be kept by residential residents under certain stipulations. I also request that the town follow the lead of Deep River<sup>1</sup> and suspend all levies and fines to any existing resident with urban chickens until a decision can be made.

Without a bylaw in place to allow it or pilot program people go underground and bring chickens in anyways without having proper training, secure coops, noisier roosters, ways to discuss possible health issues and may not have a means to proper veterinary care.

With the Covid-19 pandemic upon us, countless Ontarians, including Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford have voiced their concerns about food security (food shortages). During this period, any attempt at self sustainability should be rewarded, not banned.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and below is a report with further information. I would be happy to have a further discussion with this at a council meeting to address any concerns, invite all of you to my property to visit our coop and offer to help gather case studies of other towns and cities that allow it. My wife and I would be willing to volunteer time in order to create education packages, provide training workshops, review coop plans, round up birds that may get loose and to help relocate birds if required which would be key for a successful pilot or any bylaw changes. It would also reduce time required by bylaw officers and take away the burden to the other rescues in the area.

Respectfully,

John and Kelly Nephin

11 Gemmill Street, Carleton Place

https://youtu.be/8DISZhhXWIE?t=5907

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Deep River council meetings and report -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybp95L6MUlk&fbclid=IwAR0vVDpC5zP0H7dYW8sCeY5asoQyO\_egQVKNkqKyYN4 KWtwJpTKX-KpGg&ab channel=CorporationoftheTownofDeepRiver

https://deepriver.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=324



# Backyard Hens Report

Prepared By John and Kelly Nephin

# Contents

Purpose
Background
Response to Common Concerns
Myth 1: Coops are Smelly, Messy and Ugly4
Myth 2: Hens are Noisy5
Myth 3: Hens Annoy the Neighbours6
Myth 4: Hens Attract Predators6
Myth 5: Hens Provide a Health Risk7
Myth 6: Hens Take up a Lot of Space8
Myth 7: Animal Shelters will get Crowded with Abandoned Chickens8
Benefits to Owning Hens9
Hens as Pets9
Mental Health and Companions10
Hens as Recyclers10
Education and Food Source10
Pest Control and Disease Reduction10
Considerations for a Bylaw or Pilot11
Annex: A Surrounding Municipalities12
Annex B: Petition Signatures
Annex C: Petition Comments
Annex D: Orillia Enforcement Statics Survey of Other Municipalities

#### Purpose

This report is intended to provide input to the Town of Carleton Place Council in support of a request to consider an amendment to <u>Animal Control By-law 122-2018</u> to allow a small number of hens to be kept by residential residents under certain stipulations.

#### Background

Currently, the Town of Carleton Place <u>Animal Control By-law 122-2018</u> states that "*no* person shall keep, or cause to kept: any domestic fowl, pigeons, horses, donkeys, mules, cattle, goats, swine, mink, fox, or sheep except on lands or premises zoned Rural, Agricultural, or Hazard by any by-law of the Corporation of the Town of Carleton Place".

Across the country, urban and suburban areas are changing the definitions of livestock and allowing small backyard flocks of hens. In a google search over **26 cities and towns were found in Ontario that allow backyard residential chickens** as well as other places in Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia. Closest to home include Kingston (since 2011), Brockville, Whitewater Region, Deep River, Beckwith Township, and Smiths Falls. For a full list of places; links to bylaw and other information; and what they allow see Annex: A Surrounding Municipalities.

Many of these cities and towns allows up to six hens to be kept, provided they are licensed, confined to a coop, at least 4 months old, no roosters are kept and the coops are a certain distance from any dwellings located on an abutting property.

Common concerns raised at these places when introduced were that chickens need a lot of work, need a lot of room, are noisy, smelly, dirty and attract rats or other predators. These concerns are not accurate and many cities or towns that are running pilots are reporting no complaints of such. Kitchener reports by email that they have 125 coops and only a hand full of complaints over the years mainly around people not being registered. Toronto reports to The Star that after being half way through their four-year pilot there have not been any complaints about noise or unsanitary conditions.

"There aren't any complaints about noise or unsanitary conditions in any of these locations," with registered hens, says Carl Bandow, who oversees the pilot project for Toronto animal services.<sup>2</sup>

A petition was created to gauge the interest of the community in Carleton Place on Oct 25th and at the time of writing this report it has **1738 supporters with 175 showing as a postal code of Carleton Place**. Local support I believe is much higher as some of the names included without a Carleton Place address or that are blank I notice are from town. Many likely signed with a previous address or with an address that was defaulted by the Internet Service Providers location. I'm sure if you scan some of the names you will know some of them as well. A link to the petition can be found <u>here<sup>3</sup></u> and exports

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/02/18/backyard-hens-not-the-scourge-some-predicted.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.change.org/p/town-council-of-carleton-place-allow-backyard-chickens-in-carleton-place

can be made available in PDF or an Excel worksheet that can be sorted and mapped. The petition has only been shared by us on local sites to make sure the data is relevant. Not one negative comment was received. As you can see by the image below there appears to be support from every area of town in just the short period it has been up.



Annex B: Petition Signatures and Annex C: Petition Comments shows what was available from the petition at the time of writing this report.

## **Response to Common Concerns**

#### Myth 1: Coops are Smelly, Messy and Ugly

Hens are very clean animals and will occasionally give themselves 'dirt baths' but this is actually in order for them to preen their feathers and keep themselves cool and clean.

The reason people fear an odour problem is because their only experience with hens, if they have any at all, is on farm or commercial poultry operation. Under these circumstances, hundreds if not thousands of hens are sometimes kept in crowded conditions with poor ventilation infrequent manure removal. As a result, ammonia can build up and these facilities can smell. There is a huge difference between these environments and a small backyard flock.

Hen feces have the potential to smell which is also true of feces from dogs, cats, rabbits or any other animal that is outside. A forty-pound dog generates more solid waste than 12 chickens in a day.<sup>4</sup> Unlike dog or cat feces chicken feces is full compostable and does not end up in land fills. The chicken manure, shavings and straw are very valuable to create rich disease-free compost that can be used in your garden and household plants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://uakingston.webs.com/MIR%20896%20-%20Kingston%20Backyard%20Hens%20Final%20Report.docx

Proper coop care and maintenance only takes about 15 minutes a week and can be very attractive if done properly.

Most bylaws in residential areas only allow for only a small number of hens to be kept and have rules around coop cleanliness and allowed ammonia levels.

Backyard chicken coops are more like retreats than the houses kept on farms. Many have very attractive designs that are appealing to the eye.

#### Myth 2: Hens are Noisy

Hens are very quiet and do not make noise like a rooster or commercial farm that has thousands of chickens. Hens for the most part do not make noise unless they are startled or for a few seconds while they are laying an egg. When they are at their loudest the noise levels are measured at 60-70 dB from 2 feet away which is comparable to a normal human conversation<sup>5</sup>. A dog barking in contrast is 70-100 dB.

According to <u>Inverse Square Law</u> every time you double the distance from the noise source you reduce the sound pressure level by 6 decibels. At 16 feet away this would mean a Hen would be comparable to the hum of a refrigerator and at 32 feet it would be similar to noise levels in a library or a whisper.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://ferndalechickens.com/2012/05/18/myth-chickens-are-noisy/

Many cities and towns that allow chickens (hens) do not allow roosters which can be noisier and have rules around coop placement that reduces the noise level further still.

#### Myth 3: Hens Annoy the Neighbours

According to the <u>Kingston Backyard Hens Final Report</u> from 2010 Ontario municipalities including Niagara Falls, Guelph and Brampton, and eight other Canadian Cities report very few problems with their hen-keeping residents.

When emailed Kitchener reported back that they have only had a handful of complaints over the years mainly around people not registering birds or keeping roosters which are not permitted.

Orillia shared their <u>final report from 2019</u><sup>6</sup> by email which showed complaints in towns they surveyed in 2017 were low. See Annex D: Orillia Enforcement Statics Survey of Other Municipalities.

Bylaws restrictions around coop placement and lot size can be put in to ensure neighbours are minimally impacted.



Illustration of where the hen coop is permitted.

#### Myth 4: Hens Attract Predators

Many think that Chickens also attract predators but the reality is these animals already exist in the neighbourhoods feeding off wild bird feeders, pet food, gardens, fish ponds, bird baths, cats, squirrels, chipmunks, song birds and people's trash. Modern micro-flock coops, such as chicken tractors arks, and other pens are ways of keeping, and managing, family flocks that eliminate concerns about predators, rodents and other

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M\_Jy\_zG0yT0nmEcPNknaliWTiYShcaS4/view?usp=sharing

pests<sup>7</sup>. Secure coops also use <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mesh for their runs and closed coops with locking doors which eliminates any pests or predators getting in.

Feed can attract pests but that is easily controlled by making sure it is contained in a feeder that is not left out overnight or is in secure containers.

#### Myth 5: Hens Provide a Health Risk

There is a misconception that hens will create a health risk. As GRAIN, an international sustainable agriculture group, concluded in a 2006 report:

# *"When it comes to bird flu, diverse small-scale poultry farming is the resolution, not the problem".*

Research shows that there are actually more diseases that can be spread from dogs and cats than from hens. Dogs and cats can spread parasites, bacteria, fungi and viruses to humans. Rabies is an example of a viral infection that can be transmitted to people from the saliva or bite of a dog. Cat Scratch Fever is a bacterial infection passed to people by cats. Each year, 3000 cases are diagnosed across Canada. Ringworm, a highly contagious fungal infection, can be transmitted to humans by touching an infected animal's fur or skin and is common in cats that roam freely. Roundworm, hookworm and tapeworm are intestinal parasites that can be passed to humans from pet waste. There are also a number of tick-borne diseases, including Lyme Disease, that can be brought home by dogs and cats. Hens can actually keep your yard healthier because they eat ticks and insects.

Salmonella, which has been associated with raw eggs, is a problem with factory-farmed eggs, not with backyard hens.<sup>8</sup>

According to the Mayor of Springwater the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit commented that public health concerns resulting from urban chickens are **similar to those hazards that are associated with having domestic animals**. They state that according to research, **the risk of pathogen transmission from backyard chickens appears to be low and does not present a threat to the public's health**. It is comparable to keeping other animals allowed by similar bylaws such as dogs and cats. Adherence to proper hygiene (e.g. hand washing, maintaining and regularly cleaning chicken coops) will significantly mitigate the risk of disease acquisition which are commonly found in chickens, including Salmonella.<sup>9</sup>

In the report done by Smiths Falls in 2018<sup>10</sup>, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit states:

<sup>7</sup> 

https://www.rupehort.com/\_ccLib/attachments/pages/Urban+Chicken+Info\_7+False+Myths+About+Urban+Chickens\_110214.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> http://uakingston.webs.com/MIR%20896%20-%20Kingston%20Backyard%20Hens%20Final%20Report.docx

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> https://www.springwater.ca/en/news/mayor-don-s-update-february-6.aspx

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.smithsfalls.ca/media/2018/04/Exemption-to-Animal-Control-By-law-Report.pdf

#### "In cases where the property is of a suitable size and the owners are responsible owners when it comes to the care of hens and cleanliness of coops there may be no issues."

Canadian Food Inspection provides Biosecurity tips to keep your birds healthy and safe against disease in there article <u>How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks</u> and <u>Pet Birds</u>.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs provides "Keeping Your Birds Healthy Resource Kits" for backyard chicken owners. It provides information on biosecurity, feed and water management, cleaning and disinfection, managing sick birds and disposal of sick birds. In addition, <u>Family Food Program</u> at Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) provides information for members on promotion of bird health and disease management.

#### Myth 6: Hens Take up a Lot of Space

Hens properly kept in a yard are comparable to rabbits in terms of care, and to both rabbits and dogs in terms of housing. An adult hen only requires 2-4 square feet of pen, compared to about 7-10 square feet for a rabbit or 30-50 square feet for a dog.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs states in there <u>Urban Agriculture</u> <u>Business Information Bundle<sup>11</sup></u> that poultry are one of the most popular choices for urban producers who want to raise livestock. Chickens and ducks can be a source of eggs, meat or both; turkeys and gamebirds are raised for meat. None require a lot of space.

<u>National Farm Animal Care Council's codes of Practice stocking densities</u> state that you should have no more than 40kg worth of birds in a square meter for birds 6.2kg and under. That is 6 hens per meter.

#### Myth 7: Animal Shelters will get Crowded with Abandoned Chickens

There is a concern that animal shelters will get over crowded with abandoned chickens just like rabbits at Easter time. Owning hens has a much more significant investment than a rabbit which should reduce the amount of people just running out to get them. A coop can cost between \$200-2000 depending on how much the owner wants to spend.

There are large communities on Facebook that help people find homes for birds. This includes

- Poultry Gone Wild Ottawa Valley: 2336 members
- Backyard Chickens Eastern Ontario: 2159 members
- Ontario Poultry: 712 members
- Lanark County Poultry: 398 members
- Ontario homesteaders, preppers, foragers and off grid living: 12, 245

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/urbanagbib/poultry.htm

We have also recently started a Carleton Place Facebook group "Carleton Place Backyard Chickens" to provide people with information on chickens and link people with farmers in the area. The site includes training units that people can take and it will track their progress.

By stating in the bylaw that people have to have sexed 4-month-old female pullets it reduces the risk people looking for homes for roosters which is a common issue in places with underground owners. This also reduces the risk of people abandoning the hens when they are no longer "cute and fuzzy chicks."

#### Benefits to Owning Hens

#### Hens as Pets

Owners of pet hens prize them for their tame, friendly and entertaining personalities, but also because they can play a part in a greener lifestyle. They are a wonderful learning tool for children. They naturally control insect pests such as ticks, eat vegetable scraps, improve the lawn and even provide eggs for the table. Owners refer to their pets as urban chickens or city chickens.

It can be seen that backyard hens are pets rather than livestock from several points. First, the owner keeps hens only; keeping chickens as livestock would require a rooster for breeding. Secondly eggs produced by backyard hens, if any, would be used by the owners and not typically sold. Finally, the number of hens would be too small to constitute a profitable venture in either eggs or meat.

Owning and caring for hens is a relatively low cost, comparable to owning cats and dogs, once a proper coop and run is constructed. Cleaning of a small coop takes about 15 minutes a week and daily chores are around 5 mins to make sure they have food, water, clean bedding and eggs are collected.

Hens are very intelligent and can be trained to do tricks, solve puzzles, run obstacle courses and even play an instrument like the piano or xylophone.

Research shows that there at least 24 different sounds chickens make and maybe as many as 30. Although they don't have the vocabulary of humans, they are a conversational creature and if you pay attention, you can learn to understand some of it. Babies have certain sounds to say hello, they are here and all is well, they are unhappy, distressed, and don't hurt me. Moms talk to the babies to tell them to stay quiet due to danger, stay close or come for dinner. Hens talk to others to say I just laid and egg and I rock, leave my egg alone, lets stick together, here's a good nest site, lets sleep here, I sense danger and they sing notes that say all is well<sup>12</sup>.

The Almonte Veterinary Service, Perth Veterinary Clinic and Bells Corners Animal Hospital all service chickens.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://flipflopranch.com/chicken-talk/#:~:text=Help%20me%20calls-

<sup>,</sup> Chicken%20Talk, very%20vocal%20and%20conversational%20critter.

#### Mental Health and Companions

Hens are very social and gentle creatures that are just as good as a dog, bird or cat for mental health. During times like COVID where people are locked down or not seeing their normal social circles, they can express levels of extreme loneliness and depression. Studies have shown hens provide a very calming, rested and relaxing effect on people; bring them joy and reduced loneliness<sup>13</sup>. Many people now even have them as emotional support animals.

#### Hens as Recyclers

Hens are great at recycling food scraps and part of a zero-waste kitchen. A single chicken can "bio-recycle" about seven pounds of food residuals in a month. 2000 houses with hens could divert 252 tons of waste from landfills annually.

#### **Education and Food Source**

People love raising their own food and knowing that the animal was fed properly and cared for in a humane way. No more chickens kept in small unsanitary cages where they cannot move. Children get to learn responsibility, where the food comes from, recycling and about healthy, sustainable, nutritious food. People today have a real disconnect and don't know where their food comes from anymore and backyard chickens can bring some of that back. Nothing beats the look on a kid face when they find an egg and pet or hold a chicken for the first time. We have even brought our chickens into the school for show and tell. Kids love to learn what they eat, how they are raised, that eggs can come in a rainbow of colours and what kind animals they are.

On average one hen lays one egg per day. The eggs are much healthier and pesticide free. Studies have shown hens that are allowed to pasture and are fed a diet of grains, vegetables, weeds, and bugs produce a deep orange yolk that are more nutritious than industry sourced eggs<sup>14</sup>. A pasture-raised egg contains:

- 1/4 less saturated fat
- 2/3 more vitamin A
- 2 times more omega-3 fatty acids
- 3 times more vitamin E
- 7 times more beta carotene
- 4 times more vitamin D

By having your own egg supply greenhouse gases are reduced through the reduction in food transport costs. People also don't have to worry about egg shortages like was seen during a pandemic like COVID.

#### Pest Control and Disease Reduction

Hens are great at keeping ticks, fleas, mosquitoes, grasshoppers, stink bugs, carpenter ants, slugs, mice, baby rats and snakes at bay as they eat anything that moves. A 1991

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> https://www.nextavenue.org/calming-effect-therapy-chickens/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://www.motherearthnews.com/real-food/free-range-eggs-zmaz07onzgoe

study showed that chickens who scavenged for 30 minutes among tick-infested cattle in Kenya ate an average of 81 ticks per chicken<sup>15</sup>. Less ticks means less chance of Lyme Disease.

### Considerations for a Bylaw or Pilot

If a pilot is run it should be at least 3-4 years in order to gather enough information to determine the impact on the community and gather enough data for an informed decision. Also, this would reduce people only having chickens for a short period and people could be given advanced notice (ex: 6-12 months) to rehome them. There is a risk that if it is done as a pilot that people would not come forward and register in fear of loosing their birds and therefore not providing accurate data.

The following is a list of consideration that could be put into the bylaw to ensure there are no issues:

- All participants must register with the town hall.
- No person must have more than 6 hens or less than 3 hens in order for them to be properly wintered.
- Roosters are not permitted.
- Hens must be at least four months old when acquired because prior to four months old you cannot determine whether the chick is a hen or a rooster.
- The owner of the hens must reside at the property where they are kept.
- Coop must have a roof and doors that will be locked at night.
- Coops must be kept in clean condition and kept free of obnoxious odours, substances and vermin.
- Coops must not be built on a shared fence.
- Feed must be stored securely.
- Manure shall be kept in an enclosed structure such as a compost bin.
- Deceased hens shall be buried, disposed of at a livestock disposal facility or through the services of a veterinarian. Considerations should be given to the <u>Disposal of Deadstock Regulation</u> <u>105/09</u><sup>16</sup>.
- Hens must remain on the owner's property.
- You must allow town staff to attend and inspect the property (as deemed necessary) to ensure compliance with the requirements.
- Hens do not count as part of the five (5) animal max per household.
- Hens should only be allowed outside the coop one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset.
- Many other bylaws do not include a lot size but where they did 300 square meters seemed common.
- Coop and Run are set back 1.2 m from rear lot line and at least 2.5 m from any interior side lot line unless all adult occupants of any property from which set backs are not in place in writing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=228154

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/ahw/regulation.htm

# Annex: A Surrounding Municipalities

Many municipalities in Ontario allow keeping a small number of backyard hens. Many of these communities recently completed a pilot project, and would serve as a good reference. A summary of the By-laws and their restrictions is included in Table 1. Basic information about general welfare (food, water, shelter) is the same for all so it was not included.

Municipality	References	Restrictions and other information
City of Brampton, ON	<u>261-93 (340-</u>	No more than 2 hens without license
	<u>2012)</u>	<ul> <li>Must provide notice to adjoining property owners</li> </ul>
Population of		• A license is required to own more than 2 hens – up to a
603,346		maximum of 10 hens.
Town of Caledon, ON	<u>2019-43</u>	• Maximum of 4 hens. Hens must be at least 4 months old.
		<ul> <li>Permitted on residentially zoned lots.</li> </ul>
Population of 66,502		Hens shall be kept in a hen coop or hen run at all times and
		secured between 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
		• A minimum of 0.37 sq. m. per hen for a hen coop; minimum of
		0.93 sq. m. per hen for a hen run.
		No hen coop shall or hen run shall exceed 2 meters in height
		• Hen coop, hen run shall be set back 2 meters from any lot line,
		and a minimum of 3 meters from any dwelling on an adjacent
		lot.
Township of	<u>06-54</u>	Chickens being kept on property zoned residential must be
Clearview,		licensed, inspected and approved by the Senior By-law
ON		Enforcement Officer.
		<ul> <li>\$30 Annual Permit/Household</li> </ul>
Population		<ul> <li>Maximum of 4 Hens, Roosters not permitted</li> </ul>
of 14,151		No lot size restrictions
		• Each hen requires minimum of 0.37sq. m. of coop floor
		area and 0.92sq. m. of outdoor area
		<ul> <li>Kept in an enclosed area at all times.</li> </ul>
		Coops to be locked from sunset to sunrise.
		Cleanliness provisions.
City of Guelph, ON	<u>2016-</u>	• Allows up to 10 domestic poultry hens unless they are kept at
	<u>20122</u>	all times in a pen that has a coop
Population of		Prohibits Roosters
135,474		No lot size restrictions

#### Table 1: Summary of Municipalities that Permit Backyard Hens

City of Kingston ON	2004 144	<ul> <li>Completed 2 year pilot project</li> </ul>
City of Kingston, ON	<u>2004-144</u>	Completed 3-year pilot project
Dopulation of		Maximum 6 hens on any residential property;
Population of		Permits must be obtained
136,685		No roosters.
		Hens shall be kept in their coops between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00
		a.m.
		<ul> <li>Eggs are for personal consumption only.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Slaughter is prohibited.</li> </ul>
City of Kitchener, ON	Chapter 408	Permanent Bylaw in place
		Maximum 4 Hens in a residential zone
Population of		No roosters or meat birds
242,368		Application permit fee
		No lot size restrictions
		• Coop and Run are set back 1.2 m from rear lot line and at least
		2.5 m from any interior side lot line unless all adult occupants of
		any property from which set backs are not in place in writing
		Coop and run provides protection from weather and has
		ventilation, flooring that resistant to moisture and moldand
		retains heat in cold weather, and accessible dust bath area.
		Email response from <u>Steve.Vrentzos@kitchener.ca</u> :
		• Currently have <b>125 applications for coops</b> as of Nov 2020.
		<ul> <li>Only a handful of complaints over the years mainly around people</li> </ul>
		without permits and keeping roosters.
		<ul> <li>Very little time spent by staff. About 10 mins doing an inspection</li> </ul>
		and then dropping of the permit.
		and then dropping of the permit.
City of Niagara	2019-35	Schedule D of Animal Control By-law
Falls, ON		• Maximum of 10 Chickens as of July 15, 2005 (previously was 20)
		<ul> <li>No roosters within Urban Boundary</li> </ul>
Population of		<ul> <li>Chicken coops to be located in rear yard and befully</li> </ul>
48,144		enclosed.
		<ul> <li>Lots must have a detached dwelling, a minimum frontage of 40</li> </ul>
		feet and minimum depth of 100 feet.
		<ul> <li>Minimum rear yard setback to coop of 25 feet and 15 feet</li> </ul>
		from side lot line

City of Orillia, ON	<u>2017-64</u>	<ul> <li>Extended pilot project until June 5, 2023.</li> </ul>
	<u>Chapter</u>	<ul> <li>12 properties selected for the pilot project</li> </ul>
Population of 31,166	<u>Chapter</u>	<ul> <li>12 properties selected for the pilot project</li> <li>Hen Coops will be permitted on properties with lot sizes of 500 sq. m. (5,382 sq. ft) or greater within the Rural Zone (RU), certain Residential Zones (R1, R2, R3, R4), Parkland and Open Space Zones (OS1, OS2) and Institutional Zone (I1)</li> </ul>
		prohibited. No selling eggs, meat, manure, etc.
		Cleanliness provisions.

Township of Oro- Medonte, ON Population of 21,036	<u>97-95 (2017-016)</u>	<ul> <li>Permitted within the Agricultural/Rural (A/RU) Zone as an accessory use to a single detached dwelling.</li> <li>Coop and manure structure shall not exceed an area of 10 sq. m. Not to be located in front or exterior side yard. Counts towards lot coverage.</li> <li>Coop – Minimum 2m setback from rear or interior lotline.</li> <li>Manure Structure – Minimum 3m setback</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>No roosters.</li> <li>Sale of eggs, manure, orother product is prohibited.</li> <li>Maximum of six (6) hens. Hens must be minimum of 4 months old.</li> </ul>
Town of Newmarket, ON Population of 84,244	<u>2017-34</u>	<ul> <li>In 2015, Council received a deputation to regulate backyard hens. In 2016 Council endorsed a 12-month pilot project forup to five properties. In 2017 the pilot project was extended, making it town wide.</li> <li>Maximum of 3 Hens per lot. Hens must be at least 4 months old.</li> <li>No Roosters.</li> <li>Minimum enclosure size of 10 sq. ft per hen;</li> <li>Hens must be in coop between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.</li> <li>Hen coops and runs must be set back 1.2 m from rear lot line and 1.2 m from side lot of the dwelling lot on which the hen coop is located.</li> <li>Hen coops shall be less than 2.4 m in height</li> <li>Slaughter is prohibited.</li> </ul>
City of Toronto, ON Population of 2.93 million	<u>Chapter</u> <u>349-4.1</u>	<ul> <li>Urban Hens TO Pilot Program</li> <li>March 2, 2018 to March 2, 2021</li> <li>Registration required. Only permitted in 4 specified areas (Wards 5, 13, 21 and 32)</li> <li>Maximum of 4 Hens. Minimum of 4 months old. No roosters. Recommend minimum of 2 hens as they are social creatures.</li> <li>The Owner shall ensure each coop has a minimum coop floor area of 0.37sq. m. (4 sq. ft.) per each hen kept in the coop. d) The Owner shall ensure each coop has a minimum of at least 0.92 sq. m. (10 sq. ft.) of enclosed space per hen kept in the coop.</li> <li>The owner shall ensure that no hen coop exceeds a height of two meters and a maximum floor area of 9.2 sq. m. (100 sq. ft.).</li> <li>Only residential properties (houses or townhouses with a backyard) can be registered. Residents in apartment and condo cannot participate.</li> <li>Eggs are for personal consumption only.</li> </ul>

Russell, ON	Presentation	- No rosters or meat hens
Russell, UN	Presentation	
Population of	slides from the	- Must be licensed. \$25 fee to cover admin costs
16,520	Public Meeting on	- Hens shall be kept in the henhouse between 9:00 p.m.
10,520	Urban Hens, July	and 6:00 a.m.
	<u>8th 2020 (PDF)</u>	- No more than three (3) cubic feet of manure shall be
	Public Meeting on	stored
	Urban Hens, July	<ul> <li>Hens cannot be slaughtered or disposed of on a</li> </ul>
	8th 2020	residential property. Hens at their end of life or must be
	<u>(YouTube)</u>	delivered to a pound keeper, farm, veterinarian, abattoir
	(Tourube)	or other facility with the legal ability to dispose of them.
	Survey Results on	- The selling of eggs or other products derived from hens
	Urban Hens (PDF)	is prohibited.
		- Both the henhouse and the run area are required to be
	Draft By-Law on	fully enclosed on all sides and above (i.e. fencing, chicken
	Licencing and	wire, roof covering).
	Control of Urban	- Hens coops will only be permitted on lots with detached
	Hens (PDF)	dwelling units and semi-detached dwelling units
		- Lot size 300 sq. m up to 5 hens. Permanent license.
		- Lot size 500 – 2999 sq. m. 12-month pilot. 20
		households. 3 hens maximum
		<ul> <li>Coop size and placement restrictions.</li> </ul>
		- ' '
North Dumfries,	<u>2999-18</u>	- 18-month pilot started on Oct 15, 2018 and extended to
ON		April 15, 2022
		- Permit required
Population of		- Participants must submit a neighbour notification form
10,215		with their application for an Urban Hen Pilot
		- Health management plan
		- By-law or other authorized employee allowed to do
		inspections
		- Max 4 hens on properties less than 2 acres. If greater
		than 2 acres 10 hens are permitted
		<ul> <li>- No hens at large</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>No sale of eggs, meat or manure</li> </ul>
		- No slaughter
		<ul> <li>Proper disposal through vet or approved facility</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Distance restrictions for coops, build restrictions and</li> </ul>
		fencing required.
		- Ammonia levels under 12ppm
		From email from <u>asage@northdumfries.ca</u> :
		nom email nom <u>asage@nortnuummes.ca</u> .
		Currently no registered applications.

Spring Water, ON Population of 19,059	<u>By-law 5000-323</u> <u>amendment</u>	<ul> <li>3-year pilot approved Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 2020.</li> <li>No details until a licensing by-law is finalized and approved.</li> </ul>
Tecumseh, ON Population of 23,229	<u>Urban Hen</u> Program	<ul> <li>Pilot approved March 1, 2020</li> <li>Property &lt; 10,000 sq. ft limit of 6 female hens</li> <li>Property &gt; 10,000 sq. ft – an additional hen per 3000 sq. ft up to a max of 12</li> <li>\$25 license fee</li> <li>No roosters</li> <li>Located within the rear yard of the lot;</li> <li>The total area of all hen coops and runs are less than 11.15 sq. m. (120 sq. ft.) for properties under 10,000 sq. ft., or 15.60 sq metres (168 sq. ft.) for properties greater than 10,000 sq. ft;</li> <li>The hen coop and run are less than 3 metres (10 feet) in height;</li> <li>A minimum 0.37 sq. m. (4 sq. ft.) coop floor area per hen;</li> <li>A minimum 1.2 metres (4 feet) setback from the lot lines;</li> <li>A minimum 1.5 metres (5 feet) setback from the main dwelling.</li> <li>All coops must be enclosed on all sides and have a roof and doors in working order;</li> <li>Access to doors must be able to shut and lock at night;</li> <li>If there are any windows and vents, they must be predator and bird-proof;</li> <li>All coops must be kept in a clean, dry, odour-free, neat and sanitary condition at all times;</li> </ul>

		<ul> <li>The coop must be weather-proofed and the enclosure insulated with air temperature suitable for the health of the hens;</li> <li>The coop must have adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade.</li> <li>Hens must be kept in their coops from 9:00 pm to 6:00 am.</li> <li>During daylight hours, hens may be allowed outside of their coop in a securely-fenced hen run on the property of the Owner.</li> <li>No egg sales</li> </ul>
Northfolk County, ON Population of 64,044	Animal Control By-Law 2014-46 Amendment to By-law 2019-67 (Backyard Chickens) Related By-Law 47-Z-2019 (Backyard Chickens)	<ul> <li>Established bylaw</li> <li>Single family dwelling</li> <li>Hen coop and run max 10 m sq. with max 3m height.</li> <li>Max 4 hens, no roosters</li> <li>Tenants must have owners consent in writing.</li> <li>All manure shall be stored within a fully enclosed waterproof container covered by a fully enclosed structure or weatherproof container. No more than 0.08 cubic meters (2.8 cubic feet) cubic feet of manure shall be stored on the premises at a time.</li> <li>No slaughter</li> <li>No selling of eggs, manure or other products derived from hens.</li> <li>Hens disposed at vet or approved facility.</li> <li>Coop enclosed 6 sides not buried.</li> </ul> From email to bylaw: <ul> <li>They do not issue licenses or permits so they don't know how many people have hens</li> <li>35 complaints last year mainly around set-backs from property lines and hens at running at large. 9% of there workload or 1.3% of all files investigated.</li> <li>3hrs of time spent on each case.</li> <li>Recommendation for set-back distances as far back as possible to reduce any possible complaints.</li> </ul>

Orangeville, ON Population of 28,900		The Hen By-Law will be passed on November 9, 2020 and forms will be available on the Town of Orangeville website ( <u>www.orangeville.ca</u> ) on December 7, 2020. The By-Law will then be in effect on January 1, 2020.
		Jennifer Doherty   Customer Service Representative   Corporate Services Town of Orangeville   87 Broadway   Orangeville, ON L9W 1K1 519-941-0440 Ext. 2221   Toll Free 1-866-941-0440 Ext. 2221 jdoherty@orangeville.ca   www.orangeville.ca
Georgina, ON Population of 45,418	Urban Hen Pilot By-law 2020-004 (LI-3) Urban Hens Council Report	<ul> <li>24 months</li> <li>15 licenses, 3 per ward</li> <li>100 m min separation distance between properties with hen coops</li> <li>Mandatory educational workshop</li> </ul>

Brockville, ON Population of 21,854	<u>By-law 7-82</u>	<ul> <li>No domestic fowl, pigeons or other species of birds shall be kept within the City of Brockville unless same are kept only in the rear yard or outside yard of any lot and at least 12.2 m. from any school, church dwelling, or other premises used for human habitation or occupancy, except the premises on the subject lot, occupied exclusively by the owner or keeper's immediate family.</li> <li>All domestic fowl, pigeons or other species of birds shall be kept in enclosed and ventilated lofts, coops, pens or runs, and such enclosures shall, insofar as practicable, be screened from the adjacent lots and streets by hedges, shrubs or other suitable screening.</li> <li>No person shall permit domestic fowl to stray from the lot of the owner or keeper.</li> <li>No person shall permit pigeons to habitually perch or linger on the buildings or property of others.</li> <li>The Animal Control Officer may, upon the complaint of the owner or occupant of any premises, enter upon such premises and the land and buildings in the vicinity thereof for the purpose of trapping, removing or exterminating strayed pigeons that are causing annoyance to the owner or occupant or damages to such premises.</li> </ul>
Whitewater Region / Cobden, ON Population of 7009	<u>By-law 20-06-</u> <u>1308</u>	<ul> <li>Up to four chickens in backyard</li> <li>Requires permit</li> <li>Tenants must have owners written permissions</li> <li>Owner of hens resides at the property.</li> <li>Property must be a single detached, semi detached, or townhouse dwelling</li> <li>Coop distance restrictions</li> <li>No slaughter</li> <li>Chickens secured between certain hours</li> </ul>

Woodstock, ON Population of 40,902	Animals Chapter 0232 Fowl - Pigeons	<ul> <li>20 ft from keeper's house, 50 ft from others</li> <li>No lot size restrictions</li> </ul>
Quinte West, ON Population of 43,577	Hen CoopApplicationHen Coop Licence- InformationPackageFees & ChargesBy-law 16-147ComprehensiveZoning By-law -Backyard HensBy-law 11-138 -Backyard HenLicensing andControl	<ul> <li>Zoned for single family dwelling</li> <li>Minimum size of one acre</li> <li>Coop distance and size restrictions</li> </ul>

	D 1: 2016 22	
Cramahe	<u>By-law 2016-22</u>	- License required
Township, ON		- Up to 6 hens
		- Max coop size 3m x 3m x 3.5m
Population of		<ul> <li>No slaughter on premise</li> </ul>
6355		No selling of eggs or other hen derived products
Deep River, ON	Council Meetings	<ul> <li>Approved pilot still working on details.</li> </ul>
	lune 10	
Population of	- <u>June 10</u>	
4109	- <u>June 24</u>	
	Minutes and	
	<u>Report</u>	

L	- · · ·	
Beckwith	<u>By-law 91-14</u>	- Min lot size is 400sq. m.
township, ON		<ul> <li>Coops distance and size restrictions</li> </ul>
Population of		
7644		
/011		
Smiths Falls, ON	<u>By-law 8856-2016</u>	
	section 12	in enclosed and ventilated lofts, coops, pens or runs and
Population of		such enclosure shall, insofar as practicable, be screened
8780		from the adjacent lots and streets by hedges, shrubs or
		other suitable screening.

Meaford, ON	Application Form Backyard Hens	<ul> <li>Can keep backyard chickens as pets, no roosters</li> <li>Coop placement requirements</li> <li>Provide each hen with 0.37 sq. m.</li> <li>Keep hen in enclosed area at all times</li> <li>Keep food and water in the coop</li> </ul>				
		<ul> <li>Keep hour and water in the coop</li> <li>Keep hen coop locked from sunset to sunrise</li> <li>Store manure in enclosed structure and no more than 3 cubic feet at a time.</li> <li>No slaughter</li> <li>No dispose of a hen except by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, vet, mobile slaughter unit or other facility that has the ability to dispose of hens.</li> </ul>				
Severn Township, ON	2013-08	<ul> <li>No person shall own more than a maximum of twelve (12) chickens per property</li> <li>No person shall own roosters</li> <li>No person shall allow the chickens to free range on the property and the chickens shall be kept in a suitable hen coop at all times</li> <li>All hen coops shall contain an enclosed roof structure and shall be no greater than 3 X 3 metres and no greater than 4.5 metres in height.</li> <li>The following lot size and setbacks for hen coops shall apply to residential zones: <ul> <li>(i) Minimum of .25 acres lot size</li> <li>(ii) 3 metres from the side tot line and at least 1.2 metres from the rear lot line</li> <li>(iii) At least 3 metres from abutting dwellings</li> <li>(iv) At least 7.5 metres from any church or school (v) Shall only be located in the rear yard</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				

Huntsville, ON	2008-66P	- a maximum of maximum of five(5) hens is permitted on a
	Staff report 2019	<ul> <li>a maximum of maximum of five(3) fields is permitted of a lot equal to and less than 0.4 hectares (1 acre) in area</li> <li>a maximum of ten(10) hens is permitted on a lot greater than 0.4 hectares (1 acre) in area,</li> <li>Hens must be kept in the rear yard, in a screened, rodent and predator proofed enclosure that must be located a minimum of 4.5m from a side or rear property line.</li> <li>The hens must be maintained in accordance with good animal husbandry practices as defined by the ministry of Food and Agriculture.</li> <li>The hens and eggs shall be for domestic use only and may be sold in accordance with the Home Occupation provisions.</li> </ul>
Bracebridge, ON	2016-088	<ul> <li>Allowed since 2016</li> <li>Keeping of up to 10 hens with no rooster on a lot, accessory to a principal residential use, where the hens and their eggs are for domestic use only and not for sale</li> <li>The lot has a minimum lot area of 0.2 hectares</li> <li>The hens are kept in a screened or walled rodent and predator proofed building that is located in a rear yard with a minimum setback of 6.0 metres from any lot line and a minimum high water mark setback of 30 metres from any navigable waterway.</li> </ul>

	Charles 2000	
Brantford, ON	<u>Chapter 206</u>	<ul> <li>Permitted for registered members of a recognized group such as the Brant County Pigeon, Poultry, and Pet Stock Association Inc.; or any other organization as may be approved by the City, and the chickens are being raised for exhibition at a bona fide agricultural exposition</li> <li>Where any person keeps any animal in one or more pens on any property within the City of Brantford, that person shall locate all portions of such pen or pens at least 7.5 metres (24.6 feet) distant from the closest point on any outside wall of any school, church, or dwelling unit other than a dwelling unit occupied by the occupant of the land upon which the pen is located.</li> </ul>
Windsor, ON		- 4 laying hens, no roosters

Gatineau, QC	By-law 183-2005	- Up to 5 laying hens, no roosters
	Appendix A-1	<ul> <li>Min lot size of 350 sq. m. (75% of the properties in</li> </ul>
		Gatineau meet this size)
		- There shall be only one hen shelter per address
		- The hen shelter shall be located at least 2 m away from
		the property limits and 1 m away from the home and its
		outbuildings
		<ul> <li>At night, the laying hens shall be kept inside the shelter</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>The smells emanating from the hens or compost shall</li> </ul>
		not be detectable from the neighbours
		<ul> <li>The laying hens shall be kept under direct supervision or</li> </ul>
		inside the shelter and enclosure; "stray" hens will not be
		tolerated
		- The resident agrees to refrain from selling eggs, meat,
		manure or other products derived from this activity
		- \$30 license fee
		Additional Information
		- 136 people had residential chickens in 2018, the City
		received 15 complaints from residents about poultry
		<ul> <li>In 2019 they removed the limit of permits and handed</li> </ul>
		out another 150. Complaints were 17.
		- By June 1 <sup>st</sup> in 2020 they handed out the same about of
		new permits as all of 2019
Vancouver, BC	<b>Backyard Chickens</b>	
		per lot is allowed
		- Ducks, turkeys, or other fowl or livestock (such as goats)
	Animal Control	are not allowed
		- Eggs, meat, and manure cannot be used for commercial
		purposes
		<ul> <li>Backyard slaughtering is not allowed</li> </ul>
	Guidelines for	-
	Backyard	
	Hens PDF file (225	
	KB)	
	Zoning and	
	Development By-	
	law (Section	
Vancouver, BC	Animal Control By-law Guidelines for Keeping of Backyard Hens PDF file (225 KB) Zoning and Development By-	<ul> <li>A maximum of 4 hens (no roosters), 4 months or olde per lot is allowed</li> <li>Ducks, turkeys, or other fowl or livestock (such as goa are not allowed</li> <li>Eggs, meat, and manure cannot be used for commerc purposes</li> </ul>

	10.18.2) PDF	
	file (154 KB)	
I Victoria. BC	By-law	It is lawful to keep poultry (chickens, ducks, geese). Roosters are 1
Victoria, BC	<u>By-law</u> Begulations	It is lawful to keep poultry (chickens, ducks, geese). Roosters are
Victoria, BC	<u>By-law</u> <u>Regulations</u>	prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted,
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted,
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted,
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.
Victoria, BC		prohibited. There is no maximum number of poultry permitted, but the number must be consistent with use for personal egg consumption.

Esquimalt, BC	By-law 2841 sections 31 & 32	<ul> <li>Up to 7 Urban Hens can be kept on any parcel of land zoned for Single or Two Family Residential Use.</li> <li>Roosters are prohibited.</li> <li>There are specific rules regarding coop/run enclosures in Esquimalt. Please read the By-law (Section 32) before constructing or locating a chicken coop/run.</li> <li>No sale or advertising of eggs / manure / meat products.</li> </ul>
Oak Bay, BC	By-law 4013	<ul> <li>You can keep up to 5 or 10 hens depending on your lot size.</li> <li>Roosters are prohibited.</li> <li>There are specific rules about hen enclosures in Oak Bay.</li> <li>You must also register your chickens with Oak Bay Municipal Hall.</li> <li>No sale or advertising of eggs / manure / meat products.</li> </ul>

Aindria AD	Dealurand Llan	May 4 hans
Airdrie, AB	Backyard Hen	- Max 4 hens
	Pilot Project	<ul> <li>No roosters or chicks</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Eggs and Meat cannot be sold</li> </ul>
		- Lot size 300 sq. m.
	<b>Guidelines</b>	<ul> <li>Neighbourhood locations (city may consider a range)</li> </ul>
		- Resident experience with hens
		<ul> <li>Attendance at Backyard Hen 101 course</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>No slaughter on property</li> </ul>
		- Registered with Premise Identification number
		<ul> <li>Coops in fenced backyards</li> </ul>
		- Max of 2 hens < 400 sq. m., Max of 4 hens > 400 sq. m.
		Minimum of 2 hens. No roosters.
		- Max coop of 50 sq. ft.
		- Distance rules from fences, neighbours, etc
		- Waste removal and size limits.
		- Hens must be kept in their henhouse after 10pm and
		before 7am as this helps with both noise mitigation and
		keeping the hens safe.

Annex B: Petition Signatures

Annex C: Petition Comments

# Annex D: Orillia Enforcement Statics Survey of Other Municipalities

Name of Municipality	# of backyard chicken coops located in municipality in 2016?	Total # of complaints about chickens in 2016?	# of complaints about noise or odour from chickens in 2016?	# of complaints about chickens attracting rodents or predators into residential areas in 2016?	# of complaints about chickens at large in residential areas in 2016?	Any known issues with spread of disease from chickens to people or pets?	Other complaints?
Kingston	23	2	1 (odour - unfounded	0	1 (returned to owner)	D	D
Newmarket	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Niagara Falls	Unknown	8	1	3 (All related to rats, 1 unfounded)	0	þ	<ul> <li>2 - complainant</li> <li>simply opposed to</li> <li>neighbour having</li> <li>chickens (officer</li> <li>investigated to</li> <li>determine meeting</li> <li>by-law)</li> <li>2 - coop set-backs</li> </ul>
Peterborough	Unknown	20	6	3 (1 - coyote, 2 - dog. 2 chickens were killed by a husky that entered a pen in one of the dog incidents)	8 (3 chickens were impounded)	þ	3 - cruelty
Quinte West	5	2	0	0	0	D	2 - No hen coop permit
Waterloo	16	0	0	0	0	0	0

Schedule "D" – Enforcement Statistics Survey