

To whom it may concern

I was fortunate enough to be granted permission three years ago to run my food trailer on my farm. This enabled me to serve food sourced locally and produced on my farm while engaging tourists, neighbours and friends who travel through our region or live here. It has been most rewarding for me and those that have visited the Hen House expressed to me that was a great experience and unexpectedly great food.

My enterprise has been very successful. It has attracted tourists from all over due to its uniqueness. Last year I had a cyclist club from California call and reserve the seating area and refreshments for their break period. They ended up touring our area then returning for supper. I was very pleased to provide maps and points of interest in our region for them to visit during their stay in our area. Earlier this year this club from California contacted me again requesting more information regarding places to overnight and to book the seating area again this summer. They also gave my contact information to friends who plan to travel throughout our vibrant region.

Last summer I was fortunate to host other cyclists touring the area. The highlight being a group of 28 Dutch cyclists that were touring our region. They toured Ontario all the way from Sudbury to our region and they were processing on to the Niagara region before heading back to Holland. Their stories of travel and the destinations they had traveled were fascinating. It truly was a pleasure.

The Dunnville cyclists club also enjoyed stopping here for refreshments and a break. They are planning to repeat this again in the summer.

Then there was a group from the United States travelling through our area. They stopped in to see what was happening here. They loved the relaxed country atmosphere and the quality and uniqueness of the food at the Hen House. My horses and chickens on the farm became a part of the conversation regarding vaccines etc. This is when I discovered they were a group of veterinarians touring our area. What a lively conversation we had exchanging information regarding veterinary medicine as my background in veterinary medicine provided another point of conversation. At the end of the evening I was able to provide points of interest, brochures, maps and places to lodge. It was a very rewarding connection.

I see many tourists/visitors from all over the place. Due to my location, people traveling through our area frequently stop in to enjoy a unique dining experience and ask for information about our area. Bill Lindsay kindly supplies me with brochures to give out to anyone with questions regarding our region. These brochures are very gratefully received by people touring our area.

Dianna Stavinga from the Wilson MacDonald museum and I work hand in hand helping to answer questions and point out places of interest in our local area. Visitors are frequently curious about the little schoolhouse and the cemetery on the corner of my farm. Both places provide extra history to visitors.

Not only do the tourists/visitors come to the Hen House eatery but our local friends, families and neighbors like to get together to eat and visit. The Hen House has become a wonderful meeting place where visitors and locals share conversations and laughs.

In closing, I would like to point out that the Hen House eatery was mentioned in the 2018 Farmers Almanac as a place to check out and visit while in Haldimand county. I am also very pleased to announce that an article on the Hen House eatery will be in the magazine "Live small town", summer addition.

With all this enthusiasm it appears that the Hen House eatery has become a tourist destination in Haldimand.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your time.

Angela Brown