



The FAACS Newsletter

Issue No. 6 Winter 2015/2016

FAACS Receives the Gift of Tartan!

It is possible that the Feral and Abandoned Cat Society may now be the only Trap-Neuter-Return group with its own authentic tartan design. The gift of tartan came to us recently from FAACS member and professional tartan designer, Deana Lloy of Red Label Kilts. Thanks to her creativity and generosity, an idea that was first sparked in the summer of 2014, has now turned into our own unique design. Sent off to Scotland for color matching and weaving, the fabric finally arrived in October. The official unveiling took place at our "These 4 Legs Matter...Light the Pedway" fundraiser on November 24, 2015.

At the unveiling, Deana shared the meaning of the colors included in the tartan:

Black, white, grey and orange represent the colors of feral and abandoned cats living homeless in the communities of CBRM.

Pink is their little wet nose and ears always alert for trouble ahead.

Green and blue, hoping that the grass will be greener on the other side and the skies will be blue tomorrow.

Red is the passion and love our volunteers have in their hearts.

The tartan fabric will be used to create products that can be sold to raise funds for the FAACS' TNR program. Putting the fabric to good use right away, Deana donated 200 Christmas ornaments, and adorned them with ribbons made from the new tartan. Ornaments were sold for \$10 each with all proceeds benefiting FAACS. Deana commented that "We will be looking for people



TNR Count

Total # of cats that have received veterinarian care through our Trap-Neuter-Return program since inception.

2,683

FAACS Tartan Unveiled!



In a magical Christmas setting, Deana Lloy of Red Label Kilts, officially unveiled the FAACS tartan at Membertou Trade and Convention Centre on November 24, 2015

experienced with sewing in the coming months to help with the production of items that will be for sale." The types of items we will create and sell still needs to be decided.

Statistics

Feral and Abandoned Cat Society Gender & Town Statistics on Cats Receiving TNR & Veterinarian Care Reported as of December 31, 2015

Spay/Neuter & Euthanization by Town/Area																	
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Fiscal 2016	Fiscal 2015	Fiscal 2014	Fiscal 2013	Total Since Inception
Albert Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	2	4	0	6
Alder Point													0	2	5	0	7
Ashby	1		3	5	1	11	2		2				25	26	36	3	90
Balls Creek							6						6	3	10	1	20
Birch Grove			19			6		7					32	3	0	4	39
Blacketts Lake	6												6	0	0	0	6
Boisdale					2								2	0	0	0	2
Bras D'or	1		3		1	1	7		7				20	1	0	0	21
Bridgeport					1			3					4	0	0	0	4
Caledonia													0	0	11	0	11
Caribou Marsh								1					1	0	0	0	1
Catalone							1						1	0	0	0	1
Coxheath	1		1	1	1	2		1					7	17	11	6	41
Dalem Lake								4					4	0	0	0	4
Dominion				4	7		4		1				16	6	0	5	27
Donkin													0	6	5	4	15
Dutch Brook				1	1								2	0	0	0	2
East Bay		1	1							2			4	1	2	0	7
Edwardsville	7						1						8	0	1	0	9
Florence	4	3	1	2	9	1	3	10	6				39	23	0	0	62
Frenchvale													0	5	2	16	23
Gabarus													0	0	0	2	2
Gardiner Mines													0	0	2	1	3
Georges River							2						2	7	4	0	13
Glace Bay	13	4	7	2	2	12	22	3	29				94	71	60	9	234
Grand Lake RD			14	1		5	1	1					22	11	2	0	35
Hillside Boularderie													0	3	1	0	4
Howie Centre	3	2				1	1						7	3	0	0	10
Irish Vale													0	0	1	0	1
Juniper Mtn					1								1	0	0	0	1
Little Bras D'or					1			1					2	1	0	0	3
Lingan	3	3					1						7	2	2	6	17
Little Pond		1		1			1		2				5	9	39	0	53
Long Island													0	0	0	7	7
Leiches Creek				1									1	2	0	0	3
Louisbourg	13						15	3	1				32	48	0	1	81
Marion Bridge		1	3	18		8	1						31	17	27	27	102
Membertou		3											3	0	0	0	3
Mill Creek			1										1	0	0	0	1
Millville	7												7	1	0	0	8
Mira Road			1				2		1				4	18	11	0	33
New Victoria									1				1	8	2	0	11
New Waterford	4	2	4	3	1	5	8	9	7				43	72	84	31	230
North Sydney	21	7	7	6	3	4	11	9	17				85	129	117	5	336
NS East Bay	1				4	2							7	0	0	0	7
Point Aconi		1						1					2	0	0	0	2
Point Edward													0	12	1	1	14
Port Morien													0	2	18	1	21
Reserve Mines	1		2	1			1		2				7	9	6	0	22
River Ryan					3	4	4	2					13	0	7	1	21
Scotchtown													0	7	0	0	7
Scotch Lake													0	3	0	0	3
South Bar	1		1	4		5							11	3	1	1	16
Sydney	7	4	17	16	9	15	11	13	6				98	95	61	61	315
Sydney Forks								13	10				23	0	7	0	30
Sydney Mines	52	8	12	16	4	1	15						108	83	81	0	272
Sydney River	1												1	10	3	4	18
Sydneyport													0	2	11	10	23
Tower Road				1									1	13	0	0	14
Victoria Mines													0	0	1	0	1
Westmount	5			2	1		3	1					12	4	19	6	41
Whitney Pier	4	1	3	10	3	13	11	7	6				58	106	72	31	267
Total	153	42	102	95	55	96	134	89	100	0	0	0	866	846	727	244	2,683

For the Love of Cats

By Carmen Dunn

The dedication and fierce commitment of our volunteers never ceases to amaze and inspire me. FAACS is made up of members and volunteers from all corners of the CBRM and over the past few years I have enjoyed learning how others became involved with helping homeless cats. It is also fascinating to find out about the people behind the scenes who support our volunteers in what they do.

Prior to joining our organization, Sharon MacDougall had become aware of feral colonies along her route as a letter carrier. She saw colonies grow with kittens being born and noticed when cats did not look well and eventually disappeared. She began feeding these cats and realized that something more had to be done to help them, and so she set out to begin having them fixed. Sharon thought it would be a short term project to spay/neuter a few colonies, but as time went on she says she realized, "How do you stop?"

In 2013 Sharon became involved with trapping a colony in advance of a free spay day offered at Celtic Creatures. She asked her friend and nearby Sydney Mines neighbor, Bud Tobin, if he knew where she might be able to house the cats while they recovered from their spay/neuter surgery. She knew that he fed feral cats and thought he might be able to help. He said he would think about it and get back to her. Two days later, he called to say that he had built condo units to house the cats inside his garage. Bud and his wife Carol have been housing cats for Sharon ever since!

Bud Tobin first began caring for feral cats 17 years ago while working security at a local industrial park. He noticed a lot of homeless cats around and began feeding them. Even though he moved on to another job, he has continued to return to the industrial park several days each week to feed the cats. Over the years, Carol and Bud have also fed, cared for, and found homes for several strays that have wandered through their own neighborhood.

What a Team!



Pictured from left to right are Carol Tobin, Bud Tobin and Sharon MacDougall

It was from Bud that Sharon first found out about the Feral and Abandoned Cat Society. She became an active volunteer with the society in the spring of 2013 and Carol says that since that time, she and Bud have sheltered at least 100 cats each year for Sharon.

Bud and Carol supply all of the food and litter for their feline guests. During their stay at the Tobin condos, cats receive a twice daily feed of wet and dry food and fresh water. Litter boxes are cleaned daily and any accidents or messes are cleaned up as well. The cats are generally housed for up to a week. This is ideal when Sharon is working on a large colony and needs to keep the fixed cats separated from the ones she is still trying to trap.

When it is time for cats to be released back to their colonies, Bud retrieves them from the condos and puts them into transfer cages. Bud built the transfer cages to make it easier to handle and transport the cats rather than trying to put them back into the traps they first arrived in. When working with feral cats, Bud has learned that long welding gloves are a requirement! He has also created an ingenious box shaped retriever with a long handle to safely secure resistant cats and slide them to the front of the condo for transfer.

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Each time the condos are vacated, Carol and Bud empty everything out. The inside of the condos and all items that were used by the cats including blankets, food dishes and litter boxes are cleaned and disinfected before the next guests arrive.

Sharon says that each time she brings a new group of cats to the Tobin condos, Bud's first question is, "Do they have a shelter to go back to?" If they don't, Bud builds one during their stay and delivers it when the cats are released. A recent example occurred over the Christmas holidays while Carol and Bud housed a family of cats from North Sydney. Bud spent Christmas Eve finishing a shelter so that it would be ready for the cats' release on Boxing Day.

Sharon has been a steady and seemingly tireless trapper for our organization for almost three years now. When asked how she does it, she always replies, "I couldn't do what I do without Bud and Carol." It is heartwarming to know what these three people do for the love of cats.



Volunteers release cats from transfer cages built by Bud Tobin

The Tobin Condos



This condo design has been refined over time to allow for efficient handling of cats in the Tobin's garage. The sliding Plexiglas window is used to transfer cats from humane traps to the inside. To complete the transfer, a trap is steadied against the open window, the trap is opened, the cat is nudged inside, and then the Plexiglas is slid back into place and secured. Inside the condo, food and water dishes go in the top level. At the back there is an opening in the floor with a ladder leading to the lower level where the litter box is located. To access the inside, the top and bottom levels open separately, with a small door cut out on the top level for quick and easy access to the food and water dishes. The condo is quite deep, allowing adequate space for several colony mates to share the temporary space.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

FAACS is grateful to receive a variety of community support. Featured are some of the businesses, groups and individuals who have recently contributed to our organization in their own special ways.



FAACS raised \$835 thanks to Judy MacIntyre, Nina Slade and Leanne MacKinnon who pitched in to donate a lovely basket of Yankee brand candles to be raffled for Christmas. FAACS volunteer Anne Moffatt above left and shopper Sarah MacDonald made the draw Dec 19th. Debbie Madore of Sydney was the lucky winner.



11 year old Liam Ley (pictured above right) and his friend Austin McCarthy collected change and gathered cat food donations from their classmates at Sherwood Park Education Centre, presenting FAACS with a Christmas donation of \$284.20 along with nice collection of food.

FAACS was selected as the charity of choice for the Homecrafters of Cape Breton Christmas Festival of Crafts at C200 Nov 13-15th. Each crafter at the show donated an item and the full collection was raffled off as one big prize drawn at the end of the event. Janice MacDonald of Sydney was the lucky winner. \$2641 was raised. Pictured above from left to right are Pauline Hominick from the Homecrafters of Cape Breton, Carmen Dunn (FAACS), and Beckv Smith from the Homecrafters.



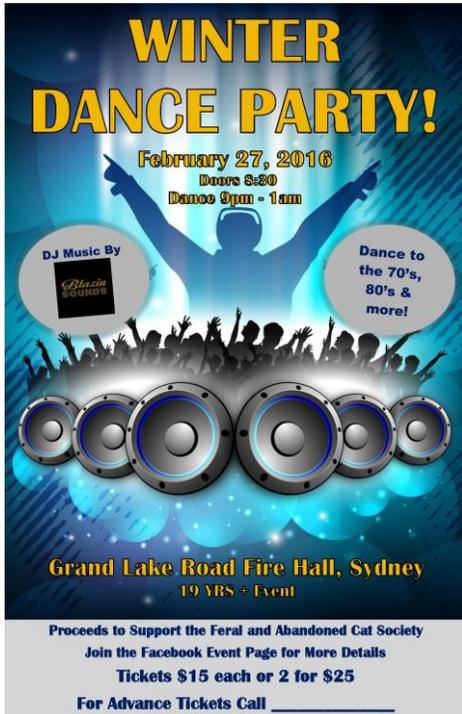
DJ Smith (pictured left) and Greg Ferguson of Doggie Styles Grooming gathering cat food donations from their clients and presented FAACS with a large collection of cat food just in time for Christmas!



In November, FAACS was presented with a cheque for \$5000 from Scotiabank in Sydney, matching a portion of the funds raised from our Country Explosion event in the fall. Pictured from left to right are Carmen Dunn (FAACS), Colleen Peterson, Krystal Coffin, Valerie Matheson, Tara O'Donnell, Deana Lloy (FAACS) and Bank Manager, Donald MacMullen.

FAACS EVENTS

Fundraising is critical to operating our Trap-Neuter-Return program.
Your support of FAACS fundraising activities and events helps us to keep spaying and neutering!



WINTER DANCE PARTY!
February 27, 2016
Doors 8:30
Dance 9pm - 1am

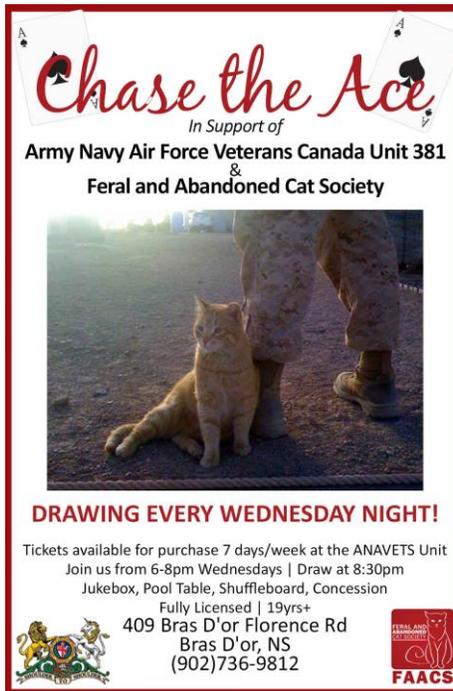
DJ Music By *Blaze & Guitars*

Dance to the 70's, 80's & more!

Grand Lake Road Fire Hall, Sydney
19 YRS + Event

Proceeds to Support the Feral and Abandoned Cat Society
Join the Facebook Event Page for More Details
Tickets \$15 each or 2 for \$25
For Advance Tickets Call _____

Dance to the 70's, 80's & more!
Feb 27, 2016
Tickets on sale now! Call 577-5059.



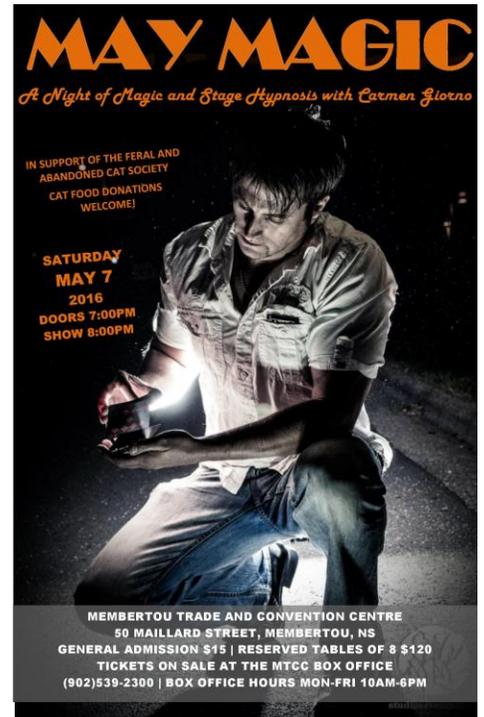
Chase the Ace
In Support of
Army Navy Air Force Veterans Canada Unit 381
&
Feral and Abandoned Cat Society

DRAWING EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT!

Tickets available for purchase 7 days/week at the ANAVETS Unit
Join us from 6-8pm Wednesdays | Draw at 8:30pm
Jukebox, Pool Table, Shuffleboard, Concession
Fully Licensed | 19yrs+
409 Bras D'or Florence Rd
Bras D'or, NS
(902)736-9812

FAACS

Game runs until the Ace of Spades is drawn!
Tickets available from FAACS volunteers and
by e-transfer to faacsociety@gmail.com
Join our Facebook event page for the latest
jackpot updates!



MAY MAGIC
A Night of Magic and Stage Hypnosis with Carmen Glorna

IN SUPPORT OF THE FERAL AND ABANDONED CAT SOCIETY
CAT FOOD DONATIONS WELCOME!

SATURDAY MAY 7 2016
DOORS 7:00PM
SHOW 8:00PM

MEMBERTOU TRADE AND CONVENTION CENTRE
50 MAILLARD STREET, MEMBERTOU, NS
GENERAL ADMISSION \$15 | RESERVED TABLES OF 8 \$120
TICKETS ON SALE AT THE MTCC BOX OFFICE
(902)539-2300 | BOX OFFICE HOURS MON-FRI 10AM-6PM

Magic & Stage Hypnosis
May 7, 2016
Tickets on sale soon!



The Feral and Abandoned Cat Society
Presents

CATWALK SHOW OF ART

**SHOWING IN THE CBRM
JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2016**

Catwalk Update

The Catwalk Show of Art homeless cat awareness campaign will hit the streets in June. The creatively decorated "litter" of cats will be on display at locations around the CBRM for four months. The show wraps up with an auction and gala event October 8th at C200.

All artists and sponsors have now been secured. The statues will arrive in February for the artists to begin turning their creative concepts into reality!

Join our Facebook event page for more information.

Members' Meetings

FAACS Members meet once a month to report on TNR program results, fundraising, shelter building, food donations, education initiatives and other volunteer activities.

Upcoming meetings are currently scheduled for 6:30pm on Feb 8th, Mar 14th, and Apr 18th at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre.

View the calendar on our website for the latest listing of all meetings and events scheduled for the Society.