



# Notice of Public Meeting

## Proposed Backyard Hens Bylaw

March 31, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Format

In-Person AND Virtual/Online

Town Hall, Council Chambers

32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

### What is being proposed?

A new Backyard Hens By-law is proposed to allow and regulate the keeping of chicken (hens and pullets), excluding roosters, on residentially zoned properties (R1, R2, R3) in the Town's urban settlement areas, as well as residentially zoned properties in the rural area and hamlets where agricultural uses are currently not permitted. The proposed Backyard Hens By-law does not in any way change or affect the keeping of chickens in zones where agricultural uses are already permitted, including Agriculture (A), Special Agriculture (SA), and Rural (RU) zones.

Many communities have adopted by-laws that permit owners to keep a limited number of backyard hens on residential properties. The proposed Backyard Hens By-law is a response to public interest in doing so as part of a movement toward sustainable living, greater self-sufficiency, and healthy eating.

The Backyard Hens By-law would allow the keeping of hens with rules to mitigate potential risks such as noise, smell, or the potential spread of avian-borne illnesses while ensuring animal wellbeing, and would apply Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) for non-compliance.

### Where do I find more information?

Additional information regarding the proposed Backyard Hens By-law, including a February 3, 2026 staff report and the draft by-law, can be found at [PBS.26.006 Report in Response to the Deputation of Andrew Simon Re: Allowing Backyard Chickens in the Urban Area](#)

You can also visit [www.thebluemountains.ca/bylaw](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/bylaw), visit the Planning Services Department located at Town Hall during regular office hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or contact the Sustainability Coordinator by email at [sustainability@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:sustainability@thebluemountains.ca) or by phone at 519-599-3131 ext. 235.

### Questions? Want more information? Ask a Staff Member!

Nicholas Cloet, Sustainability Coordinator 519-599-3131 ext. 235 or [sustainability@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:sustainability@thebluemountains.ca)

*Under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and in accordance with Ontario's Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), all information provided for, or at a Public Meeting, Public Consultation, or other Public Process are considered part of the public record, including resident deputations. This information may be posted on the Town's website. and/or made available to the public upon request.*

This document can be made available in other accessible formats as soon as practicable and upon request.

### When will a decision be made?

It is important to note that a decision on this Backyard Hens Bylaw has NOT been made at this point and will NOT be made at this Public Meeting. After reviewing comments from the public, Staff will bring its recommendations to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting.

### How can I make my views known about this proposal?

Any person or agency may provide comments on this matter in writing or verbally at the Public Meeting.

Comments at the Public Meeting assist the Town and Council in their decision-making process, so be sure to have your say!

### How do I submit my comments?

Written Comments – You are encouraged to provide your comments or questions in writing using email or regular letter mail to the Town Clerk. Written comments received by **1:00pm on March 27, 2026** will be read by the Town Clerk at the Public Meeting for the benefit of everyone in attendance and will be included in the record of the Public Meeting.

Comments can be faxed to 519-599-7723, or emailed [townclerk@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:townclerk@thebluemountains.ca).

Any submitted comments become part of the **public record**, including names and addresses.

Verbal Comments – This Public Meeting is a hybrid meeting, allowing the public to attend the meeting in person or virtually. Those that wish to make verbal comments virtually are required to pre-register with the Town Clerk, no later than five business days in advance of the Public Meeting, by **March 24, 2026**.

Anyone wishing to provide their verbal comments in person at the Public Meeting, can attend the Town Hall, Council Chambers.

### Want to be notified of a decision?

You must make a request in writing to the Town Clerk if you would like to be notified of a decision on this proposal to:

Corrina Giles, Town Clerk  
Town Hall, 32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON  
Fax: 519-599-7723  
[townclerk@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:townclerk@thebluemountains.ca)