

From: [Jennifer White](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Heather Falconer](#); [Michele Barr](#)
Subject: correspondence to Council
Date: August 29, 2024 12:03:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Adam Kreuger,

Thank you for your correspondence to Council Members. Your correspondence will be added on the September 4th Committee of the Whole meeting agenda. The agenda and its contents are a matter of public record, and your letter and this reply will be included (with your contact information redacted for privacy purposes) on the agenda which is posted publicly on the Township website.

Please note that Zoning Compliance notices/orders are not appealable to Council, and Council does not interfere in ongoing or active investigations with respect to By-law Enforcement or Zoning Compliance. The role of Council is to set policies and regulations, and the role of staff is to enforce those.

Council considers changes to zoning matters, through the consideration of planning applications. You will need to contact the County of Bruce Planning Department to submit a planning application to request an alteration to the permitted uses of land for your specific property. The County Staff will be able to provide guidance to you with respect to timing and requirements associated with any application. [Planning and Development | Bruce County](#)

Thank you for your feedback on the difficulty finding information about whether backyard chickens are permitted everywhere in the Township. According to planning legislation, the Zoning By-law posted on our website does provide for the permitted uses of a property based on the type of zoning designation. The zoning by-law is a permissive document, but this may be difficult for residents to interpret on their own. As a result of your feedback, staff will be including an update to the Township's website to clearly specify that agricultural animals/livestock such as chickens, are permitted only in agriculturally zoned properties where it is noted in the zoning by-law as a permitted use.

Please reach out to me using the contact information below, should you have any questions about the process for considering your request.

Regards,

Jennifer White
Manager of Legislative Services, Clerk
Township of Huron-Kinloss
21 Queen Street, PO Box 130
Ripley, ON N0G 2R0

(519) 395-3735 or toll free (844) 395-3735

ext 123

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From: Adam Kreuger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: August 29, 2024 7:38 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Attn Jennifer White

Hello Jennifer,

Could you please forward the below letter to the members of council to read at their next meeting.

Thank you,

Adam

Dear council members,

I am writing to you today to request relief from an Order to Comply that I received from the Township of Huron-Kinloss citing me as being in violation of Zoning By-Law 2018-98.

The order has instructed me to remove my backyard chickens from my residential zoned property to an agricultural zone property. As a quick point of fact, Huron-Kinloss does not have a by-law that governs backyard chickens. Therefore, we are governed only by the zoning by-law which does not have provisions for livestock in residential zones.

I do not want to give up this labour of love. If you will be so kind as to indulge me, I would like to share with you my little story.

I am a single father of 3. My boy is 16 and my 2 girls are 13 and 12. It has been about a decade now since my split with their mom. We have maintained an excellent coparenting relationship, and everything has gone reasonably well. Or so I thought. As it happens in this modern era, the girls have been struggling with some mental health issues. We brought them to a local place for counseling and then to Keystones. A place that specializes in youth and family services. The girls were willing to talk to these people but overall did not seem to be enjoying the process. I was also not content to just sit back and hope all would be well. As a father, I needed to do more. Girls love animals. And caring for another life along with hands-on responsibilities would be a great way to disconnect from the constant presence of their devices. We live in the country. (relatively speaking) I thought farm therapy was the perfect solution. I read that chickens can be very social. Are often considered pets and even seen as emotional support animals. And like gardening, there can be a real sense of pride and satisfaction reaping (eating) the rewards of your efforts. We are a family of egg lovers. So, chickens would be perfect!

I went to the Huron-Kinloss website looking for the rules. I found nothing. I approached both the neighbors on either side of me. Shared with them my idea and asked what they thought. They were both delighted with the idea and even indicated they had thought of doing the same thing. Since they both have youngsters at the walking stage they thought it would be fun for all. We all have lots just shy .9 acres so space to roam was not a concern.

I called the Ripley co-op and started the order process. Since it was going to be more of a shared neighborly experience I decided to get a few extra chickens. At time of order the gentleman I spoke with suggested that since I was getting freshly hatched day olds and they tend to die easily, I should get a couple more than planned. When delivery came, May 28th the

supplier had graciously added another.

The children and I built our brooder in the garage and from all the youtube videos we watched, began caring for our new additions as best we could. Turns out, we're pretty good at it and didn't lose a single one.

I tried finding an unwanted shed on Facebook marketplace that I could repurpose into a coop. But was unsuccessful. So the kids and I went back and forth to Rona and spent the summer building our own. As August approached, we moved them to the backyard. After another week we started to let them out.

At the back of our properties is some forested area. And along my property line is a fairly thick row of cedars and unkept overgrowth. Being new to chickens I was misled by common terms like free range and pasture raised. I thought the chickens would happily roam our lawns eating unwanted grubs and such. I believed that the trees and overgrowth would act as a natural barrier. It turns out that chickens are instinctually jungle creatures. They prefer cover to open pastures. As they became more comfortable with their home they started to explore. This led them to the neighbors behind me. After their surprise meeting, these neighbors made a couple of attempts to speak with me. Unfortunately, they came to my door on days I was sleeping after a night shift. They decided to call the town to see what the rules were. I received the chicken eviction notice via Purolator letter soon after. The next day I connected with these neighbors and had a lovely chat. They explained to me that they were more than fine with my endeavor. They were just worried the chickens might end up in their pool and would be happy if I just kept them from crossing over to their property. I immediately put up some fencing and all is well.

I accept that ignorance is no defense. And it was my mistake thinking that no bylaw meant no rules prohibiting backyard chickens. But I am truly amazed that people living in massive densely populated cities like Toronto can have backyard chickens but we living in rural areas with our oversized lots cannot.

I was issued an "eviction notice" based on a complaint that isn't a complaint. I have neighbours that are all happy with my little additions. I have happy healthy chickens. Most importantly, I have two young girls that are experiencing a long overdue joy.

My intention is to initiate the process to request the council create a by-law that will allow myself and other likeminded families to have backyard chickens. In the interim, I implore you to grant us relief from the order to remove our chickens.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Adam Kreuger and family.

cell: [REDACTED]

