

# The Border Report

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## FAS fundraising auction set for Sunday

By Matthew McCully  
STANSTEAD

The Frontier Animal Society's (FAS) annual fundraising auction will take place this Sunday, Nov. 15 at 1 p.m. at the Haskell Free Library.

"This particular fundraiser basically pays the heat for the winter," said Mary Rowland, FAS volunteer in charge of organizing the annual auction.

"The variety is usually pretty interesting," she added.

Rowland said local artists routinely donate pieces to the auction. This year, there will be works by artists George Foster, Debbie Everett and Marilyn Salter, among others. She and other FAS volunteers also collect items throughout the year to auction off, like a set of ceramic wall planters, antique lamps and a col-

lection of Louise Penny hard covers.

"It's not garage sale stuff by any means," Rowland insisted.

The main event, reserved for art and good quality big ticket items, will be hosted by auctioneer Phil Desormeaux.

"It's hilarious, it's a laugh a minute from beginning to end," Rowland said, adding Desormeaux pulls out all the stops to keep the crowd entertained while bidding.

There is also a silent auction table with other items available.

"We don't usually have much left over at the end," Rowland said, but any remaining items usually go to the summer garage sale, another FAS fundraising staple.

"We have regulars that come back every year," Rowland said, appreciative of the consistent support from the com-

munity.

Rowland referred to one supporter who saves her change all year, showing up with around \$200, prepared to spend every penny.

"She donates what she doesn't spend," Rowland added.

The FAS started over 20 years ago as a sister organization to a shelter across the border, Rowland said.

In the beginning, the majority of the work was done by founder Joyce Dekker and her cousin Dallas, according to Rowland.

The FAS has, since its humble beginnings, expanded to more than double the size of the original building.

Rowland went on to say that the organization has a new board with enthusiastic supporters and a number of events each year to keep the shelter

a float.

"If everybody does a little, it takes the big load off one person," Rowland said.

Rowland has been helping organize the auction since it started over 15 years ago.

"I'm allergic to large numbers of animals," she said, wanting to lend a hand but unable to work at the shelter.

"I do what I can from the outside."

Rowland said doors open at the Haskell Free Library at 12:30 p.m. so buyers can register and obtain a bidding card.

"It's just a good time," Rowland said, adding that in addition to raising money, the ambiance and generosity of spirit surrounding the event makes attending worthwhile.

"I wouldn't miss it for the world," she said.

## Tomofobia Nature Trail back in business

By Matthew McCully  
STANSTEAD

According to Sentiers Massawippi president Ray Barnham, the section of the Tomofobia Nature Trail at kilometre 16, washed out by heavy snow melt in the spring, has been repaired.

The work was done the week of Nov. 1, Barnham said.

"It was essential to complete the work prior to next spring's runoff from the surrounding hills to prevent further erosion," Barnham said.

"A crew of volunteers planted 50 trees and reseeded the complete area on November 10," he added.

The extent of the damage was extreme. A 90-metre (300-foot) stretch of the path washed out, causing a seven-metre-wide chunk of the trail to break off, leaving a drop of over 1.8 metres (six feet) in some places. Any trees that were on the mass of the washout fell back, and are now blocking what is left of the path.

"It has taken seven months to raise the funds, with some outstanding offers still to arrive for the repair work," Barnham explained.

The total cost for the trail repair is estimated at around \$40,000.

The trail is now operational with some minor finishing and some additional reforestation required in the spring.

Barnham pointed out, however, that the trail will remain officially closed until the last day of hunting season on Nov. 15.

According to Barnham, a new 48-foot culvert was installed, along with a 24-foot backup, mounted slightly higher. An additional backup was built into the low section of trail in form of a reinforced spillway.

"There is presently a gentle incline/decline in this section of trail which will require a little more effort from bike riders," Barnham said.

Even though donations came in from various foundations and corporate sponsors, local supporters and provincial and municipal donations, Barnham said Sentiers Massawippi was still required to use its entire reserve fund for the repair project.

The regular maintenance and supervision of the trail costs between \$15,000-\$20,000 annually.

The Tomifobia Nature Trail, which is not part of Vélo-Québec and therefore not maintained by municipalities and government subsidies, relies on mem-



COURTESY

Ray Barnham stands next to the portion of the Tomofobia Nature Trail that was recently repaired.

bership sales for funding, according to Barnham.

The membership fee is \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families, Barnham said, pointing out that the trail, open to the public for biking, jogging, walking,

bird watching, cross country skiing and nature appreciation, has a very small membership compared to the number of people who use it.

For more information about the trail, visit [www.tomofobianaturetrail.com](http://www.tomofobianaturetrail.com).

## FRONTIER ANIMAL SOCIETY

### It's time to give Midnight a home

Please meet our gorgeous kitten Midnight. With his shiny black fur and beautiful big green eyes he is quite striking. Very light on his feet, his foster family has nicknamed him Boo because of his seemingly innate ability to just pop up out of nowhere.

Midnight is thriving in his foster home. Picked up as a skinny little stray, he was at first quite timid but since his arrival he has experienced nothing but love and kindness and is now a friendly, playful and happy go lucky little kitten. He can still be a little shy when meeting new people but once he gets to know you his sweet and affectionate nature shines through.

A real cuddler, he is always happy to snuggle up on your lap and loves to be stroked. He purrs very loudly and is very content when having his belly rubbed.

At approximately 6 months of age he is still quite playful and it is very entertaining to watch him run and pounce on his favourite toy which happens to be a plastic golf ball that likely cost about 15 cents. Empty paper bags are also a big hit so the good news is you don't have to worry about spending a fortune on toys to keep him busy. You've gotta love a cat!

Overall though, Midnight is calm and well behaved. He has learned to use a log to scratch and is perfectly litter trained. Midnight is a good eater and is growing

everyday. He is a wonderful little companion who we feel is better suited to a quieter home. Generally speaking cats do best in a home with other cats but if Midnight has someone home with him most of the time that would be ok too. He likes having company. He has met dogs and as long as they are respectful of him, he is good with them.

If you think you might be able to provide this superb little kitten with the quiet and loving home he so deserves, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information on Midnight, email [frontieranimalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:frontieranimalsociety@gmail.com) or better yet call our adoption coordinator Brenda at 819-876-7747.

