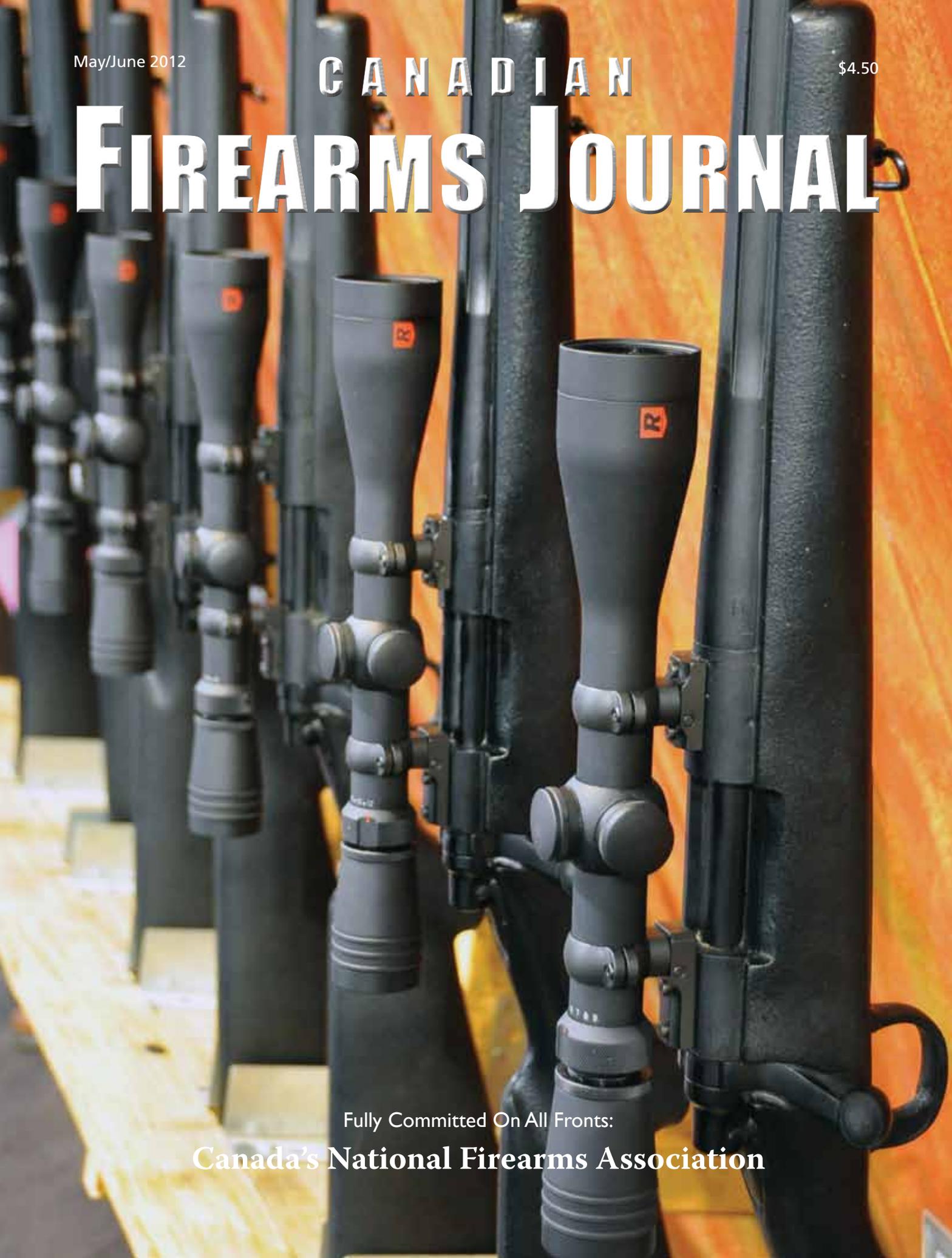


May/June 2012

CANADIAN

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# FIREARMS JOURNAL



Fully Committed On All Fronts:

**Canada's National Firearms Association**



# Canada's National Firearms Association Annual General Meeting 2012

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## Join us in Woodstock for the 2012 Annual General Meeting of Canada's National Firearms Association!

**Friday, May 4**

Meet and Greet - mingle with the Directors and other activists

**Saturday, May 5**

Information and training sessions, AGM, Evening Dinner with Door Prizes

**Sunday, May 6**

Special Activities

### Confirmed speaker's list for AGM 2012:

- Solomon Friedman, Firearms Lawyer •
- Randy Kuntz, Edmonton Police Officer and Pro-firearm activist •
- John Lott, Jr., Academic and author of More Guns Less Crime •
- Gary Mauser, Academic and author of several publications on Canada's firearms laws.

Unfortunately Alan Korwin had to cancel this year due to a family commitment that conflicted with the date of our AGM.

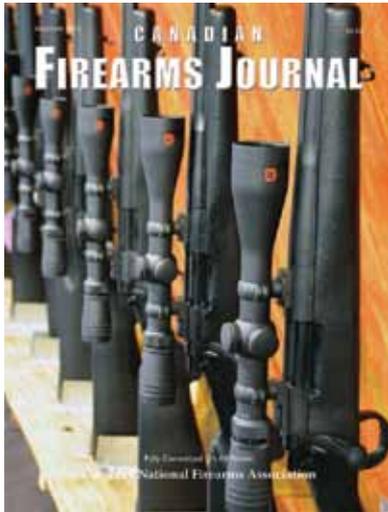
**Note:** Interested parties are welcome to attend the workshops,  
we simply ask that you purchase a membership to help defray costs.

**To join the NFA or for more information go to [www.nfa.ca](http://www.nfa.ca) or call 1-877-818-0393.**

### NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION FOR 2012 AGM:

<p>Registration fee:           \$35       _____</p> <p>(Includes: Information sessions &amp; Banquet)</p> <p>Guest (s) Registration fee: \$35 x ___ = _____</p> <p>Donations:                               _____</p> <p>Total for the AGM 2012:               _____</p> <p>Box 49090, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6E 6H4 Toll Free 1-877-818-0393 Fax: 780-439-4091</p>	<p>Membership # _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Payable by <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express</p> <p>Card # _____</p> <p>Expiry date: _____</p>
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***Register Early!! Space is limited!***



## On The Cover

The much hated long-gun registry is now dead. In the weeks following its demise, literally tens of thousands of rifles, just like the ones pictured on our cover were legally bought and sold by law-abiding gun owners; all without the necessity of putting a worthless slip of paper next to each firearm or asking permission of a faceless gun-control bureaucrat.

Wonder of wonders, Canadian civilization was not brought to its knees and somehow Canada's millions of law-abiding gun owners managed to keep their blood-lust in check and committed no crimes with their now unregistered duck guns and deer rifles.

With no sudden spike in Canada's homicide rate, even the non-gun owning public must begin to wonder just how many other emotion-driven warnings and arguments employed by the Coalition for Gun Control and their progressive allies are simply wrong.

Perhaps, Canada's National Firearms Association had it right all along?

### Enter Our Cover Photo Contest!

See details on Page 47

Cover Photo: Al Voth

## 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



Spring has finally sprung, at least in most parts of the country and that means the start of another hunting & shooting season. Spring goose and bear hunters are taking to the fields in droves, along with their turkey-seeking cousins. Local club organizers are making those calls, seeking volunteers to help with the annual spring clean-up of their ranges and the gun games aficionados are busy dusting off their steel poppers and gongs, or designing new stages in preparation of the official start of the competitive shooting season. After a long, cold winter (at least in my part of the country) I cannot help but look forward to the excitement surrounding the start of a new shooting season. Bring on the ringing steel and smell of burning cordite in the morning!

We've tried to assemble an eclectic mix of articles for your reading enjoyment in this issue. The old favourites are back. Bill Rantz provides a great review of "The Winchester Model 1876 "Centennial" Rifle," so much so that I went out and found a copy for myself! I'm sure you'll enjoy it just as much as I did. Gary Mauser returns with his take on the real power behind the throne, the bureaucrats and the danger they pose to our gun rights; definitely some sobering food for thought.

Speaking of food, Gary & Sybil Kangas do their best to make your mouth water uncontrollably with their report on Victoria Fish & Game's Annual 'Game Dinner' in Firearms Heritage. Also in this issue, Western Lawmen is back, with long-time contributor Jesse Hardin's profile of Rough Rider Bucky O'Neil. O'Neil was one of those rare lawmen who never lost his touch for the common man despite being anything but common himself. He had a storied career and was something of a latter-day renaissance man; over his career he wore many hats, including that of famed lawman, politician, journalist, and soldier!

In our feature articles, Al Voth brings us the second half of his trip to the 2012 SHOT Show from Las Vegas. As a kid I dreamed of Disneyland, as a 'bigger' kid and hardcore gun guy, I now dream of SHOT! Al includes a great mix of products, great guns (and some not so great), all laid out for us in his 2012 SHOT Show album. Al is joined by Jeff Helsdon who shares with CFJ readers his field test and review of Beretta's new flagship semi-auto shotgun, the A400 Xtreme. Waterfowl & turkey hunters are well advised to give this one a good read. Jeff carried out an extensive real-world test of the new Beretta over a number of months and the Xtreme more than lived up to its name.

Shifting gears to more serious topics, as we go to print Bill C-19 has just been given Royal Assent, officially killing the LGR and marking the first substantive repeal of gun control legislation in Canada! We'll certainly have more to share on this topic next issue. For now, NFA executives Sheldon Clare and Blair Hagen tackle a couple of key political issues facing gun owners and government in a post-LGR world. The battle over property rights, covered in Sheldon's column, will be a true game-changer for gun owners. Not one to miss.

Regular contributors Chris McGarry and Tyler Vance make their return as well with a couple of timely submissions. With the case of Ian Thomson still winding its way through the courts and the Conservatives having introduced their *Citizen's Arrest and Self-Defence Act* recently, the time has come to have a serious debate on the issue of self-defence and castle doctrine in Canada. McGarry shares his take on the issue and makes some interesting points.

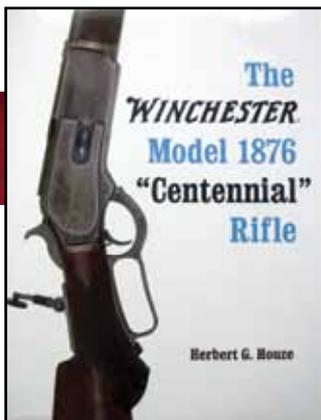
Tyler Vance also weighs in with the conclusion to his two-part feature on the subject of Canadian "Hoplophobia" that

was pre-empted last issue. For anyone who doesn't believe hoplophobia doesn't exist, simply look to the recent case of Jessie Sansone, loving father and husband, who was arrested, handcuffed and strip-searched after his four-year-old daughter drew a picture in school of her daddy shooting "monsters" with a gun. It later turned out that Mr. Sansone does not even own a gun!

Rather than simply ask Mr. Sansone to provide an explanation for the drawing, the teacher and school administrator unbelievably opted to call child protective services and the Waterloo police instead of the child's parents! It later turned out that the only one who had seen the drawing was the teacher! No copies of the offending drawing were made and solely on the word of a seriously hoplophobic and junior kindergarten teacher, Mr. Sansone's basic civil rights and personal dignity were violated multiple times by government bureaucrats and local law-enforcement. Equally disturbing is the unwillingness of anyone in authority, especially the Waterloo office of Family and Child Services, to accept responsibility for this absolutely egregious contravention of the Sansone family's rights, let alone offer any semblance of an official apology. We haven't heard the last of this story.

Finally, Grayson checks in with another TEAM NFA update. The 2011-2012 biathlon season has ended and it definitely brought with it a rollercoaster ride of highs and lows for TEAM NFA this past year. Health issues and injuries unfortunately plagued all three team members. With the start of a new IPSC season just around the corner, here's hoping that we won't see a repeat in the year ahead. Enjoy!





# NFA Book Shelf

by Wm. Rantz

The Winchester Model 1876 "Centennial" Rifle

Author: Herbert G. Houze

Andrew Mowbray Incorporated - Publishers

Copyright 2001 ISBN: 0-917218-97-3

Hardcover 8 ½ x 11 with Dust Jacket, 192 Pages

Black & White Photographs

*The Winchester Model 1876 "Centennial" Rifle* is an incredible reference book based on a decade of extensive research by author Herbert Houze. Houze was the curator of the Winchester Arms Museum from 1983 to 1991 and is considered to be one of the most respected Winchester scholars of the last century. As an arms historian, Houze reveals that he had always felt that the Model 1876 was the most aesthetically attractive of all the pre-1900 Winchesters and it held a special interest for him. This interest was to culminate in *The Winchester Model 1876 "Centennial" Rifle*.

The author's research on the Model 1876 was extensive. In addition to accessing traditional information sources, such as Winchester factory records and related museum archives, Houze also incorporated relevant information gleaned from other published and unpublished works; and other sources not normally available to the public-at-large.

A number of individuals also provided the author with invaluable assistance during the compilation of the book. From providing personal expertise to the gathering of documents preserved in foreign countries, Houze gratefully acknowledged the assistance he received; going so far as to modestly describe the book as a "collaborative effort."

In the book, Houze pointedly dispels the popular belief that the 1876 Winchester rifle was simply an enlarged version of the famous 1873 Model. A commonly-held misperception within the firearms community, Houze contends that the Winchester marketing department itself was to blame, largely as a result of a misleading promotional brochure they produced for the 1876. The offending brochure directly referenced the success of the Model 1873, while suggesting the need for a more powerful rifle. Under such circumstances it is easy to understand why such a mistaken belief eventually came to be accepted as fact, despite having no basis in truth.

Documentation included in the book noted that the 1876 Winchester had actually been in development for 12 years prior to its introduction. The process of developing reliable and reloadable large bore cartridges delayed production for eight of those years and was the principal reason why the '76 hadn't been brought to market sooner.

The first chapter accurately details the origins of the Model 1876 in text supplemented by original drawings and photographs. These were made available to the author, courtesy of the Winchester Arms Collection Archives, Olin Corporation, and a variety of other sources. Having the opportunity to access and share these historical records was essentially unprecedented, and allowed Houze to create

what some would consider the definitive reference on the Winchester Model 1876 "Centennial" rifle.

Like so many 19th century firearms, the '76 was almost defined by the cartridges it was chambered for. Houze devotes a chapter discussing each of the four original cartridges chambered in the Model 1876. These are the 45-75 W.C.F., 45-60 W.C.F., 40-60 W.C.F. and the 50-95 Winchester "Express." Tables indicate the exact number of each caliber produced by carbine, rifle, barrel configuration and length, trigger style, stock forms, finishes plus other special features, so collectors take note!

The legendary Model 1876 rifle was marketed in two variations identified as "having barrels of superior accuracy." These rifles were known as the "One of One Hundred" and "One of One Thousand." *The Winchester Model 1876 "Centennial" Rifle* not only shares the history of these rarities but also lists the serial number and marking of each of these 61 prized rifles.

Canadians will especially enjoy the details provided regarding the gift of a 50-95 Model 1876 that was presented to Colonel Gzowski, aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria. This cased, engraved deluxe rifle was presented to the Colonel by the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association in 1884.

*The Winchester Model 1876 "Centennial" Rifle* also outlines the Canadian purchase of one thousand six hundred eleven 45-75 W.C.F. carbines by the North West Mounted Police (1,261) and the Department of the Militia (350). These carbines played an important role in Canadian history, especially in helping the NWMP maintain law & order on the woolly Canadian frontier.

Interestingly, the book also notes that in 1919 the Premier of Quebec petitioned the federal government for a "sufficient number of firearms to suppress any potential rebellion." Quebec eventually received some 150, by-then-obsolete Model 1876 carbines, the bulk of which were boxed and forgotten until their discovery and disposition almost 60 years later.

Taken as a complete work, I would contend that author Herbert Houze has succeeded in creating what is inarguably one of the highest quality reference works on the Model 1876 Winchester rifles yet published. *The Winchester Model 1876 "Centennial" Rifle* deserves a prominent place on the bookshelf of discerning firearm enthusiasts, dealers and collectors. Those fortunate enough to own an 1876 Winchester, or hoping to acquire an original specimen, will find the \$50 list price a wise investment indeed.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## The Outrageous Continuing Saga of Canada's "Safe Queens"

by Sheldon Clare

The other day a firearm owner asked about the end of the long-gun registration system. The question was: "With registration gone, will it be okay for me to go shooting and hunting again?" My response was simple "Sure, but realize that without a firearms possession only or possession and acquisition license you could be charged, as it is still illegal in Canada to be in possession of firearms without a license." The response was one of shock – "But I thought that the government was getting rid of the registry – doesn't that mean things will go back to the way that they were?"

Actually no, it doesn't. The Firearms Act in sections 91 and 92 still makes the simple possession of firearms a crime in this country – unless you have a government issued permission slip for that possession called a firearms license. The blunt truth is that Kim Campbell's Bill C-17, which banned a host of firearms, prohibited or restricted others and limited the magazine capacity of standard magazines still remains as an integral part of the Firearms Act and regulations, and so does Bill C-68. That liberal bill went further by, among other things, requiring all firearms to be registered and making it a criminal offence to possess firearms without a license. Those two bills were passed many years ago and are still the law of the land - both of them need to be completely repealed in order for some measure of sanity to return to our firearms laws.

The obvious question then arises, what is needed, if anything, to replace these many pages of law and regulations. One of the key elements of any such system must be to make a reasonable attempt to deny legal access to firearms by people who are known to be dangerous to society or themselves. A simple police record check at point of purchase should serve that purpose. Technology has gotten us well past the Firearms Acquisition Certificate (Bill C-51) of the 1978 liberal regime, but perhaps a reasonable transition from the

invasive licensing system is a simple police record check at point of purchase.

It is better and no doubt easier to keep a list of those who should not own firearms rather than a list of those who may.

### The Saga of the "Safe Queen"

Do you have any royalty in your firearm collection? By royalty I mean firearms designated by order-in-council and regulation as prohibited long arms, such as autos and converted autos, or something else on one of the prohibited lists. These are the imprisoned royalty of gun collections across Canada. These firearms are the queens of the gun safes. These often historical firearms were once great treasures to take to the range – fun to shoot and fascinating to display. Unfortunately for many years firearm owners have been forbidden to make use of these safe queens. Unable to leave their homes and visit the range, these firearms now sit in splendid isolation surrounded by the attentive odours of Hoppe's No. 9, Breakfree and other gun oils that perfume their steel throne rooms. Even more insidious, the ability to pass these firearms on to one's heirs and successors is extremely limited, since no-one (with only executors and the 12(7) exception) who is not currently licensed for these firearms may receive them. In effect the law has stolen, what in many cases amounts to thousands of dollars of property from people, denied the enjoyment of use of these firearms, and prevented transfer of these firearms to a collector's heir(s). In effect these safe queens have been stolen from their owners who currently hold them merely at the pleasure of the state. I am not even including those many firearms which were outright stolen from people by being prohibited "without grandfathering." This is yet another egregious area of Canada's firearm laws that needs to end. There is no reason to deny people the right of enjoyment of their own

property. In that respect, the most important clause of the current Charter of Rights and Freedoms is:

“26. The guarantee in this Charter of certain rights and freedoms shall not be construed as denying the existence of any other rights or freedoms that exist in Canada.”

That is, among many other rights, the common law rights to our property and the rights of enjoyment of that property still apply, a circumstance recognized by the Canadian Bill of Rights:

## **PART I**

### **BILL OF RIGHTS**

There are certainly several other aspects of our hard fought for long standing rights that are violated by our Firearms Act, but there is no need to raise them at this point. My point in raising the Bill of Rights is to emphasize that it does not grant rights – it merely acknowledges some that exist. These long existing rights are not extinguished by the Charter. I haven’t even gotten into the rights related to how firearms are used – perhaps that discussion might fill another column.

It is shocking that our fundamental right of enjoyment of property has been so easily trampled upon by our Firearms Act. If we are to truly restore the trust of firearms owners, there can no longer be a prohibited status that prevents firearms owners from freely exchanging their property, having full enjoyment of that property and passing on said enjoyment to their heirs and successors. There should no longer be a barrier to new people being able to lawfully obtain these firearms from their current owners, or to prevent people from importing these firearms.

Even car collectors get to make use of the items in their collections - they may buy and sell different vehicles, and they even get to take them out for a spin from time to time. Why should it be any different for other law-abiding people to make use of their lawfully-owned personal property? The answer is that there is no legitimate reason to deny people the right of enjoyment of their property, even if that property is firearms. These now prohibited firearms were frequent innocent visitors to the range until the changes made by Kim Campbell’s Bill C-17 and amplified by Alan Rock’s C-68. It is time to right these wrongs by repealing these wrong-headed aspects of Canadian firearms law.



# **Recognition and declaration of rights and freedoms**

1. It is hereby recognized and declared that in Canada there have existed and shall continue to exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely,

- (a) the right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law;
- (b) the right of the individual to equality before the law and the protection of the law;
- (c) freedom of religion;
- (d) freedom of speech;
- (e) freedom of assembly and association; and
- (f) freedom of the press.



# MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

by Sheldon Clare

Récemment, un propriétaire d'armes à feu me posait des questions à propos de la fin du système d'enregistrement des armes longues : En voici une. 'N'ayant plus besoin d'enregistrer mes armes, est-ce que je pourrai aller tirer et chasser à nouveau?' Ma réponse fût très simple : 'Bien sûr, mais vous devez savoir que sans être détenteur de Permis de Possession Seulement ou de Permis de Possession Acquisition d'arme à feu vous pouvez être poursuivi, parce que c'est toujours illégal au Canada de posséder une arme à feu sans avoir de permis.' Mon interlocuteur était en état de choc- 'Mais je croyais que le Gouvernement se débarrassait du registre et que tout revenait comme ce l'était avant?'

En fait, non. La simple possession d'une arme à feu est un crime selon les Articles 91 et 92 de la Loi sur les Armes à Feu (LAF)- à moins que vous soyez détenteur d'un permis émis par le Gouvernement. La triste vérité est que le Projet de Loi C-17 de Kim Campbell qui eut l'effet d'interdire une grande quantité d'armes à feu, en a prohibé ou restreint d'autres et a imposé des limites de capacité sur des chargeurs d'origine est toujours bien en place dans la LAF, de même que les provisions du Projet de Loi C-68 des Libéraux qui a été encore plus audacieux en exigeant qu'on enregistre toutes les armes à feu et que leur simple possession soit devenue une infraction criminelle. Ces deux Projets de Loi existent depuis plusieurs années et ont encore force de Loi- Ils doivent être abrogés totalement pour que nous puissions revenir à un climat de raison en matière de Lois sur les armes à feu.

La question qui s'impose alors est la suivante : Comment remplacerons nous ces Lois et Règlements? Un des éléments les plus importants à considérer est de créer un système qui puisse empêcher l'accès légal aux armes à feu par des gens qui sont reconnus pour leur dangerosité envers eux même ou envers la société. Une vérification judiciaire faite par les policiers lors de l'achat d'une arme accomplirait cet objectif. L'Autorisation d'Acquisition d'Arme à Feu (AAAF) faisant parti du Projet de Loi C-51 du régime Libéral de 1978 est dépassé par la technologie mais une transition raisonnable du système invasif actuel pourrait bien être une simple enquête

de casier judiciaire au moment de l'achat d'une arme.

Il est préférable et sûrement plus facile de garder une liste des gens qui ne doivent pas posséder d'armes plutôt qu'une liste de ceux qui le peuvent.

## La saga de la reine du coffre fort.

Il y a-t-il de la royauté dans votre collection d'armes? Il s'agit ici d'armes qui ont été désignées comme étant prohibées par décret ou par règlement; Telles que des armes automatiques, ou converties pour devenir automatiques ou n'importe quelles autres se trouvant dans la liste des armes prohibées. Ces armes sont les reines emprisonnées des collections d'armes Canadiennes. Elles sont les reines de vos coffres forts. Ces armes historiques pour la plupart, ont été jadis de grands trésors à apporter au champ de tir- elles étaient un plaisir à tirer et fascinantes à voir. Malheureusement la Loi interdit aux propriétaires d'armes à feu d'utiliser leurs reines de coffres forts. Ne pouvant pas sortir de leurs résidences et de visiter les champs de tir, ces armes à feu demeurent en isolation magnifique, entourées par les odeurs attentives du nettoyeur Hoppe's No. 9 et autres huiles pour armes à feu qui parfument leurs trônes métalliques. Ce qui est encore plus insidieux c'est que la capacité d'offrir ces armes en héritage est très limitée (Sauf l'exception de l'exécuteur testamentaire et de l'Art 12(7) de la LAF) puisque seulement ceux qui ont déjà des permis pour en posséder peuvent les acquérir. L'effet de la Loi a été de voler ces armes valant souvent des milliers de dollars, d'en empêcher la jouissance et d'empêcher leur cession aux héritiers et aux collectionneurs. Ces armes ont en effet été volées de leurs propriétaires, qui les gardent seulement pour le bénéfice de l'État. Parmi ces armes, je n'inclus même pas celles qui ont été confisquées en devenant prohibées sans l'application de droits acquis. (Clause grand-père) Ceci est un autre aspect très néfaste des Lois Canadiennes sur les armes à feu qui doit cesser d'exister. Il n'y a aucune raison d'empêcher aux citoyens d'avoir la jouissance de leurs biens. En ce sens, l'Article 26

de la Charte Canadienne des Droits et Liberté est très importante :

‘26. Le fait que la présente charte garantit certains droits et libertés ne constitue pas une négation des autres droits ou libertés qui existent au Canada.’

Le droit à la propriété et le droit de jouir de cette propriété existent toujours dans la Common Law. Il est énoncé clairement dans la Déclaration Canadienne des Droits.

## **PARTIE I**

### **DÉCLARATION DES DROITS**

Il est clair que plusieurs droits de longue date et durement acquis sont violé par la LAF mais il n’est pas nécessaire de les énumérer pour le moment. La raison pour laquelle je cite la Déclaration Canadienne des Droits c’est pour souligner qu’elle de donne pas des droits mais elle affirme leur existence et que ces droits de longue date ne sont pas écrasés par la Charte. Je n’ai même pas aborder le sujet de l’usage des armes à feu par rapport à ces droits – cette discussion pourra sûrement se continuer dans un autre article.

C’est inconcevable que le droit de jouissance de nos biens ait été ainsi bafoué par la LAF. Pour véritablement regagner la confiance des propriétaires d’armes à feu envers l’État, il ne doit plus exister de classes d’armes prohibées qui les empêchent d’échanger librement

leurs biens, d’en jouir librement et de les transmettre à leurs héritiers. Il ne doit plus avoir de barrières qui empêchent les nouveaux propriétaires d’acquérir ce genre d’armes ni d’en faire l’importation.

Même les collectionneurs d’automobiles ont la chance d’utiliser leurs voitures de collection. Ils peuvent les acheter et les vendre à leur guise sans restriction et même s’en servir pour faire des randonnées de temps en temps. Pourquoi donc, est-ce que cela serait différent pour d’autres citoyens respectueux des lois d’utiliser leurs biens qu’ils possèdent en toute légitimité ? La réponse est qu’il n’y a aucune raison valable d’interdire le droit de jouissance d’un bien, même si ce bien est une arme à feu. Ces armes désormais prohibées on jadis faites des visites inoffensives dans les clubs de tir, avant les changements imposés par le Projet de Loi C-17 de Kim Campbell et amplifié par la suite par celui d’Alan Rock, C-68. L’heure est venue de corriger ces torts et d’abroger ces mauvais aspects des lois Canadiennes sur les armes à feu.



## **Reconnaissance et déclaration des droits et libertés**

1. Il est par les présentes reconnu et déclaré que les droits de l’homme et les libertés fondamentales ci-après énoncés ont existé et continueront à exister pour tout individu au Canada quels que soient sa race, son origine nationale, sa couleur, sa religion ou son sexe :

a) le droit de l’individu à la vie, à la liberté, à la sécurité de la personne ainsi qu’à la jouissance de ses biens, et le droit de ne s’en voir privé que par l’application régulière de la loi;

b) le droit de l’individu à l’égalité devant la loi et à la protection de la loi;

c) la liberté de religion;

d) la liberté de parole;

e) la liberté de réunion et d’association;

f) la liberté de la presse.



# VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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## Ignorance is not bliss

Blair Hagen, Vice President, Communications

One of the most frustrating aspects of the wind down of the long registry portion of the Liberal 1995 Firearms Act has been the ignorance displayed by opposition members of parliament in regards to basic Firearms Act requirements and their criminal code ramifications.

During the parliamentary and senate hearings on Bill C-19, the government bill that proposes to end long gun registration, the deceptive mystifying “we register automobiles, dogs and bicycles, why not guns” card was in full play by MPs opposing this modest firearms law reform.

So again, to clarify, it is not a criminal code offense not to register any automobile, dog or bicycle. If any readers of Canadian Firearms Journal possess any of these, unregistered, I can assure you that there is no offense.

There are provincial, city and municipal laws that govern these issues, and certainly provincial motor vehicle acts govern the operation of automobiles on provincial roads and highways, which include who may do so, but the manner in which this simple but misleading statement has been used by those opposing Bill C-19 is offensive at worst and disingenuous at best.

If you are in possession of any firearm in Canada today and you do

not have a valid firearms license for yourself, and a valid registration for the firearm, you are a criminal in the eyes of the law. There is no excuse for this, “I forgot” or “it’s only a .22 Cooney” or “I inherited it from my grandfather” is not going to shield you from prosecution.

Having an unregistered automobile in your garage and not possessing a driver’s license will not result in your being charged under the Criminal Code of Canada. Possessing an unregistered firearm without a valid firearms license will.

Canada’s National Firearms Association of course is opposed to this and fought the criminalization of firearms ownership when it was first proposed by the civil disarmament lobby, along with then Justice Minister Allan Rock and his Liberal government back in 1995. We will continue to do so after Bill C-19 is passed.

The past sixteen years of attack by government and bureaucracy has forced the firearms community to step out of its comfort zone and face serious issues of property rights, self defense with firearms and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. For decades, Canadian firearms owners allowed themselves to be bullied and cajoled by governments with civil disarmament agendas

into cooperating with gun control schemes that were advertised as public safety measures, but were actually concerned with first limiting, then eliminating the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership and use.

Canadians are cooperative by nature. When a problem manifests itself, Canadians band together and look for ways to solve it. This positive aspect of Canadian national character was seized on and abused by the civil disarmament lobby, gun control bureaucrats and anti gun governments. Once the Canadian firearms community had accepted that “gun control” and the giving up of civil rights was necessary in the pursuit of public safety, it could scarcely object to more.

But what the civil disarmament lobby didn’t count on was the massive failure of their masterpiece legislation; Bill C-68 - the 1995 Liberal Firearms Act.

In the wake of this failure of public policy, instead of discussing new legislation to restrict and prohibit the ownership of firearms in Canada, we are now discussing the failure of gun control legislation and the implementation of new legislation to begin to correct that failure.

This doesn’t sit well with some MPs

and Senators in Ottawa. To them, gun control is a “Canadian value” that we all share, and that anyone who doesn’t is out of step with Canadian society.

Today, in 2012, those MPs and Senators are out of step with Canadian society. Laws and legislation that trample the rights and property of Canadians are out of step with Canadian society. Initiatives that would subordinate Canadian rights and parliamentary law making to foreign governments or the United Nations are out of step with Canadian society.

The Liberal Party of Canada which governed for so long in the 1990s and in early 2000s, and forced the 1995 C-68 Firearms Act on Canadians, is now out of step with Canadian society. With thirty four seats and third party status in parliament, they can no longer claim that they represent the will of Canadians with their outmoded and discredited gun control policies.

In 2006, Canadians elected the Conservative government of Stephen Harper to begin the reform of Canada’s broken and misdirected gun control laws. When his minority government couldn’t gain the assistance necessary from the Liberal and NDP opposition parties, Canadians re-elected his government

in 2008 with a stronger minority. When that minority Conservative government could not receive the cooperation of the opposition Liberal and NDP parties to implement firearms law reform, Canadians again re-elected the Conservative government of Stephen Harper with a majority of seats in parliament in order that his government alone could implement firearms law reform with the necessity of support from the opposition parties.

The Liberals and NDP have made themselves politically irrelevant to this most important interest of Canadians. In fact, they continue to be hostile to the idea of firearms law reform, the necessity of firearms law reform, or even the idea that Canadians have the right to own firearms and use them legitimately.

And so they are reduced to making silly analogies about automobiles and firearms while the government presses ahead with Bill C-19, legislation that will begin firearms law reform by ending Canada’s failed experiment with universal firearms registration.

Change does not come quickly in Ottawa, penny loafers and poodle skirts have just recently gone by the wayside, but it is the Conservative government that has embraced

change with the introduction of Bill C-19, while the opposition parties remain tied to the failed ideologies of the past. The idea that Canadian firearms owners are inherently dangerous, deserve extra scrutiny by government and law enforcement, and that firearms do not constitute private property but are rather dangerous symbols in the temporary possession of individuals until an excuse for removal can be manufactured by bureaucrats is still the twisted belief of the Liberals and NDP.

Canadians are not pawns or wards of the government, our rights and our property are not theoretical concepts to be molded or shaped by politicians or bureaucrats.

Until the Liberals and NDP embrace the Canadian right and proud cultural heritage of firearms ownership and use, these parties will continue to represent a clear and present danger to the rights and property of Canadians, and they will not be accorded the privilege of governing until this changes.

Judging by the opposition of the Liberals and NDP to Bill C-19, that could be a long way off.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear NFA,

I just got a note in the mail from the National Firearms Association, indicating that my membership would expire as of the end of January. It wasn't clear to me that the option existed to renew by phone using my credit card. Taking advantage of the toll free number listed inside the pages of the CFJ I called head office and was able to renew my membership in short order.

I also took the opportunity to add a donation this year, in recognition of the fine work that the NFA is doing representing the interests of firearms owners, and providing legal aid to those who have encountered the abuses of our so-called 'justice' system. I think that the NFA has contributed significantly to the relief that finally seems to be happening on the long-gun registry front.

Your two excellent magazines – *Canadian Sportsman* and the *Canadian Firearms Journal* – are also a real bargain and more than worth the price of membership. So I'm sending this note to my friends, encouraging them to join, if they haven't done so already, and also to use the occasion to make a donation to this most excellent organization.

Dave Z.

Hello Dave,

Thanks for taking the time to drop us a note and more importantly renew your membership! As always, any donation big or small is gratefully accepted. We're a wholly volunteer based organization and our sole source of operating funds is from the sale of memberships and member's donations. Without support such as yours, Canada's NFA simply could not operate. Member's can continue to send in their paper renewals/applications, but for fastest service we encourage them to do so on-line via our secure server at [www.nfa.ca](http://www.nfa.ca) or give us a call toll free at 1-877-818-0393.

- Editors

Dear NFA,

**RE:** The Thin Blue Line – Retort

I read this article with great interest, having recently had a somewhat similar experience. A police officer showed up at my door demanding to see a specific handgun which had been legally transferred months previously. I informed the officer of said transfer and provided the name and contact information for the person to which the gun had been transferred. Then I contacted that person and informed them of the possible police inquiry.

Puzzled by the unannounced police visit, I finally decided to contact the CFP and the firearms registry to confirm the transfer. I was told that the transfer had been long since completed and was fully documented. Since the police officer obviously had to have had this information, the "visit" could only be described as a "fishing" expedition in my opinion.

I was a little put out over this realization, but the most telling part of the story was when I suggested to my wife that I should

register a complaint. With absolute horror on her face she absolutely forbade any such action, arguing that, "We don't want the police on our backs." Her fear and words clearly demonstrated to me the sorry state of the current relationship between ordinary citizens and the police.

Name withheld by request

Dear Member,

Thanks for sharing your story with us. Here at CFJ we've taken pains to stress the fact that Canada's law-abiding gun owners are not the enemy of the police, but rather their natural allies. Reforms are happening, albeit at a painfully slow pace. Hopefully better direction and leadership out of Ottawa will see these reforms accelerated and more dramatic steps can be taken to heal the rift that has developed between our community and law-enforcement.

- Editors

Dear NFA,

I would like to comment on the stellar article written by Gary Mauser concerning the on-going actions of the UN and their off-base gun control programs. The *Canadian Firearms Journal* has done its usual fine job and published another fact filled exposé, but Dr. Mauser did an exceptionally fine job taking us behind the closed doors of the UN gun grabbers.

After reading more on the issue I'm sad to say that the famed blue helmets of the UN peacekeeper no longer shines quite as bright for me. It is obvious that the UN has strayed far from its original mission. I would go so far as to argue that the United Nations as an organization has ceased to support the dream of a free and peaceful world. Instead their policies seem almost certain to deliver a future full of uncertainty, oppression and even slavery for those unable to defend themselves against the forces of dictators and third-world strongmen.

I would like to thank Dr. Mauser for his courageous stand during his last presentation at the NGO-UN meeting in New York. While in the middle of his speech, the UN gun grabber's alliance began to heckle & jeer the Professor, but he maintained his composure and finished his presentation with class. He endured that treatment on our behalf and I just wanted to let him know that it was appreciated.

Ron L.

Dear Ron,

Gary does yeoman's service for Canada's National Firearms Association as our international representative to WFSa, IAPCAR, and the United Nations. As one of the pre-eminent gun control scholars on the planet, his peer-reviewed research remains a critical tool in opposing the political rhetoric and emotion-based arguments of the progressive movement internationally. We all owe Professor Mauser a debt of gratitude for his many years of selfless service in the cause of truth.

- Editors



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Dear NFA

*I would like to thank all those who have written articles for publication in the CFJ this past year, especially recent offerings by Sheldon Clare, Blair Hagen and Gary Mauser.*

*Their recent submissions were especially hard hitting and to the point. They identified many past and current problems facing our community, among them some that the average gun owner probably wouldn't pause to consider otherwise. Their efforts make me proud to be a lifetime member of the NFA.*

*However, many of us are still all too willing to let a dedicated few continue to do all the work and carry the fight to the gun grabbers on our behalf. That must change. I would ask everyone reading this to make a special effort to shoulder your fair share of the burden while also continuing to support our executives by making sure they have the resources they need.*

*We must continue to fight for victim rights and work to force the courts and law-enforcement to punish the law-breakers and not the law-abiding. Thanks again!*

Boyd L.

Dear Boyd,

You're very welcome. You picked some very hard-working, dedicated individuals to salute in your letter, and I can attest to the fact that without their countless hours of work and self-less dedication to our organization, Canada's National Firearms Association would be a far less-effective lobby organization today. As you say, if we are to succeed everyone must do their part, and that means getting active and becoming engaged in our fight. Don't forget to vote your sport, get involved with your local riding associations to ensure pro-firearms candidates are elected, join/renew your membership in the NFA, and perhaps consider becoming a volunteer field officer.

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.



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# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

## CELEBRATING OUR SOCIETY AND CULTURE

By Sybil & Gary K. Kangas

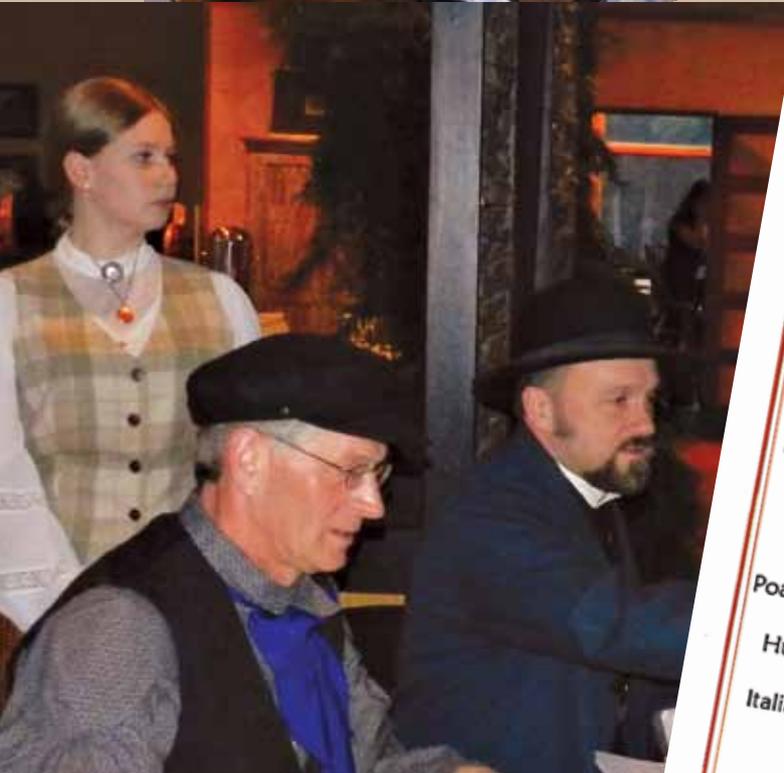
Much to the detriment of our firearms community, many non gun-owning Canadians have but a cursory understanding of what it means to be both a proud Canadian and law-abiding gun owner. All too often we are simply seen as hunters, competitors, collectors or enthusiasts and nothing more. They rarely bother to scratch the surface or look beyond their own pre-conceived notions of what constitutes Canadian "gun culture."

If they did, they would see what a rich, diverse and vibrant community and culture we share and enjoy day-in and day-out. While I consider it the responsibility of each and every gun owner to act as an ambassador for our community and culture, it is fun to tweak a few noses on occasion.

For instance, the possibility that gun owners and hunters could also be gourmands and enjoy preparing and consuming gourmet meals simply does not register in the general population. Yet, many of us actually do enjoy preparing wonderful gourmet meals of wild game for our friends and families, while also taking care to mate it with an appropriate wine.

I don't know how many dinner companions we've entertained over the years who were completely flabbergasted to discover the meal they had just consumed, usually with great gusto, was elk or moose. Many, without knowing the menu, would often assert how much they detested the taste of wild game.

More than a few eye-brows were raised and gasps of



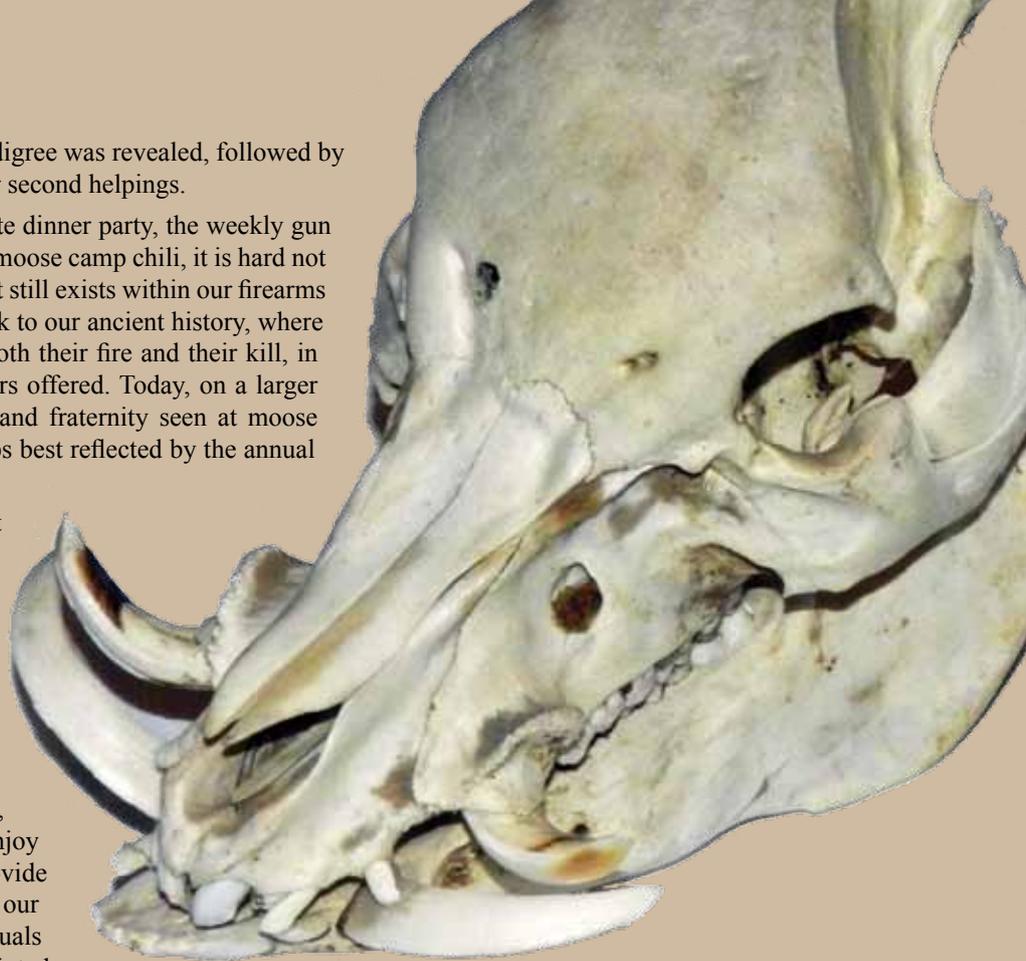
astonishment heard once the meal's pedigree was revealed, followed by demands for the recipe and requests for second helpings.

Whether we're talking about an intimate dinner party, the weekly gun club potluck, or even a simple bowl of moose camp chili, it is hard not to recognize the communal element that still exists within our firearms culture today. Perhaps it is a throw-back to our ancient history, where our hunter-gatherer ancestors shared both their fire and their kill, in exchange for the safety greater numbers offered. Today, on a larger scale, this same sense of community and fraternity seen at moose camp or your backyard BBQ, is perhaps best reflected by the annual GAME DINNER!

Here, on Vancouver Island, almost all the local gun clubs, fish & game associations and collectors clubs host game dinners. Late winter is the most favoured season for these gatherings, as the last hunting rifle or shotgun is put away, and our community comes together in celebration. Such affairs of course attract local firearms enthusiasts, but they also appeal to those who enjoy exotic culinary delights. They also provide a fantastic opportunity to showcase our community to outsiders and individuals interested in becoming better acquainted with our gun culture.

The Victoria Fish & Game "Annual Game Dinner" is one such event and has been organized annually for many years by local volunteers. This gastronomic delight attracts an eclectic, but dedicated following. The celebrations usually take place in early March at an upscale golf club whose chefs prepare a banquet that is so good to be almost beyond imagination.

Preparations begin and end with a dedicated cadre of volunteers who

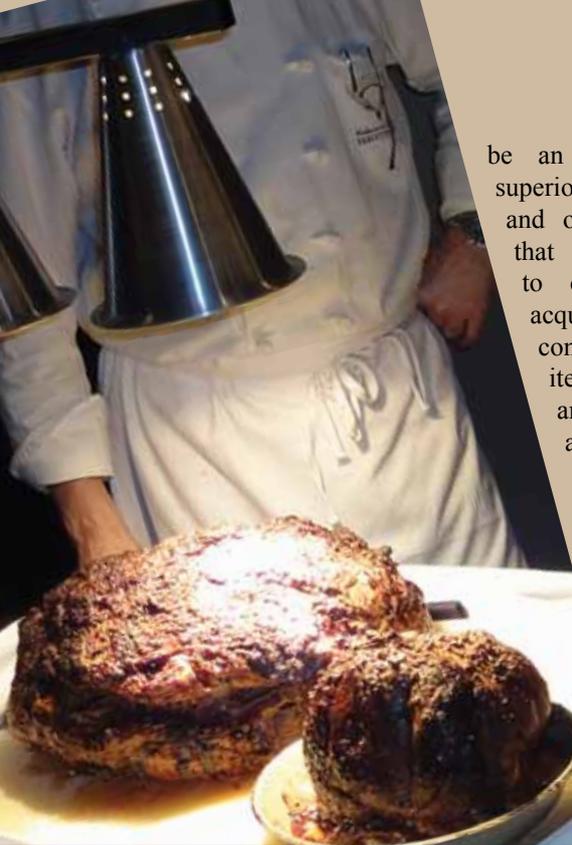


tirelessly collect donations of choice, fresh game meat and seafood gathered offered by a host of generous hunters and fishers. Others are tasked with soliciting local business and merchants for donations and gifts that may be utilized as door prizes and auction items during the dinner.

Of course, organization is the key to a successful game dinner. The appointed chairperson must

Photos: Chris Jones and Gary Kangas





be an individual with superior management and organization skills that will allow them to co-ordinate meat acquisitions, prize contributions, auction items, ticket sales, and advertising, and also serve as the liaison with the venue's catering staff and chefs. The 2012 chair of the VF&G dinner was all that and more. Recently retired, Al Page is a

former gun shop manager of a major Victoria, B.C. sporting goods store. Al graciously shouldered the burden of chairing this year's planning committee and ended up choreographing the most successful and unforgettable game dinner hosted by Victoria Fish & Game Club in recent memory.

The 2012 menu offered a stunning array of fresh fish and wild game dishes that could satiate even the most discerning of palates. The dinner was sold out weeks in advance, with some 206 guests having been fortunate enough to acquire tickets. Attendees, both old and new, arrived all a-twitter in anticipation of the gastronomical delights the dinner promised. The guests themselves were as eclectic in their dress as the night's menu, with some appearing in formal evening wear and "upscale" ladies dresses, while others opted for period costumes to match their shooting discipline; muzzle loader fans, cowboy action shooters, hunters sporting camo finery, and others in simple ball caps and blue jeans, all happily mixed and mingled over good food and friendly conversation. It was especially heartening to see so many youths and ladies in attendance.

Upon arrival, guests were directed toward the check-in table



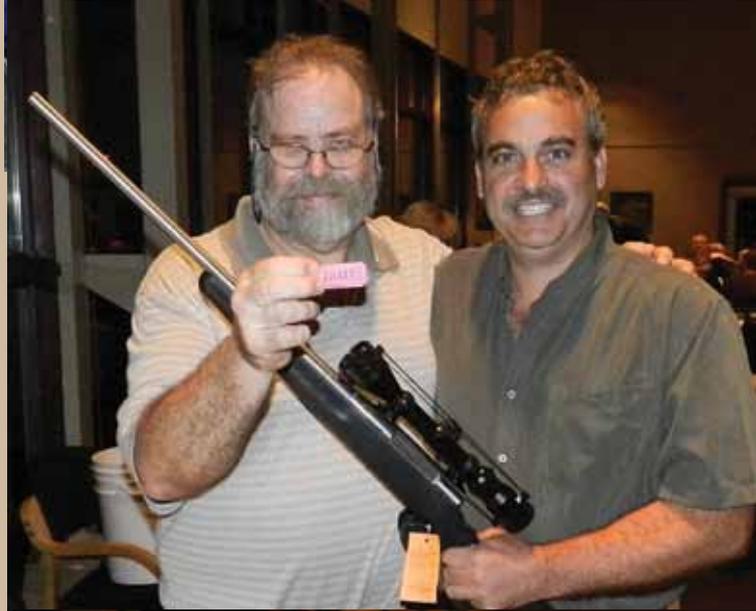
where their tickets were verified and collected. Guests who were also members of Canada's National Firearms Association were presented with a complimentary NFA pin, while non-members were offered a selection of free NFA literature, including a membership application to take home. Each also had their names included in a draw for a complimentary annual NFA membership.

With the necessary administrative chores completed, the evening's soiree got underway with a rousing welcome and well-deserved round of applause for the organizer and volunteers. As kudos were being delivered, the wonderful smells of a multitude of familiar and exotic game dishes filled the room. Bidding was immediately opened thereafter for the privilege of being the first table to be served. A stroke of pure genius on the part of organizers, as guest's appetites by this time were fully aroused and every single attendee was more than willing to open their cheque books one more time; especially in a good cause. With the right of first "dibs" and choice of delectables on the line, bidding was fierce. The first table up cheerfully paid \$200.00 for the privilege of being the first to sample the sumptuous feast of bear, deer, cougar, bison, elk, moose, salmon, prawns, oysters, and halibut.

With the dinner already a clear success, organizers outdid themselves once more; capping the evening with the traditional auction and door prize draw, along with a special ladies-only draw. Both the special ladies-only and general door prize draws were superbly run and stocked with a myriad of useful and fun items to be won. A highlight of the evening was the draw for a new stainless steel Savage Arms "Axis" bolt-action rifle and scope package chambered in .270 Winchester. However the donated boar's skull was a close second. Overall, the value of door prizes and auction items must've totaled many thousands of dollars! Needless to say, the generous support of individual donors and the business community was simply overwhelming, and all deserve a big round of applause for their help in making the event a rousing success. Confirmation of the latter came quickly, as the game dinner was the major topic of conversation at the gun show the following day.

In closing, we must not forget that preserving our firearms heritage requires that we also take the opportunity to celebrate ourselves from time to time. Organizing and hosting annual game dinners is just one way in which to do this; while also offering local firearms communities the opportunity to showcase themselves and all that Mother Nature has to offer to the non-gun owning and/or non-hunting public. In doing so, we may even succeed in possibly attracting new enthusiasts to the fold.

Such events also serve an important social function and help gun owners and hunters restore that sense of communal fellowship and unity that a myriad of personality conflicts, internal club politics or extraneous factors may have worked to fracture in the year previous. Such events allow gun owners to blow off some steam, let their hair down, kick up their heels, and have some fun, - all while enjoying good food, good drink and the company of good friends.



# POLITICS & GUNS

by Tyler Vance

## Know Your Enemy: Canadian Hoplophobia & the Quest for a Cure Part II



### *Hoplophobia –*

*“An unreasoning, obsessive neurotic fear of weapons as such, usually accompanied by an irrational feeling that weapons possess a will or consciousness for evil, apart from the will of their user. Not equivalent to normal apprehension in the presence of an armed enemy.”*

*- Col. Jeff Cooper*

*“Imagine your worst nightmare, your scariest neighbor, your angriest employee or the most frightening student at your child’s high school loading up on ammo this weekend at a convention center near you. It’s perfectly legal. It happens all the time, and we act as though there is nothing we can do about it....*

*I am unmoved by claims of freedom, lifestyle or privacy in this realm....*

*I am afraid of guns. I am afraid of people who like guns, own guns ... I am a little scared all the time....*

*I no longer want gun control. I want an absolute ban on the manufacture, sale, possession and use of handguns....”*

*- Sally Tisdale,*

*American writer & gun control activist*

Hoplophobes and gun control advocate are not necessarily one and the same. Hoplophobes, by definition, are essentially controlled by their irrational fear. Gun control advocates in Canada, however, use that same irrational fear to control people and, under perfect conditions, public policy formation. Groups such as the Coalition for Gun Control enjoyed such a perfect confluence of events and public fear in the wake of mass shootings at Montreal’s l’ecole Polytechnique, several US-based schools and a number of high-profile incidents overseas. By the mid-1990s, hoplophobia was the established “norm” perpetuated by the anti-gun agenda of the Chretien Liberals, cheered on by the Coalition for Gun Control and aided & abetted by our equally anti-gun left-wing media.

By 2006 and the election of the first minority Harper government, more and more Canadians were asking themselves if they preferred this new world order; one built upon a foundation of irrational fear that the left was so fiercely promoting. Even many non-gun owners were starting to wake-up to the reality of the left’s rather clumsy attempts at social re-engineering. Many became increasingly resentful of the gun control lobby and their efforts at manipulating public opinion. Many were equally disaffected with certain elements of the so-called “Fourth Estate.” Elements that seemed far too interested in the shaping of public policy rather than objectively reporting the news so that Canadians could make informed decisions on the issues at hand.

However, thanks to the influence of hoplophobia, on college

and university campuses across the country, we now see enforced lock-downs of students and staff in response to hoplophobic individuals mistaking umbrellas and camera tripods for gun barrels. Across the country, elementary, junior and senior high schools are similarly locked-down when a toy gun is discovered or a video game accessory is mistaken for a real firearm. Students and staff are then subjected to the trauma associated with police tactical responses to potential “active shooter” scenarios.

When such “incidents” occur, the media simply go into a 24/7 feeding frenzy. When hard news or facts are in short supply, they roll out the paid “experts” and related talking heads to spitball potential scenarios, which invariably focus on the absolute worst case options. If it bleeds, it leads and under the current system average Canadians are being conditioned to fear guns to the point of irrationality. They in turn are teaching their children to also fear firearms, a sentiment that far too many public schools and misguided “educators” are helping to reinforce. When this fear, whether real or imagined bubbles over and a call is placed to police, this hoplophobia is reinforced once more by the mere presence of heavily-armed police clad in black body armor, and brandishing military assault rifles in our schools; scary stuff indeed.

Anti-gun ideologues such as Wendy Cukier count on this reaction, as it gives them a measure control. However, more and more Canadians are waking up to the dangers of putting so much power in the hands of others and there is a growing backlash forming against such blatant manipulation of public opinion. Such a development is more than heartening to organizations such as the National Firearms Association and other pro firearm-rights advocates. They’ve recognized the dangers posed by unchecked hoplophobia from the very beginning and have worked tirelessly to draw public attention to it.

## **The Cure -**

The question then is how can we cure hoplophobia, or at least counter its worst negative effects?

Perhaps first and foremost, In order to effectively counter this process, gun owners need to understand the psychological processes at play in those suffering the effects of hoplophobia. We need to understand what motivates these individuals and why they have such an irrational fear of inanimate objects in order to effectively communicate with them.

As was argued in Part I, effective two-way communication essentially offers the only hope responsible firearms owners have in ever reaching such individuals, and/or potentially dispelling the irrational fears they have acquired or have been forced to assume. The rise of social media, the exponential growth of the Internet and the easy exchange of information it enables, along with the birth of mainstream media outlets,

such as the fledgling Sun News Network, sympathetic to our cause have all helped to dispel many of the myths of gun control. Myths that have long been held to be simple truths by the pro-gun control lobby. Equally exciting and potentially even more significant is the fact that we’ve finally starting seeing some serious debate and research taking place on the issue of the growing hoplophobia epidemic.

*Fear of something is at the root of hate for others,  
and hate within will eventually destroy the hater.*

*- George Washington Carver*

## **The Defence Mechanism -**

While professional opinions remain somewhat split on the subject, the general consensus within the field of psychology/psychiatry is that hoplophobia serves as a kind of defence mechanism for many suffering from the condition. These mechanisms are unconscious psychological constructs that our minds create in order to protect us from feelings and emotions that we cannot or prefer not to consciously accept, or have been conditioned to reject. As such, they work without our being aware of their existence and thus protect us from having to deal with taboo feelings and impulses.

According to Dr. Sarah Thompson, “Projection is a particularly insidious defense mechanism, because it not only prevents a person from dealing with his own feelings, it also creates a world where he perceives everyone else as directing his own hostile feelings back at him.” Thus we also see an inanimate object, a firearm, become the embodiment of hoplophobes suppressed fears, terror, rage and other equally frightening and/or socially unacceptable feelings or impulses.

For instance, all humans, even the most well-adjusted of us have violent thoughts and impulses. It is a function of our evolution as a top-tier predator. How often do we hear even the most pacific of friends or relatives exclaim that they’d like to “kick the crap out of their boss” or declare their intention to “kill their husband, brother, sister, or boyfriend.” The person making the declaration has no intention of actually carrying out the deed; rather their “threat” is more a function of their anger or frustration with the person in question.

All humans also suffer from equally destructive feelings of helplessness, fear, jealousy, hostility, aggression, and vulnerability. The well-adjusted among us can acknowledge such feelings without acting upon them or giving into the momentary impulse. However, Dr. Thompson notes in her excellent paper, “Raging Against Self-Defense,” that some individuals are simply unable to even admit that they have such feelings or that they may have problems controlling their baser impulses. She postulates that such persons may have, “Higher than average levels of rage, frustration, or fear.”

***POLITICS... Continued On Page 44***

A Beretta A400 Xtreme shotgun is the central focus, resting on a wooden crate. The shotgun is black and silver, with 'BERETTA' and 'ASSISTING UNITED STATES' visible on the receiver. In the foreground, a white box of Super-X 12 gauge 6 shot ammunition sits on the crate, with two shotgun shells resting on top. The background is a textured, patterned fabric.

# Gun Test: Beretta A400 Xtreme

By Jeff Helsdon

**W**hen John Browning invented his famous Auto 5 at the turn of the last century, it ushered in a new era in shotgun design. It was the first commercially successful autoloading shotgun.

In the 110 years since, many advances have been made. The past 20 years, though, have seen advances come in leaps and bounds. The latest offering from Beretta, the A400 Xtreme introduced last fall, is taking technology to a new high.

## The Gun

The A400 Xtreme Unico is the waterfowl version of Beretta's recent flagship platform, the A400. It is intended to replace the previous Extrema and Urika line-up on the AL-391 platform. The A400 is available in camo, black and anodized green for the Xtreme version and features synthetic furniture. Other models are available in more traditional wood, both with and without the Kick-Off recoil reduction system. All will shoot 2.75 to 3.5-inch shells in 12 gauge, except the Xplor Light, which in the wood stocked version is chambered for 2.75 and 3-inch shells only.

Weight of the Xtreme is around 7.6 pounds and it is available in 26, 28 and 30-inch barrels.

While many of the features are common to all models, some are unique to the Xtreme, which I will concentrate on here.

**Blink** – Blink is the moniker for the new operating system of the A400 series. Gas-operated, Beretta contends that the new Blink system offers a 36 per cent increase in operating speed over current semi-auto systems on the market today. More than four shots per second are possible with Blink. The other innovative feature with Blink is a piston with an elastic scraper that keeps the gun cleaner and more reliable.

**Kick-Off Mega** – Beretta's Kick-Off is back and improved with the A400 Xtreme. The recoil-reduction technology is moved into the middle of the stock, meaning shooters don't feel a stock moving on their cheek at all. Kick-Off Mega is only available on the Xtreme model.

**Kick-Off3** – The second part of the Kick-Off technology is a hydraulic damper to lessen the force of the blowback of the bolt against the receiver. The two recoil reduction systems combined result in felt recoil 70 per cent less than the competition. Beretta claims is the softest shooting gun on the market.

**Steelium** – A tri-alloy steel of nickel, chromium and molybdenum improves ballistic performance and reducing the possibility of pitting.

**B-LOK** – The new fore-end cap needs only a 60° rotation and makes for quick disassembly

**Optima Bore HP** – Engineering of the barrel extends from the receiver to the bore to increase the pattern. This gun was made to shoot lead, steel and the new steel alternatives.

**Micro-Core recoil pad** – The soft and light material lessens recoil and provides a stable base on the shoulder.

**Aqua Technology** – Beretta's corrosion-proof barrier is applied to all internal and external metallic surfaces to ensure this gun is tough and rustproof.

## Handling

Every once in a while, if they're fortunate, a shooter will stumble across a shotgun or rifle that just feels natural in their hands. For whatever reason, that firearm allows them to shoot faster or straighter, and ultimately offers greater hunting success. The new Beretta A400 Xtreme proved to be such firearm for me.

In the gun store one day a decade ago, I first started looking at the latest and greatest semi-automatics. I went through the Benelli, Franchi and Browning, but kept coming back to the Beretta Extrema. It had the balance and pointability I liked. The second generation, the Extrema 2, felt even better with a slimmed down fore-end. I knew then it was the gun I needed when I one day purchased a semi.

Fast forward a few years and the A400 Xtreme is the latest and greatest from Beretta. It improved even further on its predecessors in the balance and handling category, plus was lighter and tamed recoil even more.

"The A400 makes the gun cleaner, more comfortable shooting and softer shooting all at the same time," said Nick Manioudakis, Stoeger Canada sales manager. He said the A400 is a sleeker, lighter gun than its predecessor.

## Review

My first opportunity to use the new gun was on a pheasant hunt in Norfolk County. Although I was a little leery shooting a gun on a hunt I hadn't taken to the target range, my fears were unfounded. I was hunting with my English springer spaniel Hank and friend Archer Downey and his German wire-haired pointer. The first bird went up in front of me at about 35 yards, towering high to climb above an adjacent evergreen. I pulled up and fired, connecting solidly and dropping the bird.

The gun fit was natural. What was more amazing was I was shooting the modified choke and low brass shells and there was still a clean kill with a shot pushing the edge of range for a modified choke.

Some experiments on a patterning board later confirmed the patterning was solid with few holes a pheasant could fit through at 40 yards.



A few shoots with the full choke and turkey loads impressed me even more. Shooting the standard full choke, there were enough pellets in the kill zone with a standard Remington turkey load for a kill at 40 yards with a three-inch shell. I didn't try high-end loads, saving my experimentation for when I purchase a turkey choke. At 30 yards, there was little doubt any bird on target would be dead and at 20 yards the target was devastated.

Three shots with turkey loads usually leave my shoulder a little sore. Not so with the Xtreme. Kick-Off lived up to its reputation for taming recoil.

Manioudakis explained there are two peaks to recoil. The first is when the shell is ignited and the bolt is pushed back. The second peak is when the bolt hits the receiver. Kick-Off3 is aimed at the second peak and is the first gun to tackle it.

Experimenting with the gun at the trap range, I found I could easily shoot the modified choke and crush targets as well as with my full-choke trap gun. I'm not sure if it was the good fit or rather a little more open choke, but my score improved.

With the new Xtreme, Beretta's engineers really did get

a lot of things right out of the gate. One of these was the decision to move the Kick-Off Mega feature into the stock. This allows those with short arms to take advantage of the feature. It also allows use of spacers for varying the length of pull to compensate for differences in early and late-season clothing. The gun comes standard with shims to adjust the cast. Length of pull is adjustable from 13.5 inches to 16 inches.

For hunters looking for a multi-role semi-auto shotgun, you will be interested to know that the A400 uses Beretta's new Optima HP line of choke tubes. One thing that new Beretta owners will quickly discover is Beretta make something like six different choke styles. As I discovered during my preparations for the spring turkey season, care must be taken when selecting the proper choke tubes to ensure that you are purchasing the correct tube for your particular model.

I asked Manioudakis about this and he explained that all the new alternative shots are hard on choke tubes and the HP was the answer. It is also part of the Optima barrel, which is tapered from the end of the chamber to where the choke starts. This takes the concept of extending the forcing cone to a whole new level. "In essence, the whole

barrel is a forcing cone,” he said. It also reduces muzzle rise for follow-up shots.

## The Competition

Any of the new top-of-line shotguns – Browning Maxus, Winchester Super X3, Remington Versa Max and Benelli Super Black Eagle – are fine guns. At one time fit was an important factor when selecting a shotgun. Now most have adjustable stocks.

Handling and balance is important and still a matter of personal preference. So too, is weight. The Beretta falls in upper middle of the pack at 7.6 pounds, below the Versa Max’s 7.75 pounds but more than the Maxus, which weighs in just short of seven pounds. The superior balance and improved handling of the Beretta makes the Xtreme seem lighter though.

As yet, I haven’t had the opportunity to thoroughly field test all of the Xtreme’s competition to the same degree. However, I did have occasion to use Remington’s VersaMax on a four day Missouri turkey hunt last year. Given the choice, I would still choose the Beretta, but that isn’t to say there is no room for improvement. For instance, loading the VersaMax is a simpler, more intuitive

process than with the Xtreme. The snap-in raised comb in the VersaMax stock is also very handy when using a scope for deer or turkey hunting. That said, I like the handling of the Beretta better and the Kick Off3 “cubed” system is definitely superior in taming felt recoil.

## Conclusion

The A400 Xtreme is a fine choice for waterfowlers looking for a fast handling, well-balanced shotgun that can handle just about anything man or Mother Nature can throw at it. The A400 is packed with new technology aimed at improving the user’s overall shooting experience. While primarily designed with the waterfowl hunter in mind, the Xtreme does its job so well that it easily adapts to the turkey woods or even the open fields of the upland hunter thanks to the right choke selection. A case can be made that it really is a great all-around shotgun. What ultimately might prevent the A400 from achieving the true-level of popularity it deserves, however, is the price. The MSRP on the Xtreme is not cheap and may be out of reach of the average Canadian hunter, but then too neither are the A400’s direct market competition. If your budget allows it though, my vote goes with the Beretta Xtreme.



# TEAM NFA UPDATE

By Grayson Penney

## ROB “FANG” ENGH

Rob is hard at work preparing for the start of his new competition season. For now, he is focused on getting healthy, maintaining his technical edge and shooting as much as possible. Winter training went well and he was thrilled to report that his weekly Skills and Drills nights have exploded in popularity at his local club, averaging some 20 people each week, including many new and novice shooters. Others took advantage of the opportunity to brush up on their skills prior to this year’s IPSC kick-off.

Just before Rob signed off, he did make one interesting observation. As he noted, he had been very busy over the past few months, more so than normal, taking new shooters out to the range and introducing them to the shooting sports. Surprisingly, he credits all the media attention surrounding Bill C-19 and the end of the LGR for the increased interest, and goes so far as to argue that this may even herald a major positive shift in attitude towards our shooting sports. Rob is hopeful that we are finally breaking down the socially re-engineered walls erected by the anti-gun Liberals over the past four decades aimed at demonizing gun ownership. Given recent shifts in popular opinion and a more open dialogue between gun owners and non-gun owners in Canada, he believes that people are finally starting to see sport shooting and firearms as legitimate pursuits. If true, hopefully this trend will continue.

## MEGAN HEINICKE

As this issue was going to print, Megan had just clued up her 2011-2012 season. This past season has been one of the toughest of her career, both mentally and physically. Despite starting the season in great condition, a series of illnesses and respiratory infections seemed fated to derail her season before it even began. Looking back, Megan admitted that the frustration and disappointment caused by those persistent illnesses eventually spilled over into her mental game and made it extremely difficult for her to stay focused and motivated.

Quitting, however, is not in Megan’s nature. Despite literally spending half of November in bed with the flu, Megan fought back and still managed to be named to the Canadian IBU Cup Team and joined the tour just a few weeks later.

December marked the start of the IBU Cup season in earnest, with Megan racing IBU Cup 2 in Ridnaun, Italy. She placed 33rd in a 15km Individual, before heading to World Cup 2 in Hochfilzen, Austria as the anchor for the women’s relay. Megan and her teammates posted an impressive 9th place finish in an extremely competi-



TEAM



*Megan with her grandparents after her bronze medal at IBU Cup 7 in Canmore.*

tive field, tying their previous best World Cup finish. From there, Megan headed to Obertilliach, Austria to prepare for IBU Cup 3 races. Unfortunately, she was to fall victim to ill-health once more, forcing her to skip the race. For anyone who knows just how dedicated Megan is to her sport and team, this was a sign of just how seriously ill she was feeling by year's end.

Still suffering from a very bad cold, along with persistent underlying exhaustion, and unwilling to sit out even more races, Megan made the decision to re-join the Cup tour in January. Racing in World Cup 4 held in Oberhof, Germany, Megan posted an extremely disappointing 63rd in the 7.5km Sprint. Later describing the result as "disastrous," she acknowledged that the race served as a wake-up call for her to take better care of herself and to listen to her doctors when they say she needs to rest, and allow her body to heal itself. Alas, her ill-advised decision was not without consequences for her race career, as she also found herself cut from the Canadian IBU Cup Team because of her continuing health-issues.

Such a dismissal would ordinarily have devastated almost any other athlete and ended her race season before it really began; however, Megan took her doctor's advice to heart and took some well-needed time off. By mid-January, feeling a little better, Megan decided to test herself by participating in a 20km cross-country race for fun. Surprising herself, she won handily. Buoyed by the unexpected win, and feeling better, although nowhere near fully recovered, Megan got the okay from her coach to race a German Cup in Kaltenbrunn, Germany the following week. Megan ultimately placed 2nd in the Sprint, and won the Pursuit by almost 50 seconds; posting a 19/20 in the shooting component of the race.

It was at this point Megan realized that perhaps her season wasn't a write-off after all. Looking to truly turn her season around, Megan packed up and headed to Orsblie, Slovakia at the last minute to race in the Open European Championships. She placed 18th in the 7.5km Sprint and 15th in the 10km Pursuit. According to Megan, her shooting was great, but she felt that her skiing was still not up to par because of her recent illness. No matter, Megan was once more compet-

ing against the best in the world and holding her own.

If you ask Megan, she will tell you that as far as she is concerned, her 2012 race season truly began in February with her decision to fly back to Canada and participate in race trials in order to qualify for a position on the Canadian IBU Cup Team. If she raced well enough, perhaps even winning a place on the World Championship Team was not out of the question, - albeit a pretty tall order and a definite long shot for an athlete facing Megan's health challenges of just a month before.

However, Megan was able to bring back to the table the same motivation and determination that had put her on the team in the first place. Pre-qualified for the IBU Cup thanks to the European Cup finish, Megan spent February 1-9 in training in preparation for IBU Cup 6 and 7. The first weekend Megan placed 11th and 4th in two consecutive 7.5km Sprints, shooting 9/10 in both races. Starting to find her stride and now shooting and skiing well, Megan's third race in IBU Cup 7 held the following weekend was a 15km Individual. Shooting well and posting 19/20, Megan was able to turn in an equally impressive skiing performance that was good enough for 3rd and her first trip to the podium since son Predo was born. The Megan of old was back! In her final race, a 7.5km Sprint, she was in the lead until her second trip to the shooting range where two dropped shots cost her the

race and saw her place 9th. Her disappointment over the two dropped shots was tempered by the fact that just two days later Megan was named to the World Championships Team! Talk about a comeback!

The World Championships, other than the Olympics, is the pinnacle of any given race season. Held in Ruhpolding, Germany the event normally draws crowds in excess of 30,000 per race! This year Megan and her Team Canada teammates faced both a very competitive field and equally challenging race conditions, including very heavy, deep, slushy snow and warm temperatures that served to really stress each athlete's skills and conditioning to the utmost.

Once more rising to the occasion, Megan placed 52nd out of 119 in the 7.5km Sprint. Having skied well despite the slushy snow, two dropped shots from the standing position cost her precious time and dropped her well back from her original standing. Alas, there simply wasn't enough race left for her to regain her standing. Howsoever, Megan still finished in the top half of the field, just 0.2 seconds behind fellow Canadian Megan Imrie, and qualified for the next day's 10km Pursuit.

Starting in 52nd position alongside fellow Canadian Megan Imrie (based on the previous days Sprint race results); Megan got off to a good start and was able to slowly work her

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way up the field with good shooting. Having moved up to 32nd position, Megan ran into some trouble with her standing shooting during the final heat, and two misses saw her drop back to 42nd place. Despite having shot 90%, just two tiny misses saw Megan's race position drop a full ten places as a consequence. This serves to highlight just how competitive international biathlon is at this level. Still, kudos to Megan for still managing to advance a full ten places from her starting position and leaving her stoked for her final 15km Individual race of the season.

The 15km Individual format puts even more pressure on athlete's shooting prowess and imposes a one minute penalty per miss, rather than requiring the completion of a 150m penalty loop, as in the Sprint races. Despite challenging shooting conditions, including gusting winds, Megan shot well and had pretty much resolved any remaining issues she had with her standing position shooting. However, some finicky required sight adjustments during prone shooting saw her inexplicably drop two shots. The two minute penalty cost her several places, but Megan ultimately finished the race in 30th position; ending her season among the top 30 female biathletes on the planet, and the next to best top Canadian woman on the circuit. That's a pretty amazing accomplishment given how Megan started the year. One thing for certain though is that you should never discount "long shots" especially if they're named Megan!



## MATT NEUMANN

Like his fellow TEAM NFA members, Matt faced a number of health problems this season. As with Rob and Megan, Matt's own struggles with staying healthy serves to highlight just how demanding our shooting sports can be, especially when competing at an elite level, as all three TEAM NFA members do.

As for Matt, health problems last fall served to distract him from his main job and consumed much of his focus and energy. According to him, it really wasn't until the latter part of January that he had recovered enough to begin performing at what he considered a quasi-competitive level. Closing out the month, Matt ran what he described as his first "good" race of the season, a 30km Pursuit (15km classic/15km skate). According to Matt he actually had a bad start and lost 4:47 to the top open men in the opening classic leg, but the final 15km were the best of the year.

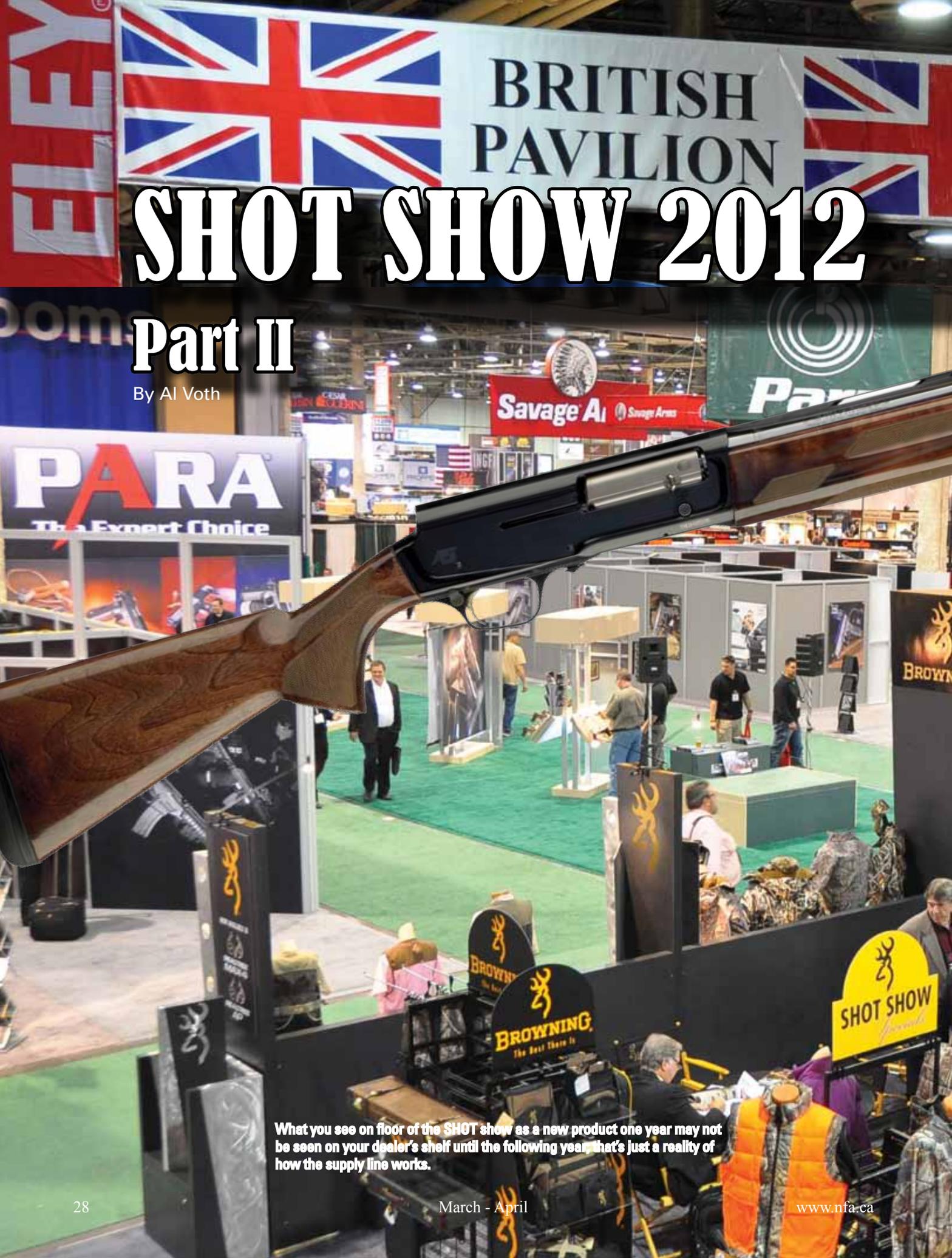
Speaking to Matt about the race he said that in the final half he was finally able to get into "the moment" and really pushed his comfort levels, which saw him, advance eight positions, and wind up with the second fastest U23 skate time. Finishing the Pursuit 17th overall (8th in U23), Matt

downplays his achievement, noting that it was more this sense of accomplishment or feeling that he'd been looking for all year, and that he remained so thankful for the small measure of motivation such a success provided.

The first week of February brought more good news and saw Matt performing far closer to the level he was capable of. Having put aside much of the uncertainty and self-doubt that had plagued him since the fall due to his health-issues, Matt buckled down and threw himself into his training wholeheartedly. The pay-off came at week's end, with Matt finishing one of the better races of his young life in Sprint at the IBU Cup Tour trials. In the Sprint, Matt turned in a 9/10 shooting performance and delivered a near personal best ski time. This was followed by a solid mass start the next day which was sufficient to reward Matt with a place on the Canadian IBU Cup team and the honour of representing Canada on home soil at IBU Cups 6 and 7 to be held in Canmore, Alberta.

The IBU Cups 6 and 7 came to Canmore on February 11-16. Having the tour come to Canmore was a little surreal for Matt, as he literally did not even have to leave town in order to compete as a part of Team Canada as part of the IBU Cup circuit. For most young athletes, joining the tour invariably meant heading to Europe and enduring the travails of international travel and competition for the very first time.

**TEAM NFA - Continued on Page 35**



# BRITISH PAVILION

# SHOT SHOW 2012

## Part II

By Al Voth

What you see on floor of the SHOT show as a new product one year may not be seen on your dealer's shelf until the following year, that's just a reality of how the supply line works.

Smith & Wesson

WINCHESTER

PDX1. DEFEND

LOCAL PERFECTION

Browning's A-5 Hunter

Low Enforcement & Military

BROWNING

GLO

RWS

RWS

SHOT SHOW

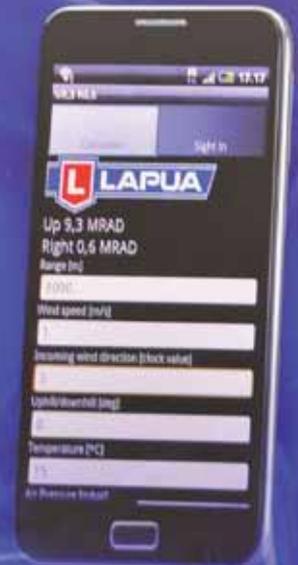
SHOT SHOW

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The 1894 Takedown is available in 30-30 Win or 450 Marlin

**Last month we looked at what I saw as trends at the 2012 Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) show. To recap, these trends included an emphasis on tactical gear, modular products, concealed carry, three gun competition, precision rifles, suppressors and AR platform rifles. And while we looked at some examples of each, this month we'll conclude by zeroing in on more traditional categories.**

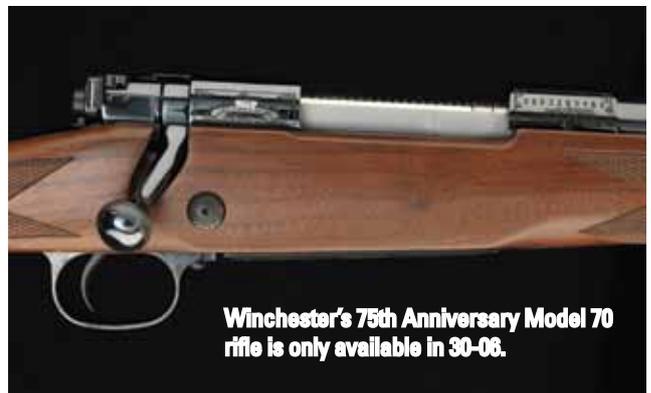
## Rifles

For the black powder hunter who wants to stretch the range limitations of burning charcoal, Traditions has introduced a new variation of their popular Vortek muzzleloader. This model is called the LDR and features a 30 inch barrel, the longest tube of any break-action muzzleloader on the market. The longer barrel means a velocity gain of up to 150 fps, which is helpful if you want to stretch this rifle out beyond the 200 yard mark, where it should still be very capable. I have one of these with a standard barrel and I know it certainly has the accuracy for long range shooting.

I stopped at the SAKO booth and asked about the Tikka Sporter model which was introduced last year. To date I hadn't seen any in Canada, but I was assured by the Canadian importer, they were starting to trickle into the country. And sure enough, I saw one on a Canadian dealer's rack in March. I mention this because that one year gap can be the lead time between seeing something at SHOT and seeing it at your local dealer. That's reality.

Remington had an assortment of new rifles on display, many of them variations of the model 700. My favourite was the 700 Mountain SS. As the name suggests, this is a stainless, light weight rifle. With its attractive B&C synthetic stock, it weighs in at 6.5 lbs and should be available in a variety of short and long action calibres—but no magnums.

Winchester is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Model 70 rifle with an edition that has special engraving, wood and finishing. It looks great but not so fancy that I wouldn't take it hunting if I had one. They've also got a take-down model 94 lever gun now. It comes apart at the barrel/action junction, like the originals did, and will be great for anyone needing compact storage and/or transport of a repeating firearm. Unfortunately, the MSRP is \$1500, which might put it out of reach of many shoppers.



**Winchester's 75th Anniversary Model 70 rifle is only available in 30-06.**

Browning's 725 Citori Field Grade



## Shotguns

Browning has a brace of new shotguns for 2012 that include a semi-auto and an over/under model. The semi-auto A5 looks somewhat like the old Browning Auto-5, but it's definitely not the same gun. For starters the A5 is short-recoil operated, while the original was a long-recoil design. Also, the A5 has a light weight aluminum receiver, lengthened forcing cone, interchangeable chokes, has shim adjustments for cast, drop and length of pull and a high-tech recoil pad. It's a totally new gun. Browning is so sure this gun will work for you, they are giving it a 100,000 round guarantee.

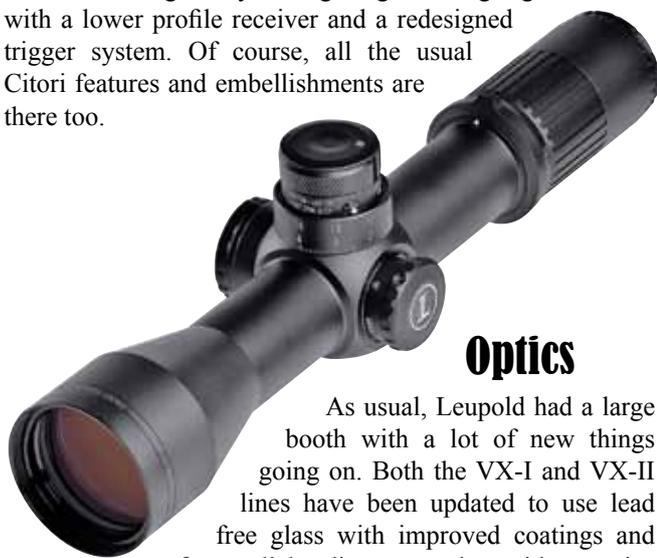
Its refined stable mate is the new 725 Citori. It will contribute to the Citori legend by adding a lighter weight gun with a lower profile receiver and a redesigned trigger system. Of course, all the usual Citori features and embellishments are there too.



If you've got deep pockets you may want to look at Nikon's latest spotting scope, their EDG Fieldscope with VR. The VR stands for vibration reduction and it's the first spotter in the world to use lens-shift vibration reduction technology. Nikon has had this for years in its cameras—as have others—and it works great there. But this technological leap will cost you close to six grand if you want to use it in a spotting scope.



Nikon spotting scopes on display included the new super expensive EDG with Vibration Reduction technology more reasonably priced ProStaff models.



## Optics

As usual, Leupold had a large booth with a lot of new things going on. Both the VX-I and VX-II lines have been updated to use lead free glass with improved coatings and finger-click adjustments, but with no price increases. Their Redfield line has seen the addition of a Revenge sub-line that is even priced better than the already reasonable Revolution models. And at the other end of the spectrum are some new Mark 6 tactical scopes. There are 1-5X, 3-18X and 3.5-25X models. I like the middle one because it is incredibly compact and light and has 140 minutes of adjustment.

Above: Leupold's Mark 6 3-18X44 Tactical scope is small, compact, has a zero-stop turret and 140 minutes of adjustment.

Top right: Redfield Revenge 6-18X44 Varmint scope

R: SIG's Adaptive Carbine Platform with laser, red dot sight and pistol all attached.

## Handguns

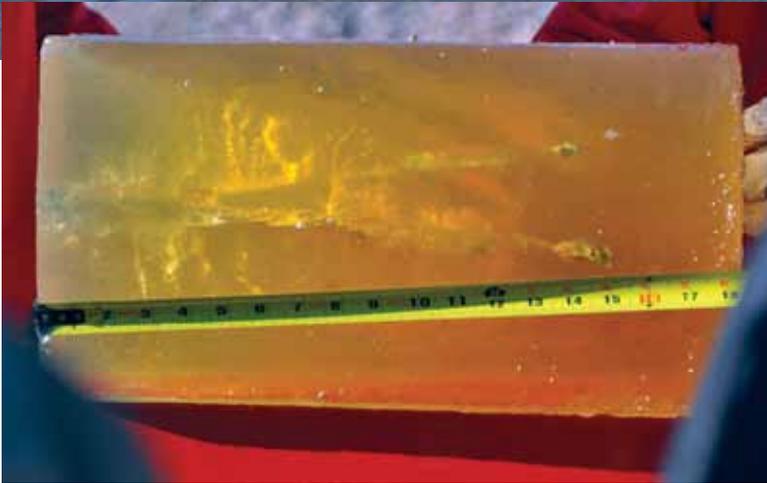
SIG SAUER had an interesting new product available, the Adaptive Carbine Platform. This is a SIG-built kit for converting a handgun into a carbine. In about thirty seconds you can plug a handgun into this unit and end up with a carbine. And it will work with a lot of modern semi-auto





Winchester conducted ballistic gel demo's at the range.

Winchester's limited penetration 308 ammo stops in 12-16 inches of ballistic gel.



## Misc.

Vanguard is a company that has been making a name for itself in optics and shooting accessories; especially bipods, tripods and cases. I've been using all three of the latter for a year now, and have had great success with each item. This year they've added a PRO T40 model tripod that features a rotating collar which allows the legs to

splay out to varying degrees. It also has a V-shaped gun rest which can be adjusted for varying forend widths. Additionally, the head can be replaced for use with a spotting scope or a camera. I got the idea there isn't anything on this tripod that can't be adjusted to suit your needs. Wholesale Sports and Le Baron both carry Vanguard products.

When I saw the ThermaCELL booth I had to stop and thank them for making a great mosquito repelling product, but I also learned they now make heated insoles. These insoles have a rechargeable battery, can be trimmed to fit any boot and come with a remote control so you can select medium, high or no heat. The battery should provide around 5 hrs of continuous heat, but interval use can double that. To me, the advantage of these insoles would be the potential to wear a much slimmer, lighter boot than would normally be required to stay warm.

## Knives

Benchmade had a large presence at the show and were displaying somewhere around 150 knife models in five product lines. One new model catching my eye was the Adamas. It's a Shane Sibert design, available in fixed or folder style and each version comes with its own sheath. Prices will run from \$150 to \$200. Benchmade knives should be more available in Canada this year because

pistols that are rail-equipped, not just SIG guns. With the shoulder stock option it is a heavily restricted item in the USA (we're not the only ones with weird laws) but should be quite alright in Canada, although the firearm remains a handgun (i.e. restricted).

## Ammo

Winchester was running ammo demonstrations on Range Day and I watched them shoot their new PDX1 line of 308 and 12 gauge slug ammo; both designed for limited penetration. The 308 launches a 120 grain fragmenting bullet at 2500 fps and the 12 gauge, 1 oz. slug launches at 1600 fps and is designed to fragment into three pieces. When shot into 10% ordnance gelatine both stopped within 12 – 16 inches.



they have a new representative in Canada (Korth Agencies) who knows how to look after dealers and end users. It's good news for Benchmade fans like me.

## Reloading

Hornady is continuously adding to their extensive line of bullets and this year is no exception. Six new offerings are available in the distinctive red boxes: a 22 cal 50gr GMX, a 6.5mm 100gr A-MAX, a 30 cal. 195gr BTHP, a 348 cal 200gr FTX and a 9.3mm 300gr DGS.

Lyman has a new neck sizing die that features a carbide expander button which free floats on the rod stem. This should allow it to self-centre and reduce neck run-out. And because it's carbide, inside neck lubrication is not required. Initially, it will be available in a dozen popular rifle calibres.

But before you can reload those cartridge cases, they need to be cleaned and Lyman has some new ultrasonic cleaners to do that job. Their largest is heated, uses industrial grade transducers, has a built in drain and hose for easy solution changes and is big enough to clean complete handguns. Yes, these units are not just for brass cleaning. Lyman even has a special solution for cleaning jewellery. I think that's my key for getting permission to buy one.

## Summary

The firearms industry is alive and doing well, with my two reviews being only the briefest of glimpses into what's new. Going to SHOT to see all this new stuff is always fun and the trip can be done at a reasonable cost. However, as a friend says "The only thing that's free in Vegas any more is the elevator ride to your room." The real cost is when you start adding up all the new gadgets you've just seen and absolutely must have. That hurts.

Editor's Note: I'd like to express my appreciation to Al for stepping up at the last minute and filling in for me at SHOT. Unfortunately, an unexpected illness forced me to miss the entire show, but as you can see above, Canadian Firearms Journal was more than ably represented. Many thanks Al. - Sean



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# Member's Soapbox:

## A Case for Castle Doctrine

By NFA Member Chris McGarry

The consequences of adopting Pierre Trudeau's flawed utopian coercive nanny-state, one in which the government will look after Canadians' every need – including protecting themselves in their own homes –, is finally being realized. Unfortunately, for us law-abiding Canadian citizens, while Trudeau may have written that proverbial cheque, it is we who are forced to honour the debt and pay the price for his progressive folly. As a consequence, an average, hardworking, middle-aged Canadian man who merely opted to exercise his ancient English common law right to protect his home, his "castle" as it were, has been dragged through a hellish legal nightmare for the past year and a half by the government of Ontario.

His name is Ian Thomson, and he first ran afoul of the Liberal nanny-state in August of 2010. Mr. Thomson first drew the ire of government forces when he inadvertently challenged the McGuinty government's long-standing belief that the right of self-defence is simply too much for the average, hardworking citizen to handle and should be left to the police. Essentially Mr. Thomson found himself under arrest and at the mercy of the courts for refusing to be victimized by armed assailants who

had attempted to burn him to death with Molotov cocktails.

That an attack on Mr. Thomson's life was made is not in question. Thanks to the security camera footage from Mr. Thomson's own cameras, there is no question that a legitimate attack was carried out by his assailants. The attack that August night was the culmination of a long-running feud between Ian Thomson and some neighbors; the latter parties having opted to settle their dispute with violence and firebombs.

On the evening in question, Mr. Thomson noticed the perpetrators approaching his home armed with lit Molotov cocktails – a simple yet potentially deadly weapon in the wrong hands. Acting on pure instinct, Mr. Thomson – a firearms instructor – speedily unlocked his gun cabinet, loaded a revolver, ran out to the porch of his home and fired over the heads of his castle's would – be invaders, causing them to flee. Remaining armed, he used his garden house to extinguish the fires on home's front porch and dog kennel, and then waited for help to arrive.

Obviously, like any responsible citizen, Mr. Thomson had called the police to report the assault and request aid. However, the nature of the attacks left

him with no other choice but to take direct and immediate action in defence of his life. Depending on the agents of the nanny-state, the police simply was not tenable. As so many other rural Canadians can attest, when seconds count; the police are often minutes or hours away.

Although understandably taken aback by the attacks, things seemed to have calmed down by the time police finally arrived on scene. Mr. Thomson was quite cooperative and like most law-abiding citizens, thankful for their presence. Such feelings were not to last, as the responding police officers in what can only be seen as some perverse role-reversal, chose to arrest Mr. Thomson for his defence of his home and person!

It is unconscionable treating such a man as if somehow he was the criminal and his assailants were purely misguided members of society in need of counseling. Although Crown prosecutors were eventually forced to drop the charges on several of the more serious Firearms Act offenses laid against Mr. Thomson, he continues to fight a groundless charge of unsafe

*SOAPBOX... Continued On Page 47*



**TEAM NFA - Continued From Page 27**

While Matt acknowledged that it is always fun competing in Europe, he admitted it was pretty convenient being able to sleep in his own bed, eat his own food and drive his own car to the race site every morning. He also knew every inch of the local biathlon trails and what to expect out on course, so Matt may have enjoyed a little home-court advantage, psychologically-speaking, if nothing else.

Matt had turned in a solid set of trials races the previous weekend, so he may have started his first Cup event perhaps a little overeager. I'm sure with more experience Matt will sort out such issues. In the end, he actually turned in a pretty decent performance, posting his fastest skiing times of the weekend on the first day in the 10km Sprint. Unfortunately, he ultimately finished in 31st place due to some "anxious" shooting moments that cost him in penalties. Day two was a repeat of the same race, with Matt again posting a respectable 32nd place. Not where he'd like to have finish certainly, but pretty darn good for a guy not only making his premier on the IBU Cup circuit, but his first time in Team Canada colours to boot.

The Sprint races were followed by a two day break for the athletes, following which they faced a 20km Individual and

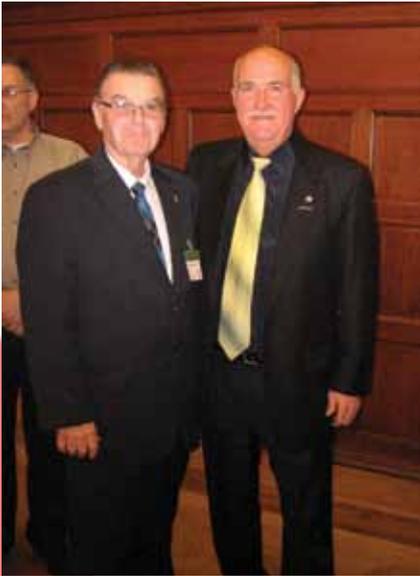
another 10km Sprint race. Matt used the lay-off to fit in additional training and to find what he called his "normal rhythm." As Matt later pointed out, his best races usually come together when there is, what he calls, "... a combination of high pressure, high motivation, and the ability to shut out everything but moving forward as fast as he can."

As such, the 20km Individual race was an ideal test for him. Unlike the Sprint, every missed shot in the Individual meant a one minute penalty added to the athlete's time, so shooting could make or break a race. With the pressure on, Matt was able to keep his nerves in check and turned in a more than acceptable 17/20 performance and putting him in the top 16 racers by several seconds. Matt finished the day as the top Canadian participant! Matt closed his final Cup event at Canmore with another 10km Sprint the next day, finishing in 29th place. Matt shot and skied well, but as he later put it, "I laid down everything on the last lap, but felt the past few weeks catching up and just didn't have the legs to make another Top 16." Given the frenetic pace of the previous week of competition, not to mention the weeks spent preparing for the Cup trials before that, Matt did himself, and TEAM NFA very proud in Canmore.

As we were going to print, we were still awaiting Matt's results for National Championships scheduled for mid-March. In the off season Matt tells me he is going to concentrate on rebuilding his health, and now that he has shown the country that he deserves a place on Team Canada, he will be doing his best to raise as much funds as possible to help cover what will be an extremely expensive and extensive travel schedule for the upcoming 2012-2013 race season.

It really is a shame that Canada's top amateur athletes are so under-funded. If you'd like to make a donation to Matt, Megan or Rob please drop us a line at [info@nfa.ca](mailto:info@nfa.ca) or call our toll-free number and our office staff can point you in the right direction.





# LONG GUN REGISTRY SHOT DOWN!

By

Gary Ramsey and Henry Atkinson

*NFA field officer Gary Ramsey visiting with MP Garry Breitkreuz at the Prime Minister's reception*

February 15, 2012, was a historic day for firearm owners in Canada. Bill C-19, the Conservative government bill to abolish the long-gun registry passed by a vote of 159 - 130.

Early on February 14, our NFA Executive received an invitation from MP Candice Hooppner to be her guests in the House of Commons for the passage of Bill C-19, and to attend the Prime Minister's private reception afterward. The invitation was extended to all Directors and Field Officers of our Association, but with such short notice, only those who were retired or within reasonable commuting distance from Ottawa were able to accept.

Winter weather co-operated with us in Ontario, so Ontario Director Henry Atkinson, and Field Officers Rimas Miknev and Gary Ramsey attended on the NFA's behalf, along with noted firearms lawyer Solomon Friedman from Ottawa, and long-serving NFA advisor Professor Gary Mauser from British Columbia. Dr. Mauser also serves on the federal Firearms Advisory Committee, so was wearing two hats that historic evening.

It was a privilege to bear witness to the first true reform of Canadian firearm law since the dark days of Bill C-68. The success of Bill C-19 marked the culmination of 17 years of near endless struggle to bring a common sense, practical approach to gun control legislation. Just as importantly, once Bill C-19 is passed by the Senate and receives royal assent, all long-gun registry data will be destroyed. This

was always non-negotiable for the NFA, and something which we all worked extremely hard to see made into reality. No data, no registry.

Although the bill easily passed with a majority, two votes are worthy of comment. Two Ontario NDP members, John Rafferty and Bruce Hyer, voted with the Conservatives in support of the bill. Both men demonstrated great character in choosing to respect the will of their constituents rather than the petty self-interest of the interim NDP leadership. They are to be commended for having had the courage to go against their party line, despite the promised punishments threatened if they so dared.

Next to witnessing the vote in the House, the other highlight of the day was the Prime Minister's private reception held after the vote. We were told that a "special guest" could be in attendance and Mr. Harper didn't disappoint. He and Ms. Hooppner were welcomed with enthusiastic applause as they approached the podium. We think it is safe to say, after listening to Mr. Harper's address, that he is aware of our concerns as gun owners, and that the Conservatives will move forward on their anti-crime agenda, including further firearms law reforms. We were encouraged to hear Prime Minister Harper emphasize more than once, that passage of Bill C-19 is "just a beginning," and are optimistic that we can expect changes in the near future with respect to further legislative firearm law reform.

Candice Hooppner was in the spotlight, and deservedly so. While it was her private member's bill that was defeated by two votes during the previous session, (even though we were assured it was not a whipped vote by the Opposition parties) C-391 really played a major part in building momentum for the subsequent success of C-19. The evening of February 15 saw her hard work rewarded with a majority vote to scrap the long-gun registry. It was a great day for Ms. Hooppner, the Conservative government, and firearm owners across Canada.

However, the large audience erupted into thunderous applause and cheers when Mr. Harper paid tribute to MP Garry Breitkreuz for his seventeen years of unceasing battle on behalf of Canadian gun owners. Garry has never let an opportunity go by to inform the Canadian public of the inherent flaws of the Liberal Firearms Act or remind them of continuing waste of millions of tax dollars necessary to keep the failed gun control program in operation. His work was instrumental in getting noted journalists to see the folly that is the Liberal's Firearms Act, and helped win us what few friends we now enjoy within the mainstream media. His work in the House kept attention on this flawed legislation and helped affect public opinion on the issue. We would argue that Canadian firearm owners have no better friend than Garry Breitkreuz. It was indeed an honour to meet him.

As great a day as February 15 was, we cannot rest on our laurels after C-19

becomes law. There are still many items to be addressed and reforms to be made:

- The Firearms Act still makes a criminal of anyone who forgets to renew a license.
- The Act violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in a number of ways: search and seizure of firearms without a warrant and with no compensation, reverse onus, our right to legal counsel, our right against self-incrimination, to name a few.
- Why should there even be a prohibited class of handguns? Does a criminal really care whether or not the barrel on a handgun is 4 or 5 inches in length?
- Why shouldn't passing a police check be good for a lifetime permit, with

revocation only upon conviction of a serious crime?

- Why do we need an Authorization to Transport (ATT) to take a handgun to our gun club, or a gunsmith, when we have already gone through the strictest of screening procedures? How is public safety enhanced by adding yet more red tape to an already overly bureaucratic process at the cost of millions?

For now, we must keep reminding government MPs of the Conservative Party of Canada's promise to repeal the Firearms Act and replace it with practical, cost effective, common sense legislation. The long gun registry was only the start. While we can't expect wholesale changes to happen overnight, we must continue to work hard to keep those promises fresh in

their minds and to ensure that our interests are not sacrificed in the course of politics as usual in Ottawa. The passage of C-19 then is not the end of our war, but the start of a new campaign for those of us involved in firearms advocacy in Canada. As always, the NFA needs the support of its members in order to continue to work toward these goals.

On a more personal note, it was a pleasure to see our legislative process up close. The authors would like to thank Ms. Hoepfner for her gracious invitation to observe history being made and we hope that it will become but the first of many such invitations that will mark even more substantive reform of Canadian firearms laws.

## Bill C-19 Update:

Blair Hagen, Vice President, Communications

Bill C-19, the government bill to end long gun registration received Royal Assent on Wednesday April 4th 2012, and was signed into law by Governor General David Johnston.

The province of Quebec immediately filed an injunction to prevent the destruction of long gun registry data. At the time of this writing, while long gun registration is no longer in force in the rest of Canada, it is still in force in Quebec for the period of this injunction. Quebec is demanding that the federal government turn over registry data so that it can establish its own provincial registry.

Newly-elected NDP leader Thomas Mulcair has stated that re-imposing long gun registration nationally is now NDP policy. Mulcair indicated that free votes will no longer be granted to NDP MPs on the issue of gun control. They will follow NDP policies or suffer the consequences.

"Liberals would not bring back the registry," Liberal spokesperson Daniel Lauzon told an online Internet news aggregator on Monday when asked for their position. Adding the proviso, that the Liberals still, "...strongly support maintaining the data so provinces can maintain their own if they wish to do so." So, the party that invented the C-68 Firearms Act and universal firearms registration, and imposed it so cruelly back in 1995, no longer supports it. Instead, the Liberals urge provinces to impose their own versions of the registry and enforce them under administrative law rather than under federal criminal law.

It seems that some federal Liberals are now starting to recognize the massive political blunder of their party's gun control agenda of the 1990s and would prefer to distance themselves from it. Many are going so far as to acknowledge the fall-out from that particular

\$2 billion dollar boondoggle as having played a key part in setting in motion the chain of events that ultimately led to the defeat of their government, and the downfall of their party.

While the jury is still out on whether or not the Liberals have finally wised-up, the federal NDP have unbelievably decided to hitch their party's fortunes to the same issue that helped bring down Canada's "natural ruling party." Refusing to learn from the lessons of history and the folly of their fellow opposition party, the federal NDP under newly minted leader Thomas Mulcair seems hell-bent on repeating them regardless of consequence.

This is apparently a new, meaner federal NDP Party. Gone are the days of allowing free votes of conscience by NDP MPs. Mulcair, unlike his now-deceased predecessor Jack Layton, seems unmoved by simple concepts such as democratic principle, election promises or putting constituent's interests ahead of his party's'. Gone too is Layton's personable command style. No more will NDP MPs be gently courted for their willing support of the party platform through persuasive moral arguments. Instead, Mulcair offers unbending enforcement of harsh party discipline and swift punishment for any who step out of line. From now on, all NDP MPs will vote in lock step with their party and their leader, or face punishment. Thomas Mulcair has said so. John Rafferty and Bruce Hyer beware.

Nothing dies harder than a bad idea, and it seem that the federal NDP are content to be out of step with Canadians on the firearms issue in order to pander for votes within the shrinking ranks of the civil disarmament lobby. Our fight, it seems, rages on.





# The International Front

## BUREAUCRACY – AN INTERNATIONAL THREAT TO INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

By Gary Mauser

*“You do not examine legislation in the light of the benefits it will convey if properly administered, but in the light of the wrongs it would do and the harms it would cause if improperly administered.”*

*Lyndon B. Johnson*

It is not often appreciated just how much our lives are restricted by the arbitrary whims of anonymous civil-servants. In most countries, it is the bureaucracy that wields the real power. In Canada, Parliament just lays out the general principles of how the “game” is to be played, while the civil-servants or officials, some all too petty, actually decide who wins and who loses. Behind the curtains, Ottawa civil-servants spell out what the laws really mean, first through writing detailed regulations and then later, by interpreting them. Provincial or regional authorities must decide how to enforce the regulations in specific situations, such as in the Ian Thomson case.

Over the past 50 years, governmental regulations have become more opaque and complex, transforming minor officials into de facto local potentates who wield arbitrary power and undue influence over the lives of average citizens. Appeals to regulatory decisions, often arbitrary, are difficult and expensive. This spider’s web of rules is choking out individual freedom.

Make no mistake. Canada’s civil service really runs the country. Politicians just think they do. There have been nine governments since Pierre Trudeau resigned in 1984 (with six separate Prime Ministers). Several of these

were weak minority governments. But the civil service remains in place and grows. Young employees, first hired by Trudeau, have matured and now occupy high-ranking positions of influence. For example, Richard Mosley, the Department of Justice official most responsible for designing Bills C-17 and C-68, is now a federal appeals court judge.

Perhaps nowhere else is the problem of excessive bureaucratic influence in the field of public policy making more apparent than when speaking to the issue of gun control in Canada. Thanks to the deliberately obtuse language of the Firearms Act, and the equally unhelpful interpretations of it, gun owners have been forced into a situation where there is no way to legally comply with the state’s requirements of them. A case in point is that of Port Colborne resident Ian Thomson.

The Ian Thomson case suggests that it may not even be possible to store a firearm safely. His case evokes the Franz Kafka story of a man who is arrested and eventually convicted for a crime that was never revealed to him.

The self-storage regulations typify modern bureaucracy. All of the details are in the regulations, not the law. The Firearms Act (section 117) merely says

that the Governor in Council may make regulations. The regulations define safe storage for a restricted weapon as requiring the firearm “to be unloaded, rendered inoperable by means of a secure locking device and stored in a container, receptacle or room that is kept securely locked ... and it is not readily accessible to ammunition...” Is that clear? Unfortunately not. In the Ian Thomson case, the judge could still not decide even after hearing days of conflicting testimony, and despite the fact that lawyers for both the defence and the prosecutor agreed on the facts. Unable to fully grasp the byzantine nature of current storage regulations, the judge ordered an extended recess so that he could fully consider the issue properly.

The Crown argued that the firearm must have been unsafely stored because the defendant had enough time to actually retrieve his unloaded revolver from his gun safe, secure the proper type of ammunition from its place of storage in a bedside table, load and make ready the pistol, and then actually successfully use it for self-defence in the time elapsed. Ignoring for the moment mitigating factors such as Mr. Thomson’s acquired skill level in handling firearms, thanks to his job as a firearms instructor, and the instinctual drive to protect

one's self, Mr. Thomson's defence attorney disagreed with the Crown. He countered, saying that the regulations meant that ammunition should not be readily available to people other than the lawful gun owner. In this case, the ammunition was in a secured home in which Mr. Thomson lived alone and with an extensive security system. Thus there was no unsafe storage issue.

In response, the veteran judge hearing the case felt that he had no other choice but to adjourn court in order to further study the issue and hopefully acquire an adequately understanding of Canada's laws on the storage of guns and ammunition. Pity the poor citizen who faces criminal charges for his failure to understand. Ian Thomson is still waiting to know what the court decides.

The Ian Thomson case suggests that the Crown deliberately twisted safe storage regulations to harass him because he dared to use his firearm to protect himself. If so, this is a perversion of justice. After assessing the facts, the Crown correctly concluded that Mr. Thomson could not be charged for serious firearms-related offences, and that he had not misused his handgun when his home had been firebombed on the night in question. All charges were dropped against him except for supposed violations of safe-storage regulations. Apparently, the Crown was motivated to penalize him because he was courageous enough or perhaps, more correctly, audacious enough to actually use a gun in self-defence.

Hence, it would seem safe-storage regulations can be interpreted to rule out the possibility of using a firearm to defend oneself or family. If so, this negates the criminal code (CC sections 34-37) where it states that "lethal force" is legal when used to protect against deadly attack. It is unknown how widespread this Kafkaesque interpretation of safe storage is in the civil service. There has been no indication by parliament that such was their intent when firearms-storage regulations were introduced in the early 1990s.

Such bureaucratic perversions are not

unique to Canada. Joyce Malcolm, in *Guns and Violence, The English Experience*, describes the slow degradation of an individual's right of self-defence in England during the 20th century, as the police continually reinterpreted the law, seemingly on their own initiative. In 1920, the Firearms Amendment was passed requiring that anyone who wished to own a firearm had to convince the local police chief that he had "a good reason" to do so. That year, a secret police guideline stated that firearms were allowed for self-defence, and specifically mentioned the dangers facing those who lived in isolated homes in the country. But through a series of redefinitions, by 1937, the police had decided that self-defence was never to be allowed as "a good reason" for owning a firearm. It is not known who in the Home Office or police bureaucracy is responsible for this particular evolution but it was a vitally important one, and, paradoxically, more so than the laws themselves.

In conclusion, politicians may write the laws, but the bureaucracy really rules the country though its power to interpret and enforce them. What's worse, the byzantine nature of bureaucracy means that no one really knows who makes the decisions or has to take responsibility for them. The Canadian civil service is beginning to resemble the faceless authoritarian bureaucracy of Eastern Europe that Kafka portrayed so vividly in his novels.

The result is we are slowly forfeiting our individual freedom by surrendering power to the bureaucracy. The civil service, while nominally under the control of parliament, has the power to design the regulations without having to answer publicly for their decisions. They are faceless. The buck passes right past them. Even more disturbing is the fact that they often have their own agenda that may conflict with that of government. Failed Conservative government bills C-21 and S-5 are cases in point. Rather than effecting real firearms law reform, as the Harper government intended, the bureaucrat-

penned bills did little more than pay lip-service to the government's intentions, while effectively maintaining the status quo.

Accountability is so lacking within modern bureaucracies today that it literally is not a problem for individual bureaucrats if the quality of their information is poor, or if the decisions they make are impracticable, or simply not cost-effective. Failure to perform is rarely punished and far too many bureaucrats make a career out of failing upward. Alas, it seems civil servants inhabit an organization that bears little resemblance to the real world. Success is defined as pushing paper across their desk and getting promoted.

Canada now has a generation of highly-educated civil servants who are urban dwellers with little direct experience of firearms, their importance and use. Many are the product of the Trudeau or Chretien eras and consequently have tied their professional careers to the success of "progressive" public policy initiatives such as the Liberal's C-68 gun control program. What they know about firearms they may have learned from television or by reading *Guns & Ammo*, but they still continue to push the anti-gun agenda of their original masters. Only now, they occupy the key mid and senior-level positions of power that play such an important part in public policy formation and implementation.

Unfortunately for gun owners, anonymous bureaucratic power is not limited to safe storage of firearms. Ottawa is currently working on extensive new regulations for many other aspects of firearms ownership: gun shows, importing or exporting firearms, and storage of gunpowder, primers and ammunition. The list seems endless. We swim in a sea of bureaucratic restrictions that are developed in virtual secrecy. These decisions seem even immune to ATI requests. We will be told only after the bureaucracy decides what the new regulations will be. What can be done to fight the growing power of the bureaucracy?

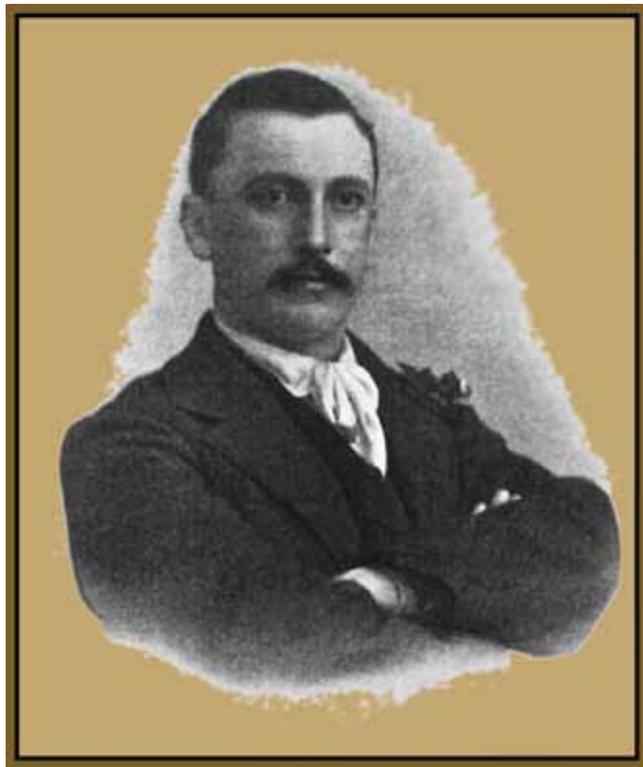


# Western Lawmen

## Bucky O'Neill Part I

*“Dauntless courage and  
boundless ambition...”*

*– President Theodore Roosevelt*

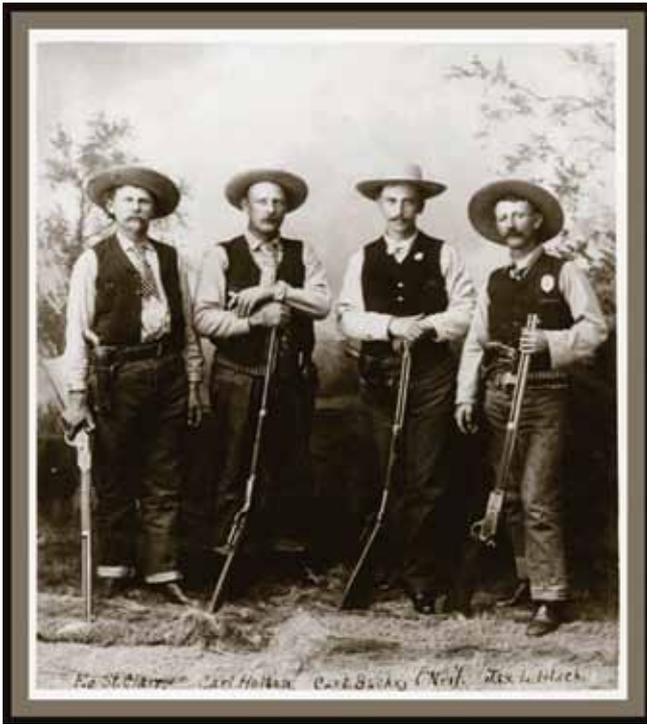


*William Owen “Bucky” O’Neill served with integrity and courage as Arizona deputy, sheriff, judge, mayor and soldier serving with the famous Rough Riders. Few men live up to their press as well as Bucky.*

Engineer Charlie Wood peered intently through the locomotive windshield and swirling flakes of snow, illuminated in the lampblack night by the lanterns on the front of his Santa Fe Eastbound #2. A heavy sheepskin-lined jacket and leather workman’s gloves kept him warm as he worked the frigid steel throttle of the coal-stoked engine and watched for the dim amber lights marking the small Canyon Diablo Station. Unbeknownst to him, only a short ways ahead four other gloved men squatted over a tiny campfire, weathered cowboy hats set low and the collars of waxed canvas drover’s coats pulled high to help protect them from northeastern Arizona’s Winter winds. Ghost-white steam vented from the sides of the engine as Charlie slowly pulled the train to a stop in front of the station office and elevated water tank. From the lip of a jacket pocket hung a cast brass fob in the shape of a longhorn steer’s head, and it was this he used to easier pull out the hunter-cased railroader’s pocket watch and note the precise arrival time: 1:00 AM exactly. March 20th, 1889.

The station was built near the rim of Diablo Canyon and the iron trestle bridge that bore the Santa Fe’s tracks from its northern to southern side, and adjacent to the ruins of what had before the bridge’s completion been a briefly bustling if entirely notorious “settlement of sin.” Newspapers of the time called ramshackle town of Canyon Diablo the “toughest hell-hole in the West” and the “West’s deadliest town.” From the time of its founding as a railroad construction camp in 1880, it seemed a strong magnet for gamblers, prostitutes and fugitives giving a wide berth to the law-drenched cities of Tucson and Phoenix. Its residents were fairly resistant to “civilizing,” it could be said, given that Canyon Diablo’s very first town marshal was in the hands of a coroner by 8 o’clock, after having just been sworn-in at 3PM that same day. Seven marshals in 14 months ultimately either hit the trail or bit the dust, until the bridge work ended and demolition began in 1882.

In the early morning hours of March 20th, 1889, Wood’s



*Left: **Diablo Posse** The posse that ran down the perpetrators of the Diablo Canyon train robbery in 1889, with Sheriff Bucky O'Neill (not O'Neil) second from the right. The author believes the names below each man (obviously added a decade or more later, since O'Neill was not a Captain yet) may be inaccurate, and that the man at far right is more likely Santa Fe Railroad detective Carl Holton... given the unlikelihood that a Yavapai County deputy's badge would be twice the size of their Sheriff's tin. All carry Winchester Model 1873 rifles except for Bucky with his Model 1886, and the detective packs a Colt 1878 instead of the Colt SA "Peacemakers" that the rest tote.*

*Bottom Left: **Diablo Canyon Bridge c.1900** The town of Canyon Diablo was a hell-acious construction site during its few years of existence, then a railroad station after the the bridge over the chasm was completed. In 1897 it was the scene of a train robbery still talked about today. Here we see the bridge around 1900, as it would have looked to both the robbers and their pursuers.*

young fireman opened the cab door, grabbed the ladder rail and eased himself down the steps to the ground of the isolated station. The punctual engineer soon followed, and was barely turned around when two men wearing frightening flour-sack masks stepped out the blackness with revolvers drawn and his fireman in tow. "Hands up!" was the cliché demand and yet one easily understood and perhaps wisely followed, as the two fired warning shots into the air and through the wall of the office as audible exclamation points. The robbers quickly hustled the railroad men over to the Express Car which normally carried the mail and locked safe, along with company messenger E. G. Knickerbocker who was armed with a shortened Remington double-barreled shotgun. Knickerbocker ignored the robber's initial demands to throw open the doors, but finally acquiesced once the fireman being held by the bandits added his shouted warning that the outlaws had dynamite and would blow the car up if he didn't.

With little other choice, the apprehensive Knickerbocker set aside his trusty 12 gauge and slide wide the weighty metal door.

The two bandits, later identified as Dan Harvick and J.J. Smith, climbed in and began threatening the messenger to get him to open the main safe, a slight man who nonetheless bravely convinced them that it had a time lock and could not be opened. Knocking him aside, they instead looted the Wells Fargo box of its stash of jewelry and cash. Leaping out and firing a few more rounds to discourage any possible do-gooder or hero types from getting in the way, they ran to rejoin their compadres Bill Sterrin (or Steiner) and John Halvard (or Halford), each holding the reins of two horses in one hand, while providing cover with the Colts .44s in the other. So dark was the night, that the four were out of sight in a flash, with only the muffled sound of galloping hooves reporting back on their fast-paced escape.



The four men drew-rein just a few miles distant, having convinced themselves that no dedicated pursuit was in the offing. A small fire was started and the four bandits began sorting through their loot. Later reports of the Santa Fe Railroad's losses varied anywhere from \$1,500 to \$35,000. The company was said to inflate the amount taken in robberies at times in order to qualify for a larger insurance payment, and most certainly underreported the takes on other occasions, to both reduce their embarrassment and the heat from stockholders. Whatever the actual figure, it was a none-too-shabby wage for cowpokes accustomed to earning \$30 a month.

Flushed with their success, we can easily imagine the gang

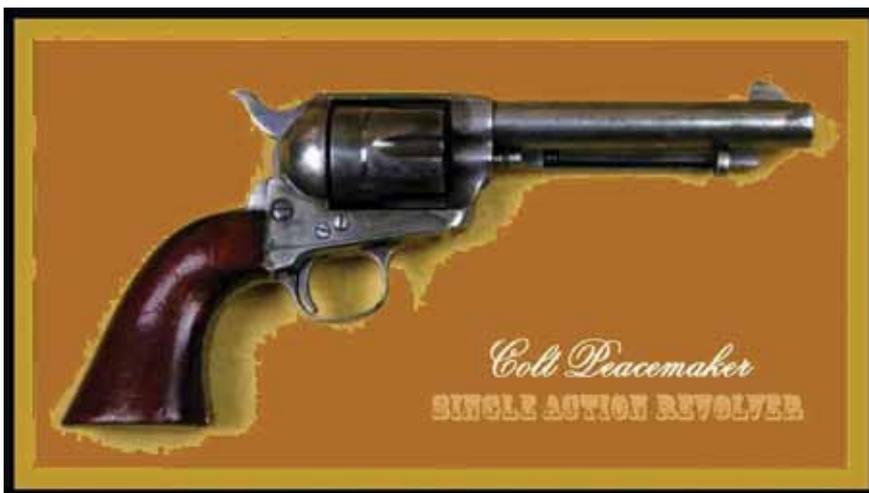


**Diablo Canyon Bridge 2012** Here is the same bridge over Diablo Canyon as it appears today, in northeastern Arizona and not far from the author's backwoods home.

making jokes about the look of surprise on the wide-eyed engineer's face, or how much a man could accomplish with a stick of TNT without ever having to light it. If so, it was in part thanks to a certain level of obliviousness: unbeknownst to the gang, the Arizona Territorial Legislature had only a month earlier passed a bill making train robbery punishable by death. Their actions that night had placed almost guaranteed death sentences on their heads. Yet, still clueless, the four were even mistaken over their lack of pursuit. Unknown to the four, their hasty burglary of supplies from the Barnes Ranch, immediately prior to the robbery, had put ranch-owner Will Barnes and his buddy Billy Broadbent hard on their trail. Adding to the gang's growing list of troubles was the fact their little job had also

drawn the attention of by one of the more interesting – and determined – lawman in the state's history, the chain smoking, soft talking William Owens "Bucky" O'Neill. Rather than stopping to count their loot and chortle of their good fortune, the four would've been helluva' lot smarter if they'd kept riding as fast and as far as they could, at least had they known Bucky O'Neill was after them. O'Neill had a reputation for doggedness on the trail and it was a rare outlaw that did not end up treed by him once a manhunt was initiated.

***"If you done it,  
it ain't bragging."  
—Walt Whitman***



O'Neill was born on February 2, 1860 – most likely in St. Louis – to a father cited for heroism while fighting with the Irish Brigade during the War Between the States. He moved to Phoenix, Arizona and away from his family in the fall of 1879, following his graduation from college in Washington, D.C. at age 19. It was while working as a typesetter for the Phoenix Herald newspaper that this lover of Walt Whitman's sensual nature poetry – this ever so gentle and considered man – earned the not so soft-sounding nickname of "Bucky"... not for any reputed prowess over bucking stallions, but for his enthusiastic and unrestrained bets while regularly "bucking the tiger" at backroom faro games. It was also in Phoenix that he underwent the proverbial "baptism by fire," shortly following his appointment as a special deputy to Marshal Henry Garfias.

The first major test for the new lawman came at the hands of three drunken cowboys. The trio drew the freshly-minted deputy's ire with their wild shouts and break-neck sprints a-horseback, up and down Washington Street while practicing their target shooting on the mercantile signs swinging in front of the local drinking establishments and shops. The nerviest or perhaps craziest of these celebratory hombres, Bill Hardy, even rode his horse through the swinging doors of the Tiger Saloon to order up a drink. Misjudging his headroom, the drunken rider was to go thirsty, instead bumping his skull on a chandelier and shooting the ceiling full of holes in his anger. Arriving on the scene, the sheriff was heard to holler for Hardy and his pals to "hold up" just as the drunken rider rejoined his friends who were sitting their mounts in the middle of the street. Unfortunately for the trio, riding a horse into a saloon in search of a drink

**Colt Peacemaker:** Sheriff O'Neill and his deputies all packed archetypal Colt single action "Peacemaker" revolvers similar to this one, and so apparently did the bandits.

was not to be the last bad decision they would make that night. Rather than call it a night, Hardy and his companions instead took counsel on how to respond from their most trusted advisor, one Mr. Rotgut Whiskey, who apparently advised them to charge the lawmen with guns blazing.

The sheriff and his new deputy understandably took exception to the trio's plan to either ventilate their torsos with lead, or alternately ride roughshod over them with their cow ponies, and responded in kind. Choosing to stand their ground and return fire, the pair of lawmen coolly returned fire. Depending on the account, it was either Garfias or O'Neill who neatly drilled the lead rider, Bill Hardy, effectively ending both the party and the fight.

For whatever reasons, Phoenix didn't "shine" for Bucky and, at least not as brightly as the silver bullion and faro tables of the then new boomtown of Tombstone, where he briefly worked for John Clum's Tombstone Epitaph, or the mining-rich capital city of Arizona

Territory, Prescott, which drew him to its bosom in the Spring of 1882 and remained his home for the remainder of his life.

O'Neill later volunteered for the Arizona Grays militia, worked as court reporter, wrote for the newspaper Arizona Miner, launched his own periodical for cattlemen he called The Hoof and Horn in 1885, and got married to Pauline Schindler the same year. He then ran successfully for Yavapai County probate judge and superintendent of schools, focusing much of his time to improving the rates of literacy in preparation for the Territory's bid for U.S. statehood. It was while a judge that he once happened upon a small group of Navajo sheep herders being denied access to a watering hole by some rowdy railroad workers. Bucky had always had soft spot in his heart for seeing justice done and he never cared for bullying. As a consequence, and in rather injudicious fashion, the justice opted to ride hard towards the miscreants, scattering

their camp and clearing the way for the hapless Navajo and their dying-of-thirst flocks.

Always ready for new experiences and challenges, in 1888 the ever more popular Bucky gave up his judgeship in order to run for sheriff of Yavapai County on the Republican ticket. He inspired both the support of most of the county's residents and the active opposition of railroad officials, by pledging to assess the railroad the full value of its land holdings if elected. Railroad officials did everything they could to prevent his being chosen making it even more admirable that he would undertake a manhunt a year later on their behalf.

End of Part I.

*Editor's Note: Please check-out the conclusion of "Bucky O'Neill" in the July/August issue of Canadian Firearms Journal.*

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## ***POLITICS... Continued From Page 19***

Such feelings may be of such strength that the individual is terrified that even acknowledging such violent impulses or feelings of rage or hostility will cause them to lose control and actually hurt or kill someone.

*No passion so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear.*

*- Sir Edmund Burke*

One of the by-products of the Liberal's ongoing social re-engineering experiment is the false belief that "good" people simply do not suffer such negative impulses as "civilized" human beings. Such a contention is patently ridiculous; all people have such feelings and they are a part of being human.

This problem is now being compounded by out-of-control political correctness and ill-founded theories of early childhood development and education. Many of these so-called "experts" are the product of ultra left-wing educational institutions and are primarily interested in advancing their own "progressive" ideals, without fully weighing the consequences of such radical agendas.

As a consequence, many teachers and school administrators now find their hands tied by ill-conceived and potentially destructive policies enacted by "progressive" school boards. "Zero-tolerance" policies are a case in point. Generations of kids have grown up playing rough-and-tumble games; they fought and wrestled with each other during recess; countless battles between "cowboys" and "Indians" were fought and yet somehow no one ever got seriously injured.

This process of letting "kids be kids" is important to their socialization. They learn what behavior is acceptable and what is not. They learn the difference between reality and make-believe. Any kid exceeding those boundaries or going "too far" and causing real harm quickly learn the error of their ways through group action or find themselves ostracized. Such lessons tended to stay with kids thereafter and most grew into well-adjusted, productive members of society.

However, today these same kids are being taught that their natural feelings of aggression, competition, rivalry, anger, jealousy, etc... are not "normal" but rather are evil and dangerous, and can only be excised through the severest of punishments. Consequently, children are now denied the opportunity to explore such negative emotions, and thus do not learn how and why such destructive behaviour may be controlled.

With no outlet for their natural aggression and denied the opportunity to learn how to properly cope with such negative or destructive emotions, many children, teens and even adults are forced to seek defence mechanisms that allow them rationalize the diametrically opposing forces of "good" and "evil" raging within themselves. Unfortunately, such

struggles can lead to significant mental-health issues later.

Psychologist, Dr. Bruce Eimer, has also argued that hoplophobia and similar fears now, may often originate in childhood as a result of what he called "traumatic experiences." These experiences cause the child or teen so afflicted to feel extremely vulnerable when exposed to such "weapons."

Ask yourself what potential emotional impact a child subjected to "zero-tolerance" policies may be forced to endure simply for making a "gun" out of chicken finger at lunch, or bringing a toy cap gun to school to show their friends at recess? Take this scenario to the extreme – what are the potential consequences of continuous school "lock-downs" or having heavily-armed tactical officers burst into their classroom in search of an active shooter that doesn't exist? There must be a balance between keeping kids safe from potential harm and allowing them the freedom to learn and explore their physical world without undue parental interference.

*"Take your life in your own hands, and what happens? A terrible thing: no one to blame."*

*- Erica Jong*

Unfortunately, our current system ensures that for many individuals, it is impossible to achieve such a balance. Thus we see the birth of a new hoplophobe as a result. Unable to cope with their own feelings, and taught not to accept personal responsibility for their own actions, many then project their own worst fears and destructive impulses onto others, - in our case, gun owners. The irony is inescapable; while such individuals do not trust themselves with firearms, they remain unwilling or incapable of owning those feelings and taking responsibility for them. They therefore attribute the worst and most extreme of their impulses to average gun owners instead.

According to Dr. Eimer, this in combination with an adult rationalization defence mechanism makes it possible and potentially safer to displace these fears on to an inanimate object such as a gun. Therefore the hoplophobe really comes to believe, at least unconsciously, that guns have the independent capacity to kill.

*We fear the thing we want the most.*

*- Robert Anthony*

For such person, there is a disconnect between reality and their own world view. Logically you would need to insert a human actor into the equation in order for murder and mayhem to ensue. However, this truth is simply too threatening to their

psychological unconscious to accept and thus they blame the gun instead. They refuse to acknowledge that the true danger lies within themselves and their baser urges should they gain access to firearms. Guns and gun owners then become the scapegoat for their phobia.

### **Learned Hoplophobia –**

However, it is important to keep in mind that not all anti-gun sentiment and hoplophobia is the result of unconscious defence mechanisms such as projection. The fear and emotional irrationality representative of many anti-gun crusaders can be learned. It can be acquired through exposure to anti-gun messages formulated by gun control advocacy groups and political ideologues - actors who are aided and abetted in conditioning the public into fearing guns and gun owners through the influence of the “progressive” media and unfavourable coverage of gun-related issues.

We see the same conditioning at work in our schools and colleges, where blatantly biased faux documentaries such as notorious anti-gun crusader Michael Moore’s “Bowling for Columbine” is screened in classrooms across the country. Often, the film’s twisted interpretation of reality is subsequently reinforced by sympathetic teachers, who themselves are products of the Liberal’s experiment in social re-engineering.

### **Conclusions –**

Obviously, there are no easy or fast “fixes” to be found here. However, our cause is not lost. Individual gun owners can play an important part in helping to off-set a number of variables at play that negatively impact our cause. First and foremost every gun owner must take the time to educate themselves on the issues. They must become actively engaged in the debate and do their utmost to ensure that the public are presented with both sides of the argument so that they may make an informed decision. Don’t be afraid to call your local paper or television newscast to task when they run a biased article or story. Be prepared to counter with logical, reasoned arguments that are supported by the facts. If they choose to dismiss your concerns, contact the advertisers purchasing airtime or advertising space and inform them that you will no longer be supporting their product as a result of said article.

*To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom.*  
- Bertrand Russell

With respect to educators and similar persons in authority – be prepared to challenge their distorted view of reality. It may take great courage to do so, but you will often find that there are many others in your class or school who share your opinions. Demand that equal time be devoted to studying the opposing viewpoint so that your fellow students can make

up their own minds, not have their teachers or professors do it for them. Get the school administrator, the PTA and local school board involved if necessary. Our schools should not be allowed to become little more than left-wing indoctrination centers.

As for the hard-core, individual hoplophobes, direct confrontation and aggression will seldom yield positive results. It is often extremely difficult to break through their unconscious defence mechanisms and in some cases may even be dangerous. Sympathy, empathy, rationality, repetition and lots of patience offer the best hope of actually reaching such individuals. For others, equally traumatic experiences such as being mugged, robbed or physically attacked, may be enough to trigger a complete reversal of perspective.

*Collective fear stimulates herd instinct, and tends to produce ferocity toward those who are not regarded as members of the herd.*  
- Bertrand Russell

Of course, there are others that we will simply never reach: The professional “victims;” the legitimately traumatized; and the political ideologues. Individuals such as Wendy Cukier, Sarah Brady, Heidi Rathjen and Rebecca Peters are only interested in the acquisition of power, prestige and money from their political advocacy. They know the facts and ignore them, or deliberately manipulate them to further their own agendas.

Such actors have a vested interest in fostering fear of firearms and history shows us that they will only willing to compromise when they find their acquired power, prestige and treasure are threatened. We have seen this effect most clearly in the wake of the Conservative electoral victory last spring. For instance, Chief Bill Blair of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police would brook no compromise on the issue of continued gun control and registration of firearms. After Canadians returned a majority government to Ottawa that was on record promising to kill the long gun registry, the CACP was suddenly interested in offering the Harper government “alternatives.”

Such paradigm shifts are most often macro in nature, but the influence of grassroots activism cannot be ignored. Just ask the Liberal’s former head anti-gun crusader Mark Holland. There are “cures” for hoplophobia. None of them are easy and many require great courage on the part of individual gun owners, along with equal measures of patience. But they are out there, if we’re willing to make the sacrifice. As a responsible firearms owner you need to ask yourself whether or not you are willing to accept your fair share of this burden. As my grandmother never failed to remind me, “Many hands make light work.”

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

**SOAPBOX...**

**Continued From Page 34**

storage. The Crown contends that since Mr. Thomson was able to retrieve his firearm and load it so quickly – thus saving his home and potentially the lives of him and his family – that his firearm and ammunition had to have been stored improperly.

If any case justifies the need for enshrined castle doctrine law in Canada, it is this one. For those unfamiliar with this type of law, such legislation clearly lays out acceptable use-of-force provisions when citizens face attack by assailants in their home or “castle.” Such rights have long been established under English common law and have been even more clearly quantified in the United States, where the vast majority of individual states have enacted some form of castle doctrine. As such, homeowners are under no ‘duty to retreat’ or allow themselves or their home to be invaded by individuals seeking to harm or steal from them.

Canadians enjoy the same common law protections, however, thanks to the efforts of Trudeau and successive left-wing progressive governments, Canadians have largely forgotten that they possess such a right.

They are the victims of forty years of Liberal social re-engineering. However, the nanny-state, which flourished under Trudeau and Mulroney during the 1970s and 1980s, and whose influence seems to have peaked with the introduction of the Liberal’s now failed gun control program in the 1990s, is finally showing signs of deterioration. In this respect, the current majority Conservative government has moved in the right direction by abolishing the long gun registry and enacting the Citizens Arrest and Self-Defence Act. Still, we have a long ways to go.

Though attitudes toward self-defence in Canada are changing, there are still many of our fellow countrymen who cling to the mistaken ideal that we live in some sort of peaceful utopian society, - the polar opposite of the ‘wild, unhinged USA,’ where the all-powerful

nanny-state apparatus will protect everybody from every seen and unseen danger. A recent poll conducted by the CBC reveals that while 80 percent of participants believe Canadians should have the right to defend their property with a gun, a disturbing 20 percent didn’t share the same opinion. Believe me, there is nothing inherently moral or superior in adopting the role of victim when there are other options available.

As the case of Ian Thomson clearly shows us all, it’s long-past time for the government to enact measures to fully restore our common law right to self-defence and defence of the home. These rights have been established through hundreds of years of English case law and are clearly delineated in a number of historically significant documents, including the English Bill of Rights and the Magna Carta that also form the bulwarks of Canadian law today. If we truly believe that every man’s home is his castle and that we each have the right to be safe there, then this should be a no-brainer.



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