

Resident Opinion Survey

Regarding the keeping of backyard hens in the Village of Hilton Beach

69 respondents

1. Do you think residents of the Village of Hilton Beach should be allowed to keep a small flock of backyard chickens?

- a. Yes – 48 people
- b. No – 21 people

Comments:

- Personally feel the village is too small to have any kind of livestock. Chickens first, then what?
- No chickens period!!
- Depending on clean and tidy coops.
- Indifferent.

2. Would you personally be interested in keeping chickens in your yard?

- a. Yes – 16
- b. No – 51

Comments:

- Perhaps.
- Maybe.
- Undecided.
- No, only because we can obtain eggs from 3 other relatives on the island.

3. How would you feel about someone in your neighborhood keeping chickens in their yard?

- a. Encouraging- 29
- b. Indifferent – 20
- c. Against it – 20

Comments:

- No opinion after question #3.
- Good for them!

4. Do you think there should be a lot size restriction if backyard hens were allowed?

- a. No, everyone should be allowed to own chickens – 32
- b. 1/3 acre or more would be appropriate – 4
- c. 1/2 acre or more would be appropriate – 5

- d. 1 acre or more would be appropriate – 6
- e. Regardless of lot size, chickens should not be permitted – 18

Comments:

-Caged and fenced with a limit.

5. If residents were allowed to keep a small flock of laying hens, how many do you feel would be appropriate?

- a. 2-4 chickens per lot – 6
- b. 4-6 chickens per lot – 12
- c. 6-8 chickens per lot – 12
- d. 8-10 chickens per lot – 16

Comments:

- None – 9 people
- No hens.
- Lot size should be a determinant for the wellbeing of the birds.
- Or more, depending on lot size.
- Don't know.
- 8-45 chickens do not take much room.
- Depends on the size of family but there should be a max.
- We have 2 in the Sault. But it isn't enough for a family. Good for us with 2.
- As many as they want.
- Up to 10.
- Larger families may need more laying chickens, hence, my choice of option c.

6. What concerns you the most about the possibility of chickens within Village boundaries (Number in order of priority. 1 being your largest concern).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sanitation	26	8	6			1	
Unsightly	1	8	5	4	6	2	1
Chickens running wild	6	7	8	3	5	4	
Noise	2	2	3	9	5	4	
Predators/pests	14	6	4	3	1	3	
Animal welfare	5	3	4	4	2	5	

Comments:

- Property value/neighbour disputes.
 - No concerns – 8 people
 - All of above – 3 people
 - Do not want them. NB – one resident had to leave the village because they had chickens.
 - Chickens should be on a farm.
 - Decreases property value. More foxes and coyotes in town.
 - Attracts other animals – foxes, coyotes, etc. Should be outside village limits.
 - We already have foxes in the village – more would be attracted.
 - There are chickens, roosters, and ducks on the village line now, it doesn't hurt anyone.
 - Again, lot size, amount of birds, wellbeing and viruses – accountability to the owner.
 - No concerns if flock is small.
 - A clause in property standards (by-law) may help with messy/dirty coops.
 - Not concerned, sanitation is the only thing. Predators are not an issue being a small community our current pets would already be an issue for predators coming in.
 - Not too good at looking after dogs. By-law enforcement – who is responsible?
 - Would be a distraction (attraction) for my dog.
 - I would fear owners would not educate themselves on chickens needs & not give proper care.
 - None of these things bother me unless we are talking about hundreds!
 - No concern. Deer and dogs roam freely. Nature will naturally regulate. Ex: foxes.
 - I'm not worried about backyard chickens having a drastic effect on any of the above.
 - Chickens are great pest control for ticks, and adorable. The more the merrier as long as they are kept clean.
 - This is a biased question as it does not recognize those that have no concerns. The village also has dogs on the loose at times! Most of these can also be used against other pets (eg. Cats & dogs).
 - Sanitation a problem only in extreme situations. Chickens running wild food for local wildlife.
- Unightly – chickens are lovely.

**7. What interests you the most about the possibility of chickens within the village?
(number your selection, 1 being your highest interest.)**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Food security	12	4	8	1	1	2	1
Availability of eggs	18	12	6	1			
Availability of meat birds	1	9	8	4	2	2	2
Keeping chickens as pets			3	5	1	3	7
Self-sustainability	10	4	4	6	8		
Education/responsibility	5	6	1	2	7	5	1
Insect control	2	2		4	4	6	3

Comments:

- Not supportive.
- No chickens – 2 people

- Nothing.
- No interest – 2 people
- Community self-sustainment should be a goal.
- Chickens are not pets, they are food sources.
- I don't care. The Sault allows chickens so why on the island is this such a big deal?
- Insect control – they eat ticks.
- Seems to be a lot of good reasons in having chickens in the village listed here!! Egg freshness.

8. Do you think your neighbours ought to seek your permission prior to installing a chicken coop on their property?

- a. Yes – 27
- b. No- 25
- c. Indifferent – 9

Comments:

- This will cause problems.
- No chickens.
- Making bad neighbours.
- Look at the already existing un-neighbourly people.
- My neighbours don't pay my taxes – none of their business.
- However should a concern arise the village should have some forum to address it.
- Given lot sizes in the village and the low number of chickens proposed to be kept, the answer is no.
- No, but basic courtesy and good communication between neighbours is always good.
- No, property line boundaries. Permits for chickens.

9. Do you think that anyone wishing to keep chickens should apply for a permit on a yearly basis?

- a. Yes – 31
- b. No – 27

Comments:

- No chickens.
- Annual health inspections.
- Yes, at no charge.
- Small fee comparable to dog license, keeping owners accountable and the village aware.
- Who needs more rules/permits? Maybe if problems (real problems) arise a permit denial could be a cure, but not if unnecessary.
- Should be no different than a fire pit etc. If homeowners prove to be irresponsible, the village should be able to deny request.
- To be non biased, if a permit was required, all animals would need permits. (eg. Cats).
- No, don't add complications.

10. When considering regulating backyard hens, please list in order of importance which items the Village council should consider. 1 = highest priority.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Lot size	6	7	3	1	2	5	2	3	2
Flock size	5	14	14	1	1	2	3	2	1
Cleanliness standards	27	6	3	4	3	1	1	1	
Visibility of coop from road	1	4		7	5	5	6	4	1
Visibility of coop from neighbours		3	5	4	5	4	5	1	
Set back distance from lot line	4	5	6	6	4	3	1	4	1
Size of coop and run area	2	3	5	10	3	3	6	2	
Permission from abutting neighbours	4	5	4	6	3	2	1	6	
Restricting the sale of eggs	1	1		1	1	1	1	2	18

Comments:

- Don't approve.
- No chickens – 2 people
- All of the above.
- This topic was brought to the council years ago and at that time it was decided chickens should be on a farm. This is a waste of time in my opinion. NO to chickens in the village.
- Hilton Beach is not farmland.
- Thank-you for taking the time and return envelope to survey residents.
- All should be considered.
- If managed well none of the rest is a concern.
- None of these are important.
- Everyone who has chickens should assume their own accountability and responsibility for proper upkeep. Respectful of others.
- No concerns. My biggest concern is the foxes in the ball diamond and people chickens.-Who is going to monitor this, as the village doesn't have a bylaw officer to do this that I am aware of? If this were to be monitored, should not some of the hidden junk yards in the village also be monitored.?

