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FIREARMS JOURNAL

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MISSION STATEMENT

Canada's National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defense, 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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46 New Straight-A Student Arrives

Bushmaster Releasing A New
Version Of Their First-Of-The-
Class Tactical Rifle, The ACR,
In Canada

On the Cover

Photo by Donald Sohm

In the province of BC
it is legal to hunt with a .223

The buck was taken 40km up the Squamish Valley in dense bush. The rifle was perfect for hunting, as its short overall length made navigating the game trails effortless, and the balance, light weight and ergonomics of the gun made for easy carrying. The buck was taken at 10 meters, with a single shot to the upper neck. Ammunition used was a Federal Fusion 62 grain bullet.



Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of



**CANADA'S NATIONAL
FIREARMS ASSOCIATION** 

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From the Editor's Desk

Sean G. Penney

To Everything There Is A Season

Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday I first assumed the mantle of editor-in-chief of the *Canadian Firearms Journal*. However, the reality is that I've served in this position for almost five years now. Over that time, there have been many changes to our little publication. In the process, the *Canadian Firearms Journal* surprisingly became something of a labour of love.

Just as it was with our parent organization, Canada's National Firearms Association, the *Canadian Firearms Journal* has always been a volunteer-directed and driven entity. Rather than recruiting from the same pool of outdoor and firearms writers as more commercial publications with much larger budgets, I always kept my eye out for talented amateurs, especially fellow NFA members who had something they wanted to share or say.

This became a never-ending quest of sorts that saw me attempt to beg, buy, borrow or barter with potential contributors to write for *CFJ* or provide photos or other images in order to bring each issue under budget. Many of our fellow gun owners and NFA members stepped up to the plate when asked. And it is thanks to their generosity we were able to keep our budget under control and magazines in our members' mailboxes year after year.

I'm proud to say that the *Canadian Firearms Journal*, or *CFJ* as we affectionately dubbed it, is unlike any other outdoor magazine published today. Rather than pander to just one particular group or niche, we've always strived to offer a little something for everyone who is a part of our firearms community. As the official membership magazine of Canada's National Firearms Association, there are a lot of different perspectives, interests and attitudes to accommodate.

In the end, I always learned more from the stumbles and falls than the easy finishes, but no matter which, as editor-in-chief, the buck stopped with me. Like it or not, I had to own the flubs, while graciously sharing the triumphs.

However, as a student of poker, I also know when to hold 'em and when it's time to fold 'em.

As I was forced to learn the hard way, it is the job of the editor to polish and refine the work of his contributors and to bring a certain focus to their writing to better reflect the message you want to convey. An editor must be able to identify and cut what is non-essential to the narrative with the purpose of drawing attention to the most salient points or, if it is unnecessary, it is cut; or so the theory goes.

As much as I hate to admit it, the time has come to fold my hand and let someone else take the helm of *CFJ*. While I hope to continue making regular contributions to the *Canadian Firearms Journal*, in the best interests of it, our readers and our organization, I have tendered my resignation as editor-in-chief of the *Canadian Firearms Journal*. Thank you to all our members, faithful readers, contributors and supporters who have been so instrumental to the *CFJ*'s success.

I'm proud to say that the *Canadian Firearms Journal*, or *CFJ* as we affectionately dubbed it, is unlike any other outdoor magazine published today.

Letters to the Editor

Dear NFA,

I read the letter about constructing your own gun range, published in the July/August issue of *Canadian Firearms Journal*, with great interest as I have some personal experience in this area. I just wanted to let my fellow gun owners know that this is a real possibility to consider if you are lucky enough to have access to a suitable site. About six weeks ago I finally got my handgun range approved; the final six or seven weeks was waiting for the final signature(s). It was the result of about two-and-a-half years of paperwork, waiting on gun control bureaucrats to return calls, site visits and finally finding someone to do the work. Patience was a virtue.

The actual building of the range took only about eight hours, 20 railway ties, five telephone poles and approximately 50 or more loads of dirt. But, it was worth it to be able to shoot on my own property at my convenience, especially since the closest range was over half an hour away. The only cost was the guy who actually did the building and hauling; there is no charge from the CFO to inspect/advise/approve the actual range.

If you have the land and the space, I would suggest it to anyone. You can see my build here: https://www.facebook.com/SrcGunWorks/photos_stream

Carter

Dear Carter,

Well done! As your experience has shown our readers, patience and persistence are true virtues to possess when dealing with the Canadian firearms bureaucracy. We'd love to hear from other members or readers with similar stories. Hopefully they will inspire more responsible firearms owners to follow suit. The more trained shooters and approved ranges there are in Canada, the stronger our firearms community.

- Editor

Dear Editor,

You certainly pulled no punches about firearms owners in your September/October editorial of the *Canadian Firearms Journal*. In it you say, "For too long Canada's firearms community could best be characterized as disinterested, apathetic, short-sighted, self-interested and infuriatingly contrarian. And did I mention cheap?" You later opine that, "...gun owners have to be the most stubborn, single-minded individuals that ever lived," while also calling out the opposing "defeatist" factions found within our firearms community.

In all honesty, most of that describes me to a "T," except for the defeatist part. I take no offence, actually I am proud of most of those qualities, and they are the qualities inherited from homesteader ancestors that made this country the wonderful place that it is. For many of us, firearms and cultural heritage are inseparable.

At the same time, I completely sympathize with the problems you are faced with, but please don't get frustrated. You and all the staff and volunteers at NFA and the *Canadian Firearms Journal* are doing a great job. Does it really matter that we are opinionated and stubborn? We are all united in opposition to Bill C-68.

Your editorial definitely gave me food for thought and I think you may have omitted two other problem characteristics that may be used to describe firearms owners in Canada. I am not proud of either of them, but the fact remains that certain members of our firearms community are fearful of the state and its faceless cadre of gun control bureaucrats. Others are merely content to maintain their staunch membership in the silent majority, at least until they're directly affected by the latest attack on Canadian gun rights when those same stubborn, irascible qualities finally kick in.

In my case, I broke ranks with the silent majority as a gun owner embarrassingly late, in February 2012. At the time I had a Possession Only License but needed to upgrade to a PAL in order to purchase a new .22 rifle to teach my grandchildren marksmanship and firearms safety. Rather than sign up for the CFSC, I instead applied for Alternative Certification from the BC CFO, under the mistaken impression that my decades of professional firearms experience, including some 53 years owning and using personal firearms, 35 years in the Canadian Forces, including six years on the Army marksmanship team as both coach and competitor (Bisley and NATO competitions) and having helped design small arms courses and having served as a range safety officer for years would so qualify me.

Frustrated, I wrote a scathing letter to the CFO in response. However, the next day I read a CTV news article about a constable from the BC CFP office having targeted a competitor in the used firearms sales business out here in an alleged abuse of power case. Out of fear of becoming a similar target, I abandoned my rather trenchant letter and opted to challenge the CFSC test even though I met all the necessary parameters to be approved for alternative certification. My fear got the better of me and I regret it to this day.

In a quest to make amends for that cowardly act, I decided to become part of the solution and become directly engaged in the fight to protect and preserve our firearms rights. The first step in my reformation toward becoming an active opponent of Bill C-68 was to join Canada's National Firearms Association and become a supporting member.

I've realized that while fear of losing my right to own and use my firearms is not something to ignore, giving in to that fear is inexcusable, and that's

what the RCMP and gun control bureaucrats are banking on. We must master such fears, otherwise the forces of civil disarmament in Canada will continue to misuse their powers and positions to intimidate and thus undermine the foundations of our rights as responsible firearms owners. That is why we must stand up and be counted now, before it is too late and we find ourselves living in some Orwellian-type police state.

For my fellow gun owners and members of the silent majority, all I can say is please don't wait until you become a victim of the latest anti-gun initiative of the RCMP or CFP before you act. With the High River disgrace still fresh in the public's memory and building on the success of the recent CPC policy convention, as well as our setbacks, the time to get politically active is now. The pendulum is swinging in our favour, but it is up to us to maintain that momentum. Changing just a handful of MPs minds may make all the difference in whether or not we eventually succeed in having C-68 repealed and replaced come the next election.

Your support does not have to be onerous or elaborate, even a simple e-mail or letter to your MP, with information copies to the RCMP CFP (stpcacfcp@rcmp-grc.gc.ca) and the Minister of Public Safety (steven.blaney@parl.gc.ca) stating that you support abolishing Bill C-68 will suffice to start; numbers in this respect count as much as content. Also, don't be afraid to get your friends, relatives and hunting or shooting buddies to follow suit. And don't forget to encourage them to join the NFA in order to get informed and to give this vital organization the means to take the fight to Ottawa. There is strength in numbers and our letters, faxes and e-mails let politicians know that there may be many more votes at risk.

In the near future, I intend to seek a meeting with my MP to discuss repeal of Bill C-68, along with my dissatisfaction with the current BC CFO and the "opt in" or "opt out" options for BC. I would like to go there with a small delegation of like-minded, responsible gun owners and be in a position to submit written copies of testimonials of problems fellow gun owners have had with the current CFO or Firearms Act. If there are any members in the Kamloops North-Thompson riding that would be willing to accompany me, and anyone that has had problems with the CFO, please contact me at via e-mail at m2dyck@shaw.ca or telephone 250-372-3342.

Marvin D.

Dear Marvin,

It is stories such as yours that make all the untold hours of work and effort putting together each issue of CFJ worthwhile. You are an inspiration and you have renewed our faith in, as you put it, the "silent majority." Had there been just a couple of dozen more like-minded firearms owners present at the CPC's recent policy convention, all four firearms related resolutions introduced would have been adopted instead of the just the one.

With the Conservative's ongoing PR problems and sinking poll numbers, every seat is going to count come the next federal election. It is in the best interest of all Canadian gun owners to do their part in ensuring that the representatives we send to Ottawa will genuinely represent our best interests. We most certainly cannot do that by remaining silent or figuratively sticking our heads in the stand.

Letters and e-mails to your MP and federal ministers are a good start, as is establishing a personal relationship with your MP. But getting directly involved in your local CPC riding association is even better. It is here where NFA members can play a direct role in selecting the person who will stand for election as a Conservative in the next election and simultaneously weed out any fair-weather friends looking to curry the favour of gun

owners, while having no intentions of ever advocating on our behalf. To quote Plato: "One of the penalties of refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." Our new friend Marvin has sounded the call, whom among us will answer?

- Editor

Dear Editor,

I always find my *Canadian Firearms Journal* an enjoyable read. Unfortunately, I picked up on a technical error in the recent Western Lawmen - Henry Morse story in the September/October issue. In it, the author states that Morse used a .44 WCF or .44/40 Winchester cartridge in a Model 66 Winchester rifle. This would have been in 1871 or earlier, based on a mention further on about a happening two years later in 1873.

The Model 66 never chambered the .44 WCF cartridge, as that cartridge did not come into being until 1873 with the Model 73. The cartridge Morse used would probably have been the .44 Henry Centrefire, which came into use with the fourth version of the Model 66.

The author also states that the .44 WCF had a bore diameter of .44 inches - that is a common misconception. The bore diameter (land to land) was closer to .42 inches in diameter, as the bullet used had a diameter of .427 inches.

Keep up the good work.

Bob U.

Dear Bob,

Thanks very much for your letter and you're entirely correct. It was an editorial mistake on our part and not that of the author. We appreciate that our readers care enough to take the time and write to us with constructive criticism and feedback. Such efforts aid us in our quest to continue improving the *Canadian Firearms Journal* with every issue. Our apologies to our readers for any confusion our oversight may have caused.

- Editor



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Finding Immediate Solutions To Canada's Failed *Firearms Act*

Canada's *Firearms Act* has never delivered on any of the Liberal's vaunted promises of increased public safety and crime reduction. It was a fiction; or even more bluntly, a big, fat lie. At its core, the C-68 *Firearms Act* is one of the worst examples of a leftist humanist agenda, with its specific goal to limit legal access to firearms as a matter of public policy. And make no mistake, this is bad public policy and it needs to be repealed from being law.

The long gun registration was a nuisance and a useless bureaucratic exercise, and even if it wasn't the biggest boondoggle in the *Firearms Act*, we were still glad to see that piece of it go away. No one really needs to know who owns what firearms - and that is just as true of any firearms. However, to be consistent, if registration is both unnecessarily expensive and doesn't work for long guns, then the same argument applies to the rest of them.

Here are some additional points along the lines of recent letters that we have written to government that provide reasonable opportunities for change as a start. However, these alone are not sufficient by themselves to resolve the many significant problems with Canadian firearms law. Ultimately, there remains an over-arching need to repeal the *Firearms Act* and its related regulations and redress outstanding problems. For immediate consideration:

1. Decriminalize firearms possession (elimination of S. 91, 92 and related sections). The criminalizing of the simple, innocent possession of firearms is probably the most insidious part of the *Firearms Act*.
2. Extensively modify and eliminate prohibited and restricted classes, including rescinding of arbitrary clauses on barrel length and calibre that classify firearms, and regulations affecting magazines and other accessories such as stocks, as per our letter. Firearms chosen for a particular class by appearance alone should especially be removed from these classes. This fix could be done easily, without going to parliament, merely by rescinding the former Orders in Council. There really should not even be a class called prohibited, as it, in effect, steals people's property by forcing you to purchase a license to own it every few years, and takes away your ability to transfer that property to others who have not been grandfathered, despite their otherwise innocent intentions.
3. Eliminate punitive safe storage and transport requirements that have caused much grief to firearm owners in the absence of any wrongdoing. Storage matters should be a civil issue to be dealt with if harm occurs, not a criminal one. Education is the key, not criminal law.
4. Restructure *Firearms Act* enforcement so that there are no longer arbitrary powers granted to the CFO regarding the issuance of licenses and authorizations pertaining to the use and sale of firearms, or the operation of ranges or other firearms events. F.A. Section 58.1 should be rescinded.
5. Remove the administration of the *Firearms Act* from the control of the RCMP and so reduce the stigma associated with the ownership and use of firearms. With the *Act* repealed, who looks after it would become moot.

A solution-based proposal could be to establish a "prohibited persons list" that would identify people who, based upon previous significant bad behaviour, are not eligible to lawfully obtain firearms. If a person is not on the list, then he or she is deemed to be okay. That takes us back to an old concept in justice called innocent until proven guilty - sounds kind of refreshing doesn't it?

The key point to understand is that what should be punished is bad behaviour, not paperwork crimes and arbitrary administrative rules about innocent possession, length of barrels, classification status and other such ineffective nonsense. It is important to realize that the peer-reviewed scientific evidence is clear. None of Canada's firearms measures, from 1974 to the present day, have affected criminal behaviour. These laws have merely

presented hardship and criminal penalty to otherwise innocent Canadians, or been simple add-on charges for bad guys who are already in trouble because of bad behaviour. The peaceful possession of firearms was not a crime in Canada until successive governments first stigmatized firearms ownership, and then made the simple, innocent possession of firearms a crime. It is time to push back on this failed agenda - please help achieve

that goal by getting a friend to join Canada's National Firearms Association, and by writing and meeting with your Member of Parliament to share your concerns about our bad firearm laws.

La Loi sur les Armes à Feu (LAF) ne remplit aucune de ses promesses mensongères envers l'amélioration de la sécurité publique. Elle est un des pires exemples de politiques gauchistes, humanistes, dont l'objectif spécifique est de limiter l'accès aux armes à feu. Détrompez vous, c'est une mauvaise politique et cette Loi doit être abrogée.

L'enregistrement des armes longues fût un irritant et un exercice bureaucratique inutile malgré qu'il n'était pas la source majeure de gaspillage dans la LAF. Mais nous sommes tous très contents de sa disparition. Personne n'a besoin de savoir qui possède quelles armes à feu - et ceci est vrai pour toutes les armes. Suivant la même logique, si l'enregistrement des armes longues a été coûteux et inefficace, il l'est aussi pour toutes les autres.

Voici une liste de sujets à propos desquels nous avons écrit au Gouvernement. Ils donnent d'excellentes idées qui peuvent servir de point de départ pour effectuer les changements nécessaires afin de régler les problèmes importants reliés à la LAF. Malgré cela, la nécessité d'abolir la LAF et ses Règlements demeure, tout en corrigeant les problèmes existants.

1. La possession d'armes à feu doit être dé-criminalisée. (Éliminer les Art. 91, 92 et tous les Articles s'y rattachant.) Le fait de criminaliser la possession paisible d'armes à feu est la partie la plus insidieuse de la LAF.
2. Des modifications importantes doivent être apportées aux classes prohibées et à autorisations restreintes. Les clauses créées arbitrairement telles que les longueurs de canons et les calibres qui servent à classer des armes à feu, doivent être abrogées. Idem pour les Règlements affectant les chargeurs et autres accessoires comme les crosses spéciales. Les armes à feu qui se retrouvent dans une classe particulière seulement à cause de leur apparence doivent être retirées de cette classe. Ces changements peuvent être faits facilement sans passer par le Parlement en annulant tout simplement les Décrets qui les avaient créés. La classe prohibée ne devrait même pas exister car elle a l'effet de "voler" la propriété des gens en les forçant de se procurer un permis à tous les cinq ans pour les garder. Elle nuit à la vente de ces armes puisque l'acheteur potentiel doit lui aussi détenir la même sorte de permis. Un permis ayant la "clause grand-père", même si cet acheteur n'a aucune intention malicieuse.
3. Éliminer les exigences punitives extrêmes en ce qui a trait à l'entreposage et le transport des armes. Ces exigences ont causées beaucoup de malheurs aux propriétaires d'armes à feu sans qu'ils n'aient commis aucune faute. Tout ce qui concerne l'entreposage devrait être traité par les Cours Civiles si jamais il y avait un accident, et non par les Cours Criminelles. La solution se trouve dans l'éducation et non dans la répression.
4. L'application de la LAF doit être restructurée pour enlever les pouvoirs arbitraires aux Contrôleurs des Armes à Feu en regard de l'émission de permis et d'autorisations visant l'usage et la vente d'armes à feu et le fonctionnement des champs et clubs de tir ou tout autre événement impliquant les armes à feu. L'Art. 58.1 de la LAF doit être abrogé.
5. La GRC ne doit plus contrôler l'administration de la LAF. Ceci réduira la stigmatisation reliée à la possession légitime d'armes à feu. Une fois que cette Loi sera abrogée, savoir qui l'administra deviendra sans objet.

Une solution est d'établir une liste de "personnes prohibées" qui identifiera les gens qui ne devraient pas être éligibles de posséder des armes à feu à des fins légitimes et ce, basé sur leurs mauvais comportements. Ce qui nous emmène à l'ancien concept "innocent jusqu'à la preuve du contraire" - Rafraichissant n'est-ce pas?

Ce qu'il faut retenir c'est que les mauvais comportements réels doivent être punis et non les "crimes de paperasse" ou les erreurs envers des règlements administratifs arbitraires par rapport à la possession légitime, la longueur des canons, les états de classifications et autres idioties inefficaces. Il est important de savoir que les preuves scientifiques sont claires. Toutes les Lois Canadiennes sur les armes à feu depuis 1974 n'ont eu aucun effet sur les comportements criminels. Elles n'ont que puni sans raison et imposé des peines criminelles à des honnêtes citoyens Canadiens, ou bien ont servi à ajouter des accusations à des criminels qui brisaient déjà d'autres Lois. La possession paisible d'armes à feu au Canada n'était pas un crime jusqu'à ce qu'une succession de Gouvernements aient stigmatisé la possession d'armes pour en suite en faire un crime. Il est temps que nous renversions la vapeur à propos de cet agenda erroné. Aidez nous à atteindre cet objectif en recrutant un de vos amis pour qu'il adhère à l'Association Canadienne pour les Armes à Feu, en écrivant à votre Député pour lui partager vos inquiétudes vis à vis les mauvaises Lois sur les armes à feu.





Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Birthrights And Responsibilities

With a new year upon us, now is probably a good time to look at the state of health of the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership.

Twenty years after the two most egregious legislative assaults against the rights and property of Canadians, I am happy to report that Canadian gun culture has not only survived, but is undergoing a resurrection as more people overcome the barriers of the firearms licensing system to claim their right to keep arms, and become politically active in order to keep them.

The 41st Parliament was an eventful one, and a historic one for all Canadians who believe in freedom. The controversy over firearms laws in Canada goes back over 40 years, but the legislative train to address them had been going in one direction only during that time. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have had their rights trampled on, their property stolen as law after law was imposed to restrict and deny firearms ownership at any opportunity, at the whim of bureaucrats.

A lost decade of hostile government and bureaucratic malfeasance that sought to impose the international disarmament agenda on Canada; an agenda other Commonwealth countries succumbed to as both the UK and Australia imposed confiscatory and freedom-killing legislation at the same time as our own 1995 Bill C-68.

The rights and property lost in Canada during this time pale to what was suffered in the UK and Australia.

This was halted in October 2011. Bill C-19 was the first firearms law reform in modern Canadian political history, after years of confiscatory, punitive and offensive legislation that targeted the rights and property of Canadians, that actually reversed this rather disturbing trend.

Realistically, the effects of Bill C-19 were small. The Canadian firearms program failed to register even half of the long guns owned by Canadians and failed to license even a quarter of those who were in possession of firearms. Civil disobedience in regards to the failed long gun registration program came from a combination of benign ignorance of the law and active refusal to comply by many Canadians, based on principle. Bill C-19 merely recognized the obvious - the long gun registry was neither accurate nor complete and had only managed to compile a list of the minority of law abiding people who understood the requirements of the law and did comply.

Not a recipe for good public safety policy or useful legislation.

What Bill C-19 did show was that much needed firearms law reforms could be enacted, with majority approval from Canadians.

Canadians must remind the Conservative government that the job is not over.

Despite the challenges presented by the civil disarmament programs of governments and bureaucracies, our culture has survived and is even flourishing in the face of continued adversity. New firearms retailers have come on line to replace those who were forced out of business by Bill C-68 in the 1990s. Many Canadians took Bill C-19 and the ending of long gun registration as a sign that the climate around gun ownership and use was changing, and wanted to be part of it.

Most major Canadian cities and population centres now boast commercial shooting ranges, where people can rent guns for recreational use and enjoyment. Unthinkable a few short years ago, when legislation to end this practice was being imposed and implemented. Demands for new guns and ammunition are at an all time high and thousands of Canadians flock to stores for military surplus arms and ammunition bargains every year.

Urbanites now seek to connect with the land, nature and their family histories by taking up the hunting practices of their grandparents. Green and ecologically sound.

Canada remains the envy and destination of sports people from across the globe. Few countries can offer the opportunities that Canadians are blessed with for hunting, trapping and sport shooting activities, which many of us take for granted. Even our American cousins, who face far

greater challenges and threats to these opportunities through the effects of population and urbanization, continue to flock to this part of the North American continent to enjoy them.

What happens during the rest of this government's mandate, and if they are re-elected by Canadians in 2015, will show if Bill C-19 was the beginning of much needed firearms law reform in Canada or merely an anomaly; but one thing is for sure: this government will not act on it if they believe there is no demand for it from Canadians.

So, it is all of our responsibility to make that demand early and often. Whenever the issue of firearms is raised, it must be asserted that the ending of the long gun registration did not solve the problem of Canada's broken and misdirected firearms control system, it merely alleviated some of its symptoms. Yes, the long gun registration component of Bill C-68 was wasteful and ineffective as the government claims and, yes, ending that part of the firearms program was in the interest of all Canadian taxpayers, property owners and all of those who enjoy our basic rights and freedoms.

However, the C-68 Firearms Act is still the law of Canada, with its mandatory firearms licensing scheme for the simple ownership of private property and its byzantine bureaucracy of maliciously conceived regulations designed to strip Canadians of those rights and property.

Get out and enjoy what Canada has to offer, and enjoy it without apology. This is our birthright as free people, this Canada; its lakes, mountains, fields, shores and streams. Its opportunities to work and own property, and enjoy the economic and recreational benefit of that property. A birthright secured by the efforts of thousands of Canadians who work and fight politically,



The Canadian gun culture has not only survived, but is thriving.

provincially, federally and in the courts to make sure no politician or bureaucrat can strip us of that.

Join us and do your part, for the sake of future generations of Canadians as well as yourself, friends and family.

Blair



Canada's National Firearms Association Annual General Meeting 2014

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

To view more information regarding our 2014 AGM, please visit our website at www.nfa.ca.

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CLASSIC FIREARMS:

The Evans Rifle of Maine

G. Scott Jamieson

By definition, the Evans rifle may not quite fit the modern encyclopedia description of an assault rifle, but it is close enough to qualify in this writer's belief. While it does not have a select-fire (semi-automatic/full automatic) capability, it can be loaded and fired as a single-shot (New Model) with its prodigious, 26-round butt stock magazine held in reserve. It also fires an intermediate power cartridge, useful at close range. It only lacks a detachable magazine to complete the picture.

The Evans rifles can be divided into three types, commonly known as the Old Model, Transitional Model and New Model. The Old Model and Transitional Model (which should be more properly called an Improved Old Model) held 34 cartridges in the butt stock. In order to try again to acquire military contracts and to eliminate the shortcomings of the Old and Improved Old Model guns, the New Model was designed. It fired a longer, Evans .44 C.F. (one-and-a-half inch) round, which necessitated that the magazine capacity be reduced from 34 to 26 rounds. It also meant a more robust receiver and breech-block assembly to handle the more powerful Evans cartridge. The New Models were not serial numbered, despite becoming the most numerous of the Evans rifle models manufactured.

The first Evans rifle patent was credited to Warren R. Evans, a dentist by profession, and dealt with the butt stock magazine design. It was US patent No. 84,685, of Dec. 8, 1868. Then on Sept. 19, 1871, he patented the action of the rifle itself, in US patent No. 119,020. This patent again appears as a US re-issue, No. 7,635, of April 24, 1877, which W.R. Evans assigned to the Evans Rifle Manufacturing Company.

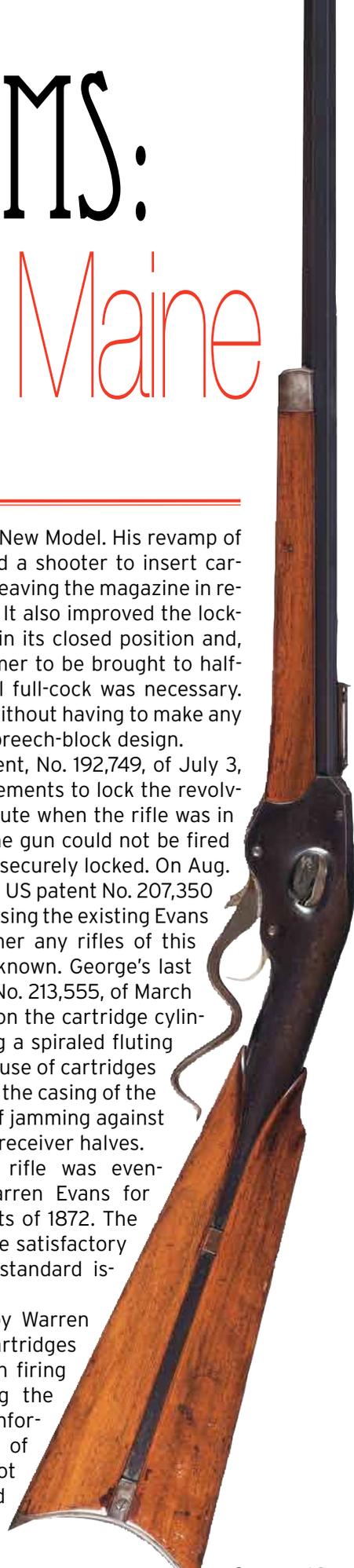
Beyond his name on these patents, Warren seems to have taken no further part in the manufacturing side or management of the Evans Rifle Company. His brother, George F. Evans, became the man in charge of the enterprise. His US patent, No. 189,848, of April 24, 1877, described the action of

what would become the New Model. His revamp of Warren's patents allowed a shooter to insert cartridges singularly, while leaving the magazine in reserve for an emergency. It also improved the locking of the breech-block in its closed position and, lastly, enabled the hammer to be brought to half-cock and left there until full-cock was necessary. This was accomplished without having to make any changes to the original breech-block design.

George's next US patent, No. 192,749, of July 3, 1877, focused on improvements to lock the revolving, cartridge-carrying flute when the rifle was in battery and to ensure the gun could not be fired until its breech-bolt was securely locked. On Aug. 27, 1878, George took out US patent No. 207,350 for a bolt-operated rifle using the existing Evans magazine design. Whether any rifles of this design were made is unknown. George's last firearms patent was US No. 213,555, of March 25, 1879. It improved upon the cartridge cylinder flute design by using a spiraled fluting pattern that allowed the use of cartridges with bullets smaller than the casing of the cartridge, without fear of jamming against the spirals built into the receiver halves.

An Evans repeating rifle was eventually submitted by Warren Evans for trial in the US Army tests of 1872. The search was on for a more satisfactory breechloader than the standard issue Springfield.

The rifle submitted by Warren reputedly held 38 cartridges and, except for a broken firing pin, worked well during the government tests. Unfortunately, nothing came of the tests. But this did not discourage Warren, and with his brother George, along with Adna C.



and Adna T. Denison and Calvin M. Cram, the Evans Rifle Manufacturing Company was formed as a legal entity in Maine on Feb. 25, 1873. The Denisons put up the money and the Evans put in the intellectual property. The Denison money came from their paper-making enterprise in Mechanic Falls, Maine. Rather than pulp, they used rags and linen scrap to make quality paper.

The Evans facilities were initially located within the Denison buildings, but it is believed that as the works grew, additional building space was added. When the first production Evans rifle became available is open to some conjecture, dependent upon which newspaper accounts one chooses to believe. By February or March 1874, the first Evans rifles must have become available to the public.

The Old Model Evans is immediately differentiated from the Improved Old Model by the butt stock, with wood only on the upper portion of the magazine, whereas the Improved Old Model has the more traditional two-piece wood butt stock. These guns were produced as military muskets, military carbines and sporting rifles, with sporting rifles being the most prominent. Doubtless the cold steel receiver of the Old Model, pressed against the cheek of a northern Ontario hunter in mid-February, prompted the return to a more conventional butt stock style, as seen in the Improved Old Model.

My research since 1974 indicates the Old Model rifles begin at serial number 1, with 3 being the lowest I have recorded, to serial number 839. This is at odds with most guides, which indicate production of only 500 Old Models. This survey includes 34 samples, of which all are sporting rifles except for seven, which are carbines. The carbines run in the serial number range of 425 to 621.

The Improved Old Model serial numbers begin again at serial number 1 and run to at least 2,464, based on my surveys of 63 of these guns. Again, muskets, carbines and sporting rifles make up the mix.

The New Model firearms were not serial numbered, but it is believed that upwards of 15,000 of all variations of the New Model, or Model of 1877, were made. It's very difficult, without serial numbers, to give an accurate figure for production, as so many local newspaper reports of the time were doubtless a lot of blandishment, designed to grow local industries.

Production began in late 1877, but the exact date is unknown. In lieu of serial numbers, a form of assembly numbers and symbols were used on the New Model, in order to keep track of the various parts of the gun during all the stages of manufacture. Many times, the receiver halves, gun lock parts, butt stocks, forearms and levers are marked internally with matching numbers, mostly stamped but sometimes pencil marked on the wood. A 'P' is often found stamped on the barrels, under the forearm or just ahead of the forearm. W. H. Davenport reputedly made the barrels for the Evans Company, but whether or not they bear any distinguishing markings is unknown. Davenport is alleged to have had state-of-the-art barrel-making facilities, and at a later date his company morphed into the Bay State Arms Company.

At this point, my studies are inconclusive as to providing an insight into production figures for this model, based only on these assembly numbers. We can be fairly certain that when the company failed in late 1879, 6,000 New Model guns were sold to G. W. Turner & Ross, to be re-sold at cut-rate pricing. Their ads began appearing as early as October 1880. By October 1884,

the World Manufacturing Company of New York was flogging the \$40 Evans for \$12. They claimed to have secured \$20,000 worth of Evans rifles.

It appears that after the bankruptcy, some Evans sporting rifles were assembled at the plant from existing stock. These often had octagonal barrels fitted. Later, more New Model rifles were believed to have been assembled elsewhere from what was left of the remaining stock of parts. These were simply marked 'Evans Sporting Rifle.' From the receivers used, it's apparent they were originally meant to be manufactured as military muskets. These receiver exhibits a small cut-out on the front underside of the receiver to accommodate a loop to retain a sling. As many times as not, the loop was just left on the receiver. Also, most of these rifles have a 30-inch round musket barrel fitted with a Schnabel forearm.

The Evans rifle saw use in the Old West, and was used martially in Europe, South America and one even went to the Arctic as part of the expedition to recover the Franklin papers in 1878. They were certainly used by hunters in the northeastern forests of the US and Canada and were responsible for the taking of much game, from deer to moose. Yes, even the Old Model and Improved Old Model rifles, with their stubby one-inch cartridge, could drop a very large moose. R.H. Kilby, of Montreal, was the main dealer for both the Evans rifle and Smith & Wesson in Canada. Evans rifles have been noted that bear Kilby's address only, without the usual Evans markings.

Kit Carson Jr. and Texas Jack, amongst other western notables, used and extolled the virtues of the Evans. Buffalo Bill owned an Improved Old Model rifle, presented to him by the Evans Company on May 12, 1877. Some were used by the Indi-

The Evans rifle saw use in the Old West, and was used martially in Europe, South America and one even went to the Arctic as part of the expedition to recover the Franklin papers in 1878.

**Evans Old Model
saddle ring carbine,
serial number 428,
courtesy the late R. Bruce McDowell.**



**An Evans Phoenix
marked cartridge box.**

an alliance at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876. The Turks may well have also used them in limited numbers during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877. A report from the New York Times, May 18, 1877, says, "... eight Turkish soldiers captured near Ibrail were armed with American rifles firing 36 cartridges without reloading. In addition to the charges contained in his rifle, each soldier was provided with 120 rounds of ammunition. The Russians were somewhat surprised to find such weapons in the hands of their enemies." The Russians certainly looked at the Evans and may have even purchased some in limited numbers. The Lewiston Evening Journal of Feb. 23, 1938, carried an article about J.H. Stuart who worked for the Evans Company and he stated, "Rifles for the Turks shipped from New York while those for Russia shipped from Philadelphia." Part of his job in Philadelphia was to go aboard the Russian ship and instruct the men in the use of the weapons. When the instructions were finished, it was his duty to see that the weapons were all packed in metal cases and sealed.

Several other European powers considered adopting the Evans rifle, including Denmark and Spain, which put it through standard adoption trials. Some Evans rifles were actually used by Peruvian forces during the Battle of Arica in 1880. In fact, 498 New Model carbines were pur-

chased by Peru in 1879 and would see service in the Guerra del Pacifico, 1879 to 1884.¹ However, the UK, in their trial of magazine rifles from 1879, rejected the Evans based on its blueprints only, with no actual arm being submitted, as it could not handle the service cartridge length of three-and-a-quarter inches.

Perhaps the two basic reasons the Evans rifle did not find greater military acceptance were its mechanical complexity and its very slow rate of reloading. To reload, a cartridge had to be inserted into the buttplate opening and then the action had to be completely cycled to move it up the magazine flute one cartridge length. This action had to be repeated either 26 or 34 times, depending upon the model. The New Model overcame this fault to a small degree, by allowing the shooter to use the gun as a single-loader, with the loaded magazine held in reserve.

Very fancy presentation rifles were given out to the dictators and presidents of Mexico, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Honduras and Brazil, to encourage orders, but it is unknown if these gifts actually gained the Evans Company any real business.

By late 1879 the company was insolvent; whether due to its own folly or the changing economy that saw its sponsor, the Denison Paper Company, fall on hard times, along with the Merwin, Hulbert & Compa-

ny. Each, in its own way, contributed to the demise of the Evans Rifle Manufacturing Company in a falling, domino-like effect. One of the shareholders wanted to shut down the company, but keep everything intact in anticipation of a large order from South America. He was over-ridden and everything was sold at auction on March 11, 1881, at the factory location in Mechanic Falls, Maine. According to some sources, an order did arrive that, of course, could not be filled.

For collectors, these rifles are fascinating on many levels: they are safe to use for hunting or western-style shooting when loads are kept within their limits, they are unique for their looks and prodigious magazine capacity, they are, for the most part, still affordable for the average collector and they can appeal to the sportsman or military rifle collector because of their colourful history. If one collects cartridge boxes and cartridges, the Evans is fertile ground as many companies loaded the Evans round, from Phoenix to Winchester to the Dominion Cartridge Company until late into the 1920s.

The author would very much like to hear from anyone who has anything Evans that they would like to add to the story.

¹ Hull, Edward, Arming Peru: American firearms in the Guerra del Pacifico, 1879-1884, The Gun Report, Aledo, Illinois, July/August 2010.



Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Sybil Kangas

Women And Guns

Engaging the lost generation

The 1980s and 1990s were a bleak time for the shooting sports. Membership in clubs declined as the media constantly depicted guns as “bad.” Many members of clubs gave up their memberships and sold off their firearms. Women were not encouraged to shoot. Even in households where fathers and sons hunted, handguns were viewed as not acceptable or necessary. Young women of this era were negatively affected from the constant media hammering away at firearms users. However, mature women and the very young of that period did not seem to pay any attention to the message. The girls who were swayed are now in their late 30s, 40s or early 50s became the “lost generation.” There were very few good news stories during this time about the shooting sports.

These women now are becoming engaged in the firearms milieu, with women who are already firearms enthusiasts. As a result, our firearms culture is evolving, with simple shared interests leading to the creation of new communal associations based on the shared experiences of its members. In this regard, we’re seeing more and more women becoming committed to encouraging and recruiting new shooters.

As clear evidence that our firearms culture has changed, firearms instructors are finding their classes filled with women more than ever before. Women now comprise as much as 30 to 40 per cent of active organized competitors. Women are

even forming their own organizations within gun clubs and are playing an ever greater role in the growth and evolution of their home club.

Below we introduce five such ladies of this no-longer-lost generation who have generously opted to share their stories with us. All are active members of the Victoria Women’s Shooting Club.

Laurie, 50-something:

I grew up in a hunting and firearms-owning family and later became employed in the criminal justice system. Handguns were viewed as “bad guns;” long guns were viewed as “good guns.” I was re-introduced to firearms by my husband, who is involved in a broad range of shooting sports. I have access to a large number of different types of firearms; I have competed in Cowboy Action Shooting and am currently involved with shooting some trap shotgun and plan on trying my hand at .22LR rifle rimfire silhouette and some IPSC or action pistol shooting in the near future. In my particular case, I have been very lucky in that most of the other women that are a part of our local public shooting club, the Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association, haven’t necessarily had much access to the wide variety of firearms and shooting disciplines that I have had exposure.

Incidentally, the Victoria Women’s Shooting Club was formed as a dedicated group within the Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association. A number of experienced male and female association members, my husband included, offered to serve as instructors, coaches and mentors for many of our club’s inaugural shooting events. In the early days, we were somewhat short on experienced coaches from within our own ranks, but with the support of our fellow shooters, that quickly changed.

Membership in our new club has grown rapidly and we’re now in a position to introduce large numbers of women to a wide variety of shooting and outdoor sports organized by our club. These include archery, trap, skeet, sporting clays, IPSC, PPC, CAS, .22 rifle silhouettes, black powder, etc. Through the women’s shooting group, I have been introduced to a number of like-minded women who are seeking practical knowledge of the various shooting sports and I have thoroughly enjoyed all of our shooting experience together.

Myrna, 60-something:

I’m a lifelong firearms enthusiast. As a child growing up in Alberta, good manners, good sense and responsibility for one’s choices were the major goals of child rearing among my parents and the parents of my peers.

Like most children at that time, we were introduced by my father to the fun of shooting, accompanied, of course, with all pertinent safety considerations and possible disastrous outcomes of ignoring them. We were apt



VWSC Show and Share event.

pupils, since we had already been somewhat safety-trained under our parents' watchful eyes as we dealt with countless imaginary bad guys every summer in a nearby un-cleared lot. Dale Evans and Roy Rogers or not, we had to obey the safety rules.

Career, family and social demands of the next couple of decades pushed shooting out of my life, until, as our children approached adulthood, it became obvious that we had begotten one gun-nut! This was remarkable since he grew up during the era of the insidious demonizing of firearms by the media. It had already become acutely obvious to me that the subject of firearms could evoke a highly charged emotional response from some otherwise calm, analytical individuals. Our son's discernment at such a young age was definitely a cause for celebration.

During the late 1980s and most of the '90s, my gun-nut-in-training watched in dismay as the proud legacy of firearms ownership inherited from his forebears was eroded under the media's relentless siege. Rather than rolling over and giving up, our son decided to take a stand. As part of this effort, his greatest gifts to me were three: Pistol handling courses

to both parents for our birthdays; a subsequent trip through all hoops to apply for my FAC (now PAL); and the gift of a small Rossi Model 70 revolver, which qualified me for grandfathered prohibited status. These gifts eventually led me to become a member of the Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association's South Island Action Shooters and later serve as president. Semi-automatic handguns have my heart.

The most exciting aspects of the current growth and changes are also the most challenging. My personal memories of my journey remind me of the need for interested novices to be offered welcoming, non-threatening access to the training and encouragement they seek. It was easiest to identify this need with attention to women, due to the fact that traditionally, shooting sports were considered to be a predominantly male pursuit. Although many young men have some acquaintance with firearms, many women do not.

In 2009, the Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association held its first dedicated women's shooting event. The huge success of that day and numerous requests for repeats reinforced that there was a demand. The first steps toward the Victoria Fish & Game's Victoria Women's Shooting Club formation was due to a number of women requesting training, information and shooting experience. Since a few local businesses already used our facilities for mixed-gender team building shooting events, the idea of instituting a women-centric shooting program wasn't that great a leap to make. The inaugural meeting for the Victoria Women's Shooting Club was held in September 2011.

Lisa, 40-something:

My dad was a hunter. In the 1980s I learned that there was a lot of gun violence with gangs in New York and Los Angeles, and being a religious girl I wanted to do the right thing as I did not believe people should go

around shooting each other. I had a holier-than-thou attitude about gangs and handguns. In my mind, rifles were used for hunting and handguns were used by gangsters and criminals. This was my mindset for many years. When I had a family, I would not let my children play with toy guns.

When I turned 40, I had the thought that my view was narrower than I wish it had been. I read in a community bulletin about the Victoria Fish & Game's Nimrod event, which is an event that invites the public to an open house where they could try cowboy-style firearms. My dad was a real live cowboy and I thought this might be fun. I attended the event. I believe I took 48

shots and hit the target 46 times. I was thrilled beyond belief. The next weekend I went back to Victoria Fish & Game to a practical pistol event. I then took the firearms course, got my PAL and acquired a Glock pistol. I met Myrna and she spoke of forming a Women's Shooting Club. Unfortunately, unless you have a significant other or father involved in the sport, it is nearly impossible for prospective new shooters, especially women, to gain exposure to the shooting sports. The Victoria Women's Shooting Club was our solution and since then it has continued to evolve. We see our role as "mother hens," out to foster interest in shooting for both men and women.

Kathryn, 40-something:

I have Laurie to thank for my involvement in shooting. She invited me to come to a cowboy event a couple of years ago. I did and it was wonderful! The following spring I went to my first Women's Shooting Club event and volunteered. Some cowboy shooters had set up a bay so that everyone could try cowboy action shooting. They supplied the equipment and I then attended more cowboy events. For single women, there are few co-ed activities you can join where you are accepted. The generosity of cowboy action shooters was astounding. Initially, I used borrowed equipment and was



Women's Shooting Club trap participants.

mentored by various competitors. It is amazing to me that this competitive sport maintains an expectation of mutual respect, support and assistance. I feel very lucky to have discovered a new shooting sport.

Allison, 40-something:

My adoptive father is a hunter and dog trainer, so dog trials and guns were just a part of my life growing up. Two years ago, a few ladies from a local radio station mentioned to Myrna, the then president of the Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association, that it would be spectacular if there was a women's shooting club. Shortly thereafter, the executive committee of the Victoria Women's Shooting Club was formed, with Myrna as its head. After several planning meetings, the group fielded several events with the vision of helping women build self-confidence and gain experience through exposure to different styles of shooting, while also removing the stigma and misconceptions surrounding firearms. As Canada's first female shooting club, three key areas have become essential components in our development: inclusion, social connections and education.

We are changing society's views of women today. Over the past two years, since forming the Victoria Women's Shooting Club, many more women have

expressed new interest and enthusiasm for breaking down barriers and debunking the stigmatizing attitudes that view firearms as being dangerous and threatening.

Although I am the Executive Director of the Victoria Women's Shooting Club, I am not a highly-skilled marksman. I do not have a vast knowledge of firearms. But I do enjoy socializing and utilizing my creative thinking, communication and leadership skills to promote our club and our shooting sports. I enjoy serving as a positive role model for women that can share in the same passion as I have for the shooting sports. For those who are interested please send an e-mail to victoriawomensshootingclub@gmail.com or look for us on Facebook.



Victoria Women's Shooting Club Think Pink event.



Politics & Guns

Tyler Vance

Looking Back At The Year That Was And The Path Forward

There's a reason why the Canadian Firearms Journal's unofficial motto, "Fully engaged on all fronts," appears on the cover of each and every magazine printed. It is to remind members and readers that the forces of universal civil disarmament are legion and that we cannot afford to ignore the clear and present danger they present to our firearms rights. The year 2013 is a case in point. From both within and without, our firearms community faced numerous challenges over the preceding year. Some we won, others we lost and a few ended in a draw, but no matter the outcome, Canada's National Firearms Association was there and in the fight.

On the plus side, we weathered the storm of rabid anti-gun hysteria incited by gun control advocates in the aftermath of the tragic Newtown, CT, school shooting. By and large, the general public on both sides of the border recognized that the events of that terrible day had far more to do with the state of mental health care in America than it ever did with the gun control issue.

On the flip side, never has our firearms community faced a more intractable threat than that posed by our national police force, the RCMP. The events of High River and prosecution of a blatantly anti-gun agenda by area commanders was a low-water mark for the year, even while the swollen waters of Alberta's rivers flooded their banks and destroyed thousands of homes.

In what I would characterize as one of the worst examples of crass political opportunism in a generation, law-abiding gun owners found themselves the targets of an over-

zealous, entrenched anti-gun element within the RCMP. The latter, rather than focusing on flood relief and saving lives, instead devoted scarce resources and manpower breaking down the doors of licensed gun owners, all part of a shameless RCMP phishing expedition for "unsecured" firearms. These illegal searches were carried out under the guise of rescuing stranded residents and pets, but as the evidence now proves, the RCMP's real targets in High River were licensed gun owners.

As a consequence, hundreds of firearms and tons of ammunition were seized. While public pressure later forced the police to return the bulk of the seized firearms, most were worse for wear. At the same time, more than a hundred of these ultimately were destined for the smelter when owners opted to abandon them or could not produce the valid license required in order to take possession of their property. The tons of seized ammunition, worth tens of thousands of dollars, were similarly earmarked for destruction. The RCMP has yet to explain the necessity for such seizures, since without any available firearms to fire it, said ammunition was about as dangerous as a box of kittens. Interestingly enough, the RCMP has yet to respond to multiple NFA Access to Information requests concerning the High River gun seizures, including our arguably tongue-in-cheek ATI inquiring as to just how many family pets were saved during the flooding. Given the web of lies manufactured by RCMP spin doctors, their refusal to comply with related federal statutes, the blue wall of silence they've erected in the face of public questioning and the tacit complicity of the left-wing media, who continue to provide their own justifications for the RCMP's actions in High River, it is doubtful we'll ever know the whole truth.

As I was roughing out this column, it was announced that the federal Privacy Commissioner planned on launching an in-depth investigation into the affair and the RCMP's continuing refusal to act upon public ATI requests, as required by law. Certainly, anything that shines a light on the outrages committed against law-abiding gun owners in High River is appreciated. However, without any real teeth and a federal government either unwilling or uninterested in bringing the RCMP to heel, it would appear that this is just another exercise in futility.

Canada's National Firearms Association has been hammering home to the Conservatives just how badly they've been fumbling the ball of late. We sent a very large and well-prepared NFA contingent to the CPC policy convention this past fall and we came within just a handful of votes of seeing several key resolutions adopted. Initially, four firearms resolutions were considered, two made it to plenary, and the one which was ultimately passed was successful in re-affirming the rights of firearm owners in Canada to own firearms.

While we did not come away with everything we'd wanted, the strong showing by NFA delegates at the convention served to remind the Conservative government of its responsibility to continue dismantling the C-68 *Firearms Act*. Whether they like it or not, the Harper Government now owns the *Firearms Act* and it is up to them to find the intestinal fortitude to do the right thing and repeal the damn thing.

At the end of the day, the 30-plus NFA members who participated in the convention as delegates, volunteers and observers delivered yeoman's service and ensured that we got noticed, as did the issues and concerns we brought to the table for consideration as representatives of Canada's law-abiding firearms community. Teamwork, unity of purpose and unwavering fortitude allowed Canada's National Firearms Association to make a real difference at the policy convention and it is something we will continue to build upon in the days leading up to the next federal election.

Almost as important was the NFA's success in building new and stronger relationships with key supporters and decision makers within the Conservative Party. And while we didn't get everything we wanted, even our failures helped us to better identify various fair-weather friends and sundry sympathizers, who, as it turned out, were actually less sympathetic to our aims than they would have had us believe. Forewarned is forearmed and we will be watching.

The ball is now in the Harper government's court. They have a clear opportunity to make substantial changes to the Firearms Act, changes that better reflect the needs of the Canadian firearms-owning public and the will of the party as a whole.

The ball is now in the Harper government's court. They have a clear opportunity to make substantial changes to the *Firearms Act*, changes that better reflect the needs of the Canadian firearms-owning public and the will of the party as a whole. In the interim, the accepted policy changes adopted at the convention, including the recognition of Canadian firearms rights, now provides the party with certain flexibility, as well as a general mandate to protect Canadian gun owners from both foreign and domestic civil disarmament pressures.

Taking said mandate even further, I would argue that the Conservatives could assume de facto party sanctioning of more direct government measures, aimed at resolving many of the more onerous points of contention yet to be resolved. Poorly understood or even recognized as problem issues by the non gun-owning public or politicians, it is well within the Conservative government's power to deal with ongoing firearms classification issues and the RCMP's continuing pogrom of unilateral re-classification, along with eliminating a host of needless bureaucratic obstacles to legal firearms ownership. First and foremost, the Conservatives have a real opportunity to reform licensing, return to a common sense system of certification and remove firearms from the Criminal Code of Canada.

The upcoming New Year is fast shaping up to be even more contentious than its predecessor. Ongoing issues with the RCMP, along with their increasingly anti-gun bias and especially their continued unilateral re-classification of firearms aren't going away anytime soon. Internationally, there is still the proverbial 800-pound UN Arms Trade Treaty "gorilla" in the room that will also have to be dealt with sooner rather than later. Equally irritating and potentially just as dangerous to the future of Canadian gun rights is the looming implementation of the long-deferred UN marking regulations scheme.

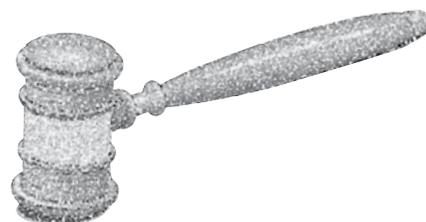
As I put the finishing touches on this column, the federal government once again announced they were deferring implementation of the latter UN program. That the federal government has listened to arguments presented by Canada's National Firearms Association and recognized the dangers and burdens such an ill-conceived program would impose on Canada's firearms community are all well and good. But it is time the government of-

ficially rescinded the agreement in its entirety and removed the threat of implementation once and for all. Canada should never have entered into this agreement in the first place and it is the responsible thing for the Conservatives to rescind it officially. This will preclude any chance of implementation in the future by a less sympathetic federal government.

This fight is going to get messy and it is going to be expensive, just as pending NFA litigation and court challenges over firearms registration in Quebec, the Vardomskiy case in Ontario's Court of Appeal (over the manner in which S. 117.04, public safety, warrants are obtained and forfeiture applications are heard in our courts) and challenges to further re-classification of firearms has already become.

But they're battles that must be fought and the outcomes of which will help establish key legal precedents that may very well determine the fate of our gun rights in Canada. NFA lawyers have helped deliver some big wins, but the deep pockets of anti-gun Crown attorneys have served to deliver some heart-breaking reversals. But the fight goes on and in 2014 it may very well take Canada's National Firearms Association right to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Just how successful we will be is dependent not only on the courts and the potential for anti-gun bias amongst Canada's notoriously liberal judiciary, but also on the level of support provided to NFA by its members and the larger firearms community. Canada's National Firearms Association has already proven that it is fully committed on all fronts; can each of us say the same?





MODERN MUZZLE BRAKES

Quest For The “Hole-y Grail” Of Recoil Reduction

Part I

BY JEFF HELSDON

Are muzzle brakes and porting the answer to the prayers of recoil-sensitive shooters everywhere? For those suffering from such a plight, their pursuit of the most effective muzzle brake has become akin to a quest for the "Hole-y Grail."

The short answer the question above is yes and no, depending on exactly what type of firearm involved, what calibre it is chambered for and its intended use.

While the terms muzzle brake and porting is often used interchangeably for the same device, they are different. Both are alike in that they involve a series of holes or slots being cut in the end of the barrel or an attachment to it. Porting normally refers to the holes or slots being cut in the end of the barrel. A muzzle brake, on the other hand, is usually a separate device that attaches to the end of the barrel via threads, set screw or pin.

Looking closer at muzzle brakes, these devices are usually a steel tube, bored larger than the bullet, with holes or slots. Most muzzle brakes are a slightly larger diameter than the barrel and add a couple inches of length. Muzzle brakes are not rifled and don't come in contact with the bullet. There is no effect on velocity. Examples of muzzle brakes are Browning's BOSS, Weatherby's Accubrake and the aftermarket Magna-brake manufactured by Mag-na-port International.

Porting comes standard on some rifles, shotguns and pistols and is also a popular aftermarket alteration.

To examine the effectiveness of these devices, it's necessary to start by looking at the forces that produce recoil. Newton's Third Law of Motion states for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Applying this principle to recoil, it means as the bullet or shot charge moves forward to leave the barrel, a reverse motion is created in the form of recoil backwards. The force of the recoil is dependent on Newton's Second Law: force = mass x acceleration. In figuring recoil, faster and

heavier payloads create more recoil.

While nothing can change the recoil created from the bullet, the weight of the gun, action type, recoil pads and compensators can change the felt recoil perceived by the shooter.

Expanding powder gases, which are created from ignition and burning of the propellant, cause the second force playing into recoil. Taming those gases is where muzzle brakes come into play. By redirecting a portion of those gases in a different direction, muzzle brakes reduce recoil by redirecting a portion of the rearward movement created as a result of the discharging gases. So yes, muzzle brakes do work at taming recoil.

Porting works in a similar manner, but can reduce bullet velocity. It can also collect powder fouling.

Both porting and muzzle brakes offer a second function that can be important in some forms of competitive shooting. Another effect from the discharge of gunpowder is muzzle climb, or more simply the raising of the muzzle. By allowing a portion of the gases to escape through holes in the top of the barrel, some of the upward force is alleviated, thereby allowing faster target acquisition on follow-up shots. Again, this is physics. The force of the gases going up creates an opposite force going down to result in less muzzle movement.

It's generally accepted that muzzle brakes and porting are more effective on larger calibres with more recoil.

Mag-na-port International is a specialized company that offers both muzzle brakes and custom porting as part of the products and services they provide shooters. According to company claims, they can offer 45 per cent recoil reduction on rifles with their Mag-na-brake and 15 per cent via Mag-na-porting of a customer's barrel. With shotguns, the company's Pro-port system will reduce recoil 15 to 20 per cent and cut muzzle lift 60 to 80 per cent.

Weatherby, a manufacturer known for its magnum calibres, offers the Ac-

cubrake as an option on all of its guns installed at the factory. The company literature claims recoil reduction of up to 53 per cent. It only affects recoil and muzzle jump, having no effect on accuracy. It is standard equipment on all calibres .30-378 and above. The company will only ship the gun in the larger calibres without an Accubrake if the purchaser signs a waiver.

Browning's BOSS, or Ballistic Optimizing Shooting System, is offered on Browning and some Winchester guns. The company claims it reduces recoil by a third and also dampens muzzle jump. BOSS has a third function: it improves accuracy. After a rifle is fired, the barrel vibrates as the bullet travels through it; BOSS tunes the vibration to allow the bullet to leave the barrel in the split second it is stationary. It allows an increase in accuracy by making minute adjustments for each load.

Shotguns

While there is little refuting the physics involved in using muzzle brakes and porting in centrefire rifles, with shotguns the issue is more controversial. The difference is the amount of residual gas that is not yet burned when the payload leaves the end of the barrel. With shotguns, most of the gas is burned prior to reaching the muzzle, while with rifles it is not.

With shotguns, external muzzle brakes are a rarity. Porting is much more common. Competition guns from many different manufacturers offer porting as standard, to help alleviate muzzle climb for quicker follow-up shots in sports necessitating fast follow-up or multiple strings of fire. Promotional materials from some manufacturers claim it also assists with recoil reduction.

On hunting guns, porting is much less common. Although it isn't used on its standard barrel shotguns, Mossberg does have porting in its rifled slug barrels.

The drawbacks

Anyone standing next to a shooter using a ported or braked gun can attest to just how effective, some

be after being subjected to the expanding noise and force of the ignition gases redirected toward them. Although I couldn't find any studies that prove it, it's a safe bet that as the calibre increases, so too does the increase in volume from holes in the end of the barrel.

With the need for recoil reduction being more important in larger calibres used for hunting dangerous game in Africa, muzzle brakes are more popular with hunters heading abroad than among North American big game hunters. The enhanced dB level can be significant enough to damage the unprotected hearing of bystanders. As a result of such damaging effects on the hearing of guides, some countries actually went so far as to ban the use of muzzle brakes, especially for hunting.

A solution was needed for those wanting to continue to use a muzzle brake to tame felt recoil at the range, while using hearing protection, but also comply with said bans. Many turned to some sort of removable brake system. When hunting, the brake was removed and a solid end cap installed to protect the delicate threads. A number of manufacturers embraced the idea, including Browning. Browning's BOSS system offers a ported muzzle brake that can be used to fine tune accuracy and reduce recoil. It can then be replaced by a non-porting BOSS-CR that will retain the accuracy tuning but eliminate the extra noise. Weatherby went in a slightly different direction with their Accubrake, which has a special cover that can be put over the holes while hunting.

So, in answer to the original question once more, no, muzzle brakes are not the answer for hunting situations when shooting without hearing protection.

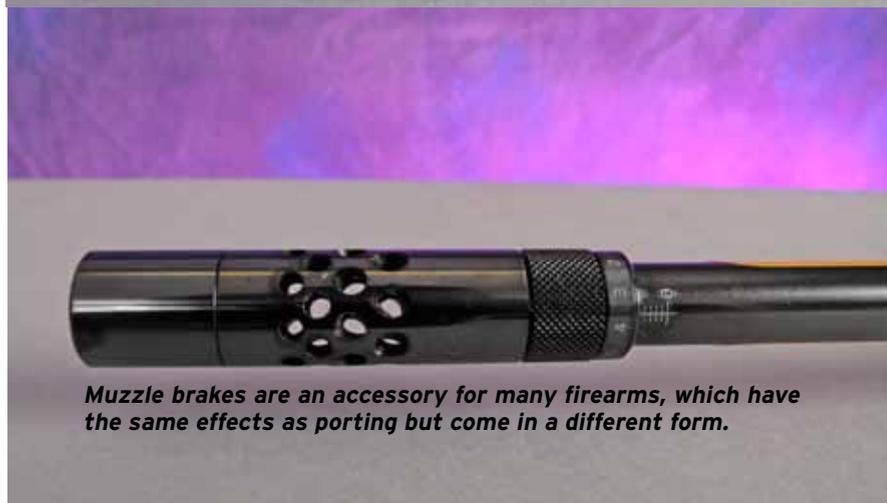
History

It's difficult to trace the history of muzzle brakes in sporting arms, but their use has definitely become more in vogue over the last few decades.

The origin of muzzle brakes can be traced to military designs. The



Porting is an option available on many large calibre firearms, to reduce recoil and muzzle jump.



Muzzle brakes are an accessory for many firearms, which have the same effects as porting but come in a different form.

concept was in use as early as the M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle and was also used in artillery and tank gun designs. One of the issues with warfare in the dark was the muzzle blast created a fireball that the enemy could use to find the source of gunfire. In dusty conditions, dust clouds generated by muzzle blast could provide the enemy with visual clues as to location of the shooter. The idea of using a flash suppressor to also aid in redirecting gases was an attractive one. There was a definite tactical advantage to be had if the source of the shot could be denied to the enemy. In early designs, holes were used all the entire circumference of the barrel for this purpose. It worked, but there was much room for improvement.

While the M1918 saw limited use in the First World War by American forces, it saw much more action during the Second World War. Other Second World War gun designs

would help refine the concept. Eventually it was discovered that if slots were cut in the top part of the brake device it not only broke up muzzle fire, but also helped control muzzle rise. These phenomena could best be seen with the Cutts Compensator used on Thompson submachine guns. By eliminating the bottom holes, there was a noticeable reduction in dust and debris being kicked up when shooting in a prone position. Most military-issue rifles and SMGs now utilize some sort of flash suppressor or compensator. As with so much other military technology, commercial civilian uses were found and over the last 30 years muzzle brakes and porting have become more popular in hunting and target guns.

Editor's note: The second part of this series will review several muzzle brake-equipped firearms and examine the results of our range testing.

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NFA Represented at Government Forum

Canada's National Firearms Association Takes The 2013

By Charles Zach, NFA Ontario Region Director

Civilian firearms ownership is a Canadian heritage, but their use has been regulated since the early days of Confederation. Over time, more gun controls have been instituted. In the 1970s, the government introduced more intermediate strength gun controls, followed by the institution of much stricter gun controls in the 1990s, under Bills C-17 and C-68, the Firearms Act. Today, Canada stands as a country with some of the strictest gun controls in the world. While the intent and purpose of gun control in Canada is to enhance public safety and security, it has not achieved those goals. Empirical studies have now debunked the underlying presumption that stricter gun controls result in lower gun mortality and injury rates. There is simply no measurable cause and effect or credible correlation which soundly discredits the anti's tired mantra that "less guns results in less crime." In fact, there is now mounting new empirical evidence concluding the complete opposite - that more gun control laws actually increase death rates. In short, more guns equals less crime, while strict gun controls have the colourable effect of stripping law-abiding citizens of the civil liberty to defend themselves.

As more and more ineffective gun controls have been imposed on law abiding Canadian firearms owners over time, they have attempted to resist and pushed back by becoming more and more politically active in an effort to stop the arbitrary government infringement on their eroding property rights, civil liberties and freedoms. Today, many law-abiding firearms owners realize that if they do not become personally involved in gun rights advocacy and/or politics, the misguided civil disarmament program, which has been clandestinely set in motion under the guise of safety and security by social re-engineers, will be realized in the very near future. The

Firearms Act was to be the final solution in this regard and was specifically designed to usher in full civil disarmament in Canada, as has already occurred in the UK and Australia. But mass civil disobedience by freedom-loving Canadians, in the form of non-compliance with mandatory firearms licensing and firearms registration, stalled its tyrannical advance. This unexpected and uncharacteristic behavior, by usually sedate Canadians, clearly demonstrated that if enough determined and defiant people resisted a bad law, it can be successfully arrested. Buoyed by their success and power, Canadian firearms owners are now more organized and emboldened than ever and have become even more assertive in their fight against bad gun control laws.

As a result, increasing numbers have joined the Canadian gun lobby and/or have become active members in the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) in an effort to drive real and substantive gun control reforms to fruition in the near term. Law-abiding Canadian firearms owners are generally disappointed with the CPC's inaction and silence on the gun control reform file, but still have faith in the CPC and are optimistic they will carry through on their promise to usher in significant gun control reforms beyond the symbolic repeal of the long gun registry. The results of the four recent federal by-elections shows that support for the CPC is waning and donations are dramatically down, but Canadian firearms owners continue to support them and work with them under the condition that they will produce tangible and significant results soon.

While the actual numbers of firearms owners in Canada is still unknown, it is estimated that approximately 15 per cent of the population owns firearms. These demographics are now being reflected in the grassroots make up of many of the local CPC electoral district association (EDA) boards of directors. Many discontented

nts Canadians nction

Conservative Party Of Canada Convention By Storm

gunnies that would not have contemplated political involvement in the past are now active, sitting members on these grass roots boards, with the goal of advancing the cause of gun control reform from within the CPC. Typically, they do this through education, countering misinformation and propaganda, building networks of likeminded directors, selecting and supporting pro-gun party organizers and decision makers, promoting gun ownership, guiding their local MP on firearms matters and, by their presence, generally discourage the false, politically correct notion that civilian firearms owners are a national security threat and pose an imminent danger to the public.

In 2012, all 308 CPC riding associations were busy preparing for the CPC national convention, which was scheduled to be held in Calgary, Alta., in October 2013. This work involved organizing policy meetings and crafting new CPC constitution and social policy resolutions to be considered for a vote by party delegates at that national convention. Resolutions that successfully pass through the plenary voting become the CPC official election planks for the 2015 federal election and in theory are the marching orders for the CPC election campaign. In the end, they can become the law of the land. Four gun control reform resolutions submitted by various EDAs made it to the convention for further debate and consideration in closed workshops. Most notable of these gun control reform resolutions was submitted by the Portage-Lisgar Manitoba and the Cambridge Ontario EDAs. They are cited below for your review.

- Portage-Lisgar put forward a resolution (RGTC 2-02-190) to prevent the resurrection of the repealed long gun registry, while also adding a substantive line that the Conservative government "recognizes the legitimacy of private ownership of firearms and will resist any domestic or international pressure to the contrary."

- The Cambridge riding association took a holistic approach and submitted a resolution (RGTC 2-28-191) which in effect would rescind the fatally flawed and oppressive Firearms Act clause, "which makes [firearms] ownership illegal except under specific conditions of permission," in favour of "recognizes the right to own firearms unless that right is removed through due process of law on an individual basis." Further language in the Cambridge resolution included focusing on the link between mental health and firearms abuse and called for the abolishment of the prohibited class for firearms and restore restricted and non-restricted classes in its place.

All CPC convention delegates were democratically selected by their local EDA board of directors to attend the convention. Having planned for this exact moment, many board gunnies naturally stood for a delegate position, as I did in my own EDA of Halton, Ont. I was honoured to be selected by my fellow board members to represent the CPC constituents of the Halton electoral district at the national convention. The convention was initially set to take place from June 27 to 29 at the TELUS Convention Centre in downtown Calgary, but due to the massive Bow River flooding that devastated that region, which also damaged Calgary's downtown core near the venue, the CPC party decided to postpone the convention to the end of October instead and was dubbed informally the "monster ball," as it would now fall on Halloween.

As delegates waited for the convention date to arrive, Canada's National Firearms Association mobilized its members to also attend the convention with the intent of lobbying the convention delegates to vote for the gun control reform resolutions and to help elect pro-gun candidates to the CPC National Council, which was also being conducted at the same time. There were many delegates that were NFA board members, such

as myself, President Sheldon Clare and Executive Vice President Shawn Bevins, and also many other NFA members with observer status, such as NFA Director of the Alberta region, Jerrold Lundgard, that were committed to going to the convention.

When the day finally arrived, there was a strong corps of NFA representatives, made up NFA volunteers such as Allen Paley, who all worked diligently together to advocate gun rights at the convention, which was now being held at the BMO Centre in Calgary. These NFA members were pleasantly surprised to meet up with many other NFA members and other law-abiding firearms owners at the convention and found that the gun control reform issue was still very much an important social policy issue resonating with convention attendees.



Charles Zach

The NFA corps worked hard that day to convince as many people as possible that gun control reform was an issue that must be redressed at the next federal election. They also identified all the pro-gun CPC National Council candidates who were vying for election and disseminated this information to the gunnies at the convention. It was remarkable to see the many dedicated NFA volunteers that came to help at the convention to make the presence of firearms owners known. I can truly say without hesitation that we owned the convention that day because we were organized, determined and had truth on our side.

On Friday, Nov. 1, 2013, those delegates that were in-

terested in voting on the policy resolutions submitted under the Roles of Government, Taxation and Crime attended the morning workshop in the Palomino Rooms E-H. Two of the weaker gun control reform resolutions were purposely defeated so that the more significant Portage-Lisgar and Cambridge resolutions could pass to the floor of the plenary for voting the next day. Delegates were given the opportunity to speak to each of the resolutions and many gunnies, such as Sheldon, Shawn and I, spoke persuasively in favour of the Portage-Lisgar and Cambridge resolutions. A naysayer did take exception to the word "right" in the Cambridge resolution, but in the end there was overwhelming support for both these two resolutions and they passed easily with a strong majority. The workshops were followed by the Prime Minister's keynote speech that turned into an exciting pep rally. Later that night, the NFA hosted a hospitality suite at the Delta Hotel in Calgary and talked gun rights into the early morning with many interesting guests.

... an opportunity to significantly change the existing gun control regime in Canada to reflect the irrefutable empirical evidence that gun controls do not work and usher in new, effective gun control law that can be defended with logic and justification.

The next morning, all the convention delegates gathered to elect the new National Council members and vote in the plenary on the policy resolutions that had successfully made it through the workshops the day before. At the plenary, the delegates were separated into sections based on their home province or territory. Approximately 1,900 delegates congregated in the main auditorium. Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney and Michelle Rempel, minister of state for Western Economic Diversification conducted the plenary session according to the CPC Constitution rules. As in the closed workshops, delegates were invited to speak for or against resolutions presented. All statements were strictly limited to time and number of speakers. When the Portage-Lisgar resolution was presented, some delegates did speak to it and was unanimously passed without a vote count. When the more controversial Cambridge resolution was presented, Phil O'Dell, a CPC National Policy Committee Advisor, gunny and primary author of the Cambridge resolution convincingly spoke in favour of the resolution. His words seemed to be well received and resonated positively with the delegates. He was followed by several other proponents of the resolution, giving the gunnies on the floor great hope that this important, ground-breaking resolution would be easily passed, as it was in the closed workshop. Suddenly a naysayer spoke on a point of order and expounded that the mental health element of the Cambridge resolution was a provincial jurisdiction and urged the voting delegates to reject the entire resolution on that basis. His appeal was then followed up by

an improper acknowledgement from the plenary chair, Minister Michelle Rempel, who publically acknowledged that mental health was indeed a provincial matter. Despite appeals by dismayed delegates to speak to the contrary, she did not allow any rebuttals. The mood in the plenary suddenly changed from one of expectation to doubt, which was subsequently reflected in the close defeat of Cambridge EDA resolution (RGTC 2-28-191) by a margin of 500 to 477 votes

The gummies in the plenary sat shocked and speechless afterwards, as this golden opportunity, which we thought was in the bag, passed into political history. It should be noted that all resolutions passed in the plenary are subject to further review and editing and never stand as originally written, which means that the mental health aspect of the resolution may well have been redressed later in the process. It should also be noted the plenary chairs did not openly speak out of order to any of other resolutions in this unusual fashion. I leave it to the reader to draw their own conclusions in this matter and judge whether there was political interference that led to defeat of the Cambridge resolution.

After the plenary concluded, we learned that all but one of the pro-gun candidates that were supported and endorsed by the NFA had been successfully elected to the CPC National Council. This news lifted our spirits. Although our goal of passing two gun control reform resolutions was not realized, we were all very satisfied with the outcome of the convention and the important role law-abiding firearms owners and the NFA had in influencing the narrative there.

The only gun control reform resolution that will now go forward for further review by the CPC is the Portage-Lisgar resolution (RGTC 2-02-190) that means to have the Conservative government “recognize the legitimacy of private ownership of firearms and will resist any domestic or international pressure to the contrary.” Although this resolution is written in more general terms than the Cambridge resolution, it holds much promise, especially in the term “legitimacy,” which by definition means to make proper and/or legal. The current Firearms Act prohibits private firearm ownership in Canada and is not proper and/or legal unless a firearms license is granted to a qualified citizen by the government to make it proper or legal. While I am not a lawyer, I believe that the Cambridge resolution may be used by the CPCs to change this unjust condition by making private firearm ownership the default legal condition and illegal if it is abused or used to cause malicious harm.

The CPC leadership now has their marching orders and an opportunity to significantly change the existing gun control regime in Canada to reflect the irrefutable empirical evidence that gun controls do not work and usher in new, effective gun control law that can be defended with logic and justification. Only time will tell if its leadership will accept this grassroots cry for policy change or choose to ignore or subvert it in favour of some other action to be unilaterally determined by its elite. Either way, it will reveal the true nature of the democratic health within the party and will spawn negative or positive consequences as a result.

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Point Blank

Sean G. Penney

Gun Violence And Weapons Of War

Any Firearm Can Be Classed As A "Weapon Of War"

Newfoundland is known as something of a hunter's paradise and it should come as no surprise that my home province has one of the highest per capita rates of firearms ownership in the country. Aside from the northern territories, Newfoundlanders are armed to the figurative teeth. Despite the widespread existence of firearms within our society and the important role hunting and shooting plays in Newfoundland culture, especially in the outports, we also have one of the lowest rates of violent crime in Canada.

In terms of homicide, in a bad year Newfoundland may experience one, perhaps two, murders. Most are typically of a domestic nature. On the rare occasion that such a death may be firearms-related, the murder weapon invariably turns out to be a battered old Cooney single-shot 12 gauge or .303 Lee-Enfield turn-bolt.

That isn't to say that Newfoundland isn't home to more interesting or exotic firearms. In fact, there are literally thousands of restricted and prohibited license holders in the province. However, thanks to Liberal social re-engineering and the negative connotations these types of firearms bring with them, many collectors have subscribed to the "out of sight, out of mind" defence in order to avoid the stigma of ownership. As a result, the public is blissfully unaware of the fact that not only is Newfoundland home to thousands of handgun shooters, but there is a multitude of legally-owned and registered military-style semi-autos and even fully automatic

machine guns residing in the gun safes of Newfoundland shooters.

So, it was with shock and disbelief that local media reported the details surrounding a tragic double shooting that occurred Oct. 15 at the Villa Nova Plaza, in a rather unassuming strip mall located in the small town of Conception Bay South. It quickly became apparent that the shootings were in fact a double murder/suicide, with Brian Dawe identified as the perpetrator. His cowardly acts of violence became even more sensationalized when it was revealed that Dawe had been found dead in a nearby cemetery wearing body armour, with a loaded 9mm handgun next to him and an AK-47 rifle in his vehicle, along with a large number of unpinned magazines and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. He had taken his own life.

Initially, local residents, political talking heads, reporters and open-line callers were quick to express their sympathies for the victims and their families, but this dialogue and outpouring of communal anguish and remorse was soon derailed by local gun control advocates. The latter saw an opportunity to advance their own civil disarmament agenda by using the tragic deaths for their own purposes. Using the shock of the slayings to their advantage, it wasn't long before local radio, television and editorial pages began repeating the same strident demands for the complete ban of all handguns and assault rifles in the wake of the Conception Bay South slayings.

Further undermining the efforts of gun rights activists working to affect damage control was the fact that many of those joining in this chorus were themselves life-long hunters and gun owners. As much as it pains me to admit, there are many members of Newfoundland's firearms community who are almost criminally ill-informed when it comes to issues of gun control; for many, their interest in the subject rarely extends beyond harvesting a moose for the freezer or a few ducks for the pot. Many accept, without protest, the vilification of handguns or so-called assault rifles and have bought into the fiction that honest, law-abiding gun owners and hunters have no reason or justification for owning "weapons of war." In doing so, they have continued to perpetuate some of the most egregious myths of gun control in Canada, while also reinforcing the Elmer Fudd mentality, infecting our broader firearms community.

In the debate that followed, the fact that Dawe was a licensed gun owner and had possessed registration certificates for all firearms later seized by police was all but ignored. Also conveniently glossed-over by the RNC was the extent to which Dawe had terrorized and controlled his estranged common-law partner when they were together. Somehow, despite sharing such a messy personal history with his first victim, including extensive allegations of domestic abuse that resulted in multiple calls to police over a period of years, Dawe was never red-flagged by gun control bureaucrats tasked with that very job.

Given the sketchiness of his background, and his other unrelated brush-

es with the law, at the very least Dawe's application should've been subjected to additional review and investigation. However, Dawe somehow slipped through the cracks of the Liberal's fatally-flawed gun control system. And yet another bad guy with severe anti-social tendencies and a penchant for violence was handed a firearms license. While Dawe may have pulled the trigger and taken two innocent lives, the debate here in Newfoundland soon became all about the gun and not the man wielding it. This is a pattern repeated throughout Canada in communities similarly affected by so-called gun violence. The system failed Juliane Hibbs, the system failed Vincent Dillon and the system failed Canada's millions of law-abiding licensed gun owners. So why keep it?

Yet, once again, gun owners were forced to assume collective responsibility for the actions of another disturbed perpetrator of gun violence because some gun control bureaucrat dropped the ball. Didn't the Liberals spend \$2 billion on a gun control system that was promised to prevent this exact scenario from ever happening?

Demonizing and then banning what gun control activists are now labeling "weapons of war" will never end "gun violence" in Canada, nor will continuing to make value judgements about firearms based upon cosmetics. In reality, these new tactics and buzz words are but the latest attempt by the gun control lobby to divide our firearms community and pit gun owners against one another. Gun owners jumping on the weapons of war ban wagon (pun intended) are making fools of themselves and are regarded by gun banners like Wendy Cukier as little more than clueless patsies and pawns.

I drove this point home to several fellow gun owners and hunters recently, whom I encountered while predator hunting this past fall. Toting my IWI TAVOR bullpup MSR over one shoulder and a lovely silver fox over the other, I'll admit I wasn't exactly a common sight for the rural backwoods of Newfoundland, especially kitted out in a Warrior Gear tactical chest rig, festooned with spare magazines, predator calls, a folding knife and the remote to my FoxPro electronic caller.

The two gentlemen whom I had just made my acquaintance were hunting for moose. Being a true-blue gun guy I immediately noticed that the first gentleman was well-equipped with a lovingly cared for Winchester Model 70 rifle chambered in the classic .30-06. His partner was equally well-equipped with a nicely sporterized No. 1 MK III .303 Lee-Enfield by Parker-Hale that looked like it had just come off the factory line. Unfortunately for them, they hadn't had much luck, with this being their fifth trip to the area in search of their animal.

As is the norm when Newfoundlanders hunters happen to chance upon one another in the woods, traditional greetings of, "How's she goin' b'y?" between strangers inevitably led us to becoming fast friends and an invitation for hot coffee and a feed of bottled rabbit stew back at their camp so followed. As a local, and having already filled my tags, I had a line on a nice

bull and promised to get the pair set up for a shot after our boil-up.

In the meantime, as anyone who has ever met a Newfoundlander knows, we were born with the gift of gab and there is nothing we love more than lively conversation or a well-argued debate. Over refills of our stainless steel coffee cups, the subject of the recent shooting in Conception Bay South came up. Much to my disappointment, my new friends subscribed to the same Fudd-like belief that there was no sporting purpose for "weapons of war" and that they should be banned in order to prevent criminals and head cases from misusing them.

Rather than immediately jumping all over my new hunting companions, I opted to educate rather than berate. Through the course of our meal, I had already learned that Bill, the Winchester owner, was a hardcore collector of pre-'64 Model 70s, as well as Model 12 pump-action shotguns. Fred, his older companion, wasn't a collector as such, but in addition to his Lee-Enfield moose gun, he also owned a Remington Model 870 12 gauge and a rimfire Cooney .22LR. Both men had kids and hoped to pass their guns down to them when the time came.

You could've heard a pin drop after I informed them that by any practical definition of the term, every single firearm they owned would have to be classified as weapons of war, assuming you subscribed to the gun grabber's argument. After all, I pointed out, Bill's prized Winchester Model 70 was essentially

nothing more than a refined copy of the German Mauser rifle that saw service in both World Wars. Given the proof marks and age of Fred's .303 Lee-Enfield, it wasn't beyond the realm of possibility that his actual rifle had seen action on those very same battlefields. And the old rimfire Cooney passed down to him by his father? As it turns out, it was a cut down Model 82 training rifle surplused by the Canadian Army after the Second World War, making it too a "weapon of war."

As for their shotguns, both the Winchester Model 12 and Remington 870 have proud military pedigrees. The Model 12 saw action in the trenches of the First World War and on the battlefields of the Second World War, Korea and Vietnam, while the Model 870 first saw action in Vietnam and continues to serve with modern militaries around the world today.

Pointing to my unloaded TAVOR for emphasis, I acknowledged that it too had an obvious military pedigree, albeit one of a more recent nature. Unlike its military cousin, mine was purpose built as a semi-automatic only, civilian sporting rifle. It just looks like the select-fire-capable IDF model.

Be that as it may, if we forget about cosmetics and choose to focus on lethality, the argument can be made that the TAVOR actually poses less of a threat to public safety than almost any big game rifle. Technically, both the .30-06 and the .303 British cartridges are several orders of magnitude more powerful than the tiny .223 REM rounds I was hunting with. In terms of magazine capacity, my TAVOR's PMAG was pinned to the legally mandated five rounds, while Fred's .303 held 10 shiny brass missiles. In response to claims that firearms like the TAVOR have no legitimate sporting purpose, I simply hoisted up the fox I'd harvested with just such a "weapon of war" an hour before.

Both gentlemen, once nudged in



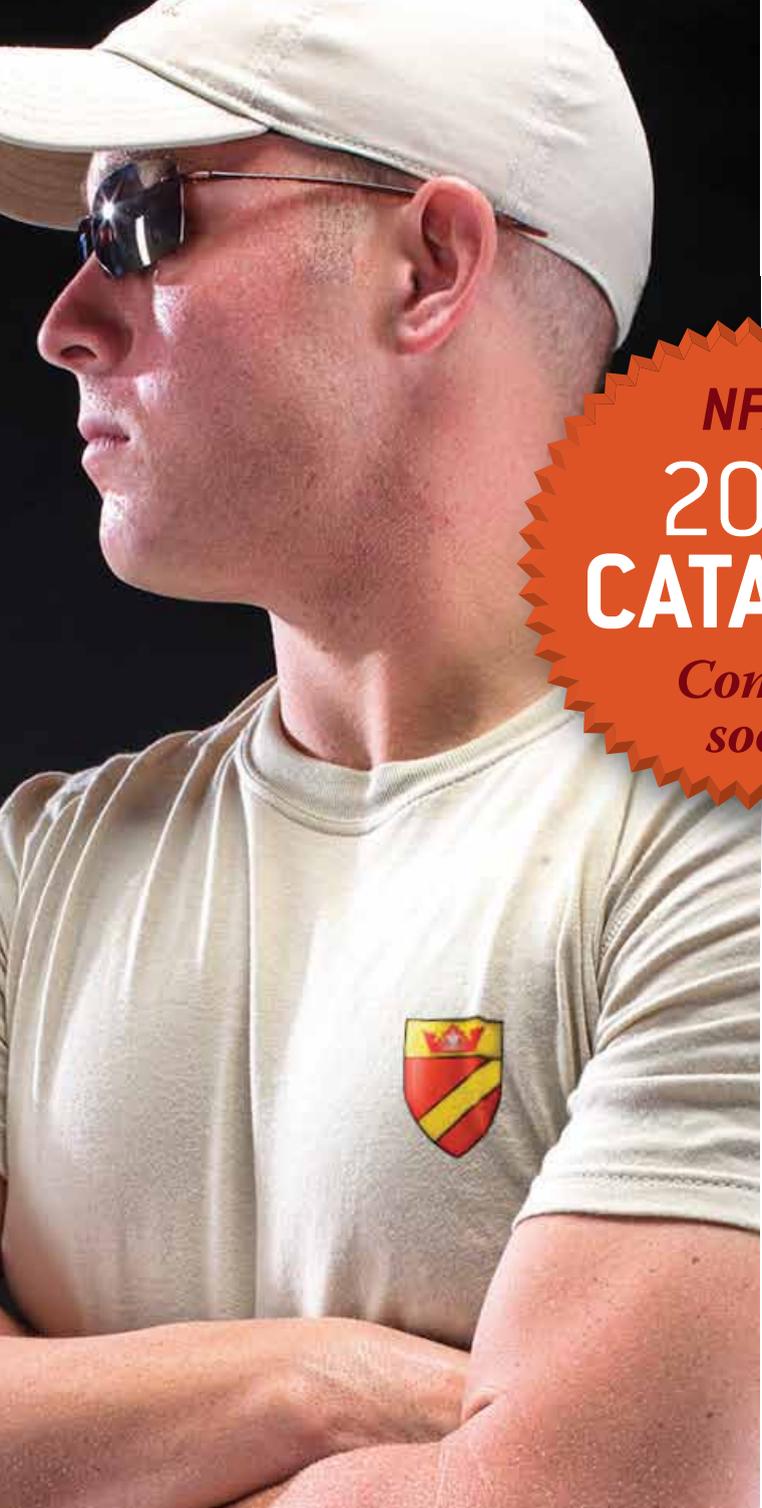
Any weapon could be classified as a "weapon of war."

the right direction, were able to connect the dots for themselves and realized that any firearm in the hands of those making war, no matter the scope, is a "weapon of war." As used by the gun control lobby, the term is deliberately imprecise and can be twisted to encompass essentially any firearm.

As such, the Fudds within our firearms community should be absolutely terrified right now, as the only thing differentiating my anodized aluminum and space-age polymer modern sporting rifle/weapon of war from Bill's more traditional Winchester sporting rifle/weapon of war crafted from blued steel and beautifully figured walnut is that the gun banners opted to get rid of the "ugly" guns first. The simple truth is, almost every single firearm manufactured today owes its existence, to one degree or another, to a military predecessor or borrows design elements from them.

Therefore, those previously content to stand by and say nothing as their fellow gun owners were targeted are now officially on notice. Someday it will be their guns on that list of "weapons of war" to be banned. The free ride is over. If we present this new reality to them in a manner they can understand and appreciate, the Fudds can be successfully converted to valued allies. Self interest is a powerful motivator.

If so, the gun control lobby may have made a major strategic blunder in launching their "weapons of war" campaign. Up to now, many one-gun hunters and Fudds were content to ignore the plight of fellow gun owners and the threat of new gun bans. It wasn't their guns on the chopping block after all. Not so anymore. I'm happy to report that both Bill and Fred are now converts to our cause and are actively working to do the same to their friends and family. And for those wondering - yes, the b'ys got their moose.



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Canada's

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Exciting times

The past six months have been very exciting for us here at Canada's National Firearms Association. Your executive team has managed to position the association as the undisputed driving force in Canadian pro-firearms advocacy. Lots of great things are happening here and it is because of the commitment and generosity from members just like you. From coast to coast, across this great nation, our members have succeeded in helping us build a credible and truly national grassroots organization that is having a huge impact on federal firearms policy. Our membership growth is seemingly exponential, especially in Quebec where membership has skyrocketed over the course of the last year. It now represents nearly 10 per cent of the association's total membership and it continues to grow on an almost daily basis.

Social media

Our social media strategy, via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, was deployed nearly a year ago and is enjoying truly unbelievable gains. The association now owns and manages five Facebook pages, a Twitter account and a LinkedIn group. It is by far the fastest-growing segment of the association, as we actively engage over 25,000 people on a daily basis. Some of our marketing memes have actually gone viral with views, likes and shares hitting the 75,000 mark. Our messaging is engaging the Canadian firearm community, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Wow!

The association is engaging and exposing people to its message on

an unprecedented level that, until now, it had never before achieved with traditional media. With improved privacy and ease of security settings, becoming a Facebookian is now safer and easier than ever. We actively encourage you to join Facebook and the other social networks. The fight in 2014 is being fought on many fronts, but by far the largest is the social media front. We need you to be on the front lines with us.

I am now in negotiation with a company that has successfully built the largest military and combat Youtube channel on the planet, with over 800,000 followers - Funker560. The all-Canadian Funker executive team is all members of the NFA and staunch supporters of our initiatives. They have agreed to help us build a series of Youtube videos and manage the linking of our Youtube channel with our Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. Once this happens, it will give us the ability to engage hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Canadian firearm owners. This year, 2014, will be the year of a sharp-teeth-and-claws social media approach that will galvanize our position and presence on the dynamic electronic battlefield that is social media.

Lobbying in Ottawa

We have a growing presence in Ottawa and over the last year we have made five successful trips to Ottawa on official lobby business. We have met with many MPs - some friendly, some not so friendly. Be assured your voice is being heard. The lack of donations to our traditional political allies and the sea of letters that MPs and ministers are receiving I am sure are

overwhelming them. They are feeling the pinch of a unified, strong and committed grassroots membership that is Canada's National Firearms Association. Those actions are forcing the hand of the government to steer the boat in our direction. Keep writing, calling and withholding donations. These concrete actions are having big ramifications in Ottawa. For the first time in the history of Canada's National Firearms Association, we were invited to meet with senior officials from the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. This ministry was previously held by Vic Toews. Following a cabinet shuffle this summer, the new minister is Steven Blaney, a Quebecer from the federal riding of L'Évis Bellechasse where, not surprisingly, we have a strong NFA member base, which we will use to keep the pressure on the minister, in his home riding.

At the initial meeting with the Ministry of Public Safety, we presented a five-point list of immediate action items and changes that the NFA feels would get big value for our membership and all Canadian firearms owners. These five points were meticulously and carefully crafted by your executive board. The points were well received and a follow up meeting was set. That second meeting was held and positive discussions ensued. Our relationship with the minister and his cabinet is a positive one and your voices are being heard. Changes to the Firearms Act seem inevitable at this point and to that end the fight continues. We need you to join a political party, get involved and join your local electoral district association. Become a candidate or join your EDA executive committee.

National Firearms Association be reckoned with

By Shawn Bevins

These are concrete action items that you can do to guarantee the future of firearms freedom in Canada. We will continue to increase our visibility, readying ourselves for the elections in 2015. We encourage you to donate, recruit new members and get involved in helping Canada's National Firearms Association become a formidable political force to be reckoned with.

Marketing, merchandise and industry partnerships

We have initiated a couple of different marketing initiatives that are having positive results, one being the Round Up To Win campaign. Simple yet effective, we continue to encourage your active participation in this important initiative. Imagine if every single member committed themselves to recruiting just one other member - we could double the size of the association overnight. Look for details of the Round Up To Win on our website or contact the office and one of our knowledgeable staff members would be happy to explain the details.

Soon our first shipment of NFA-branded merchandise will arrive at our Edmonton offices. We are very excited and hope that you will show your support by proudly wearing an NFA-branded product. The products are of incredible quality and come from the same supplier that supplies the National Rifle Association with its branded line of clothing and accessories. We also have on sale now three unique t-shirts, designed by Canadian designer Gaël Forest. Show your support by buying one these awesome t-shirts today. The

electronic catalogue is up on our website for your online shopping enjoyment. You can also order by contacting the NFA offices.

We have successfully negotiated an advertising deal with the Freedom Group family of companies, which include Remington, Bushmaster, Marlin Firearms, H&R, Dakota Arms, Tapco, DPMS/Panther Arms, Parker Gunmakers, Barnes Bullets, Advanced Armament and Para USA. I am sure you have noticed the new ads that are currently running in the Canadian Firearms Journal. We encourage you to support the Freedom Group as they support you. In January, executives from the NFA will be attending the SHOT Show in Las Vegas, to solicit and develop new industry partnerships to further and strengthen our position and raise our profile as the leader of the Canadian pro-gun movement. We will have some exciting meetings and plans that, if executed, will greatly

expand our ability to recruit new members and to reach firearms owners through manufacturer support.

In conclusion

This year, 2014, will be an exciting year as we continue to expand and grow Canada's National Firearms Association into a formidable, freedom-fighting force. With your continued financial, moral and political support, we can achieve great change for all Canadian firearms owners. The responsibility for the secured future of generations of Canadian firearms owners to come hinges upon your continued support. Freedom, liberty and the enjoyment of property is the fundamental core of our Canadian democracy. Those values require that from time to time we heed the call to defend them, tirelessly, relentlessly and without compromise. We need you to heed the call. **Together we will win this fight.**



Canada's National Firearms Association is working for you and gun owners across the country, to change the current gun laws. Pictured here is Shawn Bevins.

Gary Mauser

Societal Issues Lead To Gun Violence

Deinstitutionalization And Suicide By Cop

Multiple-person murders fascinate the news media. Add in guns and we get TV coverage that dominates the news for weeks. Typically, such rampages involve an insane maniac who dies at the scene. A few recent well-publicized killings paint the picture.

Aaron Alexis killed 12 people at the Washington Navy Yard in September 2013 before being killed by police. The Veterans Administration had been treating him for paranoia and hearing voices.

In 2012, 20-year-old Adam Lanza fatally shot 20 children and six adults at a school in Connecticut where he then committed suicide. Diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, he had killed his mother earlier when he stole her handgun.

While Canadians bathe in American media, we tend to believe this is an American phenomenon. Not so. Europe and Australia, among other places, have experienced multiple-person killings as well. See John Lott (2010). Nor is Canada immune. We all remember the rampage by Gamil Gharbi (also known as Marc Lepine) in 1989. More recently, Guy Turcotte, a Quebec MD, stabbed his two children to death in 2009. At trial he was found not criminally responsible and ordered to a psychiatric institution. He was released in December 2012, even though he was judged to remain a serious risk to the public.

Media and anti-gun activists, such as US President Obama and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, claim the solution is for greater restrictions on all gun owners. The progressive's one-size-fits-all approach to gun

misuse is simply wrong-headed. The problem isn't guns or even gun owners, but seriously mentally ill people who are allowed to go untreated. The vast bulk of mentally ill people pose no threat to anyone, but a small percentage is violent and some even commit suicide by cop. The solution isn't tighter restrictions on normal people who own and use firearms, but better methods of identifying and treating the seriously disturbed.

Deinstitutionalization

The problem is one of our own making. In the 1980s and 1990s, governments around the world decided to shut down public mental institutions, releasing the patients to fend for themselves, even those with severe mental problems. It was believed that "warehousing" the mentally ill was not helping them and that patients would do better in smaller, community institutions. This was called "deinstitutionalization" and was implemented by a broad spectrum of governments. In BC, it was the NDP; in California, the Republicans. Unfortunately, the follow-through was incomplete. Even after the large public mental institutions were shut down, not enough community programs that were supposed to pick up the slack ever materialized. While it is true that many of the patients did much better in their new settings, either being taken care of at home by their families or in smaller community institutions, others, the more severely deranged, did much worse. Many of these couldn't take care of themselves, ending up sleeping on the streets, and, in so doing, they created huge problems for society, as well as for themselves. They are now called the homeless.

Mental illness includes a wide variety of problems. Very few of the mentally disturbed are violent, but an extremely small number can be exceptionally violent. According to the National Institutes of Mental Health, approximately nine per cent of Americans have mood disorders, while schizophrenia affects an additional one per cent. This adds up to 10 per cent of the population. Extending these percentages to Canada gives roughly 37 million people in North America who are seriously mentally ill. (This estimate may be exaggerated, as it comes from mental health providers and might be self-serving.) The police estimate that approximately one quarter of criminal incidents involves a deranged person, which gives three million crimes that can be ascribed to the mentally ill. Thus, fewer than 10 per cent of mentally ill people committed a crime in 2012. And, since repeat offenders commit almost all of these crimes, the number of distinct individuals involved must be much lower than 10 per cent.

At the same time the mental hospitals were closed, society began to recognize the legal rights of the mentally impaired. Previously, if someone was committed, they typically lost their legal rights as well as their freedom. This meant that patients couldn't appeal their commitment if they thought they had been wrongfully treated, nor could they refuse medical treatment. While this was clearly appropriate in many cases, there were also abuses. Heirs were known to conspire to commit elderly parents in

order to take their inheritance early. Normal people, if somewhat eccentric, were occasionally committed by mistake. This is easy to understand since the dividing line between normality and mental disorder may not always be an easy one to draw, even assuming the best of intentions. Once committed, there was no easy escape. This has now all changed

For the past few decades, it has been very difficult to forcibly commit someone, even if they are judged to pose a threat to themselves or others (witness the case with Guy Turcotte.) Once hospitalized, patients can legally refuse to take their medicine. This is good news for the eccentric. But it hasn't worked out so well for the seriously disturbed. Or society.

In a so-called caring society, why would we abandon grievously mentally ill people to live on the streets? Mental illness can often be treated with drugs. But the homeless rarely have anyone to ensure they take their medicine regularly. In addition, living rough is at best uncomfortable and typically creates other problems, including being easily victimized and even freezing to death. Without proper psychiatric treatment, the severely disturbed can be a threat to themselves and to others. Closing the mental hospitals has dumped this problem onto the police.

Suicide by cop

Dealing with the severely mentally ill causes serious challenges for police, not just in Canada, but also in the UK, the US and Australia. According to Theresa May, the UK Home Secretary, an estimated 15 to 25 per cent of all incidents dealt with by police in London were linked to mental health. In Canada, the Vancouver Police Department reports that 21 per cent of incidents handled by officers involve mentally ill persons. The VPD reported that between January 2012 and March 2013 there were 96 serious incidents, ranging from suicides to acts of random, violent attacks inflicted upon innocent members of the public. A total of 26 victims were attacked, some injured very seriously, including suffering vicious beatings, stabbings and one shooting.

A small number of mentally ill people confront police seemingly with a need to be killed. One study found 36 per cent of officer-involved shootings could be classified as "suicide by cop." The same study found a one-in-three chance that a bystander will be injured or killed in a suicide-by-cop incident. In British Columbia, it was found that between 10 and 15 per cent of the 58 police shootings in 1996 were premeditated suicides. In 1998, an FBI study concluded that 46 per cent of police shootings "contained some evidence of probable or possible suicidal motivation." Some of these instigate multiple-person shootings.

What to do?

The problem isn't guns or gun laws, but seriously mentally ill people who are allowed to go untreated. One of the reasons the police appear eager to find excuses to confiscate firearms for seemingly trivial reasons may be that the courts have stripped them of their power to commit seriously mentally ill people. The current laws make it near impossible to commit someone who is acting dangerously and poses a violent threat. And once committed, it is legally too difficult to keep the criminally insane in the hospital, even if they are considered likely to commit further violent acts if released. This must change. We need to strengthen commitment laws and invest more money into creating institutions to take care of the mentally disturbed. Those who are seriously disturbed need treatment and shouldn't be allowed to refuse it.

Yes, strengthening commitment laws is a double-edged sword. The old problems remain. No cranky old person should be locked away for just being

eccentric. Few mentally disturbed people pose a threat to themselves or to society, and they shouldn't lose all of their legal rights. The need for adequate safeguards remains. As we have seen in High River, Alta., authorities can abuse their powers. What is clear, though, is that the present situation, where the seriously mentally ill are left homeless, left untreated, but keep their legal rights, cannot continue. Public safety demands it.

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Justice For All

NFA-supported legal challenges – how and why a case is chosen

As Canada's largest and most effective pro-gun rights lobby group, Canada's National Firearms Association is inundated with requests from gun owners across the country for aid when they unknowingly run afoul of our unimaginably complex gun laws. Most often we provide information packages and research assistance to defence attorneys and counsel those gun owners seeking to defend themselves.

We do not discriminate based upon membership in NFA and oftentimes it is non-members who end up needing the most help. We always try to live up to the ideal that any gun owner in need is a friend indeed. However, as much as we'd love to have the resources to take on all cases pro bono, the financial reality is that we have to carefully choose what cases to directly fund.

Almost always, before any such commitment is made, a complete cost/benefit analysis of the case is presented to our legal committee for discussion and debate before a final decision is made. Oftentimes deciding where member's finite resources can best be spent is akin to Sophie's Choice.

At times, cases are chosen purely on principle, regardless of the chances of success - it is a case that must be fought. Others are chosen based upon the probability of success and successfully changing or clarifying a key point of law. Balancing all of this is the paramount obligation to cause no harm, legally speaking, to the broader foundations upon which Canadian gun rights have been established. When

presented with a potentially toxic case, the attendant circumstances may necessitate a strategic withdrawal, or even concession.

As distasteful as it was, such a decision was made following the Crown final win in *R. v. Cancade*, a recent case the NFA helped fund revolving around the importation of gun magazines and parts. The latter was a winnable case, but bad luck in the justices assigned and the continuing poison pill effect of the *Hasslewander* decision forced NFA to concede the case and forgo further appeals. The risk of setting an even more egregious legal precedent that could negatively impact firearms ownership was simply too great.

Any time you set foot in a court room there is a certain risk involved. To maximize the potential for a positive outcome, the ideal scenario is starting with a star defendant, who will appeal to both the jury and justice alike and have a solid legal defence strategy in hand. More often than not, the reality is you are forced to adapt and overcome the initial deficiencies of your case or defendant and hopefully use them to your advantage.

When everything works as it is supposed to, the case in question is determined based solely upon point of law and nothing else. We've seen this many times in the course of safe storage challenges, including that of the high-profile Johnny Sombrero case in Ontario. Despite the bias of the police and Crown, the rule of law won out. Canada's National Firearms Association was proud to be a part of that victory. Less clear, unfortunately, are cases like that of Bruce Montague, a case where even though a successful defence against most of the more serious charges was mounted, the defendant still lost, after being found guilty of a number of lesser charges.

Unfortunately, you do not always have the luxury of working with the perfect defendant or arguing the perfect case and when it comes to questions of constitutionality, law-making and defending the gun rights of Canadians. But you need to be prepared to act anyway, especially when the outcome of a case may have broad and far-ranging consequences for Canadian gun owners. A good example of this is the recent case of Ottawa-area gun owner, university student and NFA member Boris Vardomskiy.

Background - R. v. Vardomskiy

Mr. Vardomskiy's legal troubles can be traced back to a few ill-chosen comments he opted to scribble on the back of his test paper while attending the University of Ottawa in 2011. The comments included Mr. Vardomskiy's opinion as to the virtues of a fellow female student sitting near him, or more properly, lack thereof; and from a non-gun owner's perspective the cryptic words "Tap, Rack, Bang!"

Were the comments in good taste or especially wise in the highly-charged environment of school shooting hysteria that has become inculcated into the culture of almost every North American post-secondary institution? Absolutely not! In no way does Canada's National Firearms Association

condone violence against women or any sort of gun violence. However, we do believe in the rule of law and the right of every citizen not to be stripped of their rights without due process and without a just reason for doing so.

As a consequence of his regrettable scribbling, Mr. Vardomskiy eventually found himself detained by a full police tactical response team after the female TA grading his paper discovered the comments and passed the test paper up the university's chain of command. It probably didn't help Mr. Vardomskiy's case any that the U of O's president was none other than Allan Rock, former Liberal Justice Minister, anti-gun zealot and primary architect of Bill C-68.

Nevertheless, the seven-man tactical team descended upon him while he was actually still in class. Removed from his classroom, Mr. Vardomskiy was questioned by police in a nearby university washroom. Court documents noted that he was "polite and co-operative," and his overall manner was "calm and collected." And despite the extraordinary circumstances in which he found himself ensnared, police in attendance acknowledged that Mr. Vardomskiy never demonstrated any anger or threats of violence and he, "...displayed no paranoid, suicidal or homicidal intentions."

While not having been officially placed under arrest, Mr. Vardomskiy was released by the lead detective with the understanding that he would attend Mr. Vardomskiy's home to determine what firearms he had in his possession and whether or not they were properly stored. Upon inspection, police found all of Mr. Vardomskiy's legally-owned firearms to be properly stored in a manner exceeding the legally required standards, as was all ammunition present. Despite this fact, and having fully complied with all police requests, Mr. Vardomskiy nonetheless found himself and his firearms the subject of a S. 117.04 public safety warrant and subsequent application resulting in the seizure of his firearms collection.

Criminal Code of Canada

117.04. Application for warrant to search and seize

117.04 (1) Where, pursuant to an application made by a peace officer with respect to any person, a justice is satisfied by information on oath that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person possesses a weapon, a prohibited device, ammunition, prohibited ammunition or an explosive substance in a building, receptacle or place and that it is not desirable in the interests of the safety of the person, or of any other person, for the person to possess the weapon, prohibited device, ammunition, prohibited ammunition or explosive substance, the justice may issue a warrant authorizing a peace officer to search the building, receptacle or place and seize any such thing, and any authorization, licence or registration certificate relating to any such thing, that is held by or in the possession of the person.

To put things into context, at the time of the application Mr. Vardomskiy was:

- Enrolled as a full-time student in geology at the University of Ottawa, with a good academic record and no history of disciplinary problems.
- Had no criminal record.
- Had never been charged with a criminal offence.
- Prior to March 3, 2011, had never even had any actual contact with police before.
- Had no history of mental illness.
- Had never undergone any psychiatric treatment or required such for anger or violence issues.

- His professor, Dr. Jules Blais, who taught the course in question, stated that he never witnessed any "...inappropriate or disturbing behaviour or conduct." Nor did he receive any complaints about Mr. Vardomskiy from fellow students or staff.
- Was a fully licensed, law-abiding gun owner who had passed the CFSC and CRFSC safety courses, scoring 100 per cent on the written portion and 98 per cent on the practical portions of the CFSC and 92 per cent (written) and 96 per cent (practical) on the CRFSC.
- Was a member in good standing of the Eastern Ontario Handgun Club and, like all Ontario clubs, it required all prospective members to successfully complete an additional firearms safety course before approving their membership.
- Those who knew him generally perceived him to be a "...productive, law abiding, pro-social individual."

Obviously, the picture painted of Mr. Vardomskiy above hardly gibes with that of the anti-social gun owner with a chip on his shoulder you would imagine could possibly pose a threat to public safety. A threat so immediate that Mr. Vardomskiy's firearms had to be forfeited to the Crown and his right to own firearms of any sort stripped from him per a prohibition order pursuant to S. 117.05 (4) of the Criminal Code was so ordered by Her Honour, Judge Dianne Nicholas, of the Ontario Court of Justice in her decision dated May 2, 2012.

At that hearing, Mr. Vardomskiy was represented by well-known firearms lawyer Solomon Friedman. As well as testifying on his own behalf, Mr. Vardomskiy's attorney called as an expert witness forensic psychiatrist Dr. Jonathan Gray.

Dr. Gray testified that:

1. There is no evidence to support any psychiatric condition or disorder regarding Mr. Vardomskiy. His reactions are well within the range of normal and are expectable.
2. As Mr. Vardomskiy does not suffer from any mental illness,

117.05. Application for disposition

117.05 (1) Where any thing or document has been seized under subsection 117.04(1) or (2), the justice who issued the warrant authorizing the seizure or, if no warrant was issued, a justice who might otherwise have issued a warrant, shall, on application for an order for the disposition of the thing or document so seized made by a peace officer within thirty days after the date of execution of the warrant or of the seizure without a warrant, as the case may be, fix a date for the hearing of the application and direct that notice of the hearing be given to such persons or in such manner as the justice may specify.

Forfeiture and prohibition order on finding

(4) Where, following the hearing of an application made under subsection (1), the justice finds that it is not desirable in the interests of the safety of the person from whom the thing was seized or of any other person that the person should possess any weapon, prohibited device, ammunition, prohibited ammunition and explosive substance, or any such thing, the justice shall

(a) order that any thing seized be forfeited to Her Majesty or be otherwise disposed of; and

(b) where the justice is satisfied that the circumstances warrant such an action, order that the possession by that person of any weapon, prohibited device, ammunition, prohibited ammunition and explosive substance, or of any such thing, be prohibited during any period, not exceeding five years, that is specified in the order, beginning on the making of the order.

he does not require continued psychiatric treatment.

3. Mr. Vardomskiy does not display suicidal or homicidal intentions. He did not make specific threats on the examination paper or at any time in the past.
4. Mr. Vardomskiy does not present a danger to himself or others.
5. Given the conclusions reached on the above four issues, there is no reason why it would not be desirable in the interest of public safety for Mr. Vardomskiy to possess firearms. Mr. Vardomskiy has, in the past, safely used his firearms in the legitimate hobby of target shooting. There are no risk factors to future violence to cause a public safety concern with Mr. Vardomskiy getting access to his weapons.

The Crown did not present any expert testimony to refute that of Dr. Gray and even Justice Nicholas acknowledged Mr. Vardomskiy was a "conscientious, safe and responsible target shooter and gun collector." However, she nevertheless opted to

termination that Mr. Vardomskiy should be placed under a prohibition order and his firearms forfeited. In arriving at her decision, Justice Nicholas had effectively reversed the burden of proof and instead of the Crown having proved that Mr. Vardomskiy posed a legitimate public safety risk, it was Mr. Vardomskiy who had failed to convince her he wasn't.

Thankfully, Superior Court Justice Brian Abrams overturned that decision this past June, agreeing with assertions made by both Mr. Vardomskiy's lawyer (and Canada's National Firearms Association) that Nicholas had made serious errors in her legal analysis of the case. Abrams subsequently set aside the prohibition order and ordered a new hearing for Mr. Vardomskiy in front of a different judge. In overturning Nicholas' ruling, Justice Abrams also raised the same issue of reverse onus that could not be ignored. He concluded that Nicholas had indeed reversed the onus, effectively requiring that Mr. Vardomskiy prove he was a responsible gun owner instead of requiring that the Crown prove he was a real danger.

Personal dislikes aside, Nicholas erred in ignoring the realities of the case, including the fact that Mr. Vardomskiy wasn't charged with any crime, had been properly licensed and had stored his registered firearms and ammunition in a manner that actually exceeded legal requirements. In essence, if Mr. Vardomskiy was the threat the Crown and police said he was, it was the Crown's responsibility to prove it.

As with so many other firearms-related cases, the Crown has appealed Abrams' decision. In their notice of appeal, the Crown has indicated that they plan on arguing that it was Abrams who was the one who erred in finding that Nicholas reversed the burden of proof. They also plan on presenting the argument that the judge also erred when he opted to treat the matter like a criminal trial and substituted his own view of the evidence. The Crown contends that Abrams "misinterpreted and misapplied the test

disregard the expert medical opinion of Dr. Gray that Mr. Vardomskiy did not pose a risk to himself or the public. Instead, she essentially argued that Mr. Vardomskiy hadn't made a good impression on her and that she believed he was "disingenuous and manipulative."

On multiple occasions the judge also raised issue with the number of firearms owned by Mr. Vardomskiy and noted that his "arsenal" consisted of 11 firearms and that he had also stockpiled a large quantity of ammunition. Choosing to conveniently ignore the fact that Mr. Vardomskiy was a target shooter and gun club member, the judge noted in handing down her decision that she had not been convinced that he did not pose a threat, "...given the large quantity of weapons and ammunition in that [Vardomskiy] home."

To many observers, it appeared that the judge's personal dislike of Mr. Vardomskiy and her thinly veiled anti-gun bias were factors in her de-



Canada's National Firearms Association is available to help Canadian firearms owners.

under the section of the Criminal Code dealing with the seizure of firearms for public safety."

Why we fight...

If the Abrams decision is allowed to stand, it serves to establish a positive legal precedent that works in the favour of law-abiding gun owners, collectors and users. However, the Abrams decision is being appealed by the Crown to the Ontario Court of Appeal. For gun owners, the results of this appeal may very well have a significant effect on the manner S. 117.04 (public safety) warrants are obtained hereafter and how future forfeiture applications are heard in our courts.

In his role as Mr. Vardomskiy's lawyer, Solomon Friedman has noted that the Ontario Court of Appeal will likely be asked to rule, for the first time in recent memory, on the "legitimate concern" standard. As a result, this appeal could also have wide-ranging implications for how S. 117.05 hearings are conducted and the grounds upon which they are appealed in the future.

Unfortunately, as with so many other firearms-related cases, the process actually does become part of the punishment given the Crown's unlimited financial resources and proven willingness to continue to appeal any and all decisions even peripherally beneficial to firearms owners. In yet another David vs. Goliath/asymmetrical legal showdown, NFA member and law-abiding gun owner Mr. Vardomskiy has been forced to spend well over \$15,000 fighting the Crown application and arguing the initial appeal.

As a university student, Mr. Vardomskiy is at an immense financial disadvantage given his relatively limited means. As a consequence, he has been forced to sell much of his gun collection in order to fund his defence. Additionally, should the prohibition order against him be reinstated, even if only for the desired two years, it will effectively mark the end of his ability to legally own firearms. Any such order would invalidate his current PAL. After expiry of the order, Mr. Vardomskiy is certainly free to retake both the CFSC/CRFSC and submit a new application for a Possession and Acquisition License. However, the broad latitude provincial CFOs have in interpreting current firearms

law granted by the Firearms Act gives them extraordinary discretionary powers when it comes to approving such applications. Those powers, in combination with the proven anti-gun bias of the current Ontario Chief Firearms Officer, make it highly unlikely that Mr. Vardomskiy will ever hold another PAL.

In the interests of justice and fairness and given the potential ramifications for Canadian gun owners, Canada's National Firearms Association is supporting ongoing litigation related to the Mr. Vardomskiy case in two ways:

Canada's National Firearms Association has made a substantial contribution to the Mr/ Vardomskiy litigation fund.

Canada's National Firearms Association has been officially authorized by Mr. Vardomskiy's legal team to serve as a clearinghouse for additional individual donations.

To donate please go to <http://www.nfa.ca/donate-legal-fund> or call our head office toll free at: **1-877-818-0393**.

For reference: <http://canlii.ca/en/on/onsc/doc/2013/2013onsc4113/2013onsc4113.html/>.

Western Lawmen

Jesse Wolf Hardin

John Joshua Webb And The Dodge City Gang - Part II

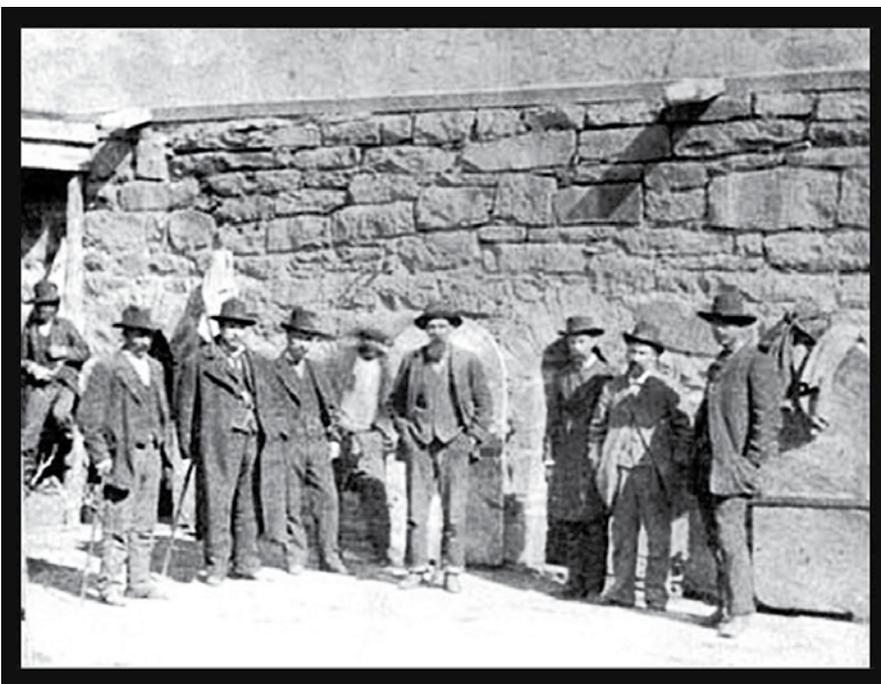
Las Vegas in the 1880s was as wild and woolly a town as ever existed in the Old West. Life was cheap, as the lynching of cowpunchers T.J. House and his saddle-partner John Dorsey proved. It was their own bad luck - they picked the wrong town in which to let off steam. And when the local law works both side of the street, you really shouldn't be surprised when due process is completely ignored and they skip directly to sentencing. Some suspect that by shooting Marshal Carson, the cowboys had inadvertently challenged the ruling status quo and thus the authority of those who really ran Las Vegas, the Dodge City Gang. An example had to be made. Whether it was the Dodge City Gang or vigilantes, there was a sense of simmering discontent left in the wake of the lynching.

In the weeks that followed, Officer J.J. Webb and the other members of the Dodge City Gang continued to conduct themselves as if it were business as usual. Webb returned to his criminal ways and was suspected by the local citizenry of participating in or covering up a string of new crimes, which further stirred seething vigilante passions. Then on March 9, 1880, an incident occurred that drove the committee to take concerted action; it was the figurative straw that broke the camel's back.

The rumour all over town was that Hoodoo Brown had heard that local cattleman Michael Kelliher was making the rounds of the saloons with over a \$1,000 on his person, an enormous sum for that time, and that Hoodoo had ordered Webb and Mather to seize these funds by whatever means necessary. True or not, it was at least a case of selective enforcement, when at around 4 a.m., according to an article in the Las Vegas Optic, Kelliher and friends were approached by the lawmen in the gang-owned Goodlet & Roberts' Saloon and ordered to turn over their handguns. Although a gun control ordinance was recently put in effect that prohibited open carry of firearms, very few citizens paid any attention to it and there was little previous enforcement. Also fanning the rumour mill was the fact that there were several others in the bar who were also openly carrying firearms at the time of the Kelliher confrontation.

The Optic newspaper received considerable advertising and other funding from Hoodoo Brown, which may or may not explain their uncritical reporting the officer's version of events. According to them, Kelliher belligerently shouted, "I won't be disarmed - everything goes!" and then made a grab for his revolver. According to this report, Webb was simply too fast on the draw for him. When the smoke cleared, the paper reported Kelliher had been shot twice in the chest and once in the head, all without the cattleman ever having gotten his gun out of its holster.

In the aftermath, it became clear that the people of Las Vegas were somewhat less convinced of the veracity of the "official" story, as reported by the Optic. Suspicions were further inflamed once word leaked that the fortune carried by the victim somehow disappeared between the time the body was picked up off the Goodlet & Roberts oaken floor and when it was deposited on Hoodoo Brown's examination table in his role as coroner. An



J.J. Webb pictured chained in the Las Vegas, NM, jail.

angry mob quickly formed outside the jail, demanding that Webb be turned over to them for summary justice. However, the mob was held at bay by Hoodoo's rifle-toting men - hard cases all and headed by none other than Webb's supposed enemy, Dirty Dave Rudabaugh.

In response, on April 8, 1880, this group of fed-up citizens paid for the following attention-getting notice in the Las Vegas Optic newspaper, addressing all manner of criminals but directed primarily at the hated Dodge City Gang:

TO MURDERERS, CONFIDENCE MEN, THIEVES: "The citizens of Las Vegas have tired of robbery, murder and other crimes that have made this town a byword in every civilized community. They have resolved to put a stop to crime, if in attaining that end they have to forget the law and resort to a speedier justice than it will afford. All such characters are therefore hereby notified that they must either leave this town or conform themselves to the requirements of law, or they will be summarily dealt with. The flow of blood must and shall be stopped in this community and the good citizens of both the old and new towns have determined to stop it, if they have to hang by the strong arm of force every violator of the law in this country." - Vigilantes

While no historian has ever proven the theory true, it seems likely that Hoodoo Brown may have used Webb as a fall guy or scapegoat. With both the public and the Vigilante Committee's attention focused squarely on Webb and his unlawful transgressions, the heat was taken off Hoodoo. As cagey as he was, Hoodoo must have realized that once passions cooled over Webb's alleged misdeeds, the vigilantes would have time to consider his own complicity in the alleged murder and theft. He needed a patsy.

Assuming he was a willing participant in the scheme, Webb must have gotten assurances from Hoodoo that



The old Las Vegas, NM, saloon where Webb robbed a rancher.

the gang would spring him from the hoosegow, since in April 1880 Hoodoo's men, Dirty Dave Rudabaugh and Little Jack Allen attempted to do just that. While Rudabaugh seemed to have little compunction against gunning-down the much-loved jailer, Deputy Antonio Lino Valdez, in the course of the jail-break, all his efforts were for naught. Despite their best attempts, the jail-breakers were unable to open the locks to free Webb.

Knowing the Vigilance Committee was sure to react in the face of such provocation, Hoodoo likely cautioned Rudabaugh and Allen to lay low for a while, and they and Tom Pickett rode off to the southwest that very night. Their first stop was the Thomas Yerby ranch around Fort Sumner where they posed as working cowboys. Sometime later, Dirty Dave shot and killed Allen, whom he feared was planning to betray him.

Then one fateful day in late May, Dirty Dave and Pickett were introduced to Billy the Kid by another ranch hand and confidante of Billy's by the name of Charlie Bowdre. In the months following, Dave and his new riding pals were to pull off a number of cattle rustling raids. Unfortunately, their luck ran out on Nov. 27, when Deputy James Carlyle caught up with them. However, it was Dave, Billy Wilson and the Kid that rode away from the confrontation unscathed, leaving Deputy Carlyle dead in their wake.

Now subjects of a renewed manhunt, on Dec. 19, 1880, Sheriff-elect Pat Garrett and his posse ambushed Billy and his party, ventilating compatriot Tom O'Folliard. Four days later they engaged the gang again, killing Charlie Bowdre and capturing Billy, Pickett, Wilson and Rudabaugh.

Meanwhile, back in Las Vegas, the Vigilantes were having a grand time rounding up or chasing off every violator of the peace that they could lay their hands on. In the process, they did their best to isolate and put pressure on head honcho Hoodoo Brown Neill in an effort to unseat him from his position of power. Finally, in December, Brown was indicted for the theft of Kelliher's money, but subsequently dropped from sight and went into hiding.

In February 1881, Dave was given a 99-year prison sentence for theft of the US Mails during a train robbery, followed soon after by a death sentence for the murder of Deputy Valdez. However, on Sept. 19, Webb joined his fel-



low prisoners Dave Rudabaugh, A. Murphy, H. S. Wilson and Thomas Duffy in yet another escape attempt. The incarcerated bad men either managed to pick the lock to their cell or, more likely, had a key and pistol smuggled into the jail by their allies on the outside. A scuffle with the three guards on duty ensued, resulting in the death of Duffy, while Webb, Rudabaugh, Wilson and Murphy were beaten and tossed back behind bars.

Less than two months later, on Dec. 2, Webb, Rudabaugh and five others finished scraping away the mortar around a seven inch by 19 inch building block in the wall and successfully escaped. It seems rather unbelievable that the guards could be so derelict in their duty that they failed to keep the gang under constant watch, or that they were unable to hear the scraping of improvised tools against mortar for the many days it would have taken them to effect their escape. The general consensus was that the guards responsible were most likely paid off by Brown or his allies and simply turned a deaf ear to the sound of digging prisoners.

Within a week following the escape, Hoodoo surfaced in Houston, but was soon thereafter arrested for the murder of a Las Vegas deputy who had been killed under mysterious circumstances a few months before. It looked especially fishy to Houston observers when the deputy's widow travelled to Texas to visit Hoodoo in his cell, and immediately fell amorously into his arms. Or, as the Parsons Sun newspaper put it, "The meeting between the pair is said to have been affecting in the extreme, and rather more affectionate than would be expected under the circumstances." The charges against Hoodoo appeared to include adultery and theft, as well as murder, or at least they did until the two local attorneys Hoodoo hired had them quashed. As his attorneys successfully argued, Texas courts had no authority to hold him and there were no interstate extradition agreements yet in effect.

Hoodoo was released, at which point, at least according to the Chicago Times, he and the good widow were witnessed, "skylarking through some of the interior towns of Kansas." It is believed that he eventually settled in Mexico with this or possibly another common-law wife.

According to Hyman "Hoodoo Brown" Neill's descendants, he died in Torreon, Coahuila. Later historical research uncovered the existence of an Elizabeth Brown who had moved a while after to Leadville, Colo. She was said to have had a reputation for dabbling in the dark arts and may or may not have been the wife and partner of Hoodoo.

As for Dirty Dave, after the escape in '81, he headed further west and eventually found his way to Tombstone, Ariz., where he sided with the Clanton gang against the Earp brothers. It is believed he very probably participated in the ambushes of both Virgil and Morgan Earp.

Some writers have suggested that he spent some time below the border before running a herd of stolen cattle to Montana, raising three daughters and finally dying in 1928 a lonely alcoholic Oregon rancher.

According to most reports, however, in February 1886, Rudabaugh was playing poker in a cantina in Parral, Mexico, when the villagers he was cheating stood up to protest. Dave was said to have shot one hombre through the head and sent a second bullet crashing through the heart of a second man.

According to this version of his story, a whiskeyed-up Rudabaugh was subsequently unable to find where he'd tied his horse in the moonless night and then made the mistake of returning to the now-darkened adobe saloon. It is said that the saloon's patrons had extinguished all of the kerosene lamps and used the darkness to swarm and kill the Americano outlaw. Certainly for years after, tourists visiting the area could purchase

postcard photos reputed to be of Dirty Dave's severed noggin, paraded around on a pole mustachio and all, then displayed like a pig's head at a festival feast.

As for the central player in our narrative, fugitive lawman John Joshua Webb, he successfully made his escape to Kansas using the pseudonym Samuel King. From there he moved on to Winslow, Ark., working as a railroad guard. While he was fated to never see the inside of another prison, he ultimately got his just desserts, having contracted a terminal case of smallpox in 1882. It was a final death sentence that none but his Provider could commute.

In this 21st Century, it is rare but not unheard of for cliques of lawmen to band together to rob drug dealers of their money, and for judges to cover for them either out of blind faith in their officers or the fear of undermining the legal system with the exposure of police malfeasance.

I believe the black arts that Hoodoo Brown was accused can now serve as a euphemism for machine politics: the art of deception, manipulation and appropriation. This scourge didn't disappear with Hoodoo Brown, and cities like Chicago continue to fight reputations for political corruption that could give ol' Hoodoo a run for his money.

Certainly, we have reason to fear the other extreme of unthinking vigilantism, but no more so than theft and oppression made systematic and institutional. For all the Las Vegas Vigilance Committee's excesses, it proved an able check on official corruption and brought real law and order to a town that desperately wanted it. Eventually, memories of the Dodge City Gang, Hoodoo Brown and J.J. Webb faded, and Las Vegas once more became a bucolic, culture-filled setting for honest labours and the raising of families. Or at least it did for a time, but that is another story.

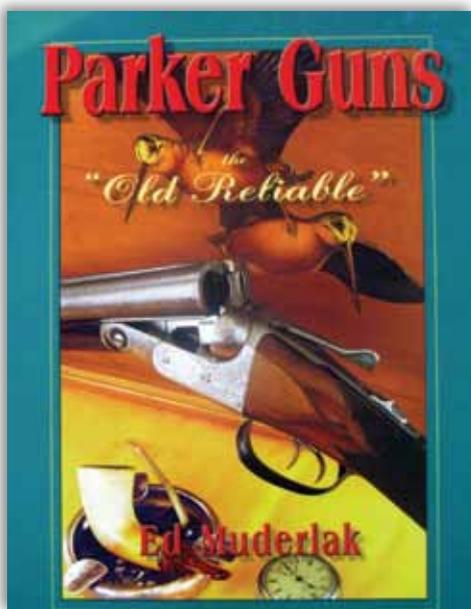
NFA Book Shelf

Wm. R. Rantz

Parker Guns

The "Old Reliable"

Author: **Ed Muderlak**
1997 Safari Press Inc.
Hard Cover with Dust Jacket
270 Pages, Colour photographs
ISBN: 1-57157-310-0



Charles Parker was a successful American industrialist who licensed his first side-by-side shotgun patent in 1866. The Parker Brothers Gun Works soon began producing double-barrel shotguns in Meriden, Conn. Within a few years, Parker shotguns were known for both their high quality finish and dependability in the field. Today, these fine shotguns are sought after by collectors who often depend on any available references to judge the originality, rarity and value of a particular Parker.

Earlier books such as *Parker - America's Finest Shotgun* by Peter H. Johnson, published in 1961, provided the basic information upon

which collectors relied for many years. Ed Muderlak acknowledges that he referred to available publications extensively as a novice collector. As he became more enthralled with Parker shotguns, Muderlak began adding newly discovered information to the margins of those books.

As his research progressed, Muderlak met other Parker enthusiasts, including members of the Parker Gun Collector's Association. These individuals were willing to share their knowledge and allow Muderlak to examine a wide variety of Parker doubles. Muderlak concentrated his efforts on collecting Parker-related material from original sources and that accumulation eventually evolved into *Parker Guns the "Old Reliable"*.

Muderlak has chosen to tell the entire Parker story as such a thorough understanding is necessary to fully appreciate the development and longevity of Parker double barrel shotguns. They were introduced shortly after the American Civil War and production continued almost 75 years until the Second World War. During that time period, many new types of pump and semi-automatic shotguns had reached the marketplace, yet the Parker double barrel tipping breech loader shotgun survived the competition.

Parker Guns the "Old Reliable" outlines the development of the Parker Brothers Gun Works, its transition to Remington ownership in 1934 and the eventual demise of the famous Parker shotgun. The table of contents and index will guide the reader through 16 chapters, which provide detailed information, including a year-by-year history of Parker guns, grades of quality, collecting Parker guns and more. An outstanding seven-part epilogue includes Damascus barrel making, patents, dated serial numbers, plus Parker grades with original list prices.

Parker Brothers initial success was the result of producing a dependable double barrel shotgun, which was more affordable than the highest quality European firearms. Reliability of any firearm is extremely important to the shooter and the Parker was promoted extensively in ads as a top quality gun, which would never shoot loose. Revealing a stroke of marketing genius, in the mid-1890s Parker adopted the "Old Reliable" logo, which had been used previously by the Sharps Rifle Company. Within a few short years, "Old Reliable" became synonymous with Parker shotguns and was used in advertising until the mid-1950s.

The survival of the Parker through difficult economic times was made possible by the continued production of superior quality doubles that were appreciated by connoisseurs and purists. After admiring the numerous high resolution colour photographs showing a variety of Parker doubles, from the basic Trojan model to the legendary A No.1 Special, you will appreciate the workmanship, including zero tolerance wood to metal fit, elaborate checkering and picturesque engraving.

Parker Guns the "Old Reliable" provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date information available on Parker double guns. Collectors, dealers and firearm enthusiasts will find the **list price of \$49.95** - fair for such an informative and high quality publication.

A **New** Straight-A Student Arrives To Canada

Bushmaster just announced they are going to release a new version of their first-of-the-class tactical rifle, the ACR. The new ACR DMR will be fully compliant with Canadian legislations for non-restricted firearms classification. Due to the non-restricted classification, it will certainly draw some serious attention from hunters and shooters in Canada. Here is a portrait of one of the most successful tactical oriented rifles ever to hit the Canadian market.

The ACR

The ACR was born in 2006, in a combined effort from Magpul, Bushmaster and Remington. Designed by Magpul, manufactured and distributed by Bushmaster on the commercial market and by Remington Defense for the military markets, the ACR stands for Adaptive Combat Rifle. At first it was created to replace US army's M4 and M16, the ACR was an immediate success once released on the US commercial market by Bushmaster in 2010. It has since become the ultimate law enforcement and commercial tactical weapon.

The Bushmaster ACR is built to be the most reliable, the most precise and the most solid, tactically oriented

firearm on the market. It is an entirely modular carbine with a handrail and the stocks and lower receivers are made of high impact composites. The gun is conceived so you can change stock configuration, barrel length (available between 10.5 inches, 14.5 inches, 16.5 inches and 18.5 inches) and calibre in a few minutes without the need of any tool. The magazine release, the bolt catch and release, the fire selector and non-reciprocating charging handle (located at the fore-end of the rifle) make the ACR a completely ambidextrous and ergonomic weapon. The original commercial version comes with an extra resistant, melonite-coated, 16.5-inch barrel that shoots 5.56x45-millimetre Nato and .223 Rem rounds. The ACR allows you to switch between the various calibres and can shoot by simply replacing the barrel and, in some cases, the bolt head and magazine, all without the use of a single tool.

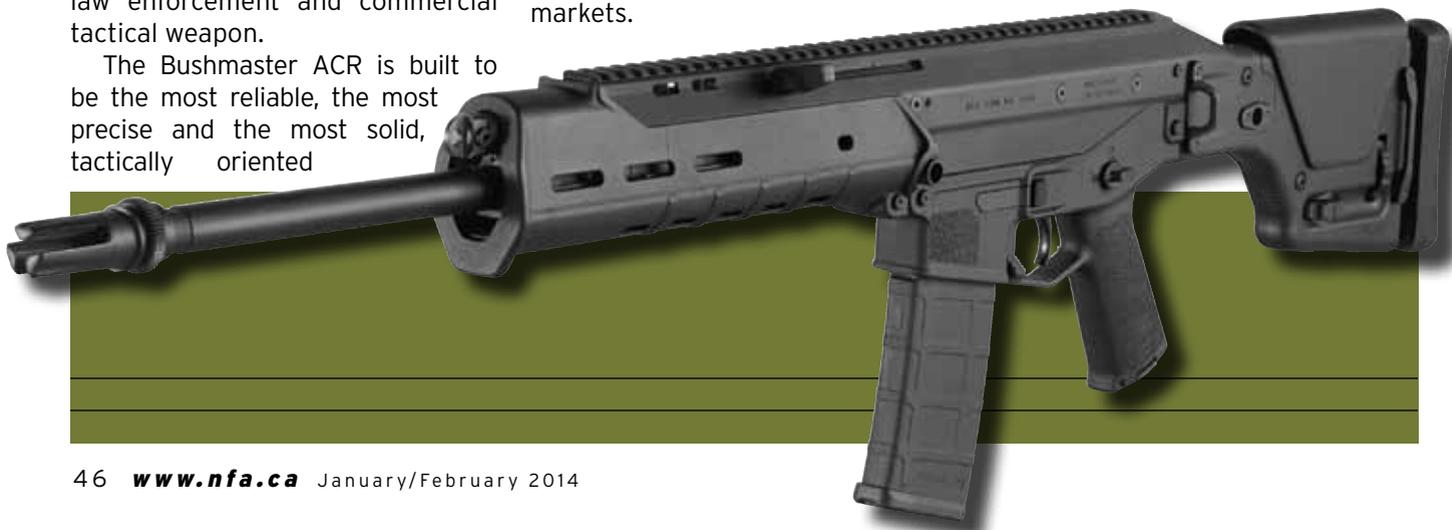
About the DMR

Now what's up the DMR model? Seeing the high demand for a longer-barrelled version of the original ACR for the Canadian market, while also considering the high demand for the original model in US, Bushmaster wanted to conceive a model that would be interesting for both markets.

DMR stands for Designated Marksman Rifle. The DMR is oriented toward precision shooting, with its 18.5-inch heavy barrel and its fully adjustable PRS-style stock. With the original features and the non-restricted status of this highly accurate version of the ACR, this rifle will suit the need of any long distance precision shooters or varmint and predator hunters alike.

Built with the same DNA as the original ACR, the DMR is as reliable, as versatile and still fully customizable. All ACR accessories are available and compatible with the ACR DMR, including the folding stocks. All Canadian versions of the DMR come with a five round magazine. Replacement barrels complying with Canadian regulations should be available later in 2014. This will provide access to a wider range of calibres for Canadian ACR owners.

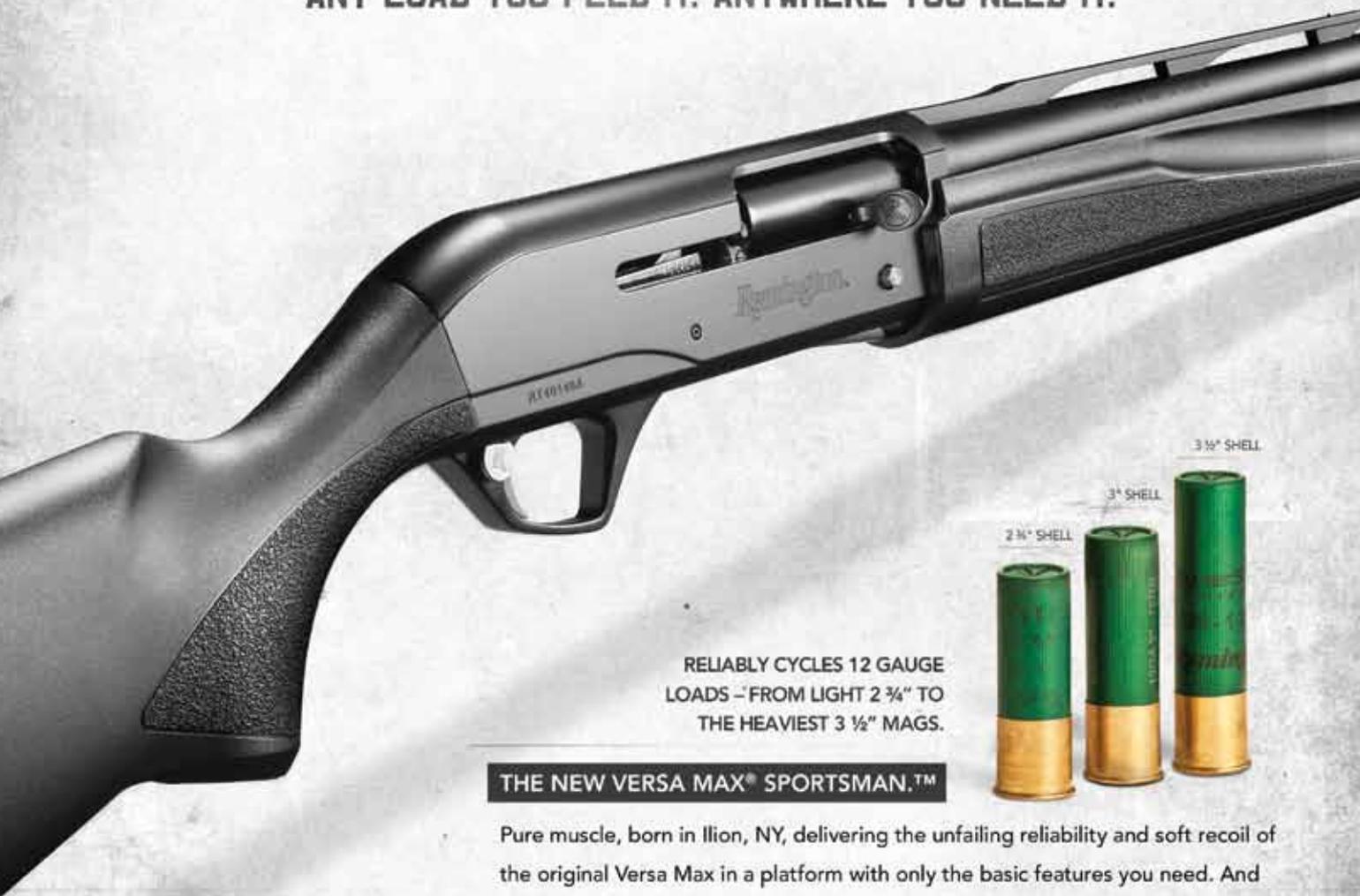
Since 2010, the ACR has proven all it had to prove and even more to shooting enthusiasts everywhere in North America. The launching of the DMR version brings a more than welcomed breath of fresh air to Canadian shooters and hunters. The arrival of a non-restricted, high performance rifle, such as the ACR, is a step forward in modern firearm technologies. We welcome this new straight-A student to our Canadian market.



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Our helpful staff will complete the new member's application and enter the recruiter's NFA member ID into the draw.

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This contest is not valid where prohibited by law. Contest open to all NFA members except for NFA staff, directors, executive members, and their immediate families. A single winner will have to choose one of the two firearms advertised. The winning contestant must possess a valid Firearms Licence, Possession Licence or Possession and Acquisition Licence with proper class, as the case may be, and further, the winning contestant must comply with all other federal, provincial and municipal statutory and regulatory requirements. The winning contestant will pay all fees and other costs of permits, registrations or other transfer requirements. By accepting the firearm, the winning contestant agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Canada's National Firearms Association, its members, partners, directors, donors and volunteers from and against any and all liability, claims, suits, demands or costs, including legal fees, arising out of or related to this contest or the prize. All entries must be received by March 23rd 2014, 23:59. Winner will be drawn on March 24th 2014.