

CANADIAN 

July/August 2015  
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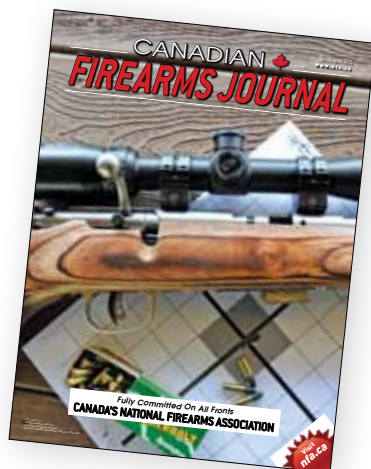
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## The Savage MARK II BTVSS .22

Photo by Jeff Helsdon

The Savage MARK II BTVSS .22 bolt-action rifle is one of the models covered in this month's article by Jeff Helsdon, looking at the various .22 bolt actions available from major manufacturers. Check out the article for a rundown on the guns and a history of the .22 rimfire.



### Canadian Firearms Journal

*The Official Magazine of*



**CANADA'S NATIONAL  
FIREARMS ASSOCIATION**  
*In defence of freedom*

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PM 40009473  
Return undeliverable to:  
Canadian Firearms Journal,  
P.O. Box 49090, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4  
PRINTED IN CANADA



# From The Editor's Desk

Chris McGarry

## Repealing Gun Laws A Win-Win For All Canadians

Many people from one end of this country to the other who have become acquainted with Canada's National Firearms Association realize that one of the main goals of the NFA is to have bills C-51, C-17 and C-68 (the *Firearms Act*) repealed in their entirety.

Due largely to failure on the part of government and the mainstream media, many citizens have little to no understanding of just how onerous and draconian firearms legislation is in Canada at the present time.

Under provisions of the *Firearms Act*, police and chief provincial firearms officers are permitted to enter and inspect a gun owner's home without a warrant, privacy rights are frequently violated and those who neglect to renew their PAL (possession and acquisition licence) can be hit with criminal charges simply for possessing their own property.

With the advent of these laws, a massive bureaucracy was generated. The cost to administer the Canadian Firearms Program is estimated to be well over \$100 million per year. That's \$100 million to keep afloat a program that has failed to improve public safety and only micromanages law-abiding, taxpaying citizens.

Repealing bills C-51, C-17 and C-68 will benefit all Canadians - not only those who wish to pursue a hobby or sporting interest without a staggering amount of red tape and bureaucratic harassment.

For starters, rescinding Canada's bad gun laws will restore the rights of firearms owners, as well as a sense of confidence and trust in government and the rule of law. Already-strained

law enforcement resources will be allocated to better use. A couple of months back, a report compiled by the NFA showed that the budget for chief provincial firearms officers was a whopping \$84 million, more than what police had to commit toward fighting child pornography, organized crime and terrorism.

Additionally, repealing the *Firearms Act* and associated bills will benefit the economy. When these laws were put into place, several gun shops were forced to close and many folks, reluctant to jump through hoops to keep their firearms, simply turned them in.

Though some politicians will bemoan government revenue lost through licensing, less restrictions on the ownership of firearms will create good employment opportunities due to more sporting goods and gun shops opening.

As well, repealing bills C-51, C-17 and C-68 will enable more citizens, should they choose to, to carry firearms for personal protection. Governments will be able to collect far more revenue through fees from authorization-to-carry permits than they currently do prosecuting firearms owners for paper crimes, which only robs more money from taxpaying Canadians.

These laws have driven a wedge between law enforcement and gun owners. The actions taken by the RCMP during the floods that hit High River, Alta., in 2013 only served to make firearms owners even more distrustful of police. Removing firearms ownership from the Criminal Code will help to restore this fractured relationship. Getting rid of every one of these laws may appear as a grandiose idea, but it is something worth fighting for.

Continuing to administer old and outdated gun laws costs Canadian taxpayers millions of dollars a year.





# President's Message

Sheldon Clare

## Moving The Firearms Community Forward

As I write this message, I am preparing to head to New York with NFA Director Robert Bracken to make a brief presentation to the UN, opposing mention of confiscation in some of its material, and to highlight that Canada and the NFA neither supports the *Arms Trade Treaty*, nor the troublesome UN marking. To point out that the UN is not friendly to civilians who own firearms is very much understating the problem. We do not have many friends there, but fortunately our current government has not let us down at the UN. Canada has not signed the *Arms Trade Treaty*, and private members' bills, like that of MP Bob Zimmer on UN marking and others intended to fix problems in our bad firearms legislation are helpful. While we remain disappointed that Bill C-42 has not been all it could be, it should at least allow the Conservative government to take action on our two petitions on de-restricting the AR-15 and the other on ending the limits on magazine capacity. We eagerly await action on those important issues. Representatives of Canada's

NFA are continuing to engage parliamentarians and the bureaucracy to do much more to pay attention to our issues.

The federal election is already in its preliminary stages and, with the addition of 30 new seats, there will be a significant change to the political landscape this election. What influence the election of an NDP government will have on federal politics remains to be seen, but certainly Quebec will be a central battleground for seats, particularly in rural parts of the province. Major centres will also be hotly contested. It is clear that most of the major parties remain unfriendly to our goals, so this election it is more important than ever that you get to know your local candidates and support the one that most closely represents you and your aspirations. Ask questions and make your concerns known, but in a polite and respectful manner. It is better to educate politicians rather than to trap or trick them, as has sometimes happened. Be informed and inform others as to what you find out.

Normally at this time of year, we would be rolling out our NFA voters' guide; however, recent events and some division on the board have distracted volunteer and staff time from that work. Hopefully by the time you get this magazine, those differences will have been resolved. There is a brief statement included in this edition from the NFA executive, to help explain some of the issues around that division. While you no doubt have more questions than may be readily answered, I hope it helps you to better understand the situation.

Over the past year, we have continued to challenge the entire basis for the *Firearms Act* and *Criminal Code*, Part 3 as having nothing to do with public safety, and everything to do with providing barriers to innocent possession of firearms.

We have watched our sponsored shooters do very well at both national and international competitions, and we have now added Sarah Beaudry to Team NFA, where she joins Matt Neumann and Megan Heinicke. Our sponsorship of the national pistol team has helped them to prepare for the Commonwealth Games. Making shooting activities popular helps us to be credible, and builds media attention to positive news around firearms. As well, our two recent victories in the Supreme Court of Canada under the steady guidance of Solomon Friedman and Guy Lavergne are remarkable achievements in which we should all take pride.

Our efforts in support of Canadian firearms owners continue to make headway, though there remain many obstacles to overcome, and we have much work to do to make our efforts a success. Together we are strong, and divided we are weak. It is the case that we are many, and we are both morally and substantially right in our cause and in our methods. Our opponents are few and they are wrong, and in attacking us as they have done, they have harmed our collective freedoms without really affecting criminal activity or eliminating poor choices. There have been many who gave up much to get the NFA to where it has gotten, and we are fortunate to have motivated people to keep us moving forward. The aim and effort must be properly directed at improving the circumstances of the firearms community that we lead; after all, that is why we are here.

There have been many who gave up much to get the NFA to where it has gotten, and we are **fortunate to have motivated people** to keep us moving forward.

# Rapport du Président

Sheldon Clare

## L'ACAF fait progresser la communauté intéressée par les armes à feu vers l'avenir

Au moment d'écrire ces lignes, je me prépare pour partir aux Nations Unies avec un des Directeurs de l'ACAF, M. Robert Bracken. J'y ferai une brève allocution soulignant notre opposition à la mention du concept de confiscation dans certaines de leurs politiques écrites, de plus je réaffirmerai le fait que ni le Canada et ni l'ACAF sont d'accord avec le Traité sur le Commerce de Armes ainsi que leur système de marquage des plus encombrant. De dire que l'ONU est hostile à la possession d'armes par des civils n'est qu'une faible affirmation. Nous n'avons pas beaucoup d'amis là-bas, mais heureusement notre Gouvernement actuel ne nous a pas laissé tombé à l'ONU. Le Canada n'a pas signé le Traité sur le Commerce des Armes et la Motion du Député Bob Zimmer sur le marquage des armes ainsi que d'autres efforts pour réparer les problèmes créés par nos mauvaises lois sur les armes à feu ont aidé la situation. Malgré que nous soyons déçus du contenu du Projet de Loi C-42, il devrait permettre au Gouvernement de réagir à nos deux pétitions. Soit, celle qui demande de rendre sans restrictions les carabines AR-15 et l'autre qui espère pouvoir enlever les limites de capacité des chargeurs. Nous attendons impatiemment un geste en notre faveur de la part du Gouvernement sur ces deux enjeux qui nous tiennent à cœur. Des représentants de l'ACAF sollicitent constamment des députés, ministres et fonctionnaires pour qu'ils portent plus attention à nos intérêts.

**Plusieurs personnes ont beaucoup sacrifié pour aider à l'ACAF à se rendre au point où nous sommes.**

L'élection Fédérale est déjà dans ses étapes préliminaires et l'ajout de 30 nouveaux sièges à la Chambre des Communes y changeront la dynamique. L'influence de l'élection du NPD en Alberta sur la politique Fédérale demeure encore un inconnu mais le Québec sera un champ de bataille d'importance pour gagner des sièges, surtout en régions rurales. Certains grands centres seront tout aussi importants. Il est clair que la majorité des grands partis politiques sont contre nos objectifs, alors il est impératif que vous connaissiez vos candidats locaux et que vous encouragiez ceux qui vous représentent le mieux. Posez des questions, énoncez vos inquiétudes tout en demeurant poli et respectueux. Il est préférable d'informer les politiciens plutôt que de les piéger comme il est arrivé dans le passé. Soyez vous-mêmes informés et passez ces informations à d'autres.

À ce temps-ci de l'année nous publions normalement notre guide de l'électeur. Des événements récents et une certaine division au sein de notre Comité de Direction ont fait que nos bénévoles et employés n'ont pas eu la chance d'accomplir cette tâche. Nous souhaitons qu'au moment où vous lirez ces lignes nous aurons su régler nos différends. Vous trouverez un bref exposé dans cette édition de la revue qui fera la lumière sur les causes de ces divergences d'opinions. Je suis sûr que vous aurez plus de questions à ce sujet mais j'espère que ceci vous aidera à mieux comprendre la situation.

Pendant toute l'année nous avons continué de contester la raison d'être de la Loi sur les Armes à feu et le Code Criminel Partie III. Ils n'ont rien à voir avec la sécurité publique, ils sont conçus uniquement pour créer des barrières à la possession légitime et paisible d'armes à feu. Nous avons été témoins des excellen-

tes performances des tireurs que nous commanditons, autant au niveau National qu'International. Cette année les tireurs de l'ACAF, Matt Neumann et Megan Heinicke ont accueilli Sarah Beaudry dans leur équipe. Le fait que nous ayons commandité l'équipe Nationale de tir au pistolet les a aidé à se préparer pour les Jeux du Commonwealth. La publicité positive sur les activités de tir sportif nous donne de la crédibilité et aide à donner une image médiatique positive aux armes à feu. De plus, nos deux victoires devant la Cour Suprême du Canada sous la persévérante direction de Me Solomon Friedman et Me Guy Lavergne sont des réussites dont nous devons être fiers.

Nos efforts pour défendre les intérêts des propriétaires d'armes à feu Canadiens continuent sans cesse, il reste encore plusieurs obstacles à franchir et nous avons beaucoup de travail à faire. L'union fait la force et la division nous affaiblie. Nous sommes nombreux, nous avons raison du point de vue moral et nous utilisons les bonnes méthodes. Nos adversaires ne sont pas nombreux, ils ont tort en nous attaquant comme ils le font, ils ont diminué nos libertés collectives sans affecter les activités criminelles ni les mauvaises décisions de certains individus.

Plusieurs personnes ont beaucoup sacrifié pour aider à l'ACAF à se rendre au point où nous sommes. Nous sommes privilégiés d'avoir des gens motivés dans notre équipe pour faire avancer notre cause. Nos efforts doivent être bien ciblés pour continuer d'améliorer les circonstances vécues par la communauté intéressée par les armes à feu dont nous sommes en tête de file et qui est notre seule raison d'être.







# Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

## Firearms Legislation Could Sway Federal Election

As we leave spring 2015 and enter summer, now is an appropriate time to review the firearms issue in Canada.

NFA and the firearms community can celebrate an incredible victory at the Supreme Court of Canada, with a win that denied the Quebec provincial government the old long gun registry data by which they could have politically justified imposing a provincial long gun registry in Quebec.

NFA lawyers Guy Lavergne and Solomon Friedman saw this case through to its successful conclusion, and it is one we can all be proud of. It is precedent setting.

Declaring victory in defeat, Quebec resolved to impose a provincial gun registry unilaterally and from scratch. This guarantees that any such effort will fail due to a lack of funds necessary to construct, implement and enforce such a comprehensive program, and any attempt to force Quebec gun owners to pay for it will ensure that compliance will be very low from the start. A poor recipe for success, even for the most committed civil disarmament lobbyists.

Shortly, we'll enter the federal 2015 election cycle. There's been little movement on each federal party's firearms platforms since the end of the long gun registration. The Liberals officially appear to wish to distance themselves from the firearms issue. Leader Justin Trudeau has made contradictory statements about "not bringing back long gun registration," but has also said that he supported the program and that he'd have voted for legislation that imposed it in Parliament had he had the opportunity to do so. Gun control activists in the Liberal Party are still hell bent on pursuing civil disarmament agendas, and the culture of that party is still very much anti-firearm. Certainly, the Liberals have indicated that they are interested in banning and confiscating

handguns and semi-automatic rifles, any registered firearm. All attempts to date by the NFA to start a dialogue with the Liberals on the firearms issue have been rebuffed.

The NDP have overtaken the Liberals as the official federal party of civil disarmament. Leader Thomas Mulcair has repeatedly stated that if the NDP formed government, they would immediately re-impose the failed long gun registry and pursue further civil disarmament agendas. Handgun bans, semi-auto rifle bans and hyper drive regulation on all firearms owners are all part of NDP plans. Some NDP MPs from ridings with high ownership of firearms have taken issue with their leader's statements, but firearms owners have got to take Mulcair's anti-firearms rhetoric as evidence of the type of regulatory and legislative threats they could face if the NDP were ever to control the levers of power. It's very nice of some NDP members to recognize some of the failures of the 1995 *Firearms Act*, but the public statements of a few NDP MPs contrary to their leader's are conspicuous in their number, and it is evident that the majority of the NDP Party supports Mulcair on gun control.

As long as the 1995 C-68 *Firearms Act* is law, the rights and property of all Canadians are in danger.

The Conservatives are a different story, but not an entirely different one. Forming government in 2006 largely on a promise to reform Canada's failed gun control laws, they were limited by two minority Parliaments (2006 and 2008) in their ability to do so. Amnesties were extended to protect some firearms owners from criminal charges for firearms license expiry, but no other reforms or relief were pursued. The Conservative government asked Canadians to give them a majority government in 2011 so they could effectively pursue their legislative agendas, and Canadians - especially those who yearned for firearms law reform - came through and did just that.

This resulted in one private member's bill to end long gun registration, which came close but failed to pass, and finally a government bill, Bill C-19 in 2012, which was passed by the Conservative majority government with notable support from certain NDP MPs. Bill C-19 and the end of long gun registration was the first firearms law reform legislation in modern Canadian political history. It was a popular bill, despite the efforts of the national media, gun control lobby and the provincial government in Quebec to make it controversial, and was well received even by many Canadians who otherwise approved of "gun control."

Long gun registry data was supposed to be destroyed as per Bill C-19, but incidents of RCMP firearms search and seizures during the floods in High River, Alta., in 2013 question as to whether this was ever effectively done. The NFA is still pursuing this issue with expert help from firearms researcher Dennis Young. Quebec long gun registry data and long gun registration in Quebec was preserved during court challenges by that province, and was only ended this year after the Supreme Court of Canada denied Quebec that data.

An aggressive firearms reclassification/prohibition agenda has continued to be pursued by the RCMP firearms program since the Conservatives were elected in 2006, and this recently resulted in their unilateral prohibition of over 14,000 semi-automatic firearms (mostly non-restricted), the majority of which were Swiss Arms and CZ 858 rifles. Outrage and blow back from Canadians, most of who weren't even affected by the recent gun bans, has forced the government to act.

Had long gun registration been in effect, the RCMP firearms program would have simply revoked the registrations for these firearms and ordered their licensed owners to turn them in. Long gun registration having ended in 2012, they decided to make it



the Conservative government's problem, a problem largely between the Conservatives and some of their core constituencies – gun owners and private property advocates.

The Conservative government quickly provided amnesty for effected owners, and has brought forward legislation to address this and some other issues related to Canada's famously failed, convoluted and broken firearms control system.

Bill C-42 addresses some of the more egregious, confiscatory and harassing parts of the *Firearms Act*. Extended amnesties for firearms license expiry, merging the POL and PAL firearms licenses, the end of the separate application process for the useless authorizations to transport for restricted firearms and some oversight to activist chief provincial firearms officers are all welcome. Other parts of the bill are concerning.

Amendments to firearms prohibitions for domestic violence accusations, while well meaning, might result in the wrong people receiving lifetime firearms prohibitions for crimes they did not commit. The end of the ability to challenge Canadian firearms safety course, necessary for the PAL, is a disincentive and roadblock for many, especially in northern and rural Canada, and counter intuitive to the government's stated desire that anyone in possession of firearms should become licensed. Softening the blow on regular Canadians who are used to letting their drivers licenses and other permits expire without having the full weight of the *Criminal Code of Canada* thrown at them doesn't make the firearms licensing system any less wrong.

A remedy for the RCMP Swiss Arms/CZ 858 prohibition in the form of amendments to empower the Minister of Public Safety, through Governor in Council, to move these firearms from the prohibited to the non-restricted classification and effectively reverse the unilateral RCMP reclassification is an acid test for Bill C-42. The arbitrary reclassification, prohibition and attempted confiscation of private property cannot be tolerated. This amendment may be a sign that the Conservative government understands this. At this time of writing, Bill C-42 is fast tracked for vote, adoption and Royal Assent before the 2015 Parliament summer break.

The NFA has made proposals for further amendments to Bill C-42 that would improve it measurably for firearms owners, and we hope that they will be adopted.

Many firearms owners and those concerned with property rights will choose to continue to support the Conservatives during the 2015 federal election, sharing other issues,

beliefs and ideologies with this party and government. Others, having issues with the performance or the perceived lack of performance on the firearms and other property and civil rights issues might mark them with a C minus, hold their noses and lend them their votes once more in the hope of future legislative reforms.

However, there is a part of the constituency in the firearms issue that possesses no such loyalties, that only judges actions and commitment to reversing of decades of civil disarmament legislation. In the past, the Conservatives have benefited from this. The only federal party offering any agenda of firearms law reform, traditional Liberal and NDP supporters, and, more importantly, non-aligned voters cast their votes for reform, with hopes that the hated 1995 C-68 *Firearms Act* might be repealed and replaced with new legislation that recognizes the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership.

Despite the introduction of Bill C-42, this still hasn't happened.

This is the wild card in the 2015 federal election. Will this coalition of Canadian voters who want this nation's firearms laws fundamentally reformed hold out for Conservatives and help give them another majority government?



## EACH ONE OF US IS...

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

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

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

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

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# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Bob Shell

## The 10.4 Italian Vetterli Interesting war relics

### The Italian Vetterli Vitalli Rifle

The Italian Vetterli Vitalli is a bolt-action rifle, developed in 1870 for the Italian army. It was one of the earlier bolt guns developed in Europe. The calibre was a 10.4 X 47, loaded with black powder and a lead bullet. Initially, it was made as a single-shot for economic reasons, as the thinking in those days indicated that repeating weapons were a waste of ammunition. That thought process is why the US used Trapdoor Springfields until the 1890s instead of a good selection of repeaters that were available. It is similar to the Swiss round, though the Swiss was rimfire versus centrefire for the Italian offering. Then, in 1889, it was converted to a four-shot with the Vitalli magazine system, which was also utilized on the Dutch Beaumont rifle. I have an original magazine that works ok and is partly made from wood. By then it was obsolete, as smaller calibre, smokeless rounds were coming out.

As mentioned earlier, the military load was a 313-grain bullet that travelled at 1,350 feet per second. In 1890, it was loaded with smokeless powder, giving it somewhat more range and power. The velocity was upped from 1,420 feet per second to 2,000 using a jacketed bullet weighing about 246 grains. Of course, by then they were pretty much out of date because of the introduction of smokeless powder and the smaller calibres introduced by France in 1886.

The introduction of the 6.5 Carcano really rendered it obsolete. By that time, most countries were moving toward smaller and faster calibres, many being either a 6.5, .30 calibre or 8mm of some variation. The cartridge is a bottleneck affair, which hasn't been available for many years. It is one of the shorter cases that were used during that period. It



Pictured, the Vetterli Vitalli.

saw service for some years and, in fact, was used in Gardener, Maxim and Nordenfelt machine guns.

Many of the surviving specimens were converted to the 6.5 Carcano, starting in 1914 and continuing for some years. Those that were converted to 6.5 should be thoroughly checked out prior to shooting. The conversion was an emergency measure and the rifles weren't meant to be shot very much. If you do decide to shoot it, use reduced loads and wear your safety glasses. I have shot my specimen a few times, but I strictly use reduced loads with cast bullets and will continue to do so. The magazine system was like the 6.5 Carcano, as opposed to the older Vitelli system. The Ulster Volunteer Force in Northern Ireland bought quite a few of the rifles in 1912 to fight against home rule. Like many of the old military rifles, they saw service well into the 20th century in some capacity.

The design of the Vetterli seems to be well thought out, especially for its period. The two extractors are sturdy and reliable, while the ejectors (which are lumps located on the inside of the receiver) are flawless. Of course, with the quality of brass made in those days, sturdy extractors and ejectors were necessary. There are two small holes drilled to the back of the chamber to let gas out in the event of a case failure.

Even low-pressure black powder loads could be dangerous to the shooter in the event of a case failure. There are two locking lugs at the rear of the bolt. Although they don't look very efficient, without a doubt they add some strength to the bolt. The bolt handle also acts as a locking lug, a common design during that period. With black powder loads, that was sufficient for safe operation of those guns. Operation is straightforward and I had no problems with the operation of this weapon.

It also has a safety, which some others lacked. Like all safeties, it can fail so always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction rather than depend on the safety. To remove the bolt, there is a ring-like device on top of the receiver that is moved to the right.

The fit and finish both appear to be good for such an old relic. The sights, like most military rifles of the period, leave a lot to be desired. Some of those sights



LOAD	BULLET	VELOCITY	COMMENT
25 X 5744	315-grain cast	1,472	decent
32 X 5744	315-grain cast	1,824	impressive
32 X 4197	315-grain cast	1,690	good load
25 X 4197	315-grain cast	1,448	mild
52 X Clean Shot	315-grain cast	1,516	good load

period, ammunition is not commercially available. However, Buffalo Arms came up with some brass. The brass is made from 348 Winchester cases that are shortened and reworked. They can supply many of the obsolete calibres. Their website is [www.buffaloarms.com](http://www.buffaloarms.com) and they have many products for the shooter. The best undersize bullet I found so far is a 300-grain that mikes at .412.

Since this gun was made in 1891, I shot some jacketed bullets in it and saw no problem with that, though there isn't any advantage to using them. The jacketed bullets were originally meant for a 41-magnum pistol. Hornady and Woodleigh both make 300-grain jacketed bullets that can be used in this gun, originally made for the 405 Winchester, though I don't see a need for such bullets.

The velocities that are obtainable wouldn't expand those types of jacketed bullets. Actually, you are better off avoiding all of the 41 bullets unless you are determined to shoot it and don't care about accuracy. With the heeled bullet, the rear goes in the case and is usually .405 to .408 in diameter, while the front goes at .430. Diameters may vary from mold to mold. When loading, be sure not to put any part of the front in the case or it won't chamber.

Another thing to keep in mind is the original bullet is heeled. This means that the rear goes in the case, while the larger front engages the rifling. Such a design was popular during that period. The Swiss rifle used the same bullet, though in a shorter case. While 41 calibres will shoot, they are seldom accurate. The barrel is 34 inches long, which would contribute to its velocity, but not by a lot. The total length of my

might have been designed by an enemy country to protect their soldiers from that rifle they are so bad.

Like most of the rifles of that pe-

rifle is a tad over 53 inches and weighs eight-and-three-quarter pounds, which isn't too bad for that type of rifle. However, I would not care to manipulate it in a confined space.

As with any reloading data, take this with a grain of salt and work up cautiously. These guns are over 100 years old and aren't designed for high performance loads. Since I have no control over reloading methods, I can assume no responsibility for its use. I just listed the loads using the correct bullet and with the smokeless work up carefully. With older guns, black powder should be used. You can expect two to three-inch groups at 50 yards, depending on your skill and eyesight.

Taking this or any antique military weapon to the range draws some stares. Most people go there with their rat-a-tats and wonder why I would want to shoot such an old gun. If they don't know, I probably can't explain it to them. Yes, they can expand 20 or more rounds to my one and they frequently are more accurate, but those guns just don't have the charisma of the 100-plus-year-old warriors. While my gun probably didn't





Quite a few Vetterli rifles were converted to 6.5 Carcanos.



From left to right, the 10.4, 6.5, 7.35 and 8 x 57 bullets.

see front line duty in a war, it may have served as a back up weapon in the First World War. I have no way of knowing where this gun has been or what it has done and that is part of its charm.

### The 6.5 Carcano

This is another popular military rifle, brought out in 1891 to replace the 10.4. Salvatore Carcano designed the rifle in 1890 at the Turin Arsenal. In the 1890s, quite a few countries adopted various 6.5 rounds. Everyone was going to smokeless powder and countries such as Japan, Sweden, Holland and others went to the 6.5 round. Its advantages were it is lighter and smaller than some of the other rounds, such as the 8mm rounds. Recoil was lighter and more ammunition can be carried and it gives good long-range performance. Its downside was a lack of stopping power compared to the larger rounds.

The 6.5 served in various campaigns, such as the Italian/North Africa in 1924 to 1934 and the Second Italo-Abyssinian war in 1934. The Italians were becoming dissatisfied with the terminal performance and started searching for a more powerful round. However, a number of countries used the rifle and round, including Japan, who made a modified Carcano.



Pictured, the 6.5 Carcano.



LOAD	BULLET	VELOCITY	COMMENTS
38 X H-4350	129-grain Hornady	2,343	good load
33 X IMR-4895	129-grain Hornady	2,454	hunting load
36 X H-4350	140-grain Remington	2,142	ok
7 X Red Dot	140-grain cast	1,087*	plinker
* 308 case swaged			

no rifle. As a note, Lee Harvey Oswald used one to assassinate President Kennedy.

Most of the Carcanos have gain twist rifling.

That means that near the chamber, the rifling is slow and gets faster as it gets near the muzzle. They did that to control pressure.

While the guns are around, ammunition can be hard to find. Norma is the only company that makes loaded ammunition and brass. Hornady recently started making ammunition for it, so you have a good quality product at a reasonable price. Reloading dies are available at a couple of sources, such as Huntington Die, to buy them. Military ammunition is scarce and probably wouldn't be very consistent if fired. Remember, it is well over 60 years old. Brass can be made from the 6.5 X 54 Mannlicher brass. To make brass from the 6.5 X 54 Mannlicher, just trim and size.

Graff offers 6.5 Carcano brass, so times are better. Prvi makes brass and is available through most distributors. There is no easy way to make brass, nor is there a reason to do so. I have seen 308 Winchester brass swaged down to the body diameter of the 6.5. It worked ok, but you would need specialized equipment to make such brass. In addition, since the brass would be thicker, loads would have to be reduced about 10 per cent to ensure safety. I am only putting that about the 308 to show that years ago we didn't always have it easy regarding getting brass or other reloading components.

The rifles are not highly regarded and the price reflects that, though they are

not junk by any means. We must assume that no country would purposely give their soldiers an unsafe rifle to fight with. Back then, anyway, most countries that went to war wanted to win. Arming their troops with a piece of junk wouldn't have accomplished that goal.

While not in the class of the Mauser, it is a perfectly serviceable rifle. I have never had any mechanical problems with any of my Carcanos. I have seen a couple of sporters that shot very well, partly due to the mild recoil produced.

Is it worth the trouble and expense to put a new stock, drill and tap for a scope and a nice finish? The scopes have to be side mounted because of the way you have to load it. However, that is not a major problem. That's like asking someone who finds a 1950 Hudson Hornet and wants to restore it. Of course, in either case, it will cost some bucks and may be a lot of work to get the end product. The Carcano can be made into a handy little hunting rifle, though no better than a modern one. I have seen targets that had five shots into slightly less than an inch at 100 yards. It would be adequate for deer and black bear with careful shot placement. I imagine it would work well on varmints.

Bullets are standard 6.5 offerings and dies are available. There is a .268-diameter bullet made for the Carcano and some rifles require it for best accuracy. Hornady makes a 160-grain round nose bullet in that diameter. Therefore, if you have one, go for it if it has a good bore and chamber. I don't think I would re-barrel one. By the way, they re-barreled quite a few Vetterli rifles for the 6.5 from about 1914 to 1918. They were meant for stopgap measures and should be very carefully checked out prior to shooting. If you do shoot it, I suggest reduced loads only. They have been known to come apart with full-powered loads.

The 6.5 Carcano has a long history and was used in various wars and skirmishes through the Second World War. So if you get a chance to get one, by all means buy it as you might have a fascinating part of history. The 7.35 Carcano replaced it, though Italy went back to the 6.5 for the Second World War because of supply problems.



# Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney At Law

## The Perplexing Case Of The Quebec Shooting Federation

The Quebec Shooting Federation is better known under its French name, Fédération Québécoise de Tir, or its acronym, FQT. At first glance, the FQT appears to be an independent, not-for-profit corporation, run by people interested in promoting shooting sports and their growth. In reality, it is a completely different kind of beast.

As per the FQT's own website, the FQT was incorporated in 1974, at the specific request of the Quebec government. The stated purpose of such incorporation was to ensure that the Quebec Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports would deal with a single representative party in matters relating to shooting sports. In other words, Quebec shooters are represented by the FQT, whether they like it or not. In a way, this is akin to an employer creating and funding a trade union to represent its own employees, and then mandating that such a union be the only authorized representative of those employees. It has been done in the old USSR and other communist countries, and we all know how representative of their members those unions were.

The FQT has come under criticism by Quebec shooters for supporting Bill 9, a statute enacted subsequent to the Dawson College shooting, which has severely restricted the rights of Quebec handgun shooters. The FQT has also supported the enactment of Bill 20, under the Marois government, albeit not publicly.

Membership in the FQT, its existence and clout are promoted by a number of Quebec government programs, regulations and policies. By way of example, the FQT receives government subsidies under Quebec's Programme de soutien aux fédérations sportives. The FQT is also the exclusive provider of several firearms safety courses in the province of Quebec, such as the so-called

Bill 9 training, as well as the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course. Of course, these courses also represent a significant source of funds for the FQT, and it is not in its interest to alienate the party that has the power to take that monopoly away. That party is the Quebec Chief Firearms Officer, and its other incarnation, the Minister of Public Security.

Another field where the FQT enjoys a virtual monopoly is the training and certification of Range Safety Officers. First of all, there are no direct references to RSO training in Quebec legislation. However, the Act Respecting Safety in Sports requires every "sports body" (which includes ranges and shooting clubs) to enact a safety regulation, per section 26, and to have it approved by the minister, per section 27 of that act.

Shooting ranges and clubs are specifically required to hold a licence, which is only issued if the club/range complies with government regulations. Government regulations, enacted under the Act Respecting Safety in Sports, require every club/range to submit its safety regulation as part of its licence application.

The mandatory content of such safety regulation is in turn governed by the regulation determining matters to be treated in a safety regulation. At first glance, this last regulation merely requires that club safety bylaws address "standards for the training and responsibilities of persons who enforce game and safety rules." So, in theory, it would be up to the club/range to decide what standards are applicable. However, in practice, the Minister of Public Security has created a standard safety regulation, which it provides to every club/range, and asks them to enact. To my knowledge, the minister has never approved anything but the standard safety regulation.



**The FQT's incestuous relationship with the Quebec the shooting community in an independent manner.**





The standard regulation provides as follows (note, this is my translation, as the standard safety regulations only exist in French):

"24. In order to act as a Range Safety Officer, an individual shall:

(...)

4. Have successfully challenged the oral and written exams provided by the Quebec shooting federation ("FQT"), or any other training deemed equivalent by the Minister."

Hence, the Minister of Public Security has deemed the FQT to be competent to provide RSO training. As of now, the Minister of Public Security has deemed no other training to be equivalent. As some of you may know, the NFA has the expertise and experience to train RSOs. It has successfully and competently done so in other provinces. The NFA has applied for certification in Quebec and is awaiting approval, but the Quebec Ministry of Public Security is taking a very long time in processing the NFA's application.

Another point worth noting is that the power of the Minister of Public Security to certify organizations for providing training is not mentioned anywhere in the Quebec legislative corpus. Such power is only mentioned in club/range safety regulations, all of which are based upon the standard model provided by the Minister of Public Security. In other words, the minister has that power because the minister has said so.

At the present time, if a club were to employ an RSO who is not also certified by the FQT, it would be at risk of the Minister of Public Security (through the Quebec Provincial Police) intervening and closing down the range, because it would not be in compliance with its own safety regulations.

Another aspect where the Quebec government has favoured the FQT is in its policies in relation to ATTs. As of today and until Bill C-42 becomes law, shooters who shoot restricted and prohibited firearms in Quebec have very restrictive ATTs. Such ATTs are only valid for shooting at the club(s) where they are members. One exception is for FQT members who attend competitions sanctioned by the FQT. The ATTs of FQT members are automatically valid to attend all such competitions, wherever they might be held in the province. Needless to say, a lot of shooters maintain membership in the FQT solely to avoid the hassle of seeking piecemeal ATTs to attend competitions.

In my estimation, a body such as the FQT may be useful for sanctioning competitions. However, the FQT's incestuous relationship with the Quebec government takes away any ability to represent the shooting community in an independent manner. The FQT would have too much to lose, and nothing to gain, other than the respect of shooters, if it were to truly act as a representative of Quebec shooters. Given the present landscape, that is very unlikely to ever happen.

The FQT would have too much to lose, and nothing to gain, other than the respect of shooters,  
**if it were to truly act as a representative of Quebec shooters**

government takes away any ability to represent

# Point Blank

Chris McGarry

## Attitudes Toward Self-Defence Changing In Canada

While the overall crime rate in Canada may be at an historic 50-year low, certain types of violent crimes, namely home invasions and assaults, have risen. Instead of merely burying their heads in the sand and pretending this problem doesn't exist, an increasing number of Canadians are becoming aware of it and taking action.

When educated on the subject, many citizens are shocked when they are told the truth about just how backwards self-defence laws are in this country. Items such as pepper spray, batons and tazers (which are sold freely in many American states) are prohibited in Canada. Many are just as surprised to learn that concealed carry permits do exist in Canada, though chief provincial firearms officers rarely issue them.

A few months ago, there was a news article posted on Facebook about a martial arts academy in Vancouver where scores of Vancouverites were learning self-defence techniques with umbrellas. Considering that Vancouver is Canada's rainiest city, an umbrella is a practical tool of everyday life.

Though he may have simply been exercising political posturing, back in March of this year Prime Minister Stephen Harper stated in an interview that firearms are important tools for rural residents to have for personal security. Now while I believe that every Canadian, whether they live in Prince Albert or downtown Montreal, has the inalienable right to protect themselves and

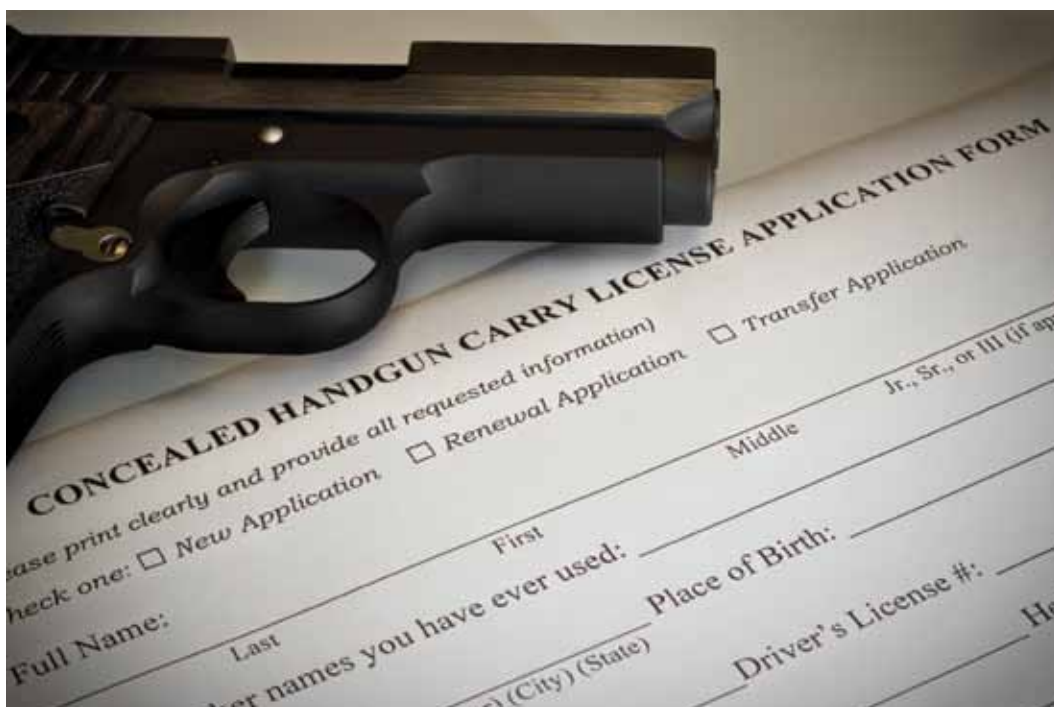
their loved ones, Mr. Harper's statement, which kicked off a storm of criticism by the anti-gun crowd, is a sign that more politicians are getting the message.

That message is: self-defence is a basic human right that cannot be denied by government.

For many years, governments in Canada have done their utmost to discourage citizens from protecting their homes; instead, encouraging them to wait for the police to arrive. In many parts of rural Canada, police response times can be as high as 30 minutes.

In 2012, after the Conservative government passed into law the *Citizens Arrest and Self-Defence Act*, several police chiefs expressed concerns about the law, saying that it would spark an explosion of vigilantism in Canadian cities. Regardless of how far away police are, the victim is always the first person on the scene. Laws in Canada have to change so that law-abiding citizens have the proper tools to defend their lives, as well as being protected from malicious prosecution for doing so.

As the fight for gun rights continues in Canada, fixing our woefully inadequate self-defence laws will become a major issue that our elected representatives will be forced to address. Other nations around the world (many of whom were once dictatorships), including Uruguay, Panama, Czech Republic and recently Russia, have loosened their restrictions on civilians carrying firearms. In the United Kingdom, there is a huge backlash against draconian gun laws brought in 20 years ago. Many British citizens are now demanding the right to have concealed carry. We in Canada must do the same.



Many Canadians are surprised to learn that Canada does have concealed carry permits, but these are rarely given out.

Canada's National Firearms Association announces that elections will be held for the Board of Directors. Interested parties should submit a nomination form and a short (200 words) biography and statement of intent to the National office no later than October 1, 2015. Nomination forms are available for downloads at [www.nfa.ca](http://www.nfa.ca), you will also find the form inserted in this issue of the Canadian Firearms Journal.

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

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

#### Electoral Area - Directors to Elect

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

b. A candidate for an office of director must reside, when nominated, in the electoral region represented by that director and must be nominated by two voting members, who must also reside in that region. Each nomination shall be delivered to the secretary of the association by October 1 of the election year. The secretary shall provide to each voting members by November 1 of the election year a ballot listing the names of the candidates for his or her electoral region. It shall be a single, transferable, preferential ballot. Voting members shall return their ballots by December 1 of the election year to the accounting firm designated by the board of directors to count the ballots. Each candidate or his or her designated scrutineer may observe the counting of the ballots. The ballots shall be counted on the first business day after December 1, and the directors so elected shall take office forthwith.



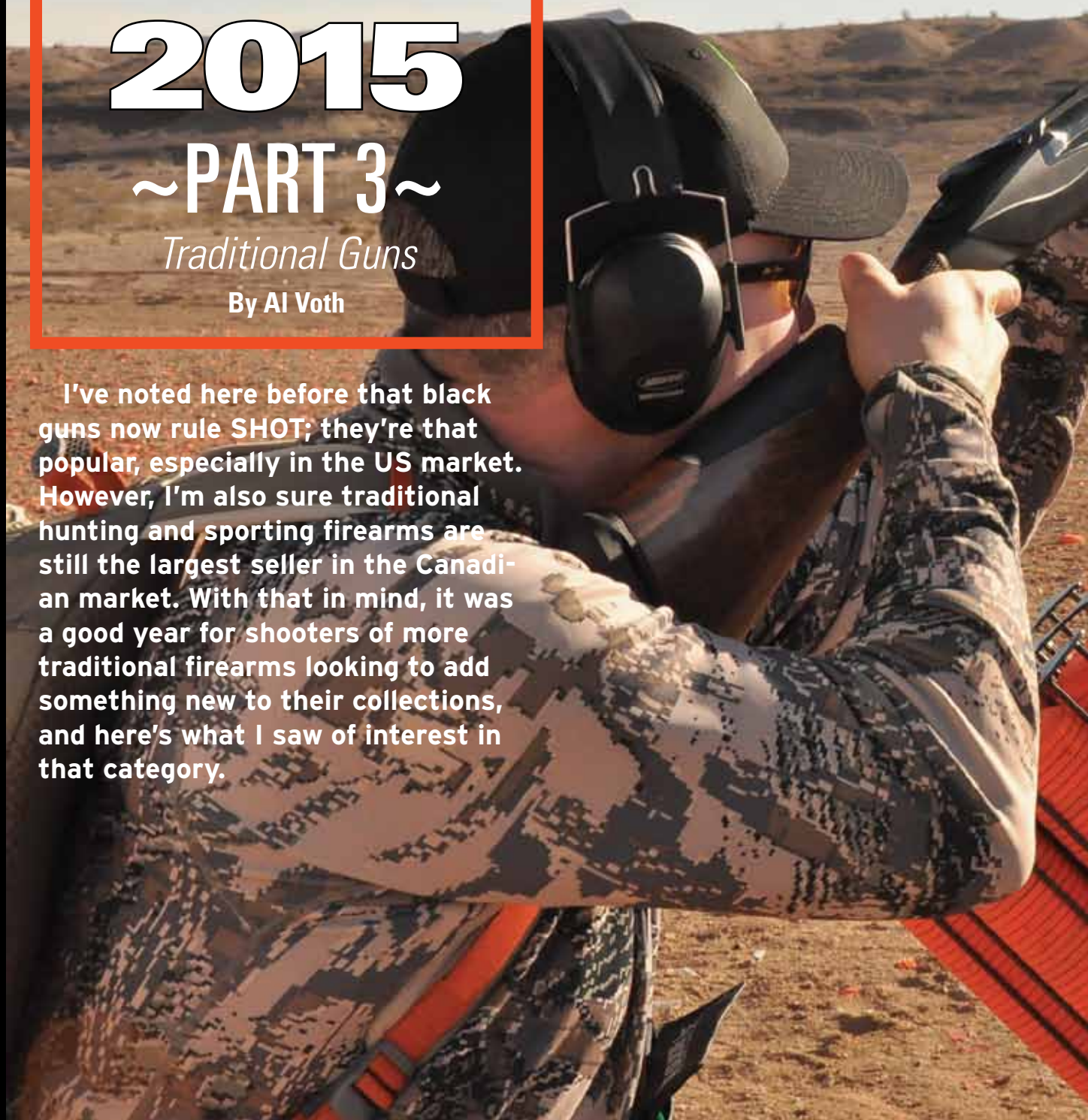
# SHOT Show 2015

## ~PART 3~

*Traditional Guns*

By Al Voth

I've noted here before that black guns now rule SHOT; they're that popular, especially in the US market. However, I'm also sure traditional hunting and sporting firearms are still the largest seller in the Canadian market. With that in mind, it was a good year for shooters of more traditional firearms looking to add something new to their collections, and here's what I saw of interest in that category.







Benelli's 6.5-pound over/under got high marks from all shooters at SHOT's range day.

## Rifles

Winchester's 17 WSM cartridge seems to be gaining traction in the marketplace. Evidence of this was the Ruger bolt-action rifle, based on their 77 rimfire design, displayed at range day. It looks to be a great alternative for people wanting to shoot the fastest rimfire cartridge made, and it recently showed up on their website as an available factory item. With a stainless barrel and action, settled into an American walnut stock, don't expect much change from a \$1,000 bill.

Stepping up a little in size, Howa revealed a new rifle series based on what they are calling a Mini Action. Essentially, it's an action built specifically for the 223 Remington and similar-sized cartridges. I think it's a great idea, as it makes for an action that is almost an inch shorter and a lot lighter than a conventionally sized short action. The rifle will feature a two-stage trigger, three-position safety and a detachable 10-round magazine. I'm going to estimate a retail price of around \$750 in Canada.

Following its announcement last year, hunters who use muzzleloaders will be happy to hear that Remington's 700 Ultimate Muzzleloader rifle has finally been approved for sale in Canada. This is a muzzleloader built on a stainless steel 700 action and uses an unusual ignition system, based on what looks like a conventional cartridge case cut in half. But trust me when I say it's much more sophisticated than that. I've shot it and it works. When loaded with a maximum charge of 200 grains of black powder, it's a powerhouse that should be capable of easily taking game out to 300 yards. I've seen it on the shelf here already, carrying a \$900 price tag.

Except for the MVP series, Mossberg has eliminated all of its previous centrefire line of rifles and replaced it with the Patriot. This is a bolt-action rifle with classic styling, and is much better looking than what it replaces. I like the adjustable trigger, as well as the detachable magazine. The rifle is being offered initially in 11 popular calibres, three stock options and in package deals with a Vortex scope included. I'd expect the Canadian price for a bare rifle to be in the \$500 range, making this a great buy.

Sako has added a new version of the well-known Model 85 to their line. This one is called the Carbonlight and, as the name suggests, is a real featherweight. How light? Try 5.3 pounds unloaded. A carbon fibre stock is one feature making that weight possible, as is a slim 20.25-inch stainless steel barrel. It's





**Mossberg's Patriot rifle and Vortex scope combo makes for what might be the best looking budget rifle around.**



**The Winchester XPR is an entirely new rifle line from Winchester.**





available in five short-action calibres, ranging from 22-250 Remington to 308 Winchester. I don't have a price for this one, but this is high-end equipment, so don't expect it to come cheap.

There's been a trend toward manufacturers producing more value-priced rifles and Winchester has finally jumped on it, as well. Their offering is a new bolt-action design called the XPR. It has a two-position safety with a separate bolt release button, allowing the action to be opened with the safety on. Cartridges are fed from a detachable box magazine, and, as you'd expect on a budget-priced rifle, the stock is polymer. A nice adjustable trigger rounds out the package, creating a rifle with a price I anticipate will come in around \$600 Can-

nadian. Initially, four popular big game calibres will be offered.

By all accounts, Marlin has sorted out production problems since their big move and are again producing great guns. An excellent choice for bear medicine would seem to be their new 1895 GSBL. This is a 45-70 Govt. lever gun, crafted on the basic Marlin big-bore frame. It's made from stainless steel, but treated with a blackening process called FNC (ferritic nitrocarburizing). The laminated stock is painted an attractive olive green with black spider webbing and it comes with an 18.5-inch barrel and oversized lever loop for fast handling. It's a nice-looking lever gun that should be largely weatherproof.

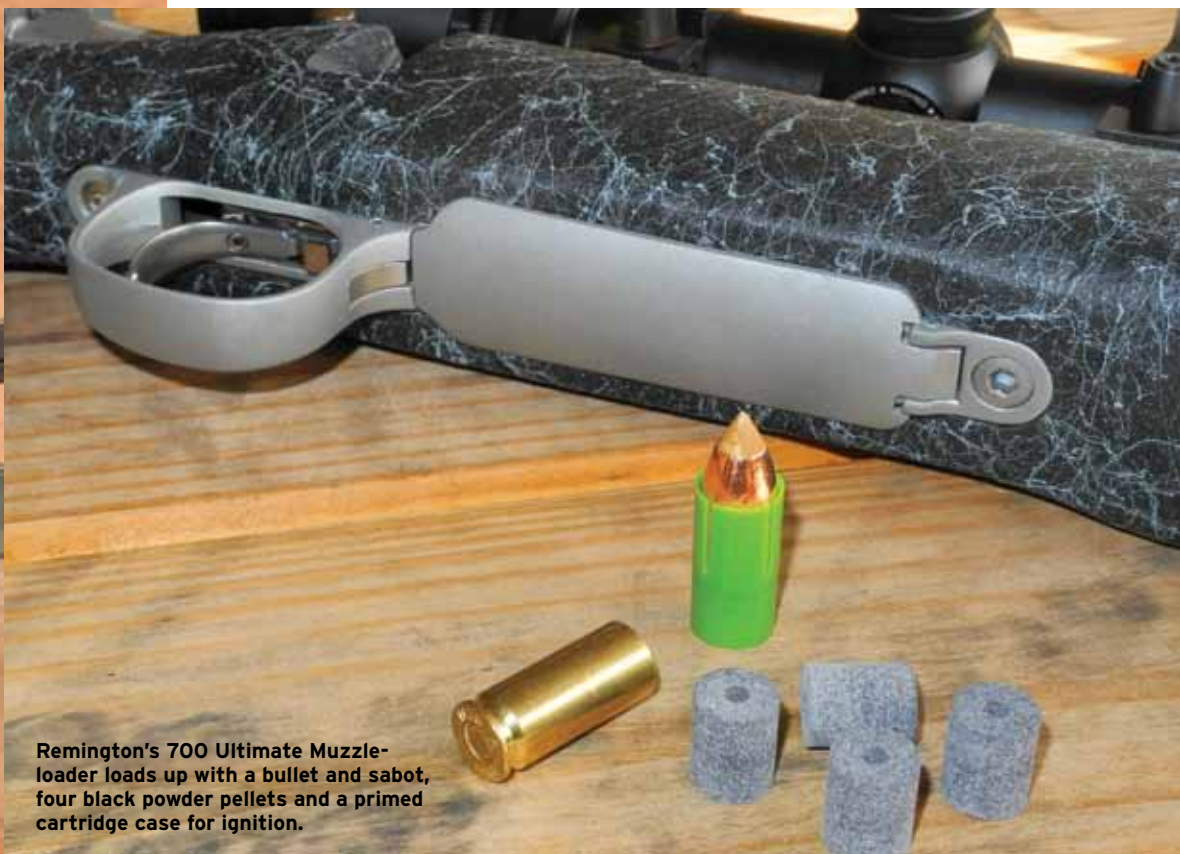
Can you believe the Ruger 10/22 has been around for 50 years? It has, and to commemorate the event Ruger will build 25,000 special edition rifles, with all kinds of commemorative features included. Cabela's also contracted with Ruger to build some simpler versions and those are already available in Canada. With a French walnut stock and a smooth 22-inch barrel, these are, in my opinion, the best looking factory 10/22s Ruger has ever made. When my local Cabela's offered them on sale for less than \$500, I snapped one up. They are worth looking for.

## Shotguns

There was some big scattergun news at SHOT, with Remington's new V3 model being the biggest news in the semi-auto category. This shotgun builds on their reliable Versaport gas system by adding a lightweight field gun capable of handling up to three-inch shells. Initial offerings will include a walnut-stocked model, a Mossy Oak Blades camouflage version and a third model in basic black. I've had the opportunity to shoot this gun and found it had a soft recoil and was easy to handle. Pricing in Canada is still uncertain, but I suspect it will be highly competitive with other quality semi-autos and might even be under \$1,000 in some variations.

As for over/under shotguns, Benelli had the biggest news, with the unveiling of their 828U shotgun. This is the first stack barrel gun ever made by Benelli and it has some interesting features. Most notable is the alloy receiver, which, coupled with a steel lock up system, is supposed to cut weight yet provide a long service life. That receiver, paired with a carbon fibre rib, makes for a light and responsive shotgun that checks in at only 6.5 pounds. The stock is fully adjustable for fit, the trigger group drops out for easy cleaning and, of course, the gun has interchangeable choke

**Howa's Mini Action (top) is purpose built for the 223 Rem.-sized cartridges. On the bottom is an Escort shotgun with their new 'Yote camouflage pattern, which resembles coyote fur.**



**Remington's 700 Ultimate Muzzle-loader loads up with a bullet and sabot, four black powder pellets and a primed cartridge case for ignition.**



The Game Xtractor is another Canadian product invading SHOT.



Built on the same multiport gas system as Remington's Versamax, the new V3 promises identical reliability but in a lighter package.



tubes. A recoil reduction system built into the buttstock is designed to keep recoil manageable, even with three-inch shells. Look for prices in the \$2,500 to \$3,000 range.

Small gauge fans will be interested in Browning's introduction of the 725 Citori in 28 and 410 gauge. These will be available only in the Sporting model line and will have all the usual features of the 725 models, including a low-profile receiver and a mechanical trigger. However, these are what Browning calls SHOT Show specials, so they may not appear in a catalogue, nor will all dealers have them. Production is limited. Start looking now if you want one and be prepared to shell out about \$3,000.

While it's not a new gun, Escort has a new camouflage pattern available for their line of semi-auto shotguns. The pattern is called 'Yote, and, you guessed right, it looks like coyote fur. I think it should be an effective pattern and it certainly has a unique look.

## Miscellaneous

A Canadian company called Infinition, which produces Doppler chronographs, was at SHOT again this year. Their radar-based instruments, marketed under the Labrador name, have generated a lot of interest. Unfortunately, production has been delayed considerably from what they promised initially. However, it seems things have been sorted out and, as I write this, I'm told product is being shipped. Their instrument could be a game changer, as it brings this technology down in price from tens of thousands of dollars to about \$600 and promises easier and quicker set up, operation under any light condition and ballistic data as far

away as 100 yards. And all from a Canadian company. Bravo!

Another Canadian at SHOT was Colin Carlisle, the Ontario inventor of the Game Xtractor. This invention is certainly one of those, "Why didn't I think of that?" ideas, in that it's a simple tubular metal device with some specific geometry, designed for dragging big game out of the woods. Hooking into the two-inch hitch common on ATVs, this unit will pull a deer or moose out of the bush with minimal human effort, and protect the rack while doing it. Colin has already marketed the patent-pending design to many Canadian retailers and is now taking on the US market.

Timney Triggers always has a new trigger to announce at SHOT and this year the Ruger American centrefire rifle gets the Timney upgrade. They had one installed on a sample gun at the show and using it was sweetness defined. Expect to part with about \$130 to put this upgrade on your rifle. I'll have one on my own Ruger American by next fall.

Canada has some great turkey hunting and if that's one of your passions, check out Federal's new 3RD Degree 12-gauge ammunition. The name derives from the three types of pellets contained in each shell: smaller pellets for close shots, medium pellets for mid-range and heavyweight pellets for long range. Stacking different shot sizes in one shell is an interesting concept and, if you're a turkey hunter, worth a trip to the patterning board to try them out. I saw both three and 3.5-inch shell lengths.

So, there's a small taste of what's new for hunting seasons in 2015 and beyond. Keep watching these pages for a more detailed look at some of these products, especially the Canadian ones.

Browning has added 28-gauge and 410 Bore chamberings to the 725 Citori line.







## **O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS | 510 Mini Turkey THUGS**

Item number: 50495

Gauge: .410 or 20 gauge (20 gauge tested)

Capacity: Four, two-and-three-quarter and three inches; one with plug

Barrel length: 18.5-inch vented rib

Chokes: Accu-Set

Chamber: Three inches

Overall length: 35.25 inches with spacers and recoil pad; 34.25 inches without spacer

Weight unloaded: Five pounds

Stock: Adjustable synthetic

Action: Pump

Trigger pull: Six to seven pounds

Length of pull: 10.5 inches to 11.5 inches

Receiver finish: Mossy Oak Break-Up Infinity

Front sights: Dual bead

MSRP: \$515

Warranty: 10 years

Address: O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.  
7 Grasso Ave.  
North Haven, CT 06473

Phone: (203) 230-5300  
(8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. E.S.T.)

Fax: (203) 230-5420

For service inquiries:  
(800) 363-3555

I have fond memories of hunting with my dad and carrying his well-used Mossberg 500 shotgun into the field. Those memories also include how heavy and long that 500 was to an 11 year old and me wishing they made a shotgun sized for kids. The only fix at that time was to purchase an extra stock and barrel and have your local gunsmith do a bit of surgery.

Luckily for kids everywhere, the too-much-shotgun era has passed away and Mossberg has put that issue to rest with their 510 Mini Turkey THUGS, 510 All-Purpose and 510 Mini-Muddy Girl youth pump-action shotguns. Designed from the ground up with youth in mind, it grows with your son or daughter and allows them to focus on the hunt and not the length and weight of the gun. What a novel concept. Why didn't someone think of this years ago?

Now, there are hunters who like to hunt, and then there are hunters who live to hunt. And one thing fathers and mothers long for is the day when they can take their kids into the field with them. Holding up that extra weight is hard for some kids and adults. Trust me, I know. They're not able to stay on target very long unless the weight is supported.

The overall length has a negative effect, which causes them to lean backwards when they shoot. My oldest son fell into this category and since he was over a foot shorter than all the other

kids his age, he struggled with this. He's older and stronger now and has more years of shooting under his belt, but still favours a shotgun that's built for his stature.

When I received the 510 for testing, I showed it to my oldest son. To say that he liked it would have been an understatement. He couldn't wait to shoot it. What I wasn't prepared for was my wife's reaction to the 510. She liked it as well. At five feet, three inches, she has the same issues with larger, heavier shotguns as my son does.

They both enjoyed shooting the Mossberg 510 and that, my friends, made for a happy husband, father and hunter. As writers, we're obligated to report the cold, hard facts along with our knowledgeable opinion in the hopes of selling you on the featured product. After witnessing my wife and son's reaction to the 510, it sold me and allowed my whole family to appreciate the art of shotgunning again.

The 510 is taken from Mossberg's Bantam and Super-Bantam youth lines, just reduced so it fits younger hunters without sacrificing the features found on its big brother. A smaller adult may find the 510 fits well enough to allow them to hunt or shoot clays pigeons without the handicaps experienced with a full-size shotgun.

I'm sure by now you're also wondering what the acronym T.H.U.G.S. stands for. It's the name of the hunting series, "Turkey THUGS," sponsored by Mossy



# Mini Turkey THUGS

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL • By Norman Gray

Oak and it stands for Today's Hunters United for Good. Mossy Oak contributes a portion of the licensing proceeds from the sales of all Turkey and Deer THUGS gear to help veterans.

The Mossberg 510 Mini Turkey THUGS comes with full, modified and improved choke tubes, choke tube wrench, black padded QD sling, owner's manual and lock. Mossberg has also included two company stickers for your young shooter to express their pride in ownership.

If a young hunter or shooter is small, the 510 comes ready to use out of the box. If they're a bit larger or an adult, you can add the included one-inch spacer to the stock. Simply take off the recoil pad and add the spacer using the included longer screws and re-attach the recoil pad. I recommend that younger and new shooters first experience the 510, be it on a family trip to the range or a favourite shooting spot.

If it's their first shotgun, start them with the lightest box of 20-gauge, two-and-three-quarter loads you can find and adjust up as they become more confident. When they are ready, work them up to heavier three-inch loads.

Plastic bottles filled with coloured water or skeet suspended from strings or propped up will provide fun, exploding targets they can concentrate on while shooting. Once they realize the recoil is manageable and won't hurt them, they will begin to have fun and will want to shoot more. Eventually you may have to drag them home.

Down the road, they may be willing to attempt slugs for deer if you live in a place that only allows shotgun hunting. All this will give them the confidence they need for the field and help them work out any fears they may experience along the way.

When I confiscated the 510 back from my oldest son to finish this article, I still couldn't get over the size and weight. It took a few minutes for me to wrap my mind around a functioning miniature 20-gauge shotgun you can hold in one hand. Even though my nine-year-old son told me the 510 looked like the toy shotguns you find in Wal-Mart, he knows better from all my repeated training.

Younger kids tend to look at firearms as toys and the 510 certainly resembles one, but a steady routine of firearms safety will help keep it real. I took my oldest son to a pond and told him to shoot into the mud bank with the 510. After shooting one 20-gauge, two-and-three-quarter load, #8 shot, he looked at the large hole it left and realized the power and responsibility he held in his hands.

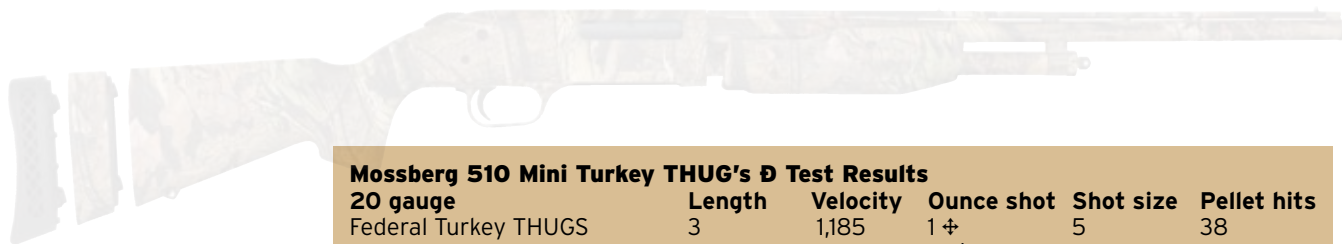
Of course, you know your child better than anyone and what it will take to teach this critical lesson in firearms safety. The Mossberg 510 is just as stout as the larger models, with all the controls being in the same spot, so if you own a Mossberg 500 and your child is familiar with it, their learning will be simplified. The 18.5-inch vented rib barrel threading is smooth and easy

for a child to change his or her own choke tubes.

The two-bead sighting system is easy for kids to use. The large, white front bead is easily seen in any lighting condition and, when used in conjunction with the brass rear alignment bead, aiming is easy. The pump action was a bit stiff in the beginning, but, like most pumps, it began to loosen up and smooth out with use. By its very nature, the foregrip is designed for small hands, but they are large enough to accommodate an adult's hands effectively and employs diamond-type checkering and finger holds on both sides for a firm, secure grip.

The aluminum receiver is drilled and tapped (threaded) with four holes to accept either a Weaver-style base or a Picatinny rail mount. This gives you great flexibility to choose the appropriate sight for your hunting needs. The trigger, action lock lever and safety button are all steel, as they are high stress parts, while the trigger housing is a high-impact polymer. The safety, as with all Mossberg shotguns, is on the top of the receiver and easily accessible with your shooting hand thumb. The safety is off when forward and on when rearward and the red dot is covered. On the ejection port side of the shotgun are the words "MOSSY OAK TURKEY THUGS," written in black letters and the opposite side is the action lock lever and serial number.

The stock is a pistol grip design and



### Mossberg 510 Mini Turkey THUG's ♂ Test Results

20 gauge	Length	Velocity	Ounce shot	Shot size	Pellet hits
Federal Turkey THUGS	3	1,185	1 1/4	5	38
Hornady Heavy Mag Turkey	3	1,150	1 3/8	5	34
Kent Ultimate Diamond Shot	3	1,300	1 1/4	5	27
20-gauge slugs	Length	Velocity	Grain	Group at 50 yards	
Hornady SST FTX Slug	2 1/4	1,800	250 grains	3.2	

offers a good, secure hold, with both sides being diamond checkered. It's well suited for smaller hands, but my XL hands had no issues making it work. The length of pull is 10.5 inches without the one-inch spacer, and 11.5 inches with it installed.

The recoil pad is nice and soft to absorb recoil, but the three-inch turkey loads will still let you know you're alive. My youngest son, just eight at the time, did not like any part of a second shot with turkey loads.

The Mossy Oak Obsession pattern covers the entire shotgun and, where it does not, the parts are matte blue. A few rub spots were apparent where the foregrip rubbed the receiver on both sides, but a black sharpie will touch this up quickly and, of course, the vitality of the pattern depends on how hard the shotgun is used in the field.

Out of the box, the 510 will only hold one round in the chamber due to the fact that the extra-long limiting plug will not allow any rounds to be loaded into the magazine. After successful firearms training, the adult can cut down the wooden limiting dowel to nine inches to comply with the local hunting laws.

After this, the 510 will hold four, two-and-three-quarter or three-inch shells with the limiting plug removed, and with the modified limiting plug installed it will now hold one in the chamber and two in the magazine. To remove the limiting plug, first unload all ammunition and remove the sling, then remove the barrel by taking out the takedown screw. Point the shotgun towards the ground and shake it back and forth until the dowel protrudes from the magazine tube. The rubber O ring will keep it from falling out. Grab the end and remove it.

Patterning a 12-gauge shotgun is normally done at 40 yards with an extra full turkey choke and three-inch or three-and-a-half-inch turkey loads. Patterning the 20-gauge 510 with its full choke and three-inch turkey loads worked best be-

tween 25 and 35 yards, depending on the load. I like to pattern and hunt with a Primos Jim Shockey Tall Tri Pod because it adjusts from 24 inches to 62 inches with a squeeze of the trigger. It's also great for kids and adults to use as a walking stick while hunting and then to stabilize their shot either sitting or standing. I used Birchwood Casey's Turkey Splattering Targets to mark the shot hits and recorded the results below. For the slugs, I used Caldwell's Orange Peel 12-inch Bulls Eye Targets and achieved a 3.2-inch group at 50 yards with just the front bead sight.

Since all firearms are shot differently, you'll have to find your ideal range with the loads you choose and find what load your child is comfortable using in his or her 510.

Depending on how much you shoot and the conditions you shoot in, I suggest you completely disassemble your shotgun once a year for a good, thorough cleaning. If the environment you're shooting in is wet, cold and muddy, you should clean the shotgun as soon as possible to avoid rust. Mossberg recommends you clean your shotgun every 200 rounds of normal shooting, followed by regular lubrication to keep your shotgun performing well.

Shotgun disassembly is nothing more than attention to detail. The Mossberg owner's manual covers the disassembly and re-assembly process thoroughly and after several times you will have the procedure down. Disassembly past this point is not recommended by the manual, and only to be done by the factory or a qualified gun smith and could possibly void your warranty.

Patterns were fired from a supported position at a range, at 25 to 35 yards using a Primos Jim Shockey Tall Tri Pod Trigger Stick and Birchwood Casey Turkey Splattering Targets. Slug results were recorded using the Caldwell Orange Peel 12-inch Bulls Eye Target. Patterning results will vary from shotgun

to shotgun so you must conduct your own pattern testing, using your preferred ammunition. Velocities were as stated from the manufacturer, except the Hornady SST FTX slugs, which were run through a CED Millennium 2 chronograph at 15 feet.

Living vicariously through my wife and sons' time with the Mossberg 510 Mini Turkey THUGS was the answer to my youthful wish from all those many years ago. Today's young shooters and hunters don't have to settle for good enough like I did and for this I'm glad. This was my oldest son's first true experience with Mossberg and soon it will be his younger brother's turn, but I know it definitely will not be their last. I still take my father's well-loved Mossberg 500 out to the field shooting doves and that old dog still hunts well. If you haven't already, introduce your kids to the sport of shotgunning and take them to the skeet or trap range or to the field and hunt. I guarantee any of these great Mossberg youth shotguns will help you build some fun and lasting memories your kids won't forget.

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# BOLT .22s

By Jeff Helsdon



## **M**OST SHOOTERS CUT THEIR TEETH ON THE .22 RIMFIRE.

It was often a hunter's first gun and has been the choice for hunting grouse, rabbits, squirrels and varmints for decades. It's the most popular calibre for target shooting and plinking - it's cheap to shoot and just plain fun.

In fact, it's the most popular rifle calibre in the world.

When it comes to plinking and hunting, semi-auto and lever action .22s are common choices. The bolt action is still popular, as well. It's a great gun for kids, as the supervisor can limit young shooters to one shell at a time. Bolt actions can be great crossovers for young shooters and adults who want a gun with no recoil for some time at the range.

I put five of the most popular bolt-action models through the paces. Prices ranged from a little over \$100 to about \$1,000.

### **Sako Finfire 2**

The original Finfire was loved for its accuracy and had a solid reputation. It was discontinued in the 1990s.

Introduced in 2014, the Finfire 2 built on the reputation and design of the original, with modern manufacturing processes built in. With an MRSP of \$1,049, it is on the top end of the price scale. With its solid reputation, the Finfire 2 could be equated to a BMW in the car world.

The receiver is cut to take scope rings without bases - this is a great feature and something other manufacturers should look at. The wood stock is a little thicker than the other guns, to allow a flush fit of the five-shot magazine, but is certainly a good feature to keep the magazine recessed. The checkering is tastefully done and well executed. The high-gloss walnut stock is of good quality. Its Monte Carlo stock is well designed and just the right height.

The receiver is a matte black, while the barrel is finished with traditional bluing. The trigger pull is smooth and the weight is adjustable.

There is only one model of the Finfire 2 manufactured.

### **Browning T-Bolt**

To equate the guns to automobiles, the T-Bolt would be like a Mustang or Corvette. It's sleek and operates fast - I could cycle loads with my thumb. Like most Brownings, the T-Bolt is put together well, the finish is good and, with this particular model, it's slick.

What differs the T-Bolt from the oth-



**Pictured is the double helix rotary magazine, for Browning's T-Bolt.**

er models tested is the straight-pull bolt action. Instead of the normal lifting and then pulling back to extract a cartridge, it's just a straight pull back. This action was used on military rifles and, more recently, on biathlon rifles.

Browning originally introduced the T-Bolt in 1965. In that day, it was manufactured in Belgium. The bolt handle wasn't angled as it is today, but was round. That version was discontinued in 1974. The present incarnation was introduced in 2006 and is manufactured by Miruko in Japan.

Available in 10 different configurations, the T-Bolt has a combination to fit all shooters. The model I received had a nice walnut stock and high-gloss bluing. It was well put together. The checkering is flawless and is deep enough to give a firm grip. The 10-shot double helix magazine is a new twist on the rotary magazine. It allows the magazine to have a flush fit to the bottom of the gun, which is a nice feature at the range, as the magazine doesn't get in the way. The bolt is angled and has a sleek look to it. The trigger is fold and has a crisp release. The raised Monte Carlo stock fits well when shooting with a scope.

The bolt handle isn't the only sleek part of this gun. Instead of the single-stack on the original T-Bolt, this model has a double helix rotary magazine, which is unique to the T-Bolt.

Browning design engineer Ryan Cook explains, "Other popular rotary magazines on the market had a good

reputation for reliability, but required a relatively wide, flat stock to accommodate their shape. On the other extreme, conventional single-stack magazines are very narrow, but protrude far below the stock, making the natural carry of the rifle less convenient. The intent with the dual, stacked rotary followers was to minimize the overall width of the magazine without making it excessively long - providing very reliable feeding of 10 rounds in a proportional shape that is optimized for the best stock profile."

The T-Bolt MRSP is in the \$700 US range.

### **Savage**

If the Savage .22 was an automobile, it would be a Ford F-150 - known for being tough, accurate and solid.

It's available in more than 20 different configurations, more than most of the other manufacturers. Savage .22s start at an MRSP of \$239.95 and get up to more than \$700 for the target models.

The model I tested was a Mark 2 BT-VSS, one of the top-end models with a thumbhole stock, stainless heavy barrel and laminate stock. The laminate stock was smooth with no checkering and provides a sharp look. There are slots cut in the forend to allow more ventilation and the thumbhole is good to shoot from the bench rest. Although the magazine location is where it would be an obstacle with bench rest shooting, there were no issues with the five-shot clip supplied





with the gun. The factory magazine is a five-shot. Although it's not flush with the stock, it doesn't protrude below the stock enough to be bothersome. The trigger is Savage's Accu-Trigger and works well for a two-stage trigger. The user can easily adjust the pull weight.

The barrel on this particular model was the heaviest of the guns tested, and, although it boosted the weight of the gun, it still felt good in the hands. This model had two swivel mounts to allow the use of a bipod on the front one.

The unique thing about the Savage .22 is it's made in Canada, at the rimfire plant in Lakefield, Ont. Lakefield Arms was started in this village north of Peterborough in the late 1960s. Lakefield introduced the original Mark 2 in 1970,

shortly after the plant opened. Savage purchased Lakefield in 1995, redesigning the feeding system on the Mark 2 and eventually adding the Accu-Trigger.

### **Marlin XT-22**

The first gun I bought was a Marlin 39A lever action .22. It was responsible for hits on several groundhogs and was fun to shoot at the target range.

Marlin has been in the .22 business since 1891 with lever action guns. The company's first bolt action left the assembly line in 1935. The latest incarnation, the XT-22, was introduced at the SHOT Show in 2011.

It's available in 10 different configurations, all made in the Remington plant in Kentucky. One of the unique features

of the youth gun is several adjustments to fit smaller shooters. Like all youth guns, it has a shorter length of pull, but goes further by having a quarter-inch less drop at the comb to make the stock higher and have an improved sight picture, a smaller grip circumference and the trigger reach is shorter.

The model I tested came with a factory scope, which made a good package. Out of the box is a black synthetic stock with a scope attached. It has a 10-shot clip. The single-stack design puts the magazine in what would be considered a normal position, but it can get in the way when bench rest shooting. The end of the stock is rounded out with a synthetic butt plate, flush fitted into the end of the stock. In my opinion, this did



**The Marlin XT-22.**





cheapen the gun a little bit. The stock has grips on the pistol grip and forend where it is appropriate.

What Marlin calls its ST Pro-Fire trigger is similar to the XL7 Pro-Fire system on the centrefire bolt actions. It's a two-stage trigger similar to Savage's Accu-Trigger. There is a small clicking noise when pulling the blade in the first stage of the trigger, which didn't impede the operation, but was an annoyance. The trigger is user adjustable from three to six pounds and the pull is crisp with no creep.

## Mossberg

The 802 International Plinkster is unique in the design of the synthetic stock on the majority of its models. The hollowed-out design of the stock allows for a grip at the front your entire hand can wrap around.

In the 1970s, Mossberg had its bolt action .22s manufactured by Lakefield

under the name Lakefield-Mossberg. That arrangement ended in the 1980s and in 2006 the International bolt action was introduced. CBC manufactures the current model of the Plinkster, in bolt action, in Brazil.

There are four variations: the regular, the Varmint with a heavier barrel, the Bantam for youth and a scoped version. All have various options of synthetic and wood stocks. There is also a Half-Pint youth gun that is different than the Bantam.

Out of the box, I noticed the Mossberg was the lightest of the guns, yet had good pointability with a heavier barrel. The molded stock has a Picatinny rail in the front to allow bipod attachment. The sights are semi-buckhorn and the rear sight moves up by a stepped ramp. The Plinkster is the only .22 with a safety in front of the trigger, which, personally, I don't mind. The trigger pull is a

little stiff. A 10-shot clip comes with the gun, and can get in the way for bench rest shooting. The receiver is grooved for a scope.

Although I didn't have any problems, the magazine release system does not seem as substantial as on some of the other models.

## Ruger

Ruger makes two models of .22 bolt actions – the 77 and newer American.

Introduced in 1984, the Model 77 is the .22 version of the bolt action Ruger is famous for. The American .22 was introduced in 2013. Like it's centrefire counterpart, it's designed with modern manufacturing processes to compete with lower costs and a two-stage trigger.

I didn't have an opportunity to test fire a Ruger because the company doesn't presently have a plan to provide Canadian writers with test guns.



The Sako Finnfire 2.



## Scopes

I used various models of scopes for the testing and one thing that was reinforced to me was the importance of putting a rimfire scope on a .22 if you plan on doing much close shooting.

I tested a Bushnell rimfire-specific model and it was great to have the flexibility to keep the target in focus at the indoor range. Most rimfire scopes are parallax corrected for 50 yards, but this one went a few steps further - it also has adjustable turrets to account for bullet drop at various distances.

## Accuracy

Doing a little online research prior to test firing the guns, I found the Finnfire was mentioned as an alternative to Anschütz for those who wanted a good gun but weren't competitive shooters. There were also some mentions of the T-Bolt, Savage and Ruger.

My results showed some surprising, and not so surprising, results. These results should be taken with a grain of salt as the wind was increasing during my testing, and I shot the Sako and Browning first. Scopes also varied between products.

With .22 ammunition being scarce, I shot what I had on hand - Remington Thunderbolt and PMC Target. Testing was done at 50 yards, since this is a common distance for shooting .22s.

Overall, the T-Bolt was the smallest group with three bullets measuring 0.45 inches, and two of those touching. With Remington shells, it shot 0.84 inches. The Sako was next, with a 0.53-inch group with PMC ammunition and 1.39

inches with Remington. The Marlin just edged the Savage with a group of 0.81 inches and 0.82 inches, respectively, with Remington ammunition. With PMC, the Marlin shot 1.46 inches. The Savage results shooting PMC were erratic to the point I would discount them and blame it on wind gusts (I had a limited amount of these shells and couldn't re-shoot it).

The Mossberg arrived later than the other guns and didn't come with a scope, so I shot it at 25 yards with open sights. It didn't have target sights, but still held fairly consistent. The three-shot group was 0.63 inches with Remington and 0.68 inches with PMC.

My takeaway from the accuracy test is that all could shoot decent groups. If the smallest group is critical, the Sako and Browning fared well. Don't take the Savage out of the running, either. Prior to my outside tests, I was sighting in the Sako and Savage on an indoor range and results were very comparable.

## The younger approach

One thing about .22s is they are great guns for kids. So which one did my 13-year-old daughter like? Coolness is suddenly a factor - something I didn't like. Her rating was first to the Savage, with a close second to the T-Bolt. Mossberg also got marks on the coolness scale.

## History of the .22

The .22 rimfire is more than the world's largest production rifle cartridge; it's one of the oldest still being manufactured.

When metallic cartridges were first

developed, the rimfire concept was used to ignite what was then the black powder. As is the case today, the primer was located in the rim of the cartridge - hence the term.

Initially, rimfire cartridges were developed for indoor shooting ranges in France in 1845. The first produced were BB caps, which stood for bullet breech. The only propellant was the primer and the bullet was a round ball. The next stage in development was the low-velocity CB cap, which had a conical bullet.

The .22 short was next, and production started in 1857. It shot 29-grain bullets and was originally loaded for black powder. It is the oldest cartridge still in production today. The same bullet was loaded in a longer case in 1871 and became known as the .22 long.

Jump forward to 1887 and Stevens Arms Co. introduced the .22 long rifle. It featured a 40-grain bullet and higher velocities.

In the early years, there were a number of large bore rimfire cartridges introduced. Production of these ceased early in the 20th century. A few variants of the .22, none of which survived, were introduced before the .22 Winchester Magnum debuted in 1959. Fast forward to the turn of the next century before the next big revolution in rimfire appeared with the introduction of the .17 Hornady Magnum. This is a necked-down .22 magnum fitted with a 20-grain bullet. Remington's attempt at a 5 mm rimfire in the late 1960s never took off. The most recent innovation is the .17 Winchester Super Magnum, which is based on an entirely different cartridge.



# Pour ceux et celles qui l'auraient oublié, au Canada le droit de protéger sa vie est un droit constitutionnel inaliénable et inaltérable

By Russel-Aurore Bouchard

Dans ce dessin d'Edmond J. Massicotte daté de 1926, le vieux fusil, bien au chaud au-dessus du manteau du foyer et toujours à l'abri des mains des enfants, se présente comme une image d'Épinal qui exprime à la fois un art de vivre et une culture authentique. Depuis les débuts de la colonisation française en Amérique, alors que chaque citoyen est obligé par la loi d'en posséder au moins un pour assurer sa protection et celle de la communauté, il figure dans toutes les scènes de la vie quotidienne, au même titre que le crucifix, le poêle à deux ponts, la tourtière et la bonne entente.

Chacun a le droit à la vie qui est le bien le plus précieux qui soit, chacun a le droit à la sécurité de sa personne et chacun est responsable de sa liberté ! En conséquence, abandonner à l'État ou à des tiers le pouvoir absolu de protéger l'une et l'autre en mon nom reviendrait à accepter le fait que je vis dans un État totalitaire. On vit dans une démocratie ou on vit dans une tyrannie. Il n'y a pas de juste milieu à cet égard et ceux qui prétendent le contraire se trompent ou sont tout simplement de mauvaise foi.

Quand le premier ministre Stephen Harper a adopté une loi, en 2008, qui imposait des peines minimales de trois et cinq ans aux simples délits de possession d'une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte et d'une arme prohibée non enregistrées, il était totalement dans le tort et il a été subséquemment remis à l'ordre par la Cour Suprême qui a jugé sa loi tyrannique et anticonstitutionnelle. Quand M. Harper a énoncé devant les caméras, le 11 mars 2015, qu'on pouvait posséder une arme à feu pour se défendre lorsque l'instant nous le commande,



il a par contre parlé dans la logique de notre histoire et n'a fait que répéter une évidence fort bien appuyée par la Constitution qui dit, à l'article 7 de la Charte des Droits, que « Chacun a droit à la vie, à la liberté et à la sécurité de sa personne ; [et qu']il ne peut être porté atteinte à ce droit qu'en conformité avec les principes de justice fondamentale ».

La loi de 2008, qui était pourtant outrancièrement « cruelle » et « injuste » n'a curieusement ému aucun gardien de la démocratie et a fort heureusement échoué au test de la Cour Suprême. Alors que l'énoncé de M. Harper, sur le droit de défendre sa vie, a soulevé l'ire des 5400 membres de l'Association des policiers provinciaux du Québec qui ont de suite pris le micro pour dénoncer la position pourtant tout à fait légitime de M. Harper compte tenu de l'histoire, de la culture et de la singularité géographique du pays. Sachant qu'il ne leurs appartenaient pas d'intervenir à ce niveau du débat, les chefs de police du reste du Canada ont, pour leur part, retenus leurs langues et respecté comme il se doit les règles du jeu.

La réprimande publique des policiers du Québec a évidemment été récupérée

par les hérauts du lobby (Montréalais) anti-armes à feu derrière lequel grouillent les mains avides du lucratif lobby informatique du Québec. Mais aucun n'a eu l'intelligence de questionner la pertinence constitutionnelle du point de vue énoncé publiquement par M. Harper et de dénoncer l'ingérence de la fraternité policière dans le débat politique en cours. Qu'aurait dit M. Pierre Veilleux, président de cette très puissante fraternité, si M. Harper s'était rendu dans son bureau pour lui

demander d'intervenir auprès de ses membres afin de s'ingérer dans leurs pouvoirs ? Il aurait eu raison de dénoncer voire de demander la démission de M. Harper qui aurait été en contravention envers un principe fondamental de notre système démocratique voulant qu'on sépare le pouvoir politique du pouvoir policier.

Qu'on le veuille ou pas, la liberté comporte des risques et place chaque individu face à des choix personnels et conséquents assujettis à des devoirs. Notre système démocratique doit en tenir compte. S'il est vrai de dire que personne ne peut se faire justice soi-même et qu'il faut s'en remettre aux règles de Droit pour ce faire, il est aussi vrai de dire que la police ne peut être partout à la fois et qu'elle ne pourra jamais assurer la sécurité de tous les citoyens en tous temps. C'est dans cet esprit de liberté et de responsabilisation citoyenne que l'article 7 de la Charte des Droits a été pensé, rédigé et voté, et c'est en fonction de cette protection constitutionnelle incontournable que tous les citoyens canadiens peuvent revendiquer leur droit véritable de posséder une arme à feu pour la protection de la vie à domicile. ●



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BY LOWELL STRAUSS

TAKING A FIREARM ON A WILDERNESS ADVENTURE IS A MATTER OF CHOICE. I LIKE TO HAVE A GUN AT THE READY, JUST IN CASE. MAYBE A HUNGRY CRITTER DECIDES IT WANTS ME FOR ITS NEXT MEAL; PERHAPS I WILL BE UNLUCKY AND UNWARY ENOUGH TO GET BETWEEN A MOMMA AND HER BABY; MAYBE I JUST WANT PEACE OF MIND FISHING MY FAVOURITE STREAM. WHATEVER MY REASON, HAVING A FIREARM IN THE WILDERNESS, WHERE PERMITTED, COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

Although I have never been forced to shoot an animal in self-defence, over the years I've had my share of close calls. Most of my close calls occurred while I was hunting. Bugling like an elk, while dressed from head to toe in camouflage, I've ended up with a predator investigating me instead of a rival elk. I suspect there are many more close encounters with wildlife than we realize – but humans, with our dull hearing and pitiful sense of smell, won't even know that there are four-legged predators watching us from the bushes.

## BUSH MEDICINE

The conversations about the best weapons, types of ammunition and tactics has been campfire talk for generations. The purpose of this article is not to put an end to that conversation; in fact, this type of debate is healthy. It allows us to think through scenarios and be better prepared, mentally, if we ever need to shoot an animal in self-defence.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A WILDERNESS SELF-DEFENCE FIREARM

I'm talking about a dedicated firearm for wilderness self-defence – a safety back up if you're bow hunting, hiking or fishing in the back country. If you already use a rifle or shotgun for hunting, it will likely double as your self-defence firearm. However, you may still consider a dedicated self-defence firearm if you are okay with the extra weight. But what are you looking for? Here's my shortlist of must-have characteristics:

**Reliability.** Any self-defence firearm needs to be 10 per cent dependable. A

gun that doesn't go bang when you need it to will become a club – and a poor one at that! Firearm reliability boils down to two factors: design (type of action) and maintenance. You can also have ammunition issues, but that is for another article.

**Speed.** If an encounter with wildlife turns from a close look to an attack, you need to be able to act quickly. The time to deploy and fire the first shot may mean the difference between surviving an attack or not. This is no place for your grandpa's goose gun with a 30-inch barrel.

**Power.** In a perfect world, the first shot should stop the attack by either killing the animal immediately or at least stopping its forward advance. For this to happen, a projectile with enough energy to penetrate thick hide and heavy bone is required. There are many centrefire options to choose from. Increased energy intensifies the chances of a one-shot kill. However, when the adrenaline is pumping and that first shot is less than ideal, we need time to recover from the recoil of the first shot and get back on target. So with the trade-off between power and recoil in mind, the best advice is to use a cartridge that you can shoot well and doesn't kick like a mule.

**Capacity.** Once committed to killing an animal in self-defence, anticipate follow-up shots. Break-action guns typically only hold one or two shots. Look for something that holds at least five rounds of ammunition. Reloading during an animal attack may not be an option.

**Weight.** A self-defence firearm should be light enough to be carried. All the time. If you leave it in camp because it's too heavy, it won't do any good when you need it.

You may be surprised that I haven't included accurate as a characteristic. Although self-defence distances will be different in every situation, it is likely to be less than 10 metres. All modern firearms are capable of the accuracy required for putting rounds on target at 10 metres – even without sights.

## SHOTGUN OR RIFLE?

There are pros and cons to both weapon systems, so I will discuss each in turn.

## SHOTGUNS

It is hard to beat a 12-gauge shotgun in the bush. The shotshell cartridge has enough power to stop even the largest attacker. As a close-quarters weapon, the shotgun delivers. When it comes to feeding it, it's an omnivore. It will eat everything from birdshot to buckshot to slugs, all of which are available in any place that sells ammunition.

It can even shoot speciality shotshells like screamers, whistlers and bear bangers to scare animals off before they get too close. In my opinion, scaring your animal attacker into leaving is the best option, if there is enough time and distance between you and the threat. In the wilderness where predators are not habituated to humans and our garbage, most predators will be afraid of us. A bear banger shell is just a friendly reminder of why they should be.

The three most common shotgun actions are semi-auto, pump and break action, with the latter two being the most reliable. The break-action shotgun, however, doesn't score well for speed, especially when it comes to reloading or capacity. The pump shotgun does score well for capacity and speed. Remington, Mossberg and Winchester all make marine versions of their pump shotguns. Marine shotguns are stainless steel, chrome or nickel plated to prevent corrosion. Most have a composite stock and short barrels around 18 to 18.5 inches long, and a round tube magazine that holds five or six shells. Any of these would make a fine choice for a wilderness self-defence weapon.

My favourite is the Remington 870 – the Special Purpose Marine Magnum. My Remington 870 Express has been my faithful companion in the field for almost two decades! This shotgun ships with a sling, but no sights – not a huge problem. If you choose an 870 for yourself, you may want to trick it out with a few options or select a tactical model from any of the manufacturers, which often include ghost ring sights.



If you ever come face-to-face with an aggressive bear, it would be wise to have a means of self-defence with you.

## RIFLES

There are many rifles that would make an excellent self-defence firearm. Common rifle actions include semi-auto, bolt and lever. Break-action rifles, typically single-shot, would not be my first choice if selecting a firearm primarily for wilderness defence. Pump-action rifles, unlike their shotgun counterparts, tend to be a little more finicky and are not as reliable, as is required for self-defence. Semi-auto rifles, when clean and properly maintained, can be quite reliable. However, the bolt and lever-action rifles are extremely reliable firearms, even in adverse conditions.

Narrowing the choice between lever or bolt-action rifles, we need to look to the other characteristics before making our final decision. Speed to deploy is primarily a function of barrel length. Both action types are available in carbine or short barrel models. Weight will be similar for the two actions. Follow-up shot speed is the next thing to examine. In the hands of a Second World War infantryman, the bolt may have been a fast action, but to most of us the lever action rifle will win the speed race for follow-up shots.

The decision between a bolt-action or lever-action rifle may come down to what you have in your gun vault, or what you are the most proficient with.

My pick of best bush rifles is the Marlin 1895 SBL, a lever-action rifle with a stainless steel barrel and action. Chambered in 45-70, this rifle will get the job done, no matter what the conditions. In January 2015, Marlin released a new model (GSBL) of its famous 1895 rifle. It's a classic large loop lever-action rifle with some modern upgrades. Its stainless action and barrel are coated with a durable, non-glare, black finish. It comes with a textured synthetic stock and Williams fire sights. Both are deadly medicine for trouble in the bush.

## SIGHTS & OPTICS

Sights play a key role in making that first shot count. When choosing a sighting system, remember that your sight picture must be quick to acquire. Ghost ring, tritium "big dot" night sights, red dot, lasers or forward-mounted optical



sights all allow a shooter to align the sights on the target while maintaining peripheral vision. This, in turn, heightens situational awareness. If you select a sight such as red dot or laser that requires batteries to function, is a good option to also have back up iron sights just in case!

There is no right or wrong choice, just personal preference. Trying different sight systems will help you determine which one is the fastest for you. Test your gut feeling of "fast" by using a shot timer to measure first shot and follow-up shot speed using different sights. I think you will be surprised at the results. Shot timers are now available as phone apps. They allow you to record split times between shots.

I like redundancy or a failsafe in any system. My preference is to use some form of fast red dot sight, such as the Vortex Viper Venom, co-witnessed with a fast acquisition iron sight, such as an XS Sight.

## ACCESSORIES

Slings facilitate carrying a long gun in the woods. Some tactical-type slings allow for rapid deployment. Sling selection, as with many accessories, will be a personal preference. It will be important to train with your sling, especially

transitioning from carrying to the ready position. The Remington 870 Marine comes with a sling and works just fine for its intended purpose. I like a sturdy leather sling for my Marlin 1895.

Several companies manufacture side-saddle ammunition holders for shotguns. Mesa Tactical makes high-quality shotgun accessories, including aluminum shell carriers that mount easily on a defensive shotgun. Using a carrier allows you to access extra rounds or different types of shotshells quickly. The classic lever gun demands a leather stock-mounted ammunition holder.

## MAINTENANCE

Firearms will be most reliable when they are properly maintained. Even stainless steel models, designed to be used in wet environments, need regular cleaning and lubrication to allow the actions to cycle and fire cartridges. I've had people bring me a gun to figure out why it is not working. Nine times out of 10, the firearms will simply be dirty. Excess carbon fouling, dirt and grass or even old gun oil that has gummed-up in the bolt will prevent a gun from firing.

In the field I carry a basic OTIS cleaning kit, with patch and jag for the calibre or gauge I'm using and an all-in-one CLP (clean, lubricant, protect) such as

Even if you're only out in the woods to do some relaxing fishing, there's always a chance you might stumble across an aggressive predator.



Ballistol, OTIS, Wolf Premium gun oil or QMaxx. I also like to have a disassembly tool, such as the Leatherman MUT, on my side or a Real Avid gun tool in my pack.

At the end of the season or if my gun has been in very wet or dirty conditions, I do a complete detailed strip of my firearm back at my bench. I use a high quality one-piece rod and good patches and brushes. Boresmith makes some of the best patches and brushes I've found - the triangular shape ensures they don't get stuck in the bore. At home, I'm a fan of the multi-step cleaners: carbon, copper and lubricant. I've had luck with a number of cleaning products, including Shooters Choice, KG, Italian Gun Grease, Breakthrough and Slip 2000 to name a few.

## TRAINING

The ability to use a weapon during a high stress situation such as an animal attack will depend on committing the firing sequence to muscle memory. This only comes from repetition in training. Hitting a stationary target from 10 metres should be the easy part. Each part must be practiced: drawing a rifle or shotgun from its sling position; shouldering the weapon; cycling the action or moving the safety to the fire position; acquiring the target in the sights; firing a well-placed shot at the centre of mass

of the target - there is no time for head shots here, and the head will be bobbing around far too much to consistently hit anyway.

My training sessions start with dry fire practice, where I pull the trigger on an empty chamber or dummy round, which can be done in a safe place in my house all winter long. Remember, before any indoor training with your rifle or shotgun, P.R.O.V.E. the firearm is unloaded and safe to handle. Select a safe place (preferably towards an outside wall in your basement) and practice bringing the rifle or shotgun from the sling to a ready position, disengage the safety and using dry firing ONLY, complete the firing sequence. Cycle the action and pull the trigger on a follow-up shot or two. Repeat this drill several times per session. If possible, practice once a week and, over the course of several months, these actions will be committed to muscle memory.

Similar drills can be done at a live-fire range. However, omit the steps required to bring the rifle from the sling. Rather, start at the low ready position and move to the ready and fire positions. In this manner you will be able to maintain a safe muzzle direction at all times during your live-fire range session.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Hearing protection. Unfortunately, most attacks occur without warning, and if they do there will be no time to put on hearing protection. However, discharging a series of shots from a short-barrelled firearm (some of which have ported muzzles to reduce recoil and muzzle climb) may leave you with permanent hearing loss from the incident. There are a number of lightweight, electronic hearing protection instruments that automatically block loud noises, such as the report of a gun. They are designed to allow you to hear normally while wearing them. Some can even amplify ambient noises, such as the sound of game moving through the woods.

In the last few years, I have been wearing low profile Impact Sport electronic earmuffs, made by Howard Leight. They're super comfy and can be worn all day. There are several other brands that make great electronic muffs, as well as the low-tech foam earplugs and standard earmuffs.

## FINAL SHOTS

Choosing between a shotgun and a rifle is a difficult decision. A choice which may depend as much upon the situation as it does with the firearm itself. If I'm hunting big game, my hunting rifle will also double as my wilderness self-defence firearm. However, if packing a firearm is for wilderness protection only, I will take my shotgun because of its many options in ammunition. At 10 metres or less, either platform will get the job done!

You may carry a firearm in the bush your entire life and never have the need to use it for self-defence. If you don't, that's a very good thing! However, if you should ever need to protect yourself or someone else, it is good to have the tools (in this case, a firearm) and skills to do it effectively. Mix in a measure of good luck, and you will be able to face whatever comes your way.

Spend some time figuring out your gear, find out what works for you and practice! So the next time you head to the wilderness will you be armed against predators!



# The Meiji 30th Year Type Infantry Rifle

## The First Arisaka

By Paul Scarlata

PHOTOS BY JAMES WALTERS

### SPECIFICATIONS - Meiji 30th Year Type Infantry Rifle

Calibre: 6.5mm Type 30  
Overall length: 50.04 inches  
Barrel length: 31 inches  
Weight: nine pounds  
Magazine: five round, charger loaded  
Sights, front: inverted V blade  
Sights, rear: V notch adjustable by leaf from 300-2,000 metres  
Bayonet: sword style with 15.5-inch blade

### SPECIFICATIONS - Meiji 30th Year Type Carbine

Calibre: 6.5mm Type 30  
Overall length: 37.8 inches  
Barrel length: 18.9 inches  
Weight: seven pounds, seven ounces  
Magazine: five-round, charger loaded  
Sights, front: inverted V blade  
Sights, rear: V notch adjustable by leaf from 300-1,500 metres  
Bayonet: sword style with 15.5-inch blade

Japan had begun the modernization of its army very late in the 19th century. At first, Japan had no industry capable of producing modern firearms and so the government purchased them from European and American sources. Until 1880, Japanese troops used a polyglot assortment of breech-loading rifles, including Westley-Richards, Sniders, Chassepots, Peabodys, Mausers and Gras rifles.

In 1880, Colonel Tsuneyoshi Murata introduced a rifle of native design. The 13th Year Type rifle was a bolt-action, single-shot 11mm rifle that included features of the French Fusil d'Infanterie Mle. 1874 Gras, but using a bolt inspired by the Dutch Geweer M/1871 Beaumont. Five years later, the 18th Year Type rifle was approved for service.

Colonel Murata's design team, working in conjunction with the Winchester Arms Company, produced a rifle with an improved bolt and strengthened stock, and Winchester provided the necessary machine tooling.

In 1889, another Murata design, the 22nd Year Type, was adopted. This bolt-action rifle was inspired by France's Fusil d'Infanterie Mle. 1886 - the famous Lebel - but used a Kropatschek-type tubular magazine and was chambered for the 8mm Type .22 cartridge that was originally loaded with black powder, although a few years later a smokeless loading was taken into service.

When Japan went to war against China in 1894, her army was equipped with a mixture of Type 18 and .22 rifles. During the fighting, they came up against Chinese troops armed with the German-designed Infanterie-Gewehr 88. This rifle, the first to use the 7.9x57 cartridge, used a Mannlicher-type clip to load its five-round magazine, providing a much higher rate of fire. The Japanese High Command quickly realized that their Murata rifles were woefully inadequate and assigned

the task of creating a modern, small-bore, repeating rifle to Colonel Nariakira Arisaka's design team at the Tokyo Artillery Arsenal, later known as the Koishikawa Arsenal.

After studying various foreign designs, Colonel Arisaka's design team recommended the new rifle use a staggered box magazine, loaded with disposable metal charger (also known as a stripper clip) similar to that of the Model 1895 Mauser.

The rifle's bolt was similar in concept to the Infanterie-Gewehr 88, with a separate bolt head containing the extractor and ejector while dual locking lugs were on the bolt body directly behind the head. Unlike the Gewehr 88, the straight bolt handle was located at the rear of the bolt body, where it turned down into an L-shaped cut in the receiver and provided emergency locking strength. The bolt cocked on closing and had a very prominent hook-shaped safety, which was pulled to the rear and rotated upwards 90 degrees. To provide an additional indication of the rifle's condition, when applied the safety lever blocked the sight picture. Gas escape holes in the bolt and receiver ring vented gases away from the shooter's face, in case of a ruptured case or pierced primer. After trials in 1897, the new rifle was adopted as the Meiji 30th Year Type.

Note: In designating military firearms, the Japanese used the year of the reign (era) of the current emperor the weapon was approved during. The Type 30 rifle was approved for service during the 30th year of the Meiji era (1897).

While early Type 30s used a one-piece stock, later production rifles utilized a unique, two-piece stock. The type of woods available for stock making in Japan were weak, which often resulted in the heel of the buttstock breaking off. To correct this problem, a two-piece stock was used in which a lower piece of wood was dovetailed and glued onto the upper part of the buttstock, and was cut so that the grain of the wood





**The author, pictured test firing the rifle.**

followed the lower contour of the stock - swept up toward the trigger guard - which completely eliminated the problem.

A wooden handguard ran from rear sight base to the single-barrel band, while a long bayonet mounted on a lug at the bottom of the muzzle band. A full length, brass-tipped cleaning rod was carried in the forearm.

The new rifle was chambered for the 6.5mm Type 30 cartridge, which consisted of a bottle-necked, semi-rimmed case 50 millimetres in length, topped with a 161-grain, round-nosed, full metal jacket bullet that was propelled to approximately 2,250 feet per second.

Production began at Koishikawa in 1897 and would continue until 1906. To equip mounted troops and those needing a shorter, lighter weapon, the Meiji 30th Year Type Carbine was adopted, which only differed from the infantry rifle in the length of its barrel and the rear sight.

The Type 30 was first used in combat during the Russo-Japanese War (1904 to 1905), where a number of shortcomings became apparent: the separate bolt head provided insufficient strength; the extractor allowed double feeding of cartridges from the magazine; both the extractor and ejector proved fragile; the hook safety tended to catch on a soldier's clothing and leather gear; and functioning was found susceptible to dirt and fouling.

In late 1902, a modified rifle was issued in limited numbers as the Meiji 35th Year Type. This used a slightly longer barrel, different style safety catch, an oval-shaped bolt knob, modified magazine, bolt head and a quadrant style rear sight. It also introduced the sheet metal bolt cover, an accessory of all later Arisakas. But the army found the Type 35 still lacking and most were issued to the Imperial Navy.

By 1905, Captain Kijiro Nambu had redesigned the rifle to the point where the army was satisfied. The Meiji 38th Year Type rifle had several new features: it used a one-piece bolt and trigger system based upon that of the Model 1895 Mauser, with a separate, non-rotating extractor to prevent double feeding of cartridges. The safety was now a mushroom-shaped cap on the end of the bolt that could be turned using the flat of the hand. It can be said that the Type 38's action was on the crude side and not easy to operate, but it was capable of taking a lot of abuse and still keep working, which is a big plus in any military rifle.

Manufacture of the Type 30 was terminated in 1906, after approximately 555,000 rifles and 46,000 carbines had been produced for Japanese military orders.

With the Type 38 rifle, the Japanese updated their service cartridge. The 6.5mm Type 38 cartridge utilized a 139-grain

FMJ pointed (spitzer) bullet traveling at 762 metres per second and during the following decade, many Type 30 rifles received new rear sights calibrated for the Type 38 cartridge.

The Type 30 was to see wide use outside of Japan. In 1908, the Japanese government established the Taihei Kumiai company, who received a 10-year contract to market the products of Japanese arsenals to overseas customers.

Between 1908 and 1919, Taihei Kumiai sold approximately 61,000 Type 30 rifles and carbines to the Chinese government and, being that Japan was playing both sides of the street in China, certain anti-government political and military factions within China who displayed a pro-Japanese bent. While

most were of these were standard Type 30s, a special version, the so-called Manchu Type 30, displayed small differences in sights, stocks and fittings and collectors generally refer to them as 29th, 30th and 31st Year Kuang Hsu Type 30 Arisakas.

As was their usual practice, sometime during the first two decades of the 20th century, an unknown Chinese arsenal produced copies of the Type 30 carbine chambered for the 7.9x57 cartridge. Collectors refer to them, unofficially, as Type 19 Arisaka carbines.

With the outbreak of the First World War, many nations found themselves short of rifles for their rapidly-expanding armies and turned to Japan for weapons. Imperial Russia was desperately short of small arms and purchased weapons from any and all sources. The Japanese grasped this opportunity to sell more than 600,000 Type 30 rifles and carbines to the desperate Russians, who were already using some that they had captured from the Japanese between 1902 and 1905. Additional Russian contracts were filled with newly-manufactured Type 38 rifles and carbines. The Russians purchased 6.5mm Type 30 ammunition from Japanese, British, French and American companies.

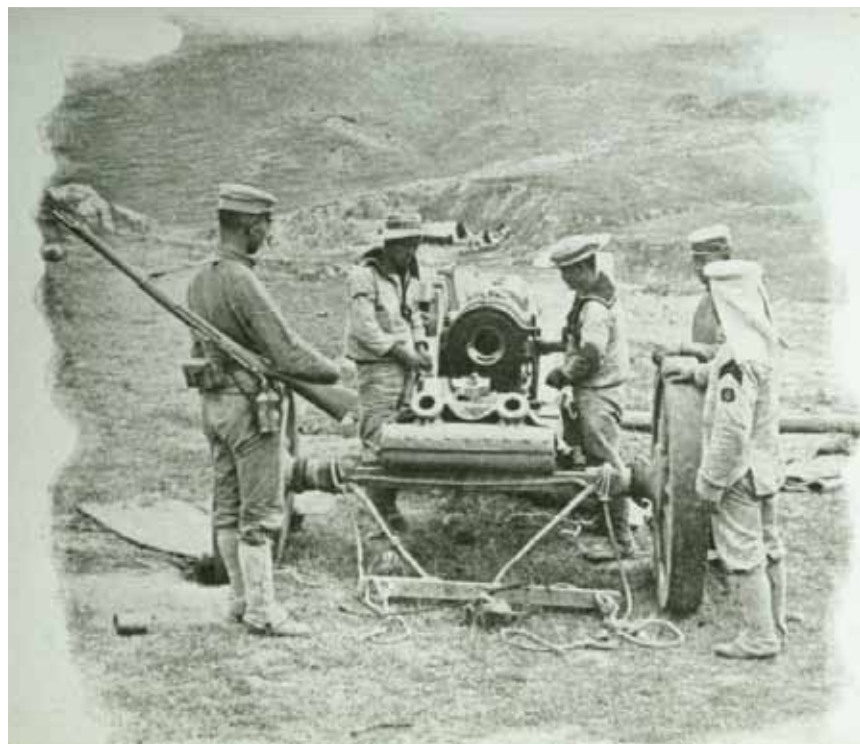
In 1917, the Czechoslovak Legion was formed in Russia from Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war. The Type 30 was one of the primary rifles of this elite unit, which was meant to prop up the faltering Russian war effort against the Central Powers. In the aftermath of the Communist revolution, the Legion undertook a historic fighting withdrawal along the Trans-Siberian railroad that took them from Ukraine to the port of Vladivostok. After three years and almost 6,000 miles, fighting most of the way, the Czechs reached the Pacific, were taken off by Allied vessels and returned to Europe.

In 1914 the French, desperate for weapons, purchased 50,000 Type 30 and 38 rifles from Japan. These were never issued to French troops but instead, by some roundabout means, were transferred to the British who, also short of rifles, placed additional orders with the Taihei Kumiai. British purchases included both Type 30 (rifle, magazine, .256-inch pattern 1900) and the Type 38 (rifle, magazine, .256-inch pattern 1907) in addition to small numbers of Type 38 carbines (carbine, magazine, .256-inch pattern 1907). By 1916, approximately 150,000 had been obtained, which were issued as training rifles and to the Royal Navy, Royal Flying Corps and other service troops so as to free up No. 1 Mk. III Lee Enfields for use by front line units.

While large quantities of 6.5mm Type 38 and 30 ammunition, known in British service as the cartridges, S.A., ball .256-inch Mark I and Mark II, were purchased from the Japanese, local manufacture was undertaken at J. Blanch & Son, Kynoch and the Royal Laboratory for both British and Russian orders. Another firm, Kings Norton Metal Company Ltd., assembled 6.5mm ammunition from components supplied by the Japanese.



**In 1917, the Czechoslovak Legion was formed in Russia from Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war. The Type 30 was one of the primary rifles of this elite unit, which was meant to prop up the faltering Russian war effort against the Central Powers.**



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As Lee Enfield production began to meet demand, the Arisakas were withdrawn from service and 128,000 were sent to the still-rifle-hungry Russians in 1916, where they saw service throughout the Great War, the Russian Revolution and the ensuing Civil War.

As an interesting aside, the British supplied quantities of Type 30 and 38 rifles to the Arab forces commanded by Colonel T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) who were fighting the Ottoman Turks in Arabia, Syria and Palestine. Reportedly, Lawrence was less than pleased with the rifles his forces received. Some of these Lawrence Type 30s reportedly showed up in the hands of Jewish Hashomer (settlement guards) in post-First World War Palestine.

Lastly, the Austro-Hungarians captured so many Type 30 rifles from their Russian foes that they issued them to rear echelon troops as the 6.5mm M.97 (japanische) Repeatinggewehr. When supplies of captured ammunition ran short, many Austrian Type 30s were re-chambered to fire the more readily available 6.5x54 Mannlicher-Sch"nauer cartridge.

Former Russian/British Type 30 rifles and carbines were acquired by Finland after they declared their independence from Russia in 1917. These saw service during the Finnish Civil War (1917 to 1918) and in 1919 the Finns supplied 10,000 Japanese rifles to nationalist forces in Estonia, who were still fighting the Bolsheviks. Type 30s were used by Finland's Civil Guards until the late 1920s, where they earned a good enough reputation that the Guard rebuilt many of them with new barrels ordered from SIG in Switzerland.

In 1928, Finland contracted with the Hamburg arms merchant, Benny Spiro, to sell their remaining Japanese rifles to Albania. What happened to them after that is anyone's guess. The new nation of Poland also obtained supplies of ex-Russian Arisaka rifles and used them during the Russo-Polish War of 1919 to 1920. Others found their way into the arsenals of various other states created after the collapse of the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires: Czechoslovakia, Lithuania and Latvia.

According to A.O. Edwards, among the miscellany of small arms provided to the Spanish Republicans by the Soviet Union in 1936, were several thousand Arisakas among which were, undoubtedly, numbers of Type 30 rifles.

In 1937, Japan began hostilities against China. They had been in de facto control of Manchuria (Manchukuo) since the 1920s and used the civil unrest in China as an excuse to expand their control over large sections of that civil war-torn nation. The Japanese allowed their puppet rulers in Manchuria to raise their own troops (who were usually poorly trained, lightly armed and of little real military value) and to equip them arranged for various Manchurian and Chinese arsenals, in addition to several indigenous companies, to manufacture the so-called North China Type 30 Carbine. While very similar to the standard Type 30 carbine, its dimensions were slightly different so as to accommodate the 7.9x57 cartridge.

The war in China forced Japan to expand their armed forces at a rapid rate, forcing them to utilize obsolete and captured weaponry to equip these troops. The situation was exacerbated when Japan entered the Second World War on the Axis side and arsenals were scoured for serviceable Type 30 rifles, which were usually issued for training purposes and to support units. But as the war progressed, and battlefield losses mounted, Type 30 rifles were issued to front line troops of all theatres of operations.

Late in the war, the Japanese navy arranged with the Izawa Firearms Manufactory, in Osaka, to assemble last-ditch rifles that combined Type 35 receivers with various parts from Type

30, 38, 99 and training rifles. They were fitted with several types of adjustable rear sights, in addition to simple fixed aperture sights. Known as the Substitute Type 02/45 rifle, somewhere between 5,000 to 7,000 were assembled in 1945.

In the post-war period, Arisakas, including Type 30s, continued to see wide use in Asia. Both Chinese Nationalist and Communist forces had captured many during the war, while surrendering Japanese forces turned over large numbers of rifles to the Chinese. These, and the Type 30s supplied to China earlier in the century, became an important part of the armament of both factions in the civil war that followed.

To the consternation of the Allies, many guerilla groups in southeast Asia who had been fighting the Japanese occupiers now turned their attention to the returning, and unwelcome, colonial powers and made good use of the ex-Japanese Type 30s in their possession. Arisakas of all models were widely used by the Communist Chinese and North Korean forces during the Korean conflict.

The Red Chinese shortened many of their Arisakas, including Type 30s, to carbine length and re-chambered them for the Soviet 7.62x39 cartridge. These were used by the Peoples Militia during the 1960s and 1970s.

## Test firing the Type 30

My good friend, and fellow author, Doss White, was kind enough to provide me with an early production Type 30 rifle from his personal collection. It was made at Koishikawa and, despite its age, it is in VG+ condition with a worn but bright bore.

Test firing was performed with Hornady's 6.5mm Japanese ammunition, provided by Graf & Sons, that are loaded with a 139-grain soft point bullet at velocities that approximate the Type 38 cartridge. At my gun club, I trekked out to the 100-yard backstop and set up a series of targets. Settling down behind the bench rest, I proceeded to fire a series of five-shot groups with a Doss rifle.

Its inverted V front blade and wide shallow V notch rear provided a less than optimal sight picture and I had some initial doubts about how well it would perform. But I was quickly forced to eat crow! This Type 30 was one the rifles that had its sights re-calibrated for the Type 38 cartridge and it produced a series of very respectable, well-centred groups. The smallest had five holes measuring a most impressive 2.5-inch pattern. While recoil was extremely soft, the test firing experience was somewhat marred by stiff bolt operation and occasional, incomplete ejection of spent cases.

Overall, I found the Type 30 a well-balanced, accurate rifle, comparable if not superior, to many of its contemporaries. The few shortcomings it displayed were corrected, and the subsequent Type 38 would go on to become one of the more prominent bolt-action battle rifles of the 20th century.

I would like to thank Doss White, Team Arisaka, Francis Al-ian, Tony Edwards, Dr. Robert Faltin, Fred Honeycutt, Markku Palokangas, Jeff Knowles, Friedrich Zettl, James West, Heino Hintermeier, Astrid Vallati, Brent Snodgrass, Hornady Mfg. and Graf & Sons for providing photos, materials and information used to prepare this article.

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# Are Firearms Wendigos?

*A wendigo is defined as a demonic spirit*

By Gary Mauser

**G**un violence is exaggerated in Statistics Canada reports, because Stats Can uses an absurd definition of firearms-related crime. Consider: if one drunk stabs another, Stats Can calls it a firearms-related crime if an old Lee Enfield is found in their basement. And it gets worse. Any violent attack on a hunter in his or her home – even if the attacker uses a baseball bat – is automatically classified as a firearms-related crime if there is a rifle locked up in the gun cabinet. Does that make any sense?

Absurd it may be, but that's how Statistics Canada defines firearms-related crime. It is clearly over-inclusive. Armed with this definition, Statistics Canada claims that gun violence is four times more frequent than it really is. In 2013 (the most recent year statistics are available) Statistics Canada reports that there were 5,027 firearms-related incidents out of 263,054 violent crimes. That equals two per cent of violent crimes.

Obviously, gun violence isn't prevalent. But even that small share grossly exaggerates the frequency that a gun was actually used to commit a violent crime. A special request I made to Statistics Canada late in 2014 revealed that a gun was actually used in just 1,194 (not 5,027) violent crimes in 2013. Gun violence only occurred in one-quarter of what Statistics Canada defines as firearms-related crimes, or in just half of one per cent of violent crimes.

Without knowing the definition, reporters readily confuse "firearms-related crimes" with actual gun misuse. Statistics Canada defines firearms-related crime as when "a gun is present during the commission of the crime." Just "present," not "used." This means that a crime may be "firearms-related" even though the gun was not directly involved in committing the crime or injuring the victim. All that is necessary is that a gun was found nearby.

In accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting rules, no matter what other weapons might be at the crime scene, if a firearm is among them it is automatically considered the most serious weapon present. Thus, if a firearm is recovered at the crime scene, even

if the victim was injured with another weapon, the incident is classified as firearms-related by Statistics Canada. The firearm may have even been stored for years in the basement and forgotten.

This definition of "firearms-related" violent crime is over-inclusive because it implies firearms are involved in criminal violence, even when they are not.

Statistics Canada justifies their definition by assuming that some victims, knowing that a firearm is in the house somewhere, could feel threatened by the possibility that the aggressor might go and get the gun. The mere existence of a firearm is considered intimidating. According to this view, a firearm is an implicit threat even if it is stored downstairs under lock and key. This is unreasonable. It means that millions of hunters and target shooters are automatically considered threatening. That's not rational. It is unwarranted to simply assume that all firearms, in any household or other environment, are a threat. In this formulation, a firearm is all but a wendigo.

**"Statistics are like  
bikinis. What they  
reveal is suggestive,  
but what they  
conceal is vital."**

**Professor Aaron Levenstein**

The Statistics Canada definition is ridiculously broad because it means that every violent crime committed in a gun-owning household automatically becomes a firearms-related crime. Regardless of the nature of the violent crime, all that is required to fall under the definition is for someone in the household to own a gun. The *Criminal Code* may define a firearm as a weapon, but in many homes a firearm is just another tool and may not be any more intimidating than a butcher knife or axe or baseball bat. While firearms may be

threatening in some situations, because quite clearly a gun can be used as a weapon, it is nevertheless unreasonable to automatically assume that all violent crimes committed in a household with a gun is firearms related.

An old rifle might only have been found by the police after a thorough search during a later investigation, but it still could be included as "present during the commission of the crime." It is excessive for Statistics Canada to decide that, because the victim could conceivably have imagined the firearm to be threatening, the crime automatically becomes firearms-related.

In order to understand the relationship between so-called firearms-related violent crime and the actual criminal misuse of firearms, I submitted a special request to Statistics Canada for data to be drawn from the UCR2 incident-based survey, (the Uniform Crime Survey is a microdata file) for 2009 through 2013.

Statistics Canada delivered a national survey drawn in January 2015 that included data from all provinces and territories in Canada, with the exception of Quebec. Quebec was excluded because of the unacceptably large proportion of incidents where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown in that province. This omission may be corrected at a later date.

As can be seen in this table, "firearms-related" crime is roughly four times greater than the frequency with which firearms were used to cause criminal injuries in each of the past five years.

Two distinct classifications are presented in this table: The Most Serious Weapon Present and Weapon Causing Injury. A firearm is classified as the Most Serious Weapon Present if a firearm is found at the scene during the commission of a violent crime, whether or not there are other weapons present. It is not the use of the weapon that is indicated by this element, but the presence of the most serious type of weapon. "Weapon" is defined as, "anything used or intended for use in causing or threatening death or injury to persons whether designed for such purpose or not." According to the Criminal Code, firearms are always

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	5-year Total
Violent crimes	323,758	322,481	299,671	288,783	263,054	
Firearm causing injury	1,882	1,457	1,317	1,371	1,194	7,221
Firearm present	7,322	6,007	5,707	5,768	5,027	29,831
Ratio of firearm causing injury/present	3.89	4.12	4.33	4.21	4.21	4.13

**Sources:** Violent crimes from "Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2013," *Juristat*;

"Most Serious Weapon Present" and "Weapon Causing Injury," from Special Request, UCR2, microdata file, extract drawn, January 2015.

See Table 1A on my website for a province-by-province comparison of Statistics Canada's firearms-related crime with the frequencies of the actual criminal misuse of a firearm ([www.sfu.ca/~mauser/Table1A](http://www.sfu.ca/~mauser/Table1A)).

weapons. This definition of "weapon" also includes the use of physical force and verbal or gestured threats of injury. A firearm is classified as the Weapon Causing Injury when the police identify a firearm as the weapon used in the commission of the violent crime.

Table 1: Comparing violent crimes where a firearm was present with violent crimes where the firearm caused injury.

## Conclusions

Statistics Canada has exaggerated the danger of guns by claiming that gun violence is four times more frequent than it really is. Their definition of firearms-related crime is far more inclusive

than is reasonable. This exaggeration may have contributed to the moral panic of government authorities, in encouraging them to support overly complicated and restrictive firearms laws.

The police also disagree with Stats Can's approach. Back in the 1990s, the RCMP protested the inflated statistics, arguing that the government was "misrepresenting RCMP firearms statistics by overstating the number of firearms involved in violent crimes."

On July 21, 1997, then RCMP Commissioner J.P.R. Murray wrote to the Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice, "It is of particular concern that the Minister of Justice and the Canadian Association

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of Chiefs of Police relied on these statistics while Bill C-68 was being processed in Parliament as evidenced by statements in the report, *'Illegal Firearm Use in Canada.'*" (See the 1998 news releases by Garry Breitkreuz, MP).

The bottom line is that Statistics Canada should abandon their over-inclusive definition of firearms related crime that exaggerates firearm misuse; they should adopt a more reasonable definition - one that reflects actual misuse and not just presence of firearms. If they did, we would all be safer.





## HK's Innovative & Little Known Squeeze Cocker

BY BOB CAMPBELL

From the SIG-produced Mauser pistols to the Polish Radom, I find handguns that are different immensely interesting. This has never been truer than when considering the German-built Heckler and Koch (HK) P7M8. The pistol was the product of West German police trials, but the initial groundwork began as early as 1971. The PSP (Polizei Selbstlade-Pistole, or Police Self-loading Pistol) was a result of West German police doctrine. The handgun had to be simple to operate and, while a manual safety was not necessarily mandated, safety features were desirable. The handgun that HK envisioned would also be relatively compact. While SIG later downsized the SIG P 220 into the P 225, the HK PSP was already compact. The overall length was 6.5 inches with a 4.1-inch barrel and a sight radius of six inches. The handgun is five inches tall and weighs a solid 30.5 ounces with its steel frame. The slide is low profile and the 110-degree grip angle fits most hands well. The grip is about 1.4 inches wide, with a relatively modest circumference.

The pistol's most prominent feature is the cocking lever on the front strap. This lever runs from the tip or foot of the magazine to just under the trigger

guard, which is about 2.5 inches. The cocking lever is the operating mechanism. The striker is held in place by a firing pin lock until the cocking lever is pressed. The trigger is also out of battery. When pressure is exerted to cock the handgun, the striker is fully cocked and protrudes from the rear of the slide. The trigger is now set for a single-action trigger press. My personal example features a crisp, short and controllable 2.8-pound trigger compression. The original pistol featured a European-style magazine release. The P7M8 features a paddle-type release. When the pistol is loaded, the magazine is slammed home and the cocking lever is depressed to drop the slide. The pistol is fast into action and fast to reload. I estimate over 10 pounds of pressure is needed to cock the lever, however, once cocked, little pressure is needed to keep the lever pressed - perhaps two pounds at the most. Trigger reach is less than three inches and trigger reset is rapid. If the cocking lever is released, the pistol is immediately made safe. The pistol is fully ambidextrous.

The three-dot sights and grooved slide top of the P7M8 are well done. The sights allow accurate fire well past

25 yards. The HK 9mm pistol uses a delayed blowback or gas-retarded action, unique in my experience. The barrel is fixed, which adds to the pistol's accuracy potential. The barrel is polygonal rifled. A good gas seal is necessary for this type of action to work. However, since lead bullets could clog the action, they must never be used in this handgun. A tiny port in the chamber bleeds gas to a piston on firing. The gas piston does not operate the action like an AR-15 rifle, but rather keeps the action closed on firing.

The piston limits rearward motion of the slide. After the bullet has exited the barrel, pressure abates and the slide recoils. Operation is then much like any other blowback pistol. I caution, though, that due to the gas system, the front of the dust cover heats up in firing drills. Gloves are recommended if you are firing more than 100 rounds during a range session. While there are certain drawbacks - a prohibition against lead bullets and the heating up of the receiver - P7M8 fans will hear no complaints. The pistol is very accurate.

The P7M8 is now out of production. A limiting factor is the time and skilled labour needed to produce such a com-



plicated but durable design. Some have stated that the HK P7M8 is the most reliable handgun in the world. Considering the service record of first quality handguns, such as the Beretta 92 and the SIG P226, not to mention the CZ 75, this is a strong statement. Just the same, there is much validity to the statement. The pistol listed at well over \$1,300 during its last few years in production and today the handgun is bringing top dollar on the used market, with good, clean examples beginning at some \$1,500 or more.

The test gun is a personal handgun I fire from time to time. For the purposes of this review, the handgun was field-stripped and lubricated prior to firing. Since the unique gas-retarded action precludes the use of +P ammunition, as well as lead bullet loads, the pistol was evaluated during several standard pressure loadings using jacketed bullets. The overall impression is one of excellent control. The pistol clears leather quickly due to the 110-degree grip design, it fits the hand well and the natural point is excellent. As the hand grasps the handle, the lever is cocked as the pistol comes on target. The trigger finger does not engage the trigger until we fire. The pistol lines up on target quickly with a natural point. The first-shot hit probability of the handgun is high. Once the first shot is fired, recoil is easily controlled and the pistol settles back in for fast repeat shots. The slim, eight-round magazine is easily changed quickly to keep the pistol in action.

I have fired this handgun with a good selection of the standard pressure 9mm Luger loads available. With perhaps 2,500 rounds over the course of a decade fired in the handgun, there have

been no failures to feed, chamber, fire or eject. +P loads should not be used, due to the nature of the gas-retarded/blowback design. I have fired a considerable quantity of the Fiocchi offerings in this handgun and found the accuracy to be good. These loads have also demonstrated a clean powder burn.

The 115-grain Extrema has proven a good performer. The 123-grain Combat FMJ load is one of my all-time favourite loads for achieving the best accuracy from service-grade handguns. The Fiocchi 124-grain Extrema load is also a good performer. I have also found the new SIG SAUER 124-grain JHP gives good accuracy and a clean powder

burn. This isn't a handgun I am likely to experiment with, but I have also worked up a practice handload with the Nosler 115-grain JHP and enough WW 231 for 1,040 feet per second. Accuracy ranges from good to outstanding.

When firing the pistol on a demanding combat course, the HK P7M8 leaves nothing to be desired. The handgun's all-steel construction results in excellent control. The pistol is fast on target. The low-bore axis and excellent, crisp, short and light trigger action results in excellent hit probability. There is no handgun faster into action and more controllable in 9mm calibre, per my experience. The handgun was

also designed to allow top-grade accuracy in case it was used in hostage rescue duty. Perhaps the P7M8 is owned simply because we can, or for pride of ownership. The pistol is accurate, reliable and, if properly cared for, should last a generation or more.

<b>Loading</b>	<b>Five shot groups, 25 yards</b>
Fiocchi 115-grain Extrema	Two inches
Fiocchi 124-grain Extrema	1.9 inches
Fiocchi 147-grain JHP	2.3 inches
Nosler 115-grain JHP handload	2.25 inches

<b>Early Model P7 accuracy groups</b>	
Fiocchi 115-grain Extrema	2.25 inches
Fiocchi 123-grain Combat FMJ	1.8 inches



The author has fired a considerable quantity of the Fiocchi offerings in this handgun and found the accuracy to be good.

When firing the pistol on a demanding combat course, the HK P7M8 leaves nothing to be desired. The handgun's all-steel construction results in excellent control. The pistol is fast on target. The low-bore axis and excellent, crisp, short and light trigger action results in excellent hit probability.

# Comparing The Isosceles & Weaver Stances

## Which one is the most effective?

Isosceles or weaver? Each style has its proponents, and there are those who like both. Count me among them. While the isosceles stance is not as stable as the weaver, interviews and debriefings with survivors of gunfights show that almost every time the shooter who came out on top used the former.

This is not to imply that the weaver is a bad thing; it certainly is not. What it does imply is that the isosceles is a more natural stance. When faced with a threat (such as incoming rounds), almost anyone will automatically, or reflexively, assume a crouching position. This is a natural, defensive reaction. Remember the FBI or police crouch? I am reluctant to use the word “instinct,” because there is very little that’s instinctive about shooting, *per se*. As we all know, shooting is a series of learned skills, like just about anything else we do.

What is instinctive, however, is self-preservation and self-defence. The advantage of teaching shooters to use the isosceles stance is that they will automatically, through learned movement or muscle memory, assume a reactive position that makes them a

smaller target. And as they crouch, their gun is coming up to acquire the target, in line with their eyes. Refer to the 1-2-3-4-5 presentation method taught to handgunners. On 4, the gun acquires the target; on 5, the sights are locked on. Whether or not a shot needs to be fired depends on the target’s reaction to the above, of course.

So what about the weaver? We know that it is a more stable launching platform for a slow, carefully aimed shot. We also know that it requires more practice to assume naturally, and in a critical situation time is one thing we don’t have.

This writer prefers the weaver when target shooting, or otherwise trying for maximum accuracy. When defensive shooting is the order of the day, however, I usually go with the isosceles.

A while back, I had occasion to put a Ruger Blackhawk in .44 Magnum through its paces. Not having fired this particular gun before, and having stoked it with full-power factory loads, I took a firm grip (weaver, naturally) and touched it off from a standing position at 25 yards. Round three was a called flier due to operator error (I in-

advertently tweaked the trigger prematurely – it wasn’t a flinch) that printed about four inches to the right (embarrassing). However, the other five rounds clustered into a three-inch group, four of which were in the 10 ring and the other was in the nine ring.

As I commented to the gun’s owner, I surprised myself, as well as him and his female companion. I can usually do the above-mentioned type of performance from 15 yards with reasonable regularity, but not always from 25. I attribute my score to the weaver stance, and of course the three fundamentals: grip (it was tight), sight alignment and, apart from the one exception, trigger control.

So there are my thoughts on the matter of stance, for whatever they are worth. I have never fired a shot in anger, and never want to. However, should such occasion arise, I will be using the afore-mentioned points, hopefully to good effect.

In the meantime, I will be doing a lot of shooting at inanimate targets for recreational/educational purposes, and the same points will probably continue to work for me, as they have done for many years.

By Marc Evans

PHOTOS BY AL VOTH



The isosceles stance.



The weaver stance.





*- Gear Review -*

# CanadaAmmo DA50 50 BMG Upper Receiver Kit

BY DEAN ROXBY

*Whenever* talk turns to the mighty 50 BMG round, as well as rifles for it, the natural reaction is to grimace at the extreme cost. Not anymore. A new rifle on the Canadian market is turning that idea on its head. CanadaAmmo has just introduced a moderately priced 50 BMG system to Canadian shooters.

Technically, the Dominion Arms DA50 is an "upper" that mates to the lower half of the AR-15 style of rifle. So, as long as you already own an AR of some sort, this barrel and upper assembly will allow you to convert your semi-auto to a single-shot, bolt-action 50.

The idea of a 50 BMG upper is not new, as there are several small, independent gun makers in the US currently doing the same. What sets this version apart from the rest is that it is CNC machined here in Canada, so no import/US export nonsense to deal with. And far less paperwork and time delays

translates into less cost. With a price of \$1,600, this brings the big 50 within reach of many more shooters.

CanadaAmmo, in partnership with Michael Qian, have been working on this project for about a year. It is available by ordering online at [CanadaAmmo.com](http://CanadaAmmo.com), or through the CanadaAmmo dealer network.

The bulk of the unit is machined in Ontario, Canada. However, the barrel blanks are from Mossberg (Mossberg supplies barrels for the US military) in the US, and some smaller MIM (Metal Injection Moulded) parts are from overseas. The unit is shipped in a hard plastic gun case.

By utilizing your existing AR lower, this conversion kit does not need a trigger and fire control group, butt stock assembly, pistol grip, etc. This obviously helps to keep the price down, as well. However, a stronger spring and heavier

hammer will be required to ignite the harder 50 BMG primers. These parts are included in the conversion kit.

Of course, as the AR lower is the serial numbered and therefore registered/restricted part, the combination can only be fired on an approved rifle range. And that means a range that has been blueprinted for 50 BMG use by the authorities. This raises the obvious question: Can a non-restricted lower be designed? There are plans underway at the moment to do just that. No details yet, but it is being discussed.

It must be noted that this is not a drop-in conversion. Some tinkering is required. There is interference between the bolt hold open device found on the AR lower and the 50 upper. So the HOD will have to be removed prior to assembly. This involves drifting out a roll pin. Also, the buffer and buffer spring need to be removed from the buffer tube, to





The complete package.



Although the recoil is certainly present, it's manageable.

## The Lee Classic Cast 50 BMG press kit.

allow the new 50 BMG bolt body to retract during use. This requires a small retaining pin to be removed, as well. The bolt head must be removed from the bolt body to allow the bolt body to be inserted from the rear. The bolt head is placed in the bolt raceway from the right-hand side, and then secured to the body by threading the bolt handle into both parts. And, as mentioned above, the hammer and hammer spring will have to be exchanged. These are straight forward jobs, but they must be addressed. Once these parts have been removed, it is a simple matter to mate the new upper to the existing lower via the two takedown pins.

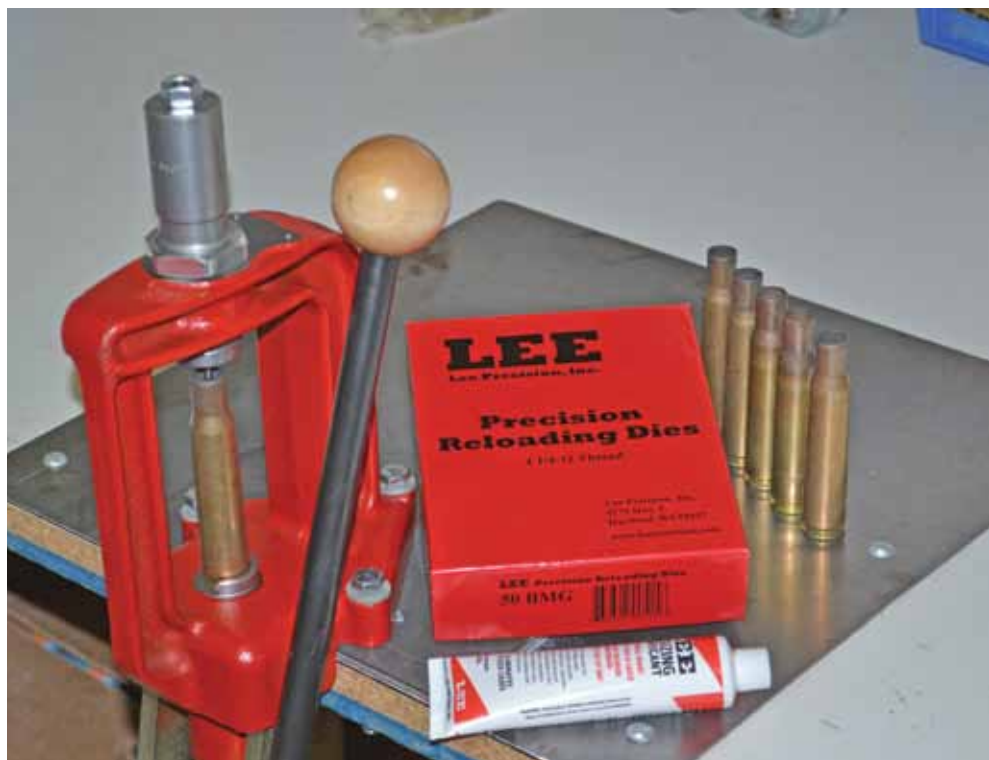
The appearance is very pleasing. The fit and finish is good, with no annoying machining marks or sharp edges. The edges of the receiver are all very gently rounded, giving a very refined look. Of course, the Picatinny rail does have sharp corners, as they all do. The aluminum shroud that has the full length Pic rail (and three short ones also) is machined from one extrusion and is very stable. This is vital, as the short Pic rail at six o'clock is meant for mounting a bipod. The aluminum forend is anodized black. It does not perfectly match the near-black Nitriding finish of the steel parts, but the combination looks fine, regardless.

Two design matters need to be discussed. First, the extractor is built into the bolt head, and rotates with the bolt

## The receiver and disassembled bolt.

head during lock up. This results in a small amount of brass being shaved off the case head each time a round is chambered. Shiny spots are clearly visible on the cases after chambering and subsequent ejection. The second issue is the lack of primary extraction. The way the bolt and receiver are designed mean that the bolt goes fully forward, then rotates downwards exactly 90

degrees to lock up. Many bolt actions have a slight camming motion built in, which gives tremendous leverage upon closing and opening of the action. If the case is slightly oversize, this camming motion will force the round into place. And the same effect is very helpful to extract sticky cases after firing. Unfortunately, the DA50 lacks this feature, so I encountered a few sticky cases during





my range time. This is not a deal breaker, but must be noted.

So how does it feel to fire the mighty 50? Very satisfying! It certainly comes back with some authority, but it is not punishing. Partially as a result of the substantial weight of the unit (20 pounds), and even more due to the very efficient muzzle brake, the recoil is very manageable. The brake is a large, three baffle "shark gill" design that grabs and redirects much of the expanding gases as they exit the barrel. It does not dramatically increase the noise to the shooter, but standing alongside the shooter is an experience!

During the first two range days, the rifle was fired by full-size men. The third outing was for a YouTube video this author was working on, and I brought a young female shooter along. Marie had fired some firearms before, and was eager to try the DA50, but was also a bit apprehensive. After her first shot, she was thrilled! She welcomed the chance to fire a second and a third round, and mentioned she was grateful to have the opportunity to do so. Marie also earned the respect of the others watching.

As I had limited time to test it, I was not able to really wring it out to test its

## - Gear Review -

ultimate accuracy. I was using re-manufactured military surplus ammunition, and didn't have a solid shooting foundation set up. So my three-inch groups at 100 metres are not a true indicator of what this may be capable of. This is where handloads, tailored to a specific gun, come into play.

Lee Precision Inc. makes a very reasonably priced reloading press for the 50 BMG cartridge. The Lee Classic Cast 50 BMG press kit includes the press, a die set, shell holder and primer seater especially for the larger 50 BMG primers.

The Lee Classic Cast press is an O-style press, made from a one-piece cast iron casting. The O-style design allows for great strength and no flex during case sizing. This is vital, as the sizing operation place great strain on the unit. And the mighty 50 BMG case will require even more pressure to resize.

The Classic Cast 50 kit is a fantastic value, as it contains not just the press, but a set of two dies (full length resizing and bullet seater) and other bits noted above. The dies need to be oversize to accommodate the large 50 BMG case.

Rather than the industry standard thread pattern of 7/8"-14 for ordinary cartridges, these dies are significantly larger, requiring a thread pattern of 1 1/8"-12. (That means the body is one-and-a-quarter inches in diameter, with 12 threads per inch.) Naturally, the press is threaded for the same. However, the kit also includes a bushing to allow regular 7/8"-14 size dies, making this a very versatile set up.

With a MRSP of \$370 US for everything, this is great value, as other brands can charge that or more just for the 50 BMG die set alone. And with some US online retailers advertising prices around \$220 US, it gets better! While ammunition components are ITAR controlled (do not bring components across the border yourself), reloading equipment is exempted. Or, support your local Canadian gun store. Higginson Powder is the Lee importer and many dealers carry the Lee line.

Between the CanadaAmmo DA50 upper and the Lee Classic 50 press, you could be set up and ready to shoot for right around \$2,000 CAN. (This assumes that you already have an AR-15 and some suitable optics lying around.) This, my friends, is a big deal! It would seem that others agree, as well, as the first 50 units sold out very soon after being announced.

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Team NFA

Patrick Haynes, National Pistol Coach and SFC VP-High Performance

## 2015 Pan Am Games Shooting Preparations

The shooting sports have been a part of the modern Olympics since its inception in 1896 in Athens. Canada didn't officially participate until 1908, where two Canadians took home medals. Walter Henry Ewing and George Beattie won gold and silver, respectively, in trap. Over the years, the competition has grown and developed, becoming more fierce with each Games. Currently, there are 15 Olympic gold medal events (rifle, pistol and shotgun) to be contested. Shooting is also a Paralympic sport, with 12 gold medals (rifle and pistol) up for grabs. Each nation has a sport-specific governing body and Canada's Olympic shooting body is the Shooting Federation of Canada.

Canada is currently developing its crop of Olympic athletes for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A significant milestone on that journey is the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Ont., taking place from July 10 to 26. Over the years, the Pan Am Games has become Canada's best opportunity for winning quotas (or entries) to the Olympics. When an athlete shoots well, he or she obtains a quota spot for the home country. This entitles the governing body to determine who will represent the country in that event. It may be the quota winner, or another athlete, depending on their criteria. Historically, when Canada has an Olympic quota, we hold a selection match for our eligible national team members.

Team Canada's primary push started at the Championships of the Americas (CAT Games) in Guadalajara, Mexico, in October 2014. Unlike previous years, these Games determined how many spots each country would have available to them at this year's Pan Am Games. The Shooting Federation of Canada fielded a team, which was in part sponsored by the National Firearms Association. Through the NFA's sponsorship, we were able to increase our athlete support staff by bringing a team physiotherapist, an essential and costly service. While we didn't win any individual medals at the Games, Canada won team gold in the women's 25-metre pistol

event, and team silver in women's trap. This showed that Canada had depth in our teams. As a result of these showings, Canada was awarded 25 starts at the Pan Am Games. All we needed to do was determine which Canadians would fill those spots.

To make sure that Canadian athletes were prepped and ready to compete for those spots, the SFC held training camps around North America. The camps were held across America (Puerto Rico, Miami, Colorado Springs and Fort Benning) and Canada (Calgary, Winnipeg, Kitchener and Toronto), to match the training needs with our athletes. After the camps, selections matches following stringent international standards were held. Fort Benning, home of the Army Marksmanship Unit, was the site for rifle and pistol selections. Trap and skeet travelled to Tucson, Ariz., for their selections. For the majority of these events, in addition to international competitions, our athletes self-fund to represent Canada.

As of writing this article, Canada's Pan Am Games Shooting Team has been nominated to the Canadian Olympic Committee for approval. Sport Canada has invested over \$5 million in a legacy shooting facility in Cookstown, north of Toronto. This will be the home of Canada's High Performance Shooting Centre, after the Games. At this stage, we're all waiting for the opening ceremonies to finish, so we can represent Canada at the range.



**Pictured, from left to right:**  
**Patrick Haynes,**  
**Pat Boulay, Elizabeth**  
**Gustafson, Linda Thom**  
**(Olympic gold medalist**  
**1984), Lea Wacowich**  
**and Lynda Kiejko.**

# Politics & Guns

Gary K. Kangas

## Canadians Using Guns

Putting personal security at risk, driven by ideology

The controversy inspired by NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair stating that gun ownership encourages vigilantism, and former Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant commenting that self-defense is illegal and is vigilantism, is just plain wrong. As some commentators have suggested, "What can they be thinking?"

Other progressives have begun to beat the drum and attacking gun ownership and vigilante acts. The progressive's theory is that Canadians have never had a history of using firearms for self-defense. This misguided premise is totally false.



Pictured, Aubrey Westinghouse and his 1911 .45 Colt ASP.

There are many incidents, both current and in the past, that refutes the non-defense concept.

One of the finest examples is an occurrence dating to the early part of the 20th century that unfolded in New Hazelton, BC.

In November 1913, robbers struck the Union Bank of Canada at New Hazelton, late in the day. They murdered the teller, Jock McQueen, and took the bookkeeper hostage. They escaped with \$16,000. A posse was formed to track the bandits, but they could not be found.

A second robbery occurred on April 7, 1914, mid-morning. An ethnic gang of Russians, numbering seven men, walked up the main street of New Hazelton to the Union Bank of Canada. The seventh man stationed himself outside the bank, pulled a rifle from underneath his long coat and began firing random shots on the street. The other six were in the bank with guns drawn on teller Robert Bishop and bookkeeper Ray Fenton. Bishop and Fenton could not open the safe, as the manager Barrie Tatchell had not yet arrived.

Tatchell was near the bank when the lookout fired on the street. At that moment, Bishop and Fenton dropped to the floor. Across the street, Tatchell sounded the alarm and alerted two more residents of the town, Dan (Doc) Mclean, the local Presbyterian minister, and Ben (Arizona) Smith, the owner of a boarding house. The trio opened fire on the bank. Two of the thieves died at the scene, a third was mortally wounded and subsequently passed away. Three more were captured. The seventh miscreant escaped, only to be arrested some time later. One of the bank employees had a small scratch after the altercation. The instant actions of the three townspeople likely saved the bank employees' lives, as the gang that had robbed the bank prior was the same gang that robbed it the second time and they were not above the use of lethal force and murder to gain their ends. This is possibly the very best example of community policing and citizens defending themselves.

When the BC police arrived, they proceeded with the investigation to apprehend



This is a picture of the Bisley Colt .45 revolver, carried by Charles Williams.

the robber that had escaped. When seconds count, the police can be minutes or even hours away. Those first few seconds can be the difference between grievous injury or life and death. The question is sometimes asked, "Why do citizens want to carry a gun?" Because a policeman is too heavy to carry!

From the beginning of European immigration to this date, firearms have been an integral part of Canada's population. The Hudson's Bay men traded guns to the First Nations for furs. Frontiersmen, First Nations and settlers owned firearms to fill the cook pot, compete with and defend themselves.

Early Canada sets the tone of Canadian culture. The French settlements beginning in the 1600s required that every household have a musket for defense. Canadian First Nations eagerly traded for the new European technology. Canadian culture throughout the 1600s, 1700s and 1800s, as well as the first three quarters of the 20th century, was based on the free, legal use of firearms. In the 1970s, the progressives decided that legal firearms owners could not be trusted. Criminals, however, can be trusted. They are not trained, have no licenses and do not care where they shoot.

Firearms are uncovered and ongoing, having been owned and used by Canadians, and have the provenance to verify their history. Just a few examples are the 1851 Navy Colt, carried by the Post Master of Orangeville, Ont., David Hall. Hall carried this firearm on his person from 1864 to the early 1870s. Charles Williams of Shell Lake, Sask., carried a Bisley Colt .45 calibre revolver in a double loop holster from 1910 to 1916. Aubrey Westinghouse, a Canadian bush pilot, began flying in the early 1930s and flew to the early 1980s. Westinghouse carried a 1911 .45 Colt ACP during his flying career.

The progressives attempt to convince everyone that Canada has never been a great firearms-owning nation and that self-defense has never been employed. The Criminal Code of Canada states that Canadians do have the right of self-defense. The *Canadian Constitution* guarantees us the security of person by legal means. It does not suggest what we employ. Canadians do have the right to self-defense, and defending others is historically correct and fact. For women and seniors, it becomes even more apparent. For someone who does not have the physical strength to resist, they become victims. There are many examples of females and seniors being brutally assaulted and murdered, simply because they did not have the means to protect themselves. The Montreal Massacre is likely the best example of individuals not being able to defend themselves. If

there had have been one well-trained, armed young woman there, the massacre would not have been able to proceed. When the police arrived, they did nothing until the shooting had stopped. The whole question is not about vigilantism - it is about being secure in our surroundings, whether it is on the street, in school, outdoors or in an individual's own home. The right to self-defense in all actual fact; is not bestowed by any individual or government entity. It is a natural right.



An 1851 Navy Colt and a picture of its owner, David Hall.

PHOTO'S FROM THE AUTHOR'S COLLECTION



# NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

## *Ken Water's Pet Loads*

*Complete Volume from Handloader*

### ***Ken Waters' Pet Loads***

***Complete Volume from Handloader***

**Author: Ken Waters**

**Publisher: Wolfe Publishing Company,  
Prescott, Ariz.**

**Soft cover, published in 2008, eight-  
and-a-half by 11 inches, 1,166 pages,  
black and white photographs**

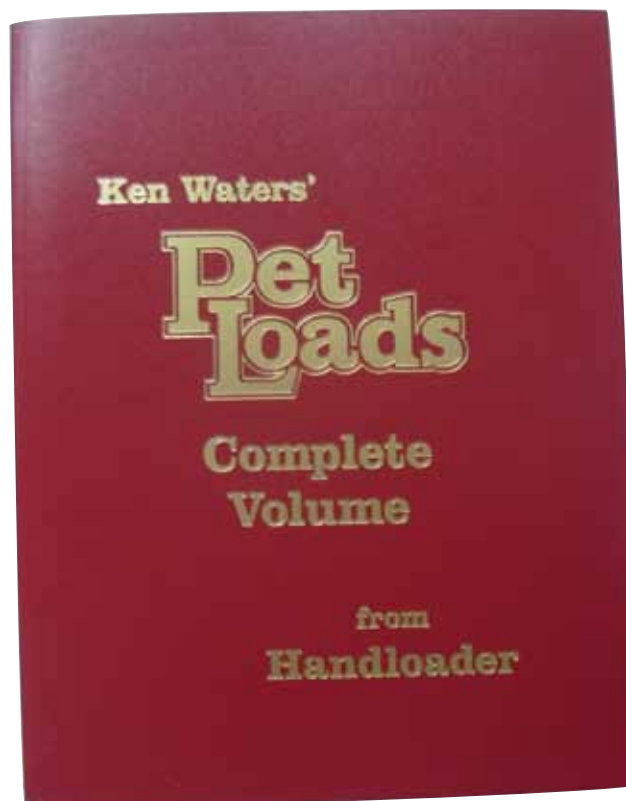
**ISBN: 1-879356-64-3**

Ken Waters has long been known and respected for his highly detailed articles related to the handloading of numerous rifle and handgun cartridges. *Gun Digest* first published Waters' articles in 1954, followed by *Shooting Times* and *Handloader* magazines.

*Pet Loads* was originally published in 1978, after years of requests by shooting enthusiasts. It consisted of a large number of Waters' most sought-after articles bound into a single volume. Copies quickly found their way onto loading benches across the continent and owners have consulted them extensively for years.

Wolfe Publishing worked alongside Waters to update the two previous editions of *Pet Loads* by adding over 40 additional articles. The table of contents lists specific articles on .38 handgun cartridges, plus 150 rifle cartridges ranging from the 18 Bee to the .50-70 Govt. Updated articles on several cartridges are included, as the introduction of new powders and bullets provided handloaders with additional opportunities to develop and test loads.

Included in *Pet Loads* and listed at the end of the table of contents are 17 articles related to specific topics such as, *Developing Pet Loads: Ken Waters' methods for judging pressure*. Each reflects Waters' efforts to create and maintain highly detailed and accurate records of his cartridge loading activities.



Selecting your favourite cartridge from the table of contents is simple, as they are listed by calibre, smallest to largest, rifle first and handgun second. The page number is shown, which allows you to quickly locate the specific article in this massive publication.

My eyes quickly focused on .257 Roberts (update), The return of the .257 Roberts, as it is one of my favourite cartridges for both target shooting and deer hunting. Waters outlines a brief history of the development of the cartridge by Ned Roberts and praises the versatility of the round

and its superiority to the .250-3000 Savage. In-depth discussion regarding availability of powders and bullets culminates in a chart itemizing numerous loads for 20 different bullets.

As well as the standard information listed in a loading manual, Waters advises of cartridge case expansion (normal, near max, maximum) that reflects both safety and case life implications. Waters also makes many comments based on his own experience such as, "favourite big game load in .257" and, "very accurate; fine antelope load." Sharing such knowledge has allowed handloaders to save a great deal of powder, bullets and time.

*Pet Loads* was recommended for review by a good friend of mine, who refers to his worn copy on a regular basis. As an avid shooter, hunter and handloader, Ed has learned from experience that consulting Waters' book before developing a new load for a specific cartridge is always a wise decision.

Purchasers of *Pet Loads* will quickly realize that this is not a coffee table book. It is intended to sit on the loading bench as a reference to enhance both safety and the quality of handloaded cartridges. Copies will soon be book marked, highlighted and have owner's comments scribbled in the margins.

Waters refers to Ned Roberts and Colonel Townsend Whelen, whom he knew personally, as his mentors. He has followed their tradition of sharing his findings with shooters everywhere. Ken Waters' *Pet Loads* retails at Wolfe Publishing for \$60, which represents excellent value.

JIM SHOCKEY

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