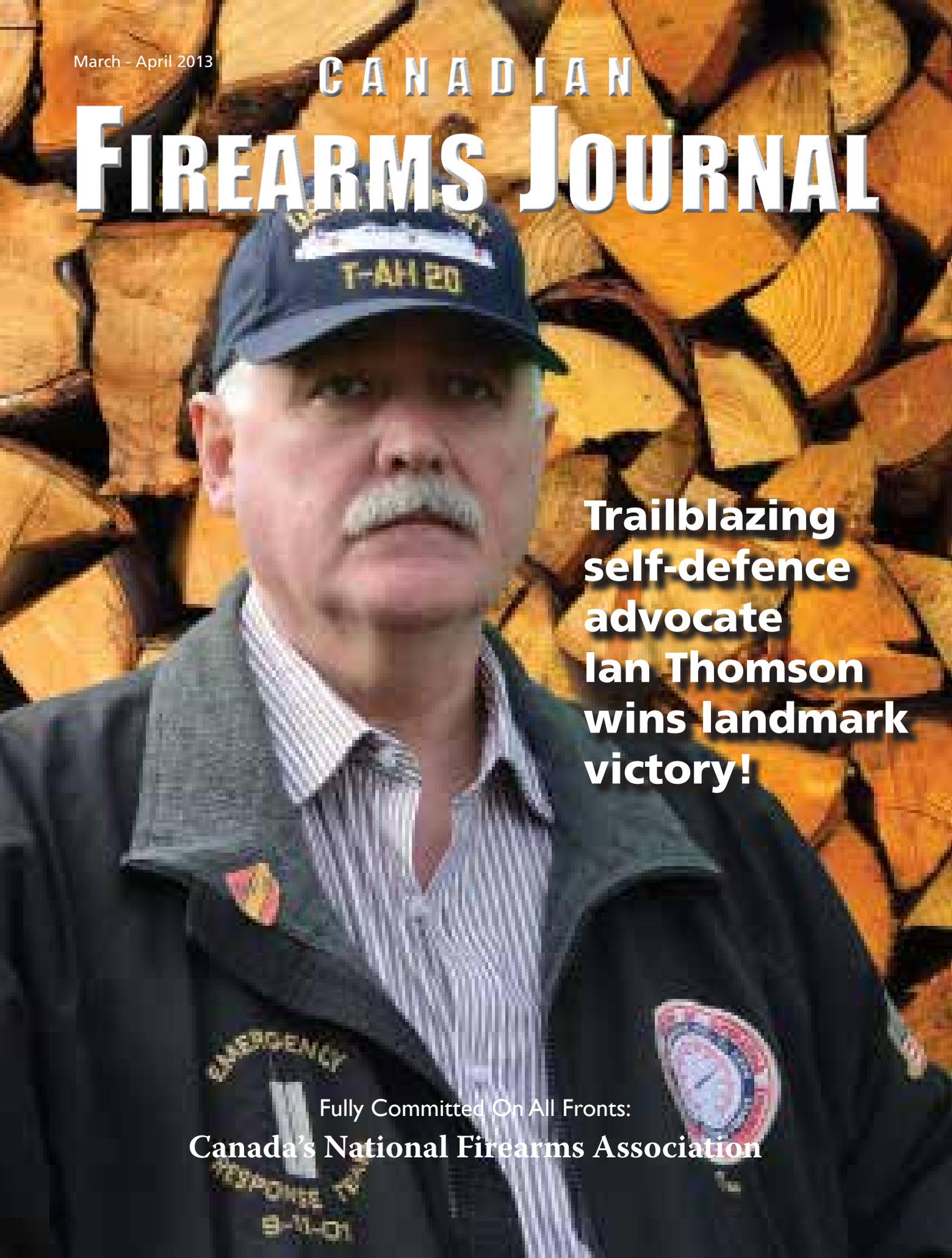


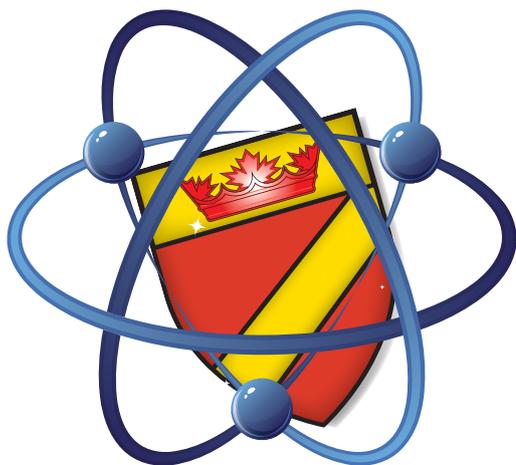
March - April 2013

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL



**Trailblazing
self-defence
advocate
Ian Thomson
wins landmark
victory!**

Fully Committed On All Fronts:
Canada's National Firearms Association



Around the NFA

A Summer of Action!

by NFA Directors

There has been a fair bit of activity around the NFA over the past few months. Organization is well underway for the AGM in Woodstock, Ontario. Sheldon Clare and Blair Hagen have been doing a fair bit of public relations with several radio, television, and even web media appearances to promote our issues.

We have supported Ian Thomson's victory to the full amount of \$10,000. While we don't generally fund individual cases, we have sometimes taken on cases of particular significance when appropriate. We are also intervening in one constitutional challenge to the firearms registry originating out of Toronto.

We have been building a strong presence on social media including Facebook and that combined with our email messaging have been building up our profile on the web and in the minds of Canadian firearms owners. These efforts have contributed to some steady growth in memberships which has been keeping the office busy.

Our new Coat of Arms for Canada's National Firearms Association has been presented by the Canadian Heraldic Authority and we are presently incorporating it into our merchandise and materials. The new heraldic arms bear the organization's motto -In Defence of Freedom. We have been experiencing

some steady growth which has been keeping the office busy.

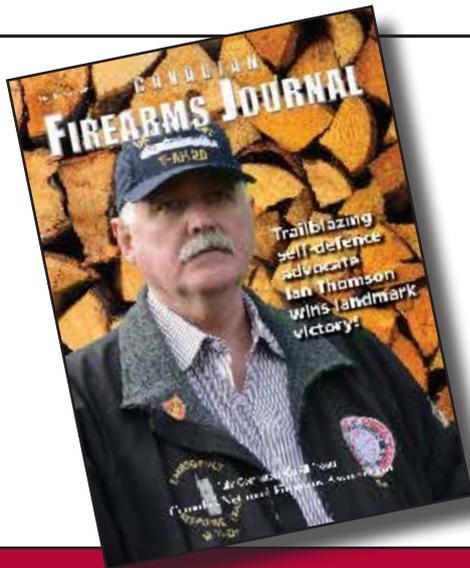
On Saturday, 9 February, 2013 around 200 Quebec firearms owners met in Drummondville in a meeting organized by Shawn Bevins and sponsored by the NFA. Donations collected at the meeting paid for the room rental. Speakers included a Quebec civil lawyer who is familiar with the firearms law - he explained the legal status of the registration program in Quebec, and NFA Directors Phil Simard and Stephen Buddo spoke about the benefits of joining with the NFA and our history.

Claude Colgan spoke about his sister Helène who was killed at École Polytechnique in 1989 and denounced the Coalition for Gun Control's use of victims to call for more useless gun control. Shawn Bevins gave a fiery and enthusiastic presentation about the political situation in Quebec and who our friends and enemies are there. There will be more efforts to fight the Quebec government's efforts to retain a firearms registry.

We will be developing further materials and events to support more promotion and growth in Quebec as there are at least half a million firearms owners there that need our expertise and help. There are certainly millions more in the other regions of Canada that would also benefit from joining and supporting Canada's NFA and we continue to encourage their participation in our cause.



NFA Member Neal Tucker (L) with nephew Daniel. Uncle Neal jumped at the chance to teach young Daniel proper firearms safety and introduce him to the "Art of Plinking" during a visit to the St. John's Rod & Gun Club.



On The Cover

After battling the forces of Ontario’s crusading anti-gun attorney-general for the past two years, Ian Thomson, finally had his day in court this past January.

Unfortunately, Mr. Thomson, like so many other Canadian self-defence trailblazers, found himself twice victimized in the process.

The first incident was at the hands of the four armed thugs who attempted to burn him alive by firebombing his home in the pre-dawn hours one night in August 2010.

The second time was at the hands of the Canadian “justice” system. Despite being as clear a case of self-defence as exists, the decision was made to prosecute Mr. Thomson to the fullest extent of the law for his actions. It would seem that Mr. Thomson’s true crime was having the audacity to use a restricted firearm in defence of himself and his home. An example was to be made so as to preclude other law-abiding citizens from following suit.

Before even his attackers had been charged, Mr. Thomson found himself facing charges of pointing a firearm, careless use of a firearm and two counts of unsafe storage. Unfortunately for the prosecution, the video evidence from Mr. Thomson’s security cameras subsequently went viral and public condemnation forced the authorities to withdraw the most serious of these charges. However, in what can only be viewed as an ideologically-driven prosecution, the Crown opted to pursue a conviction on the equally bogus charges of improper storage of a firearm.

It took the presiding judge just 45 minutes to rule in favour of Mr. Thomson, completely exonerating him and his actions. While vindicated, Mr. Thomson still faces a mountain of legal bills that were amassed over the course of his two-year legal nightmare. Finding justice in Canada, it would seem, is far from free.

MISSION STATEMENT

Canada’s National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defence; firearms education for all Canadians; freedom and justice for Canada’s firearms community, and to advocate for legislative change to ensure the right of all Canadians to own and use firearms is protected.

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From The Editor's Desk



There is no question that 2012 was not a banner year for the Coalition for Gun Control. They suffered a critical loss in the spring following the passage of C-19. Yet, far from defeated, they tried to rally late in the year by once more taking advantage of the anniversary of the l'ecole Polytechnique shootings to garner support for their cause. Surprisingly, their campaign gained little traction.

The Canadian electorate had little interest in rehashing the debate over firearms registration. During the extended battle over C-19, the gun control lobby had issued dire warnings that the blood of innocents would flow knee-deep in the streets of Canadian cities if we scrapped the long-gun registry. That didn't happen.

Instead, law-abiding gun owners somehow managed to restrain themselves from immediately embarking on missions of mass murder; since they were no longer legally obligated to keep squares of government-issued paper next to their favourite deer rifle or duck gun. The world didn't end. Law-abiding Canadian gun owners continued being just that: law-abiding.

I would imagine that the Coalition for Gun Control was both horrified and embarrassed by the collapse of their grand gun control strategy; especially given just how very publicly their quest to "save" the long-gun registry had failed. After all: No registry = No confiscation, -or at least any future confiscations would be markedly more difficult to achieve.

The death of the long-gun registry was a bitter pill to swallow for Wendy Cukier. As president of the Coalition for Gun Control, she had built her reputation within the international gun control movement as one of the principal architects of C-68. She made her bones helping to turn that particular political turd into law, and later went on to help such a "beacon of civil harmony and human rights" as South Africa set-up their own gun control program and firearms registry modeled after Canada's C-68 system. Obviously Cukier and her "coalition" have a vested interest in preserving the Liberal's gun control program; the only problem was they needed a new angle from which to attack. The tragic events at

Sandy Hook would present the Coalition with the opportunity they had been seeking. Now they were coming after the "black" guns and semi-autos rifles like the AR-15.

While the end of the long-gun registry gave those of us involved in gun rights advocacy great cause for celebration, it more importantly marked the first serious blow the greater international civil disarmament movement had been dealt in almost a generation. In fact, the last reversal of similar significance was probably New Zealand's decision to scrap its own long-gun registry in 1986.

More than two decades later, New Zealand law-makers still deserve to be applauded. When they saw that their experiment with gun control wasn't working, they used basic common sense and pulled the plug. Today New Zealand's gun laws, as a developed nation, are notably more liberal than most, especially compared to those of their neighbours along the Pacific Rim. They opted to focus mainly on vetting firearm owners, rather than registering deer rifles or banning particular types of firearms such as modern military-style semi-auto sporting rifles.

Their focus has been on making sure that those citizens who seek the responsibility that comes with firearms ownership could be trusted with it, and would pose no potential threat to the public good. While certain items remain well-regulated, the histrionics that has characterized the Canadian and American gun control debate has been largely excised since the 1980s. New Zealanders concluded that good guys with guns were not something to fear, and that it was just silly to arbitrarily classify one type of firearm as "good" and another as "bad" based on cosmetics.

Nevertheless, still smarting from their loss over C-19 and hoping to capitalize on the terrible tragedy of Sandy Hook, the Coalition for Gun Control and their equally ethically-challenged pro-gun control "advocates" have jumped on the so-called "assault weapon" bandwagon once more, and have made semi-automatic modern sporting rifles such as the AR-15 their hobgoblin of choice.

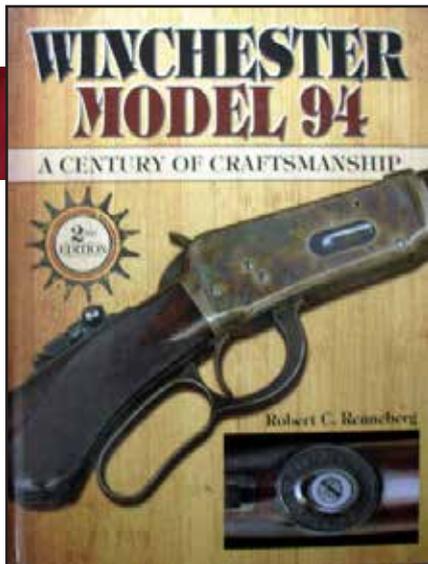
Seeking to cash-in on the raw emotions generated by the tragedy of Newtown and the irrational fear that the mere image "black rifles" engenders within the hearts of most left-leaning "progressives," Cukier's coalition has launched a concerted effort to thoroughly demonize these types of firearms and by association, their owners. Their hope is to eventually coerce Ottawa into implementing further restrictions and gun bans.

Even though this change in tactics and target has garnered little interest in Ottawa thus far, it isn't something that Canadian gun rights organizations like Canada's National Firearms Association can afford to ignore either. Instead we're back to dealing with a thinly-veiled "divide & conquer" strategy, whereby Ms. Cukier and her allies seek to exploit any cracks or potential wedge issues within our firearms community.

I know it is somewhat cliché, but the hard truth is that united we stand, divided we will fall. The international civil disarmament movement is in this for the long-haul. They are patient and they will exploit any vulnerability in our defence. As such, it is up to all of us to do our part to ensure that this new strategy also ends in failure.

Make no mistake, it is not just the AR-15s that are threatened; ALL guns are in danger... The gun control movement has a list, and they will continue to chip away at it, gun-by-gun, until they achieve their goal. Today it is "black rifle" guys and semi-auto owners, who find themselves under attack. Tomorrow it could be you. For that reason we must draw a line in the sand, here and now, and stand as one. Whether you own an AR-15, a Glock 9mm, Perazzi trap gun, or something as simple as a single-shot Cooney .22LR rimfire, we are all gun owners. There is no-longer a place for petty prejudice within our firearms community, the stakes are simply too high.





NFA Book Shelf

by Wm. R. Rantz

WINCHESTER MODEL 94 *A CENTURY OF CRAFTSMANSHIP*

Author: Robert C. Renneberg

2nd Edition, 2009, Krause Publications

Hard Cover, 256 Pages, Black/White Photographs

ISBN 13: 978-1-4402-0391-6

Robert Renneberg's fascination with the Model 94 Winchester began upon the purchase of his first such rifle in 1967. Over the years he has had the opportunity to inspect many hundreds of these rifles and to share his interest with fellow collectors, hunters and shooters. He soon realized that even though the Model 94 was one of the most common firearms manufactured there was a lack of specific information available to enthusiasts.

In 1991 Renneberg published the first edition of "*The Winchester Model 94 – The First 100 Years*". That book was quickly recognized as the most comprehensive reference available on the Model 94. These early volumes are now collector's items and command premium prices.

WINCHESTER MODEL 94 – A CENTURY OF CRAFTSMANSHIP is dedicated to the collector as Renneberg indicates "without collectors this book need not have been written". The author acknowledges that this volume is a "fine tuning" of the earlier first edition. Information has now been included on the Model 55 and Model 64 Winchesters which are considered part of the Model 94 lineage.

The Model 1894/94 Winchester had been produced continuously for 115 years when Renneberg released his second edition. Serious gun collectors tend to examine each firearm intensely as they look for similarities or even the slightest difference from standard specimens. The Winchester Repeating Arms Company had produced a significant number of variations of the Model 94 over the previous century. Providing the vast and highly detailed technical information required by Model 94 enthusiasts in a user friendly format no doubt represented a formidable task.

Renneberg wisely chose to categorize the data and pictures that he had collected based on the various components of a rifle. The Model 94 is discussed in eleven detailed chapters with specific titles such as Receivers, Barrels, Magazine Tubes and even Engraving and Special Order Features. This format works very well and allows the reader to quickly locate and compare variations of any component.

Each chapter presents specific information in easy to read text with bold subtitles. Hundreds of clear and well captioned photographs allow the reader to accurately compare features of their rifle with those shown. Collectors will refer to this book when verifying the originality of variations found on a specific Model 94. Identifying an altered rifle before it is purchased can save hundreds of dollars as well as preserve a collector's pride.

The author has included a variety of interesting items such as John N. Browning's original patent which was dated August 21, 1894. Early catalogue pages showing available sights, special order engraving, parts and price lists have been reproduced. An interesting eight page section titled 'Fun Facts' is a great conclusion to a very informative publication.

WINCHESTER MODEL 94 – A CENTURY OF CRAFTSMANSHIP retails at \$39 and represents excellent value. The information presented will satisfy the astute collector of these rifles as well as spark the interest of those who previously considered the legendary Model 94 simply as a great deer rifle.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

No quick fixes for the “gun” violence problem

by Sheldon Clare

It has been an interesting past few months to say the least. Both Canadian and American firearms organizations have seen a lot of misplaced resentment directed at them and other firearms owners based on the reaction to people about the terrible incident in Newtown, Ct. The American media has produced bizarre stories, ranging from direct threats of violence against civil rights advocates, to general threats against firearms owners and their families. One newspaper in the New York area actually published the names of addresses of local firearms owners, and then promptly hired armed guards for its employees after others published the names and addresses of the newspaper's employees. The usual parade of gun-grabbers have been out blowing off the dust of tired old freedom-limiting proposals and pushing them into the hands of politicians who are seeking quick answers to a complex problem.

As I told a the listeners of a Vancouver radio program, in response to a comment by gun-grabber Heidi Rathjens, if my children were at a school where something bad was happening I would be damn glad if there was someone good there with a gun to stop it. It's pretty clear that the hoplophobe solution only disarms the good people not the bad ones.

It's a circus and in that circus there be monsters – but those monsters are most certainly not the millions of Canadian firearms enthusiasts who own and use all sorts of firearms. The evidence-based, peer reviewed research is quite clear that gun control has done nothing to stop the use of firearms in crime. In a recent scholarly examination of Canadian firearms legislation and homicide rates, published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Dr. Caillin Langmann, PhD, MD, found in his research that “...there is no statistically significant associations in terms of reduced immediate impact or long-term trend in the overall firearm homicide rate, long-gun, and handgun homicide rate immediately and within 4 years after the passage of C-51 and C-17.” In his analysis which “... was performed on homicide due to firearms, long guns, and handguns as well as spousal homicide by firearms and long guns. Joinpoint [analysis] failed to detect any point in time where a change

in trend occurred that would support legislation causing a decrease in the rate of any type of homicide.” What that means is that all of the firearms legislation that we have suffered for the past forty years has not done anything to affect either the crime rate, or crimes with firearms.

It was all a useless exercise. The research is clear that the most significant factor affecting a lower crime rate and a lower rate of crime with firearms is that of an aging population. There are simply fewer per capita young males in the crime spree ages between 18 to 25, and as people age they are less likely to participate in violence. Gun control is one of the few social policies that hoplophobes prescribe more of, even when successive rounds of it have clearly failed to have the promised effect – usually people are smart enough to recognize when something doesn't work, but apparently some miss the point when it comes to firearms. Millions of Canadian firearms owners go to bed every night and wake up the next day without having misused their firearms. Hundreds of thousands have in some way violated some provision of the tortuous Firearms Act and its resulting regulations and it is simply not acceptable for the status quo to continue.

I have sometimes had people say to me no one needs a large capacity magazine, and no one needs these semi-automatic firearms. They are often surprised when I or others demonstrate that magazine capacity is a red herring for people who have been working to gradually attack all firearms ownership. Everyone familiar with firearms is well aware that magazines can be easily changed, so magazine capacity limitations really do nothing whatsoever to affect public safety. Any firearm can be perfectly lethal in the hands of an evil-doer – magazines and action styles are completely irrelevant. In a friendly competition held in North Africa in World War II, a Commonwealth soldier armed with a bolt

President...Continued on Page 36



MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Par Sheldon Clare

Les derniers mois ont été intéressants. Des organisations Canadiennes et Américaines ainsi que tous les propriétaires d'armes à feu ont été les cibles injustes de ressentiments mal placés suite aux réactions exprimées à propos du terrible incident à Newtown Connecticut. Les médias Américains ont diffusé des histoires bizarres, comme des menaces de violence envers des militants de droits civils et des menaces généralisées envers des propriétaires d'armes à feu et leurs familles. Un journal de l'État de New-York a même publié les noms et adresses des propriétaires d'armes à feu de leur localité. Les éditeurs du journal ont par la suite engagé des gardes armés pour protéger leurs employés après qu'en revanche, leurs noms et adresses avaient eux aussi été publiés. Les groupes habituels anti-armes ont sorti leurs vieilles propositions des boules à mites, propositions qui ne font que restreindre la liberté. Ils les ont fournis hâtivement aux politiciens qui cherchent une solution rapide à un problème complexe.

Lorsque je participais récemment à une émission de radio de Vancouver, les auditeurs ont pu entendre ma réponse à Heidi Rathjens une militante anti-arme bien connue: "Si mes enfants se trouvaient à l'école au moment où se produisait un crime, je serais très content s'il y avait quelqu'un d'armé sur place pour mettre fin à ce crime. Il est clair que la solution hoplophobe, c'est-à-dire celle qui soutien une peur irrationnelle des armes à feu, ne fait que désarmer les gens honnêtes et non les malfaiteurs.

C'est un cirque dans lequel il y a des monstres - mais ces monstres ne sont pas les milliers d'enthousiastes d'armes qui possèdent et utilisent toutes sortes d'armes. Les recherches empiriques vérifiées sont claires, le contrôle des armes à feu n'a eu aucun effet sur leur utilisation à des fins criminelles. Le Dr. Caillin Langmann Phd. M.D. a publié récemment les résultats de sa recherche dans le *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Il a examiné le lien entre les lois Canadiennes sur les armes à feu et le taux d'homicide: "Il n'y a aucun lien statistiquement significatif ni à court ou long terme avec le taux d'homicide par arme à feu incluant les armes de poing. Aucun effet n'a pu être mesuré immédiatement, ni quatre ans après l'application des Projets de Loi C-51 et C-17. Dans son examen qui, "portait sur les homicides commis par arme à feu, armes longues et armes de poing, incluant les homicides résultants de violence conjugale par armes à feu et armes

longues. L'analyse n'a pas permis de détecter un moment précis où il y aurait eu une modification de la tendance qui viendrait confirmer un lien entre les lois et la réduction du taux de n'importe quelle sorte d'homicide." Ce que cela veut dire, c'est que toutes les lois que nous avons subies depuis les quarante dernières années n'ont eu aucun effet sur le taux de criminalité ni sur les crimes commis par armes à feu.

Ce fût un exercice inutile. Toutes les recherches le confirment. Le facteur le plus important qui affecte à la baisse le taux de criminalité et la diminution des crimes commis par arme à feu est le vieillissement de la population. Le nombre per capita de jeunes hommes susceptibles de participer à des crimes violents est moindre. Lorsque les gens vieillissent ils sont moins enclins à commettre des actes de violence. Le contrôle des armes est la seule politique sociale qui continue d'être mise de l'avant par les hoplophobes même face à l'évidence que ces mesures effectuées à répétition ne donnent pas les résultats voulus. La plupart du temps les gens sont assez intelligents pour s'apercevoir qu'une méthode ne fonctionne pas, mais il semble qu'en matière d'armes à feu cela n'est pas le cas. Des millions de propriétaires d'armes à feu se couchent le soir et se réveillent le lendemain sans avoir fait un mauvais usage de leurs armes. Mais il y en a des centaines de milliers qui ont enfreint malgré eux la Loi sur les Armes à Feu et ses règlements tortueux, il n'est tout simplement pas acceptable que le statu-quo sois maintenu.

Je me suis souvent fait dire que personne n'avait besoin d'un chargeur à haute capacité ni d'armes semi-automatiques. Ces gens sont souvent surpris d'apprendre que de parler de la capacité d'un chargeur n'est que de la poudre aux yeux et que le but réel de la discussion est de s'attaquer à la possession d'armes en général. Tous ceux qui connaissent les armes savent qu'un chargeur peut être changé facilement et que de limiter leur capacité n'affecte pas la sécurité publique. Tout arme à feu peut être mortelle dans les mains d'un malfaiteur - les chargeurs et le type d'action n'ont rien à voir. Lors de la deuxième grande guerre mondiale en Afrique du Nord, un *President...Continued on Page 42*



VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Manufacturing hysteria: Canada's civil disarmament lobby

Blair Hagen, Vice President, Communications

Recent events have seen a retrenching of the civil disarmament lobby in Canada in the wake of the firearms law reforms achieved under Bill C-19 and the ending of long gun registration.

The first firearms law reform in modern Canadian political history sent shock waves through the international civil disarmament community. That Canada, a "progressive" western nation that could always be counted on to support and implement civil disarmament laws, would actually reform part of a failed firearms control law, was unthinkable.

Canadians, however, recognized that the Liberal's firearms program of the 1990s had failed. In turn the Conservative Government of Canada introduced legislation under a long standing party policy and promise to address the situation, at least in part, via Bill C-19 and officially ending long gun registration. While modest in effect, the Conservative bill was important in finally establishing firearms law reform as a credible and necessary agenda for the Canadian government.

But the ideological movement that is civil disarmament never sleeps. In December of 2012, using a report from the federal firearms advisory committee that recommended additional reforms to Canada's broken firearms control system were needed, the civil disarmament lobby and their friends in the federal opposition parties, the political police chiefs and the media, tried to derail the reform process and undermine the committee's recommendations by

sensationalizing their recommendations. Going on the attack, the forces arrayed against sensible firearms law reform chose the anniversary of the 1989 l'école Polytechnique tragedy in Montreal to kick-off their latest campaign. They did so by essentially manufacturing a faux-controversy to coincide with the anniversary of that terrible tragedy.

They claimed the report advocated "loosening" gun laws and that if implemented such measures would put Canadians in danger. In reality, the report advocated much needed structural reform to the firearms control and regulatory system to address problems that have been plaguing Canadians for over a decade. It advocated reforms to a system that continues to allow firearms bureaucrats to manufacture firearms prohibitions and disabilities for Canadians, - all with no oversight by government or Parliament.

Bill C-19 aside, the fact remains that the bulk of the Liberal's politically-motivated C-68 gun-control legislation, firearms control system and bureaucracy remains in place, unaltered and unreformed. The continued intransigence of Ontario CFO Chris Wyatt is a case in point. In effect nothing more than an anti-gun, un-elected paper-pusher, CFO Wyatt has continued to exceed his authority, defied the will of Parliament and the express orders of the Public Safety Minister.

The lack of clarity and definition of the role and powers of gun control bureaucrats like Wyatt has seen the

latter attempt to push their own anti-gun institutional ethos as evidenced by his failed attempt at setting-up a backdoor gun registry following passage of C-19. More recently CFO Wyatt has made the news thanks to his renewed attempts at inventing further rules and regulations concerning the issuance of required Authorizations to Transport (ATT) in the province of Ontario. There is little question in most gun owners minds that such petty policy changes are clearly aimed at constraining the legal movement of restricted firearms and potentially forcing frustrated gun owners to voluntarily divest themselves of their legally held restricted firearms.

Some see such actions as a form of retaliation for the destruction of the long gun registry. Howsoever, while long gun registration may be over in most of Canada save for Quebec; the gun grabbers obviously still see plenty of opportunity to attack the rights and property of Canadians, even if the Government of Canada has no such agenda.

Yet, everything old becomes new again. In the 1980s and early 1990s, before the advent of Bill C-68 and the gun registry, the civil disarmament lobby sought to further their agenda by pressing for bans on handguns and semi automatic rifles. Some misguided individuals in the firearms community supported this and the government legislation that resulted at that time under the belief that by doing so, the gun control issue would simply go away and they would be left

to enjoy their long guns unfettered and without harassment.

Under Bill C-17 in 1992, legal property (guns) belonging to thousands of Canadians were deliberately targeted by the police and gun control bureaucrats. The fact that such property had been legally purchased by law-abiding citizens, who had peaceably owned and enjoyed their firearms, oftentimes for years and even decades, and who posed no appreciable threat to public safety, was deemed simply irrelevant.

But the government “only” wanted to go after the “Rambo-types,” not legitimate sportsmen, they said.

These empty promises earned the “legitimate sportsmen” in the firearms community no reprieve. A scant few years later in 1995, gun owners once more found themselves under attack; this time facing the spectre of mandatory firearms licensing and universal firearms registration provisions of Bill C-68. There would be no more F.A.C. simply for purchase. Every owner in the country would hereafter be legally required to obtain a mandatory firearms license under threat of criminal prosecution, and every firearm regardless of make, model, caliber, capacity, length or action would be registered.

Everyone knew, regardless if they “approved” of handguns or semi-automatic rifles or not, that registration inevitably led to confiscation. However, too few owners spoke out against these heavy-handed new gun control provisions. Too many believed that just as long as their guns weren’t targeted, then the government’s gun control agenda was more properly some other guy’s problem. Many justified such loathsome behaviour by arguing that the government would never confiscate the guns of law-abiding Canadians, but despite the assurances of multitudes of fair-weather friends in the firearms community that day of days most certainly did come. Just ask former owners of the SPAS-12 shotgun, UZI

sub-machine gun or Steyr AUG rifle, etc...When reality finally set in and the general alarm that organizations such as the National Firearms Association had been sounding across Canada’s firearms community for ages was finally heard, it was almost too late. C-17 and C-68 were law.

Those were dark days indeed and the civil disarmament lobby was quick to capitalize on the fractured nature of Canada’s firearms community with their divide and conqueror strategy. This same tactic, aimed at dividing the firearms community, has been resurrected by the civil disarmament lobby once again in the wake of C-19.

The present Conservative government of Canada was elected in no small part due to the support of Canadians who believe in our right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership, and who saw the Conservatives as the only party interested in delivering on much needed firearms law reforms. Through thick and thin, Canada’s responsible firearms owners have supported the CPC; during its time serving as Her Majesty’s Loyal Opposition, through their election to minority governments in 2006 and 2008, and finally helping to sweep them back into office in 2011 as a majority government. A government finally with the power in Parliament to facilitate those long-promised firearms law reforms without interference from the opposition parties.

This electoral alliance has served both Conservatives and Canadians who share a belief in personal responsibility, firearms freedom and protection of our property rights. But the civil disarmament lobby sees an opportunity to break this mutually beneficial alliance by forcing the government to once again start legislating against firearms owners. By manufacturing controversy, and with the aid of their ultra-left wing allies in the media and the bully pulpits of Canada’s “progressive” political punditry, they are convinced they can stop any further firearms law reforms, no matter how badly needed.

Indeed, they believe that they can successfully turn the “gun issue” around and force the government to enact even more firearms prohibitions and anti-gun regulations directed toward Canada’s millions of law-abiding firearms owners.

Such a scenario has played out before. In the early 1990s, the Progressive Conservative Government and its Justice Minister Kim Campbell adopted a gun ban and regulatory agenda that directly targeted law-abiding Canadian gun owners; culminating with the passage of Bill C-17 in 1992. That government thought that legislating against the freedoms and property of Canadians was politically necessary and would prove popular with voters. They were about to find out just how wrong they were.

However, the immediate result was a widespread backlash throughout Canada’s firearms community. It undermined support for the PC Party and resulted in voters abandoning them for other political options, most notably the Reform Party of Canada. Prime Minister Kim Campbell subsequently led the PCs to the worst election defeat in Canadian history in 1993, and she herself became little more than a sad and gladly forgotten footnote in Canadian political chronicles. The PC Party itself disappeared a decade later. All of this facilitated thirteen years of uninterrupted Liberal rule in Canada, much to delight and approval of the civil disarmament lobby, as they had unfettered access to and cooperation of federal Liberal legislators.

Fast-forward to the year 2013; the Conservative Government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper enjoys a

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I take offence at one of your statements in your recent article: "A Matter of Trust: Concealed Carry & the Snowbird Paradox" (January/February 2013). In one paragraph you make reference to the ability of some individuals in Canada ...like armoured car guards, to obtain permits for open carry.

You state, "Apparently it is okay for civilians to carry firearms in Canada in order to protect money, but not so if talking protection of human life." Mr. Penney, I challenge you to show me where it states anywhere on an armoured car guard's ATC that it is to, quote: "protect money." In fact, it does not.

Instead, you reinforce this myth. I find it interesting how often editorialists of the Canadian Firearms Journal use terms like "junk science", or "hysterical rhetoric," to describe how the anti-firearms crowd promotes their agenda. In my opinion, statements like yours are no better.

Clare M.

Dear Clare,

Thanks very much for your letter. As both an editor and columnist one of my jobs is to engage our readers and fellow gun owners. Often that necessitates that we take deliberately provocative positions. The hope is that a legitimate debate or dialogue will eventually result.

You are technically correct when you argue that open carry ATCs are ostensibly issued to individuals such as armoured car guards for the purposes of self-defence, rather than the protection of money. However, the reality of the situation is not so black & white.

Firstly, I make no apologies for my belief that every Canadian has the right to self-defence. Having the legal right to carry a firearm, either openly or concealed, is often a significant, if not deciding, factor whether or not an individual is ultimately successful in such a quest. This is not opinion, but

rather fact and you need look no further than the peer-reviewed research of such scholars as Dr. John Lott or Professors Gary Mauser and Gary Kleck to verify it as such.

I certainly don't begrudge armoured car guards their right to carry a firearm for their own protection. Obviously, they have a potentially dangerous job and may become the target of armed robbers. However, why isn't the same right extended to the millions of other qualified law-abiding Canadian gun owners?

What makes the life of an employee of the XYZ Armoured Car Co., more valuable or more worthy of protection than that of "Mr. Smith," the local independent jeweler; or "Mrs. Jones," who owns the local watering hole and has to make a regular night deposit; or "Jimmy" the nineteen year-old gas bar attendant working the midnight shift at the only service-station in the "sketchy part of town?"

Where is the justice or the fairness to be found in the current system? Statistically speaking, if you look at RCMP crime data or even read the newspapers, there are far more gas stations, nightclubs and jewelry stores robbed everyday in Canada than armoured cars. Obviously such employment is not without its attendant dangers, just as working an armoured car job entails dealing with a certain level of risk.

The point I'm making here is shouldn't "Mr. Smith," "Mrs. Jones" or "Jimmy" logically enjoy the same rights and access to an ATC (assuming they undergo equivalent training and pass a criminal background check) as our hypothetical armoured car guards? How do you decide who has the greater need for self-protection? Which life is worth more?

From my perspective the only thing differentiating our fictitious teenage gas bar attendant working the midnight shift with \$200.00 in the register and the armored car guards carrying \$2,000,000.00 is the zeros. And that's just plain wrong. I know that if "Jimmy" was my kid, or if "Mrs. Jones" was my wife or "Mr. Smith" my husband there wouldn't be enough zeros in existence to convince me that the life of my loved one was somehow less valuable than that

hypothetical armoured car guard.

I'll leave it to our readers to decide just how much "myth" I incorporated in my column as opposed to fact. As for the charge of "promoting an agenda" I'm absolutely guilty and make no apologies for it. As a responsible firearms owner I see it as my responsibility to do my utmost to protect, preserve and defend the rights of all law-abiding Canadian gun owners, not just the select few who share my own particular interests or perspectives. We all work with the tools we have at hand and for now I'm honoured to be in a position to attempt to promote this agenda in the pages of *Canadian Firearms Journal*.

That said I'm always open to considering differing perspectives or arguments. It is principal reason why I created the semi-regular "Member's Soapbox" feature for *Canadian Firearms Journal*. I wanted to provide our members with an opportunity to share their thoughts on issues of relevance with the entire organization. If you or any other NFA members would like to explore this or any other firearms issue more fully I've got a soapbox waiting.

- Editor

Letters... Continued on Page 15

Editor's Note: We reserve the right to edit and revise all submissions for length, clarity and style, in keeping with the standards of NFA publication policies. Editorial changes will be made to improve ease of reading, to correct grammatical and spelling errors, and to fit text into available space. The official policies of the NFA are taken into consideration in determining editorial changes to any solicited or unsolicited manuscript, letter to the editor or other contribution. CFJ staff edited pieces are not reviewed by writers prior to publication. We reserve the right to reject an article or letter submission for any reason. By submitting any articles, letters or photographs to CFJ, contributors grant CFJ the right to publish them in any print or electronic format, including on our website and via RSS syndicated feed.



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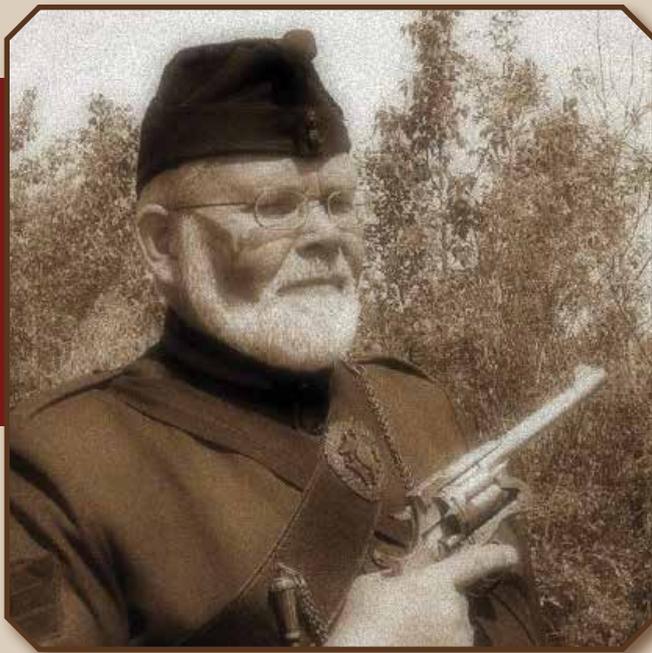
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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

THE REBELLION OF 1885

Part I - Flintlocks to Gatling Guns

Gary K. Kangas and Branko Diklitch

The pursuit of Canada's firearms heritage is electrifying. The characters and the arms they employed make a fascinating quest. The events in the spring and summer of 1885 are a notable example.

The Rebellion of 1885, also known as the North West Rebellion, remains to some a mere footnote to Canadian history, to others it has much deeper meaning; viewing it as a just war waged against oppression.

From our perspective, the Rebellion of 1885 was a pivotal moment in Canadian history. Those who are avid students of history may draw their own conclusions as to who was right; who was oppressed; who was just; or unjust during those tumultuous days in 1885. However, we are not going to delve into any of these questions. Instead, we hope to provide readers with a glimpse of the incredible characters and larger-than-life figures that emerged from the uprising of 1885, as well as provide commentary on the equipment fielded by both sides.

The Rebellion of 1885 truly is the stuff of Wild West fiction. Yet it is all true. In many ways a re-telling of the classic David vs. Goliath story, the Rebellion of 1885 pitted out-numbered and poorly-equipped First Nations and people of mixed European and First Nations ancestry, today best known as

the Métis, against the full might of the federal government of Canada, the NWMP and the Canadian military.

The Métis were a house divided at the start of the fracas, with certain factions remaining committed to supporting the federal side. General Middleton's chief scout was Thomas Hourie, himself a man of mixed ancestry. At the time, men of Hourie's ancestry were often called "Mixed Bloods," a term that today is considered offensive. Others, discontented with the status quo, allied themselves with Louis Riel, the leader of the impromptu rebellion, and his dynamic field commander and general, Gabriel Dumont; a French-speaking Métis. Donald Ross, an English-speaking "Mixed Blood" was the son of Hugh Ross, a Scots Hudson's Bay man, and later became a casualty at Batoche. It wasn't just language that divided loyalist from rebel; there were many documented examples of families being divided, such as the Whitford and Pritchard families.

Some stalwart First Nations "peace" chiefs such as Big Bear, who was a politician and a respected negotiator, were replaced following initiation of hostilities by war chiefs such as Almighty Voice. However, other war chiefs, such as Chief Fine Day, found themselves over-ruled by peace chiefs such as Chief Poundmaker, thanks in part to the latter's possession of a pipe of authority belonging to a once famed warrior.

The characters on the federal side of the

drama were equally colourful. These included, "Gentleman Joe" McKay, a Scots "Mixed Blood," Englishman, Richard Boyle, who was a peer of the realm. He and his brother Harry styled themselves gentleman-adventurers. Other characters included John George "Kootenai" Brown, who had been an ensign without purchase in the British Army. He had been newly returned from India, when he sold his commission in 1861, then sailed for North America. He eventually became a constable in Barkerville, served as a scout for the US Army and also delivered mail in Montana and the Dakotas. He abruptly left Montana after an altercation with an individual which proved to be fatal. He then made his way back to Canada where he became chief scout of the Rocky Mountain Rangers. He made a dashing figure, dressed in a war shirt and carrying his ivory gripped Single Action Colt.

The military men included Colonel Otter, a veteran of the Fenian invasion; Captain J.S. Denis, who commanded the Dominion Land Surveyor's Intelligence Corps; Major Stewart, a retired military man and a cowboy; Sam Steele, the well known NWMP commanding officer of Steele's Scouts; and Superintendent Leif N. F. Crozier, of the NWMP. Colonel Thomas Bland Strange, the commander of the Alberta Field Force and a veteran of the India Mutiny, was known as "Gunner Jingo," and dressed in a fringed coat carried both a pistol and a sword. He was admired by his troops and would socialize with them, while always treating them in a cordial manner;

which was very unusual for the era. They were all commanded by General Frederick Middleton, a British Army Regular.

The firearms fielded by combatants ranged from obsolete flintlock trade guns, Colt's Single Action Army revolvers, British Enfield revolvers, 1878 Colt Double Actions, Smith and Wesson No. 3 revolvers, various pocket pistols, shotguns and single shot rifles. Of the latter, the most commonly encountered single-shot rifles included the venerable .577 Snider Enfield, a few Martini-Henrys, various Sharps buffalo guns, Remington rolling-blocks and even a few well-worn Ballards. Repeating rifle designs included the ever popular Model 1866, 1873 and 1876 Winchesters, along with a smattering of Marlins and lesser-known lever-actions. Government forces eventually even fielded the latest word in weapons technology in 1885, when they deployed two multi-barrel Gatling guns against the forces commanded by Riel and Dumont.

This was the cast of characters and their arms that set in motion the event that we now call the Rebellion of 1885.

The drama began to unfold one early spring day around Duck Lake in the Northwest Territories. Snow was still on the ground that Thursday, the 26th of March in the year 1885. Rumors of unrest among the Métis and First Nations were making the authorities very nervous. Superintendent Crozier and a scout interpreter, Gentleman Joe McKay, had been dispatched to Duck Lake on horseback. Accompanying them were a number of sleighs with fifty NWMP troopers and forty men of the Prince Albert Volunteers, under the command of Captain Harold Stewart. The mixed command even boasted its own artillery in the form of a mountain howitzer commanded by Inspector Joseph Howe.

As quoted from Denis Light's *Footprints in the Dust*, "A short distance from Duck Lake the advance scouts saw the rebels in position, so they returned to warn Crozier." Crozier, Gentleman Joe McKay and Sgt. William A. Brooks went forward to negotiate with the Métis. Two sleighs with a complement of NWMP and

Prince Albert Volunteers were likely near. Isidore Dumont, Assiniboine head man, Assiyiwin and probably Gabriel Dumont, advanced in order to parlay with the federals.

As the two parties approached one another words were exchanged. Some suggest very harsh words. There is no record of what was said or who pulled first or fired the first shots. What is known is the ball opened with Isidore Dumont being killed on the spot. Subsequent to his death, mass pandemonium breaks out, as gunfire was exchanged by the opposing parties. Crozier and McKay dismounted and returned fire using their horses as cover. The NWMP and Prince Albert Volunteers overturned their sleighs to form an ad hoc barricade. In the exchange, five horses are killed, along with nine Canadian militiamen, and one NWMP trooper. Twelve others are wounded. On the Métis side, four Métis and one First Nations are killed and one wounded in the fight, including Gabriel Dumont. Assiyiwin would succumb to his wounds the next day.

At the start of the battle, Gentleman Joe was armed with an Enfield Revolver, plus an 1876 Winchester. His superior, Superintendent Crozier, would most likely have been carrying either an issued Enfield Revolver or a private purchase sidearm. The Smith and Wesson No.3 in .44 Russian was

a very popular officer acquisition. Isidore Dumont likely had a revolver of some sort and an unknown Winchester. Gabriel Dumont carried a Colt or a Smith and Wesson as he could afford better equipment. Gabriel also used an 1866 Winchester. It is unknown if Assiyiwin was armed, as his sight was impaired.

The Enfield revolver fielded by Gentleman Joe and many others was a robust, but overly complicated gun that wasn't particularly pleasant to shoot. Like the Smith and Wesson No. 3, it was a top break design with a star shaped ejector at the back. Unlike the Smith and Wesson, the barrel and cylinder moved forward slightly and then the barrel could be tipped down at a 45 degree angle. The cylinder remained fixed in place. In theory, this allowed the empty brass to fall out, but also permitted the user to retain any unfired cartridges remaining in the cylinder. Perhaps fine in theory, however, under the stress of field conditions and combat it failed miserably.

Shooting the Enfield, even when someone is not shooting back is a chore. Once the action is opened and the empties extracted, if any loaded rounds are left they have a nasty habit of slipping past the extractor and binding up the action. It became clear very quickly during testing that the only way to operate this mechanism for



Gentleman Joe McKay and Mistawasis

target shooting or field conditions alike was to empty out all cases, loaded or not, as soon as the revolver was broken open.

The Enfield that was tested for this article had a terribly stiff double action trigger pull and a minimal rear sight. The single action pull was a bit more palatable, but precision accuracy remained firmly in the realm of the theoretical. Our test Enfield was chambered in the .476 pistol cartridge, which was the British attempt at beefing up the anemic .450 Adams. However, it still fell far short of even the .44 Russian; perhaps the cartridge most associated with Smith & Wesson's famed break top revolvers.

The author's experience with the Smith and Wesson No.3 revolver during testing for this article was diametrically opposed to that of the Enfield. Unlike the latter's chambering, the authors both found the .44 Russian cartridge to be both powerful and quite accurate at most any reasonable range. The S&W was pleasant to shoot and fit, function and extraction were consistently crisp and smooth.

Complaints about the No.3 design were only very minor in nature, of which the grip geometry was the most common. The S&W is a rather large revolver and for smaller hands it simply does not fit as well as others, such as the Colt Single Action Army revolver. The

other complaint of note is when loading and unloading on horseback. Upon breaking open the action, all cartridges are automatically ejected, including any remaining live rounds. Although appreciably slower to load and unload, the Colt Single Action permits the shooter to load and unload individual chambers thanks to its loading gate and design. This permits a shooter to retain any unfired rounds; the trade-off being the extra time it takes to manually turn the cylinder and eject/load another cartridge. Each design has its strengths and weakness as a result.

In terms of shoulder arms during the period, the 1876 Winchester was the true darling of the era. One of the most common chambering on the Canadian plains at the time was the .45-75 Winchester. It was a powerful round and the rifle itself proved to be quite accurate. Employing a "Spanish Meter" sight, the Model 1876 was often used with great effect at long distances. Function, loading and unloading was consistently smooth and efficient. Carrying one as a saddle gun in bear country certainly inspired confidence. While the NWMP were forced to do a lot of one-man patrols, mostly because of manpower shortages, the dependability of the 1876 Winchester inspired much confidence in the rank-and-file and gave the troopers a far better chance of surviving a hostile encounter.

In addition to the Winchester, many British designs were also fielded during the North West Rebellion. Perhaps the most numerous of these were the British Snider. Having already served for some 20 years, the Snider was not the newest technology available to government units at the start of the uprising. However, the .577 cartridge was powerful at modest ranges and was excellent in a mass volley. The action was not ultra strong, but it was robust enough for the cartridge. Loading was reasonably easy, while extraction required tipping the rifle over, which slowed the rate of fire.

Despite being a decent combat arm, some of those armed with it remained unimpressed. One such trooper of the 7th Fusiliers by the name of Alexander Campbell went so far as to call it "a gas pipe not fit for service." Campbell's complaints aside, the Snider Enfield was generally a well-made, dependable rifle, and actually offered a metal finish that would rival any of the better guns of today.

The Snider, with all of its shortcomings, was still able to perform adequately in the field in most respects. However, success hinged on whether or not the officer commanding played to its strengths; which primarily meant ensuring that Snider-armed units retained numerical superiority when engaging the enemy. It was absolutely critical that soldiers serving in such units were trained to support one another, even if faced by a numerically inferior enemy; as the latter may or may not be armed with more powerful repeating arms.

In part two, events continue to escalate, as the Canadian Government scrambles to import the latest technologies, including the 1878 Colt Double Action and Gatling guns in hopes of containing the growing crisis on the prairies.

Photo Credits:

Gentleman Joe McKay and Mistawasis courtesy of Prince Albert Historical Museum

Additional images from the authors collection





Letters... Continued from Page 11

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the wonderful job you do in respect to gun ownership in Canada. I am proud to be a member of the NFA. My father purchased a restricted firearm but was unable to register it or bring it home until he had a gun club membership. Is there any way around that?

We own 22.5 sections of land which we hunt on as well as sport shoot our rifles and shotguns. To my understanding, it is illegal to discharge our restricted firearms out here. Is this correct, or is there a way to make it legal? Lastly, being as concealed carry is technically legal in Canada, of course with necessary reasons and licensing, how can it be that personal protection, even within our homes, is not an acceptable reason when applying for a restricted PAL or purchasing a restricted firearm? Just hoping you can clarify on these issues and what I am able to do.

Thank you very much for your help.

Derek K.

Dear Derek,

Thanks very much for your letter and kind words. To answer your first question there is no legal requirement under the current *Firearms Act* for your father to provide his CFO with proof of a gun club membership. That gun owners wishing to acquire a restricted firearm must belong to an approved gun club or range is a complete fiction perpetuated by chief firearms officers across the country.

I suggest that your father submit a written request to his CFO asking that the transfer be approved immediately or that they provide written copies of the pertinent firearms legislation showing such a requirement and legal reasons denying the transfer. If they remain intransigent and still refuse to approve the transfer your father has the option of requesting a hearing in provincial court.

There have been a growing number of NFA members opting to challenge this "requirement" and force the hand of their CFO. While they may not make any friends in the CFO's office, they do eventually have their transfers approved.

Unfortunately, current laws only permit owners from shooting restricted firearms on approved ranges no matter how much land you own. Your only option in such a case is to make an application with your CFO to have the land in question approved as a private range. Given the rather strained relations between CFOs and the firearms community at the moment this is a tall order.

As for your last question, much of the problem revolves around the actual powers and authority of provincial CFOs granted under the *Firearms Act*. The latter so poorly defines the limits of CFO authority and power and is so vague, that in the preceding decade and a half, these unelected gun control bureaucrats have been essentially given a free hand by the federal government to set up their own petty fiefdoms; making them almost a law unto themselves. Many of them were appointed by the former Liberal government and not surprisingly shared the same anti-gun ethos and agenda as their "benefactors."

The problem has been exacerbated by the fact that some provinces opted into the system and appointed their own CFOs, while others opted out and had federally-appointed CFOs installed instead. The lack of oversight and a clear limitation of their authority have seen CFOs assume greater and greater powers over the administration of the Liberal's C-68 gun control program, including whether or not "self-defence" is an acceptable reason for acquiring a firearm.

There are only two viable solutions to this problem; politically or the courts. Ending long gun registration was a start, but it is a long way from repealing the Liberal's fatally-flawed *Firearms Act*. As for the courts, such an option is often prohibitively expensive and offers no guarantee of success, even if the facts are on our side. Obviously much work remains to be done, but rest assured Canada's NFA remains fully committed on all fronts.

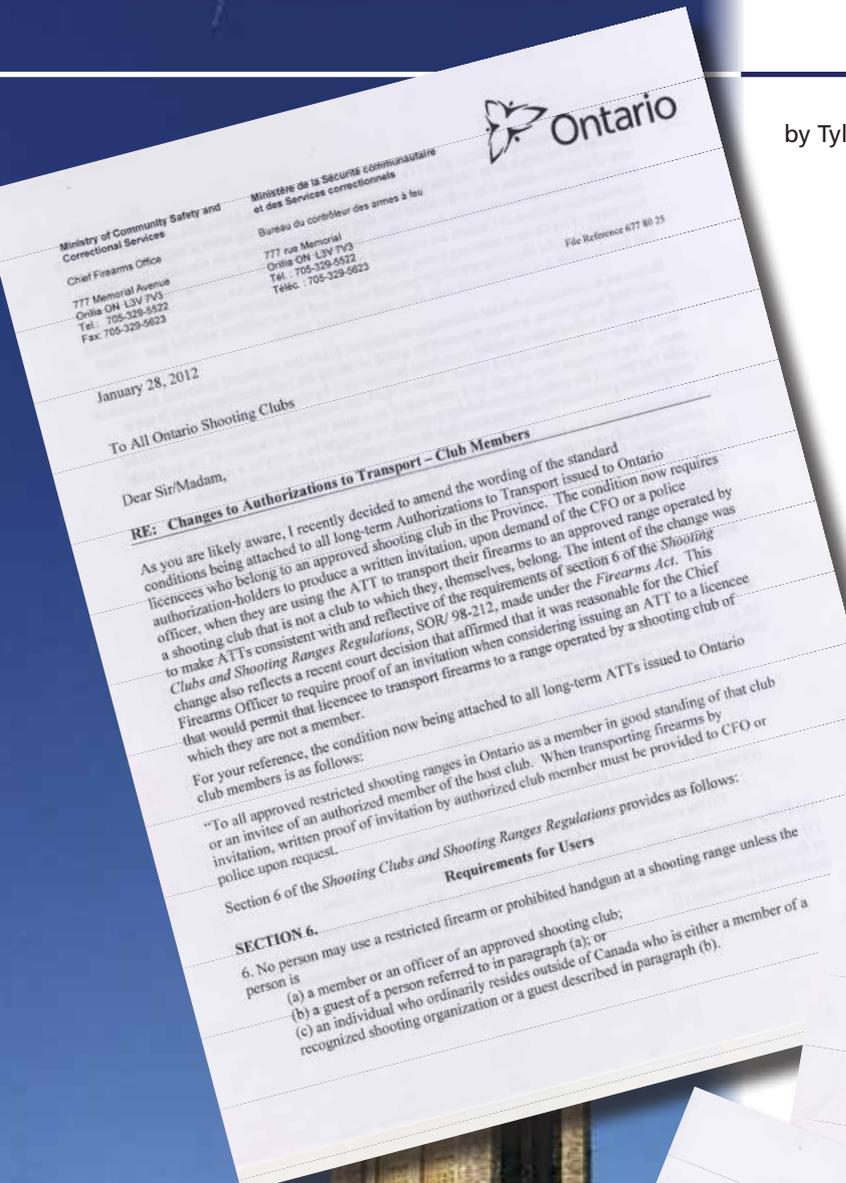
- Editor



POLITICS & GUNS

Searching for the Cure

by Tyler Vance





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January 28, 2012

To All Ontario Shooting Clubs

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Changes to Authorizations to Transport – Club Members

As you are likely aware, I recently decided to amend the wording of the standard conditions being attached to all long-term Authorizations to Transport issued to Ontario licensees who belong to an approved shooting club in the Province. The condition now requires authorization-holders to produce a written invitation, upon demand of the CFO or a police officer, when they are using the ATT to transport their firearms to an approved range operated by a shooting club that is not a club to which they, themselves, belong. The intent of the change was to make ATTs consistent with and reflective of the requirements of section 6 of the *Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations*, SOR/98-212, made under the *Firearms Act*. This change also reflects a recent court decision that affirmed that it was reasonable for the Chief Firearms Officer to require proof of an invitation when considering issuing an ATT to a licensee that would permit that licensee to transport firearms to a range operated by a shooting club of which they are not a member.

For your reference, the condition now being attached to all long-term ATTs issued to Ontario club members is as follows:

"To all approved restricted shooting ranges in Ontario as a member in good standing of that club or an invitee of an authorized member of the host club. When transporting firearms by invitation, written proof of invitation by authorized club member must be provided to CFO or police upon request.

Section 6 of the *Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations* provides as follows:

Requirements for Users

- SECTION 6.**
6. No person may use a restricted firearm or prohibited handgun at a shooting range unless the person is
- (a) a member or an officer of an approved shooting club;
 - (b) a guest of a person referred to in paragraph (a); or
 - (c) an individual who ordinarily resides outside of Canada who is either a member of a recognized shooting organization or a guest described in paragraph (b).

Since commencing issuance of ATTs inclusive of the above condition, this office has received a number of inquiries from Ontario authorization-holders respecting what is required of them by way of documentation that will ensure that they are in compliance with the condition. We are answering these inquiries as we receive them, but in the interests of ensuring that all authorization-holders in Ontario are cognizant of their obligations, we are also writing to the Executive of all Ontario shooting clubs, knowing that your organizations have a vested interest in ensuring that the shooting sports are pursued safely and in accordance with the law. Please feel free to share this information with your members and guests.

Before an authorization-holder undertakes to transport his or her registered restricted firearms or prohibited handguns to a range operated by a club of which the authorization-holder is not a member, the authorization-holder must have been invited, by an authorized club member, to bring his or her firearms to that venue. Most of the time, obtaining a written invitation will be easy. The invitation may simply be a print-out of an e-mail from the member of the host club who has invited the authorization-holder to attend, or it might be a copy of a notice of a competition generated by the host club that invites members of other clubs to attend.

Obviously, having the invitation available for production is the authorization-holder's best protection, and constitutes the best practice. However, I do wish to make it clear that if the authorization-holder does not have the written invitation on his/her person, but can, if asked by the CFO or police, produce it within a short, reasonable time, this will satisfy the condition. It is an offence under the *Firearms Act* for an authorization-holder, without lawful excuse, to contravene a condition of an authorization.

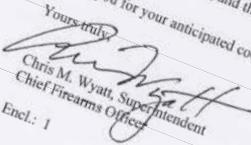
Finally, I would remind you that section 14 of the *Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations* provides as follows:

- SECTION 14. Records**
14. (1) The operator of an approved shooting club shall keep records, with respect to the following users of restricted firearms or prohibited firearms, that include
- (a) with respect to a member or officer of the club
 - (i) his or her name, address and phone number,
 - (ii) his or her membership card number, and
 - (iii) his or her date of birth; and
 - (b) with respect to a guest of a member or officer of the club
 - (i) the information required in subparagraph (a)(i), and
 - (ii) the number of his or her licence to possess firearms, if one does not exist,
- (2) Every record made under subsection (1) must be maintained for at least six years.
- (3) At the chief firearms officer's request, the operator of the approved shooting club shall submit to the chief firearms officer a report containing all or any requested part of the information described in subsection (1).

I am confident that Ontario sport-shooters are genuinely committed to the safe and lawful pursuit of the shooting sports, and that the recent change to the wording of the standard conditions on long-term ATTs will cause them minimal inconvenience. I trust the foregoing will be of some assistance to you in the event your members or guests approach you for clarification respecting what is required of them, and the reasons for it.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Yours truly,



Chris M. Wyatt, Superintendent
Chief Firearms Officer

Encl.: 1

“Don’t think of it as ‘gun control’...think of it as ‘victim disarmament’. If we make enough laws, we can all be criminals. The possession of arms by the people is the ultimate warrant that government governs only with the consent of the governed.”

- Jeff Snyder

At the end of January Superintendent (Supt.) Chris Wyatt, the chief firearms officer (CFO) for Ontario, sent out a notice to all 232 of Ontario’s approved gun clubs and shooting ranges informing them that he was unilaterally imposing additional restrictions and conditions on all long-term Authorizations to Transport (LTATT) held by licensed gun owners in the province. There was no previous notice given of this decision, nor was there any public or private consultation with stakeholders, including individual gun owners, gun clubs or the federal government.

For those who don’t know, under the current Firearms Act, owners of restricted and prohibited class firearms (pistols, short-barrel shotguns, & certain long guns) are required to apply for a special authorization from their provincial CFO in order to legally transport their firearms to and from approved shooting ranges. Essentially state-issued “permission slips” allowing owners to actually use their firearms, there is zero evidence to show that the imposition of this overly-bureaucratic authorization system has ever improved public safety or prevented an actual gun crime. Instead, they merely add an additional layer of red tape to the bureaucratic quagmire created by the Liberal’s C-68 gun control system.

Wyatt, as the chief gun control bureaucrat for Ontario, was apparently unsatisfied with the multiple layers of bureaucratic nonsense law-abiding gun owners already had to contend with and decided to add more. It would appear that in his wisdom he concluded that Ontario’s licensed gun owners are such a danger to the public and so reckless that they simply could not be trusted to use their long-term ATTs; unless they first obtained a written invitation from the club or range they intended to shoot at. Hereafter gun owners would be required to produce said written invite upon demand of the CFO, or any police officer, or face legal repercussions up to and including incarceration.

In his letter to club executives dated January 28th, Wyatt announced:

“To all approved restricted shooting ranges in Ontario as a member in good standing of that

club or an invitee of an authorized member of the host club. When transporting firearms by invitation, written proof of invitation by authorized club member must be provided to CFO or police upon request.”

When questioned as to the reason for placing such needlessly bureaucratic additional limitations upon law-abiding gun owners already dealing with what former Auditor General Sheila Fraser described as an, “overly-bureaucratic” gun control system, media reps for the CFO had little to say. We do know that the CFO received **no directive** from the federal government ordering implementation of further restrictions, and the minister responsible seemed just as surprised as gun owners when the new regulations were announced.

According to the CFO’s letter, however, the official intent of the new restriction was not to harass law-abiding gun owners, but to, “...make ATTs consistent with and reflective of the requirements of section 6 of the Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations, SOR/ 98-212, made under the Firearms Act.”

Section 6 of the Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations provides as follows:

Requirements for Users

SECTION 6.

6. No person may use a restricted firearm or prohibited handgun at a shooting range unless the person is

- (a) a member or an officer of an approved shooting club;**
- (b) a guest of a person referred to in paragraph (a); or**
- (c) an individual who ordinarily resides outside of Canada who is either a member of a recognized shooting organization or a guest described in paragraph (b).**

You will note, however, that nowhere in section 6, or anywhere else in the *Firearms Act*, does it require firearms owners to obtain or produce a written invitation in order to shoot as a guest of an approved club or range in Canada. Nevertheless, CFO Wyatt is now requiring licensed gun owners to obtain a second “permission slip” in order to use the first “permission slip,” i.e., their CFO-issued LTATT, in order to legally transport their firearm to a range! Didn’t the comedy duo of Abbott & Costello already do this bit already with their “Who’s on first?” comedy routine back in the 1940s?

I would chuckle at the absurdity of CFO Wyatt’s latest anti-gun machinations, but for the fact that these new “conditions” once more places the onus upon firearms owners to comply or else. As asinine as they are, these new gun regulations are being treated by Canada’s gun control regime as law; despite being the product of a lone, unelected, albeit uniformed gun control bureaucrat, and not that of Canada’s democratically-elected parliament. Yet, gun owners who run afoul of CFO Wyatt’s latest decree by failing to get their “papers” in order will still potentially face several years in prison as a consequence.

Equally alarming is the fact that it now appears as if the New Brunswick CFO is also getting on board with Wyatt’s new ATT restrictions and there is the possibility of other CFOs following suit. Such a move would tend to give credence to a disturbing rumor swirling around the firearms community for some time that the proverbial “fix” is in, and CFOs across the country plan on following Wyatt’s lead in pushing a unified civil-disarmament agenda under the auspices of administering and enforcing the provisions of the C-68 *Firearms Act*.

As much as I despise Supt. Wyatt’s politics and his tactics, he does display a certain flair for his role as top gun

control bureaucrat. To give the devil his due, you don’t rise to the rank of Supt. of the OPP or hold a high-level appointment such as CFO without being smart and knowing how to cover your behind. His more vocal critics from within the firearms community mince few words and view the CFO’s actions as yet another blatant attempt at usurping the authority of Parliament and using his authority to push an anti-gun agenda that is in contravention of the intent, if not the letter, of the *Firearms Act*.

Unfortunately, like so much of the *Firearms Act*, the duties, powers and authority of individual chief firearms officers are so poorly delineated that it will likely fall to individual gun owners and gun-rights groups like Canada’s National Firearms Association to seek clarification and redress through the courts. An expensive and risky alternative that offers no guarantee of success, but perhaps the only viable option should the federal government choose not to take definitive action to rein-in crusading anti-gun CFOs like Wyatt.

CFOs like Wyatt have enjoyed pretty-much a free hand to “administer” Canada’s gun control regime as they have seen fit for the past decade and a half. Many, if not all, shared the same anti-gun ethos perpetuated by the former Chretien and Martin governments after having been appointed directly by them, or their like-minded provincial counterparts. As a chief firearms officer, the extent of Supt. Wyatt’s responsibilities, duties and authority are ostensibly quantified by the *Firearms Act*. However, whether by deliberate design or simply yet another example of the incompetence of the drafters of C-68, individual CFOs enjoy a rather broad and vaguely defined mandate that is quite open to interpretation and abuse as a result.

While CFO Wyatt cannot pass actual laws, as the chief gun control bureaucrat

for Ontario, he is permitted to set specific rules or regulations related to the administration of Canadian gun law. The lack of clear limits on the authority of individual CFOs, in concert with the vagueness of their official mandate, has allowed CFOs to assume greater and greater power and authority over the regulation of firearms and firearms law. This influence has grown to such an extent that even their personal interpretation of Canadian gun laws are now enforced as if they possessed the same force of law as does the *Firearms Act*.

For that reason I’m sure CFO Wyatt fully believes he is wholly entitled to impose whatever restrictions or conditions he so desires on gun owners, including requiring that they now obtain a written invitation before they may legally transport their restricted/prohibited firearms to club’s other than their own.

These powers are laid out under Section 58. (1) of the *Firearms Act*. It reads:

58. (1) A chief firearms officer who issues a licence, an authorization to carry or an authorization to transport may attach any reasonable condition to it that the chief firearms officer considers desirable in the particular circumstances and in the interests of the safety of the holder or any other person.

At first glance, as per his mandate granted by S. 58 (1), it would seem CFO Wyatt is free to attach any condition he wishes to any LTATT. However, Wyatt in his quest to further

his anti-gun agenda may have gotten overly ambitious and actually exceeded his authority in this matter. Eventually he will have to provide his justification for imposing such obviously prejudicial restrictions on law-abiding gun owners and explain exactly how requiring written invites, in addition to legally-required ATTs, will enhance the safety of the individual ATT holder or the public-at-large.

Any reasonable person would have to grant that as CFO, Supt. Wyatt has the power to impose “reasonable” conditions on the terms of any issued ATT; however those conditions must necessarily be limited to enhancing particular personal or public safety interests if you read S. 58 (1) closely. I would argue that CFO Wyatt’s most recent restrictions does not fall within such a mandate and serves no other interest but his own, and his personal desire to erect additional barriers to firearms ownership in Canada.

I would contend that by imposing such additional restrictions and conditions on all restricted/prohibited firearms owners, the CFO is no longer able to clearly identify a specific circumstance where either individual or public safety is threatened due to the lack of a written invitation being held by a properly licensed LTATT holder. The lack of a clearly identifiable safety issue should go a long way toward establishing the lack of “reasonableness” inherent to the new ATT restrictions. Wyatt’s new regulations are being legally challenged this spring and I remain hopeful that the courts will overturn them after finding them unnecessary, unreasonable and in breach of the CFO’s mandate as per S. 58 (1) of the *Firearms Act*.

Politically, the past couple of years haven’t been that fun for any of our anti-gun CFOs, especially Chris Wyatt, who was publicly brought to task by

*“Make no mistake;
CFO Chris Wyatt is
only the symptom, the
Liberal’s fatally-flawed
C-68 Firearms Act is the
true disease eating away at
the heart of our community
and our centuries-old
firearms heritage.”*

Public Safety Minister Toews last year in the wake of Bill C-19. The decision to scrap the long-gun registry did not sit well with CFO Wyatt, and like the most talented of bureaucrats the world-over, he proved a master at foot-dragging and playing dumb in the face of orders he did not care for. He over-played his hand, however, when in the interim he attempted to circumvent the will of the Canadian people, Parliament, and Minister Toews, via his harebrained backdoor registry scheme.

Licensed firearms retailers subsequently found themselves caught in the crossfire between Ottawa and their CFO. While the federal government was busy passing a new bill that ended the registration of non-restricted class firearms, CFO Wyatt, the top gun control bureaucrat in the province was ordering them to continue recording registration data in CFO-owned logbooks. Many complied for fear their dealer’s permits would be revoked by their CFO.

Minister Toews, clearly fuming over the rank insubordination displayed by Wyatt, along with a number of other CFOs, was forced to intercede directly; eventually leading to additional

directives being issued from Ottawa that further clarified the intent of C-19 and prohibited the collection of any data related to non-restricted firearms. In a letter to all CFOs, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, as head of the Canadian Firearms Program, echoed the minister’s sentiments and ordered an end to any backdoor registry schemes.

It was but the first of a string of setbacks for CFO Wyatt and his allies in the civil disarmament movement. Subsequently, the Harper Government once again opted to not implement the ridiculous United Nations marking scheme and ruled-out any possibility of implementing the long-delayed gun show regulations originally drafted by the Liberal’s as part of their gun control program. Political fortunes had shifted in Ottawa and anti-gun CFOs like Supt. Wyatt were faced with a new political reality they did not care for.

Under such circumstances it is easy to interpret Wyatt’s latest attempts at further restricting firearms ownership as a thinly-veiled attempt at political “payback;” one that is sure to stir-up trouble for the Harper Government and perhaps even serve as a wedge issue to force a rift between irate gun owners and the Conservatives. The continued de facto insubordination of CFOs and their wilful disregard for the authority of Parliament and the federal government’s efforts to reform Canada’s gun control program is a situation that needs resolution.

Presently, the Chief Firearms Office of Ontario boasts an annual budget of \$7 million dollars and its chief officer, a salary of almost \$150,000.00. Yet, Ontario gun owners are still forced to deal with unreasonably long transfer approval delays and endure ATT processing wait times that is measured in weeks, if not months. The new

regulations will only exacerbate this problem when you consider that many of the largest of Ontario's 232 gun clubs can host shooting competitions having hundreds of invited competitors at one event and often hold multiple such competitions each year. Consequently, CFO Wyatt's recent restrictions will require thousands of additional man hours to enforce and/or approve, while placing undue burden's upon individual club's that will be forced to process invitation requests and issue required documents.

CFO Wyatt has already faced recent court challenges over related ATT issues and is facing another this spring. While costing his office nothing, such legal challenges place needless,

additional burdens on an already over-wrought justice system; will consume badly-needed government resources that could be better spent in other areas; and, at the end of the day, leave tax-payers on the hook for the bill once more. At the same time, individual gun owners and gun-rights orgs like Canada's National Firearms Association are forced to scramble to cover the costs of presenting effective legal challenges and defend against such bureaucrat-directed abrogation of Canadian gun rights.

Many within our firearms community are clamoring for Wyatt's head and demanding that he be fired post haste. While I'm sure his termination would be immensely satisfying on a personal

level, it would solve little in the long term. Make no mistake; CFO Chris Wyatt is only the symptom, the Liberal's fatally-flawed C-68 Firearms Act is the true disease eating away at the heart of our community and our centuries-old firearms heritage. Given the latest attack against the rights of law-abiding gun owners by the federal gun control bureaucracy, I believe Government has a clear obligation to once-and-for-all administer a permanent cure for this disease; ideally one that includes repealing and replacing the current *Firearms Act* in its entirety.



VP Continued from...Page 9

unified political base, a stable economy, a divided opposition in Parliament, and the support of most Canadians. This does not bode well for the cause of civil disarmament, a cause the Conservatives have apparently not taken up during their time as government. So, the leaders of this movement must manufacture controversies and attempt to divide firearms owners and turn us against one another in order to weaken the position of the government, reduce the importance of the firearms vote, and redefine the firearms issue, - from fixing the failures of the 1995 Liberal Firearms Act to the imposition of even more useless gun bans and regulations. Yet once again the evening news is filled with images of scary looking semi-automatic "assault rifles" and boxy, menacing handguns and renewed demands to strip law-abiding gun owners of their property while reassuring "legitimate sportsman" that they aren't after their guns...yet.

It's too bad that the civil disarmament lobby views such petty political manoeuvring and posturing as being more important than actually addressing legitimate public safety concerns. Statistics clearly show that legal gun owners are not a threat to public safety. Despite this fact, the Coalition for Gun Control and other civil disarmament groups continue to lobby for renewed firearms registration, further gun bans and severely restricting gun ownership of any kind amongst law-abiding Canadians. Such goals have served to take the emphasis away from implementing pragmatic security solutions to legitimate issues of gun violence and gun crime by the mentally unfit and/or Canada's disadvantaged inner-city and aboriginal youth. If the real goal is to save lives, we need to be looking toward providing better health care, especially when it comes to mental health issues to such vulnerable segments of our society; along with addressing the associated and long-

standing socio-economic problems facing many minority inner-city dwellers and residents of Canada's far-flung rural communities. Good guys with guns are not the problem.

Yet, Canada's civil disarmament lobby has instead worked very hard to create an American-style gun debate that demonizes guns and by association gun owners. It is a debate that ultimately serves no public good and saves no lives. Conversely, the lack of ready access to quality mental health care, the connection between poverty, drug addiction and violent crime, and the actual illegal origins of the bulk of Canada's crime guns is apparently irrelevant. That is an outrage and one that should offend all Canadians who support the cause of natural justice; and just as Kim Campbell and Allan Rock eventually had to answer for their past actions, so too will Canada's civil disarmament lobby. As for Canadian gun owners, forewarned is forearmed.



EACH ONE OF US IS..

An ambassador, a teacher, and a member. One of the most important functions of Canada's National Firearms Association is making firearms ownership and use relevant to growing numbers of Canadians.

To prosper, we must have a steady flow of new shooters and enthusiasts entering our proud firearms heritage.

Your membership and your donations to Canada's National Firearms Association are helping us develop the programs Canada needs to make sure our firearms heritage continues to grow.

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Mail this form to: Canada's National Firearms Association, Box 49090, Edm., AB T6E 6H4 or **Call our Toll Free Number at 1-877-818-0393**

Megan Heinicke (formerly Tandy). An Olympic Athlete and proud member of the NFA



SELECTING A SCOPE FOR YOUR SHOTGUN

By Jeff Helsdon

The current diversity of scopes available is enough to boggle the mind. When shopping for a shotgun scope, the decision is more limited, but still daunting.

To start, the prospective buyer needs to look at the use for the shotgun. Is it for deer hunting, turkey hunting or both? Will it be used in tight bush, or open fields?

The first decision to make is whether to go with a traditional scope, a red dot or holographic sight. All have advantages and disadvantages.

A traditional scope will work without batteries, offers quick target acquisition, has bullet drop compensation on some models and can assist in low-light conditions. In some areas close to urban centres, shotguns or muzzleloaders are the only choice for firearms deer hunters.

Shotguns have come a long ways as deer hunting tools in the past 20 years. The evolution of the sabot slug and rifled barrels has turned what used to be a 40-yard gun into one that is capable of 200 yards with the right scope. My experience

is technology has worked in the hunter's favor and new sabot slugs are effective at dropping deer in their tracks.

One key factor to look for when choosing a shotgun scope is if the model you are looking at it is intended for shotguns. Shotgun scopes offer longer eye relief – which is the distance between the eye and the back end of the scope. Or, if you don't get a shotgun model, ensure the scope you are looking at offers long eye relief. With the tremendous recoil from a shotgun, eye relief is important to prevent the back end of the scope from slamming into your eyebrow or forehead.

I will never forget sighting in a shotgun with the proper scope for my wife several years ago. What I didn't take into account was the shorter stock length on her gun negated the longer eye relief. It was a painful lesson when the back of the scope connected with my head.

Before buying a scope it is important to actually look through it. Some scopes are particular that your eye relief has to be more precise in order to see the full view through the scope. This is a matter of personal preference, but generally

non-critical eye relief offers quicker shooting. Leupold, for instance, is known for non-critical eye relief.

Now the decision is narrowed to shotgun or long eye-relief models, there are still a number of factors in deciding which scope to buy. With scopes you get what you pay for and the most economical scope will no longer be a deal if it fogs up and you can't take a shot at the buck of a lifetime. Look at different anti-fog and systems to deal with rain. Ask gun store personnel their experiences as to what works and what doesn't.

Fixed power scopes are simple to use, but are limited to one magnification only. Variable power scopes have a zoom, often ranging from 1.5-5X, 2-7X or the most common 3-9X. A 3-9X is a great scope for hunting in open territory while a 1.5-5 is better suited to tighter cover. A 2-7 is a good compromise between the two.

As a generality, as the power of the scope goes up, so too does the size and weight.

Light transmission is an overall combination of tube size, objective lens size and design. New technology has vaulted light transmission on high quality scopes in excess of 90 per cent. Design, the quality of the coatings on the glass, glare control and how the lenses are ground can also play into light transmission. Lens coatings reduce glare and improve image quality. One way to judge the quality of the coatings is to



look at the outer lenses in the gun store and compare how much light is reflecting off the surface. Another glare test is to look at a strong light source and see if there is distortion – looking out a window is best.

The size of the tube in the scope body and the objective (front) lens is an important factor in brightness of a scope. For many years, a one-inch (25 millimeter) tube was the brightest. In the recent quest to make scopes brighter, 30 mm is growing in popularity. With objective lenses, the larger the size, the brighter the scope when comparing two identical models.

The last few years have seen ballistic compensation that is common on riflescopes moving into shotgun models. Again, it's critical you get a shotgun model as the ballistics of a rifle is quite different than a shotgun.

Different manufacturers use different ballistic compensation systems, but basically it consists of a series of extra dots or lines below the main crosshairs. For example, if your scope was sighted in at 100 yards, one of the supplemental dots could be used for 200 yards. If a deer is at 200 yards, you move the 200-yard dot onto the target and squeeze the target, thereby taking the guesswork out of bullet drop.

Some manufacturers go a step further and use a series of various length lines for compensation that can be used as a rangefinder to represent the length of an average-sized deer at the various distances.

The decision of which scope to buy will become a little trickier if the scope is also to be used for turkey hunting. All the lines and dots that aid in long distance shooting could become a distraction, but this is all a matter of personal choice. One plus for turkey hunters is a scope with magnification can be a great tool for sorting out which turkey is the one you want to take at the edge of range. It shouldn't be used as a substitute for binoculars – and keep safety in mind when using a scope as an optical aid – but in tandem with them.

Now, just to make the decision more complicated, there are scopes with a lit reticle to aid in low-light hunting if you want to add batteries back into the equation. These scopes still have a traditional reticle if the battery does fail though.

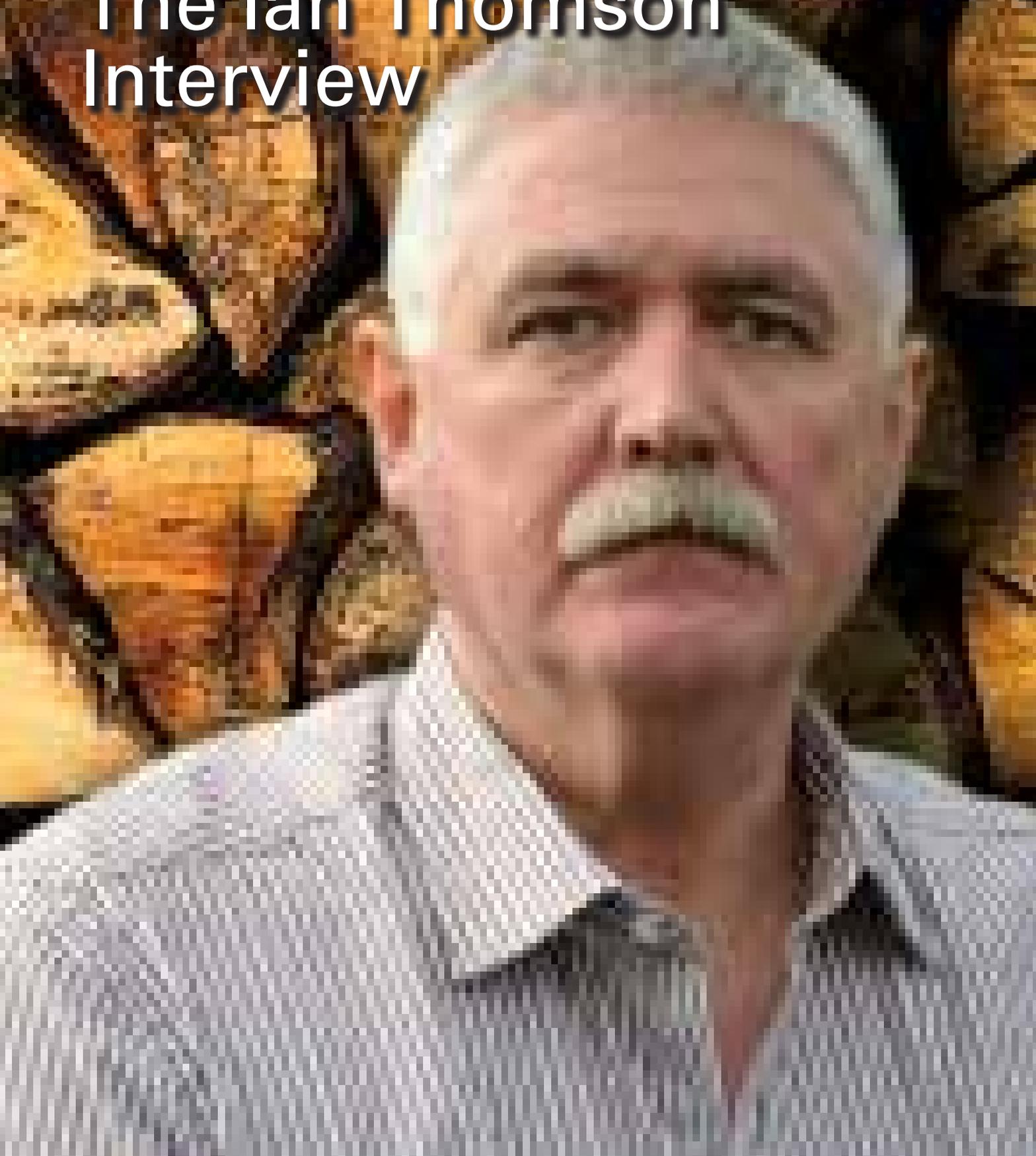
Electronic sights

Red dots and holographic sights are generally lighter, have fast target acquisition and aid with low-light shots.

I use the term red dot to refer to scopes with a single LED as an aim point, although many scopes have the ability

Scopes...Continued on Page 33

Vindication - The Ian Thomson Interview





Ian Thomson's case arose from his use of his personal revolver to defend his life and home from a firebombing attack. He was acquitted of all charges in early January 2013.

The NFA spoke with Ian shortly after he was found not guilty on all counts.

NFA – How does it feel to be vindicated after the ordeal that you have been through?

IAN – I'm cautiously optimistic. There is of course the chance of an appeal and in some respects I don't want to get my hopes up in case the crown does decide to appeal.

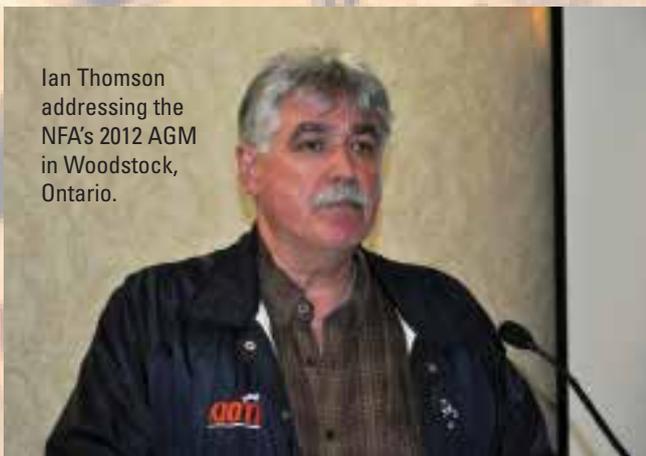
NFA – Did you hear about the recent incident in Georgia where a young mother emptied her revolver into a home invader who came looking for her and her children, after her husband had called 911?

IAN – Yes, I did hear about that situation. It sounded very much like a classic self-defence situation which is really much more common than people might expect. There are many more of these sorts of things going on, and people don't want to report it when they've brandished a firearm to chase away a bad guy – especially when they see what's happened to me. In my view our society has problems far outreaching what is acceptable and we are being lied to about what's really going on – there are a lot more violent people out there who don't have any respect for life or the law; more than we, the public, are being informed about.

Recently, I was looking on the internet at how the police look has changed from 1968 to the present. You can find some pictures that show how they were dressed in the mid-sixties and how that appearance has changed today. The old uniforms for police were pants with a red stripe on the outside seam and a forage cap, uniform shirt a tie and a revolver, often a Smith and Wesson model 10, and a night stick. What we see nowadays are police wearing stab-proof / bullet proof vests, cut proof and puncture resistant gloves and a whole toolbox full of tactical gear all designed to intimidate. If our society is supposed to be so much safer today than it was back then, due to tighter gun controls, then why do the police have to wear so much protective equipment and carry so many threatening and oppressive tools? After all, this is Canada and we are supposed to be a passive sort of people.

The government is telling us that violent crime is on

Ian Thomson
addressing the
NFA's 2012 AGM
in Woodstock,
Ontario.



the decline and that we should feel safe. Most people believe this lie that the Government tells us. The truth is there are many more dangerous people out there who are committing violent crimes than we are being told about. It appears that the reason for this may be that these types of violent crimes seem to be documented outside the category they should have been placed in. For example, the people who attacked me were trying to burn my house down with me trapped inside, as part of a contract hit which had been taken out on me relating to a neighbour dispute. Although this was a very violent attack, it will probably be recorded as a property crime rather than a crime of violence, simply because the Crown would not charge these monsters with the more serious offences they should have been charged with, such as uttering death threats, manufacturing and use of explosive devices for unlawful purposes, etc.

One crime being purposefully improperly categorized will be of little consequence on the outcome of a statistical model; however, enough of these types of crimes improperly documented as being non-violent, can skew the numbers, misrepresenting the truth about violent crime. It's like the old saying, "garbage in garbage out". I can assure you that the attack on me was indeed a violent one and should have been reported and documented as such. If Canadians really want to know the truth about how safe our society is, then the government and politicians need to stop messing with the numbers. We, their employers, should pressure them to do so.

NFA – What do you see as the effect of your case?

IAN – I am hoping that it will draw more attention to the issue of self defence and affect the enforcement of the law, such that, people who legitimately defend themselves don't have to go through what I've been put through. I hope that it will make a difference about people getting charged with specious charges. I never should have been charged in the first place and neither

should anyone else who defends themselves, their family, or their property. The problem is that the victims of an attack who choose to defend themselves, who choose to protect, who choose to live, are put into the same category by the government as the criminals who initiate the attack.

NFA – What was the situation with your attackers?

IAN – Randy Weaver had 48 prior convictions, including a conviction where he and others committed a home invasion, and where it was stated in court, that Weaver had a machete as a weapon and there was a young lad in the house who required special care. At the time he attacked me and my house, he was on probation. He was caught because one of his thug gang members, one of the four involved in the attack on me, Richard Coulthurst, turned him in. Weaver stated in court that, "Coulthurst ratted him out". I believe he and his recidivist, scofflaw, accomplices were there as part of an escalation of trouble which has been going on with my neighbour for the past seven years. This too was stated in court during the preliminary hearing for these four would-be assassins.

NFA – Didn't you call the police about the trouble?

IAN – I've called the police many, many times, generating several Police Incident Reports – I have given them video surveillance evidence of assaults, property crimes and so on, but nothing ever seems to get done. In my opinion we have a badly broken legal system, not a justice system, because the criminals have rights and protection of the law and their victims mean nothing. Whatever you want to call it, the system's not working and is in desperate need of an overhaul. These "undesirables", intimidate people into silence. One neighbour who witnessed an attack on me, in which I had been hit with a house brick thrown at me, refused to be a witness because he doesn't want the attention turned onto him. That's just cowardice, and I have no respect for people who see something wrong and just show their backs to you, rather than step up to put a stop to it. I'm not saying that I'm a brave man, but I'm no "Casper Milquetoast" either.

NFA – What was your reaction to the sentences given to your attackers?

IAN – Disbelief really, shock and disbelief... Weaver sat in the penalty box – he was self-represented having fired two of his lawyers, and legal aid refusing to pay for a third. He was arguing that he should get the 29 months of time served for his sentence for what he and his gang of thugs did to me. Weaver was arrested for his part in the arson/attack while he was already in custody for an unrelated matter. As it was, he got 2 additional years for his attack on me and my property, and one year for breach of probation, and an additional year

for wearing a disguise in the commission of a crime, all to be served concurrently. Weaver sat there slack jawed, with his mouth open, and you could see him thinking and nodding in agreement, that the sentence was okay, "that's not too bad". The sentence that those monsters received was ridiculous, and what was worse is that charges for the violence of what they had done to me were never laid, even with the compelling video evidence which I provided to the Police. The Crown refused to lay any further charges, such as, Attempted Murder, Uttering Death Threats, not even a Trespass charge. But they sure threw the book at me, didn't they?

NFA – What do think that people should do?

IAN – It's time for all Canadians to take a more proactive role about their rights and to stop hiding in the shadows in fear of drawing attention to themselves. I used to be just as guilty as the next man of staying low key, keeping quiet, and avoiding any pro-active challenge to the authorities. We really need to be much more vocal about our rights or we will lose them altogether. Once gone it would be almost impossible to get them back. Just look how long it took to get the Useless Gun Registry repealed. For me, I really lost a lot of respect for the police throughout this nightmare. I have nothing good to say about the Niagara Regional Police Service over how I've been treated. I have been told that the charges against me were ordered to be laid. The police said when they charged me, that they..., were "just following orders." I thought that we had heard the last of that cop-out at the Nuremburg trials when the Nazis said the same thing so as to justify their barbarism. It concerns me a great deal that we could be heading down that same dangerous path. It is clear that I did not deserve to be charged for taking reasonable and considered steps in defending my life and home.

NFA – Since the judge delivered his verdict orally, we are still waiting to see his written words. What do you have to say about the decision?

IAN – When the judge gave his decision, I really had no idea which way he was leaning. He was back and forth and seemed to me to be wavering between innocent and guilty. I really had no idea what he was going to say until the very end, and in an instant, it was over; "Not Guilty" on all counts. He said that when it comes to ammunition, that proximity makes no difference. Whether you live in a big house or a small house is of no consequence. Ammunition does not have to be locked up; it just can't be readily accessible to the gun. The decision made was not about what the Crown thought Parliament intended, but rather what was actually written into law. During the reading of his decision, he made mention of the testimony of the police sergeant who testified at my trial; that when I was handling my firearms, I did so "in a calm, confident, and respectful

manner - that I obviously knew how to handle firearms and that I was careful in the handling of them". I was never careless at any time.

NFA – As you know the law and precedent is clear that when you are home, your firearms don't need to be stored. Obviously, you could be doing lots of things with your firearms such as cleaning, repairing, practicing dry firing, getting them out to go hunting or to the range, or even to have access to them for predator control or defence. The case law is pretty clear on that point. Why was the Crown so adamant about going after you, the victim here?

IAN – I believe that this was clearly a politically driven witch hunt and persecution of me in order to provide the Ontario Liberal Government with new case law which would in turn, affect every law-abiding Canadian gun owner. I was pursued like a villain for defending my life against simultaneous, multiple attackers. A verdict of guilty would have wide ranging and devastating effects on every hunter, target shooter, and all other gun owners in Canada.

What I would really like to know is just how much money the Ontario Liberal Government spent and how much the taxpayer had to pay for the government to persecute me, and why there was so little effort made to file significant criminal charges against my attackers. We all really owe a debt to my lawyer Mr. Burlew; his efforts and skill deserve praise. Mr. Burlew has stated that this case is a significant victory for Canadian gun owners in that you and I can get access our firearms from a stored/secured situation and use them for self defence. Mr. Burlew believes that that my video evidence was compelling and that it confirmed my strong and confident testimony. Justice Tory Colvin stated that my testimony was most credible, giving him reasonable doubt as to the charges. The Crown, Mr Robert Maher, argued that I couldn't have gained access to my firearm and ammunition in the short time indicated by the video. The judge disagreed.

What frustrates me is that there really seems to be one law for the police and quite another for the general population. In the past year there have been many firearms related incidents involving the police. For example; the Victoria Island B.C. Police Chief who left his loaded service side arm under the front seat of his personal car. The loaded handgun was found during a search for missing tactical equipment. I don't suppose that those performing the search had to smash the window of the Chief's car to search it. Was the car unlocked then? As to the missing tactical equipment, there still remains the whereabouts of a missing tactical shotgun? No charges were ever laid against that police

Ian Thomson...Continued on Page 32



SHOT SHOW 2013 TRENDS

By Al Voith

THE 2013 SHOT

2013 SHOT show is over and I'm in the process of trying to sort out the blizzard of information that assaults a person attending the show. To cover it in a somewhat organized fashion for CFJ readers I thought I'd try three instalments—first by looking at trends, then black guns and lastly hunting and traditional shooting sports. Keep in mind that I only collected a small percentage of the available information at SHOT and in the space allotted am only able to communicate a fraction of that. With that qualifier in mind, let's look at some trends.

SECURITY AND SCREENING

The SHOT Show is intended for the firearms trade only, not for the general public, and this year it was evident that a crack down on non-qualified people was underway. It started with Monday, which is the range day for media. The screening process for eligible media was significantly tighter and no guests or spouses were allowed this year. Additionally, only invited media was allowed on the range in the morning, while any eligible media person could attend in the afternoon. I saw this as a good thing, because it was much easier to get trigger time.

Back at the show on Tuesday, increased security was evident everywhere. Badges were checked more often, young looking people were questioned as to age (minimum 16 years allowed) and security guards were posted at many booths and throughout all the hallways. Prominent signs told people where to report the sighting of anything "suspicious." No one was saying if this was in response to anything specific or merely a cautionary step, but it was noticeable. Personally, I have no doubt it was in response to the political climate in the US right now. SHOT is the largest gathering of the firearms industry in the world, which no doubt makes it a target for anyone who hates that industry. Apparently, there were no security related incidents.

POLITICS

Guns are a hot political topic in the US right now and firearm organizations are ramping up to do political battle. As part of their push, and thanks to the public's response, the NRA sold 100,000 memberships in 18 days. I know they certainly had a larger than usual presence at the show. Signs for their campaign called "Stand and Fight" were evident all over the show floor. As was the slogan "Carry On," a movement started by Taurus Firearms that seeks to promote and protect concealed carry rights. GunsAmerica.com was selling t-shirts



REPORT: - Part I

that read “I’m a good guy with a gun,” and there were several smaller campaigns also in progress.

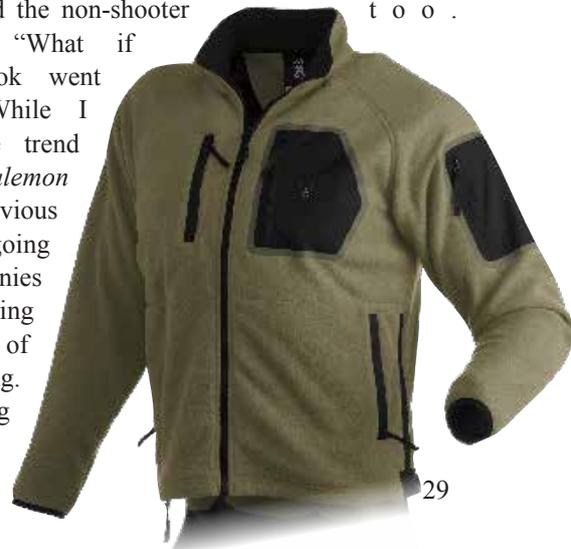
SUPPRESSORS

The suppressor manufacturer AAC has a slogan too, it reads “Silencing is Not a Crime,” and they were one of many suppressor manufacturers on the floor. That trend is continuing in the USA, with more companies getting into the manufacture of these items and the booths of the established builders getting bigger and fancier—suggesting they are doing well financially. Almost all the major gun companies are offering rifles and handguns with threaded muzzles and labelled as suppressor ready. This has the potential to be of some benefit to Canadian shooters, because it could extend the barrel length of otherwise prohibited semi-auto pistols to beyond the magic 105mm mark, making them legal for import without requiring a special manufacturing run. So far, threaded muzzles are not an problem in Canada.

TACTICAL

The tactical craze continues to be a growth segment of the firearms industry. This was obvious on the show floor where tactical and sporting exhibitors are segregated into different areas. It appeared to me that the busiest booths were the former. This was reinforced when I sat in on news conferences where company executives talked about the “tactical lifestyle” products they are bringing to market.

Clothing seems to be the largest part of this tactical lifestyle trend and now it’s aimed at the sport shooter and the non-shooter. Ask yourself, “What if the tactical look went mainstream?” While I don’t think the trend will ever hit *lululemon* levels, it’s obvious something is going on when companies like Browning introduce a line of tactical clothing. If you’re thinking



Browning doesn't have a single tactical gun in their line, you're right. But they now have tactical clothing and knives, all sold under the Black Label line. It appears to be the usual Browning quality, as the clothing looks good and the knives are solid.

SHORTAGES

Demand for certain products has exploded south of the border and it's going to affect Canadians. The demand for black rifles, particularly AR rifles, is insatiable; no doubt because of the fear (realistic or not) they may be banned in some variation. Magazines and ammo for these rifles are in the same scarce category. The Israeli factory that builds AR magazines for their military also exports to the US consumer market, and they are now running 24/7 trying to catch up with demand.

Likewise, ammunition in calibres of military origin, like 9mm, .45 and .308 are in high demand. Black Hills ammunition told me they are back-ordered ten months in these and other calibres. Hunting calibres are more available, but only marginally so.

Ammunition components are in much the same state as the loaded stuff; after all, the companies who make ammunition get many of their components from the same manufacturers we do. A good example is Hodgdon, the powder company; they told me any company ordering powder from them at the show would be lucky to see it in two months. They are completely out of some powders in their line. And when there's no powder, ammo production stops.

Based on what I heard, it seems obvious that Canadian shooters can expect to see shortages in guns, parts, accessories, ammunition and components. How long it will last is uncertain, but I'd bet at least a year, maybe more. My advice is, if you see something

in stock at your local dealer that you'll need over the next couple of years, buy it now while its available. It could be a long time before you see on a Canadian store shelf again.

LACK OF NEW PRODUCTS

I thought there was a notable lack of new products introduced at this year's show. When I asked some of the companies about that, they told me they've been too busy keeping up with production to even think about engineering something new. The biggest problem gun and ammo manufacturers have today is keeping up with demand. That's got to make for happy CEO's and shareholders.

CONCEALED CARRY

Concealed carry by licensed civilians continues to be a growth market in the USA. Handgun and holster makers are obviously the most active in this market, but ammo manufacturers are also producing products specifically for this segment. Of course, all the new handguns being produced for this market are prohibited in Canada because of a too-short barrel. Kel-Tec did tell me they are negotiating with a Canadian distributor for a special run of their compact single-stack 9mm that will have a 106mm barrel. If it comes to pass, it'll look funny, but it will be legal here.

SURVIVAL/PREPAREDNESS

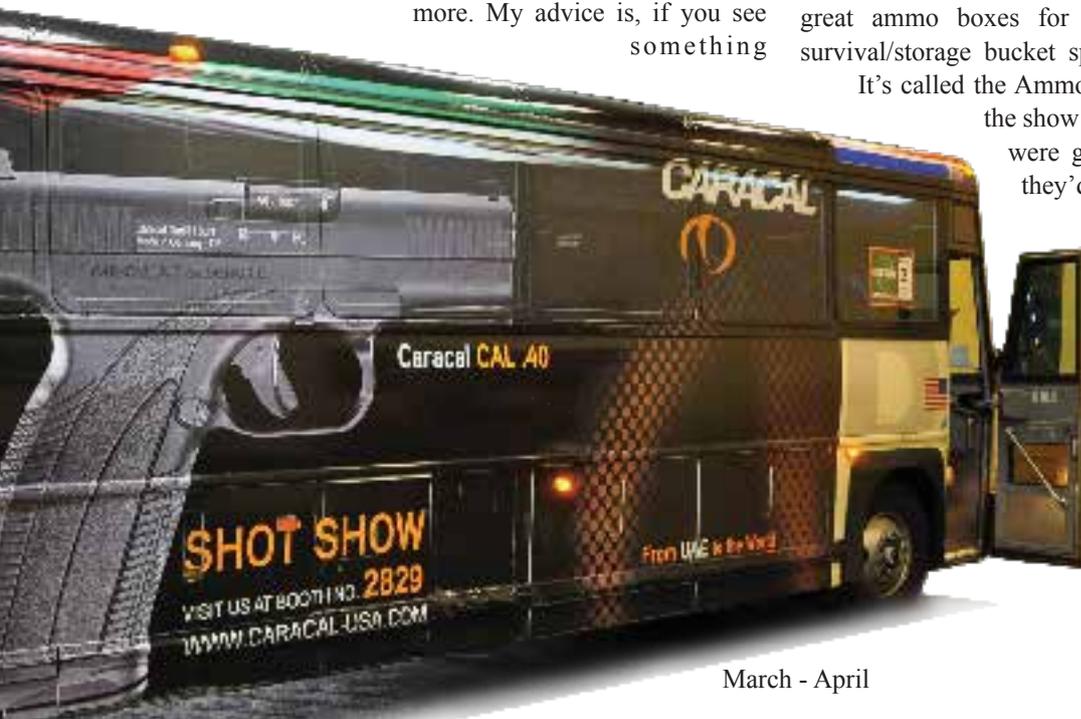
In a bit of a throwback to the late 70's the personal survival/preparedness movement seems to be gaining some traction again; only this time they are being called "preppers." I'm seeing reality TV shows with this theme and the Zombie craze is the goofy side of that trend. However, at SHOT its serious business. I saw more survival knives, fire starters, water filters and bug-out bags than usual.

MTM the plastic moulding company that makes all those great ammo boxes for reloaders introduced an ammo survival/storage bucket specifically designed for burying.

It's called the Ammo Survivor Can and by the end of the show I heard they had no idea how they were going to manufacture the amount they'd sold. I'm sure they did know one thing, that they will be adding to this line with more shapes and sizes, with the emphasis on bigger capacity.

CANADIAN CONTENT

Canadians were frequently seen at SHOT, including other media people as well as retailers and wholesalers. Companies like Modular





Driven Technologies from Chilliwack, Revision Eyewear and Elcan had booths at the show. As did Premier Reticles, who became a Canadian company about a week before SHOT and will be manufacturing their high end scopes in Halifax beginning this year.

That's it, a quick look at trends from SHOT and their potential effect on Canadian shooters. Next issue we'll look at the new black firearms. If you need more SHOT info before that, you can find news on predator hunting products in my blog at: www.huntingclub.com/blogs.

Editor's Note – Look for additional reports on SHOT in the next issue of Canadian Firearms Journal.

officer for careless storage. Why not? He is a civilian too. He's not military police.

I believe that the law has to be applied consistently across Canada to everyone, and that it needs to be made clear that you are allowed to use a firearm if you are in imminent danger of death or bodily harm. It is our right to meet force with force. Enough force to stop the attack. It also needs to be made clear, that if someone is put in a similar situation then they can use a firearm with impunity. Of course, if you use a firearm to defend yourself, there is going to be an investigation, however; if it's clearly self-defence, then you should NOT be charged.

NFA – Who bears the main responsibility for the decision to charge you?

IAN – On the day of the attack, I was told by Detective Sergeant Deb Smart, the investigating officer that she was not going to charge me. She did however seize all of my firearms and a quantity of ammunition and ancillary equipment. She asked me to come to the police station later that day to make a statement, giving me time to board up my broken windows. When I arrived at the police station later that day, I met with Detective Smart and it was while I was at the police station that she told me that things had changed and said she had to charge me, and that anything I said would be used against me. In Canada they call that "Cautioning". Other items were taken as well; however, despite several of my requests, the police officers responsible refused, and still refuse, to give me an itemized list/receipt of what was taken. As the case developed and as more charges were laid, it became readily apparent that my case was being directed by the Guns and Gangs unit from the Attorney General's Office in Toronto.

It is important to understand that I am someone who has always put his faith in the legal system and the police to do the right thing, but they have failed me time and time again. I can understand once or twice, but not what seems to be every time. People are being snowed by our government. All of the anti-gun rhetoric is simply building a path towards fascism and less and less freedoms for Canadians. It is obfuscation at its best. This isn't the Philippines, or the USSR and attacks on civil rights shouldn't be run out of 720 Bay Street in Toronto, or the office of some politician who has a personal agenda. During my trial, the Crown prosecutor made it clear that he was being directed by the Ontario Attorney General. What happened to me was very much an attempt to make an example of me and to garner a decision that would tighten controls on use of firearms and storage of ammunition, Canada wide.

NFA – Thanks very much Ian, is there anything else that you want to add?

IAN – Yes of course, please tell everyone who stands behind me and supports me that I am tremendously grateful to the Canada's National Firearms Association for their help and financial assistance as well as to all those whom have contributed to my legal defence fund. The NFA has been the largest supporter of my expenses and I really appreciate everything that the NFA has done for me. The support that the NFA and every individual who contributes to breaking down the injustices which we are all facing, buttress our position against the challenges we face and are sure to face in the future.

NFA – You still have a lot of expenses to meet though – how can people help? Where can they send donations?

IAN – Yes, and of course there is still the threat of an appeal which would add much more to my burden. Also, I would highly recommend that everyone who has any interest in firearms join and support the NFA. It is only through an organized and legitimate group of like-minded citizens that any meaningful change happens. It is the NFA who works on our behalf in the defence of our Constitutional and Civil rights. Believe me when I tell you that the NFA is in your corner and if you ever find yourself needing support and guidance, you will want to know that there is a place to turn to. So, if you're not already a member, join now. You won't regret it.

As to my legal defence; should anyone want to contribute to my legal defence fund, they can make donations in the form of cheque, money order, VISA, Master Card, AMEX, "In Trust" to:

"EDWARD BURLEW IN TRUST" for Ian Thomson.

Edward L. Burlew
16 John Street
Thornhill, Ontario
L3T 1X8
Telephone: (905)882-2422
FAX: (905) 882-2431

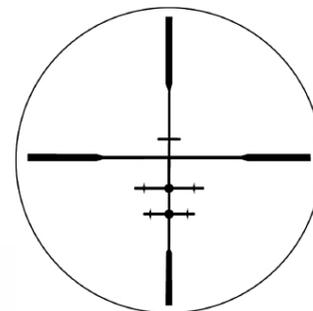
IAN - Again, thanks so much to everyone who has supported me throughout this ordeal. Knowing that people cared about what was happening to me and to our rights continues to give me much strength. I look forward to coming to the NFA AGM in Woodstock and reporting further on my case.



Trophy XLT 3-9x 40mm



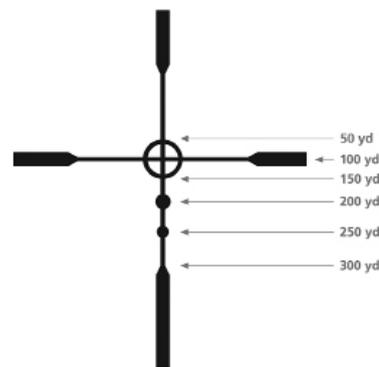
Legend Ultra HD 1.75-5x 32mm



DOA 200 Reticle

Focusing your scope

The adjustable ring on the back of the scope allows a shooter to focus the scope and ensure the crosshairs are clear. This is best done by aiming the scope at a white background and adjusting the eyepiece until the crosshair is tack sharp.



Leupold SABR Reticle Diagram

Scopes...Continued from Page 23

to change the color of the LED as well as the brightness. As a generality, red dot scopes are the most economical optical sight. Until recently, red dot scopes did not have any magnification factor, but new models have been introduced with magnification.

The disadvantage of red-dot scopes is the dependency on batteries. When shopping for a red-dot, look for one that has long-life from a battery. Carrying an extra battery is also a good plan.

Some manufacturers have LED scopes that have traditional reticles as a back-up. I was testing one of these models a couple of years ago in turkey season and the battery died just as the birds were coming in range. It wasn't a concern and the back-up saved the day.

Other models designed just for turkey hunting have a range-finding feature where the dot is the size of an average-size turkey's head at 40 yards. If the dot is larger than the head, the bird isn't in range.

A new dimension

Holographic sights add a whole new dimension to shooting sights. These sights are the lightest optical sight, consisting of a screen the shooter looks through on which a red dot is projected.

Very user friendly, some manufacturers claim you can even use holographic sights for traditional wing shooting. I haven't tried that, but can attest to the simplicity of use and lightness of these sights.

A disadvantage is, of course, the reliance on batteries. Although the lack of magnification and easy interaction between sight and the environment is natural, these scopes don't enhance brightness like a scope does.

If you are considering a scope to enhance your deer and turkey experience, try it. Do your research first, consult a knowledgeable salesperson and buy the best your budget will allow.



THE RELOADING BENCH:

Testing Hodgdon's New Powders: LEVERevolution® & SUPERFORMANCE®

By Bob Shell

At the 2011 SHOT show the area surrounding the Hodgdon Powder Company booth was all abuzz over the release of several new powders that some in the industry predicted would be game-changers. The release was the result of a new partnership between Hodgdon and Hornady Manufacturing, a company best known for their respected line of factory ammo and reloading components. Together they introduced two of the most hotly anticipated powders of the last decade: LEVERevolution® and SUPERFORMANCE®. Both had been generating much talk since their introduction in Hornady's line of high-performance factory ammunition which were also sold under the same names, but like so many other high performance powders had until now been denied to handloaders.

The decision to finally make both powders available to handloaders was extremely well-received within the reloading community and emotions were running high at SHOT that year. SHOT would ultimately serve as something of a "coming-out" party for the new powders. According to Hodgdon's promotional materials, the new powders are the exact same formulations of powder that Hornady uses in their factory loads of the same name. If correct, the release offered the average handloader the opportunity to match or even exceed the published velocities for Hornady's factory offerings without having to resort to compressed loads and similar reloading tricks.

Both LEVERevolution and Superformance are ball powders and both were found to meter very evenly in most powder measures. The burning rate for the LEVERevolution falls between BL-C(2) on the fast side and H-380 on the slow side; while the Superformance burn rate falls somewhere between H-4831 on the fast side and WW 780 on the slow side. The introduction of the new powders, along with the tubular magazine-safe Hornady FTX bullets, opened up many exciting new possibilities to fans of traditional lever action rifles. Finally, with the advent of the Hornady FTX bullets a tubular magazine could finally be safely loaded with

bullets other than those having a round or flat nose.

Initially the FTX bullet was available in .30, .32, .338, .35, .357, .44 and .45 calibers with other calibers planned for later release. These limited initial offerings, however, covered the gamut of the most popular lever gun calibers of the past century and a half. Best of all, not only do they extend the range of a lever gun, but with the flexible plastic tip they are more likely to expand reliably at longer ranges. The end result of the Hodgdon LEVERevolution and Hornady FTX bullet pairing is a faster, more lethal hunting combo that significantly extends the traditional ranges of most lever guns. No longer are lever gun hunters limited to using only round or flat nosed bullets in their tubular magazines. Unlike conventional pointed bullets, Hornady's FTX bullet design virtually eliminated the risk of an unwanted and potentially devastating detonation of loaded rounds having been loaded in a tubular magazine. The elasticity of the FTX bullet tip precludes it from causing the primer of the round in front of it from detonating, even under the heaviest of recoil.

Hodgdon's other new offering, Superformance, was intended to do the same for varmint hunters as LEVERevolution did for lever gun hunters: significantly increased muzzle velocity without concurrent pressure spikes and improve range and lethality. After extensive testing it became very obvious that Superformance powder was going to become a perennial favourite of centerfire .22 shooters especially. Since Hodgdon lists Superformance as being an ideal choice for the zippy .22-250, I opted to begin load development and testing there.

The .22-250 has always been a personal favourite of mine and the rifles used for testing were the Weatherby Vanguard with 24" tube and a Ruger Model 77 sporting a 22" factory barrel. As expected, recorded velocities for the Weatherby were faster than the Ruger due to the extra 2" of barrel. As with all firearms some powder/bullet combos worked better than others. Finding out which work best is the fun of load development.

Table 1. Results of Superformance powder testing and .22-250 Remington.

LOAD (grains)	BULLET (grs./make/style)	VELOCITY (fps)	RIFLE	COMMENTS
44 gr.	55gr Sierra BT HP	3933	Weatherby	great load
44	55gr Sierra SP BT	3829	Weatherby	nice shooting
44	55 gr Sierra SP BT	3793	Ruger	consistent
44	55 gr military BT	3763	Weatherby	consistent
42.5	63 gr Sierra SP	3577	Weatherby	high e.s.*
42.5	63 gr Sierra SP	3555	Ruger	high e.s.*
43	60 gr Sierra HP FB	3685	Weatherby	okay load
43	60 gr Sierra HP FB	3568	Ruger	consistent
43	63 gr Sierra SP	3613	Weatherby	decent
43	63 gr Sierra SP	3519	Ruger	okay load

* e.s. = extreme spread

Having recorded some great results for the .22-250 I then turned to the .220 Swift, another great varmint round and the bane of prairie dogs everywhere. I just so happened to have a Ruger Model 77 chambered in .220 Swift sitting in my safe. Sporting a 26" barrel, I thought it would be interesting to try it with the new powder to determine if Superformance offered Swift shooters the same potential advantages as those shooting the .22-250. I would not exceed these loads as pressures can rise dramatically with a small increase in powder charges.

makes all the difference. Just take care to be safe, observe proper reloading techniques and back off the powder charge and work it back up slowly anytime you substitute one component for another.

As I already have noted, both powders meter extremely well. In fact, I have measured just about every powder available and these two powders meter as good as anything I have used and better than most. I also checked each thrown charge manually to ensure consistency and found virtually

Table 2. Results of Superformance powder testing and .220 Swift

LOAD (grains)	BULLET (grs./make/style)	VELOCITY (fps)	COMMENT
47.2	50 gr Remington HP	4272	consistent max
47	52 gr Hornady	4253	ok max
45	55 gr Sierra BT SP	3973	high e.s. *
44.5	60 gr Sierra HP FB	3730	high e.s. *
44.5	63 gr Sierra HP FB	3708	high e.s. *

* e.s. = extreme spread

Notice that the velocity dropped using 46 grains as opposed to 45 grains, but it was more consistent. It seemed to like the 55 grain bullet in this rifle. The Swift needs a little more work, which will be done as soon as I can get more powder. Like all powders it doesn't do everything for every gun but when you get a fit it really works out well. They have a fairly narrow field of cartridges that they are suitable for, but if you find one that they are meant for, they really will shine.

zero deviation between each charges' thrown weight. Only occasionally would I would find one or two charges whose weight would vary by just 1/10 grain, but those were quite rare. While I understand that some will still prefer to weigh each individual charge, the consistency of both LEVERevolution and Superformance has convinced me that under normal circumstances it really isn't necessary. Of course, normal safety precautions should be followed. Trust, but verify.

The new Hodgdon reloading manual lists quite a few calibers that these powders are suitable for. However, there are going to be certain cartridges that they will work better in than others and/or require more extensive load development, such as in the case of the Swift. It may be something as simple as slightly reducing or increasing the powder charge, changing primers, trying a different bullet or using a different case that

Editors Note: Look for part two of the Reloading Bench next issue, when author Bob Shell presents his review of Hodgdon's LEVERevolution powder and the new FTX bullet from Hornady.

President...Continued from Page 6

action Lee Enfield no. 4 was put up against an American using a semi-automatic M1 Garand rifle – both men were skilled shooters. The objective was to see who could provide the most rapid amount of accurate fire against a paper target. In three tries the winner was the shooter with the Lee Enfield – that’s more shots fired more accurately in the fastest time. That’s not to say that the Garand is slower or less accurate, it merely points out that the action is less relevant that what happens with the firearm. That anecdote reflects more on the skill of the shooter than upon the firearm in question. Besides which bad people will always find ways to work their mayhem – often by using homemade bombs or fire rather than firearms - and even the bad ones usually manage to get firearms licenses if they want to bother. They certainly never have a problem finding firearms or other devices to harm people.

It is possible that there are some of those hoplophobes in Canada who would continue to take advantage of tragedy to try and further their gun ban agenda. These grave dancers are trying to take advantage of the emotional reaction to a terrible tragedy to steal away people’s civil and property rights. Canada’s National Firearms Association is actively fighting those efforts by being in the media, meeting with politicians and bureaucrats, and generally being proactive in our advocacy to repeal our failed and flawed laws. We

have made our position clear to the government that simply ending registration was far from enough change to our laws. We want real change, that stops the ongoing harassment of firearms owners by an ever growing firearms bureaucracy and that we want our firearms freedoms and property rights restored.

Consider the tremendous resources operated by the firearms bureaucracy in going after people who have not committed any violent act and have merely run afoul of the paperwork provisions of the criminal code, or have otherwise had their firearms property declared prohibited and then stolen from them regardless of the payment of some sort of compensation. People want their property rights restored – confiscation of firearms from good citizens has never been good law.

Consider the variety of roles that have contributed to the ever growing size of that firearms bureaucracy. This list is taken from the RCMP Commissioner of Firearms Report for 2011:

CFP Law Enforcement Services

- National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST)
- Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC)
- Specialized Firearms Support Services (SFSS)
- Firearms Internet Investigations Support (FIIS) Unit
- Firearms Operations and Enforcement Support (FOES)
- Public Agents Firearms Regulations (PAFR)

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Signature: _____

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- Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC)
- Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO)
- CFP Geographical Firearms Reports

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- Firearms Licence Renewals
- Firearms Business Support
- Chief Firearms Officers (CFO)
- Firearm Registration
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- Outreach to Aboriginal Communities

Keeping Canada Safe

- Firearms Safety Training
- Enhanced Screening of Firearms Licence Applicants
- Firearms Licence Application Refusals
- Continuous Eligibility Screening of Firearms Licence Holders
- Firearms Licence Revocations
- Firearms Prohibitions

- Firearms Registration Application Refusals and Certificate Revocations
- Firearm-related Inspections
- Range Safety and Use-of-Force Coordinator
- 1-800 Safety Line - Reporting Public Safety Concerns

Clearly this Canadian Firearms bureaucracy is a huge empire built upon a flawed premise that gun control somehow contributes to public safety. There's a lot there about administering law-abiding people and not very much about catching violent criminals. Is this really how Canadians want to allocate scarce policing resources? How much is this bloated bureaucracy costing Canadians?

The evidence-based peer-reviewed research is clear - gun control legislation is a failure and always will be. It is time to loosen up the laws to make the changes that really will provide Canadians with the protection that they want and deserve. Please meet with your member of parliament soon and in your usual polite and respectful way, request that he or she meet with and listen to Canada's National Firearms Association about getting rid of our bad firearms laws.

Sheldon

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The International Front

SOME THOUGHTS ON MULTIPLE-VICTIM MURDERS AND FIREARMS



By Gary Mauser

Few could fail to be deeply touched by the horror of the shooting of so many innocent young children in the school in Newtown, Connecticut in December last year. Certainly, the news media responded with a tsunami of accusations that drove excitable politicians before it like so much debris. While the media howled for banning assault weapons, certain well-known activists attempted to ride the wave to fame and success.

While it is natural to react emotionally to tragedies, policy makers have a public duty to base legislation on rational analysis rather than on the passion du jour. Before making decisions, it is important to calmly analyse the problem and assess alternatives. Simplistic answers, like gun bans, cannot solve complex problems, and may make things worse. In this article, I want to briefly discuss a few facts related to gun bans. In previous *CFJ* articles, I have discussed the impossibility of predicting which individuals will commit violent crimes.

1. Multiple-victim homicidal attacks are rare in developed countries. In the US approximately 10 people are killed in multiple-victim shootings each year out of an annual total of more than 14,000 murders. In Western Europe, John Lott estimates that approximately 12 people per year have been killed in such shootings since 2001. In Canada, between 1974 and 2010, about 3 people were killed in multiple-victim killings per year out of an average of 580 murders per year. The lower number in Canada is due in part to its much smaller population. In any case, almost all murders in Europe or North America are criminals killing criminals. Indeed, some multiple-victim attacks are related to gang warfare. The risk of an innocent person being killed by a total stranger is microscopic.

2. Multiple-victim homicides are not limited to shootings. Judging from the media's fascination with guns, this might be difficult to believe. Unfortunately, terrorists as well as suicidal maniacs have more imagination. Here's a selection:

In July 2011, Anders Behring Breivik killed 8 people with a car

bomb in downtown Oslo, Norway in addition to his shooting rampage on Utøya Island.

In February 2009, 135 people in Marysville and Kinglake, State of Victoria, in Australia were killed by bushfires apparently set by arsonists. Then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd called it, "mass murder."

In June 2009, a husband and wife team drowned four family members by sinking the family car in Ottawa's Rideau Canal.

In March 1995, terrorists released Sarin gas on the Tokyo subway system, killing 13 people, severely injuring fifty others.

In March 1990, Julio Gonzalez killed 87 people in an arson attack on the Happy Land social club in the Bronx, New York. This remains the deadliest mass murder in the US.

In September 1972, 37 people were killed in the Blue Bird Café, Montreal in an arson attack.

In May 1927, a school board treasurer in Bath, Michigan set off a dynamite explosion killing 38 elementary school children and six adults, and injuring at least 58 other people. To date, this is the deadliest mass murder in a school in the US.

3. Prohibiting something does not make it unavailable. If there is enough demand, smugglers will find a way to deliver. Bans merely increase the price. The product is irrelevant. Obviously, prohibition has not eliminated access to heroin, cocaine or guns. It just forces criminals to pay a markup. In modern Canada, the vast bulk of crime guns are smuggled, as I pointed out in my Ontario Police College address.

Gun bans in Australia, Jamaica, the Republic of Ireland, and UK have not reduced homicide rates. I analysed these countries in my article in *Prohibitions* in 2008. Updated charts were also included in the Jul-Aug 2011 issue of the *CFJ*. In Australia, there have been fewer incidents of multiple-victim murders since the 1997 gun ban, but more victims. It may be coincidental, but after the gun ban, mass murderers appear to prefer arson.

4. Gun bans attract criminals. As John Lott has consistently

pointed out, multiple-victim public shootings almost always occur in gun-free zones, places where guns in the hands of civilians are prohibited. Despite their much more restrictive gun laws, multiple-victim shootings appear to happen in Western Europe as often as in the US. Here are just a few of the recent attacks in Europe:

Zug, Switzerland, Sept. 27, 2001: A man whose lawsuits had been denied murdered 14 members of a cantonal parliament.

Nanterre, France, March 27, 2002: A man killed eight city-council members after a council meeting.

Erfurt, Germany, April 26, 2002: A former student killed 18 at a secondary school.

Turin, Italy, Oct. 15, 2002: Seven people were killed on a hillside overlooking the city.

Emsdetten, Germany, Nov. 20, 2006: A former student murdered eleven people at a high school.

Tuusula, Finland, Nov. 7, 2007: Seven students and the principal were killed at a high school.

Naples, Italy, Sept. 18, 2008: Seven were killed and two seriously wounded in a public meeting hall. (This incident may have involved the Mafia.)

Kauhajoki, Finland, Sept. 23, 2008: Ten people were shot to death at a college.

Winnenden, Germany, March 11, 2009: A 17-year-old former student killed 15 people, including nine students and three teachers.

Lyon, France, March 19, 2009: Ten people were injured when a man opened fire on a nursery school.

Athens, Greece, April 10, 2009: Three people killed and two injured by a student at a vocational college.

Rotterdam, Netherlands, April 11, 2009: Three people were killed and one injured at a crowded café.

Vienna, Austria, May 24, 2009: There were one dead and 15 wounded in an attack on a Sikh temple.

Espoo, Finland, Dec. 31, 2009: Four people were shot to death at a mall.

Cumbria, England, June 2, 2010: Twelve were killed by a British taxi driver.

5. The term ‘assault weapon’ has no agreed upon technical definition. It can literally be used to include whatever firearm the speaker deems frightening enough in appearance to want to ban. At its heart, it refers to semi-automatic versions of select-fire military rifles or carbines. But in Australia, a 1997 ban on “military-style semi-automatic weapons” was defined so broadly that it not only covered all semi-automatic firearms, including expensive trap guns, but all pump-action firearms as well.

Brian Mulroney’s 1991 list of banned “assault weapons” even snared a single-shot rifle.

By the time this article is published, the current media frenzy demanding a ban of “assault weapons” may be submerged by another media hullabaloo (perhaps a real or imagined political scandal or even some natural disaster). Of course, the Opposition will continue to pressure the government to “do something” about guns. In any case, I am confident that Prime Minister Harper has no interest in passing a knee-jerk gun bill, as did former PMs Jean Chrétien (in 1995) and Brian Mulroney (in 1991). Harper knows it would do nothing to improve public safety and would further bloat an Ottawa bureaucracy that he is attempting to shrink. This is just as well, because there is abundant research showing that such bans are merely expensive failures.

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ARMES À FEU : HEIDI RATHJEN PERD SON MONOPOLE

Luc Lapierre

Dans la foulée de l'événement tragique de la Polytechnique de Montréal, en 1989, Heidi Rathjen se dit une « survivante » de la tuerie. C'est à ce titre qu'elle fonde, dès 1990, la Coalition pour le contrôle des armes à feu et qu'elle part en croisade contre « la machine diabolique ».

Visa le blanc, tua le noir.

Ça fait déjà presque 25 ans qu'Heidi Rathjen monopolise les médias, mettant à profit ce titre de survivante et en mettant l'accent sur le danger que représenteraient, selon elle et sans nuance, les armes à feu. Rarement (sinon jamais) l'a-t-on entendue remettre en question la sécurité déficiente dans nos institutions publiques, les stratégies de prévention du crime et de prévention du suicide, ou le système de santé du Québec et sa politique de désinstitutionnalisation. Of course, not. Mme Rathjen se garde bien d'ailleurs de mentionner que toutes les tueries d'Amérique, sans beaucoup d'exceptions, ont été le fait de personnes sous-médicamentées, surmédicamentées, psychiatisées, dépressives, et toutes laissées pour compte.* Bref, Mme Rathjen applique dans sa croisade contre les armes à feu la même philosophie qu'elle applique dans le combat qu'elle poursuit au sein de la Coalition québécoise pour le contrôle du tabac. Oui, monsieur. Encore du contrôle. Plutôt que de prendre le taureau par les cornes et de s'attaquer aux sources du mal. Réprimer plutôt que prévenir. Cela dit avec tout le respect que je dois à sa survivance, force est de constater que Mme Rathjen est une control freak. Mais encore faudrait-il qu'elle cherche à contrôler les vraies affaires.

En 1990, le plan de Mme Rathjen était simple : dans un premier temps, forcer le gouvernement fédéral, les Libéraux du temps, à contrôler les propriétaires d'armes à feu en leur imposant une bureaucratie plus lourde, assortie de frais,

quitte à les décourager à posséder des armes à feu, ne serait-ce que pour la pratique de la chasse ou du tir sportif. Une fois ce but atteint à force de lobby, de manipulation des chiffres et des statistiques, et d'une manipulation habile de l'opinion publique (urbaine pour la plus grande part), elle soutenait plus tard l'adoption de la Loi Anastasia qui ne touche encore que les citoyens respectueux des lois, toujours les chasseurs et tireurs sportifs. Mais sur le crime, toujours rien. Sur la santé, nada. Maintenant, qui dit si le but inavoué de Heidi Rathjen n'est pas tout simplement de faire bannir toute forme d'armes à feu à utilisation sportive et de loisir? Quand la volonté devient obsession...

Ce qu'il faut retenir de Heidi Rathjen, c'est qu'elle est passée maîtresse dans la manipulation des émotions, qu'elle frappe fort dès les heures qui suivent une tragédie, quitte à choisir une tragédie américaine à défaut d'une qui soit bien locale, et qu'elle baisse les yeux lorsqu'on la présente comme une « survivor ». Vraiment? Aurait-elle du mal à assumer ce rôle? L'aurait-elle composé en étirant un peu la sauce? Pour bien saisir la gêne éprouvée par Rathjen lorsqu'un animateur télé l'affuble de ce titre, il faut peut-être prendre en compte qu'à l'instar de 700 autres étudiantes de la Polytechnique, Rathjen



n'était pas présente dans les classes ou Gamil Gharbi (alias Marc Lépine) a fait irruption. Pour le plaisir des anglophones, read my lips : Rathjen was in one of the classrooms Lépine did NOT enter during the shooting. Cela dit, je ne dénigre pas la peur inimaginable éprouvée par les étudiantes et étudiants, y compris Rathjen, présents à la Polytechnique ce jour-là, ni le traumatisme qui, forcément, les afflige sans doute encore. Mais qui sont les vrais survivants, en réalité? Rathjen ou les familles des victimes à qui il manque une partie d'elles-mêmes?

La voix des défuntes

Peu importe Rathjen, puisque les survivantes (selon sa définition) de la Polytechnique ne sont dorénavant plus les seules à parler et les défuntes ont maintenant un porte-parole. Monsieur Claude Colgan, frère d'Hélène Colgan, brillante étudiante en génie mécanique et aussi l'une des 14 victimes de Lépine, est comme on dit sorti du placard. Grâce à un courage immense et au risque de se faire un tas de nouveaux ennemis, tant à la Coalition de Rathjen que ceux, parmi la population, à qui il vient de pêter la balloune.

En entrevue à une radio montréalaise aujourd'hui, Claude Colgan a remis les pendules à l'heure. En s'affichant d'abord comme chasseur, tireur sportif et propriétaire d'armes à feu lui-même, puis en martelant que l'arme ne fait pas le moine. Ou le criminel. Il déplore en fait que les chasseurs, eux, soient de facto des criminels aux yeux de l'opinion publique, image entretenue soigneusement par une élite politique et journalistique bazzoese. Enfin, le fait d'utiliser, depuis près de 25 ans, la « tuerie » (terme préféré de Rathjen) de la Polytechnique comme principal prétexte pour entretenir le mythe qu'une arme, ça tue tout seul, le dépasse carrément.

Petite parenthèse à propos d'une petite phrase sur laquelle j'ai particulièrement accroché... Au cours de l'entrevue,

Claude Colgan a affirmé candidement à son interlocuteur que s'il n'est jamais sorti du placard avant aujourd'hui, c'est tout simplement parce qu'aucun journaliste ne lui avait jamais adressé de demande d'entrevue. Mais Claude ignore sans doute que Heidi Rathjen, dans ses démarches vicieuses, aura pris bien soin d'aiguiller les médias vers les témoins qui seraient favorables à sa cause.

Grâce à l'intervention inattendue de Claude Colgan, la partie se jouera dorénavant autrement. Rathjen ayant perdu le monopole de la tribune, le public aura droit à un débat sur la pertinence d'un registre sur les armes à feu qui sera plus objectif, enfin. Et Rathjen devra forcément réajuster le tir. Colgan vient de mettre un terme à sa manipulation éhontée et procure aux propriétaires légitimes d'armes à feu une énergie nouvelle. Une sorte de momentum.

Quant à moi, le témoignage de Claude Colgan m'a fait réaliser toute l'absurdité de la croisade de Heidi Rathjen et la fermeture de nos gouvernements à l'idée de pourvoir à la sécurité de nos enfants et de nos jeunes qui fréquentent les institutions publiques. N'accorde-t-on pas à nos personnages publics une protection directe, à coups de policiers et de gardes du corps? Et pourquoi, en ces cas, croit-on tout à coup aux vertus de la protection avec armes à feu?

Vraiment, Monsieur Colgan m'a mis en pleine figure la pathétique incapacité de notre société à voir les choses comme elles sont et à gérer rationnellement la réalité.

Luc Lapierre

*Lien intéressant sur la piste pharmaceutique :

<http://www.contrepoints.org/2012/12/19/108575-tuerie-a-lecole-la-piste-pharmaceutique>

President...Continued from Page 7

soldat du Commonwealth armé d'une carabine Lee Enfield #4 à verrou, participa à une compétition amicale contre un Américain armé d'une M1 Garand semi-automatique. Les deux étaient des tireurs d'expérience. L'objectif était de déterminer lequel des deux tireurs atteindrait la cible avec le plus de rapidité et de précision. Après trois séries de tirs, le tireur qui utilisait la carabine Lee Enfield a été plus rapide et précis que celui qui avait utilisé la carabine semi-automatique. Je ne dis pas que la Garand est moins rapide ou moins précise. L'exercice n'a fait que souligner que l'action de l'arme est moins pertinente que l'habileté du tireur qui la manie. De plus, les malfaiteurs trouvent toujours un moyen d'accomplir leurs actes - souvent avec des bombes artisanales ou le feu plutôt qu'avec des armes à feu - les mauvaises gens réussissent aussi à obtenir des permis d'armes à feu si elles veulent s'en donner la peine. Ces personnes n'ont jamais de difficulté à se procurer des armes ou d'autres engins pour faire mal aux autres.

Il est possible que certains hoplophobes Canadiens continuent de profiter des tragédies pour faire avancer leur agenda de désarmement. Ces gens qui dansent sur les tombes des victimes essaient de profiter des réactions émotives face aux tragédies pour voler les droits civils et de propriété des autres citoyens. L'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu (NFA) combat cet agenda activement en rencontrant les médias, les politiciens et les fonctionnaires tout en faisant preuve d'initiative pour faire abroger nos lois ratées et inefficaces. Notre position face au Gouvernement a toujours été claire, l'élimination de l'enregistrement n'est pas suffisant. Il faut faire plus de changements aux lois, de vrais changements. Nous voulons que la bureaucratie des armes cesse de harceler les propriétaires d'armes à feu. Nous voulons que nos libertés et que notre droit à la propriété soit rétabli.

Réfléchissez à la quantité de ressources qui sont dépensées par la bureaucratie des armes pour attaquer des gens qui n'ont pas commis de crimes violents, des gens qui se sont seulement trompés dans leurs documents dont les directives sont définies par le Code Criminel. Puis il y a les autres dont les armes ont été arbitrairement déclarées prohibées, pour être ensuite volées par l'État sans aucune compensation monétaire. Les citoyens veulent rétablir leur droit à la propriété. Une loi qui permet de confisquer les armes des bons citoyens n'est pas une bonne loi.

Prenez connaissance de tous les rôles différents qui sont joués par cette bureaucratie en expansion continue. Cette liste viens du Rapport du Commissaire aux Armes à Feu de la GRC pour l'année 2011.

Services de soutien à l'application de la loi du PCAF

- Équipe nationale de soutien à l'application de la Loi sur les armes à feu (ENSALA)
- Centre national de dépistage des armes à feu (CNDAF)
- Services spécialisés de soutien en matière d'armes à feu (SSSAF)
- Unité de soutien aux enquêtes sur Internet en matière

d'armes à feu (SEIAF)

- Support aux enquêtes et aux opérations en matière d'armes à feu (SEOMAF)
- Règlement sur les armes à feu des agents publics (RAFAP)
- Système canadien d'information relative aux armes à feu (SCIRAF)
- Centre d'information de la police canadienne (CIPC)
- Registre canadien des armes à feu en direct (RCAFED)
- Rapports par secteur géographique du PCAF

Services offerts au public par le PCAF

- Délivrance de permis d'armes à feu
- Renouvellement des permis d'armes à feu
- Soutien aux entreprises d'armes à feu
- Contrôleurs des armes à feu (CAF)
- Enregistrement des armes à feu
- Directeur de l'enregistrement des armes à feu
- Aider et informer le public
- Sensibiliser les collectivités autochtones

Assurer la sécurité du Canada

- Formation sur le maniement sécuritaire des armes à feu
- Vérification approfondie des demandeurs de permis d'armes à feu
- Demandes de permis d'arme à feu refusées
- Vérification continue de l'admissibilité des titulaires de permis d'armes à feu
- Révocations de permis d'armes à feu
- Interdictions visant les armes à feu
- Refus de demandes d'enregistrement d'armes à feu et révocations de certificats
- Inspections relatives aux armes à feu
- Coordonnateur – Sécurité des champs de tir et recours à la force
- Service 1-800 – Signaler une préoccupation en matière de sécurité publique

La prétention erronée que le contrôle des armes contribue à la sécurité publique a créé cet immense empire qu'est la bureaucratie Canadienne des armes à feu. Tout ça pour gérer les gens respectueux des lois et pas grand chose pour combattre les criminels violents. Est-ce vraiment comme ça que les Canadiens veulent utiliser leurs rares ressources policières? Combien coûte il aux Canadiens de faire fonctionner cette bureaucratie?

Les recherches basées sur des faits sont sans équivoque, les lois sur les armes à feu sont un échec, elles le seront toujours. Il est temps de faire des changements aux lois qui pourront réellement protéger les Canadiens comme ils le veulent et le méritent. S'il vous plait, rencontrez votre député et tout en demeurant poli et respectueux, demander lui de rencontrer l'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu dans le but d'éliminer nos mauvaises lois sur les armes à feu.





Canada's National Firearms Association Annual General Meeting 2013

Quality Hotel & Suites Woodstock

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Join us in Woodstock for the 2013 Annual General Meeting of Canada's National Firearms Association.

Friday May 3

Meet and Greet - mingle with the Directors and other activists

Saturday May 4

**Open Panel Discussion, AGM, Banquet.
(Evening dinner with door prizes).**

Special guests invited: *Solomon C. Prashman, LL.B. of Telsion Clifford D'Angelo, - Professor John Lou, Jr., - Professor Gary Mausser, - Andrew Craig, Canadian Record Radio host, - Karen Schick, Litigation Director-Canadian Constitution Foundation, - Rob Anders, Conservative MP from Calgary and Sun News host Brian Lilley.*

More information and a detailed agenda will be posted on our website www.nfa.ca

Please register early to help us plan arrangements. The first 15 members to register will receive a copy of the "Journal on Firearms & Public Policy" by Gary Mausser. If you are not yet a member, it is not too late to join. Donations to support this event are gratefully appreciated.

NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION FOR 2013 AGM:

Registration fee: \$40 _____	Membership # _____
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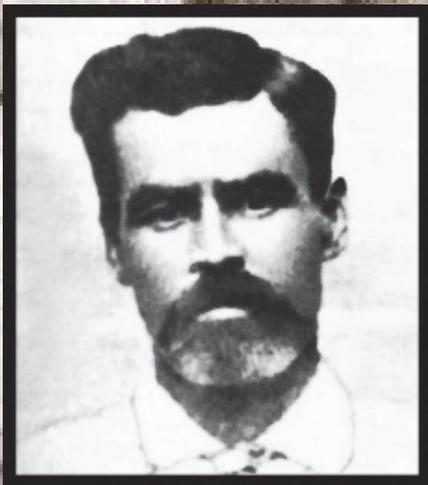
Register Early!! Space is limited!!



Western Lawmen

Capt. Burton Mossman Part II

by Jesse Wolf Hardin



The deadly desperado Chacón finally met his match, in the first Captain of the Arizona Rangers - Part II

The Arizona Rangers were reestablished in March of 1901, loosely modeled after the famed Texas Rangers. Their mandate from the governor was to put the damper on said illegalities and atrocities, in part to increase the chances of Arizona Territory finally being granted statehood. Mossman was made Captain to thirteen other men, each a genuine range rider chosen for his courage and savvy. They were required to supply their own rifle, handgun and horse, though they were allotted a decent wage and a small allowance to feed themselves and their mounts. Mossman's favorite arms included the ubiquitous Colt six-shooter, but also the more up to date Winchester 1895 rifle, with its box magazine allowing for the use of aerodynamic, pointed projectiles rather than the flat nosed bullets required for safe use in a tube-fed gun. The flamboyant rangers were sometimes resented for getting all the limelight, or for being essentially the shock troops of a Republican governor in a region full of Democrats. But moreover, they were respected by the ranchers too long plagued with losses to thieves, lionized by the press, and applauded by readers from one coast to the next.

Almost immediately after being sworn in, Mossman and some of his men went after the notorious Wild Bill Smith Gang, whom they found holed-up on the Black River. In the ensuing fight, Mossman's party suffered several casualties, including losing Ranger Carlos Tafolla and an Apache County deputy sheriff by the name of Bill Maxwell. While he failed to capture Smith and company, the Black River action did succeed in driving the gang over the border and out of the region for good. Not one to rest upon his laurels, Mossman and his fellow rangers were quickly back in the saddle. Within a month of the Black River shoot-out, they had successfully planned and executed a raid on the nefarious Musgrove Gang. Wanted for murder and theft in both Arizona and New Mexico, in the action that followed, Mossman's Arizona Ranger Company captured core members of the gang, bringing their outlaw days to a close. The capture of the Musgrove Gang was but the first of a string of successes for Captain Mossman and his company. In less than a year, the Captain and his rangers would go on to arrest some 125 suspects, while successfully infiltrating the ranks of many of the local crime networks and outlaw gangs on what was known as the "Owl-hoot Trail."

Captain Mossman proved himself an innovative thinker and brilliant tactician in the field. Much of his company's successes were due in large part to his willingness to run undercover operations that allowed him and his men to successfully infiltrate the myriad of criminal enterprises then plaguing the Arizona Territory. The use



Left: Augustine Chacon proved both a colorful orator and man of steel nerves, when it finally came time for him to hang. "Adios," he said, tossing his cigarette to the ground. Adios, Augustine!

Left Inset: Augustine Chacon

Top: Arizona Ranger

- Here's an old pic reputed to be of a typical Arizona Ranger, wearing the same clothes as any range riding cowboy, and yet "dressed to kill."

Above: Morenci 1910

- The town of Morenci, S.E. Arizona, not far from the author's wilderness home. It was here that Augustine Chacon broke out of jail in 1895.



Left: Billy Stiles in Nevada

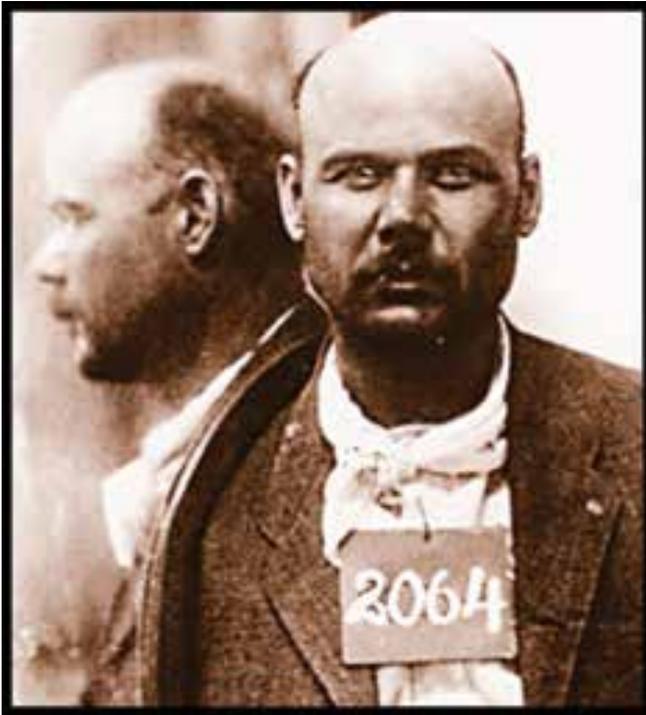
- Billy Stiles was one of the robbers who betrayed Chacon in exchange for part of any reward, and Mossman testifying on their behalf if they ever came to court. This picture was taken of Billy on the run later, a not wholly bad man who ironically was killed while attempting to uphold the law while working as a deputy under an assumed name.

Left Bottom: Burt Alvord arrest

- Burt Alvord showing off his inmate number upon his entry to prison. Burt Alvord went from officer of the law to lawbreaker, then did his part to assist lawman Burton Mossman in the waylaying of fugitive Chacon.

Right: Winchester 1895

- The other rifle most coveted by the Arizona Rangers, was the Winchester Model 1895 with its distinctive box magazine, chambered in .30 U.S. (.30/40 Krag), and one similar to this example was carried by Captain Mossman himself.



Billy Stiles – wanted to come back home and try to “get clear.” In addition to the outstanding warrants on the duo, the pair drew Mossman’s interest because of their recent associations with outlaw elements in Old Mexico. Somewhat fortuitously, it turned out, Alvord and Stiles had recently taken-up with the same desperado Captain Mossman had been so actively seeking. His name was Augustine Chacón. Wasting no time, Mossman rode totally alone over the border and into the small Mexican town where Alvord and Stiles were said to hang out, eliciting vague promises of help from them in exchange for a cut of any reward, and testifying on their behalf should they choose to return to the states to be tried. Then, on the prearranged day, he boldly rode into the camp shared by Stiles, Alvord and the Peludo; or the “Hairy One,” whom we know better as Augustine Chacón.

There was no way that Mossman could be sure that either Stiles or Alvord wouldn’t betray him in spite of their deal, or that they hadn’t “spilled the beans” prior to his arrival at Chacón’s hideout. Yet, his dedication to the job would not permit him to abandon his quest. Posing as a fellow rider of the Owl-hoot, Mossman accepted the risks involved. His gamble paid-off, as he was seemingly accepted by Chacón and the other outlaws as also being on the dodge. Following introductions and other pleasantries, the Captain waited for an opportunity to casually mention a new “job” he had a line on across the border. With the right gang, he suggested, a man could make some good money really quick by raiding the Greene Ranch just over the border. They had a large remuda of valuable race horses that were just asking to be stolen.

After asking a few questions, the wary Chacón sat down at the fire and pulled his oilskin drover’s coat up around his neck as a light drizzle of rain began to fall. Ominously, the Hairy One neither drank nor spoke throughout the remainder of the night, even as the rest of them shared a bottle of rye, talked and joked. By first light, Alvord’s anxiety over the betrayal was getting the best of him, and Chacón’s suspicions were heightened further when Alvord nervously told them he was going to go look for water, riding out of camp with what proved to be no intention of coming back.

Alvord’s nervousness and disappearance seemed to settle things

of disguises and recruiting dependable confidential informants played a key role in Mossman’s winning crime-fighting strategy. Like a true military tactician, he knew that the making of contacts, reconnoitering of the land and reliable information gathering was of paramount importance. Such activities helped to establish the groundwork for accurate identifications, effective pursuits and surprise arrests of a multitude of the Territory’s outlaws that followed. However, Mossman was not someone who led from the rear, and when it had come time to play the part of a horse thief in order to apprehend one of the most formidable of living outlaws, he would risk assigning no one but himself.

The Captain had received credible reports that two Americano robbers on the run in Mexico – the ex-lawmen Burt Alvord and



in the Mexican outlaw's mind. As he pulled out a Mexican cigarette, and struck a match on the heel of his boot, Chacón finally spoke, telling the remaining outlaws that he'd have no part of Mossman's raid on the Greene Ranch. Sensing that time was running short if he was to make his play to arrest Chacón, Mossman bummed one of the cigarillos from the fugitive. Squatting by the campfire, he selected a still-burning faggot to light his cigarette. Perhaps off-put by the seeming normalcy of Mossman's action, Chacón allowed himself to be momentarily distracted. Seizing the opportunity, the Captain dropped the flaming stick and drew his revolver from its leather in a single flawless motion.

"You're under arrest," he told him, leveling the fully cocked .44 at Chacón's furred and furrowed brow.

"Is this a joke," the bandit is said to have blurted out, his eyes suddenly wide and flashing.

"It's no joke," Mossman allegedly replied, then curtly ordered Stiles to remove his gun and knife, and then securely bind the outlaw's wrists for the ride north of the border.

The tension on the trail must have been palpable, as they detoured around patrolling units of Mexican Federales. The Captain, knowing how dangerous his prisoners were, always forced the duo to ride ahead, just in case one or the other tried to pull something. Several times, in fact, Chacón threw himself off his horse and tried to run, until Mossman finally slipped a tightened lasso around his neck, and threatened to drag him over the border if he tried anything else.

Once in the U.S. again, the retiring lawman flagged down a passing train headed for Benson. He was met at the station by Graham County Sheriff Page, who was toting a freshly made set of leg irons, as well as steel handcuffs with which to secure the prisoner. The two lawmen, after a brief

conversation, quickly agreed to the lie that Chacón had been seized on the U.S. side of the fence, instead of having been illegally kidnapped from his home country of Mexico. The dapper, 46 year-old brigand was then returned to Solomonville, where the gallows he'd cheated back in 1897 still awaited. Upon arrival, he was placed in a steel cage specially constructed for him, ensuring that this time there would be no escape from his morbid fate.

The hanging took place on "Black Friday," November 21st, 1903, behind 14' high adobe walls that blocked sight for all but the hundred or so citizens with official invites to the affair. It is unclear whether or not Mossman was in attendance, but the crowd included some fifty fervent friends and supporters, as well as members of the Anglo community titillated by the spectacle of his death. The Hairy One had shaved off his beard in honor of the occasion, leaving only the heavy black mustache, and now walked up the gallows steps unassisted, with his head held high. Once at the top of the platform, Chacón asked for a cigarette and coffee, and then launched into an eloquent half-hour long speech to those folks assembled before him in their best dresses and Sunday suits.

His final words to the celebratory townsfolk, mournful compatriots and tearful señoritas, were "It's too late now, time to hang." And just before the trapdoor was sprung, "Adios, todos amigos!" Both his admirers and detractors agreed on at least one thing: whether an unredeemable S.O.B. or icon of liberty, El Peludo was muy bravo to the very end.

There are unsubstantiated reports that the now ex-Arizona Ranger stuck around just long enough to give character testimony on behalf of the still incarcerated Billy Stiles. Thereafter, it was rumored, Mossman departed on a much-needed vacation to New York City at the invite of rancher Greene, the well-to-do owner of those targeted Spanish race horses. As it happened, the Captain's commission expired on the day of his return. Rather than remain a lawman, Mossman had already made plans to return to his beloved New Mexico and once again take up the more sedate career of rancher.

When the governor offered him his badge back, Burton C. Mossman apparently told him where to stick it... a most unpleasant notion, I must say, given the renowned retentiveness of politicians, in juxtaposition with a star's characteristic five points.



Augustine Chacon gravestone

- There was no marker on the grave of Augustine Chacon, until this inscribed chunk of marble was commissioned by descendants in the 1980s. That can be no doubt that he, like the ranger who brought him to ground, was one helluva brave man.

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