



Thursday, May 22, 2014

Citizens say it's time for action on skunk plan

Over 1,000 signatures collected opposing skunk killings; city still hasn't acted

WINDSOR - Residents opposed the plan to kill skunks in 2013 – and a year later, they still oppose it. But the City of Windsor has not taken the simple steps of releasing a pending report on the killing program so that taxpayers can have their say.

The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA), in conjunction with LUSH Cosmetics, collected over 1,000 signatures from City of Windsor residents, all opposing the use of lethal action to “control” skunk behaviour and populations.

“A combination of science and experience has shown us that habitat disruption and available food sources leads to wildlife conflict,” says Lesley Fox, a former Windsor resident and Executive Director of APFA. “Yet the City of Windsor has taken few steps to address these issues; instead, they instituted a barbaric and unfounded act of killing skunks – despite residents clearly opposing this plan.”

APFA originally contacted the City when the lethal action plan was first unveiled, offering assistance in developing co-existence programs, which have proven successful in communities around the world. Those offers were summarily ignored.

“So many of our customers were talking about this issue, we had to do something,” says Deanna Morris of LUSH Cosmetics’ Windsor location. “We’ve had these signatures for nearly a year and have not heard anything from the City about how they plan to move forward. To say it’s disheartening is an understatement.”

APFA is calling on the City of Windsor to release their skunk management plan and provide the opportunity for professional organizations and residents to provide comment and debate as soon as possible.

“Ignoring the concerns of taxpayers is never an appropriate response from a government,” Fox adds. “It’s time for the City to step up and show they have the true values of democracy at heart.”