

November 19, 2017

ATT: Mayor Strathdee and members of St. Marys Town Council

Within recent weeks, there have been several articles in National newspapers, including the Globe and Mail, highlighting both sides of the 'Backyard Chicken Coop' issue. While many people are excited at the prospect of raising chickens and having fresh eggs straight from the source each day, the reality for neighbouring homes is far less favourable. The noise from the chickens and putrid smell that accompanies even the most well-maintained coops diminishes how people are able to utilize and enjoy their outdoor space, as often the odour is so thick that windows must be closed and eating al fresco is impossible. There is also the greater issue of natural predators. Some of the main culprits that create havoc include raccoons, foxes, possums, rats and other rodents. Since the coops provide a year-round food source, these nuisance creatures are known to take up permanent residence and ultimately seek refuge in unsuspecting homes and basements. This is where my issue begins.

My name is Mary Jane Ball and my husband Frank and I have lived at 230 Widder St. for the last 43 years and until this summer, we had never had an issue with rats before. Thus, I am asking on behalf of myself and the other residents of our beautiful town, that the bi-law allowing chicken coops in backyards be changed as the city council in London, Ontario has recently done for the betterment of their constituents.

I would be pleased to speak with you further regarding this issue, if necessary.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Jane Ball". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mary Jane Ball