

WELCOME!

Urban Hens Public Information Session



PLEASE SIGN IN

Staff from Development Services and Municipal Law Enforcement are available to answer any questions you may have and are available to verbally explain presentation board content.

CURRENT STATUS ON HENS

ZONING BY-LAW NO. 500

- Section 5.24 of the Town's Zoning By-law restricts the keeping or raising of poultry in residential areas.
- Further places emphasis on the regulations regarding the keeping of poultry in the Town's Exotic Pets By-law.



EXOTIC PETS BY-LAW 2003-0072

- Georgina's Exotic Pets By-law states that:
"No person other than a veterinarian shall keep or permit to be kept any of a variety of specified animals such as poultry except on a Rural (RU) zoned property."
- By-law 2003-0072 prohibits the keeping of poultry on most properties within residential areas of Georgina.
- By-law Enforcement Staff respond to and administer approximately 2-4 complaints concerning hens in violation of By-law 2003-0072 on an annual basis.

ORIGINAL PETITION & REFERRAL



GEORGINA

- On August 10, 2016, Council received a deputation, requesting a relaxation of existing regulations to permit hens in residential areas.
- A petition was signed by 385 residents and suggested that the keeping of hens:
 - Is a healthy form of teaching and feeding families in a sustainable way;
 - If managed well, are quiet, clean and personable;
 - Pose zero risk to our health and safety; and,
 - Add immense benefit such as pesticide and hormone free eggs.
- On August 10, 2016, Council adopted Resolution No. C-2016-0423, in which Council received the delegation and referred to Staff to investigate the potential of hens in residential areas further.
- On August 14, 2019, Council received Staff Report No. DS-2019-0104 regarding the regulation of hens in residential areas and further directed Staff to conduct a public consultation program to better understand the issues and attitudes of residents about allowing urban hens.



WHY HENS IN URBAN AREAS?

- There is growing interest in the keeping of hens as a means of easy and accessible egg production in a variety of non-traditional urban and suburban settings across North America.
- Largely associated with the “urban agriculture” sustainability movement.
- The keeping of hens in residential areas has been permitted in a number of municipalities across Canada by way of pilot projects and adjustments to zoning regulations, as well as animal control by-laws.



URBAN AGRICULTURE



GEORGIA

- There is an increasing interest surrounding access to fresh, healthy, organic and sustainable food.
- This led to the idea of “urban agriculture.”

WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

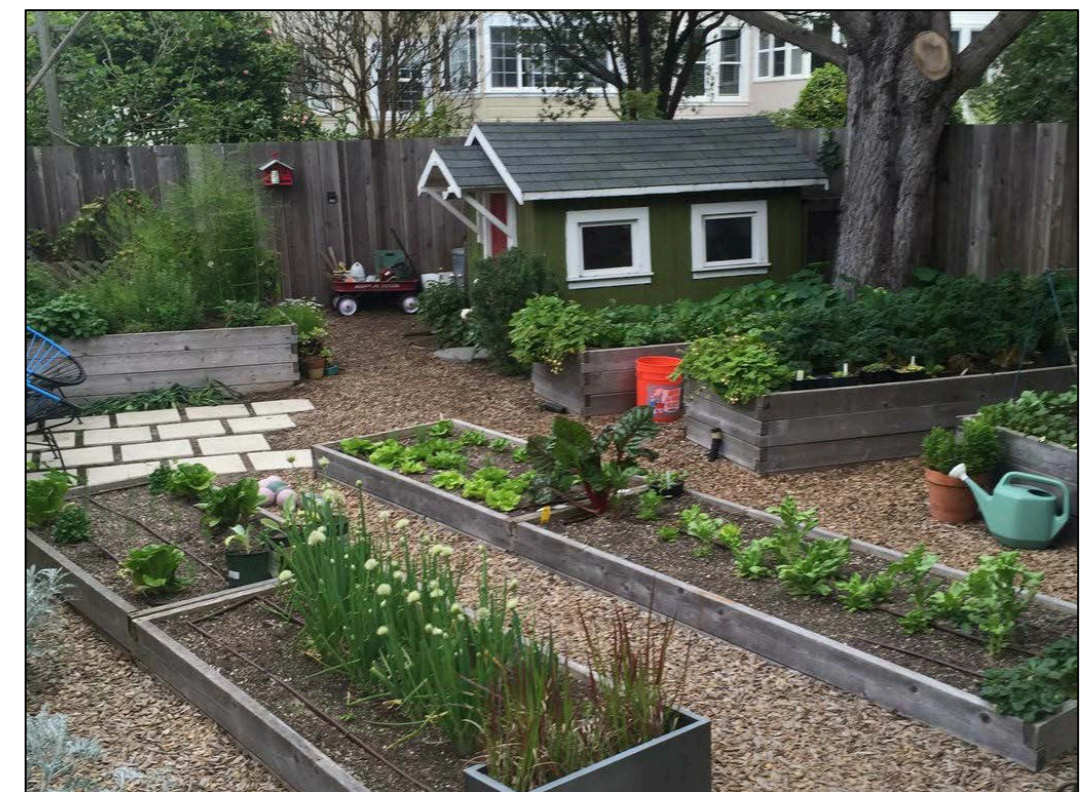
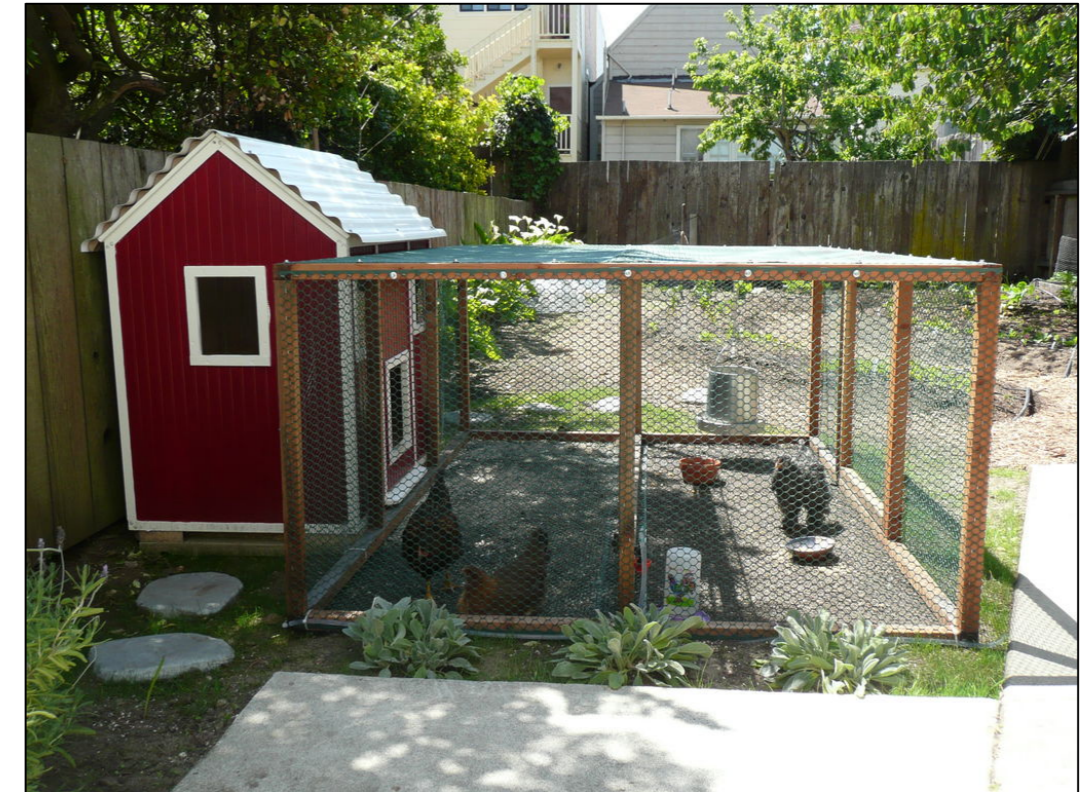
Urban agriculture is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around an urban area.

Urban agriculture can include:

- Gardening and livestock raised in backyards;
- Container gardening on balconies or rooftops; and,
- Community gardening and city allotments.

WHY URBAN AGRICULTURE?

- Contributions to urban food security and nutrition;
- Social and educational impacts; and,
- Contributions on urban ecology



GENERAL INFORMATION ON URBAN HENS



GEORGINA

- Hens are typically kept for egg production, not meat;
- Roosters are not typically permitted to be kept in residential areas;
- Chickens must grow to an age of 4 months before it is possible to identify the gender;
- Hens are social animals and thrive better in groups;
- Generally, hens will lay 1-2 eggs per day and will continue to lay eggs for 5-7 years;
- Most heritage breeds can live up to and beyond 8 years;
- Hens require a means of shelter from the elements in a shed or coop as well as a protected area for exercise and light;
- Hens require a supply of clean water and feed and can produce up to 10 lbs. of manure per month per bird; and,
- Hens may require occasional veterinarian care, similar to household pets.





URBAN HEN BREEDS

- There are over 300 different breeds of chickens in North America.
- Most urban hen owners often use a variety of breeds known as “heritage breeds”.
- Examples of heritage breeds include the Rhode Island Red, the Barred Rock and other breeds, which are heartier and more conducive to an urban environment.



Orpington



Rhode Island Red



Barred Rock

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

ACCESS TO LOCALLY GROWN FOOD

COMPANIONSHIP

EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL BENEFITS

ALTERNATIVE TO STORE BOUGHT EGGS

LOWER FOOD COSTS FOR OWNERS

GREATER CONTROL OVER EGG SOURCE



CONCERNS



GEORGINA

NOISE AND ODOUR

CARE AND HANDLING

BIOSECURITY RISKS

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREDATORS AND PESTS

ANIMAL WELFARE





MITIGATION OPTIONS

BIOSECURITY & PUBLIC HEALTH

- Mandatory hen enclosures & construction standards.
- Limited number of hens.
- Prohibit mixing of commercial poultry & urban hens.
- Establish minimum feed control practices & enclosure cleaning practices.
- Outline regulations for safe disposal of waste (feed, feces & carcass).
- Provide rules/guidelines to inform residents on the proper keeping of hens.
- Limit egg distribution to only personal use.
- Prohibit home-based slaughter of hens.
- Prohibit the sale of chicken meat.

NOISE & ODOUR

- Prohibit roosters.
- Require enclosures to be maintained in sanitary condition, free of obnoxious smells & odours.
- Feces must be stored in a fully enclosed container.
- Allowing the storage of a limited amount of manure, only if it is stored in a fully enclosed container.



PREDATORS & PESTS

- Ensure that all chicken feed is stored in a closed container, inaccessible to other animals. Rodents are not attracted to chickens; they are attracted to chicken feed & other food scraps.
- Hen enclosures should be constructed to prevent access to the enclosure by other animals.
- Owners are required to keep hens, as well as their food & water, in the coop between sunset & sunrise, and that the coop remain locked during that time.

ANIMAL WELFARE

- Ensure a minimum enclosure size based on number of hens.
- Provide a wire fenced outdoor enclosure for access to daylight & exercise.
- Ensure hens have access to clean feed & water.
- Prohibit slaughtering or attempts at euthanasia by those who keep hens, as slaughtering by untrained individuals can result in unnecessary suffering.
- Hens at the end of their lives can be euthanized by a veterinarian, or taken to a farm or abattoir for slaughtering.
- Restriction on hens younger than 4 months of age. This is intended to limit impulse buying of "cute and fuzzy" chicks, and the mistaken purchase of roosters.

WHAT ARE OTHER ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES DOING?

MUNICIPALITIES WHERE URBAN HENS ARE PERMITTED

1. Town of Newmarket
2. Town of East Gwillimbury
3. City of Quinte West
4. Clearview Township
5. City of Kitchener
6. Town of Caledon
7. City of Kingston
8. City of Brampton
9. City of Brantford
10. City of Niagara Falls
11. City of Guelph
12. Norfolk County
13. Township of Severn
14. Windsor-Essex County
15. Town of Minto



URBAN HEN PILOT PROJECTS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE

1. City of Toronto
2. City of Orillia

MUNICIPALITIES CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING URBAN HENS

1. City of Peterborough
2. City of Belleville
3. Town of Uxbridge

MUNICIPALITIES THAT DECIDED AGAINST URBAN HENS

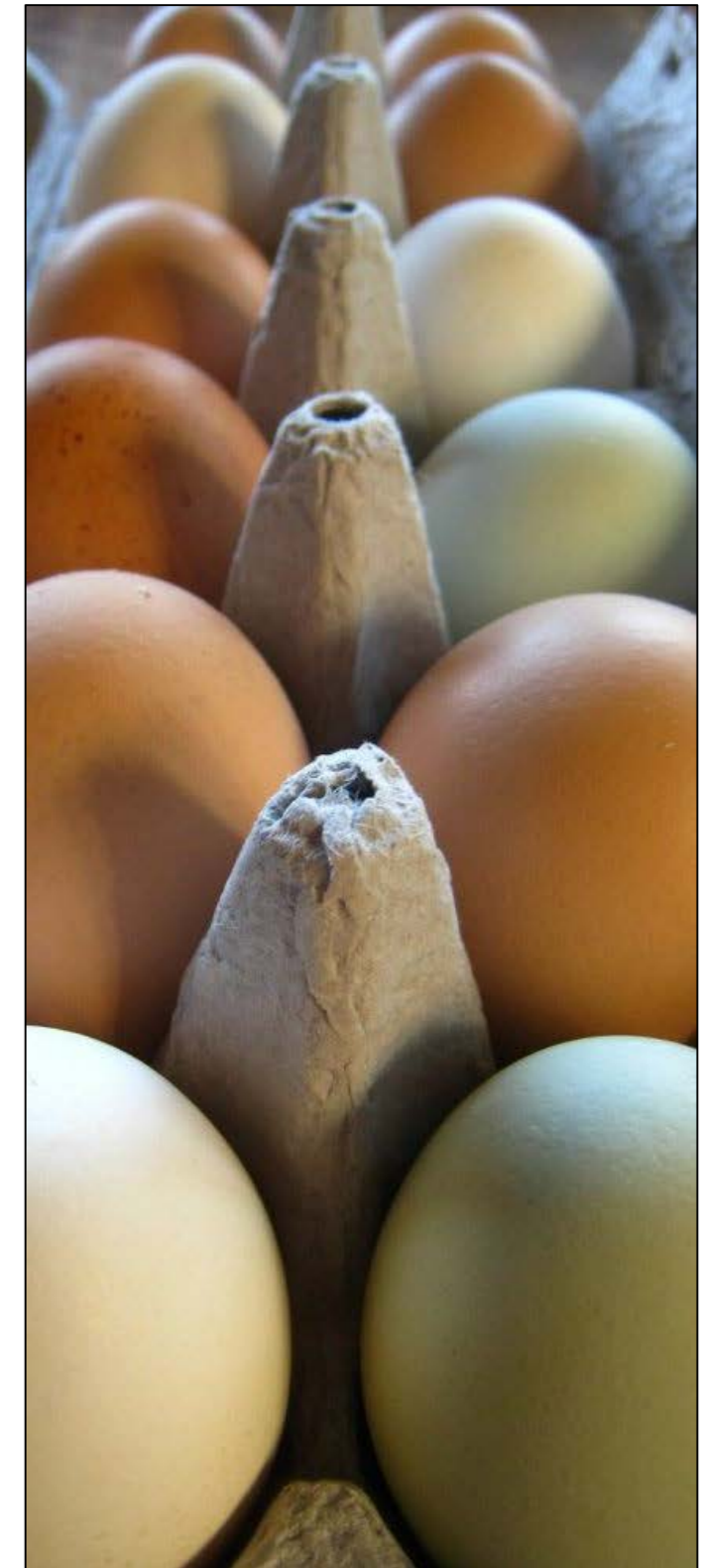
1. City of Cambridge
2. City of Waterloo
3. Town of New Tecumseth
4. Port Hope

SUMMARY OF URBAN HEN REGULATIONS IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES



GEORGINA

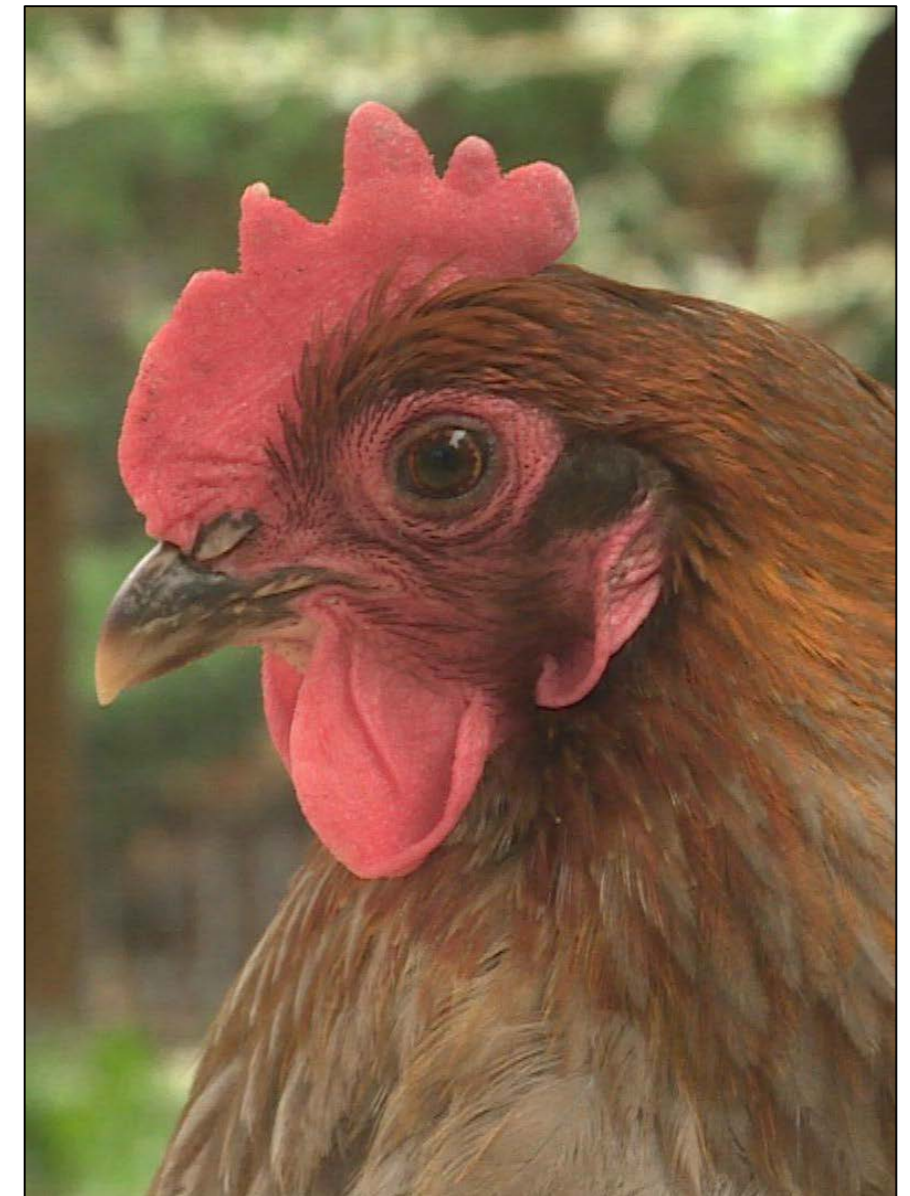
- Several municipalities conducted a pilot project for a specified duration and number of properties to assess the effectiveness of regulations and to ensure land use compatibility;
- Regulations are contained in either a Municipal Act Licensing By-law or a Zoning By-law, or a combination of both;
- Municipalities tend to limit the extent of hen keeping to an absolute number - generally, the limit is 4;
- Regulations for hen enclosures are required such as coop standards and minimum area requirements based on the number of hens;
- In most cases, hens are only permitted in the rear yard of the property;
- Roosters are generally banned;
- In some cases minimum property requirements are prescribed such as lot frontage and/or lot area;
- Larger separation distances from churches, businesses and schools are sometimes required;
- Notification to and consent from adjacent property owners is a requirement in some instances;
- The sale of eggs and slaughter of chickens is prohibited; and,
- Educational documents regarding proper management and care of hens is provided by the municipality.



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Should Council decide that Staff are to conduct an urban hens pilot project, Staff have identified some key considerations below:

- How long would the pilot project run for? 2 years, 3 years?
- Should the pilot project be limited to certain residential areas and/or limited to a specific number of properties?
- How many hens would be permitted per property?
- Should neighbour consent be a requirement?
- Should there be minimum property frontage and/or area requirements?
- Should a pilot project be limited to only properties with single detached dwellings?
- What should the required setback distances for the hen enclosures be?
- Should licenses for hens be required?
- How would regulations be enforced?
- Should inspections from Municipal Law Enforcement Staff be a requirement?
- If inspections are a requirement, how often would they take place?
- What other restrictions should be imposed?



EXAMPLE REGULATIONS



GEORGINA

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A maximum of four (4) hens shall be permitted.
- Hens must be at least four (4) months old.
- Roosters are prohibited.
- The sale of eggs, manure and other products associate with the keeping of hens is prohibited.
- Home slaughter of hens is prohibited.
- Backyard hens must be contained in the rear yard of the owner's property at all times.
- The owner of the backyard hens must reside on the property where the hens are kept.



CARE & MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS

- All stored feed is kept in rodent proof containers and secured at all times.
- Feeding of hens is done in a manner that minimizes the attraction of rodents and other animals.
- Manure and droppings are cleaned out daily and stored in a secured container until disposed
- No more than 0.08 m³ of manure and/or dropping shall be stored at any one time.
- Hens have access to an enclosed outdoor run area.
- Hens must be kept in their coop from 9: 00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Deceased hens are disposed of at a livestock disposal facility, through the services of a veterinarian, chicken exchange program or through an approved OMAFRA facility and are disposed of in accordance with all laws.
- Hens are kept in accordance with all other laws including the Town's by-laws respecting noise, lot maintenance, property standards and animals, as well as provincial legislation.

COOP & RUN REGULATIONS

- Hen coops, hen runs and manure storage structures must meet the requirements of the Zoning By-law for Accessory Structures.
- The combined floor area of the hen coop, hen run and manure storage structure shall be less than 10 m² .
- Hen coops shall provide a minimum area of 0.37 m² per hen and hen runs shall provide a minimum area of 0.92 m² per hen.
- Coops and runs are maintained in a clean condition to ensure that smells do not cause a nuisance to the residents of any neighbouring property or any residents of the Town.
- Coops are deep cleaned at least two times yearly including the disinfecting of troughs, perches and nests.



MOVING FORWARD



PROPOSED OPTIONS

1. No Action

- Under this option, no action would be taken.
- Poultry would only be permitted on Rural (RU) zoned properties with a minimum area of 0.4 hectares.

2. Pilot Program

- Program could run for a defined period of time, for a limited number of residents and would be based on certain criteria.
- This would ensure proper monitoring and management.

3. Amend Exotic Pets By-law 2003-0072

- Amendments would be made immediately the Town's Exotic Pet By-law to allow for hens in residential areas.

Further questions and/or comments can be sent to Shayne Connors, Planner I, at sconnors@georgina.ca or by calling 905-476-4301 ext. 2442.

TOWN WEBPAGE

- Visit www.georgina.ca/UrbanHens for additional information.

URBAN HENS SURVEY

- We are interested in your comments! Take the urban hens survey and provide your feedback.
- Survey is running until **October 14, 2019**.
- Hard copies of the survey are available tonight and can also be found at various Town facilities or online.

COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP

- Staff will be following up with Council prior to the end of 2019.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. WE APPRECIATE YOUR INPUT!