

Mercier, Betty

From: Lysynski, Heather
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Mercier, Betty
Cc: Orser, Stephen
Subject: FW: Kingston City Council Decision regarding Hens

From: Orser, Stephen
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2011 3:17 PM
To: Lysynski, Heather
Subject: Fw: Kingston City Council Decision regarding Hens

Could you please add this to the agenda for Backyard Chickens. Thanks
Ward 4 Councillor
Stephen Orser
Cell. 519-851-4968
Home 519-204-6040

Thanks

From: Thompson, James
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2011 10:07 AM
To: Orser, Stephen
Subject: RE: Kingston City Council Decision regarding Hens

Mr. Orser,

The following resolution is from the May, 17th, 2011 Council minutes. Please note that these minutes have yet to be confirmed.

1. Amendment of By-Laws to Allow Backyard Hens

THAT Solid Waste Department staff prepare an amendment to By-Law No. 36-95, being "A By-Law To Regulate And Maintain A System For The Collection, Removal And Disposal Of Ashes, Garbage And Other Refuse" to allow for collection of hen manure with garbage pickup and for disposal at the City East landfill site for approval by Council;

- and further -

THAT Planning and Development Department staff include the issue of backyard hens for review during the future Zoning By-Law harmonization and comprehensive updates, based on the results of the Animal By-Law changes to be implemented now in order to provide the opportunity for this initiative to be evaluated over the interim period;

- and further -

THAT Council approve By-Law 2011-65, attached as Exhibit "B" to Report No. ARCP-11-010, to amend By-Law No. 2004-144, "A By-Law To Regulate Animals";

- and further -

THAT By-Law No. 2005-10, being "A By-Law To Set Rates And Fees For The City Of Kingston" be amended to add a \$10.00 fee for annual registration of a hen coop, attached as Exhibit "C" to Report No. ARCP-11-010;

- and further -

THAT Henners contact their neighbours with abutting properties and get a signed document stating that their neighbours with abutting properties are aware that the Henners would like to keep up to 6 hens (the Henner will present the signed letter with their application for a coop permit);

- and further -

THAT the amendments of by-laws to allow backyard hens be considered a Pilot Study for a period of two years until the matter has been reviewed by Council;

- and further -

THAT backyard hens-related data collected during the Pilot period by staff be assembled into a report and delivered back to ARC for evaluation of the Backyard Hen Pilot Project, by October 1, 2013.

CARRIED AS AMENDED (10:3)

Information regarding the regulations can be found at this website.

<http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/council/archive/>

Please let me know if you require further information.

James Thompson
Committee Clerk
City Clerk's Department
City of Kingston
Phone: 613-546-4291 Ext. 1268

From: Powley, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 3:59 PM
To:
Cc: Thompson, James
Subject: Kingston City Council Decision regarding Hens

Dear Mr. Orser –

I received your voicemail today as a Councillor from the City of London, and your request for a copy of the regulations regarding hens which were discussed last evening, as well as a copy of the resolution so that you can provide this information to members of your Council.

I have copied this email to my colleague James Thompson who attended the meeting last evening, and who can assist you with your query.

Please let us know if there is any further information you require.

Susan

Susan Powley,
Committee Clerk

Clerk's Department
City of Kingston

LARISSA GEROW
172 WEST RIVERTRACE WALK
LONDON, ONTARIO N6G 5J9

16 August 2011

Dear Chair and councillors,

Thank-you to those who voted last year to allow me to keep my chickens. The entire experience was extremely rewarding, thought provoking and unfortunately much too controversial.

Please consider me a great reason to allow a pilot project. In 1½ years the only complaint occurred the day I informed the city I had hens.

Thanks for your consideration,

Larissa Gerow

date: Sunday, August 7, 2011
from: Maureen Temme
to: Community and Neighbourhoods Committee, via Lauren Kucera secretary to the committee
for: inclusion on the agenda of the Public Participation Meeting of August 16/11

concerning: Raising Chickens in Poultry Pens Within Residential Zones [aka backyard chickens]

Councillors,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the matter of backyard chickens. My comments below are given in a short and an expanded version. I'm also including a resource list.

In short

Chickens can be raised in an urban back yard without disturbing neighbours by noise or odoursⁱ, and without anyone getting sick.ⁱⁱ

Raising chickens has a traditional place in household economic and food security that continues today.

Raising chickens in urban yards can be a normal part of city living and an accepted part of a city's urban agriculture spectrum.^{iii iv}

Varied societal and economic factors will require more food to be produced within London's urban boundaries, probably beginning within the next ten years. We need to be ready by developing varied models of urban agriculture in London. The people who learn now about caring for chickens will be the people who will teach others how to raise chickens, confidently; also, their purchases of hens for egg-laying supports established breeders of healthy stock within our region.

Other cities in Canada and the United States have done the reports, set the standards, examined and been satisfied about health concerns, and had some experience with chickens raised within their urban boundaries. London could easily get on with amending bylaws to allow people to raise a few chickens in their yards, now.

I look forward to a bylaw that begins: *"London wants to lead the way in creative, environmentally sound, economically and socially inclusive styles of urban agriculture. We are open to individual households where raising chickens is part of a household's food plan. As London evolves its urban agriculture spectrum the guidelines in this bylaw/report are a starting point...."*

Expanding the ideas

Existing London bylaws handle noise and property standard issues of many sorts, and also handle animal care or neglect situations.

These can be applied to properties with chickens, if need be.

Chickens raised in urban yards will not bring about avian flu.

When studying whether or not to allow chickens in residential areas, municipal councils have asked their local or provincial health authorities to determine whether avian flu and other avian diseases are of concern in backyard flock and household situations.

London, Ontario's report

London Council recently received a report: *Overview of Policies and By-laws from Other Municipalities that Deal with Backyard Chickens*^v. In regards to health concerns, cities seem satisfied that these can be handled. In regards to waste management the London *Overview* says:

"To control odour and the risk of disease, cities regulate the proper storage and disposal of feces. It should be noted that once dried, feces can be used as a quality fertilizer with no risk of disease and minimal odour."

Going on to Chicken Coop Maintenance, the *Overview* says:

"Maintenance regulations are used to ensure the health and safety of the hens, their owners and neighbours. If properly adhered to, risk of disease and vermin can be effectively mitigated."

Vancouver, B.C.'s health reports that led to allowing chickens

As of June, 2010, Vancouver changed bylaws to allow chickens within city limits^{vi}, as long as certain guidelines were followed. Along with citizens' submissions to Vancouver Council before the new bylaw was put in place, Vancouver municipal staff brought in a detailed, 32 page report^{vii}.

The report's preamble mentions that on July 8/03 Vancouver council "*approved a motion supporting development of a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver that fosters equitable food production, distribution and consumption, nutrition, community development and environmental health*" ... and that "*Enthusiasm for urban chickens has grown throughout North America in the last few years, as increasing attention is paid to issues of sustainability, food security, and consumption of locally grown food.*" It also addressed the social implications of raising chickens: "*Backyard hens contribute to the local and affordable production of nutritious food, and thus support the goal of creating a just and sustainable food system for our City.*"

Avian flu was addressed^{viii} and, along with technical information, the report says:

The British Columbia Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) conducted a literature review on the risks of infectious disease from backyard hens and found that: Overall, the risk of pathogen transmission associated with backyard chicken keeping appears to be mild and does not present a greater threat to population health compared to other animals allowed by similar bylaws (reptiles, dogs, etc). Public adherence to proper hygiene will significantly mitigate the risk of any disease acquisition including pathogens commonly found in chickens.

It goes on to say that "*Vancouver Coastal Health has worked with staff on developing the recommended guidelines and considers them to be protective of public health.*"

The City of Vancouver's Animal Control department now oversees matters to do with chickens, and its website has useful and interesting information^{ix} to do with keeping hens, as well as links to animal control bylaws.

Vancouver's confidence in the work it did preparatory to allowing chickens, and its confidence in its health departments, are evidenced by the brevity of this question and answer on its Animal Control chicken page:

Question: How is the City going to ensure that people's health will not be put at risk (e.g., noise, smell, avian flu and other health concerns)?

Answer: The City has worked closely with Vancouver Coastal Health to ensure that the regulations satisfy concerns around health and safety. The local Health Authority concurs with the City's regulations and supports the City's efforts to increase local food options.

Note that the Health Authority takes the opportunity to mention here that it agrees with the City's efforts to increase local food options.

Vancouver accepts that keeping chickens is a legitimate part of its urban food web.

Kingston Ontario and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Kingston's 18 month initial trial period for keeping backyard hens began on June 8/11^x. Regulations apply to numbers of hens, coop size and registration with the municipality. Kingston's approval of backyard chickens came after much input, including from its health unit. The main reference page on the Kingston site (endnote ix) links to a Canadian Food Health Inspection Agency page, *Bird Health Basics: How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Birds*^{xi}. This federal page is a one page summary of chicken/coop health practices, with a cartoon poster and an animated 5-minute video which has an old, country rooster telling us gruffly and slowly about the 5 points to good health

practices with our backyard chickens ... with background fiddle music. It is a useful introduction to the topic, something crafted purposely to give people confidence and not be intimidated.

Most people keeping backyard hens will have learned far more about hen keeping than is in this video. They will have a reference copy of *Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens: Care, Feeding, Facilities*^{xii} or *The Idiot's Guide to Raising Chickens*^{xiii}, or be using information sites like *Mother Earth's Chicken and Egg Page*^{xiv} or have taken a workshop. The video underscores that even the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is *not* concerned with the spread of Avian flu or Newcastle's disease via backyard chickens.

Waterloo, Ontario

Waterloo's Public Health Department (WPHD) stated that potential health problems stemming from chickens could be taken care of by regulation and adherence to "sound biosecurity measures" (cleaning up poo on a regular basis). The WPHD's overriding statement referred to benefits of keeping chickens for citizens and community:

After a review of health risks, peer-reviewed literature and experiences from other health units on backyard urban chicken farming, Public Health has determined that raising chickens in urban areas contributes to enhanced urban agriculture, increased food security and greater access to local food for households who wish to engage in this activity.^{xv}

On the empowerment of raising a few chickens - traditionally in western culture and currently in other countries

Ontario Past

It is likely that many of us who grew up in Ontario have heard snippets of stories such as these:

*"Grandma bought the Christmas gifts with the egg money" or
"During the Depression when Great Grandpa was out of work, the egg money the oldest boy got from selling extra eggs bought shoes for the children."*

And whether Grandma and big brother lived in the country or a small town (and sometimes a large city) income from this basic foodstuff - the egg - brought money into a household. Eggs also fed people directly and got made into treats like cake. And, when the hens weren't laying eggs any more, they became the stock and meat for a large stew.

The World Today

Mali

In many countries, raising chickens is a small, home business and a way for women to make an income from home. How much does an average Canadian spend on a Timmy's coffee? In Mali, where the average daily income is less than \$2.00 a day, some women have been put on a path toward equality and financial independence through a project of the University of Georgia^{xvi}, which is training them in raising chickens and in producing biogas from the manure.

World Vision Catalogue

The Gifts Catalogue page of World Vision^{xvii}, groups its gifts in several categories: Giving Cards, Gifts for Survival and Gifts that Empower.

Gifts having to do with agriculture and with animals are considered to be Gifts that Empower. As the website says:

From chickens to cows – animals mean survival. An animal is a novel gift for your friend. For a hungry child, it's a lifesaver. Your gift of animals can help bring children and families protein: through meat, cheese, eggs, or milk. It can provide wool for clothing, or products to sell at market. And an animal is a gift that keeps on giving, as families breed their stock and become self-sufficient.^{xviii}

At \$50.00, the gift of 2 hens and a rooster (with education and support), is the most popular World Vision gift::

Chickens are tremendous blessings for a family in need. Two hens and a rooster can produce up to 150 eggs a year. The eggs can produce more chickens — great for food, hatching and sale at market. Raising flocks of chickens is an easy and profitable small business that's ideal for single moms and children.

** In countries where chickens are not appropriate or available, World Vision will provide poultry such as turkeys, ducks, doves or other fowl that can be raised and bred to help a family achieve self-reliance.*

<https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/Gifts/Forms/Gift.aspx?giftId=1552>

UNICEF's education of girls projects: *Count Your Chickens*^{xxix}

Towards the end of this 1990s UNICEF video - one of a series to encourage education of girls - a woman who went to school mentions that she has a small business raising chickens because she went to school.

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference.

Katie Milway Smith. Kids Can Press, published February 2008.

An excerpt from a 2009 Globe and Mail article^{xx} says:

One Hen ... explains the concept of microfinance in the developing world to children aged 8 to 12. It tells the story of Kojo, a boy in Ghana, West Africa, who receives a small loan to buy a hen. He and his widowed mother eat some of the hen's eggs. The rest they sell for profit, which he spends to buy more hens. He also uses the money to get an education. After college, he uses all the money he and his mother have saved to buy a poultry farm, which eventually becomes the largest in West Africa, employing many people. The book is inspired by the true story of Kwabena Darko, a major poultry farmer in Ghana who lost his father when he was a child.

An associated website, onehen.org, is a virtual marketplace for easy-to-understand microfinancing. Participants play interactive games that earn them beads, which they "lend" to various Third World entrepreneurs, whose stories are also featured. It's far more than just child's play, however. The site leads to real financial investment. For each bead lent, the site makes a donation to real entrepreneurs through Opportunity International, a global microfinance organization."

Urban Agriculture Innovations

Creative urban agriculture projects are underway.

Wasatch Community Gardens

By coincidence, when researching this report, the writer met a girl of about ten years of age who was visiting a relative in London. The girl was from the Wasatch area of Salt Lake City, and was surprised that the writer knew about her hometown, chickens and the *Wasatch Community Gardens*^{xxi}, a community-based nonprofit. The WCC's mission is to "empower people of all ages and incomes to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food." It also provides educational opportunities to youth and adults. With the help of volunteers and donors, WCG holds garden education programs, and maintains 5 community gardens. They run chicken keeping workshops, and, this past June, held their sixth annual two-part Tour de Coops - self-guided walking tours of backyard chicken coop. During the week long celebration of chickens, there were also events to do with urban agriculture and home-grown food, and a showing of the documentary *Mad City Chickens*^{xxii}, about chickens in Madison, Wisconsin.^{xxiii} In Wasatch, bylaws have been brought in make it easier to raise food, including chickens, "to improve the quality of life in the city."^{xxiv}

City Chicken Project, New York

New York City - population 8,000,000 - allows chickens to be kept in urban yards. Since 1995, through varied innovative projects, The Just Food^{xxv} Project in New York City brings together "local farms and city residents of all economic backgrounds with fresh, seasonal, sustainably grown food." For several years now, Just Food has worked with community or school garden programs to teach them how to raise chickens within their garden program; chickens and start up supplies for a coop, feed, and sundries are supplied. As part of the application process, the garden organization must show that it has an appropriate space for chickens, enough volunteers to care for them, and approval from the community. (www.justfood.org/)

Growing Power

An exceptional model of forward thinking urban agriculture, The *Growing Power*^{xxvi xxvii} national nonprofit organization and land trust based in Milwaukee (a city of almost 600,000) has several successful models of urban agriculture and job training programs. It began with two acres and 6 greenhouses right in the middle of the city, teaching young people to grow food and selling the healthy produce to the surrounding community. *Growing Power* also has a 40 acre farm on the outskirts of the city; it holds educations programs on gardens and chickens, develops markets for its goods, and does job training. In April 2011 *Growing Power* was awarded \$450,000 to build 150 hoop houses (a type of plastic tent greenhouse) on vacant land within the city^{xxviii} and 150 people will be trained and employed to work in these neighbourhood farms over the next three years.

Urban agriculture feeds people and creates jobs.

London's commitment to being a food secure community

There are citizens in London who - every day - simply do not have enough food, or access to nutritious food. There are people in London who go hungry. Despite the efforts of the London Food Banks, which gave to 2,500^{xxix} families a month in 2010 and the network of meals available to people in need^{xxx}, people in London go hungry.

Newscasts and media inform us of economic struggles, rising food prices, environment problems, fossil fuel crisis, and lags in alternative energy on a worldwide scale. Climate change and less reliable weather patterns are intersecting with these factors. As this submission was written, the London Free Press carried the Reuters article *Drought Worsens in American Midwest*^{xxxi} which reports that major agricultural areas of the United States are being affected by drought. About 38% of the American Midwest overall is "abnormally dry." There is "exceptional drought" in 68% of Oklahoma. The "exceptional drought" throughout Texas is described by its agriculture commissioner as an historic drought that has "depleted water resources, leaving our state's farmers and ranchers in a state of dire need. The damage to our economy is already measured in billions of dollars and continues to mount."

Even if a reader does not see such events as indicative of serious consequences of climate change, there are economic and food availability hardships for people: reduced crop yields leads to market speculation; grocers and manufacturers pay more for goods; consumers pay more for food.

If London bylaws change to allow backyard chickens right now, and ten, or twenty, or even one hundred households in London have 3 chickens in their backyards, the eggs from those chickens will probably not get to any of the Londoners who go hungry most days. There will be no effect on exceptional climate events in Texas or commodities markets.

The best that will happen in the next year is that those ten, or twenty or one hundred households keeping chickens will have good eggs to eat, chicken manure to compost for healthier soil, and some learning about animal care and the effort it takes to raise food.

For the future, however, if London begins now to allow people to raise chickens - beginning with flexible guidelines on the numbers of hens and coop set-ups - in twenty, or ten or even five years when Londoners face the economic need and fossil fuel reduction that will require London to grow and produce more of its food within our boundaries, we will have experienced, knowledgeable people to help other people raise good food. Also, Londoners' purchases of hens for egg-laying will support established breeders of healthy stock in our local area.

The City of London has already stated its commitment to citizens' well-being. The City of London's Vision statement begins: "*We are a caring, responsive community committed to the health and well-being of all Londoners.*"

In 2010, the Ending Poverty Action Group, a part of the Child and Youth Network, brought together people from diverse organizations to develop a *Food Charter for the City of London*^{xxxii}. London's Food Charter, accepted at London City Council on April 4, 2011, supports London's vision by committing to another vision, that "London is a food secure community."

When a community writes a food charter it tries to reflect its basic principles in regards to a just and sustainable food system ... tries to show that it supports the idea that "all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life"^{xxxiii}.

London's Food Charter has five commitments. "In order to support a healthy community, the London community will work together to:

- Assess existing food-related policies, programs and Services and develop new ones as required.
- Develop strategies to eliminate food deserts in London.
- Support an ecological and economically viable food system which includes local farmers, producers, businesses, and consumers and is in balance with global food systems.
- Develop education and awareness strategies to encourage all members of the community to expand and integrate nutritious food options into daily activities
- Bring people together through food in celebration of culture and diversity"

These commitments complement London's Vision statement, which continues: "*The actions we take will be socially, environmentally and fiscally responsible so that our quality of life is enhanced and sustained for future generations.*"

The final statement in London's Vision - "*Our people, heritage, diverse economy, strategic location, land and resources are our strengths*" - affirms that people are a London resource.

Given the amount of knowledge there is about how to raise chickens in urban settings, that London states that its people are capable, that London's food charter encourages nutritious food options in daily activities and the elimination of food deserts, that other cities have done the studies and the monitoring, and that economic and resource crises are at our doorstep, now is a good time for London Council to trust that Londoners can keep chickens in a clean, safe, humane, non-disruptive way.

Food related projects and City partnerships occurring now

There are already underway in London projects that could possibly evolve over the years to incorporate neighbourhood chicken enterprises as a part of London's urban and peri-urban food production, or become educational tools supporting that food production.

The Veggie City Project^{xxxiv} is an innovative urban agriculture project in Northeast London's Kippis Lane community. The goal is to distribute fresh produce to local residents in the community. The Veggie City project incorporates aspects of Community Shared Agriculture (CSA), with a garden-share-on-unused-backyard-space program, and a work training program for young people. It is a really important pilot project on local food production.

The ***Westminster Park Neighbourhood's Farmers' Market***^{xxxv} is a first step to changing Westminster Park's designation as a "food desert", a neighbourhood where there is a "disadvantaged population" and no access to affordable groceries. Weather permitting, an outdoor market is being held several times through the summer and into the fall. This is a joint project of the Child and Youth Network, Investing in Children, residents of Westminster Park and David Cook, owner of Fire Roasted Coffee (and the force behind the Western Fair and Masonville farmers' markets. The Westminster area also has a community garden located nearby.

EcoVox TV series^{xxxvi} on Rogers Cable

This 13 part series through Rogers Cable TV has brought stories of inspiring Londoners who have taken action to reduce their impact on the earth. Host Maryanne MacDonald interviewed Londoners who are passionate about protecting the environment and are willing to share their knowledge. Several episodes dealt with food topics, including the desire for locally produced food, backyard and community gardens, organic food at the markets.

City endorsement of a strengthened community gardens program - a basis for the future

London's Community Gardens Program Review^{xxxvii} was accepted at City Council, Monday, April 4, 2011. It states that the Municipality of London wants to support community gardens in London and it makes 14 recommendations toward the practical development of a "Potential Vision" for London's

Community Gardens Program. This vision is stated as: *"To create a city-wide sustainable community gardens program that nurtures neighbourhoods and the people of London."*

This review is a positive statement of the City's commitment to community gardening. The City wants community gardens - and the people gardening there - to become more connected to the people, organizations, businesses, and agencies in their neighbourhoods. It wants the agency overseeing community gardens to connect with community partners and look for not just financial support but to come up with innovations in garden styles. Recommendation 14 begins the look at London's future urban agriculture:

There is a rising appreciation of the need for cities to counteract issues of food security and climate change through improved self-sufficiency. Allotment gardens and urban agriculture is a response to these issues and also to food price inflation and a desire to lessen food miles. Although available land is not plentiful in London, allotment gardens are still a valuable opportunity to address, in collaboration with advocates, developers and key stakeholder groups. Accordingly, the City should identify Allotment Gardens as an opportunity for future consideration and initiate a project team, inclusive of community stakeholders, to review and make recommendations for future development.

The writers of the review may well discover that more urban land than expected exists where community gardens and other styles of urban food production can grow. Looking to the future - say five years ahead - with management of urban agriculture more in the hands of the gardeners, volunteers and neighbourhood partners, there are possibilities for projects like community chicken coops to become incorporated at some larger garden sites and for community gardens to run education programs for individuals keeping chickens in their yards.

This is not just about "backyard" chickens

Other cities in Canada and the United States have done the reports, set the standards, examined and satisfied health concerns, and had some experience with chickens raised within their urban boundaries.

London could easily get on with amending bylaws to allow people to raise a few chickens in their yards, now.

A few chickens in the backyards of a relatively small number are an easy fit into a broad, long-term vision of London's food security.

I would like to see, soon, a bylaw that begins:

"London wants to lead the way in creative, environmentally sound, economically and socially inclusive styles of urban agriculture. We are open to individual households where raising chickens is part of a household's food plan. As London evolves its urban agriculture spectrum the guidelines in this bylaw/report are only a starting point...."

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

Maureen Temme
66 Palmer Street
London N6H 1P7

ⁱ a.) **The resource list** refers to articles, websites and books on how to raise healthy chickens, well.
b) Municipalities, including London, do have bylaws in place to act if any sort of noise is excessive, if property is not maintained, or if animals are not cared for.

ⁱⁱ Footnote viii refers to Avian Flu, dismissed as a problem by City of Vancouver's health unit.
<http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20100408/documents/penv3.pdf> Avian Influenza

ⁱⁱⁱ **Salt Lake City Will Be Full of Fowl Language** By Paul Rolly, Utah Tribune Columnist, June 19, 2011
<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/52028173-90/tour-state-community-coops.html.csp>
- referring to the Wasatch Community Gardens' annual tour of chicken coops in residential yards.

^{iv} **New York**, largest U.S. city at 8,000,000 people, allows chickens.

Just Food and the New York City Chicken Project <http://www.justfood.org/about-us> works with community gardening projects to connect them with mentors and workshops on raising chickens within their gardens.

^v The Report *Overview of Policies and By-laws from Other Municipalities that Deal with Backyard Chickens* notes features of cleanliness that are monitored in backyard chicken situations in various municipalities. J. Stanford, Director, Environmental Programs and Solid Waste. Submitted to Community and Neighbourhoods Committee on June 14/11.
<http://www.london.ca/d.aspx?s=/meetings/CNC%20Agendas/2011-06-14%20Agenda/MeetingPackages.htm> click on the second line, which has agenda item 26.

^{vi} excerpt from **‘Vancouver Council Approves Backyard Chicken Plan’** CTV news article, May 2/10.
http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100409/bc_backyard_chickens_100409/20100410?hub=BritishColumbia

‘Vancouver City Council has approved a controversial proposal to allow residents to keep up to four chickens in their backyard for home-fresh eggs. ... The report cites increasing attention to issues of "sustainability, food security, and consumption of locally grown food" as the source of enthusiasm for urban chickens. Chicken keepers would be required to register with the city, and provide chickens – hens only, roosters will not be allowed -- with adequate food, water, light and veterinary care.’

^{vii} **Vancouver's chicken report:** The staff report referred to is a 32 page report (found at <http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20100408/documents/penv3.pdf>).

^{viii} **In regards to Avian Flu, the following is taken directly from the City of Vancouver's staff report** <http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20100408/documents/penv3.pdf> Avian Influenza

Chickens, like other birds, are susceptible to forms of Type A influenza that are collectively known as "avian influenza" (AI). The AI virus is widespread, particularly among wild birds, but most forms produce relatively mild or no symptoms. AI can mutate, after circulation in a concentrated poultry population, into highly pathogenic forms (HPAI) that produce severe symptoms but this is less common.(2) AI is not an airborne disease, but is transmitted from infected to healthy birds via direct contact with birds and their droppings, feathers, and body fluids.3

AI has spread to humans in rare instances. Transmission from birds to human remains difficult, usually involving prolonged and close contact, and human-to-human transmission has been suspected in only a handful of cases.4 The greatest risk of infection for humans appears to be through the handling and slaughtering of live infected poultry. Public health concerns centre on the potential for the virus to mutate or combine with other influenza viruses to produce a form that could easily spread from person to person.

A high pathogenic H5N1 subtype of AI has caused virulent disease among birds in parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe, and rare but serious disease in humans. An outbreak of high pathogenic H7N3 AI occurred among poultry in the Fraser Valley in 2004, resulting in the deaths of 17 million birds (through disease and culling) but only two mild cases of flu among humans. A more detailed review of these outbreaks is provided in Appendix H.

Health authorities in Canada consider the risk of H5N1 reaching North America, or other HPAI subtypes spreading among backyard hens, to be extremely limited, particularly if biosecurity measures, such as those recommended by the CFIA, are followed.

The British Columbia Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) conducted a literature review on the risks of infectious disease from backyard hens and found that:

Overall, the risk of pathogen transmission associated with backyard chicken keeping appears to be mild and does not present a greater threat to population health compared to other animals allowed by similar bylaws (reptiles, dogs, etc). Public adherence to proper hygiene will significantly mitigate the risk of any disease acquisition including pathogens commonly found in chickens.

Vancouver Coastal Health has worked with staff on developing the recommended guidelines and considers them to be protective of public health.

Dr. Victoria Bowes, a board-certified Poultry Veterinarian in the Fraser Valley and an authority on the Fraser Valley outbreak, considers the risk of HPAI among backyard hens to be minimal, stating that:

As long as Asian HPAI-H5N1 remains foreign to Canada AND the birds don't move out of the backyard once they are placed, then the avian influenza disease risks are extremely low (almost negligible).

Similarly, Interior Health recently released a document entitled "Backyard Chickens in the Urban Environment," which is intended as a guide for municipalities considering the health implications of backyard chicken keeping. The document states:

he risk of avian influenza development is not appreciably increased by backyard hens. Urban hen keepers should be encouraged to follow the advice of CFIA: Bird Health Basics - How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Birds.

The staff recommendation requires hen keepers to follow the CFIA biosecurity standards, and includes the standards as a required reading on the on-line registry. These measures are intended to limit introduction of diseases from other domestic poultry and crosscontamination between humans and hens. Staff further recommends that owners be required to provide veterinary care for hens sufficient to maintain them in good health.

A number of other recommendations also will serve to minimize any potential for AI in backyard hens. Limiting the number of hens to four per lot (including multi-family lots) will ensure that the densities required for LPAI to develop into HPAI are not found in the city, especially given the expected low percentage of residents who will keep hens. The potential for spread of any form of AI is further reduced by the recommended requirement that hens be kept continuously enclosed in a roofed, secure structure. Under these conditions, introduction of any viruses from wild birds or other backyard hens would be extremely limited.

A third recommendation that will reduce risks in the unlikely event of an outbreak, or in the event that HPAI is found among North American wild bird populations, is the requirement for all hen keepers to enrol in an on-line registry, and to update their registration in a timely manner. The registry database will allow health officials to pinpoint the locations of backyard hens should a health emergency arise.

Other recommendations that will limit the potential for the spread of disease include a prohibition on backyard slaughtering, which will reduce exposure to blood and other body fluids from diseased birds; a prohibition on sale of hen products, which will limit transfer of disease; and requirements to keep enclosures sanitary and free from accumulated manure and waste.

*from: the City of Vancouver's report <http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20100408/documents/penv3.pdf>
Notes for the above:*

2 World Health Organization (WHO). Avian Influenza Fact Sheet. Retrieved January 14, 2010, from http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/avian_influenza/en/.

3 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Questions and Answers – The Facts of Bird Flu. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from <http://www.fao.org/avianflu/en/qanda.html>.

4 World Health Organization (WHO). H5N1 Avian Influenza: Timeline of Major Events. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/Timeline_10_01_04.pdf.

^{ix} **Backyard Hens page.** City of Vancouver Animal Control website.

<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/LICANDINSP/animalcontrol/chicken/index.htm>

^x **New Bylaw Allows Residents To Keep Backyard Hens** - press release from City of Kingston.

<http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/press/release.asp?mode=show&id=3168>

^{xi} **Bird Health Basic: How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Bird**

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/disemala/avflu/bacdoc/floelee.shtml>

^{xii} **Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens: Care, Feeding, Facilities** by Gail Damerow.

^{xiii} **The Idiot's Guide to Raising Chickens.** Jerome D. Belanger. Alpha Press - a member of Penguin Group USA) Inc. 2010.

^{xiv} **Mother Earth's Chicken and Egg Page.**

Numerous chicken-related articles, complete details on Mother Earth's egg nutrition tests, a comprehensive hatcheries directory and other essential tools. <http://www.motherearthnews.com/eggs.aspx>

^{xv} **City Farmer.** Lorraine Johnson. Greystone Press. 2010. p. 186.

xvi **University of Georgia helps women in Mali help themselves**

Georgia Farm Bureau website. <http://www.gfb.org/gfbnews/GFBNewsMoreInfo.asp?RecordID=1183>

By: Sarah Lupis, Colorado State University, and April Reese Sorrow, University of Georgia. 03/11/11

In February, University of Georgia poultry experts traveled to the West African country of Mali to establish a poultry and biogas program to improve food security and expand economic opportunities for Mali's rural poor population, especially its women. Michael Lacy, professor and head of the UGA poultry science department, and Jack Houston, a professor with the UGA department of agricultural and applied economics, joined Catherine Keske, an economist from Colorado State University's department of soil and crop science on the two-week trip.

"Women in Mali have so few resources. Establishing small-scale, women-run poultry and energy enterprises in Mali will have a huge impact on the livelihoods, nutrition and health of these women and their children," Lacy said.

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development bilateral mission in Mali through Colorado State's Adapting Livestock Systems to Climate Change Collaborative Research Support Program, the team will work with Malian collaborators to build a model poultry hatchery in a rural Malian village. The hatchery will be a hub for research on improved poultry genetics, vaccines for diseases like Newcastle Disease and exploring the feasibility of biogas production from manure and other wastes. Extension educational programs on poultry husbandry, good nutrition and business practices will be offered through the hatchery. While in Mali, the team visited several villages outside Bamako, the country's capital. They met with local leaders, non-government organizations and women's groups to determine the best location for the hatchery and training complex. They also discussed local micro-credit loans for women that would help kick-start the program.

"The Mali people are very excited about this project and are interested in receiving training, education, advice and support," Lacy said.

Poultry production in the U.S. during the 1800s was largely the domain of the farm wife. A backyard flock was tended at nearly every home. The extra eggs or meat that could be sold to stores would earn the family "egg money" to be used for new shoes or material for clothing.

"That was the first time women in America had any economic independence and was the first step to equality," Lacy said. "It is the same for other cultures, including Mali, where we can empower these women and ultimately help their families and communities."

Healthier chicks and skills to raise them productively will ultimately increase the amount of eggs and poultry meat available for local consumption and for selling to local markets, Lacy said. In a country where 90 percent of the population earns less than \$2 a day and many children are malnourished, this could have a big impact.

"One or two eggs per week would have a tremendous impact on the nutritional status of children," Lacy said.

The hatchery will be complete by next winter. Until the hatchery is complete, the group will train women's groups and get housing ready for the chicks.

For more information: http://georgiafaces.caes.uga.edu/index.cfm?public=viewStory&pk_id=4066

xvii **World Vision Gifts page:**

<https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/Gifts/Forms/Home.aspx?mc=4237251&lang=en>

xviii **World Vision Gifts that Empower:**

<https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/Gifts/Forms/Category.aspx?name=animals>

xix **Count Your Chickens** is a video from the Meena series on how girls need to go to school

<http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca/en/resources/video.htm>

The Meena series was conceived in the early 1990s with the help and guidance of Hanna-Barbera Cartoons. The project came out of a need to confront the extreme discrimination against girls in the South Asia region of the world. The goal of the Meena initiative was to create a girl character that would represent little girls in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal, dealing with serious issues in the region such as education, early marriage, unequal food and work load, while entertaining at the same time.

xx **See Dick Microfinance**

Globe and Mail, Monday, Jun. 22, 2009

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/see-dick-microfinance/article1191619/>

Over view of the book *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference*, with information about the author Katie Milway Smith and the One Hen organization.
One Hen - published by Kids Can Press, 2008.

xxi **Wasatch Community Gardens**, <http://wasatchgardens.org/>
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2924, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-2924
Main Office: 824 S 400 W, Suite 127, Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Salt Lake City Will Be Full of Fowl Language
By Paul Rolly, Utah Tribune Columnist June 19, 2011
<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/52028173-90/tour-state-community-coops.html.csp>

xxii **Documentary - Mad City Chickens.**
Tarazod Films <http://www.tarazod.com/filmsmadchicks.html>

xxiii **Mad City Chickens website:** <http://www.madcitychickens.com/index.html>
The website has advice on raising chickens and also on how to educate yourself about chickens so you can explain things to other people and approach city hall.

xxiv **Salt Lake City Will Be Full of Fowl Language** By Paul Rolly, Utah Tribune, June 19, 2011.
<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/52028173-90/tour-state-community-coops.html.csp>

xxv **Just Food**
<http://www.justfood.org/about-us>
Since 1995, Just Food has worked to:

"tackle[s] deficiencies in food access and security by increasing the production, marketing and distribution of fresh food from community gardens and urban agriculture sites, on the one hand, and promoting Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiatives (food-buying clubs), on the other. Our aim is to turn 'food deserts' (i.e., neighborhoods underserved by supermarkets and other food retailers) into 'islands of sustainability.' "

... "In the countryside, we are addressing the rapid decline of family farms and the loss of agricultural land by linking small and medium-scale producers to new markets in New York City. In both town and country, Just Food fosters new marketing and food-growing opportunities that address the needs of small and medium family farms, urban gardeners, and NYC neighborhoods. Through training, leadership development and organizing efforts, we build diverse partnerships to advance dialogue and action on farming, hunger and nutrition."

xxvi **Growing Power** <http://growingpower.org/livestock.htm>

xxvii **Growing Power projects page:** http://www.growingpower.org/milwaukee_projects.htm

xxviii **Growing Power Initiative to create 150 new jobs aimed at African American males**
Milwaukee Courier newspaper, 16 April 2011
<http://milwaukeecourieronline.com/index.php/2011/04/16/growing-power-initiative-to-create-150-new-jobs-aimed-at-african-american-males/>

xxix **London Food Bank** website. <http://web.ca/~londonfb/>

xxx **Meal Calendar**, Middlesex London Health Unit. <http://www.healthunit.com/article.aspx?ID=14209>

xxxi **Drought Worsens in American Midwest.**
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2011/08/04/usa-drought-idUKN1E7731GE20110804?feedType=RSS&feedName=rbssFinancialServicesAndRealEstateNews>

xxxii **London's Food Charter**, submitted by Ross Fair (then) General Manager of Community Services to the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee Meeting, March 29/11, Agenda Item 20. Passed by London City Council, April 4/11.
<http://council.london.ca/meetings/CNC%20Agendas/2011-03-29%20Agenda/Item%2020.pdf>

^{xxxiii} **Food security** exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, Rome, 16 - 18 November, 2009.
A PDF file of this document can be accessed through:
<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/declaration-world-summit-food-security>

^{xxxiv} **Veggie City - Northeast London**

contact Tosha Densky, Youth Co-ordinator with Neighbourhood and Children's Services at tdensky@london.ca
There's a blog at <http://londonveggiecity.blogspot.com>

The Veggie City project is an innovative urban agriculture project taking place in the summer of 2011 in Northeast London's Kipps Lane community. The goal is to distribute fresh produce to local residents in the community. The Veggie City project incorporates aspects of Community Shared Agriculture (CSA), with a garden-share-on-unused-backyard-space program, and a work training program for young people.

Area residents who have space for a vegetable garden *and* also want fresh produce, register to allow their space be gardened *and* also pay \$125 for a share in the produce grown through the season at the various gardens involved in the project. The \$125 CSA share is less than a share would be on a farm-based CSA because the resident/shareholder's own land is being used.

Garden work is being done by young people who live in the community. They learn real world work skills like marketing and contracting, as well as physical gardening skills, to help them find jobs in future. Experienced neighbourhood gardeners are helping teach organic gardening skills to the young gardeners, and neighbours lending their yards are meeting each other too.

Produce grown is brought to a central location for pick-up by shareholders once a week. Extra will be sent to a local foodbank operating out of the Life Resource Centre on Huron Street. Once a month Veggie City will participate at the Northeast Community Market on Kipps Lane and sell produce there.

Local organizations and businesses^{xxxiv} are pitching in enthusiastically in quite varied ways. Everyone involved is learning that there are links between simple neighbourhood gardens, urban agriculture on a scale to feed cities, and economic and environmental sustainability.

^{xxxv} **Healthy Eating to get Easier in Westminster Park**

June 6/11 London Free Press: <http://www.lfpress.com/news/london/2011/06/06/18246341.html>

May 26/11 The Londoner: Westminster Park won't be a "food desert" any longer, at least for this summer.
<http://www.thelondoner.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3137108>

The Westminster Park Neighbourhood has organized farmers' markets in a parking lot on the corner of southdale and Adelaide Streets. Weather permitting, the outdoor market will be held weekly until around Thanksgiving. This is a joint project of the Child and Youth Network, Investing in Children and residents of the Westminster Park area, helped by David Cook, owner of Fire Roasted Coffee and the force behind the Western Fair and Masonville farmers' markets.

Westminster Park does not have a store that sells fresh fruit or fresh vegetables, keys to healthy eating and - it is hoped - reduction of childhood obesity and diabetes. This project will be a first step to changing Westminster Park's designation in as a "food desert", a neighbourhood where there is a "disadvantaged population" and no access to affordable groceries.

Westminster area does have a community garden located at Westminster Optimist Park. The garden is a partnership of the City of London through LCRC, the Southdale Caplaincy, UWO, Neighbourhood Resource Assn of Westminster Park, Wilton Grove Senior Public School and St. Francis Catholic School. This garden began in 2009. For information about plot availability, call the London Community Resource Centre at 519-432-1801 or email lcrc@lcrc.on.ca

^{xxxvi} **Ecovox TV series.** Rogers Cable Schedule: <http://www.rogerstv.com/page.aspx?lid=1&rid=9>
EcoVox London: www.ecovoxlondon.com

^{xxxvii} **London's Community Gardens Program Review** is attached to the Community and Neighbourhood's Committee report of its Tues. March 29/11 meeting. The report can be found at:
<http://council.london.ca/meetings/CNC%20Agendas/2011-03-29%20Agenda/Item%209.pdf>

Chicken Resources August 2011 revision

Notes: - this is an ongoing resource list prepared by M. Temme - sometimes websites change
- there's always some sort of mistake on it or something gets out of order :-)

Thanks to: Ron Berezen of River City Chickens for resources which he put together for an article in Canadian Organic Grower, published in 2010, and which have been incorporated in this list. (Ron's person/business website <http://theurbanfarmer.ca/>); Toronto Chickens website, for other on-line resources which are incorporated here; Jacqueline Jolliffe for her useful paper, Balking at Bawking; Joan Dye Gussow and Barbara Kingsolver.

Books

Living with Chickens: Everything You Need to Know to Raise Your Own Backyard Flock. Jay Rossie. City Farmer. Lorraine Johnson. Greystone Books, 2010.

- for the chapter titled *What the Cluck: urban chickens.*

"reason rarely enters into chicken bylaw battles"

Encyclopedia of Country Living, 10th edition. Carla Emery. Sasquatch Books. 2008. This 922 page book is about more than raising chickens!

Keep Chickens! Tending Small Flocks in Cities, Suburbs, and Other Small Spaces. Barbara Kilarski
The Idiot's Guide to Raising Chickens. Jerome D. Belanger. Alpha Press - a member of Penguin Group USA) Inc. 2010.

One Hen. Katie Milway Smith. Kids Can Press, Feb. 2008.

Pastured Poultry Profit\$: Net \$25,000 in 6 Months on 20 Acre. Joel Salatin for small, rural business
Raising Poultry on Pasture: Ten Years of Success. edited by Jody Padgham for small, rural business

Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens: Care, Feeding, Facilities. Gail Damerow

This Organic Life: confessions of a suburban homesteader. Joan Dye Gussow. Chelsea Green Publishing, 2001.

- not specific to chickens, but a wonderful chapter "Varmints" which includes thoughts on raising and harvesting one's own animals ... looking one's food into the face.

Articles in magazines, papers, and on-line

Anyone Can Raise Chickens. Harvey Ussery. Mother Earth News, Dec. 2008/Jan. 2009.

http://www.motherearthnews.com/Modern-Homesteading/Raising-Chicks.aspx?utm_content=Purina+Poultry&utm_campaign=Misc.+Mailings&utm_source=iPost&utm_medium=email Ussery's website: www.themodernhomestead.us

Balking at Bocking: urban chicken policy in Canada. Jacqueline Jolliffe, member of Transition Ottawa. Paper for a course taken with Andrew McCann, St. Laurence College and for JustFood Ottawa.

found at: www.livingcitiescompany.ca/food/resources/BalkingatBocking.pdf

Best Chicken Breeds for Backyard Flocks. Troy Griepentrog. Mother Earth News, April/May 2010.

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/Sustainable-Farming/Best-Chicken-Breeds-For-Backyard-Flocks.aspx>

Chicken Keeper's Library. Laura Sayre. Mother Earth News. April/May 2007.

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/Sustainable-Farming/2007-04-01/The-Chicken-Keepers-Library.aspx>

this list has been incorporated into this Chicken Resources list

Count Your Chickens ... video from UNICEF'S Meena series on educating girls

<http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca/en/resources/video.htm>

Grow Your Own Poultry Feed. Harvey Ussery. Mother Earth News. Feb/Mar 2010.

Ussery's website is: www.themodernhomestead.us.

Health Authorities not concerned with health problems in urban areas if chickens are kept

doc title: Rachel Engler Stringer of U of Saskatchewan July 2011

Assistant Professor of Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan speaks about backyard hens <http://www.altlondon.org/article.php?story=20110707130815278>

Maureen's note: this was in September 2010 - pilot project did not go through

How Do Your Eggs Stack up? Laura Sayre. Mother Earth News. April/May 2007.

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/Real-Food/2007-04-01/Best-Eggs-Comparison.aspx>

In Urban Centres More People Keeping Chickens at Home

<http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/Canada/20110716/urban-chickens-backyards-canada-110716/>

The Canadian Press Date: Saturday Jul. 16, 2011 6:52 PM ET

On a Wing and a Prayer: the urban chicken-keeping movement takes flight. Ron Berezen. Canadian Organic Grower, Spring, 2010.

Portable Chicken Mini-coop Plan. Cheryl Long. Mother Earth News, April/May 2007

See Dick Microfinance. Globe and Mail, June 22/09, by Sarah Hampson

- how the children's book *One Hen* explains to children aspects of microfinance and the importance of chickens in small economies and food security.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/see-dick-microfinance/article1191619/>

Urban agriculture: Seeds of self-sufficiency

By MONIQUE BEAUDIN, Gazette Environment Reporter May 21, 2011

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/life/Urban+agriculture+Seeds+self+sufficiency/4819522/story.html>

Vancouver Council Approves Backyard Chicken Plan. CTV news article, May 2/10.

(http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100409/bc_backyard_chickens_100409/20100410?hub=BritishColumbia)

Vancouver - Guidelines for Keeping of Backyard Hens

Supports Item No. 3, Standing Committee on Planning and Environment, April 8, 2010

<http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20100408/documents/penv3.pdf>

Vancouver, animal control - oversees chickens

<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/LICANDINSP/animalcontrol/chicken/index.htm>

World Vision Catalogue - 2 hens and a rooster - WV's most popular gift

<https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/Gifts/Forms/Gift.aspx?giftId=1552>

Information about chickens and keeping chickens and activist groups

These resources are for both people raising backyard chickens and for people living in rural areas where they are able to raise chickens as part of their livelihood, ie for small farming operations.

Backyard Chickens: <http://backyardchickens.com/>

Backyard Chickens in Toronto: <http://torontochickens.com>

Backyard Chickens Canada: www.backyardchickenscanada.com

<http://www.backyardpoultrymag.com>

Chicken Feed: the world of chickens.

<http://www.lionsgrip.com/chickens.html> - chockfull of technical information, feeding formulas, care etc.

Chickens in Vancouver: www.chickensinvancouver.com

<<http://www.chickensinvancouver.com>>

City Chickens (in Seattle Washington)

<http://www.citychickens.com> - Raising hens in Seattle, WA.

CLUCK (Calgary): www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=68948494632

<<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=68948494632>>

the Daily Eggs

<http://www.dailyeggs.com> - Vancouver Backyard Henhouses. Beautiful chicken coops can be ordered from this website. Best of all? Made in Canada!

Eglu - <http://www.omlet.us/homepage/homepage.php>

Makers of the Eglu, a well thought-out chicken coop/run combination

FeatherSite--The Poultry Page: An encyclopedic collection of all things poultry-related.

<http://www.feathersite.com/Poultry/BRKPoultryPage.html>

Halifax Chickens: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7740422940

<<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7740422940>>

Mad City Chickens: A Web site by, for and about the backyard chicken keepers of Madison,

Wis. <http://www.madcitychickens.com/>

Modern Homestead - Small Flock Chickens

<http://www.themodernhomestead.us/article/Small-Flock-Chickens-Questions.html> - answers to common

Mad City Chickens: <http://www.madcitychickens.com/index.html>

www.mypetchicken.com <<http://www.mypetchicken.com>>

www.urbanchickens.net <<http://www.urbanchickens.net>>

www.backyardchickens.com <<http://www.backyardchickens.com>>

urbanchickens.org

www.chickenkeeping.com <<http://www.chickenkeeping.com>>

www.backyardpoultrymag.com <<http://www.backyardpoultrymag.com>>

poultryone.com/raisingchickens.php

www.henspa.com <<http://www.henspa.com>>

[chickenkeeping secrets.com](http://chickenkeepingsecrets.com)

Henderson's Chicken Resources: Lots of basic information for keepers of small flocks, including a "Handy Dandy Chicken Chart" to help you choose breeds.

<http://www.ithaca.edu/staff/jhenderson/chooks/chlinks.html>

are **Mother Earth's Chicken and Egg Page:** Numerous chicken-related articles, complete details on Mother Earth's egg nutrition tests, a comprehensive hatcheries directory and other essential tools.

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/eggs.aspx>

The Modern Homestead: Virginia homesteader Harvey Ussery has tons of advice for getting started with poultry, including a question and answer section. www.themodernhomestead.us

The Poultry section specifically: <http://www.themodernhomestead.us/article/Livestock.html>

My Urban Chickens: <http://myurbanchickens.blogspot.com/>

River City Chickens (Edmonton): <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/rivercitychickens>

Robert Plamondon's Poultry Pages: Chock-full of useful information on raising baby chicks, making your own feed and earning a living with your eggs. <http://www.plamondon.com/freerange.html>

SBCS (Saskatoon): <http://ko-kr.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&viewas=0&gid=74697580927>

Seattle Tilth: <http://seattletilth.org/learn/resources-1/city-chickens/citychickensfaq>

This nonprofit organic gardening group was one of the first to support chicken keeping as an element of sustainable local food systems. Learn about managing chickens in your garden, including tips for composting chicken manure

Toronto Chickens: http://torontochickens.com/Toronto_Chickens/Wonderful_Websites_Blogs.html

Urban Chickens: <http://www.urbanchickens.net/>

Waterloo Hen Association: <http://sites.google.com/site/waterloohenassociation>

Heritage Breed Information

from Barbara Kingsolver's book *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, p. 331 in the hardcover:

Our purpose for keeping heritage animals is food-system security, but also something else that is less self-serving: the dignity of each breed's true and specific nature. A Gloucester Old Spots hog in the pasture, descended from her own ancient line, making choices, minute by minute, about rooting for grubs and nursing her young, contains in her life a sensate and intelligent "pigness." It's a state of animal grace that never even touches the sausages -on-hooves in an industrial pig lot. One can only hope they've lost any sense of the porcine dignities stolen from them.

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy: Pioneer organization working to conserve historic breeds and genetic diversity in livestock. <http://www.albc-usa.org/>

Cherry Creek Canadians. with information about the Chantecler Chicken.

<http://www.cherrycreekcanadians.ca/chanteclers.htm>

Rare Breeds Canada Rare Breeds Canada's mission is to make Canadians more aware of their agricultural heritage and, through education and niche marketing, involve them in conserving endangered breeds of farm livestock and poultry. <http://www.rarebreedsCanada.ca/priority-poultry.htm>

Sand Hill Preservation Center: This small family farm in Iowa sells heirloom garden seeds and rare poultry. Their Web site features firsthand descriptions of many unusual breeds; they also offer a "tasty chicken treats" seed mix to encourage your birds to forage. <http://www.sandhillpreservation.com/index.html>

Society for the Preservation of Poultry Antiquities: Works to perpetuate and improve rare breeds of poultry. <http://www.feathersite.com/Poultry/SPPA/SPPA.html>

Respectful Chicken Harvest

On-line information is an incredible thing for people who haven't a workshop to attend. There are various on-line resources for harvesting chickens.

Backyard Butchering Workshop. Jenna Woginrich's Blog **Cold Antler Farm**

http://coldantlerfarm.blogspot.com/2011_06_01_archive.html

from the website Permies (short for permaculture)

http://www.permies.com/permaculture-forums/8690_0/critter-care/respectful-harvest-of-chickens

1. Two videos with Alexia Allen of Hawthorn Farm, Woodinville, Washington - one on how to kill and pluck a chicken, the other shows how to remove the innards. Alexia is a wildcrafting skills instructor who lives on a small farm.

In Alexia's words:

".... I have come to this process of killing animals with this sense of being almost a midwife... Or at least when I teach people about butchering chickens I want to emphasize It's not about being brutal or macho, it's really about 'hey, you kill things and eat them.' That's part of how the world seems to work. I didn't make up how the world works"

http://www.permies.com/permaculture-forums/8690_0/critter-care/respectful-harvest-of-chickens

2 Farther down the page, two much shorter videos, showing basic evisceration

From:
Pamela Reid, BA, MES
1639 Scott St. London ON N5W 2J4

Laying hens are classified as a Class 2 animal in the City of London's Animal Control By-law and are banned, while homing pigeons are a Class 3 animal and are presently kept by Londoners throughout the City. I would like to draw attention to the minor differences and to provide arguments for a by-law amendment and possibly, solutions for keeping backyard laying hens.

I am assuming that there would be a reasonable set limit to the number of chickens a person could keep, as would be outlined in a new by-law. This could include the required land dimensions for the number of chickens, ie., a yard 30' by 30' could hold only 2 chickens, and would increase to a modest limit of no more than 6 (and no roosters, obviously), regardless of the size of the property. This would ensure the proper attention could be paid to care for these birds.

Chickens that would be kept for personal backyard use would generate no revenue, but would be kept for personal use and enjoyment. Homing pigeons are in fact entered in competitions for cash and prizes, as well as for companionship and as a hobby. Chickens would need to be kept by those in dwellings that would meet the requirements, similar to those set out for Class 3 animals as mentioned in Section 6 of the before mentioned by-law. In Section 6.2 of the existing by-law, those persons who already possessed Class 2 animals at the time of the passing of the by-law (1993) would be exempt providing they adhere to the by-laws in Section 6.3 to 6.8. This seems discriminatory to residents who would now like to keep a few chickens. It is not clear as to whether this provision would end for those residents when the birds died, or whether these specific owners were continuously allowed to replace such birds. Obviously, there would need to be debate and clarifications made to distinguish between other types of fowl mentioned in Class 2. Turkeys and ducks have different needs and should be placed in another Class or Sub-Class with the proper distinctions.

It has been stated that backyard chickens would attract more undesirable animals or vector species. Wouldn't homing pigeons that already live within the City of London attract similar creatures? These species are already present within the City of London, and residents manage to co-exist with them. Many by-laws separating typical rural animals from urban animals were adopted to create a boundary in order to protect people living in high density settings from coming in contact from various diseases and vector species due to unsanitary living quarters for animals (and in the past, unsanitary living conditions of people). Since science and public health education have increased our awareness of these matters, people who would keep chickens would be more educated and informed regarding health and sanitation matters (more on this point later). Also, the separation of rural animals from acceptable urban animals has much to do with protecting the financial interests of large scale food producers. Chickens kept for personal use and enjoyment would likely not infringe on the generation of profit for our large scale food producers and sellers.

In fact, as a possible backyard laying hen owner, I would contribute to the local economy by continually purchasing various goods and services for the care of the birds such as: feed, straw, housing, vet services, and in the end, the services of an abattoir. This would modestly increase demand for these goods and services, thus creating or sustaining existing jobs.

The mention that by keeping chickens in the backyard would create "farms" in an urban setting is unfounded because certain residents already keep up to 60 homing pigeons within the City of London and the term "farm" is not applied to them. Secondly, the common use of the term "farm" suggests the management and production of animals and other food stuffs for the generation of revenue, even modestly. This would not be the case for backyard chickens. As I mentioned above, the education for the proper keeping of chickens could be provided by the Humane Society or other recognized organization. This could include the collection of fees for such classes. Residents should be required to purchase a license for each bird to financially support the various organizations who would be responsible for servicing them as any other animal in the city. The license could also mandate that each bird be tagged for identification should the bird escape. Random inspections would help prevent any animal abuses. Should backyard laying hens be reported to the authorities to not be well cared for, local farms could become the recipient for the confiscated birds.

The concerns raised in the past regarding bird flu, exposed the officials to the facts that it is the living conditions of factory farmed birds, the overuse of antibiotics, and ill treatment that create the opportunity for diseases to emerge and spread. Owners would need to sign a waiver to agree that in the case that a contagious strain of bacteria or virus threatens human life or other life forms' well being, that euthanasia of the birds would be required for the public good. The responsibility of backyard laying hens must be taken seriously by those interested and these owners would have to have the means to continuously provide for their birds. The amendments to the by-law would need to reflect such responsibilities while ensuring clarity for all those interested in owning a few birds. By highly regulating a pilot project, and by issuing a set number of chicken licenses in the beginning in order to create best practices examples and potentially a support network for urban chicken keepers, London could become a leader for other municipalities who may be exploring similar by-law amendments.

Lastly, backyard chickens is an argument for personal freedoms, with reasonable protections in place for the public good. By-laws are created to protect the majority of people and our various interests, and accordingly, may be challenged when the people see that they may no longer require such protections or may not serve our interests. Not all residents of London will be interested in owning backyard laying hens (or homing pigeons), and would be considered a novelty, or a nuisance by some (some residents could certainly testify that some neighbourhood dogs or cats already qualify as such). I believe those residents who are seeking this amendment would care for these birds quite well and the birds would enhance many aspects of their lives while supporting our economy.

Thank you for your time and attention. Any questions or feedback, please feel free to comment by email or regular post.

Sincerely,

Pamela Reid, BA, MES (Master's Environment & Sustainability)

1639 Scott St. London ON N5W 2J4

From: Adrienne Berchtold
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2011 11:14 PM
To: Usher, Harold; Fontana, Joseph; Armstrong, Bill; Brown, Matt; Orser, Stephen;
Van Meerbergen, Paul
Cc: Mercier, Betty
Subject: Backyard Hens in London

As a resident and community member in London, Ontario, I would like to encourage you, my representatives, to support motions to legalize the raising of hens within the city. They provide affordable, healthy food and allow people to engage in a more direct connection with the source of what they see on their plate at meal time. They are also a great way for people to adopt the lifestyle of eating locally; if more of the London community has this mindset, it will be beneficial to our local farmers and other local food suppliers.

On June 14, at the Community and Neighbourhoods Taskforce committee meeting, city staff will suggest a public input meeting on the subject of backyard hens. Please accept their advice and support this meeting. There are many London residents who can provide valuable insight into the proposition of back yard hens. As a democratic community, it is our duty to provide spaces where members can dialogue and become informed; as our representatives, it is your duty to provide a space where you can hear your constituency's desires.

Regards,

Adrienne Berchtold

Note: I request that this correspondence be included in the agenda.

From: Usher, Harold
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 10:59 AM
To: amyredmond@prose.net; Fontana, Joseph; Armstrong, Bill; Brown, Matt; Van Meerbergen, Paul
Cc: Mercier, Betty; Stanford, Jay; Morris, Silvana
Subject: Re: Betty for inclusion in the agenda

From: amyredmond@prose.net
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 08:59 AM
To: Usher, Harold; Fontana, Joseph; Armstrong, Bill; Brown, Matt; sors; Van Meerbergen, Paul
Subject: Betty for inclusion in the agenda

Please have a public meeting July 19th 2011 regarding back yard hens.

Let's think of the health of our bodies and environment first for a change. Think of our future generations! Chickens eat food scraps and bugs that eat our plants, they produce healthy eggs for us to eat, the straw and droppings are composted and all at a relatively low cost! It's a win, win situation.

I understand concerns of noise and smell. If looked after properly there will be no smell. Can the smell really be worse than vehicle exhaust? How loud can four chickens be? Not louder than little that yappy little dog you know.

I understand there will be concerns about people who will mistreat and neglect chickens. There are people who do that to their pets already, we need to work together as a concerned community towards acts like this, it's the only way to rid our society.

The concerns are reasonable, but surely this is worth a try! I am a mother of three children, I know we would work together as a family to love these pets... why not give us a try?

Amy Redmond

Friday, August 5, 2011
Chair and Members
Community and Neighbourhoods Committee
The Corporation of the City of London

Re: Regulating the keeping of backyard laying hens.

POINTS OF INFORMATION:

The Animal Care and Control bylaw was changed under former Mayor Tom Gosnell in 1992/93 as part of the land annexation process.

Banning poultry that produce fresh eggs does nothing to promote ideas of self-reliance in uncertain economic times.

Rare Breeds Canada has expressed interest in working with parties in satisfaction of their mandate to inform and educate.

Randy Corey of the Trails End Small Animal Auction has expressed willingness to fulfill the role of a poultry supplier whom one can return poultry too if necessary.

REQUESTED ACTION

That London City Council give authentic consideration to the following items when either changing the bylaws to allow for keeping backyard laying hens within city limits or establishing a 'pilot project' within city limits.

1. Approval for keeping laying hens from a majority of property owners who abut a subject property. Property owners giving permission should be in residence at ground level and the party requesting approval should be counted as one vote 'for'.
2. No Roosters.
3. Laying hens should be purchased from local Canadian suppliers at an age (usually 5 months) when the gender of the animal can be easily determined by a person competent to do so.
4. Coops, runs and animal husbandry practices should be appropriate for the humane and sanitary housing of laying hens and the health of the guardian while respecting the rights of neighbours to enjoyment of private property.
5. Laying hens be limited to 6 in number where space allows with eggs being used for personal consumption.
6. Any immediate change to bylaws or the implementation of a pilot program should be scheduled for an autumn/fall season.
7. Suspend 'anonymous' complaints to bylaw enforcement for a period of 12 months in case of immediate change of bylaw or for the duration of any pilot study.

8. Establish license fees for laying hens at the same level as for dogs and cats while sharing the aim of achieving revenue neutrality in any future animal support programs as implemented by the City.

9. Encourage guardians of laying hens to take part in a return to supplier program as a matter of course. It being noted that the London Humane Society currently returns poultry to farms when they are in receipt of them.

10. Direct staff to Ensure there is clear representation on the topic of laying hens in the staff report currently being produced by Jay Stanford for the September 13th 2011 Community and Neighbourhoods Committee meeting relating to: "Expanding the scope of animal welfare initiatives as part of the city's animal services program".

11. Encourage the adoption of Canadian Rare Breed Poultry for the purpose of helping preserve breeds through use such as The Chantecler and The Albertan. London would be the first city in Canada to help safeguard that shared Canadian heritage.

Some members of the Community and Neighbourhoods Task Force on Community Engagement have observed the handling of this issue so far.

Unfortunately it has brought into question the credibility of a few councillors who have recorded public statements on matters to do with authentic and meaningful engagement with the community.

I encourage you to respect those people who have taken the time to sign petitions indicating a wish to change the bylaw through making appropriate adjustments in a manner that honours the spirit of their wishes while accommodating informed, rational and evidence based concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Oliver Hobson
45 Evergreen Avenue
London Ontario. N6J 1A6



Rare Breeds Canada

Conserving Heritage Livestock

RARE BREEDS CANADA

2495 boul. Perrot.

N.D. de L'Île Perrot.

QC., J7V 8P4.

Tel: 514 901 0999

Fax: 515 453 1062

rbc@rarebreedscanada.ca

www.rarebreedscanada.ca

Business No. 11897 5812 RRO

Mayor Joe Fontana and members of Council,

Rare Breeds Canada supports whole heartedly the keeping of backyard poultry in urban locations; preferably heritage breeds with historical significance such as the Canadian bred 'Chantecler'.

Our mandate states in part that our organization is to 'actively encourage the preservation of... domestic poultry... that are now in danger of extinction' hence our letter to you today.

Rare Breeds Canada would be willing to work with interested parties in your municipality on a pilot project back yard chicken keeping (laying hens only), while helping inform the public about poultry husbandry and maintenance.

In conjunction with Agriculture Canada, the University of Guelph or through appropriate partnerships with the University of Western Ontario, we hope to provide useful and accurate knowledge for those who wish to keep rare breed laying hens in the city.

We understand that you are one of seven test markets for product in Canada and because we understand you are considering the issue of allowing back yard chickens in the municipality, we'd like to develop our workshops and educational materials in such a market.

Thanks so much for your consideration of this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office (noted above) if we can offer any further assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Glorianne Bjerland
RBC Chair

Elwood Quinn
RBC Livestock Chair

Heather Morrissey
RBC Poultry Coordinator

Written submission for the August 16, 2011 public participation meeting with regards to backyard chickens in London, Ontario

By Susan Price

Introduction

As a property owner in London I would like to be able to raise backyard chickens for eggs for my family's personal consumption. I have years of experience raising chickens in a suburban setting so I am very knowledgeable about what this involves. What puzzles me is how most of the members of Council and a number of other Londoners seem either outraged by or simply don't want to entertain the idea of backyard chickens in London. I have to ask myself, does the negative attitude towards backyard chickens stem simply from a lack of knowledge or is it because we live in a medium-sized southwestern Ontario city surrounded by agricultural land that leads some Londoners to be concerned about the city's image? One member of Council stated "chickens belong in the country and people belong in the city". Tell that to the citizens of Vancouver, B.C., New York City, Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, and Chicago, Illinois to mention only of few of the decidedly urban North American cities that permit the keeping of backyard chickens. A member of the Board of Control said about the issue that in London "we strive to be a high tech urban centre". The underlying assumption being that raising backyard chickens would preclude the possibility of London being seen as an urban centre. Are people here so insecure about their sense of "citihood" that some Londoners feel it is necessary to deny others the choice of raising a few chickens in their own backyards? Raising backyard chickens is part of a growing and progressive urban garden movement. Just Google "backyard chickens" and you will discover the amazing number of innovative backyard chicken initiatives taking place in cities across North America. If London doesn't get on board this movement soon then we really will have a reason to be concerned about our image.

Proposed By-law of Backyard Chickens in London

I propose that the current Animal Control By-law be rewritten so that chickens are no longer considered Class 2 animals but are a separate class onto themselves and that the by-law would be based on the best practices of by-laws pertaining to backyard chickens from cities that permit backyard chickens. I also propose that sections 6.3-6.8 that had been "grandfathered" will still stand but with minor alterations. Other by-laws more than adequately address issues such as noise levels. The by-law needs to be written so it will offer Londoners protection in the unlikely case that a neighbour raises chickens in an irresponsible manner, but will still allow the greatest possible freedom for members of the community who choose to raise chickens.

In brief:

Single family homes can keep chickens

Roosters are prohibited

Housing must be completely enclosed

Coops must not be visible from the street and must be kept attractive and well maintained

Coops must be at least 10 feet from property lines

Rationale for Backyard Chickens in London

Healthy food source from chickens living in humane conditions-eggs from backyard hens are natural, delicious and nutritiously superior to eggs produced by the egg industry. By raising our own hens we will know they have not ingested hormones. We will also know the chickens have been kept in humane conditions unlike the chickens in industrial farms where the practice is to keep hens in small cages; typically confining five hens for up to two years in a space about the size of a standard filing cabinet drawer.

Good for the environment- keeping backyard chickens reduces the amount of municipal waste going to landfill sites. Hens turn kitchen scraps into eggs. In addition, their droppings provide free nitrogen rich fertilizer. Unlike dog and cat feces, which carry pathogens, chicken droppings can be composted and represent a source of free organic fertilizer. Natural chicken fertilizer reduces the need for petrochemical fertilizers. Chickens eat insects so the need for pesticides is also reduced. In addition allowing backyard chickens would supply the qualitative environmental benefit of reducing the demand for high impact foods (Local Food – RethinkEnergy London).

Backyard Chickens are not farm animals-for centuries chickens, like dogs and cats, have lived alongside people in cities and towns. Chickens are friendly, social, intelligent and affectionate. They are small, gentle, quiet animals (the noise level of an alarmed hen is 60-70 decibels, the same level as human conversation. At a distance of 15 feet most normal chicken noises are barely audible). A small flock is easily managed and takes a minimum amount of time and energy on the part of the owners. They are also very inexpensive to keep. Chickens offer us the opportunity to produce a little of our own food. Backyard chickens tend to be kept in attractive well maintained enclosures and they are treated like pets. Appendix A contains examples of backyard coops on suburban lots.

Chickens will not attract predators to the area -if left unprotected chickens are vulnerable to predators. They have the same predators as wild rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, small birds and other wild animals found in London. Racoons, skunks, and possums prey on chickens. These predators are already present and since the chickens will be kept in completely enclosed coops they will not attract additional predators.

Chickens don't pose a public health risk-people are rightfully concerned about Avian flu. Avian Flu is spread by contact with contaminated feces of wild waterfowl. Since backyard chickens are completely enclosed contact is unlikely. When it comes to Avian Flu small diverse backyard flocks are seen to be the solution not the cause of the problem. Also, unlike cats and dogs which are prone to rabies, parasite and tick-borne diseases chickens actually keep yards healthier for humans because they eat ticks and other insects.

Living sustainably-nowadays people are interested in living more sustainably and many communities are encouraging citizens to reduce waste and the consumption of resources. Backyard chickens allow us to reduce our carbon footprint by producing some of our own food. Any food that we produce organically in our own

backyards is one less item that must be shipped to us and shopped for. Every item we raise ourselves presents a step towards living a greener more sustainable lifestyle.

Burden on the Government-no inspection is proposed or permits required so backyard chickens represent a minimal burden on the government. On the other hand, in a document on Local Food put out by RethinkEnergy London it was proposed that if the current Animal Control By-law was modified to permit and regulate the use of new chicken coops on residential property, as per the requirements outlined for the existing “grandfathered” coops allowed in the by-law, then a licensing fee could be charged which would mean this initiative would be cost neutral.

Chickens are educational-what better way to provide an opportunity for children to learn where food comes from and about healthy, sustainable nutritious food. By raising backyard chickens children will see first hand how chickens turn kitchen scraps, grass clippings and insects into eggs and fertilizer. The fertilizer in turn when composted and spread on backyard gardens will produce beautiful vegetables: a living example of the adage “reduce, reuse, recycle”.

Chickens are not smelly-five chickens produce less manure than one medium-sized dog. Large scale commercial egg operations often smell because of the numbers of chickens and the resulting build up of ammonia. This is not the case with small backyard flocks.

Not so very long ago Londoners had the right to raise backyard chickens if they chose too. But the current law takes that choice away from us. With the growing concerns about the environment and the sustainability of our lifestyles now is the time to follow the lead of the progressive cities in North America that are embracing the urban garden movement. I urge all Council members to vote to put in place a new by-law that permits the keeping of backyard chickens. Individual members of the community will then be able to decide for themselves whether or not they want to keep chickens in their own backyards.





August 3, 2011

City Clerk's Office

300 Dufferin Avenue, Box 5035, Room 308

London, Ontario N6A 4L9

Dear Sir:

RE: Raising Chickens in Poultry Pens Within
Residential Zones

I have several concerns regarding this issue which are as follows:

1. Who will police these residences with respect to abuse and neglect of the birds? Will they be penned outside in the shade or sun in the summer? Where will they be kept in winter—still outside?
2. What about the smell of manure emanating from this with the heat of summer and the neighbours who have to put up with this?
3. What will happen when the birds become prey and attract rats, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, owls, hawks, dogs, etc.?
4. What about the potential for diseases from the birds if proper disposal of manure and carcasses is not carried out?
5. When it comes to killing, what process will be used and how will this be enforced? Letting it run around the yard after the head is cut off until it drops doesn't seem right especially if neighbours can hear and view the situation.

Consideration of the sensitivity to families with/without children needs to be given when there is potential to improper care and killing procedures. Most properties are very close together, it would be difficult to ensure all parties would be happy with this proposal.

I feel that this would open up a whole new concept of those wanting to have goats, turkeys, guinea hens, ducks, geese, maybe a sheep or cow. Best to leave chicken raising to those living in the country where neighbours are less likely to complain and the chickens would be happier!

Jo-Ann Dunn

London

Email to lkucera@london.ca

"I'd like to address the issue of back yard chickens. Most of the recent argument against chickens has come from the idea that "most" Londoner's don't want chickens. When are "leaders" become merely followers it is indeed a sad state of affairs. I would like to point out that there are already by laws regarding a whole host of things that "most" Londoners don't want. I hope that council will come to this meeting with an open mind and willingness to at least listen, so that a decision can be made based on facts and not just jump off the bridge because all you friends are doing it.

No one is saying that people who don't want chickens should have them. Just as no one is saying that people who do not want reptiles of up to 20 pigeons should have them just because there is a law saying you can, I also doubt that "most" Londoners were desperate to have that one on the books. Nor do I think that a majority of Londoners were highly concerned with having the right to discharge a rifle or use a bow and arrow inside city limits simply because we have a by law for it. More over I believe that when council looked at those issues they realized it would be advantageous to regulate these activities to allow those who wanted to do these things the right to, while at the same time keeping other Londoners interest in mind.

I have heard the argument that council is too busy to think about this now, that the city is in an economic crisis. I do not pretend to think other wise but, at a time of even greater crisis, during the second world war, Canadians in urban centers everywhere were actually encouraged to keep their own chickens as a stop gap to help alleviate hunger due to rationing of food and goods at that time. If council is really concerned about the economy I am sure they have taken the time to look into this and would have some research on the effectiveness of this action. If it was found that initiative during the wars was negative then, yes, you should use the economy as a reason to not allow chickens but if not, it seems a little bit of an excuse. I believe that being able to sustain yourself should be a basic human right. Even currently in Afghanistan there is an ongoing effort to provide widows in that country the tools to be self-sufficient and one of the projects there is teaching women to raise their own chickens to be able to feed themselves.

The last excuse I have heard is that chickens would be too noisy and this really is just laughable. There is no way that two or three chickens would ever produce the volume that is produced by cars, children, festivals, especially since chickens go to bed at sundown. Although I have heard many intellectual arguments for the allowance of back yard chickens I am still waiting to hear one against. Council you have the floor."

Sincerely

Colleen Leanne Murphy
269 Taylor St
London ON



May 14, 2011

Dear Mayor Gerretsen and City Councilors,

I am writing to provide input into the possible impact of chickens in urban areas on potential predator populations. I am a Professor Emeritus of Ecology with more than 4 decades of experience in this field and have a particular interest in population dynamics of ecosystems.

One question which is often asked is whether chickens kept in urban backyards will attract dangerous predators to the urban area of towns and cities. The answer is essentially 'no'. Most cities (including Kingston) have a population of raccoons, skunks, weasels and foxes. Such predators will covet chicken as food, but being nocturnal and not able to break through chicken wire fencing, their population is not affected by the presence of fenced-in chickens. The same holds for the coyote. These animals are attracted to any potential food, such as pets, smaller predators, squirrels, other rodents, pigeons, etc. Fenced-in chickens are not going to make any difference.

I have kept chickens for years, living in a rural part of what is now the city, and we have a resident pack of coyotes in our 'back 40' and they have never been a problem.

I believe the potential ecologic and environmental benefits of backyard hens far outweigh any potential risk posed by coyote or other predator populations.

Sincerely,

Dr Rudolph Harmsen PhD
Professor Emeritus of Ecology
Queen's University at Kingston