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*Tuesday, November 27, 2013*

## **Media Invite: Changing the face of wildlife control in Toronto**

**TORONTO** – The City of Toronto is organizing a meeting to examine the needs of instituting city-wide licensing of wildlife control operators, a move lauded by industry leader Brad Gates and animal welfare group The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA).

The December 4, 2013 meeting will raise discussion points including:

- Current interactions between wildlife control operators and customers;
- Treatment of wildlife; and,
- Options to protect customers and wildlife.

“It is of great importance that the City of Toronto is considering creating a city-wide licensing of our industry,” said Gates, who owns and operates AAA Gates Wildlife Control. “My research indicates a 50 per cent biannual turnover of companies in the city. Providing consumers with accurate information and safe solutions to removing wildlife from their homes as well as insuring the humane treatment of wildlife can only be guaranteed when policy exists to enforce it.”

Gates has long spoken out for the need to protect consumers and wildlife from the “fly-by-night” operators who are only interested in making a quick buck.

“We have been strong advocates for the ethics and innovations created by Gates’ AAA Wildlife Control,” said Michael Howie, Ontario spokesperson for APFA. “We know all too well the horrifying realities faced by urban wildlife when operators who are only interested in money get contracted. The need for creating licensing – and accountability – in an industry where there are few honourable companies is something we stand behind, and we stand with Brad Gates.”

Accredited Toronto journalists are invited to attend the public meeting, which could lead to a historic policy creation. The Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4 from 6 to 8 pm at Metro Hall (55 John Street), Room 310.