

Hunters provide meals in Moncton

If you are a frequent reader of this space, you've heard of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry.

And if you're like some, the concept has zipped right over your head. So let's put this project into terms that are easier to relate to.

Mobile One soup kitchen in Moncton delivers hot meals to the streets of Moncton, travelling from one neighbourhood to another in a big bus with a huge smiley face on the front of it. Well, that bus fed more than 400 people with the meat of one deer. Yup, a single deer. That's the kind of impact hunters are having with the FHFH program.

Despite a bad year for deer hunting, FHFH Canada was able to provide 1,600 meals. Next year is looking up, with more hunters in other provinces talking about jumping aboard the initiative.

And now, there's something in it for you, too, other than the good feeling you get from knowing that your donation of a single deer can feed as many as 400 hungry souls.

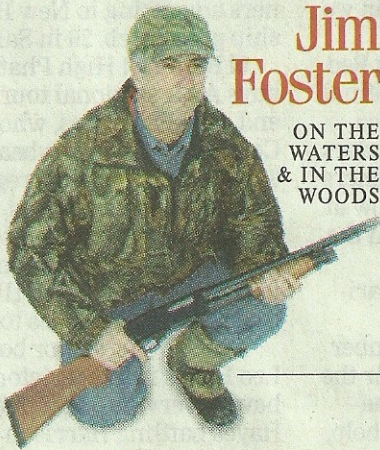
Adventure Quest Outfitters in Newfoundland has donated a 2011 moose hunt to help FHFH raise money to help even more people. Tickets for the draw cost \$40 each or three for \$100, and only 300 are being sold, so your odds of hunting in the best moose-hunting province in the dominion are pretty high with this draw. Newfoundland has the highest moose density on the planet, at about 150,000 animals, making this a hunter's dream trip.

The trip comes with \$500 in spending money, and every cent raised goes towards feeding hungry people.

You can buy tickets or learn more by calling FHFH at 506-433-9096 or by visiting their web site at www.fhfhcanada.org.

And don't forget FHFH when next deer season rolls around. You can donate part of your deer or all of your deer or make a cash donation. They'll cover part of the processing cost for part of a deer, all of the coast for all of a deer, and tax receipts are issued for cash donations.

Just one pound of deer meat can



Jim Foster

ON THE
WATERS
& IN THE
WOODS

provide a hot, nutritious meal for a family of four while a 100-pound dressed deer can sustain 400 hungry mouths.

That's the kind of difference hunters make every time they donate to FHFH.

■ ATVers, in particular those who haven't yet been introduced to the joys of winter riding, are invited to the 2011 edition of Winter Jam in Tracadie-Sheila next weekend, Feb. 26-27.

Winter Jam is the brainchild of Nbatvforum.com, the east coast's most active ATVer web site. The forum hit on the idea a few years ago of getting together informally once per summer and once every winter in different corners of the province. The schedule is deliberately simple: ride all day and into the evening; socialize at night.

There's nothing complicated here, folks. Haul your bike to Tracadie and join in the ride on Friday evening or all day Saturday. All you need is your bike, your helmet, a trail pass (any club pass will be honoured or you can buy one on site,) insurance and a licence plate.

Don't be shy! There are no strangers at Winter Jam, and if there are, they don't stay strangers for long.

The centre of the action this year begins at Hôtel les Deux Rivières in Tracadie-Sheila, from where all runs begin, but you can join in anywhere along the winter trail system that winds its way across the Acadian Peninsula. Groups depart at staggered intervals starting at

about supertime Friday and again Saturday morning and afternoon. Some of the hardier riders do a short run on Sunday as well.

There is no actual schedule because this is a very informal gathering where the only goal is to chillax, have fun and meet riders from all over New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P.E.I.

New Brunswick ATV clubs are increasingly grooming their own winter trail systems to the point where you can literally ride every weekend all winter and rarely see the same stretch of trail twice. If you've never experienced it, you don't know what you're missing. This is your big chance to find out. There is no entry fee. And should you find there's no room left at the hotel at Deux Rivières at this late date, there are other hotels in town.

Winter ATVering is like a whole new sport compared to spring, summer and fall biking. No bugs. No mud. No rocks. No dust.

Just fun.

Find out more at www.nbatvforum.com

■ Speaking of which, all manner of animals are using the winter ATV trail system and the province's snowmobile trails to get around, particularly here in the southeast where the snow base is eight feet deep.

The poor critters are just trying to survive, but they are creating conflicts with trail users, including more than one moose encounter that came perilously close to ending badly for both the rider and the critter.

And please remember that deer can easily become dangerously exhausted from being forced to run if they feel threatened by a snowmobile or bike.

If you see wildlife on the trail, stop and wait, even if it means a lengthy delay. It's not only the best way to help the poor struggling animals, but to avoid damage to your machine — and to you.

■ *James Foster is a Times & Transcript reporter and avid outdoorsman. His column appears every Friday.*