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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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On the Cover

In Respect

Moncton's regimental funeral for three fallen RCMP officers

An officer holds slain RCMP Const. David Ross' dog Danny at the funeral procession for the three RCMP officers who were killed in the line of duty recently, at their regimental funeral at the Moncton Coliseum in Moncton, NB, on Tuesday, June 10, 2014. Two of the slain officers were NFA members.



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From The Editor's Desk

Chris McGarry

Confronting The Elitists Who Rule From Ivory Towers

Politicians do not have the interests of Canadians at heart

In a perfect world, elected representatives that swears an oath to serve their country and community would be selfless, altruistic and, most importantly, see themselves on the same level as their constituents. While politics certainly does attract these types of folks, more often than not public office appeals to individuals with an elitist way of thinking who simply enter the game for the sheer volume of power such a position will bestow upon them.

On no other issue is this statist mentality more evident than with gun control. Since the 1960s, the entrenched elites among Canada's political and bureaucratic classes have made it their mission to enact increasingly stringent firearms legislation. These laws, in effect, have served as nothing more than a slow disarmament policy that has incrementally been stripping Canadians of their property, as well as this country's rich firearms heritage.

It leaves a lot to be desired why so many average citizens are enthralled by the often false charisma demonstrated by wealthy statist politicians, such as Justin Trudeau or his father, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, who authored Bill C-51 in 1978. The 1990s, dominated by Kim Campbell and the Liberal government of Jean Chretien, will forever be remembered as the beginning of a dark period for gun rights in Canada. And it started with the passage of the *Firearms Act* (C-68) in 1995.

Canada's political elites, most of whom hail from well-to-do families and have held high positions of authority in government as well as in business, have been none too shy about their derision towards the private property rights of the electorate they wish to rule over instead of simply govern. Former Prime Minister Kim Campbell, creator of Bill C-17, is on record as saying, "There's no evidence that regis-

tering guns reduces the level of gun violence." Fully aware that her party's gun control scheme had nothing to do with public safety, former Quebec senator Sharon Carstairs stated unequivocally in 1996: "C-68 has little to do with gun control or crime control, but it is the first step necessary to begin the social re-engineering of Canada."

This blatantly elitist mentality that the plebes should be forbidden arms has also found its way into the high levels of government agencies. Former RCMP commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli told the *Calgary Herald* in 2001 that nobody (outside of law enforcement) should be allowed to have handguns. And just recently, retired Canadian army general Romeo Dallaire, witness to one of the worst genocides in history, is on record as saying: "Anybody who wants an assault weapon should join the military."

Proving that a leopard doesn't change its spots, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne has recently renewed the Liberals' push for a nationwide handgun ban. Prime Minister Paul Martin had sought such a ban in 2005. Putting the tin foil hat aside, one must ask themselves exactly what agenda do these political elites, largely out of touch with the average citizen, have for the country?

This sort of lofty elitism has no place in a free and democratic society. Any elected representative who engages in the wilful destruction of rights and theft of property must be exposed and ousted. As Canada's firearms community, we have the power to undertake such action. We simply need to find the will to come together to make it happen.

Keep up the good fight.



Canada's parliament buildings, where the elitists rule.



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

The Broad Base With The Narrow Focus

While meeting with members at the NFA 2014 AGM at the Radisson Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC, there were a few significant aspects I noticed immediately. First, there were a greater number of younger NFA members in attendance than older ones - a strong indicator that bodes well for our success. Second, these members, many of whom travelled long distances to be there with us to listen to our speakers, meet with them and share their concerns, were passionate and dedicated. And third, there was a clear message expressed by all that significant reforms are needed to Canada's unnecessarily strict and burdensome firearms laws. This was a resounding message that not only reverberated from the stage to the floor, but also reflected back from the floor to the leadership. And that message is clear as day - NFA members want their ancient Anglo-Saxon common law rights restored, rights that have been steadily stolen away by successive governments under a false premise that compelling otherwise law-abiding folks to obey draconian gun control laws under penalty of prosecution will somehow impede criminals from committing crimes with firearms and in turn will lead to a much safer society. Given the massive amount of studies proving that gun control does nothing to improve public safety surely few people still believe that these laws prevent bad people from doing bad things. And fourth, it is worth mentioning the great variety of people present - a variety that reflects the broad base of Canada's growing firearms culture. This is a base that crosses lines of gender, ethnicity, economic background, religion, where people choose to live and other basic differences.

And despite their differences, all these attendees came from near and far because of a basic common thread - a desire to recapture our freedom to use and enjoy all types and classes of firearms without nonsensical bureaucratic restrictions. As a community, we are both safe and responsible with firearms. To some members of this country's political elite, these are dangerous thoughts; recently, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne announced her intention to continue both the provincial and federal Liberal parties' push for a nation - wide handgun ban. Any politician that calls for the outright banning of firearms, or actively resists unbanning them, is simply no friend of the firearms community.

You see, we are a diverse group, and our diversity coupled with our narrow, no-compromise focus is a winning combination. So then what is preventing us from achieving victory in the face of our anti-gun opponents? Though we have enjoyed some victories, they have been relatively small in scope compared to what we would like to attain. We have fully or partially funded some noteworthy legal cases and are pushing more forward. We are identifying our allies and foes in all political parties and holding each one of them to account.

Unfortunately, the main limitation holding our community back from seizing the changes we so fervently desire is the fear that some people have of speaking out. The disgust that many feel for the selfish nature of a political process that has chosen gun control as a feel-good expedient is strong. We need to fight that process by making it clear to our elected officials that part-measures and half-hearted support are not good enough to earn the political backing of Canada's firearms community.

You know well that our firearms control laws came in three successive waves (C-51 of 1978, C-17 of 1992 and C-68 of 1995) that crippled long-held cultural traditions of enjoyment with firearms. These laws came in with great fanfare and were major disruptions to long held traditions and rights. They weren't brought in incrementally and they need to be removed with the same fervour that put them in place. The object has been to destroy a large a deeply held culture that doesn't fit in with a model that seeks to control an increasingly urban population.

Consider how over just a few decades we have watched our police services change from fellow citizens who relied on their neighbours to support their efforts in fighting crime, to statist forces that have separated themselves from the citizenry with paramilitary uniforms, bullet-resistant armour and increased firepower. These trappings have increasingly distanced the police from the public. In fact, it is not the criminal element that gets this strong force used against it, but rather those who resist these Orwellian changes, just happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, or leave their homes in a disaster to have the doors kicked in and their firearms seized as at High River, Alta., last year.

This division has become stark for firearms owners because of the provisions in Sections 91 and 92 in the *Criminal Code* that make it an offence in Canada to be in "unauthorized" possession of a firearm. Since the former Bill C-68 of the 1990s was enacted when a law enforcement officer sees a person with a firearm, the default police assumption is that this is a criminal act until that person proves

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to the officer that the possession is "authorized," through the presentation of a license, and if restricted, or prohibited, the appropriate federal licenses and "authorizations." The other aspect of significance is the circular definition of firearm and weapon - firearms are defined as weapons in our law, and a weapon is defined to always include firearms. When law enforcement sees a firearm, they don't see an innocent enthusiast, they see a potential user of a

"weapon," and that is a big part of a societal problem that simply needs to change.

This blatant infringement on civil liberties has been sold along with gun control as a necessary progression to achieving public safety, and the fact is that it is simply not true. The firearms control measures that Canadians experience today are considerably more onerous than those of just a generation ago and yet they have not changed the ability or desire of the ill-intentioned to do bad things. All that these measures have done is try to build some sort of acceptance that what has happened is normal. It is time for you to stand up and speak up. Neither we nor our firearms are dangers to public safety. Our possession of firearms is and always has been the basis of public safety - now we just need to get the politicians to understand that and act on it. We are a broad base of people with a narrow focus, and we will win this fight.

Rapport du Président

Sheldon Clare

Un Large Soutien, Un Objectif Commun

Tandis que je rencontrais nos adhérents lors de notre Assemblée Générale Annuelle 2014, au Radisson Vancouver Airport Hotel à Richmond, BC, j'ai pu aussitôt remarquer des aspects significatifs. En premier lieu, qu'il y avait davantage de jeunes membres que d'anciens - un indicateur important qui laisse présager notre succès. Deuxièmement, ces membres, dont un bon nombre ont voyagé de longues distances pour nous rejoindre afin d'écouter et de rencontrer nos intervenants, mais aussi de partager leurs préoccupations, étaient passionnés et dévoués. Troisièmement, le message clairement exprimé par tous, fut que de considérables réformes des lois sur les armes à feu inutilement astreignantes et strictes, sont nécessaires. Ce retentissant message se fit entendre non seulement depuis l'estrade jusqu'à la salle mais également du public jusqu'à la direction. Et ce message fut clair comme le jour, les membres de l'ACAF souhaitent que leurs droits ancestraux Anglo-Saxons soient rétablis. Des droits progressivement supprimés par des gouvernements successifs qui se sont appuyés sur l'hypothèse mal-fondée que le fait d'obliger des gens autrement respectueux des lois à se soumettre à des lois draconiennes sur le contrôle des armes à feu, sous peine de poursuites judiciaires, parviendra à empêcher les criminels de commettre des crimes utilisant une armes à feu, et

ainsi à rendre plus sûre notre société. Malgré le nombre considérable d'études qui ont démontré l'inexactitude de cette hypothèse, certaines personnes sont encore persuadées que ces lois servent à prévenir les gens malintentionnés de commettre des actes criminels. Et quatrièmement, il est intéressant de mentionner la grande diversité des personnes présentes - une diversité qui reflète l'ensemble de la culture Canadienne des armes à feu. Une population qui regroupe tous sexes, ethnies, situations économiques, religions, origines, ...

Et en dépit de leurs différences, tous ces participants sont venus de près ou de loin pour une même raison - la volonté de reconquérir notre liberté de disposer et de jouir d'armes à feu de tous types et toutes catégories, sans absurdes restrictions bureaucratiques. En tant que communauté, nous sommes à la fois sans danger et responsable avec nos armes à feu. Pour certains membres de l'Elite politique de ce pays, ces pensées sont considérées dangereuses; récemment la première Ministre d'Ontario, Kathleen Wynne annonçait son intention de continuer de faire pression sur les partis Libéraux provinciaux et fédéraux pour une prohibition des armes de poing au niveau national. Tout politicien qui en appelle à l'interdiction absolu des armes à feu, ou qui s'oppose activement à la levée de l'interdiction de ces dernières, n'est tout simplement pas un ami de la communauté des amateurs d'armes à feu.

Vous voyez, nous sommes un groupe diversifié, et notre diversité associée à notre approche sans-compromis est une combinaison gagnante. Alors, qu'est-ce qui nous retient de remporter la victoire face à nos opposants anti-armes? Bien que nous ayons pu apprécier quelques victoires, celles-ci sont de petites envergures comparées aux objectifs que nous nous sommes fixés. Nous avons entièrement ou partiellement financé quelques remarquables causes judiciaires et progressons dans ce sens. Nous identifions nos alliés ainsi que nos adversaires au sein de chaque parti politique, et tenons chacun d'entre eux responsable. Malheureusement, la restriction principale qui retient les gens de notre communauté de s'emparer des changements que nous convoitons avec tant de ferveur, est la peur chez certains de prendre la parole. Le dégoût ressenti pour beaucoup vis-à-vis de la nature égoïste des politiciens qui se servent du «contrôle sur les armes à feu» comme moyen de diversion, est intense. Nous devons combattre cette pratique en faisant clairement comprendre à nos élus que les demi-mesures et les soutiens hésitants sont insuffisants pour mériter le soutien politique de la communauté des amateurs d'armes à feu.

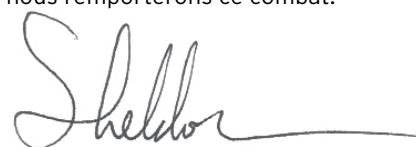
Vous n'êtes pas sans ignorer que les lois sur le contrôle de nos armes à feu sont survenues en trois vagues successives (C-51 de 1978, C-17 de 1992, et C-68 de 1995), et nous empêchent de profiter d'un héritage ancestral, celui de jouir des armes à feu. Ces

lois qui sont apparues soudainement et en faisant beaucoup de bruit, ont grandement perturbé nos droits et nos traditions, et elles doivent être supprimées avec la même ferveur. L'objectif de ces lois est de détruire une culture profondément ancrée qui ne convient plus au modèle qui cherche à contrôler une population urbaine en expansion.

En tout juste deux décennies, nous avons observé des changements au sein des services de police. Passant de citoyens qui comptent sur leurs voisins afin de combattre le crime, aux forces statiques dotées d'uniformes paramilitaires, de gilets pare-balles et d'une puissance de feu supérieure. Ces attributs ont considérablement éloignés la police du public. En effet, ces forces ne sont pas utilisées contre des éléments de nature criminelle, mais plutôt contre ceux qui s'opposent à ces changements drastiques et se trouvent au mauvais moment au mauvais endroit, ou qui suite à une catastrophe ont dû quitter leur maisons pour ensuite retrouver leurs portes enfoncées ainsi que leur armes à feu saisies tel qu'à High River, AB, l'an dernier.

Cette séparation inquiète de plus en plus les amateurs d'armes à feu, notamment à cause des clauses de la section 91 et 92 du Code Criminel, qui citent que prendre possession d'une arme s'en y avoir été autorisé constitue un délit un Canada. Depuis la promulgation de l'ancien projet de loi C-68 des années 90, lorsqu'un officier des forces de l'ordre aperçoit une personne détenant une arme à feu, sa première présomption est d'assumer que cela constitue un acte criminel jusqu'à preuve du contraire, par la présentation d'un permis, et si « restreint » ou « prohibé », par la présentation de permis fédéraux et autres autorisations. L'autre aspect d'importance est la définition d'armes à feu et d'armes. Les armes à feu sont définies en tant qu'armes selon nos lois, et une arme par définition inclus toujours les armes à feu. Lorsque les forces de l'ordre aperçoivent une arme à feu, ils ne voient pas d'innocents amateurs mais de possible « utilisateurs d'armes », et cela représente un problème de société majeur qui doit simplement changer. Ces violations des droits civils sont survenues avec le contrôle des armes à feu, comme une étape nécessaire dont le but serait de garantir la sécurité publique, alors même que

les faits ont prouvé que cela était inexact. Les mesures relatives au contrôle des armes à feu que les Canadiens subissent au quotidien, sont considérablement plus onéreuses que celles mises en place il y a tout juste une génération. Et pourtant elles n'ont pas changé pour autant l'aptitude ni le désir des personnes malintentionnées de commettre des crimes. Ces mesures tentent de faire que l'on accepte et considère comme normal ce qui se passe. Il est temps de se défendre et de s'exprimer. Ni nous-même ni nos armes à feu ne représentent un danger pour la « sécurité publique ». Notre aptitude à posséder des armes à feu est, et restera à la base de la sécurité publique - maintenant nous devons le faire comprendre aux politiciens et passer à l'action. Nous représentons une large majorité avec un objectif commun, et nous remporterons ce combat.



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Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Firearms Law Reform Needed Now

In the aftermath of the outrages of door-to-door gun confiscations in flood-stricken High River, Alta., last year, the recent unilateral reclassification of semi-automatic rifles by the RCMP (potentially resulting in the confiscation of thousands more) and the slow but steady entrenchment of an aggressive regulatory agenda by the firearms bureaucracy created by 1995 Bill C-68, now might be an opportune time to revisit what firearms law reforms the Government of Canada must institute to protect the rights and property of Canadians.

The 1995 C-68 *Firearms Act* must be replaced, along with the remaining provisions of the 1991 C-17 *Firearms Act* that preceded it. Bill C-19 and the end of long gun registration did not do that; it merely ended what was considered to be the most public failure of the firearms program.

Word of advice to the Government of Canada: the entire Canadian Firearms Program has failed.

After Parliament passed Bill C-19, an *Act* to end the registration of long guns in Canada, the bureaucracy constructed to implement and oversee the firearms program imposed by the Liberal government of the 1990s began a process of retrenchment and a focus on the aggressive enforcement of all the other parts of the *Firearms Act* that had not been reformed by the present Conservative government.

This first manifested itself in an effort to preserve and expand information collection systems towards an effort to allow provincial chief firearms officers to continue to gather data on long gun ownership and transfers, and to make that data available to provincial

governments, such as Quebec, who wished to see the registration of non-restricted long guns continue. That had to be shut down by the federal government after it became a national controversy.

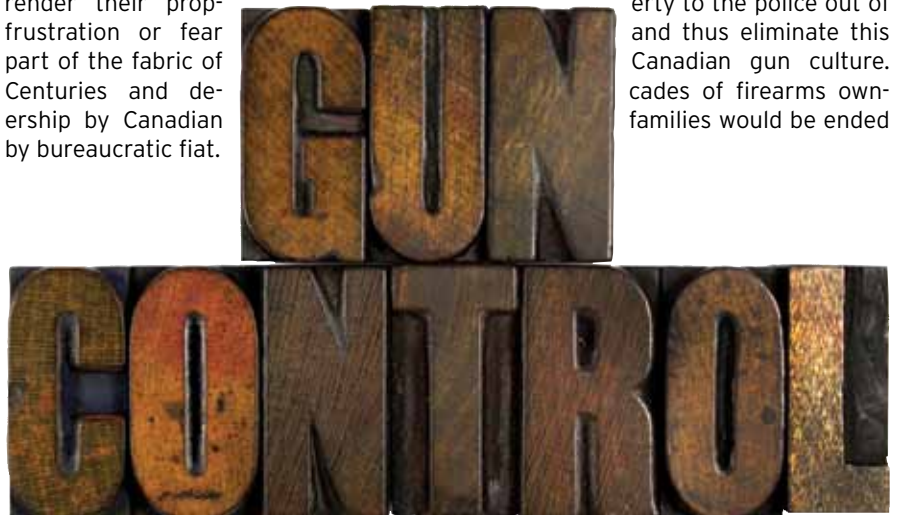
Even so, information unintentionally leaked from routine data collection and retrieval in active police investigations began to suggest that long gun registry data, data mandated to be destroyed by the Registrar under C-19, had not been and was being retained in some form by law enforcement agencies. This was confirmed when Don White, of High River, Alta., was informed on attempting to retrieve his rifles and shotguns from RCMP who had booted in his door and confiscated them for safe keeping, that "two of them were not registered." How did they know? The long gun registry data was supposed to be destroyed.

The often-repeated refrain to these complaints is: "what do you want to replace it with?" Some of these most fundamental reforms that must be included are as follows:

Licensing reform

As long as the mandatory firearms license for firearms ownership remains in place, imposed by the C-68 *Firearms Act*, the most egregious part of this law will be unaddressed. The C-68 licensing system was imposed specifically to discourage, curtail and extinguish what both domestic and international civil disarmament lobbyists viewed as the "casual ownership" of firearms in Canada - that is the possession and transfer of firearms between family, friends and acquaintances on a basis not completely controlled and sanctioned by bureaucrats. The complicated nature of the firearms licensing system would encourage these "casual" gun owners, who only used their guns on an infrequent basis or held them as family heirlooms, to surrender their property out of frustration or fear part of the fabric of Centuries and dereliction by Canadian by bureaucratic fiat.

erty to the police out of and thus eliminate this Canadian gun culture. cades of firearms ownership would be ended



The firearms control system will convince you to give up your property and your sport. Maybe you should take up badminton - less hassle.

Never mind the issue of long gun registration, the majority of Canadians who were in possession of firearms prior to Dec. 31, 1998, failed to apply for or receive firearms licenses by that deadline and remain criminals today. The firearms licensing system also creates instant, overnight criminals for simply allowing that license to expire. A license cannot be required for the simple ownership of property and firearms are property. Mandatory firearms licensing is un-Canadian.

Regulatory reform

Provisions of the *Firearms Act* grant provincial chief firearms officers (CFOs) extraordinary powers to enact and enforce policies as regulation. This largely manifests itself in the conditions granted on authorizations for transport of restricted and prohibited firearms, but also in regards to the issuing of the firearms license itself. There is no limit to the conditions that CFOs can set on issuing licenses or firearms registrations and authorizations for restricted and prohibited firearms. The system has been under continual review towards changing regulations to the strictest interpretation possible, and will continue to be done so in order to reduce the number of Canadians who are authorized to own and use firearms.

The firearms control system will convince you to give up your property and your sport. Maybe you should take up badminton - less hassle.

The mandate of the firearms bureaucracy hasn't changed because the *Firearms Act* and the legislation that supports it has not changed. The purpose of the *Firearms Act* is civil disarmament and bureaucrats will continue enact and enforce policy and regulation according to this agenda until it is replaced. Only the Conservative government can do that.

Firearms classification

As evidenced by the firearms prohibitions enacted under Bills C-17 and C-68, and the prohibitions unilaterally imposed by RCMP recently, the firearms classifications system is a tool by which the property of Canadians can be progressively prohibited and confiscated. Once again, the devils are in the details of the legislation and the policies of the firearms control system, with bureaucrats who are answerable to no one, operating according to their own agenda. The firearms bureaucrats can revoke the registration for the firearm, issue orders to the owner for disposal and threaten to revoke his firearms license if he does not comply. Universal registration under Bill C-68

was to enhance the firearms classification and re-classification process by providing data on who had what, as earlier prohibitions and confiscations were complicated and suffered in compliance by lack of this information. The Swiss Arms/CZ 858 re-classifications are evidence of this. This is why the RCMP fought hard to keep long gun registration. In most cases there are no registrations to revoke, the RCMP should not know who owns these rifles and the government has had to introduce a two-year amnesty to shield lawful owners from prosecution and confiscation while it searches for a solution.

The only solution to these and all of the offences to citizenship and machinations of bureaucracy committed in the name of the *Firearms Act* is new legislation to replace it.

These reforms require no lavish spending program. They require no construction of yet another government bureaucracy to oversee them. Unlike the present C-68 *Firearms Act*, they require no flagrant overspending of taxpayer's dollars or a government and bureaucracy to lie to Canadians in an attempt to conceal it. They just require a return to common sense, fiscal responsibility and for government, law enforcement and bureaucracy to once again respect and trust Canadians with their rights, freedoms and property.

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

What We Have Lost

Our history has been manipulated, massaged and sanitized. Canadians live in a culture that did not exist.

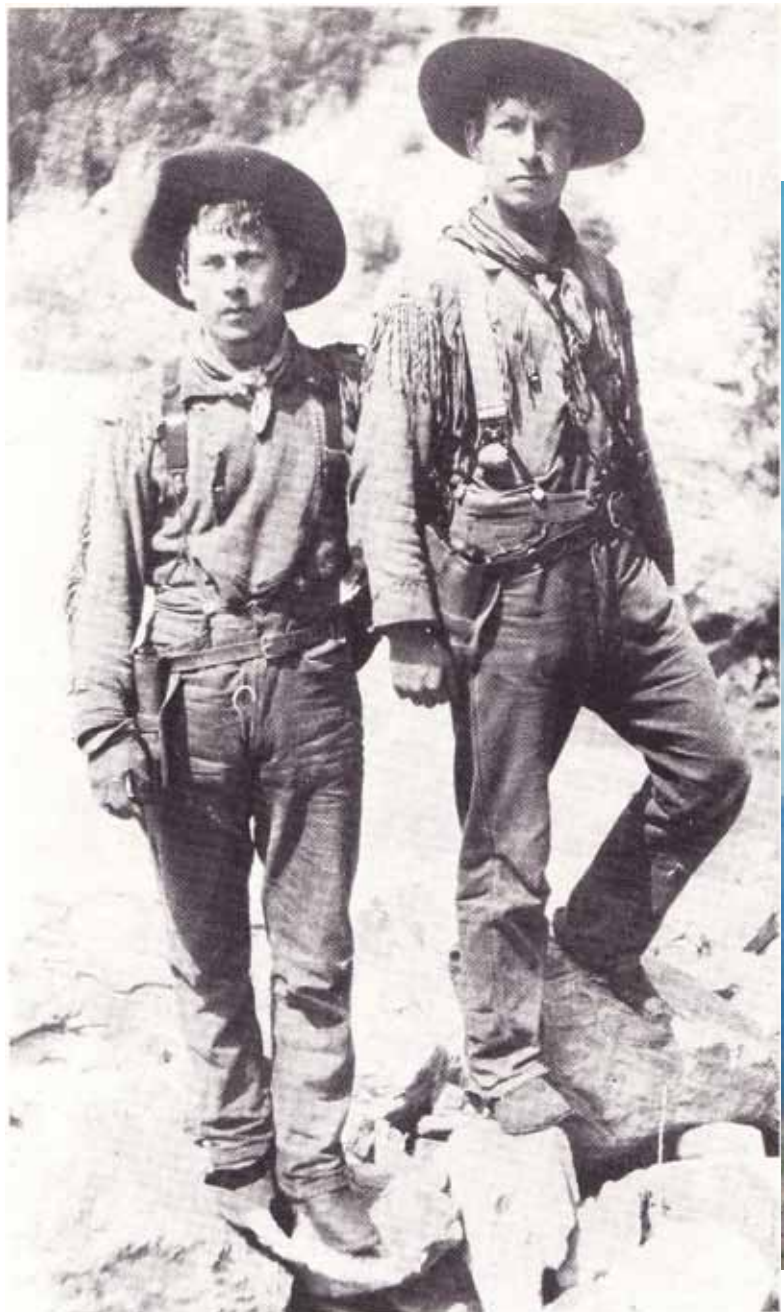
Many Canadians believe that firearms are not part of our cultural fabric. This is simply not the case. Since the time our nation was first settled by Europeans, firearms have played a major role in our history. First Nations people were more than pleased to adopt the technology the settlers had brought with them. And so it has been ever since.

Many would suggest that there has been a prohibition on the carrying of handguns since 1892. Having a handgun in your home or place of business was completely legal and anyone who was on the trail or involved in an outdoor pursuit could carry a handgun because under the law if you feared for your life you could carry one.

I was delivered into a family that owned and used firearms. I grew up in an era where gun ownership was not a crime. Both my grandmothers had handguns. My maternal grandmother kept a loaded Luger in her bedroom.

My paternal grandmother carried an Iver Johnson four inch .38 inside of her apron. This was not in some faraway place; this was here in Canada. Gun control to me is my Granny saying, "Don't touch that" as loaded guns were kept within easy reach. Various jurisdictions in Canada tinkered with gun control through the teens and 20s, however research indicates that non-compliance was the norm. In 1934 handgun registration came into effect.

The era I grew up in, the registration certificate that listed your handguns allowed you to have it in other places. People employed in outdoor occupations, such as prospectors, geologists, cowboys, packers, guides, timber cruisers, foresters, surveyors and many others, carried handguns. My friend Hugh Lyle shared a story about being on a survey crew in the 1940s. The surveyor had a New Service Colt in his pack. When they were surveying the Coldstream Ranch in the Okanagan, the cowboss rode up carrying a 1911 cocked and locked in a Mexican loop holster. When carrying a handgun, the only paper one needed was the Form 76 registration. The age of ownership for a firearm was 14. Banks, pharmacies gun shops and many other business places kept handguns on the premises. My friend Hugh, who passed away last year at age 88, worked as a delivery boy after school for the James Bay Pharmacy. The





Bill C-17 was passed in 1991 **changing the system** to include safety training, further background information and **more restrictions**



pharmacist kept a top break handgun in a drawer in the back where he compounded prescriptions. Bank employees were empowered to carry handguns while on bank business until 1978. There was no permit required. My bank manager, Richard Fisher, called me in 1978 and shared with

me that the Toronto Dominion Bank requested that all the bank managers turn in their four inch Model 10 Smith & Wessons. He then asked if I wanted the partial box of .38 Special ammunition, as they had not requested it. I said I would like to have the ammunition. I have it to this day, a box of .38 Specials addressed to The Toronto Dominion Bank, Estevan Avenue in Oak Bay.

To attend a competition with a handgun, no permit was required. Concealed carry could be applied for. In the 1970s, that all began to change. Permits were required to attend competitions, however, they also covered gun shows and club events. I would take handguns for show and tell to the Victoria Antique Arms Collectors meetings. There were full auto competitions, which were held in Alberta until 1978 when full autos were re-classified. In Victoria, up until 1978, the local Muzzle Loading Club would have events in conjunction with Victoria Day celebrations. Additionally, there was an event called Victorian Days. We would dress in period clothes and have events in Beacon Hill Park all the while carrying percussion handguns and long guns in downtown Victoria. These permits were valid Canada-wide. In 1979, a license to purchase was required and more restrictions were being imposed.

Bill C-17 was passed in 1991 changing the system to include safety training, further background information and more restrictions on the use of firearms. Bill C-68 was introduced in 1995, creating The *Firearms Act* that has evolved into the legislation we have imposed on us today. This act also was accompanied by universal registration, which was overturned in 2012.

We have lost so much of our firearms freedom. No open carry, restricted ability to use firearms, the constant threat of confiscation of legally owned property. Firearms are classified without cause so they can be taken from us. None of this is related to public safety. There is no evidence presented by the RCMP or other police agencies that registration of handguns or long guns has been instrumental in solving most crimes. Criminals do not register their firearms. It is all about fear - fear of aliens, fear of revolutionaries, fear of criminals, generally government paranoia. When I was young we were much safer. We didn't lock our doors and we moved through life without fear.

Throughout Canada's history, citizens have had the right to carry firearms. This has only changed in the last generation.

Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

High River, Gun Laws And The Autocratic State

It is a truism that nothing comes from nowhere. No matter how irrational, illogical or puzzling the actions of politicians, potentates and players are, they have root causes, rational or otherwise. Let us examine the High River gun grab in the context of our history and our current government in Canada. This process will lead us to a better understanding of our political realities and the task before us. It should help explain why the RCMP decided it was perfectly justified to search out and seize private property in the secure belief that they need not worry about any law or due process concerns or fear any criticisms from their political masters.

Autocratic government

To understand what is going on, we need to take a few moments to examine the deep roots of autocratic government in Canada, to look back to the traditions of our early colonial period when the government consisted of royal appointees.

In New France, which would become our most statist province, appointed governors were not answerable to the population in any way. Here the governor was a direct appointment of the king; he ruled through a Sovereign Council which he appointed as he saw fit. For all intents and purposes, the government of New France was a continuation of the autocratic old world feudal system in the new world.

British rule in Canada was established by conquest: first Acadia in 1710 and the remainder of New France in 1760. Following the conquest of New France in 1760, the British imposed a new system of autocratic rule centered on a governor answerable only to the crown. This official was assisted by an executive council (similar to the modern cabinet) that were also appointed by the crown, usually on the governor's advice and owed responsibility only to the

governor and the crown. There was also a legislative council in each colony, which was appointed by the governor.

Representation of the colonists took the form of a House of Assembly (also Legislative Assembly.) The first elected assembly was in Halifax in 1758, followed by Prince Edward Island in 1773, New Brunswick in 1784, Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec) in 1791 and Newfoundland in 1832.

However, both the governor and the appointed Legislative Council had the power to overrule the elected assembly in any matter and at any time for any reason. This neutering of governing officials having any responsibility whatsoever to the governed reflected the British government's desire to maintain an autocratic system of direct rule in the colonies. The creation of an elected assembly with actual power did not occur until 1848, when the Colonial Office in Britain instructed the governor of Nova Scotia to form his Executive Council from the party having majority in the Elected Assembly. This placed the executive branch of government in the hands of the majority party in the legislature. The British parliamentary system remains the current form of government in Canada to this day. This British initiative in 1848 gave the colonists control of domestic affairs. Control of foreign affairs would only come later.

If we put this colonial history into perspective, particularly against other jurisdictions, we notice how long autocratic, dictatorial rule lasted in Canada. The issue of direct autocratic rule by a king was decided in Britain when parliament's long power struggle with the monarchy culminated in the English Civil War, 1642 to 1651. In 1688, the Glorious Revolution recreated the monarchy as a branch of government, but only as a figurehead under Parliament's authority. In the United States autocratic rule ended with the revolution of 1776.

Let us measure the depth and endurance of autocratic rule in Canada:

- British rejection of autocratic rule - English Civil War, 1642
- Established rule of an elected Parliament, 1688
- American rejection of autocratic rule - American Revolution 1776 to 1783, established rule of an elected Congress
- Canadian rejection of autocratic rule - the failed Rebellions of 1837 and 1838
- Britain's colonial office established limited rule of an elected Parliament in 1848, Nova Scotia.

So in the Canadian colonies we were finally able to achieve responsible government, a government answerable to the people of the colony some 160 years after the English and 72 years after the Americans.

One of the reasons autocratic rule continued so long in Canada was the existence of a small group of officials who dominated the executive and legislative councils as well as the bureaucracy and judiciary. Family, ideology and economic interests connected these individuals. In Upper Canada (Ontario) they were called the Family Compact; in Lower Canada (Quebec) they were known as the Chateau Clique. This concentration of power prevented reform and public accountability and formed a basis for crony capitalism.

May we ask how much of this oligarchy and its attitudes has survived in Canada? Does the modern formation of an elite consensus between politicians, mainstream media, an entrenched bureaucracy and political appointed judges move us towards a new Family Compact and autocratic rule? We can approach an answer to our question by examining our current gun laws and how they might have influenced the behavior of the RCMP at High River.

Gun laws

Canada's current gun laws, established by Bill C-68, are a dramatic departure from our traditions and customs, effectively reshaping the relationship between governed and governors. Far from being suspect, the right to arms, a common law inherited from over a thousand years of English common law, is both ancient and honourable. The great jurist William Blackstone regarded private arms as the means by which a people might vindicate their other rights if these were suppressed. Furthermore, for most of England's history, maintenance of an armed citizenry was essential to the needs of self-defense by individuals and as a communal protection against crime. The gathering of food through hunting and the need for communal defense (the militia) also required the right to arms. For example, the laws of King Canut (1020 to 1023) considered armed self-defense a right and a duty with fines imposed for those who failed to follow the hue and cry against criminals. The *English Bill of Rights* stated that arms were part of the "true, ancient and indubitable rights" of the English people "necessary for the public safety."

Bill C-68 blatantly violates this right, criminalizing the possession of arms,



Canada's current gun laws, established by Bill C-68, are a dramatic departure from our traditions and customs, effectively reshaping the relationship between governed and governors. Far from being suspect, the right to arms, a common law inherited from over a thousand years of English common law, is both ancient and honourable.


except by permit, thereby reducing an ancient right to a mere privilege. This is a glaring violation of section 26 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights*, which states, "The guarantee in this Charter of certain rights and freedoms shall not be construed as denying the existence of any other rights or freedoms that exist in Canada." This section was supposed to guarantee common law and statutory right not specifically stated in the *Charter*. The *Firearms Act* also undercuts associated rights, such as the right to property (arms) and the right to self-defense by denying the means to self-defense. Section 7 of the *Charter* is supposed to guarantee the right of life, liberty and security of the person; rights that are, in actual practice, inseparable from the right of self-defense and the supportive right of access to the means of self-defense. This legal difficulty was evaded by the pretention that police and the state provided "self-defense," effectively rendering any need of arms for self-defense moot. (The failure of this deceit and pretention during the Montreal Massacre was absolute.)

This eradication of an ancient and honourable right and its replacement with a host of new criminal laws mandating prison time for purely administrative offences having no direct connection to public safety is a return to a colonial view of Canada. It is an arrogant philosophy, based on the belief that Canadian citizens are too irresponsible and unworthy to bear arms except under a multitude of micro-managing regulations. Even the right to self-defense has become subject to arbitrary bureaucracy where the governor and council, far from the life and death particulars of the actual incident, "prescribe[ing] the circumstances in which an individual does or does not need firearms to protect the life of that individual."

Is it any wonder that the RCMP had no qualms about conducting a gun grab at High River? A mere act of parliament has effectively erased a centuries-old civil liberty. Access to the means of self-defense, an ancient liberty, "necessary for the public safety," has been reduced to a mere, grudgingly allowed, privilege. Clearly, here is the reason the RCMP saw no need to respect mere property rights, another common-law right not explicitly stated in the *Charter*.

Letter From A Friend

By Trevor Furlotte



Armed citizens could have made a difference in the wake of one of the most tragic events in RCMP history. It cannot be overstated how this event has both shocked and sickened the citizens of New Brunswick, and Canadians as a whole. As a resident of New Brunswick and a firearms enthusiast, I have been struggling to come to grips with this senseless tragedy. As an IPSC shooter in New Brunswick, I've had the privilege to shoot and compete with Cst. Fabrice Georges Gevauda.

Fab, as he liked to be called, was an asset to have on any range. Not only was he a strong competitor, but he was also a firearms enthusiast. My favourite memory of Fab was during a multi-gun match held at the Restigouche Gun

Club back in 2013. He arrived with a five-gallon bucket of 5.56 brass that he had given me first dibs on to buy. When I explained to him that he should ask a fellow club member and friend of mine instead, because he had recently lost everything in a house fire, Fab simply gave him all of the brass without hesitation.

There is no doubt that our deepest sympathies from both firearms enthusiasts and non-firearms enthusiasts go out to the families of the fallen, as well as their fellow members. As tragic as this event was, however, we should not allow it to prevent of us from asking the question, how could such a tragedy have been prevented?

Answering this question and allowing

the solutions to be put into place can no doubt help to prevent history from repeating itself yet again here in Canada. In the words of Harry K. Wong, "Keep doing what you're doing and you'll keep getting what you've been getting." Given the circumstances surrounding the ambush of five RCMP officers within a residential area, the question which must be asked is: could an armed civilian have prevented further deaths after the first RCMP officer was killed?

An armed citizen could have made the difference if he or she lived in a society that recognized the firearm as a legitimate tool for self-defence, knew the current self-defence laws and the gun control laws were actually effective. When considering whether or not





Flowers start to line the steps of the RCMP detachment, as citizens show their respect for the fallen officers in Moncton.

an armed witness could have made a difference during the murder of three RCMP officers in Moncton, one must first consider the current legal climate in Canada. Do our current laws allow for a civilian to take up arms to prevent further death in the case of an active shooter?

To answer that question, Canada's self-defence laws need to be examined. Self-defence laws in Canada, as of May 2012, have been clarified, if not improved. In particular, Section 34 of the Criminal Code should be reviewed. For many years, Canadians have been under the impression that they have little to no self-defence rights in this country. This could not be further from the truth. Unfortunately, the average Canadian is

often largely unaware of their rights.

Section 40 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, which deals with the defence of one's dwelling, should also be reviewed when considering whether or not an armed civilian could have acted in order to prevent further bloodshed in Moncton. All the clarity of our current laws aside, until Canadians recognize the firearms as a legitimate tool for self-defence, little will change in Canadian society. Police view all of their equipment as tools. Their patrol cars are tools, just like their radios are tools, as well as their boots are tools.

Everything they are equipped with is treated as a tool in which they need to accomplish whatever task they are charged. They view their firearms as

a tool like any other. Their firearm is a tool to either protect themselves or to defend others from a threat. Why shouldn't civilians view their firearms in the same light, as a tool, like our smoke detectors or our fire extinguishers? Fewer incidents would escalate to the level we saw in Moncton if Canadians not only had the tools to act, but recognized their right to act in defence of life.

Access to guns in Canada has always been an issue when it comes to self-defence. Unsafe storage charges in Canada seem to be the go-to charge for police. In the case of Ian Thompson, the unsafe storage charge was the one charge the Crown clung to desperately until the very end. The one thing that the Crown tried to ignore in Thompson's



Laws already exist that made everything the accused did on that terrible day in Moncton illegal.

Creating new laws after the fact will not change the past.

Nor will it change the future.



Citizens in Moncton caught a photo of the accused shooter, but lack of knowledge prevented citizens from acting on behalf of the RCMP officers.

This photo was pulled from a video posted to Facebook. Citizens in Moncton witnessed their officers being gunned down.



A woman signs a guestbook for the fallen RCMP officers.

case is that unauthorized access to firearms applies only to those who are unauthorized to access them. Nowhere in the Canadian *Firearms Act* does it say that the owner of the firearms shouldn't be able to access his or her guns quickly.

That being said, Canadians need to have ready access to their firearms in the case of emergency. Our fire extinguishers are not kept under lock and key for a reason. Imagine, if you will, your current storage situation in your home for your firearms. Imagine now seeing what many Moncton residents saw out on the street in front of their homes. How long would it have taken you to retrieve a firearm, load it and return to a vantage point in your home? Would you have been able to retrieve and load your firearm before the accused had decided he was going to take cover in your home? For many of us, the answer is no. For this reason, it is important to review your storage practices while ensuring that all of our current safe storage laws are obeyed.

Changes that provide the owner quick access while remaining legal should be considered. In this particular case, the police were already called. The police were under attack. Should the accused have turned his sights on your home as a place to take cover, you would have been your only line of defence. Simply put, having a loaded fire-

arm at the ready could have saved you and your family from becoming a victim once the shooting had started out in the street in front of your home.

Laws already exist that made everything the accused did on that terrible day in Moncton illegal. Creating new laws after the fact will not change the past. Nor will it change the future. Gun control does not prevent mass shootings, or mass killings for that matter. Laws exist to tell police what to charge the perpetrator with. Laws do not prevent crime; they allow the prosecution of criminals. Making something illegal doesn't stop it from occurring. Making something illegal allows people who do things that society deems unacceptable to be punished accordingly. Nothing that has been made illegal has ever been eliminated from our society. Drugs, theft, murder - all are illegal yet all happen every day here in Canada. Making things illegal in this case will not prevent another mass shooting. However, the opposite could be true. Making it legal to carry firearms in Canada could help to prevent further mass shooting.

Let's consider what the accused knew on that faithful day and how a few simple changes could have perhaps prevented him from carrying out his attack on the police. At this time it is a well-known fact that the accused did not en-

gage civilians, nor did he concern himself with civilians. When he encountered his neighbours while walking unchallenged down the street, he simply told them to return to their homes.

Why is that, do you suppose? It's simple, really. He knew that each and every one of them would be unarmed. Knowing this, he felt safe and secure in his plan of being able to take up an ambush position and wait for his intended target to arrive. As he waited with impunity for the police to walk into his trap, could an armed civilian have made a difference? Would he have been so bold as to walk the streets with three or more weapons if the possibility of a civilian taking action against him had been real?

Armed civilians could have made a difference in this case, provided they lived in a society with self-defence laws that are more effective at protecting the law-abiding. The current philosophy of "it's better to be a victim than to defend yourself" needs to change. Along with more effective laws must come recognition in Canada that firearms are a legitimate self-defence tool. It has been said time and time again, the only thing that stops a bad person with a gun is a good person with a gun. It's time for Canada to recognize the rights and freedoms of good people and allow them to act accordingly when it matters most.



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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.

To prosper, we must have a steady flow of new shooters and enthusiasts joining us in celebrating our proud firearms heritage.

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Matt Neumann: Aspiring Olympic Athlete and proud member of the NFA

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Dr. Caillin Langmann

Response To RCMP Tragedy

Tragedies such as the recent shooting of three RCMP officers in Moncton, NB, raise questions about why these horrific events occur and what can be done to prevent them. Quite often, there are many theories raised, mainly in the media and by special interest groups, but in reality little is known about what are, in effect, relatively rare incidents. In this edition, the *Canadian Firearms Journal* sits down with Dr. Caillin Langmann to seek answers to very complex questions. Dr. Langmann is a resident medical doctor in the division of emergency medicine at McMaster University. In addition, he is the author of a study that was published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. The study took Statistics Canada data on Canadian firearms homicides and compared them to three key pieces of Canadian firearms legislation.

CFJ: Dr. Langmann, how rare are these types of tragedies?

DR. LANGMANN: Mass homicide is often defined as the killing of four or more victims at one location within one event, though the total death count can vary to as little as two people and occur over a number of areas (Knoll, 2012.) In Canada, the number of homicide events that occur yearly for which this definition fits is very low, numbering within single digits, and usually involves the killing of family members, known as familicide. However, in the past, there have been some notable events, prior to Moncton, such as the mass murder most recently in Calgary when Matthew de Groot killed five people at a party with a knife. These incidents are often due to either the number of deaths, the randomness of the act, or the brutality attracts significant media attention and public reaction (Duwe, 2005.)

CFJ: We get the impression that more and more events such as Moncton are occurring; is that a factual assumption?

DR. LANGMANN: Media hyperbole. Episodes of mass homicide in Canada are not a new phenomenon of these last couple decades. For example, in 1956 John Etter Clark, suffering from depression, killed seven people on his farm with a single-shot .22 rifle. There is little published research done on Canadian episodes of mass homicide, likely due to the small number of events, but it is possible to examine some applicable publications from the United States.

Contrary to what is often reported, episodes of mass homicide are not increasing (Bowers, Holmes and Rhom, 2010.) In fact, rates, including mass public shootings, have remained relatively stable since the 1960s, though media and public attention to these events have increased (Duwe, 2005.) As well, while the common narrative of a mass homicide is the murderer randomly killing strangers, in fact most mass homicides involve family members (40 per cent) and only 24 per cent involve strangers. Most do not take place in public or at work, but rather in residential settings and a quarter are related to criminal activities (Duwe, 2005.)

CFJ: Is it possible to identify and prevent someone who is capable of committing such a crime?

DR. LANGMANN: An attempt to profile the perpetrators, as well as the reasons behind the attacks, has been presented by a number of authors. Common perception is that these people are crazy madmen who suddenly crack and lash out indiscriminately. This is hardly the case. Mass killers plan their assaults for weeks or months, planning in detail where the attacks will occur, how and whom they will kill (Fox and DeLateur, 2013.) These people are also typically male and they seem to have a number of characteristics such as depression, resentment or anger, as well as blaming others for their problems, social isolation and a fascination with violent video games and weapons (Bowers, Holmes and Rhom, 2010.) Using these attributes to screen out mass killers is nearly impossible, as many in society share one or more of those factors and will never go on to violence. Motives for the attack can generally be divided into one of five categories: revenge, power and dominance, loyalty and betrayal, profit, terroristic.

CFJ: How can law enforcement or medical professionals mitigate or prevent these types of attacks?

DR. LANGMANN: Methods to mitigate or prevent these attacks have been proposed, but most of them are likely to be ineffectual and some potentially harmful. Gun control is often on the agenda after one of these incidents, but most experts in this area are of the opinion that such legislation is futile. In particular, bans of guns classified as assault weapons or semi-automatic weapons, as well as magazine capacity limitations, have been proposed and even enacted in some jurisdictions. Ironically, assault weapons are used in less than four per cent of mass homicides and an assault weapon ban in the United States was found to have had no effect on the numbers of mass homicides or other types of homicide (Fox and DeLateur, 2013) (Duwe, 2005.) Such proposals are usually made either by people who are aware of this statistic but have political motives or are simply those who are unaware and are attempting to be well meaning.

CFJ: Do magazine bans or other firearms re-classification have any impact on the number of potential victims?

DR. LANGMANN: Limiting magazine capacity is often another proposal. These too are likely to be ineffective. For example, one of Canada's notable mass homicides as described above caused a death count of seven people, three of which were adults, using a single-shot .22 rifle. In 2010, after the United Kingdom had banned semi-automatic firearms, Derek Bird, a licensed gun owner, drove around in his car and used a bolt action .22 rifle and a double barrel shotgun to kill 12 people - an identical body count to the number of victims in a movie theatre at Aurora, Colo., in 2012 by James Holmes using a semi-automatic AR-15 rifle.

Australia enacted a number of strict firearms laws and bans of semi-automatic rifles, and afterwards having had no mass homicide events using firearms is often cited as an example of how successful laws can be to prevent these attacks. Unfortunately, this type of evidence is not that persuasive since New Zealand, a neighbouring country with similar demographics and social structure which permits ownership of semi-automatic rifles and handguns, has had no mass homicide events using firearms during the same time frame.

CFJ: Does medical treatment reduce the risk of violent behaviour?

DR. LANGMANN: It does appear that people with mental illness with associated violent behaviour who are adherent to medication and in treatment reduces their risk of violence (Hall and Friedman, 2013.) Conversely, psychological background checks either performed at purchase or through licensing may not be very effective. Other than in a small category of bipolar patients, most people with mental illness appear to have a lower rate of violent behaviour (Fox and DeLateur, 2013.) In fact, when 93 recent mass homicides were examined, none were found to be prohibited from possessing firearms by legal definition and only 10 were found to have had prior concerns voiced to a professional. Moreover, clinicians are not that adept at predicting violent behaviour and currently lack effective screening guidelines and tools that would enable successful screening of potential gun owners (Hall and Friedman, 2013.)

CFJ: Have other methods been deployed to prevent mass homicides?

DR. LANGMANN: While other methods to prevent mass homicide have been proposed, such as being proactive when one notices some warning signs such as threats, limiting violence in video games and media guidelines to limit their coverage to victims rather than the perpetrator, the rare number of mass homicides make it difficult to study any effect of each of these proposals (Fox and DeLateur, 2013) (Duwe, 2005.)

Perhaps, as terrible as these events are, instead it might be more relevant to focus on the larger categories of homicide that occur much more regularly in Canada. Currently Canada has around 550 homicides a year, (1.56/100,000) of which there are roughly 170 homicides (0.51/100,000) using a firearm (Statistics, 2013.) The rate of homicide has been decreasing dramatically since the 1970s and is down by 64 per cent. In Canada, most firearms homicides occur using handguns (62 per cent), by young men ages 18 to 24, and the killer and victim(s) are often considered to be strangers (64 per cent.) About half of firearms homicides appear to involve gang-related activity, though the real number may be higher.

CFJ: In your opinion, have any of the current laws had an impact in reducing homicides committed with firearms?

DR. LANGMANN: In 2012 I published a comprehensive study of firearm homicide in Canada spanning from 1974 to 2008 (Langmann, 2012.) This is the only peer-reviewed study where multiple factors contributing to homicide and spousal homicide are examined in the background of gun laws enacted during that period. Demographic and socioeconomic factors were found to be associated with the reduction in firearm homicide, rather than firearms laws such as licensing, background checks, restrictions on magazine capacity and control of certain firearms. This study was later supported by another study using different methodology (McPhedran and Mauser, 2013.) These results were not necessarily surprising. It is accepted in the study of criminology that an aging population is less violent, as older people tend to have more restraint than younger people. Moreover, unemployment and poverty is associated with increased criminality.

Therefore, it is suggested that in order to tackle violence and homicide we look towards providing mental health treatment, as well as strategies to target poverty and unemployment and targeting young people at risk of developing criminal behaviour.

Caillin Langmann MD PhD FRCPC, Assistant Professor Clinical Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont.

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2014 AGM

By Jim Smith, Saskatoon

NFA members discuss the future

While the weather outside was varied, inside the conference rooms of Vancouver's Radisson Airport the members of the National Firearms Association were clearly united in the ongoing task of bringing rationality to Canada's firearms legislation.

The activities of the annual general meeting commenced on Friday afternoon with a directors' meeting. During the meeting, Nathan Cook was appointed to serve as director, as per NFA bylaws, to replace Dennis Young, who recently resigned from the position. Sheldon Clare, current NFA president, was re-elected; Blair Hagen was elected vice president of communications, Jerrold Lundgard as secretary and Bill Rantz as treasurer. Director Sean Penny attended by telephone, as he was pre-

vented from being present in person, which was very effective. Full minutes of the meeting will be provided at next year's AGM.

On Friday evening, participants and directors attended a social event and had an opportunity to talk guns, politics and more guns. The star of that event was the appearance of the BFG (Big Freaking Gun), part of our membership donation prize draw.

Saturday started early, with introductory remarks by President Sheldon reflecting on the past hectic year and looking forward to the next year. Afterward, directors were introduced and gave their reports. The highlight of this portion of the AGM included Blair's reflections on politics, legalities and the task of communicating our positions to

the public; Bill's treasurer update and Charles Zach, of Ontario, on the re-invigorated Field Officer's program were notable. All directors reported great interest and concern among their territories. The high-energy presentation of Executive Vice President and Lobbyist Shawn Bevins was strongly received by members, many of who had not previously seen him in person. Shawn is the spark plug behind the BFG fundraiser, the "No Compromise" Internet awareness campaign and many other initiatives in this past year. Sheldon closed the morning session.

After an excellent lunch, the participants all returned to the afternoon session that included many informative presentations from guest speakers. In the interests of brevity, we would suggest that members wishing to delve into the thoughts of our presenters to search for their works online.

Dr. Gary Mauser gave a strong and thoughtful presentation on past, present and future legislative issues that put everything in a manageable perspective and let us see where we have to go.

Solomon Friedman LL.B, of Edelson Clifford D'Angelo Friedman LLP, gave a presentation on three cases of interest this year that provide a clear insight into the difficulties in advancing our cause through the courts, even though we do win quite often these days.

Rod Gitaca of Civil Advantage firearms training posed the interesting question: "Is it possible for a disarmed populace to ever be free?"

Gary K. Kangas combined his passion for Cowboy Action Shooting and Canadian history with an illustrated and passionate account of the handgun in his family history and our joint past to provide us with a very enjoyable journey to a different time.

Murray Morrison of All Sport Insurance Marketing Ltd. gave a concise overview of our member liability insurance and included some comments on approved activities, which does not



NFA members that attended the AGM had many silent auction items to bid on, including some outstanding firearms.

M Report

chewan Director, NFA



e for Canadian firearms owners

include Off Highway Vehicle operation as this is considered a motor vehicle insurance issue - a good thing to know!

Derek A. Birch Barrister and Solicitor gave an interesting account of some of his activities in the field of firearms law. It was an unusual event to have two lawyers on one program, which indicated the difficulties people are having with the byzantine ins and outs of firearms law. The good news though is these young lawyers are getting into this field and giving us the skilled representation we need.

Phil Watson, executive director of International Association for the Protection of Civilian Arms Rights (IAPCAR), gave a good backgrounder on some issues, as we have to understand that our issues are not just ours and the civil disarmament agenda is a worldwide phenomena and events in one nation turn up as inspirations for actions by the

"banners" in other political arenas.

Ed Hudson, of the Canadian Unlicensed Firearms Owners Association, gave an impassioned and detailed critique of firearms licensing and the assault on private property in Canada. He referred to several publications that he provided to the assembly and these can be accessed at www.cufoa.ca.

Lorne Gunter, Sun News and *Edmonton Sun*, was definitely the keynote speaker of the day. He began by telling the group that he has never owned a firearm and only shot (a .22) once! Then he gave a rundown of his work to bring the High River gun grab to the wider Canadian audience. He has carried forward this task driven by a deep belief that this event was a serious violation of the traditional and legal protections all Canadians should expect and a violation of police duties. He is concerned about this being allowed to die, which

will likely happen if we don't keep up the pressure on our politicians. All NFA members and supporters need to watch his documentary *Broken Trust*, which can be searched online. If you've seen it before, please review it again and get others around you to watch it. This is a must do task!

Following the presentations, there was some time for socialization and then we returned to an excellent banquet and then a fun-filled silent auction where 14 participants went home with a new gun! How can it get better than that!

Special thanks to the staff and management of the Radisson Airport Hotel for their consummate professionalism and willingness to go the extra mile to make our event a success! Also thanks to Gravel Agencies for their assistance and support of all things NFA.

Watch soon for preliminary announcements for AGM 2015!



United and willing to accept no compromises, the NFA's AGM included many intense discussions about firearms legislation and how to effect change.

Point Blank

Chris McGarry

Fudds: A Great Detriment To Gun Rights Cause

We all know at least one of them. They're typically a rural inhabitant, possibly even a farmer or rancher, though several also reside in the suburbs and even the downtown cores of our cities. They enjoy hunting and the shooting sports just as much as the rest of Canada's firearms community. What sets this species of gun owner apart from their analogous brethren is a disgraceful tendency to not be concerned about the rights of other owners as long as their own rights are left unmolested. The term commonly used to describe such an individual is a "Fudd." Derived from the iconic Saturday morning cartoon character Elmer Fudd, these fair-weather gun owners, all too often unaware of the anti-gun left's fierce confiscatory agenda, for some reason seem to believe that when all other types of firearms have been prohibited and taken away by the nasty gun grabbers, they somehow will still be permitted to keep their .223 bolt action hunting rifle or that Mossberg pump shotgun which has been in the family for three generations. Owing to the dictionary term in which Fudd stems from "fuddle," it means to be in a confused state. And as far as I'm concerned, any Canadian, whether they own guns or not, who cannot see how the massive theft of legally acquired property by government without compensation is not a threat to the freedoms our ancestors fought and bled and died for, has got to be in a state of confusion.

In recent years, the antis have devised some very clever schemes to rip guns out of the hands of law-abiding, taxpaying citizens (never criminals, for some strange reason.) Certain types of rifles that can be converted to full auto or those scary black guns which are in some strange way more menacing than their brown or pink counterparts have been the favourite targets of confiscation. Some Fudds I've spoken to truly believe that Canadians should only be allowed to possess firearms for sporting purposes or, in the case of farmers, for predator and pest control. Sure, they're happy that the Conservatives scrapped that \$4 billion boondoggle known as the long-gun registry, but by and large are content with the status quo, often because they are ignorant as how muddled,

not to mention unconstitutional, the piece of legislation called the *Firearms Act* truly is.

Because these folks refuse to get on board and fight for the rights of all gun owners, not just themselves, they are in essence helping to throw their fellow firearms enthusiasts in front of the prohibition bus. One extremely vital fact that many citizens can't often grasp is the deceptive art in which the gun control crowd pushes its agenda: through incremental steps. First you ban fully automatic firearms, then semi-automatics, then handguns, then pump-action shotguns... you get my drift. Many Fudds will take no issue with such a move. But one day that bolt-action rifle they enjoy hunting with every fall will be labelled a "sniper rifle" and seized along with everything else.

What this segment of the firearms community must do is become informed and educated and get off of their collective butts and join the fight to preserve the rights of all Canadian gun owners. Failure to do so will show that these people truly are sell outs and a detriment to the gun rights cause.



Today it's fully automatic rifles that are prohibited, but tomorrow your favourite old shotgun could be on the list. The Fudds need to stand up and realize what's happening to lawful gun ownership in Canada.

SHOT Show

Report Part 3

Traditional Guns and Gear

Al Voht

If guns could suffer from jealousy, I'm sure traditional hunting rifles and shotguns would be a little jealous of all the attention paid to black guns these days. The latter do seem to generate more publicity, good and bad, than any other type, even though the bulk of the gun market is still devoted to much more traditional firearms. So, let's give the hunting and traditional guns their proper due and take a look at the new items that have been announced this year.



Winchester's 1885 single shot rifle in 17 WSM is one of two rifles available in this new chambering.

Winchester

Big news from Winchester's ammunition division is the new Long Beard shot-shell, designed specifically for turkey hunters. It uses a resin filler to buffer the shot pellets and hold them together just long enough to produce a very tight pattern. It's available in three inch and 3.5 inch for 12 gauge with number 4, 5, and 6-sized shot. I've had the opportunity to shoot this round on paper and it really does produce dense patterns way out there.

In regard to firearms, Winchester has focused on its heritage this year and classic models abound. A Model 73 lever gun intended for the cowboy market will be available in .357, .44 and .44-40 calibres. Priced around \$1,500, it looks great and is a real Winchester. The 1892 lever gun will be produced in short rifle and large loop versions in the usual cowboy competition calibres and priced at \$1,000. But I like single shots and the 1885 single shot rifle was my favourite. It's one of two rifles being produced in the 17 WSM calibre. At \$1,400 this one will occupy the high end of the market place.

Ruger

As always, Ruger has been busy adding new firearms to their line. Included this year is the American rimfire, now available in .17 calibre HMR as well as .22 LR and .22 WRM. I had the opportunity to shoot the .17 calibre version at SHOT and was impressed enough that I'm going to add one to my own collection, especially considering the \$300 price tag. As I write this a few months later, I see there are already aftermarket parts available. That's moving fast!

The centrefire American line is also expanding, with the addition of stainless steel to the available options. It's called the All-Weather model. Also new is a variation called the Predator. That rifle



Winchester Long Beard turkey loads look like good news for turkey hunters.



The Ruger American Rimfire in 17 HMR will be a great gun for the price, if it matches the performance of the centrefire line.

will have a slightly stouter barrel, wear a green stock and come in all the usual varmint calibres and more, including the 6.5 Creedmoor. Magazine capacity is six rounds in the 223 Remington and it has a one-in-eight-inch twist barrel. I used a Ruger American in .22- .250 extensively on coyotes last winter and its accuracy was impressive. All the centrefires should be available for less than \$500 Canadian dollars.

Leupold

As always, Leupold was showing several new products for the coming year. In their hunting scope line, I like the new 4-24x52-millimetre being added to the VX-6 line. This is their flagship model line, so besides boasting a 6X magnification spread, this scope has everything Leupold's considerable resources can add to a scope; including a choice of reticles, a couple of turret options including one with a zero stop, side focus parallax, a 34-millimetre main tube, their Twin Bias erector system, Argon/Krypton fog proofing and more. Like any Leupold, it comes with their lifetime warranty. If you want to put one of these on your deer rifle, I expect it will cost all of \$1,600 on this side of the border.

Lyman

This year, Lyman added some new cleaning products that caught my eye. Imagine a cleaning rod that has interchangeable parts for both ends; that's their new Universal Cleaning Rod System. Instead of just changing the brushes or jags on a cleaning rod, you can also change the handle. This means you only have to buy one quality ball-bearing equipped handle, then add a handful of much cheaper, bare rods to

clean all your guns. Bore sizes range from .17 to .45 and lengths run from 12 to 44 inches.

And to compliment this system they've added a brush and jag kit that contains the essentials for 13 different bore sizes, with an appropriate brush and jag for each size, again from .17 to .45 calibre. It all comes in a handy storage container that keeps the pieces organized and clean.

Steyr

If you have a penchant for European guns, the new Steyr Duett should make your heart beat faster. It's a break action over/under with a rifle barrel on top and a 12 gauge tube on the bottom. This high-end combo gun is available with rifle calibres ranging from 223 Rem. up to the very European 9.3X74R. It's no heavy weight though, with a 24-inch barrel it still weighs under 6.5 pounds. Of course it has twin triggers, but it's styling is what I'd call modern European. Depending on which of the five grades you'd like to put in your gun rack, prices start at around \$3,000.

Vortex

A new line of hunting scopes from Vortex is called the Diamondback HP, with the latter two letters meaning High Performance. It's an addition to their already well-known Diamondback line. Models include 2-8X32, 3-12X42 and 4-16X42. These all feature side focus for parallax, argon filled one-inch tubes, zero reset turrets, extra-low dispersion glass, two reticle options and more. With Canadian street prices ranging from \$450 to \$600, and an unconditional lifetime warranty, these look like a solid value in good optics.

Steyr Duett.



Vortex Diamondback HP 3-12X42.

Weatherby Vanguard S2 in 6.5 Creedmoor.



Weatherby

There seems to be growing interest in the 6.5 Creedmoor as a hunting cartridge, due to the fact that the 2014 Weatherby is chambering their Vanguard Series 2 in it as well. Originally designed as a match cartridge, this makes at least three manufacturers who have it available as a factory chambering in a hunting rifle.

Weatherby is also adding the diminutive 28 gauge to the available chambering list for its SA-08 line of semi-auto shotguns. At just 5.5 pounds, the gun features a receiver scaled down for the smaller gauges and can be had with a 26 or 28-inch barrel. Both variations have chrome lined barrels, lengthened forcing cones, a vent rib and a drop out trigger group for easy cleaning. Priced at \$850 it looks like a real bargain for those who like the petite gauges.

Crosman

This leading airgun company announced a new version of their gas piston system, called the Nitro Piston 2. Like the original Nitro Piston, it uses compressed gas instead of a heavy spring to power an airgun's piston system. The second generation system has refinements that promise 15 per cent more speed, 35 per cent more power, 10 pounds less cocking force, less vibration and less secondary recoil. Intended for hunting guns and featuring an upgraded trigger, the Nitro Piston 2 will initially be seen only on their higher-end Benjamin air rifles, which still only cost about \$350.

Marlin

Now that Marlin has their production problems straightened out, they are getting back in the business of producing large bore rifles. The big news I see is that the 444 Marlin chambering is back. This is a real thumper of a cartridge that can handle anything in the Canadian woods. I have one that I feed a diet of cast bullets loaded to about 1,750 feet per second. While not taking full advantage of its power potential, this does make it cheap to shoot and lowers recoil. It's definitely a fun calibre.

Benchmade

This well-known knife company has a new fixed blade hunter available for 2014. It's called the Saddle Mountain Hunter, features a CPM-S30V blade and G10 or Dymondwood scales. Price is around \$150 and if it lives up to the Benchmade reputation it should be a great field knife. And it looks good, too.



Benchmade Saddle Mountain Hunter.





Benjamin Nitro Piston 2 air rifle, by Crosman.

Shiloh Sharps

Speaking of looks, if there's a prettier rifle than a high-end Shiloh Sharps single shot, I haven't seen it. And this year a model 1877 is being added to their line. I'm told the action is lighter in weight than the 1874 version they've been producing to date. This can make for a lighter gun overall, or can give competitive shooters heavier barrel options and still allow them to make the weight restrictions imposed in black powder cartridge rifle competitions. Excellence always costs money and that's the case here, as these rifles start at well over \$2,000.

Browning

Browning is a firearms company with a lot of history but that isn't afraid to try something different. They had a new version of their X-Bolt rifle on display at SHOT that was different enough in its cosmetic treatment. It stopped a lot of foot traffic, including me. They call it the X-Bolt Composite 3D Birds Eye Maple, Stainless. The cosmetics are all in the synthetic stock and it combines maple and carbon fibre set off by red pin striping, but it's best to just see it in person. I like it, but then I'm tired of black gunstocks. Hats off to Browning for trying something different.

As usual, this is just a small sampling of what was announced. Some of these products I've seen in Canadian stores already. Others, I don't expect to see in Canada until sometime next year. It all seems to depend on the manufacturer and their new product announcement policies. Some won't announce a new product until they have it ready to ship, others will do an announcement before they even start production. Combine that with being at the end of the supply line and you can see why we sometimes need to be patient. But then, waiting is one thing Canadian gun owners have become good at.



Browning gets a little radical in its cosmetic treatment of the X-Bolt gunstock.

Gas Gun/

Bolt Gun

SHOOT OUT

By Al Voth

This past summer I had the opportunity to observe and photograph a precision rifle competition known as a tactical match. As you might expect, the shooting took place over unknown distances from practical field positions, at small targets of varying shapes and materials, all within tight time limits. As well, the majority of the rifles on the shooting line were of the bolt action variety. However, a few of the competitors entered the race with semi-auto AR platform rifles, which held their own against their bolt action counterparts. A friend of mine was one of the shooters who used a gas-operated firearm. To be more specific, his was a DPMS rifle in .308 Winchester, the company's LRT-SASS model. My friend placed fourth overall, winning over several of the bolt action competitors in the process.

Watching those top competitive shooters battle it out, I became curious as to just what was the genuine difference in accuracy between the couple of similar rifles that had just come into my hands. Both were of .223 Remington calibre with heavy barrels with a one-in-nine inch twist. Additionally, both of these rifles had 10-round magazines, effective

triggers and are priced similarly on the market. The only truly significant difference between the two is that one is bolt action and the other semi-auto. To this point I'd done a little shooting with both, but have yet to settle on either a factory load or a handload for either one.

My experience (and prejudices) suggested that the bolt action would certainly be the more accurate of the two, with the semi-auto coming in an embarrassingly distant second. However, the performance I saw at the tactical match left no doubt in my mind that there are semi-auto rifles out there which can compete with bolt actions. Was mine one of those? Only some side-by-side shooting would tell, so I became determined to find out.

Bolt action

The bolt rifle I've been working with is a Remington 700 XCR Tactical. It already had a Weaver rail mount screwed to the top of the action and attached to that was a Leupold 8.5-25X50 Long Range Varmint scope.

The only modification was the addition of a Wyatt detachable 10-round

magazine assembly. If you're not familiar with these assemblies, they are a bolt-in unit that replaces the factory bottom metal and provides the convenience of a detachable 10-round magazine. While they are US made, there is a Canadian distributor (www.plentyopatches.com) that is doing an excellent job of making them available on this side of the border, and they're worth a look if you too prefer detachable magazines.

Semi-auto

The semi-auto is an AR-based rifle, manufactured by Bushmaster. It's Bushmaster's Varminter model and other than mounting a 4-16X50 Quigley-Ford scope, I've done nothing to the rifle other than remove it from the box. As the name implies, the Varminter features a heavy barrel and a good two-stage trigger. This rifle has a 24-inch barrel, two inches less than that of the Remington. That dimension, and its gas operation, led me to believe velocities would be slightly lower with this particular rifle, so I made it a point to run all of the ammunition over a chronograph, just to see what the velocity differences might be.





Of the factory ammunition tested, the Bushmaster Varminter shot Winchester VarmintX the best. The Remington 700 preferred Remington 55-grain ammunition.



The Remington 700 XCR Tactical produced a fine group with inexpensive Remington ammunition. With handloads, group sizes started to near the half-inch mark.

Ammunition

A check of my ammunition supply yielded five types of factory ammunition that would be suitable for the test. But not wanting to stop with factory fodder, I also made up four different handloads, using recipes that have proven to be reliable and safe in a variety of .223 Remington rifles. To keep things uniform, all handloads were given an overall length of 2.250 inches, a dimension that ensured functioning in the AR's magazine, but is likely not optimal for accuracy, especially with the Model 700, the Wyatt magazine of which is capable of taking cartridges seated out to touch the lands.

Test procedure

To keep things as uniform as possible, I set both scopes at the same 16X power level and ensured they were parallel free at 100 yards, the test distance. I also adjusted the 40X trigger, which is standard on the XCR Tactical, so that it matched the pull weight of the Bushmaster Varminter, again in the interests of uniformity. Shooting was done from a two-piece pedestal/sandbag rest, shooting one rifle/ammunition combination first and then using that same ammunition in the second rifle, thus keeping the barrels from getting too hot. Conditions were windless, with an ambient temperature of 10 degrees Celsius.

A single five-shot group was fired with each of the nine ammunition offerings. While that's likely not enough to get a firm baseline on the accuracy capability of any one loading, the nine five-shot groups do give us a strong indication of the rifle's accuracy potential. The table reproduced nearby, summarizes the results of my shooting.

Findings

The results serve to remind us that rifles have individual preferences and the only way to determine what those might be is at the range, pressing triggers in a controlled test. Therefore, I think it's justifiable to discard the results of the ammunition these rifles take to and look at the top loadings that, for whatever reason, suited each rifle. A 15-round test, consisting of three five-shot groups has some statistical validity and it showed an excellent 0.63-inch average for the Remington 700 XCR. The Bushmaster Varminter surprised me and came in only slightly behind the bolt gun, producing a 0.72-inch average

for 15 shots. That's only nine-hundredths of an inch behind the bolt action. That's not enough of a difference for me to bet money on and could perhaps even be made up with some handload tuning.

In this test, the only ammunition making it into the top three position of both rifles was the handload using Hornady 68-grain Match bullets. If a shooter wanted just one loading that would work well in both rifles, this one would be worth some further experimentation. A similar result emerged from the handload using Nosler 60-grain Ballistic Tips. This is my most accurate handload in an Armalite AR180B, and observing that it shoots very well in three rifles suggests there could be something magical in that recipe. Also of interest was the strong showing by two factory loadings, the Remington and Winchester 55-grain offerings; with the bolt gun preferring the former and the gas gun the latter. There's no doubt that if you find a factory load your gun likes, excellent results can be obtained, and one of the best things about shooting a .223 is the wide selection of factory ammunition.

My conclusion? Yes, the semi-auto, given ammunition it prefers, seems capable of keeping up with a bolt-action rifle. If I can get to the three-quarter inch level of accuracy with no load development, I suspect that with some ammunition tuning I should be able to reach that magical half minute-of-angle mark and maybe even surpass it. I know I'm going to have a lot of fun trying.

The DPMS LRT-SASS rifle is another example of a semi-auto rifle built for accuracy. Chambered for 308 Winchester, it's a much larger rifle than the 223 Remington version of the AR.



AMMUNITION	Remington 700 XCR Tactical		Bushmaster Varminter	
	Average velocity	Accuracy	Average velocity	Accuracy
Factory: Win. 55-grain, Poly tip, VarmintX	3,173 feet per second	1.14 inches	3,121 feet per second	0.89 inches
Factory: Federal 55-grain HP Boat Tail	3,255 feet per second	1.25 inches	3,198 feet per second	1.83 inches
Factory: Federal Tactical 62-grain Bonded	2,964 feet per second	1.35 inches	2,936 feet per second	1.63 inches
Factory: Remington 55-grain Pointed SP	3,155 feet per second	0.77 inches	3,097 feet per second	1.17 inches
Factory: "FNM 83-8" 55-grain Mil. FMJ	3,423 feet per second	1.77 inches	3,298 feet per second	1.40 inches
Handload: Nosler 60-grain Ballistic Tip, Varget Powder	3,319 feet per second	0.78 inches	3,150 feet per second	0.65 inches
Handload: Sierra 69-grain HPBT MatchKing, Varget powder	3,024 feet per second	0.76 inches	2,946 feet per second	1.27 inches
Handload: Berger 55-grain HP Varmint, 8208 XBR powder	3,230 feet per second	0.60 inches	3,192 feet per second	1.75 inches
Handload: Hornady 68-grain HPBT Match, Varget powder	2,957 feet per second	0.54 inches	2,898 feet per second	0.62 inches
Average of best three groups:		0.63 inches		0.72 inches

Notes: Results are from five-shot groups at 100 yards.

The Remington

BY JEFF HELSDON



Remington's newest offering in the bolt-action category packs a lot of punch for the money.

The 783 was released Jan. 2, 2013. Designed to retail at \$399, it fills the gap in Remington's product line between the Model 770 and Model 700 SPS. Initially it was offered in .270 Winchester, 30-06 Springfield, .308 Winchester and 7 mm Remington Magnum.

"There was a \$250 gap between those two," said John Fink, Senior Product Manager Rifles for Remington. "This fits right in there."

This year the 783 line has been expanded, with .243 Winchester being the new calibre. Camouflage stocks and compact guns for smaller-framed shooters were also introduced.

Developed with accuracy, reliability and durability in mind, the 783 is a new product in the Remington line. It has a distinctive look and does not resemble Remington's flagship Model 700.

"We have taken all the best practices we have learned about rifle making and rolled it all into one rifle," Fink explained.

The technical stuff

The 783 has a cylindrical receiver with a minimum-sized ejection port to provide increased receiver mass for rigidity and accuracy. The barrel is attached to the receiver with a barrel nut system, allowing for setting minimum headspace to increase accuracy.

Noticeably different is the bolt handle on the 783. Remington's typical knurled bolt handle is replaced by a flat bolt handle stamped with Remington's "R." Technically, the bolt has dual opposing locking lugs with a 90-degree bolt throw.

Model 783



The stock is an injected mold design with a modern, but classical, design. High nylon content gives the stock additional rigidity. The rifle is pillar bedded to free float the barrel. Swivel studs are molded into the stock. The Remington SuperCell recoil pad provides relief from the rearward forces from firing.

A metal detachable box magazine feeds the gun.

The trigger is a two-stage trigger, similar to Savage's AccuTrigger. Marketed as the CrossFire Trigger System, the trigger is the same as the Pro-Fire on Marlin's X-7.

The trigger is adjustable by the user, set at 3.5 pounds in the factory and can be turned down to 2.5 pounds. The 783 is built in Remington's Mayfield, KY, plant - the same as where the Marlin is manufactured. The safety is Remington's two-position safety.

The barrel is carbon steel, magnum contour and button rifled. Barrel length is 22 inches in standard calibres and 24 inches in magnum calibres. The entire gun has a matte finish.

Weighing in at 7.25 pounds, the 783 is on the top end of the weight category for guns in its price category.

Scope bases for the 783 are two front bases for a Model 700, so there shouldn't be any availability issues.

Some of the 783's competitors from other manufacturers come with an accuracy guarantee, promising groups of less than one inch at 100 yards. The 783 does not, but Fink said if there are any accuracy issues, "We'll do what we can to make that guy happy."

Out of the box

My test gun came fitted with a Nikon Pro Staff scope. I immediately noticed



Remington's CrossFire Trigger System is a two-stage trigger, which took some getting used to.



Factory loads worked well in the Remington, and handloads brought the author's group down to 0.475 inches.

that it was a solid gun. Bolt insertion and removal was simple via a button to the left of the receiver.

At the range

I put the 783 through its paces at the range and was pleasantly surprised. The gun was bore-sighted, but still was easy to sight in, taking only five shots to put bullets through the bulls eye at 100 yards.

With Remington's new Hog Hammer factory ammunition, the gun grouped 0.975 inches, which I figured is good for a factory load. With my reloads, the grouping was an impressive 0.475 inches.

The competition

I decided to test the gun against a Savage International Hunter, which is one of its competitors in the price range.

The first thing I noticed was the weight difference. The 783 seemed heavier than the Savage. According to the specifications, the 783 comes in at 7.25 pounds. It's heftier than its Marlin cousin by as much as a half-pound to a pound, dependent on the model. It's heavier than the Ruger American by a pound. Savage puts the International Hunter at a similar weight. Although the scales might say the 783 and International Hunter are the same, there is a definite difference with guns in the hand.

The 783 points different than the International Hunter, handling more like a Model 700 while the Savage is more like a mountain rifle. The Remington's barrel is heavier and straight, not tapered like the Savage's.

While the lines of the 783 are modern, the Savage is more classical. That might be all aesthetics, but the difference on checkering can make a difference in how well the gun handles in wet conditions. In that category, the International Hunter has an advantage with checkering molded into the stock instead of the 783's patterned handgrip.

Personally, I prefer the three-position tang safety of the Savage to Remington's two-position safety. Savage's safety is also a little quieter, which doesn't matter at the range but can be critical in some hunting situations.

The magazine on the Remington seems to be a little more solid and clicks into place easier. It seems a trifle heftier, but there have been no issues with reliability of the Savage magazine that I am aware of. The two magazines load differently, with the Remington being the easiest to load.

That the trigger is a copy of the Sav-



A new design idea came into play with the 783, Remington's typical knurled bolt handle is replaced by a flat bolt handle stamped with Remington's "R."

age AccuTrigger is obvious. So too is the trigger on the Ruger American. Shooting both the AccuTrigger and Remington's CrossFire at the range, there wasn't a substantial difference. Checking out reviews of the triggers online to see what others thought, I found that opinion on the issue was split. Whether or not individual shooters like the two-stage trigger is a matter of preference. I found it took a little getting used to, but once I was onto it, it was great.

Remington had the advantage of being the gun that was the most pleasant to shoot. I base that mainly on the Remington SuperCell recoil pad, which is thicker and more effective than the Savage. With guns being a .30-06, there is some recoil and it was less noticeable with the 783.

Differences in the accuracy with my

reloads were negligible between the two guns. Both are quite capable of shooting sub-minute-of-angle groups. The 783 fared better with Remington's Hog Hammer ammunition, shooting less than an inch with the factory ammunition.

The final choice

The one thing missing from the 783 is being packaged with the scope, as is the case with the International Hunter. Savage's packages, as well as its reputation for accuracy and price point, are the reasons the company fails to keep up to production. Remington needs to learn from that and package its guns with scopes.

If you are in a market for a bolt-action gun in this price range, the Remington is a good choice. It is a solid gun with great accuracy and you can't go wrong.



BEAR

Hunting In

By Bob Shell

Quebec



The big day had finally arrived, after waiting since August 2010, when I received this trip through the Professional Outdoor Media Association (POMA), to June of this year when we went bear hunting in Quebec. The Danis family (Raymond, Serge and Sylvain) generously donated the hunt to help POMA raise money for worthy causes such as helping writers getting their careers off the ground.

They deserve accolades for their generosity. Bill Miller, from the North American Hunting Club, collaborated with the Danis family to put on the hunt. The lodge we went to is www.domaineshannon.com. The Danis family owns the hunting lodge. I personally dealt with Serge. You can check out their website for information on hunts and fishing.

We arrived at the lodge Sunday evening after a four-hour drive from Ottawa. The lodge is literally located in the middle of nowhere. Upon leaving the paved section of the road, we drove an additional 45 miles on a dirt road. Given that there is no cell phone service or television on site, I advise you to bring a book or two along. They do have Wi-Fi at the main lodge, as well as a landline phone. The cabins are aged somewhat but overall are well maintained and clean. They include all of the necessary items, such as a stove and refrigerator. I would not classify it as luxurious, but it does serve the purpose. If you have any physical disabilities, you must let them know ahead of time so they will make be able to make accommodations for you, just as they did for me.

The last thing I expected to see there was a French chef. This guy cooked up some awesome meals that were fancy with all the sauces and desserts. It was like eating at a fancy French restaurant. In other words, the food is first-rate. Breakfast was also top notch and great sandwiches were provided for lunch. Like everyone else at the lodge, he and his assistants worked hard to make it a pleasant stay. They succeeded quite well.

The bear hunting is over baits and you are placed into a blind. That might sound easy, but believe me it isn't. There is no guarantee that you will see any bears, even if you do things right. Bears are very intelligent and wary animals, particularly the larger ones, and don't go to a bait unless they feel secure in that there is no danger. They don't get large by being stupid. They are exceptionally agile and move quietly, but are also capable of running up to 40 miles per hour and can climb trees with ease.

They almost seem like a ghost as one second there is nothing and suddenly a bear appears. It might seem boring, but you need to pay attention every second lest you miss out on a shot.

Try to get into a comfortable position early on so you can remain as motionless as possible to improve your chance of seeing a bruin. Hunting black bears is a very worthwhile challenge that any hunter should enjoy. If seeing a bear out in the woods doesn't get your heart racing, than you better have someone take your pulse because you probably don't have one.

Another aspect, though fairly miniscule, is the danger factor. A black bear is much more powerful than a human and has the capability to dismember one if it chooses, but that seldom happens. Tracking a wounded bear at night has a way of keeping you alert. The bears average around 250 pounds, but can be larger. You should bring a rifle that is powerful enough to do the job. You don't need a super magnum; anything such as the 30-06 with a good bullet will definitely do the job. Bears are tough and even when well hit may travel some distance. Calibre selection is pretty broad as long as you use a good hunting bullet. Many of the military rifles used in the First and Second World Wars will work just fine. If you have a .303 British in decent shape and use a proper bullet, you won't go wrong with that combo. You don't need a super accurate rifle so long as it has enough oomph to do the job. If it shoots a three-inch group at 100 yards, you are in business.

Shots are seldom over 75 yards and frequently much closer. You can use either open sights or a low-power scope that can gather light well. A high-power scope is a handicap because you don't need the high magnification and the field of view is narrower with a high-power scope.

The guides at the lodge work very hard to ensure each hunter has a chance to harvest one of these magnificent animals. They maintain the baits by checking them every couple of days to see which ones are active. The head guide, EZ, and his helpers drive some 100 miles each day to inspect and refresh the baits. The stands are set up so you can see a bear without being seen.

A bear has an astronomical sense of smell and their hearing is excellent. Their eyes are definitely adequate for the job at hand. You can use various items to cover your scent and silence is indeed golden here. Domaine Shannon

runs a great lodge and I would recommend that you check them out if you are contemplating going to Quebec. Shannon Lake offers great moose hunting and pike and Muskie fishing. While I didn't fish, I saw quite a few boats come back with stringers of fish so the lake is pretty well stocked.

They also have an 80-yard shooting range to ensure scopes don't get knocked off during flights. My 338 RCM was off by about four inches, which was easy to rectify. The Alpen scope model 40-50 performed very well; the light-gathering qualities and lighted reticule really helped out in less-than-ideal lighting conditions. The optics are extremely clear, a tremendous help in the woods. The model 40-50 is a 1.5X6X42 with a 30-millimetre tube and I would recommend it for serious hunting. For more information, you can go to www.alpenoptics.com for a complete listing of their fine optics.

The guides have you at the stand by 6 p.m., which is plenty of time, as bears don't generally move around a lot prior to 8 p.m. or so. Of course, there are exceptions, as with any type of hunting. There is no morning hunting, as that isn't as productive. They maintain be-

tween 65 and 85 bait sites and I have to admire them as to how they remember where they are. The roads are primitive and there aren't a lot of signs there to help out. I probably would be lost most of the time if I had to do that job. They go out during the day to freshen the baits and see which ones are active. They only take a few hunters each week to increase the chances of success. Pick up from the blind is usually after 9 p.m., as the days are very long that time of the year.

The first couple of nights we saw bear, but they didn't stick around long enough to allow a shot. I saw a large one around 9:10 p.m., but he vanished like a ghost before I could get off a shot. The same situation happened to Donald. Like I said, it isn't as easy as it seems.

The next night I saw a small bear but gave him a pass, as I didn't want a cub. I saw another bear but he was partially obscured by some tree branches. I couldn't tell for sure how large he was or where I could shoot, as I couldn't see all of his body. Ethics should prevent any hunter from taking such a shot. When in a blind, it is imperative that you don't make any noise or do something that produces an odour that might

spook the bear. You will also want good bug protection, as there are a good supply of mosquitoes and black flies. If you are swatting and scratching bugs, which will considerably diminish your chances of success. I highly recommend ThermoCell products as they work great in the blind. A good repellent with deet and a face net are also good things to have along. If you go out without any insect protection, you will diminish your chances of success, as the bugs will be getting your attention instead of the hunt itself. I cannot over-emphasize that point because the bugs are vicious and hungry. Most of the windows on the blinds are screened, but the pesky bugs find all of the little cracks and take advantage of them.

The following night, Donald shot a nice sized bear, about 325 pounds on the paw, around 8:15 p.m. The well-hit bear ran about 30 yards before piling up. Donald went a slightly different route and was using a Remington Model 870 pump with Lightfield slugs that were handloaded. A Leopold scope sat on top of his gun, which performed as well as you'd expect from a Leopold product. They proved accurate and deadly in the rifled barrel that he was using. The

A view of one of the cabins at the lodge.



range of the shot was about 65 yards. I have tested Lightfield products extensively and I can recommend them for the hunter who wants to use a slug, either by choice or by law. For more info you can go to www.lightfield-ammo.com for a complete listing of their products.

The following night, I was in a stand adjacent to a logging road. The bait was about 75 yards into the woods and of course I was watching it. Imagine my amazement when a large bear appeared out of nowhere, walking on the road coming toward my blind. He was leisurely walking along and came within 10 yards of me. Of course I didn't make a sound and couldn't get a shot because of the blind construction. I watched him for three or four minutes and finally he started to walk away from me and I thought that he was gone. However, he entered the woods about 60 yards away on my side and I was sure that he was

going to the bait. Sure enough, about a minute later, he appeared and I took the shot. He went down but was thrashing about and due to an obstruction I was unable to do a follow up shot. He got up and started walking away. At that time I fired again but he disappeared. He was hit hard, but they couldn't find him as he went into a marshy area. It just shows you that bears are tough and in spite of a good shot, I lost a fine trophy. I was using a 338 RCM with a 210-grain Barnes TTSX bullet. I don't know what happened but this incident is not a negative reflection against the calibre or bullet.

Black bears are a very popular game animal to hunt. Next to white-tailed deer, they would be the most popular indigenous species hunted in North America. Like deer, they can live almost anywhere. They can eat almost anything, which enhances their range. They are intelligent and wary and this makes

them a challenge to hunt. Their nose is second-to-none, while they have good ears and fair eyesight. They are fast and can be silent when desired. I have seen them go through the woods and more often than not no noise is made. They come in a variety of colours, from black to various shades of brown. They should not be underestimated in any respect, as they can be dangerous under certain circumstances.

It was an enjoyable stay and the folks at Domaine guarantee you an opportunity to harvest a bear and if you don't get an opportunity than they will offer you a trip next year on them. That is pretty hard to beat. Their success rate is typically 90 per cent. They also offer moose hunting during that season. If you are looking for a good place to hunt and fish, I can highly recommend these people. If circumstances permit, I will return.



Donald poses with the great black bear he took on the hunting trip to Quebec.

BUREAUCRACY IS STRANGLING THE EUROPEAN UNION

BY GARY MAUSER



THE European Union is a diplomat's dream, but it can be a nightmare for anyone living there who believes in individual liberty. EU leaders take pride in having the strictest firearms laws, but bureaucratic smugness doesn't mean sensible gun laws.

Few Canadians understand that the EU has evolved beyond being merely restrictive to having become rigid, even Kafkaesque. Official bureaucrats in Brussels routinely announce

detailed regulations about a wide range of topics, without any pretense of consulting the public. Whether it is mandating open-border laws that encourage foreigners to swamp welfare rolls, or forcing countries to release convicted terrorists from prison on the grounds of exaggerated family rights, or inventing needlessly complex regulations to frustrate daily life, or imposing draconian gun laws, Europeans must accept without quibbling

whatever decisions come out of Brussels. Complaints are useless.

Naturally, more and more citizens are frustrated and angry. But sceptics are frowned upon, even vilified. Nevertheless, in the past few years, a few political parties, groups like Nigel Farage's UKIP (UK Independence Party), Martine Le Pen's National Front in France or the Dutch Freedom Party (PVV) of Geert Wilders have spoken out, criticizing EU policies such as immigration, the Euro

EUROPEAN UNION



and overly restrictive gun laws. They are known as Eurosceptics, when they are not being called racist, neo-fascist, anti-Semitic or right wing. British PM David Cameron recently called UKIP members, "fruitcakes, loonies and closet racists," after Eurosceptic parties did unexpectedly well in the recent EU elections. Predictably, the Socialists and Christian Democrats (the parties that dominate European politics) have reacted by ostracizing the Eurosceptic parties.

Why Eurosceptics?

Diplomats created the EU in the wake of the Second World War, desperately hoping that a Europe-wide common market would stifle nationalism and prevent another war. Viewing nationalism as the seedbed of racism and war, the negotiators cobbled together European-wide links, both economic and political, trusting that they would bind former enemies together. Some even dreamed that it would evolve into a United States of Europe. The goal was to harness Germany and France together so tightly that traditional enemies would recognize their mutual dependence. This was always more idealistic than practical. From the beginning, knitting Europe together has been little more than a theory without sufficient attention being paid to whether it could work in the real world.

Dangerous weeds have recently been found growing in the cracks of this phony utopia. Nationalism has proven to be more powerful than initially believed; at least, it doesn't appear to have been corralled by the awkward bureaucratic scaffolding of the European Union. Harnessing the European peninsula to Germany has had unintended consequences. The recent financial crisis of the Euro has been extensively publicized, but this is just a symptom of deeper problems that lurk beneath the surface.

Eurosceptic parties led the polls in the 2014 European Parliamentary elections. This growth suggests that the public is finally rebelling. The Eurosceptic parties can be loosely categorized as right-wing populists, in that they reject the existing political consensus and usually (depending upon the country) combine laissez-faire liberalism with anti-elitism. They are considered populist because of their appeal to the common man as opposed to the elites. By thumbing their nose at political orthodoxy, these parties open themselves up to charges of racism and anti-Semitism, as well as fascism and Islamophobia. Who knows? Some of it might even be true.

The EU Firearms Directive

In 1991, the EEC (the European Economic Community, a precursor to the EU) created the *European Firearms Pass* that required all member countries to agree to a Europe-wide firearms license. The bureaucrats in Brussels, not satisfied with the first set of regulations, in May 2008 imposed the current firearms directive (Directive 2008/51/EC) and all member states had to com-

ply by July 28, 2010. The *Firearms Directive* mandates that the firearms laws of all member countries in the EU must conform to strict standards, although countries (such as the UK) are allowed to pile on additional regulations.

The current EU firearms regulations include:

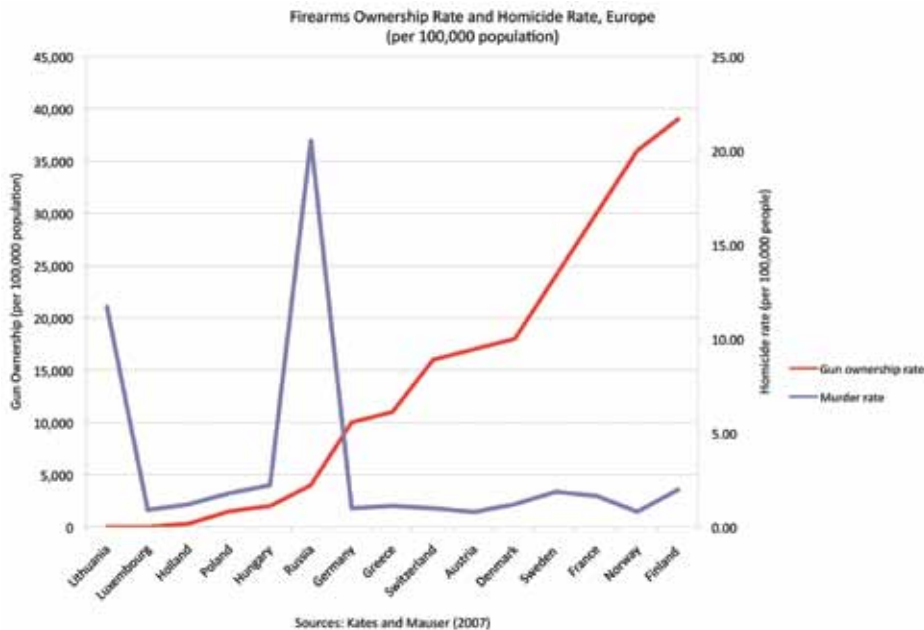
- owner licensing
- registration of all firearms (including rifles and shotguns)
- a standardized firearm marking regime
- strict regulation of handguns
- a prohibition on high-capacity magazines
- a prohibition of most types of semi-automatics, as well as pump actions

The devil, of course, is in the details. Not only do the rules favour countries that impose the tightest controls on their citizens, but the Directive forces those countries that traditionally respect individual freedom (such as Austria, Finland, France, Italy and Sweden) to accept even further limitations. And, of course, any firearm can be prohibited and confiscated at any time at the whim of a bureaucrat in Brussels. Neither individual citizens nor national politicians have a voice in their decision.

What does the *Firearms Directive* mean for an individual gun owner? Take France, for example: the first EU Firearms Directive back in 1991 banned pump shotguns, and an estimated 500,000 shotguns were destroyed in France alone, for no good reason. France no longer allows one handgun per house for self-protection. When I lived in France during the 1970s, several of my friends kept firearms at home, reporting to me that no permits were required.

The complex regulations are justified by the claim they protect the public, but they are silly and illogical. A three-year renewable police authorization and a psychiatric-check is required to own a single-shot .22 target pistol, but just a lifetime hunting license is required to buy and possess a .45-70 Marlin lever-action rifle. It gets crazier: licensed hunters can own lever-action rifles in .357 magnum, but the ammunition is prohibited. Inconsistently, .44 magnum is authorized for both hunting ammunition and rifles. Naturally, the *Firearms Directive* hasn't stopped French gangs from getting their hands on some surplus Yugo-AKs or terrorists, such as Mohammed Mehra, from having an Uzi.

It would seem progressives are satisfied with intentions; regulations are sufficient in themselves. Reality is irrelevant. Firearm restrictions in Europe



These charts show the correlation between gun ownership and murder.

TABLE 1: Europe & Scandinavia - Gun Ownership & Murder Rates
[ownership and homicide rates given are per 100,000 people]

NATION	Murder rate	Gun ownership rate	murder rate year
Lithuania	11.70	0	[1998]
Luxembourg	0.90	0	[2002]
Holland	1.20	300	[2002]
Poland	1.79	1,500	[2003]
Hungary	2.22	2,000	[2003]
Russia	20.54	4,000	[2002]
Germany	0.99	10,000	[2003]
Greece	1.12	11,000	[2003]
Switzerland	0.99	16,000	[2003]
Austria	0.80	17,000	[2002]
Denmark	1.21	18,000	[2003]
Sweden	1.87	24,000	[2001]
France	1.65	30,000	[2003]
Norway	0.81	36,000	[2001]
Finland	1.98	39,000	[2004]

Notes for Table:

This table covers all the Continental European nations for which the two data sets given are both available. In every case we have given the homicide data for 2003 or the closest year thereto because that is the year of the publication from which the gun ownership data are taken.

Notes for Table:

Source: That publication is the Graduate Institute of International Studies', SMALL ARMS SURVEY 2003 (Oxford U. Press 2003) at pp. 64 and 65, tables 2.2 ("Known Civilian Firearms in the European Union" and 2.3 ("Known Civilian Firearms in Other European Countries"),

Source: The homicide rates data come from the pamphlets JURISTAT: Homicide in Canada (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics) for the years 2001-04

Corrections: Luxembourg murder rate corrected for Juristat error -- 0.9 not 9.0
Germany & Austria gun ownership corrected for Franz' commentary

Source: FF K-M tables corr.xls in file folder, submitted in folders: articles2007/Kates-Mauser/FF article/submitted

are not based on the practical experience of gun owners, but on the failed public health model that asserts gun ownership is a disease vector. This is the archetypal bureaucratic world.

Conclusion

The lives of all of us are restricted by the arbitrary whims of anonymous civil servants. The bureaucracy wields the real power in the EU. Officials in Brussels, some surprisingly petty, actually decide the all-important details of the regulations. Behind the curtains, the civil servants spell out what the laws really mean, first through writing detailed regulations and then later by interpreting them. Neither national governments nor the general public have much say in many fundamental decisions that govern their lives.

Perhaps Europeans should look to Canada. Preston Manning's Reform Party offers a model for creatively harnessing popular frustration. Like the Eurosceptics, back in the 1990s Manning rode a wave of popular anger as leader of a fringe party often called racist and neo-fascist to become the leader of the Official Opposition. Despite being ostracized and reviled for years by Joe Clark's Progressive Conservatives, he managed to re-shape Canadian politics. Eventually Reform (after morphing into the Canadian Alliance) merged with the Progressive Conservatives, to create the Conservative Party of Canada. Europe's best hope is if the Eurosceptics will merge with a free-enterprise party like the Conservatives to reform a sclerotic system. Of course, like Moses, Manning never made it to the Promised Land, but at least his successor did.

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

Team NFA

Matt Neumann

A Few Tips From A Top Shooter

Welcome shooters! For the past eight years my job has been shooting rifles. Sound glamorous? As jealous as you may be, being a professional shooter, and in my case a biathlete, requires considerably more than might meet the eye. I want to take you a little deeper into my job and ultimately finding that perfect shot.

About me: I have been part of Team NFA for the past six years and train full time in Canmore, Alta. I am pursuing the 2018 Olympics for biathlon (combining cross country skiing and .22 marksmanship). I was one spot off representing Canada in Sochi this past winter, and I hope that motivates me to work extremely hard over the next four years. I love my sport and feel extremely grateful that I am able to follow a true passion as my full time job.

So, what does it take?

Being a professional means shooting is my job. It's an awesome job, but it still requires treating it like one. I train around 750 hours a year, all of which is focused specifically on my sport. My approach to shooting is quality first and quantity second. I shoot around 10,000 rounds a year, which is only substantial if you make every shot count. I'm still trying to master this, but every shot must have a purpose. This is a major difference between the top pros and shooters just out to enjoy the weekend - the concentration to detail around each shot, each session and each season.

Want a few tips?

Set a goal, and enforce it every shot. Sounds boring? I get the most satisfaction, and have the most fun, when I'm hitting targets. Wouldn't most people agree? Goal setting, analyzing and focusing on details don't necessarily sound like "fun" words, but these are the steps to making a fun experience. Why do it if it's not fun, right?

Next time you're driving to the range I would suggest keeping one goal in mind. Have just one goal per practice and make it relate to something you want to work on as opposed to results-

based. Picture a hockey player approaching the net. Should he be thinking, "How awesome is this goal going to be!" or about the technical points that he has practiced over and over to make a perfect shot? Focus on what you can control. Make your goals positive to enforce what you want to work on. For example, consistent trigger squeeze, consistent breathing between shots, smooth bolt action while re-loading, proper position as well as solid but relaxed muscles and hundreds more. Focus on the process and I guarantee the bulls eye will follow.

Happy shooting!



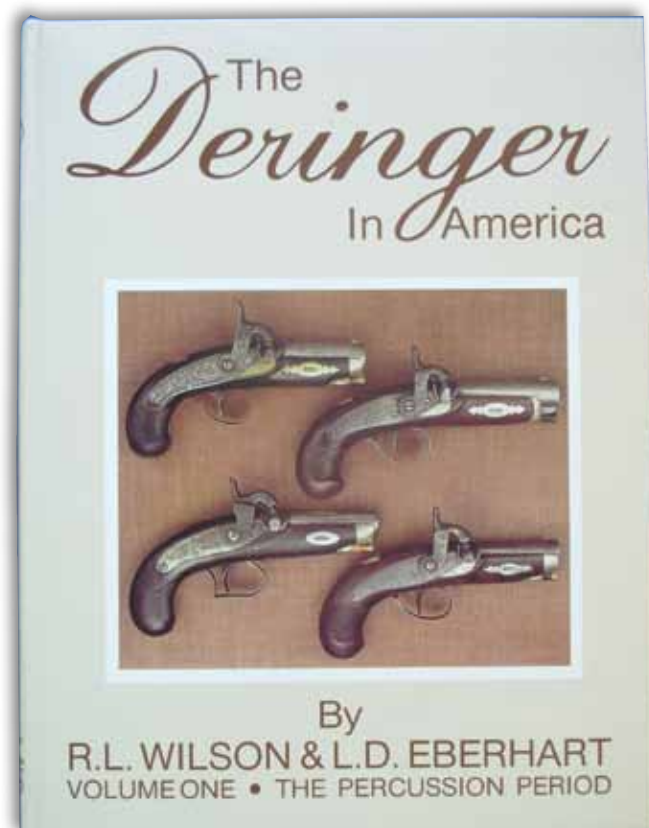
A biathlon combines cross country skiing and shooting.

NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

The Deringer In America

Volume One - The Percussion Period



Authors:

R. L. Wilson and L. D. Eberhart
1985 Andrew Mowbray
Publishers
Hard cover with dust jacket,
8.5 by 11 inches
271 pages, black and white/
colour photographs
ISBN: 0-917218-20-5

Co-authors Wilson and Eberhart began their joint study of percussion Deringers in 1977 and *The Deringer in America - The Percussion Period* was first published in 1985. Today, almost three decades later, anyone searching online for information related to the famous Deringer will be directed to this classic book.

The Deringer story began in 1825, or shortly thereafter, when Philadelphia gunmaker Henry Deringer developed a compact percussion pocket pistol. As a tool for self defence, the Deringer was reportedly carried by a wide range of individuals, including riverboat gamblers, bankers and women of the night. The popularity of the Deringer was so widespread that the term was soon attached to any small pocket pistol, regardless of maker.

Wilson and Eberhart had both been collectors of Deringers prior to researching for *The Deringer in America - The Percussion Period*. They were able to access important information from a variety of sources, including city directories and arms shows, as well as Deringers in private and public collections.

A most important source of historical data, as stated in the introduction, were the transcripts from a landmark civil suit launched by John Deringer against a "blatant infringement of his rights." Unfortunately, Deringer passed away in 1868 before the financial judgement was awarded to his estate.

Chapter one outlines the history of John Deringer, production of the firearms and details the "DERINGER, PHILADELA" marking which had been applied to pistols. In later years, production was by order and incapable of filling the increasing demand. There were numerous Deringer copyists in both America and Europe who were quite willing to capitalize on this situation.

Henry Schlotterback left the Deringer company in 1859 and formed Slotter and Co., which produced flagrant counterfeits. Under legal pressure, Schlotterback took in a Mr. John Deringer as a partner and commenced marking his company's products as "J. DERINGER/PHILADELA" and that was quite legal.

Five chapters and 174 pages are devoted to Deringer agents and copyists. The makers and their products are divided into chapters titled by region, such as Deringer Agents and Copyists in the South. Companies within each specific region are then presented in alphabetical order. Those who are searching for information on a specific maker can easily locate the required pages using the extensive index.

The reader will appreciate the many photographs of actual Deringers shown throughout *The Deringer in America - The Percussion Period*. While most are in black and white, there is a 15-page colour supplement showing some of the finest Deringers and Deringer copies known.

A most noteworthy inclusion is the Lincoln Deringer, which was used by John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865. This Deringer is shown in both photographs and a diagram labelled with exact dimensions.

The Deringer in America - The Percussion Period has remained the authority on this subject since 1985. Such a feat is a testament to the initial research by authors Wilson and Eberhart. Priced at about \$50, it will be an asset to the firearm library of any Deringer collector, gun dealer or historian.

Note: Wilson and Eberhart also produced a companion book to *The Deringer in America - The Percussion Period*, which was specific to the cartridge period. Unfortunately, it is long out of print and only available at significant cost on the secondary market.

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