

September 28, 2020

Mayor Brown, members of Council, Fellow Citizens, good evening!

Regarding the Hen Trial Program, and by-law amendment, which Orangeville staff have carefully crafted, I applaud the effort by all to ensure a fair shake at the egg.

I believe that the pilot covers all of the bases needed to assess the best practices required from our town and residents to see Backyard Hen Keeping become a successful long term initiative for food security and social well-being.

The concerns I perceived from fellow citizens were the keeping of roosters and the slaughtering of hens, which the pilot program and by-law prohibit. As outlined in the by-law, coop and cleanliness requirements define the standard of animal welfare required of those residents interested in participating in the trial.

Further, for those residents interested in exploring keeping hens, a three-year pilot term to keep two hens per household on lots outside the Wellhead Protection Area is a welcome and fair approach. This pilot allows neighbours and residents to keenly observe that hens can happily live inside our town limits.

I know many people in Orangeville who would like to see lawful hen keeping come to fruition, and I am thankful - and want to acknowledge, the fine work by staff on the strong outline for the pilot program.

I am excited to have the council ratify the proposed amendment to the hen by-law so that residents such as myself can legally engage in a shortened, meaningful food system.

Keeping backyard hens is an invaluable opportunity for our children to connect to their food sources and learn that reducing the miles we put on our plate dramatically impacts the world.

Kind regards,

Max Waters