




CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TO: Ken Watson, City Manager
FROM: Scott Smith, City Planner
DATE: July 3, 2012

I concur, forward to next
Regular Council Meeting
for Consideration:


Ken Watson, City Manager

SUBJECT: The keeping of Honeybees and Chickens on residential properties

Issue

To consider the issues involved in the keeping of honeybees and chickens on residential properties.

Background

After receiving a staff report providing general information (attached for background) on the possibility of allowing the keeping of honeybees and chickens on urban sized residential properties in the City of Port Alberni, City Council directed that an opinion survey be conducted.

This report will review the results of the opinion survey and will request further direction from Council on how to move forward. A summary of the survey results are attached and the individual surveys are in the Council reading file. A letter from Bear Smart BC to Council dated June 21, 2012 regarding the keeping of chickens and honeybees is attached for information.

The City of Port Alberni received 553 responses to the opinion survey on the keeping of honeybees and chickens on urban sized residential properties. Although this is a good response to the survey it only represents 3% of the total population for the City of Port Alberni.

Discussion

Keeping of Honeybees

The City received 541 responses that provided comment on the keeping of honeybees on residential properties. Based on those responses, 68% were in support of keeping honeybees and 32% were opposed. The response on the number of hives to be allowed was, 53% indicated 2 to 4, 36% indicated 1 and 32% indicated another number. The results on what setbacks should be required varied widely from a 0 setback to a 30.5 metre setback. The comments from residents were extensive and varied. A number of comments that were repeated are generally as follows:

- Concerns about bears.
- Concerns about stings and people who have allergies.
- Would improve pollination for fruit trees and gardens.
- The need to provide some education or information on the keeping of honeybees.
- Honeybees should be in rural areas, not in the City.
- General "good idea" comment.

Keeping of Chickens

The City received 549 responses that provided comment on the keeping of chickens on residential properties. Based on those responses, 63% were in support of keeping chickens and 37% were opposed. The response on the number of chickens to be allowed, 70% indicated 4 to 10, 23% indicated fewer than 4 and 7% indicated over 10. The results on what setback should be required varied widely from a 0 setback to a 30 metre setback. The comments from residents were extensive and varied. A number of comments that were repeated are generally as follows:

- No roosters.
- The requirement to provide shelter.
- The need to keep the shelter clean to prevent odour issues.
- Concerns about attracting predators and pests.
- General “Good idea” comment.

Options

1. Direct staff to include regulations to permit the keeping of honeybees and chickens as part of the Zoning Bylaw review.
2. Do not consider any amendments regarding regulations for the keeping of honeybees and chickens in the City of Port Alberni.

Conclusions

Although the majority of opinion survey responses were in favour of the keeping of honeybees and chickens on residential properties, there were a number of residents opposed and there was a significant amount of comments received. If City Council would like to proceed with the keeping of honeybees and chickens on residential properties, staff recommends that a number of regulations be part of any bylaw changes. In order to permit and regulate the keeping of honeybees and chickens, amendments to the Zoning Bylaw and Animal Control and Pound Bylaw would be required. Public education is also recommended on best management practices for the keeping of honeybees and chickens in an urban setting.

If reasonable regulations are in place and people take proper care, then the keeping of honeybees and chickens on residential properties could add to the sustainability of the community.

Recommendations

1. *That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to include regulations allowing and regulating the keeping of honeybees and chickens on urban sized residential properties as part of the Zoning Bylaw review.*

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Smith, MCIP
City Planner



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TO: Ken Watson, City Manager

FROM: Scott Smith, City Planner

DATE: January 18, 2012

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS AND BEES ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE CITY

Issue

To consider the issues involved in the keeping of bees and chickens on residential properties.

Background

City Council had requested a report from staff on the possibility of allowing the keeping of honeybees and chickens on urban sized residential properties in the City of Port Alberni. This report will summarize some information on the keeping of honeybees and chickens on residential properties and provide some recommendations on how to move forward.

The City of Port Alberni Zoning Bylaw currently permits the keeping of bees in the A1 – Market Garden District, A2 – Urban Agriculture District and the FD – Future Development District. The keeping of poultry is currently permitted only in the A2 – Urban Agriculture District. These districts represent a relatively low number of developed properties in the City.

A growing number of municipalities in BC permit honeybees and chickens on urban sized residential properties under certain regulations. However, many municipalities do not currently permit bees and chickens on urban sized residential properties. The City of Courtenay, for example, recently considered the keeping of chickens, but after a public opinion survey, decided not to proceed with changing their regulations. Most municipalities that considered bees and chickens did have some level of public process prior to proceeding with any changes to bylaws.

Discussion

Keeping of bees

The Provincial Bee Act regulates the keeping of bees in BC. Among other regulations the Act requires anyone in BC who operates honeybee colonies to be registered. The Ministry of Agriculture has an Apiary Registration program to register the location of all apiaries.

In addition to the provincial regulations, municipalities that permit honeybees have additional guidelines or regulations. The following are some of the issues that have been considered by municipalities:

- The flight paths of bees from hives can interfere with neighbouring properties if the hives are not positioned appropriately. In order to ensure appropriate flight paths regulations are recommended:
 - A beehive shall be situated a minimum of 2.44 metres (8 ft) above ground level: or
 - The beehive entrance shall be directed away from the neighbouring property and situated behind a solid fence or hedge that is a minimum of 1.83 metres (6 ft) in height running parallel to the property line: or
 - A beehive shall be located a minimum of 7.6 metres (25 ft) away from the property lines.
- Honeybees will seek out water, especially during the summer months. To prevent bees from seeking water in neighbouring pools, birdbaths, ponds the beekeeper should be responsible to provide adequate water near the hives.
- Honeybees are generally not aggressive and account for a small percentage of stings. Most stings are caused by wasps. However, some people do have a risk of anaphylactic reaction to stings.
- Honeybee colonies occasional swarm in late spring or early summer. Honeybees are not generally aggressive during a swarming, however, the presence of a swarm can be concerning to people. Experienced beekeepers can gather a swarm fairly easily.
- The municipalities researched which permit honeybees only allow hives to be located in the rear yard and limit the number of hives based on lot size, with a maximum of four beehives.

Keeping of Chickens

Where municipalities have adopted regulations to permit the keeping of chickens in an urban setting, some standards are outlined below:

- The number of chickens allowed in urban areas generally range from four to ten.
- The majority of municipalities do not allow roosters to be kept in urban settings. Roosters are not allowed because of the noise and they are not necessary for egg production.
- Structures for the keeping of chickens were generally required to prohibit chickens from running at large for their safety from vehicles and predators, to avoid making a nuisance for neighbours and to ensure that owners are in controls of the animals. A coop and enclosure (run) of approximately 1.3 m² (14 ft²) per hen is recommended by several sources for the best management practices for the care of urban chickens.
- Many municipalities do not identify a minimum lot size for the keeping of urban chickens. However, most municipalities do require setbacks from property lines for the keeping of chickens. These setbacks vary widely from 1 metre to 15 metres. Most municipalities do not allow chickens and their structures to be in the front yard or even visible from the street.

- There would likely be some increased workload for the Bylaw Enforcement Officer and the City would need to discuss with the SPCA regarding chickens that get loose. Some municipalities require registration of urban chickens.

Public education on best management practices for the keeping of honeybees and chickens in an urban setting would be recommended if the City wishes to permit the keeping of honeybees and chickens. There are many sources of information that could be made available.

In order to permit and regulate the keeping of honeybees and chickens, amendments to the Zoning Bylaw and Animal Control and Pound Bylaw would be required.

If City Council would like to consider changing the City bylaws to permit the keeping of honeybees and/or chickens on urban sized residential properties, staff recommends that some public feedback be gathered before proceeding. City staff would prepare some educational information for the public and then gather public comment. Staff recommends that information and a short survey be placed on the city website and that information and survey be mailed out with the next utility bill.

Staff would bring the results of that survey back to Council and request direction on whether to proceed with amending bylaws for the keeping of honeybees and chickens. A formal public hearing would also be required as part of the Zoning Bylaw amendment process.

Options

1. Prepare and publicize educational material regarding the keeping of honeybees and chicken in urban areas and conduct a public opinion survey on these issues for Council's information.
2. Do not consider any amendments regarding regulations for the keeping of honeybees and chickens in the City of Port Alberni.

Recommendations

1. *That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to prepare educational material on the keeping of honeybees and chickens on urban sized residential properties.*
2. *That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to conduct an opinion survey on the keeping of honeybees and chickens.*

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Smith, MCIP
City Planner



539 Seaward Way,
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1T8

June 21, 2012

Mayor, John Douglas and Council
4850 Argyle Street
City of Port Alberni

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Backyard Chickens and Honeybees

Since 2004, Bear Smart BC has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Environment to reduce human-wildlife conflict in local communities. Bear Smart BC prepares professional correspondence with Municipal and Regional representatives and coordinates the administrative details of implementing wildlife management strategies. Bear Smart BC has achieved a high level of success in communications and teamwork with Municipalities, Ministry of Environments Officials and other integral partners receiving a Premier's Award for Excellence in 2008.

We share the concern of City Administrators that backyard chickens and honeybees may lead to an increase in human-bear and human-cougar conflict placing further risk to the security and safety of local residents. We also acknowledge the sensitive nature of this topic as Port Alberni moves towards local food sustainability and Bear Smart Community Status.

Should the proposal move to Council adoption, Bear Smart BC can assist the City with developing effective bylaw guidelines as well as public education strategies to promote best practices for urban agriculture.

1. Develop regulations in the appropriate bylaw that chicken coops and beehives must be protected from access by dangerous wildlife.
2. Develop a monitoring system to identify bear and cougar activity
3. Implement a community survey system to identify ways to gain voluntary compliance to wildlife safety initiatives. Partake in the development of recommendations based on the results of the community survey.
4. Funding the development of the "Bear Smart" education materials to include effective ways to protect chicken coops and beehives from wildlife i.e. electric fencing.
5. Funneling education materials through utility bills, development permits, City brochures, City newsletters, City website and media correspondence.

Thank you for your consideration to proactively manage public safety and wildlife stewardship in your community,

Regards,

Crystal McMillan MA
Executive Director, Bear Smart BC
250-951-9453

Christina Brack
Communications Director, Bear Smart BC
250-723-9200



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

City Hall Planning Department

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Survey Total = 553 responses

Chickens

1. Are you in favour of allowing the keeping of chickens on residential properties in the City of Port Alberni.	Yes	No
	346	203

2. If Yes, how many chickens should be allowed?	Under 4	4-10	Over 10
	79	241	23

3. What setback from property lines should be required?	None	.6 metre	1 m
Rear yard – 15-20 metres from any residence	17	2	33
2 metres – for “open air” fence. No setback if enclosed coop or solid, no gap, fence.			
Backyard with alleyway – 1 metre	1.2 m	1.5 m	1.8 m
3 metres and adequate fencing to stop them from wandering into neighbours yards. Bylaws should be similar to those for pets in that the owner needs to take responsibility for their animals.	7	14	1
Zero from back lane, 3 metres from neighbor			
1 metre along adjacent house property boundaries. 10 m from main streets and 0 m along alleyway. This would ensure that chickens were kept in people’s backyards.	2 m	2.4 m	3 m
1 metre setback would be sufficient unless the property was on an alley, in which case no setback should be necessary	13	2	36
1.2 m for side and rear property lines, and 6 m from the front property line			
Can be against back alley fence or at least 5 feet from other fence line. Backyard only.	4.6 m	5 m	6 m
Backyard only	7	6	4
No concern with this... should be contained by appropriate fencing			
Owner’s discretion	7.6 m	10 m	12 m
Shouldn’t matter	5	4	1
As long as they are in the backyard			
As I expect chickens and bees to be placed in backyards rather than close to busy streets, I don’t feel that setbacks are helpful or necessary	15 m	30 m	1-2 m
Makes little difference to me if a decent fence is in place	5	1	3
Rear of yard – 3 m from any neighbor			
None on the back, 2.4 m from the sides	1.5-3 m	2-4 m	2-5 m
I would take advice from similar sized municipalities	1	1	1
If no near neighbours, why restrict placement?			
Same as house	2.5-3 m	5-10 m	10-15 m
What has worked in other communities such as Victoria?	2	2	2
Normal set back			
Centrally-located – wire-caged area			
Same as defined by other cities			
Backyard – 6 m from property line			

Depends on the lot size. I would be happy with knowing the enclosure or run could in no way be attached or have use of neighbouring fence requiring a walkway between neighbouring fence and enclosure.			
3 metres for any composting of manure			
Why a set back? Viewing allows interaction of neighbours.			
Backyard			
Keep penned up			
Normal with current bylaws re: yardspace			
Minimum			
As in most other communities with similar property sizes			
Standard/minimum			
Same building code for new construction as indicated in this note.			
Depending on lot size and number of chickens, from 1-3 metres reasonably suited to lot size			
As far back from the neighbours as possible			
Non-issue			
Depends on the lot			
Discuss with neighbours			
Someone with a big yard			
Not sure			
As far away from neighbours as possible			
Same – no change			
If the yard is fenced none to .6m			
Not sure about this, but maybe about 2-3m, depending on the size of the yard			
A proper chicken coop should be fine			
Defer to City employees' recommendations			
Depends upon barriers, like fences or hedges. Stringent setback regulations may prevent some people from having chickens. I think what's more important than setback is having a yard, chicken run and coop which are designed so as to deter predators. With a little research (internet is great) this is easily accomplished.			
Doesn't matter to me			
Not sure, but as long as they have a place to be contained and are not annoying to the neighbor			
Same as for sheds, garages, etc.			
As proposed			
Within your own property line			
Far enough from other houses because of smell			
As determined by City staff			
Sides and back 1.5m, front 7m			

Comments:

Rules on waste (toxic)
I think it's a good idea
Great idea
Chickens, not roosters
They must be allowed to have free range – so they can't just be in a cage, there has to be some way for them to have some range space, and also shade
Although I am in favour of some people keeping chickens, by nature chickens attract predators like raccoons, cougars

and bears
Need to be kept off the roads
No roosters
I think this is an excellent idea! I think the biggest concern is making sure the chickens aren't running around the city, so persons who have chickens on their property should have a fence or an area for them to be kept away
It's about time!!! Finally PA is getting with the times!!!
They are great and quiet and wonderful!
This would be such a progressive initiative for Port Alberni to ensure that our town is sustainable in local, low cost and quality food production!
Should not be able to run freely in residents yard. Must have proper enclosure/run for the chickens to run in.
Great idea, especially in a low income community. Roosters aren't that noisy. People/cards and alarms/dogs etc. can be noisier.
No roosters
Should be kept from getting on the roads causing a hazard
Bigger properties should be able to have more, smaller – less.
Must not adjoin neighbours' fences (separate from existing regular fence) enclosure
Cleanliness of course being important to deter rats, and smell
No roosters. Ask 3 closest neighbours for written consent
I think there should be some inspection of cages/coops to ensure that chickens are being housed safely and cared for in a humane manner
Hens good, no roosters! You don't need roosters to have eggs. You should've explained this to most uneducated people.
No roosters
As a general guideline, governments should obstruct the activities of property owners as little as possible
I think it is a great idea, would love to have a few in my yard
Chickens a wonderful walking, fertilizing, bug-eating yard companion. I look forward to being able to have a few!
They are smart and totally fit into healthy living. Easy to raise and a great learning tool for kids
No roosters in the city! Hens – laying chickens ok. Most people think chickens means noisy roosters. You should explain that eggs doesn't mean or need roosters
Hens ok! No Roosters!
In this current situation we should be doing everything possible to encourage home food production and I and my husband are more than willing to listen to clucking chickens – better than yappy little dogs and drunken louts on the street. At least you can eat the chicken that gets too loud.
Valuable for food production
City should also provide some basic regulations around the structure required to house the chickens
No roosters
I am very happy to see that this is being considered what with the rising costs of food and the growing concern for sustainability and food safety
I think it is a fabulous idea
No roosters. I would like to have a few chickens and hope the bylaw is passed in favor of allowing them
Keep in clean and tidy. No roosters. Need chicken pen to be safe.
Please support backyard chickens. Important for food security, and composting and gardening.
Allow for temporary increase in numbers (max. 6 chickens under 8 weeks of age) for a hen hatching eggs. This would allow serious hobbyists to buy small clutches of hatching eggs from breeders of rare or unusual breeds. Cockerels are unlikely to crow before 8 weeks.
Setback from back alley should be less than one meter
Roosters can be very noisy, especially on weekend mornings! I agree that it is fair to limit them in the city
Great idea
No roosters, enclosure for sure!
A wonderful idea to get food locally, good for environment
It seems like a great idea

No roosters
I'm ok with it as long as bylaws are in place – and enforced – to keep chickens from being a nuisance and a health hazard to neighbours. Fencing should be required, as well as visual barriers eg. Solid fencing or hedge. Bylaws should be enacted regarding cleanliness and health. Neighbours should not have to put up with the odor and mess from ill-kept chicken coops, nor with escaped chickens running around loose in other peoples' yards or in the street. Chicken coops should be licensed, with annual fees to help with cost of enforcement. There should also be annual inspections to make sure regulations are being followed. Repeated violations should result in confiscation of chickens and ban from person owning any more. Maximum number should be geared to size of property, eg. Fewer chickens in a small yard. Chickens should be restricted to back yards.
As long as the chicken waste is being cleaned properly I don't see an issue
Must ensure that they are properly cared for
A good idea – fresh eggs and they will reduce the amount of food waste going into the garbage
The bylaw should include provisions against excessive noise and especially smell
No roosters
My family kept chickens and honeybee hives on rural property within the city for years with no neighbourly issues
Regarding #'s, more choice. I'd favour 6 but certainly not 10. If every home were to have 10, wow ... what a noise. There should be a requirement for being sheltered at night (dark). Somewhere away from feral cats, raccoons and such. Chickens should have some free run, I would not support caged all the time whatsoever. That would change my support of the idea.
Area must not be an eyesore
Must fit in with neighbourhood
They provide a sustainable food source and are fun to raise and learn with your family
Important for healthy food
No roosters, must be cleaned regularly
Definitely agree with no roosters. Education should be provided regarding dangers to chickens including raccoon and dog proof enclosures
It's ok as long as the noise is minimal and no roosters!
This is a very sustainable thing to do
Excellent. Clean food!
They are useful, fun, provide compost and most of all, eggs that are healthy, and fresh
They do no harm and environmentally friendly. They convert scraps to fertilizer and produce healthy fresh eggs. It is a win – win.
Must be contained on property
Should be yearly inspection of chicken coop re condition of hens/properly cleaned coops/adherence to city bylaws re this subject
The pen and coop should have solid walls facing the sideyards
No roosters
Certain areas of the city have quite a large raccoon population. This may cause issues.
Rooster crowing
They must be taken care of, have adequate protection, food and water
I don't understand why people haven't been allowed to keep them. Possibly some information as to why the bylaw was initially instilled would help educate people.
Free run within an enclosed area (including wire or other cover) is preferable to restriction to a very small space. They should be kept inside a secure coop at night to discourage predators. The coops need to be maintained to a proper standard of cleanliness. With these conditions met, I completely support people who want to keep chickens within city limits.
Chickens are wonderful! More people should have them inside the city limits!
As long as the manure is cleaned up, and not causing a stink for the neighbours, especially in summertime
Allowing chickens is a forward thinking sustainable idea that Port Alberni must adopt!
Cleanliness must be of the same standards that SPCA applies to dogs and cats. Chickens at large should be dealt with the same way that the SPCA deals with dogs at large.
Empower bylaw officer to fine for neglect – ban resident from owning chickens that are neglected. No roosters

I like the idea of being able to have chickens within the city limits.
Urban agriculture is essential for the food security on Vancouver Island's food security crisis. Chickens are crucial to this.
The part of the chicken coop facing a neighbour's property should be a solid wall
I think the amount should be 6 or less and definitely no roosters and people should be given a handout on how to properly keep chickens and how the chicken coop should be
No roosters
4-10 per 60 feet – city lot allow multiples per # of lots. Hire certified bylaw officer paid from permit fees. Enforce bylaws with fines where necessary
Well of course animal abuse is always a concern! Chickens getting loose and running in the streets. People may let their chickens get out of control and have too many roosters. 2 is way too many!
No roosters
Yard must be solidly fenced (5 ft at least)
Chickens should be contained in back yard, not free roaming. If chickens get out and onto road or other yards owner is responsible for the loss. If my dogs hurt/kill a loose chicken in my yard I should not be to blame! No roosters.
I think it's important to give city residents opportunities to manage their own natural, sustainable food sources. I would love to see a trend of responsibly cared for backyard chickens.
Number of laying hens - limit of 4-6. Meat birds 12-15 as some are lost in raising.
Everyone should be allowed to keep chickens for eggs for their family and a little more to sell or give away. A great way to encourage healthy low cost eating for our city's families.
No roosters
No roosters
This, really, comes down to having a healthy community who is self-sustaining. Who can argue with free-range chickens and eggs feeding our families?!
I think every household should have chickens to minimize waste, fertilize gardens and provide local food
Sounds like a great idea, environmentally friendly for food waste (they love it) and a good way to teach our kids about food, as well as an economical solution
Should be contained to their own yard
No roosters allowed
I hope you will get this change in place early enough that chickens can be ordered next spring.
Only if property large enough to accommodate – need proper care and facility
Meat birds should be included with a limit of ten, standard timeline of butchering. Laying hen max of 6 per standard family. Limits on the amounts should result in fines and loss of privilege to prevent a money making venture. Chickens should be required to be in a completely enclosed (covered) enclosure to prevent escape.
chickens should be per range of sq ft of yard (lot size – house size). As this would be hard to measure accurately without a great deal of cost, approximations would be fine. The point is that a 4000 sq ft lot with a house footprint of 1000 sq ft (leaving approx. 3000 sq ft of yard) should have less chickens than a half acre property with a 2000 sq ft house footprint (~19000 sq ft of yard) Something like: < 4000 sq ft yard = 4 chickens, 4000-10000 sq ft = 8 chickens, 10k-30k sq ft = 12 chickens, > 30k sq ft = 20 chickens Chicken coops and runs must be kept in good repair, and if neighbor complains of conditions or smell are validated by unannounced inspection, a warning will be issued. After two warnings separated by 2 weeks each, a third violation will result in the animals being confiscated and auctioned off or destroyed depending on recommendation from a vet
I think this is a step in the right direction
Better than any psychotic rottweilers or pit bulls or any dog that yaps all day. No one is bitten or frightened by a chicken
I can't believe this city is JUST starting to do this. It's time PA joins the 21 st century.
Absolutely, great idea. Glad the city is finally considering this. Most municipalities in US/Canada allow some urban chickens/bees.
I think it's about time! I'm 100% for it.
It should be permitted with licensing. It should be mandatory that every person wanting to keep chickens take and pass an accredited course endorsed by the city, for the care and maintenance of the animals and their housing/cages. A contract should be signed with every person who wished to keep chickens and the City and SPCA to have the right to inspect, with unannounced spot checks at any time to ensure there is no neglect or abuse. As well, at the time of controversy with the neighbours, mediation is available and a panel has the right to take privileges away (keeping

chickens). As well, there should be a temporary permit for a one year trial basis that can be revoked at any time based on the discretion of the City/SPCA based on the person's ability to properly care/maintain the animals and their housing.
On one hand the City is attempting to be Bear Aware, yet the keeping of chickens and bees seems to be at odds with this. The bears will be attracted to the scent of the feed and become problematic, just as they are with garbage left out. Also rats could become a problem as well as raccoons.
Chickens smell. Chickens attract rats. If people want to keep chickens they should be living outside city limits. This is one of the reasons I bought a house inside city limits. I will seriously consider living elsewhere if the City allows people in city limits to keep farm animals.
Reason for NO: concern of structures; appearance, cleanliness surrounding area, smell of not kept clean
Possibility to attract bears
Electric fencing is strongly recommended to deter predators, feed must be secured as to not be accessible to pests, scavengers and wildlife
Meant for farms, hobby farms
I grew up on a farm with over 200 chickens ... I know they like to have lots of room to run around. They belong on farms.
It's not so much about the keeping of chickens, it's more about the associated disputes that will be caused. Chickens can breed uncleanliness of yards, more so than they are now. Apparently people, if they don't like the rules of the City, move to the rural settings, where houses are a lot further apart. Chickens can bring unwanted and unwarranted rodents and other animals to an area.
Not allowed!
Draw rats and raccoons!! Already too many in town
They should be kept on farms.
Regardless of how many chickens are allowed, there will be an unpleasant odour. My mother raised chickens when I was a child, never more than 10. The smell of the chicken coop was very unpleasant. It was kept at the back of our rural property of 2 acres. The food attracts rats and raccoons. The chickens themselves attract raccoons. Raccoons break through wire fencing to get to the chickens. Chickens belong on rural properties (like the one where I grew up), not on City properties. There's also the problem of the City trying to monitor what people are doing, especially if they have no experience with raising chickens. I could see the SPCA having to get involved in several case a year.
Only in rural areas
No roosters!! Chickens attract other animals (predators) which are considered a nuisance in residential areas. Move to the country if you wish to do country living.
They stink if aren't cleaned daily
Chickens belong in the country and should be checked to see if they are well cared for
On behalf of my husband and myself we are not in favor of this proposal. If we wanted the smell and sound of rural life we would live out of the city. We live on 4 th Avenue and had a neighbor on the street raising chickens followed by two goats, all of which are now gone. We did notice that the run-off from his lawn where these animals were kept came right across the sidewalk. The pen the chickens were in at first was very nice but with so many birds they were in constant slop and manure. We have enough abused animals in this town without adding farm animals. When they are no longer wanted they will most likely be released wherever and also attract larger predators such as cougars into city limits. We really feel the SPCA has enough to deal with, let's not add fuel to an ever-burning fire.
Chickens belong in rural areas like Beaver and Cherry Creek
Sorry but they do attract rats, mice and raccoons. I had neighbours in Ucluelet that had chickens. I belonged to 4-H poultry club years ago. If you want chickens, move to the country.
Move to the country
Are you kidding? It's the city not the country. We are trying to develop the City not move backwards.
The idea of having chickens within city limits is just totally ridiculous. I would not want to be sitting on my patio to enjoy dinner, etc. and be smelling chicken droppings, and how do you plan on policing how many chickens people would have? Would you send out bylaw officers to count chickens at taxpayer's expense? If Port Alberni wants to be a city and not a hamlet, then Council should act like a city.
Chickens belong on farms not in residential areas or rural settings with at least ½ acre of property. Our housing prices are sinking more and more and I don't think having chicken coops in the backyard will enhance the sales value of one's house! Plus I feel they would attract predators such as cougars, bears, raccoons etc. and RATS!
You want chickens, move to the country

No chickens allowed within city limits, regardless of who is trying to apply pressure on current Council, in short purchase your city eggs from a retail outlet or drive to outlets outside the city!
Rural only
Chickens are noisy and will create problems with neighbours. If you want chickens move outside the city limits – lots are too small in town. Only suggestion is they could be allowed with minimum lot size, say half acre or so.
Immediate neighbours should be able to veto, there is sufficient outskirt farm worth property available to raise chickens in. If someone plans on chickens they should be living in those areas.
If people want chickens, they should live in the country where they are welcome!
Depending on the number of chickens they can be noisy even without a rooster. Also chickens can develop diseases and what then to do with a diseased chicken?
Chicken food spilled will bring rats and other rodents
Chicken feed attracts rats, mice, raccoons and birds. Our area of town already has a very big population of raccoon, and we do not put any kind of food out.
With chickens it brings rats
Afraid of the noise
With the new garbage cans, it should help to keep the bears away from our homes, so why would we want to bring in chickens for them to eat? Also, we have enough raccoons in the city now without adding chickens.
Chickens should be kept on farms outside of residential neighbourhoods. It is very annoying to have to listen to them laying eggs several times a day.
Our town is looking unkempt and is a disgrace compared to our neighbouring communities, let's not make it any worse by having chicken shacks everywhere. Maybe send a delegation to Qualicum, Parksville, Courtenay and Campbell River to see how they budget for beautification of their cities.
No to chicken and other livestock ... they attract rats, perhaps bears also
Noisy, smelly
Chickens should be on a farm. It will bring predators around and could be a hazard. If you want to farm, buy a farm.
I grew up on a chicken farm. Where there are chickens there will always be rats, noise, smells – and their presence will attract small predators like raccoons, and larger ones like wolves and cougars.
Chickens should be on farmland or acreage property, not in residential areas
Residential areas should have people as residents, not chickens. People live in the City to avoid animals. There are enough problems with dogs in the City and not many respect the bylaw of picking up after their dog.
No chickens they smell it's smell a off in town here.
They are too smelly ... I lived beside a place that had chickens previously and it was unbearable... especially in the summer time ... I wouldn't like it again ...
At a time when we as residents have to contend with roaming dogs and cats – wildlife getting into our yards, sheds, garbage, compost etc. – how much more trouble and discomfort must we be subjected to. I know first-hand how noisy and smelly chickens are. Keep them in rural settings.
Chickens belong on a farm
Roosters at 5am? No Way!
This is supposed to be a City for human beings – not a barnyard!
Strongly against keeping chickens on residential property in PA, city limits. Will attract bears/cougars/dogs to pens, especially greenbelt access. Free range products sold locally already, giving "true farmers" much needed livelihood. "Hobby farmers"/teaching children responsibility via chickens in pens should NOT BE ALLOWED on residential properties in city limits. We chose to live within city limits for a reason, including City bylaw, green space etc.
They should be kept in the country, outside city limits. What about the waste in people's yards? Attraction of rats and other unwelcome pests? What about disease control? Avian flu? Who will monitor all of this? I just don't see it being a healthy choice for city limits. People don't even clean up their yards with one dog or cat. Imagine what a yard full of chickens will look and smell like. I think you are just asking for trouble.
They are noisy and smelly and attract flies
Along with chickens we now have six ducks wandering around the neighbourhood. People seem to push the limits.
I think chickens in city limits okay on properties of 1 acre or more and then only 4-8 birds.
Who would monitor the health issues, selling of eggs, storage of chicken feed, disposal of chicken waste? There are lots of concerns re smell, attraction of wildlife, rats etc.

There are enough problems with people not looking after their dogs and cats, chickens belong on a farm in the country. I think this is an excellent option that allows residents to produce and eat locally, as well as an excellent educational tool.
No roosters
Must be free range confined to rear yard. Coop kept clean and free of lice. Coop must be protected against predators. Chickens should be fed grain, fresh water and whatever else is proper for them to eat.
Fresh eggs
Should be kept penned not running free
Keep clean
No killing chickens. That is not right!
No roosters
Valuable for food production
Strict bylaws on cleanliness/noise/quality of life for chickens should be enforced. I completely encourage this – if Victoria can do this then Port Alberni should too
No roosters. There are many benefits to keeping chickens. Fresh eggs, fertilizer. The many benefits of animal husbandry.
Main issue is treatment of chicken manure. It can be great for gardens but it must be handled properly or smell! Secondly, BEAR AWARE with chickens – structures must be bear proof!
To be contained in rear yards only and no roosters allowed
Wonderful, productive pets
No artificial light emitting from enclosure/hutch. No odours. No roosters. Must be enclosed in rear yards only.
No roosters. Hens should be provided with appropriate predator-proof housing. City of Vancouver guidelines re square footage requirements should be followed.
Should be kept in a sanitary manner.
No roosters
Keep them in backyard (not front)
Great idea it would need to be monitored as not to devalue other properties. Chickens do smell and would affect asthma sufferers. Larger lot should be able to have more chickens as opposed to smaller lots like the 3 rd Avenue areas.
Raising chickens or rabbits should apply only to those having a large lot.
So useful
1 rooster per 10 hens
Progressive, forward-thinking step towards sustainability food and fertilizer
Must be kept in a confined pen area to keep them within their own yards
I worry about whether or not this would encourage mice or other animals to visit if the neighbours did not keep up with clean up after these chickens. But I still think it would be great if people could have fresh eggs.
These are not domestic animals
I feel that keeping chickens in yards will bring the property values for surrounding homes down. It would most likely be messy looking and smell.
No – No – No What do they do with the manure – they draw rats. The bears and raccoons will come for dinner.
Invitation for cougars!
People should live in the country.
If we allow chickens then what stops people from having any type of barnyard animal. Other concerns are smell, disease, waste, predators (ie. Cougars) and lower property values in a town that already suffer from low property value. Chickens are meant to be free range on a farm not in coops in the middle of the city.
I am not against the keeping of chickens, but they should be on larger lots outside of condensed residential boundaries, to cut down on noise and attraction of rats.
Chickens attract and bring bears, cougars and raccoons to all city properties.
The strong smell of chicken droppings. Some people will exceed the amount of chickens allowed. Chickens will add to the problem of attraction of bears which could lead to more bears being shot, also increase the raccoon problem which is already bad. What will be next in the City? Pigs?
When a hen lays an egg they cackle loudly in celebration or astonishment – in either case they can be heard at least a block away usually early in the morning! Grain for chickens – either in pens or free range is an open invitation for rats! I

raised chickens for years in my youth.
I have the following concerns: nuisances such as odours and noise. Animal Health and Public Health – poultry can be a source of disease and require health management and veterinary care as well as basic biosecurity measures to minimize the occurrence and spread of disease. Attraction of predators and pests such as rodents, flies, stray dogs, raccoons. Trespassing – chickens at large. Food Safety – unregulated sale of eggs, slaughter of animals and disposal of dead animals. Animal Care – poultry need proper shelter, water and adequate space to stay healthy. Manure must be disposed of in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.
Attract cougars!
If one would like livestock, move to the country
Please keep chickens out in the country where they belong. We have enough problems with dogs in the city! People are not responsible pet owners.
The person next door to us has had them for a year and a half and the smell and noise is not something we signed up for to live next door. Outside city limits I have no problem with, but in city limits it could just turn into a big problem that the bylaw enforcer doesn't have the time to deal with.
Chickens must be kept in owner's property at all times and all coops should have to be well built, predator proof and inspected. Then there's the issue of the cleanliness of the coops if the owners don't keep up on regular cleaning which the smell could be very offensive to neighbouring houses with prevailing winds. We have to take into consideration all the irresponsible pet owners that are already in the valley which already burdened our SPCA so how are we going to cope when half the town gets into backyard chickens and they start getting out and running wild. Like on the farms when you have animals they will draw in more predators of all sorts so keeping a clean coop is very important and in order to do that you have to have a concrete floor so the coop can be properly cleaned and disinfected if need be to keep down offensive odours as well as disease as chickens tend to be susceptible to various diseases if not cared for properly. Then there is the issue of when the chickens quit laying eggs and people don't have that part figured out or don't have the heart or skills to turn into dinner. We're all for being more self-sufficient but does the general public have responsibility to be able to achieve this and keep harmonious living between neighbours, we don't think so. As much as we love the idea and would probably like to get a couple ourselves, we believe the bad apples will outweigh the good ones like wood burners so we have to vote NO.
No roosters
Backyard, close to property line (backlane)
No roosters
As long as the coops and runs are kept clean I see no problem in having chickens in yards
Keep excrement within chicken enclosure. Chicken feed kept in animal proof containers (ie. Raccoons, dogs, bears etc.)
Good idea
Yes. Chicken coops should be secured from dogs, bears, etc. They may require an electric fence it in a neighbourhood where bears are known to frequent. People should be knowledgeable about the care of chickens.
Chickens are great bug control (slugs, woodbugs etc.) They are calm and quieter than most people's dogs. They provide a great source of nutrition, at a substantial savings compared to store prices. They provide nutrients to the garden via their waste. In a properly prepared yard, they do not attract predators.
I would like to be able to keep a few egg laying chickens one day.
Neighbours should be agreeable, no roosters. If the chickens are being neglected or unkempt then some contract number to have those issues addressed. I choose 4 to 10, but I think 4 to 6 is appropriate.
Within your own property line.
Great family project – old-time values worth holding onto, in this case.
Everyone should have the right and opportunity to raise chickens for egg production and for meat, in these days of economic recession, especially. Families should have freedom to provide for themselves as best they can, in ways that suit them, as long as causing no harm to others, or to the chickens. Provide health and safety info (for the chickens themselves) to avoid cruelty (by lack of proper knowledge). Organic methods must be the rule, for the safety of the community.
No roosters please
Hens only
No roosters
People should be able to complain and have follow-up by the City if people are keeping their birds in an unhygienic way,

or cruel.
No roosters!
Knowledge of the keeping of these chickens is essential therefore tests or accountability must be monitored.
Owner be required to handle manure in such a way as to suppress odour – especially in warm weather.
Must be contained in a proper pen.
No roosters
Should only be on double lots or larger pieces of property and in the more “rural” part of the city (on the edge of greenspace as well)
As long as there are no roosters and the chickens are egg layers only it should be fine
Chickens eat plant and animal pests. More chickens ban herbicides and pesticides.
They should be allowed along fences for shade purposes but kept away from neighbours’ houses.
Owners must be diligent in keeping chicken coops clean. No more than 6 chickens per property (depends on the size of the property).
Keep on own property. Droppings for fertilizer
Should have large enough area for the animals needs/comfort. Proper neatness should be required. Animal authorities should be included in discussion.
Never lived where chickens lived so don’t know of problems with noise or smell so may change my mind!!
The number of chickens should reflect the size of the yard. Small yard = 2-4 chickens – my plan is to get two chickens once the bylaw is passed.
No roosters
Encouraging citizens to grow and raise their own food – plant and animal – is an important step in developing community resiliency.
No roosters. Is there any data on bird flu with small flocks of chickens?
No noisy roosters please!
No roosters
No roosters (rear yard)
No roosters
Great idea!
No roosters!
If complaints, inspection needed by city re cleanliness
Chickens stink unless coops are kept clean. How would that be enforced?
On farms ok but not in city
Under 4 on a single lot, 4-10 on a double lot
Large area

Bees:

	Yes	No
1. Are you in favour of allowing the keeping of bees on residential properties in the City of Port Alberni.	366	175

2. If Yes, how many bee hives should be allowed?	1	2 - 4	Other number
	138	207	Yes
			Yes
			8
			More
			6
			6
			Yes
			Yes
			Yes
			Yes
			As many as possible
			8
			10
			6
			Yes

3. What setback from property lines should be required?	None	1 metre	1.5 m
Not sure but it needs to be safe distance from kids and pets	14	24	7
Same building code for new construction as indicated in this note			
I feel 3.5 m from the property line should be sufficient. I know the bees need a clear flight path and that might be difficult with restrictive positioning requirements.	2 m 14	3 m 32	4.6 m 6
Depends on lot size. I would be satisfied with a walkway between neighbouring fence/property line.	5 m 14	6 m 11	7.6 m 23
I'd like to see a minimum lot size			
Whatever distance is appropriate for the safety and security of the neighbours			
What has worked in the past			
1 m along adjacent house property boundaries. 10 m from main streets and 0 m along alleyways	9 m 1	10 m 6	12 m 1
Same as house			
I would take advice of similar sized communities	15.2 m 5	30.5 m 1	
Unsure			
Backyard with alleyway: 1m			
Don't know, but well within yard or against garage or other structure	1-2 m 1	2-5 m 3	3-6 m 4
Don't know			
I don't know but it should be based on range of bees. Neighbours who are allergic to bees or who have children allergic to bees should not have to put with bee hives right up against their property, or close enough to cause them problems. Because bees have a certain range I think there should be restrictions on size of property required, eg. the yard should be big enough to allow for normal movement of bees without nuisance or health hazard to neighbours. Number of hives should be based on size of property. Hives should be restricted to back yards.	5-8 m 5	5-10 m 1	15-20 m 1

I am not concerned with bees near my own property. I suppose others who have concerns should decide this.			
I am unsure of the details surrounding beekeeping, so I can't comment on setback.			
Don't be ridiculous same answer as the chickens also get over the rule about backyards it is needlessly prohibitive.			
No idea			
Normal			
Varies by lot characteristics			
None on the back, 2.4 m from the sides			
I know very little about honeybees' habits so I have no idea			
Keep it to the backyard			
Backyard only			
Standard/minimum			
Minimum			
Same as current bylaws re: yardspace			
Not sure			
As in most other communities with similar property sizes			
Same as other cities			
Not sure			
As far away from neighbours as possible			
Depends on the lot			
Not crucial but not adjacent to schools or playgrounds			
I'm sure one of several, highly paid, engineers can figure that out!			
Should be discussed with your neighbours			
Not sure			
At least 31 m from property line. 1 bee colony can produce more than 100lbs of honey and contain 30,000 bees!			
Should be kept as far away as possible from neighbouring properties			
Max % of width – say 40%			
Same – no change			
Not sure			
As proposed			
Defer to City employees' recommendations			
Should be by permit with notification to neighbours as there may be someone with a severe allergy nearby			
The front of the hive with the bee's entrance generally aligns with the flight path; allow 3-6m for this side. The other 3 sides need only 1-1.5m			
As determined by City staff			
Within property lines			
Doesn't matter to me			
Not so much. Doesn't really matter, I don't think.			
Property lines similar to other island towns.			
Same as for sheds, garages etc.			
Very back of yard.			

Comments:

The number of hives should be based on lot size.
Hire certified bylaw officer paid from permit fees. Enforce bylaws with fines where necessary.
Bear/dog proof barrier.
Proper care.
We moved into a house that had a hive. We had to take down our hedge to eliminate the bees frightening the mail and paper carriers. Actually, the bees never bothered us at all!
I don't understand why people haven't been allowed to keep them. Possibly some information as to why the bylaw was initially instilled would help educate people. Would also help combat the continuing disappearance of bees.
Will improve fruit production for everyone!
Please support bees, bee populations are down and all gardens benefit from these important pollinators.
Must not be an eye sore.
We need more of them on earth. Our fruit trees gave us virtually nothing last year. I can't imagine commercial farms.
Fully support the encouragement of small scale backyard hobby farming to help deal with food security issues.
Backyard.
I said yes but I'm not sure . . . worried about problem with bears, also people with bee sting allergies. My parents had bees when I was young and I did get stung a few times though the hives were about 100 – 200 feet from the house.
Not to be allowed with rental houses – same with chickens.
Only people that have taken a bee keeping workshop should be eligible to have bees on residential properties.
Some concerns, attraction to bears?
I think it's a good idea for people to produce food at home provided we are responsible and considerate.

Urban agriculture is essential for the food security on Vancouver Island's food security crisis. Bees (pollinators) are crucial to this.
Bees are dying off and we need them, this will help to keep up population which is important for pollination etc.
This needs to be highly promoted, as pollinators are in drastic decline. It's better to have many small hives spread across the city than a few large collections for full coverage.
I would just worry about children and teens being intrigued by them and trying to go near them all the time or throwing rocks or damaging them if they were more common on properties.
I would suggest keeping two houses (24 each) of mason bees for flower needs.
Had hives next door at one time and then sting.
Bees should not be kept in residential areas.
There are enough bees out there that I have to avoid. I am very allergic to bee stings and I could die if stung.
I feel that bees belong in fresh clean air with lots of natural foods for them to do their best work. Our city lots are not large enough to house bee hives and as much talk as there is about going green pollination are higher in residential areas – plus putting children and adults at risk of being stung and having adverse effects.
Move to a farm.
Support retail outlets to purchase the required family requirements, don't bring the farm into the city or turn the city into farm land!
Again city not country!!!
Move to the country.
I am allergic to bees.
Bees do not belong in residential neighbourhoods due to their swarming habits and other dangers.
We feel there is no logical reason to allow hives to be kept in city limits. The general public has no knowledge of what it takes look after hives or any other livestock. You will have neighbours who perhaps don't get along using bee hives and chickens to annoy each other. Some of the city lots are very narrow and I can't see anyone waiting hives beside their fences. Bees don't read keep out signs and neither do bears (who are already in town after fruit that the city does not make people remove). We understand some people wanting to grow their own food supply, but it really should be a garden. Please remember these ideas come attached to living creatures that don't need to be abused by people who will quickly become bored or realize just how much work is involved.
Only in rural areas.
Bees belong on rural properties. Honey bees are actually not an indigenous bee. We already have indigenous bees such as bumble bees and mason bees which are very active in pollination. If people want bees, they should attract mason

bees to their property. They are harmless. A honey bee sting may cause a serious allergic reaction. Also, bees do not remain confined to the boundaries of a city yard. I believe the neighbours will inevitably have problems. Bees hives do not belong in cities.
Too many allergic reactions if stung!
Not allowed!
Very allergic, so no.
4 blocks from city residents.
Same recommendations as chickens – electric fencing is strongly recommended to deter predators, feed must be secured as to not be accessible to pests, scavengers and wildlife.
Possibility of bee stings, should be regulated and kept on acreage.
Honeybees are great to have but they swarm when multiplying and can be difficult to contain. Also the smell of honey will attract bears.
One bee sting could kill someone! Bees and their honey attract bears. If people want to keep bees they should be living outside city limits. I moved here with the intent of retiring in a town not a hobby farm which is how Port Alberni will look and smell if you allow people to turn their residential properties into hobby farms. Port Alberni cannot even endorse the bylaws it has now let alone chicken bylaws. Whatever happened to the idea of beautifying Port Alberni? This town could be a gold mine once more with retirees from the Mainland.
Beekeeping within city limits seems to be at cross purposes with the Bear Aware Program. Perhaps if there was a bylaw that the hives were situated behind electric bear-proof fencing so that the bears would not become habituated I would be in favor.
Too much risk of stings
A sweet plan
I think mason bees are best. They pollinate the blossoms of our fruit and veggies, they do not sting.
Awareness of poison – relationship. R. leteum - collecting from this plant creates toxic honey
Need bees for fruit trees
Honeybees are critical pollinators and we depend on them (and others) for the food that we grow. An excellent movie to watch about this is called “Queen of the Sun”. This would be another really important move for Port Alberni food sustainability. Good work on Council for creating this survey!
Benefit nearby areas in pollination. Minimal disturbance to residential areas.
Complaints of allergies within a 2-block radius means you cannot have bees
Note locations of private hives on city website, so those with severe allergies to stings can avoid them. Hives are not always readily visible.
Should look into if it would attract more bears and what should be done to minimize this
Wonderful idea
Ask 3 closest neighbours for written consent
<u>BC Celebrates Day of the Honeybee</u> VICTORIA: Honeybees may be tiny creatures, but their work has a big \$200million impact on farming in BC. That’s why the Province is declaring May 29 Day of the Honey Bee in BC, announced Minister of Agriculture Don McRae today in the Legislature. Honeybees have been an important part of BC agriculture since they were introduced to the Americas by European settlers hundreds of years ago. Today, honeybee colonies remain critical to many of the crops BC rely on for food, such as tree fruit, berries, and canola, and their impact on the economy is impressive: 1. Approximately \$200 million in agricultural production is dependent on honeybee pollination every year in this province. Across North America that number rises to \$16 billion per year. 2. An estimated 30,000 honeybee colonies are contracted to pollinate food crops on BC farms every growing season. 3. Pollination activities are worth approx. \$2.4 million annually to BC beekeepers.

Day of the Honey Bee recognizes how beekeepers and the Province are working together to continue to improve agricultural production and stabilize the agriculture industry. It also acknowledges beekeepers' efforts to protect their colonies from environmental conditions and diseases that can affect honeybees.

Communities and provinces across Canada celebrate Day of the Honey Bee on May 29 each year in tribute to a famous beekeeper in history. On May 29, 1953 New Zealand beekeeper and mountaineer Sir Edmund Hilary became the first known climber to reach the summit of Mount Everest on the Nepal-Tibet border.

Quotes:

Minister of Agriculture Don McRae:

"The Province recognizes that beekeepers are indispensable to BC's agriculture industries, whether they're looking after large commercial operations or backyard colonies. Our ministry, Animal Health Lab, and bee specialists are committed to working with apiculturalists across the province, so honeybees can continue to fulfill their crucial role in farming."

BC Honey Producers Association second vice president Barry Denluck:

"Although mankind has kept bees for thousands of years we have not tamed them. With increased knowledge we can learn to live alongside all wildlife. The BCHPA is proud to support Day of the Honey Bee initiated by Clinton Shane Ekdahl of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 2009. Beekeepers will be sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge of honey bees at venues all across the province this weekend."

Learn More: <http://www.bcbeekeepers.com> <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/apiculture/index.htm>

We need to do all we can to help the honeybees ... especially on Vancouver Island ... there should also be consideration for banning of pesticide use by the City!!

Bees are necessary for so many facets of life and not harmful in any way that I know of

Although I do not necessarily disagree, I have to ask why the need? What is the purpose, what will you do with the honey, and will you be hiring a specialist to work with these bees or is someone in City Hall going to be doing this off the side of their desk?

Property where bees are housed (hives) should have a fence around the area

Honeybees around the world are in serious decline because of unfavorable man-made environmental stress, such as electronics and pollution. I would love to keep bees at home and enjoy fresh, raw, organic honey! Honey is the natural antidote for a bee sting!

Great idea

More the better

They are on the decline worldwide and this is a great way to raise awareness and create more bees

Our honeybees are dying and we need them to help us fertilize plants and trees and for their beautiful honey!

I do agree the number of hives should be determined by the size of property. Perhaps the availability of nearby green spaces would allow additional hives.

Not knowing much about raising bees, I would be concerned of abandoned hives, disease etc. I feel it should be required to obtain a permit or license to raise bees.

I think that if you have a hive you should have to post a warning sign at your property line to alert those who may have allergies

Should only be allowed if immediate neighbours are not allergic to bees

We need the bees for our food

Sounds great to me! It helps with flowering trees and sweetening the Valley!

Conditions should depend how the honeybees would affect neighbours

Limit to one hive

Honeybees are important for pollination. We need to encourage and facilitate their proliferation.

Hives should be restricted to backyards. There needs to be maintenance standards of some kind that should be enforced, with perhaps an annual licensing fee to cover the cost of enforcement.
Free classes sponsored by the City and any other Government in the care and maintenance of hives and coops but otherwise just get on with it and try not to control things too much
This is a great idea
I am all in favor and think it essential to our local food production.
Great idea!!
Absolutely a great idea!
Absolutely, great idea. Glad the City is finally considering this. Most municipalities in US/Canada allow some urban bees.
I can't believe this City is just starting to do this. It's time PA joins the 21 st century.
Beneficial for every tree and garden
Would be a great boost to local backyard agriculture
Another fabulous idea for our City!
When I kept bees the neighbours were delighted with the increased yield from their gardens. The hives fell victim to a garbage bear.
Since some neighbours may be allergic, information and possibly even permission should be granted by neighbours
Bees are one of the most important things in our world and needs to be looked after.
We need more honeybees as they are on the decline in the wild. Honey is delicious and the bees help propagate the wild and cultivated flowers benefitting our natural world.
I think with bees, people should have to take a small seminar on beekeeping.
I feel that bees are endangered and believe we as a race of people world-wide and especially in Port Alberni, should support our bee stocks before the critical loss of bees worldwide affects us on a catastrophic level, namely loss of life in our human population.
A wonderful idea to get food locally, good for environment.
I am so happy to hear that this is being considered. However, not being educated re beekeeping myself, I do encourage that all prospective beekeepers be taught by a professional beekeeper, and earn a certificate as one does for foodsafe, etc. Also that a protective fence (perhaps chickenwire or?) be erected around the hive to keep small pets and children away to prevent harm to either bees, kids, or pets.
Need all the pollination we can get
Plant flowers, etc that encourage the bees to stay around!
Completely support such an initiative. Some research should be done into hive design; I've been told that some are more sanitary and less likely to harbor viruses, but I have no expertise on this
Bees are very sensitive to insecticides and will travel significant distances from their hives. Some study and consideration of pesticide use should be undertaken before bees are allowed. Perhaps a trial with a limited number of hives to begin with.
Another good idea!
I find it really annoying that at the same time we are considering allowing honeybees, we can't generate enough opposition on City Council to oppose smart meters and add our voices to the UBCM call for a moratorium. Electromagnetic frequencies emitted by smart meters are known to kill bees, interfere with their ability to find their hives, and harm foliage and trees.
Also a good idea – production of honey and improving the pollination rate of flowering plants
Not be an eyesore
Immediate neighbours should be able to veto
Depends on lot size. If very large lot (ie. Veterans) number could be larger. Remember, our "food supply" depends on pollination and in the past bees were wiped out to very low numbers with pesticide use (ie. DDT) then we have other problems threatening bees from time to time. The present bee population is much too low.

Bees range about and will help with the pollination in the area around their home base.
I haven't a problem with honeybees. They are nice and aren't aggressive.
Provide honey for sale at local markets.
Would be an advantage to anyone gardening, fruit trees etc.
No bees, no food.
Valuable to fertilize garden plans and fruit.
If you planted lots of flowers and shrubs etc. the bees could pollinate therefore being useful to all and maybe go further with community gardens to help the soup kitchen feed the unfortunate. They could look after the gardens.
Strict bylaws on where bees are purchased. Some Asian varieties carry parasitic mites that can infect our native species. Otherwise I completely support this.
We should do all we can to safeguard and encourage the bees to reside in our community.
Property should have ample "hedge row" surrounding the property to keep pedestrians from inadvertently coming up to a hive without knowing, and all Langstroth type of hives should be painted a color that reflects the shape and size of a hive to prevent humans from inadvertently coming in contact with the hive.
If we lost all of the bees in the world all humans would be dead within 4 years. We need bees to provide the food that we consume. The City should coordinate a user cost beekeeping training session courses and require all new beekeepers to provide a course completion certificate prior to permitting hives on properties. Home ownership should be mandatory ... etc. no renters with beehives.
Honeybees are important pollinators and are needed for the production of fruits.
Backyard only not adjoining another property (ie. must be back lane)
Should only be allowed in the larger city areas such as Upper Burde area, kept away from school areas. Strictly monitored as a lot of people have reactions to bees. Bears need to be considered when areas are applying. Great ideas but if this has to go to an expensive study then it should be cancelled due to financial situation of the City.
Important for pollination of all food that need pollinating, everyone benefits from bees, not just for the honey.
I feel that with the honeybees dying off, everything should be done to promote their viability because the earth needs them and their honey is a wonderful thing.
Visible notice that bees are on the premises
There should be a start-up fee paid to the City and the apiary should be inspected regularly to ensure they are in compliance with regulations.
I like honey just not a fan of honeybees overall. Except the homeland honey is best for the environment.
Out of city limits okay on 1 or more acres
Beekeepers and other types of farming should be kept on farm land. Away from the public. If you have allergies to bees, what then? You have to move from your neighbourhood? At least if they are kept on large acreages etc. then maybe chances of bothering people would be less.
My house does not have screens for windows and I do not want that expense, because my neighbor keeps honeybees. I have allergies to stings as well. So is there a legal liability from honeybees kept within the City limits? What have other cities/townships etc. found from their own past experience?
Again – a rural setting would be more desirable for the keeping of bees. I do not agree with this initiative!
Keep bees out of town.
Bees should be on farm land or acreage property, not in residential areas.
Honeybees are great – but keep away from cities – too many people are allergic to bee stings
They should be kept on a farm or out of residential properties. Residential means residents only.
Should children (or vandals) knock the hive over, could be disastrous for passersby.
This has the potential to be unsafe
Necessary for pollination – farms, food security. Numbers must be built back up – population decimated by Varroa mite
A minimum lot size should be included – eg. 1,000 ft2 perhaps minimum width would be better to allow for significant setback from adjoining lot
I understand that the bees are contained and rarely are released but for those that are allergic it is too high a risk
Any honey produced within city limits would be at high risk of contamination from unknown pollutants and pesticides used on properties where many chemicals are used for purely cosmetic reasons in gardens and yards
The only problem I have with bees is their swarming capabilities. We have had that happen many times over the years and it was difficult to contact someone to take them away

We believe that there is no need for people to have bees in the city limits for a couple reasons. One reason is that we already have a bear problem in the valley due to irresponsible people with garbage and fruit trees that don't get properly cleaned up and disposed of so adding honey hives in town is like adding fuel to the fire and then the bears are going to be the ones that will pay and it'll be with their life so we believe it would not be feasible thing as it will cause too much conflict with the Bear Smart Program. Another issue is that the increase of bees might have an effect on neighbours with phobias or severe allergies which could have an effect on the balance of harmonious living amongst neighbours. In the old days people used to keep hives out in the bush so they could get the fireweed honey and there's still some remains of a cage for honey hives by Bainbridge Lake so maybe they should think old school. So we have to vote no as we believe it would upset what neighbourly balance we have left.
A lot of people are allergic to bee stings
Bees can be dangerous to other when they swarm and move to places where they are not wanted. Bees are also attractive to bears.
I have enough problems with bumble bees, yellow jackets, hornets and cutter bees on my property being close to Weaver Park.
Again another bad idea with cons far outweighing the pros. Many people are allergic . My kids can't bring a peanut butter sandwich to school buy my neighbor can have bee hives. These ideas do not serve the majority. If these ideas are allowed they shall be done so under strict rules and owners need to be aware that if there is an incident there will be consequences.
People should live in the country
Bears love honey!
I am in favour of other people having it, although I wouldn't. My only concern is will the bees stay in that yard? Or is it possible that they will also travel to mine or other yards?
I have no experience in the keeping of honey bees but see no problem having them in yards. People are always afraid of what they don't understand.
Good idea
Great for gardens and honey of course
Pollination of flowers and fruit trees is suffering badly in Port Alberni due to a lack of honeybees – we need all we can get.
Honeybees are very valuable to our environment. We are losing them at an alarming rate. This should be allowed.
Bees are vital to the ecosystem. Chickens are not.
I have two hives in my front yard year the house (in Burnaby). Many kids in the nighbourhood, on both sides and across the street, including our own, play in the yard and pass through. No problems. Neighbours are generally appreciative. Cars parked in the flight path (like mine) may collect small bee droppings over time. These wash off easily. Someone else nearby has eight to ten hives in the yard with four young kids. No problems. Together we collected over 400 lbs of honey and have educated the kids and neighbours. Fewer pesticides in use now, too.
I think it is the responsibility of both the City and beekeepers to inform neighbours of the beehives, and to make sure people know the difference between wasps and bees so people aren't trying to kill the bees all the time.
Again, if in a neighbourhood that's near a bear travel corridor, then electric fencing may be needed. People who do this should be very knowledgeable about honeybees, their care, diseases etc.
As well, the honeybee is becoming endangered and we all have an obligation to ensure their survival. Our life depends on their survival.
Honeybees are excellent pollinators for various fruit trees/bushes, I am totally in favour of this.
Would it be possible for beekeepers to use someone's residential lot other than their own – with permission of property owner? As I certainly would be willing to have 1 hive in my backyard.
Care should be taken to prevent swarming
Should be on double lots or larger pieces of property and in the more "rural" part of the city (edge of greenspace as well)
Rear yard
Annual springtime inspections. No antibiotics
Keepers should have enough flowering plants to sustain their hives, particularly when children live nearby
Hives secure from bears
Reasons for this application shall be reviewed

A notice needs to be posted on the property for all to know in case there is an issue with people getting stung, especially if they have an allergy to bees. Bee stings can be deadly for a person with an allergy to bees.
On farms ok, but not in city
Allergic to bees and all bees become aggressive if provoked eg. Gardening, activity close to hives etc.
Should have large enough area for the bees' needs/comfort. Proper neatness should be required. Animal authorities should be included in discussion.
It would be a good idea to require some basic instruction/certification.
Great idea.
We have fewer bees than we used to, a few more would be welcome. Our fruit trees might produce more!
Encouraging citizens to grow and raise their own food – plant and animal – is an important step in developing community resiliency.
Rear yard.
Set up some sort of association to deal with swarm recovery.