

-----Original Message-----

From: Randy Moore

Sent: January 10, 2024 12:32 PM

To: Justin Paylove <[jpayscale@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jpayscale@westlincoln.ca)>

Subject: Re: backyard chickens?

yes please include my comments in the public meeting. Maybe common sense will prevail.

Randy

On 1/9/2024 1:11 PM, Justin Paylove wrote:

> Hello Randy,

> Thank you for your correspondence on the matter. Would you like these comments to be reflected in the public meeting (attached as written comments from your behalf)? If not, I could further direct you to fill out a report-a-concern form on our website that would allow you to make a complaint in regards to this.

>

> On a side note, I can assure you that having a rooster within an urban setting, hamlet, etc would be in violation of the current animal control By-law, as well as any other future by-law. This "backyard chicken" by-law that could be implemented would not include an allowance for a rooster in any type of urban setting, and would be subject to a by-law investigation if said by-law was approved by Council.

>

> Thank you,

> Justin

>

>

>

> Justin Paylove

> Deputy Clerk

> Tel: (905) 957-3346 ext. 5129

> Email: <mailto:jpayscale@westlincoln.ca>

>

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>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Randy Moore

> Sent: January 9, 2024 10:02 AM

> To: Justin Paylove <[jpayscale@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jpayscale@westlincoln.ca)>

> Subject: backyard chickens?

>

> This is extraordinary that this is being considered.

>

> I've had neighbors with chickens and roosters.

>

## Schedule 1 to PD-11-2024

- > EVERY day the roosters would crow at sun up waking everyone up. Every day - and very early.
- >
- > The owners don't have the intelligence to go outside and quiet them or build a sound proof enclosure.
- >
- > I'm sure fresh eggs are great but at the cost of waking everyone else up.
- >
- > It got to the point that someone killed the roosters next door.
- >
- > Please use some common sense and don't allow this in town
- > neighbourhoods
- > - just out in farm and rural areas.
- >
- > Randy
- >
- >
- > --
- > This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.
- > [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

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This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.  
[www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** Pam De Fazio <>  
**Sent:** January 22, 2024 2:04 PM  
**To:** Justin Paylove <[jpaylove@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jpaylove@westlincoln.ca)>  
**Subject:** Backyard chickens

Township of West Lincoln,

I have listened to the recorded council meeting, of September 11, 2023, where Dora Pavlidis presented to ask for allowance of a couple backyard hens. I would like to express my complete support for what she is asking for.

I am attaching research in hopes that it will be of some help.

It seems that no matter where you live in Ontario, the agricultural community does not support "backyard hens". It also seems likely that their non-support goes back many years, even before avian flu. Many out-dated, extreme chicken bylaws exist, that were created in the 1980's, that limit chicken ownership to large land-owning farmers only.

The benefits of backyard hens do not seem to be disputed. I would just like to plead, that council listen to majority of residential homeowners, for this decision is on THEIR land, that they own and pay taxes on. It will also be THEIR votes in the next election.

Because no one can control wild birds, commercial chicken farmers must use the best biosecurity available to them. Legalizing a small number of urban hens has zero impact on that fact. This is especially true, since chickens and hobby birds already exist in rural and urban areas. It simply does not make sense, that it is an increased risk to legalize maybe 15 hens in urban neighborhoods, that will be tracked and controlled.

There are many important facts to consider in this research. Outbreaks of the bird flu were way down in 2023! No outbreaks have been in urban hens! Not everyone will want backyard hens. As in Springwater, Ontario, they did not even receive the maximum allowed applications for a permit. Capping the number of permits and requiring vaccinations could greatly help.

Thanks for your consideration,

Pam DeFazio

## Addressing Avian Flu

A question for commercial chicken farmers... So, I am picturing chicken farmers driving around and seeing gatherings of wild geese in standing water or a corn field. Seeing free ranging chickens at some small hobby farm. Driving by a house where homing pigeons are let out for a free fly. Or perhaps passing a sale barn holding a bird show or sale. Then seeing cars or trucks pass by with hundreds of birds, on their way to the show/sale/slaughter. Then having a flock of geese fly over your barn. I fully understand the stab of fear a chicken farmer must get! But how can roughly 15, backyard hens in a residential area, that are tracked and regulated, be the "straw that breaks the camel's back"?

There are so many sources of education and learning provided by Government bodies:

[Urban Agriculture: Livestock and Poultry - Information for Municipalities \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.gov.on.ca) "Growing your own food can be very rewarding and many people are looking at the opportunities they have right in their own backyards." - *Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs*

[Raise healthy small flock poultry | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca) "Many people in Ontario own backyard chickens" - *Ontario Government*

[Raising Backyard Chickens — Poultry Industry Council](https://www.poultryindustry.ca) Webinar on owning backyard chickens. Covers animal health and biosecurity as well as other aspects of hen keeping. "Many municipalities in Canada approve the growing of chickens" - *Poultry Industry Council (Canada)*

**Numbers!** Obtained from [Status of ongoing avian influenza response by province - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](https://www.inspection.gc.ca)

Yes, you are reading this right, number of outbreaks are way down. There could be many factors as to why, but heightened biosecurity, restrictions and education are part of it. As below, the outbreaks in non-commercial flocks are less than half than that of commercial. The definition of non-commercial flocks: "Birds raised in smaller flocks of fewer than 300 for producing or selling their products locally for limited sales or for breeding for these purposes."

### **Year of 2022**

Spring of 2022 there were 26 poultry outbreaks in Ontario. (March-May)

Summer 2022 there were 0 poultry outbreaks in Ontario (June-August)

Fall 2022 there were 17 poultry outbreaks in Ontario (Sep-Dec)

2022 had total of 43 poultry outbreaks in Ontario. It prompted Minister's order of Ontario wide ban on commingling of poultry from April 9th through May 20th and Sep 23rd through Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

29 of the above cases were commercial poultry farms.

14 were "non-commercial", 5 of which were non-poultry. According to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, 4 of the 14 were in "small flocks". No record is available to show how many of those 4 were residential or rural zones.

### **Year of 2023**

Spring 2023 there were 4 outbreaks in Ontario.

Summer 2023 there were 0 outbreaks in Ontario.

Fall 2023 there was 1 outbreak in Ontario.

There were not enough cases to prompt any Minister's orders, or the mass closure of bird related events. To the best of my knowledge, most bird shows and auctions were open.

There was a total of 5 outbreaks in Ontario for 2023. 3 of these cases were commercial farms, 2 were "non-commercial". No record is available to show if those 2 flocks were rural or residential, but one was a non-poultry flock.

Teryn Girard, is a veterinarian working in Red Deer and Lethbridge. Recently, the City of Calgary's new urban hen licensing program began. Girard says, "it's possible the outbreak could dissuade some people from getting into what is a growing hobby, but even with the spread she believes backyard chickens can still be safely managed".

To a reasonable extent, commercial poultry farmers must be responsible for their own biosecurity and safety of their flock. They must assume that avian flu virus is everywhere! There is no proof, or instances that suggest, outbreaks at commercial farms are increased because of urban hens that I am aware of.

Song birds (most frequent to back yards), are reported to not be good hosts or carriers of the disease. With this in mind, risk can be further minimized when urban hens are confined in a wildlife proof area and under roof, as per recommendations. The prime hosts and carriers of the avian flu are wild aquatic birds.

Understandably, if a commercial farm or two gets infected, the deaths can be in the hundreds of thousands, because so many birds are in one place. These numbers only speak to the high volume of birds, commercial farms own. With this in mind, allowing small, separate flocks that are kept safe as possible, may even be a great way to have insurance against avian flu by preserving food security and the many heritage breeds.

Complaint driven bylaws, ignore the fact that hens do exist in residential areas. It allows them to continue illegally, unless a complaint is filled. It seems easier to control safety by legalizing and having rules in place.

Urban people are capable of learning how to keep hens healthy. There are many resources available. Many urban people have lived on farms or have education too.

A tendency to happen in small urban flocks, is that owners name each hen. They become intimately familiar with each bird's personality and habits. They become attached to their hens, just as they would any other pet. If any bird was feeling unwell, it would be spotted immediately or in the first few hours. And they would consult with a vet or do research to learn what needed to be done, as they do not want to lose their loved pet!

### **Ontario Cities that allow urban chickens:**

The most recent new city to allow urban hens, is Orillia! Approved March, 2023. A CBC news article states there are 26 Ontario municipalities that allow urban hens. Not all municipal websites make it easy to find, but here is a list of a few.

Orillia [Eggciting news: Council to allow backyard chickens throughout city - Orillia News \(orilliamatters.com\)](#)

Caledon, Ontario [Animal Care and Control By-law 2019-43 \(caledon.ca\)](#)

Quinte West, Ontario [Animals + pets - The City of Quinte West](#)

Kingston, Ontario [Back yard chickens a growing trend in Kingston | CTV News](#)

Waterloo, Ontario [Animals and pets - City of Waterloo](#)

Niagara Falls, Ontario [No web link available](#)

Kitchener, Ontario [Backyard chickens - City of Kitchener](#)

Brampton, Ontario [10 things you didn't know about owning pet chickens in Brampton \(bramptonguardian.com\)](#)

Halton Hills, Ontario [Urban Hens and Backyard Chickens - Halton Hills](#)

Guelph [Guelph's Rules Regarding Urban Chicken Coops | SV Law | SV Law](#)

Kawartha Lakes [Kawartha Lakes launches Backyard Chicken Coop Pilot Project - City of Kawartha Lakes](#)

Norfolk [Backyard Chickens - Government - Norfolk County](#)

Orangeville [Hen Registration - Town of Orangeville](#)

Selwyn Township [Backyard chickens find favour in Selwyn Township \(thepeterboroughexaminer.com\)](#)

Newmarket [Urban Hens \(newmarket.ca\)](#)

Meaford [Backyard Chickens - Municipality of Meaford](#)

### **Outside of Ontario:**

Edmonton [Urban Hens Program | City of Edmonton](#)

Vancouver [Backyard hens | City of Vancouver](#)

Victoria [Backyard Chickens | Animal Control Services \(vacs.ca\)](#)

Kelowna [What it's like to have backyard chickens in the Okanagan \(VIDEO\) \(kelownanow.com\)](#)

Surrey [Backyard Chickens | City of Surrey](#)

Gatineau [Cooped-up Gatineau residents flocking to new hobby: backyard chickens | CBC News](#)

Moncton [Moncton's backyard chicken bylaw draws little interest | CBC News](#)

Whitehorse [Backyard chickens allowed in Whitehorse | CBC News](#)

Fredericton [Fredericton approves backyard chicken bylaw | CBC News](#)

Saint John [Backyard chickens now allowed in Saint John | CBC News](#)

**David Waltner-Toews** is a veterinary epidemiologist and university professor at the University of Guelph. He was founding president of Veterinarians without Borders – Canada, and a founding member of Communities of Practice for Ecosystem Approaches to Health in Canada. He is a specialist in food and water born diseases, zoonoses and infectious diseases transferred from animals to humans.

He is the author of 8+ books and articles of science including; *On Pandemics: Deadly Diseases from Bubonic Plague to Coronavirus*; *The Origin of Feces: What Excrement Tells Us About Evolution*; *The Chickens Fight Back: Pandemic Panics and Deadly Diseases that Jump from Animals to Humans*; *A Conspiracy of Chickens: a memoir*; *Ecosystem Sustainability and Health: a practical approach*.

His books have won awards in the US and Canada, and have been published in Japanese, French, Chinese and Arabic.

- *2007 Finalist, Canadian Science Writers' Association Book Award, for Chickens Fight Back*
- *2014 Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Eco-Health*
- *2014 Silver Medal, Independent Publisher Book Awards (Environment/ ecology/ nature)*
- *2014 Finalist, Canadian Science Writers' Book Award for The Origin of Feces*
- *2019 Covetrus International Veterinary Community Service Award "veterinarians who have exhibited exceptional acts of valour and commitment in the face of adversity to service the community."*
- *2022 Appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for his "leadership and expertise in ecosystem approaches to health, and for supporting development worldwide."*

These are David Waltner-Toews thoughts on urban chickens:

“The risks of disease transmission from small backyard flocks to people are no higher (and probably lower) than those from pet dogs, cats, caged birds, pigeons, and urban wildlife. The general scientific consensus is that the most effective approach to managing the risks related to backyard hens and HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza) should be similar to that taken for those other (higher risk) pets. Many of the fears associated with allowing urban poultry are rooted in a post-Covid sense of panic, a response which rarely serves public health well. Current understanding of urban ecology can enable cities to promote well-managed urban flocks, minimizing possible

disease risks, and promoting the positive impacts of redirecting household food waste to chickens, proper composting, and adapting to climate change. Carefully managed, these small urban flocks are a wonderful opportunity for education and sharing of information about public health, food safety, zoonotic disease management, and animal welfare. My great frustration in teaching epidemiology and food safety over the years has been that so few consumers have any realistic notion of local ecology or where their food comes from. Hence these consumers are vulnerable to a variety of charlatans arguing for fantasized zero-risk approaches to health in complex social and biological ecosystems. This results in the destruction of habitats which are essential for pollinators and wild bird populations. Rearing of poultry on a small scale within city limits can begin the process of redressing this profound ignorance. If we do not make room for these urban entrepreneurs, we risk losing a very important educational opportunity, as well as food-rearing skills that will enable us to better navigate the economic, climatic and environmental instability our society will face in the coming decades. Cities like New York and Vancouver have recognized this.”

(Source can be provided)

[Outlawed chickens: Rural Ontario residents confused by strict bylaws | CBC News](#)

News article, Dated 2023, near Ottawa - Shows that chicken bylaws in Ontario are “patchwork” and in communities with a large agricultural presence, “backyard chickens” were not wanted long before Avian flu became a concern. It was the same in Pelham. Pelham’s bylaw, created in the 1980’s, restricted all chickens in Pelham to only properties with 25 acres or more. So, for many years, all chickens were illegal in Pelham, unless you owned a large farm. This was reduced to 1 acre in 2023, but there is still a large residential support for pushing it down to ½ acre – and a large agricultural opposition.

The township of Springwater, Ontario has an interesting policy! [Backyard Chickens \(springwater.ca\)](#)

“Following a three (3) year pilot program licensing the keeping of backyard chickens, Council has approved the continuance of the licensing program, with a limit of no more than 25 licenses being issued across the Township annually.”

“Current Licenses and Waitlist Numbers:

- There are currently 8 active licenses and 17 available licenses.

I am not sure if Avian flu vaccine is available in Ontario for birds, but Merck (pharmaceutical company) [Avian Influenza - Poultry - Merck Veterinary Manual \(merckvetmanual.com\)](#), says, “Vaccines matched



for antigenic type can greatly increase resistance to infection, prevent clinical signs, and decrease viral shedding in infected flocks”.

One last bit of information, is regarding Chatham-Kent’s current quest for backyard hens. Based on submitted material, they are said to be bringing a report forward, Spring 2024, for consideration. In that submitted material is a letter from Kent Federation of Agriculture [Attachment B - Kent Federation of Agriculture Letter.pdf \(chatham-kent.ca\)](#), written by Brad Snobelen. As per my experience, the agricultural community does not support residential hens, out of false fears. Brad’s letter states, “It has been proven that contamination of commercial flocks originates in urban areas”. **This has been proven? Where? How? Where is the source information?** Is he talking about the situation with live bird markets in Asia? By far, the most outbreaks in Ontario, have been in commercial poultry farms. To date, 32 commercial farm outbreaks vs. 6 non-commercial. And we can’t even say how many of those 6 were urban or rural and the size of the flock.

Brad also states, “in fact, the first detection in Ontario in 2023 was in a backyard flock located right here in Chatham-Kent”. I looked this specific outbreak up, in the Chatham-Kent area, and the primary control zone was centered in a rural location, not urban! The control zone started at intersection of Pinehurst Line and Mull Road. [Bird flu detected in Chatham-Kent | Wallaceburg News | Local news in Wallaceburg, Dresden and surrounding areas. \(sydenhamcurrent.ca\)](#). The website lists it as a “non-commercial” poultry flock of less than 300 birds. Privacy laws prohibit giving out more information than that. So, for Brad to say, that it was a backyard flock, in the context of considering urban hens, is misleading. In fact, the very first outbreak in Chatham-Kent, was in 2022 and was a commercial poultry farm!

In conclusion, there are no reports or facts to support that any past outbreaks were sourced and originated from a small backyard chicken flock of 3 to 4 chickens.

## Schedule 1 to PD-11-2024

**From:** Christos Skotidas <  
**Sent:** February 7, 2024 12:57 PM  
**To:** Justin Paylove <[jplove@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jplove@westlincoln.ca)>  
**Subject:** Backyard Chickens File No. 1601-002-24

Dear West Lincoln Councillors,

I would like to address the economic, social and environmental benefits of allowing backyard chickens within the town as it applies to File No 1601-002-24.

**Economic:** West Lincoln residents that would choose to raise backyard chickens would be contributing to the local economy. This would benefit the local economy in a way that would far offset the \$5 a family would not be spending at the grocery store for a dozen eggs. There are several businesses in the area that would benefit with new customers. Lowden's feed would see an increase in traffic for feed and bedding supplies. Home Hardware, Turkstra and The Wood Shed would see new customers looking for supplies to build and maintain coops and chicken tractors.

**Social:** Families with children would benefit from the learning opportunities, an increase in responsibilities and the mental health benefits. Raising backyard chickens teaches children cleaning, not only cleaning the chickens but hygienic cleaning as this leads to increased hand washing. It teaches children empathy and respect by learning to care for a living creature that isn't bred to please you like a trained animal (example: a dog). By introducing a daily routine for feeding and care, children develop structure which reduces stress and helps maintain focus. A new daily outdoor chore reduces screen time which has been proven to affect cognitive abilities and academic performance in children. We could all use a little more outside time. Introducing backyard chickens makes this a daily occurrence.

**Environmental:** Chickens are natural foragers. They love to dig around looking for insects to eat and that includes ticks. I know personally in the last few years my family has seen an increase in ticks on our selves and on our pets from visiting local parks and even in our backyard. They spread disease and by introducing a natural method of controlling the tick population we can all benefit. Chickens also love to eat kitchen scraps. Introducing backyard chicken flocks would decrease the amount of waste we are putting into our green bins. Residents can also compost chicken waste and use it to fertilize our gardens.

I would like to see one chicken allowed per family member in order to provide an adequate supply of eggs for a family. Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I hope you take these benefits into consideration for allowing backyard chickens within the Township of West Lincoln's residential areas.

Christos Skotidas

-----Original Message-----

From: Roland Hultink <>

Sent: February 6, 2024 5:51 PM

To: Justin Paylove <[jpayscale@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jpayscale@westlincoln.ca)>

Subject: Backyard chickens

Hi jpay,

I would love to hear the sound of chickens and even roosters in town where I live knowing people were taking their sustenance needs into their own hands, as I believe we all should as much as we can. Cows and goats are good, a plot every neighborhood for communal vegetables, neighborhood bartering, community, communication, connection. Local allies shaping the bigger picture. A marriage of commercial and residential zones. I get my eggs from down the street, and a lot of my veggies are grown right here. We're scared of safe food-handling. We shouldn't be.

Let's do this.

Thanks, Roland

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Karl Barn <>

**Sent:** January 29, 2024 9:10 PM

**To:** Justin Paylove <[jpaylove@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jpaylove@westlincoln.ca)>

**Subject:** File No. 1601-002-24 "Backyard Chickens"

Greetings Justin Paylove and West Lincoln staff,

My partner and I moved to Grimsby this past summer with having legal backyard chickens in mind, so I have both strong feelings and firsthand experience with the practice of backyard chickens. I've included my past experience, benefits vs drawbacks, and a summary below in headings for ease of reference. I am available by phone, email, and mail for further comment and recommendations.

**Past personal experience:**

At our past residence in the North End of Hamilton's downtown, we had 4 backyard chickens raised from chicks we purchased from a hobby farmer. We had no prior experience with chickens or animal husbandry. The closest relevant experience I had with chickens was as a former butcher.

With the aid of internet research, online communities, and very few major purchases, we raised 4 healthy hens for 4 years in our .2 acre tree-rich backyard. We constructed a breathable all-season coop and run out of used construction materials. We allowed them to free run around the backyard under supervision. During vacations, our neighbors would often jostle for the right to watch over their food, water, and clean bedding in exchange for eggs.

We gave the chickens to a hobby farm prior to our move to Grimsby.

**Benefits and Drawbacks:**

Backyard chickens are a manageable challenge and require attentive owners like most domestic animals. They require adequate shade, shelter, and room to roam whether that's in a contained run or a secure fenced backyard. This already implies a base level of financial privilege.

In addition, they also need a clean coop; we found with 4 birds the coop needed to have the bedding changed every 2 days. Again, this maintenance is much like a cat litter box

Owners without the means to construct their own coop and run can easily purchase such items, in addition to quality of life items like automatic coop doors, from local stores like Peavey Mart.

Our past neighbours did have a rooster and saw great benefits: Roosters keep hens safe, guide laying hens to nesting boxes and food, and break up squabbles. However, roosters crow frequently when awake, with a sound of around 90 decibels, compared to a medium dog bark of 70 decibels or a large dog bark around 113 decibels for comparison. Chickens go to bed reliably at sundown, at which point this stops unlike as with a barking dog. Roosters may still not be suitable for urban settings except perhaps via written permission of their neighbours.

However, raising backyard chickens provides residents with a greater connection to their food, in addition to food security, companionship, and the birds readily eating pests such as ticks and mice. Given the staggering increase in the cost of food and living, as well as the growth in pest insect

populations due to climate change and globalization, these benefits are not to be overlooked regardless of any opportunity cost.

**Summary & Conclusion:**

The experience of my partner and I in raising backyard chickens with no prior experience shows that any able bodied enterprising Canadian with internet resources and the interest in backyard chickens can raise healthy productive hens. For the up-front cost of some feed, hay, and a decent coop and run, one can gain food security, pest control, and companionship in an increasingly expensive and divided world. What's more, our experience also shows that sharing in backyard chickens with ones neighbours builds community relationships and solidarity.

The challenges of backyard chickens include up front cost, ownership of a secure backyard or decent space for a run, and cleaning slightly less rigorous than a cat litter box. Illnesses are dealt with via veterinarians and home remedies similar to domestic animals.

I urge the West Lincoln Planning Committee to consider this great opportunity to enhance the lives and food security of their community while forging an appreciation for the agriculture that already enriches the Niagara region.

Thank you for your time and feel free to get in touch,

Karl Bridges

51 Ridge Rd E, Grimsby ON

L3M 4E7

**From:** Warren Gamble

**Sent:** January 16, 2024 2:45 PM

**To:** Justin Paylove <[jpaylove@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jpaylove@westlincoln.ca)>

**Subject:** File No. 1601-002-24 Backyard Chickens

Good day , this letter is in opposition to the Backyard Chicken proposal. Your reasons within the online review have been stated for and against and are documented. Grimsby recently had to strengthen its bylaws for similar reasons relating to predators.

What is missing is the costs that are to be associated with the proposal. As a tax payer residing within our community, concerns about adding costs associated with this proposal are not being considered and my inevitable tax increase should not be used toward this proposal as we all struggle with tax increases

My reasons for consideration are listed below:

1. Permits- if approved what is the cost to the individual homeowner
2. Enforcement- What is the plan for Enforcement on # of hen (no roosters)
3. Noise Complaints- Who do we call , who is responsible for costs associated with a home visit for follow up (homeowner)
4. Odour- What is the plan waste disposal (risk of illness from bacteria)
5. Inspection- Cost for site visits. Animal control will need to be involved to ensure rules are followed as well as pickup of any stray chickens(homeowner)
6. Avian Flu - H5N1 virus was the cause for indefinite pause of the proposal in Toronto. This should be a major concern as this virus goes right down the food chain. This was an issue at the Poultry Fest at West Niagara Fairgrounds a few yrs back
7. Minimum Lot Size - What is the minimum lot size
8. Consideration of Others - Health concerns for those of us that may be partially house bound and enjoy the summer use of the rear yard with family and friends. We have worked our entire lives to enjoy this simple privilege and now are to be shared with Chickens , Noise and Odours
9. Root Cause Analysis - Ticks are the root cause, low cost solution is to allow the homeowners to cut the tall grass and create a buffer zone of 6' to 8' with no repercussions from the city ,thereby removing the concern as typically Ticks reside in tall grass

In closing ,I live in an area of Smithville that is largely comprised of retired individuals. We rely on each other for assistance from time to time for simple things such as snow removal in driveway, grass cutting or just a helping hand. I have watched this proposal create such an issue that people that helped each previously other no longer speak.

Warren Gamble

28 Manorwood Dr.

**From:** Anne Arguin

**Date:** January 18, 2024 at 8:04:54 PM EST

**To:** Justin Paylove <[jplove@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jplove@westlincoln.ca)>

**Subject:** File No.1601-002-24 Backyard Chickens

Good day, this letter is about our opposition to the Backyard Chicken proposal.

My reasons for opposing the proposal of having Chickens in residential homes in Smithville are:

1. I was born on a farm with chickens and know the smell, noises, rodents and roaming habits that comes with having a chicken coop in the yard.
2. Chickens also attract rodents such as rats, mice etc.
3. Our house backs onto the 20 mile Creek and I know there are coyotes in between our home, the green space and the township walking path.
4. Some of my neighbors and myself have heard and seen coyotes in this area on a regular basis.
5. Two years ago a coyote literally tore a rabbit in half on my winter pool cover. The dog next door scared it off by barking at it. I had taken pictures of the gory mess of blood and rabbit parts scattered across the backyard. Once my daughter saw the goriness of the pictures she did not want her children to see them because she feared that they would be too scary for them to see, so I deleted them.
6. If the proposal to allow Backyard Chickens goes through, there will be a cost for officers to monitor the rules and regulations which will end up costing extra taxes onto the citizens that don't want Backyard Chickens.
7. Avian Flu-H5N1 in our community would devastate our chicken farming industry. We are known as the Chicken Capital of Canada.
8. Our neighbour wants chickens in her backyard because of the tick problem. I feel the town should allow the homes backing onto the wild tall grass areas behind them, to be allowed without repercussions to cut the grass approximately 6 to 8 Feet beyond the fence. This would create a barrier so that the ticks that typically reside in tall grasses would then stay in the tall grasses and away from our backyards.
9. Our other concern would be the roaming of chickens into other yards. Who would be responsible for the removal of the roaming chickens? Who would be paying the cost for the removal of the chickens?
10. My wife is partially housebound due to medical issues. If this proposal is approved, her limited ability of enjoying our backyard (including pool) with family and friends will be taken away from her! Instead of enjoying the beautiful scenery and quiet days in our backyard, it will mean changing that tranquility with the noise, odours, unwanted coyotes & rodents, chickens and potentially increased taxes which would be an unwanted burden to the majority of seniors residing in our Smithville neighbourhood.

## Schedule 1 to PD-11-2024

In closing we have seen that this proposal is already causing neighbours who once were friendly and helping each other out (driveway snow removal , grass cutting etc.), are no longer speaking, which unfortunately, will continue to worsen relationships.

Gilles Arguin

19 Manorwood Drive

Smithville, Ont L0R 2A0



**From:** Wilson, Connor <[Connor.Wilson@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Connor.Wilson@niagararegion.ca)>  
**Sent:** January 17, 2024 4:17 PM  
**To:** Stephanie Pouliot <[spouliot@westlincoln.ca](mailto:spouliot@westlincoln.ca)>  
**Cc:** Scholten, Yves <[Yves.Scholten@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Yves.Scholten@niagararegion.ca)>; Bureau, Stephen <[Stephen.Bureau@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Stephen.Bureau@niagararegion.ca)>; Development Planning Applications <[devtplanningapplications@niagararegion.ca](mailto:devtplanningapplications@niagararegion.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING for February 12, 2024

Good Afternoon Stephanie,

Please advise that 1738 Caistor Gainsborough Townline Road is exempt from regional review per our MOU guidelines regarding the rezoning to 'Agricultural Purposes Only' as part of the condition of consent (Township File No. B05/2023WL).

Additionally, Regional staff will not be providing comments regarding the Update of Accessible Parking Regulations nor the Backyard Chickens.

Thank you,

**Connor Wilson**

Development Planner

Growth Strategy and Economic Development  
Niagara Region

Phone: 905-980-6000 Ext. 3399

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, P.O. Box 1042

Thorold, ON L2V 4T7



**From:** Stephanie Pouliot <[spouliot@westlincoln.ca](mailto:spouliot@westlincoln.ca)>  
**Sent:** January 12, 2024 4:01 PM  
**To:** Development Planning Applications <[devtplanningapplications@niagararegion.ca](mailto:devtplanningapplications@niagararegion.ca)>; Wilson, Connor <[Connor.Wilson@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Connor.Wilson@niagararegion.ca)>; Meghan Birbeck <[mbirbeck@npca.ca](mailto:mbirbeck@npca.ca)>; Dunsmore, Susan <[Susan.Dunsmore@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Susan.Dunsmore@niagararegion.ca)>; Bureau, Stephen <[Stephen.Bureau@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Stephen.Bureau@niagararegion.ca)>; Scholten,

## Schedule 1 to PD-11-2024

Yves <[Yves.Scholten@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Yves.Scholten@niagararegion.ca)>; Busnello, Pat <[pat.busnello@niagararegion.ca](mailto:pat.busnello@niagararegion.ca)>; Justin Paylove <[jpaylove@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jpaylove@westlincoln.ca)>; Jessica Dyson <[jdyson@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jdyson@westlincoln.ca)>; Jennifer Bernard <[jbernard@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jbernard@westlincoln.ca)>; Ray Vachon <[rvachon@westlincoln.ca](mailto:rvachon@westlincoln.ca)>; John Bartol <[jbartol@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jbartol@westlincoln.ca)>; [lkillins@live.com](mailto:lkillins@live.com); Tim Hofsink <[thofsink@westlincoln.ca](mailto:thofsink@westlincoln.ca)>; Norio, Ann-Marie <[Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca)>; Sue Mabee <[Sue.Mabee@dsbn.org](mailto:Sue.Mabee@dsbn.org)>; [clark.euale@ncdsb.com](mailto:clark.euale@ncdsb.com); Consultation <[consultations@metisnation.org](mailto:consultations@metisnation.org)>; [hdi@bellnet.ca](mailto:hdi@bellnet.ca); Tracey General <[traceyghdi@gmail.com](mailto:traceyghdi@gmail.com)>; Fawn Sault <[Fawn.Sault@mncfn.ca](mailto:Fawn.Sault@mncfn.ca)>; [megan.devries@mncfn.ca](mailto:megan.devries@mncfn.ca); Dawn LaForme <[dlaforme@sixnations.ca](mailto:dlaforme@sixnations.ca)>; Lonny Bomberry <[lonnybomberry@sixnations.ca](mailto:lonnybomberry@sixnations.ca)>; Jennifer Dockstader <[executivedirector@fenfc.org](mailto:executivedirector@fenfc.org)>; Chris Shawanoo <[executivedirector@nrnc.ca](mailto:executivedirector@nrnc.ca)>; Lisa Kasko-Young <[lyoung@westlincoln.ca](mailto:lyoung@westlincoln.ca)>; [andrew.carrigan@canadapost.ca](mailto:andrew.carrigan@canadapost.ca); [newdevelopment@rci.rogers.com](mailto:newdevelopment@rci.rogers.com); [randy.leppert@cogeco.com](mailto:randy.leppert@cogeco.com); DL-Council Members <[DL-CouncilMembers@westlincoln.ca](mailto:DL-CouncilMembers@westlincoln.ca)>; Leroy Hill <[jocko@sixnationsns.com](mailto:jocko@sixnationsns.com)>; [westlincolnchamber@bellnet.ca](mailto:westlincolnchamber@bellnet.ca)  
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**Subject:** NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING for February 12, 2024

**CAUTION EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside of the Niagara Region email system. Use caution when clicking links or opening attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached three notices for the upcoming Public Meetings scheduled for February 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

There are four meetings scheduled for February 12, 2024 including one application for a temporary use by-law to permit a garden suite (will be sent separately), one application as a condition of consent, one regarding backyard chickens, and another regarding an update to accessible parking.



If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out.

Kind regards,

Stephanie

***Our working hours may be different. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside***

***of your working hours. Let's work together to help foster healthy work-life boundaries.***

	<b>Stephanie Pouliot</b>
	<b>Planner I</b>
	Tel: 905-957-3346 ext. 5140 Email: <a href="mailto:spouliot@westlincoln.ca">spouliot@westlincoln.ca</a> Web: <a href="http://www.westlincoln.ca">www.westlincoln.ca</a>
	

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January 31, 2024

**Town Council of West Lincoln**

318 Canborough St. P.O. Box 400

Smithville, ON

LOR 2A0

By email: [jpaylove@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jpaylove@westlincoln.ca)

**Re: Public Consultation – Backyard Chickens (File No. 1601-002-24)**

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to help inform the Planning Committee of the Township of West Lincoln's evaluation of the appropriateness of permitting chickens on a small-scale basis for residential use. My family has been farming in West Lincoln since 1978 and I am proud to be the fourth generation to carry on this tradition. As an egg farmer, I am committed to producing fresh, high-quality eggs of local production, all while ensuring the welfare and well-being of the hens under my care and the sustainability of our sector. Through my experience, I know first-hand that producing food is a great source of pride, but it is also a significant responsibility that needs to be carefully considered. As the Committee evaluates an approach for our township, I encourage thoughtful reflection and consideration of the following areas:

- In order to raise poultry in a residential environment, there are several factors to consider. For example, hens require nutritionally balanced feed, clean water, protection against predators and an appropriate shelter to protect them against inclement weather, including a heated enclosure during winter months. When hens are sick, they also require care from qualified veterinarians. Backyard flock owners must be well positioned to both access and offer these items to meet the basic needs of the hens in their care.
- Properly taking care of hens in a residential environment often requires some physical adaptations to a typical backyard, a daily time commitment to tend to the flock, and a great deal of expertise. Owners must also know how to monitor and identify illnesses that affect the health of hens, such as mites, highly pathogenic avian influenza and Infectious Laryngotracheitis. These parasites and viral infections can spread quickly among birds—to neighbouring flocks and to commercial operations in the area—and can result in sudden mortalities or the need to humanly euthanize a sick or injured bird. Swift action is required by owners to identify issues, contain the outbreak and disinfect the premise, sometimes in accordance with specific protocols outlined by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- In some cases, vaccinations can help reduce the spread of disease within flocks; however, accessing commercially available vaccines can be difficult for backyard flock owners and vaccination programs can often be costly. Vaccination strategies would be an essential point for backyard chicken owners to discuss with their hatchery or pullet grower (the place they

purchase their baby chicks) to ensure they are well informed, consider their options and address matters of importance.

- Strict biosecurity protocols are paramount in mitigating the risk of serious diseases or pathogens that affect hens, chickens and other poultry. These important steps also help reduce the risk of accidentally exposing yourself to an animal disease or pathogen. My farm, along with every registered Canadian egg farmer across Canada, follow comprehensive on-farm animal care and food safety programs with routine inspections to ensure the hens are receiving the care that they need, every day, and that effective biosecurity protocols are followed by all those who come in contact with the birds. While some guidance towards biosecurity or animal care protocols for backyard chicken owners can be found online, these measures may not take into consideration the unique characteristics of a region or have means to ensure adequate application of the measures.
- As our township considers the many important factors when it comes to caring for chickens in a residential environment and the impact on the surrounding community, it is also important to consider the potential administrative responsibilities of this initiative for the municipality. For example, ensuring there are adequate resources available to create and oversee a centralized registry program so bylaw knows the location of the backyard chickens. In the event of the detection of disease in the region, this resource would allow for industry and other enforcement groups to draw on the information to help mitigate further spread through control zones and other measures.

In conclusion, I appreciate the opportunity to share the perspective of a multi-generational egg farmer as the Planning Committee of the Township of West Lincoln considers this important topic. Our township is known for its strong agriculture community and progressive approach, and discussions like this further strengthen that approach.

Sincerely,

Jacob Pelissero  
Local egg farmer

Township of West Lincoln  
318 Canborough St.  
Smithville, Ont.

January 16, 2024

**RE: File No. 1601-002-24 Backyard Chickens**

Dear Madam Mayor and all members of the Council,

Someone asked me to fill out the survey on chickens the other day, and I was surprised by the fact that a few chickens were no longer allowed in the urban area of Smithville. The survey did not seem to cover my areas of concern, so I'll include them here.

Smithville has chickens...that is a fact, and as far as I am concerned, they have never caused problems. I don't know when the ban on chickens occurred, but unfortunately, it has left a lot of hen/pet owners in a predicament. A few chickens in a private backyard seem benign; they are comfort creatures causing little disturbance, if any.

Avian influenza is not specifically a 'chicken flu', but it can become a major problem in agricultural operations or 'factory farming' due to quantity. This is not an issue in an urban backyard. A backyard hen is a pet that has bonded with its owner. Like all pets, they can get sick, and like all pets, they must be dealt with appropriately; this is clearly understood by most pet owners.

A few hens would be less problematic to surrounding backyards, than a roaming cat or barking dog. Chickens will kill rodents; they don't cause them. It's the careless handling of feed, waste and the lack of property maintenance that cause problems. This applies to all pets scenarios, not just chickens. A greasy barbecue on one's back deck will also attract rodents.

Hens are social and require their flock, just as many birds in the wild. They also develop a 'pecking order' so numbers are important. A solitary hen would not be a happy pet. The appropriate urban flock size would probably be 4 birds, to ensure that their social needs are met in case there is a loss.

The **Property Standards By-law** and **Animal Care and Control By-law** already seem to be adequate in controlling all pet yard-related problems, except for the fact that hens are recognized as 'livestock' and not potential pets. Should rules prevent a family from pet hens as their preferred choice of pet? It seems that through the years, pets have evolved from the position of being 'owned' to that of being a 'member' of the family.

My concern with too many guidelines is that they serve to discourage the full enjoyment of one's private backyard. They also serve to give more fuel to the intolerant neighbor. Complaints of all nuisance pets, cleanliness and yard conditions seem to be sufficiently covered in the existing by-laws.

I read the article in the Grimsby/Lincoln News of Nov. 16, 2023, and found it disturbing. Ms. Pavlidis's hens were her 91-year-old mother's joy, and that joy was taken away from her due to a misconception between hens as 'pets' and those as 'livestock'.

Sincerely,  
Magdalene Boilard,  
Smithville