



---

*Monday, July 14, 2014*

## **Windsor skunk program a horrendous failure**

**WINDSOR** - After spending over \$100,000 on a program to control skunks, the City of Windsor has received a report verifying what animal advocates have been saying for more than a year: it won't work.

The Environmental Services division of the City of Windsor submitted the report, to be discussed by Council on Monday, July 21, 2014, which states that: "It is clear from the data presented that the City of Windsor's trapping program had little effect on the skunk population."

The program, which combined with a rodent control measure cost taxpayers \$230,000, was intended to trap and euthanize skunks. In total, 48 skunks were trapped and euthanized while 102 possums, squirrels, raccoons and domestic cats were caught as well. Only 0.4% of homeowners requested services through this program; 25% did not qualify and 5.5% cancelled after implementing simple co-existence strategies.

"We offered our services to the City of Windsor before this epic failure began," says Lesley Fox, Executive Director of The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA) and a former Windsor resident. "We offered these services at no cost, because we know that trapping is not an effective means of wildlife conflict resolution. Yet the City of Windsor boldly ignored this free advice and wasted over \$100,000 of taxpayer money in a program that was doomed to fail."

City Council now has a decision before them – to discontinue the program (recommended by the 4,000-plus signatories collected by APFA and the city's own environmental department) or continue it.

"We said last year that this program stinks. And after wasted money, time and the growing stack of evidence against human intervention, it's been proven," adds Fox. "It's time for the City of Windsor to act responsibly and take action where it's needed: education and mitigation of irresponsible homeowners."

"Our offer to assist in developing a co-existence strategy still stands," Fox says. "We want the taxpayers of Windsor – as well as the wildlife who calls the city home – to live happily and safely."

**-30-**

*A representative of APFA will be speaking as a delegate at the Monday, July 21, 2014 council meeting and presenting more than 4,000 petitions from Windsor residents, asking for an end to the skunk program.*

---