

July/August 2016

# CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***



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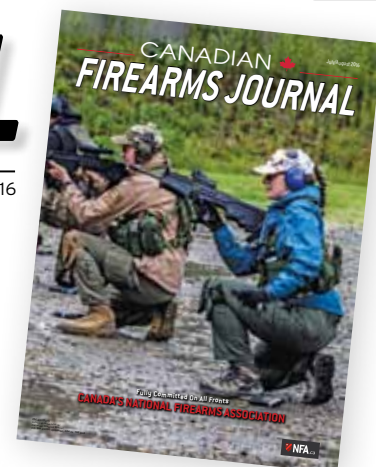
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# CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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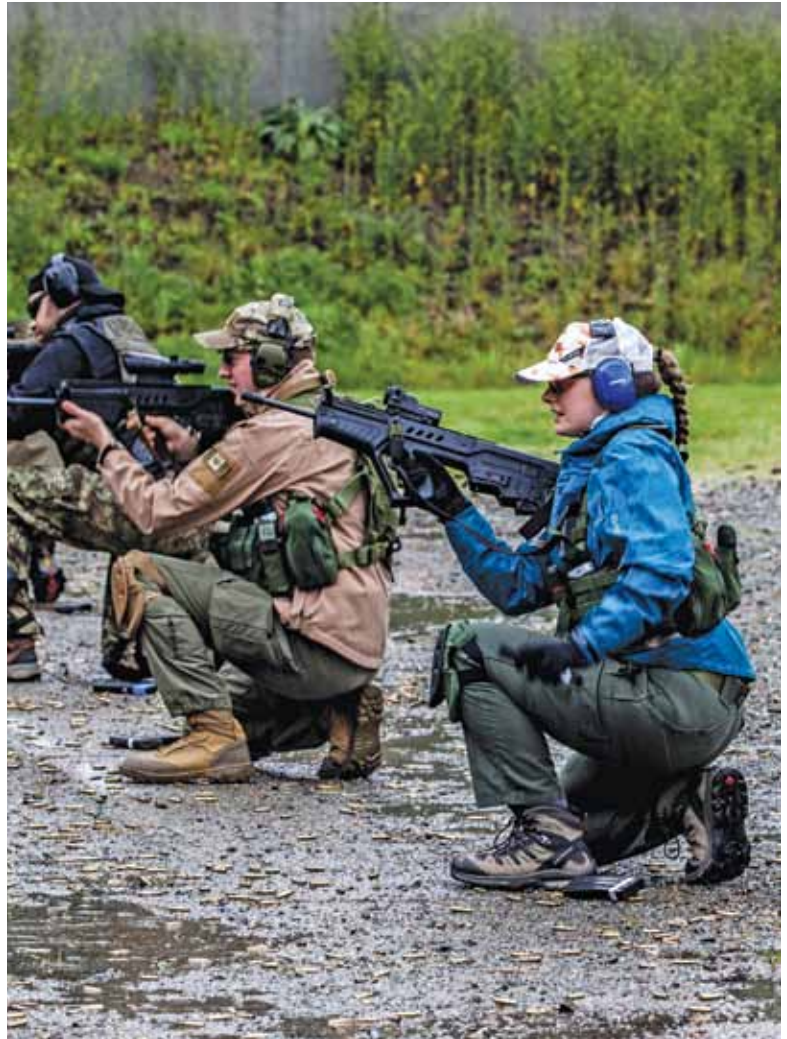


# On The Cover

## TAVOR Training Course

Photo by Graeme Foote

This month's cover comes via the talents of photographer Graeme Foote. It shows shooters getting in on the action at a recent TAVOR training course. As you can tell by the rain, this one was held in the Lower Mainland area of British Columbia. These courses are held regularly at various locations in Canada, under the sponsorship of [www.zahal.com](http://www.zahal.com). They even bring in Israeli instructors. These courses are one example of the numerous firearms training opportunities available in Canada every summer.



**Canadian Firearms Journal**  
The Official Magazine of



**NFA**

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NATIONAL  
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# From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

## Summer Is Upon Us Again

This is it, July and August, the heart of Canada's summer. Of course, it'll go by too quickly, but while it lasts be sure to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Canadians are blessed to live in a country with no shortage of outdoor opportunities.

Naturally, readers of this magazine will be taking a gun or two along on any outdoor adventures. But you won't be taking handguns, because our government doesn't trust us to be responsible with them at any location other than a shooting range. After all, if we're trustworthy enough to manage a handgun on a crowded range, don't you think we could be trusted to handle one in the wilderness? Kevin Wilson looks at that state of affairs and explains why, instead of saving lives, this policy is costing them.

Summer is also a great time to take a shooting course or two, and Lowell Strauss gives us a tour of one of Rob Furlong's precision rifle courses. Having taken one of Rob's courses myself, I can verify Lowell's recommendation that these are great learning opportunities, and a whole lot of fun, as well. Too many Canadian shooters have never had the benefit of taking formal skill training, and if that's your case, it's something you should rectify. We have a lot of skilled trainers in Canada, and whether you shoot rifle, handgun or shotgun, a formal training course from an accomplished instructor is something that needs to be on your bucket list.

Ed Osborne is back, with a look at the Heavy Metal Division of 3-Gun, and the gear needed to play in that category. Big guns are needed, but we all know that the bigger the gun, the more fun. And with all that running around the ranges, Jeff Helsdon reminds us, with an article on footwear for shooters, that for top perfor-

mance we need to be mindful of what's on our feet. Good advice. Hunters pay a lot of attention to footwear and range shooters should, too.

For those who like the old guns, Bob Shell tells us a bit about the confusing world of .455 calibre British revolver cartridges, and how to handload for old boomers like the 455 Eley. I doubt there's a cartridge in the world Bob hasn't loaded for. He tells me he can even teach me how to make ammunition for my antique Dutch KNIL revolver.

Of course, we have gear reviews. In this issue, the Dagger SAP 6 shotgun, the HK Mark 23 pistol and Mossberg's Flex 500 system all get a close look.

There's lots of political commentary, as well, from Bruce Gold, Gary Mauser and Chris McGarry. Enjoy the issue, and let me know what think of it. It's your magazine.



Besides range shooting, summer is also a great time for varmint hunting.





# President's Message

Sheldon Clare

## Advocacy & Challenge

With the election of the Trudeau government, we are faced with a government that is, at best, uncommunicative, and at worst, downright unfriendly. The test balloon of S-223 from a now-retired Liberal senator, which outlined a whole new regime of terror for firearms owners, was something that needed to be stopped - thanks very much for calling and writing the senators and your MPs. It looked a lot like the tactic of Kim Campbell and her bill C-80, which preceded C-17 and died on the order paper after much protest by the firearms community. We will all need to be ready for what is next.

The new situation, coupled with the attempt at re-establishing a provincial registry in Quebec with Bill 64, means that we are in need of stepping up our lobbying and advocacy. We have already been leading with presentations to the Quebec National Assembly, and in reaching out to the CPC opposition with our concerns and ideas. Legal team member, lawyer Guy Laverne, has been directed to prepare to challenge Bill 64, and we have been preparing NFA draft materials to challenge the Quebec government.

In order to support our needs in preventing any bad legislation from moving forward and to get our message out, we have contracted Fred Delorey to serve as our communications consultant. Fred brings extensive experience in political and media communications and a solid range of connections in both government and opposition on Parliament Hill. He has already hit the ground running with efforts on Bill S-223, and is working on a strategic plan to move our efforts forward. He is our designated lobbyist and will be promoting the NFA agenda. A key part of that agenda will be to limit

damage by the Trudeau government and to better acquaint the opposition with our potential value to them.

We have a need to strengthen our relationships with the CPC by ensuring that they see our value much more than they have in the past three years, and especially prior to the election. It should be perfectly clear to even the most jaded observer that the elimination of the long gun registry was not enough. There needs to be fundamental reform to our firearms laws. More incremental tinkering is not going to resolve the problem. The problems created by successive governments remain, and thus there needs to be a serious effort to repeal the bad laws and regulations contained within the terrible legislation from those ancient bills C-17 and C-68.

Also, we are continuing to build bridges with our friends and to encourage more interest in the shooting sports generally. We are keeping an eye on the legal front. As well, I am pleased to report that we now offer liability insurance for firearms and hunting instructors, which includes live firing. It isn't business insurance, but covers instructors who are earning up to a set amount per year teaching courses related to firearms handling and use, including hunter safety courses. We think it's a good product and we hope you will agree. The office has the details.

Thanks for your messages of support and donations. Make sure you get in on the new donation draw for the rifle. Keep working hard to advance the cause.



**Legal team member, lawyer Guy Laverne, has been directed to prepare to challenge Bill 64, and we have been preparing NFA draft materials to challenge the Quebec government.**

# Rapport du Président

Sheldon Clare

## Nouveaux défis et lobbying

Suite à l'élection du Gouvernement Trudeau nous devons faire face à une administration qui est au mieux peu communicative et au pire plutôt hostile. Le Projet de Loi S-223 qui fût lancé comme test par une Sénatrice récemment retraitée devait être arrêté à tout prix. Il tentait d'établir un nouveau régime de terreur auprès des propriétaires d'armes à feu. Nous sommes reconnaissants que vous ayez écrit à vos Sénateurs et Députés. Cette tactique nous a rappelé le Projet de Loi C-80 de Kim Campbell qui a précédé C-17. C-80 est mort au feuilletton après qu'il y ait eu beaucoup de plaintes de la part de la communauté intéressée par les armes à feu. Aujourd'hui nous devons nous méfier de l'avenir.

La nouvelle situation politique Fédérale et les efforts du Québec pour ré-établir un registre Provincial avec leur Projet de Loi 64 créent un climat qui nous obligent à augmenter nos efforts de lobbying. Nous sommes en tête de file en ce qui a trait aux actions de lobbying. Au Québec, Me Guy Lavergne dirige l'équipe juridique de l'ACAF dans son opposition au Projet de Loi 64. Nous avons d'ailleurs déjà fait plusieurs présentations sur ce sujet à l'Assemblée Nationale, et à cette fin d'autres documents juridiques sont toujours en préparation. Nous sommes en communication avec l'opposition officielle Fédérale, le PCC, avec qui nous partageons nos idées et nos inquiétudes.

Pour empêcher que de mauvaises lois soient déposées et pour assurer la transmission de notre message nous avons engagé les services d'un consultant en communications du nom de Fred Delorey. Fred a beaucoup d'expérience dans le domaine de la politique et des médias. Il a aussi beaucoup de contacts sur la Colline Parlementaire autant au sein du Gouvernement que dans l'Opposition. Il s'est mis immédiatement à l'oeuvre pour combattre le Projet de Loi S-223 et travaille pour développer une stratégie pour défendre nos intérêts. Il est notre lobbyiste officiel et fera la promotion de notre programme. Un des éléments clé de ce programme sera de limiter les dommages qui seront causés par le Gouvernement Trudeau et de faire connaître notre valeur potentielle à l'Opposition Officielle. Nous devons renforcer notre relation avec le PCC pour nous assurer qu'ils nous reconnaissent à notre juste valeur comparativement aux trois dernières années et en particulier juste avant les élections. Il devrait être évident, même auprès des observateurs les plus blasés, que l'élimination du registre des armes longues n'était pas suffisant. Il doit y avoir un changement fondamental à nos lois sur les armes à feu, les ajustements mineurs ne

pourront jamais régler le problème. Les problèmes de fond créés par plusieurs Gouvernements successifs demeurent. Il doit y avoir un effort réel pour abroger les anciennes Lois affreuses qui sont les Lois C-17 et C-68 ainsi que tous les règlements qu'elles contiennent.

Notre attention est toutefois concentrée sur l'aspect juridique, vu le climat politique actuel

Nous avons aussi continué de cultiver nos relations avec nos amis et faisons la promotion des sports de tir en général. Notre attention est toutefois concentrée sur l'aspect juridique, vu le climat politique actuel. Je suis heureux de vous annoncer que nous offrons maintenant une assurance responsabilité civile aux instructeurs de tir et de chasse qui protègent aussi lors de tir actif. Ce n'est pas une assurance d'affaire, elle est conçue pour protéger les instructeurs qui gagnent un salaire défini par l'assurance lorsqu'ils enseignent le maniement d'armes à feu ainsi que les programmes de formation sur la sécurité des chasseurs. Nous croyons que c'est un bon produit, nous souhaitons que vous serez du même avis. Notre bureau chef pourra vous donner toutes les informations que vous aurez besoin.

Merci pour vos messages d'encouragement et pour vos dons - assurez vous de participer au tirage qui vous permettra de gagner une carabine. Continuons de travailler fort pour notre cause.





# Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

## Our Canada - Not Theirs

Sometimes it feels like the shooter's curse is to be perpetually paranoid and pessimistic, especially for those who care about the political and cultural manifestations that affect the Canadian tradition and right of firearms ownership. Canadians who participate in our firearms heritage have been under sustained attack by the civil disarmament lobby, politicians, bureaucrats and the media for almost 50 years.

We've had round after round of freedom-destroying and confiscatory legislation visited on us, and vast media campaigns of vilification. But we are still here. The disarmament lobby hates who we are and what we represent. However, we understand Canada's history, present and future in a way they cannot.

Canadians are made of strong stuff and will rise to defend our British Common Law rights and freedoms. So, on the rare occasions I meet a prophet of doom, or just somebody who is concerned about the national state of affairs as they pertain to firearms, I make it my business to remind them of our inherent freedoms and the recent gains we've experienced through firearms law reform.

I've often written about how hopeless the situation seemed back in the 1990s and I sometimes forget there is a generation today who never had to experience the political, social and cultural impasses of those times. Today's Canada is much different, made that way by the hard work of those who stood fast against the agenda of the civil disarmament lobby.

Gains that were unthinkable a few short years ago became political fact. There are individuals now who have

never purchased a firearm requiring registration. The job now is to remove the requirement of bureaucratic permission, so they may enjoy the same rights as their parents and grandparents did.

However, the politics of today dictates there will be more challenges. Senate Bill S-223 is an example. You can read more about what it contains in Guy Lavergne's column. But I'd like to suggest you take a moment and visit the Senate website, which records the justifications Senator Hervieux-Payette applied to the bill. The Internet link to the Senator's introduction is: [http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/Sen/Chamber/421/Debates/028db\\_2016-04-19-e.htm#50](http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/Sen/Chamber/421/Debates/028db_2016-04-19-e.htm#50)

A couple of her justifications stand out. For example:

"When President Obama sounded the alarm in January, his words resonated here in Canada, and I saw this for myself on television. No one can remain unmoved by his impassioned plea to change the American public's view of firearms. Like Prime Minister Chrétien, President Obama took action. In spite of the limited legal framework of his office and the conservative majority in Congress, he managed to implement the *Common Sense Gun Safety Reform*."

It never ceases to amaze me how much the Canadian issue is couched in terms of the US. Then there is this curious missive:

"This bill isn't dogmatic or ideological. In drafting it, I used facts, figures, and documented results of Canadian, American and British policies. I also established a starting point for any government or any non-government organization that wants to thumb its nose at the gun lobby, which is very active, but which, in my opinion, is not concerned with Canadians' safety."

Really? "A starting point...to thumb its nose at the gun lobby?" How infantile. It's also interesting she found the need to point out the bill was neither "dogmatic or ideological." Anyone else reading it will take away a differing opinion.

Unlike Senator Hervieux-Payette, most Canadians don't pay heed to the American president or adopt the values of other countries in addressing public safety issues in Canada. Canadian law will be decided by Canadians, not in Washington, D.C, or the United Nations. The attempt to import foreign ideals on gun control resulted in the historic failure of the 1995 *Firearms Act*. A failure Canada still hasn't recovered from.

Senate Bill S-223 may be the ramblings of a small-minded, misguided, ideological and dogmatic woman whose political career is thankfully over. But it is also more evidence of the damage that can be done if Canadians who believe in rights and freedoms absent themselves from the political process. Those who wish to destroy our rights and culture thrive in the political world.

However, today, Canadians who believe in firearms rights, particularly those who believe in the right to own property and to provide for their personal defence, have learned to thrive in that process, as well. We have achieved firearms law reforms that were unthinkable in the past. And that has emboldened us to remain active in the defence of Canadian rights and freedoms. For Senator Hervieux-Payette's edification, we aren't going to back off, we aren't going away and we're never going to stop until Canadian rights, freedoms and culture are secure from the likes of her and her fellow travelers.

In one way, it pleases me that we have been so successful at causing a fit of pique in Bill S-223 for Senator Hervieux-Payette. But in another way, Senate Bill S-223 demonstrates the dangers Canadians still face from politicians and bureaucrats, and the challenges that lie ahead.



# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

## Guerrillas On The West Coast

Imagine an unpaid, volunteer Canadian Militia armed with Winchester 30-30 rifles, Sten guns, Browning High Power 9mm pistols and trained in guerrilla tactics, lurking in the woods of the west coast of Canada. In Canada, that could never be! However, it was. During the Second World War a militia was formed in British Columbia to protect the west coast from Japanese invasion. To quote the *Chilliwack Progress* newspaper of September 1942, "Training of British Columbia's 18,000 guerrilla fighters is greatly accelerated."

The focus of the Canadian public in the early years of the Second World War was the war in Europe. The concern for England ran high, with fears of German invasion. To many in Canada, the war was distant.

The invasion of Manchuria in 1931 by the Japanese had no serious impact on Canadians; it was viewed as a remote incident. In 1937, China mounted a full-scale resistance to Japanese expansion in Asia, and even that was viewed as a local conflict.

The intentions of Japan became starkly clear on Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. On Dec. 8, they attacked Hong Kong. The Japanese had attacked a British colony. It was viewed as a direct assault on the British Empire.

The Japanese High Command strategy was to terrorize the North American west coast with shelling and fire bombs. Their plan was to drive the population into a panic, in the belief that North Americans would become amenable to Japanese expansion. The Japanese High Command did not consider a land invasion of the US or Canada, in that it would be far too difficult. Some of the Japanese commanders had worked and studied in North America and knew that the population was armed and the fighting would be up close and personal.

In February 1942, a Japanese sub-



PCMR issued Winchester 1894 and kit.

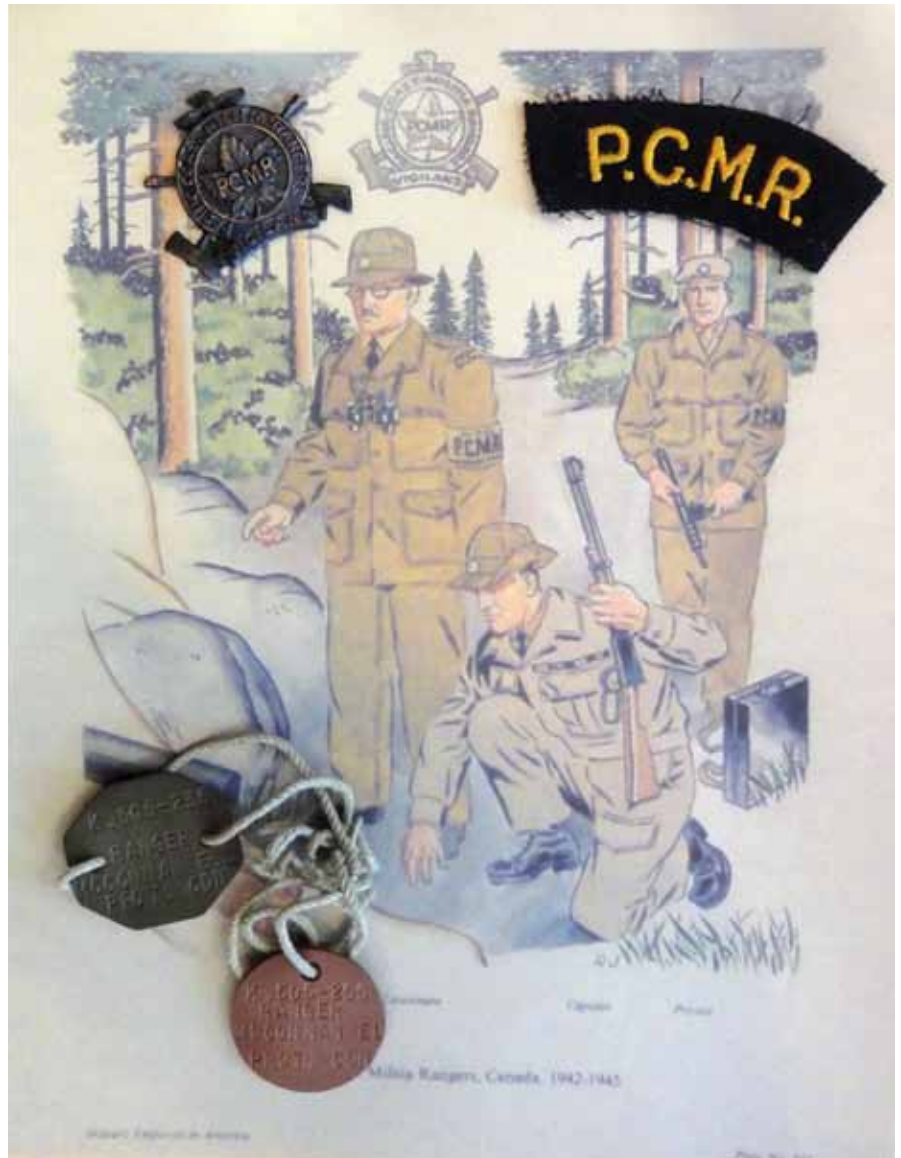


marine shelled the Ellwood oil field in southern California. In June 1942, a Japanese U-boat shelled Fort Stevens, at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon, and destroyed a baseball field. On June 7, 1942, a Japanese U-boat sank a ship called the Coastal Trader off the Washington coast. The U-boat then damaged the SS Camosun on June 19. June 20, 1942, the Japanese shelled the Estevan Lighthouse on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The shells landed in the area, but did not damage the lighthouse. The Japanese, in September 1942, launched a float plane from a submarine and fire bombed the Oregon forest just north of the California border. They fire bombed the forest twice, however, no fires were started due to the fall weather.

Prior to these events, some agencies on the west coast had assembled small militias. In May 1941, members of the Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association formed the Southern Vancouver Island Rangers under the direction of the BC Provincial Police.

After the events of December 1941, there was a call to arms. On March 3, 1942, the Canadian Army issued a general order for a militia to be on duty in British Columbia. The first unit of the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers was raised in Victoria. What is known as the PCMR was born. By July 1942, 10,000 men in 123 companies were serving. They had no uniforms, and their firearms were personally owned. A list of personal firearms on the application of a PCMR member dated April 14, 1942, displayed the eclectic array of guns the Rangers would initially use, such as Winchester 30-30, 303 Savage rifle, 12-gauge shotgun, 32 Stevens rifle and a 32-calibre Colt revolver.

The PCMR officers were elected, and the membership of the company could also vote them out. Once an officer was elected, the information was communicated to the PCMR headquarters at Pacific



Original watercolour of PCMR uniforms, with a PCMR cap badge, shoulder flash and dog tags.

Army Command and the appointment was approved or not approved after an interview.

The individuals recruited were typically employed in defence industries, or could not otherwise serve in the regular forces due to some physical impairment or their age, either too old or too young.

The preferred applicants were outdoorsmen, loggers, fishermen, cowboys, hunters, sharp shooters, timber cruisers, surveyors, trappers, prospectors and farmers. Many were First World War veterans. Chinese Canadians and First Nations were enthusiastic applicants. The enrolment did not call for a medical examination and did not involve any age restrictions, although membership was limited to only those that could do the work. The age range was from 13 to 90.

A quote from David B. Clark's book on the PCMR states, "Rangers were expected to function in the bush with no outside help." Another quote, "The active Army members who trained with the Rangers learned very quickly that the Rangers knew what they were doing in the deep bush. Rangers were held in high esteem by many a regular who had been ambushed by a Ranger that had silently crept up on him and taken him out of a war games exercise."

By mid-1942, the Rangers were receiving insignia and equipment. The first identification provided was an arm band. Then uniforms were available to be ordered.





**The Rangers magazine cover, with a rare Leupold compass and a PCMR ID card.**

As the war years unfolded, the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers developed into a formidable guerrilla army. Officers were issued with Sten guns and Browning Hi-Power pistols. License plates were issued to certain individuals so their cars could be identified as official. They were then able to acquire fuel, as gas was rationed. The PCMR equipment and uniforms were upgraded. They had their own publication called *The Ranger*. Its focus was on instruction, training and information. The units extended throughout BC, all the way to the Yukon. They patrolled the forests, coast line, railways and bridges, checking for saboteurs and enemy agents. As they were residents of the area, their knowledge of the population and topography was superb.

By the time the Ranger program was terminated in 1945, 15,000 Pacific Coast Militia Rangers had served. Many who enrolled as teenagers had joined the regular army when they came of age. When the PCMR was disbanded in 1945, serving members could purchase their Winchesters, and they are now valued items in many firearm collections.

The dramatic legacy left by the dedicated guerrilla fighters who protected Canada's west coast is a testament to Canadians' commitment to freedom and defence of their homeland. These individuals have formed another part of our valued firearms heritage.

#### SOURCES

CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum site

The Southern Vancouver Island Rangers Historian

The History Lists

Clark, David B., *Pictorial History of the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers: British Columbia's Guerrilla Army 1942-1945*. Victoria, BC: First Choice Books, 2013, Quoted with permission.

On the training of Rangers, there is an excellent quote from Clark's book: "The main training centre for the Army on the west coast of Canada was at Sardis (now a part of Chilliwack). Many officers and NCOs were given two weeks of basic training there in guerrilla tactics, weapons handling, first aid, map reading, signalling and Army systems. They, in turn, took this information back to their companies and trained other men. Eight active Army travelling instructors reached out to most of the Ranger companies, and Rangers and reservists would receive training jointly when the Army instructors were in the area." The training included all manner of ordnance, including hand grenades.

The firearms and accoutrements being issued to the Rangers at this time was an odd mix at best; First World War leather, obsolete rifles such as Long Lees, Ross Rifles, P17 Enfields and Smith & Wesson revolvers from the 1914 to 1918 era. In July 1942, the government purchased Winchester Model 1894 carbines in 30-30 calibre and some Model 1894 Marlins of the 1936 variant in 30-30 calibre. The Winchesters and Marlins only differed from civilian models in that they were fitted with sling swivels and slings by local gunsmiths. They were marked with a broad arrow and a C. The Winchesters and Marlins were chosen so the regular military supply of firearms would not be compromised.



# Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

## The Price Of Posturing

One of the tactics used by anti-gun campaigners is the pretension that their policies are driven solely by the needs of public safety. They assert that the problems of crime and violence are so great that they create a need for immediate and dramatic action. They claim there is a pressing need to do something or implement policies that will help. At the extreme end of the do-something rhetoric, we see the use of the "if it saves just one life" slogan.

If we examine this approach to gun control policy, we are struck by the wonderful moral superiority that wraps around the proponents. With the one-life claim or other moral verity, they affirm an unmitigated defence of principle, untroubled by economic or political considerations. Their posture of moral absolutist is in itself a claim to virtue. It leaves critics of any specific policy playing defence against the charge that they are only critics because they are of a lesser ethical standard or the pawns of some vested interest, devaluing the human costs.

### Unfortunate realities

Unfortunately, we live in an imperfect world. A world where there is always the problem of limited resources and unlimited demands on those resources. Further, the root cause of violence is not some magical inanimate object (guns) that can be banned into oblivion. We live in a world where an imperfect humanity always has its share of people willing to use violence to get their way. We face the traditional problems of the bully imposing their will and the criminal balancing costs and benefits with violence to tip the balance in their favour. These ancient problems are only made worse by anti-self-defence policies that disarm the victim and fail to disarm the criminal.

We are also experiencing the impact of a growing wave of calculated political violence sweeping the western world.

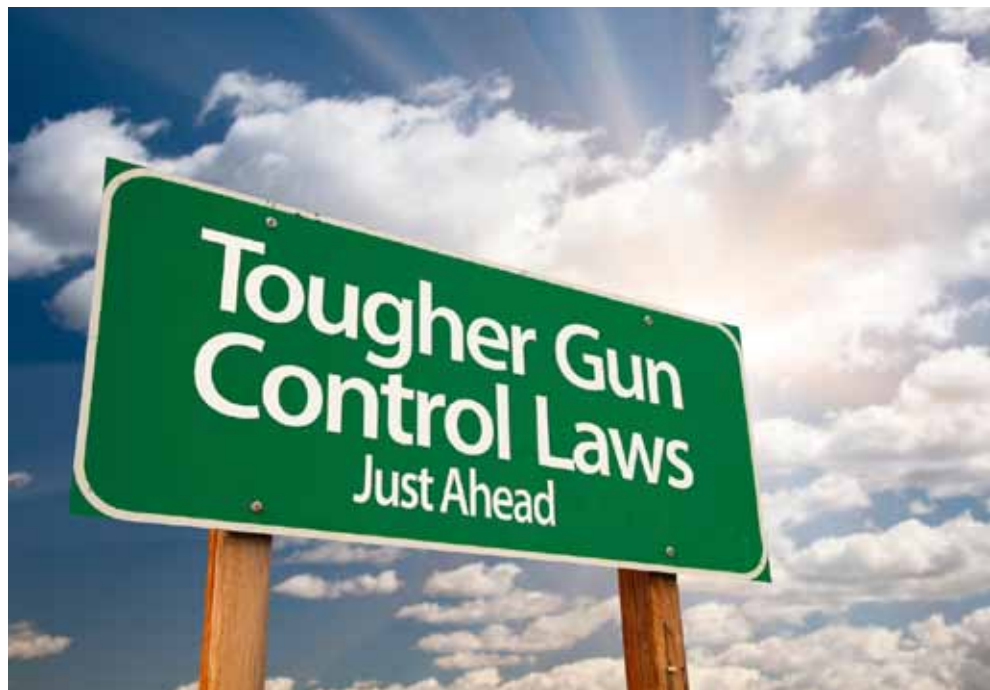
As the problems of the Middle East are shifted into the first world by mass immigration and by geopolitical considerations, we can expect this violence, a prominent characteristic of the political process in Muslim countries, to increase.

We can pause here to clarify this new threat and who is behind it. Religious Islam is about theocracy and a state church. Muslims themselves violently disagree on the specifics of what the true religion is or does. Political Islam is the secular campaign to spread Islamic power and dominance by military, political and propaganda tactics. Direct military action, such as the "lone wolf" attack on our Parliament, or more organized attacks such as the ones on Paris and Brussels, are the military stick designed to seize the political initiative through intimidation. They are intended to drive our cowardly elites into an ever more desperate pursuit of peace through ever expanding multicultural concessions.

In both religious and political spheres, it is the active minority that counts, no matter what the intentions and hopes of the majority may be. A recent Canadian survey found the primary concern of most Canadian Muslims is employment. However, significant minorities showed support for political Islam, with 34 per cent tolerant of Al Qaeda and 24 per cent supporting the Islamic supremacy policies of the Muslim Brotherhood.

### Where our elites put their political will

Despite the ongoing problems of crime and radicalism, the elites in Canada show little sign of abandoning their campaign against law-abiding gun owners. The rhetorical claim used to support this campaign is that the fight is about public safety



**One of the tactics used by anti-gun campaigners is the pretension that their policies are driven solely by the needs of public safety.**





**Rifles labelled as patrol carbines when issued to police, are re-branded as assault weapons when owned by civilians.**

and moral leadership. Unfortunately, the facts on the ground reveal a campaign motivated by ideological determinism and vote hustling.

This is not new and, despite some changes by the Conservatives, firearms policies are still in the mess left by the Liberal's criminalization of firearms ownership in 1995. This was a fundamental change, because unlike previous regulations that respected centuries of Common Law and tradition, C-68 criminalized firearms ownership itself. With this act, the Liberals created two million instant criminals and criminalized seven to 10 million guns. To make this radical change to our laws politically feasible, they grudgingly brought in licensing and registration as a political safety valve. Their plan was to make ownership so arduous and legally hazardous that it would die out. Ultimately the plan failed, and the costs of administration have run to billions of dollars and untold tens of thousands of police man-hours, with no public safety benefit to show for it.

To understand why this criminalization of the law-abiding was an exercise in futility, we can look at Statistics Canada data. This data reveals licensed gun owners have a homicide rate of 0.6 per 100,000, a third of the average homicide rate of 1.85 per 100,000. Official statistics also demonstrate that licensed owners were accused of homicide in only 4.5 per cent of firearms homicides (Mauser). Public safety is not served when the vast majority of your effort falls on the law-abiding.

## The Mounties carry the can

While the government has been busy policing the law-abiding, other needs got the short shift. In economics, they call this the opportunity cost - money spent on one thing is not available for other projects.

## Carbines

The issuing of patrol carbines (assault rifles) to the RCMP became a hot button issue after a semi-automatic rifle was used to kill four RCMP officers in 2005 (the Mayerthorpe incident). By 2006, the force was reacting to criticism that their officers were outgunned, and began to examine the need for a weapon with more reach and firepower than a pistol or shotgun. In a mere five years, the force was able to establish that a need existed, with commissioned reports in 2010 and again in 2011 recommending the adoption of a patrol carbine. By 2013, a short eight years after the need became blatantly obvious, the force received its first carbines. By 2014, just nine years after officers demonstrated the need with their lives, some 1,333 had been issued - one for every 13 Mounties. The 2014 Moncton shootings that left three more officers dead is now finally accelerating the training and equipping of the force with carbines.

## Terrorism

With the reluctant realization that political Islam exists and is using political violence to influence policy, Canada finally started to address its increasing security needs. Sort of. When military violence broke out on Parliament Hill, the pressing need to combat terrorism could no longer be talked away. The RCMP, well behind the curve as usual, shifted 600 officers out of organized crime, financial crime and

drug investigations. Given the real difficulties of anti-terrorism work and the long time periods needed to gain expertise, it is hard to see how our "anyone in a red tunic" approach will succeed. One might presume their old duties also needed doing.

## Time for choices

Good government demands a realistic cost/benefits analysis and rational policies. Yet the posturing continues. Quebec is now introducing its own version of the failed long gun registry. As always, the rationales are irrational. Speaking in support of the official line, Pierre Veilleux, of the Provincial Police Association, fantasized about the powers of an administrative database. In his mind, the new gun registry will enable first responders to magically obtain a list of all weapons with a single click of the computer. The grim reality is that such a list, provided at great labour and expense, would list people with one-third the general homicide rate and miss the 95 per cent of killers who are not licensed. This exercise in futility and dangerous delusion is to be done in the name of "officer safety."

The police are happy - or at least the leadership is happy - to shift officers from the mafia beat and leave the firearms paper-pushers in place. Provincial police are secure in the illusion that the law-abiding are the main threat to their officers. Political violence is still a talk-away problem. How long we continue this folly in the face of a growing threat remains to be seen.

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# DAGGER SAP6 12-Gauge

by Dean Roxby

The Dagger SAP6 pump-action shotgun certainly has a striking design. With its black finish, short, 11.4-inch barrel, detachable box magazine, free-standing pistol grip and overall length of a mere 29-and-one-eighth inches with collapsible stock retracted, this gun is bound to elicit strong feelings, for or against.

Most importantly, this shotgun is non-

restricted, so your fun is not limited to an approved range. This one is meant to go backpacking with you. If your hiking takes you to areas frequented by large bruins, it's hard to imagine a better choice; especially since the gun features a three-inch chamber, allowing for the use of this more powerful ammunition.

As the photographs show, the butt-

stock is both collapsible and removable if desired. The stock can be collapsed without tools. To remove it entirely, it needs only a cartridge tip or similar to depress a rather stiff button. No tools to carry or lose.

Since the SAP6 is a pump action, there are no gas system issues to contend with. While gas or inertia operated





# Shotgun

semi-auto guns can be made to be reliable, they are often fussy about ammunition. Having issues during a range day is a bit annoying. Having a failure to feed when facing a charging bear is a whole lot more problematic.

The SAP6 has a stiff spring below the barrel that assists with the forward stroke, thereby helping to ensure the ac-



**The Dagger SAP6 pump-action shotgun has a striking design.**

tion is fully locked. During my testing, I probably ran 300 rounds or more through it with zero failures to feed. Interestingly, the instruction booklet section on trouble shooting says not to apply excess forward pressure on the forend while pumping, as this might bind things up. I deliberately did so, in an attempt to cause a failure, but could not make it fail.

As noted above, it features a barrel length of only 11.4 inches. If desired, either a 14-inch or an 18-inch barrel may be ordered as an option. The 11.4-inch barrel is a fixed cylinder choke, while the 14-inch and 18-inch barrels allow for screw-in chokes. For the unknowing, I should add that Canadian law effectively states that a manually operated shotgun may indeed have a short barrel, provided it was manufactured that length, and not sawn off later. In other words, this thing is perfectly legal!

Reducing the barrel length makes the SAP6 a lot handier as a backpacking gun, and some will see it as advantageous in competition, such as 3-Gun events. Naturally, a shorter barrel also reduces the length of the tube directly below the barrel, which would normally serve as the tube magazine. Instead, this gun uses detachable box magazines. It comes with two, six-round detachable magazines as standard, with an 11-round magazine available as an option. Since it is not a semi-auto, there are no magazine capacity limits.

The gun comes standard with a Picatinny-style rail, which runs the length of the barrel and a good portion of the receiver. Because this rail is screwed to the barrel at the front end and the receiver at the rear, it does mean that it will need to be removed if and when you remove the barrel. Not a problem by any means, but worth noting.

Between retracted and fully extended, the collapsible stock has four positions, allowing three-and-three-quarter-inches of adjustment range. The butt also has holes moulded into it to carry an additional four shells.

A 40-page manual is included in the package. Crisp, clear, full-colour photos printed on glossy paper give a detailed breakdown of the gun for disassembly and maintenance purposes.

The fit and finish is basic black moulded plastic, done well. Yes, there is the ubiquitous mould part-line down the centreline as expected, but it is discreet. Aside from one minor spot, there were no sharp edges to be found. The aluminum receiver anodizing matches the plastic colour almost perfectly.

Overall, I found this to be a satisfying and fun gun to shoot. A very moderate \$699 buys this well-made and reliable fun-gun. Manufactured by Dagger of Turkey, the SAP6 is imported exclusively by Tactical Imports Corp., of Mississauga, Ont.



GOV

As A



# ERNMMENT

## *Malignant Santa*

By Gary Mauser

*“The problem with socialism is that sooner or later you run out of other people’s money.”*

MARGARET THATCHER,  
FORMER PM, UK

Trudeau won the 2015 federal election by campaigning for an ever-expanding federal government with a grab bag of promises. Among the hundreds of jaw-dropping promises the Trudeau Liberals made during the campaign were assurances that they would eliminate crime and violence by repealing the Harper government’s gun laws. Since the election, this is one of the few promises that has not been repudiated by the new government. Indeed, it was emphasized in the throne speech. We are back on the road to disarmament.

Apparently, the Liberals believe (or think the public believes) that government is akin to Santa Claus or the Tooth Fairy - a benevolent god, happily bringing free stuff. However attractive such an idea may be, it is dangerously wrong. Nothing is free. All gifts come with costs. Government gains power by encouraging people to become dependent, much like a drug dealer who encourages a lifelong habit by giving out free samples and flattery. Will the government continue to be as generous once you have become addicted?

Don’t get the wrong idea; some government is necessary. For instance, where would we be without the rule of law? As well, an impartial police force is undeniably important in controlling crime and violence. We also depend upon the government to guard our borders. Unfortunately, no government knows when to stop expanding. Too easily, government can grow too powerful

and become arrogant. While some government is useful, even necessary, it remains true that a smaller government is preferable. Remember, the price paid for government delivering important services is the loss of individual liberty. What the government gives can be just as easily be taken away.

The recently elected Liberal government poses an immediate threat to our gun rights, and even our economic livelihoods. Ottawa promises to roll back previous relaxations of the gun regulations and to add further restrictions. This is incremental disarmament. No one knows where it will lead. Canada may remain a benevolent despotism, or it may not.

In the 2016 budget, the government plunged Canada into massive debt. Based on airy promises, Trudeau plans to run deficits totaling more than \$115 billion over the next five years - with no plans to get out of debt. Justin is following in his father’s footsteps. It took three governments (Brian Mulroney, Jean Chretien and Stephen Harper) to finally pay off Pierre Trudeau’s massive debt load. Who will be blamed when Canada runs into financial problems in the future?

Governments that promise more than they can deliver eventually run out of other people’s money. Governments that run massive debts, every year, with no plan to balance the budget or pay back their debts, unsurprisingly, eventually crash and burn. The US offers a



**The recently elected Liberal government poses an immediate threat to our gun rights, and even our economic livelihoods.**

member of the international community; its Jewish citizens assimilated. But after losing the First World War, the fledgling Weimar government couldn't provide financial stability, and Germany collapsed into chaos. When Hitler was elected in the 1930s, he used the well-intended gun regulations, instituted by the previous government, to confiscate firearms registered to Jews, whom he blamed for Germany's problems. The holocaust soon followed.

Germany is not alone in scapegoating minorities. In the former USSR, Stalin blamed "class traitors," Ukrainian nationalists, as well as bourgeois reactionaries for the problems of the Soviet Union; while Comrade Mao accused counter revolutionaries and rightists for his economic and political failures in China. The Khmer Rouge in Cambodia targeted intellectuals, evidence of which was wearing spectacles. Canada, too, has a history of racism and scapegoating. During the Second World War, Japanese Canadians were summarily rounded up, had their property confiscated and were put into internment camps. Less well known is that during the First World War, Ukrainian Canadians were interned and required to work for private industrialists. In the 19th century, Italian and Irish immigrants were disarmed and discriminated against (Blake 2012).

War is considered evil because of the death and destruction it causes. There are various estimates about how many people died in wars during the 20th century, but the most prominent authority, Professor Rummel of the University of Hawaii, estimates that during the 20th century approximately 35 million people died in wars - including both civilians and military personnel and those killed in undeclared wars such as the Korean war. That is horrible enough, but Professor Rummel also calculates that, during that same century, governments intentionally murdered many more civilians than were killed in all the violent conflicts combined.

**When Hitler was elected in the 1930s, he used the well-intended gun regulations, instituted by the previous government, to confiscate firearms registered to Jews.**

glaring example. Obama was elected by promising economic miracles, but his promises collided with reality. Now, Americans are angry and looking for a scapegoat. Trump blames illegal immigrants, while Bernie Sanders attacks the one per cent. No one knows what the future holds.

Things could get worse. A lot worse. In the 20th century, many governments around the world that started as benevolent, in time, turned malignant. When

it suited their purposes, some regimes even became murderous. The atrocities by Islamic terrorists, both in Europe and Iraq, as well as the slaughter of Christians across the Middle East, suggest that governments have not changed in the 21st century.

Desperate governments look for scapegoats. Back in 1900, few people would have predicted that Germany would virtually eliminate a minority in genocide. Germany was a respected





Approximately 262 million people were deliberately murdered by their own government during the 20th century, not including war deaths (Rummel 1994). The best estimates are that, in addition to war casualties, the Nazis (National Socialists) murdered about 21 million people, over eight million of whom were Jews; the Russian Communists murdered at least another 62 million, including political opponents and Ukrainian farmers starved to death in the Holodomor. Under Mao, the Chinese Communists murdered approximately 76 million political opponents and rural populations. Unfortunately, these are not isolated examples. Even the Allied Democracies, primarily the US and the United Kingdom, participated in mass murder. After the Second World War, the Allied democracies turned over to Soviet authorities more than 2,250,000 Soviet citizens, prisoners of war and Russian exiles (who were not Soviet citizens) found in the Allied zones of occupation in Europe. Most of these people were terrified of the consequences of repatriation and refused to co-operate in their repatriation; often whole families preferred suicide. Of those, the Allied Democracies repatriated an estimated 795,000 were executed, or died in slave-labour camps or in transit to

them. (Rummel 1986)

The foregoing puts current concerns about violent crime into perspective. During the entire 20th century, criminals (outside of government) are estimated to have murdered 8.5 to 10 million people (Necrometrics).

How could governments kill so many people? Many factors play a role, not all of which are understood. Certainly, economic conditions can be crucial. When a government that promises more than it can deliver eventually runs out of other people's money, politicians often find it easier to blame someone else rather than to accept responsibility. Democracy provides no protection. The people, in their wisdom, have often elected saviors to rescue them, only to discover that they have chosen tyrants. As well, scapegoats are more likely, if there is a convenient minority to blame, such as the rich, recent immigrants or perhaps global warming deniers. It's not clear what role ethnic diversity plays in this process, but certain groups seem to be singled out more than others. Unfortunately, disarmed scapegoats are more easily rounded up.

Don't be fooled by politicians' promises. They are just fishing for votes, and, naturally, bait always hides a hook. Trudeau came to power by promising

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more than he can deliver, but to keep his base happy he needs to deliver something, and, unsurprisingly, that will be more gun restrictions. After the next terrorist atrocity, Trudeau will need a convenient scapegoat. Instead of cracking down on Muslim criminals, I predict he will blame peaceable gun owners and continue to disarm Canadians. As Obama's former White House chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, said, "Never let a serious crisis go to waste." It is reassuring to believe that genocides could never happen here.



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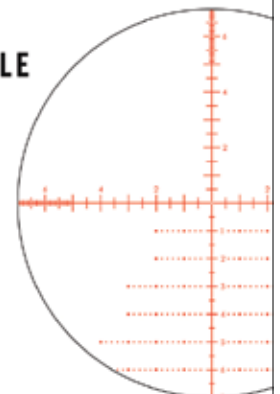
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# FOOTWEAR For Shooters

*An important part of shooting success*

BY JEFF HELSDON

**Ask a handful of shooters what they think is important for success in the shooting sports, including hunting, and the answers are likely to cover a gamut of topics related to the gun itself, the ammunition or perhaps mental concentration. Chances are, no one will mention footwear.**

## Olympic shooters

Yet, what's on your feet can be an important part of success. It's so important there are eight rules in the Olympic regulations dealing with footwear in rifle competition. Patrick Haynes, who manages the Olympic shooting program for Canada, is a former national pistol coach and vice president of the High Performance Shooting Federation of Canada. He explained that footwear provides stability for the shooter. This is the most important in rifle events and, to a lesser extent, in pistol.

"We're looking at one-hundredth of a point, so any advantage you can get will help," he said. For pistol and rifle shooters, the upper material is allowed to be above the ankle, but it is regulated how high up the leg the material can go. "By supporting the ankle, you're immobilized in the sitting and kneeling position."

Olympic shooters often have shoes or boots with a square toe. "When you're in the kneeling position, there is better contact with the ground and it immobilizes the foot," he explained. Even flexibility of footwear is regulated for rifle shooters, as well as the material for the sole and uppers. Haynes said flexibility is tested with a machine and a walking test, even though the concept of being able to walk in a shoe or a boot sounds simple. "I kid you not," he said, "people were producing material they can hardly walk in. If people walk oddly, it could be because of a boot infraction."

Every four years, new rules come out and inevitably the number of regulations grows. Haynes pointed to a saying that for every rule in the Olympic regulations, there's a name associated with it. "It's not because everyone was doing something, but one or two people push it to the limit."

Because of all the regulations, companies have evolved that make custom footwear for shooters. Sauer and Corami were mentioned as examples that meet Olympic standards.

Haynes said many pistol shooters start with suede desert boots, since they have a flat sole and no heel. Skateboard shoes are also popular. But, when the competitive level gets higher, so too does the type of footwear worn.

Footwear isn't as critical to Olympic trap and skeet shooters, but it's still regulated. Competitors can't have an open toe or open heel. Crocs aren't allowed either.

"It's more of a safety thing, but it's also aesthetics," Haynes said. "One of the driving things with Olympics now is how we present our athletes. You couldn't walk out onto a shooting range wearing jeans - you would be removed."

## Action shooters

While the Olympics are seen as the pinnacle of competitive shooting, many shooters take their game seriously at other types of competition, as well. Edward Osborne, of Alberta, competes in 3-Gun competition in western Canada. He sees everything from running shoes to military boots on the feet of competitors. With 3-Gun, like IPSC, movement is about short sprints in controlled areas.

"We run to a shooting point, stop and shoot, then take off again," Osborne told me. He favours a Salomon SpeedCross on his feet. "They're a running shoe with a little more tread," he added. "They sell it as a trail runner." He has three different options for footwear he often wears - the Salomons, hiking boots and a pair of Merrell runners. "The hiking boots and runner don't get worn that often because it has to be a perfect environment for those - crappy and muddy for hikers, or clear and dry for runners."

Another popular option for 3-Gun shooters is Under Armour Multi-Cam boots, which Osborne described as a running shoe with a bit more height. Other competitors prefer Danner military-style boots. Osborne said some events require full body armour, and military boots are a must at those events.

Sean Hanson, regional director of IPSC Canada, said he has seen all kinds of surfaces on IPSC ranges, varying from gravel or cement to decking and grass.

"Throw in a little rain and that will add a whole new element," he said.

The footwear chosen by competitors varies from cleats to tennis shoes, depending on the surface. Salomon SpeedCross are one popular option. Hanson said what competitors wear on their feet can better enable them to move between shooting positions.

"It's being able to move from one position to another quickly and being able to stop," he said. "It makes a big difference."

## Rifle silhouette and the clay games

David Johnston, president of the Alberta Silhouette Association, said he's seen just about every kind of footwear available.

"Some of the most successful rifle silhouette shooters use a comfortable pair of running shoes," he said. "Hiking boots are often used where the user feels a little more ankle support may provide a steadier hold."

From my own time on trap and sporting clays ranges, I've seen many different kinds of footwear, as well. The season often dictates what the shooter wears to feel comfortable. Interclub trap shooting in Ontario comes into its own during the winter. Needless to say, warm winter boots are the preferred wear. Sporting clays shooters often wear hiking boots, as the trails through the forest can get muddy if there have been recent rains.

## For the hunter

Providing a stable shooting platform is less of a concern to the hunter than choosing a boot that provides ankle support, warmth, traction and, in some cases, is scent free.

What's needed to hunt moose and deer in the wetlands and forests of eastern Canada differs from a boot needed to navigate the mountainous terrain of the west. In general, rubber or waterproof boots are more popular in the east, and leather boots with more support in the west. Scent protection is a desirable feature for those pursuing ungulates and bruins with a great sense of smell. When winter hits, footwear styles change, with warmth being the most important factor. The Pac boot, first introduced by Sorel in 1962, is still a popular choice.

Gone are the days when leather hunting boots were heavy and cumbersome. My pair of leather Danner Pronghorns is some of the most comfortable footwear I own, more comfortable than most runners.

A couple of manufacturers I spoke with provided insight on their product lines for hunters.

"First and foremost, determine the landscape and try to match the terrain to what you're wearing," said Chris Currah, hunting product manager for Lacrosse and Danner. The latter is a line of leather hunting boots, while LaCrosse is known for its rubber/neoprene boots, but carries all things hunting from leather to waders.



Providing a stable shooting platform is less of a concern to the hunter than choosing a boot that provides ankle support, warmth, traction and, in some cases, is scent free.

For western hunters chasing mule deer, elk or birds in mountainous terrain, he said the company's Gila line is popular because it provides protection with a wider toe box. The Pronghorn line is also popular.

"Typically, higher terrain or rocky terrain means you want something to give protection from rocks and provide support," Currah said. The Gila also has a more aggressive outsole. The boot itself is fastened to the outsole with special stitching as well as traditional cement. Currah explained this makes the outsole wider and more stable.

"If you're hunting in the west, you're likely also involved in a high-intensity hike, so we always encourage hunters to select a hunting boot that has some of the same features as a pure hiking boot," said Ryan Maisenbacher, outdoor marketing manager for Rocky Boots. "You want the boots to be lightweight, waterproof and un-insulated, with a durable and aggressive outsole."

Hunters in the east don't have the same mountains to deal with as their western counterparts. Rubber boots are popular amongst eastern hunters.

"Those hunting in the east will also want to take temperatures into account when selecting a boot," Maisenbacher said.



All clay sports are shot on your feet, so stability and comfort is needed. A bullet-proof toe doesn't hurt either.



"Wearing boots with an insulation level that's right for the area and time of year can make a world of difference in the field. You also want waterproof protection and an outsole designed for the cold, wet ground."

Danner's sister company, LaCrosse, is best known for their neoprene and rubber boots. The Alphaburly Pro is a 3.5 millimetre neoprene boot with hand-laid rubber over top. "You get cushioning and warmth from the neoprene and abrasion resistance and durability from the rubber," Currah said. These boots are available with different levels of insulation.

LaCrosse's AeroHead Sport uses a different technology. It has a similar neoprene sock, but instead of rubber over top, it has a polyurethane injection shell both on top and under the footbed. This is lighter and adds comfort.

"When rubber is cold, it's hard and stiff and holds the cold, whereas polyurethane acts as an insulator," Currah said. "Instead of having to use Thinsulate, that polyurethane, along with different thicknesses of neoprene, provides insulation."

Bird hunters would appreciate Danner's Sharptail upland hunting boot. It's a lower boot, better in long grass. Currah warned that hunters need to look at the terrain as much as the boot. He recalls one unhappy customer, an upland hunter

who bought the Sharptail slip-on boots. When Currah found he was hunting chukar in the mountains, he knew the problem was he needed the support of a traditional lace-up boot.

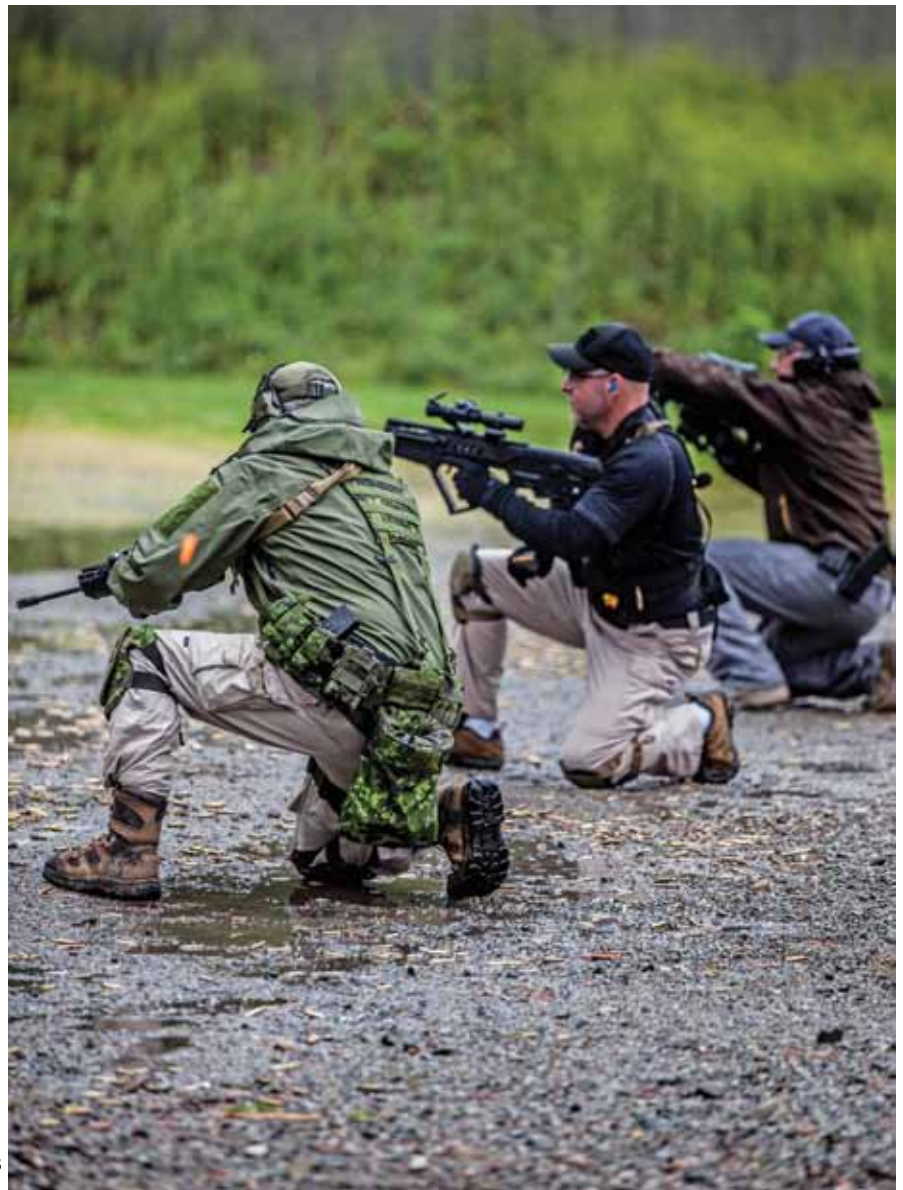
Although the concern for Canadian hunters in some areas of the west and north is large carnivores with sharp teeth, instead of reptiles with poison-injecting fangs, there are parts of the country where snake boots should be considered. Technology has come a long way with these products, as well. I remember a couple of turkey hunts in New York where hunters were wearing snake boots. Thinking there was the possibility of venomous snakes, I asked and was told in both cases that the snake boots were so comfortable they often wear them hunting, even when there is no possibility of encountering a venomous reptile.

### In summary

Did you notice the similar themes among all these shooting sports? Words like comfort, support, traction, stability, warmth and waterproofing seem to be universal. It seems that if you carry a gun in your hands and are looking for success in your chosen shooting sport, you should give some serious thought to what's on your feet, as well.



**The weather isn't always sunny for the shooting sports.**



# Shooting Heavy Metal

## Guns & gear for 3-Gun's Big Bore division

BY EDWARD OSBORNE

As far as I'm concerned, 3-Gun competition is about the best fun you can have with a firearm. The obstacle course of solving shooting puzzles using rifles, pistols and shotguns has taken the US by storm, and is gaining popularity in Canada. Heavy Metal is the least populated and perhaps the most demanding variant of 3-Gun.

When competing in the Heavy Metal class, your stages are the same as other competitors, but the gear you use changes. To qualify, all three firearms have additional restrictions:

- Rifles must be .308 calibre or larger
- Handguns must be .45 calibre or larger
- Shotguns must be 12-gauge, pump action and must use a conventional tube magazine

Beyond the calibre restrictions, there is one more crucial rule change for Heavy Metal shooters that transforms the game: paper targets now only require one hit to neutralize. This is a very good thing when you're buying match grade .308 rounds and crates of .45 ACP.

In the US, Heavy Metal is often seen as the realm of expensive AR-10s, collectible Colt 1911s and a small fortune spent in gear. But a competitive set up doesn't have to cost you an arm and a leg. In this article, we lay out a selection of Canadian equipment alternatives.

### Rifles

When it comes to the rifles, the best budget solution for a beginner is, hands down, the Norinco M305. These Chinese clones are reasonably well built and can regularly be purchased for around \$500. The factory rifle is an authentic recreation of the 1950s USGI M14 rifle, and

with a little tinkering they can become great shooters. There's also room to grow and upgrade, with Canadian companies like M14.ca producing aftermarket optic mounts, handguards and stocks to enhance the platform.

The M14 also has the significant advantage of magazine compatibility. Although the factory magazines are all limited to five under Canadian law, 10-round magazines for the AIA bolt-action rifle will fit the M305 magazine well. These smaller profile magazines fit quite tightly, and will offer an additional challenge to reloading. But when you only have to reload half as often, they are a fantastic investment for a competition set up.

The primary limitation of the M305/M14 pattern rifles is their 1950s heritage. The magazine release, bolt release and safety are all clearly from the Cold War era. Ergonomics are a secondary consideration to ease of industrial production and manufacturing. The mechanics of removing an empty magazine, inserting a new one and releasing the bolt to chamber the first round require substantially more effort and manipulation with the M305 than our next rifle, the Robinson Arms XCR-M Pistol.

Technically it's still a pistol under Canadian law. But being chambered in .308 means that a competitor can use it as their rifle. And the 10-round magazines give this nine-inch barrelled .308 gun a wallop. An aftermarket AR-style buttstock certainly helps.

Hands down, this is my rifle choice. The weight is unbeatable, it points like a dream and the mechanical manipulations are second to none. The safety, magazine release and bolt release are all ambidextrous, and all positioned conveniently close to your firing hand.

But, of course, there are two (maybe three) concessions you have to make to ride the lightning. It's restricted, so,

like an AR-15, you will only be taking the mini XCR-M to the range. It's also expensive. At \$3,200, it's a similar investment to a premium AR-10 platform rifle. The third concession may or may not matter to you, depending on what kind of matches you attend. Ballistically, .308 rounds pumped through a nine-inch barrel aren't getting close to their maximum velocity. They may only barely be exceeding 2,000 feet per second. Fortunately, there's no requirement on how hard a target must be hit. Making your hits is all that counts. When most 3-Gun targets are well inside 300 yards, that's do-able with a short barrel.

If accuracy is your game, the FAMAE SG542 is the clear champion. Based on a Swiss design, this Chilean semi-auto produced the tightest groups by a fair margin. With an adjustable trigger, and a decent optics mount, you can certainly qualify the SG542 as a precision rifle. It's major drawback for Heavy Metal is the magazine capacity. While the other two rifles have access to 10-round alternatives, the SG542 can only function with its factory five-round magazine. It's also got a lot of forward weight, which isn't as well suited to running and gunning. The nice thing is that it's non-restricted. So on your off season, you can still be out in the woods chasing deer.

### Shotgun

When it comes to selecting a shotgun, the key requirement is the pump action. Most 3-Gunners are running a 12 gauge already, but eschewing the modern semi-auto is part of what makes Heavy Metal a real challenge.

For any beginner on a budget, I'd strongly suggest exploring the options coming out of Turkey right now. There are a wide range of manufacturers and models currently being imported into Canada. While none are particularly atrocious, I'd suggest picking a manufacturer







**If accuracy is your game, the FAMAE SG542 is the clear champion.**

with an established history in the country. The Hatsan MP pump can be scooped up for just a hair over \$350, and is a competitive gun right out of the box. With a 20-inch barrel and a seven-round magazine tube, you're very close to division capacity right off the bat. For the dollars spent, it's hard not to love the Hatsan, but there are some limitations for the Turkish gun. You'll be hard pressed to find aftermarket accessories, and when it comes to serious gaming, the pistol grip stock can be something of a liability.

In the tactical and law enforcement school of shotguns, feeding more shells into the tube happens while holding the shotgun upright, with the muzzle towards the sky. Shells are loaded individually from this position, while still looking down-range towards the theoretical danger. In the gaming world, you're not assessing threats. Your only goal is to load more rounds, fast! One of the most popular methods is to flip the shotgun upside down, and cradle it under the elbow of your firing arm. This gives you a clear view of the loading port and allows talented shooters to load two, three or even four shells simultaneously into the tube. With the MPA's pistol grip sticking up, you lose some of that clean, easy ac-

cess to the loading port that lets shooters top up while on the move between firing positions.

My preferred pump gun comes in the form of a Mossberg 500 tactical. With a true eight-round magazine tube out of the box, low profile XS sights and a wide range of aftermarket support, the 500 series shotguns can be found under the \$500 threshold. There are plenty of aftermarket accessories, too. Later down the line, if you're looking for an enhanced pump, stock or sights, they'll be easy to come by.

It's worth noting that if you're prepared to breach that \$500 price point, the upgraded 590A1 models can be bought with a nine-round magazine directly from the factory. That puts you at division capacity right out of the box.

### **Handgun**

There's no shortage of excellent .45 pistols available in Canada, but entry costs are often high. Setting a price ceiling of \$1,000 will strike a good balance between cost and quality.

For the absolute bottom dollar, a Chinese made Norinco 1911 will get you into the game. However, the 1911 is a notorious-ly temperamental platform, and I would







**A long-slide Shooter's Army 1911 in 45 ACP makes for a good Heavy Metal handgun.**

argue that it is not well suited to looser manufacturing tolerances. My first handgun was a Norinco .45, and out of eight magazines I found three that would feed reliably in my firearm. Ammunition was equally picky, with only Remington UMC functioning with about 95 per cent reli-

ability. Not a great gun for competition.

Today, I still enjoy the 1911 platform, and with a little care and quality control there are still budget options for a starting shooter. So far, I've been impressed with the guns coming out of the Philip-pines from both Shooters Armory and

Seraphim Armory. I couldn't resist a six-inch barrel version from Shooter's Armory, and have found it an absolute blast to shoot. Some shooters may find the extended sight radius improves accuracy, but I was primarily interested in the increased slide mass keeping muzzle flip to a minimum.

At \$890, the SAM is definitely affordable. And there are some cheap and simple upgrades you can do that will help your shooting. I found the factory cocobolo grips to be a little wide for my hands, and spent \$20 on a set of Magpul aftermarket grips that improved my grip and my access to the magazine release. While I love the fibre optic front sight, I found the white dots on the rear sight distracting. A quick dab with permanent marker is a heck of a lot cheaper and easier than buying and installing a blacked out Novak rear sight. Remember: not every upgrade has to be bought.

Heavy Metal is something of an endangered class, with fewer shooters competing. But it offers a unique and interesting shooting experience for Canadians, one you wouldn't find anywhere else.



**My preferred pump gun comes in the form of a Mossberg 500 tactical.**

# The Mossberg Flex 500 System

Providing platform options for shotgunners

By Brad Fenson

**Modern technologies and manufacturing techniques are continually giving us more products that are multi-purpose.** There are knives with gutting blades that swing over to become skinning ones. There's clothing with multiple layers that can be taken away or added, depending on conditions, including pants with legs that zip off to make them shorts. The gun world has seen the development of multi-purpose rifles, with interchangeable barrels and forends. These have been popular and offer a capability ranging from plinking to big game hunting with the same basic platform. Some even offer single-shot shotgun or muzzleloader barrels. What they don't provide is a completely different firearm.

We buy specialty shotguns for hunting upland birds, waterfowl or for shooting clays. There is some overlap, but if you show up at the skeet club with your favourite duck gun, you usually generate a few cocked eyebrows. And, that duck gun is a far cry from a quick, shoot-from-the-hip defender. The real question is, can one shotgun provide the performance and utility of a number of specialty guns?

The short answer is yes. And it's embodied in Mossberg's Flex 500 system, which allows users to interchange buttstocks, forends and barrels. The system provides an incredible amount of flexibility, and that is obviously where the name comes from. The Flex 500 system allows the shotgun owner to change just about everything connected to the gun's receiver, to cover applications including slug hunting, waterfowl and upland birds, home defence, 3-Gun competition and tactical applications. I've found the system is easy to use and well put together, having used it and the various components in the following applications.

## SLUG HUNTING

I started with a Mossberg Flex 500 pump gun in 20-gauge, using the gun for a spring bear hunt. I put a black synthetic stock on it, and adjusted the length of pull at the butt by pushing a button and sliding the recoil pad back until it was the perfect length. I was shooting Hornady Lite sabot slugs with reduced recoil, which, in most bear hunting circles, would be considered diminutive. To round out the hunting equipment, I topped the shotgun with a Swarovski Z6 1-6X24 with illuminated reticle. This is a great scope for quickly acquiring a target, in tight quarters.

When I zeroed the gun, I was surprised to find it capable of shooting one-inch groups at 100 metres. In fact, it shot a textbook cloverleaf. I have some centrefire rifles that don't shoot that well, but to be fair, I'd have to put better optics on them for a real comparison.

## WING SHOOTING WITH MULTIPLE SHOOTERS

In the fall, I used the camouflage butt and forend with the smoothbore barrel for pheasant hunting. A release button on the side of the forend allows it to be removed and replaced with different options. The barrel is threaded for interchangeable chokes, and it worked extremely well to collect a few roosters and Hungarian partridge.

I also purchased some 20-gauge steel shot, and my wife used the gun to hunt waterfowl last fall. We adjusted the stock and length of pull to fit her, and it made a world of difference. She shot a triple on big Canada geese that tipped the scale at close to 35 pounds. Later in the day, she changed choke tubes and shot three ruffed grouse.

## DEFENCE

The gun proved itself many times over in hunting applications, but I knew

it had more to offer. I took a friend bear hunting and put the pistol grip on the shotgun to use it for close-up bear defence in case we had to do any tracking.

For self-defence and close encounters, I can't help but remember reading Peter Hathaway Capstick's recounts of tracking wounded leopards in Africa. He wore a football helmet and catcher's chest protector with groin extension, and, most importantly, carried a pump shotgun. The old smoothbore packs a tremendous punch at close range, allows you to acquire the target quickly with a single bead on the end of the barrel and operates without failure when it counts the most. I didn't wear the extra paraphernalia, but was confident the shotgun would provide the stopping power I needed if required.

## THE SHOTGUN

The Mossberg Flex 500 is a straightforward, pump-action shotgun fed from a conventional five-round tubular magazine. The barrel is easily removed by loosening the screw cap at the end of the magazine tube. The bolt in the Model 500 uses a single locking lug that cams upwards into a matching hole in the barrel extension. The gun has an ambidextrous sliding safety on the rear curve of the receiver, and the action's release button is located at the left rear of the trigger guard. The twin action bars run the action smoothly and prevent it from binding when torqued or operated hard and fast. As most shooters know, the 500 action is designed to be tough and can take a lot of abuse and continue working.

## THE FLEX SYSTEM

The innovative Flex system is a tool-less, locking system that is easy to use. Flex components are designed to be removed and remounted in seconds.







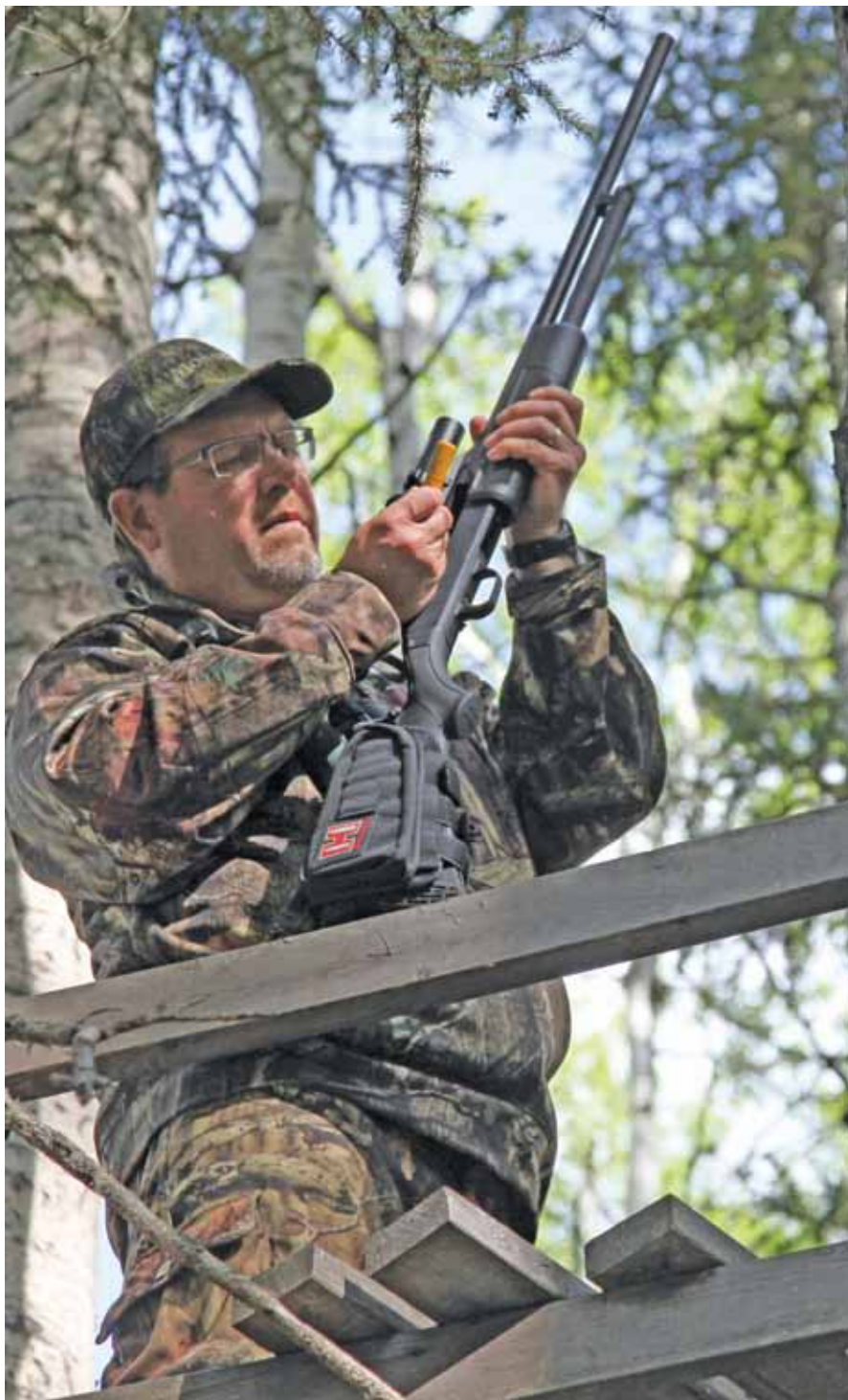
Accessories include three recoil pad thicknesses and railed, standard and camouflage forends.

The Flex buttstock system uses a lug in the rear of the receiver, which allows different buttstocks to be attached or removed quickly and easily. A locking pin holds the stock to the lug and has a horseshoe-shaped slide to grasp. Pull up on the horseshoe and rotate it 90 degrees to release the pin. This allows you to pull the stock off the lug. To attach a

buttstock, push completely onto the lug, rotate the locking pin and push it down into place. The stocks fit tight and solid with zero play. I've done a lot of shooting with this system and found it to withstand all the recoil with no loosening.

The straight or hunting buttstocks are available in short, medium and long sizes. Mossberg even offers several different sizes of Flex recoil pads that can be quickly changed out to accommodate different shooters or even different

thicknesses of clothing worn by the same user. There is a set of release buttons on the bottom end of the buttstock where the recoil pad lifts up and off. These allow a different size to be slid on and locked in place. Everyone in my family played with the assortment of buttstocks and recoil pads to find the most comfortable fit, and everyone from youth to full-sized adult found a proper fit.



**Can one shotgun provide the performance and utility of a number of specialty guns?**



## EVEN TACTICAL

Tactical models come standard with tri-rail forends, which provide accessory touchpad accommodation. This means flashlights and lasers can all be attached and manipulated easily. A Picatinny rail offers more flexibility to customize the shotgun. There's even an AR-like tactical buttstock, which is easily adjustable for length.

## PURCHASE OPTIONS

You can purchase the Flex 500 as a hunting model or tactical unit. Add the components you want or need to get the most from your shotgun, or make it useable for a number of shooters. Mossberg has even made special gun cases, allowing you to store the extra components no matter where you travel. Of course, it's

available in 12-gauge, as well as the 20-gauge version I've been using over the last year.

While the Mossberg Flex 500 offers more options than Mr. Gadget has under his trench coat, the basic action is the legendary 500, which is so well known for reliability. If you're looking for one gun to perform a lot of duties, this is a system worth considering.



Available in a number of pairings or individually, Flex components are all interchangeable. This is the deer/defence combo.



I started with a Mossberg Flex 500 pump gun in 20-gauge, using the gun for a spring bear hunt.



# The .455 Ele

HANDLOADING ONE OF THE CONFUSING BRITISH .455s

By Bob Shell





# Eley Cartridge



In the decades on either side of 1900, the British produced an assortment of various revolver cartridges, universally labeled as being of .455 calibre.

Listing and sorting the variations is worthy of more space than is available to me here, and trying to make sense of it will make your head hurt. But the versions most seen in North America are known as the 455 Eley and the 455 Webley. Technically, the former is the 455 Revolver Mk I, and the latter the 455 Revolver Mk II. The 455 Eley is also called the 455 Colt and the 455 Enfield. And, yes, the 455 Webley will work just fine in it, because the case is just a little bit shorter. See what I mean? It's confusing, but that also makes it interesting.

Anyway, I recently obtained a Canadian military revolver in 455 Eley. My revolver is a large-framed Colt, a well-made specimen. It is tight and in good condition, but like most of the double-action guns of the period, the double-action pull is brutally hard. Maybe the people of the period had stronger hands, or perhaps it was shot single-action most of the time. I don't have big or strong hands, so I shoot it single-action only, and the trigger in that mode isn't too bad. The Webley revolver I have also has a heavy trigger pull.

The British and Canadians used a .455 round, of some type, as late as 1945. The Royal North West Mounted Police used this cartridge even as late as after the name change to RCMP.

During the 1904 Thompson La-Garde test on the stopping power of bullets, the 455 Eley rated higher than the 45 Colt. Considering that the Colt round was more powerful, that is a surprise. It could have been the shape of the bullet, or the extra time an Eley bullet spent in the target. The British always felt that a slow-moving, heavy bullet was more effective than a smaller and faster round. The heavy and soft bullet of the .455 readily expanded, even at the velocities

that the Eley round produced. In 1907, The Hague Convention prohibited the use of expanding bullets, so the Webley and Eley rounds went to a full metal-jacketed bullet. That caused the stopping power to go down and it wasn't as accurate, as it did not grip the rifling as well as the older bullet did. Even when they went to the 38-200, a 200-grain bullet was used again, as they felt that it was a better fight stopper.

Many Webley break-open revolvers are chambered for the 455 Webley/Eley round. Introduced in 1887, they replaced the 476 Enfield, which wasn't considered satisfactory. The original order called for 10,000 units and, of course, more were purchased later. The British used the Webley design until 1963 with the 38-200 round. However, the .455s were dropped in 1947. Like most service weapons, it was used for years after it was declared obsolete.

### Factory ammunition

I have some old Dominion ammunition, which I chronographed and found to be consistent. This Canadian-made

factory load is at least 50 years old, but it shot well. The 255-grain lead bullet produced a reasonably consistent velocity in the 755 feet per second range. Fiocchi still makes ammunition using a 262-grain lead bullet, at 660 feet per second, which is close to military specs. It is presently listed in their catalogue, but I am not sure how available it is.

### Handloading

Unfortunately, the Webley and Eley cases are difficult to get. Until recently, Hornady offered the 455 Webley cases, but no longer. The 45 Colt case can be used to make up handloads, but it has to be shortened and the rim thinned to work.

The 455 Eley, also known as 455 Colt, is the longest case used in the .455 series of rounds utilized by the British. It is very close in length to the 45 Auto Rim, which makes it possible to use that case by just thinning the rim. Starline makes 45 Auto Rim cases, which makes that project practical.

Once you have the cases, you are in luck, as they will last many loadings

with the mild loads commonly used. The original diameter is .455, but .452 slugs can be used if they are cast and preferably soft. A hollow base bullet in .452 would be desirable and accurate.

I use standard 45 ACP dies to load the British .455s, but the correct shellholder is a must. I loaded some shortened 45 Colt cases, starting with Blackhorn 209 powder (a modern blackpowder substitute) to get an idea of what to expect. The Colt cases are thicker near the bottom, which reduces their capacity somewhat. Sometimes one grain of powder can make a large difference, as with the 250-grain loads. That is why when working up handgun loads, increases should be in small amounts. That is especially true with older guns and formed cases.

With my better loads, a palm-size group at 15 yards is easy to obtain. Someone who is a better shot and better sights on the revolver would no doubt result in tighter groups. A lighter trigger would also be beneficial. For best accuracy, the soft, hollow base bullets seem preferable.



A large Colt revolver, chambered for the 455 Eley.





- This Canadian-made factory ammunition is at least 50 years old, but it shot well.

LOAD	BULLET	VELOCITY	COMMENT
4 grains Herco	200-grain cast	587 feet per second	Very light
12 grains BH 209	200-grain cast	576 feet per second	Slow but consistent
5 grains Herco	230-grain RN cast	710 feet per second	Good load
10 grains BH 209	250-grain cast	509 feet per second	Very slow, high SD
5 grains Unique	200-grain cast	1003 feet per second	Consistent
5 grains Herco	250 grains	626 feet per second	Slow
6 grains Herco	250 grains	920 feet per second	Consistent
4.5 grains Herco	275-grain HB	468 feet per second	Really slow
4 grains Herco	265-grain HB	632 feet per second	Consistent

**BULLET SOURCES**  
 CMA Custom Ammunition: <http://cmacustomammunition.com/>  
 Bob Hayley, Box 889, Seymour, Texas, USA, 76360, 940-888-3352

I have a couple of suppliers - CMA bullets and Bob Hayley - who both make great bullets at reasonable prices. If you want something different, try some 80-grain button bullets. While not practical, they can provide some interesting shooting. You can put two or three bullets in a case, depending on how long the case is. The 230-grain hollow base WC resembles an old British load that was outlawed at The Hague Convention. I always wondered why it is OK to hurl a grenade into a foxhole, but you are not allowed to shoot the enemy with a hollow point.

British military handguns have a long and fascinating history. With all of the various rounds they used, it can be confusing, but that is part of the mystique. They saw action all over the world and, as a rule, gave good service. There were many variations and for someone studying British military handguns, it can be confusing. I have shot a number of them and it is always an enjoyable learning experience to get these old guns shooting again.



From left: 450 Adams, 455 Webley and 455 Eley. The British .455s are confusing.

# LEARNING PRECISION RIFLERY

## *The Rob Furlong Marksmanship Academy*

**By Lowell Strauss**

**M**y mind veered from the long, straight road in front of my truck and leaped ahead 24 hours. Tomorrow morning I'll meet Rob Furlong, a Canadian shooting legend. He made the longest confirmed sniper kill in combat during Operation Anaconda in 2002. In the mountains of Afghanistan, he shot an enemy Al Qaeda fighter from a distance of 2,430 metres - a confirmed distance unsurpassed until 2009. Not only was I going to meet him, but I was attending his Basic Marksmanship Course to improve my skills as a long-range shooter. With some difficulty, I brought my mind back to the highway. I have to get there first!





## Training with RFMA

The Rob Furlong Marksmanship Academy (RFMA) focuses on three different types of training. Military and law enforcement training are two of them. This training is aimed at professionals, with courses tailored to their specific needs. But they also conduct civilian training courses, which includes three levels of precision rifle training, as well as pistol and carbine instruction.

Rob does much of the teaching himself, but has also recruited the best instructors in the field. These include snipers retired from Furlong's former regiment, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, as well as active law enforcement sharpshooters. A high instructor-to-student ratio means plenty of individual attention, both in the classroom and on the firing line. Instructors teach with clear verbal instructions, as well as by example, a technique that allows all learning styles to absorb and apply the information.

So why would a former military sniper open a shooting school to train

civilians how to become precision rifle shooters? Rob says he felt there was an appetite for this type of training, and at the time there was no equivalent course in Canada. Precision shooting is one of the shooting sports growing in popularity and Furlong wants to see the sport flourish. Long-range rifle systems topped with powerful optics are available to the average shooter, but learning how to use them is not easily learned from a book.

## THE COURSE Precision Rifle I

Fundamentally, Precision Rifle I, for civilians, teaches the marksmanship component of the Canadian Forces' Basic Designated Marksman course, but with no tactics, for obvious reasons. The principles of good marksmanship are the same whether you're a military sniper, competitive shooter, hunter or Olympic target shooter.

One of the first handouts we received was the four basic marksmanship

principles. This reminded me of my own basic military training, where these principles were posted over every sink and toilet in our barracks. I learned the importance of these principles then, and this friendly reminder made me smile.

The course starts with the basics, which is perfect for those getting started in rifle shooting. For those of us with a bit more experience, the early lessons served as a good review. By the end of the first day, my hand was sore from writing down all the information and tips. If you come to one of these courses with an open mind, even skilled shooters will discover new tricks to improve their game.

Hitting a distant target starts by understanding and applying both the technical, physical and mental aspects of shooting. When all three come together, incredible shots are possible - like Furlong's 2,430-metre record-breaker.

## Technical

It starts with gear. Rifles, optics and ammunition need to be up to the challenge. A rifle needs to be of sufficient



accuracy to put hits on target. Students can bring their own equipment or, like I did, use one of the rifles from RFMA. Rental rifles (CDX-30) made by CADEX Defence are chambered in 308 Win. These rifles are topped with a Leupold Mark 6 scope. Hornady match ammunition can be purchased on location. The 168-grain A-Max bullets shoot very well out of these rifle systems.

Optics for long-range shooting have

adjustable turrets. The knobs are graduated in either MOA or milliradians (MILS) so that adjustments are repeatable. While most brands of optics he's seen stand up to the rigors of two days of shooting, Furlong noted that some riflescopes do not make it to the end of the course without failure. If in doubt as to the best optic to purchase for your rifle, Rob is willing to discuss the options with you before you purchase a tactical scope of your own.

## Physical

The physical side of shooting can be learned by anyone. In fact, some of the better shooters on course were first time shooters. Why? Because they came to the course ready to learn and were coached how to shoot properly, without the need to overcome bad habits that some of the more experienced shooters had developed.

Once shooters were properly positioned behind their rifles, we learned how to fit the rifle to our body. Adjustable stock and cheek pieces customize fit to the individual. Working in two-person teams, we helped each other fit the rifle properly. I knew when it was right when everything felt comfortable.

Next came setting up the riflescopes. This was done by first removing the scopes from the rifles. This did not phase those of us using course rifles, but triggered an unhappy response from the individuals using their own equipment. Many of these students had burned through precious ammunition zeroing optics on their own time. Nevertheless, all of the riflescopes came off. They needed to be mounted properly, to a single standard. With the scopes removed, we learned how to focus the eyepiece, and a trick to quickly centre the reticle in the scope tube. With scopes back on the rifle, but before we tightened down the mounts, we adjusted the scopes for eye relief. Next, reticles were levelled in relation to the rifle. Bases and rings were torqued to the proper specifications, and the rifles declared ready to shoot.

Optics theory was covered in detail, including first versus second focal plane, the pros and cons of different reticles and parallax. After discussing MOA graduations versus MILS, we learned both systems. I preferred working in MILS. Shooters familiar with MOA tended to like that system better.

To excel at precision shooting you must understand external ballistics, the science of what happens to a bullet after it exits the muzzle. Ballistics is a complex subject and we discussed the basics. We learned how environmental conditions affect bullets, how to estimate the wind and how to correct for conditions. Then it was off to the range to collect some data.

With the riflescopes mounted properly, we now needed to zero the rifles. To do this, we started by bore sighting. Although this is a low-tech method,



Rob Furlong discusses how to properly install a scope on a rifle.





**Any rifle brought to the course needs to be capable of sub-MOA accuracy.**

it's sufficient to put first-round hits on paper. Once on paper, the scope is adjusted and shots are fired until point of impact is centred in the bullseye.

First thing the next morning, I cleaned my rifle and checked the tightness of the screws on the riflescope mounts. I was surprised that both the bases and the rings needed to be tightened down. Some of them quite a bit! I then fired a shot through the rifle's clean, cold bore, observing a slight point of impact shift low and left. Next, a three-shot group confirmed the zero data from the previous day was good. I continued this process of shooting groups on targets every 100 metres from 200 to 600 metres. At each distance, I recorded the elevation and windage setting on the scope turrets. In precision rifle shooting, this is called the D.O.P.E (Data on Previous Engagement).

## Mental

It is said that shooting is 10 per cent physical and 90 per cent mental. By noon on the third day of the course, we had a solid grounding in the physical, with the mental game about to begin.

Most environmental variables, including elevation, temperature, humidity and barometric pressure, can

be calculated and corrections applied using ballistic calculators. Wind is an exception. Although it can be measured at the shooting position, anyone who has studied it will know that it's not constant, and often is blowing at different speeds, even different directions, downrange. Mentally, the shoot-

er must be able to read and adjust for the wind, as this variable can affect a shot the most.

The second part to the mental game is shooting under stress. With practice, shooting can be done without thinking about position, breathing, rest or follow-through. On the other hand,



**An added bonus in the course is learning how to be a spotter, a critical skill.**

stress is something we must conquer mentally. To test our shooting under stress, a friendly competition was held. Students were divided into two teams. One shooter from each team engaged targets from 200 to 600 metres. The first shooter to hit their 600-metre target won the relay.

Starting at 200 metres, a shooter needed to hit that target before they could move to the next. Ten minutes before this competition began, I was shooting targets at 600 metres and confidently hitting them each time. Once the competition began, my focus went out the window! It took several shots for me to connect with the 200-metre target, precious time that ended up costing me the relay. At that point, it became clear to me that I needed more practice for good shooting form to happen without thinking.

But I've only scratched the surface of what was covered in the course. An added bonus for me was learning how to be a spotter. Skills like communication, shot declaration, calling corrections and watching for bullet trace (the trail of disturbed air behind the bullet) were also valuable.

## Overall

The Precision Rifle I course is well organized and professionally run. I've sat through enough military training courses to realize when I'm being taught by a good instructor. Rob and his talented group of trainers created a rich learning environment. It's a fast-paced course and I took a lot away from it. This course whetted my appetite for more. It's good that there are two more advanced courses, Precision Rifle II and III. I would recommend these to anyone looking to take their rifle shooting to the next level.

Participating in the course makes you feel like you are part of a team, both during the course as well as his sincere offer to be available for questions any time after the course.

Posted on the RFMA website is a quote from Carl W. Buechner: "They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

Rob Furlong has created training courses that are packed full of information, some of which I've already forgotten. Participating in the course makes you feel like you are part of a team, both during the course as well as his sincere offer to be available for questions any time after the course.

After meeting Rob in person, I realized that he's not a celebrity or a shooting god, he's simply a down-to-Earth Canadian with exceptional shooting skills and strong values. He made the best of the situation he was put into and used those skills in service for his country. I'm grateful that Canada produces solid, dependable people who excel at their duties, and use exceptional skills on behalf of our country, instead of servicing their own egos. We can learn a lot more from Rob and his colleagues than just long-range shooting. I certainly did.

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## TYPE 81

SEMI-AUTO 7.62X39

### PRE-ORDER

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The Type 81 is a gas operated, magazine fed, semi-automatic rifle. It uses a short-stroke gas piston, located above the barrel, and a two-position gas regulator. The bolt group (of the rotating bolt type) is borrowed from the Type 63 rifle. Type 81 rifles also retains the Type 63 bolt hold-open device, which catches the bolt in the open position after the last round has been fired from magazine. The fire selector - safety switch is located at the left side of the receiver, just above the pistol grip, and can be easily operated with the right hand thumb. Barrel and gas system is chrome lined.

Developed by the Chinese military as a replacement for their Type 56 rifles (license produced AK-47). Was designed to have a longer service life, higher accuracy, improved durability and better controllability in full automatic firing.

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# Wilderness Carry

Should backcountry users be authorized to carry handguns?

BY KEVIN WILSON





We have a very real predator population explosion taking place right here and now - and backcountry users are facing it head on.





Early this year, a movie called *The Revenant* hit the silver screen. If you didn't catch it, you should, if for no other reason than to see Leonardo DiCaprio violently attacked, not once but twice, by a grizzly bear. Why? Because, if you're an urbanite, it will likely be the closest you ever come to experiencing a life-threatening wildlife attack.

In my educated opinion, as graphic and emotionally charged as it was, Hollywood's take was sorely insufficient. You see, in real life, an actual grizzly attack is typically far worse. Despite mixed media messages and ill-informed animal rights groups perpetually telling us that bears are at risk and that we should leave them all alone, we have a very real predator population explosion taking place right here and now - and backcountry users are facing it head on. Those who make their living in the wilderness, along with a growing number of recreational backcountry enthusiasts, are increasingly at risk. Keep an eye on the news - particularly out west - and you'll hear plenty of stories about this or that worker, hunter, angler or hiker who was attacked by a bear or cougar. Sadly, dangerous encounters and attacks are becoming more frequent and lives are being lost.

Today, the odds of encountering a grizzly, black bear or cougar, not to mention wolves, in places where they live, has evolved from being a mere possibility to a probability. Dangerous encounters, along with the desire to carry for wilderness protection, are fast becoming two of the hottest topics among outdoorsmen and women.

Here's the problem: Unless you're one of the select few who make their living in the wilderness and possess the appropriate licenses to do so, carrying a sidearm for personal protection is otherwise unlawful. Get caught carrying a handgun without proper documentation and, as it stands right now, prosecution is imminent. As predator populations soar, a growing number of outdoor enthusiasts see this as a major issue. Ultimately, this begs the question: Should Canadian outdoorsmen and women be authorized to carry a handgun for wilderness protection?

### Grizzly encounter

Before delving into this important issue, allow me to first share a personal account; a dangerous and indeed potentially life threatening encounter that my wife, Heather, and I had during a sheep hunt in the Rockies.

Toting full packs, she and I bounced down the sparse trail adjacent to the gin-clear rushing water. Bordered by a steep rock wall on the far side, and an equally imposing forested incline on ours, we had no choice but to travel tight to the creek. There was an extraordinary amount of bear sign. Many fresh piles of both grizzly and black bear scat told us we were moving through an ac-

tive bear area. We knew we could well be on an unavoidable collision course with danger. Acutely aware of our predicament, every so often, in a loud and deep voice, I would yell, "Hey bear!"

Not even 10 minutes into our trek, it happened. If you spend time with bears, you've heard it before. It's a warning sound best described as a cross between a growl and a guttural vibration.



**Unless you're one of the select few who make their living in the wilderness, and possess the appropriate licenses to do so, carrying a sidearm for personal protection is unlawful.**



Muffled by the fast-flowing water, we dismissed it momentarily. That was a mistake, as seconds later, a mature grizzly exploded from the scrub only a few steps in front of us! Cornered by the steep bank, as soon as the big bear halted metres away and realized what we were, he growled and lunged. If you know bears, you understand that this is about as bad as it gets. He was cornered in tight quarters and we were obviously perceived to be a threat to both him and his berry patch; a bad situation no matter how you look at it.

Our only immediately accessible weapon was a canister of pepper spray, so Heather instinctively grabbed it and freed the safety clip. Not missing a step, we both maintained our pace and direction of travel. Knowing that panic wasn't an option, we had no choice but to play it out. Heather at the ready, and me yelling each time the big bear advanced, we fought every urge to run. Our response was entirely by the book, and thankfully this grizzly had read the script, as well. Our exchange of growling, advancing,

yelling and us moving away commenced until there was finally a big tree between us and him. With the bear's visibility obscured and more than 60 metres between us, we stepped into high gear and vacated.

We were lucky to escape unharmed, but that bear definitely viewed us as a threat and demonstrated classic defensive behaviour. Indeed, bear spray can be highly effective, but if there were ever a time that I wished I had a handgun at my side, it was then and there. Far too close for comfort, I can tell you with great confidence that this confrontation could have easily gone the other way.

### The new normal

Encounters like this, and far worse, are fast becoming a regular occurrence. So prevalent in fact, that many feel it should be their right to carry a handgun for wilderness protection. I own and operate a business called Wild Encounters Ltd. Through this company, my staff and I provide advice and training services

to industry on how to deal with wildlife conflicts. Non-lethal management is our focus. As such, I can tell you there is a time and place for deterrents like pepper spray and pyrotechnics, but without a doubt, I can also say that there is an equal, if not more important, need to reinstate our right to carry a handgun for the purpose of wilderness protection.

While carrying for defence against dangerous wildlife seems logical, as it stands today, it is simply not an option for most backcountry users. We have liberal politics and the mainstream media to thank for that. Classified as restricted, with few exemptions, using a sidearm for backcountry protection is taboo in Canada. All sense and sensibility has gone out the window as far as personal protection from real wildlife threats is concerned. Could this change in the near future?

Consider this: In that current regulations make it illegal for most to carry a handgun for wilderness protection, those seeking to legalize backcountry carry are also quick and correct to point





out that each year an increasing number of people are mauled and horrifically killed in dangerous animal encounters. Only in recent decades has the Canadian government limited our ability to protect ourselves in the wilderness.

Most agree that the backcountry is a more dangerous place today that it was even 10 years ago. Understanding why will help us recognize the need to carry. We've already identified that predator populations are imbalanced, but weighing in is the fact that most are either not hunted at all, or at least not to the extent they once were. Sport hunting often plays as much of a role in population management as it does in keeping wildlife behaviour in check. Averse conditioning is vital to establishing and maintaining healthy relationships between predators and man. For instance, if a bear learns that there are no negative consequences when they approach or make contact with a human, they are likely to repeat that behaviour, especially if some type of reward is involved. On the other hand, if they are greeted with the loud report of a handgun and perhaps even a chunk of dirt flying up

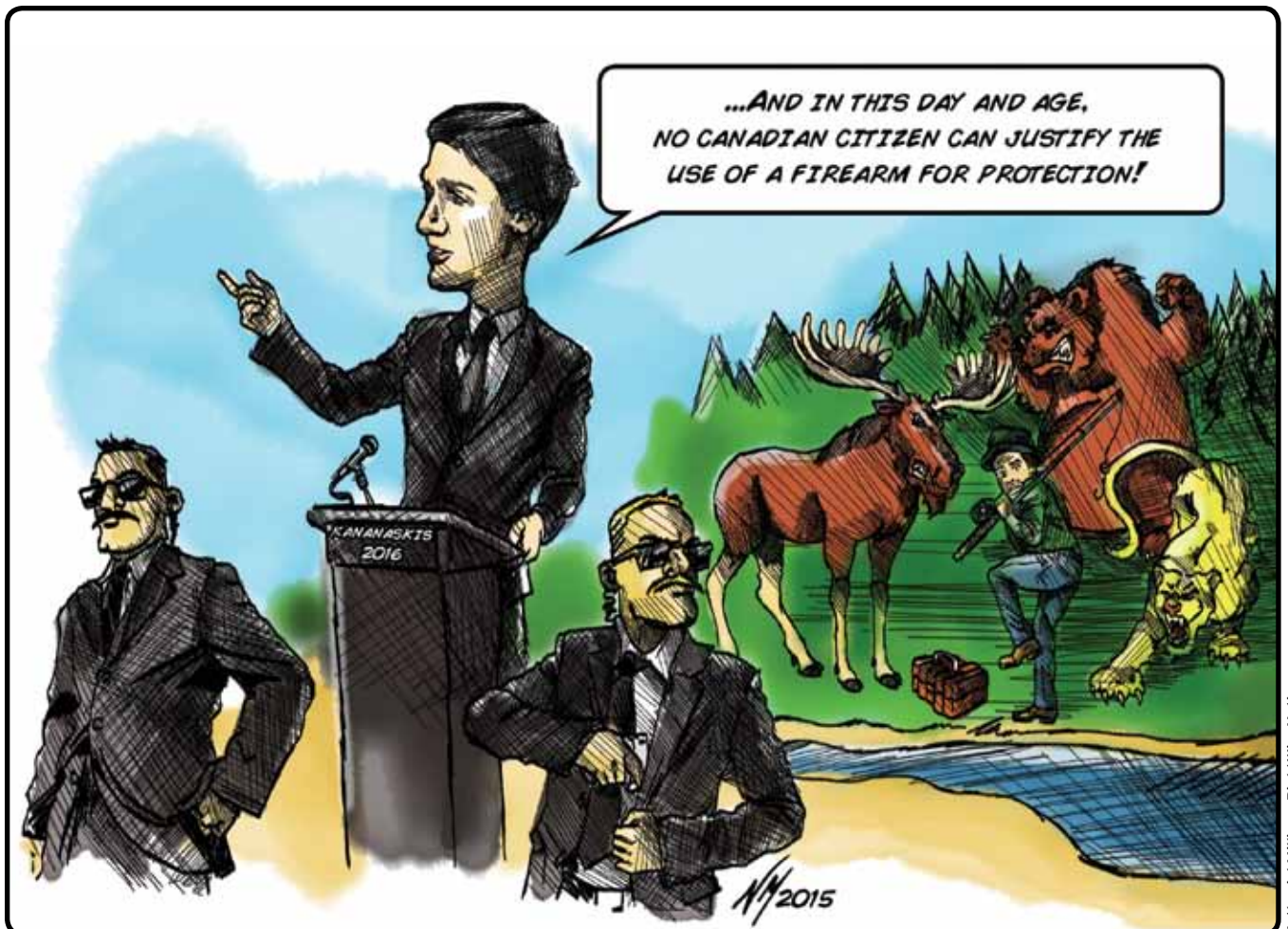
around their feet, in all probability they will think twice about approaching humans again. It really is that simple.

### Practical experience

So, is carrying a handgun really the answer? After all, there are public safety concerns that must not be overlooked. Here's what I know: An American friend of mine, a well-known Wyoming outfitter by the name of John Porter, is a firm believer in carrying a sidearm (legal in his state) whenever he's in the backcountry. I'll qualify his enthusiasm by explaining that he grew up using a sidearm. He is intimately familiar and deadly accurate with it. It has, over time, become an extension of his body. During his career as a mountain hunting guide, he has used his handgun to deter over 50 black bears and grizzlies. His Ruger 45 Colt is an effective tool that he believes has saved lives. He's also quick to point out that while he has used this firearm on many occasions to deter aggressive bears, most often it was a matter of discharging into the ground to scare them off. In his experience, this usually works and it helps keep those animals condi-

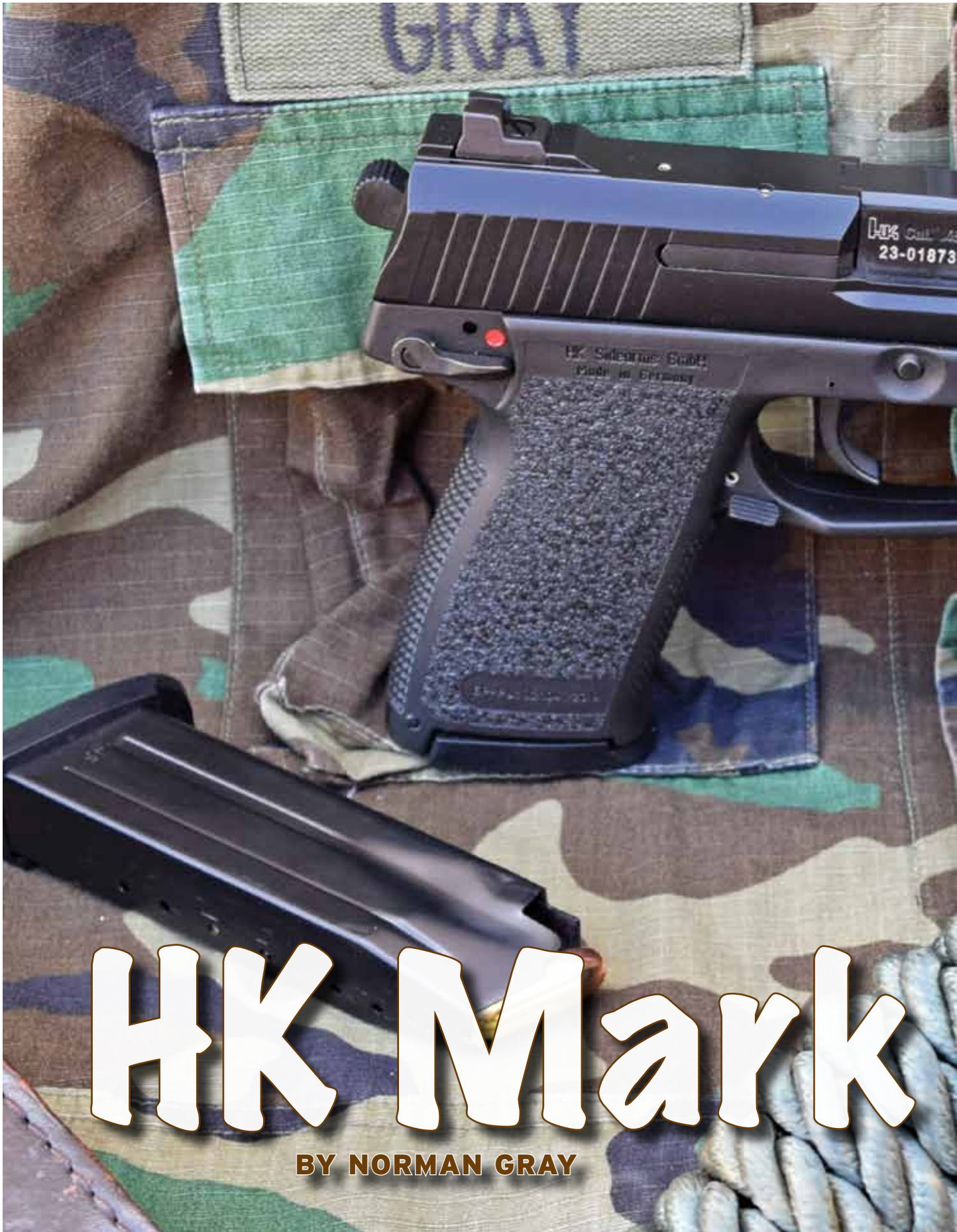
tioned to avoid humans. His goal is not to carry a sidearm with the intent to kill an aggressive bear or mountain lion, although he is more than prepared to do so if lives are at risk, but rather to use every means possible to deter the dangerous game as a first line of defence. This is the real value of having a readily accessible and portable firearm at your side in the backcountry.

The risk, as most policy makers see it, relates to qualification. Should backcountry carry become legalized for the masses, it would indeed be both politically and practically savvy to ensure strict rules and regulations. I am aware of several incidents in which carrying a handgun in the backcountry has saved human lives. Last fall alone, news agencies reported at least one grizzly or cougar attack each and every week from mid-August to mid-October in either the western provinces or in the north-western United States. Sobering indeed. One has to wonder, when will the Canadian government and firearms policy makers decide that enough lives have been lost to warrant reinstating our right to carry in the backcountry?



Nathaniel Miljour, RightWingNation.ca





# HK Mark

BY NORMAN GRAY





### **Heckler & Koch - Mark 23**

**Type:** Modified Browning type linkless, single and double action

**Operating principle:** Short recoil semi-automatic

**Calibre:** 45 ACP

**Capacity:** 10 + 1

**Barrel:** 5.87 inches threaded O-ring barrel with polygonal bore profile

**Barrel twist:** One turn in 14.88 inches

**Overall weight:** 39.36 ounces

**Overall length:** 9.65 inches

**Overall height:** 5.90 inches

**Width:** 1.53 inches

**Slide:** One-piece machined steel

**Frame:** Corrosion-proof, fibre-reinforced polymer frame with equipment rail

**Finish:** Corrosion-resistant blue finish

**Sights:** Fixed Partridge style front; standard three-dot rear

**Sight radius:** 7.76 inches

**Single action trigger pull:** 5.17 pounds

**Double action trigger pull:** 11.47 pounds

**Safety:** Frame-mounted decocking lever and separate ambidextrous safety lever

**Extra features:** Ambidextrous magazine release, extended slide release

**Warranty:** Lifetime on the original owner

**Price:** \$2,299 MSRP US, \$2,947.64 CAD

**Canadian distributor:** North Sylva Co., Ontario

# 23



The rear sight is adjustable for windage and elevation and, like the front sight, raised for suppressor use. Night sights are optional.



**In 1949**, three ex-Mausler employees, Edmund Heckler, Theodore Koch and Alex Siedel, who was later dropped from the incorporation papers for no known reason, founded Heckler & Koch (the English pronunciation is "Coke.").

After the Second World War, the Germans were forbidden to manufacture weapons, a restriction placed on them by the Allies in 1945. To comply with the restrictions, they manufactured machine tools. But when the ban was lifted in 1955, they returned to their passion of manufacturing firearms.

Heckler & Koch GmbH, or HK for short, is located in Oberndorf in the state of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, with subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, France and the US. HK is the home of legendary firearms like the G3 battle rifle, HK21 machine gun and MP5 sub-

machine gun. Their pistol line began with the HK4, and later the P9, P7 and USP series were added. In 1991, HK developed one of the most iconic handguns on the market today, the HK MK23 Model 0 - a gun that would eventually be adopted by US Special Operations Command or USSOCOM, meaning it would become a standard sidearm for units such as the Navy Seals, Army Rangers, Special Forces and the Special Operations Wing of the US Air Force.

### Birth of the MK 23

The MK23 got there by being in direct competition with Colt's entry, and in 1991 both Colt and HK were granted a \$1.4 million contract to develop their respective pistols. In 1992, HK submitted its required 30 pistol samples to the US Navy Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Ind. The MK23 and Colt faced some of

the most grueling torture tests a pistol could endure.

The MK23 proved tremendously reliable in environmental testing, while in firing tests, all 30 pistols averaged 6,000 rounds between stoppages. In more than 450 accuracy test firings from a precision firing fixture, the MK23 pistols far exceeded the requirement, averaging groups under 1.4 inches.

In the end, the MK23 moved on to further testing, with the only failure being HK's suppressor. The suppressor was re-engineered by Knights Armament Company of Vero Beach, Fla., to make it work with John Browning's short recoil, tilting barrel design.

On June 29, 1995, HK was awarded a production contract worth \$4.5 million for delivery of 1,950 MK23 Model 0 pistols and 10,140 matching magazines. More orders would eventually come, increasing the total contract price to \$12 million.





## Chronograph and accuracy results

AMMUNITION	VELOCITY AVERAGE GROUP	
	(feet per second)	(inches)
Doubletap DT Target 230-grain FMJ Match	1,046.6	3.0
HPR Hyper Clean 230-grain TMJ	921.1	2.3
Aguila Ammunition 230-grain FMJ	871.6	2.5
Hornady Amer. Gunner 185-grain XTP HP	1,037.1	2.5
Hornady Critical Defense 185-grain FTX HP	1,125.0	2.6
Barnes 185-grain TAC- XPD HP	1,008.3	3.0

**Notes:** Accuracy results are averages of five, five-shot groups at 25 yards. Velocities are from a 10-shot average recorded on a Caldwell Ballistic Precision Chronograph G2, 12 feet from the muzzle.

lube and reassemble to get a good feel for the firearm. Something I didn't expect was finding the instruction manual to be such a good read. It is full of things you should know before taking the Mark 23 to the range.

The manual explains the operating system is a modified, linkless Browning style, short recoil design. After a round is fired, pressures from the propellant gases drive back the slide and barrel to the rear. About three millimetres into the rearward movement, the locking block stops the barrel and pivots it downward. This is due to the engagement of the angled surfaces of the locking block with those located in the recoil spring guide rod. The locking block then disengages from the slide, and the slide continues rearward. The extractor removes the fired case, and the ejector then kicks it outwards. The slide continues rearward, cocking the hammer and compressing the recoil spring. At the end of the rearward cycle, the slide moves forward, stripping another cartridge from the magazine and locking the barrel/breech once again.

According to HK, the captured recoil/buffer spring assembly reduces felt recoil by up to 40 per cent, making recovery from the shot faster and enabling a shooter to get back on target quicker. HK also promises match-grade accuracy without custom made or fitted parts. One way they do this is by machining the parts to tight tolerances and hand fitting them. A unique accuracy-enhancing feature is located approximately 0.75-inches from the tip of the muzzle. It's an O-ring in a milled groove. Its purpose is to tighten the barrel inside the frame once the lock-up process is completed. The pistol ships with four extra O-rings, with more available from HK or aftermarket sources.

Something else I didn't see coming:

the HK Mark 23 feels broken in right out the box. Everything feels smooth and flawless. I'm sure you're thinking, "It better be for the price of these guns." I agree, but usually the controls are stiff on a new gun. That's not the case here and it was a joy.

The magazine release is a paddle type and fully ambidextrous; glove use is not a problem, as they pose no issues dropping a magazine. The magazines are steel, staggered box with counting holes on the rear. The follower and floor plate are polymer.

A feature added to all Mark 23s after 1999 is a lock out device at the rear of the magazine well. Inserting the enclosed key and turning it right will lock out the trigger, hammer and slide, turning it back returns everything to normal operation.

The polymer frame is loaded with features, starting with light stipple textured side panels and diamond texture on the front and rear backstrap, making it easy to hang on to the gun in all conditions. The trigger guard is wide and large. I'm able to easily place two extra-large fingers inside, so glove use is a non-issue. The front of the trigger guard is grooved for off-hand finger support, for those who shoot that way. The trigger is large and wide, and grooved for secure finger placement. It was a joy to pull for all of the 210 test shots I fired through the gun.

Slightly canting the Mark 23 up and right in my shooting hand allowed my thumb to access the manual safety, decocking lever, slide release and magazine release, all of which I found easy to use with moderate pressure and dexterity. The manual safety lever is ambidextrous, with a red dot to indicate it's ready to fire. The hammer is a simple round spur type, and like everything else it's beefy. It's also easy to cock by hand.

The slide is steel and, like all Europe-

In the shooting world, great news travels fast, and in 1996 HK released the MK23 to the public. About mid-year 1996, the roll mark "MK23 USSOCOM" was replaced with "Mark 23." The differences between the MK23 and Mark 23 were subtle. The Mark 23 is basically the same, except for some production variances like a matte finish and frame colour. The Mark 23 barrel also conforms more closely to SAAMI headspace specifications, as the military barrels were made to allow ball ammunition to work more dependably in the MK23.

## The guts of the Mark 23

My sample HK Mark 23 arrived in a black padded case with two magazines, instruction manual, padlock, lock out key and extra O-rings. I usually start by scanning the instruction manual, especially if the firearm has a unique feature or two, and then disassemble, inspect,



Controls on the HK Mark 23 are well positioned and the trigger guard is spacious.

an firearms, is marked with hieroglyphics that only they understand. All joking aside, the slide holds the fixed front and adjustable rear sight. Both are elevated for use with a suppressor (Canadians can dream) and marked with highly visible white dots. At the back of the slide are the standard serrations to enhance grip when charging the pistol. The barrel is threaded for use with a suppressor and HK provides a thread protector.

## Shooting the Mark 23

I found shooting the Mark 23 to be a joy. It's a big gun, but I have extra-large hands and it fit me just fine. But I've heard that no matter the hand size, people always enjoy shooting it. That might be because of the quality oozing from its core. The manual clearly states the Mark 23 was designed to use 230-grain ball and 185 +P JHP ammunition. It also says no reloads are to be used. So, does this mean you can't use anything else? Well no, but it could void your warranty. Be warned. Firing the three types of FMJ I had on hand, I did notice some recoil reduction (buffering), but not as much as

when I fired the 185-grain JHP ammunition. I could easily feel the reduction in recoil even with ammunition over 1,000 feet per second. I am not sure if there is a break-in period on the buffer, only time will tell, but I like what I've felt so far.

Good accuracy is easily achievable with the five-pound trigger. My best group average was 2.3 inches at 25 yards with HPR's TMJ (Total Metal Jacket), and I was simply using a Caldwell Matrix rest and stable table. And, of course, I encountered no failures to feed or stoppages of any kind. It was like shooting with an old friend who has been with you for years.

After picking up all 210 fired cases, I field stripped the Mark 23. It's simple. Drop the magazine, unload and chamber check the pistol, then release the slide forward. Move the slide rearward until the front end of the slide release is centered on the recess visible on the left of slide. From the right side, push in, and from the left, lift out the slide release. Remove the slide, barrel and captured recoil/buffer assembly from the slide by moving it forward. Remove the captured recoil/buffer

assembly from the barrel and slide by lifting up on the rear of the guide rod and lift out. Lift the rear of the barrel and remove it from the slide; the O-ring will make it feel sluggish on removal or installation.

## Parting shot

So why would you put down close to \$3,000 Canadian for a new HK Mark 23 designed over 24 years ago? Simple: the same reason you would spend big money on new Colt Single Action Army, a 24 Karat Gold Desert Eagle or a new S&W Model 29 Classic Blued six-and-a-half-inch revolver. All are classic guns, nostalgic icons filled with history and they are beautiful machines.

If you want the latest tech, try HK's USP line of handguns. They are the most current manufacture and are descendants of the Mark 23 and the DNA used to create it. Personally, I didn't find any issues with the Mark 23, from fit and finish, to the engineering that makes it work. HK only makes a limited amount each year, and that's because the company motto "No Compromise" means something at Heckler & Koch.





# Point Blank

Chris McGarry

## Firearm Ownership Necessary For Protection In A Volatile World

Turning on the television or reading/watching the news, with which we are bombarded with 24/7 via the Internet and smartphones, leads to the inescapable conclusion that the world is an unstable, volatile place. Although overall crime rates in Canada, the US and many western nations are at a 50-year low, certain types of violent crimes, including home invasions, have become more prevalent. With all this turmoil springing up around us, it's astounding that the very governments we elect to protect us and safeguard our rights maintain a rather cavalier mindset toward self-defence, which is really about self-preservation.

The innocence and laidback mentality that we have in Canada was shaken in the fall of 2014 with the terrorist attack on Parliament Hill. The only thing that put an end to the killer's rampage was a good guy with a gun, Sergeant-At-Arms Kevin Vickers.

Many Canadians are unaware that the carrying of handguns for self-protection in this country was quite common up until the 1970s. While the Authorization To

Carry (ATC) still exists, now applicants must jump through a variety of unmanageable hoops to be granted one.

As the global economy becomes increasingly unstable and we are faced with the threat of a third world conflict, gun control advocates will have no other choice but to come to their senses and accept the fact that we do not live in a fantasyland of moonbeams, unicorns and rainbows. Governments cannot protect every citizen. Therefore, citizens must have the means to adequately protect themselves and their loved ones.

Last year, during the migrant crisis that shook Europe, civil unrest broke out in several European nations. Much of western Europe has stricter gun laws than the US or Canada. Nonetheless, people in countries such as Austria, Germany, Sweden and even the United Kingdom bought firearms for self-defence purposes. Europeans are beginning to figure out that firearms are indeed an important part of a free society.

Thankfully, in Canada, we have not yet had to deal with a crisis of this magnitude. Nevertheless, we need to have an honest discussion on the right to carry in this country. Due largely to the fact that the open/concealed carrying of firearms has not been a part of Canadian life for decades, and is seen as an American thing, if ever passed into law, such an initiative could take a while to become normalized.

Should Canadian citizens ever regain their inalienable right to carry for protection, it would most likely please the public to see CCW holders trained to many of the same standards as law enforcement officers. But first, laws governing self-defence in this country need to change. Hopefully, in the future, more citizens will realize this and demand action from our governments.



Many Canadians are unaware that the carrying of handguns for self-protection in this country was quite common up until the 1970s.



# Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

## Bill S-223

### A Major Threat To Canadians' Firearms Rights

*Editor's note: Due to production deadlines for publication of this magazine, fast-moving stories such as this one may not be completely current. As of press time, this bill is still alive, even though Senator Hervieux-Payette retired on April 22, 2016. As of May 4, 2016, Senator Anne Cools became the Bill's new sponsor.*

Shortly before the last federal election, Liberal senator Céline Hervieux-Payette filed a gun control bill (S-231) in the Canadian Senate. Since the Conservatives had a majority in the House of Commons, Bill S-231 received a rather limited amount of attention from the media and the firearms community, there being little chance the bill would become law.

However, as we all know, there was a political earthquake in Canada last October. On April 12, 2016, (now retired) Senator Hervieux-Payette has re-filed her proposed firearms legislation, now designated as Bill S-223, in the Canadian Senate. In all major respects, it is identical to former Bill S-231. If enacted, Bill S-223 will significantly change Canadian firearms legislation.

#### **"Registration" is a bad word**

Some changes are purely cosmetic, such as the change of terminology from registration to inscription. There is no difference between registration, as we know it, and inscription of firearms, as contemplated in the bill. The reason for the change is admittedly that the term registration has a bad reputation. Senator Hervieux-Payette believes that Canadians are easily fooled. In one of her speeches, she said:

"The term registration certificate evokes the idea of a registry. The term registration evokes the notion of privilege. Inscription certificate is more neutral and doesn't have the same connotation as registration certificate. I think the term inscription certificate is quite apt in the case of circumscribed firearms."

Other proposed changes to current legislation are quite drastic and reason

for serious concern in the firearms community. First and foremost, Bill S-223 redefines existing categories of firearms. Of the three current categories, restricted and non-restricted firearms are respectively replaced with circumscribed and hunting firearms. However, this is much more than a mere change of terminology.

#### **Circumscribed firearms**

All semi-automatic firearms (other than .22 calibre rimfire rifles) are re-classified as circumscribed firearms. It will be illegal for anyone to use any such firearms for hunting or for any purpose other than target shooting or collecting. Of course, all circumscribed firearms will be subject to inscription (also known as registration). This means that all semi-automatic non-restricted firearms, that were no longer subject to registration after the demise of the long gun registry, will need to be registered (please forgive me, I could not bring myself to write inscribed) again.

#### **Mandatory off-site storage**

Further, other than for gun collectors, circumscribed firearms and prohibited firearms will be subject to mandatory storage at gun clubs or other approved storage facilities. Needless to say, gun clubs are not equipped to store firearms, and such off-site storage facilities are few and far between, and likely inadequate to handle large numbers of firearms.

The bill makes no distinction between military-style semi-automatic firearms (what anti-gun activists view and designate as assault rifles) and other types of semi-automatic firearms. All firearms with semi-automatic actions are targeted. Should the bill pass, a large proportion of hunting shotguns and, to a lesser extent, rifles, will suddenly become obsolete. Their market value will no doubt plummet, since they will only be legal for target shooting.

If passed, the bill will come into full effect one year after its enactment, which means that owners of affected firearms will have one year to comply. In this particular instance, for many owners of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns who do not necessarily already have a restricted PAL, compliance will entail getting licensed for circumscribed firearms. There are no grandfathering provisions. Needless to say, it is illusory to believe that so many gun owners can be trained and licensed to possess circumscribed firearms in such a short period of time. Once licensed, owners of such firearms will need to find a proper storage facility, failing which they will face a choice of surrendering their firearms or becoming overnight criminals, simply for being in possession of their legally acquired property.

#### **Transportation of firearms only by licensed carrier**

If this was not bad enough, owners of circumscribed and prohibited firearms will not be allowed to transport their firearms by themselves. They will need to hire a licensed carrier to do that, every time their precious firearm has to be moved between a storage facility and a shooting range. How much this will cost is anyone's guess, but one thing is for sure: it will not be free, and likely not cheap, either.

Officially, Bill S-223 is meant to strengthen Canadians' security and promote hunting and recreational shooting. In reality, Bill S-223 is meant to discourage the greatest number of law-abiding firearms owners from owning handguns and/or semi-automatic long guns, by making it as onerous and complicated as possible to own such guns. Confronted with additional training, licensing, range membership fees, storage fees, carrier charges and greatly diminished resale value, many gun owners will likely give up their circumscribed and prohibited firearms.



## Government decides what's suitable for hunting

The proposed definition of hunting firearms stipulates that all hunting firearms must be prescribed. No, this does not involve a medical doctor or a pharmacist. Rather, it means that in order to be considered a hunting firearm, a particular gun must be mentioned by name in an Order in Council (OIC). As a result, no new firearm can be introduced to the Canadian market, as a hunting firearm, unless approved by the government in an OIC. Further, the government's power to prescribe what is a hunting firearm is limited to three categories and entails discretion. The three categories are essentially shotguns, .22 calibre rimfire rifles and rifles that are greater than 670 millimetres in length when operational. On the latter, the English text contradicts the French version, and it is extremely confusing. Further, the designation of a particular firearm as a hunting firearm is subject to the following limitation:

"On the recommendation of the Commissioner of Firearms, the Governor in Council may prescribe any firearm to be a hunting firearm only if, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, the firearm to be prescribed is reasonable for use in Canada for hunting."

Hence, the Governor in Council (i.e. the government) could very well decide that your long gun, although it used to qualify as a non-restricted firearm, and even though it is not a semi-auto, is nevertheless not reasonable for use in Canada for hunting. Calibres such as 50 BMG, one of the favourite targets (no pun intended) of the anti-gun lobbies, as well as many of the large bore African game guns come to mind right away as likely candidates that might not make the cut. Arguably, certain sporting long guns, such as dedicated trap-shooting guns, might also be viewed as not reasonable for hunting purposes in Canada.

In that case, such firearms will become prohibited firearms, which is the default category under Bill S-223. Since there is no grandfathering provision in the bill, newly prohibited firearms will have to be surrendered to the police for destruction, unless of course the government, in its infinite wisdom, prescribes them to be circumscribed firearms.

To summarize, Bill S-223 is the most significant threat to firearms owners' rights since Bill C-68. It should not be taken lightly simply because it was filed in the Senate, rather than in the House of Commons. While it is still unclear whether this bill has the backing of the Liberal government, it should not be dismissed as the brainchild of a maverick senator. Ms. Hervieux-Payette is a Liberal, and it is unlikely that she took this initiative without consulting with the powers that be within her party. Let us remember that in the Speech from the Throne, the Liberal government said that it intended to, "take handguns and assault rifles off the streets." Could it be that this bill is what they had in mind when they wrote those words? Those who thought that those words were directed at criminals were either naive or fools. Time will tell us what their exact meaning is, but for the time being, it appears plausible that Bill S-223 is what Prime Minister Trudeau had in mind when he had those words inserted in the Speech from the Throne. I sincerely hope that I am wrong on that point!



**Burning Registration Cards: After Canadians were able to burn their non-restricted firearm registration cards en masse, Bill S-223 wants to bring them back.**

# NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

## A Collector's Guide to the Savage 99 Rifle and its Predecessors, the Model 1895 and 1899

**A Collector's Guide to the Savage 99 Rifle and its Predecessors, the Model 1895 and 1899**

**Author David Royal**

**Schiffer Publishing Ltd.**

**First edition published 2016**

**Hard cover with dust jacket**

**Nine by 11 inches, 160 pages**

**Colour photographs by David**

**and Charlotte Royal**

**ISBN 978-0-7643-5026-9**

Collectors and enthusiasts of the Savage 99 lever-action rifle have long relied upon a series of three editions of a reference book called *The*

*Ninety-Nine* by Doug Murray, now deceased, for information on this classic rifle. First published in 1976 and last updated in 1985, Murray provided data based on Savage catalogues produced over the previous eight decades. Although it was chart based and lacked photos of actual rifles, *The Ninety-Nine* generated significant interest in this rifle and spawned many collections.

David Royal was one of those whose passion for collecting Savage 99 lever-action rifles was fuelled by Murray's efforts. Upon retiring to Wyoming in 2005, Royal expanded both his personal collection and knowledge of Savage Model 99s. In February 2013, Royal wrote an article, *The Savage Lever Action Rifle*, for publication in the *Colorado Gun Collectors Association Spokesman*.

Royal's interest in the Savage line, as both collectable and hunting firearms, was also offered freely to those who participated or simply chose to monitor an American Internet site 24hourcampfire.com. David quickly commanded the respect and trust of many regulars on this site's Savage forum. They offered him access to some of the most extensive Savage collections in existence.

One topic Savage collectors often discussed was the need for an updated publication on this outstanding lever-action rifle. However, those who possessed vast knowledge had no intentions of spending the months needed to write such a book. Royal, a former Marine, was encouraged to write *A Collector's Guide to the Savage*

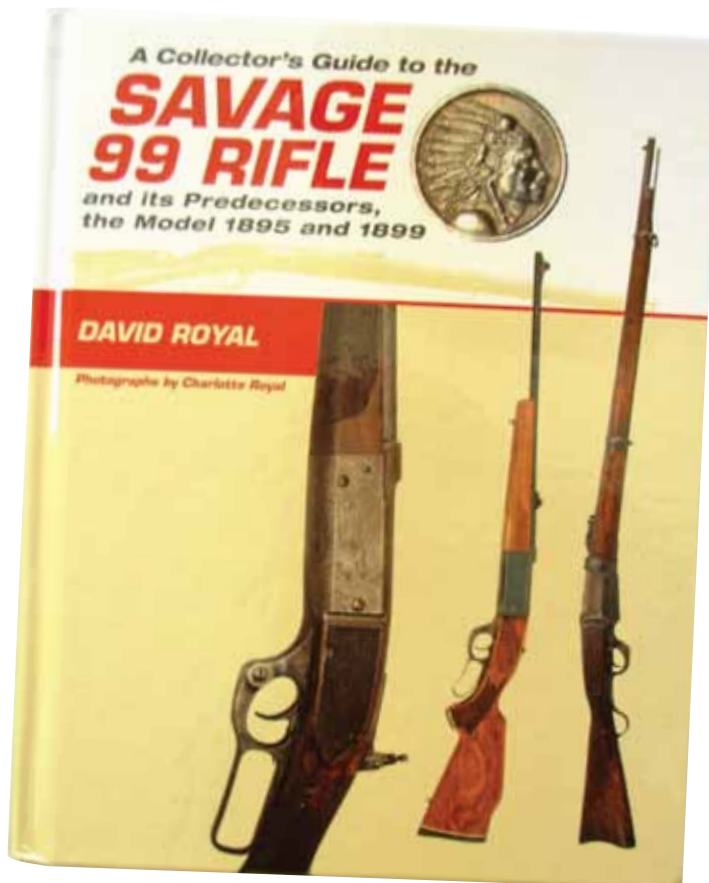
*99* by his multitude of newfound friends. Creating such a publication was a massive undertaking, which consumed many months of research, extensive travel and dedicated effort. The result is an incredible publication that will be cherished by Savage enthusiasts worldwide for many years.

The history of the Savage Arms Company is covered in detail, beginning with Arthur Savage's earliest prototypes designed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The transition of both the company and the lever action from the 1895, 1899 and 99 models are explained. Over 250 high-quality, colour photographs compliment the details provided in the text and allow close examination of the entire Savage line. This makes it possible to identify a particular 99 and verify it is free from after-market modifications, which can drastically reduce value.

Royal has included a great deal of specific information, such as calibres available in each model, production charts, takedown systems and unique variations, including the Montreal Home Guard Military Rifle and bayonet. Photographs of the various grades of profusely engraved receivers, rarely seen by even advanced collectors, are shown in enlarged photographs.

The frequently asked question about why production of the Savage 99 ceased and has not been reintroduced, unlike many older Winchester models, is answered in detail by Ron Coburn, who was the CEO of the company for 25 years.

*A Collector's Guide to the Savage 99 Rifle and its Predecessors the Model 1895 and 1899* lists at \$60 US. It is highly recommended and will be a valued addition to the library of any firearm enthusiast.







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