

# CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

MARCH/APRIL 2017

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# CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL



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### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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# On the Cover

LabRadar

This month's cover features LabRadar, a Canadian product creating a worldwide stir in the chronograph market. Invention, the company that produces this unit, has a long history of making radar-tracking chronographs for researchers and the military. But this is the first Doppler-based chronograph affordable enough for the consumer market. At January's SHOT Show, Dean Roxby grabbed this photo of Mr. Guy Desbiens, the Canadian engineer who designed it. 



## Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of



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



# From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

## The Canadian Firearms Industry

As I write this, myself and a hard-core group of other *CFJ* writers are just back from the Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show in Las Vegas. We were well represented, because I counted over a dozen people there who regularly contribute to this magazine. As most of you know, it's the largest trade show of its kind in the world, with 65,000 people attending this year. As a fun fact, the show organizers have taken to calculating how much time a person has with each manufacturer if you're there for the entire event, and it's 22 seconds per booth.


Obviously, that requires being strategic in what you see and do. And one of my strategies is to find all the Canadian manufacturers I can. Even so, I know I missed at least one. But between all of the *CFJ* writers there, we got them all, and you can expect to see many of their

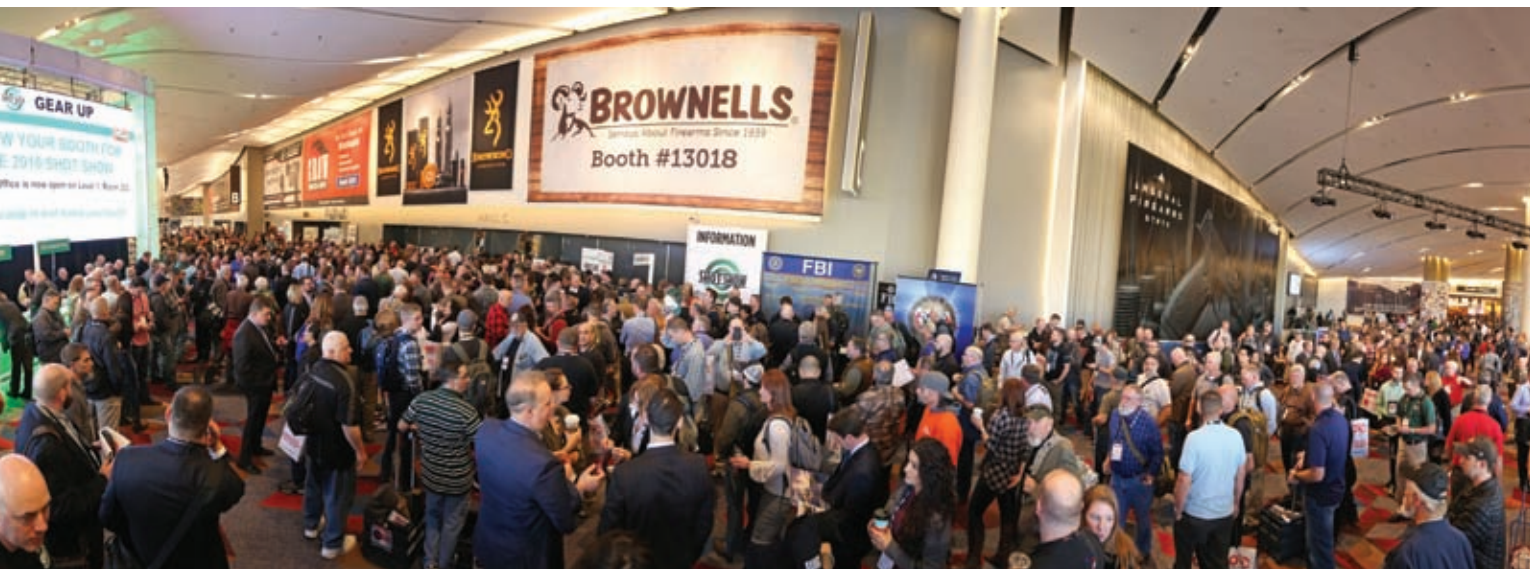
stories here over the course of the year. A great example is Dean Roxby's article on chronograph technology, which appears in this issue. Note that both LabRadar and Chrony are Canadian companies, meaning the world comes to us for their chronographs. In this issue, you'll also find a story on PrairieShot, a relatively new Manitoba-based company producing shotgun ammunition for the Canadian market.

Overall, I think the Canadian firearms industry is in great shape. However, it is facing some real challenges. Chief among them is the UN firearms marking scheme. And, of course, there's still a lot of uncertainty about how the Trump administration will affect the movement of goods across the border. That uncertainty makes it more important than ever to have a strong firearms industry here. After all, our US friends

are great, but we don't want to have to rely on them for everything.

But one thing we should soon be able to rely on them for is an example of how to handle suppressors. All the Americans I spoke with at SHOT are hopeful that a piece of legislation called *The Hearing Protection Act*, which is making its way through government, will remove the \$200 tax you now have to pay each time one is transferred between owners. The Obama administration would never have signed off on this law, but they are all optimistic that Trump will. If it comes to pass, it'll be good for Canadians too, as it'll be another jurisdiction we can point at to demonstrate the value of suppressors in reducing harmful noise. It's certainly an issue we can push our legislators on.

But, in the meantime, read this issue and enjoy the stories. It's your magazine. 





# President's Message

Sheldon Clare

## Fighting The Status Quo

The Annual General Meeting this spring will be in Prince George, BC. It will be a busy AGM and I look forward to meeting with members, directors and staff. We will be getting a lot done and moving forward with our plans to pressure government and to continue as the leading firearms organization in the country.

Just before Christmas, you may have seen the call from Toronto Mayor John Tory for more gun control. That's what we call a trial balloon, put up to see what the reaction would be from the public at large. The NFA responded to Mayor Tory, and so did a lot of you, and I thank you for your efforts. As president, I write one letter; as members, you can write thousands. The weight of those letters, e-mails and phone calls is what creates political pressure. We need a lot more of this, because despite all the evidence, politicians are not yet getting the message. Part of the reason is the mixed messages they receive don't help matters.

When a new firearm classification is announced, the narrative in the firearms community tends to be one of blaming the RCMP. We are all familiar with the comments: "How dare the Mounties unilaterally prohibit such and such a firearm," etc. Well the simple fact of the matter, whatever the politicians say, is that the police do have lists of firearms they want to restrict and prohibit, and they frequently try to get more firearms added to those lists. However, when I have met the police in the waiting rooms in Ottawa, they were always going to the Minister of Public Safety to make their recommendations. You see, the police do not get to unilaterally prohibit or restrict firearms. They make recommendations to the minister and the minister has a choice – he or she may ask for more

information before deciding, or approve or withhold approval. Once they have done that, then the police are not merely empowered, they are compelled to classify firearms within the parameters of the minister's decision.

So what? What it means is that yelling and screaming in social media about the police doesn't deal with the root of the problem. The root of the problem, despite what some political apologists would have you believe, is not the police. The origin of the problem is in the political authority who signed the classification order, just like it says in the law. Therefore, criticism of the police, though certainly warranted at times, is misguided. The full weight of attention for classification issues needs to be directed at the Public Safety Minister and the Prime Minister.

Personally, I do not believe there needs to be a portfolio of Public Safety Minister. The main reason it exists is to oversee the *Firearms Act*, a matter which was previously in the purview of the Justice Minister. As most of us understand, the *Firearms Act* and the regulations that arise from it are nothing more than a bureaucratic employment exercise, intended to make it difficult for the law abiding to own and make use of firearms. Really, that's it. The portfolio is unnecessary. Firearms laws are not about public safety, they are not about preventing crime. They are laws created to make an impression of action in the face of a rare act of wanton violence. These laws never prevent subsequent bad behaviour, but there always seems to be more laws to fit the false perception that firearms laws prevent criminal acts of violence. The violent act is in and of itself a crime. If those people intent on doing mischief and mayhem were deterred by laws, there would be no criminal acts.

The fact is, firearms laws do not deter those of criminal intent, but they do prevent the innocent from having a ready means of defence. In addition, they put the innocent in the position of always being worried about breaking one or more firearms laws of an administrative nature. Laws about firearms storage are such laws. We often get complaints about enforcement of firearms laws regarding storage and use, when there has been no victim, no act of violence and no intent to cause harm. These sorts of laws and regulations are simply about making firearms ownership and use unpalatable.

The goals are to make you give up your firearms and to accept the control regime that exists as the normal state of affairs – and that's not OK. It is also not OK to have some in the firearms community promote the status quo as being acceptable or even necessary. These people are at best misguided and ignorant, and at worst traitors to responsible firearms ownership. There is an organization out there that promotes restrictions on firearms and licenses for firearms owners – it's called the Coalition for Gun Control, and any organization agreeing with that group's control agenda is not one worthy of the support of firearms owners. When you are looking at which organization truly fights for your rights, look at its track record. Does it support the status quo, licensing or banning some guns? If it does, it's not really a pro-gun group, is it?

All the very best in 2017, hopefully a year free of more politics directed at you and your firearms. We will have reports for you from SHOT Show, IWA Messe and the growth of global gun control efforts, particularly originating from the UN, the European Union and others who don't trust citizens with firearms.

# Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

## Combattre le statu-quo

Notre Réunion Générale Annuelle se tiendra à Prince George C.B. ce printemps. Ce sera une RGA bien remplie et j'ai hâte de rencontrer nos membres, directeurs et employés. Nous accomplirons beaucoup de choses, nous irons de l'avant avec notre objectif de faire pression auprès du Gouvernement et nous demeurerons la plus grande organisation pro-armes du pays.

Juste avant Noël, vous avez peut-être vu passer l'appel du Maire John Tory de Toronto qui demandait un contrôle supplémentaire des armes à feu. Ceci est un test idéologique pour voir quelle sera la réaction du publique envers ce genre de politique. L'ACAF a répondu au Maire Tory, plusieurs d'entre vous l'ont fait aussi et je vous remercie d'avoir fait l'effort. Comme Président, je ne peut écrire qu'une lettre, mais vous en tant que membres pouvez en écrire des milliers. Le poids de toutes ces lettres, courriels et appels téléphoniques créent une pression politique réelle. De telles actions sont de plus en plus nécessaires car, malgré toutes les preuves objectives, les politiciens ne comprennent toujours pas le message. Par contre, le fait qu'ils reçoivent des informations conflictuelles n'aide pas à la situation.

Lorsqu'une nouvelle classification d'arme à feu est annoncée, la communauté intéressée par les armes à feu se précipite à blâmer la GRC. Nous avons tous entendus des commentaires comme ceux-ci: "Comment est-ce que la GRC peut oser interdire telle ou telle arme à feu, etc." Peu importe ce que les politiciens disent, les policiers détiennent des listes d'armes à feu qu'ils veulent restreindre et prohiber. Ils essaient fréquemment d'ajouter de plus en plus d'armes à feu sur ces listes. Les policiers que j'ai croisé dans les salles d'attente à Ottawa, s'y trouvaient pour rencontrer le Ministre de la Sécurité Publique et le conseiller sur les restrictions qu'ils désiraient obtenir. Les policiers ne peuvent pas unilatéralement interdire ou restreindre des armes à feu. Par contre, ils conseillent le Ministre et le Ministre a le choix, il ou elle peut demander plus de renseignements avant de prendre une décision ou ils

peuvent approuver ou ne pas approuver les changements qui leurs sont demandés. Si le Ministre accepte les conseils des policiers, ces derniers n'ont pas seulement le pouvoir mais ils ont le devoir de classer les armes à feu selon les paramètres définis par la décision du Ministre.

Et après? Les cris et pleurs à propos de la police sur les médias sociaux ne s'attaquent pas à la cause du problème. La cause du problème n'est pas au niveau de la police. C'est l'autorité politique qui a signé l'ordre de classification telle que la Loi le stipule. Il est mal placé de critiquer les policiers même si parfois ils le méritent. Vous devez donc concentrer vos communications par rapport aux classifications d'armes au Ministère de la Sécurité Publique et au Premier Ministre.

Personnellement je ne crois pas en la nécessité d'avoir un Ministère de la Sécurité Publique, qui existe principalement pour gérer la Loi sur les Armes à Feu (LAF), une loi qui était auparavant sous la gouverne du Ministère de la Justice. La plupart d'entre nous reconnaissons que la LAF et ses Règlements ne sont pas autre chose qu'un exercice dans l'emploi de fonctionnaires dont l'objectif est de rendre l'usage et la possession d'armes à feu difficile pour les gens qui respectent la loi. C'est tout! Ce Ministère est inutile. Les lois sur les armes à feu n'ont rien à voir avec la sécurité publique, elles n'existent pas pour prévenir le crime. Elles sont créées pour donner l'impression d'agir face à un acte de violence gratuite, ces actes sont rares heureusement. Ces lois ne préviennent jamais un acte violent subséquent. Mais il semble toujours que de nouvelles lois soient créées pour donner la fausse impression qu'elles peuvent prévenir des actes violents. L'acte lui-même est un crime en soi. Si les gens qui sont motivés de faire le désordre et des méfaits étaient dissuadés par les lois, les gestes criminels n'existeraient plus.

Dans les faits, les lois sur les armes à feu n'ont aucun effet dissuasif envers ceux qui ont l'intention criminelle, mais elles empêchent les personnes innocentes d'avoir les moyens de se défendre. De

plus, ces lois placent les honnêtes gens dans un état d'inquiétude perpétuelle à savoir si ils on brisé la loi ou un règlement, qui sont généralement de nature administrative. Les lois sur l'entreposage des armes en sont un exemple. Nous recevons souvent des plaintes à propos d'accusations sur l'entreposage et l'usage d'armes à feu lorsqu'il n'y a eu aucune victime, aucun acte violent et aucune intention criminelle. Ce sont des lois qui sont conçues uniquement pour rendre la possession légitime d'armes à feu le plus désagréable possible.

Leur objectif est que vous vous défassiez de vos armes à feu et que vous acceptiez le régime de contrôle existant comme étant la norme - et ça ce n'est pas correct. C'est d'autant plus pas correct que certaines personnes dans la communauté intéressée par les armes à feu affirment que le statu-quo soit acceptable ou même nécessaire. Au mieux, ces gens sont mal informés ou ignorants et au pire ils sont des traîtres par rapport à la possession responsable d'armes à feu. Il y a une organisation qui fait la promotion de restrictions sur les armes et les permis envers les propriétaires légitimes d'armes à feu - C'est la Coalition pour le Contrôle des Armes à Feu. Toute organisation qui est en accord avec le programme de la Coalition ne mérite pas l'appui des propriétaires d'armes à feu. Lorsque vous voulez trouver une organisation pour défendre vos droits, vérifiez son historique. Est-ce qu'elle appui le statu-quo? Le système d'émission de permis? Ou l'interdiction de certaines armes? Si oui, cette organisation n'est pas pro-armes n'est-ce pas?

Bonne année 2017, espérant qu'elle soit libre de politiques dirigées contres vous et vos armes à feu. Nous vous fournirons nos rapports en provenance du Shot Show, IWA Messe et la progression mondiale du contrôle des armes en particulier par l'ONU, l'Union Européenne et d'autres qui ne font pas confiance à la possession légitime d'armes à feu par des citoyens. 🇨🇦





# Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

## No Compromise



There's been a lot of talk recently in firearm circles about NFA's "No Compromise" campaign. The No Compromise brand has become very popular with Canadians who believe in freedom, and who have been purchasing T-shirts and other logo apparel in support of the NFA's work to protect and advance firearms freedom in Canada. A lot of people have adopted it as their personal symbol of resistance to freedom-destroying, confiscatory gun laws and the civil disarmament agenda. I've even met individuals who have had the No Compromise logo tattooed on themselves. I have to admit, the first time I saw this I was somewhat taken aback. But if you have a No Compromise tattoo, I salute your dedication to the cause of firearms freedom in Canada.

The logo's maple leaf/C8 Carbine (AR-15) hybrid motif makes a provocative statement. Most of us have been raised in a Canadian society that dictates guns must never be associated with our national heritage or national character. They are to be hidden away in government or RCMP armouries and museums, or triple locked away in safes after hunting season, never to see the light of day until next year's hunting trip. So, the No Compromise image is a deliberately provocative one.

Unfettered by restrictions, owned and enjoyed lawfully and responsibly by Canadians for years, the AR-15 was first restricted in 1978, then taken off the restricted list in 1980, and restricted once again by PC justice minister Kim Campbell in 1991 under Bill C-17. It was due to be prohibited by Liberal Justice Minister Alan Rock under Bill C-68 in 1995, until a last-minute plea from Dominion of Canada Rifle Association spared it. The Liberals decided to ban it at a later date, after the controversy over the legislation

had died down. That day never came. But the AR-15 remains a symbol for the civil disarmament lobby, of the type of firearm they want banned and confiscated from Canadians. And so, it has come to be a symbol for us. It's a symbol of the politicization of firearms laws in Canada.

I'm an AR-15 fan. It was a big part of my socialization into firearms through the popular culture, TV and movies during the 1970s and 1980s. Since then, it's become the platform so many modern sporting rifles are based on today. Yet, through legislation, bizarre and partisan politics, and no real issues of public safety, it is restricted to target ranges only in Canada. The so-called experts who first recommended this back in the 1970s were charlatans, fools and politically motivated bureaucrats who wished to advance their goal of civil disarmament through the theft of Canadian's property. The AR-15 is now a hunting rifle in much of the world, but not in Canada, where the Canadians who own them are targeted as being even more dangerous than the average gun owner.


There were many incidences in the past, where in the face of impending draconian legislation, well-meaning individuals from within the firearms community colluded with government and the civil disarmament lobby to get what they thought was a better deal for gun owners. But the fight between 1991 and 2006 was a no-compromise fight. There would be no co-operation between Canadians who believed in our rights and cultural traditions, the firearms bureaucracy and the political police. The attempt to impose the C68 *Firearms Act* faltered and failed because of it. The political stupidity of the government that imposed it, the incompetence of the bureaucracy set up to implement it and the controversy created by it, guaranteed that Canadian firearms

owners would not knuckle under in a vain attempt to make the best of the situation. Canadians fought back, and finally put politicians and bureaucrats in their place by establishing a political alternative to the natural governing Liberals.

C-68 was challenged time and again in public, in the legislatures across Canada and in federal elections, finally resulting in the election of Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party in 2006 with the promise to fix the gun laws. That started in 2011, with the ending of the infamous long gun registry.

Law makers and policy makers must understand that Canadians who believe in freedom are not looking for a better deal, they are not looking for a less onerous compromise and they are not looking for some kind of minor reforms that make the current bizarre and untenable firearms laws and regulations just a little bit better or more comfortable to live with. Governments come and governments go. There will be legislative threats and opportunities. Unless they are all approached with the belief that rights cannot be negotiated away for more and better privileges, Canadians will lose the battle to secure our rights, culture and property.

The NFA adopted the No Compromise brand not as a rant, not as tough talk, not as some kind of absolutist demand to be pursued with juvenile social justice warrior antics or actions, but as a simple statement of fact. We will not tolerate, nor will we accept any law or legislation that does not respect the rights and property of Canadians, and that does not provide for natural justice and redress for those targeted and impugned by them.

No Compromise. It's the mission statement of Canada's National Firearms Association. 



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# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

## The Fenian Invasion: A Prelude To Confederation



This year we commemorate the 150th anniversary of Confederation. The colonies of Upper and Lower Canada, plus the Maritimes, became the nation of Canada on July 1, 1867. But the road to Confederation was not easy, simple or without armed conflict and loss of life. The process was complex, much negotiated and driven by patriotism, economics and military security.

### CANADA BEGINS

The first inkling of nationhood was an elected assembly in Nova Scotia in 1758, followed by Prince Edward Island in 1773 and New Brunswick in 1784. Then, in December 1791, 225 years ago, the *Constitutional Act* was passed in the British Parliament, establishing Upper and Lower Canada with its first elected assemblies. The road to Confederation was under construction.

By the War of 1812, Britain's empire was

far reaching. The British Regular Army was stretched to its limit around the empire. This included Canadian militias and British Regulars who were in active combat during the War of 1812. Canada was flexing its independence.

The armed rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada in 1837 and 1838 were uprisings directed at the ineffective government and British power. The pressure for independence was mounting. By the 1850s, the *Militia Acts* of various jurisdictions provided manpower for defence. In 1855, the situation was dramatically altered when most of the British Regular Army was withdrawn to fight in the Crimea. This paved the way for the *Militia Act* of 1855, which approved an active, trained and paid militia to be formed. In 1856, additional volunteer, unpaid militias were authorized – another precursor of independence for Canada.

The Maritimes were not enthusiastic about a united country. In 1864, the first

formal conference to unite the British North American colonies was held in Charlottetown. The three Maritime provinces wanted a union for themselves, but John A. MacDonal and George Etienne Cartier negotiated for a wider federal union. There was a great deal of resistance by individuals and business interests, not to mention religious intervention. The negotiations were hotly contested. There was also opposition by certain Maritimers, distressed by the composition of the proposed parliament. The US Civil War had ended in 1865, and many Canadians expressed a fear of annexation by the US. The political manoeuvring, internal and external pressures were enormous.

### THE FENIANS

Enter the Fenian Brotherhood. Now known as the Irish Republican Army, they were Irish patriots who had a beef with Britain. The membership believed if they invaded Canada and successfully captured major cities, they could exchange them for Ireland's freedom from British rule. Or, their act would cause an insurrection in Ireland.

The Fenian Brotherhood had a membership in excess of 10,000 in the US. And by April 1866, thousands of Irish patriots had formed a covert army, with many being battle-hardened Civil War veterans from the Union and Confederate Armies. In May 1866, the Fenian Army mobilized. By the end of May, there were Fenians deployed along the Canada/US border, including 1,000 Fenians positioned in Buffalo, NY, alone.

The Fenian invasion was the worst kept secret of 1866. The Canadian government had intelligence information early that year of the multi-pronged Fenian invasion to take place in early summer. As a result, the Canadian government called up militia units to resist the Fenians.



Canadian Militia High School Re-Enactors, Fort Erie, Ont., June 2016.



Fenian invasion battle map.

The event began to unfold just after midnight on June 1, 1866, when the Fenian army slipped across the Niagara River in tugs and canal boats. The invasion of the Niagara peninsula had begun.

The objective was to seize the Welland Canal, and thus block shipping, while another unit captured the rail yards in the vicinity. On June 2, 1866, the IRA regiments marched toward the town of Ridgeway. The Queens Own Rifles responded in the lead of the Canadian militia units. They were armed with the latest Spencer repeating rifles, but only issued with 28 rounds of ammunition each. The other militia units were armed with Enfield muzzleloading rifles.

The Canadians closed in and engaged the Fenian army. These inexperienced volunteers went toe-to-toe with the Fenian battle-tested veterans. Upon fearing a cavalry charge, the Canadian militia formed a square, but that strategy exposed the Canadians to concentrated fire. The Fenians then mounted a bayonet charge, which broke the Canadian's ranks. However, the Fenians, knowing Canadian support units were approaching, also withdrew, leaving

behind their dead and wounded. As the Fenians approached Fort Erie, they were confronted by the Welland Canal Field Battery and Dunville Naval Brigade, who had landed ahead of the Fenians by tug boat on Lake Erie.

In the fierce engagement that followed, the Fenians drove back the Canadians and retreated to the Niagara River to board their boats back to the US. They were escorted by the gun boat *USS Michigan*. Back in the US, the Fenians were placed under arrest by the US Marshalls and the US Army.

The Fenian units that were positioned to attack from New York and Vermont, plus units at the Quebec border, did not cross into Canada as planned. The few that did were met by Canadian militia and were disarmed; others encountered armed Canadian resistance. On June 5, 1866, US President Andrew Johnson declared that the US neutrality laws of 1818 would be upheld.

The events of early June 1866 altered the security vision of Canadians dramatically. The deficiencies of the Canadian militias were addressed and training enhanced, including the ordering of more up-to-date firearms. The road to Canadian national independence was nearing completion.

#### RE-ENACTING THE BATTLE OF RIDGEWAY

The 150th year re-enactment, portraying the Battle of Ridgeway, was held at historic Old Fort Erie, Ont. (Niagara Parks Commission.) The event organizer for the commemoration was Tim Warnick. His support staff included Teresa Warnick, Matthew Warnick, Dennis Watson and photographers Donna Elliott and Robin McKee.

The Crown Forces were represented by the following persons and organizations:

- 13th Battalion Ceremonial Guard (Royal Hamilton Light Infantry)
- Brockville Infantry Re-enactment Group
- 12th York Battalion (Foresters)
- Scarlett Regiment: Norwood High School Drill Team
- Green Regiment: Brighton High School Drill Team
- Caledonia Rifles: 2nd Lincoln Militia 1812 Fort Staff 1812
- Fort Safety Officers Travis Hill and Sam Stark


The Irish Brotherhood (Fenian) was represented by the following:

- 10th Louisiana Infantry (Canadian)
- 21st Mississippi Infantry (Canadian)
- 18th Ohio Irish Regiment (US)
- 155th New York Infantry (US)
- 2nd US sharpshooter 1 (US)
- 21st New York Infantry 1 (US)

One of the re-enactors, David J. Bertucca, a map librarian at the Lockwood Memorial Library, University of Buffalo, New York, summed up the re-enactment.

"The events of June 1866 were romanticized in the news, and in art of the period. For a young person interested in history, I was drawn to learn more about the Battle of Ridgeway by a large painting in our local history museum, depicting red and green uniformed soldiers, in opposing battle lines, at a place that was within 30 minutes from my home. It occurred to me over 50 years ago that there was one method of learning that would go beyond studying the past in books. If I could re-create history through using artifacts and by experiencing every day activities, I would gain a better understanding of our ancestors.

"Re-enactors dedicate their time to learning how things worked: how people dressed, what they ate, what life was like in a different era. It is one thing to read about troops fighting over a battlefield; it is another thing to actually march over a battlefield in the same uniform, carrying the same equipment and spending the time trying to see how it felt."

The stalwart militia men who faced the Fenians were students, farm boys, clerks, men of all ages and classes. They are a stellar example of Canadian's firearms heritage. 



# Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

## Our Arms, Our Country



No matter what your view on gun ownership, hunting or self-defence, as a gun owner you are a living part of this tradition.

We, as gun owners, live in interesting times. In Europe, we have Brexit, a radical rejection of the EU in favour of the nation state. In the US, we see the rise of Trump, with his deep rejection of globalization with its attendant surrender of democratic sovereignty and its wilful imposition of cultural change through mass immigration. In Canada, we now have a Prime Minister who considers himself a philosopher king, fully qualified to impose his vision of radical change on

our country.

Nor has Trudeau been shy about his absolute contempt for Canadian traditions and history. For him, there "is no core identity, no mainstream in Canada." He freely shares his bizarre ahistorical idea that Canada has no cultural centre at all, just "shared values: openness, respect, compassion, willingness to work hard, to be there for each other, to search for equality and justice." These are the qualities that supposedly make us the first "post-national" state.

Putting aside the fact that democracy ends at the borders of the nation state, one is struck by how empty of any content these values are. Openness to what? Just non-judgemental openness itself? One can easily make a long list of third world practices and customs utterly at odds with the "non-existent" Canadian mainstream. Does our openness require us to be open to all of them?

What exactly is equity and justice, without some content to reveal what is meant? What of equality before the law,

something we struggled for centuries to achieve? Apparently not, since Trudeau fully embraces identity politics where one is judged according to sex, race and ethnicity, with attendant stereotypes such as the completely racist “white privilege.” Just tell me what colour you are and I will tell you if you are privileged. Clearly, this is not a mainstream Canadian value.

More to the point, the Liberals have been loud in their criticism of Harper, daring to use the term “old stock” Canadian. That squabble arose from Harper using the term when he said bogus immigrants were not entitled to health care, which was superior to what everyone else got. He said this was “something that both new and existing and old-stock Canadians can agree with.” The outrage over the term was immediate. Clearly, the Liberals think the people whose traditions created Canada and made it what it is over generations of labour should not have any special recognition. The outrage over its use shows how deeply the globalists believe the citizens of a country have no rights superior to outsiders, or those who merely wish to come. The rejection of the term “old stock” (the white, culturally European majority?) is fully in tune with the belief that we have no core identity. How could we, if the majority of the population, their culture and history, are somehow illegitimate?

#### GUN OWNERS

This overview of our times helps clarify the position law-abiding gun owners find themselves in. It also identifies the unwavering determination of the Liberals to write their own ideology on the blank slate of our “post-national” state. As gun owners, we are part of the history they so arrogantly reject and part of the culture they hold in such disdain. Consciously or not, wilfully or not, there are some two million gun owners in Canada who are the living continuation of traditions that go back to the earliest days of settlement and beyond. There is a right and duty to arms in both the French and British traditions that have shaped our country. The same is true of First Nations cultures, whose historical roots also stem from armed societies.

The right to arms and the self-reliance (for food and defence) that comes from the possession of arms is ancient. If we

trace our British origins, the earliest recorded sources are from Germanic tribes where arms were both the right and the duty of free men. These are traditions that came to England with the Saxons and later Anglo-Saxons. These individual rights were customs of the people and clearly tied to the need for individual and societal self-defence. In England, the existence of an armed people was a source of political power that deeply influenced the evolution of democratic governance. The Assize of Arms (promulgated in 1181 by Henry II) required all citizens between 15 and 40 to have arms that were inspected twice a year. By 1253, Henry III expanded the Assize to include “citizens, burgesses, free tenants, villeins (serfs) and others from 15 to 60 years of age.” By 1369, Edward III had ordered the mandatory practice of archery with the longbow on holidays. Edward IV commanded that “every Englishman or Irishman dwelling in England must have a bow of his own height” and required towns to build and maintain archery ranges with mandatory practice on feast days. To give an example of how the right to arms, and the militia that grew from it, helped shape our democratic society, we need look no further than the English Civil War. When Charles I attempted to impose an absolute, divine-right monarchy on Parliament (1642), the affair came to a head when the London Militia sided with Parliament and Charles fled the city in search of an armed force with which to suppress Parliament.

#### MILITIA – THE ARMED CITIZEN

If we look at Canadian history, we can see the same deep connection between the people and the state expressed through the existence of an armed militia. In 1669, Louis XIV ordered mandatory military service for men between the ages of 16 and 60 in New France. By the 1720s, the Canadiens provided the bulk of military forces in New France. After the Conquest in 1760, the French militia, under its French officers, loyally served the British Crown. Amherst, the British commander, ruled that French militia officers would maintain order and act as police and justices of the peace. Within weeks of the surrender, officers and militia men were allowed to keep their arms to preserve the peace.

In the first session of Upper Canada’s


Legislature (1793), the *Militia Act* put in place a plan to have county lieutenants appointed with the power to call out, arm and train all males age 16 to 50. Each man was required to provide himself with a gun and ammunition to perform this duty.

The Lower Canada *Militia Act* of 1803 and the Upper Canada *Militia Act* of 1808, both created militias composed of all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 60. They also created the legal requirement of compulsory attendance at an annual muster. It was not until 1904 that a new *Militia Act* changed the terms of service from an obligation of all males of military age to merely making them liable to service.

#### CONCLUSION

This short history outlines the deep connections between the armed citizen and Canada’s elites. It demonstrates the trust and loyalty both shared in a common patriotism. It demonstrates how deeply the right to arms is tied to our history and traditions. No matter what your view on gun ownership, hunting or self-defence, as a gun owner you are a living part of this tradition.

Unfortunately, the Liberals regard our history, our traditions and you with scant sympathy or respect. The root cause of this attitude is the “post-national” ideology of elites living in a country they no longer believe in. The depth of their disdain was recently expressed by Liberal MP Patty Hajdu who found the idea of women being allowed pepper spray for self-defence “offensive.” She saw fit to dismiss a woman’s ability (the “onus,” she called it) for self-defence, with a platitude about public relations programs to address gender-based violence (we can note how a right is deceitfully defined as an obligation). Curiously, her virtue-signalling did not include her or the Liberals taking the slightest shred of responsibility for rendering women unarmed and defenceless.

Consider our history and contemplate the vast gap between it and this, at the time, Minister for the Status of Women. How much status does one have when your safety is a pawn to righteous virtue-signalling? This is the same elite attitude underlying the Brexit and Trump revolutions. Is it not time for a revolution here, as well? 



# SPORTING ARMS & ACCESSORIES

2017 SHOT Show coverage

*BY LOWELL STRAUSS*



TC COMPASS



**W**hile navigating the floors of SHOT Show 2017, it would have been easy to get lost in the 'Black Sea.' Tactical guns and gear dominated the 39th annual National Shooting Sports Foundation event in Las Vegas. But that was not my quarry for this show. I was targeting the latest and greatest in sporting arms. Here's a round up of what I hunted down.

#### CENTREFIRE RIFLES

The popularity of long-range shooting has taken off in recent years and manufacturers are taking note. The 6.5 Creedmoor was designed by Hornady in 2007 for target shooting. It capitalizes on sleek bullets with high ballistic coefficients, a design that allows bullets to slip through the wind with ease. Be-

cause of its down-range efficiency and mild recoil, it's a popular choice with hunters as well, resulting in expanded offerings this year in rifles, ammunition and reloading components.

At home on the range or in the field, Bergara's Hunting and Match Rifle (HMR) seems to deliver tack-driving accuracy, and is available in 6.5 Creed-





Kimber's Open Country is built with an 84M action and chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor. Gore Optifade Open Country pattern.

and high accuracy potential, along with Remington's X-Mark Pro externally adjustable trigger.

"Light weight" is the name of the game for the new for Kimber Subalpine Rifle. Fitted in a carbon fiber stock, it weighs a mere 4.8 pounds, making it one of the lightest production rifles on the market. It'll blend in well in the high country with its Gore Optifade Subalpine camouflage pattern. Western hunters will also love the new Kimber Open Country chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor.

Many existing models are now chambering the 6.5 Creedmoor in 2017, including the Mossberg Patriot Predator, Sako's A7 Big Game and the TC Compass. Released last year, the Weatherby Camilla – a rifle designed by women for women – is available in this chambering as well. If the 6.5 Creedmoor has captured your attention, you'll be able to buy a rifle in a make and model that fits your budget and shooting style.

On the other end of the spectrum is the Ruger American Ranch. Chambered in the hard-hitting 450 Bushmaster cartridge, it's well suited for bear, hogs and marauding predators on the homestead. The rifle is equipped with a muzzle brake to reduce recoil, but be sure to grab your ear defenders before shooting this bad boy.

#### RIMFIRE RIFLES

Savage re-engineered the straight-blowback action in 2015, starting with the A17, and then the A22 Magnum in 2016. This year, Savage adds to the series of semi-automatic rimfires with the new A22, complete with AccuTrigger and a 10-shot rotary magazine.

The Ruger American Rimfire Target is built with many of the same features as the rest of the American Rimfire line, but with target shooting enhancements. It includes an integral bedding block system, Ruger Marksman Adjustable trigger and heavy target barrel for better accuracy.

The CZ 455 is an updated model of the tack-driving 452 rifles that CZ is famous for. This year's model line expands with an American Stainless Synthetic, Training Rifle Rustic and the Scout. All ▶

moor and 308 Win. Its integrated mini-chassis, moulded into the stock, gives the rifle solid bedding while supporting a free-floated barrel. I shot this rifle on range day, wondering about Bergara's guarantee of sub-MOA accuracy. After only two shots to find my wind hold, I proceeded to ring the steel at 900-plus yards for the next eight shots! If you're

interested in a modern, dual purpose rifle, this B-14 is worth a look.

The Remington Model 700 Magpul rifle is tricked out with Magpul Hunter furniture, which accepts P-Mags. You can adjust stock fit by swapping length-of-pull spacers and combs for a custom shooting experience. This rifle features 5-R rifling for less bullet deformation



**CZ 628 20-gauge shotgun. Select Turkish walnut accents this fast handling upland shotgun.**



**SOG belt buckle multi-tool is one of several new multi-tools at this year's SHOT Show.**

models feature interchangeable barrels and magazines.

### SHOTGUNS

Benelli introduces its next generation of autoloading shotguns, the Super Black Eagle III. With an impressive pedigree, this shotgun boasts numerous enhancements, including being easier to load, easier to shoot and with less felt recoil. I was impressed with its silky-smooth cycling on the range. The SBE 3 is a 'super' shotgun, plain and simple.

Shotgunners want key features in their guns and Winchester has been listening. This year they introduced the SX4, which is both lighter and faster

than its predecessors. Improved ergonomics, such as a larger bolt handle and oversized bolt release button, enhance handling. It's available in four different configurations, including wood, camouflage and black synthetic.

This year, Mossberg adds the 28 gauge to its International series of gas-operated autoloading shotguns. A walnut stock and 28-inch barrel are well matched. It felt lively in the hand and will be a popular choice for upland hunters.

CZ released several new sporting shotguns this year. The All-American is a fully adjustable sporting clays shotgun. If you're a high-volume shooter,

you'll be pleased to know that this shotgun features drop-in replacement parts. The 628 Field Select is a light shotgun (5.4 pounds) built on a gauge-specific action. A select Turkish walnut stock adds something special to the design of this shotgun. The Swamp Magnum is a 12 gauge over/under waterfowl shotgun. Chambered to shoot three-and-a-half-inch shells, this shotgun will put the hurt on big honkers over your blind next fall. Choose between black synthetic or Realtree Max5 camouflage.

### SIGHTS & OPTICS

The Leupold VX-6HD is new for 2017, and includes five different models ranging from 1-6x24mm to 4-24x52mm. A cant indicator built into the reticle flashes when the scope is tipped to the side and stops when it's level. Coated, high-definition lenses add exceptional clarity and low-light performance, and custom turrets can be added to dial in the range. The Leupold VX-3i, first introduced last year, added five new scopes to its line.

Riflescopes with an 8X zoom range offer a lot of versatility to the hunter. The new Swarovski Optik Z8i has it, and comes in four configurations. Low magnification is perfect for close-quarters shooting, with room to zoom in at

Leupold VX-6HD has unique features that will be of interest to the precision rifle shooter, as well as the long-range hunter.



Nikon Laser Force, rangefinder binoculars. Capable of measuring targets out to 1,900 yards.

extended ranges. A unique switchable reticle enables the user to pick the best reticle for their situation. On top of all that, a ballistic turret can be added to match rifle ballistics.

A 10x42 laser range-finding binocular, the Nikon Laser Force, is competitively priced and offers ranging from 10 to 1,900 yards. It can be mounted to a tripod, measures incline/decline and is both waterproof and fog proof. That's about everything you could ask for in a laser range finder!

The Aimpoint Micro S-1 sight is designed for use on shotguns with a ventilated rib. The sight provides a light, low-profile optic for turkey, deer and varmint hunting. It has a big, bright six MOA red dot, which provides a unique combination of both target acquisition speed and visibility, something that should increase hit percentages for wing shooters.

#### ACCESSORIES

Based on their LSS chassis, MDT has designed a chassis to fit popular 22 LR rifles, such as the Ruger American, Anschutz, Browning T-Bolt, CZ 455 and Savage Mark II. It accepts collapsible AR-15-style buttstocks, and it's made in Canada.

I always enjoy visiting the folks at Real

Avid. Every year they come up with solutions for problems that shooters run into on a daily basis. This year one of the more innovative tools is their Bore Boss, a pull-through bore cleaner with several unique features, most notably its cable, handle and self-contained storage case.

Magpul now offers added versatility for storage and transportation of the Ruger 10/22 Takedown with their new Hunter X-22 stock. Unique features include magazine storage in the stock, as well as a waterproof storage container in the grip. A locking interface attaches the barrel assembly to the receiver while being transported.

Tipton Ultra Gun Vise is built around a modular chassis. Components can be quickly moved, rearranged or removed anywhere along the rail to accommodate any firearm. This looks to be a well made stable gun vise.

#### RELOADING

The MEC Marksman is a new single-stage metallic cartridge reloading press from a company that's best known

for its shotshell loading equipment. I was impressed by the smooth action of this press, on display at the show. One unique feature is its floating shell holder, which should help minimize runoff.

Berger Bullets is well known for designing accurate and deadly long-range bullets. Two new hybrid bullet designs are now available for hunters. The Elite Hunter series is constructed with very long noses, and provides maximum ballistic efficiency. But it'll likely work only in extended-magazine rifles or by feeding single rounds into a rifle. However, the Classic Hunter is designed to function through any rifle magazine.

Well, I've run out of room. I would love to tell you more about the new 22 Nosler cartridge, the Stevens 555 over/under shotgun, cool new multi-tools from Havalon, Gerber and SOG, new gun powders by Hodgdon, women's hunting apparel by Sitka and hearing protection from Peltor. And I haven't even started on air guns. The list is lengthy, but it has to wait for another time. 🍷





**HANDGUNS**

**&**

**BLACK  
RIFLES**

2017 SHOT Show coverage

*BY EDWARD OSBORNE*

The US Department of Defense has awarded the Modular Handgun System contract to the Sig Sauer P320.



## HANDGUNS

SHOT Show 2017 was a big year for handguns, and a comparatively weak year for black rifles.

Arguably the biggest news of the show dropped Thursday afternoon, with the US Department of Defense announcing they have awarded the Modular Handgun System (MHS or XM17) contract to the Sig Sauer P320. The Berretta 92FS served as the issued M9 pistol for 32 years, but now the entire weapon system will be replaced. It's a \$580 million contract, easily the biggest in decades and the first outright replacement of a standard-issue small arm in recent memory.

Sig Sauer beat out Glock, Berretta and a host of other manufacturers to provide a flexible striker-fired solution to the US Army. You can bet that the awarding of this contract will mean a boost to civilian Sig sales, and we'll likely see other government agencies following suit and purchasing P320 variants for themselves.

In the civilian handgun realm, Hudson Manufacturing stole the show with their H9 handgun. A newcomer to the industry, the Hudson handgun is the result of some very clever design and equally clever marketing. They've positioned themselves as the evolution of the 1911, with both styling and features that echo the classic World War-era pistol.

The straight-pull trigger on the Hudson promises to be short and crisp (and indeed the one I shot was), but also features an integrated trigger safety mechanism. It uses a striker-fired design and a 1911-style grip to create a very low height over bore. The recoil spring has been compressed and lowered in the frame as well, creating a distinctive sci-fi look.

Some people will say a gun doesn't need to look pretty, but in a market where every major manufacturer produces some sort of striker-fired 9mm handgun, looking good certainly doesn't hurt. An external safety can be installed, and the controls of the gun are ambidextrous. The H9 is forecast to be a little over \$1,200 USD, so when they arrive in Canada I'd bet they end up just shy of the \$2,000 mark.

## RIFLES

The black rifle side of the show, while not necessarily disappointing, really highlighted the affect of the election on the firearms industry.



I think it's fair to say that nine months ago, most major manufacturers thought the vote would go the other way, and geared up for another round of panic buying across the US. With companies like Springfield Armory and Savage introducing their own largely unchanged variants of a 16-inch barrel AR-15, it seems as though the expectation was "more of the same."

But with gun rights in the US reasonably secure, the AR-15 market is likely to soften. America's favourite rifle has seen some gangbuster years, but at some point, you reach market saturation. A standard AR from a standard manufacturer isn't something to get excited about anymore.



The Kel-Tec RDB-C survival is just barely 26 inches long, with a 16-inch barrel. With an exceptionally small space footprint, it's a backpacker carbine like no other.

Personally, I hope that opens the door to new and innovative projects in the years to come. With the AR-15 cooling, manufacturers and shooters can start to pursue more unique firearms.

In fact, we saw a little bit of what that might look like.

Kel-Tec, always an ambitious manufacturer, displayed a new version of their RDB rifle on the show floor. The RDB is a bullpup rifle in 5.56 that feeds from an AR magazine and ejects spent rounds downwards rather than forward or to the side. I've seen and shot previous versions, and there is one awaiting RCMP classification, but we saw a unique variant.

The RDB-C Survival is an ultra-

compact version of the RDB, which still maintains a 16-inch barrel. The pistol grip is removed, the forestock shortened and a two-position buttstock has been added. The sights fold and a 10-round magazine sits flush, so the entire rifle collapses into a very slim package.

While it would still require an 18.5-inch barrel to be non-restricted in Canada, the RDB-C Survival excites me because of what it represents: a bullpup rifle that isn't chasing the military market. The vast majority of bullpups in the civilian realm have always been semi-auto adaptations of their assault rifle counter parts. But the RDB-C Survival is an exceptional concept for a back-

packer's rifle. Its smooth, simple shape means that it can be stowed and retrieved in a way that conventional rifles can't. I'm hoping we'll see more of that kind of targeted design in the future: taking a single concept and creating an effective firearm to fulfill it.

That process is happening overseas and at the B&T booth. Brugger and Thomet has been a prominent manufacturer in Switzerland for ages, and their TP9 sub-guns have been present in Canada for over 10 years. But they're making a push for the US civilian market with their new firearms, which includes following Heckler and Koch's example of rebranding with initials rather than hard-to-pronounce names. >



Their APC carbines have already been approved for Canada, with Wolverine Supplies importing the first run of non-restricted rifles. B&T is hitting an interesting angle with modern designs, but also classic mechanisms. The top-charging handle on the KH9 is immediately evocative of the retro Uzi, but the gun itself is unusual. It lacks a safety, and instead has a decocking lever. There

is no external hammer, but the gun has both a heavy double action trigger pull, or the standard single action pull.

Their USW is similarly unusual, and garnered a lot of attention at the show. Designed along the lines of a machine pistol, the USW is marketed as a law enforcement weapon that can pull double duty as a handgun or carbine. The folding stock is ultra thin, and does

not interfere with manipulation of the firearm. In fact, it can even be holstered with the stock folded and takes up the same footprint on a belt. The USW also makes use of a heretofore-unannounced compact Aimpoint red-dot for more precise aiming over conventional handgun sights.

The front of the slide is flared for charging the gun, and it will be avail-





The Hartman MH1 holographic sight on a Glock carbine kit.

able in both striker-fired and SA/DA configurations. The included pistol light and capability for suppressors might make this sound like a law enforcement-only system, but B&T are committed to bringing it to civilian users, as well. In the US, that folding stock can cause a problem, as the firearm is technically a short-barreled rifle in the eyes of the ATF. But in Canada, the

stock version of the USW could be easily classified and made available.

The flagship B&T rifle is the APC, a piston-driven 5.56mm available with barrels as short as 10 inches, all the way up to the 18.5-inch Canadian legal model. These Swiss beauties command a price though: at \$3,000 USD and \$3,900 CAD, they're not for the faint of heart or light of wallet.

## OPTICS

After a disappointing issue with thermal drift and recalls of their major lines in 2016, established holo sight manufacturer Eotech pushed into conventional riflescope territory with their Vudu 1-6x optic at SHOT Show. Vortex Optics went the other direction and introduced their new UH-1 as part of their 100 per cent US-made AMG program. The UH-1 uses a dot and ring reticle that should be familiar to holo sight users, but also features a close-quarters chevron in the lower portion of the ring. It runs off a CR123 side-mounted battery, but interestingly has the option to run off the rechargeable LFP123A battery, and charge via the onboard USB port.

If USB is your thing, newcomer Hartman has also thrown their hat in the ring with a new holographic sight with an integral battery and a back up CR123. The Hartman reticle differs from conventional holo sights using a dash-dot-dash style set up that they say improves accuracy for controlled shooting. The Hartman sight is also programmable, with adjustable sleep and wake-on-motion settings and a wireless remote control. At \$650 USD for the Hartman and \$699 USD for the Vortex, neither of these optics are cheap, but they do form the next generation of holographic sights.

SHOT Show 2017 might not have seen the panicked political-fueled desperation of previous shows, but I think it lays the groundwork for a new and more inventive firearms industry. 🍷

# CHRONOGRAPH TECHNOLOGIES

How fast are your bullets?

BY DEAN ROXBY

**H**aving doubts about the bullet velocity claimed for your factory ammunition or quoted in your reloading manual? Are you curious about the actual speed produced by your air rifle or bow? If so, a chronograph may be in your future.

The word chronograph comes from the Greek root words *khrono*, meaning time, and *graphos*, meaning something drawn or written. The word combination is from early experimenters who measured the time required for a bullet to pass between two targets, a predetermined distance apart. This record of

elapsed time could then be calculated to give a velocity.

But before you take the financial plunge of buying a chronograph, it's important to understand the currently available technologies. There are several completely different systems being used to determine the velocity of a bullet. From the earliest ballistic chronograph, which was nothing more than a swinging plate, the technology has progressed to include optical, magnetic, sonic and now even Doppler radar devices. Here's how they compare.

## OPTICAL SHADOW

This is by far the most common system. Cheap, portable and reliable, these have been the current industry standard for over two decades. Two photoelectric sensors are mounted to the unit a set distance apart. As the bullet passes above the unit, it casts a shadow over each sensor in turn. The time difference is recorded, internally converted to a velocity and displayed instantly. Some units can be hooked up to a printer, and many will record an entire session or shot string. Some models have the



ability to fit lights to them to allow for indoor use, rather than be dependant on sunlight.

Optical type units are easy to set up, generally mounted to a camera tripod, compact and light enough to carry in a decent-sized range bag. Most units can sense a wide range of velocities, from arrows to the fastest magnums. Since a shadow is required to trip the sensors, consistent lighting conditions are important. Extremely bright light can play tricks on this type. Diffusers are often fitted to optical units to soften

the bright sun and give a more even light. Slightly overcast sky works well. Consistent shade from a building is good, but the shade from a tree is too inconsistent and will often give error readings.

Another issue not given enough discussion is the need to keep the chronograph parallel to the bullet's path. If the bullet trips the two sensors at noticeably different heights, an incorrect reading will result. Without going all geometry/trigonometry on you, the bullet path will be longer than the chrono-

graph thinks it is, so it will take longer than it would if measured correctly. As a result, the displayed speed will be slower than the actual speed.

Some have a small shooting area for the bullet path, while others have a generous shooting zone. Be aware of this when buying. And that reminds me: since your scope is mounted above the barrel, the rifle bore can be one-and-a-half inches or more below the line of sight. The next guy that blows a round through his unit won't be the first. And yes, I softened up one years ago. >



Optical shadow chronographs are cheap, portable, reliable and have been the industry standard for over two decades.

sensors, it causes a disturbance in the magnetic field. But because of varying bullet construction, the unit has to be set for each type of bullet material. Lead, for example, is far less conductive than copper, so requires a specific setting. Steel core bullets need a separate setting, also. And projectiles with no metal, such as plastic air rifle pellets, will not trip the sensors.

Small is the big advantage to the magnetic type, as it is literally pocket size. Another advantage is that the lighting issues noted above are no longer an issue. As well, once attached correctly, there is no concern for the size of the shooting area. The mount has a moulded-in V-groove, helping the unit self align to a round barrel.

There are some issues to be aware of, though. The V-block clamp system probably will not fit on most semi-auto handguns. Although, the company now has a Picatinny attachment point that will allow it to be fitted to a railed handgun. And clamping a weight to a rifle barrel will almost certainly change the point of impact. The alignment issue noted in the optical type can also occur with the MagnetoSpeed if badly misaligned, although the V-block clamp system and included alignment bar helps to minimize this.

#### RADAR

LabRadar has recently entered the market with a sophisticated design that uses Doppler radar to track the bullet as it heads downrange. This technology has been available to research labs for a while, but is only just now entering the civilian market. This consumer unit also has a Canadian connection, as it was developed by Infinity Inc. of Trois-Rivieres, Que., and is made and assembled in Canada.

Many brands are available, and the price of an optical type is moderate, starting at around \$130. Shooting Chrony, of Mississauga, Ont., has been a popular brand for many years. I have owned a Shooting Chrony for a long time, and it provides good performance at a fair price.

#### MAGNETIC

MagnetoSpeed, of Austin, TX, uses an entirely different approach to measure speed. Rather than firing over a tripod-mounted instrument, a compact device is clamped to the barrel, protruding just beyond the muzzle. As the bullet passes over each of two electromagnetic

Since it does not use shadows, it doesn't have the same lighting issues that optical systems have. Another advantage is the very large bullet path area, much larger than typically found on optical systems. Set the unit up, aim it downrange roughly parallel to the bullet path, and you are good to go. However, the size of the radar cross section of the projectile will have an effect on the tracking range. The company claims that a BB or .177 pellet can be tracked out to about 30 yards, while a .308-diameter bullet can be detected at 80 to 100 yards. Pistol bullets, being larger diameter, can be tracked out to about 130 yards. Interestingly, the unit can be set to provide velocity at a given distance. Presumably, you could check how much velocity loss your bullet has at 100 yards and thus calculate a ballistic coefficient.

Besides price (this thing isn't cheap at \$765), the LabRadar can be a bit finicky to trigger. It uses a microphone to listen for your muzzle blast to begin tracking. If you do not have a loud enough muzzle blast, the unit does not track. There is a special air gun adapter for this purpose. >



Doppler radar chronographs work on the same principle as a traffic cop's radar "gun."



A magnetic chronograph works because a bullet passing over each of two electromagnetic sensors, causes a disturbance in the magnetic field.

## Obsolete Technologies



The SuperChrono, from Steinert Sensing Systems of Norway, listens for the sonic crack made as a bullet passes by.

### ACOUSTIC

The SuperChrono, from Steinert Sensing Systems of Norway, uses yet another technology to sense velocity. This design listens for the sonic crack made as a bullet passes by. The most obvious limitation to this system is that it can only function with supersonic rounds. Air gunners and archers need not apply. I have not yet had a chance to play with this technology, but it does intrigue me. The company points out that since it does not rely on optical sensors, it is not prone to varying lighting conditions. As well, it allows for a much larger shooting area than optical sensors. As with the optical type noted above, alignment perpendicular to bullet travel is vital to obtaining accurate numbers. Price is about \$335 US.

There is another system that also uses acoustic technology, but in a different and intriguing way. A Canadian company, Silver Mountain Targets, offers this system. It is starting to get noticed by serious long-range competitors, and was used at the USA F-class High Powered Rifle nationals recently.

By having four separate microphones spaced at the corners of the target frame, a bullet strike location can be accurately triangulated. This allows shooters at the firing line, via a wireless link, to view a virtual target display

as they are shooting. No need to walk downrange to check the target. Then, by adding another microphone 200 millimetres forward from the target mics, the velocity at the target can be obtained as well.

### SUMMARY

Choice is always good, and we are currently blessed with several competing technologies. Only you can determine what features best suit your needs and budget. A long-range precision rifle shooter will naturally have different needs than a dedicated air rifle fan or a bow hunter. Understanding how chronograph systems work is key to making the right purchase decision. 🗡️

## Internet Resources

### Shooting Chrony:

[www.shootingchrony.com](http://www.shootingchrony.com)

### Silver Mountain Targets:

[www.silvermountaintargets.com](http://www.silvermountaintargets.com)

### LabRadar:

[www.mylabradar.com](http://www.mylabradar.com)

### SuperChrono:

[www.steinertsensingsystems.com](http://www.steinertsensingsystems.com)

### MagnetoSpeed:

[www.magnetospeed.com](http://www.magnetospeed.com)

### Ballistic pendulum

The earliest serious method of ballistic testing was the ballistic pendulum. It was invented by a British military engineer named Benjamin Robins, and described in his book *New Principles of Gunnery* in 1742. By shooting at a target that is free to swing when impacted, and measuring the amount of movement, you can obtain a rough approximation of velocity. It actually measures the bullet momentum energy, so the weight of the bullet must be known before the complex math calculations can be made.

### Spinning discs

In 1804, French army officer Colonel Grobert invented the spinning disc chronograph. Two large discs are attached to an axle a set distance apart, and the discs are spun rapidly at a known speed. A shot is fired lengthwise through the two discs. The slight difference in hole location between the closest disc and the farthest disc is then measured. This offset, along with the known distance between the discs and the known rotational speed, allows a velocity calculation to be made.

### Electric paper screens

It was only a few decades ago that this system was considered state of the art. It used two paper screens containing electrically conductive wires placed in separate holders a set distance apart. A current is passed through each target screen, and as the bullet passes through each of the two targets, the circuit is broken. The slight difference in time between each circuit breaking is recorded. This time split is then converted to a velocity.



Black Cloud Flitecontrol Flex packaging.

# FLITECONTROL FLEX

Federal's Black Cloud ammunition gets choke friendly

BY BRAD FENSON

A flock of giant Canada geese locked onto our decoys and soared towards us with reckless abandon. Shotguns roared and a dozen of the big birds dropped into the stubble of the barley field. Hunters ran from their blinds to retrieve birds, while the Federal Ammunition engineer, Dan Compton, ran to find wads from the shotshells.

Federal has been producing Black Cloud shotgun shells for many years, and the Flitecontrol wad and Flitestopper pellets of this product have developed a reputation amongst waterfowl enthusiasts for delivering clean kills. This shotgun shell uses a combination of 60 per cent steel pellets and 40 per cent Flitestopper pellets, the latter having a

cutting ring running around the circumference of the pellet. Part of the ammunition equation is the wad design, which has a built-in brake system to separate the wad from the shot at the optimal time for pattern density. The product has always worked well, but came with drawbacks. Most notably, Black Cloud can't be used with a ported choke or with any type of wad-stripping choke.


Using a ported choke can shred wads and blow patterns. While a wad-stripping choke can grab and hold the wad via its "brakes," preventing it from leaving the barrel and causing catastrophic results with any follow up shot. Hunters were warned not to use Black Cloud with specialty chokes.

But when Compton returned to the blinds, he was all smiles. He held up several wads that had acted just like intended, with rear-deploying brakes spread out to release the shot in a perfect and dense pattern. The big news of the day was we were shooting a variety of chokes, including ported, full and wad-stripping, and the new Black Cloud Flitecontrol Flex worked perfectly in all guns, as the pile of geese on the ground attested.

Compton explained, "Flitecontrol Flex makes it a non-issue with all chokes, as the brake fins open and remain deployed, so payloads separate exactly when they're supposed to, regardless of gas pressure behind them."

Years of tweaking pro-

duced a wad with slits to allow air flow, and reinforced gussets on the rear fins to hold them in place when deployed. Taking the product further back to the drawing board, Federal also made changes to the primer and powder, improving ignition in any weather and reducing temperature-related variations in velocities. To top things off, the clean-burning powder means less fouling issues and easier clean up of guns and components. Autoloader enthusiasts will notice clean cycling, as we saw on our goose hunt.

The new Black Cloud Flitecontrol Flex will be available in High Velocity and Close Range options in 10, 12 and 20-gauge loads in BB, 2, 3 and 4 shot sizes. 

Black Cloud wad and shot string in flight.









PrairieShot's production line churns out ammunition for gun clubs, gun shops, distributors, waterfowl outfitters and custom loads for high-volume competition shooters.

# PRAIRIESHOT AMMUNITION

Great ammunition, made in Canada

BY AL VOTH

"We don't just want to make a Canadian product," said Ismail Karakas. "We want to make a great Canadian product."

And that about sums up the attitude I found at PrairieShot when I toured their ammunition production facilities in Manitoba. This was good news to me because when I arranged the visit, I was a little concerned I'd find a couple of guys making ammunition in a garage. What I found instead was a modern production facility, a major financial investment and a serious commitment to quality.

I first saw PrairieShot products when they appeared on the shelves of a local sporting goods store using the brand name Score. The red maple leaf and the "Made in Canada" printing caught my attention right away. Not long after, I had the opportunity to put 100 rounds of their target loads through my old Browning Superposed, when they were the supplied ammunition at a local charity shoot. The ammunition worked great, our team took third and my gun

was wonderfully clean after the shoot. Obviously, it was time to learn more about what they were doing.

The opportunity came some time later when a multi-purpose road trip gave me the chance to tour their production facilities in Carberry, Man. If you've never heard of Carberry, you're forgiven, as it's a small town about an hour-and-a-half drive west of Winnipeg. Why Carberry? Simply because that's where two guys, involved in the local agriculture economy, and with the vision to produce Canadian shotshells, happened to be.

## BEGINNINGS

In the end, Tom Adriaansen took on the role of CEO, and Ismail Karakas became production manager. They invested heavily in land, buildings, warehouse space, loading machinery and sorting through the bureaucratic jungle that accompanies anything firearm related in Canada. After several years of perseverance, their Canadian production line began in 2011 and

production quantities have expanded 10-fold since.

Ismail has been in Canada for 25 years, after leaving a law-enforcement career in Turkey. His extensive connections with the firearms industry there, and in Europe, have played a large part in the success of the company. They include steps such as hiring the retired head of Fiocchi's shotshell production line to come to Manitoba for two weeks to train and help set up PrairieShot's European machinery.

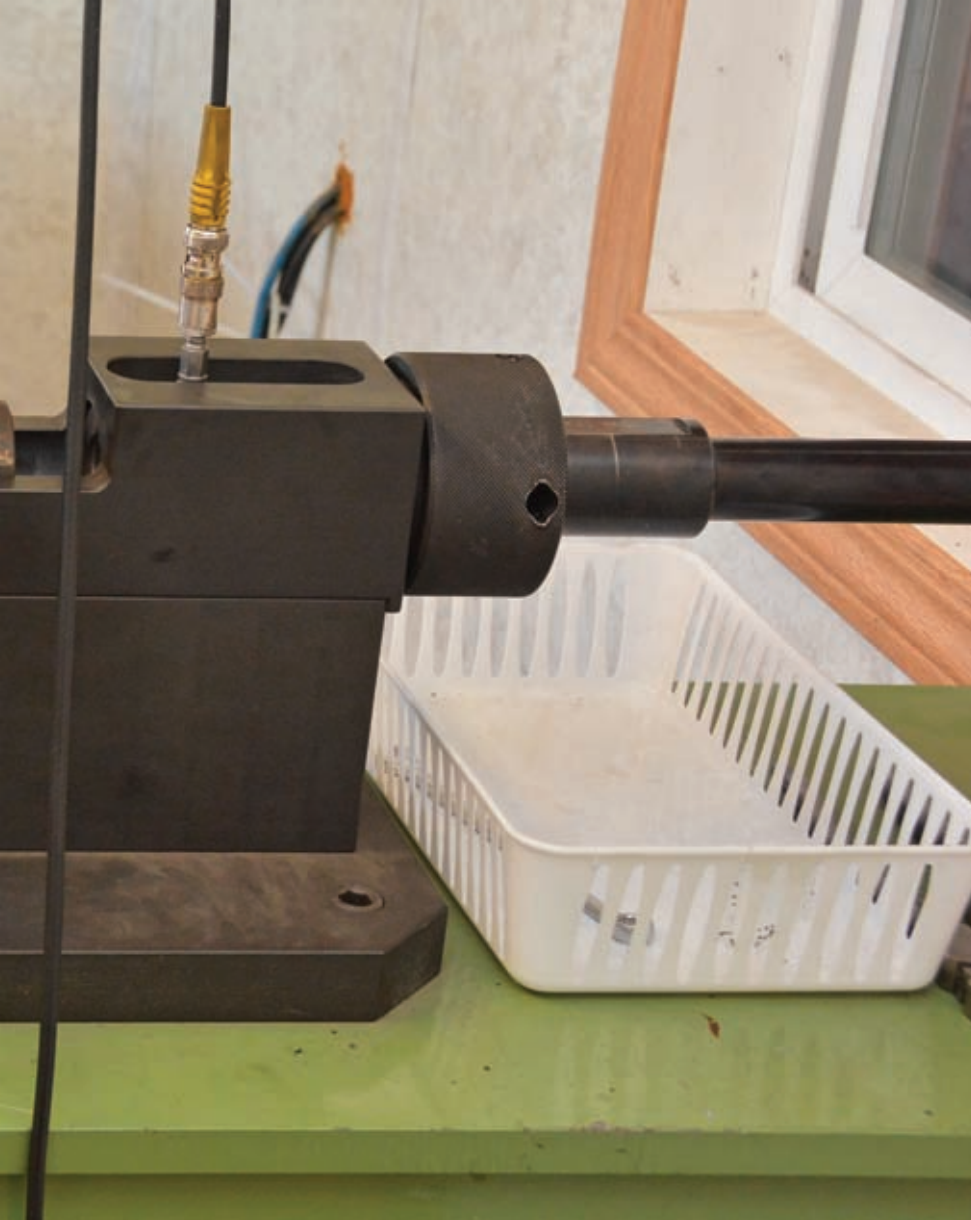
Their investment includes a building constructed to explosion-proof standards, a separate office space, warehouse, ballistic testing facility and powder magazine, all of which are part of the complex. And, of course, everything is examined yearly by an inspector from Explosives Canada who flies out from Ottawa to check up on them. As with any successful company, there are growing pains. For PrairieShot, they include the acquisition of new warehouse space and office space, all of which require renovations, and relocating. >



Ammunition is tested using a universal receiver with various precision-made barrels equipped with piezoelectric pressure sensors and a chronograph, all married to a computer.



PrairieShot uses commercial loading machines manufactured in Europe.



## MAKING AMMUNITION

When I asked Ismail and Tom how many different kinds of shotshells they produce, they handed me a dealer price list. I counted over 40 different loadings, with a couple of 20-gauge products at the small end, and 12-gauge 3.5-inch monster loads at the other. Included in that list are slug loads, turkey loads with duplex shot and even slugs.

"Where do your components come from?" I asked.

"We buy Canadian whenever we can," replied Ismail. "But, as you can imagine, that's not often possible in this business." He explained that their cases are purchased from Europe and come to them primed. They are coded different colours and some have a "SCORE" headstamp, while others have a generic star marking in addition to the requisite gauge designation.

Wads are purchased from suppliers

in Europe as well, and are all made from virgin plastic with features specific to each loading. Gualandi is a primary supplier, and I'm told they have a great reputation among international shooters. Lead shot is sourced primarily from Peru, while their steel shot comes from China. Ismail stuck his hand into a drum of steel shot and scooped up some for me to examine. His other hand did the same with lead shot. "We have the best shot on the market," he said. "Whether it's lead or steel, it's dense, uniform and hits hard. Measure it, look at it under a microscope and weigh it. You'll see."

"I'll do that," I said. "What about powder?"

"That we can get in Canada," he replied. "General Dynamics in Quebec makes powder for us and are great to work with. We physically send them the components we want to use and give them the parameters of the load

we want to build. They pick a powder for us, and assemble the components, playing with the load until our performance goals for velocity and pressure are reached. Then they ship us their powder and the recipe for using it. Of course, we pressure test and velocity test our own production, as well."

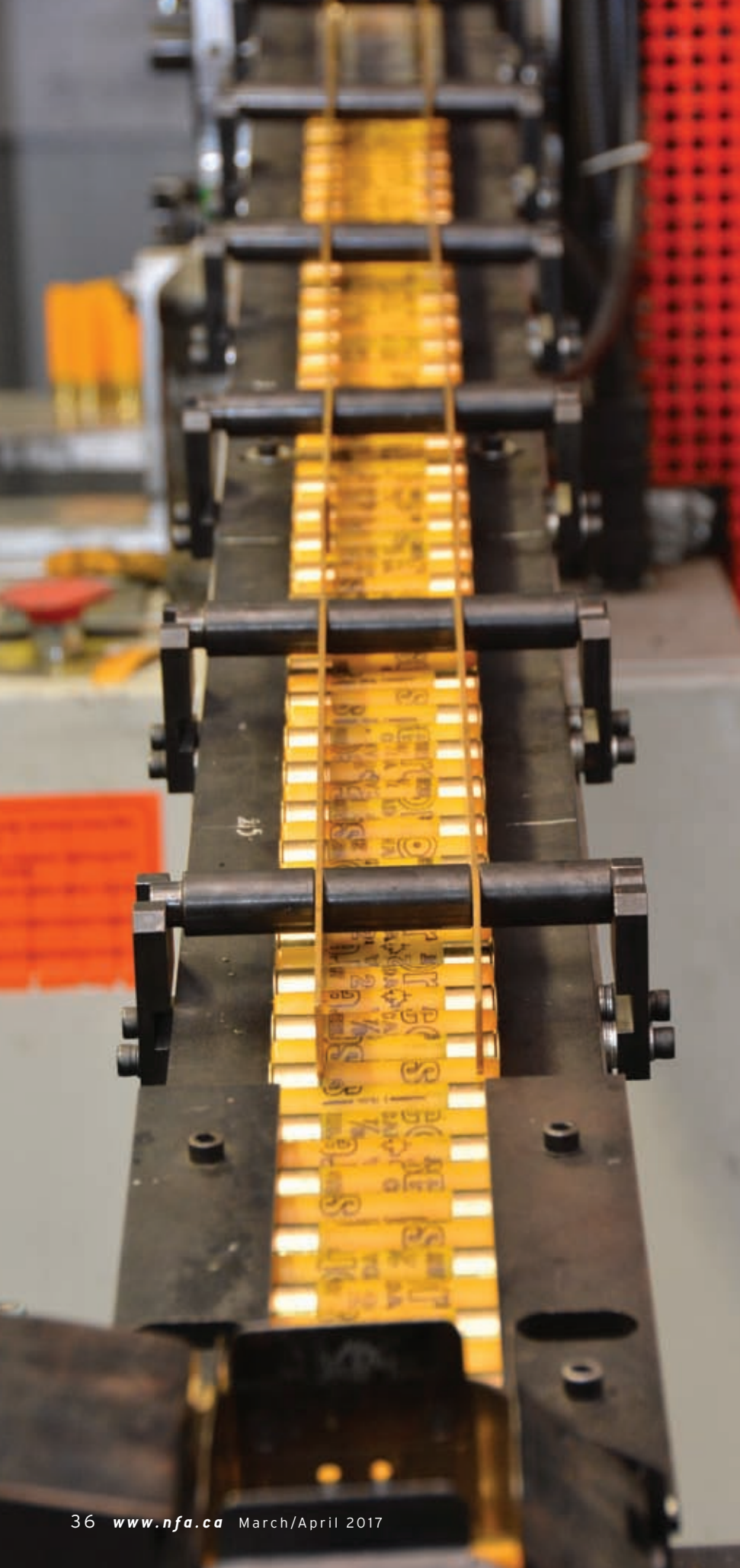
The two then toured me through their ballistic testing facility, which, naturally, is all located indoors, because no one wants to shoot outdoors during a Manitoba winter. A universal receiver with various precision-made barrels equipped with piezoelectric pressure sensors and a chronograph, all married to a computer, complete the set up.

Fully automated loading machines, which produce shells at thousands of rounds per hour, are the heart of the operation. When I toured, they were churning out 12-gauge target loads and 20-gauge steel waterfowl loads. I know I couldn't shoot that ammunition as fast as one machine was producing it. In full production, they are hypnotizing to watch, and the people doing packaging are hustling to keep up. And just like all responsible ammunition companies, each run gets its own lot number, and the information about what went into it, who loaded it and what components were used are meticulously recorded. That lot number is marked on each box and case.

## MARKETING

Tom looks after marketing the company's products and told me he has to be careful he doesn't sell more than what Ismail can produce. They sell direct to gun shops across Canada, but the costs of shipping dictate the majority of their business is done in the west. Wholesale Sports, a western Canadian chain, is one of their largest customers and while I was there a semi-trailer arrived to pick up an order. Outfitters who stock ammunition for their customers arriving from the US are another part of their business. It's a customer base that generates a lot of feedback on the performance of their loads and the two told me it has been overwhelmingly positive.

PrairieShot was even a sponsor on a TV hunting show, but that contract has expired and they are looking for new opportunities. >



“We do custom loading, too,” said Tom. “If a shooter wants a particular load that we don’t make, we’ll manufacture it for them – as long as it’s safe, of course. The minimum is one pallet, or 25,000 rounds. That sounds like a lot, but it’s only one year’s shooting for some guys.”


#### TESTING

I left the PrairieShot facility with some sample boxes of the various loads they produce and an intention to do some testing of my own. After all, it’s easy to say they are producing quality ammunition, but I wanted to find if the ammunition lived up to the talk.

I started by pulling apart some shells and checking their steel and lead shot samples, under a microscope. A direct comparison to shot pulled from the ammunition of major manufacturers revealed PrairieShot’s product to be every bit as round and uniform. And it was considerably better than the shot removed from other maker’s promo brands. I checked size and weight as well, and found both within industry specifications.

Chronograph testing followed, as I evaluated seven different loads. A Remington 870 with a 28-inch barrel and modified choke worked as my test gun. And since PrairieShot prints velocity on all their packaging, those numbers became my standard. I found five of the loads tested exceeded the published velocity, while two were just under. Considering the variables involved, that indicates PrairieShot is reporting honest velocity numbers.

Later, I shot another 100 clays with their target load, using a semi-auto Remington V3 this time. The gun and ammunition functioned perfectly, and proved to be a clean-shooting combination. Some crows were next, and the assortment of ammunition I used plucked the black bandits from the sky with authority.

So, as far as I can tell, it looks like Ismail was right. They aren’t just making a Canadian product, they’re making a quality Canadian product. Take a look at their website for more information [www.prairieshotammo.com](http://www.prairieshotammo.com). 



# A RANGER RIFLE SPINOFF

How military firearm selections benefit civilian shooters

BY EDWARD OSBORNE

The Canadian Rangers, a part of our official presence in the northern reaches of Canada, have been carrying the Second World War Lee Enfield rifle since their inception in 1947. In the extreme cold of the Arctic, the Lee Enfield is tough enough and reliable enough to continue feeding and functioning in the toughest situations. But 70 years on, the rifles are showing their age, and they need replacing.

When the federal government opens the door to a contract like this one, they spec out what needs to be made and accept offers from a variety of manufacturers. They take the different submissions, test them and pick one. In the case of the Rangers, a version of the Tikka CTR was selected to be produced by Colt Canada and sent into polar service. But what happens to the guns that didn't get picked?

This is where civilian shooters can reap the benefits of government contracts, for many firearms manufacturers will bring those alternate designs to market after a selection is made. The rising flood of new striker-fired handguns



in the US right now can be attributed to the M9 replacement competition run by the US Army.

The Cz 557 Ranger Rifle from Česká zbrojovka is a Canadian example. It was originally built for the Canadian Rangers competition, but found new life in the civilian world after the contract was awarded. I've had one in my safe for the past few months, and it's gone shooting with me on some of the coldest days of last winter.

The requirements of the Rangers share some interesting overlap with Jeff Cooper's Scout Rifle concept, and this 308 Win., push-feed rifle is an

interesting take on the solicitation. A detachable, 10-round box magazine feeds the chamber of the 20.5-inch barrel and an adjustable two-stage trigger starts those bullets on the way. This contract is one of the only times since the Second World War that a western government has requested a new bolt-action rifle with iron sights. The 557 Ranger Rifle has a section of weaver rail for optics, with a central channel that provides

visibility to the barrel-mounted irons. Both sights are adjustable: a rear dovetail sight with white dots matches to a red fibre optic front sight that is hooded to shield from impacts.

In a classic beech wood stock with a free-floated barrel, the rifle feels like a workhorse, something made for the backcountry of Canada. But it's unlikely it would have been built without that initial request. Federal contracts influence the wider shooting industry, and can drive small arms development in new directions. As a sport shooter, I'm pleased to benefit from the results. ❤️





# RIFLE SIGHTS

Steel is good

BY BOB CAMPBELL

**R**ecently my son and I enjoyed a range session together. We opened the toy box and took along two Mausers, a Mosin-Nagant and a Lee Enfield rifle. We were the odd men out at the range, as it seemed everyone else was using rifles with optical sights. That's fine for them, but for 90 per cent of what I do, steel sights are just fine. (Iron sights are the same thing, but haven't been actual iron for a very long time.) No, I'm not making an ex cathedra for a return to the halcyon days when we beat the bush with an iron-sighted, lever-action rifle. But if I choose to do so, no amount of verbal calisthenics will convince me otherwise. I like iron sights and use them well.

## LIMITATIONS

I understand the limitations of iron sights. I realize their main value these days is in the brush and in stalking dangerous game at short range. A limiting factor for typical iron sights is that they are designed for use with a standard bullet weight, and they have limited adjustment ability. As an example, the 30-30 Winchester can usually be zeroed successfully with standard factory loadings. However, ammunition such as Hornady's LEVERevolution load, which jolts a 160-grain bullet to a full 2,400 feet per second, or handloads with cast bullets, may cause challenges. The problem is that lighter, higher-velocity bullets shoot higher, while heavy bul-

lets shoot lower. Most iron sights are a compromise in ammunition selection.

## ZEROING

Military rifle sights may be more difficult to properly sight in, as those who enjoy the Mauser and Mosin-Nagant will attest. These rifles were designed for firing at massed troops at very long range. Some of the Russian rifles are encrypted in graduations as indecipherable as Hawaiian Creole, while the much-maligned Carcano is more akin to Pittman and Gregg shorthand. In any case, these rifles, and others, will shoot high at ranges much less than 200 yards. A taller front sight is the only solution, and is commonly seen on sporterized military rifles.

The Springfield 1903A3 sights are a bit better than the Mauser, and the Garand much, much better than anything before. The aperture and ladder sights of the original Pattern 1914 Enfield rifle are a pleasure to use. There are not many places you can sit down with the old military rifles and fire them for accuracy at volley range, and fewer shooters that know how to use these sights. But in the day, they were terrible harrows on the battlefield.

## WINDAGE & ELEVATION

Handling windage is normally done by drifting the front sight in its dovetail or adjusting the rear sight. Then there is Kentucky windage. No one can accurately hold the front sight over; you have to adjust the >



The ladder sight of the 1860 Henry is a joy to use and fire.

A limiting factor for typical iron sights is that they are designed for use with a standard bullet weight, and they have limited adjustment ability.



sights to connect reliably at long range. Shooting long range with iron sights isn't easy and that is why long-range accuracy with iron sights is something of an art.

My personal 30-30 Winchester is sighted in for 100 yards when the rear sight is set on the second notch, using Winchester 150-grain Power Point ammunition. The rifle is accurate enough for a 200-yard shot, but 150 yards is a more realistic limit. By moving the sight to the third notch, I am pretty much on the money at 200 yards, a realistic limit for the rifle under perfect conditions. Learning to use the sight without a bit of study is like opening up a new digital camera and neglecting to study the manual. You will be able to solve some, but not all, problems.

I cannot tell you exactly what is needed with each rifle, but as a rule, it is a smart move to sight the average rifle to strike one to two inches high at 100 yards. You won't be able to hold that closely at 100 yards off hand, but from a solid rest you will be able to sight the rifle in. With a two-inch-high setting at 100 yards, you will be dead on at 150 yards with most military rifle calibres. This setting allows good all-around utility. You must have confidence in the sight setting and your ability to repeat the sight picture.


#### RECEIVER SIGHTS

Receiver sights offer an advantage over open sights, by increasing the sight radius. Providence Tool Company offers a high-quality reproduction of the Lyman Patent 21 sight. In my opinion, these are the best of the old-style receiver sights. Yes, I have also used tang sights, but I feel the receiver type works much better. There is usually some drilling and tapping required for installation, but in the end the possibility of increased accuracy makes it all worthwhile. The ability to adjust elevation and windage is also an attractive option. Adding such a sight to a rifle not noted for high accuracy may seem odd, but this is the type of rifle the sights first were mounted on. Receiver sights provide repeatability and the ability to deliver the accuracy the rifle is capable of, on demand.

#### MILITARY SIGHTS

As for slightly more modern sights,





Receiver sights offer an advantage over open sights, by increasing the sight radius.

the M14 rifle features advanced sights of the type first used on the M1 Garand. These sights offer real accuracy at long range, and the aperture leads the eye to the front sight properly. They are leagues ahead of the open sights found on the SKS rifle. The SKS is a fun rifle, but it is utilitarian at best and the issue sights are OK, but not great. I find the various sights of the Lee Enfield rifles work well for long-range fire, as many trained riflemen proved during two great wars. I believe the SMLE sights are preferable to the sights found on the German Mauser. The peep sight the makers went to in the Second World War is a faster sight and accurate enough, but I still like the old ladder sight of the original rifle. It's all personal preference.

#### VINTAGE SIGHTS

When I say that iron sights are only good for 200 yards, perhaps those

firing rifles before the common use of optical sights would take exception. The Buffington sight fitted to the Springfield 45-70 Gov't rifle after 1884 was intended to solve many of the problems with the earlier sights. While they appear complex, and they are compared to other sights of the era, they allowed a trained marksman to connect the low-velocity 45-70 Gov't well past 500 yards. Early experiments were carried out at many hundreds of yards, with the Springfield rifle against old ship hulls, and the accuracy and long-range penetration of the 45-70 Gov't was highly respected.

I have also used a model reproduction of the 1860 Henry rifle. Although chambered for 44-40 WCF, rather than 44 Henry, this rifle is very accurate with the Black Hills cowboy load. The ladder-type sight offers good accuracy to at least 300 yards. And you really needed ladder-type sights due to the drop of

these old black powder loads. Remember, we are not talking about hitting a deer in the eight-inch kill zone at several hundred yards, but rather firing at massed troops, or perhaps an artillery position at long range.

#### IRON SIGHTS ARE AN OPTION

No, iron sights aren't perfect, but then neither are optical sights. It was not long ago a friend made the mistake of taking a scope-mounted rifle on a boar hunt in wooded territory. When the time to shoot came, all he could see was bristle. The same fellow took a black bear at a modest 35 yards with a scope-mounted rifle. He told me he would have performed better and had more satisfaction had he used an iron-sighted rifle on both hunts. Today, I use iron sights for enjoyment, for the heritage and for a sense of history. But I also use iron sights to take game, and so should you. 🏹

NO MORE  
KEEPERS



Shooting lenses are made from polycarbonate material, because the polycarbonate provides the greatest safety margin.

ing ambient light. But this only works for so long. These folks then purchase over-the-counter reading glasses, and this helps them read. When these glasses no longer suffice, they break down and make an appointment to see an optometrist. The optometrist will probably give them a clean bill of health and prescribe proper reading glasses or some form of a progressive lens, if required. Unfortunately, reading glasses or progressive addition lenses (PALs) will not clear the front sight for handgun shooters.

While PALs work great for everyday tasks, there is too much distortion in the peripheral area of these lenses and this creates more problems than it solves for handgun shooters. Single vision readers will be too strong and blur the target too much. Serious handgun shooters require clear, intermediate vision to see their front sight. The target can be blurred slightly, but the front sight must be perfectly clear.

#### THE SOLUTION

The solution here is to prescribe a single vision, aspheric, anti-reflective coated lens adjusted to correct the presbyopia for the specific distance from your eye to the front sight of your handgun. A single vision lens has much less distortion in the periphery, compared to a progressive lens. An added benefit to this set up is the slight distance blur, which keeps the shooter's visual concentration on the front sight. The information required to do this is as follows:

1. An updated refraction and eye health assessment, including near point testing (a spectacle prescription)
2. A measurement from your eye to the front sight on your handgun
3. Information regarding left or right-hand shooting

With this information, it is possible to prescribe a lens for your shooting eye that keeps the front sight clear and sharp. In the other eye, an optometrist would use a single vision distance correction, with or without a conventional lined bifocal.

With the front sight of your handgun clear, it's time to discuss frames for shooting glasses. Our most popular frame for handgun shooting is the Rudy Project >



# EYES OVER 40

An optical fix for handgunners with blurred front sights

BY BARRY NOLT

As an optometrist and a shooter, I realize the importance of good vision to shooting well. I've hosted a website on prescription shooting glasses for over 20 years, and the most common question I get is from handgun shooters who can no longer focus clearly on the front sight of their handgun. At the same time, they usually complain about having difficulty reading. These complaints always come from people over 40 years of age. The problem is so

bad for some shooters, it causes them to give up on shooting handguns. So why does this happen, and what can we do to help these folks?

#### THE PROBLEM

As we age, the crystalline lens in our eye loses its elasticity. The medical term for this is presbyopia. In the early stages, it's not a serious problem and we can deal with it by holding reading material further away and increas-

As an optometrist, one of the most common questions I get is from handgun shooters who can no longer focus clearly on the front sight of their handgun.



Rydon Shooting and Performance Kit. These frames are available with five tinted lenses. The prescription can be ground into each of the tinted lenses or a prescription insert is available with five different plano (non-prescription) interchangeable lenses. They also make the Magster Performance Shooting Kit. The Magster comes with one pair of lenses. The prescription can be ground into the lens in the tint of your choice, or a clear prescription insert is available with a plano tint of your choice. Tint preference is a personal thing, but it's also dependent on ambient light conditions. These frames fit differently, and I recommend you try them on to determine which one is right for you.

Lens material is important in shooting glasses. Glass lenses are now obsolete,

as normal spectacles use CR39 (plastic resin material). But shooting lenses are made from polycarbonate material, because the polycarbonate provides the greatest safety margin.

All clear lenses used for shooting should have an anti-reflection (AR) coating. These coatings increase light transmission from 92 per cent to 99 per cent. Quality AR coatings are expensive, but worth every cent. These coatings are applied to riflescopes and binoculars for good reason. Visual acuity is improved and internal reflections and ghost images are reduced. Lenses should also be coated to resist scratching.

We dispense a fair number of shooting glasses for law enforcement personnel. These officers are required to qualify regularly with their handguns, but also

need a prescription lens for daily wear. We can use a separate prescription lens for practice, compared to what they need to wear on duty. The Rudy Project frames are perfect for this application, as the lenses and lens inserts are interchangeable.

#### CONTACT LENSES

For patients wearing contact lenses, there is another option to clear the front sight of your handgun. These are multi-focal contact lenses. Contact lenses eliminate fogging, misplaced glasses, dealing with precipitation and taking the glasses off and on. Contact lenses are a great option for full or part-time wear, no matter what your visual correction is. They are available as a one-day or one-month frequent



A clear prescription insert can be worn with non-prescription tinted lenses.

replacement basis. These lenses are very comfortable and will clear the front sight of your handgun. The technology has come a long way, and for contact lens wearers they deserve a look.


#### FRONT SIGHT COLOURS

There is another way to help clear the front sight of your handgun using the normal chromatic aberration in your eye. From high school physics, we know that when white light is passed through a prism it is broken into the colours of the rainbow. The longer wavelength of red is focused further away from the prism and the shorter green wavelength is focused closer to the prism. When monochromatic (one wave length) red light passes through a prism it is focused further away than the shorter

green wavelength. Our eye is like a prism, and we can use this phenomenon to our benefit. Because green light is focused closer to the prism, in this case the retina, it is clearer than the red light from a red-coloured front sight. If we use a green-coloured front sight insert, such as those made by Hi Viz or Truglo, it will be clearer than a red-coloured front sight. These are interchangeable and are made to fit most popular handguns.

#### SHOOTING YOUR BEST

Properly designed and fitted ophthalmic-quality eyewear is necessary for presbyopic handgun shooters to perform their best. An accurate refraction and eye health assessment are the first steps. Small amounts of nearsighted-

ness, farsightedness and astigmatism are significant and require correction. A measurement from your eye to the front sight of your handgun is critical. Physical protection provided by polycarbonate lenses prevents serious eye injuries. Multifocal contact lenses and Hi Viz or Truglo front sight inserts are options. Law enforcement, IPSC and cowboy action shooters over the age of 40 will benefit recreationally and post higher scores in competition from properly designed and fitted shooting glasses. 

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# Team NFA

Matt Neumann

## David & Goliath



I'm completely comfortable with the pain associated with training, and I see it simply as a necessity to the lifestyle of a professional athlete.

A life with goals is an upward climb. And trust me, I've slipped, fallen, landed on my butt and slid straight back down. My 8,000-metre peak for the past 20 years has been to compete at the Olympic Winter Games. As I approach my final push towards a goal that has dominated my thoughts for the past two decades, I would like to expose some crevasses I've encountered along the way.

I can see the snow-covered summit towering above me, the air thin, the wind relentless. It's cold (freaking cold), but one step at a time I manoeuvre upwards. The view is phenomenal, the adrenaline overcomes the fatigue, and there's no other place I'd rather be. The metaphor is timeless. We all have peaks we aspire to stand on top of. But the truth is, even if conditions allow, the summit is only a few cold minutes on a calendar of physical preparation, nervous anticipation, cold nights, route

finding, goal setting, days of extreme exposure and risk of danger in order to get there. In my biathlon journey, I have faced clear physical challenges, self doubt, nights awake and nights I pass out from exhaustion. I'm completely comfortable with the pain associated with training, and I see it simply as a necessity to the lifestyle of a professional athlete. However, what I want to shine a light on is some of the hidden obstacles, the snow-covered crevasses, that aren't so transparent in the path to the Olympics.

### UNPREDICTABILITY

We ultimately never entirely control any situation in life. An injury, getting sick at the wrong time, a single missed target in a biathlon race or the results of other athletes can all step in the way of reaching the podium. In 2014, I was one spot off from achieving my lifetime goal of going to the Sochi Olympics. I trained

and prepared to all ends to make sure I could perform to my maximum ability. And I did, but so did my competitors. I had a hard time accepting it at the time, but I realized an important lesson through this experience: We must only focus our energy on areas we can actually do something about.

### CHEATERS

Remember when Lance Armstrong got busted for doping, and tarnished what is, perhaps, one of the greatest legacies in sport? How could he be so arrogant and selfish? Can't he just play by the rules like the rest of us? Well, unfortunately folks, the Lance Armstrongs exist in every sport where there's a dollar to be made. There will always be people in every area of life who are willing to compromise the rules of the game to get ahead.

A recently released document, called the McLaren Report, sheds light on a

Russian state-funded doping regime affecting the past several Olympic Games. While still under investigation, with disciplinary actions just beginning, the report clearly accuses over 1,000 Russian summer and winter athletes of being on a protected list. Russian government officials were also accused of covering up positive drug tests, swapping samples, tampering samples and destroying evidence. The list of cheating allegations is lengthy. But the story that stood out to me occurred at the 2014 Olympic Games. There, a Putin-hired task squad, allegedly assigned to investigate these cheating allegations, was actually conducting counter-operations. The investigating task force, which was given access to confidential labs and computer data, had a secret agenda to find and destroy incriminating evidence. It's like a James Bond plot; you seriously couldn't make this up. Unfortunately, the battle is against the morals of an entire country, run by one of the richest men in the world.

How do cheaters affect me? Picture your good friend and neighbour, who is making the exact mortgage payments

as you, lives a similar lifestyle, has the same amount of kids that all play multiple sports and instruments, makes the same car payments and works the same job in the office next to yours. You both pay your bills and taxes on time, but the boss matches all his payments and doubles his paycheque every two weeks so he is achieving that elusive debt-free lifestyle exponentially faster than you. You work exactly as hard as him, but he's retiring 15 years sooner and you're growing farther apart as friends. Literally, because he'll soon be spending half the year in Mexico.

#### POOR FINANCIAL DECISIONS

OK, this probably isn't such a hidden challenge, but I couldn't resist. Unfortunately, I pursued an amateur Olympic sport in a country where most people ask about biathlon in astonishment. "Wait! Do you use REAL bullets?" I imagine the vast majority of parents are at least aware of the expenses associated with sport, the early morning practice time commitments, travel, equipment and coaching necessary to give kids opportunities. These expenses

quickly escalated for me after I moved away from home at 18. Since then, every season has included multiple trips to Europe to represent Canada, continuously increasing my financial strain.

As I approach my last year, things are getting desperate as I torpedo into debt. I can't wait to get out of. I race because I am passionate about my sport, and I clearly don't compete for financial gain. On the contrary, I've poured tens of thousands of dollars into pursuing my dream. Sport can be an expensive pursuit, and I have made a massive sacrifice. As a result, I've had some inner conflict about whether my investment was worth the experience. I know the instant I start chasing another peak that I will miss every second of this athletic lifestyle. I knew, diving in, that it would be hard financially, but that the two minutes I wanted to spend on top of my peak is something money can't buy.

Accomplishments are continuously glorified around us, but all of us who get there know that no journey to a snow-covered peak comes without the risk of an avalanche, a long adventure and an epic story. 🏆

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# Point Blank

Chris McGarry

## Women Have The Right To Choose To Defend Themselves



Feminists who wholeheartedly support a woman's right to choose are strangely opposed to their sisters choosing to protect their lives.

**T**he rise of the second-wave feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s brought about a revolution, of sorts, as to how western women would be liberated from the oppression of the traditional male patriarchy. Issues included equal pay for equal work and a woman's right to choose what she

can do with her own body. Paradoxically, in a strange twist of irony, many of these same feminist activists have been lobbying the federal government for decades to pass draconian firearms legislation. Legislation that does next to nothing to protect women from domestic violence, but instead turns

them into helpless, unarmed victims.

Not that long ago, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Dawson College shooting, Wendy Cukier and Heidi Rathjen danced on the graves of the victims to push their tired rhetoric about how stricter controls on firearms would have prevented this



horrific massacre. These outspoken gun control activists, standing next to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during a press conference, explained that the firearms used to commit this grisly act, a Beretta Cx4 Storm carbine rifle, a Glock pistol and a Norinco HP9-1 shotgun (all restricted firearms), are too easily obtainable for the general public and must be controlled further.

Cukier and Rathjen made no mention of the fact that as restricted firearms, these firearms can only be transported from a gun owner's safe, to the range and back. These so-called prominent feminists, who claim to care about the safety of women, also ignored the empirical statistic that guns in the hands of trained law-abiding citizens save lives.

On that tragic day, 18-year-old Anastasia Rebecca De Sousa was murdered by a deranged gunman, whom we decline to name. If even one person on


campus had a concealed carry permit, he may have been stopped before he had the opportunity to inflict further damage.

This looniness, perpetrated by far-left progressives, isn't restricted to our corner of the globe. Last summer, a 17-year-old Danish girl (in a case that sparked outrage around the world) used pepper spray on a Syrian migrant who attempted to rape her. Grateful to have survived the encounter, the teen was shocked when she learned that she would be prosecuted for carrying pepper spray, which, like Canada, is a prohibited weapon in Denmark. Again, I ask, why didn't feminist leaders leap to the occasion and defend this young woman for exercising her inalienable right to self-preservation? Instead, all we get is the sound of crickets.

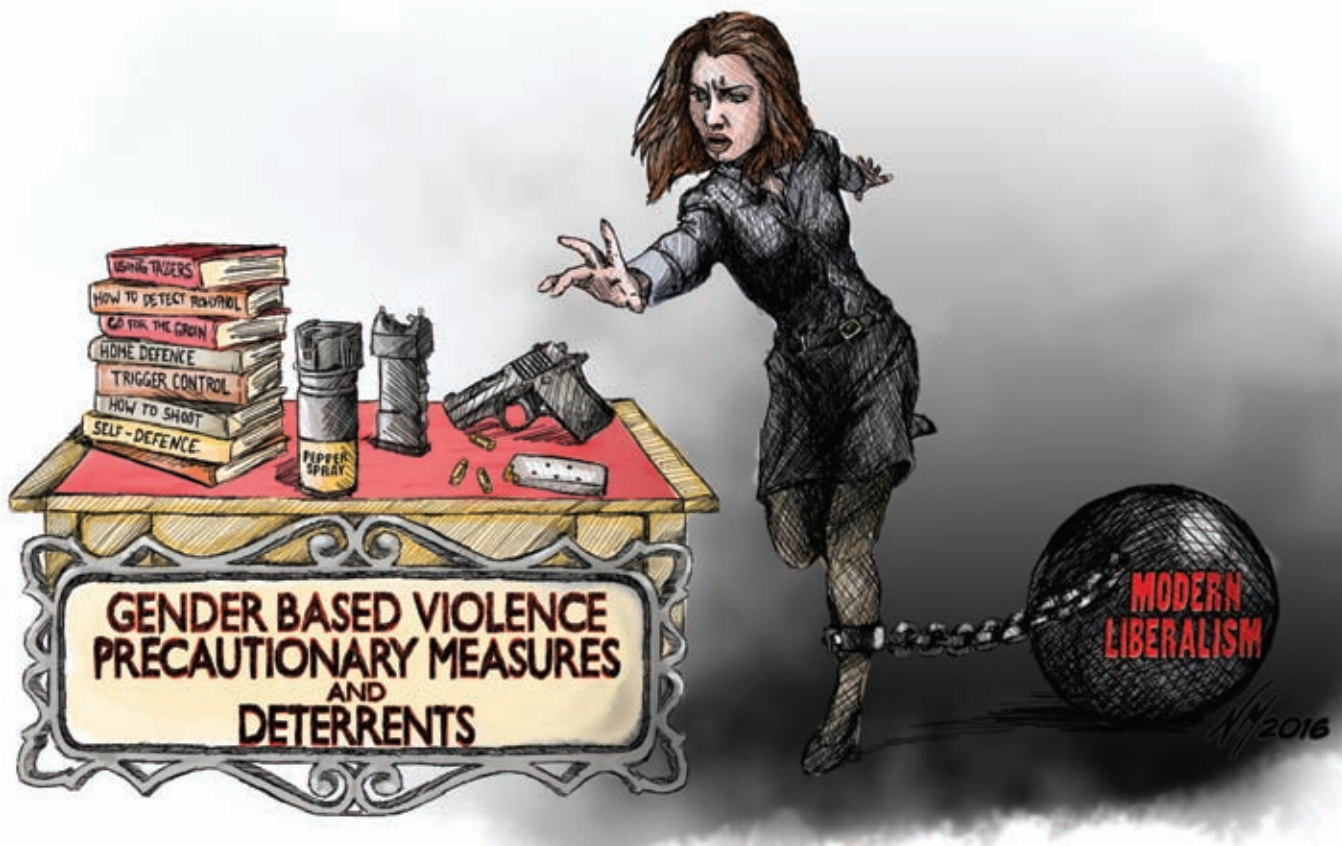
Almost a century ago, before women won the hard-fought right to vote, they always had the right to self-defence. In

Victorian England, middle/upper class ladies commonly carried small pistols that would be categorized as prohibited firearms in Canada today.

Although the mainstream media, politicians and particularly antigun feminists would deny this confounding fact, rates of firearm ownership are increasing in many western countries, especially among women. Shockingly, if women seeking to own firearms for self-protection stated so on their PAL/RPAL applications, there is a strong chance they would be refused.

Feminists who wholeheartedly support a woman's right to choose are strangely opposed to their sisters choosing to protect their lives. Perhaps the time has come for Canadian women to question this twisted radical feminist ideology and outright refuse to support any political party that advocates denying them their natural right to self-preservation. 

Nathaniel Milljour, RightWingNation.ca





# One Gun's Story

Todd Kristensen and Anthony Worman

## New York To Alberta: The Tales Of A Rusty Revolver



The New Model Army revolver (right) was found near the edge of a Métis overwintering settlement at Buffalo Lake, Alta.



An unrecorded story ends with the abandonment of a loaded revolver on the hilly slopes of Buffalo Lake, Alta. But the tale begins across the continent, near the banks of the Mohawk River in Iliion, NY, in 1863.

There, at the Remington & Sons factory, workers were busy filling orders for over 100,000 New Model Army revolvers. Most were destined for use in combat by US Army soldiers in the American Civil War. The Remington New Model Army (often mistakenly called the Model 1858) was a popular sidearm because it was affordable and tough. The gun is a muzzelloading, .44 calibre percussion six-shot revolver with an eight-inch octagon barrel and wood grip panels. The standard load, according to the US Army ordnance manual, was a 216-grain conical bullet and 30 grains of powder. The gun could be loaded with commercially produced paper cartridges, as well as lead round ball and loose powder. The New Model Army revolver weighs two pounds, 13 ounces, and had an effective range of approximately 75 yards, but it was likely limited to accurate use in combat to about 20 yards.

### THE FIND

The start and end of the tale of Buffalo Lake's Remington revolver are well known, but much of the middle remains a mystery. The gun was discovered in 2004 during an archaeology project on the outskirts of an historic Métis camp. Darryl Bereziuk, now the director of Alberta's Archaeological Survey, was scanning dirt for tiny trade beads and arrowheads when he spotted the rusty barrel.

"A crew member and I were surveying together along a dirt trail when I asked him to pop over the fence to look on the other side. About 10 feet later, I found the gun. We joked about that for a while."

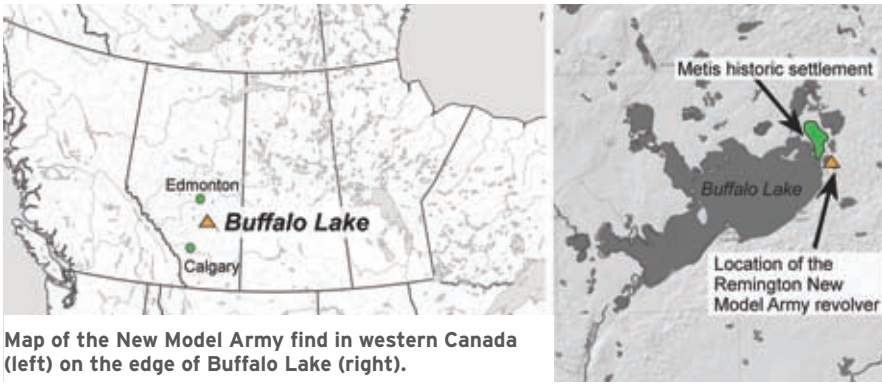
Darryl knew right away that the gun was old. "We realized it was likely associated with the historic Métis occupation nearby. The artifact attests to how lively a place this was in the 1800s."

A little detective work on the corroded gun reveals that the hammer is a low spur type used on New Model Army revolvers starting at approximately serial number 19,000. The front sight is a German silver cone sight, dovetailed into the barrel that is a carryover from an earlier model. The safety notches

on the cylinder shoulders between the nipples were used to further confirm the model type. These notches were thought to have made the gun safer to carry with all six chambers fully loaded. However, the safest way to carry it would still have been to load five shots and place the hammer down on an empty chamber. A 'P' acceptance mark stamped on the brass trigger guard was left by Ordnance Department sub-inspector Giles Porter, indicating the gun had been accepted by the US Army. The serial number and other makers' marks have rusted beyond recognition, but enough clues exist to suggest the gun was produced in the latter half of 1863. It was likely issued to a soldier in 1864, but it is not known if the gun was used in that final year of Civil War combat, which ended in 1865.

The major advantage the Remington revolver had over Colt models at the time was the solid "top strap" frame. While the cylinder pin enabled the quick replacement of an empty cylinder with one where all six chambers were loaded and capped, it is generally accepted that this did not happen, especially on the battlefield. No Remington revolvers were

DARRYL BEREZUK, REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION



Map of the New Model Army find in western Canada (left) on the edge of Buffalo Lake (right).



The Remington New Model Army revolver found at Buffalo Lake, Alta.

issued with a second cylinder and it is unlikely that a soldier would scavenge for a second one when he could take the whole revolver. The only known example of issuing a second cylinder was to the Texas Rangers for their Colt Paterson revolvers in the 1840s.

### THE LOCATION

On the heels of the Civil War, one of the largest settlements in Alberta was beginning to form in a strip of parkland that separated buffalo grazing grounds to the south and beaver-rich forests to the north. Here at Buffalo Lake, a mobile group of Métis hunters and their families built winter cabins from which they would venture south in hunting parties to target buffalo herds in the spring to gather meat for Canada's trade posts. A single Métis buffalo hunt in the 1800s could involve over 600 men.

Over 1,000 Métis people called Buffalo Lake home during its heyday from 1872 to 1878. When you add the number of Euro-Canadians and First Nations, the population was likely around 1,500 people, which was comparable in size to Winnipeg (approximately 1,470 people in 1872) and over five times larger than Edmonton. Buffalo Lake provided firewood, water and commercial opportunities, owing to its access to several traders and posts.

Because of the wide networks and large

territory of the Métis, it is hard to say how a US Army handgun ended up at Buffalo Lake. Métis territory extended from Manitoba and the Dakotas to Alberta. They maintained personal and commercial connections to First Nations on the prairies, Dene in the north and a wide variety of Euro-Canadians and Americans.

At the end of the Civil War, thousands of surplus arms were sold by the US government, while many soldiers kept personal guns when they returned to civilian life. Among other scenarios, a Métis hunter may have bought an American gun legally from southern free traders or merchants, exchanged it with a war veteran or acquired it illegally from whiskey traders who were pouring north onto Alberta's prairies. Archaeological finds at Buffalo Lake (including 56 Spencer, 44 Henry Center Fire Flat and 44 WCF cartridges, as well as caps for percussion firearms) indicate that the Métis had ready access to American arms. Maurice Doll, who excavated at Buffalo Lake in the 1970s, argues that the Métis had one of the most diverse arsenals of firearms in Canada at the time.

### THE MYSTERY

We do know that the Remington at Buffalo Lake was abandoned with at least two percussion caps and two loaded cylinders. The fact that the barrel is

visibly bent at the point where it meets the frame may explain why the revolver was left. However, this damage may also have occurred in the last 50 years by vehicle traffic along the path where it was found. Revolvers were comparatively rare in Alberta (less than one revolver to 100 rifles based on historic accounts), so it is assumed that any damage that could have been repaired would have been. The fact that the gun was found near the edge of the settlement, not in a trash heap or associated with a grave, adds to the mystery.

The motivations for owning a revolver offer some clues to explain its abandonment. While ecologically rich and commercially hot, the Buffalo Lake area was also dangerous. The parkland could be a contentious zone, where Blackfoot and Cree parties historically waged war. This is what earned the name Battle River, which flows past Buffalo Lake. A particularly bloody contest was fought within miles of the lake in 1865. Add to this the influx of southern whiskey traders and "wolfers" (American wolf hunters) who were diluting "firewater" with sulphuric acid and turpentine. A revolver could be concealed during indoor trading interactions or it could have been a last resort, both in combat or during hunting expeditions. Whatever the motivation, the attraction of US-made revolvers was so great that Richard Hardisty, a major player for the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Edmonton in 1875, complained that they were pulling First Nations and Métis clients into the hands of opposing American traders.

An archaeological puzzle like the Buffalo Lake revolver can be frustrating because we may never know the story behind an artifact, but the possibilities can be intriguing. It may have been lost during travels to and from the settlement, thrown away after corroded parts left it unusable or it may have been buried out of respect. Any number of scenarios could explain the ultimate loss, abandonment or disposal of the revolver.

Different guns can share a similar story or a single gun can be involved in a host of different stories. The Buffalo Lake Remington New Model Army revolver must have changed hands several times and witnessed a variety of scenes, from the Civil War to daily life on the northern prairies. This rusty revolver took an interesting path from New York to Alberta and its story is a reminder of the importance of firearms in the historical development of the continent.



# Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

## Firearm Prohibition Orders



Firearm owners are constantly navigating the treacherous waters of gun laws.

unauthorized import or export of a firearm (s. 103) and criminal harassment (s. 264.1); and

e. An offence that involves, or the subject matter of which is a firearm, crossbow, etc., when the perpetrator is already subject to a prohibition order.

It is worth noting that some of these are not egregious crimes. By way of example, using or possessing a restricted firearm in an unauthorized location, such as shooting at a place other than a licensed gun range, is an offence under s. 95 of the *Criminal Code*. Hence, shooting your handgun at the local sandpit may not only lead to criminal prosecution, but to a lengthy firearms prohibition order, as well. Another not-so-egregious crime is criminal harassment. Sometimes, a criminal harassment case may arise out of several offensive and/or unwanted e-mails, phone messages, gestures, etc.

Mandatory prohibition orders have a minimum duration of 10 years in respect of non-restricted firearms, and remain in effect for life in respect of restricted and prohibited firearms for first-time offenders. For repeat offenders, the duration of the order is for the life of the offender. Once the order is issued, unlike other prohibition orders, there is no possibility to get it varied or removed, irrespective of circumstances.

As the name suggests, whenever a court sentences a person in relation with such an offence, the presiding judge has no choice but to impose the mandatory prohibition order. The only exception would be for the accused to seek and obtain a constitutional exemption under s. 12 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights*. Such exemptions have been sought and obtained in very specific circumstances, when the court viewed the imposition of such a mandatory prohibition order as being cruel and unusual punishment in light of the circumstances of the case. By way of example, a police officer who was found to be a participant, albeit passive, in

**F**irearms prohibitions orders are orders made by courts of criminal jurisdiction, pursuant to the *Criminal Code of Canada* (CCC). Contrary to popular belief, such orders do not solely target violent or hardcore criminals. Since most firearms infractions are offences under the *Criminal Code*, prohibition orders are something all firearms owners should be aware of and should seek to avoid. Knowing what may give rise to the issuance of a prohibition order is a good place to start.

Prohibition orders preclude the person designated in such order from possessing firearms, crossbows and other devices for the duration of the order. As such, a prohibition order constitutes a bar to the issuance of a firearms licence by a provincial Chief Firearms Officer.

There are three main types of prohibition orders:

1. Mandatory prohibition orders issued under s. 109 CCC
2. Discretionary prohibition orders issued under s. 110 CCC
3. Preventive prohibition orders issued under s. 111 CCC

### MANDATORY PROHIBITION ORDERS

Mandatory prohibition orders are issued by a court, as part of a sentence, when an accused is either convicted or absolved of certain designated offences, including:

- a. Indictable offences carrying a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment or more, entailing the use, attempted use or threat of violence;
- b. Indictable offences entailing the use, attempted use or threat of violence against an intimate partner, a child or parent of the accused or of the current or former intimate partner, or any person who resides with any of the aforementioned persons;
- c. Trafficking, importing, exporting or producing controlled substances (i.e. drugs);
- d. Certain designated offences, including use of a firearm in the commission of an offence (s. 85), illegal possession of a restricted or prohibited firearm with ammunition (s. 95), weapons trafficking (s. 99 and 100), making or converting a firearm to full automatic (s. 102), wilful

the battery of an individual under arrest, was granted such a constitutional exemption because a prohibition order would have forever disqualified him from earning a living in his chosen field of employment.

#### DISCRETIONARY PROHIBITION ORDERS

Discretionary prohibition orders are also issued by courts as part of the sentencing process. Like mandatory prohibition orders, they are issued in relation with specific offences. However, unlike mandatory prohibition orders, there is judicial discretion involved. The criterion is whether the sentencing judge is of the opinion that such an order is desirable for the safety of the person or that of others. There is no minimum duration, and the maximum duration is 10 years after release from imprisonment, or the conviction or discharge, if there is no imprisonment. However, this maximum duration may be exceeded if it entails the use, attempted use or threat of violence against certain designated persons (for the list of such persons, see paragraph b. in the section dealing with mandatory prohibition orders).

Such discretionary orders may be varied at a later time, if circumstances warrant. They may also be partially lifted, if such is necessary for the person's sustenance (think Aboriginals) and/or if the order precludes a person from earning a living in his/her only possible field of employment.

Offences that potentially give rise to discretionary prohibition orders are those involving the use, attempted use and/or threat of violence, as well as most firearms related infractions. It is doubtful that a charge under s. 91 CCC for being in possession of a firearm without a valid licence or registration certificate (as may be the case when someone omits to renew a firearms licence on time) would lead to a prohibition order. Unless there is a safety element involved, a court would be more likely to issue such an order for an offence involving negligent storage, or negligent discharge of a firearm, simply because those offences are arguably predicated upon a concern that the impugned conduct may be inherently unsafe; hence, a threat to the safety of others.

#### PREVENTIVE PROHIBITION ORDERS

Even when no offence has been committed and no one has been charged with an offence, a court may still issue a


prohibition order upon the application of a peace officer (police officer), firearms officer or Chief Firearms Officer, if the latter has reasonable grounds to believe that such an order is desirable for the safety of the person targeted or the safety of others.

In an application for a preventive prohibition order, the applicant only needs to prove the existence of reasonable grounds, on the balance of probabilities. This is a far cry from the usual burden of proof in criminal matters, which requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Further, hearsay evidence is admissible.

In Quebec, medical professionals are required by provincial law to report to police any instances of mental illness (such as cases of depression), where they know that the patient possesses or has access to firearms. This typically leads to the revocation of the patient's licence and the filing of an application for a prohibition order against the patient.

Further, under s. 117.011 CCC, an individual who cohabits or associates with another person who is subject to a

prohibition order may also be targeted by such an order, if the court is convinced the other person would or might have access to firearms or other devices that are in the possession of said individual. Loosely translated, if you want to keep your guns and your gun licence, do not live with, or associate with, individuals who are subject to prohibition orders.

This whole scheme is essentially possible because Canadian law does not view the possession of firearms as a right, but rather as a privilege, and as such, it can be taken away at the discretion of the state. Hopefully, you and I will never be subject to a prohibition order. However, it is not a possibility we can reject by merely saying, "It will never happen to me." As gun owners, we are constantly navigating the treacherous waters of gun laws. One unfortunate mistake may lead to the temporary or permanent loss of what our governments view as our gun privileges. Do yourself a favour: know and avoid the potential pitfalls, so a court will never be in a position to take your guns and your rights away. 



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# NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

## Inglis Diamond – The Canadian High Power Pistol

**Author:** Clive M. Law

**Title:** Inglis Diamond – The Canadian High Power Pistol

**Publisher:** 2001 Collector Grade Publications Inc., Cobourg, Ont., Canada

**ISBN:** 0-88935-265-8

**Pages:** 312

**Size:** Hard cover with dust jacket, 8.5 x 11 inches

**Illustrations:**  
Black and white photographs

1911 automatic. In November 1943, following negotiations, a contract was signed to manufacture “not more than 250,000 pistols” in Canada. The Canadian government chose Inglis and provided funds to assist in setting up production. The first contract called for 180,000 pistols to be delivered to China under a mutual aid plan, but was cancelled after just 4,000 were delivered. In 1945, another significant contract sent close to 40,000 Inglis pistols to Shanghai, China, where they were eventually used by both Nationalist and Communist regimes.

A second, simplified version of 50,000 pistols was ordered by the British Special Operations Executive for distribution to resistance fighters in Europe. Canada ordered a total of 59,127 Inglis pistols. In all, approximately 150,000 Inglis Browning 9mm High Power pistols were produced in four basic models/ marks. A rare and sought-after version produced in late 1945 featured the Inglis Diamond marking, which is simply a diamond containing the word “INGLIS.” As a tribute to this variation, the author chose to include that name in the title of this publication.

*Inglis Diamond – The Canadian High Power Pistol* is a high-quality, well-researched reference book, with a detailed table of contents enabling the reader to quickly locate specific information. Clive Law provides the most comprehensive study available on the Inglis pistol through easy-

to-read text, supported by 379 images, including photographs, diagrams and correspondence. Since the history of a pistol may often be determined based on markings, collectors will use this book to identify specific models and verify the originality of components and accessories.

*Inglis Diamond – The Canadian High Power Pistol* is available directly from Collector Grade Publications Inc. in Cobourg, Ont., for \$49.95 USD. In their 39th year of business, they currently offer over 40 firearm titles. Printed and bound in Canada, each book features a deluxe hard cover binding, colourful and laminated dustjackets, high-quality paper and sewn-in pages. Collector Grade Publications may be contacted at (905) 342-3434, [info@collectorgrade.com](mailto:info@collectorgrade.com) or visit their website [www.collectorgrade.com](http://www.collectorgrade.com).

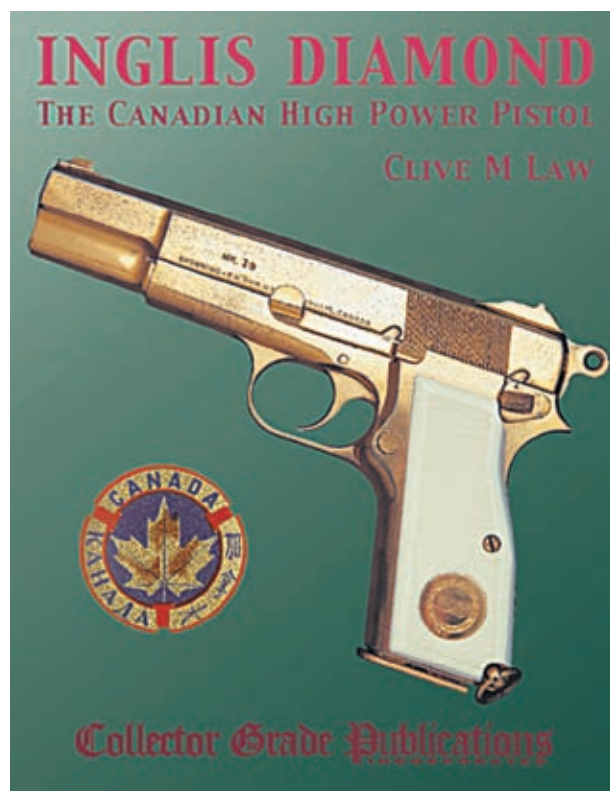
The Inglis High Power was Canada’s first mass-produced handgun. *Inglis Diamond – The Canadian High Power Pistol*, by Clive M. Law, allows readers to fully understand the development of the Browning High Power and discover why it was manufactured at the John Inglis Company Ltd. of Toronto.

The John Inglis Company originated as a metalsmithing shop in Guelph, Ont. After moving to Toronto, it manufactured steam engines, boilers and various metal products.

During the First World War, products were manufactured to support the war effort, but the Great Depression forced the company into receivership in 1936.

However, the Inglis plant was resurrected by Major James Hahn to produce over 100,000 Bren guns for the British war office. The thriving, million-square-foot facility soon produced .303 calibre Browning aircraft machine guns, Boys Anti-Tank rifles and other items for the military.

In the interim, the locked breech version of the High Power was patented by Colt on Feb. 22, 1927. But Colt was not interested in manufacturing the new pistol due to government orders for the Model



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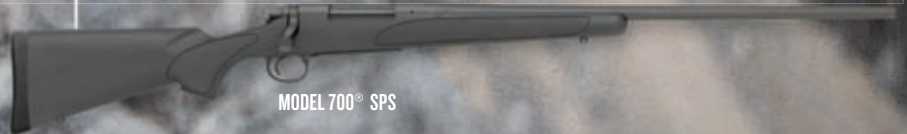
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