

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

To The Range We Go

This month's cover comes from the camera of Lowell Strauss. The sign in the image points to Saskatoon's new outdoor shooting facility and its wording suggests how important the facility is. The sun symbolizes the range's bright future, making this a fitting image for an issue that highlights several great Canadian shooting ranges. 



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Spring Is Here Again

Welcome to springtime in Canada. As usual, the nice weather means gun owners are moving outside to do their shooting. And those outdoor ranges where shooters are heading are critical to the health of the shooting sports. In my part of the world, there aren't enough of them.


Many ranges have reached a membership capacity and new shooters are placed on a waiting list, which could be years long. The larger ranges around here have membership numbers well over 1,000 and charge between \$150 and \$250 per year. More shooting means more traffic to and from the range, more noise and the potential for increased problems from neighbouring landowners. So, we're devoting part of this issue to tell the story of a couple of shooting ranges that are operating successfully. Check out Lowell Strauss' report on how Saskatoon built a new range, and Don MacLean's profile of what might

be the nicest shotgun facility in Canada. These are both good-news stories, and it's obvious to me we need more success stories like them.

You might want to include these ranges in your summer holiday plans, or you can just read Jeff Helsdon's piece about Canadian gun destinations for more ideas. Canada has a wealth of firearm-centred destinations that can be included in family holidays. Jeff highlights some museums, shops and ranges, but they are just a sampling to get your brains working in that direction. Don't forget about all the national championships that will be happening over the summer. Offhand, I know the Canadian Trapshooting Nationals are in Edmonton over the July long weekend, and the IPSC Nationals are about three weeks later near Calgary. At the end of July and into August, we have the Rifle Silhouette Nationals in Cranbrook, BC, and there are many more similar events across the

country that can be worked into a summer holiday.

Springtime is also rimfire season, so Tom Tabor has a rundown on rimfire cartridges for you. Tom has a wealth of experience with rimfires and his advice is worth listening to. And speaking of experience, Ed Osborne has a lot of it with the Tavor rifle. So, we got him to summarize it for us in one concise article. You'll be interested in reading his thoughts on the history and future of this Israeli creation.

Looking way ahead to hunting season, Brad Fenson gives us the rundown on a new Leupold rifle scope and I take a quick look at the Sabatti Rover rifle. As a bonus, and with many thanks to the distributor, Trigger Wholesale, we're giving away the rifle I reviewed. Full details of the contest are positioned near the article, so be sure to read those and get your entry submitted. This could be your hunting rifle come fall. 





President's Message

Sheldon Clare

2017 AGM A Success

The Annual General Meeting in Prince George was a complete success. Members approved the auditor's report, next year's budget and bylaw changes as put forward by the directors. It was clear the NFA is on track with the wishes of the membership.

The NFA is now well positioned to move forward to continue the fight against bad gun control, both at home and internationally. Members enjoyed a concise and spirited presentation from Quebec lawyer Guy Laverne about two current NFA cases he is working on, which have broad ramifications. One is the case to stop the Quebec registry and the other is regarding the role of the CFO in adding unreasonable conditions to authorizations to carry handguns. There was much support expressed for Quebecers from those attending this meeting in British Columbia.

Concurrently with the AGM, we ran a range safety officer's course to build up the knowledge base on best practices towards safety and range practices. All present enjoyed the course and everyone learned from the experience.

There were no surprises with elections, with Blair Hagen being returned as executive vice president communications, Jerrold Lundgard as secretary and Bill Rantz in the office of treasurer. I was humbled to be acclaimed as president. Congratulations to our team as it moves forward in turbulent times for firearms owners. We have a great responsibility as Canada's fire-

arms rights lobby, and your efforts as members are critical to inspire us and to inform politicians.

The organization is in good shape financially, and so we are embarking on two campaigns to grow. First, we will be contacting lapsed members and second, we will be doing a major recruiting campaign. Our track record of political action, case law support and court victories will be highlighted in these efforts.

In addition, we have been continuing our international efforts by building links to the firearms industry and other user groups in the World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities (WFSA), and by making our presence felt at the United Nations. Our efforts in delaying UN marking worked for many years; unfortunately, the government has chosen to implement that program effective June 1. We are intending to be present at the UN this fall to continue our fight against global gun control efforts.

As I write this, our report cards on CPC leadership candidates have been released, and we have put these up on social media. Our work in contacting the candidates and their teams gave us a clear picture of their positions on the issues, which we have relayed to our supporters. It is now the case that most of these candidates have made firearms rights a significant part of their platform. Hopefully our efforts will result in an informed Conservative party leadership that will take action on the firearms file to the betterment

of the firearms community.

On a darker note, we have been hearing some rumours of firearms control legislation coming as early as this fall, and the mandate letter from the prime minister to public safety indicates increased legislation targeting semi-automatic firearms and handguns. We are being vigilant on this and our Ottawa lobbyist and other supporters are working to get more information. One credible source says that there may well even be prohibitions coming on those categories, and given the composition of the new public safety committee, that is a believable option from this government. Participation in the *Arms Trade Treaty* may well be part of justifying new legislation. The usual indicators are there, including a recently issued and promptly debunked study and other media reports critical of firearms ownership. These sorts of puff pieces often precede legislation with the intent of swaying public opinion. Fortunately, a savvy public with plenty of access to information has been much more resistant to that technique. The lie of gun control is harder to sell nowadays. However, that doesn't mean they won't keep trying. It also means we will need to keep fighting them.

The AGM left me and the rest of your directors feeling invigorated and energized to work even harder to take our fight forward. Seeing such a strong, supportive group of members supporting our efforts makes all the difference.

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

La RGA un succès retentissant!

La réunion générale annuelle à Prince George fût un succès retentissant. Les membres ont appuyé le rapport du vérificateur, le budget de l'année prochaine et les changements aux règlements tels que suggérés par les Directeurs. Il est apparent que l'ACAF est en harmonie avec les souhaits de ses membres.

L'ACAF est maintenant bien positionnée pour poursuivre la lutte contre de mauvaises lois sur le contrôle des armes ici et sur le plan international. Les membres ont assistés à une présentation énergique et concise de la part de Me Guy Lavergne, avocat Québécois. Il s'agissait de deux causes qu'il pilote ayant de grandes ramifications. La première est celle qui cherche à empêcher un registre Québécois des armes longues et l'autre est celle qui s'attaque au rôle accordé au Contrôleurs des Armes à Feu qui leurs permettent d'ajouter des conditions déraisonnables aux permis de transport des armes de poings. Les membres qui ont assisté à la RGA en Colombie-Britannique ont donné leur appui avec enthousiasme aux Québécois.

Pendant la RGA, nous avons aussi offert un cours de moniteur de tir pour solidifier les connaissances de bases sur les pratiques générales de sécurité et les pratiques sécuritaires dans les clubs de tir. Le cours fût bien apprécié et tous ont affirmé avoir appris quelque chose de plus.

Aucune surprises au moment des élections. Blair Hagen fût réélu comme Vice-Président Exécutif des Communications, Jerrold Lundgard comme Secrétaire et Bill Rantz au poste de Trésorier. J'ai été honoré d'être réélu par acclamation au poste de Président. Nous félicitons notre équipe qui doit faire face à une période de turbulence pour les propriétaires d'armes à feu. Notre responsabilité est très lourde en tant que lobbyistes des droits des armes à feu au Canada. Vos efforts sont essentiels pour nous inspirer et pour informer les politiciens.


Nous sommes en bonne santé financière, donc nous en profiterons pour promouvoir l'augmentation du nombre de membres au sein de notre organisation. Premièrement nous reprendrons contact avec les membres échus et deuxièmement nous allons faire une campagne de recrutement majeure. Notre feuille de route d'actions politiques, de support juridique, ainsi que nos victoires juridiques seront mis en valeur lors de ces campagnes.

De plus, nous continuerons notre travail sur le plan international en renforçant nos liens avec l'industrie des armes à feu et d'autres groupes d'utilisateurs membres du World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities (WFSA). Nous continuerons aussi de manifester notre présence aux Nations Unies. Nos efforts pour retarder la prise d'effet du marquage des armes de l'ONU ont été efficaces pendant plusieurs années, malheureusement le Gouvernement a décidé d'aller de l'avant avec cette mesure à partir du 1er juin. Nous serons bien présents cet automne à l'ONU pour lutter contre les efforts mondiaux de contrôle des armes.

Comme j'écris ces lignes, nos évaluations pour chacun des candidats à la chefferie du Parti Conservateur du Canada viennent d'être publiées sur nos médias sociaux. Nous avons contacté les candidats et leurs équipes pour avoir une image précise de leurs positions sur les enjeux qui nous intéressent. Nous avons aussitôt transmis ces informations à ceux qui nous supportent. Maintenant la plupart des candidats ont inclus les enjeux reliés aux droits des armes à feu dans leurs plateformes électorales. Nous espérons que nos efforts auront l'effet de créer un leadership au sein du Parti Conservateur qui sera bien informé et qui pourra agir rapidement dans le dossier des armes à feu, améliorant ainsi la qualité de vie de la communauté intéressée par les armes à feu.

Il y a quand même des nuages à l'horizon. Nous entendons des rumeurs

à propos de nouvelles lois sur les armes à feu qui seraient présentées aussitôt que l'automne prochain. De plus, la lettre du Premier Ministre adressée au Ministre de la Sécurité Publique lui donne le mandat d'instaurer des lois plus sévères envers les armes semi-automatiques et les armes de poings. Cette situation attire notre plus grande vigilance, notre lobbyiste à Ottawa et d'autres supporteurs travaillent constamment pour obtenir plus d'informations. Une source digne de foi nous affirme qu'il y aura peut être des prohibitions imposées sur ces sortes d'armes. Voyant la composition du Comité sur la Sécurité Publique, nous croyons que cette option est fort plausible de la part de ce Gouvernement. La participation du Canada au Traité sur le Commerce des Armes pourrait être utilisé pour justifier la création de nouvelles lois. Les indices habituels à cet effet sont bien présents. Une étude publiée récemment et rapidement démentie ainsi que d'autre reportages dans les médias veulent montrer la possession légitime d'armes à feu sous un mauvais œil. Ces genres de reportages précèdent souvent de nouvelles lois, ils tentent d'influencer l'opinion publique. Heureusement le public d'aujourd'hui est beaucoup plus résistant à cette tactique puisqu'il a accès à beaucoup plus de sources d'informations. Le mensonge du contrôle des armes est beaucoup plus difficile à faire avaler de nos jours mais ils vont quand même continuer d'essayer. Ce qui veut dire que nous devons nous battre sans relâche.

Moi-même ainsi que tous vos Directeurs se sentent revigorés et pleins d'énergie pour travailler encore plus fort et aller de l'avant pour faire valoir nos intérêts dans cette lutte. Recevoir l'appui d'un si grand groupe de membres fait toute la différence. 





Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

Making Our Voices Heard

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities recently passed a resolution at their convention calling on the federal government to reform the *Criminal Code of Canada* to better support and aid Canadians who wish to protect themselves from criminals.

In case you haven't heard, rural Saskatchewan has been subject to an often-violent crime wave that has defeated all government and law enforcement attempts to stop it. Canadians are continuously bullied to lock up their cars, lock up their houses, lock up and insure anything of worth and be vigilant about reporting anything suspicious to 911. In rural Canada, this is not reality. Law enforcement response is often hours away; thieves know this and believe they can operate with impunity.

Saskatchewan's minister of justice, Gordon Wyant, said the province would oppose legislation that he said would allow people to take the law into their own hands. "I don't think that's something we support in this country," he said.

The *Criminal Code of Canada* doesn't belong to the federal or provincial governments, law enforcement or Crown prosecutors. It belongs to every Canadian. It is the duty of every Canadian to take the law "into their own hands" if there is no police officer present when an offense is being committed against their families or property. By all accounts, this minister and his government assume that the province's residents who wish to employ the *Criminal Code of Canada* when they are forced to are, by definition, "vigilantes." What gives him the right to think this?

The vast majority of Canadians, including those in Saskatchewan, know the difference between the legitimate need to defend themselves and vigilantism. Over the last 50 years,

there has been an unfortunate belief system adopted by some in politics, law enforcement and the legal industry that asserts Canadians are too incompetent, and in some cases ill tempered, to be entrusted with the *Criminal Code's* powers and responsibilities. They have come to believe Canadians must face prosecution, or at least moral censure, if they are forced to employ it in defence of themselves or their families.

This is sad and unfortunate, because like the gun laws, it has driven a wedge between Canadians and those they have hired to legislate, enforce and prosecute those laws. When average people have to worry about questions like, "Will the police and the courts have my back if I

"By making our voices heard and recommitting to ending and replacing the 1995 *Firearms Act*, we have set the stage for the firearms law reforms of the future."

am forced to defend myself, my family and my property against real criminals?" "Will the Crown seek to prosecute and incarcerate me if I am forced to use force?" Something has gone very wrong with our society.

Mr. Wyant may have impressed the top cops and justice officials with his response to the rural crime wave in Saskatchewan, but it once again demonstrates a real disconnect between reality and those in government. What has once again been demonstrated is a contempt for the rights and property of Canadians who have been victimized by crime. The right to self defence has never been extinguished in Canada, but it has been deliberately complicated

and obfuscated by legislators, lawyers and courts. Responsible governments must now legislate to celebrate and encourage this right.

In happier news, the Conservative Party leadership campaign is in full swing as I write this, and the firearms issue is central to the debate among candidates. I have to tell you how surprised and pleased I am that most of the candidates back reform, if not outright replacement, of the *Firearms Act*. I've watched candidate policies evolve as many strive to demonstrate they understand Canada's firearms control system is broken, misdirected and needs reform. Their apparent willingness to address issues of onerous regulation, firearms classification, and many of the other offenses against Canadians contained in the *Firearms Act*, shows the great strides freedom-loving Canadians have made in redefining the firearms debate. Once unthinkable, it is now a central part of the leadership campaign of one of Canada's mainstream political parties.

By making our voices heard and recommitting to ending and replacing the 1995 *Firearms Act*, we have set the stage for the firearms law reforms of the future. Whenever I hear someone lament the firearms policies of the present Liberal government, I have to remind them that just a short while ago the end of universal registration was unthinkable, and that any form of firearms law reform seemed an unreachable goal. But this is the new Canada, of rights, freedoms and the unrelenting work of correcting the legislative mistakes of the past. The Canadian right and tradition of firearms ownership will continue to be secured. Canadians who believe in freedom have the power, the ways and the means to do it, if we continue to make the investment in the culture and politics of this nation.

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Transporting Treasure In Canada's Frontier



Alexander Alfred Green.

Wells Fargo. The iconic name evokes an image of a red concord stage coach pulled by a six-horse team, thundering over the plains. The luxurious coach with bright yellow running gear, guided by the driver and accompanied by a steely-eyed shotgun messenger is

a legendary Hollywood scenario. This mythic sight is fixed in every Western aficionado's memory. The shotgun messenger gripping his trusty double gun while scanning the surroundings is memorable. However, in frontier British Columbia the scene is much more Spartan.

EARLY CANADIAN FREIGHT MOVEMENT

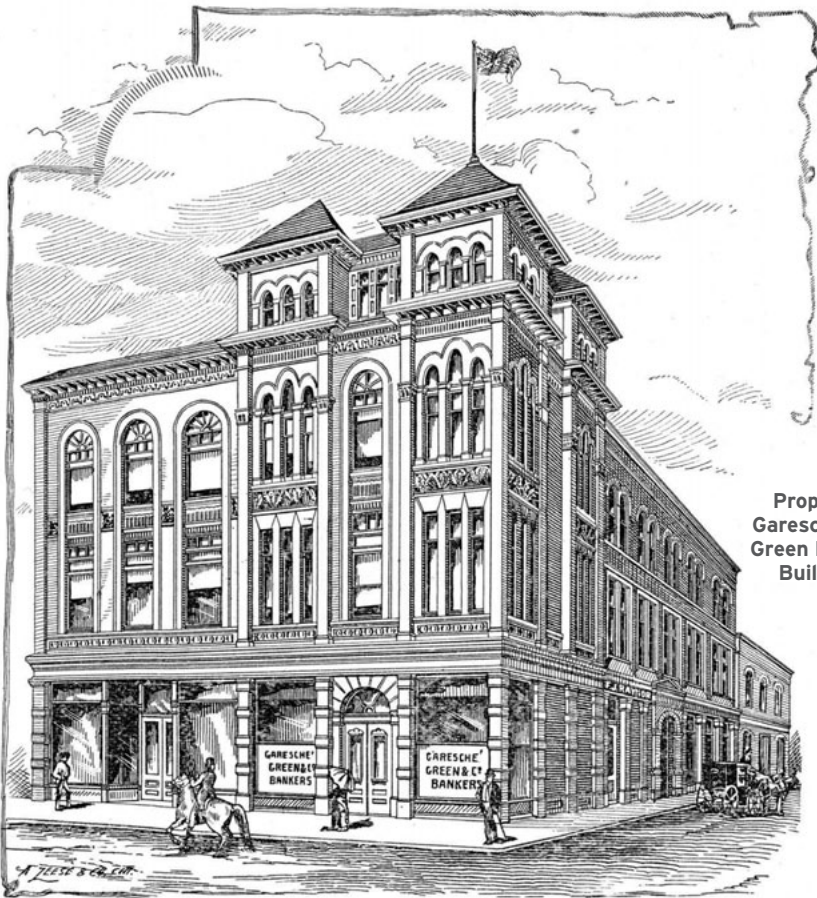
There were no concord coaches, as they were far too heavy and large for BC's terrain. The coaches employed here were western coaches of varying lengths, usually pulled by four-horse teams. The large ones, depending on the landscape, could be pulled by six horses and were affectionately called mud wagons. They were functional, light, straight-sided conveyances with simple, strong joinery. Other horse-drawn vehicles for shorter, more mountainous runs were pulled by two or four horses. They were known as mountain wagons. However, they were more often called jerkys. These vehicles were manufactured in BC for the express and passenger trade.

They were driven by highly skilled men called whips, and there was no shotgun-toting security guard. The driver alone was responsible for the coach and team, passengers, treasure and freight. Some drivers were unarmed, others armed themselves with popular large-calibre belt revolvers of the era, such as those made by Colt, Smith & Wesson, Remington and the like. Many of these revolvers are preserved in various museums in the interior of BC.

WELLS FARGO

The treasure, passengers, mail and freight were transported to and from the gold fields along the Cariboo Road to Yale. At Yale, all these items were transferred to steamers navigating up and down the Fraser River and across the straights to Victoria. The BC Express, Dietz and Nelson Express, plus other carriers were affiliated with Wells Fargo and Co. of San Francisco, established in 1852 by Henry Wells and William Fargo.

Wells Fargo and Co. established their office in Victoria, BC, in 1858 and operated there until 1918. They carried mail, freight and gold by steamer to San Francisco, with the gold to be processed at the San Francisco Mint. Their advertising claimed they would ship treasure at the



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Alexander
Alfred Green's
Philadelphia
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medicine for a time. However, at age 26, he was bitten by gold fever and sailed to the gold fields of Australia. He amassed wealth in Australia, then made his way to North America. He landed in California, traveled to Nevada's silver mines, then back to California. During this time, it is probable that A.A. acquired a .44-calibre Henry Deringer pocket pistol, better known as the Philadelphia Deringer, produced from 1852 until 1868. He became an employee of Wells Fargo and was then offered a position as a Wells Fargo agent on Vancouver's Island.

However, not long after, he returned to England and married 31-year-old Theophila Rainer. The couple and their baby daughter returned to Victoria in 1873, where he resumed his duties as an accountant with Wells Fargo. But Wells Fargo re-organized their banking activities in that year. As a result, Francis Garesche, also a Wells Fargo agent, and Alexander Green formed a banking partnership, Garesche, Green and Co. Bankers. They assumed the banking business of Wells Fargo and Co. and became one of the largest banking operations in western Canada during the 1880s. A.A. Green built the Green Block in 1889, and it still stands today at 1210 Broad Street in Victoria.

Alexander Green and Theophila became a central part of Victoria's society. The Greens constructed an estate called Gypeswyk in the area that is known as Rockland. The estate extended from Fort Street to Rockland Avenue, having stables, coach house, magnificent formal gardens and two tennis courts. The mansion was eventually sold to David Spencer of the Spencer Department Store, and in 1951 donated by Miss Sarah Spencer to the City of Victoria for an art gallery. It still stands as part of the Victoria Art Gallery complex.

Alexander Alfred Green was an adventurer, entrepreneur, banker, land speculator and co-owner of several hundred acres of coal fields in the Nicola Valley near Merritt. He was socially known as a gentleman who amassed a fortune. He left a continuing testimonial with two structures, his bank building on Broad Street, the mansion Gypeswyk, and his pocket pistol. A.A. passed away of illness Sept. 21, 1891. His widow, Theophila, survived until March 12, 1905. Alexander Green's Philadelphia derringer remains in a private collection, as a reminder of Canada's rich and varied firearms heritage. 

lowest rates. Wells Fargo also advertised they would purchase goods of every description, execute commissions of all kinds and make collections. The Victoria Wells Fargo office was prominently noted in all of Wells Fargo's international operations, where it was billed as "Victoria, Vancouver's Island." They offered daily, weekly and semi-monthly expresses to the west coast. The Victoria facility was connected to the mainland US telegraph in 1861, and Wells Fargo also provided banking services in Victoria until 1873.

The Wells Fargo agents and office employees preferred firearms they could carry discreetly. Small revolvers, such as .49-calibre pocket Colts, Manhattans, Remington pocket revolvers and deringers, plus the pocket pistols of Henry

Deringer. Note that the Deringer name was intentionally misspelled by other makers with two Rs to avoid name conflicts with Henry Deringer. In later years, as cartridge revolvers were developed, the pocket-sized revolvers of Colt, Smith & Wesson, Iver Johnson, Harrington & Richardson, British Bull Dogs and Webley RICs were carried.

ALEXANDER GREEN ARRIVES

In 1871, an English adventurer named Alexander Alfred Green came to Victoria as an agent for Wells Fargo and Co. Known as A.A., he was 37 years old and leading a life of high adventure. Alexander was the son and grandson of doctors in Ixworth, England. After finishing grammar school, he is believed to have studied



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Smart Policing, Dumb Politics



If we examine our current gun law, we see how it systematically focuses on the law-abiding, regulating and micro-regulating every aspect of gun use with a host of criminal sanctions.

There are many approaches to effective policing. One of these approaches is the “Smart Policing Initiative.” It was created in 2009 when the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) sought to identify effective solutions to chronic local crime problems. The initiative allowed local police to partner with researchers and create evidence-based strategies. Its most basic insight was the realization that the vast majority of violent crime is perpetrated by a small minority of criminals. Working from this basic fact, something known to criminologists for close to a century, Smart Policing pursues a strategy of targeting – even though targeting known hot spots and individuals is sometimes

denounced as “profiling,” especially when it targets high-crime inner cities or high-crime minorities.

BJA studies in a dozen cities found that no more than half of one per cent of a city’s population was responsible for two-thirds of shootings and homicides. Not surprisingly, gang members were found to be from 100 to 1,000 times more likely to be murdered than normal citizens. Studies in the US found that only 15 per cent of the population had a criminal record, while 90 per cent of murderers had extensive records. BJA studies in Boston found that fewer than five per cent of city blocks were the site of 74 per cent of shootings between 1980 and 2008. Only one per cent of Boston

youths (15 to 24) were in gangs, but were involved in 50 per cent of homicides, with gang members involved in 70 per cent of shootings. A strategy of focused response reduced violent crime by over 17 per cent and robberies by 19 per cent in Boston.

Studies in Canada found the same pattern with homicides and violent crime concentration in the small criminal portion of the population. Some 64 per cent of accused murderers had criminal records, 45 per cent of murders occurred while another crime was in progress and 22 per cent of murder victims were involved in illegal activities (Statistics Canada study of 5,194 homicides between 1997 and 2005). In 2002, half of

Canadian homicide victims had a criminal record. In 2012, 46 per cent of all gang homicides were committed with a firearm, while fewer than 10 per cent of non-gang homicides involved firearms.

CANADA'S POLITICS

Canada's ideologically driven gun law and attitudes to gun owners is as close to being a perfect opposite to the evidence-driven strategy outlined above as one can get. To state the problem in its most fundamental terms, it is a numbers game. However, before we can examine numbers, we must also understand the deliberate, politically driven inflating of our firearm's crime statistics. Statistics Canada persists in using the term "firearms related" as a basis for its firearms crime statistics. They define "firearms related" to mean a gun was found somewhere at the crime scene – even if the victim did not know it was there. To see the effect of this Orwellian policy, we can examine Statistics Canada's 2013 report that there were 5,027 firearms-related incidents out of 263,054 violent crimes. However, if we look at the number of violent crimes where guns were used, the number drops to 1,195. This results in firearm crime dropping from two per cent of violent crimes to a mere 0.5 per cent (Mauser 2015). It is not difficult to see how this sort of statistical muddying of the water undercuts any hope of developing evidence-based policies. A growing trend to define guns involved in purely administrative paper crimes as "crime guns" muddies the waters even further.

To really understand what the numbers problem is, we must do some math. I will use 2005, a typical year for which data is available. We will look at homicides because they are less influenced by the "firearms related" confusion. In this year, there were a total of 658 homicides, of which 222 were committed with a firearm. So, from the beginning, a firearms law will have no crime-solving impact on 66 per cent of all homicides. Let us look further at the 222 firearm homicides. In 2005, there were 1,979,054 firearms licences whose crime control payoff is how they impact our 222 firearms homicides. If we do the math, we find this is $222/1,979,054 = .00011$ or 11 thousandths of one per cent of homicides. That is the area where our firearms licences overlap with firearm's homicides and as such is our crime con-

trol/crime solving payoff. Unfortunately, as we continue our investigation, we find that we don't get even this pathetic payoff. Statistics Canada also reports that in 2005 only 11 accused murderers had a firearms licence. Since a licensing system is of zero help preventing or solving crime when the criminal is not in the system, our actual crime control payoff where the licensing might help in crime control is actually $11/1,979,054 = .0000055$ or 55 hundred thousandths of one per cent. This is the percentage of our effort where the licensing might help to find or convict someone for a firearms homicide.

But there is still the gun registry, including non-restricted in 2005. We have some 7,136,895 registered firearms. So, this should help reduce crime by allowing the police to trace the firearm in the 222 firearms homicides. We can therefore happily conclude that some $222/7,136,895 = .00003$ or three thousandths of one per cent of our effort will help the police solve firearm homicides. Unfortunately, no. If we again look to Statistics Canada, we find that only 23 homicide guns were found, identified and turned out to be registered. Since a registration system only applies to firearms that are both in the system and identified, we must reduce our benefit calculation. Our crime control payoff drops to $23/7,136,895 = .000003$ or three ten thousandths of one per cent. This is the percentage of our registration effort that bears directly on firearm homicides and might prove useful to the police.

These are the actual crime control payoffs of our multibillion-dollar system that "helps to solve crime." As to the claim that the registry helps make police safer because it tells them where the guns are? We can note that only 11 registered firearms owners were charged with a homicide out of 222 firearm homicides or $11/222 = 4.9$ per cent. So effectively some $222-11 = 211$ of these firearms murders would not have been registered in the system. When dealing with these ultra-dangerous people, a police officer foolish enough to trust their safety to the firearms system would stand a 95 per cent probability of a nasty surprise. I wonder how many RCMP officers are happy seeing the purchase of patrol carbines dragged out over decades while millions are spent on a paper chase?

The Liberal's response to these problems? In May 1996, Garry Breitkreuz,

MP for Yorkton-Melville, asked the Liberal government to report on the actual effectiveness of firearm registration by asking, "Since 1934, how many crimes, in total, have been solved using the RCMP's Restricted Weapon Registration System?" The government response: "The statistics requested respecting the number of crimes that have been solved by tracing the firearm back to the registered owner are not kept at this time."

Given the actual crime control benefits outlined above, it is not hard to figure out why the statistics are not kept. Unfortunately, refusing to collect the necessary information and using categories that multiply firearms crimes by a factor of four are an obstacle to public safety and effective policing, not a benefit.

CONCLUSION

If we examine our current gun law, we see how it systematically focuses on the law-abiding, regulating and micro-regulating every aspect of gun use with a host of criminal sanctions. The licensing/registration, on which we spend tens of millions, systematically excludes criminals who are either rejected on application or purged for a later disqualification. By design, our firearms law "fights crime" by focusing on the least likely to commit crimes with predictable results. Its math-challenged supporters engage in rhetoric, but their actual policy preference is ideology over public safety – even to the point of misleading police officers with promises of a dangerously false safety. 🚫

Resources

SMART Approaches to Reducing Gun Violence, Smart Policing Initiative Spotlight on Evidence-Based Strategies and Impacts. Anthony A. Braga *et al*, March 2014.

Stats Can Homicide Report 2002, Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2012 85-002-x.

Number of Violent Crimes Involving Guns Exaggerated by an Over-Inclusive Definition of Gun Crime. Gary Mauser, February, 2015.

2005 Report Commissioner of Firearms. Ottawa, 2007.

Statistics Canada study of 5,194 homicides between 1997 and 2005.



CANADIAN GUN DESTINATIONS

Work a gun visit into your summer holidays

BY JEFF HELSDON

Planning holidays this summer? Did you know Canada has some great gun destinations? While we may not have anything on the scale of the NRA's American Firearms Museum or the Winchester Historic Firearms Museum, there are several locations across Canada that firearm enthusiasts can either make part of a vacation or a primary destination. And these aren't all museums with rows upon rows of guns. Some are exciting for the whole family, with firearms being a small component, while others are guns only.

NOVA SCOTIA

With the Royal Canadian Navy's Atlantic Fleet based in Halifax, it's no surprise there are several military museums in the province. Although it might not be the one with the most guns on display, be sure to check out the Citadel in Halifax. Not only does it offer a glimpse into the city's military past, it offers a great view from the top of the walls and is interesting for the entire family.

QUEBEC

The Musée Canadien de l'Arme et du Bronze in Granby, Que., was started by Pierre Gravel, with his wife Carole Potvin, in 1999. He's also the founder of Gravel Agency, the well-known importer/distributor of Remington firearms

and other products in Canada. This museum features both civilian and military firearms, as well as swords, coins and bronze sculptures. Operating under the theme of "A small museum, a grand collection," Gravel's dream has turned into an impressive facility. Although the number of firearms in the collection isn't disclosed, there are 1,261 on display. These include handguns, hunting rifles, military firearms, security force's firearms and antiques. There are also some larger pieces of artillery, including cannons.

ONTARIO

Ottawa's Canadian War Museum is impressive for the number of military firearms in its collection and displays. Although the collection includes 3,000 small arms – from matchlocks up until present-day military issue – only about 100 are on display most of the time.

"We're reciting the story of Canadian military firearms usage from the period of European introduction to modern day," said Eric Fernberg, collections specialist for arms and technology. He added the displays also include firearms used by colonial governments throughout history.

The Canadian War Museum does not have a gunroom or gun gallery, but includes firearms in the various exhibits.

"We weave all our firearms into the narrative," Fernberg said. "Let's say you have a fascination with the Second World War. Once you are in Gallery 3, you will see the Second World War narrative. All our artifacts, including firearms, will be in context of the narrative of the gallery."

With only a fraction of the collection on display, some of the museum's other firearms come out as part of special exhibits. With Canada's 150th and the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge this year, special exhibits and events will have these themes.

The Canadian War Museum collection consists of 820 pistols, 226 sub-machine guns, 335 machine guns and 1,500 long guns, ranging from muzzleloaders to modern rifles. And then there's the big guns. Various forms of artillery, from cannons to anti-aircraft guns and tanks, are part of the Arms and Technology section. There's even a Voodoo fighter, a Spitfire and a reproduction of First World War ace Billy Bishop's biplane. The museum also tells the story of how firearms were sent from Great Britain in the early days of settlement, and how guns developed in other countries are built in Canada for our military. Fernberg doesn't yet have a sample of the Sako rifle built by Colt in Canada for the Canadian Rangers, but it's on his want list. ▶



Various forms of artillery, from cannons to anti-aircraft guns and tanks, are part of the Arms and Technology section of the Canadian War Museum.



Firearms were a part of life in the frontier, and museums help record that.

MANITOBA

Brandon's Royal Canadian Artillery Museum bills itself as the museum of Canada's artillery, so there is no doubt they have guns, guns and more guns. The Weapons Vault has close to 100 rifles and handguns on display from the 1800s to modern day. A further 28 pieces of artillery can be viewed in the national artillery gallery. The total collection is

close to 300 rifles, handguns and edged weapons. It also has one of the largest collections of Canadian-made military vehicles, and is one of the largest military museums in the country.

SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Military Museum in Regina is the province's main depot of military history. But there are many other interesting sites across the province that have firearms on display, and tell the story of the province's role in the Northwest Revolution of 1885 and the

fur trade. Some fine examples of these sites are: Batoche National Historic Site, Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre and Fort Qu'Appelle Museum. There are many more interesting sites to explore.

ALBERTA

The fact that Alberta has the country's only shooting range in a mall tells of the love the province's residents have for firearms. The Wild West Shooting Centre is located in the West Edmonton Mall and shouldn't be missed if on a shopping trip.

While in the province's capital, a stop at the Royal Alberta Museum is worthwhile for both the firearms and other exhibits (note it is closed for renovations until December 2017). The firearms collection includes 2,000 guns, dating from the mid-1700s to modern day. These include firearms from the War of 1812, the American Civil War, Riel Rebellion, Boer War, First World War, Second World War, RCMP and the Alberta Provincial Police. Some of the guns have neat stories and/or were owned by prominent people. Canadian First World War flying ace Wop May's revolver is part of the exhibit. There is a Marlin lever action used in the shootout with the Mad Trapper and a Cooney Ace .22-calibre rifle used to shoot a world-record grizzly bear. A couple of the guns with unverifiable history include a Colt revolver connected to Custer's last stand and a shotgun reputed to belong to Doc Holliday – known for his role in the shootout at the OK Corral.



Every gun has a story, and sometimes it's scrawled right on the firearm.

The Canadian Military Preservation Society also operates a museum in Edmonton. It has more than 8,000 guns and swords, covering the period from 1812 to 1962.

Calgary's Glenbow Museum has more than 800 firearms in its military section, plus more on display in the Warriors Gallery, but the one that attracts the most attention is a handgun with the name Louis Riel carved in the handgrip.

"We maintain a revolver on which is roughly scratched 'Louis Riel' but whose provenance is spurious and relation to Riel unconfirmable," said museum communications specialist Zoltan Varadi. "We do not officially claim to maintain Riel's revolver."

Travelling farther south, the Fort Museum of the North West Mounted Police and First Nations Interpretive Centre brings Canada's original Mounties to life. Firearms were a part of life in the frontier, and most of the 30-plus guns on display are from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s.

"We also have some other firearms-related displays, including NWMP badges, lead rifle balls, bullet molds, older gun-powder tins, etc.," said Ashley Hardwick, collections manager.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Firearms can be found throughout the country's western-most province at military museums and at some sites highlighting pioneer days, but the tourist highlight is definitely the biathlon range

in Whistler.

This is the actual range used in the 2010 Winter Olympics, and visitors can shoot at it for a small fee. For the uninitiated, biathlon is a combination of cross-country skiing and rifle shooting. Whistler Sport Legacies makes several of the former Olympic facilities available for the public, as well as maintaining the ranges and courses for athletes to practice. During a recent visit to Whistler, I had to give this a try. I have no fear of 50-metre targets with my scoped .22, but thought shooting at this distance with peep sights would be a challenge.

In biathlon, competitors shoot 45-millimetre targets from the prone position and 110-millimetre targets while standing. At the Whistler Sport Legacies Park, visitors all shoot the larger targets from a prone position. I had no problem with these, hitting them all, and thought I would have no problem with the smaller targets when encouraged to try them. But, I couldn't hit any of the smaller targets. Then, imagine trying to hit these after skiing, while your heart is pounding. Etienne Letondeur is the BC provincial coach and the coach at Olympic Park. He describes the challenge with biathlon: "It mixes two different sports. Skiing is very demanding physically, but with shooting you want to be calm and relaxed."

For those with more sense of adventure, you can try the cross-country skiing course – depending on the time of year – or some of the other facilities. The view from the top of the ski jump is

fantastic. The local black bear population also favours the route to Whistler Sport Legacies.

This list is by no means complete, but it is a sampling of some of the interesting places gun enthusiasts might enjoy visiting on their vacation this summer. If you do a little research, it's not hard to work a gun-focused visit into your family plans that everyone will enjoy. 🍷

Internet Resources

Gravel museum:

www.museemab.com

Ottawa War Museum:

www.warmuseum.ca

RCA museum, Manitoba:

www.en.rcamuseum.com

Saskatchewan Museums:

www.saskmuseums.org/museums

Fort Museum:

<http://nwmppmuseum.com>

Glenbow Museum:

www.glenbow.org

Royal Alberta Museum:

www.royalalbertamuseum.ca

Military Preservation Society:

<http://canadianmilitaria.pastperfectonline.com/>

Whistler biathlon:

www.whistlersportlegacies.com/activities/biathlon




BUILDING AN OUTDOOR RANGE

Urban sprawl becomes an opportunity

BY LOWELL STRAUSS







Plastic barrels, packed with pea-gravel, secure a steel post. Target frame and backer maintenance is easy with this setup.

Urban sprawl and gun ranges seldom mix. And that's been the case in Saskatoon, Sask., as well. Noise is the biggest concern, followed closely by perceived human safety and environmental contamination. "A gun range? Not in my back yard!"

Since 1931, the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation (SWF) has used the same facility on the city's northeast edge, operating indoor and outdoor shooting ranges in peace. But after more than 80 years, change came knocking. Saskatoon was booming, and city planners had their sights set on the SWF's property. The city needed the land and didn't want a shooting range. The SWF didn't want to leave. It was a stalemate.

But the creative board of directors of the SWF came up with a workable solution. Their outdoor range shared a berm with the Saskatoon City Police outdoor range, which was also under fire in its current location. The SWF agreed to take on the responsibility of removing all lead-contaminated soil from the police range, as well as their existing range, if they could continue to operate their clubhouse and indoor range in its current location. The city agreed, and in late fall 2015 the first truckloads of lead-contaminated soil left for their new home 30 kilometres to the east. Within eight months the SWF had a new, fully functional outdoor range for pistol, rifle and tactical shotgun.

Robert Freberg, president of the SWF for the duration of this project, was pleased to discuss the range move. And he has words of advice for other organizations looking to design and build new range facilities in Canada.

MUTUAL BENEFITS

The new range design incorporates the specific requirements of law enforcement. Three ranges are set up for training and qualification, as well as Emergency Response Team training scenarios. As these ranges would be used extensively by Saskatoon City Police, the SWF could negotiate with the city to partially fund construction.

The Saskatoon Gun Club is a trap, skeet and sporting clay shooting facility east of Saskatoon, and they sold the SWF 14 acres adjacent to their club to build the new range. Interestingly, the Saskatoon Gun Club had been forced out of the city limits several years before. Fortunately, they had done their home-

work to find and secure a new site. The SWF benefited from this research, which fast-tracked the process of approvals from the local municipality. Today both clubs benefit by having ranges near one another. It's one-stop shopping for shooters looking to participate in a variety of shooting sports.

As this article was going to print, word reached the SWF of an additional donation of \$50,000 from the Saskatchewan River Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI). The money is earmarked to install covered firing points on the 100-metre (x2), 200-metre and 300-metre ranges. In return, SCI members will receive discounted memberships to the new range. It is another example of a beneficial partnership between two organizations that support hunting, conservation and the shooting sports. These mutually beneficial partnerships are critical in today's economic and social climate.

LEAD LIABILITY

Lead is a heavy metal and as such is toxic to humans and most animals when ingested. While it's relatively stable in situ, it's typically the landowner's responsibility to clean up a contaminated site. Through negotiation, the city of Saskatoon came on board and contributed partial funds towards the contaminated soil removal. The SWF hired an environmental firm to assess their old range and determine the amount of lead pollution at the site. They deemed six inches of the topsoil, as well as the backing berms, needed to be removed. In total, 60,000 m³ of soil was transported to the new site, making up half of the fill required to build the new berms. That's approximately 4,000 loads, with all trucking done during the winter to prevent damage to the municipal roads. Once at the new site, that old contaminated fill was used to construct internal berms, while the perimeter berm was made up of clean dirt from site levelling.

Lead doesn't leach, but the particles can be moved by flowing water, so it's important to keep an eye on water drainage and incorporate it into the overall range design. Gentle slopes leading to French drains – culverts with crushed rock – are used to trap any lead in the water before it flows out of the new range site. The Ministry of the Environment favoured the project because a contaminated site was being cleaned up, with the lead contained inside the new site. ▶



Concrete and steel shooting benches provide a solid shooting platform.



The new range is serving the needs of law enforcement, as well as sport shooters.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Designing a new range is no small undertaking. Meeting the needs of current shooters with an eye to the future is part art and part science. Luckily, the SWF had Peter Farquharson (range chair) who was a champion for the project, and oversaw the range design and build from start to finish. Getting his hands on the RCMP's 160-page document Range Design and Construction Guidelines was his first step. For months, he poured over the details. He was the liaison between the chief firearms office, the architect, the engineering firm and the general contractor. Only when everything was perfect and the plans were pre-approved by the CFO did construction begin.

A good-quality product results from



a good-quality design. Farquharson's range design was built with specific software to capture the exact specifications dictated by the RCMP. The best part is that with today's technology, earthmoving equipment uses GPS to calculate all the measurements – slope, distance and height. The end results were exactly the same as the drawings. Because the plans were pre-approved by the CFO, approval of the finished project was quick and easy. A simple one-day visit was sufficient to verify and approve the range for operation.

THE RANGE

The new range is divided into nine individual shooting bays. Three bays are designed for law enforcement (LE) training and qualification. They include a

100-metre carbine training range with a backstop rated up to 308 Win, a 50-metre carbine/pistol qualification range and a 360-degree multi-directional range where training scenarios can simulate a real-world operational environment. When not in use by LE professionals, these 50-metre and 100-metre ranges are open to the general membership. The multi-directional range is reserved for practical shooting events when not in use by LE.

Short-range shooting can be done on one of three 40-metre ranges, each with eight shooting positions. These ranges have backstops sufficient to handle popular centrefire cartridges, such as 223 Rem or the popular 7.62x39mm cartridge.

If you own a 338 Lapua and want to confirm its zero, a dedicated 100-metre range with 10 shooting benches will be the place to start. And once you are ready, move up to the 200-metre and 300-metre ranges. Ten 1,000-pound concrete benches provide a rock-solid rest to test the true accuracy of your rifle. These ranges are pre-wired for target cameras, so shooters can spend more time shooting and less time down-range checking targets.

SAFETY & SECURITY

The perimeter berm is six metres high and a security fence prevents entry onto the range except through the main gates. An electronic card access system limits entry to operational hours and members only.

PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE

Construction projects such as these require approval from the local municipality. The process included public consultations to address the concerns of the residents. Common questions included noise, environmental hazards and increased traffic. A good strategy is to be prepared with a planned presentation. Emotions can run high with a new development like this. Freberg emphasized the importance of bringing people the facts about shooting ranges, understanding there will always be opposition. Once the range is operational, open houses help maintain good relations with the neighbours. It keeps things positive and eliminates fear of the unknown.

SOUND MITIGATION

Its current location is relatively far from any housing developments and none are on the radar for the foreseeable future. Range hours have been limited from 9

a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. In the winter months, this is further restricted to daylight hours. Freberg's rationale was that by limiting range operation to hours of normal activity, the new range will build good community relations.

UNDERSTAND YOUR INSURANCE

Adequate insurance coverage is required by the CFO to approve a range. It's a key requirement every range must understand, with coverage that is specific and best for them.

"Know what your insurance covers and know how visitors (non-members) are covered," stressed Freberg. "Read the policy, not just the summary of benefits."

The SWF will have guests, police and minors using their facilities, so they found insurance coverage that fit their situation. It is also important to understand the difference between primary and secondary insurance – primary insurance is the coverage that pays first, regardless of other coverage the range or members may have.

OTHER IDEAS THAT WORK

The SWF has had success in several initiatives they have tried. A range membership is valid for one full year from date of purchase. This prevents the lull in sales often observed mid-year by using a calendar-year based membership cycle. For those with limited cash flow, a membership payment plan is also an option.

With a top-notch range and membership incentives, people are flocking to join the SWF. Down the road, they're looking at offering extra benefits to members who train and volunteer as range officers.

One last pearl of wisdom. It's important to future proof a range, both in the initial design and its operations. It's unlikely the requirements for safety or environmental protection will decrease. Meeting or exceeding existing range construction standards will mean the range will succeed well into the future. A range fee structure should be low enough to encourage membership, but high enough to cover maintenance and upgrades down the road.

Shooters from across the country bemoan the shortage of places to shoot, so it's great to see a positive move by the SWF to counter this problem. The SWF took the problem of urban sprawl and turned it into something positive for the shooting sports in Canada. 🍀



RIMFIRE CHOICES

Which cartridge is right for you?

BY THOMAS C. TABOR

When it comes to rimfire cartridges, the 22 LR has long ruled supreme, but that status began to erode in 2002 when Hornady showcased their new 17 HMR cartridge. I will admit, when that cartridge first made its debut I questioned its success, based primarily around what I saw as the exorbitant cost of the ammunition. I seriously doubted if shooters would be willing to dig that deep into their pockets just to be punch holes in tin cans or shoot

an occasional varmint. Obviously, I was wrong; not only were shooters willing to absorb the extra cost of the ammunition, many literally fell in love with the concept behind the 17 HMR, making it one of the most popular cartridges of today. But aside from this relatively new competitor to the 22 LR, there are other choices in rimfire cartridges that are worthy of consideration. And all possess both positive and negative attributes to be considered.

17 MACH 2

While the 17 HMR was gaining popularity, Hornady was busy developing yet another challenger to the rimfire legacy, and in 2004 they unveiled the 17 Mach 2. Unfortunately, in the shadow of the 17 HMR this smaller sister never really captured the attention of many shooters.

The 17 Mach 2 is based on a necked-down version of CCI's 22 Stinger cartridge case, which is about 0.1 inches

longer than the case of the standard 22 LR. The most common load for the 17 Mach 2 consists of a 17-grain V-Max bullet, which is often the same bullet loaded in the 17 HMR. It produces a very respectable 2,100 feet per second muzzle velocity. Hornady also offers cartridges loaded with a smaller 15.5-grain NTX (Non-Traditional Expanding) bullet, but those bullets are said to produce about 50 feet per second slower velocities.

In my opinion, the 17 Mach 2 has become the most misunderstood and unappreciated cartridge ever produced. When judged against the larger 17 HMR, the ammunition for the 17 Mach 2 is frequently cheaper to purchase, and I've found it to sometimes be slightly more accurate. Both the HMR and Mach 2 are essentially 100-yard/metre calibres and if used for varmint shooting the recipient of the bullet would never be able to tell which of the

Hornady rounds it came from. When a ground squirrel is impacted within that range, the bullet frequently exits out the backside of the critter, leaving an exit hole larger than a loonie.

Unfortunately, while most mainstream ammunition manufacturers once produced shells for the 17 Mach 2, today only Hornady still loads for it. With that disturbing trend in mind and being a bit concerned that someday possibly even Hornady would drop the cartridge from their production, I recently confronted Steve Hornady to inquire about its status. His response was quick and decisive, saying that as long as he remains at Hornady the 17 Mach 2 will remain in production.

17 HMR (HORNADY MAGNUM RIMFIRE)

The 17 HMR was developed by necking down the case of the 22 WMR. Its success largely centred on the ammunition being loaded with a light-weight,

thin-skinned, jacketed bullet that left the muzzle considerably faster than the 22 LR. When used for varmint shooting, it produces devastating results out to about 100 yards/metres. After that, its ballistic performance begins to wane quickly. Unlike the 17 Mach 2, all of the major rimfire ammunition manufacturers still produce ammunition for the 17 HMR, with the vast majority of this ammunition loaded with 17-grain bullets. Hornady's 17-grain ammunition is typically loaded with the company's own V-Max bullets and said to leave the muzzle at a resounding 2,250 feet per second. As an alternative, however, cartridges are also available with 20-grain bullets, and Hornady even offers a little 15.5-grain NTX bullet load.

As shooter's interest grew in the 17 HMR, rifle manufacturers were quick to take advantage of the potential new market and soon there were a variety of rifles chambered for the cartridge. ➤

Savage Arms' relatively new B-Mag 17 WSM (bottom) approximates the size of a centerfire rifle, like the Savage Axis chambered in .308 Winchester (top).





A couple of fine rifles chambered in 17 Mach 2, are the Savage Mark II and the Kimber Pro Varmint (no longer in production).



This Cooper rifle chambered in 17 HMR proved deadly on ground squirrels.

Unfortunately, in the haste to quickly get on board, costly and embarrassing mistakes were made. While in most cases manufacturers found they could utilize their existing bolt-action 22 WRM rifle designs by simply swapping out the barrel, when they tried to do the same thing with their straight blow-back, semi-auto designs, serious problems erupted. At least two companies, Ruger and Remington, found this out the hard way. Ruger had experienced so much success with their 10/22 semi-auto rifle they decided to offer a 17 HMR version in that same design. Remington, not willing to be one-upped, also jumped into the fray, offering their Model 597 semi-auto so chambered. The problem is that these and most other straight blow-back designed actions are incapable of allowing the bolt to remain closed long enough for the cartridge's pressure to fully dissipate, sometimes resulting in

a dangerous case rupture. As a result, both Remington and Ruger quietly abandoned attempts at a semi-auto version of the 17 HMR.

There are, however, a couple of semi-auto designs now being produced that are capable of safely handling the 17 HMR. One such design is produced by Volquartsen Custom and the other is the relatively new Savage A17, which made its debut at the 2015 SHOT Show. Savage even added a bit more incentive to the mix by having CCI develop a new and more powerful variation of the 17 HMR cartridge. Called the A17, it exceeds the usual muzzle velocity by about 100 feet per second. I've tested both a Savage A17 and Volquartsen rifle and found both handled the 17 HMR cartridges well and shot beautifully.

17 WSM (WINCHESTER SUPER MAGNUM)

Having watched the success of the 17 HMR unfold, Winchester must have felt

a bit left behind in this new era of rim-fires. In 2013, Winchester ushered in an even more powerful .17 calibre rimfire – the 17 WSM (Winchester Super Magnum). Winchester utilized the cartridge case of the .27-calibre nail gun as the 17 WSM's parent case, necking it down to accept the tiny .17-inch diameter bullet. An agreement was struck with Savage to produce the first bolt-action rifles, the B-Mag.

Obviously, I couldn't resist getting my hands on this new offering to the rimfire world and soon I had my own B-Mag rifle and some of the new Winchester ammunition for testing. Both performed admirably, producing three-shot, 100-yard groups averaging 0.875 inches.

The 17 WSM's 18 per cent greater powder capacity over that of the 17 HMR resulted in the ability to launch a 20-grain bullet out the barrel at 3,000 feet per second. That's nearly a 28 per

cent increase over the capabilities of the HMR. When loaded with the heavier weight 25-grain bullets, those bullets reach an impressive 2,600 feet per second. When shooting 20-grain ammunition and zeroed at 100-yards, you can expect the bullet to be down 4.1 inches upon reaching the 200-yard line. The 17 HMR will be down a full 10.7 inches at that same range. This difference makes the WSM a more viable option for breaking through the typical 100-yard rimfire distance barrier.

22 LONG RIFLE

Even in light of the many new challenges to the rimfire regime, I'm certain the 22 LR will remain the most popular rimfire cartridge in the years to come. Its continued success is assured by the many hundreds of thousands of 22 LR firearms already in the hands of shooters, and many more that are added each year. Also favouring the popularity of the 22 LR is the relatively cheap price of the ammunition and the typical high degree of accuracy produced by the cartridge.

While the standard velocity of the 22 LR has traditionally been 1,200 feet per second, in recent years super velocity shells like the CCI Stinger have added greatly to the capabilities of the 22 LR, particularly when it comes to hunting small game. And for those of us who grew up packing a .22 for much of our young lives, this high-performance ammunition only adds to the worthiness of the cartridge.

22 WMR (WINCHESTER MAGNUM RIMFIRE)

Even with today's onslaught of new rimfire choices, the 22 WMR, often simply referred to as the 22 Magnum, still enjoys a devout following of shooters. Introduced in 1959, it quickly became an option for shooters looking for a bit more power than the standard 22 LR was capable of. In this case, its heavier 30 or 35-grain bullet is sent on its way at a little over 2,000 feet per second to produce over 300 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle. And this increase in ballistic performance over the 22 LR makes it a very viable choice when it comes to hunting small game and varmints.

OTHER RIMFIRE CARTRIDGES

It's nice to see that the 22 Short and 22 Long have been kept alive by the ammunition manufacturers. Several decades ago there was a rumour floating around that the manufacturers were ending production of these cartridges. Fearing those rumours would come to fruition, I purchased a few boxes for my collection, but those predictions never came true and those cartridges now remain somewhere in dark recesses of my home. Today, few new firearms are being so chambered simply because there is no reason to do so.

There still remains a minimal amount of interest in the 22 BB (Bullethead Breech) and CB (Conical Ball) Cap ammunition, which were brought into being in the late 1800s. Largely, that appeal exists as a result of folks using these cartridges for pest control in areas where the residents might frown on the use of noisier and more powerful cartridges. It all means there's a rimfire cartridge that's right for just about any "small" shooting application. 🦋

Rimfire availability includes (left to right): 22 Short, 22 Long, 22 Long Rifle, 22 WMR, 17 Mach 2, 17 HMR and the 17 WSM.



REVIEW



LEUPOLD'S VX-6HD RIFLESCOPE

BY BRAD FENSON

Long-range shooting and hunting continues to grow in popularity, so optic companies are doing their part in providing the market with new options. With lots of choices already in the marketplace, Leupold has added the VX-6HD riflescope series to their offerings.

The VX-6HD has adjustable elevation and windage turrets that allow you to zero a rifle at 100 yards and dial the turret to a specific range to compensate for bullet drop, and then dial windage as necessary. Leupold calls this turret a Custom Dial System ZeroLock 2 (CDS-ZL2), as the turrets lock in place and require depressing a button on the turret to rotate them. The elevation turret can be dialed up two full rotations, and on the second revolution the lock button sinks in to show you are on the second turn. This prevents losing track of your dial's place.

To provide maximum accuracy, each turret is custom etched with information for a specific cartridge and bullet. I used the scope last fall on a mule deer hunt and had my turret set for Browning 155-grain BRX bullets in 300 Win. Mag. The computer program that etches the turrets uses the ballistic co-




efficient and speed of the bullet, which in my case was 3,306 feet per second. Elevation is also considered, with the turret on my scope made for 6,200 feet, where I was hunting mule deer. With the Browning BRX ammunition, my turret could be dialed to 1,000 yards in the first revolution, and just shy of 1,400 yards on the second revolution. I harvested a buck at 240 yards with the scope, and back in camp nicknamed it my "Dial A Buck" scope. I simply ranged the animal, dialed the distance on the turret, and made one perfectly placed shot.

A CDS turret is provided with each scope and additional turrets can be purchased to provide a greater range

of use. The reticle is in the rear or second focal plane, which means you can use it at any magnification and the cross-hair will stay the same size as magnification changes. With a 30-millimetre tube, the scope is durable and holds zero.

All VX-6HD scopes come with illuminated reticles with an easy-to-use, one-button intensity adjustment. Leupold has also added an in-scope Electronic Reticle Level (ERL) for precise levelling. It's part of the

reticle illumination system, and when this feature is turned on, the lighted part of the reticle will flash if you are more than one degree off level. This function can be turned on or off by the user, depending on preference.

Leupold uses a 6X erector system, or 6:1 zoom ratio, and offers five different models with various magnifications and objective lens sizes. They range from 1-6x24mm to 4-24x52mm. Besides being waterproof and fog proof, the lenses have special coatings that increase clarity and light gathering, shed dirt and water, and prevent fingerprints and scratches. For more information check out the Leupold website. 



ITALIAN ACCURACY

A look at the Sabatti Rover rifle

AL VOTH

Italian shotguns are nothing new to Canadian shooters. Some of the best scatterguns in the world are made in the land of lasagna. But rifles are made there too, and I've recently had the opportunity to work with an Italian bolt-action rifle made by Sabatti. If that name is familiar, it should be, as they've been in the gun-making business since about 1700. Today's version of the company is making rifles and shotguns that

can set you back \$7,000, but the bolt-action rifle I've been shooting is called the Rover Synthetic, and it's priced at a friendly \$850 CAD.

At that price you can't expect a fancy rifle, but you should be able to get a solid piece of workmanship, and that's exactly what I've found. The action is a fairly conventional two-lug, push-feed design, with an integral magazine, complete with hinged floorplate. Cartridge capac-

ity is three-plus-one in the 7mm Rem. Mag version I've been shooting. The barrel, action and bolt are all chrome-moly steel, while the magazine housing and trigger guard are an alloy, likely aluminum. However, the floorplate is steel. Refreshingly, there's a complete lack of plastic in the working parts of this rifle. Only the stock, as the name suggests, is a synthetic. In this case, an injection-moulded black polymer that's reason-



ably stiff and well designed. The recoil pad is thick and cushy, as it should be on a magnum rifle.


Sabatti says their barrels are hammer-forged, and a borescope examination shows a nice barrel interior with minimal tool marks. The rifling is six-groove, with a right-hand twist. The 24-inch barrel floats freely in the stock, and on top of it are open sights, a feature common to much of the Rover line. When was the last time you saw a basic hunting rifle with open sights? It's certainly a rarity these days. The sights are fine, and with a little adjustment I got them dialed in and managed to shoot decent groups and consistently ring a 12-inch gong at 100 metres from a standing position. If a hunter is concerned about a scope failure, having these back-up iron sights available will be comforting. And mounting that requisite scope is easy, because the rifle takes the same bases as a Remington 700.

I measured the trigger pull at 3.5 pounds, with no take-up, a crisp break, but a noticeable amount of travel once it released. Overall, it's a decent hunting trigger, and I wouldn't mess with it just the way it came out of the box. The two-position safety blocks the trigger, but it also locks the bolt in the closed position when engaged. So, disengaging the safety to unload the chamber is required. That's okay with me, and it's a trade off I'll gladly make to have a locked-down bolt.

Most metal surfaces have a matte, non-reflective finish. Only the bolt is polished, making for a nice-looking contrast.

Overall, I'd say the workmanship is excellent for a rifle at this price point, and after my initial examination I was optimistic this would be a good shooter. So, I mounted a Vortex 2-10X40 HD-LH scope and headed to the range with a good assortment of ammunition. I tried

a few factory loads in the rifle, and found Hornady's Superformance ammunition loaded with 139-grain SST bullets was the best, averaging 1.5 inches for two five-shot groups. A second trip with some handloads took me closer to what I believe is the rifle's potential. A handload that used Hornady cases, H1000 powder, CCI 250 primers and Hornady's 162-grain soft point bullets produced two five-shot groups that averaged 0.98 inches. That's excellent performance from a seven pound, two ounce hunting rifle. If you miss your moose with this gun, it's not the rifle's fault.

And yes, you just might get to try this gun out on moose. Because once I was ready to send this rifle back to Trigger Wholesale, the Sabatti distributor in Canada, they told me to keep it and give it away as a prize to some lucky reader. So, you can win this gun. See the sidebar for details on how to make it yours. Who gives away more guns than the NFA? 



All of the rifle's metal has a matte finish, except for the bolt assembly, which is nicely polished.



The 24-inch barrel floats freely in the stock, and on top of it are open sights, a feature common to much of the Rover line.

WIN THIS GUN!



Want to take this Sabatti Rover on a hunt this fall? We need a cover image for our annual fall (September/October) hunting issue. And since everyone takes a camera hunting these days, we'll run a contest to see who can send us the best photo showing hunters in the field. If you win, you'll get the rifle, as well as the bragging rights of seeing your photo on the cover of this magazine.

All entrants must have been an NFA member prior to May 1, 2017, and the photograph must be taken by the person submitting it. All entries must be sent to the editor at cfjeditor@nfa.ca and received before July 1, 2017. Entries must be digital photos in jpg format and of sufficient resolution for publication. No person may enter more than

one photograph. And since this is a contest for "average" hunters, if you've ever sold a photograph to a publication (web or print) you are not eligible to compete. If other people appear in the photograph, their consent is required.



The photos will be judged on composition, use of light and colour, sharpness of focus and interesting subject matter. They must be suitable for the size ratio we use on the cover (approximately 8.5X7 inches) and should have a file size of at least 2MB. Images should show hunters in the field, enjoying the hunt and the outdoors. No dead animals please, as those kinds of images are far too common. Get creative and submit something other than a typical grip-and-grin photo.

The editor will make a short list of the best six entries, and then a committee of three photographers will select the winner. To receive the Sabatti rifle, you must be a Canadian resident and have a valid PAL.

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SEVEN YEARS WITH THE TAVOR

Owning & shooting the IDF's rifle
BY EDWARD OSBORNE



Out of the box, the Tavor really only needs an optic and magazines to be ready to shoot. While lots of accessories exist, the only serious obstacle for a new shooter is the trigger.



The non-restricted status means that Canadian Tavor owners can enjoy the outdoors with their rifle. The bullpup layout maintains a compact, manoeuvrable rifle even with the full 18.5-inch barrel.

Seven years, tens of thousands of rounds, numerous courses and many competitions in both the US and Canada. How can I write about the rifle that has been my primary shooter in only a few pages? I feel like I could write a book.

In the time that I've owned a Tavor TAR-21, it has seen exceptional growth, moving from a niche Canadian import piece into a North American phenomenon. Purchasing the Tavor was a key part of why I started writing about firearms. When I was offered the chance to buy the rifle used, I wanted to do some research beforehand. As a student, fresh out of college and work-

ing in retail, dropping several thousand dollars on a rifle meant a heavy hit to my pocketbook. But there was very little information available at the time. All the YouTube videos were reviews of electronic airsoft guns and some shaky footage from an IDF range in Israel. So, I took a gamble, bought the gun and decided I wanted to learn the platform inside and out.

THE BASICS

If you're not familiar with the rifle, the original TAR-21 was developed in Israel as a replacement service rifle for the IDF. It is a bullpup rifle, built for infantry applications with a polymer receiver and aluminum insert. It functions with all common STANAG pattern (AR-15) magazines and while the original models used a proprietary barrel mount for optics, the current models use a full-length Picatinny rail with integrated back-up iron sights. It first saw field use in 2003 during Operation Cast Lead, the Israeli incursion into Gaza.

The Tavor is special in Canada because of its non-restricted status. It's one of the few bullpup rifles that wasn't in production during the '90s prohibitions, is a dedicated semi-auto and isn't a conversion stock to an existing platform. Meaning, while it's prohibited to buy a Steyr Aug or a bullpup kit for your SKS, the Tavor happens to hit the specific combination that makes it freely available in Canada.

In Canada, the very first models of Tavor were imported by Canada Ammo, and came with an integrated Mepro 21 red dot sight. They were a rarity, with a sticker price north of \$3,000. However, IWI eventually signed a distribution deal with North Sylva, and the rifles have fluctuated through the \$2,000 to \$3,000 range since then, depending on supply and your local gun shop's markup. We also saw a limited number of ultra-short, restricted CTAR model rifles made available. IWI US launched in 2014, as the American wing, producing their own line of SAR-21 rifles in Harrisburg, Pa. These rifles are remarkably similar to the original Israeli builds, but with different bolt carriers, barrel lengths and the addition of QD sling mounts to the receiver. In 2015, there were about 40,000 Tavor rifles in the US and 10,000 in Canada. If you think about our comparative populations of firearms owners, our ownership rate is

remarkably high.

FEATURES & DRAWBACKS

Part of what makes the Tavor a 21st century rifle is its attention to ergonomics in the bullpup platform. Previous rifles, like the British SA80 (L85) and Austrian Steyr Aug, were fundamentally limited when it came to things like safety selectors, magazine releases, optics and charging handles. Even the iconic FS2000 with its "totally sealed" system presented serious challenges to remedying jams or stoppages, and hasn't seen adoption by a major military. The Tavor puts its safety on the pistol grip, it's charging handle forward on the weak-hand side and its magazine and bolt release in easily reachable spots around the magazine well. The entire platform can also be converted for left-handed use with the safety, charging handle and ejection port able to be switched over. I've done this left-handed conversion process a few times over the years for friends, and while it certainly isn't easy field maintenance, it can be finished in an hour or two if you've got the armourer's manual and some basic tools.

There are drawbacks to the rifle, though. The heavy, 10-pound trigger feels foreign to an experienced shooter, and the long stroke piston design in a bullpup means there's more bounce than one might expect from the 223 Rem. cartridge. It's also heavier than your conventional AR-15. A bare bones, non-restricted model weighs in at eight pounds.

LEARNING THE ISRAELI WAY

In 2015, I was fortunate to team up with Zahal.org and Lovie Malespin, from Israel, to offer an adapted version of the IDF's basic marksmanship course to Canadian Tavor owners. We stopped in Abbotsford, Calgary and Niagara, running over 100 students through the program. Beyond the raw fun of shooting guns and meeting a whole host of other Tavor owners, it also furthered my understanding of some of the design issues that had confused me before.

Things like the 10-pound trigger now make sense when you think about it in the context of large-scale army education. Israel is essentially working with a conscript army – service is mandatory for everyone for several years after high school. Instructors are dealing

with thousands of raw recruits who have never handled firearms before, and may not have an aptitude or interest in shooting. So, their trigger manipulation ignores the finger tip and goes straight to the knuckle. They “hook” over the trigger and use the larger muscle of making a fist to actually fire.

That goes against everything I was ever taught, but the more I think about it, the more it makes sense. For these people, firing their rifle will be a high-stress event, and it needs to be a distinct and deliberate action. On the range, I caught students with tuned race triggers unintentionally double-tapping their targets, so I can see why the IDF wants the trigger the way they do. I still change mine out to a six-pound, single-stage trigger using a Geissele lightning bow.

In the same vein, Israeli troops are unlikely to be issued with ceramic plate body armor for their regular duties, making their taught shooting stance much more angular than the US and Canadian square-shouldered, plate-to-target style of shooting.

With the popularity of the US rifles, we’ve seen an explosion of aftermarket parts aiming to fix some of these IDF legacy issues. Major manufacturers like Geissele and Timney now make trigger packs for the Tavor, while companies like Gear Head Works and Manticore Arms have set their sights on improving some of the modular components. Folding charging handles, slimmed or enlarged safeties and railed handguards for additional accessory mounting have all been made available since the rifle’s release stateside.

MY PREFERRED UPGRADES

Personally, there are a few major upgrades I would consider. They include the original rubber buttpad of the Tavor, which is over an inch thick. If you look in the original marketing materials, this is an added feature for use with a 40-millimetre grenade launcher. I find the reduced profile and concave curve of a Manticore Arms shortened buttpad fits me better.

Because the Tavor uses the same barrel thread as an AR-15, a huge range of aftermarket muzzle devices



are available. Muzzle brakes are very popular, thanks to the competitor’s drive to create a flat-shooting rifle, where recoil causes little or no muzzle rise. I’ve found that it’s actually easy to overcompensate the Tavor, and that some of the larger gill brake designs can jerk the barrel towards the floor when firing. After trying half-a-dozen upgrades to the factory A2 flash hider, I found the PWS combination brake of-

fers the best performance for me.

I have a soft spot in my heart for the Tavor Podium, a creation of Fab Defense and Tamir Porat, part of the Tavor’s original design team in Israel. In 2003, there were various concepts of the rifle that featured an integrated monopod at the bottom of the trigger guard, but no practical way to implement it. Growing from that concept, Tamir developed a “shoe”



that fits onto the base of the rifle with a pair of spring-loaded bipod legs inside it. It's a great little kickstand that keeps your handguard and grip clear, but allows for a rested position without getting in the way. I can understand why it wasn't feasible for the IDF, and I wouldn't argue that it makes the Tavor any more of a precision rifle, but the podium is a straightforward concept.

THE FUTURE

Despite an RCMP memo that has been circulating for years listing the Tavor as a "problem firearm," there has been no movement to reclassify or re-examine it. With well over 10,000 rifles in the field, no history of criminal use and a reasonably high buy-back cost, I can't imagine the rifle's status changing without a massive bureaucratic effort and matching resistance from

owners.

More interestingly, the next wave of the Tavor platform has started to arrive in Canada. Built off the same internal chassis, the X95 rifle features an integrated quad-rail to its handguard, a repositioned magazine release and a repositioned charging handle. The Tavor's future looks bright and I'm sure it'll be with me for another seven years. 🇺🇸



IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

The Sporting Lodge at Fox Harb'r

BY DON MACLEAN

A pair of bronze foxes guard the main gate as you enter the manicured grounds of Fox Harb'r Resort. From that moment, as you continue your picturesque drive to the Sporting Lodge, you know this is not your average sport shooting facility. Located along Nova Scotia's Northumberland Strait, Fox Harb'r, which bills itself as "Canada's Premier Oceanfront Resort," is one of only five five-Star resorts in the country. But the Resort is much more than a shooting facility, and is perhaps most famous for its championship oceanfront

golf course. It even has an air strip.

It was a cold February day when I met with Peter Phillips, Director of Sport Shooting at the Resort. However, it was warm and comfortable in the Sporting Lodge as we settled in for a chat. The lodge is an impressive post-and-beam structure settled neatly in the forest. In addition to its collection of sporting art and mounted trophies, a flock of snow geese, wings locked, glide in for a landing in the Lodge's rafters. Comfortable leather couches in front of the floor-to-ceiling fireplace, combined with kitchen facilities, make the Lodge a

welcoming place to gather before and after a round of shooting.

FACILITIES

I began by asking Peter about the history of the shooting facility, as well as the Resort.

"Fox Harb'r Resort, and the golf course, opened in 2000 and the Sporting Lodge opened in 2005," he replied. Peter outlined what the shooting facility offers. "The five-stand layout, next to the Lodge, is our main instructional facility. The nearby sporting clays course covers



15 acres, which includes 12 stations with two stands at each. This provides 24 shooting locations, with presentations from two or more clay-throwing machines at each. We also have the option of setting up eight additional shooting stations for competitive shoots."

Another shooting option which Fox Harb'r offers is the pheasant walk, or five-machine flurry. "The flurry is designed to imitate a driven pheasant hunt," said Peter. "We use it as a warm up for hunters." Because, in addition to the clay shooting facilities, the lodge

also offers pheasant hunts on its preserve land for club members and guests.

Peter gave me a tour of the Lodge's gun room. The Resort shoots mainly Berettas and I was like a kid in a candy store as I examined the collection of fine shotguns available for clients. I shoot a Beretta 685, a field-grade gun that I am very fond of, but I was envious of the shotguns available here. One side of the room houses 12 gauges, with the Resort's 20s, 28s and 410s on the other. From Beretta 686s to 687EELs and SV10s, it was the most impressive

collection of fine shotguns I've had the opportunity to see.

I noted the assortment of choke tubes stored by each shotgun and asked Peter which choke he recommended for the average shooter.

"The majority of the time, a modified choke is what I suggest. In my experience, you should try to settle on a choke you feel comfortable with and stick with it most of the time." Peter also said, "Instead of changing tubes I think most shooters would have more success if they changed their shells. Shooting



The Resort shoots mainly Berettas, and has an impressive collection of fine shotguns.



If you are an experienced shooter and don't require instruction, a firearm or ammunition, the cost is roughly \$0.50 per target.

Shooting Instruction

The shooting program at Fox Harb'r has become known for the high level of instructors it attracts. Peter is a Level 1 instructor with the National Sporting Clay Association and I've had the opportunity to shoot five-stand under his direction in the past. I know I learned a lot and would highly recommend taking advantage of the opportunity to learn from a certified coach whenever you can. I asked him about guest instructors coming to the Resort.

"George Digweed, Peter Cheifari and Don Currie have been here for several years and will be attending again this year. George, who lives in England, is a 26-time world champion and is in demand around the world as an instructor. Peter is a Canadian who is a member of the Professional Sporting Clay Association and Don, who lives in Florida, is the chief instructor for the National Sporting Clays Association."

#7 shot for longer shots and #7.5 or #8 for closer ones will, in my experience, break more clays."

In addition to Winchester ammunition, I was pleased to see Fox Harb'r uses Canadian-made Challenger shells. I asked Peter about them.

"We ran into some supply problems with ammunition from American suppliers in recent years. We are very pleased with how the Challenger shells perform, as well as the service they provide."

Peter gave me a rundown of other services the facility has to offer, including a patterning board that provides shooters with the opportunity to pattern their guns. I asked Peter if it helps shooters.

"Definitely. We use a double board, which allows shooters to pattern their gun while practicing bringing it down, and in, on both the right and left side." Peter recommends shooters pattern their guns at 20, 30 and 40 yards. "When a few pellets can make the difference between breaking a clay, and missing it, knowledge of the pattern your gun is throwing can be critical to success."

While the season for the Fox Harb'r Resort runs from April until the end of October, the shooting facility is open all year. During the winter, if there is a lot of snow on the ground, shooting is limited to the five-stand course. I asked

Peter about the current state of sporting clays in Atlantic Canada.

"I would say it's very good, and growing," he replied. "Our shoots are well attended and there is a lot of interest from the Resort's corporate groups, as well as members in our shooting program."

The facility is also open to non-members who want to shoot at the five-stand or the sporting clay course. A round of five-stand, with instruction, shells and a firearm is \$60, while a round on the sporting clay course is \$100. If you are an experienced shooter and don't require instruction, a firearm or ammunition, the cost is roughly \$0.50 per target.

Unfortunately, shooting ranges have been under pressure in many parts of the country in recent years. Even long-established facilities have been im-

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pacted as areas surrounding them are developed. As the shooting facility at Fox Harb'r is one of the newest in Nova Scotia, I asked Peter if there had been any issues when planning the facility.

"No, it went very smoothly," he replied. "Fortunately, we have 1,100 acres to work with on this site. The Nova Scotia Firearms Safety Officers inspect the facility to ensure we remain compliant. One of their main concerns is possible impacts down range. A load of #7 shot from a 12-gauge can potentially travel 300 metres, but our shooting facility has a large margin of safety."

THE SHOOTERS

I asked Peter about his experience introducing new shooters to the sport.

"Many of the people who visit the Resort as part of a corporate group have never shot before, so the opportunity to shoot a round of sporting clays is a popular activity. We use the five-stand course as our instruction facility for first-time shooters."

I wondered how new shooters take to the sport.

"I would say the majority really enjoy

it. They leave with a new appreciation for the sport," he replied.

The resort also encourages young shooters and is in the process of looking at options for a junior program. Peter told me they are in discussions with some of their suppliers to look at how they can encourage young shooters to get into the shooting sports. The Resort is also looking at options for adult shooters to take advantage of the competitive side of shooting.

"We are looking at options which could include a three-level course, with three shooting stations, say green, blue and red, ranging from least difficult, through moderate, to the most challenging."

While competitive sporting clays is an important part of the shooting program at Fox Harb'r, I asked Peter if hunters could also benefit from shooting at the facility.

"No question," he replied. "Sporting clays replicates many of the shots you will see in either an upland or waterfowl shoot, and experience gained on the sporting clays course will definitely improve your shooting in the field."

OTHER FEATURES

Before I left I asked Peter why shooters should consider Fox Harb'r as a destination.

"Well, in addition to our shooting facilities, I believe we have the most to offer of almost any resort in the country. In addition to world-class golf and the spa, Fox Harb'r has trail riding, biking and hiking on 22 kilometres of forest, field and scenic trails, tennis, kayaking and archery. Fly fishing is available in the Resort's stocked rainbow trout ponds, where anglers may choose to release their catch or have it cooked by the Resort's chef. Off resort, anglers may target species ranging from striped bass and mackerel, to brown and brook trout, to fall-run Atlantic salmon. Cruises in the Bay are also available on our boat." Peter is also excited about a new initiative the Resort is involved with. The first grapes will be harvested for the Resort's vineyards this fall, so soon you will be able to shoot a round of sporting clays before relaxing at the Resort's restaurant with a glass of Fox Harb'r's own wine. Definitely a good reason for a return visit. 🍷

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Challenging Skill Development – Part 1



Shooting, regardless of the discipline, is a motor skill.

Shooting is an established sport with a long history. Go into any rifle, pistol or shotgun range and ask for help and you'll hear lots of opinions. Shooters love our sport and want to share it. Unfortunately, a lot of the advice you'll hear doesn't have a solid foundation. Most information comes from personal experience, or from stories about someone else's experience. As a result, well-meaning words could lead you down the wrong path and hamper your shooting development. Some of this advice needs to be challenged.

When not at my day job, I work with Canada's national shooting teams. Originally, I was a pistol coach and now I oversee the high performance (Olympic) program. Over the years, I've seen just about every way that a shot can be delivered. I've also done a lot of research on the development of shooting skills, particularly within the context of motor learning and control.

Instead of strictly relying upon shooting manuals, over the past 15 years I've incorporated modern research and the sport sciences into my shooting and coaching. Let's consider the science of motor learning, which has decades of research to back up its methodology. How does common wisdom stack up against research?

At some point in time, somebody likely told you the best way to improve your shot delivery was to fire unconsciously. "Don't think about the process or the release, just do it." They told you top shooters have been doing this for decades and, well, they're the top shooters. As such, you should do the same thing.

I'd wager you've tried it and maybe even given that same advice. While there is some truth to it, I'd like you to forget it. For the majority of recreational shooters, the unconscious shot, as often described in clubs around the world, is misguided. It could be the

reason why a shooter's progress has stopped. Let's look at the science.

Shooting, regardless of the discipline, is a motor skill. Paul Fitts has proposed three stages of learning, and everyone learning how to shoot goes through them:

1. Cognitive (verbal) phase;
2. Associative phase;
3. Autonomous (motor) phase.

During the cognitive phase, shooters are new to the task and trying to figure out how to shoot. Safety is foremost. They start figuring out how to put their shots downrange on their intended target. There is a considerable amount of thinking involved to come up with the best performance strategy. Performances will be inconsistent as shooters test and select the best strategies. From an attention perspective, large parts of their movements are controlled consciously. During performance, the shooters will also engage in a lot of directive self-talk, hence the verbal



Well-meaning words could lead you down the wrong path and hamper your shooting development. Some of this advice needs to be challenged.

component. Regardless of these challenges, the shooters will make their greatest gains during this phase.


The second phase is associative. Shooters will exhibit greater movement fluidity, with greater reliability and efficiency. They'll be better shooters because they've figured out some of the most effective ways to perform. Consistency improves as they spend less effort on strategy selection. They will devote more energy on how to improve the selected strategy. Progress slows as shooters refine their performances, making subtle adjustments along the way. There is less thinking than during the cognitive phase. Shooters will consciously control parts of their performance, while some aspects are performed automatically (unconsciously).

Finally, we hit the autonomous phase, when shooters produce accurate, consistent and efficient movements. There is little or no cognitive activity

required and the shooters' movements are largely controlled automatically. As a result, shooters can run simultaneous tasks, having little impact on each other. This is the ideal performance state, and where the notion of unconscious shooting comes from.

As we look across the learning phases, we initially see a great deal of conscious shooting, which diminishes as the shooters improve their ability. Unfortunately, here is where the problem with coaching the unconscious shot comes into the plan. Most people are looking to become "good enough" in their task performance. For instance, most people, once they learn how to drive a car, never invest the energy to develop the skills needed to become a Grand Prix driver. According to expertise researcher K. Anders Ericsson, after about 50 hours of purposeful practice people accept their levels of performance and stop developing. They enter a state of ar-

rested development and short-circuit the learning phases, automating their current performance strategies. Shooters in a state of arrested development automate less-than-perfect performances and, without knowing it, accept a state of unconscious incompetence. These shooters aren't to blame though, they were told to shoot unconsciously. While learning how to shoot, they were told to minimize the selection and refinement of technique in the cognitive and associative phases.

Even worse, by poorly defining unconscious performance while shooting, they may not be effectively monitoring their shot delivery. As a coach, my favourite question is a variation of "What did you see/feel/think?" Initially, I invariably get the response, "I don't know..." Because shooters aren't aware of the actions preceding their shot delivery. This is where my work starts and we'll look at where that leads us in the next instalment. 



One Gun's Story

Dan Carruthers

Polar Bears Meet The Toz



The Tula Armory in Russia built this shotgun sometime in the early '80s, and I bought it by mail order from S.I.R. (bought by Cabela's in 2007) in Winnipeg, Man.

We had been on Coates Island for almost six weeks. Now it was the end of summer; the Arctic autumn was extending its gracious warning. This small, low-lying tundra island in the Hudson's Bay hosted about 4,000 caribou, a few ptarmigan and foxes. The other creatures were mostly transients. A few polar bears hung out in a rock outcrop north of our camp.

We started out as a research team of three, including a 13-year-old, deaf and senile golden retriever sent along to protect me and my assistant from polar bears. Neither of us wanted the dog, but after exhausting our list of excuses, we acquiesced. I was assured the dog wouldn't chase caribou and disrupt our research. Shortly after the plane dropped us off, the dog disappeared. He was chasing a caribou. We never saw him again.

The backup to our canine defender was my Toz 12-gauge, side-by-side coach gun. The Tula Armory in Russia

built mine sometime in the early '80s, and I bought it by mail order from S.I.R. (bought by Cabela's in 2007) in Winnipeg, Man. I carried this simple and reliable gun on my wilderness ramblings for years.

The gun weighs six-and-a-half pounds and is 35 inches long. The receiver is engraved, milled blued steel with double triggers. It's a box lock design with double under lugs, greener cross bolt and exposed hammers. The safety is between your ears. The 20-inch barrels have 2.75-inch chambers with a concave file pattern raised rib, bead front sight and extractor. The right barrel is a modified choke and the left is full. The stock and beavertail forearm is of unknown hardwood, sporting crude checkering. I tried to improve it, but with limited success. The gun is a Model 66 with the serial number CN2635. The Ukrainian video game, *Shadow of Chernobyl*, features a sawed-off version as the first decent weapon a player might find.

It was early September. Transient snowflakes appeared in the air, leaving us guessing. The larder held little but Tuffy's dog food, and the only people we could reach on the HF radio spoke, ironically, Russian. Preoccupied with thoughts of supper, we finished the daily ritual of unpacking and stowing our equipment. When I turned to carry my daypack into the tent, a white dot near the rock outcrop caught my eye; it was a new addition to the landscape. By now we were intimately familiar with our surroundings, so when this foreign feature appeared, it was like an idiot light coming on in a car – except this one was moving.

I knew it was a polar bear, but grabbed the binoculars hoping to confirm otherwise. My chest rose and fell in a deep sigh. I called to Carey, handed him the glasses and pointed in the direction of the bears.

"Gosh! It's a polar bear with cubs. I've never seen a polar bear," said Carey, as




The bears were close. The sow was of average size and strode across the tundra with confidence and purpose. I wondered if we were the purpose.

human being, the confidence of a polar bear's approach is unnerving. Mom and the cubs were side by side when I fired the first cracker shell; it exploded about 25 yards in front of the bears. They came to an abrupt stop. The cubs turned and rocketed away from us, stopped after about 50 yards, turned and sauntered back to their mother. Together, the bears resumed their approach.

I fired the second cracker shell. The explosion and flash at the muzzle of the gun blinded and deafened me. I staggered back, opening the breach of the gun and dumping the spent shells. By feel, I rocked two more cracker shells into the chambers knowing the bears would be on us in seconds.

My sight returned. The bears stood about 60 yards away, looking at us. I fired again. The first charge cleared the muzzle, but there was no explosion. A puff of smoke appeared close behind the bears. A nanosecond later, I heard the explosion. Both bears launched towards us in panic. I fired the last cracker, dumped the empties and rocked two lethal shells into place. They were our only hope of stopping the sow now hurtling toward us. The cracker exploded almost on the nose of the sow. Skidding on all fours, she stopped about 30 yards from us, reared, turned, and galloped away at full speed. The bewildered cubs stalled, and then ran after her, desperately trying to keep up.

I stood in silent thankfulness, my Toz smoking at the muzzle, as I watched the two bears disappear into the distance, their large, round rumps bouncing across the tundra. When they had resumed their former image of a white dot in the landscape, I turned to Carey. He was gone! Then I heard a long sigh, "It's okay, right?" Behind me, his knees sunk into the cold gravel, was Carey.

Editor's Note: We all know, every gun has a story to tell, so if you have a gun with a fascinating story behind it, let us know. The gun can be old or new, and the story can be funny, sad or historical. It doesn't matter, as long as it's a great tale. If need be, we'll help you write the story, or maybe even assign one of our writers to tackle it. Write the editor at cjeditor@nfa.ca. 

he gazed in awe at the three white dots. "And they're coming our way!"

Although seeing a polar bear in its natural surroundings is indeed a treat, it is also a potential danger. Unlike other bears, the polar bear is a carnivore, a meat-eater. Furthermore, unlike plants, roots, and old logs, meat doesn't hang around waiting to be eaten. The hungry bear must hunt it down and catch it. A bear will stalk, kill and eat a man if the man isn't careful to keep his eyes and ears open.

I slid my bear gun from its scabbard. Although scarred from its many adventures, it was always ready to perform. I dumped the two shells already in the chambers and replaced them with two "cracker" shells.

The cracker shell, at the time, was a recent innovation imported from somewhere in Asia and available to people like myself who were at high risk of encounters with "problem" wildlife. I had lots of experience with polar bears, but no experience with cracker shells except for the two I had test-fired. They fired like any shotgun shell, but instead of projecting a lethal bundle of shot or a slug, they sent a charge that exploded at some distance from the shooter, at least in theory. The intent was to scare the "problem" wildlife. Unknown to me, I was using the beta version of these shells.

The bears were close. The sow was of average size and strode across the tundra with confidence and purpose. I

wondered if we were the purpose. Close behind, two cubs, about the size of a Saint Bernard, stumbled about, exploring their world. Occasionally, maybe worried about being left behind, they burst into a speedy lope that reunited them with their mom. The bears were not coming directly toward us and would miss us by some distance if they continued on their track.

They didn't. After several minutes, they turned in our direction and came straight toward us. Carey and I looked at each other, but with different questions.

"Do we run?" asked the white-faced Oregon farm boy on his first adventure in the Arctic wilderness.

"Run? Can't outrun her and there's no place to go anyway. She'll probably scare, but she could charge." I wedged two lethal shells into the top of my left, front pocket and held a couple of cracker shells between the fingers of my left hand.

My strategy was to use the cracker shells if the bears came within 100 yards. If they didn't scare, I was prepared to kill the mother. The first lethal shot would be a slug at about 30 yards, followed by a load of SGs. If I had time, I would reload and fire two more loads of SGs. The bear, unless severely wounded or dead, would be on us quickly in a charge.

Compared to the typical ambivalence of other bears when confronted by a



Point Blank

Gary Mauser

Facts You Need For The Coming Fight



Whether recently smuggled or long held in Canada but never registered, the overwhelming majority of guns used in crime have long been outside the system.

Even though the Trudeau Liberals have already abandoned many campaign promises, they remain eager to crack down on gun owners. To keep their base happy, the Liberals must honour at least some of their promises. And we are easy meat.

During the 2015 campaign, they

promised to “get handguns and assault weapons off our streets.” This included, among other ideas, rolling back the few relaxations of gun laws the previous government introduced, and joining the United Nations’ *Arms Trade Treaty*. Signed immediately after the Liberals came to power, the ATT is a grab bag of

draconian firearm restrictions based on the UN’s recommendations. Not only does the ATT fundamentally refuse to accept that civilians have a legitimate right to own a firearm for self defence (even against rabid animals), it also strongly urges countries to adopt universal firearms registration, set strict limits on civilian “stockpiles” of firearms and ammunition, impose “enhanced safe storage” regulations and urges stringent enforcement of who can prove they legitimately need a firearm.

Given their support for the ATT, I predict the Liberals will reintroduce long-gun registration in one form or another, despite promising not to do so during the 2015 campaign. Gun control has been out of the news since the election. That is about to change. The recent appointments to Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale’s Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee, especially Nathalie Provost as vice chairperson (she’s promoted as a survivor of the multiple-victim shooting at École Polytechnique), reveals the government’s goal is to severely restrict gun rights.

It is time to get prepared before the Liberals bring down the hammer. To argue against further gun laws, it is important to know the facts. The Liberals will justify new restrictions by claiming that civilian gun owners pose a serious threat to public safety, particularly to women and children. But what are the facts? Are PAL holders potential killers? Do violent criminals get their guns by stealing them from legitimate owners? Are guns more dangerous than knives? Here are the answers you need for forthcoming debates.

HOW MURDEROUS ARE PAL HOLDERS?

Civilian gun owners recite the mantra that we are less violent than other Canadians. Indeed, past statistics support this claim. In my 2012 presentation to the Senate during the hearings over dismantling the long-gun registry, I reported that PAL



Canadians who hold a firearms licence are approximately one-third as likely to commit murder as other Canadians.

holders are much less likely to be murderers than are other Canadians. Based on a Special Request to Statistics Canada, Canadians who do not have a firearms licence are almost three times more likely to commit murder than those who do over the years 1997 to 2010 (Mauser 2012).

Did homicide rates for PAL holders go up after the long-gun registry was cancelled? To find out, I submitted another Special Request in 2016 and extended the analysis through 2015 (the most recent year statistics are available). Over that new, longer period, I found the homicide rate was virtually the same, 0.65 per 100,000 licensed gun owners. The demise of the long-gun registry saw the annual homicide rate for PAL holders remain well below the general Canadian homicide rate.

	HOMICIDE RATE POL/PAL/FAC	HOMICIDE RATE CANADA	RATIO
2003-2012	0.63	1.80	2.9
2003-2015	0.65	1.74	2.7

After a long, irregular decline in the national homicide rate since the early 1990s, the Canadian national homicide

rate increased slightly (from 1.58 to 1.68) from 2012 to 2015. The homicide rate for PAL holders also increased after 2012 (from 0.60 to 0.95). Because of the small number of homicides involved, three years are not enough to know if this trend is real. It is unlikely that ending the long-gun registry has had any effect, since fewer than five per cent of guns used in murders were ever registered. The small number of murderers holding a PAL means for statistical reasons that there are wide swings from year to year, and the changes since 2012 fall well within the normal range reported by Statistics Canada. Since 1997, between seven and 19 (out of approximately two million) PAL holders have accused of murder in any given year.

ARE LICENSED FIREARMS OWNERS THE SOURCE OF CRIME GUNS?

As I've reported in previous articles, published police reports have systematically pointed to smuggling being the dominant source of crime guns in Canada, and, only secondarily, domestic firearms. Exceptionally few of the domestic guns have never been legally owned. In a Special Request to Statistics Canada, I found that only six per cent of the guns used in murder had ever been registered between 2003

and 2010, the time the long-gun registry was operational (Mauser 2015). Whether recently smuggled or long held in Canada but never registered, the overwhelming majority of guns used in crime have long been outside the system. Authorities are too embarrassed to admit this. At least two million Canadian gun owners never bothered to get a PAL or POL when licensing was imposed (Mauser 2007). The large majority are scofflaws, while a few are hard-core criminals.

Don't forget: other domestic sources for crime guns are the police or military themselves, who don't routinely announce losses or thefts, even to parliament. After persistent digging, researcher Dennis Young has managed to find some information on firearms lost or stolen by Canada's police or military. Check his website for more information.

ARE GUNS MUCH MORE DANGEROUS THAN KNIVES?

The rationale for building our extensive and complex firearms laws is that guns are much more dangerous than any other weapon. One wag claimed that the *Criminal Code* is, "mostly gun laws plus a few other things."

The case against guns is exaggerated because knives are approximately as



According to Statistics Canada, there were more homicides committed with knives than with guns over the past 10 years.

deadly. According to Statistics Canada, there were more homicides committed with knives than with guns over the past 10 years (1,807 versus 1,588). However, this somewhat overstates the case against knives, as there were more serious knife attacks than gun attacks. One way to compare the deadliness of knives and guns is to look at the frequency that police lay charges in different types of murderous attacks (i.e., attempted murder or homicide). Over the past 10 years (2006 to 2015) there were 3,697 murderous attacks involving firearms and 4,070 attacks involving knives. Thus the “deadliness” of a gun attack is 43 per cent and that of a knife attack is 44 per cent.

On the other hand, police are much more likely to lay a charge in the case of a gun assault than in a knife assault. If fewer knife attackers are charged, then the deadliness of knives is unintentionally exaggerated. A more accurate approach is to examine medical data on injuries. Professor Gary Kleck did this in 1991 and he found that gun wounds resulted in death four times as often as knife wounds. Kleck attributes the greater mortality of gun attacks primarily to the difference in the attacker’s motivation.

Dangerousness does not just mean deadliness. In a 2005 study, I found that attacks with knives (or even clubs) were much more likely than gun attacks to result in seriously injuring the victim (assuming they live). Just six per cent of victims received “major physical injuries” in a gun attack, while 11 per cent of victims of knife attacks were seriously injured, as were 14 per cent of victims of attacks with clubs. The problem is violent criminals, not firearms in the hands of civilians.

SO WHAT?

It’s time to get ready to fight for our rights. My sources tell me that the Liberals are drawing up new laws to impose on gun owners. This article has provided facts to help argue against further gun laws.

First, PAL holders are not potential killers. Canadians who hold a firearms licence are approximately one-third as likely to commit murder as other Canadians. My Special Request to Statistics Canada found that homicide rates remained virtually the same after the demise of the long-gun registry. The annual homicide rate for PAL holders remains well below the general Canadian homicide rate.

Second, the shooting community is not a reservoir of guns for criminals. The statistics show that violent criminals primarily get guns by smuggling them across the border in exchange for drugs, and only rarely by stealing them from law-abiding owners.

Third, the unique dangerousness of guns is a gross exaggeration. In terms of absolute harm, guns are more dangerous than knives, but not by much. The key difference is that firearms are much more useful for personal protection. Hunters, farmers, rural or urban residents, all benefit from the potential increased defence capability of a firearm over a knife.

As Caillin Langmann has shown, gun laws just don’t work. Whatever new laws the Liberal government proposes, there is no evidence whatever that further restrictions, such as gun registration, would do anything to bring down crime rates. At the same time, there is ample evidence that gun restrictions cause real problems for law-abiding citizens. And the poor suffering

taxpayer ends up paying the tab.

Don’t be shy. Go talk with your MP! Share your views on firearms. When you do speak out in defence of lawful ownership, please remember that you must always be polite. Angry or intemperate protests can only backfire. You are claiming to be mature, so you’d better act like it.

If your MP is doing a good job, be sure to tell him or her. Don’t just complain. MPs appreciate praise like anyone else. Even better: get involved in the political party of your choice—Liberal, NDP or Conservative. Volunteering is the best way to make sure political parties understand the importance of issues facing law-abiding gun owners. 🇨🇦

Resources

www.liberal.ca/realchange/guns/
www.smallarmsstandards.org/isacs/
www.sfu.ca/~mauser/papers/ISACS/civilians.pdf

www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/101/cst01/legal01-eng.htm

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Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Social Media & Firearms



Let's not kid ourselves: we live in a world where people are conditioned to view firearms, and anything associated with firearms, with suspicion.

In 1984, the classic English novel written in 1948, George Orwell depicts a universe where individuals are constantly under the surveillance of Big Brother. Big Brother is an allegory for an omnipotent government that knows everything about its people. It watches their every move; it knows what they think and what they do at all times. People have no expectation of privacy. Big Brother knows everything and sees everything.

YOU ARE UNDER SURVEILLANCE

Fast forward to 2017. Social media are everywhere; most of us have multiple accounts, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and/or various Internet

discussion forums. We post information about our lives, interests and opinions on these media for the world to read and see. By doing so, we sacrifice our privacy, much like the characters of 1984, and our lives, opinions and interests are now exposed to our governments and their respective police departments. Whatever you post on social media becomes part of the public realm and is no longer private. It can be "shared," "liked" or otherwise disseminated by an indeterminate number of people, whom you do not know and over whom you have no control whatsoever. Most importantly, that content can be viewed and it can be traced back to you!

Further to the recent Quebec City mosque murders, both media and politicians have suggested that police surveillance of social media should be intensified. First of all, this is an acknowledgement that certain police agencies are already keeping an eye on what transpires on social media. Secondly, it is an indication that it will only get worse.

But you might ask: What does that have to do with firearms? Let me explain.

THE CANADIAN FIREARMS LICENCE SYSTEM

Under current Canadian firearms law, possessing a firearm is a privilege, not a right. That so-called privilege is



When you handle firearms around other people, keep in mind that just about every person around you carries a video camera, in the form of a smart phone.

granted to firearms licence holders by the state acting through the provincial chief firearms officer (CFO). When you apply for or renew a firearms licence, the CFO performs a fairly thorough verification of your background, in order to determine whether you meet the criteria for the issuance of a licence. In theory, nothing precludes the CFO from searching social media to learn a little more about you and your interest for firearms.

A firearms licence is valid for five years. In other words, that privilege is granted to you for five years at a time. Every five years, you must renew your licence and submit yourself to a new verification of your background. The only difference between a licence renewal and a new application is that you are not required to provide proof of successful completion of the Canadian Firearms Safety Course. Other than that, the fact that you previously held a licence does not in any way warrant that it will be renewed. If anything about you has changed, and the CFO does not like the change, your licence will likely not be renewed.

Even during its five-year term, a

licence may be revoked by the CFO for “any good and sufficient reason” (see paragraph 70(1) of the *Firearms Act*). In plain language, “any good and sufficient reason” means any reasonable grounds that the CFO may have to believe that a particular person might be a risk to himself or to others if that person is allowed to possess firearms. The power of the CFO to revoke a licence is discretionary and is effective immediately. However, it can be challenged by the licence holder before a provincial court judge, within 30 days.

The Canadian Firearms Program has a hotline for people to report concerns about firearms owners; much like in 1984, where people were encouraged to report concerns about their neighbours and acquaintances. Of course, anything that you post or say on social media about your interest for firearms may be the cause of such concerns. A report of “concerns” usually leads to an investigation, and if there is an iota of substance behind them, it typically results in or leads to a firearms seizure, a licence revocation and sometimes an application for a firearms prohibition order.

A WORD OF CAUTION

Let’s not kid ourselves: we live in a world where people are conditioned to view firearms, and anything associated with firearms, with suspicion. If you do not want to be viewed with suspicion, please do not feed the beast! And there lies the difficulty. As gun owners, we are proud of what we do and who we are. We want to share our interests, our views and our accomplishments with the world. However, a certain part of the world does not share or like our interests. Worse, that part of the world believes that our interests have no place in 21st century society.

When it comes to firearms, posting on social media is akin to speaking to the police when you are under arrest, except that it does not come with the warning that “everything that you say, can and will be used against you.”

Does this mean that, as firearms owners, we should entirely stay away from social media and hide in the proverbial closet? I am definitely not suggesting anything like that. However, I am suggesting that we should be cautious as to what we do and what we post.

Here are a few examples of social media

content that could get you in trouble with law enforcement and the CFO:

1. Any images where the muzzle of the firearm is pointed at the camera, at another person or in any unsafe direction;
2. Any images depicting usage of restricted or prohibited firearms at a place other than a CFO-approved range or club;
3. Any images showing you performing a stunt with a firearm, which may be viewed as unsafe to yourself or others;
4. Any images depicting casual handling of firearms (particularly restricted or prohibited firearms), especially at home;
5. Any images showing young children handling firearms, whether under supervision or not;
6. Any content or slogan advocating usage of firearms for home defence

or other defensive purposes;

7. Any content advocating usage of firearms for insurrection or resistance to government policies;
8. Any content advocating violence of any kind;
9. Any content suggesting a level of interest for firearms that may be viewed as pathological.

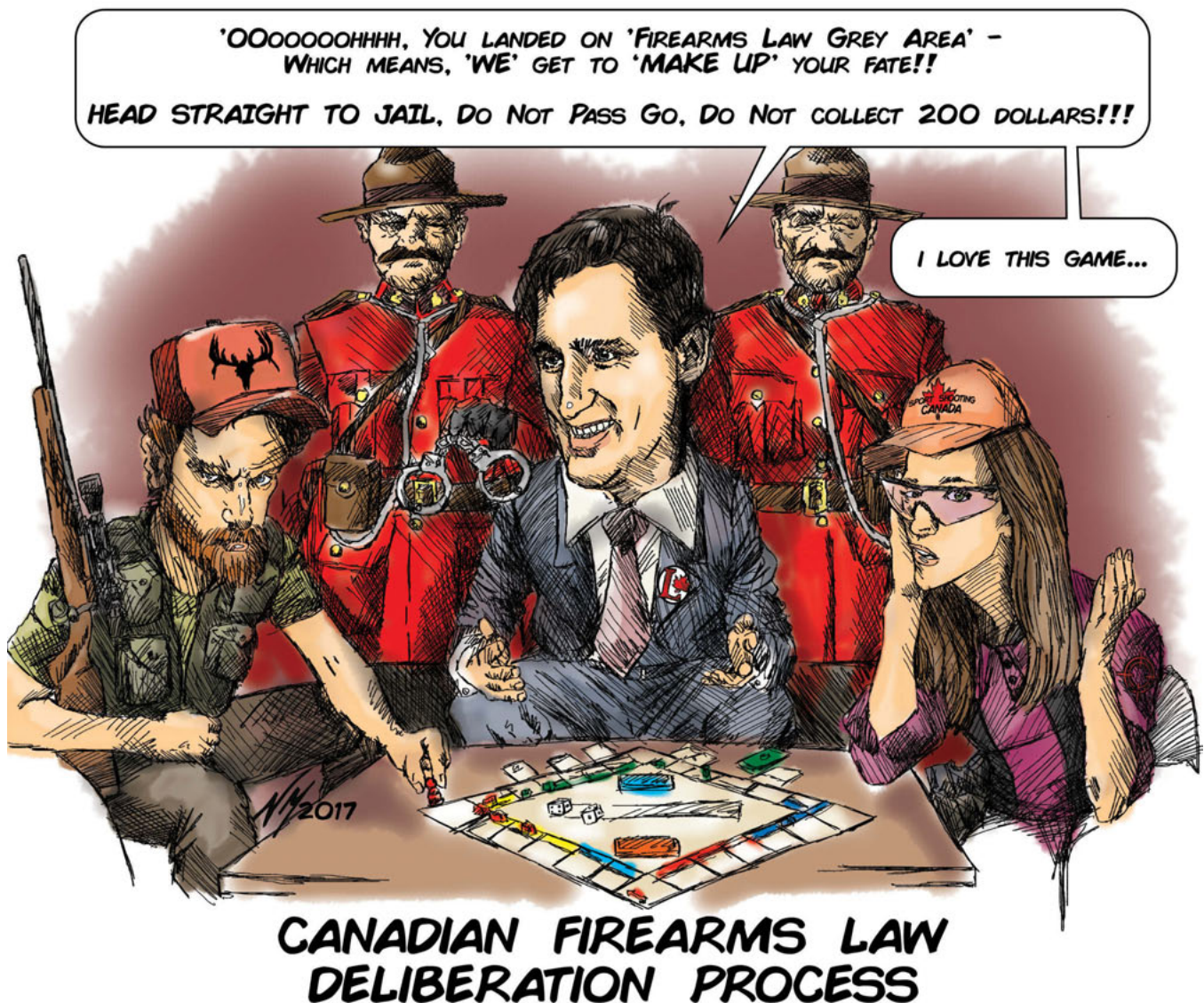
As to point #6, I am not concerned about rhetorical arguments and advocacy of self-defence, as much as I am about statements that one keeps firearms at the ready for self-defence purposes. If you do not believe me, ask my client whose firearms licence was revoked because he grabbed his (unloaded) handgun to defend himself during a home invasion.

You might think such content is safe if it is posted on discussion forums, under an alias. If you think so, you are fooling yourself. Any social media alias can be

traced to an IP address, and therefore to a specific computer and its owner. That information can be obtained by police, and they have certainly done so in the past. Further, facial recognition software now allows the identification of individuals appearing in videos and pictures posted on the Internet.

When you do handle firearms around other people, also keep in mind that just about every person around you carries a video camera, in the form of a smart phone. And that any such person may be prone to taking a picture or making a video of you and posting it on social media. Just one more reason to act in a safe and responsible manner, as if you needed another!

As far as forecasting the future, Orwell was not too far off – 2017 is definitely closer to 1984 than we ever were before. And for that, we can blame the advent of social media, at least in part. 🍷





NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

SPG Lubricants – BP Cartridge Reloading Primer

Author: Mike Venturino
& Steve Garbe

Title: SPG Lubricants – BP
Cartridge Reloading Primer,
8th Revised Edition 2015

Publisher: SPG, Inc.
Cody, Wyoming

ISBN: None

Pages: 126

Size: Soft cover, spiral bound,
6 x 9 inches

Illustrations:
Black and white

Originally published in 1992 *SPG Lubricants – BP Cartridge Reloading Primer* has proven to be the reference book of choice for firearm enthusiasts who reload and shoot black powder cartridges. The recently published eighth edition provides the most up-to-date advice available on this subject.

Mike Venturino is an accomplished shooter and author who has released a variety of books on shooting firearms, including buffalo rifles and Second World War small arms. He says he avoided black powder cartridge rifles at one point in his career because he simply could not “get it to work.” Accuracy tended to be less than satisfactory, causing Venturino to assume that even modern reproduction black powder cartridge rifles would not shoot tight groups. But Venturino had the good fortune of meeting Steve Garbe from Montana, whose favourite saying was, “Smokeless powder is a passing fad!” Garbe could not understand why Venturino’s rifles would not shoot accurately, as his did “OK.” A friendly visit to the range left Venturino slack-jawed as Garbe fired a 10-shot three-inch group at 100 yards.

Garbe eventually provided Venturino

with a small jar of his SPG bullet lube and the result was an amazing increase in accuracy. This lubricant reduced leading, and also helped keep black powder fouling soft. At Venturino’s urging, Garbe successfully put his bullet lubricant on the market and shortly after, the first edition of *Black Powder Cartridge Reloading Primer* was published.

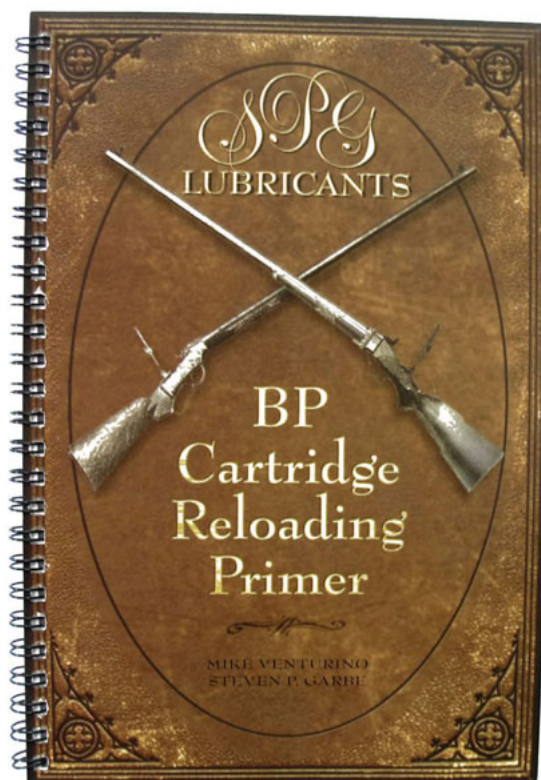
The authors have provided a great deal of information in an easy-to-use format. *Chapter One – Basic Black Powder Cartridge Reloading* explains why black powder is the only choice for top-notch accuracy in modern reproductions of black powder cartridge rifles. “Duplex loading” is described as a potentially dangerous practice producing less accurate groups than straight black powder. Ammunition components are discussed and advice, based on years of experience, is shared freely. The use of a drop tube to load cases with powder is described as a critical factor in obtaining desired accuracy. The authors also explain why they recommend a hot primer in the larger black powder calibre cartridges.

Garbe has included a chapter devoted to the 32-40 and 38-55 cartridges, which need to be loaded “with some attention paid to certain details.” The modest recoil of these old-time favourites is an advantage for those who shoot many rounds, or tend to flinch at the shoulder pounding of large-calibre cartridges.

Detailed charts display the basic history, specifications and sample loads for 22 cartridges

currently chambered in modern single-shot reproduction rifles. The authors recommend the 45-70 as the best all-around black powder cartridge. Extensive ballistic charts are included for 13 bullets in six common calibres, but are provided for reader interest and comparison only, as numerous variables must always be considered.

SPG Lubricants – BP Cartridge Reloading Primer is highly recommended as a wise investment for anyone interested in black powder cartridge rifles. The information and suggestions provided should help obtain maximum accuracy safely, in less time and with minimal costly experimentation. It is priced at \$24.95 USD and is available from Wolf Publishing Company, Prescott, Arizona. (wolfeoutdoorsports.com or toll free at 1-800-899-7810).



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