Backyard Hens For Hamilton, Ontario

March 2018
PROPOSAL

• That the City of Hamilton allow residents to have a maximum of 4 hens in their backyard if they have sufficient outdoor space.

• Roosters would still be banned.

• Chickens would not be allowed in apartment buildings, condominiums or properties without sufficient outdoor space.

• Under the system, chickens must remain within a resident's yard and any eggs produced are for personal consumption and can't be sold.
EGGS

• On average, one hen lays one egg per day
• Provide food for low income families
• Teach children where food comes from
• Eggs from hens raised on pasture compared to factory farmed hens contain more of the good stuff and less of the bad stuff
  • 1/4 less saturated fat
  • 2/3 more vitamin A
  • 2 times more omega-3 fatty acids
  • 3 times more vitamin E
  • 7 times more beta carotene
  • 4 times more vitamin D
PEST CONTROL

- Chickens love to eat insects
- Serve as an organic pest-cleanup crew in your garden
- Devour ticks on your property
- Eat many weeds
- When you feed your chickens kitchen scraps they poop out a nitrogen-rich fertilizer which you compost with yard waste, creating invaluable organic soil for your garden
City of Hamilton At Risk Area for Lyme Disease

• The Tick population in Hamilton is exploding

• Ticks = Lyme Disease = Higher Healthcare Costs

• Conservation Hamilton is working with Royal Botanical Gardens to come up with a solution. Chickens eat ticks and are a natural solution.

• A 1991 study showed that chickens who scavenged for 30 minutes among tick-infested cattle in Kenya ate an average of 81 ticks per chicken.
Portable Chicken Coop
KEEP FOOD AND YARD WASTE OUT OF LANDFILLS

• A single chicken can “bio-recycle” about seven pounds of food residuals in a month

• If just 2000 households raise hens, it could divert 252 tons of waste from landfills annually

• In Flanders, Belgium and Paris, France the city actually GIVES laying hens to homes in an effort to reduce landfill costs
CHICKENS MAKE GREAT PETS

• Chickens are like any other pet

• You need to feed and water them daily, collect the eggs and clean the coop

• They are gentle and great with kids

• They provide great company
IT’S BEEN PROVEN SUCCESSFUL

• All of Hamilton’s surrounding municipalities allow for backyard hens and they have had great success!!

• Toronto, Guelph, Caledon, Brampton, Kingston, Niagara Falls, Newmarket etc all allow for backyard hens

• Hamilton can easily use these city’s regulations as a template
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!