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Fully Committed On All Fronts:

Canada's National Firearms Association



Ontario Director *awarded the Queen Elizabeth II* Diamond Jubilee Medal

By
Gary Ramsay

A reception to honour recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals was held in Woodstock, Ontario, on November 10, 2012. Among the recipients was Henry Atkinson, a member of Canada's National Firearms Association and current Ontario director.

Henry has been active in the NFA since the early 80's, attending gun shows and other sports and recreation events on behalf of the organization, as well as helping countless individuals navigate through our complex firearm laws. He has previously served terms as a vice-president of the Canada's National Firearms Association, and more recently as national treasurer.

At his local gun club, Henry was part of a small team which restored the Otter Valley Rod & Gun Club to a healthy membership and financial stability. Previously membership had fallen dramatically and the financial situation was very bleak. He reorganized the club to include full NFA membership in the annual fee. The club now boasts 200 members.

After a long teaching career Henry became more active in his community. He played a key role in developing and expanding the senior's centre in Tillsonburg and was instrumental in getting



their woodworking shop off the ground. He helped acquire a federal grant for the project and the shop is still very active. Henry also served on the board as a director, vice-president and president. In 2005 the town of Tillsonburg honoured Henry with their "Senior of the Year" award.

Henry is also active at St. Paul's United Church. In the mid 80's he was involved with the planning of an extensive addition to St. Paul's. He spent untold hours enhancing the church's interior and continues to do so today. As well as being a talented musician, Henry is also a member of the St. Paul's choir.

A man of many interests, Henry's other pursuits include flying and classic cars. An aviator for over three decades, he is a member of the Tillsonburg Flying Club, and currently drives a beautiful 1989 white Corvette convertible. When not flying, or otherwise involved with his many volunteer duties, Henry enjoys attending classic car shows.

Talk to any of Henry's close friends and they will tell you that he doesn't seek or expect recognition for his humanitarian work. He is content to make an impact in his own quiet manner. Many of his efforts go unnoticed, as he is happy to work behind the scenes.

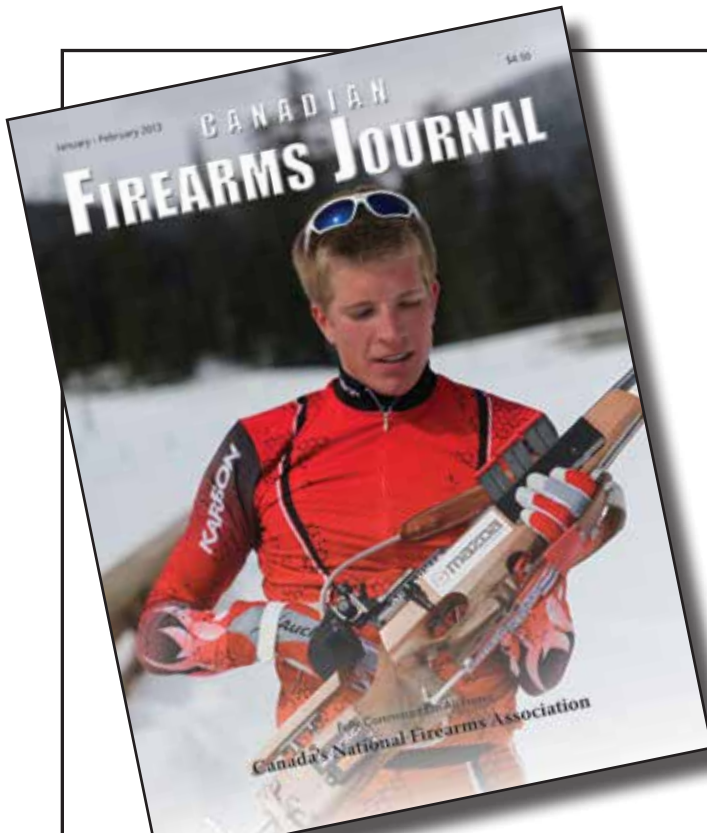
Another admirable trait is that he is a perfectionist. He inspired his students to do assigned tasks to the very best of their ability and to take pride in a job well done. Former students still treat him with respect.

In summary, Henry Atkinson represents the epitome of what a good citizen should be. He is a worthy recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Attached is a group pic of Henry Atkinson and his family the day he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

L to R: Henry's daughter Jennifer, his wife Linda, Henry & daughter Jane.





On The Cover

TEAM NFA member Matt Neumann examines his highly specialized biathlon rifle during a recent training session. You may read more about Matt and his other teammates in this issue's TEAM NFA Update.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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From The Editor's Desk



I was always interested in politics, even as a kid. Growing up I was involved in student politics, debate society and even Model UN. You wouldn't be wrong if you called me a political junkie. In university I went on to study Political Science and eventually even pursued a graduate degree in it.

Over time, however, the study of politics lost much of its luster. The naivety of youth was eroded away by the ugly truth of real-world politics. I eventually decided that I simply wasn't prepared to make the personal sacrifices required to pursue a career as a political strategist or party "wonk." The price was simply too high.

Who knew fate would bring me back full-circle just a few years later and I would find myself fully immersed in the world of political advocacy on behalf of Canada's National Firearms Association. By and large this chapter of my life has been one of extreme frustration, interspersed with moments of joy, - usually experienced following some small victory or another that was all-too-often hard-fought and won. However small and rare they may have been, it was those small victories that made the countless hours of lobbying, grunt work, lost wages and time away from loved ones worth it.

Following the election of the first pro-firearms majority federal government in a generation I was heartened to witness the shift in the gun control paradigm here in Canada. After 15 long years fighting for the redress of the injustice that was the Liberal's C-68 Firearms Act, the momentum seemed to finally be shifting once more in our favour. After a series of missteps on the part of the Government; anyone remember Bills C-21, S-5, C-301, C-391? - the passage of Bill C-19 finally presented law-abiding Canadian gun owners with concrete-proof that the political dialectic had changed for the positive.

While it is part of my job to act as a "cheerleader" of sorts,

to celebrate those well-deserved victories as they come, none of us, me included, were ever naive enough to assume that the road ahead would be obstacle free. The Coalition for Gun Control and their allies on the international stage are immensely powerful and extremely well-funded. Certainly an enemy to be respected for the political influence, media access and financial prowess they possess; if not for their principles or respect for the truth.

Originally, I had no intention of revealing my long-standing love-hate relationship with politics; however, my first editorial became a casualty of current events and the unspeakable tragedy that unfolded in Newtown, CT. As a human-being, as a man and as an uncle to Ryan - age 7 - and Caleb - age 4 - the tragedy that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary rocked me to my core.

There is no way to really make sense of such a horrific act of lunacy. The murder of innocents, especially children, is anathema to everything that makes our society civilized. By their very nature, such acts are never civilized, but only barbaric. There is no reason, no logic, no rationalizing-away of such an event. Acknowledging this truth, it also became very clear that the immediate aftermath of the tragedy was not the time to re-hash the national debate over gun control, gun-free zones and mass shootings if at all possible. Out of respect for the victims of Sandy Hook and their families, my editorial, - indeed the entire magazine in your hands, underwent a radical overhaul.

In the months ahead I'm sure we will have plenty of opportunity to fully address such issues. Therefore, I preferred to largely refrain from engaging in the type of down-and-dirty political maneuvering that is so loved by the gun control lobby. If only the Coalition for Gun Control and its civil-disarmament allies were willing to exercise the same restraint, we could actually have a real debate for once. One that could provide Canadians with the information they need



to truly make an informed decision on the issues at hand. Instead, we see the same willful exploitation of yet another tragedy to further the gun control lobby's petty political objectives; it is this same type of reprehensible behavior that first turned me from politics as a naïve twenty-something.

While it may be difficult for us, as responsible firearms owners, to understand; the truth is people fear guns. Unfortunately for us, the gun control lobby and their friends in the liberal media have always been quick to take advantage of such fears. The veritable avalanche of horrific news stories being broadcast from Newtown over the past weeks universally vilifying guns, and by association gun owners, is a case in point.

Certainly, while guns make it easier for bad things to happen; what the current 24/7 anti-gun news cycle conveniently ignores is that they also make it easier for good people to fulfill their obligations as law-abiding citizens. As British parliamentarian Sir Edmund Burke once argued, "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." If my experience of thirty years as a member of Canada's firearms community has taught me anything, it is that law-abiding gun owners are "good men," of the sort Burke wrote about.

Still, I remain in awe of the courage and selflessness of the teachers who stepped between the killer and "their" kids that fateful day; and whether it was a conscious decision or not, they fully accepted Sir Edmund's challenge. I just wish the events of that day had mirrored those of similar shootings that occurred at Pearl High School in Mississippi or the Appalachian School of Law. There is no question that the guns present on those campuses allowed "bad men" to do "bad things," but equally important is the fact that lawful guns in the hands of "good men" (law-abiding, licensed educators and students), prevented further tragedy.

Mulling things over in the cold-light of day, I've reached a

number of conclusions. Watching the cable news coverage in the wake of the Newtown tragedy, there is clear proof that Professor Lott got it right when he argued that, "Fear about guns also seems greatest among those who know the least about them." The unceasing coverage of the shooting has certainly done nothing to lessen such irrational fears. In fact, I believe that such coverage, especially the hate-filled political propagandizing of ultra left-wing media pundits like Piers Morgan and Rachel Maddow is absolutely irresponsible. In the end, their actions may very well cost more lives should they actually convince legislators to accede to their demands. Should such a scenario become a reality, the end result will be only more needless deaths; since those innocents having the greatest need will find themselves denied the very tools they require to protect our society's most vulnerable.

If we are to have a national debate on gun control in this country once more, let's have one where reason and fact are given greater weight than facetious, emotional arguments; and where opinion disguised as "fact" and "supported" by junk science is immediately discounted. Let's put aside the increasingly hysterical rhetoric being peddled by the liberal media today and inject some common sense into the equation and address the whole truth about guns – including the costs associated with not owning them. If we can succeed in this, we may yet protect the momentum we've all worked so hard to build over these past 17 years and may very well see comprehensive firearms law reform made real.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's not about safety

by Sheldon Clare

Since the late 1960s, the debate about firearms control has centered upon one key issue – public safety. This canard has gotten so broadly accepted that there is even now a federal Ministry of Public Safety with one of its major tasks being to control firearms in the interest of public safety.

Frequently we are told that if some law or new regulation would improve public safety, then we shouldn't have a problem with it. I haven't run into a firearms law yet that actually does what it claims in terms of providing more security other than a false sense of it. I have seen many firearms laws that reduce freedoms and personal rights all in the name of public safety and like many firearms owners I have a significant problem with that situation. The fact is that the firearms system is based on a lie.

Let me slay a sacred cow here - there really isn't a public safety issue with firearms. What!? How can that be - isn't it obvious that firearms are inherently dangerous and that people who own and use them are dangers both to themselves and the public? Well, actually – no. Firearms of any type are not inherently dangerous and neither are the people who own and use them. What is dangerous is the mentality that has been carefully developed over decades that has tried and largely succeeded in making firearms control a public safety issue. It is time to challenge that falsehood – firearms control is not a public safety issue – it is a property and personal rights issue.

How is it that I can say that firearms ownership and use is a safe activity – easy, two very divergent sources bear me out on that point. First – insurance actuaries have determined that one might enjoy significant liability insurance coverage, as much as five million dollars, for any field and range incidents involving firearms. Certainly there have been claims, but these are not common and usually claims on the insurance offered by Canada's National Firearms Association have been the result of matters that did not involve the use of firearms. In short, insurance actuaries believe that firearms ownership and use is not a risky activity for them to insure. They do, however, believe that it is risky to insure firearms owners for incidents of problems with the Firearms Act

and regulations – simply put there is more risk associated with insuring firearms owners over quasi-administrative/criminal law violations or paperwork and safe storage offences than there is over insuring against accidents and incidents involving firearms use, so that sort of insurance is considerably more expensive. In plain language firearms owners are more at risk from the firearms bureaucracy than they are from themselves or each other.

The second source is simply the data that shows who does what to endanger “public safety.” Peer-reviewed research by Professor Emeritus Gary Mauser has demonstrated that firearms owners are less likely than other members of the general population to be engaged in criminal activity including violence.

Why is that the case? Could it be that firearms owners as a group are more engaged in personal responsibility and safe practises generally than many other members of society, or could it be that the ownership and use of firearms carries with it a deeper sense of responsibility and conduct? Firearms owners have had decades of seeing their activities and property stigmatized and legislated against to the point that the status quo is simply not acceptable. While a helpful start, eliminating the registration of some firearms is not sufficient to deal with the mess that is Canada's Firearms Act and regulations. It is time for each of us to meet with our local MP and tell that person that more must be done to clean up our terrible firearms laws. We carry many burdens as firearms owners and it is time for our government to help lighten our legislative load. Just remember, it's not about public safety and it never has been – it has always been about cultural change and limiting property rights and personal freedoms. Canada's National Firearms Association stands in defence of freedom and the more people that are standing with us, the stronger that defence can be.



MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Cela n'a rien à voir avec la sécurité publique

Par Sheldon Clare

La sécurité publique a toujours été utilisée comme élément central des débats à propos du contrôle des armes à feu depuis la fin des années 60. Ce faux prétexte, accepté de tous fait parti des tâches principales d'un Ministère créé en son honneur; Le Ministère de la sécurité publique chargé de la gestion du contrôle des armes, pour nous garder en sécurité.

On nous fait souvent croire qu'un nouveau règlement ou une nouvelle loi conçue pour augmenter la sécurité publique ne devrait pas être un inconvénient en soit. Jusqu'à présent, je n'ai vu aucune loi sur les armes à feu qui ait accomplie son objectif prétendu de nous protéger. Sans aucune exception, elles nous ont toutes fournies un faux sentiment de sécurité. J'ai été témoin de plusieurs lois qui ont diminué les droits et libertés des individus au nom de la sécurité publique. Comme pour autant d'autres propriétaires d'armes à feu, ceci est une situation inacceptable. La vérité est que le système de contrôle des armes est basé sur un mensonge.

Laissez moi abattre une vache sacrée. Les armes à feu ne sont pas un danger pour la sécurité publique. Quoi!? Comment pouvez vous dire cela! N'est-ce pas évident que les armes sont dangereuses en soit et que chaque personne qui en possède ou qui les utilise est un danger pour lui-même et pour la société. Bien, en fait, non. N'importe quelle sorte d'arme à feu n'est pas dangereuse en soit et ceux qui en possèdent ou s'en servent non plus. Ce qui est vraiment dangereux c'est le lavage de cerveau, développé avec un certain succès pendant des décennies qui utilise le prétexte de sécurité publique comme élément clé du contrôle des armes à feu. Il est temps de s'attaquer à ce faux-semblant, la sécurité publique n'est pas un enjeu du contrôle des armes à feu. L'enjeu réel est celui de la propriété privée et des droits individuels.

Comment puis-je affirmer qu'utiliser et posséder des armes à feu sont des activités sécuritaires? La preuve provient de deux sources bien différentes. La première: Les actuaires de compagnies d'assurances ont établis que nous pouvons jouir d'une protection allant jusqu'à 5 million de dollars en responsabilité civile pour tout incident impliquant des armes à feu qui sont utilisées à l'extérieur ou dans un club de tir. Certes, il y a eu des réclamations mais elles ont été rares et la plupart de celles provenant des assurances offertes par l'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu n'étaient pas en lien avec des événements où l'on faisaient l'usage des armes. En résumé, posséder et utiliser des armes à feu ne sont pas considérés comme des activités de haut risque par les actuaires des compagnies d'assurances. Par contre, les

incidents reliés à la Loi sur les Armes à Feu (LAF) constituent pour eux de très grands risques. Il est plus risqué de protéger les propriétaires d'armes à feu contre les infractions quasi administratives-criminelles ou en rapport avec l'entreposage des armes que de les protéger contre des incidents et accidents en rapport avec leur utilisation. L'assurance de protection judiciaire est par conséquent beaucoup plus onéreuse. Simplement dit: La bureaucratie des armes à feu est plus dangereuse envers les propriétaires d'armes à feu qu'ils ne le sont entre eux ou envers les autres.

La deuxième source qui confirme l'aspect sécuritaire de posséder et d'utiliser des armes à feu se trouve dans les données qui indiquent qui fait quoi pour mettre la société en péril. Le Professeur Émérite Gary Mauser a examiné les données publiées par Statistiques Canada qui démontrent clairement que les propriétaires d'armes à feu sont moins enclins à participer dans des activités criminelles comme le meurtre que tout autre membre de la société en général.

Mais pourquoi? Est-ce possible que les propriétaires d'armes à feu soient un groupe plus responsable et plus sensibilisé aux comportements sécuritaires que d'autres membres de la société ou bien, est-ce que le fait de posséder des armes apporte avec lui un sens de responsabilité visant une conduite irréprochable? Depuis des décennies les propriétaires d'armes à feu ont été stigmatisés à cause de leur propriété et de leurs activités, ils ont été victimes de législations injustes au point que le statu-quo soit devenu inacceptable. L'élimination de l'obligation d'enregistrer certaines armes est un bon premier pas, mais ce n'est pas assez pour régler le désordre qu'est la LAF et ses règlements. En tant que propriétaires d'armes à feu nous croulons sous le poids de plusieurs lois, il est temps que le gouvernement allège notre fardeau. Souvenez-vous que cela n'a rien à voir avec la sécurité publique, cela ne l'a jamais été. L'objectif réel a toujours été de modifier la culture d'un peuple et de limiter les droits de propriété et les libertés individuelles. L'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu défendra toujours la liberté et plus nous serons nombreux, plus nous serons forts.



VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Debate is Over - Long Gun Registry Data Deleted!

Blair Hagen, Vice President, Communications

In April 2012, Bill C-19, the legislation to end the registration of non-restricted firearms in Canada, was passed by Parliament.

In early November, the Government of Canada quietly announced that the data on long gun registrations (LGR) in every province save for Quebec, where a court action continues to preserve it, had been destroyed. Canadians were assured that all registration files pertaining to individual, non-restricted long guns, owned by firearms license holders in nine provinces and three territories had been deleted.

The announcement, when it came, was rather quiet and understated. However, it was to be the source of great consternation amongst the civil-disarmament lobby and their fellow supporters in the mainstream media, who felt that they had been “robbed” of the opportunity to manufacture controversy to prevent it.

Perhaps they had forgotten that this government was elected on a promise to reform Canada's failed firearms laws, and that Bill C-19 itself, the legislation that was passed by a majority vote in Parliament, contained a clause directing that the long gun registry data be deleted.

Thankfully, they tried and failed to find an audience willing to listen to them, as they desperately attempted to exploit any lingering public concern over the

potential for gun violence related to the registration issue; especially as the federal government moved to make good on its promise to destroy the registry data. Much to their chagrin, they found few takers.

For gun owners, the actual deletion of the LGR data was as important an undertaking as the passing of Bill C-19 itself. For had the data been preserved in some form or another, the return of long gun registration would have remained a potentially viable, if unlikely future possibility

The only stumbling block for gun owners right now is the Superior Court of Quebec. It has ordered the federal government to deliver all long gun registry data files pertaining to Quebec gun owners to their provincial government.

To their credit, the federal government is currently appealing that decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. Some people might ask; “What's with all of the fuss? Most Canadians already know that the gun registry was a spectacular failure and that it was at the root of a national controversy and brought with it a massive price tag. Anyone following the issue would also know that all registry data is already hopelessly out of date and has become redundant following the passage of Bill C-19. So, if Quebec wants their data why not just give it to them?”

In reality, we face a very slippery slope here. Providing the LGR data on Quebecers to that government may potentially embolden other provinces to also demand that data in order to construct their own provincial registries as part of some potential federal/provincial power struggle. Either way or however remote a possibility it may be, transfer and preservation of said data brings with it a renewed risk of it being used against the best interests of law-abiding gun owners.

Thankfully, the federal government has refused to release the data, and despite Quebec's cheerleading of provincial gun registries, no other province in Canada joined them in their arguably hare-brained efforts to turn back the clock to 1995. Even Ontario, arguably one of the most anti-gun provinces in Canada, declined to join Quebec in their pointless anti-gun crusade to establish a provincial gun registry or join in their demands for unfettered access to the federal data so as to facilitate their eventual creation.

Despite their lack of support, Quebec's provincial government still seems intent on pushing forward with this anti-gun agenda, even after a change in governing party. Yet, somewhere along the way, gun control advocates, both within and without Quebec, have overlooked the fact that the federal government's promise to end

long gun registration was made to all Canadians, including Quebecers. Quebec gun owners deserve the same protections under the law as the rest of the country. Canada's National Firearms Association continues to fight on their behalf and we remain confident that higher courts will share our positions on the issue more so than those championed by successive anti-gun Quebec administrations.

As I have outlined in previous columns in Canada's Outdoor Sportsman/Western Sportsman magazine, the destruction of the long gun registry data was key to the federal Conservative's promise to end long gun registration in Canada, once and for all.

In earlier Parliaments, Canada's National Firearms Association was concerned that any legislation that might be brought forward by the federal government pertaining to ending long gun registration would not address the issue of the data collected by the Canadian Firearms Program between 1998 and 2012.

Apparently when NFA outlined the scenarios under which long gun registration could be resurrected, the Conservative government was listening.

That this data, as incomplete, faulty and stale as it is, might've still have been preserved in order to aid some future anti-gun federal government to re-institute long gun registration was a real danger. As long as it exists, the inescapable argument, however inane, could potentially be made to taxpayers that the costs of a re-constituted long gun registry would be reasonable this time; "because most of the guns were already registered", and "they still had the registration data on who owned them".

A logically fallacious argument, I know, but these are the kinds of claims that would be used to make an unpopular return to long gun registration politically palatable. Remember too that the NDP and key Liberals are on record

as supporting a renewed universal registration policy if and when they form the next government. However remote, the destruction of the LGR data ensures that it can never be misused by a future government; especially one more interested in pandering to its anti-gun base than actually working to end criminal misuse of firearms.

With the destruction of the long gun registry data for the majority of the provinces and territories, there is no longer any database of long guns to build on, use or manipulate in order to rebuild a national gun registry. Any future government pursuing a civil disarmament agenda will have to start from scratch, registering individual rifles and shotguns one by one.

That means another controversial, acrimonious and politically risky debate, one that most governments would seek to avoid, even if they chose to ignore the proven horrendous costs involved in any such venture.

Nor can overzealous firearms bureaucrats now even quasi-legally secrete a copy of the LGR database away and preserve it for use by some future government with a civil-disarmament agenda. The destruction of the data is law, the will of Parliament and the desire of a majority of Canadians, and to simply ignore such orders is unquestionably unlawful and correctly brings with it potentially severe legal repercussions.

Be that as it may, gun owners are still at risk. There have still been no changes or reforms of the licensing component of the current Firearms Act. Everyone who is in possession of any firearm in Canada today must still have a valid, unexpired, mandatory firearms license and must renew it every five years under threat of criminal charge for failing to do so.

Let's say that a future federal government re-institutes long gun registration. You have a firearms license, but it is expiring. As is required by law you apply to renew your firearms

license, but instead receive a letter from your provincial chief firearms officer (CFO) refusing to renew it unless you also register your non restricted long guns.

Register or become a criminal.

Under the current Firearms Act, provincial CFOs have unlimited policy-making capabilities, and in any future re-imposition of long gun registration they would be supported by law in doing this.

It's the curse of the Liberal C-68 Firearms Act, and why it must be completely replaced by new legislation. The end of long gun registration was a fine thing, and politically important in setting precedent for further firearms law reforms. But it has not ended the threat to the rights and property of Canadians.

The Liberal 1995 C-68 Firearms Act, with all of the devils, vampires and Frankenstein monsters that dwell in its details, is still the law of Canada and will continue to provide a structure for a national program of civil disarmament and confiscation, unless or until it is replaced by new legislation.

While we continue to fight for such reforms, we should also take a moment to contact the Prime Minister, the Minister of Public Safety and your Conservative MP. As law-abiding gun owners we should offer our thanks for ending long gun registration and destroying the LGR data, but let them know too that we expect more. In order to truly declare victory, the entirety of the Firearms Act must be replaced, as was promised, and the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership celebrated and protected in law once and for all.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Many thanks for my recent September - October issue of CFJ, I think your points of view are completely accurate and timely. I now have a sense that the attitude towards firearms in Canada is changing. Just a few short years ago, I semi-retired and moved to the country in SW Ontario; not far from where the NFA AGM was this year (sorry I missed it, I was travelling). I joined a club that has a modest indoor range and joined a small group who enjoy Olympic Standard Pistol. Over a period of four years, the group has grown from five or six to over thirty, and includes five women. That's statistically significant. Does it mean there is a greater acceptance of shooting as a legitimate sport? Is there any data to support this?

I also wondered, reading the latest issue, whether there is a means of getting more information to the general public. NFA membership communications is a little like preaching to the converted, but don't stop. Is there a way of encouraging us, the converted, to communicate to our social contacts the facts about responsible firearms ownership, the positive consequences of such and the truth about crime related to firearms ownership. What other routes do we have to inform the general public? I would be willing to pay a slightly higher membership fee to support an ongoing public awareness program. Maybe others would as well.

Keep up the good work!

Dr. John M.

Dear John,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us. We always love to hear from our members and all feedback really does help us in our bid to continually improve our little publication.

The growth of your local club is indeed very heartening to those of us involved in pro-firearms rights advocacy. I'm happy to report that over the past several years our National Firearms Association has grown as well, and we continue to receive similar reports from members and associated clubs from across the country. Gun ownership and gun club membership seems to be on a definite upward trend. Clearly our firearms community is growing and that is a fantastic development.

In terms of getting our message out and growing the organization, NFA executives have been working with professional marketing firms since 2007 to better "sell" our organization to the firearms community and to help us communicate our message to the larger firearms community more effectively. Over the past five years we have succeeded in almost tripling membership numbers and we're continuing to grow.

Given the nature of our organization, our web site has become a key part of that marketing process. We launched a completely new NFA web site a couple of years ago in concert with our new and improved Canadian Firearms Journal to keep our members more fully informed and engaged. As part of our steadfast commitment to improve member services, we actually finished another complete update of our site just a couple of weeks ago. The goal was to improve both the functionality and efficiency of the site, while striving to make it a true resource that NFA members can rely upon 24/7.

If you have been following the news lately, you will have noted that more and more major newspapers and media outlets are making our web site their first stop when it comes to researching breaking developments related to firearms issues in Canada.

With the growing importance of social media, Canada's National Firearms Association also launched a dedicated [Facebook](#) page and group this past year and it continues to grow. Go to our web site and you'll find a link at the bottom of the home page that will take you there directly. We haven't ignored the growing influence of [Twitter](#) either. For the past year I have been communicating important NFA-related tweets, posts and links via my personal twitter account [@ShooterOnTheRoc](#). However, we've recently made our Twitter presence more official with the launch of a new "official" Twitter account [@Canadas_NFA](#). If you haven't already done so, please consider taking a minute and join us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

For any members interested in taking an even more direct part in the fight to protect and preserve their rights as law-abiding firearms owners, they should also consider becoming one of a growing number of volunteer field officers. Just drop us a line at info@nfa.ca or call the head office toll-free at 1-877-818-0393.

Even if you aren't in a position to give more freely of your time as part of our cadre of NFA volunteers, individuals can still help out financially by making a donation to the cause; on-line at <http://nfa.ca/products/donate-nfa> using any major credit card, by calling our toll-free number, or dropping your cheque or money order in the mail to:

Canada's National Firearms Association
BOX 49090, Edmonton, AB T6E 6H4

- Sean

Dear Editor:

Thanks for the great article on buckshot molds. I have been trying to set up a shotgun for coyotes as well & am having the same issues with finding buckshot, etc. Your article sorts out one problem but another is hulls & wads. What are you using? I have books on handloading shotgun loads, but I can't find any hulls. Also what length are you using? I figured 3" would be best. Any info would be appreciated & maybe would make for another article. Thanks,

Jeff B.

Hello Jeff,

Thanks very much for your letter. I'm glad you enjoyed the article. I've been doing additional load development and plan on sharing my experiments with buckshot in an upcoming issue of CFJ. At the moment I'm fielding a relatively heavy load of #00 buckshot dropped from my Sharpshooter USA mold.

Using a 1X fired Federal 23/4 "Gold Medal plastic hull with fold crimp, I'm able to fit 12 pellets of #00 buckshot in conjunction with a standard Winchester WAA12R wad. Primers are standard Federal 209A and so far I've had my most consistent results using Alliant Blue Dot powder. Please be sure to consult a quality loading manual for safe powder loads for the combination of buckshot and components you select for your own use. According to my Shooting Chrony chronograph, my current pet coyote load

is delivering an average velocity of 1350 fps.

In addition to the Federal hulls, I've also had very good results using the Remington Nitro and STS plastic hulls. For the most part, my primary source of hulls is scrounging and recycling. I've been saving factory hulls for years and have had much success in compelling, threatening, or coercing hunting buddies and family members to do the same. ☺

Given your circumstances it might also be worth your while to check out your local trap or sporting clays field for freebies, if you're having a problem sourcing hulls locally. If looking to buy factory-fresh, most of the big retail sporting chains like Wholesale Sports, LeBaron's, etc., usually have a decent selection of wads and other components in stock, assuming your local gun store can't help. When mail-order is the only option, I usually stick with Higginson Powders (www.higginsonpowders.com). They normally have a fantastic selection of powder, primers and also carry a lot of Winchester shot shell reloading components.

At one time I used to purchase a lot of hard to source shot shell tools and reloading components in the USA direct from Ballistic Products Inc. (www.ballisticproducts.com). However, changes to US export regulations and Canadian import rules forced me to seek alternative sources until I learned that a Canadian retailer/distributor, -- Bilozir Fine Guns of De Winton, Alberta (www.bilozir.net) -- had stepped-up and is now offering Canadian handloaders access to almost the complete Ballistics Product catalog. You may contact them via E-mail at: reloading@bilozir.net or drop them a line via telephone at Ph. 403-938-6066.

Best of luck with the new project!

- Sean

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



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Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of the National Firearms Association

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Passion for the Past

Gary K. Kangas and Peter Stratford

Some individuals acquire a direction at an early age to pursue an interest. One such individual is Peter Stratford, competitive shooter, collector, historian and preserver of the past.

In his own words Peter will share his passion.

How I Found My Passion for History

I owe much of my love for history and all things “old” to my grandparents. From the age of 10, until I left for university, I lived with and was raised by my grandparents. Their rural home was a fascinating place for a young boy to grow up in, with lots of interesting treasures to play with and admire. My grandfather’s WW1 medals and cap badge collection

hung on the living room wall, along with photographs of my great-grandparents and a shelf of silver trophy cups he’d won playing rugby in the 1920’s. On Sunday afternoons, he would sit and smoke his pipe and listen to old march music on 78 records.

In the backyard was a dilapidated shed that had lots of old wooden hand tools lying around. There was even a 6 foot crosscut saw mounted on the wall. When I was 13 years old my grandfather gave me his 1940’s era Webley pellet pistol. I spent many happy hours that summer in the backyard honing my target skills. It was because of this



*Shelburne Camp,
Shelburne, Nova Scotia*



Ceremony for the Fallen, Melville Island.

gift that I also learned to appreciate the value of a well-made firearm and first began asking questions about our firearms heritage.

My grandmother was an avid “garage-saler.” On the weekends, we would check out the neighbourhood for yard sales. Thanks to these trips and my grandmother’s influence, I continued to develop a keen interest in all things “old” and “unusual.” By the age of 16 I had accumulated quite an eclectic collection that included antique bottles, insulators, pocket watches, military cap badges, stamps, coins, old cameras, several wind-up phonographs and a few clocks.

From this interest in antiques grew a desire to learn more about the past and the history of our nation, including our proud firearms heritage. I love the feeling and sense of wonder you get when you hold an item of potential historical significance. A big part of the fun of it all is trying to imagine who might have owned the item, where it came from, how it got here and what the original owner’s life might have been like all those many years ago.

Forty years later (I am 56 years old now); our home is still stuffed with collections. As an extension of my interest in antiques and history, I have found historical re-enacting to be especially fulfilling. Perhaps it is the uniforms, the accoutrements; the manual of arms and being able to shoulder as fine an example of the gun maker’s art as ever existed that appeals most. However, they are but one part of the unique allure of historical re-enacting. Best of all, it is a very family-friendly activity and it is something your entire family may enjoy together.

At present, I am a proud member of the Kings’ Orange Rangers, a British loyalist re-enactment group based out of Liverpool, Nova Scotia, circa the 1780’s.



Orange Rangers on Parade



Dedication of Plaque, Liverpool, Nova Scotia.



*L: Orange Rangers at attention
Above: Laureen Stratford at Shelburne*

POLITICS & GUNS

A Matter of Trust: Concealed Carry & the Snowbird Paradox

by Sean G. Penney

The right to self-defence and the related issue of concealed carry (CCW) has been much in the news of late. Indeed, it is a topic of increasing heated discussion both in the United States and here at home. Recent high-profile cases such as that of Kevin Everett, Ian Thomson and Laurie Manzer have served to put the issue front-and-center for an increasing number of law-abiding Canadian gun owners.

For rabid gun control advocates and gun-banners, CCW is a “hot-button” issue that allows for little in the way of reasoned debate. Rather than argue their point purely on the basis of cold-hard fact and crime statistics, anti-gun advocates such as the Coalition for Gun Control, continue to rely on a progressively invalid emotional dialectic. While Canada is a long way from becoming a “Shall-Issue” CCW state, many law-abiding Canadian gun owners already hold valid American CCW permits from a number of different states.

In recent years the NFA has received increasing numbers of queries on the subject from its members. While most callers are great supporters of the right to self-defence, many are openly sceptical that a foreign power like the USA would willingly trust alien gun owners to carry concealed firearms for personal protection.

One such member, Mark, writing of his own personal experience, was adamant that CCW permits are simply not issued to non-US residents, even Canadians. According to his letter, Mark currently has a home in Florida and is a part-time resident of the state. He also has a Florida driver’s license, which enables him to purchase firearms legally.

As a law-abiding gun owner and self-defence advocate, Mark was interested in obtaining his own Florida CCW permit. In this pursuit he successfully completed a mandatory approved concealed weapon certificate course, in order to establish proof of competency in the handling of firearms. Upon completion of the course he attempted to file an application for a CCW permit with the local state government office responsible for them. Despite having official copies of his PAL, Canadian S.I.N. card, Canadian and Floridian drivers’ licenses and CCW firearms course accreditation, along with other required documents, the clerk he spoke with refused to process the application after learning he was Canadian. Mark was told emphatically that under no circumstance was he eligible to obtain a CCW permit unless he could present a valid



“Gun control? It’s the best thing you can do for crooks and gangsters. I want you to have nothing. If I’m a bad guy, I’m always gonna have a gun. Safety locks? You will pull the trigger with a lock on, and I’ll pull the trigger. We’ll see who wins.”

Sammy “the Bull” Gravano, former underboss of the Gambino crime family, drug trafficker & mafia hitman.

Social Security Card, a “Green Card,” or proof of US citizenship.

While I wish Mark’s application had been acted upon favourably, the rejection of his application is not unique and isn’t necessarily limited to Canadian “Snowbirds.” Unfortunately, current American CCW application processes varies widely according to jurisdiction and some are simply more restrictive than others. This phenomenon is exacerbated by the fact that there is no unified federal law specifically addressing the issuance of concealed carry permits. Unlike Canada, the issuance of “gun” permits is most often left to the discretion of the local police chief, state police commander or county sheriff, rather than state or federal governments. In other cases, the government bureaucrat or local LEO responsible for processing applications may simply be uninformed or mistaken when it comes to who is and isn’t eligible to apply for a CCW permit. All too often such functionaries and civil servants offer opinion, coloured by personal bias, as fact.

Still, some 49 US states have passed laws allowing citizens to carry certain concealed firearms in public; either without a permit or after obtaining a permit from local government and/or law enforcement. As the proven efficacy of concealed carry laws in reducing violent crime has become more widely acknowledged, many US jurisdictions have also opted to negotiate reciprocity agreements with other states. As a consequence, CCW holders are legally entitled to carry in any state that shares reciprocity with their permit’s state of

origin and not necessarily their state of residence.

In fact, as many as 1/3 of American adults, because of the jurisdiction in which they live, are presently denied the right to carry concealed because they failed to meet certain required conditions in their state of residence. Consequently, two of the most highly sought after CCW permits in America today are Utah & Florida, primarily because of their extensive reciprocity, their comparatively less “exclusive” application requirements and open acceptance of non-resident applications.

The ironic result is that many individuals are licensed to carry in dozens of states, except their own, and/or end up being able to legally carry in their home state, despite having been previously denied a CCW permit by their local authorities; all thanks to reciprocity. The same trends hold true for many Canadians seeking CCW permits in the US. Denied such privileges in their home country, many are successful in their quest to legally carry south of the border.

Admittedly, non-US citizen Canadian applicants will usually enjoy a much easier application process if they are recognized as a “Lawful Permanent Resident” or LPR of the United States. For those who aren’t familiar with the designation, an “LPR” is any person not a citizen of the United States who is residing in the U.S. under legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence status as an immigrant and are also known as a “Permanent Resident Alien,” “Resident Alien Permit Holder,” and “Green Card

Holder.”

However, that doesn’t necessarily preclude non-LPR Canadians from obtaining a valid CCW permit. I personally know many fellow Canadian “Snowbirds” who are current CCW holders, with several holding multiple permits, including Utah, New Hampshire & Maine. While required documentation and conditions may have varied depending on jurisdiction, like our earlier letter-writer Mark, they all completed some sort of an approved CCW training course and voluntarily submitted to FBI background checks, were fingerprinted, and as required by local issuing authorities, jumped through all the other necessary hoops demanded, including providing copies of their Social Insurance Number, PAL and Driver’s License, etc... Incidentally, none are US citizens, they do not hold dual citizenship, most own no property in the US and they do not hold Green Cards. Yet they are CCW permit holders, duly authorized to legally carry concealed “weapons,” simply by virtue of being law-abiding gun owners

In addition to CCW permitting states, there are others such as Vermont, Arizona and Alaska that allow CCW, but do not require any sort of permit. In the latter cases, if the individual is legally permitted to possess a firearm under state law, they are legally permitted to carry it. What a novel idea indeed - governments trusting law-abiding gun owners!

For the most part, CCW permit holders are “known quantities” that American authorities have recognized as posing little threat to public safety. The extremely

“You don’t think it’s mitigating, the fact this man is getting pursued by gangs and has been shot at in the past...I know it’s a crime, but my goodness, I can’t think of a better reason to be carrying...I don’t condone it, but I understand why you were carrying a gun.”

Court of Queen’s Bench Justice John Menzies

low revocation rates for CCW permits reinforce this belief. However, reciprocal recognition of concealed carry privileges and rights varies from state-to-state, including the specific rights actually granted the permit holder. Whether American or Canadian, any CCW permit holder would be well-advised to do their homework before venturing to carry in another jurisdiction, even if there is promised reciprocity.

In the past, the most Canadian-friendly states seem to have been Utah, New Hampshire, and more recently Maine; although I understand that Utah has recently made some changes to their application that makes it more difficult for non-residents to obtain a permit. From what I can gather, this move was political in nature, rather than as a result of any public safety concerns posed by non-resident applicants. Thanks to the state’s extensive reciprocity agreements, the Utah CCW permit has become a much sought-after commodity by American gun owners as well as Canadian; in the process causing state legislators to draw the ire of the American gun control lobby. Nevertheless, those Canadian “Snowbirds” currently holding a Utah CCW permit can still legally carry in some 29 different US states. With the right combination of permits and factoring in all reciprocity agreements, one could conceivably be licensed to carry concealed in over three dozen US states.

Obviously, the process for Canadian applicants may necessarily be more complicated than for a US citizen, but the fact remains that many are ultimately successful in their quest for CCW status. Arguably, the fact that so many are

successful is a sad commentary on the current state of Canadian gun laws.

What makes it even sadder is that under the current Firearms Act there are legal provisions for Canadians to apply for our equivalent of the American CCW license, known as an ATC-3 or “Authorization-to-Carry” permit. However, only a handful has ever been approved and only then in instances where the applicant possessed extremely influential political connections. Unlike the ATC-3 permit, authorizations for open carry are more accessible, but are typically reserved only for individuals requiring a firearm as part of their employment, such as armored car guards. Apparently it is okay for civilians to carry firearms in Canada in order to protect money, but not so if talking protection of human life.

We see the same bias throughout the current federal gun control bureaucracy, time and again. Currently provincial Chief Firearms Officers routinely reject transfer applications for restricted class firearms (handguns) whenever self-defence is checked as the reason for the transfer - regardless of circumstances or need, and in blatant defiance of the fact that “self-defence” is a legitimate reason for acquiring a firearm as per the Firearms Act.

Not only are law-abiding Canadians being denied reasonable access to ATC-3 permits for the purpose of self-defence, they must still apply for a de facto “permission” slip from government bureaucrats in order to simply take their legally registered handgun to the range for target practice or to be repaired by their local gunsmith. Furthermore, “Snowbirds” headed south and legally holding valid CCW permits must still

obtain a short-term ATT in order to transport their handgun to the US border before crossing into the USA. One step over it and assuming they are licensed for that particular state, the trigger lock comes off, the locked gun case is stored and the favourite CCW holster comes out along with a loaded magazine.

And that is the crux of the matter. The absurdity of the Liberal’s failed C-68 gun control program and the gun control bureaucracy it spawned is that a foreign government, the United States of America, places far greater trust in law-abiding Canadian gun owners than does their own duly-elected federal government! As such, it can be argued that Canadian gun owners actually enjoy more extensive civil rights there, than at home.

Nevertheless, whether you favour CCW or not, this lack of trust in the law-abiding remains a troublesome issue for our firearms community. If a Canadian gun owner has proven themselves trustworthy enough to legally own a particular firearm, regardless of classification, shouldn’t they be trusted enough to also use it responsibly? Why must law-abiding gun owners continue to bear the burden of reverse onus under the Criminal Code of Canada? Why must we willingly accept abrogation of our rights because of the illogical fear and bias of a few? Why do un-elected firearms bureaucrats such as the Chief Firearms Officer enjoy seeming unfettered authority to pick and choose which sections of the 1995 Firearms Act to enforce?

This is a debate whose time has come. From my perspective otherwise law-abiding citizens, such as Kevin Everett, should not be forced to break the law

“It may not always be easy, convenient, or politically correct to stand for truth and right, but it is the right thing to do. Always.”

M. Russell Ballard

by carrying concealed because there is no de facto access to legitimate ATC-3 permits for the purpose of self-defence. When the police are unable to protect us, what are law-abiding citizens to do? Even the judge who sentenced Mr. Everett recognized the unfairness of our current gun laws in this regard. As the research of such well-respected scholars as John R. Lott Jr., Gary Kleck, and Gary Mauser has clearly demonstrated, guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens are a net boon to our society and directly contribute to enhancing public safety by reducing the incidence of violent crime, including murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, home invasion, and break & enter.

In this new age of highly-publicized mass shootings or spree killings, concealed-carry laws have also been shown to deter many potential killers and have helped mitigate the potential loss of life that may have otherwise occurred had a CCW holder not been present to intervene.

I am well aware that my position may be considered controversial – especially since the myth that Canada remains a “Peaceable Kingdom” continues to endure. Nor do I discount the gun control lobby’s scaremongering tactics and dire warnings that Canadian towns and cities would inevitably become war zones because of rampaging concealed

carry license holders. (Funny, it hasn’t happened in America!) Heck, I accept that my position regarding the right to self-defence and concealed carry isn’t even universally shared by all Canadian gun owners.

Yet, rest assured I don’t advocate CCW as an option for everyone, but only for those citizens who are of sound mind and good character, who do not have a history of violence or a criminal record and who are willing to provide demonstrable proof of their firearms competency through completion of rigorous additional firearms training that meets, or exceeds current police standards. For such



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

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

“All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.”

Arthur Schopenhauer

individuals, the right and choice whether or not to carry concealed should not be denied them. Those gun owners who aren't interested in exercising said right simply do not have to.

Whether or not Canadian gun owners will ever enjoy the option of legally carrying concealed is really beside the point when it comes to the debate over public safety. Since “packing” or not, recent research based upon statistics from the Homicide Survey and the Canadian Firearms Program published by Professor Gary Mauser has shown that the actual probability of a licensed gun owner committing homicide is less than half that of a non-gun owning Canadian citizen. According to Professor Mauser, “less than one licensed firearm owner per 100, 000 gun owners is accused of murder in any given year.” Amongst non-gun owners, this rate increases to approximately two murders per 100, 000; or put another way, non-gun owning Canadians are twice as likely to commit murder than licensed gun owners.

This simple “truth” is not some product of junk science that is so beloved by the Coalition for Gun Control and other advocates of civil-disarmament. It is hard, cold and irrefutable fact. If the debate over self-defence and right-to-carry in Canada really revolved around matters of “trust” and issues of public safety, recent government statistics and the work of scholars such as Gary Mauser should have put an end to them once and for all. However unfair it may be, the rights of Canada's responsible firearms community continues to be sacrificed on the altar of political correctness and for wholly petty political interests.

Thus we arrive at the essence of the “Snowbird” Paradox. Canada, as a nation

that prides itself as being a defender of freedom, equality and justice, willingly denies it's most law-abiding the most basic of human rights, as well as the means by which they may be protected. Such a reality exemplifies the very antithesis of all that Canadians ostensibly hold sacred. This is a contradiction that needs resolution.

Even if you oppose firearms ownership and adamantly reject the right to carry, the thorny question of how to reconcile Canadian's skewed self-image with the reality of the “Snowbird” paradox does not disappear, simply because it is an inconvenient truth. Currently, our American neighbours are more prepared to trust us, Canada's law-abiding gun owners, than our own government, its institutions and our agents of law-enforcement. Alas, the Liberal's social re-engineering gambit has conditioned Canadians to view gun owners, no matter how law-abiding, as objects of suspicion and menace. Moreover, such a distortion of reality continues to endure despite every fact; every statistic and

every piece of evidence amassed over the past four decades is to the contrary. Until this paradox is resolved and justice prevails, Canadians must regretfully list hypocrisy among their self-described list of “virtues.”

For further reference:

www.nfa.ca

<http://johnrlott.blogspot.ca>

www.garymauser.net

<http://handgunlaw.us>

<http://handgunlaw.us/documents/NonResidentPermits.pdf>

<http://www.defensivecarry.com>

<http://www.concealedcarry.ca>

<https://www.usconcealedcarry.com>

<http://www.usacarry.com>

<http://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/licenses/documents/Weapons/non-resident%20application%20package.pdf>





Canada's National Firearms Association Annual General Meeting 2013

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

Friday May 3

Meet and Greet - mingle with the Directors and other activists

Saturday May 4

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

Special guests invited: *Solomon C. Friedman, LL.B. of Edelson Clifford D'Angelo, - Professor John Lott, Jr., - Professor Gary Mausser, - Alan Korwin, an Arizona author and civil rights activist/operator of gunlaws.com, - Andrew Craig, Canada Reload Radio host, - Karen Selick, Litigation Director-Canadian Constitution Foundation, - Rob Anders, Conservative MP from Calgary and Sun News host Brian Lilley*

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

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

NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION FOR 2013 AGM:

Registration fee: \$40 _____ (Includes: Information sessions & Banquet)	Membership # _____
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Register Early!! Space is limited!!



Notice of Election 2013 And Call for Nomination

Canada's National Firearms Association announces that elections will be held for the Board of Directors. Interested parties should submit a nomination form and a short (200 words) biography and statement of intent to the National office no later than February 15, 2013. Nomination forms are available for downloads.

In accordance with the Bylaws, a total of five nominations are sought for the following position:

15. The property and business of the association shall be managed by a board of directors elected from the following electoral regions as described below:

Electoral Area - Directors to Elect

Alberta – Northwest Territories & Out-of-Canada	1
British Columbia – Yukon	1
Manitoba – Nunavut	0
Newfoundland – Labrador – Maritimes	1
Ontario	1
Quebec	1
Saskatchewan	0

a. Each of the above would form one electoral area when electing its director(s). Out-of-Canada members will vote as part of the Alberta membership. The combinations above shall apply until such time as those specific provinces and territories develop sufficient membership to form separate electoral areas.

b. Each electoral area containing at least 5 percent (5%) of the voting members of the association on September 1 of an election year is entitled to elect one, but only one director. Each electoral area containing at least 10 percent (10%) of the voting members of the association on September 1 of an election year is entitled to elect two, but only two directors. A voting member may vote only for candidate(s) in the electoral area in which he or she resides.

c. A province, territory or Out-of-Canada grouping may form an electoral area when dividing the electoral area it is part of will mean that both of that province(s) and/or territory or grouping each have at least 5 percent (5%) of the voting membership of the association. Provinces and territories not having sufficient numbers to form an electoral area will be combined with an adjacent province or territory as determined by the board of Directors.

Directors must be individuals, 18 years of age or older at the time of the election, with power under Canadian law sign contracts.

16. Directors shall be elected by surface mail, electronic mail, or secure call-in telephone ballot of voting members for a term of 2 years, except as noted below:

a. An electoral area with 2 directors shall elect one each year, except in the first year in which these bylaws come into effect at which time all directors will be elected. The director, from an area with 2 directors, having the second highest number of votes will serve a one year term and that directorship will be up for election for a two-year term in the subsequent election. In the event of a tie, the matter will be determined by a draw. The directors for Saskatchewan and Manitoba-Nunavut will likewise be the first elected as a one year term so that about half of the board of directors is subject to election each year.



Nomination Form for Office Director of Canada's National Firearms Association

Nomination Form for Office of Director of Canada's National Firearms Association

Candidate:

Name: _____ NFA Membership Number: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Candidate Profile: The candidate must provide a good quality digital photograph and a typed electronic 200 word biography that outlines his or her experience and reasons for wishing to serve as a director of Canada's National Firearms Association.

Date of Birth: _____

How long have you been a member of Canada's NFA?: _____

Do you have power under Canadian law to sign legally binding contracts? YES/NO

Do you have a criminal record for which you have not received a pardon? YES/NO

I accept the nomination to run as a director for Canada's NFA.

Candidate's signature: _____ Date: _____

We the undersigned members in good standing of Canada's National Firearms Association wish to nominate _____ for the position of director.

Nominators

Name: _____ NFA Membership Number: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

How long have you known this person? _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ NFA Membership Number: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

How long have you known this person? _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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The 2012 IPSC Provincials: *Is this sport at par with golf?*

By Charles Schafer

The Atlantic Marksmen Association (AMA) hosted the 2012 IPSC Provincials match at its outdoor multi-range complex in Devon, Nova Scotia on July 14th and 15th. The match attracted 57 competitors, including a team of Canadian military shooters from Newfoundland. It included a selection of both long and short courses of fire with a good number of dynamic targets (flybys, twisters, pop-ups, and pendulum-driven wavers) to heighten both the level of excitement and challenge for shooters mostly from around the Maritimes. One particularly challenging stage, that has been typical of provincial-level IPSC matches at the AMA's range for a number of years, is the Run through the Woods. It offers the competitor a series of 30 paper targets placed at various distances and positions along a narrow and fairly well-vegetated dirt trail. In addition to trying to remember the location of each target as the shooter races along the trail (many targets cannot be seen from all angles), competitors must also keep an eye on the trail surface itself to avoid an unintended fall. They must also remember to check themselves for ticks after completing the stage. Like most Nova Scotia summer weekends, weather conditions during the 2012 match varied considerably from day-to-day. Saturday was definitely on the warm and intensely sunny side (for most Maritimers) but Sunday was almost perfect with mostly cloudy conditions and an intermittent light breeze to keep the black flies away. In the Open Division, overall match results placed Wolf Hofmann, Wade Mackay and Laurie McNeil in the top three slots with Monique Trepanier and Diane Gould respectively in 5th and 7th place. The three top Open Division positions for the ever-popular Run through the Woods stage were captured by Wolf Hofmann, Wade Mackay and Jon Gould, with Monique Trapanier and Diane Gould placing 6th and 8th for the women shooters.

As I was driving home from the match, I passed one of our local golf courses. It



started me musing about how the IPSC sport compares to golf? In terms of the level of excitement, shooting a complex IPSC stage with dynamic targets and successfully sinking a long putt might be considered at par by some folks. However, there is much more to the IPSC experience than meets the eye. For one thing, IPSC shooters get to trade ideas with a larger number of their fellow competitors during a match because squad sizes can consist of as many as 20 shooters; while golfers are typically restricted to chatting with only two to four players. Also, IPSC competitors seem to require a relatively larger skill set that extends well beyond safety, accuracy and speed. By that I mean that things like a careful study of the entire physical layout of a stage before challenging, it compared to just assessing wind strength and direction, or the subtle slope changes of a putting green. Both sports have safety protocols but, as you might guess, they are much more complex for the IPSC shooter – shouting fore when something goes wrong is not an option in

IPSC competitions. The higher level of safety protocols in IPSC also limits the age at which shooters can participate in this style of competition, whereas most golf clubs usually feature strong youth programs.

The absolute degree of concentration of an IPSC competitor is probably higher than that of a golfer because IPSC scores are dependent on both time and accuracy. My golfer friends tell me that the degree of concentration during a golf match is more or less uniform, but that it could be higher when teeing-off because a poorly executed drive shot is considered more embarrassing than missing a long putt. Then there's the issue of equipment maintenance. For the golfer, that might mean regular cleaning of club heads and balls. Repairs to damaged club heads and shafts, or the replacement of club grips are among the tasks that are usually farmed out to the commercial sector. By contrast, although some IPSC shooters might use a gunsmith for some of their

more cantankerous maintenance chores, an IPSC competitor's maintenance tasks can range from the complete disassembling and servicing of competition handguns and cartridge magazines, to adjustments of optical sights, belts, holsters, ear protectors and shooting glasses.

Both sports have handicap systems, but their approaches are distinctly different. In golf, the handicap system is a one size fits all approach, whereas in IPSC there are age-based categories that are only effective if there are enough members of a particular category participating in a match. Those categories are subordinate to Divisions (Open, Production, Revolver etc.), so that overall results of a match typically are loaded with Open Division competitors at the top and filled (sometimes) by Super Seniors and Production Division shooters near the bottom of the rankings



list. Challenging an IPSC stage is always an intense experience because the shooter is being timed. The golfer, on the other hand, does not seem to have the same level of pressure and appears to be time-driven only by the need of course officials to maintain a constant flow of competitors through the course. And, speaking of holes and stages, there's a relatively high number of stage designs available for configuring an IPSC competition.

New stage designs may be submitted for approval at any time so that the shooter is always being faced with challenges that are different and sometimes very unique from those that were encountered in previous matches at the same range. The golfer may experience some variety by playing at different courses, but the courses themselves are typically static and therefore without any surprises when played repeatedly. However, golf club programs clearly offer a greater number of match opportunities to their membership compared to IPSC. That also has the additional benefit of adding revenue to the golf club's bank account as a result of all those extra green fees.

When we get around to considering cost, a good set of golf clubs might set the golfer back about \$900-1200, while the Open category IPSC competitor can spend more than several thousand dollars for a good quality race gun. In golf, virtually all of the maintenance of the course is carried out by paid staff, a feature of the sport that is usually reflected in comparatively high golf club membership fees, compared to the relatively modest membership and match fees that IPSC competitors pay to cover the materials needed to construct stages and rent some extra gun control Port-a-potties.

One very distinct difference between golf and IPSC is the degree of volunteer involvement in the latter. IPSC competitors can spend many hours of volunteer time helping in the construction stages for a competition and in dismantling them and cleaning up shell casings and other debris



left behind after a competition has finished. All of that effort may be over and above hours spent at the reloading bench making sure that every round is as consistent as possible. I think it's safe to say that IPSC matches would not be as diverse and challenging as they are today without these cadres of dedicated volunteers.

Although I know that there are some IPSC competitors that swing a golf club from time-to-time, it is clear that the two sports each tend to attract their own distinct type of competitor. The golfer can enjoy the physical and mental challenges that the sport offers, but in many instances may also be found on the green as part of a business or career strategy. For example, the categories of membership in a golf club typically include corporate, corporate social, honorary, non-resident, non-playing and so on, in addition to several full membership categories that vary in cost. They account for the large numbers of members (some in excess of 2000 members) in the more exclusive golf clubs in Nova Scotia, compared to several hundred or less in some of the

larger shooting sports clubs that can be found in my province. IPSC competitors, by comparison, seem to be more focused on the sport itself and the challenges that it offers to mind and body. For me, the choice was an easy one that's sometimes hard to explain to my golfer friends – most of whom have never tried their hand at IPSC shooting (and likely never will). All

I can say to those folks is that the loss is yours, or perhaps that ignorance is bliss. However, I have to admit that at my age I sometimes wish I did have access to a caddy or golf cart to tote all the extra ammo and gear I need to compete from one IPSC stage to the next.



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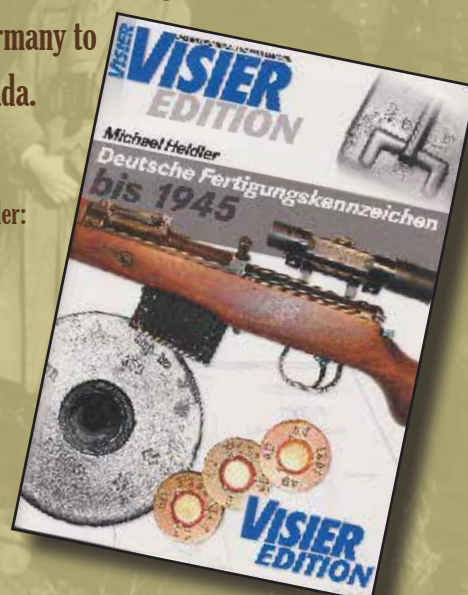
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PPC *A Convergence of the Pistol Sports*

By Mike Kelly

On a cold, rainy 30th of September morning an eclectic assortment of shooters assembled at NSRA's, Bull Meadows Range Complex; a world class training facility located just outside Halifax N.S. They came to compete for the coveted PPC provincial title.

The NSRA hosts the PPC provincials every fall as a culmination of the spring and summer pistol shooting season in Atlantic Canada. To keep it competitive and encourage participation in the shooting sports they open it up to all shooting clubs

PPC is a unique discipline that, in Atlantic Canada at least, tends to attract shooters from across the spectrum. IDPA and IPSC shooters attend thinking the speed they have developed for competition will be an asset. The bullseye, standard pistol and free pistol shooters attend thinking their abilities for firing precision shots will be the edge that gets them to the trophy table. Experienced service rifle/pistol shooters attend thinking their years of experience in competition, along with superior fitness and focus will

From start to finish, the top competitor of the match is in a constant state of flux.

The match usually starts out with the IPSC/IDPA crowd taking a bit of a lead. Match 1 begins with 7 and 15 m distances and those distances are common in IPSC/IDPA. Even mediocre competitors in these disciplines find the allotted times more than passable allowing for very accurate shooting. Moving into the 3rd and 4th matches of the competition the bullseye and free pistol shooters tend to move ahead of the pack. Their ability to accurately place rounds in the 50M X-ring helps them gain points they might have been down in the faster, closer matches. Meanwhile law enforcement and military shooters hold there own. While generally not as fast as the IPSC/IDPA crowd or as accurate as the Bullseye crowd, they are a competent blend of both, which keeps them up there in the standings. At the end of the fourth match the lunch bell is rung, giving everyone the opportunity to come together to wind down, discuss strategies, reminisce and laugh while breaking bread. Past friendships are rekindled and new ones



and law enforcement agencies and military personnel, as well as NSRA members. If you were to attend, it would become evident very quickly there is an array of competitors not normally seen at most pistol matches. There are novice pistol shooters that come out to try their hand at the shooting sports next to very seasoned competitors from a variety of disciplines. This year the president of IPSC Canada was shooting beside the most decorated Military Service Rifle competitor in the British Empire, Ken Ferguson. There were also many previous PPC champions like Rick Dunn guiding and RO'ing tyros and beginning pistol shooters like Ian McNeil.

be all the edge they require to make it to the top. Many competitors having a background in the military and law enforcement communities also feel they have an edge because of their familiarity with the B-27 style target. Yet, all of these diverse shooting styles and personalities are able to come together for a single pistol shooting competition. One that is perhaps the most spirited and intense competition in all of Atlantic Canada.



are made.

Lunch is provided at the match and the Handgun Section Chairman, Bob Selig (a well rounded/respected firearms competitor and Canada Games coach), always ensures there is plenty of drinks, sausages, and hamburgers available for everyone. This year the club president (Andy Webber, a national sniper rifle champion), volunteered to man the BBQ; grilling up some of the finest cuisine we've seen at a match in years. While competitors were gorging themselves the chair of the Service Rifle Section and acting vice-president, Wendy Reid (also a national sniper rifle champion), was busy processing stats so everyone could see how they were placing at the mid-point. It was a true collaboration, the results of which were evident in a fun, efficient, and very smoothly-run event.

After lunch the match begins to get more interesting, as the competition really heats up! Everyone knows where they are ranked at mid-match and are looking to move up the ranking ladder! Shooters are started with a yin/yang experience of sorts, first off with a 7m speed shoot, followed immediately by a 50m precision event. This really helps to move the scores around and shuffle match leader rankings. The pressure builds moving into the last matches of the afternoon. The

last matches are at 25m, a distance used in all the pistol shooting sports. There is no one discipline that has the advantage on the 25m line; it all comes down to focus and the ability to deal with the match pressure. This year the difference between the winner and runner was a mere 2 points! In 2010 it came down to one point; the last shot on the last target of the day. How is that for match excitement!

As if the closeness in scores wasn't enough excitement we had an 'underdog' or perhaps 'hustler' would be a more appropriate word, rear his head. Every now and again, in all of the shooting disciplines we see the emergence of a top competitor that wasn't expected. This year we experienced that very phenomenon from Troy Singer of Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia. Troy is a full-time RCMP officer and experienced IPSC competitor, and he shot an inspired match. He competed in the PPC Provincials last year with a score of 1159/1500. This year, knowing what to expect, the extra practice and renewed focus he brought to the match yielded a final score of 1402/1500; what an improvement! In Nova Scotia PPC Provincial Championship history, a score of 1400/1500 or better has been posted with a pistol only twice and both times were during this very match. Unfortunately, Troy didn't win this year; Mike Kelly of East Bay, Nova Scotia eked out the win by posting a score of 1404/1500, giving him the championship.

If you are looking for a great way to end

your summer shooting season, I recommend the Nova Scotia PPC provincials. It is well-organized, provides a challenging course of fire and a very high-level of competition. Here you will notice a camaraderie that is sometimes not apparent in other sporting disciplines. It is routine to see top PPC competitors providing insight/training to beginners. In addition there is such a broad assortment of competitors, from so many other shooting disciplines, that the differing insights all freely offer can potentially have a huge impact on your own performance and training regime. There are top precision rifle competitors, 3-Gun and Service Rifle competitors, Olympic rifle competitors, IPSC, IDPA, PPC, standard and free pistol competitors, and even the odd skeet shooter to be found sharing the same firing line at a PPC match like the Nova Scotia provincials. What other shooting events draws competitors from so many different disciplines? The knowledge and skill sets present at this event exceed just about anything else I have witnessed on just about any other range I can remember. Top it all off with a finger-lickin' good BBQ and you know why many people now consider the Nova Scotia PPC provincials one of the premier pistol matches in Atlantic Canada!

For more coverage, please see:

<http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/nsrifle/>



GUN JOBS

PARTS SPECIALIST

By Al Voth

Previous Gun Jobs articles have focused on firearm professions that are well known. However, this issue's focus is on a lesser known portion of the firearms world—the people who supply us with the parts that keep our guns running. If your gun never breaks, you won't even know these people exist; but when you need to replace a broken or missing part on a modern or antique firearm, they become life-savers. And you can be assured that gun parts suppliers are on the speed dial list of every gunsmith in this country.

In Canada, if we're going to look at parts specialists as a subset of all firearms professions, we'd better look at Western

gun shop in 1966, and like most shops he handled a small selection of parts and accessories. Circumstances led him to buy more than the usual collection of parts and as that portion of the business grew, he split it off from the retail store. In 1990 a buyer came along for the retail shop and he sold it, devoting himself exclusively to the parts business, which has continued to grow. W.G.P. has always been a family business and Erv says his son and daughter are now in a position to take over from him and he's trying to ease himself out the door in the next few years.

My first question to Erv was to ask him where the parts he sells come from. "We

parts."

"But there aren't any significant gun manufacturers left in Canada," I pointed out.

"We buy parts from all over the world," he replied, "particularly the USA and Europe. Browning is a good example, as we now have all the parts inventory for 23 of their discontinued firearms. In fact, some manufacturers prefer selling parts inventories out of their home country, because it removes them one step further from any liability problems that might arise from improper use or installation. Beyond that we also contract the manufacture of products that are in high demand in Canada."

"Like what," I asked.

"Cooley rimfire extractors are a good example," he replied. "We have them made and actually own the tooling; buying them 1,000 at a time." He noticed the surprised



W.G.P.'s inventory includes a wide selection of scope mounts, sights and aftermarket triggers.

Gun Parts of Edmonton, Alberta. They are by a huge margin the largest supplier of gun parts in Canada. With 5,000 square feet of warehouse space and millions of parts in stock, you'll have to go into the USA to find a bigger stockpile of parts. As a result Erv Heiman, the founder of W.G.P. is one of the most recognized names in the Canadian firearm industry and it was him I interviewed to find out about the world of firearm parts.

Erv told me he purchased an Edmonton

buy most of our inventory from manufacturers," he said. "When a model goes out of production the manufacturer may carry parts in inventory for a few years, but it doesn't take long and they want to get rid of them. Or sometimes they'll have flawed production runs," he added. "Or some guy in the warehouse drives a forklift over a pallet of guns. All kinds of things can go wrong in production and distribution, resulting in the availability of



Located in Edmonton, Western Gun Parts is the leading supplier of gun parts in Canada.

look on my face and added, "Yes, there's that much demand for them. Reproduction parts are being made for a number of popular old firearms, including Winchester lever guns and 1897 pump shotguns.



A small portion of the stock inventory at W.G.P.

“We’ll also sometimes buy guns and strip them down for parts. Much like an auto wrecker does cars, but we don’t do much of that any more. And lastly, we will buy inventory from stores or gunsmiths that are going out of business.”

“If that’s where they come from,” I asked, “then where do they go? Who buys your

parts?”

“The gun trade accounts for 80% of our sales. And that’s primarily by mail order. The rest of our sales are to end users which can be all over the world. When a person is looking for a gun part, we’re sometimes the only place it can be found.”

“Do you specialize in anything,” I asked?

“Only to the extent that we follow the demand here in Canada,” Erv said, “which means primarily sporting rifle and shotgun parts. We don’t have a lot of handgun parts and a very limited supply of military parts; the latter consisting primarily of Lee-Enfield and Mauser type rifle parts. And I should perhaps add that we don’t sell guns of

any kind, not even receivers.”

“What’s an average day like around here?” I prompted.

“Monday’s are by far the busiest,” he said. “People use their guns most on weekends and so that’s when they break. On Monday they call us looking for parts. Our first job is to identify the part accurately, then determine if we have it, then pick it and package it for shipping. Usually we can get it out the door the same day. That routine pretty much describes the whole day. Our hours are 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and the phone is usually ringing by 7:30 a.m. with customers from eastern Canada. In October, our busiest month, the phone and fax are going steadily and we’re often here well past closing time. Even with that effort, it often takes two or three days to get a part out at that time of year.”

“You’re front display area suggests you deal in a lot more than ‘used’ parts.”

Erv nodded in agreement. “Sometimes the line between accessories and parts is hard to identify. But we do carry a lot of sights and scope mounts because we are the Canadian distributor for a number of product lines, including Warne scope mounts, Timney triggers, TRUGLO sights, Williams sights, Lyman sights, Pachmayr recoil pads and all parts produced by the ATK group of companies, especially the Weaver line. We wholesale these lines to gun shops in Canada and will sell them at retail too.”

“What’s the best thing about working at a job like this,” I asked.

Erv smiled and said, “There’s a few things, actually. I really enjoy filling a widely diverse parts order and being able to supply every single piece the customer is looking for. It doesn’t happen all the time, but it’s a



Erv Heiman locates a part for a customer.



A box full of Cooney rimfire extractors like this is worth \$10,000.

great feeling when it does. Maybe because I know we've just made or reinforced our relationship with that person. Which is another thing I really enjoy; all the great relationships I've developed with leaders in the firearms industry—worldwide.

"And I like doing purchasing deals," he added. "Especially, the inventories of old shops going out of business. All kinds of neat treasures come out of those shops. The most memorable one to me was buying the inventory from Harkley & Haywood of Vancouver, when they closed."

"What are some of the negatives of working in this business?"

"Trying to keep up with the rules and regulations involved in buying and shipping parts is one of the worst," said Erv. "We ship all over the world and buy from all over the world, so we deal with everyone's rules and they're always changing. Beyond that, I don't like disappointing a customer with a part we don't have, or telling him we have a part but can't sell it to him."

"Explain that last one," I said.

"Most gun companies have certain parts they label as 'restricted.' This means a part has some potential to be installed incorrectly, thus creating a liability issue for the company. They sell these parts to me on the condition that I will only sell them to licensed gunsmiths. If the gunsmith installs them improperly, then he's liable, not the manufacturer.

"A good example is the plastic safety button on a Mossberg 500 shotgun. These break sometimes and it's a fairly simple matter to replace them. However, if it's done improperly the safety appears to function, but doesn't. Therefore that plastic button is a restricted part. It's a

situation common to all manufacturers."

Lastly, I asked Erv what a gun owner needs to have in front of him when he calls looking for a part. "The most important thing he needs to do is identify the gun as perfectly as possible. We need the make, model, calibre and as much other information as can be extracted from that firearm. Then the gun owner has to accurately communicate which part he wants. Photo's help, as do the manufacturer's schematics which are now widely available on the internet. The part number from that schematic or from whatever reference the person is using usually locks it in for us."

In closing, I'll add that I've used the services of Western Gun Parts for two decades now, and the depth and breadth of knowledge which exists within the walls of this business is amazing. These folks know gun parts and you'll have a hard time stumping them on a part question. They provide a one-of-a-kind service to the Canadian firearms community and not enough shooters know about the help they can provide.

Sometimes, there's even a no-charge solution for a problem. Like the fellow Erv told me about who brought a Marlin lever gun into the shop and said his rear sight was missing, so he needed a new one. He'd driven two hours to get there and was really hoping they had a solution to his missing sight. Erv assured him he did, then reached over and flipped up the sight leaf on the folding rear sight. Problem solved—the only cost being a red face. I know whenever I go into their shop with a part problem, I always walk out with a solution.



Part of the barrel inventory at W.G.P.



A customer's order for a stock set gets packaged for shipping.



Gun parts are housed in bins that stretch floor to ceiling.



Just a Word about Attitude

By Blair Hagen
Executive Vice President

Twenty years ago, Wendy Cukier, Heidi Rathjen and the “Coalition for Gun Control” set out to break the back of the firearms community of Canada.

They knew that in order to cement their agenda of civil disarmament, they would have to prevent “gun control” from becoming a political issue in Canada on the same scale that it is in the United States.

They knew it was a numbers game. The reality was that the more people who legitimately own and use firearms, the harder it is to legislate them away.

So, they pursued their agenda of civil-disarmament with two friendly governments; the Progressive Conservatives, and when they were defeated, the Liberals.

The Coalition, along with their allies in the media and academia, created all kinds of myths about firearms ownership in Canada. Perhaps the most outrageous of these was their contention that firearms were an “American” thing, and that they were never part of Canadian culture or the Canadian experience.

All Canadians had to support civil-disarmament. If you didn’t, you were out of step with Canadian society.

And it almost worked. Some in our community became resigned to what seemed to be the inevitable; but not all.

The Progressive Conservative Bill C-17 (1992) and, perhaps even more dramatically, the Liberal Bill C-68 (1995) awoke an angry giant.

Call it a rude wake-up call, call it a national outrage; it awoke the “casual” Canadian gun owner and even those who just regarded firearms ownership

as a right of citizenship to the fact that with mandatory firearms licensing and universal registration, the “final solution” to the “problem” of firearms ownership in Canada was being implemented.

It has taken twenty years, a national controversy and scandal, civil disobedience, a failed and broken government program and a political paradigm shift in Canada, but for the first time in modern Canadian political history, firearms law reform is now being legislated in Canada.

No, Bills C-17 and C-68 have not been repealed or replaced in their entirety. Yet.

But we have been given a unique opportunity to secure the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership, where a scant few years ago seemingly no hope existed.

A mainstream, middle of the road Canadian government has rolled back part of a national firearms law. It has apparently deleted data that the RCMP, the political police chiefs, media, academia and certain provincial governments insisted that they keep.

Unthinkable.

This was not supposed to happen. In 1995 gun control advocates fully expected that by 2012 handguns would be no more; all semi-autos were supposed to be gone, and mandatory licensing and universal registration were to have been fully implemented. Canada’s laws were to have been “harmonized” with those of the UK, Australia, and other countries who adopted the UN Small Arms Agenda. Some firearms ownership would be grudgingly “tolerated,” but severely controlled.

Yes, we have suffered confiscations, prohibitions, incursions and offenses against our rights and our property - but nowhere near the scale as in other commonwealth countries.

Canadians fought back. Election after election, the gun issue refused to go away; it refused to die. Even when the pundits insisted that it had, that it was the law and we might as well keep it, the rejection of and opposition to the civil-disarmament agenda contained in the Firearms Act cost the Liberal and NDP parties seat after seat, and the support of whole regions of Canada.

It cost a certain Mr. Mark Holland, the Liberal MP who was supposed to be the next Allan Rock, his seat in the last election; in a very high profile way.

It has cost them the privilege of governing.

What I am trying to say here is that firearms rights, as a political issue or manifestation of a political debate in Canada has arrived.

Here today, in 2013 - and for the foreseeable future, - gun rights are going to continue to be part of the political culture and debate in Canada.

So for those of you, who are discouraged by a perceived lack of progress on the issues, take it from someone who has been at this awhile. No, we are not out of the woods yet. But we have made dramatic progress in securing the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership; and to such a degree that those who seek to disarm us could have never imagined and still refuse to reconcile.

If we continue to fight with a positive message and attitude we will win. I know it.

Tout est dans L'attitude

By Blair Hagen

Vice-Président Exécutif

Il y a vingt ans, la Coalition pour le Contrôle des Armes, mesdames Wendy Cukier et Heidi Rathjen ont tenté de casser le dos des passionnés des armes à feu et de toute leur communauté.

Elles savaient que pour atteindre leur objectif de désarmement civil il fallait qu'elles empêchent le "contrôle des armes" de devenir un enjeu politique de la même ampleur au Canada qu'il en est aux États-Unis.

Elles savaient compter. Elles savaient que plus il y avait de gens qui possèdent et font l'usage d'armes à feu à des fins légitimes, plus il serait difficile de faire des lois pour les éliminer.

Elles réussirent à poursuivre leur agenda de désarmement civil avec l'aide de deux gouvernements sympathiques à leur cause; Les Progressistes Conservateurs et les Libéraux par la suite.

Elles ont inventés toutes sortes de mythes avec leurs "collègues" des médias et des universités. Selon eux, les armes à feu c'était "Américain" et n'avaient jamais fait parti de l'expérience ou de la culture Canadienne.

Tous les Canadiens devaient appuyer le désarmement civil, sinon vous étiez perçus comme n'étant pas en harmonie avec la société Canadienne.

Leur plan a presque réussi. Certains parmi nous étions résignés à l'inévitable apparent. Mais pas tous!

Le Projet de Loi C-17 des Progressistes Conservateurs (1992) et à plus forte raison le Projet de Loi C-68 des Libéraux de (1995) ont réveillé un géant colérique.

Que ce soit un réveil brutal ou une révolte nationale, ces deux Projets de Loi ont réveillé les propriétaires ordinaires d'armes à feu, même ceux pour qui la possession d'armes constituait un simple droit de citoyenneté. Ils ont réalisé que

l'émission obligatoire de permis et l'enregistrement universel représentait la "solution finale" pour le "problème" de la possession d'armes par les Canadiens.

Il a fallu 20 ans de travail acharné, un scandale et une controverse nationale, de la désobéissance civile, un programme gouvernemental raté et brisé et un changement de paradigme politique au Canada, pour que la première fois dans l'histoire politique Canadienne moderne, la réforme des lois sur les armes à feu commence.

Non, les Projets de Loi C-17 et C-68 n'ont pas été abrogés complètement. Pas encore.

Nous sommes devant une opportunité unique d'assurer nos droits et traditions culturelles de posséder des armes à feu, comparé à il y a quelques années où il n'y avait aucun espoir.

Un gouvernement populiste centriste a abrogé récemment une partie de la loi nationale sur les armes à feu. Des données ont apparemment été détruites malgré les plaintes de la GRC, des chefs de police politiques, des médias, des universitaires et de certains gouvernements provinciaux.

Impensable!

Ceci ne devait pas arriver. Selon les idées véhiculées en 1995; En 2012 toutes les armes de poing devaient avoir été éliminées, l'enregistrement universel et les permis obligatoires devaient être pleinement en vigueur. Les lois Canadiennes devaient avoir été "harmonisées" avec celles du Royaume-Uni, de l'Australie et des autres pays signataires des accords sur les petites armes de l'ONU. La possession d'armes à feu pour certains aurait été tolérée mais contrôlée sévèrement.

C'est vrai, nous avons été victimes de confiscations, de prohibitions, de fouilles abusives et d'autres infractions contre

nos droits et propriété mais à un degré bien moindre que les autres pays du Commonwealth.

Les Canadiens se sont défendus. D'une élection à l'autre l'enjeu des armes à feu n'a pas voulu disparaître. Même lorsque les experts insistaient que maintenant c'était la loi et que nous devions tout simplement la garder, cette idée a été rejetée. L'opposition envers la philosophie de désarmement civil contenue dans la Loi sur les Armes à Feu a fait perdre siège après siège à la Chambre des Communes pour les Libéraux et le NPD et ce couvrant des régions complètes du Canada.

Mark Holland, le député Libéral qui devait devenir l'Allan Rock de l'avenir a perdu de manière spectaculaire son siège aux dernières élections.

Ils ont perdu le privilège de gouverner.

Ce que j'essaie de vous dire, est que le droit aux armes à feu comme enjeu politique et sujet de débat publique est enfin arrivé.

Ici, maintenant et dans l'avenir, le droit de posséder et d'utiliser des armes à feu fera toujours parti du débat et de la culture politique au Canada.

Pour ceux qui sont découragés par une apparence de manque de progrès sur cet enjeu important, fiez vous sur un routier qui lutte depuis un bon bout de temps.

Nous ne sommes pas encore sortis du bois. Mais nous avons fait une avancée dramatique vers la conservation du droit Canadien et de la tradition culturelle de posséder des armes à feu. Plus que ceux qui veulent nous désarmer n'auraient été capable d'imaginer. Ils refusent encore de l'accepter, d'ailleurs.

Nous devons continuer de nous battre. Avec un message et une attitude positive, nous vaincrons!



TEAM NFA Update

By Grayson Penney

Matt

Fall 2012 was a seminal turning point for TEAM NFA member Matt Neumann. It marked his first senior overseas tour with the Canadian National Team and the first time he took on the best in the world on their home turf.

Since joining TEAM NFA, Matt has become well known for his amazing work ethic. For the most part, he has envisaged his racing career as building toward a single transcendental moment; taking the podium at the Winter Olympics. Certainly a worthy dream, but Matt has never suffered from “starry-eyed” syndrome. Instead, he has the ability to keep his eye on the big prize, but to also set grounded, achievable goals for himself, where one success may build on the next.

He describes his current path as being a series of “progressive steps.” For now, he remains focused on two ever so critical steps that may very well lead him to Sochi and competing in the 2014 Olympic Games: first, he must break the top ten on the IBU Cup circuit, and secondly, run a “perfect” race that he defines as seeing him deliver a 100% effort on his part.

To make his dreams a reality, or at least give himself a shot at achieving them, Matt has literally put all of his treasure on the line. After signing the athlete contract that enabled him to compete in Europe this year, writing the \$5500.00 cheque required to cover his expenses was especially hard for him. While modest to some, the amount represented a large portion of the nest-egg he’d managed to earn over the summer after subtracting his living and training expenses. It is also a testament to Matt’s dedication and work ethic as he successfully managed to juggle both job and a full training regime.

Speaking with Matt shortly before he caught his flight to Europe, the excitement in his voice was palpable. But there was also a renewed confidence and quiet determination to be observed in his demeanor as well. Acknowledging that he had “about a thousand things to do,” before he left for Italy, he also noted that, “All of the craziness that was about to become his life for the next six weeks was really, what it was all about.” From Italy, Matt’s tour will take him to Germany,



followed by Estonia and then Russia.

Matt was definitely giving off a zen-like vibe as he prepared for his European tour. Despite all the confusion, changes and new challenges before him, it seems as if Matt has discovered a new-found ability within himself that allows him to maintain a sense of calm. As he put it, “This is the opportunity for which I’ve trained so many countless hours and made so many sacrifices.” Therefore, “My focus has to be

on performing over the next six weeks and hopefully solidifying my spot on the team for European Championships at the end of February.”

Unfortunately, this issue of Canadian Firearms Journal is slated to go to print before we get the results of Matt’s tour, but some key race dates to remember are:

IBU Cup #3, Forni Avoltri, ITA, Dec 14-16

IBU Cup #4, Otepaa, EST, Jan 4-6

IBU Cup #5, Ostrov, RUS, Jan 11-13

Race results will be available at <http://services.biathlonresults.com/Schedule.aspx>

Having gotten to know Matt over the past several years, I am struck by just how humble and appreciative a young man he remains; a young man that you cannot help but root for.

Megan

Megan spent much of the early fall competing against the best female biathletes in Europe, starting with the German Championships in Altenberg, Germany in mid-September. Megan later enthused to me that Altenberg offered her, “The first real chance this season to measure myself against some of the world’s best.” The weekend of competition consisted of three roller ski biathlon races that also served as the German National team qualifiers. As a consequence they also attracted many of the top female athletes in the sport.



Figure 1 Megan – 2012 Race Results.

German Championships, Oberhof, Germany	23.09.2012	6th	Mass Start
German Championships, Oberhof, Germany	22.09.2012	9th	10km XC
German Championships, Oberhof, Germany	21.09.2012	11th	Individual
German Championships, Altenberg, Germany	16.09.2012	3rd	Pursuit
German Championships, Altenberg, Germany	15.09.2012	4th	Sprint
German Championships, Altenberg, Germany	14.09.2012	1st	Ind. Relay
VF Prize, Kamchatka, Russia	14.04.2012	15th	Pursuit
VF Prize Kamchatka, Russia	13.04.2012	12th	Sprint
World Championships, Ruhpolding, Germany	09.03.2012	9th	W Relay
World Championships, Ruhpolding, Germany	07.03.2012	30th	Individual

The first race was a team relay and Megan later told me that she was really pleased (and somewhat surprised) to have been the first woman to tag off. In other words, she ran the best race of the day. Megan’s second race was a 7.5km sprint. As luck would have it, she drew bib #1, making her the first woman on course. Turning in a 4th place finish, Megan once again shot 9/10.

The final and third race of the Altenberg championships was a 10km Pursuit. Starting in 4th position, Megan shot and skied well in the beginning of the race and was in 2nd place for a short period. Unfortunately, a single miss knocked her back to third place and she had to fight hard to catch up to the front-runners. In the end, Megan was able to deliver a well-deserved 3rd place finish.

Figure 2 Megan – Personal Best’s for 2012

German Championships, Altenberg, Germany	15.09.2012	3rd	Pursuit
German Championships, Altenberg, Germany	14.09.2012	1st	Ind. Relay
World Championships, Ruhpolding, Germany	07.03.2012	30th	Individual
BU Cup 7, Canmore, Alberta, Canada	15.02.2012	3rd	Individual
IBU Cup 6, Canmore, Alberta, Canada	12.02.2012	4th	Sprint
Open European Champs. Osrblic, Slovakia	28.01.2012	15th	Pursuit
Open European Champs. Osrblic, Slovakia	27.01.2012	18th	Sprint



While those of us back home in Canada got to “enjoy” unseasonably early snowfalls, Megan, along with hundreds of other Nordic athletes, were not so lucky. Warm weather and bright sunshine kept Jack Frost at bay well into late fall. The lack of snow forced Megan to spend several additional weeks in training camps at the DKB SkiHalle (indoor ski tunnel) in Oberhof, Germany.

According to Megan the first camp was a fantastic success. Each morning began with a “mini” pre-dawn run and some chin-ups before heading to breakfast at 7 A.M. After breakfast Megan headed to the ski hall for her first training session. They could involve everything from long slow easy workouts, to race pace intervals, to short sprints. Often she also booked the ski hall’s four-lane shooting range, allowing her to work on both her shooting and skiing at the same time.

Afternoons consisted of several uphill roller ski runs, some roller ski combo stuff in the stadium and even did some modified running up the stairs of the ski jump. To

relax and change things up, every second evening, Megan and some of the other athletes played some soccer and did some after-dinner strength-training. The second ski hall camp was basically a repeat of the first, with the exception that on the third day real snow finally began falling.

Megan's 2012/2013 race season really began in earnest once the long-awaited snow finally arrived. Selected to race on the prestigious IBU Cup in the openers, a top-ten finish in Beitostolen, Norway was enough to allow her to move up to the World Cup. Competing at this elite level, Megan was able to advance a distant 57th place position to a respectable 29th in the Pursuit at Hochfilzen, Austria.

Megan seems to be approaching her races from a position of renewed confidence, and just as importantly, she is having fun again. Injury-free and coming off a great fall training regime, Megan has been turning in some very impressive times and according to her she's never been so fast. As she said recently noted, "Seeing myself with ski times among the top 30 in the world certainly opens the door to results that simply weren't realistic before."

I would hazard a guess that the changes she made to her training regime, and having access to the German National Training Center in Altenberg, have paid off handsomely given Megan's race performance thus far this season. While her skiing has improved measurably, there have been some inconsistencies in her shooting. Such a problem is rather out-of-character, as Megan has always been a very talented marksman. However, at last report, it would seem Megan has hit her stride once more and found the right balance between her skiing and shooting.

The next stop on the World Cup circuit for Megan is Pokljuka, Slovenia.

Rob

Since we last checked in with Rob Engh, his competition season has pretty much wound down. Before it was all said and done, Rob once again took 2nd overall at the IPSC Nationals, not to mention a couple of extra well-deserved wins, several "fun" 2nd places and a lonely 3rd for 2012.

Rob's biggest problem over the past season has been keeping himself healthy and injury-free. In order to compensate for his injury-plagued season, and hopefully chalk up more wins, he has been trying a different approach to shooting club matches and IPSC qualifiers after seeking the advice of a number of fellow shooting buddies and competitors on the international IPSC scene.

According to Rob, instead of simply going to a match to have fun and to win, (which is always nice), the experts agree he should be using them to work on specific parts of his shooting. For Rob, moving and shooting has always been one of the most important aspects of IPSC. In Rob's words, "If you want to do well, you need to move and shoot well." So, with that in mind he made a concerted effort to try to



move and shoot as much as possible this past year, even when stages didn't really benefit from it.

What lessons were learned? According to Rob there were many. First and foremost, he believes he really must get much, much better at moving and shooting. In retrospect, from Rob's perspective his ability to hit targets at a jog or even a sprint, at least when his knee allows it, is incredibly important, - especially for the really big stages where he can expect even greater physical demands of his body. As such, even if he drops a few points he may actually gain much more in terms of time. "Misses," Rob opined, "Only make you realize you needed to go a bit slower, or a bit smoother, but sometimes even they don't hurt as much as you'd think." He did qualify his comments somewhat, noting that a single miss can cost you a match if you get it on the wrong stage.

For the most part, Rob believes IPSC should be likened to a game of chess. You need to formulate a winning strategy and to this end you need to view each stage as being almost like a piece on the board; how you position yourself at the finish of each stage will determine how well you are positioned at the end of the match.

Of course, Rob isn't necessarily averse to taking a calculated risk in hopes of being in the top of the stage when the opportunity presents itself. However, other times you need to play things a little closer to the vest and should opt for a more conservative plan; even if it means staying in the middle of the pack on a stage you aren't comfortable with (for Rob it's stages with low ports or prone).

To kick off his 2013 shooting season, Rob plans on traveling to New Zealand to shoot the AustralAsian Championships sometime early in the year. He promises that it is going to be a fantastic match in what can only be described as a phenomenal location. As only one member of a very small Canadian contingent, Rob hopes that he and his fellow Canucks will put on a good show. If time and resources permit, Rob has some hope that he will also find a way to once again squeeze in what is fast becoming his annual competition tour of Europe. On the agenda for late spring are the Czech Republic, Norway and possibly Sweden, if things go well.

HISTORICAL MILITARY ARMS

The German Volkssturm Shotgun “Rifle-Grenade”

A curious development in the last days of the Reich

By Michael Heidler & Sean G. Penney

By the fall of 1944 Hitler’s Third Reich was feeling the pressure of fighting a war on multiple fronts. Both men and matériel critical to the continued prosecution of the war were in increasing short supply. The Volkssturm, literally translated – the Folk-Storm – was Hitler’s solution to his growing manpower shortage. Essentially a national militia or “People’s Army” the Volkssturm had existed, at least in paper form, since the 1920s and was inspired by the Prussian Landstrum irregulars of the Napoleonic Wars.

Hitler’s Volkssturm, however, owed its existence and allegiance, not to the traditional German Army, but rather to the Nazi Party and its Führer. Reichsleiter (Reich Leader) Martin Bormann, the Führer’s most trusted confidant and right-hand man, was tasked with job of establishing what Hitler envisaged as a six-million strong militia. Ordered mobilized between September and October of 1944, the Volkssturm was comprised mostly of members of the Hitler Youth, invalids, the elderly and males previously deemed unfit for front-line military service. While it may have technically “solved” Hitler’s manpower shortage, Hitler’s “People’s Army” only exacerbated Germany’s increasingly desperate supply problem.

Given only rudimentary military training, the issue of their combat effectiveness would prove moot unless the Reichsleiter succeeded in actually securing sufficient arms with which to equip newly constituted Volkssturm units. Even under the best of circumstances Bormann’s task would have been daunting; in the midst of a world war, near impossible.

Simple mathematics was Bormann’s primary foe, as the sheer number of weapons required to even minimally equip Hitler’s new People’s Army far exceeded the German armament industry’s capacity (what was left of it) to deliver. A case in point was the 1450 battalions of the 1st Bann (Aufgebot). Operating in the area closest to the front lines, its commanders reported a requirement of 871,300 handguns – but only 11,245 were available for issue

at the time. Similar shortages in shoulder arms, grenades and ammunition would face the 1st Bann, as well as Bormann, in his wider bid to mobilize Hitler’s Volkssturm fully.

Stocks of modern Karabiner 98Ks and similar front-line weaponry were quickly exhausted, and those that remained were necessarily diverted to first echelon Wehrmacht and SS units. Thereafter, Volkssturm units were equipped with a mish-mash of semi-obsolescent and obsolete leftovers and relics from the Great War and previous 19th century conflicts, including Gewehr Model 98s, Gewehr Model 71s, and even M1907 Dreyse pistols. Captured Soviet, Belgian, Italian and French small arms were also employed as stop gaps.

Eventually German armament manufacturers did develop or adapt a series of cheap but relatively effective Volkssturm weapons, such as the MP-3008 machine pistol, VMG-27 light machine gun and later the Volkssturmgewehr 1-5 rifles. Mostly manufactured of cheap sheet metal stampings and machine-pressed construction, supply never did catch up with demand.



Preparation of a Ju87 dive-bomber for its next mission in Africa. One can see a twin-barrel shotgun, K98, and MG15 with two double-drums. The soldier is holding an opened flare pistol in his hand.

Since desperation had driven the Reich to conscript civilians, mostly old men, invalids, and others previously deemed unfit for military service to fill the ranks of the Volkssturm, desperation would drive the Reich’s bid to arm their “People’s Army.” By the waning months of the war, many Volkssturm units were forced to field civilian sporting shotguns, fowling pieces, muzzle-loading muskets and even crossbows raided from museums. Orders were issued requisitioning any “surplus-to-need” civilian firearms and ammunition from across Germany.

“Volkssturm Order No. 27/45,” issued by the NSDAP leadership of the city of Celle on the 26th February 1945 was representative of such decrees. In part, it ordered:

1. Confiscation of hunting weapons:

The confiscation of hunting weapons, mentioned in the Volkssturm Order No. 23/45 in

paragraph 5, is to be understood that the hunters who are still carrying out the hunt can keep the weapons that are necessary for hunting. But also hunters must provide their surplus hunting rifles to the Volkssturm. An approach must be made to the occasional hunters and the retired elderly hunters about submitting their guns and ammunition.

Obviously, the supplies of civilian sporting arms were insufficient to meet demand, but they did help alleviate some of the pressure. Continuing to explore every alternative possible, German weapons depots and armories were ransacked for anything that could potentially serve as a substitute-standard small arm, or be used in the manufacture of such armaments. In addition, surplus barrels from military reserve stocks were used for manufacturing simplified Volkssturm-rifles that were developed to somehow bridge the divide between men and arms.

Armament manufacturers such as Carl Walther and Gustloff-Werke stepped up and displayed great ingenuity in developing serviceable weapons from the former cast-off and/or unwanted surplus parts supplied to them by government scroungers. For instance, using some 147,000 reserve barrels of the MG 81 sourced from Luftwaffe stocks, German weapons manufacturers were able to produce working single-shot carbines, albeit of a quite rough and crude design. However, when needed they did go “bang” and were a marked improvement over pitchforks and scythes some Volkssturm troops were equipped with.

For the remainder of the war, Germany’s surviving armament manufacturers and weapons designers kept up a frenetic pace,



A collection of Volkssturm-weapons handed over to the Allies after the fighting. On the right a Panzerfaust, along with two shotguns and an Italian Carcano carbine can be seen.

eventually developing and fielding a myriad of new and heretofore unknown weapons systems. For the most part, essentially any weapons design that was seen as offering a reasonable chance of actually contributing to the war effort and/or improving the combat-effectiveness of the last-ditch Volkssturm units was given a green light. The result was a flurry of new designs of varying combat usefulness being produced ;as well as quite a few that today remain topics of curiosity, if not outright disbelief. In fact, this process of weapons and ammunition research and development continued uninterrupted until the end of the war.

Early in 1945 the company DWM (Deutsche Waffen-und Munitionsfabriken AG) was awarded a contract to develop one such “curiosity.” It was a high-explosive rifle grenade for 12 gauge shotguns. Delivery and inventory numbers of 12 gauge shotguns in German war stocks at that time are not

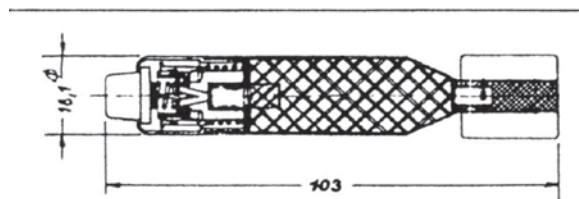
available, but considering the popularity of the 12 bore shotgun amongst German hunters and sportsmen, the number must have been quite large especially following the requisition of civilian arms.

Continued

(top left) Official Luftwaffe datasheet showing the measurements of the Wurftaubenflinte (Drilling M30).

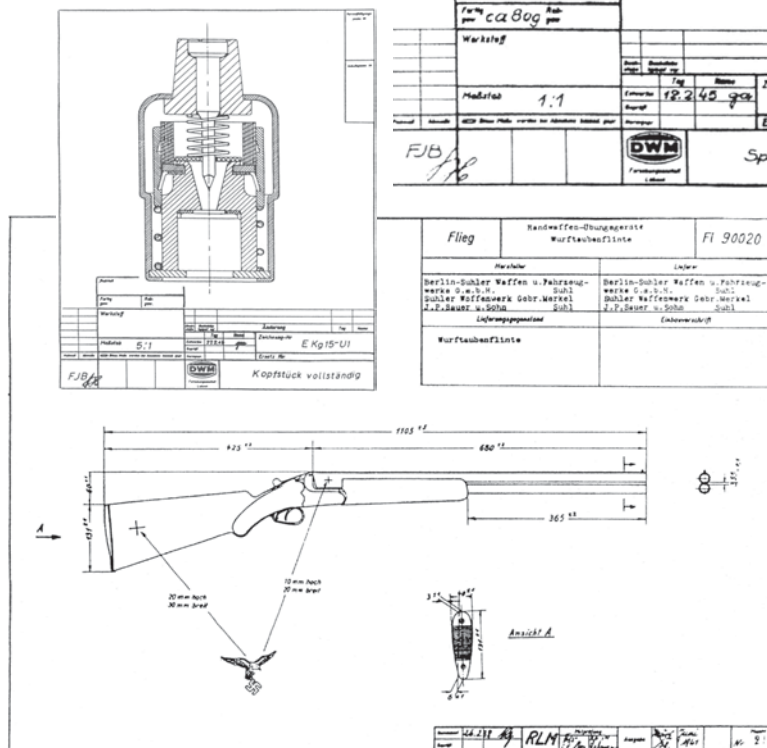
(top right) DWM factory blueprints dated February 12th 1945 showing the complete grenade. The fins were necessary for the stability in flight.

(bottom) DWM factory blueprint showing the shotgun rifle-grenade’s percussion fuse. The design is mechanically similar to the AZ5071 fuse used in the production of many other high-explosive rifle grenades during the war.



Produkt		Für die ca 80g Sub-por		Werkstoff		Änderung		Tg		Name	
Maßstab 1:1		Entwurf 12.2.45		Zeichnung-Nr. EKg 15.B4		Erstellt Nr.					
FJB		DWM		Sprgr. für Flintenkal. 12							

Flieg	Handwaffen-Übungsgerät	Wurftaubenflinte	FI 90020
Hersteller		Lieferant	
Berlin-Schuler Waffen u. Fabrikations- u. s. m. b. H. Subj	Berlin-Schuler Waffen u. Fabrikations- u. s. m. b. H. Subj		
Schuler Waffenerzeug. Gbr. Metzel	Schuler Waffenerzeug. Gbr. Metzel		
J. J. Bauer u. Sohn. Subj	J. J. Bauer u. Sohn. Subj		
Lieferungsgangweise		Einkaufsart	
Wurftaubenflinte			



In addition to the requisitioned civilian arms, Germany actually did have a fair number of shotguns in their pre-war inventory thanks to the Luftwaffe. In order to improve aerial gunnery and dog fighting abilities, clay pigeon shooting games such as Skeet and Trap were practiced by the Luftwaffe prior to the outbreak of the war. As a result, many shotguns were purchased as "Handwaffen-Übungsgerät" or hand-weapon training devices. Even if the benefits of said purchases were questionable, it must also be remembered that their acquisition was approved by the supreme commander of the Luftwaffe, Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring. In addition to being a former World War I fighter ace, Göring was an ardent sportsman, hunter and skeet shooter. He even held the honorary title of Reichsjägermeister (head of the German hunters).

One of the most recognizable of these types of firearms fielded by the Luftwaffe was the 12 gauge "Drilling M30" made by J.P. Sauer & Sohn of Suhl. This weapon was added to the emergency equipment of aircraft operating in tropical areas and was stored in a special carrying case along with spare ammunition.

According to the official *L.Dv. 4000/10 "Munitionsvorschrift für Fliegerbordwaffen"* (Instruction for the ammunition of aircraft armament) the drilling's design included a triple barrel arrangement, with side-by-side 12 gauge tubes sitting atop of a single rifle barrel. The left shotgun barrel of each M30 drilling was choked to permit the safe discharge of Brenneke-style slugs as well.

Since the African campaign had ended with a bitter defeat of the Afrika Korps in May 1943, the German Luftwaffe had more pressing problems than worrying about keeping up their clay pigeon shooting. Placed into indefinite storage until needed, the

Luftwaffe shotguns found themselves re-purposed and re-issued to the still poorly-armed Volkssturm. Pitting essentially civilian hunting guns against Russian PPsh sub-machine guns and semi-automatic American Garands was a no-win situation for the poorly-trained troops of the Volkssturm. To help even the odds, an equalizer of sorts was needed, and the Germans believed they had found it in their new shotgun rifle-grenade weapon system.

As shown in the accompanying figures, the new high-explosive grenade was armed with a simple percussion fuse. Weighing some 80 grams, the grenade's tail was made of a bolt with stabilizing wings added to compensate for the lack of twist in the smooth shotgun barrel. Despite concerted efforts on the part of the authors, no verifiable information about the propellant cartridges has yet been found.

Given the near-complete devastation inflicted on Germany by Allied bombing campaigns near the war's end, it is unknown whether or not the Volkssturm every

successfully fielded their shotgun rifle-grenade wonder weapon. Is it possible that the Volkssturm shotgun rifle-grenade, like the revolutionary StG-44 "Sturmgewehr" (literally the "storm" or "assault" rifle Model of 1944), - itself another product of the German's fevered war-time R&D, - simply arrived too late to turn the tide of the war? We'll probably never know for sure, but for now the Volkssturm shotgun grenade will have to remain a mere curiosity, a footnote in the history of military weapons design. Nevertheless, it is still one curiosity that continues to fascinate collectors of historical firearms and students of military history.

Photos of Drilling courtesy Dr. Geoffrey Sturgess, Switzerland



Following a successful hunt, Reichsjägermeister Göring inspects the trophies collected.



Left side view of the Sauer & Sohn Drilling M30.

A M30 drilling with accessories and original case. Also included are the original issue of ammunition, manual and the factory target showing the result of its accuracy proof testing.

Gun Owners of Canada



Gun Owners of Canada is the brainchild of three buddies; Jon Iskiw, Derek Bostock and Nathan Cook. Launched in April of 2012, Gun Owners of Canada (GOC for short) was designed to be a professional, community-orientated web forum centered on responsible firearms ownership, enjoyment of the shooting sports and firearms education. The idea for GOC was inspired by a perceived need to create a place where both novice and experienced gun owners alike would be welcomed and encouraged to learn, grow, and expand their knowledge of firearms and Canada's firearms community; and hopefully pass what they learn on to the next generation.

Jon Iskiw is the technical lead, and co-founder of Gun Owners of Canada. Jon grew up in Edmonton, Alberta and surprisingly, was not interested nor introduced to firearms until his early teens. That was until his grandfather gave him a pellet gun for his 13th birthday. That gift was enough to spark an interest in Jon. He later went online and researched the procedures necessary in order to obtain a PAL. The red tape involved was a little daunting at first and he put the idea on hold temporarily. A few years later Jon went with a friend to an indoor gun range for his 16th birthday. The experience once again ignited his desire to become a licensed firearms owner.

At age 18 he would take the required courses and tests and successfully earned his RPAL. Since then he has participated in many different shooting events put on by the CHAS 3-Gun club in his area. This year he started working with a partner and will be opening a

small online firearm accessory business called Tundra Supply.

Since its founding, Jon is very proud of the opportunities he and his fellow partners in Gun Owners of Canada have created that allow them to give back to the firearms community. Since its founding last year, GOC has held numerous firearms draws, sponsored events, and has worked hard to help educate curious and/or prospective gun owners on the procedures necessary to obtain their firearms license, along with general firearms knowledge.

Derek Bostock is another of the original co-founders of Gun Owners of Canada. He grew up in Red Deer, Alberta and spent the better part of his youth playing minor hockey. It wasn't until his early 20's that he was introduced to the shooting sports. To say he was hooked right off the bat would be an understatement. Derek grew to appreciate and value our Canadian gun culture very quickly. He made a point to educate himself on firearms law and his rights as a Canadian gun owner.

Over the years this passion for firearms led him to his latest venture, the Red Deer Shooting Centre. He is currently in the process of constructing a brand new 15,000 square-foot, state of the art indoor range, gun shop and training facility. When completed, the new facility will serve the needs of the thousands of gun owners in Red Deer and surrounding areas. For Derek, "service" is what it's all about; especially getting involved in the local firearms community, meeting new people and new shooters, and putting lead down range.

Nathan Cook is the final co-founder of Gun Owners of Canada. Nathan is the typical Albertan, having grown-up hunting as a child, and later working in the oil patch. As a proud 4th generation hunter, he was taught about gun safety and proper use and care of firearms from a very early age. Nathan is something of a traditionalist, believing in the right to hunt for food and the right to own and use firearms. He spent many years of his youth training and learning firearm safety in BC and in Alberta; eventually leading him to train for his PAL/RPAL instructor license. Nathan resides in Calgary, Alberta, where he often enjoys participating in the vibrant local service rifle community in his area.

From the very beginning, the founders of GOC decided to make their members their first priority when it came to their new web forum. They've worked very hard with their sponsors to ensure that their members have access to the best exclusive discounts, deals, promotions, and contests, available in Canada. In appreciation for all the support they've received over the years from their fellow gun owners, the guys at GOC see the new forum as an opportunity to give back to the community that has become such a big part of their lives.

To date, Gun Owners of Canada has had several large giveaways that have included such items as survival kits, a Ruger 10/22 rifle package, a M305 (M-14 clone) "zombie" package, and currently they're giving away a Remington 700 package. Best of all, there is no cost to take part in these contests!

Gun Owners of Canada may not be the biggest firearms-related forum in Canada yet, but if they continue to stick with their commitment to always support and give back to their fellow firearms owners I see a lot of growth in their future.



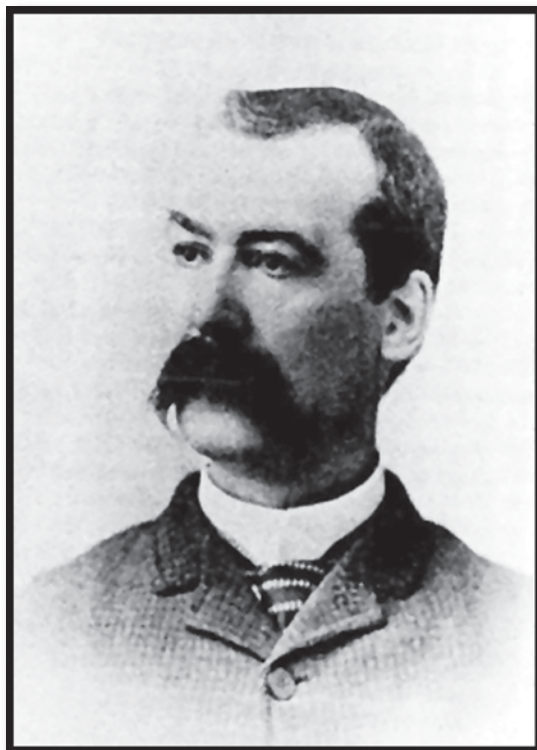
Western Lawmen

Capt. Burton Mossman

by Jesse Wolf Hardin

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

It seemed the eyes of the murderous outlaw had never once left him. Not in a whole night of the cowboy watching from the other side of a progressively dimming campfire for the dangerous desperado to drop his guard. Throughout the long hours, he strained to see beneath the bushy black eyebrows that had helped earn his quarry the nickname of *El Peludo*, the "hairy one." Now this *Peludo* leaned back against a saddle laid on the ground near the fire, just the same



as the wary cowman did, with hands resting on a lap mere inches away from a sheathed but readied Colt. Burton Mossman had been introduced to Augustine Chacón only the night before by a pair of onetime deputies and full-time rustlers and train robbers. Now he pulled down on the brim of his hat and sat, motionless,

Burton C. Mossman was Captain of the Arizona Rangers for only a single year, and yet in that time, he and his men were responsible for well over a hundred arrests in the troublesome southeast corner of the state.

as a bright display of stars paraded from one mountainous skyline to the other across an Arizona sky every bit as black as the charcoal at his feet once the embers had died out. Twice he was audience to courses of an extemporaneous coyote symphony, performed between long stretches of whispered desert winds and the barely discernible breathing of the *mal hombre* resting before him.

It was 1902, near the end of Mossman's one-year enlistment as Captain of the crime-busting Arizona Rangers. He was still upset about a petition that was circulating, calling for his resignation after he and a fellow ranger got into a public fistfight with a pair of deputies they believed were cheating at cards. An indignant Mossman had decided then and there that he would resign at the end of his enlistment... though not before capping off his brief but illustrious career with the recapture of this most notorious brigand in his



Here is a classic photo of the only briefly existing Arizona Rangers, a rough and ready crew if ever there was one.

own lair in Mexico, personally delivering him back to Solomonville, Arizona, and a noose with Chacón's name written on it. A flock of ravens could be heard croaking and cawing just as the stars began to give way to the first light of dawn, and he reasoned that his own burnished star would rise or fall with the morning's outcome. In less than an hour's time, he would either make a successful capture or feel the hot strikes of the gunman's .44 caliber slugs, his lifeless body sprawling unceremoniously on the sands, of consequence only to those coyotes and ravens hungry after their musical exertions.

While it was fairly unusual for a lawman to pose as a fellow criminal when affecting an arrest, it had long been common protocol to violate Mexico's sovereignty and penetrate far below the border whenever the authorities wished to reach out and touch a marauding band of Indians or extract a particular group of outlaws. Most often, this was accomplished by well planned kidnappings, either with or without the cooperation of Mexican *federales* with an equal disregard for the fine points and troublesome restraints of the law. Sometimes a nervy *puta* – a cantina prostitute – would be paid to drug the targeted miscreant's tequila, turning him over to some gringo deputy for a midnight ride back over the border and into a calaboose in the likes of Naco, El Paso, Silver City or Benson. Anyone – whether a Mexican national or U.S. citizen – who imagined they could commit crimes north of the line and then find safe refuge on the southern side, was just as likely to wake up one day to a cocked revolver being waved in their face, have a flour sack tied over their head, and their wrists lashed to the saddle horn of some sheriff or bounty hunter's horse.

This circumvention of the law by lawmen had the benefit of reducing the number of heinous perpetrators that escaped justice, but also played its part in a pattern of racial discrimination, land seizures, lynchings and summary executions committed in the border states from the 1840s until well after World War I. In one night in 1918, most of the male population of the little Texas village of Porvenir was shot down by an Anglo mob, and simply refusing to speak English could be seen as insubordination worthy of a beating. The last recorded "Old West" lynching of a Latino in the U.S. occurred in the not-so-old West in 1928, and it is a little known fact that as high a percentage of the Latino population was lynched in the border states as was the percentage of blacks in the deep South.

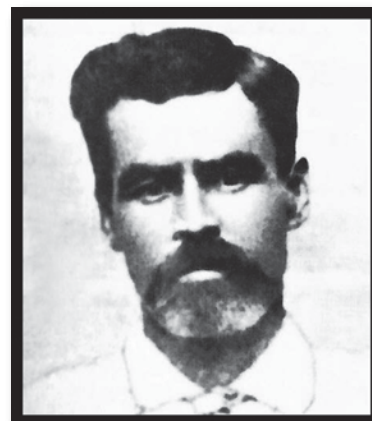
This explains why even the vicious *El Peludo* was held



Members were expected to bring their own horse and rifle, the majority choosing to carry the latest Winchester repeaters such as this Model 1894 in the most common .30 WCF (.30-30 Winchester) caliber.

up as a Western "Robin Hood" by many of the Spanish speaking populous, as were a number of "brown skinned" outlaws from Southern Texas to Northern California... not because they had championed their people or been particularly generous with the poor, but simply because they had the temerity to strike out at an Anglo society that sought through legislation and intimidation to keep them "in their place." No matter how venal the deeds of Augustine Chacón, his boldness served to temper the hearts of the Hispanics and bolster their often suffering self image. To his many admirers, the "Hairy One" was considered dashing as well as *muy macho* in his velvet pants and fitted vest, sitting boldly upright in the saddle even while riding through the leaden curtain of a posse fusillade. The giant bone-handled bowie knife tucked under his wide russet belt served as a tool of embellishment as much as intimidation, its tooled leather holster appropriately decorated with roses and hearts. *Magnificence... y corazon.*

None of this took away from the fact that Chacón was not only a remorseless but utterly efficient and well practiced killer. Looking at the *Peludo* on that cold morn as he built up the fire, Burton Mossman must



Captain Mossman's most dangerous mission of all, was the one he assigned himself in the final days of his enlistment... an attempt to capture this deadly bandito, Augustine Chacon.



John Horton Slaughter; seen here, came very near to killing the robber Chacon, after the latter was heard to make disparaging remarks about Slaughter's virility. A load of buckshot barely missed, ensuring that Capt. Mossman would get a chance to finish what Old John had started.

surely have been remembering the stories he'd heard of the Mexican's prowess, verve and luck. It was widely said that he'd become an outlaw after being denied his cowman wages by a ranchman named Ben Ollney, and that a gunfight had ensued when Ollney made the mistake of laughing at his entreaties. When the smoke cleared, not only Chacón's employer but three of his pistoleros had perished in the thirty second gunfight. Mossman would also have heard about how his employer's brother had quickly raised a posse and surrounded the *bandito*, only to have him clench his reins with his teeth, fill both hands with revolvers, and then ride straight through the lawmen, killing four more as went. He'd have known

that the entire Ollney family had been murdered in their home only two days later, and about the recent killing of yet four more men during the robbery of a mountain top saloon in Jerome, Arizona. Chacón didn't act out of sense of racial hatred so much as self preservation and enrichment, having no qualms about putting a rifle slug through the forehead of fellow Hispanic Pablo Salcido when the hapless deputy made the mistake of exposing himself under a flag of truce. Even more terrible, were the stories that housewives told over backyard fences and children whispered to each other by candlelight when they should have been asleep, tales of the several *Mexicano* sheep-shearers whose throats were found cut, and the dreadful rapes that the gang were alleged to have committed, every report and rumor undoubtedly contributing to this ultimate test of the Captain's nerve.

Just as troubling to him must have been the knowledge that he couldn't be certain of getting Chacón from this patch of desert, to his waiting coils of rope, even if he were able to capture his man alive. *El Peludo* had escaped from the Morenci jail back in 1895, almost as quickly as Graham County Sheriff Davis had deposited him there. And depending on the story, he had either dug through the ten inch thick adobe walls of the Tucson hoosegow in June of 1897, or else sawed his way through the bars on the window with a hacksaw blade smuggled to him in the spine of a Spanish bible. One of Chacón's many enamored lovers is said to have seduced the jailer in order to keep him deep in some other purpose, while some drunken mariachi singers in the next cell sang outlaw *corridos* to mask the noise of the escape. He'd remained a free man and successful rustler and robber for the last five years prior to the Captain getting on his trail.

The Scots-Irish blooded Burton C. Mossman, however, was no slouch either. His willingness to bet on himself in this intensely mortal game, was predicated on a proven record of ability, audacity and fortune that rivaled the *Peludo's* own. It had only been a little short of a year since Arizona Governor Nathan Murphy had tapped the well respected cowboy and onetime manager of the famous Hashknife outfit (the Aztec Land & Cattle Company) for a job as the first Captain of the reconstituted Arizona Rangers, a rough and rowdy unit chartered to rein-in the pervasive lawlessness in the remote southeastern corner of the state by any means necessary. In this role and mission, the enthusiastic 30 year-old outdoorsman had indeed excelled at a dangerous job, in tough times, in a region with a million places for an outlaw to hide.

That cattle rustling, train robberies and shootouts could still be so plentiful in the American Southwest at the turn of the "modern" 20th Century, might seem strange to many of you harkening from other, more civil parts of

the continent. The confluence of Old Mexico, Southwestern Arizona and Southeastern New Mexico where I live, was still very much the "Wild West" at this late date, and remains so at least to some degree today. As described in my historical novel, *The Medicine Bear* (TheMedicineBear.com), it is a land that has always attracted outliers and outcasts, as well as wild-eyed visionaries and committed independents. The freedom to carry a gun remains as core to its residents' beliefs today as it was for the past two hundred-plus years, and the remoteness of its towns and ranches results in an extreme degree of self reliance that extends into matters of medical care (often meaning the use of local medicinal herbs) and essential self protection.

The mystique-draped canyons and cliffside hideaways of The White, Mogollon and Burro Mountains, were allied with the drainages of the Salt, Blue, San Francisco and Gila Rivers in issuing a siren's call to raiders and outriders, from breakaway bands of renegade Apache warriors

to gunslingers and bounty hunters. The infamous Butch Cassidy and cohorts often wintered on the WS Ranch in the Mormon settlement of Alma, 30 miles south of the cabin where I write this. My post office box is in the village once called Lower Frisco, where the Mexican-American Elfego Baca held off scores of attackers after making a ballsy citizen arrest. 150 miles from here, is the Mexican border and the tiny U.S. town of Columbus where an incensed Pancho Villa extracted vengeance for an American betrayal in March of 1916, near where a single railway, the Southern Pacific, reported a dozen armed robberies between 1897 and 1900 alone.

We conclude the story of Arizona Ranger Captain Burton Mossman next issue.

- Editors



Billy Stiles, seen here, was a part time lawman, part time rustler and train robber. He and his partner hooked up with "the Hairy One" Chacon, then agreed to introduce the ranger Mossman to him in an undercover trap. It would be a long and nerve-racking night for sure.

Jesse L. Hardin's "Old Guns" is a riveting book that brings to life the history, spirit and character of the Old West through the stories of its legendary guns. A must-read...

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Tales and Twists Of The Old West
Jesse L. "Old" Hardin

The International Front

IS SELF-DEFENCE AN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHT?

By Gary Mauser

Do civilians have the right to use deadly force in self-defence? The short answer is, “Yes, but.” It is a human right to defend oneself, one’s family or property, from violent attack. Everywhere in the world. And if the attacker dies, then so be it. But details matter. Critically. Anyone who successfully uses physical force to stop an attack could end up in jail or bankrupt afterwards (if not both). Let’s look at the key factors in surviving a court battle after a self-defence encounter. Rights and principles might be universal, but actual laws vary from country to country. I am not a lawyer, so nothing I say should be imagined to be advice.

In this article I will limit myself to examining the central legal question in defending oneself of a murder charge. That is, of course, not the only charge that could be laid, particularly if the weapon used in defense was a firearm. The defender might not own it legally, or it might be seen as being unsafely stored. Unsafe storage can be a “catch 22,” especially in Commonwealth countries, such as Canada or Australia. This is illustrated in Ian Thomson’s case where allegedly the Crown claimed that his firearm was unsafely stored because he was able to use it in a timely manner. Anyone who uses a firearm had better be able to demonstrate it had been locked up, as well as the ammunition, and that they had time to get both, or else regardless of the outcome of the trial, they’ll very likely face additional charges.

Intentionally killing another person is almost always seen as immoral and illegal. But, not in every case. Two types of exceptions are allowed: “justifiable” and “excusable” homicides. Justifiable homicides are seen as the right thing to do, that is, they are morally justifiable. An example of justifiable homicides would be capital punishment. If the law prescribes that cop killers should be hanged, for example, then the government is justified in hanging such criminals. Excusable homicides are those that are forbidden, and should not be done, but if it happens, the law will not prosecute, such as when the killer is insane or a child who is too young to understand.

Consider two guys who get in a fight in a bar. Only one walks away. Is the survivor justified in killing the deceased? What about a man and a woman living together, and, after a dispute, one of them dies. Is this self-defence? Would your answer change if it was the woman or the man who died? Or what if a teenager breaks into a home and is killed in a confrontation with the owner. Should the survivor be punished for murder? Congratulated? I have just relayed the bare bones here. What would you have to know in each situation to decide if it was a legitimate case of self-defence?

Depending upon the country and the circumstances, self-defence killings can be either justifiable or excusable. Three different rationales are used to justify civilian killings in self-defence. First, the wrongdoing of the offender. Civilians have the right to kill criminals because criminals are bad. For example, it is acceptable to kill a rapist or someone attempting to kill another person purely because of his evil intent.

Second, the autonomy of the victim. Citizens have the right to protect their life or to protect their family or property. Killing an attacker is justifiable not because the offender is evil, but simply because of the threat to one’s safety.

Third, public benefit. This argument does not rely upon the morality of the action, but the outcome. Does society benefit from a particular individual defending oneself? For example, killing a robber is justified because if robbers know that people will resist, they will be less likely to attack them.

Of course, the three rationales may work together, but some legal systems emphasize one or another. For instance, English law, as formulated by the famous jurist William Blackstone, emphasizes the wrongdoing of the offender. The German legal system historically has emphasized the autonomy of the victim.

The German situation is shocking from a modern perspective. In 1920 a German court famously exonerated a farmer who had shot a child stealing fruit from his orchard. That result would never be accepted in Anglo-American law where the



Professor Emeritus Gary Mauser was recently honoured with the Scholar of the Year Award by the Second Amendment Foundation for his “distinguished research and deeds” that helped preserve individual rights and freedoms.

issue is often “reasonableness.” But in Europe the analysis is based on Kantian argument that the thief is evil and the farmer is in the right. Thus, if the only way to prevent a theft is to shoot the thief, even if the thief is a child, then the shooting is justified.

In England recently, two robbers, O’Gorman and Mansell, were shot after they smashed their way into the isolated rural home of Mr. and Mrs. Ferrie. After sentencing the miscreants to four years for burglary, Judge Michael Pert QC, told the pair that getting shot was part of the natural consequences of robbery. “If you burgle a house in the country where the householder owns a legally-held shotgun, that is the chance you take.” In other words, the homeowner was justified in shooting them because of their evil acts. However, all was not well with the homeowners: both were arrested and questioned for more than 40 hours on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm. Later, they were released without charges, but arresting them does seem unreasonable. As responsible citizens, one would have imagined that the police would have treated them more respectfully.

Consider the following hypothetical: a woman attacked by a rapist draws a gun from her purse. The rapist desists and retreats but the woman, terrified and outraged, shoots him anyway. According to law professor and criminologist Don Kates, “under Anglo-American law this is ‘imperfect self-

defense,’ i.e. manslaughter. (In some jurisdictions it might be second-degree murder.) But under the law of Austria, France, Germany, Holland and Italy it is an example of the defense of ‘outrage’ under which the jury can acquit the woman of any crime whatever.”

Remember, the right to defend oneself may be worldwide, but your local police or courts may not agree with you on the circumstances in your particular case. Disagreement may cost you \$50,000 - \$100,000 and 13 – 20 years of your life. Possibly, even your life. Anyone worried that they might someday have to protect themselves or their family from violence should thoroughly understand the law. This is particularly important for individuals living in an isolated area. Reading articles in gun magazines (including this one) is not sufficient. And not every lawyer is equally knowledgeable about self-defence law. If you need a lawyer, be sure to find a good one. Forewarned is forearmed.

For further reading:

The Truth About Self Protection.

Ayoob, Massad

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Truth-About-Self-Protection/dp/0553195190>

Commentaries on the Laws of England

Blackstone, William

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Blackstone

<http://www.lonang.com/exlibris/blackstone/>

‘Expect to be shot if you burgle gun owners’, judge warns criminals. THE TELEGRAPH.

Evans, Martin and Sam Marsden

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9569359/Expect-to-be-shot-if-you-burgle-gun-owners-judge-warns-criminals.html>

The Ian Thomson Case

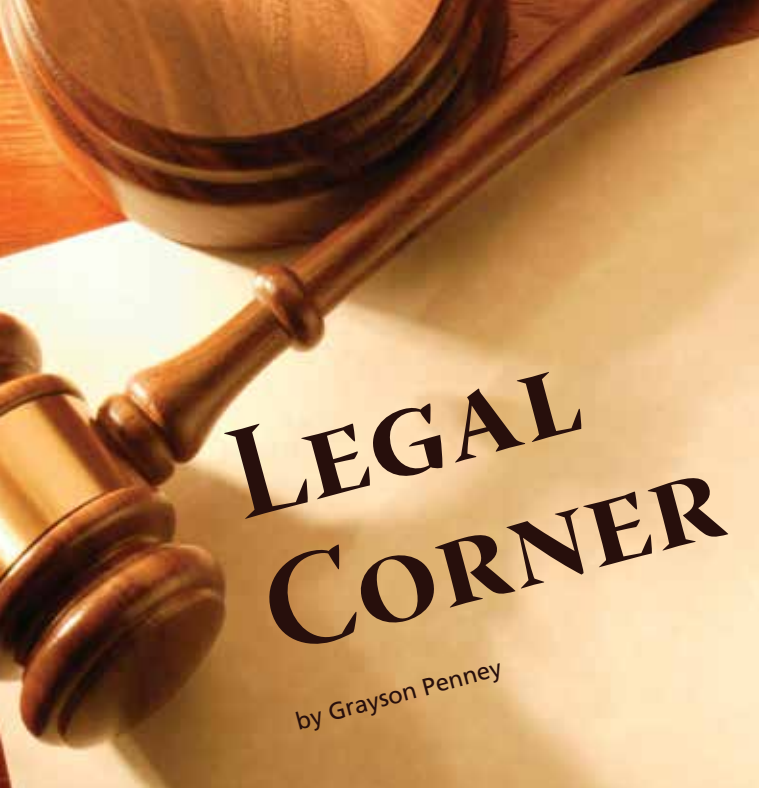
Gunter, Lorne

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2012/02/01/lorne-gunter-why-hang-ian-thomson-for-the-crime-of-protecting-himself/>

Theoretical and practical implications of the right to use deadly force in self-defence

PRESENTED TO THE LONDON SYMPOSIUM ON SELF-DEFENCE. HOSTED BY THE WORLD FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF SPORT SHOOTING ACTIVITIES, THE ARMY & NAVY CLUB, 36-39 PALL MALL, LONDON, 2 DECEMBER, 2005.

Tenenbaum, Abraham



- individuals who are obtaining a new licence after their licence was refused or revoked, or
- individuals obtaining a licence after the expiry of a firearms prohibition order.

For more information, contact the Canadian Firearms Program at 1-800-731-4000 or visit their web site at <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/index-eng.htm>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REPEAL IMPENDING C-68 GUN SHOW RULES

I am happy to report that Canada's National Firearms Association, in partnership with a broad coalition of pro-firearm rights organizations and like-minded individuals, can now report that impending **Gun Shows Regulations** that were supposed to come into force on November 30, 2012, will be repealed by the Government of Canada. In September, the Honourable Vic Toews, Canada's Minister of Public Safety, officially announced the Government of Canada's intent to repeal said Gun Shows Regulations. First introduced in 1998 under the much reviled Liberal C-68 Firearms Act, the regulations have never officially entered into force.

Subsequent to Minister Toews' announcement, the Government's proposal to repeal the long-delayed gun show regulations was published in the Canada Gazette; an important first step in its journey to becoming law. In his public statement on the decision, Minister Toews, described the regulations as being, "unnecessary" and argued that this latest decision, "Shows our Government is focusing on protecting families and communities and not pushing administrative burdens on law-abiding gun owners." He continued by re-affirming support for law-abiding gun owners and reiterating the Government's intent to, "Continue to tackle crime by getting guns out of the hands of criminals and off our streets."

Similar sentiments were echoed by MP Candice Hooppner, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety. She contended that, "Allowing redundant regulations to come into force would only introduce an unnecessary burden on law-abiding citizens." An argument that Canada's National Firearms Association has been making to Ottawa for more than a decade.

The Government's latest move to finally repeal the Liberal's unnecessary gun show regulations is one more indication that we are gaining momentum in our drive to see real and substantial firearms law reform become a reality. It is heartening to work with a federal government that is willing to consider reasoned argument instead of emotional rhetoric when debating the issue of firearms law reform. As NFA has argued since they were first introduced, the Liberal's 1998 Gun Show Regulations were wholly unnecessary, unduly burdensome to Canada's responsible firearms community, and added an additional layer of bureaucratic red tape to no purpose; - as the storage and display of firearms at gun shows are already governed by existing **Storage, Display and Transportation of Firearms and Other Weapons by Businesses Regulations** and the **Storage, Display, Transportation and Handling of Firearms by Individuals Regulations** that were already in force.

FEE WAIVER ENDS – RESTRICTED/ PROHIBITED FIREARMS LICENCE

NFA members should be aware of changes to the current fee structure associated with licensing. The federal government has **opted to not extend the licence renewal fee waiver** program for individuals holding a **possession and acquisition or possession only firearms licence with restricted or prohibited firearms endorsements**. This fee waiver program ended on September 17, 2012. After this date individuals seeking to renew said licenses will have to pay a renewal fee. Current PAL holders seeking to add a restricted firearm endorsement to their licence will also have to pay a fee.

FEE WAIVER – NON-RESTRICTED FIREARMS LICENCE

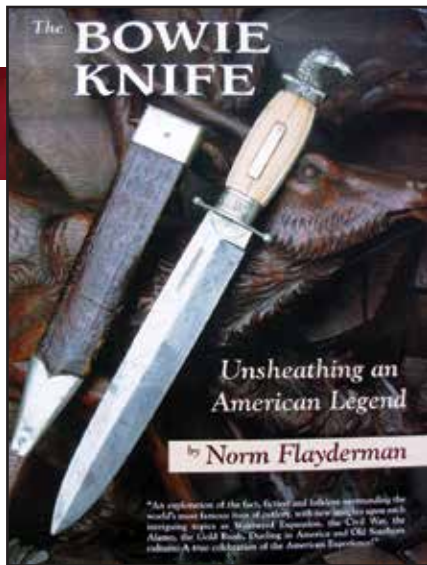
The current fee waiver program, **applicable to licences with non-restricted firearm privileges only**, remains in effect. However, said fee waiver is **slated to end May 16, 2013**.

This waiver applies to:

- individuals renewing their **Possession Only Licence (POL)** or **Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL)**,
- individuals upgrading their **POL to a PAL**,
- individuals obtaining a new **POL or PAL** after their previous one expired,
- minors who renew their **Minor's Licence**.

This fee waiver does not apply to:

- individuals obtaining their first licence, or
- individuals who held a minors licence and are applying for a **PAL**, or



NFA Book Shelf

by Wm. R. Rantz

THE BOWIE KNIFE

Unsheathing an American Legend

Author: Norm Flayderman

Publisher: Andrew Mowbray Inc., 2004

ISBN: 1-931464-12-X

Hardcover: 9 x 12 with Dust Jacket, 512 Pages,

Current Photographs - Colour

Historical Photographs – Black/White

The mere mention of the words “Bowie Knife” creates instant visions of a huge menacing knife carried conspicuously by American Civil War soldiers, mountain men, ruffians and settlers of the 19th century American west. Scores were settled, lives taken and battles won or lost as these formidable weapons sliced through air and flesh.

Folk lore and historical accuracy regarding the Bowie Knife have been intertwined over the years by modern media. Western novels, movies which graced the silver screen and televised re-enactments as imagined by Hollywood writers have created a visual image that many accepted as reality.

Norm Flayderman, author of “**THE BOWIE KNIFE**” realized that there was a demand for accurate information regarding these unique and formidable knives. He set out to write a historically correct book which would separate fact from fiction. Such a task would be a major endeavour involving extensive research of archives as well as the examination of hundreds of actual Bowie knives.

Quite likely the only person on the planet who could have successfully completed such an ambitious project is Norm Flayderman. His related experience includes a successful mail order business that he established in 1952 to sell antique weaponry including Bowie knives. Sixty years later that business continues to thrive and offer collectors the finest of rare and unusual knives, swords and antique firearms.

Previously, Norm Flayderman had produced his famous “Guide to Collecting Antique American Firearms,” which was republished as the 9th Edition in 2007 after having sold almost half a million copies. He is recognized as a renowned authority on weaponry and has advised many museums as a consultant.

Based on Flayderman’s reputation as an arms collector, dealer and successful author one would expect “**THE BOWIE KNIFE**” to be a spectacular publication. The author would factually establish the role of the Bowie knife as a significant part of American history. Well researched text and detailed photographs of actual knives would provide information sought by Bowie enthusiasts from around the globe.

Norm Flayderman exceeded each of these expectations as “**THE BOWIE KNIFE**” is the most informative book ever published on this topic. It is unlikely that there will ever be another publication which provides the reader with such an enormous amount of knowledge about the famous Bowie knife.

The legend of the Bowie knife can be traced back to the year 1827 and the famed “Sandbar Fight.” It was during this fight that Jim Bowie permanently settled a long time feud with one Norris Wright using a large bladed fighting knife. That iconic knife and blade design would forevermore be irrevocably linked to its owner and namesake. Flayderman has indicated that long bladed heavy knives, similar to the one used in the Sandbar Fight, were first advertised as Bowie knives in 1835. The heroic last stand of Jim Bowie and his fellow defenders of the Alamo in 1836, only added to the legendary status of both the man and his knife.

The popularity of the Bowie knife among those who carried it may be attributed to several factors. It was always ready and would never malfunction in a time of need. The Bowie represented a formidable backup weapon and created a distinct advantage in hand to hand combat.

As the popularity and reputation of the Bowie knife grew it was produced by numerous Sheffield knife-makers. Quality craftsmen such as George Wostenholm took advantage of the thriving American market. However, several American states saw things quite differently and actually passed laws which prohibited the sale, purchase or carrying of a Bowie knife.

Flayderman has presented his exhaustive research in twenty chapters covering over 500 pages. Titles tantalize the reader and encourage them to explore each chapter to fully understand the history of the legendary Bowie knife. Chapter 12 “Make Me A Knife Like Jim Bowie’s” was one that I found most interesting and informative. Certainly other readers may prefer chapters such as “Confederate Bowie Knives: a Breed Apart” or “The Defining Moments: The Sandbar Fight”.

Each chapter contains detailed information presented in both text and high quality photographs. Readers of “**THE BOWIE KNIFE**” will appreciate Flayderman’s clear and concise writing as he shares his research and love of legendary Bowie knives. Many enjoyable hours may be spent closely examining the hundreds of high resolution colour pictures of specific knives which Flayderman presents throughout his book.

“**THE BOWIE KNIFE**” lists at \$79.95. It will be a valued addition to the library of knife collectors, dealers and those who wish to understand the true history of the Bowie knife.

Clearance Sale 50% off EVERYTHING!!



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Royal Blue

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