

CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***

March/April 2016



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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

CDX-50 Tremor *Cadex Defence rifle*

This month's cover highlights the business end of a Cadex Defence rifle on display at the company's booth during the 2016 SHOT Show. Cadex Defence is a Canadian company that builds quality firearms, chassis systems and related gear for the military, law enforcement and civilian markets. The rifle is their CDX-50 Tremor. Cadex website: www.cadexdefence.com. The photo was taken by professional photographer Dickson Ly. You can see more of his work at www.transgressive.ca.



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Proudly Canadian

This issue of the *Canadian Firearms Journal* is being put together in January, over a month before you get to read it. January is, of course, when the famous Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show happens in Las Vegas, making this issue of the magazine a good time to focus on the firearms industry.

While there are dozens of magazines on Canadian newsstands focusing on the American side of that industry, I told the *CFJ* writers attending SHOT to look for Canadian stories. You'll find them here, from three different writers. I do need to add that you won't find many prices quoted this year. And that's simply because of the volatile nature of the Canadian dollar and the uncertainty that situation has injected into the marketplace.

Canadians were certainly well represented at the SHOT Show, as I ran into them everywhere. Numerous Canadian companies had booths, and there were buyers, reps, distributors, retailers and writers everywhere. I suspect that of the 64,000 people attending, the second largest contingent was from Canada.

And why not? We have a strong and growing firearms industry in Canada, an industry which is building world-class products. However, it's an industry which doesn't get much credit for the jobs and opportunities it creates. So, I'd encourage you to support that industry by looking for the iconic maple leaf when you make your next purchase. It's showing up on more firearms-related products all the time.

But there are more industry stories than what happens at SHOT, so we've included the story of Lawry Shooting Sports, a successful maker of shotgun targets. If you're involved in the Canadian firearms industry and have a story to

tell, e-mail me and perhaps we can tell your story too.

As for other content in this issue, collectors and history buffs will find Bob Campbell's examination of Colt's New Service Revolver interesting, especially for its Canadian connection. Dean Roxby looks at the little-known sport of fast draw shooting, and Brad Fenson tells us about hunting big game with an air gun.

Duane Radford spent last fall taking ducks and geese with a Browning A5 shotgun and gives us his thoughts on how the gun performs.

Of course, our research, legal and political columnists are all here, giving us their take on what's happening in the world around us. I trust there's something here to educate and entertain everyone. Let me know what you think. After all, it's your magazine.



Made in Canada - in this case, the Modern Hunter rifle by Alberta Tactical Rifle Supply.



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

National & Global Perspectives

We are now into a new year and our challenges with poor legislation and suspect government firearms control agendas are as persistent as ever. We have been working our connections to build access. We have continued to provide material to aid political parties in making policy on firearms matters. The fact remains, gun control is based upon a lie, and that lie is simply that regulating the innocent will somehow prevent bad people from acting upon bad decisions. The evidence-based research supports our point of view and more people are starting to realize that we are correct in our analysis. Gun control doesn't live up to the claims of its supporters.

To that end, we are challenging the Quebec government on its plan to register firearms in that province. This is consistent with our Supreme Court of Canada preventing them from keeping registration data. As well, we will be putting up electronic petitions to encourage the federal Liberal government to act on our needs to deregulate specific onerous aspects of Canadian firearms legislation, since our paper efforts died with the previous government.

I am pleased to report that more clubs are continuing to join the NFA. Our membership has been growing this year and we are looking forward to experiencing additional growth in the New Year.

Our Team NFA shooting athletes are doing well in their chosen disciplines and we are seeing NFA decals on rifles held by medal winners on podiums. Our support for young shooters is an important means of making shooting both normal and respectable in the eyes of the sports-enthused, yet firearms-ignorant public.

On another front, our allied organiza-

tions in Europe are fighting a valiant effort against calls for the regulation of high-powered rifles by some national representatives in the European Parliament in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris. The World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities, and communications groups such as Firearms United, are working hard with many other national organizations to get information to politicians and those with access to educate legislators and inform them of the folly of more gun control. We will learn more as these efforts unfold over the next weeks.

To that end, I have been invited to speak at the WFSA annual general meeting held in Nuremburg in March, to bring our friends up to date. As a member of the board I have not yet been able to attend a meeting, but as there is much interest in the achievements of the NFA this past year and the significance of the change in government resulting from our federal election, there is some urgency in sending them more than a brief verbal report. The main items of our success include our two wins in the Supreme Court of Canada this past year. Those victories were noted around the world and earned the NFA much respect and additional credibility. We will also be doing additional promotional activities to educate and inform members of the new government and opposition parties as to our needs for firearms law reform.

Watch for and support our new firearms draw package this year - I can promise you that it's a great set of prizes. All the very best from the NFA, and me personally for you and those important to you in the New Year.



Our allied organizations in Europe are fighting a valiant effort against calls for the regulation of high-powered rifles by some national representatives in the European Parliament in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris.

Rapport du Président

Sheldon Clare

Perspectives nationales et globales

Cette nouvelle année qui commence nous remplit d'appréhensions vis à vis un Gouvernement qui semble vouloir promouvoir un programme de contrôle des armes qui s'annonce plutôt suspect et qui sera sûrement accompagné de mauvaises lois. Nous travaillons fort avec nos contacts au Gouvernement pour y avoir accès. Nous fournissons sans cesse de la documentation pour assister les partis politiques dans leurs créations de politiques en regard des armes à feu. Le concept de contrôle des armes est basé sur un mensonge: S'imaginer que de contrôler les bons citoyens empêchera les criminels de commettre des crimes est en soit un mensonge. Des recherches sérieuses basées sur des faits viennent confirmer notre point de vue. Il y a de plus en plus de gens qui commencent à réaliser la justesse de ce que nous affirmons depuis des années. Le contrôle des armes n'atteint pas les résultats souhaités par ceux qui en font la promotion.

Dans le même ordre d'idée, nous nous opposons juridiquement au Gouvernement du Québec qui a l'intention d'enregistrer les armes à feu sur son territoire. Ils sont dans l'obligation de respecter le Jugement de la Cour Suprême du Canada qui interdit de collecter des données d'enregistrement. Nous allons présenter des pétitions électroniques auprès du Gouvernement Fédéral Libéral, car celles que nous avons présentées au Gouvernement précédent sont disparues en même temps que lui. Ces pétitions demandaient de modifier des règlements particulièrement onéreux faisant parti des lois sur les armes à feu.

Il me fait plaisir de vous annoncer qu'il y a de plus en plus de clubs de tir qui se joignent à l'ACAF. Il y a aussi une augmentation du nombre de personnes qui se joignent à nous, nous nous attendons à grandir encore plus durant la nouvelle année. L'équipe de sports de tir de l'ACAF vas très bien et ce, dans toutes les disciplines que chaque athlète a choisi. En voyant les médaillés sur les podiums on peut apercevoir les décalques de l'ACAF apposés sur leurs carabines. L'appui que nous offrons aux jeunes tireurs est très efficace pour promouvoir les sports de tir et de démontrer qu'ils sont des activités respectables aux yeux d'un public enthousiaste des sports en général mais encore ignorant face aux armes à feu.

Nos alliés en Europe se battent vigoureusement contre une nouvelle réglementation sur les "carabines à haute puissance" qui est demandée par certains représentants du Parlement Européen suite aux attaques terroristes à

Paris. Le World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities (WFSA) et des groupes qui se spécialisent en communications tel que Firearms United travaillent d'arrache-

pied pour éduquer les politiciens et les législateurs afin de leurs expliquer que l'imposition d'encore plus de contrôle sur les armes à feu relève de la folie. Nous suivons de près la progression de cette situation et en saurons plus dans les semaines qui vont suivre.

Toujours sur le plan mondial, la WFSA m'a invité à donner un discours durant leur réunion générale annuelle à Nuremberg au mois de mars. Je n'ai pas encore eu la chance d'assister à une de leurs réunions mais ils démontrent beaucoup d'intérêt aux réussites accomplies par l'ACAF l'an dernier. L'importance de l'impact du changement de Gouvernement que nous venons de vivre et l'effet qu'il aura sur nos activités ajoute à l'importance que j'y assiste plutôt que de leur faire un simple rapport oral. Nos réussites principales sont nos deux victoires devant la Cour Suprême du Canada. Elles ont été reconnues mondialement, ce qui nous a donné plus de crédibilité et de respect. Nous allons faire plus d'activités promotionnelles auprès de notre nouveau Gouvernement ainsi qu'aux membres de l'opposition officielle. C'est notre devoir de les informer à propos des changements qui sont nécessaires pour refaire les lois sur les armes à feu.

Surveillez bien et participez à nos nouveaux tirages d'armes à feu cette année. Je vous promet des prix exceptionnels. L'ACAF et moi-même vous souhaitent une bonne et heureuse année.





Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

Another Tragedy - Will They Blame The Gun?

It's always the same, isn't it? After a heinous tragedy occurs involving a gun, the civil disarmament lobby shifts into gear and uses it as a catalyst to force more laws and regulations to strip Canadians of their rights and property.

On Jan. 22, a student at La Loche Community School in the First Nations community of La Loche, Sask., took a shotgun to school, murdered four people and wounded several others. This, in a remote community with little opportunity, from a kid perhaps feeling he has no future, no hope and all of the usual afflictions that plague teenagers. You and I had them, too. The vast majority of Canadians experiencing these predicaments will never take up a gun and commit an act of violence.

So, what is to be done about preventing young people from taking guns and shooting up schools? The facts are there, but nobody wants to look at them. The problems in First Nations communities in Canada have been long standing, as old as Canada itself. There have been plenty of crocodile tears shed, plenty of sympathetic studies done, plenty of tax payers dollars thrown at these problems and plenty of ignoring of the root causes.

Real solutions are going to be hard, not only for Canada but also for First Nations themselves. Politicians and bureaucrats aren't interested in real solutions, because there is no immediate political pay off for them. Investments towards securing future generations are unattractive to politicians looking to score political points today. Those solutions aren't going to provide immediate excitement, pay offs for political backers, appeal to the political and social elite in Canada, nor will they

necessarily be politically correct. Nobody wants to do the hard work. Immediate emotional gratification and political and bureaucratic empire building is far more attractive.

This is why "gun control" is a popular fall back for governments. They can pass a law, look like they're doing something and it only effects a segment of Canadian society they don't particularly care for.

So, how many gun control laws were broken in this tragedy? Unauthorized possession of firearms, perhaps storage and transportation regulations? Will these offenses result in ramped up enforcement in retribution on others who are trying to obey Canada's famously broken and convoluted gun control laws? Will others be charged in association with this tragedy, perhaps for providing access to the gun and ammunition? Possibly.

But how does any of this stack up against the ultimate offense of murder?

After the Le Ecole Polytechnique murders in 1989, a great number of firearms were restricted or prohibited. Not because they had been used in crimes or violence or had been proven a danger to public safety, but because craven political opportunists saw it as a way to placate a Canadian public demanding that something, anything, should be done.

The Ruger Mini 14 rifle used in the murders remained unrestricted. A common hunting rifle owned by tens of thousands of Canadians, the bureaucrats knew it would be a nightmare to try and track down every Mini 14 in Canada without a universal registration system. That of course would come later.

Regardless, many newly restricted or prohibited firearms were tracked down and their owners threatened, bullied or cajoled into giving them up. The legends of the aggressive law enforcement and bureaucratic enforcement actions of those days of the early 1990s live on today. Many still tell the stories of armed police standing on their doorsteps demanding that they "hand it over." The wounds inflicted by the Progressive Conservative and Liberal governments responsible still have not healed.

The universal firearms registry under Bill C-68 was supposed to control the possession and movement of every firearm in Canada. That theory was famously shot to hell when a lunatic took both restricted firearms he held all the necessary licenses and authorizations for, plus non-restricted firearms, into Dawson College in Montreal in 2006. It seems that registries, licenses and authorizations don't trouble lunatics or prevent tragedies.

The issue of guns has been so heavily politicized by those with the agenda to disarm Canadians that there is simply no way to rationalize any common ground on laws or regulations that would make sense to Canadians. In the eyes of the government and that segment of society who hate firearms, if you or I want to lawfully own a firearm, we are an inherent danger to public safety. We must be checked, monitored and an excuse must be manufactured to end our ability to lawfully own firearms.

The road to hell is paved with the best intentions, and governments and bureaucrats have put Canadians through hell in the quest to make sure "this never happens again."

If you are one of those who are forced to hold a firearms license in Canada, the lie we live every day vividly demonstrates the utter failure of the concept of gun control. We go through the motions of licensing, registration of restricted and prohibited firearms and the useless and harassing authorizations of CFO policies. We hope we don't trip up on some arcane regulation or change in policy, and pray we don't suffer an incident that might give the bureaucrats excuse to confiscate our property and compromise our ability to lawfully own firearms.

Tragedies such as the one in La Loche can happen anytime, anyplace, and for a whole variety of reasons. Access to firearms are a very small component of them. Those who would use this latest tragedy to reignite a gun control debate in Canada towards imposing even more useless laws and regulations must be stopped and checked.

It's something we're all responsible for now. If you lawfully own a gun, you must be politically active. In the past, the civil disarmament lobby possessed the loud-

est voice, and the rights and property of Canadians were sacrificed because of that. You have a voice, and your opinion matters. Forty years ago, an organization was formed to coalesce all of our voices into a national movement in support of the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership. We're still here today. An organization to take your voice to Ottawa and put a stop to the assault on all of our rights and freedoms.

Freedom, safety, responsibility.

Canada's National Firearms Association is here to do it.



IMPORTANT CHANGES TO NFA INSURANCE



NFA Club Liability Insurance Limits Increased: Effective Dec. 1, 2015

Please take note of the following changes to the NFA's Club Liability Insurance program. Coverage limits are more than doubling, with no increase in premiums. This is further evidence of how safe the shooting sports really are.

- Directors and officers coverage increased from \$2 million to \$5 million.
- Non-owner automobile liability coverage increased from \$2 million to \$5 million.
- Tenant's legal liability coverage increased from \$250,000 to \$1 million.
- NFA liability insurance policy will indicate that: NFA liability insurance does not cover activities involving horses, businesses or fireworks/pyrotechnics.

The club is only required to provide NFA with the names of club members covered. Addresses of members will be kept on file by the club.

There will be no increase in premium for the increased limits. The club continues to pay \$5 per club member to become an NFA Associate Club (\$50 minimum) plus \$9.95 per member for liability insurance. Total cost only \$14.95 per member!

The Director and officer coverage continues to be provided free of charge to all NFA Associate Clubs.



Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Recreating The Past

Canadians have never used guns and the Canadian military have only ever acted as peace keepers. This is the myth currently being sold by some politicians and the media. If this were true, why are there museum collections filled with civilian and military firearms? Why are there two million legal licensed firearms owners and an unknown number of antique firearm aficionados in Canada? Nationwide, there are an astonishing number of museums and a great many historical sites portraying Canada's firearms history, both civilian and military. These sites reveal this history using his-

toric displays, preserved and reconstructed forts, farms and villages - all featuring firearms. Firearms are an integral component of the cultural fabric of Canada.

Canada's firearms history begins in the early 1500s when Europeans began to trade firearms with the First Nations. These people are illustrated in drawings, paintings and photographs with their working guns, be it cheaply made trade guns or the latest technology of the time. European fur traders and Hudson Bay men had pistols tucked in their belts and a trade gun in hand. In the fur forts, the clerks tending the counter had pistols inconspicuously carried in the back of their trousers. Cowboys, prospectors, frontiersmen and adventurers carried their trusty six guns on their hips. Farmers had a utility rifle in the wagon. Loggers, in the early days, had their firearms near at hand. Canadian pioneer women carried handguns discreetly in their apron pockets. Hunters of yesterday and today carry a vast assortment of firearms. Many outdoor occupations are still licensed to carry big bore hand guns.

The most prolific historic sites are the military, police and fur trade forts. In the Maritimes and Quebec, a great deal of the focus is on the 17th and 18th centuries. As history moved west, the view is eclectic. For instance, the Niagara peninsula features the Fenian Invasion of 1866. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta portray the fur trade, cowboys, pioneers and the Rebellion/Resistance of 1885. Furthest west, in British Columbia, the fur trade, the gold rush and cowboys are the focus, depending on the region. In Langley, BC, there is an excellent site, Fort Langley, which depicts the fur trade. On Vancouver Island, one of the premier original historic installations is Fort Rodd, an earthen and masonry military fort. Its history spans from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, serving as an active military installation until the Second World War. Fort Rodd is now part of Parks Canada, and every year, from Victoria Day to mid-October, it hosts a number of quality re-enactments of Canada's past.

The principal re-enactment group at Fort Rodd is the Victoria-Esquamalt Military Re-enactors Association, also known as VEMRA. This group is a non-profit volunteer association established for the purpose of promoting awareness and understanding of Canada's military history and that of our Allies. Their mandate covers the time period from the American Revolutionary War to the Cold War, about 1775 to 1960.

Don Thomas is the events co-ordinator for VEMRA and his personal story begins in the history-rich province of New Brunswick. There his passion for history dates to pre-school age, as his grandmother fired his imagination with riveting tales of the past. Her accounts fuelled Don's desire at an early age to read, research and begin collecting memorabilia. A desire that continues to this date.



Don Thomas as a young paratrooper. PHOTO CREDIT DON THOMAS FAMILY ARCHIVE

Don also developed a thirst for adventure, enlisting in the 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) at age 17. After four years, he became a commando and then a paratrooper in the Canadian Airborne for two years, and then a member of the Canadian Military Engineers for 21 years. He had multiple postings overseas for combat missions in Cyprus, and spent training time in the U. and the US. During his military career, he attained the rank of Warrant Officer.

In 1978, during a posting in Ontario, Don began re-creating Canada's early militia men of the 1830s and '40s. He now portrays personas primarily from the 1890s to the Cold War. Don's co-ordinating efforts at Fort Rodd are in co-operation with Parks Canada and an array of collectors, re-enactors and military vehicle enthusiasts, supported by dedicated volunteers. Don fields events at additional venues that include the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt Museum, the aircraft museum in Sidney, BC, and other significant locations in the greater Victoria area.

In 2014 and 2015, Fort Rodd and VEMRA's focus turned to the First World War, in an effort to inform Fort visitors about Canada's immense contribution in the conflict



Canada Day tea, 2014. PHOTO CREDIT GARY K. KANGAS

of 1914 to 1918. As a result, many high school and middle school-aged attendees have discovered Canada's broad role in that conflict.

Victoria Day and Canada Day attracts thousands of guests to the picturesque Fort every year. The colourful and action-packed events of these two days entertain and capture the viewers' attention. During the interaction with the public, there are many vignettes shared regarding family who were involved in the Great War and the Second World War. Highlights of 2014 to 2015 included military encampments of both the First and Second World Wars. Re-creations of military engagements included re-enactors dressed in First World War German uniforms and accoutrements. In 2014, an event called Mobilization was held, which covered uniforms and equipment, plus re-creations of recruiting scenarios. For the Fort's 2015 Lantern Tour, a Canadian Military Combat Nurses Field Hospital in Salonika was depicted by lantern light, showing Canadian Combat Nurses and a VAD attending the wounded (Canadian Nurses were inducted into the military and received military training before going overseas). Victorian and First World War-era tea is also served on various occasions, attended by re-enactors and currently serving Canadian Forces personnel. Many Fort Rodd visitors wear period clothes during these events, to enhance their own history experience.

Individuals such as Don Thomas, and the many volunteers he co-ordinates, make an incredibly important contribution by sharing their time and expertise to preserve our Canadian firearms heritage.



Germans and big guns. PHOTO CREDIT GARY K. KANGAS



Recruiting during Mobilization. Don Thomas is pictured on the far right.

PHOTO CREDIT TONY AUSTIN PHOTOGRAPHY



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Machine Guns – The Gateway To A Semi-Auto Ban

In this article we examine how the ban on machine guns is being used to set the stage for an expanded ban on semi-automatic firearms.

The law

Let's start with the facts. An automatic firearm is defined in the *Criminal Code* as a "firearm that is capable of, or assembled or designed and manufactured with the capability of, discharging projectiles in rapid succession during one pressure of the trigger." Other than a tiny number of grandfathered owners, they are completely illegal to own in Canada. Persons violating this law are subject to five years imprisonment by summary conviction. (Summary conviction is normally for minor crimes with a maximum of six months imprisonment and deprives the accused of the right to a jury). If the person knowingly fails to have the proper firearms license and registration, they can be charged with an indictable offense and subjected to 10 years imprisonment.

So the crime is already heavily punished, and politically appointed judges can dispense with a jury while handing out a penalty that is 10 times the normal limit for a summary offence. To make doubly sure, these firearms are now doubly illegal, for the law applies to both automatics and to automatics converted to semi-automatic. To make this law even more draconian, the Supreme Court (1993 R. v. Hasselwander) found that the restriction includes the future crime of "being capable of conversion to an automatic weapon in a relatively short period of time with relative ease." The court did not stoop to explain what "short period of time" or "relative ease" might mean, or whether these subjective limitations implied the standards of a gunsmith with a machine shop or an unsophisticated owner with minimal tools.

To further complicate the issue, Or-

ders in Council naming firearms always include the words "and any variant or modified version of it." Unfortunately, variant is not defined. In practice this can mean one similar in appearance, a merely cosmetic definition or in mechanical features broadly defined. Confusion reigns, or perhaps more precisely, unelected judges reign.

Public safety

Let's address the public safety issue. How often are automatics used in crime in Canada? Statistics Canada reports that in the seven years between 1997 and 2003, there were 32 homicides committed with automatic firearms. However, a closer examination of the data reveals some interesting numbers.

Firearms Homicides 1997-2003

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| With a registered automatic | 2 |
| With an unregistered automatic | 11 |
| Unknown or not recovered | 19 |
| Total automatic firearms homicides | 32 |
| Total firearms homicides | 1,177 |
| Total of all homicides | 3,910 |

First, let's look at context and proportion. At first glance, automatics are used in only 2.7 per cent of firearms homicides and .8 per cent of all homicides. However, that includes firearms that were unknown or not recovered. How exactly does one determine an unknown/unrecovered firearm is an automatic? They use the same cartridges as other firearms and other firearms can be made to fire almost as fast. Without this dubious category, the percentages drop to 1.6 per cent and .49 per cent. This is clearly not the most urgent problem the police have to deal with. Another interesting number is the number of times registered automatics were used. That there were only two cases in six years (assuming they weren't stolen) makes it clear that the law-abiding who follow the rules and regulations are not the problem.

The politics

The Liberal Party has a long record of pursuing civil disarmament.

"Canada will be one of the first unarmed countries in the world." - Liberal Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, 1998.

"Disarming the Canadian public is part of the new humanitarian social agenda." - Liberal Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy at a gun control conference, Oslo, Norway, 1998.

"C-68 has little to do with gun control or crime control, but it is the first step necessary to begin the social re-engineering of Canada." - A quote by Liberal Senator Sharon Carstairs, Jan. 26, 1996, 11th Annual Community Legal Education Associations Conference, Winnipeg, Man. (since denied)

More recently, they've been flirting with the idea of an Australian-style ban and buy back of all semi-automatic firearms. This was proposed to the Party convention and rejected, not on principle, but out of fear of rural voter's reaction.

The RCMP

Under the *Firearms Act*, the RCMP was given the right to arbitrarily and effectively write criminal law. The Conservative's Bill C-42 moved this power to Cabinet;

the Liberals are in the process of moving it back. The RCMP's legislative power was created when they were given the right to unilaterally change a firearm's classification. Since failure to have the appropriate license is a criminal offence, changes in classification can and do result in law-abiding owners becoming instant criminals.

One of the problems the Conservatives were addressing with Bill C-42 was the sloppy, often appearance driven, manner in which the RCMP performed this duty. Witness the reclassification of the Sport Systeme Dittrich (SSD) model BD38 and BD3008 firearms from restricted to prohibited. After initially approving the firearms as restricted in February 2007, they didn't bother to actually test them until April 2012. (There is no evidence criminals were actually making these conversions). This is an incredibly irresponsible way to regulate a criminal law that could entrap law-abiding owners by the thousands and subject them to 10 years in prison.

Following the Moncton shooting of five RCMP officers in 2014, the RCMP began a study to see "whether semi-automatics can be temporarily made into full automatics with an improvised technique." (The technique is currently being kept secret so it is impossible to assess.) One factor motivating the study was the Moncton shooter stating that he had considered using the technique to convert his semi-automatic rifle. Another factor could have been the RCMP's embarrassment that their officers were still without patrol carbines years after the need was identified.

The study found that the following firearms, the SKS, the Ruger Mini-14/Mini-30, the Tavor TAR 21, the CZ-858 and the Norinco M-305 rifles, were "too easy" to convert. If enacted, the necessary reclassification to prohibited would impact tens of thousands of firearms. We can note that the threshold requiring this bold official reaction was one criminal's statement that he might do something that was already illegal. If that is the threshold for crackdowns, bans, restrictions and reclassification, there is not a physical object in Canada that cannot be banned, much less guns.

Conclusion

On examination, we can see all the classic moves of an anti-gun Kabuki play, where "public safety" is rolled out to support new restrictions based on politics and ideology.

1. It begins with political will in the anti-gun RCMP and in the Liberal Party;
2. It seizes on a high-profile crime to demand a re-appraisal due to the tragedy;
3. It sets up the scenario for dramatic changes to the law to address a non-problem that is already illegal;
4. It grabs the low-hanging fruit of an easy-to-demonize sub-category of firearms that can be used to drum up public fear;
5. It completely ignores the current law and crime statistics, focusing instead on the danger, despite the fact that no automatic firearm was used or even created;
6. It sets out new studies of a secret technique, that was not in fact used, to give a scientific or factual glow to raw political manoeuvring;
7. It uses the RCMP for political cover, concealing a political agenda behind the mask of an apolitical arm's length body;
8. It lays out the problem specifying a mere six firearms as problematic,

without alerting the rubes to the fact that a ban on these very common firearms and variants could easily exceed 100,000 bans and confiscations;

9. It opens the door to further restrictions as each "too easy to convert" is discovered. Gun owners who think that this is not their issue might remember that even the venerable Lee Enfield bolt action has been modified for semi and fully automatic fire - Elkins Auto Rifle, Howard Francis Machine Carbine, Howell Automatic Rifle, Reider Auto Rifle and Charlton Automatic Rifle.

These restrictions, if they come to fruition, will not affect criminals, terrorists and others bent on violence. They will impact the intended ideological target - the law-abiding gun owner.

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Point Blank

Chris McGarry

Firearms & Our Heritage Of Liberty

As the old adage goes, "Freedom is never free." Seventy years have passed since the end of the Second World War. Approximately 48,231,700 Allied soldiers, including 37,000 Canadians, were killed in the horrific six-year conflict. Over the past seven decades, Canada has grown to be a prosperous nation, known globally for preserving civil liberties and human rights. As comfortable as we may be as a society, we must never forget that our rights and freedoms were bought and paid for with the use of firearms.

Firearms have played a significant role in the shaping of Canada as a nation. From the early days of settlement, when our ancestors used them for hunting and as protection from wildlife, to protecting our nation from tyranny in the world wars, Korea and, most recently, Afghanistan, firearms have consistently proved their worth in a society where many wish to abolish the private ownership of these inanimate objects.

It is truly sad that many Canadians do not have an understanding of the origins of their rights. What's even more alarming is the fact that many naïve people are of the mindset that Canada has become civilized to the point where firearms no longer have any place in our

society, and it would be more beneficial to disarm ourselves.

Having worked in the journalism industry for a decade, I am often dismayed by the anti-freedom attitudes showcased by many of my colleagues. Back in early December, following the horrific mass shooting that took the lives of 14 people in San Bernardino, Calif., the antigun factions of the mainstream media seized on the opportunity to push their disarmament agenda on the masses. Iconic CBC broadcaster, Peter Mansbridge, called the firearms used by the gunmen "assault weapons," even though no such firearm exists.

Roughly a week earlier, *Prince George Citizen* editor Neil Godbout wrote a rather stinging rebuttal to a letter published by a pro-gun resident of the northern British Columbia city titled *Persecution and Privilege*. In his editorial, Mr. Godbout stated that owning a firearm in Canada is not a constitutionally protected right, as in the US. However, Section 26 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees that all rights not contained within the 1982 *Constitution Act* (such as those derived from the *English Bill of Rights* and *Magna Carta*) are still valid. Furthermore, the editor apparently believes that the State should be allowed to authorize its military and police forces to use deadly force against citizens who disobey laws, even if those laws are unjust and violate ancient English common law rights.

The brave Canadian boys who put on a helmet and picked up a rifle during the world wars, fought to preserve all of our freedoms, including the freedom of statist-leaning journalists to spout their antigun rhetoric. Imagine the outcry if a law was passed mandating reporters and editors to have their work approved by a government bureaucracy before it could go to print. Power-hungry governments do not stop until citizens have lost all of their freedoms.

Though we live in a time and place where peaceful measures are considered effective to bring about change, history shows us that often our ancestors were only able to preserve their freedoms through the use of force. The *Magna Carta*, which recognized the rights of freemen, was brought into law following a bloody civil war in England between the barons and commoners and the forces of King John.

Canadians must never lose sight of the sacrifices made by previous generations who have allowed us to live free today. We owe it to ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.




Canadians must never lose sight of the sacrifices made by previous generations who have allowed us to live free today.

Big Bore Airguns

A quiet & powerful hunting tool

By Brad Fenson





These big bore air rifles are obviously put together with quality components - the same as you'd find in an upper end, custom made centrefire rifle.

We set up a makeshift range and I promptly loaded my rifle and steadied it across the table. I settled the crosshair on a one-inch orange dot and squeezed the trigger. I heard my bullet pierce the tin backboard and could immediately see through the scope that it hit about two inches low. I reloaded and held my crosshair just above the target for the second shot. My bullet hit the orange sticky dot, shredding it beyond recognition.

I was shooting a big bore air rifle and therefore I could hear my bullet find its mark, but felt no recoil. The .457 calibre airgun was accurate and fun to shoot, driving 350-grain cast bullets with deadly accuracy. I fired three more shots before I had to recharge the rifle's cylinder with more air.

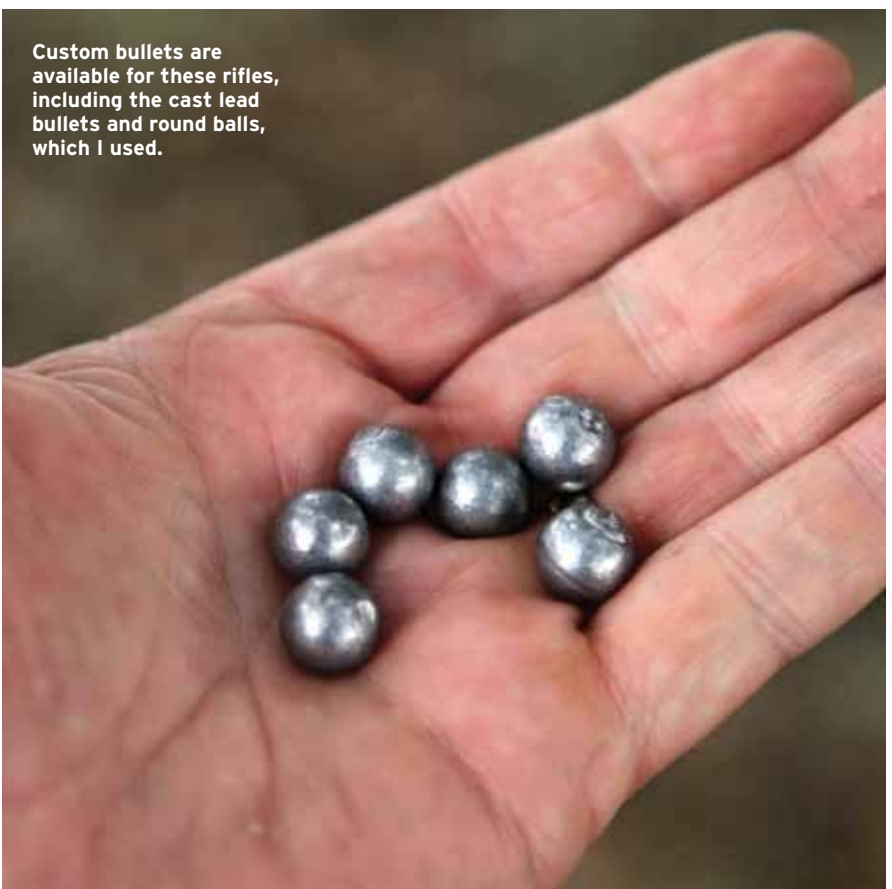
The rifle in my hands was designed and made by Terry Tate, who can only be described as an air rifle fanatic. Terry has been building air rifles for years and has perfected his gunsmithing to the point where he now sells his big bore air rifles in many markets, through his company Professional Big Bore Airguns.

We had several tanks of compressed air, meaning we could shoot all week and never worry about running out of the propellant needed to keep us pulling triggers. I shot the .457 dozens of

times and eventually switched over to a basic lead round ball for target practice. It had the same point of impact and was an economical alternative to the cast bullets. It didn't take long to shoot accurately beyond 150 metres. Once I had the first rifle mastered, Terry brought out his .308 calibre to play with.

I'd flown to Texas to try out these rifles and Terry lined up several ranches for us to hunt free-range axis deer. Classified as exotics in Texas, these deer can be legally hunted at any time in that state, whereas game animals, like white-tailed deer, can't.

After learning about the rifles and getting them sighted in, the next morning found us in a blind watching a large hayfield. The field came to life as daylight started to break in the eastern sky. First, several whitetails trickled from the wooded areas into the open. Minutes later, an axis buck also appeared on the far treeline. The deer were all crossing the field and feeding, so I sat patiently until they were close. I ranged the axis buck at 56 metres, with an axis doe beside him and about four whitetails feeding less than 30 metres in front of him. Having received a few pointers about axis deer anatomy, I leveled my crosshair on the front shoulder of the buck and waited patiently until he was per-



Custom bullets are available for these rifles, including the cast lead bullets and round balls, which I used.

fectly broadside. I slowly squeezed the trigger and when I heard the air rush through the barrel, I could see that my bullet hit right where I wanted. The buck jumped and looked back as if something had stung him. The does lifted their heads for a minute but went about their routine like nothing happened. The buck started to walk away and got about 30 metres before falling dead in his tracks.

I had just taken a big game animal with an air rifle and I was impressed by its power, accuracy and ability. I couldn't help but think of other applications for these rifles. They'd be ideal training firearms to allow people to shoot without flinching, as there is no recoil, and with no ear-pounding report you don't even need to wear hearing protection.

The stats and options

The .457 calibre big bore I was shooting launches a 350-grain bullet fast enough to generate 500 foot pounds of energy. Terry stresses the energy over speed, but that being said, the guns are designed to shoot a bullet just under 1,000 feet per second. Professional Big Bore Airguns also makes a .308 that shoots a 100-grain bullet with 250 foot pounds of energy. Both calibres can and have been used for hunting big game.

*Shooting a big bore airgun is **great fun**, and the best thing about them is how **easy** it is to get started.*

The airgun line up is not limited to rifles, but also includes a 20-gauge shotgun. An aluminum sleeve is used to load paper wads and shot, which is then topped with another wad for loading. The shot flies with deadly accuracy and patterns well, averaging 400 to 500 foot pounds of energy. And while it's possible to adjust the shot load, adding more pellets will produce better patterns, but speed and energy are reduced.

Bullets

Custom bullets are available for these rifles, including the cast lead bullets and round balls, which I used. A firm called Hunters Supply in Regina, NM,

builds many of the accessories large bore airgun enthusiasts need, including a cast bullet they call the Pentagon Hollow Point Bullet for hunting. For those who don't see airguns as a feasible hunting rifle, this bullet manufacturer claims its bullets have been used for game as large as the African Big 5.

Getting started


Shooting a big bore airgun is great fun, and the best thing about them is how easy it is to get started. Compressed air is transported in an air tank, with some shooters using scuba tanks for volume and convenience. The tanks we used in Texas included one of those, as well as a carbon fibre one. People hunting with these rifles will want one of the carbon fibre tanks, because they are lightweight and portable. Of course, the rifle has a cylinder too, but it's much smaller. That cylinder is designed and tested to take up to 7,500 pounds per square inch, but it is never charged with more than 3,000 pounds per square inch.

To fill the rifle properly, you lock the air hose connecting the rifle to the larger air tank and slowly crack open the valve handle until you see the needle in the pressure gauge start to go up.


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Finding out firsthand just how deadly a well-placed bullet from an airgun can be, there was little doubt I could hunt anything with the big bores.



With precise hand control, you take the pressure needle to 3,000 pounds per square inch before turning off the valve. You then bleed off any excess pressure in the hose so that you can remove the pressure fitting from the nipple. From there, it's as easy as opening the bolt and then placing a bullet in the bolt guide before locking the bolt in place. The bolt locks down to ensure there is never a misfire as a result of the bolt handle being accidentally knocked out of the shooting position.

Hunting

It's legal to use an airgun for hunting small game in most provinces, and many Canadian hunters have taken a grouse with an air rifle. And why not? An accurately placed pellet works extremely well on small game birds. However, hunting big game with an airgun is another matter and it generates debate in certain circles. Some states and provinces have a bullet diameter requirement to decide what is legal for hunting, while others have an energy requirement. That means big bore airguns are legal to hunt with in several jurisdictions. Finding out firsthand just how deadly a well-placed bullet from

*Can you imagine
hunting predators
without the loud
report of a rifle?
You could just keep
calling and shooting
without disturbing
the area.*

an airgun can be left little doubt I could hunt anything with the big bores. Living in Texas, Terry has 27 species of exotic wildlife he can hunt legally and has taken huge wild boars, axis deer and even bison, all with airguns.

The benefit

I shot the axis buck through the shoulder blade and the bullet broke two ribs on the way through. The interesting part of the harvest was the clean bullet hole. There was no shock

or bruising and when we butchered the animal, the meat could be salvaged right to the clean edge of the bullet hole. The airgun proved to be a quick, lethal and humane way to take the deer, and maximized the amount of meat provided by the carcass.

I know I'll be hunting more with an airgun, as the applications are endless. Can you imagine hunting predators without the loud report of a rifle? You could just keep calling and shooting without disturbing the area. If hunting in areas with nearby houses, there would no longer be noise concerns. Even tracking game shot with an airgun should be easier, as they are less likely to spook and run away at full speed after being shot, allowing you to see where they fall.

These big bore air rifles are obviously put together with quality components – the same as you'd find in an upper end, custom made centrefire rifle. Terry told me that from stock to trigger, each rifle is customized and crafted to shoot extremely well. Additionally, all guns are tested before being shipped, to guarantee performance. Airguns have come a long way since I was a kid and they certainly aren't just toys any more.

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REVIEW

Browning A5 Stalker

A semi-auto shotgun for the hunter

By Duane Radford

After comparing several shotguns, including a Browning BPS pump and a Browning Silver Series auto, all of which showed promise, I recently purchased a Browning A5 Stalker, 12-gauge, semi-auto for waterfowl hunting. But, it wasn't until a clerk at a Cabela's store laid all three models on the gun counter that I finally made up my mind. After looking closely at their various features, I chose the A5 Stalker.

My main objective was to purchase a 12-gauge shotgun with a three-inch chamber and a 28-inch barrel. I was looking for a shotgun with some goose-killing power that wasn't too long, yet light enough to shoulder easily and swing well. Prior to making a final decision, I was open minded on whether it was a pump, over-under or semi-auto and I wasn't focused on a particular brand. Naturally, price was also a concern, but not an overriding factor. I had previously owned single shot and pump-action 12-gauge shotguns and pump-action and semi-auto 20-gauge shotguns. Further, I'd shot several models of side-by-side and over-under 12-gauge shotguns.

As I studied the various product lines and reviews of different manufacturers, I gravitated towards the Browning line, finding they are highly rated as being both functional and practical.

Key features

The A5's operating system is classified as inertia operated, a design initially patented by Paolo Benelli in 1986. Browning began to use this system in 2012, when they replaced the long-recoil operated Auto 5 with the A5. Browning calls their version of this operating system Kinematic Drive, this being a reference to the kinetic energy required to make the system work. Kinetic energy, after all, is simply the energy of motion. According to Browning, the Kinematic Drive "harnesses recoil energy and converts it into the mechanical motion

needed to operate the action" of the shotgun. Browning says the system is so reliable they include a 100,000 round or five-year guarantee.

This recoil-operated, auto-loading shotgun is capable of quickly firing up to five shells and will cycle reliably with everything from heavy goose loads to light 7/8-ounce target loads, with no adjustment necessary. After the last shell has been fired, the bolt assembly locks to the rear so the breech remains open for fast reloading, a great feature when the action is furious. This is also a good safety feature, because with an open breech you can check to ensure the chamber, bore, carrier and magazine are empty.

The Browning warranty is appealing to a waterfowl hunter because field conditions can sometimes be brutal and test the limits of a shotgun. Weather can be miserable, while dirt, mud and chaff can jam actions. Obviously, one of the worst things that can happen is a jammed action during the heat of a waterfowl hunt.

After I purchased the shotgun, I made a number of trips to the Beaverhill Sporting Clays shooting range near Tofield, Alta., to get used to the gun. Even after going through several boxes of trap loads during each session, the shotgun's recoil wasn't an issue. I found the A5 Stalker's recoil light for a 12-gauge shotgun; in fact, it's hardly noticeable compared with many other 12-gauge shotguns I've fired. My shoulder definitely wasn't black and blue!

Browning markets the A5 Stalker as being ergo balanced, which is their way of defining the biotechnology or human

engineering features of this shotgun. The shotgun is well balanced so it "feels light and swings fast," as marketed. Furthermore, it has a comfortable grip and although it's anything but short, I find the gun is easy to point and shoot.

The front sight on the A5 is a bright, fluorescent red fibre-optic, which I found quick for the eye to pick up, especially on cloudy days or in the often poor light of dawn and sunset. Canadians are all too familiar with the frequent slate grey, overcast skies during October and November. That front sight is on top of a long, flat rib, which goes all the way back to the receiver and there's an ivory bead mid-way along the rib, which serves to check alignment. I like it, and while there are some detractors who don't care for mid-rib beads, I found it an asset.

The A5 Stalker features a bolt latch located in front of the trigger guard, which locks the bolt to the rear when the magazine is unloaded and releases a shell from the magazine when the bolt is closed.

When it comes to personal likes and dislikes regarding 12-gauge shotguns, I believe weight and length are two key features that influence how the shotgun feels when used. To be successful on a waterfowl hunt, it's critical to quickly get a bead on a duck or goose and follow through with your swing. Whether pass shooting, hunting over decoys or jump shooting, action is always fast and often reflexive in nature. The following chart illustrates how the A5 Stalker compares with some other similar 12-gauge brands regarding weight and overall length.

| MANUFACTURER | WEIGHT | OVERALL LENGTH |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Browning A5 Stalker | Seven pounds, five ounces | 49.6 inches |
| Benelli Super Sport | Seven pounds, 12.8 ounces | 51.6 inches |
| Remington Model 1100 | Eight pounds | 49 inches |

Table 1: Comparison of weight and overall length of popular shotguns made by different companies

Shooting results

I patterned the A5 Stalker at my local gun range at a distance of 25 yards, rather than the standard 40 yards, because the range is not set up to pattern shotguns at the longer distance. Patterning reports typically feature hit percentages in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards. However, some patterning systems claim it's okay to use 25 yards as long as you assume a 30 per cent decrease in pattern percentages when extrapolating a 25-yard pattern to 40 yards. So, that's what I did.

I used a Caldwell Lead Sled Plus gun rest for patterning purposes. I've found it's ideal for sighting in rifles and patterning shotguns because it absorbs most of the recoil and thus minimizes flinching. All tests were done using a full choke and repeated three times. I took

three shots with a popular duck load: Federal's three-inch Waterfowl Load, containing 1 1/8 ounces of #2 steel shot. Then I did the same test with a popular goose load: Federal's Premium three-inch High Velocity Steel Ultra-Shock, with 1 1/8 ounces of BBB shot.

I drew a 30-inch circle around the densest part of the pattern on each target, counted the number of holes inside the circle and then divided by the number of pellets counted in an identical shot shell for a percentage. Remarkably, the numbers were identical (133 pellets) for all three #2 shot test results. The BBB shot averaged 64 pellets inside that 30-inch circle at 25 yards.

After taking into account the 30 per cent decrease mentioned earlier, the adjusted averages are 90 pellets for the #2 shot and 45 pellets for the BBB shot. Consequently, 63.8 per cent of the #2

pellets would have hit the 30-inch target at 40 yards, compared with 64.3 per cent of the BBB shot.

Accessories

The A5 Stalker comes with an ABS hard case stamped with the A5 logo, with a foam pad on the top of the case. It includes a choke tube box with three Invector-DS chokes and a compact choke wrench. Also included are a gun lock and multiple shims for adjusting the length of pull and drop at comb and heel to adjust the fit of the stock, if necessary. The buttstock can also be adjusted for length of pull by adding or removing spacers to the rear of the stock. Proper stock fit is critical with a shotgun and the ability to adjust fit is a great option.

I found the A5 Stalker is easy to take



apart and clean, and it requires little maintenance. At press time the Browning A5 Stalker 12-gauge shotgun is re-tailing for around \$1,500.

Overall assessment

I purchased my A5 Stalker for waterfowl hunting without really thinking about using it for upland birds. However, readers might question whether it would be suitable for that type of hunting. Weight is always a concern when hunting upland birds during day-long hunts. I've used a 20-gauge shotgun to hunt upland birds for most of my life, most recently a Browning BPS Hunter Special with an improved cylinder choke. This shotgun weighs 6.75 pounds, compared with the A5 Stalker that weighs 7.31 pounds, a difference of only 0.56 pounds. You'll have to de-

cide for yourself if that's a significant difference.

I believe this shotgun could also do double duty for turkey hunting, being relatively lightweight for a 12-gauge. With its fluorescent fibre-optic sight and ventilated rib, it should be ideal for hunting in low-light, early morning forests.

I'd describe my Browning A5 Stalker shotgun, with its signature humpback receiver, as a business-like firearm. It isn't going to wow you with a rich walnut stock featuring handsome lines, with fine checkering or fancy metal engraving because it's not of that genre. Rather, it's intended to bag birds, pure and simple, and I believe it lives up to that billing in spades. If you want fancier, it's always available with a genuine walnut stock and 22 lines-per-inch checkering, as well.

SPECIFICATIONS

Receiver: lightweight aluminum alloy

Barrel: lightweight profile; flat, ventilated rib, quarter-inch rib width

Action: recoil-operated Kinematic Drive cycles a wide range of loads

Stock: composite with close radius pistol grip; matte black finish with armor coating

Weight: seven pounds, five ounces

Chamber: three inch

Barrel length: 28 inches

Overall length: 49-and-five-eighths inches

Choke: three Invector-DS choke tubes (full, modified, improved cylinder) with wrench

Sights: fiber-optic front sight and ivory mid-bead

Recoil pad: Inflex II technology recoil pad

Note: The Browning A5 Stalker is available with 26, 28 or 30-inch barrels



I purchased my A5 Stalker for waterfowl hunting and it netted me this limit of mallards.

I used a Caldwell Lead Sled Plus gun rest for patterning purposes. I've found it's ideal for sighting in rifles and patterning shotguns because it absorbs most of the recoil and thus minimizes flinching.

SHOOTING CANADIAN CLAYS

Ontario's target maker to the world

By Jeff Helsdon



If you are a clay target shooter, chances are you have benefitted from the ingenuity of Bob Lawry. Looking at the sophisticated production line of his company, Lawry Shooting Sports, it would be easy to assume it was the vision of a man with an engineer's degree. Instead, Canada's largest clay target manufacturer is the result of a man with a Grade 8 education, a mechanical knack, a love of shooting and a great work ethic – someone who saw a niche and built a business around it.

Bob has been shooting since he was nine years old. He grew up on Burlington Bay, near Hamilton, and learned to shoot ducks from sneak boats off that beach. This technique involved the shooters waiting for ducks to land in the decoys and then using wind to push their boat closer to the birds. The shooter hid behind a screen and then dropped the screen when the birds were in range.

He described the technique as highly successful for the ducks that frequented the shores of Lake Ontario. While this area isn't open to hunting today, Bob remained a duck hunter.

"They did it in crazy weather," his wife, Judy, told me. "He shouldn't be alive considering some of the antics they pulled."

Bob started working at Firestone when he was 16. After 29 years, he had 140 people working for him and it was becoming obvious to Bob the company would go broke. Around the same time, he started trap shooting at the old Mohawk Gun Club in Smithville, outside Hamilton. He became an A-class shooter in trap and won his share of championships. He also saw an opportunity.

"I was looking around for a business to start," he said. "There were only two clay pigeon factories in Canada – one in Hamilton and one in Vancouver. So I decided to start making clay pigeons in my back yard."

Lawry Shooting Sports Inc. started when Bob put together a machine to manufacture clay pigeons in that backyard building in 1973. Bob told me the composition of clay pigeons in North America is all the same – petroleum pitch and powdered limestone. Although I believed clay targets were baked, he explained the liquid pitch and limestone is poured in a mould and hardens without heat.

Lawry targets meet specifications set by the Amateur Trapshooting Association, National Skeet Shooting Association and the National Sporting Clays Association. A wide variety of tar-

gets are manufactured. In the standard 108-millimetre target size alone, there are orange, green, black and pink available, with options for a black rim on the coloured targets. The same options are available in sporting clay targets, which are heavier, as well as specialized sporting clays targets, like rabbits. The slightly larger (110-millimetre) international size targets are also manufactured for international trap and skeet. If all these options don't meet a customer's specifications, colours and hardness can be customized.

The secret to their success was both Bob and son Rick doing what they loved, shooting, and buying food and drink at the gun clubs.

"Richard was a world-class skeet shooter, I was a trap shooter," Bob said.

"All the advertising they did was they shot and they went to clubs to talk up the business," Judy added.

The business grew and it reached the point that Bob was manufacturing 30 to 40 cases per day in his backyard. In 1980, the business reached the point that the backyard facility was not large enough for the increased demand. The company moved to its present location in Caledonia, near Hamilton. It's still there today, although there have been a few additions to the building.

A couple of years later, Bob bought out his competitor in Hamilton, making him the only clay target manufacturer in Ontario. Now, targets are sold across eastern Canada, Central America, the Caribbean, South America and Australia. With a case of targets weighing 31 pounds, shipping is a challenge. So, Bob started a shipping company to deliver the targets. The trucks then pick up loads of freight for other companies for the return trip so the trucks aren't running empty. Today, the company has five transport trucks. In addition, targets are shipped by train to BC.

With growing concern about environmental issues in the 1990s, a decision was made to settle the question of whether or not clay targets degrading on the ground are bad for the environment. After some investigation, it was decided to use the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program to tackle the issue. This is a joint program between Environment Canada and Industry Canada, delivered by ETV Canada Inc.

The composition of Lawry Precision Targets – 65 per cent high calcium limestone and 35 per cent petroleum pitch – was developed in response to sulfur



Three generations of the Lawry family make the company function like a well-oiled trap machine. Left to right are: Rick, Jillian, Derek and Bob.



The Lawry Shooting Sports facility in Caledonia is comprised of two buildings - one that is warehousing and retail, while the other is the manufacturing facility.

concerns with other company's targets. The ETV process found Lawry Precision Targets:

- Comply with the non-hazardous criteria based on Ontario standards for toxicity leeching
- Are considered non-toxic to terrestrial invertebrates, such as earthworms
- Are considered non-toxic to plants and bacteria

The ETV process gave the company a leg up on its competitors, but also earned it an award from the federal government for companies showing environmental initiative. A dose of irony was delivered when Bob went to BC to accept the award. The presenter was Alan Rock, the Liberal justice minister behind the gun registry. He certainly was not in Bob's good books.

When the time came for robotic production, Bob designed and engineered the entire production line for the targets. A well-guarded company secret, it was built by a tool company in Hamilton. The packaging line was a commercial unit, customized for Lawry Shooting Sports.

Bob found the new line stopped a lot of the target damage during packaging. There used to be a person taking the targets off the line and placing stacks in the shipping boxes. This was a "nasty job" with not a lot of margin for error, and sometimes resulted in a stack of targets being dropped.

During this company-building journey, there have been some personal victories, too. Bob's son, Rick, made his mark in the skeet world, and in a big way. He won the NSSA 12-gauge championship in 1994. After shooting a perfect score of 250/250 in preliminary competition, he won in a shoot-off. Rick recounted there were initially 1,200 shooters. After the first round, there were 35 who had a perfect score. He needed a score of 75 straight, which was shot at night under lights, to win.

Judy started to shoot too, both targets and then ducks with her husband. She won high lady in one of the local gun club trap leagues.

"The joke was I was the only lady," she said with a smile on her face.

Today, the company runs two production lines. There are two 20,000-gallon hot storage tanks for the pitch and two 90,000-pound limestone silos. There are 10 employees.

Besides selling clay targets, Lawry Shooting Sports Inc. also sells Federal shotgun ammunition and is the Ontario distributor. Bob carried the line before



Lawry Shooting Sports earned an award from the federal government for companies showing environmental initiative.

Federal was popular.

"We made Federal the shell in Canada," he told me.

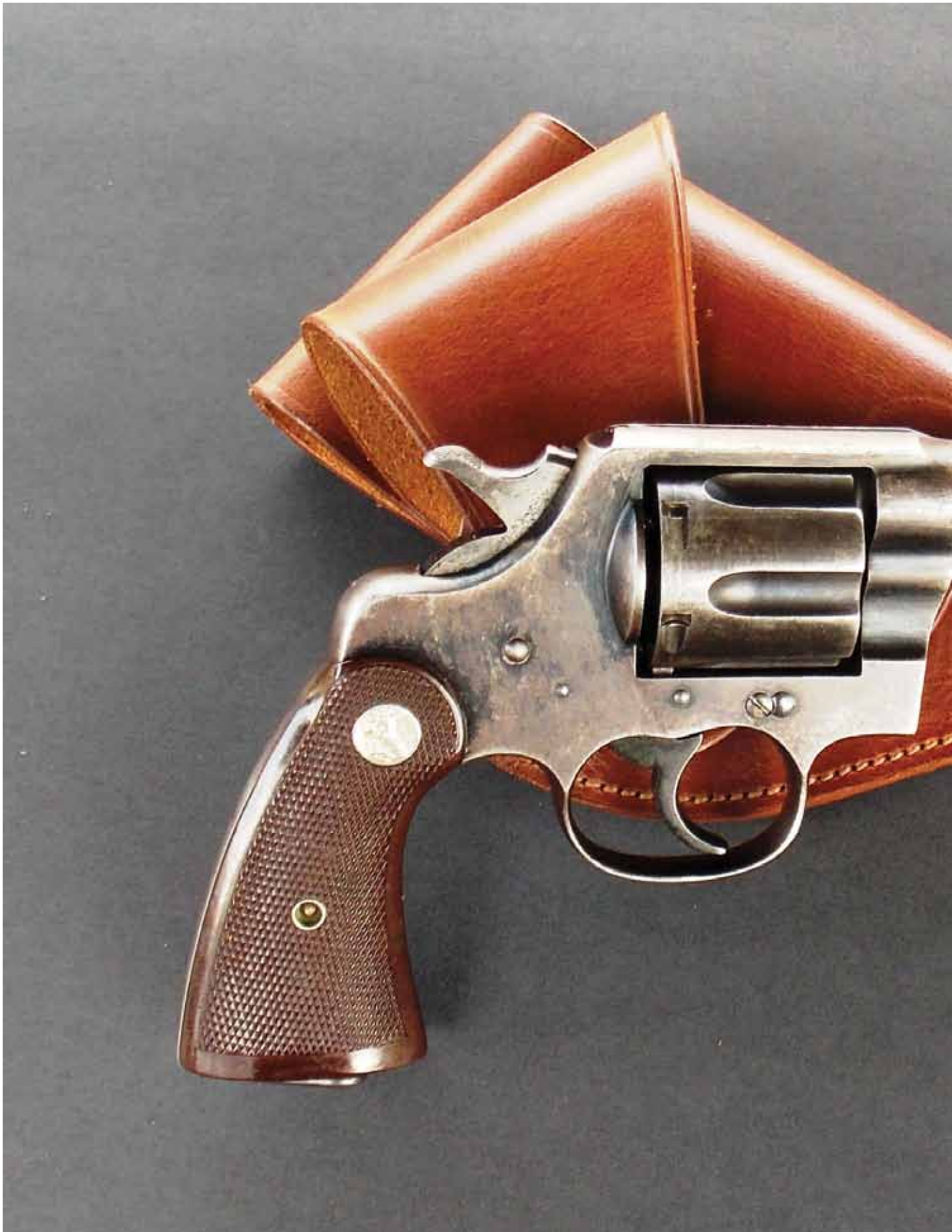
The company also retails trap machines, hunting loads, powder, shot and other reloading components. Although it doesn't carry standard gun lines, high-end Kreighoff and Kolar trap and skeet guns, as well as Briley chokes, are also available through the company.

"Our prices are the best because our targets are our primary business," Bob said. "The rest is convenience."

At 84, the company founder still

comes into the business every day for a short time. Rick is the company president and handles much of the day-to-day operations. Judy is the bookkeeper. Rick's son, Derek, and daughter, Jillian, represent the third generation in the family business, with the former being the vice president and the latter being groomed to take over accounting when Judy retires.

This Canadian company has grown to be a success story and provides an option for shooters and gun clubs to buy Canadian when purchasing targets.





Colt's New Service Revolver

An important piece of history

By Bob Campbell

In 1897, Colt introduced a modern double-action swing-out cylinder revolver with a heavy-duty frame, chambered for big bore cartridges. Labeled as the New Service, it replaced their previous double-action big bore revolver, the Colt 1878 – a revolver that was reasonably popular, but did not enjoy the pleasing lines and excellent balance of the Colt Single-action Army. Also, it was a bit of a lash up in that it was a double-action revolver that used the gate loading system of the Single-action Army.

Colt had patented a swing-out cylinder revolver back in 1888. This design was used in the New Service and featured a cylinder locked into battery by an internal pin. The cylinder latch could be pulled to the rear to release the cylinder. Pressing the ejector rod to the rear ejected the cartridges. An ejector star ejected the spent cases together, as long as the muzzle of the revolver was tilted upward. The double-action trigger of the New Service was among the smoothest yet introduced. The result was a brawny revolver that found favour with soldiers, lawmen and explorers.

Colt's earlier .38 calibre revolver had been adopted by the US Army as the Model of 1892. The .38 calibre revolver proved ineffective in action against soldiers and Aboriginal warriors in the Philippines. While the eventual answer was the Colt 1911 45 Automatic pistol, the New Service was adopted by the US Army and Marines in various models in 1905 and 1909. The big Colt was chambered for the 45 Colt cartridge. A slight impediment to proper function was recognized when it was realized that the small cartridge case rim of the 45 Colt did not function well with the modern star ejector. The Colt Single-Action Army revolver used a button ejection system and the cartridge case rim wasn't critical – in fact, a smaller rim was beneficial. The Army specified a modification of the cartridge case rim, using a wider rim and thus giving more reliable ejection. While quite rare in the original, these cartridge cases have been manufactured in modern times by Starline Brass. However, this brass isn't compatible with the single-action revolver. With 45 Schofield, 45 Colt, 45 Colt 1905 and the later 45 Auto Rim available, the handloader must be certain of the proper brass cartridge case for reloading.

The New Service was manufactured in many other calibres, including the 38-40 WCF, 44 Special and 455 Eley. The revolver was adopted for standard issue by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and used for some 50 years. The New York State Police had a similar history with the New Service, adopting theirs in 45 Colt, while the RCMP guns were primarily 455 Eley versions. Later Canadian revolvers were chambered in 45 Colt. The revolvers were available with several barrel lengths, ranging from four to seven-and-a-half inches, with the five-inch barrel common for military service. The



Colt's swing out cylinder revolutionized the revolver world.



The Colt New Service has a reliable double-action mechanism that seldom gives trouble.

nickel finish is rare, as most Colts and all military and police revolvers were finished in blue. Grips might be hard rubber, wood or plastic. The Canadian Army first used the Colt New Service during the Boer Wars and the British Commonwealth used 455 chambered revolvers during the First World War.

Prior to the First World War, Colt made changes in the double-action mechanism to improve longevity, and also for greater safety. This included adding a positive lock, which added to the safety of the rebounding hammer. Colt claimed that since the Colt cylinder rotated to the right, opposite of the Smith and Wesson, this forced the crane tighter into the frame, resulting in the hand locking against the cylinder with less play. While this seems true as far as it goes, it is also suggested by experienced gunsmiths that the Colt arrangement results in more momentum transferred to the small parts of the action during firing.

The most numerous Colt New Service revolver was the Model 1917. Chambered in 45 ACP, the revolver used moon clips to chamber the 45 ACP cartridge. This was an important stop-gap issued to doughboys during the First World War. Since the rimless 45 ACP cartridge could not properly chamber or be ejected in the same manner as a rimmed cartridge, these thin metal clips allowed the 45 ACP to properly headspace. The Army did not need the headache of issuing more than one handgun cartridge and this neatly solved the problem. While a neat trick that allowed fast reloading, the moon clips were despised by civilians of the time. Remington's development of the 45 Auto Rim cartridge - a rimmed 45 ACP for use in the 1917 revolvers - neatly solved the problem of moon clips.

The Colt 1917 and the Smith & Wesson 1917 were available in great number after the First World War, especially since some 156,000 Colts had been manufactured. In their post-war service, these were issued to postal clerks, the Border Patrol and other US federal agencies. Interestingly, the Colt was used by many police forces and also the Cuban police and military.

During the time between the two World Wars, the Colts were sometimes offered at a fair price as surplus. This gave shooters a quality big bore revolver for little cost. Various hard cast semi-wadcutter bullets were designed for use with the 45 Auto Rim cartridge case. The result was loads on a level with standard 45 Colt handloads. A 255-grain SWC at 900 feet per second is not out of the

This New Service has chambering steps for the .45 ACP. The first 1917 models were bored straight through and could not chamber the .45 ACP without moon clips.

question in a good, tight Colt New Service 45 Auto Rim. Many Colt revolvers were stored after the First World War and again saw action during the Second World War. They seem to have been popular with tank crewmen and were issued to military and police, as well. The New Service was discontinued in 1940 due to demands for war material and was not put back into production after the Second World War. Today, there are handguns better suited for service use, competition or plinking, but few with the history of the Colt New Service.

In order to provide a shooting impression of the Colt New Service, I broke out my personal Colt 1917 revolver. Chambered for the 45 ACP, I am lucky to possess a modest supply of 45 Auto Rim brass for handloading. All that is required is a shell holder in the proper calibre, as loading dies for the 45 ACP may be used to load the 45 Auto Rim. While the New Service is a large handgun, the grips are not a stretch for the average-sized hand. The cross section is thin enough for control, but the grips are long. The handgun was fired first with Winchester's USA 230-grain FMJ load, clipped into moon clips. The double-action trigger is smooth and the Colt New Service is controllable at moderate ranges. The front sight simply hangs on the target and results are good in combat-style shooting. Recoil is modest.

Moving to handloads, I used a combination of the Oregon Trail 200-grain SWC and WW 231 powder for 790 feet per second. This was a pleasant load to fire and accuracy was good. In testing off of the bench rest, I fired the two 45 ACP loads and added a heavy 45 Auto Rim handload. This handload uses a Hornady 250-grain XTP over enough WW 231 powder for 800 feet per second. Results were excellent. At 15 yards, the best group, fired slow fire off the bench, came with the XTP bullet handload at two inches. The Winchester factory load produced a three-inch group and the 200-grain SWC load gave a 2.65-inch group. Certainly, the Colt is accurate enough for most chores.

The Colt New Service was an important handgun for Colt and an interesting piece of history. Used worldwide by Canada, Britain and the US, and regionally by other nations, the Colt is an overlooked warhorse.



While a neat trick that allowed fast reloading, the moon clips were despised by civilians of the time.

SHOT Show 2016



NEWS, RUMOURS & TRENDS

BY AL VOTH

The annual pilgrimage to the Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show in Las Vegas is over for 2016. As usual, for those of us who go every year, it's as much work as it is fun.

However, after returning, there's never anything wrong with me a 12-hour sleep won't fix. I've done that already, so here's what I saw and heard in the way of industry news, rumours and trends.



SHOT Show 2016

The sinking loonie

No contest. This year the elephant in the room, following every Canadian around, was the sinking loonie. Old guys like me remember the days of a 60 cent dollar, and there's no shortage of financial experts suggesting we're headed there again. The thought of it is scary for the firearms consumer, but it's even more frightening for Canadian distributors and retailers. More than one of them told me they are now looking at buying new inventory at prices higher than they are selling the stock sitting on their shelves. However, if our dollar should rocket back up for some reason, they'll be left with inventory that cost them more than they can sell it for. This year, it's more appropriate than ever that the SHOT Show was held in Vegas, North America's gambling Mecca, because distributors and dealers are gambling with their livelihood on what the Canadian dollar will do.

When I asked Phil Harnois, of Edmonton's P&D gun shop, what advice he could give consumers, he said, "Shop carefully and look for deals. Old stock will be a great bargain. Be prepared to see identical guns, except for calibre, with a huge price difference. It'll be old stock versus new stock. If the calibre you want is the cheaper gun, you're laughing. If it's the higher-priced calibre you need, be prepared to pay for it."

By the third day of the show, American manufacturer reps who normally have no idea about the value of the Canadian dollar, were starting to get the idea. As one of them, with a sense of humour, explained while showing me a shotgun, "This gun has a suggested list price of \$359 US, or \$5,000 Canadian."

On the bright side, at least Canadian manufacturers looking to sell into the US market will have an advantage. And the rumours I've heard about Savage looking to close their Lakefield .22 plant in Ontario should be put to rest.

Shortages

For Canadians, the dollar issue has replaced shortages as the key issue of 2016. And there's good news on that front, as my questions about availability were largely met with positive responses. However, there still seems to be a problem producing enough .22 rimfire ammunition to meet demand. When the question came up at a press



There still seems to be a problem producing enough .22 rimfire ammunition to meet demand.



Affordable target systems, like this Caldwell model, use a camera mounted near the target. They send an image of the paper target back to the firing line, where it's displayed on a tablet or smart phone.

conference, one CEO, obviously frustrated with hearing it, went out of his way to assure us they are producing millions more rimfire cartridges than at any time in their history. All kinds of crazy conspiracy theories have been advanced to explain the shortage and he took pains to shoot those down too, suggesting the problem is simply one of increased demand, aggravated by some personal hoarding. His illustrations included a conversation he had with two shooters who each had 50 pounds of handloading

powders squirreled away, even though none of them are reloaders. This was, "Just in case," they told him.

One of the hardest handloading powders to find has been the Alliant line. So, I cornered a rep from that company and asked about Canada.

"We're getting caught up," he said. "I'm in the process of putting two large shipments together for Canada right now. The first one is going to Wholesale Sports and the second one to a major Canadian distributor."



This year, the low-tech award for target systems goes to MegaBOOM, a reactive target system that uses plastic soft-drink bottles and compressed air.

The folks at Hodgdon told me a similar tale. "We're in better shape, supply wise, than we've been in four or five years. You can even tell your readers that Clays is back. We haven't been able to provide it for years, and shotgunners have really missed it. But it'll be back in the pipeline in 2016."

When I asked about price increases, I was told there wouldn't be any significant increases at their end. And that Clays would even be a little cheaper than the last time it was available.

Bullet manufacturers, Hornady, Sierra and Berger, are adding new products

for 2016. That speaks well for supply, as in past years they haven't been able to add many new items, simply because they couldn't even keep up with the demand for existing bullets.

However, the last two US elections have demonstrated conclusively that election results can have a huge influence on the demand for guns and ammunition in that country. So, come November 2016, just about anything is possible. But right now, the supply of ammunition and handloading components is better than it has been in a few years.

Mergers

The merging of companies into large conglomerates is a continuing trend in the industry. The CEO of one of these holding companies told me they are continually looking for small companies with great products they can add to their family of brands.

"If it fills a hole in our line up of brands and the little guy has a great product and/or a patent, we're in the acquisition business," he said.

A good example is the purchase of Battenfield Technologies by Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation. This brings brands like Wheeler Engineering, Tipton, Caldwell and Bog Pod into the S&W family, joining Thompson/Center. Acquired brands, if they are strong enough, will often retain their identity. However, if they aren't, they'll become extinct. Sadly, I learned that Para-Ordnance is one of those brands that hasn't survived its acquisition by the Remington Outdoor Company. For a while it looked like it might. But the word is, if you own any Para-Ordnance pistol, you now have a collector's item. Those marked "Made in Canada" have long been in that category, but now it applies to all Para-Ordnance pistols. This is because all 1911s made by the Remington group will henceforth wear the Remington brand. I'm told some of the more popular designs, especially the double-stack models, will continue to be made once production realities allow for it.

Target/training systems

I noticed a significant number of new companies promoting some type of target and/or training systems. This includes high-tech training systems that use scenario-based videos playing out on a large screen, shot with laser-equipped handguns. Obviously suitable only for indoor ranges, these are fun systems to play, with but beyond the capability of individuals to own. That niche is filled by laser firing guns and small portable targets.

For outdoor range use, I saw a couple of target systems that use remotely controlled vehicles to simulate moving targets. There were also fixed target systems that appeared and disappeared in either a pre-programmed sequence or on demand.

The ultimate fixed target systems are

SHOT Show 2016

the electronic targets currently being used for many bullseye-type competitions. Downrange sensors detect the passage of a bullet and relay the location of the hit to a screen positioned beside the shooter. The target display and scoring can even be directed to a spectator gallery, making watching a bullseye match, while not exciting, at least interesting. However, these are expensive systems. The affordable version uses cameras mounted near the target. They send an image of the paper target back to the firing line, where it's displayed on a tablet or smart phone. I found three systems like this, with the previously mentioned Battenfield Technologies claiming theirs can even measure group size.

"Explosive" targets like Thundershot, made by Canada's Gryphon Energetics, are part of this trend. But this year, the low-tech award for target systems goes to MegaBOOM, a reactive target system that uses plastic soft-drink bottles. Empty bottles are threaded onto a small metal bracket, to which a valve system is attached. A few strokes with a hand-operated tire pump brings the pressure inside the bottle to about 120 pounds per square inch. Hit the bottle with a bullet, even a low velocity one, or an arrow, and the split in the plastic goes supersonic, causing an incredibly loud boom. Wish I'd thought of that one.

Suppressors

The growth of target and training systems includes the increasing use of steel targets, and almost every one of the 25-plus ranges being used on range day was equipped with them. The sound of ringing steel was more prominent than ever, but largely because there were more suppressors on the line than I've ever seen before, so the sound level on the ranges was lower. And unlike past years, where these suppressors were only found on the guns of suppressor manufacturers, this year they were also on the guns of every manufacturer who cared about protecting the hearing of their employees and their visitors. This includes Ruger, which now has its own line of suppressors.

As a shooter with damaged hearing, this is one trend I'd like to see make its way across the border as soon as possible. Of course, it'll require a change in legislation, but we know that can be done. We did it with the long-gun registry.



As a shooter with damaged hearing, an American trend towards more suppressor use is one I'd like to see make its way across the border as soon as possible.

Products for women

Recent studies have shown that between 2001 and 2013, the number of women hunters increased by 85 per cent. During the same time period, women target shooters increased by 60 per cent. As a result, more manufacturers are paying attention to that part of the market. Self-defence firearms, especially concealed carry, seems to be pushing much of this trend in the US as well. Of course, our government prefers to see women defenceless, so that's not a market segment here. However, the target sports and hunting certainly are.

I noticed more shotgun manufacturers than rifle manufacturers are focusing on making firearms to fit women. I guess that's understandable, since shotgun fit is more critical to shooting well than rifle fit is. Lowell Strauss tells us about some of these guns in his report, further along in this issue.

Thankfully, the pink phase seems to be coming to an end. Manufacturers used to slap a pink colour on something and expect women to drool over it. Most companies have matured beyond that and are now building products to actually fit women's different sized and shaped bodies. They also recognize that women may want a look that is different from what men prefer, and it isn't necessarily pink. So, they are getting a little more creative. Like the cleaning

kit I saw from Pro-Shot, which is being marketed toward women shooters. The only change is the teal colour of the cleaning rod and handle. But at least it's not pink. But then who am I to suggest what a lady shooter might like?

Modern sporting rifles

And speaking of colour, black guns, especially of the AR design, continue to rule the SHOT Show. On Monday, which was range day, those who came to shoot conventional sporting rifles and shotguns were done before noon. No surprise there. Those of us who stayed the entire day had to ask ourselves, "How many ways can you find to build something new into the AR design?" Judging from what I've seen the past few years, there doesn't appear to be a limit. So, the question should be, "How many of those ways are an actual improvement?"

One of those improvements is coming from Colt Canada, and a rack of guns in the Colt booth on the show floor prominently displayed the fact these were Canadian versions. See Ed Osborne's report for more details. Whether it's an AR-based design or not, there's no doubt modern sporting rifles rule.

Chassis systems

More chassis systems for bolt-action rifles are appearing every year, as are more factory rifles so equipped. This



trend is continuing in 2016. The Ruger Precision Rifle is a notable addition, with Weatherby and Savage announced chassis equipped rifles as well. We're fortunate to have two Canadian companies evolving as major players in the chassis market. Cadex is one (see the front cover), and MDT is another. While walking the show floor, I counted four factory rifles wearing MDT chassis systems and I'm told more are in the works.

Those previously mentioned Weatherby and Savage models are wearing MDT chassis, as are rifles from Mossberg and Remington.

Overall, the outlook from an industry perspective is positive, especially for Canadian manufacturers. The value of the Canadian dollar is the single negative I see for consumers. The legal outlook for the coming year is, of course, harder to predict, but that's another story.



A cleaning kit for ladies, in teal blue. Thankfully the pink phase is coming to an end and manufacturers are getting more creative about making products for women.



The latest factory rifles to wear Canadian MDT chassis are from Weatherby (top) and Savage.

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What's new in sporting guns for 2016? I think there's a lot - a new cartridge that's pushing the envelope of speed, a 122-year-old firearms company sporting a new look and technology that you've probably never seen before. Showcasing the latest and greatest in the shooting, hunting and outdoors industry, the National Shooting Sports Foundation's 2016 SHOT Show in Las Vegas delivered on its slogan, "Too good to miss."

There were a number of overarching trends that added new product categories, and even new brands, from many manufacturers, including: precision long-range rifles, packable firearms, guns designed specifically for women and more factory ammunition options. Here's what I see as the highlights.

Firearms

The Savage Arms company, established in 1894, is sporting a brand new logo for 2016. Well known for its value-priced firearms, Savage has also released a number of new sporting guns this year. The Model 42 Takedown, an updated version of the classic Model 24 (now discontinued), is a combination gun with 22 LR or 22 WMR over a 410 Bore shotgun. The barrel can be separated from the receiver with the push of a button and easily packed in its go-bag (included). Building on its line of delayed blow-back rifles, Savage has released the A22, which provides 22 WMR performance in a semi-automatic rifle.

A number of refinements have been made to the Weatherby Mark V model line, including new stock profiles with a slimmer forend. While the grip diameter has been reduced, the addition of a palm swell makes the rifle comfortable to hold. Other features include a new, adjustable trigger and guaranteed sub-MOA accuracy. The Mark V line has

20 different models to choose from, including the TACMARK, Dangerous Game and Deluxe. A special Canadian version of the Mark V Ultra Lightweight rifle, called the North Mark V, sports a compass rose and red maple leaf on the floorplate and will be available in eight different calibres.

Browning's Sweet Sixteen A5 shotgun has returned in 2016. Built around the 16 gauge, the A5 Sweet Sixteen is a light five-and-three-quarter pounds. I had a chance to shoot it at the range and liked the fast-handling and responsive feel of this shotgun.

Browning has another new model of shotgun dubbed the Cynergy Ultimate Turkey. It's an over/under with unique features like an optics mounting rail, five choke tubes (including a spreader choke for close range shots and a full turkey choke for extended range) and is finished with Mossy Oak Break Up camouflage.

Remington turns 200 this year! Established in 1816, this company wanted to do something special to celebrate.

They have released both a limited and a commemorative production of Remington's most popular models, including 700 and 7600 rifles, 870 and 1100 shotguns and the 1911 pistol. The limited editions are works of art, beautifully engraved and gold etched. Only 2016 of each will be made, so don't expect them to last long. The commemoratives are a more affordable option for those wanting to own a unique firearm representing Remington history. Commemorative editions with engraved grips and stocks are priced at or slightly above current production models.

Marlin Firearms has opened a custom shop. Colour case hardening, Cerakote finishes, tuned actions and triggers and high grade wood stocks are a few of the options available.

The Remington V3 shotgun was announced at last year's SHOT Show, however production delays have pushed its release date back to mid-2016. The V3 uses the VersaPort system, allowing it to reliably cycle two-and-three-quarter



The Remington Limited Edition R1 - 1911.

and three-inch shotshells. It will be a reasonably priced, gas-operated shotgun. You can expect to see it available at gun retailers before fall 2016.

Ruger American rifles are now available in two magnum calibres - 7mm Remington Magnum and 300 Winchester Magnum. They include a 24" stainless steel barrel and the Ruger Marksman adjustable trigger. The action is mounted in a glass-filled nylon stock. A scope combo package, using the Vortex Crossfire II 3-9x40 riflescope, will be available for these rifles.

Released later in 2015, the Ruger Precision Rifle was available for testing this year at the SHOT Show range day. It has many of the features long-range shooters are looking for, such as a fully adjustable stock, medium contour free-floated barrel and machined aluminum chassis. It is available in 308 Win, 6.5 Creedmoor and 243 Win. Fitted with the Ruger Marksman adjustable trigger, it has an easily adjustable pull weight of between 2.25 to five pounds.

Sako was showcasing the new Canadian Ranger rifle (C-19) at the show. The rifle is a 308 Winchester rifle based on the Tikka T3 Compact Tactical Rifle (CTR). Prototypes of these rifles were delivered to the Canadian Rangers for testing in 2015. Colt Canada, under license from Sako, will start production of

the barrel, bolt and receiver for 6,500 rifles in 2016. The Ranger rifles have been modified for their operational environment and will include a larger bolt handle and trigger guard to accommodate gloved hands, protected front and rear iron sights, a two-stage trigger with three-position safety and a laminated stock in orange or red colour, stamped with the Ranger crest.

Created for the female shooter, the Weatherby Vanguard Camilla is designed with the assistance of people in their Women of Weatherby program and is currently available in four calibres: 223 Rem., 243 Win., 7mm-08 Rem. and 308 Win.

Syren is a relatively new brand of shotguns designed specifically for women, both for hunting and competition. Their concept is to move away from the shrink-it-and-pink-it mentality by designing a shotgun for women from the ground up. Additions to the line this year include the 12-gauge Syren Tempio Trap as either an over/under or single and the Syren Elos Sporting 12-gauge, over/under shotgun.

Franchi is another brand targeting the women's shotgun market with their Catalyst name. Two new models are being introduced: the over/under Instinct Catalyst and the Affinity Catalyst, an inertia-driven semi-automatic shotgun. Both are chambered in 12 gauge.

The Beretta A350 Xtrema shotgun is a feature-filled three-and-a-half inch gas-operated waterfowl shotgun for 2016. Beretta says it will be priced much lower than comparable gas-operated shotguns. I was able to shoot it on range day and my first impression was positive. It functioned flawlessly and recoil was surprisingly mild. The fit and finish are what you would expect from Beretta. This shotgun is worth a close look if you are in the market for a new waterfowl shotgun.

Thompson/Center Arms announced the T/C Compass bolt-action rifle. It's competitively priced to compete with other value-priced rifles, such as the Savage Axis. The Compass has an aluminum pillar bedding design that free-floats the barrel for increased accuracy. It also comes with an adjustable single-stage trigger. The rifle is backed by T/C's Minute of Angle guarantee. It is chambered in 10 popular calibres from 204 Ruger to 300 Win Mag.

Ammunition

New offerings of factory-loaded ammunition, as well as reloading components, were available from many of the manufacturers. Some of these products are designed to fill gaps in ammunition types, while others may be seeing ammunition shortage as the perfect time to get into the ammunition game. Here

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This isn't your grandfather's Marlin.



The Sakko T3 Canadian Ranger rifle.

are a few of the highlights Canadians can expect in the next year.

Browning has started marketing a line of ammunition that includes rifle, shotgun, rimfire and pistol. Right now, the variety is limited to the most popular calibres and bullet/shot weights, but shooters can expect to see all lines grow in time.

Weatherby released a blazingly fast new cartridge, the 6.5 X 300 Weatherby, and has once again raised the bar on speed. Launching a 127-grain bullet

at over 3,500 feet per second, it produces nearly 3,100 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle.

Spectra Shot, a high performance steel shotshell manufacturer, will be selling in Canada in 2016. These shotshells are unique because the steel shot is powder-coated in one of four colours. The idea for Spectra Shot was the need to identify which hunter shot which bird, especially when laying claim to a banded bird. No need to fight when the hunters

are using Spectra Shot, because finding your colour-coded shot in the bird quickly settles the argument. Expect to pay about the same per box as you would for comparable steel waterfowl ammunition.

Eley Ammunition, a company renowned for its high quality rimfire ammunition, has created a new 22 LR hunting round - Eley high velocity hollow. It is unique because the bullet case is oxidized. According to Eley, this increases the friction between the case and the projectile for a more consistent propellant and primer burn. As with all ammunition, increased consistency equals improved accuracy. With a reported velocity of 1,250 feet per second and a deep hollow-nosed profile, this ammunition should prove deadly in the field.

Copper centrefire hunting bullets (non-toxic) are being offered by many ammunition manufacturers and this technology is now available in 22 LR. CCI has created a 21-grain all-copper hunting bullet pushed from the 22 LR at a blistering 1,850 feet per second. A fast little bullet that they claim gives superb accuracy, I'm excited to give this stuff a try in the gopher fields this summer.

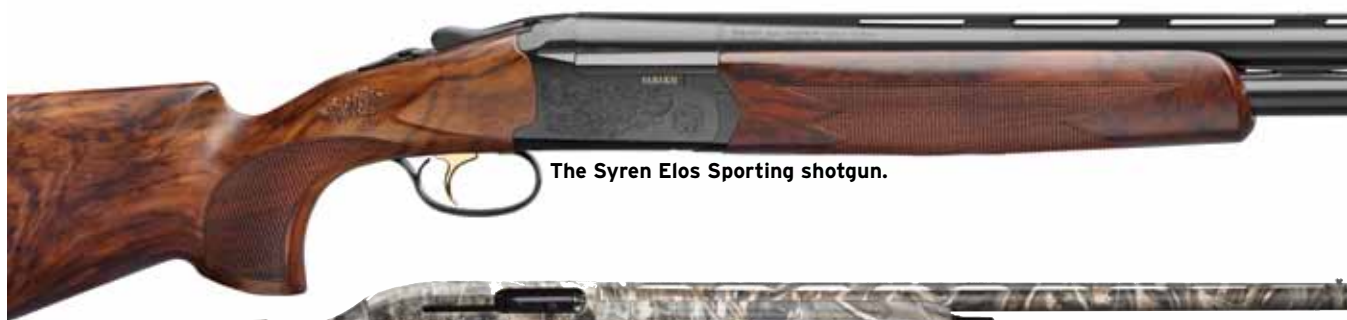
This year at SHOT Show, there was a new section called SHOT Show NEXT, a place to introduce manufactures and suppliers that have not been at SHOT Show before. Here I learned about Cam-Pro, a Canadian manufacturer of copper-plated lead bullets. I was impressed by the quality of the bullets. Surprisingly, in addition to their complete line of pistol bullets, they also make a .223 55-grain BT FMJ, as well as a .308 147-grain BT FMJ.

Kent Cartridge is bringing back Bismuth Premium Shotshells. Bismuth is a non-toxic metal that is safe to use in fixed full chokes and high-grade shotgun barrels. If you're looking for a non-toxic shotshell option to shoot in your favourite old shotgun, these cartridges are worth checking out.

Optics/sights

There are a lot of great options for the shooter this year in optics. Here are a few scopes that really caught my eye.

Vortex has created a rifle scope with impressive specifications. The 15-60x52 Golden Eagle will be right at home on top of any benchrest or F-class rifle. Its 30-millimetre tube allows for 55 MOA



The Syren Elos Sporting shotgun.

The Beretta A350 Xtrema.

elevation adjustment and 45 MOA windage adjustment in one-eighth-inch increments. Inside you will find the Vortex ECR-1 reticle, which has MOA subtension lines for holdover corrections.

There has been a resurgence of interest in the scout rifle, with production models being made by at least five different manufacturers. A scout rifle uses a forward-mounted scope, which means a scope with generous eye relief. The Vortex Crossfire II 2-7x32 Scout Scope is well suited to this task. It has an advertised eye relief of 9.45 inches, however, after a quick look at the show, I found this number to be conservative, even at the top end of its magnification range.

New this year: Vortex has created a new style of scope flip caps called the Defender. The three-position caps fit tightly over the both the eyepiece and the objective lens of the scope. A demo by Vortex staff proved these accessories to be extremely durable. The eyepiece flip cap can be customised with your ballistic data printed on inexpensive plastic inserts from Vortex.

Leupold has upgraded their classic VX-3 riflescope line to the VX-3i. They claim this upgrade does a better job of transmitting the type of light seen at twilight, the prime hunting times. They've also added a zoom adjustment better suited to gloves and some other internal enhancements. And, through some increased line efficiencies, they can drop the price about \$100 per scope. Of course, Leupold's legendary warranty and service (done in Canada) still applies. The VX-3i comes in 15 different models, covering a wide range of hunting and shooting applications.

Nikon has launched a value-priced

first focal plane riflescope in both their ProStaff and Monarch lines. In a first focal plane (FFP) scope, the reticle calibration remains constant, regardless of magnification. Nikon has coined the term Bullet Drop Compensating (BDC) Distance Lock to describe the feature. Using Nikon's Spot On app, bullet drop is calculated for each bullet drop spot on the reticle. Unlike a second focal plane scope, drop values do not change with scope magnification. First focal plane scopes are typically much more expensive than traditional second focal plane scopes. However, Nikon's new FFP can be purchased for between \$360 to \$630 US (MSRP), depending on the model. If you were looking to try a FFP scope without breaking the bank, these new offerings from Nikon are worth a look.

Accessories

There are many new shooting accessories for 2016 - in fact, too many to list. Briefly, here are a few worth checking out:

Kestrel Meters have an updated version of their weather meter with ballistic calculator. It includes increased connectivity, allowing a shooter to couple it with a Bushnell 7x26 Elite 1 Mile CONX Laser rangefinder in order to calculate a complete shooting solution.

Wheeler Engineering has updated the popular Fat Wrench (a torque wrench) to a digital version. Also in 2016, they have launched a digital trigger pull gauge.

Hoppe's #9 came out with a new product called Gun Medic. It contains a cleaner that evaporates quickly and a lubricant. It can be sprayed on a malfunctioning gun in the field to get you up and running quickly.

Swagger Bipod is a new concept in



Spectra Shot, powder-coated steel shotshells.

a shooting bipod. Built with shock cord technology and adjustable legs, this bipod allows you to shoot in any position, from prone through to standing. A very innovative design!

Beretta had updated its shooting app, which connects your shotgun with your smart phone using Bluetooth technology. GunPod 2 is a smart digital system that can track how many cartridges you shot or how many miles you walked on a pheasant hunt. It will compile these statistics, along with photos and videos, to create a digital archive of your shooting adventures.

That's my round up of the most interesting sporting firearms products announced at the 2016 SHOT Show. While I certainly haven't listed everything, this is a good representation of things that caught my attention as being useful for Canadian hunters and sport shooters. More detailed reviews of some of these new products will be coming in future issues of *CFJ*. Keep watching these pages.

SHOT Show 2016



HANDGUNS, BLACK RIFLES & ALL THINGS TACTICAL

BY EDWARD OSBORNE

I don't think it's out of line to suggest this year's SHOT Show was evolutionary, rather than revolutionary, when it comes to black guns, modern sporting rifles and handguns. We saw plenty of new and interesting progression, but this year was missing the major announcements and massive releases of the past. Which is in no way a bad thing. There's a lot to be said for tweaking an established gun for modest improvements, and I can't fault a manufacturer who wants to emphasize production and putting a gun into shooters' hands over continual design and prototypes.



The suppressor-ready CZ P-07 in Urban Grey.

Rifles

Easily the biggest release for Canadians interested in 3-Gun, tactical firearms and quality semi-autos came from Colt Canada. The Canadian manufacturer shared a booth with their parent company, but had a full line of new rifles on display. For the uninitiated, Colt Canada was formerly Diemaco and produces all the light arms used by the Canadian Forces. Last year saw their first dedicated civilian sales, with semi-auto versions of the C7 and C8 rifles being made available.

This year, they've produced an ultra-modern line they're calling the Modular Railed Rifle, or MRR. This is an evolution of their military Integrated Upper Receiver, or IUR, used by Danish, Norwegian and UK Special Forces. The idea of an integrated upper receiver is to free float the AR-15 barrel, while making the handguard a rock solid mounting surface for accessories that need to hold their zero. The MRR is a substantially lighter version of the IUR, owing primarily to the adoption of M-LOK accessory mounting. Developed by Magpul in 2014, M-LOK

uses slots rather than machined areas of Picatinny rail to mount lights, lasers and grips on the rifle's handguards. There have been several of these Picatinny alternatives from different developers over the years, but M-LOK appears to be the system gaining support from third party manufacturers.

The MRR will begin shipping to Canadian customers in 2016 in four different configurations. Carbine versions will be available with barrels measuring 11.6 inches, 14.5 inches and 15.7 inches, all weighing seven pounds or less. An alternate 18-inch DMR version with a fixed stock will also be available. The Canadian distributor, O'Dell Engineering, says these new offerings from Colt Canada should be appearing on store shelves in the spring of this year.

While many Canadians dismiss the restricted AR-15, it's America's most popular firearm for a good reason, and it is exciting to see an exclusive and premium alternative made here at home. I heard more than a few Americans at the Colt booth grumbling when they were told the new rifles are, "Law

enforcement and military only inside the United States."

The other exciting announcement at this show was the new X95 rifle from IWI. This Israeli manufacturer has had great success in Canada with their original Tavor rifles, with over 10,000 in safes around the country. The bullpup platform was originally adopted by the IDF back in the early 2000s, and IWI US made a splash two years ago when they first announced a civilian version would finally be made available state-side. Using a short carbine barrel, and a repositioned magazine release and charging handle, the X95 represents the next evolution for the IDF. The US wing of the company has adapted the rifle for the US market by installing extended 16.5-inch barrels and redesigned handguards.

No word yet from North Sylva, IWI's Canadian distributor, on the importation of the X95, but there's certainly an expectation that these upgraded rifles will be making their way north. In fact, I'm a little disappointed the Americans got the X95 before we did. Canada had

SHOT Show 2016

The Canadian exclusive red SUB-2000 from Kel-Tec uses Glock magazines.



access to the original Tavors for almost seven years before they launched in the US.

Another boutique bullpup manufacturer that has put in an effort for Canadians is Kel-Tec. In the past, they've done Canadian-specific barrels, made prototypes available to the RCMP lab and shipped lots of cool guns up to Canada. This year the emphasis is on their RDB bullpup.

In bullpups, the bolt and magazine well are positioned under the shooter's cheek, meaning ejection can be a problem. Other manufacturers have addressed this by building left-handed and right-handed ejection models, or by feeding spent shells through a tube out the front of the rifle. But the RDB places its ejection port behind the magazine well, facing down, and leaves brass in a neat pile at the shooter's feet.

The RDB has been in development for a few years now, but this year Kel-Tec is forecasting to go into full production with 6,000 guns. Vault Distribution handles Kel-Tec in Canada, and they were able to confirm that after submitting photographs and blue prints in pre-

Easily the biggest release for Canadians interested in 3-Gun, tactical firearms and quality semi-autos came from Colt Canada.

The RDB has been in development for a few years now, but this year Kel-Tec is forecasting to go into full production with 6,000 guns.



vious years, the RCMP has received a completed rifle for classification.

There was also a Canadian exclusive at the Vault booth that won't require any waiting whatsoever. Kel-Tec has produced a limited Canadian run of 300 bright red SUB-2000s. This little backpacker carbine runs off pistol magazines and folds in half to make a very compact package. With the specially made 18.5-inch barrels, they're non-restricted, so legal to take hiking, hunting or camping. I can see these neat carbines finding plenty of excited shooters here in the great white north.

Those Canadians who were eagerly awaiting the CZ 958 are in for disappointment, though. This modernized evolution of the Czech military's vz. 58 has been championed by Wolverine Supplies out in Manitoba, but currently it sounds like the CZ plant will be dedicated to the American market in 2016. The new 9mm Scorpion EVO carbines and Bren 805 rifles are expected to be big sellers for CZ USA. The Scorpion pistols saw widespread adoption in the US last year, with a very generous \$800

price tag. So now CZ is doubling down on that success, leaving the Canadian market out in the cold. Wolverine Supplies has confirmed that the CZ 958 will not be entering into production this year, as the plant is committed to producing 20,000 Scorpion EVO and Bren carbines for the US market.

What's worse, we're unlikely to see either of those new semi-auto USA carbines anytime soon. If past evidence is anything to go on, they'll likely spend years in the RCMP FRT laboratory under inspection. While the new Bren and Scorpion carbines look like fantastic options for 5.56mm and 9mm shooters, and could be non-restricted with the right barrel length, they'll be another rifle waiting for the lab's permission - which is always the problem with new semi-automatic rifles at SHOT Show. What's immediately available in the US could take years to import into Canada. While manual action firearms and most handguns usually get a quick stamp of approval, black rifles always seem to require a detailed investigation.

It's a shame about the CZ 958, be-

cause FAB Defense in Israel just announced their first polymer magazine for the vz. 58 platform. As one of the thousands of Canadians who already own a vz. pattern rifle, I'm excited at the prospect of an improved magazine and FAB has confirmed they'll be manufacturing limited capacity versions for us.

Handguns

There will be some new handguns coming to Canada soon. Arguably the biggest release this year was the Ruger American, a polymer, striker fired handgun that's aiming to compete with the Glocks and M&Ps of the world. This hammerless handgun offers ambidextrous controls, tool-less take down and a short reset trigger that is unique among similarly styled firearms. Ruger is also touting a low mass, no-snap slide and adjustable backstraps as part of their new handgun's appeal. Don't get me wrong, I think the Ruger American is a fine gun, but beyond the upgraded trigger I don't see how it's superior to the established striker-fired pistols already on the market.

The family of firearms that does have me excited is the suppressor-ready models from CZ. I can almost hear your puzzled questions: "Suppressors? But no one in Canada has those!" Correct, but there's something else we don't normally get that suppressor-ready handguns offer us: compact pistols. With barrels under four inches prohibited, it's hard to convince most manufacturers to do a limited run with custom barrels. But when you have a silencer-hungry US market, suddenly there's a good reason to put together some compacts with extended threaded barrels. Handguns like the CZ P-07 and CZ75 P-01 that normally ship with 3.7-inch barrels are good to go in their 4.5-inch suppressor-ready configuration. This is how we saw the first Glock 19s in Canada, and the first H&K compacts. The larger the US suppressor market gets, the more handgun variants we'll see here in Canada.

Accessories

Among my favourite new things to look at are the parts that don't have to jump through legislative hoops: optics, soft goods and accessories.

Being an optics fan, I made sure to stop by both the Leupold and Vortex

booths to see what was new in the world of glass. Leupold surprised me with their foray into the soft goods market with a great looking go-bag and a hybrid drag-bag/shooting mat. But it was the binocular case that really grabbed my attention. I've owned many binocular harnesses and cases over the years, and have never seen one get the size, strap and closure system as right as Leupold got theirs. The bungee lid opens and closes with one hand, is quieter than a zipper and more secure than a magnet. For a company used to designing in glass and aluminum, they got this one right on the money.

Over at the Vortex booth, there were several new lines of optics that appealed to the 3-gunner in me. They've launched a new AR version of their popular SPARC and Spitfire optics. The SPARC is a traditional red-dot, while the Spitfire is a prismatic 1X scope with red or green illumination. But in the AR versions, both sights have added a power and control unit that occupies the real estate of an AR-15 height spacer. This clever addition runs off a single AAA battery and uses rear controls that face the shooter. They're also mounted using a standard mounting system for compatibility, with

quick detach or offset mounts.

The other optics that grabbed my attention were the new lightweight Razors from Vortex. I shoot a Razor 1-6X and while I love the brightness and clarity of the glass, there's some serious weight to that scope, which means I'm doing a cost benefit analysis every time I want to try it on a new rifle.

Vortex has heard the cries of many shooters in similar situations, and released a new line of ultra-light optics using their top-of-the-line Razor glass. There are three magnifications available: a 3-15x42, a 2-10x40 and a 1.5-8x32. These scopes use clean, simple reticle configurations, with capped turrets and without any illumination. They're built on a one-inch tube to minimize weight and are all less than 16 ounces. They're surprisingly affordable, too. While the Gen II Razors will be almost up to \$5,000 CAD this year, the Razor LH scopes are forecasted to be between \$1,300 and \$1,600 MSRP.

While this year's show might not have seen the massive releases of past years, there was still a lot of good stuff getting ready for Canada. Hopefully we see it here soon.



Arguably the biggest handgun release this year was the Ruger American, a polymer, striker fired handgun that's aiming to compete with the Glocks and M&Ps of the world.

The World Fast Draw

Championships

It's a gunfight!

BY DEAN V. ROXBY

The annual Aldergrove Fair is described as, "one of BC's best small town fairs, with world-class fun for the whole family!" It also played host to the World Fast Draw Championships recently. Did you happen to notice the word "world" in the previous sentence? Not regional championships, but world championships, as sanctioned by the World Fast Draw Association.

Aldergrove is a small community that is part of the Township of Langley, located about 50 kilometres east of Vancouver, BC. While it's an achievement for a small community to host such an event, what's even more amazing is that the Township of Langley was the main sponsor! Astonishing, considering how much hatred is directed towards the shooting sports by many other politicians.

For those not familiar with it, the sport of fast draw had its origins in the 1950s, during the heyday of the Hollywood western. Simply put, the sport focuses on measuring which competitor is capable of drawing a single-action revolver and hitting a target in the least amount of time. Organized and hosted by the Thunderbird Fast Draw Club of Langley, the 2015 World Championship was a well run and successful event.

The Thunderbirds' history began in

late 1958, when the name Thunderbirds was chosen in recognition of the Haida First Nations spirit bird. As their website explains, "The Thunderbird receives the highest respect of all Haida clan symbols, as he is considered the intermediary between God and man." Although small in number, the club is active in community events and can often be seen giving fast draw demonstrations at local parades and Canada Day events. This dedicated group has also produced more than its share of world champions. Langley resident Nicole Franks holds many world records, including the fastest traditional time ever shot by a woman, 0.263 seconds. That's about a quarter of a second to react, draw, aim and fire.

Dominating fast draw seems to run in the Franks family. Her father, Bob, first got involved after seeing a Thunderbird demonstration. Soon, her mother Peggy was involved as well. Both Bob and Peggy are past champions in their divisions. As a child, Nicole would often attend events around Canada and the US as a spectator. Being a spectator isn't much fun for a child, so at age 11 she entered her first event. She finished dead last, but she enjoyed it, and within a year had won an event in North Dakota. At age 14, she astonished her parents (and a few

competitors, no doubt) by winning the world championship in her class. That was the first of many world records and titles. And in 2015, she did it again, placing first in the women's division.

Bob told me her success changed the shooting style of other competitors. Previously, serious competitors would have a set of guns, each one set up for the style or classification they were entered in. When Nicole started, she only had one gun, so she used it in all her events. Eventually, others began to wonder if the approach of using one really familiar gun was the better way to go.

Bob also mentioned that a competi-

tor's holster and belt used to be big, over-engineered affairs. Peggy decided they weren't comfortable, so she designed a lighter, more compact style of rig. When she began to win, others took notice of that. So, I just had to ask Bob if anyone listens to his shooting suggestions.

"Nope," he said.

During the Aldergrove World Championships, an invitational celebrity shoot was held. Several local politicians, including CPC MP Mark Warawa, two councillors from Langley City and one councillor from Langley Township took part. Several radio personalities, a newspaper reporter and a local music duo also participated.

City councillor Gayle Martin was a bit nervous at first, but took part, regardless. Saying, "This was the first time I took part in the fast draw competition. I must say I did have trepidations, as I am not a fan of guns. However, I thought I would give it a try. I appreciate the fact the Langley Rod & Gun club hosted a practice evening, which made me feel more comfortable. I enjoyed taking part in the competition and would do so again if invited. Hopefully I can improve my time."

Her colleague, city councillor Rudy Storteboom, also enjoyed himself. He said, "The annual Celebrity Challenge competition is a great opportunity to connect with the club, become familiar with the local rod and gun community and enjoy a friendly competition of target shooting with representatives from various parts of our community, as well as different jurisdictions and levels of government. It's great fun for all and most of us go home with trophies! The Thunderbird Fast Draw Club members are always gracious hosts, who encourage me to develop target shooting skills and demonstrate their gun safety training."

Sisters Robyn and Ryleigh are country/pop artists from Langley who are starting to become well known in country music circles. During the celebrity shoot, Robyn scored the fastest time and won that event.

Robyn said, "I had so much fun at the World Fast Draw event this year. I brought home a first place trophy in the women's celebrity division and Fastest Draw trophy, too! So glad that we were able to be a part of this fun event."

Since the Celebrity Shootout started, the CPC MP for Langley, Mark Warawa, has won it three times, MLA Rich Coleman (Liberal - Fort Langley Aldergrove) has won it once, MLA Mary Polak (Liberal - Langley) has won three times and former Langley City mayor Peter Fassbender has won twice.



The Franks family. From left to right, Nicole, Bob and Peggy.

Dennis Robinson, WFDA Vice Chairman, Area 20 (BC) notes this event is very popular with both fair attendees and the business community. In an e-mail interview, he stated, "The fair wants us back next year...for what will be our ninth year here." Dennis' wife Karen is a keen competitor herself, winning the Women's World All-Around Championships last year.

Fast draw is often called the fastest timed sport in the world. In competition, the contests are either traditional or open style. This refers to the holster style and method of draw. Traditional style holsters fit the gun tighter, requiring the gun to be drawn upwards and out, while open holsters allow the gun to be flipped out more easily. Naturally, open is faster. According to the fast-draw.org website, at least 90 per cent of competitions in the last few years have been traditional style.

In addition to the holster differences, the classes are further divided into index and elimination contests. In an elimination match, two shooters go

head to head (side by side, actually), each shooting at their own target. Usually, the first shooter to win three duels wins that round. And generally, a shooter will not be eliminated until losing a set number of rounds. With index contests, each shooter fires at the same number of targets, and the total time is added up. A one-second penalty is added for a miss. The shooter with the lowest total time wins. In general, almost all of the smaller fast draw contests are index, while the large contests are split roughly 50/50 between index and elimination. The two holster classes and two scoring methods mean there are four possible combinations: traditional elimination, traditional index, open elimination and open index.

Targets can be either balloons broken with blanks or steel plates with motion sensors that detect the impact of wax bullets. Electronic timers measure to one-thousandth of a second and are programmed to signal randomly, so neither the competitors, nor the time keeper, knows exactly when the signal



Fast draw ammunition includes 45 Colt modified cases, Shotgun 209 primers and wax bullets.

World's Blank Index Championships, 2015

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1. Nicole Franks, Aldergrove, BC
2. Sarah Pantano, Abilene, Kan.
3. Carla Howell, Stayton, Ore.
4. Diana Rosen, Edina, Minn.
5. Paula Murphy, Langley, BC
6. Anita Miller, Abilene, Kan.
7. Judy Lawton, Deadwood, SD
8. Karen Robinson, Burnaby, BC
9. Anita Lichkowsky, Biggar, Sask.
10. Faye Potter, Aldergrove, BC

MEN'S DIVISION

1. Brian Colwell, Loveland, Colo.
2. Dan Qualls, Oakdale, Calif.
3. Mike Pantano, Abilene, Kan.
4. John LeBlanc, Abbotsford, BC
5. Ioan Nica, a.k.a. Nick The Quick, Montreal, Que.
6. Shawn Murphy, Langley, BC
7. Bob Neilson, Loveland, Colo.
8. Glenn Renney, Surrey, BC
9. Gary Rosen, Edina, Minn.
10. Tim Le, Surrey, BC

will happen. The wax bullets tend to be more popular for general practice for several reasons. They are much quieter than blanks, they are simpler to reload and the target does not need to be reset after each shot. The balloon and blank method needs a new balloon after each successful shot, as the balloon serves to hold a microswitch open.

The wax bullet loads start with a 45 Colt case, which has been modified to accept a 209 shotgun primer. This is because the original large pistol primer does not propel the wax slug fast enough. The 209 primer gives a velocity of around 800 to 900 feet per second. A wax bullet is then pressed into the case mouth by hand. Generally, no tools are required.

The balloon blanks are 45 Colt cases filled almost completely full of coarse Fg black powder and covered with a sticker or tape. About half of the powder is con-

sumed when ignited, but much of the powder remains unburned. This is what strikes and bursts the balloon. The primer pocket itself is not modified, but the flash hole is enlarged. A standard large pistol primer is used.

During the preparation of this article, the Thunderbirds expressed their thanks to the NFA for the generous donation of prizes for the banquet. NFA items included several jackets, t-shirts, caps and mugs.

As well as the fast draw event, there was a display by the BC Target Sports Association. The BCTSA had a booth and a covered shooting lane set up for air pistol and air rifle use. This was to educate and encourage the general public about the shooting sports. After a brief instruction, and under supervision, anyone interested was able to fire a few pellets at a regulation 10-metre target.

The Thunderbird Fast Draw Club and the BCTSA deserve credit for organizing this event, and demonstrating to the public that the various shooting sports are wonderful pastimes. As well, the Township of Langley deserves a solid round of applause for sponsoring this event, rather than trying to torpedo it, as some narrow-minded politicians are quick to do.

INTERNET RESOURCES

World Fast Draw Association:
www.fastdraw.org

Fast Draw 101 with Howard Darby:
www.fastdraw101.com

Aldergrove Fair Days:
www.aldergrovefair.ca

Thunderbird club, Langley:
www.thunderbirdfastdraw.com

BC Target Sports Association:
www.bctsa.bc.ca

Nicole Franks, world record holder:
www.nicolefranks.com



The celebrity shoot included politicians, media personnel and entertainers.



Team NFA

Matt Neumann

Flying With Guns

Sitting in a rigid chair up against a plain wall, I felt like a school boy. The room was illuminated by tall, barred windows positioned too high to look out, and I was surrounded by loud families speaking entirely in Russian. The city was Berlin and I was at the Russian embassy with the purpose of applying for a travel visa to allow passage to Ostrov, Russia. It was my second trip to Berlin in the last week, both requiring a five-hour train trip, bank transfers, meticulous paperwork and enough explaining that I think it may have been quicker for me to learn Russian. All I needed was a stamp in my passport that would allow me and my .22 calibre biathlon rifle into Russia for an international competition in less than a week's time. Simple? I felt like I was in a Jason Bourne film.

The embassy's entrance is a lone, thick metal door on an otherwise desolate building, stretching a full city block. The entrance could have been mistaken for a night club, except for the two heavily armed, stone-faced police officers. Once inside, the hall way was so narrow I could barely turn around with a backpack on. A security/police officer asked, in Russian, for me to place my belongings in a metal detector, examined my passport and searched through my bag. I wisely refrained from any sarcastic jokes.

My passport pages are filled with stamps reminding me of all the borders I've crossed, almost always with a firearm! Whether your destination is a Russian town too small to find on a map, or a short flight within Canada, all that traveling has taught me a few things about flying with firearms. But first, remember that all airlines have their regulations posted on their websites. And that's always a good place to start. Beyond that, if you want to travel stress-free with firearms, here are a few tips.

Paper work

The one thing that needs to be taken care of well before your day of departure is the required firearm permits. For all my international travel, I have required a permit issued by the destination country to bring a firearm into that country. This needs to be applied for well in advance. For example, bringing a firearm into the US requires you contact the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and complete the necessary form. The website says the process can be two to three months, but a little pressure on the phone can sometimes speed up the process. The end result is an official piece of paper with a fancy stamp granting you permission to bring a firearm into the country. As well, remember your PAL when traveling, but consider that the only country where your PAL means anything while traveling is Canada. Notice that the Canadian custom officers seem to get a thrill out of asking for it when returning to Canada.



You're representing firearms owners across Canada when you're checking in at the airport.



Weigh in

Standard baggage weight allowance is 50 pounds or 22 kilograms. No one likes tearing their bag apart at the airport, trying to distribute weight in an attempt to please a picky check-in attendant. If you dare test the system with a 52-pound bag, which I do often, at least keep a heavier, carry-on-approved item near the top of your bag/case that can be easily removed or transferred. It's an easy way to avoid those over-weight fees.

Ammunition

Most airlines require that ammunition be packed in a separate piece of baggage from the firearm and weigh under five kilograms. The check-in attendant will most surely remind you of this. I have always protected mine in clothing and placed it in my ski bag. It must be kept together and I would further recommend having it in a locked case if travel weight is not an issue for you. Of course, ammunition is heavy, so calculate how much you will need on your trip to avoid unnecessary over-weight fees.

Cleaning supplies

No aerosols! I travel with a small amount of gun oil (maybe a 50 to 75-millilitre bottle) in a Zip-Loc bag, sufficient patches, a dentist pick, necessary tools for rifle assembly and a cleaning rod or snake that all easily fit in my rifle case. That's it.

Rifle case

Firearm cases vary widely in quality. In a pinch, I have picked one up to do the trick for under \$40. However, the peace of mind and insurance of having

a durable hard case is, in my opinion, mandatory. I use a Pelican Storm IM 3300, which has been to hell and back, and I acquired it new for about \$300. It's large enough for two rifles and has foam inserts that can be customized to fit your exact rifle outline. I elect to replace the foam with clothing until it touches that 50-pound mark. Protection comes at a price, paid in the form of weight, as my case weighs nearly 25 pounds empty. It comes with wheels, which are convenient when moving several 50-pound bags around the airport. Quality is certainly worth the one-time investment, and I anticipate having mine for life. It only takes one careless luggage handler for a quality case to pay for itself several times over.

Firearm

Finally, I padlock my firearm case and remove the rifle's bolt. I then put the keys on a bright orange key chain to ensure I don't misplace them. A trigger lock almost seems unnecessary at this point, but security officers like to see it, if they choose to inspect. Remember, no stray rounds in your rifle case, or anywhere else! It's funny how the smallest .22 calibre round can cause such a headache. If detected by an X-ray unit, they will most definitely make you search your bag until you find that lone round. I also loosen the bedding bolts of my rifle and remove my magazines from the stock to protect against any unlikely extreme torque.

Online check in

Never done it. Air Canada recommends you pre-register your firearm, but declares it is not mandatory. If you are picky about window versus aisle seats, I would suggest you look into it for that purpose. I don't consider myself lucky, so I show up at the airport with a smile, passport, wallet, luggage and with sufficient time. I've never had any serious issues. For your own comfort and sanity, please calculate sufficient time. Air Canada recommends 30 extra minutes when traveling with a firearm. Be prepared for a handling fee of \$50 and signing a declaration paper. No way around it.

Check in

Be a people person! Despite the terrible hotel lobby coffee and a 4 a.m. wake up, put on a smile and a "good morning." In my travels, I have encountered every personality type imaginable at the airport. They can really define your day if you let them. But that's not to say you can't make it easier for them and ultimately yourself. From the super kind, almost flirtatious check-in attendant, to power-hungry customs officers who get a thrill out of telling you to wait your turn in line, avoiding conflict is the name of the game. Remember we are representing firearm owners in Canada when we roll up with that NFA sticker on our firearm case.

Lastly, double check your pockets for stray rounds and happy travels. Trust me, a stray bullet will cause a headache at security!

Got any firearm stories from your travels? Share them on the NFA Facebook page.



Flying with firearms doesn't have to be a headache.

Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Firearms Policy & The New Liberal Government

On Oct. 19, 2015, the Canadian political landscape changed drastically. The Liberals won a majority of seats in the House of Commons and will govern Canada for the next four years. For gun owners, there is reason to be fearful. As they have demonstrated in the recent past, the Liberal Party does not have much sympathy for gun owners and their rights. They are, after all, the ones who are largely responsible for the current firearms legislation in Canada.

So, as gun owners and firearms enthusiasts, what should we expect from this Liberal government, as far as the firearms legal landscape is concerned?

First, the Liberals have expressed a willingness to repeal most of the legislative changes introduced pursuant to Bill C-42, which was enacted a short time prior to the calling of the federal election. If that were to happen, we would essentially revert to the situation that existed prior to Bill C-42 coming into effect, which would mean:

1. Re-creating the distinction between possession only and possession and acquisition licences;
2. Re-introducing the requirement for Authorizations To Transport paperwork and repealing automatic ATTs for the list of authorized purposes;
3. Re-affirming that the discretion of Chief Firearms Officers, as far as attaching conditions to licences, is not subordinate to regulations;
4. Repealing, in part, the power of the government to overrule the RCMP in relation to firearms reclassification;
5. Re-instating the power of the RCMP to re-classify firearms at any time after initial classification on the Firearms Reference Table (FRT). That power can currently be exercised only during the one-year period after the initial classification on the FRT.
6. Eliminating the six-month grace period protecting firearms owners from prosecution, upon the expiry of a firearms licence.

Second, although the Liberals have been somewhat evasive about the re-instatement of the defunct *Long Gun Registry*, it is not unthinkable that they might try to do so.

Third, they might and will likely take advantage of the powers conferred upon the government (i.e. the Cabinet) to prescribe the classification of certain firearms under Section 84 of the Criminal Code. Those powers allow the Cabinet to bypass applicable legal criteria and decree arbitrarily that a certain firearm, and in certain cases its variants, belong to a particular class, even though without such arbitrary re-classification the firearm in question would otherwise belong to a different class. By way of example, this power has been used in the past to classify the Colt AR-15 rifle as restricted, even though it would otherwise belong to the non-restricted class, at least for the longer barrel versions.

The potential for abuse through the use of that power is immense. Let us consider that in a recent bill (S-231) filed before the Senate, liberal senator Céline Hervieux Payette proposed that all semi-automatic firearms (other than rimfire rifles) be re-classified to a new class called circumscribed firearms. In essence, under Bill S-231, it would have been illegal for anyone to use such firearms for hunting or for any purpose other than target shooting. Further, they would have been subject to mandatory storage at gun clubs or other approved storage facilities, and their transportation would have been limited to licensed carriers. That bill made no distinction between military-style firearms (what anti-gun activists view and designate as assault rifles) and other common semi-automatic firearms. All firearms with semi-automatic actions were targeted. Had the bill passed, the great majority of waterfowling shotguns would have suddenly become obsolete and their market value would have plummeted, since only clay target shooters could have legally owned

and used them. It is not unthinkable that the new Liberal government might attempt to achieve a similar result, minus the mandatory storage at gun clubs, by re-classifying a large number of semi-automatic firearms from non-restricted to restricted, or even prohibited, status.

Fourth, the relief obtained by CZ-858 and Swiss Arms Classic Green rifle owners might be short lived. Following the highly publicized and controversial re-classification of those rifles by the RCMP, the owners first obtained a temporary amnesty from prosecution. Later on, pursuant to new powers created pursuant to Bill C-42, the Conservative government adopted an Order in Council re-classifying those rifles from prohibited to either restricted or non-restricted status, depending upon barrel length. Needless to say, what the previous government could do, the new government can undo.

Of course, I have no power to predict or foresee the future, and only time will tell whether this prognosis is indeed correct. Budgetary constraints might dictate part of the new government agenda and priorities.

The recent Speech from the Throne, delivered by the Governor General on behalf of the new government, did indeed mention upcoming firearms legislation, in somewhat vague and obscure terms:

"Recognizing that Canada is, fundamentally, a safe and peaceful country, the government will continue to work to keep all Canadians safe, while at the same time protecting our cherished rights and freedoms.

To that end, the government will introduce legislation that will provide greater support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault; that will get handguns and assault weapons off our streets..."

What this really means is anyone's guess. As far as I am concerned, I see little reason to be optimistic. Let us hope that I am wrong!



NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

Remington Army And Navy Revolvers

1861 - 1888

**Remington Army
And Navy Revolvers
1861 - 1888**

**Author: Donald L. Ware
University of New Mexico Press
Hard cover with dust jacket,
published in 2007
Eight by 11 inches, 434 pages
Black and white photographs
ISBN: 978-0-8263-4280-5**

The introduction of the Remington Army and Navy revolvers coincided with the anticipated outbreak of the infamous American Civil War. Once the conflict began in early 1861, there was significant demand by the US Army for firearms of all types. This resulted in large government contracts for several firearm-producing companies, including Remington. Because they represent a historic segment of the Remington line of firearms, these revolvers have long been considered highly collectable.

Author Donald L. Ware and his friend Faron "Slim" Kohler initiated a two-decade long search for information related to the development and production of Remington Army and Navy revolvers. In order to understand the relationship between the military and E. Remington & Sons, it was necessary to closely examine the existing records of both the Army Ordnance Department and the Navy Bureau of Ordnance.

Ware and Kohler had initially intended to produce a separate book on each of the Army and Navy revolvers, but later decided to include both in one volume. Unfortunately, Slim Kohler passed away in March 2006. Donald Ware successfully completed *Remington Army and Navy Revolvers 1861 - 1888* on his own as he approached his 80th birthday.

After slowly browsing from cover to cover, it became quite obvious *Remington Army and Navy Revolvers 1861 - 1888* is definitely not a coffee table

book. The extensive charts, historical correspondence and detailed technical information shared are intended for the serious Remington collector or student of firearm development. Exceeding the standards expected of a high-quality reference book are a detailed table of contents, supporting notes and itemized index, which assist the reader when researching features of a specific revolver.

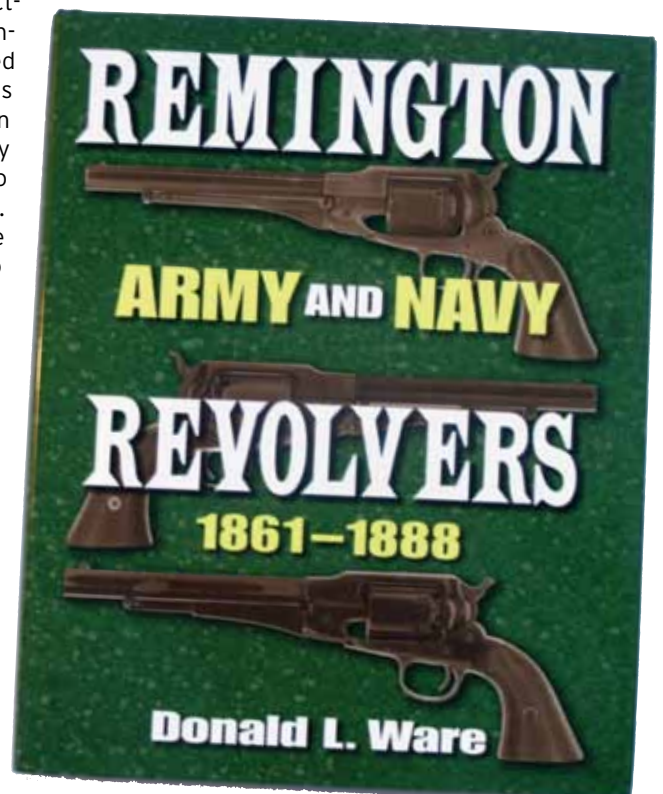
Ware outlines the development of the Remington percussion revolvers, beginning with the earliest Beals' patent pocket pistols. Production of the .38 calibre Navy and .44 calibre Army revolvers are discussed in the same order as the six major contracts Remington secured from the Bureau of Ordnance. A chapter is also devoted to *Civil War Rifle and Carbine Contracts*, as well as *Metallic Cartridge Alterations*.

The final chapter, *Identifying Remington Army and Navy Revolvers*, will be used extensively by those who wish to fully understand the evolution of the Army and Navy revolvers from the first Beals Navy to the final versions of the New Model Army and Navy. Ware explains, in exacting detail, the technical variations that occurred and provides many photographs that allow the reader to compare the actual parts being discussed.

The value of a Remington revolver can vary significantly based on both the actual model and the originality of all parts. *Remington Army and Navy Revolvers 1861 - 1888* will be appreciated by both collectors and firearm dealers who set out to positively identify and evaluate a particular revolver.

Fortunately for generations of collectors, the US government wisely disposed of surplus firearms after the conclusion of the Civil War by auctioning them to commercial dealers. These firearms were subsequently sold to the civilian market, and surviving specimens are now admired in collections throughout North America.

Remington Army and Navy Revolvers 1861 - 1888 lists at \$65 US, but may be purchased for slightly less online. It represents excellent value, as it will remain the definitive authority on this subject for many years.





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