



***Celebrating Municipal Excellence***  
**Nomination Form**

*Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

| Nominee Contact Information  |  |
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| <b>Name of municipality/<br/>municipalities being<br/>nominated:</b><br><small><i>(please include the names of all<br/>partner municipalities)</i></small> | Town of Strasbourg   |
| <b>Contact Name:</b>   | Jennifer Josephson   |
| <b>Telephone #:</b>  | (306) 725-3707   |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b>  | Box 369<br>Strasbourg, SK S0G 4V0                                  |
| <b>E-mail Address:</b>   | <a href="mailto:strasbourg@sasktel.net">strasbourg@sasktel.net</a> |
| <b>Name of Nominated<br/>Practice or Project:</b>  | Urban Hen Pilot Project  |
| <b>Date of Project or<br/>Practice Initiation:</b>   | April 1, 2015  |
| <b>Date of Project or<br/>Practice Completion:</b><br><small><i>(If ongoing, please indicate)</i></small>  | March 30, 2016 but will most likely continue indefinitely          |
|  | <b>Ongoing:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>                           |

| Nominator Contact Information |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b>                  | Jennifer Josephson   |
| <b>Organization:</b>          | Town of Strasbourg   |
| <b>Position:</b>              | Administrator  |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b>       | Box 369<br>Strasbourg, SK S0G 4V0  |
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*Please remember when filling out your nomination that winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library, so be sure to include all information that may be helpful to others if it were to be used as a reference or resource.*

## The Practice

1. What was the issue that inspired the nominated project or practice?
2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

*In the fall of 2014, a local ratepayer had been researching the benefits of raising backyard chickens (Urban Hens) and brought a proposal forward to the Town of Strasbourg Council. When first proposed, the idea seemed far-fetched and there was a fear of criticism from the local community, but after a compelling argument was made, the Council implemented a one-year pilot project to see if raising backyard chickens was in fact feasible. As we know it, Strasbourg is the very first community in Saskatchewan to implement a program of this type.*

## The Process

*This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information so that a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice can follow your steps.*

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:
  - Municipal Council
  - Municipal Administration
  - Other
4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?
5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?
6. What resources were involved?
7. How was the project or practice developed?

*After the proposal was given to Council from the local ratepayer, myself as the Administrator had to create a bylaw that did not exist anywhere in Saskatchewan. I had to research bylaws used by large cities in British Columbia and Alberta, (Edmonton and Vancouver, e.g.), which have implemented Urban Hens into their communities. I took our existing Animal Control Bylaw and our Prohibited Animals Bylaw and created an amendment to both bylaws for the Urban Hens. The amended bylaw laid out the composition of the chicken house, the number of chickens allowed (excluding roosters), setbacks for the chicken house, and rules about proper chicken care.*

*The bylaw also included an application form for local ratepayers to apply to Council for permission to keep chickens in their yard. One part of the application form stated that if the Council deemed the project not successful, they could repeal the bylaw and the applicant would have to make arrangements to remove the chickens from their premises. Also, if not cared for properly, the chickens*

*could be removed by the Bylaw Enforcement Officer. This gave the Council some control over the project, in case the project did not pan out. Once the bylaw was drafted, Council reviewed the draft and implemented it in the spring of 2015. So far, Council has approved one Urban Hen Application, but several other ratepayers are interested. Attached to this application is a copy of our bylaw amendments instating the Urban Hens.*

## **The Results**

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?
9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed?
10. Describe any challenges faced.

*This project has had a very positive effect on the Town. Since it was the first project of its kind in Saskatchewan, we garnered media attention from CTV and our local newspaper. Strasbourg is also moving towards greener, more sustainable living. We recently implemented curbside recycling and are considering composting as well. Allowing Urban Hens helps to propagate the notion of sustainable living. The chickens will provide eggs for a family; as well, their manure can be used for gardening and household composting. As well, raising chickens provides children with responsibility, just as any other pets would. There are next to no*

*The application form for Urban Hens had a provision that the Council and Administration were allowed to contact the ratepayer to monitor the success of the program. We periodically check in with the ratepayer to discuss any concerns that they might have. Attached to this application are pictures of the chickens and the chicken house. Even though the pilot project has not reached completion yet, the program has been quite successful so far, and Council will most likely continue this program in the future.*

*We faced very few challenges implementing this program. For the majority of the residents, they were very much in favour of the Urban Hens, but there were a few who expressed their displeasure. However, most of their concerns were unfounded and easily settled. There was a lot of misinformation spreading about bringing chickens into a small community and the issues that would arise. Some concerns were about the smell and about attracting other wildlife into town. Since the bylaw allows for the Bylaw Enforcement Officer to remove the chickens if they aren't being cared for and that the Council and Administration can monitor the chicken houses, many of the concerns would not come to fruition as the program is heavily regulated.*

## **Lessons Learned**

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?  
Remember, all nominations will become part of the Best Practices Library, so be sure to include specific information.

*Since this project was the first one of its kind in Saskatchewan, the Council was concerned about the criticism they would face regarding the Urban Hens. After research was completed on the project, it was found that having Urban Hens was a safe, environmentally sustainable initiative – one that would put Strasbourg on the map. Some councilors took a bit of criticism regarding the project, but they all*



*persevered and wanted to see such an interesting project come to light. The Council would not do anything differently, but could only recommend that communities sometimes need to step out of their comfort zone to implement worthwhile projects such as Urban Hens to promote a healthy, sustainable community.*

Please submit your completed nomination package to:

**E-mail:** [awards@municipalawards.ca](mailto:awards@municipalawards.ca) or

**Fax:** Attn: Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Program, 306-798-2568; or

**Mail:** Saskatchewan Municipal Awards, Room 1010 – 1855 Victoria Avenue, Regina, SK S4P 3T2

**Contact:** Phone No. 306-525-4398

***Thank you for submitting a nomination for the 2015 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.***