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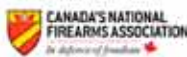
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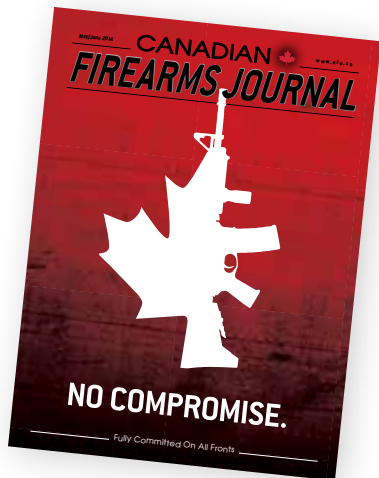


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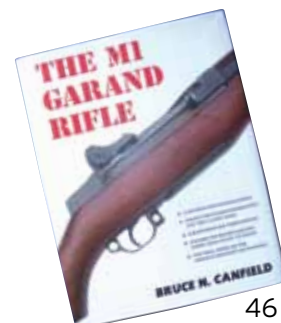


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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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# On the Cover

## Putting An End To Gun Grabbing

NFA no longer willing to compromise

Since the first coming into force of Canada's first firearms laws way back in 1892, law-abiding firearms owners have compromised our position. Little by little, the gun grabbers have slowly and incrementally removed firearms rights in Canada. We, the law abiding, wanted to be reasonable so we compromised a position just have it consumed by the gun grabbers. The recent re-classifications of the CZ and Swiss Arms have galvanized the NFA's position of no compromise. Gael Forest and NFA Vice President Shawn Bevins designed the No Compromise logo as a message to the gun grabbers. Law-abiding Canadian firearms owners will compromise no more. We want legislative reform in the rescinding of the Firearms Act. This logo has now become a sign of our fight!



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FIREARMS ASSOCIATION** 

*In defence of freedom*

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# President's Message

Sheldon Clare

## Conservatives Need To Consider The Firearms Vote

As I write this report, I recall watching the news back in 1992 when the Progressive Conservative Justice Minister Kim Campbell was bringing in her second attempt at unreasonable firearms legislation. The first was the failed C-80, and the new one was to be called C-17. As a result of her efforts and what I heard when I challenged her legislation during her visit to Prince George that year, I was incredibly inspired to work hard to ensure that she and her candidates would be defeated in the 1993 federal election - and they were. Among other things, she arbitrarily prohibited and restricted hundreds of different types of firearms as part of an opportunistic reaction to the outrageous shootings at École Polytechnic. She also brought in safe storage laws, which were really only anti self-defence laws. Safe storage should be a matter for education, not criminal code legislation. The evidence was clear then, and it has since been scientifically verified, that none of Canada's gun laws from 1974 forward did anything whatsoever to affect criminal actions with firearms. I sincerely hope that the members of the current version of the party she represented make some serious efforts to right the serious wrongs of Campbell and the subsequent Liberal gun grabber legislation.

So far, the inclination of the Conservatives to act on behalf of firearms owners depends on your resolve to demand change. That means you and your friends writing letters and meeting with your MP to explain that the reforms that the NFA seeks are reasonable, necessary, and supported by scientific evidence. One Conservative MP said to me at the Calgary Convention, "We gave


you the long gun registry, wasn't that enough? You guys are never happy." I found that comment to be extremely insulting and demeaning, besides being representative of a crisis management approach to dealing with firearm issues. It wasn't the NFA who wanted the firearms issues to be parsed out into this incremental approach - no, we have been remarkably clear that we want the Firearms Act and its related regulations from the Campbell and Allan Rock eras gone. And on that we are prepared to vote.

This draconian legislation, which punishes innocent firearm owners, is simply a failed approach that must be taken down. The present government has long professed to be our friends, and if they are our friends they will start to take action; however, it has become clear that the NFA has been a much better friend to the Conservative Party than the Conservative Party has been to the NFA. Increased restrictions and prohibitions are not the way to earn our friendship - that's not how friends treat friends. The NFA has been encouraged by the Conservatives for a long time, as we know that there are many Conservative MPs who agree with us as to what needs to be done. These are good people who have raised our concerns and tried to make a difference. Unfortunately, there are also several who work against our interests. However, the Conservative Party is not yet showing itself to be our friend. Given that the current government earned its majority with a mere 6,000 votes across Canada, I would suggest that the firearms vote is one that most definitely should not be taken for granted as it has been in the past. I say firearms vote and not hunting vote because despite efforts to emphasize hunting, our laws have made it clear that hunting is a provincial issue, and firearms ownership and use is a federal one. It's about the guns, folks, not why we own them.

Part of the Conservative Party's problem is that it is afraid of doing anything that will cost it the election in 2015. The party is concerned that giving the firearms community what the NFA says it needs will cost the Conservatives votes in urban centres and merely bolster their support in already safe ridings. To that, I say nonsense. The people that the Conservatives are trying to appeal to do not choose their vote based on firearm issues, and those who oppose firearms law reform are not at all likely to support the Conservatives anyway. There are a lot of firearms voters who have not yet been wooed back to the coalition Conservative Party that is starting to look more and more like the once destroyed party of Campbell. The various incarnations of the Conservative Party that have prohibited more firearms than any other now need to decide if that route is where electoral success lies. There are real votes out there in all parts of Canada, including Quebec - votes that will come to the Conservatives if that party decides to take them seriously.

Doing nothing significant before the 2015 election is guaranteed to cost the Conservatives votes in many ridings across the country when a lot of firearms owners do what they did with Campbell in the face of no obvious alternative. They stayed home and waited for something to vote for, rather than voting out of any fear of keeping something else out. Certainly what followed was also unpalatable, as proven by the Liberal legislation that criminalized the possession of firearms and

---



supported that by requiring people to pay for a license to own their own property. Recently, the Liberals have started to be a bit more gun shy because of their lack of success with the issue. But we bided our time, working for the sea change in politics that would right the wrongs of the Mulroney and Chretien eras. The question for firearms voters is how much longer do we wait before we choose another way? We have been waiting since 2006 for significant change, and it's pretty clear that the long gun registry demise has spent its small amount of political capital. It isn't even clear that the registry is gone - we have evidence that various police agencies have been using outdated versions of the registry in the performance of their duties. We have given this evidence to some Conservative MPs and the RCMP Public Complaints

Commission. It remains to be seen what action will happen as a result. Half measures and tinkering are not going to get substantial support from firearms rights voters.

In other matters, we are intervening at the Supreme Court of Canada to argue that pellet guns are not the same as firearms; we are also in the SCC fighting the attempt by Quebec to keep control of the firearms registration records. We are funding or partially funding several other important cases, trying to protect the rights of Canadian firearms owners from legal attrition and onerous processes that punish even the righteous with crippling debt. We are also continuing to watch the efforts at the UN regarding the Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the NFA will be at the UN this summer to speak out with the concerns of Canadian firearms owners of all stripes. The reasons we are able to do what we do is that we have grown our membership, developed our field officer program, and increased our lobby efforts. You are helping to support these important projects with your donations and dues. Thank you - your efforts are really making a difference, and please keep at it!

I hope that by the time this column is in your hands that there will be announcements from our federal government about real and significant changes to be made this fall in Canadian firearms laws. I look forward to hearing a call in the federal parliament for a judicial inquiry into the firearms seizures at High River during the floods. I hope that they are getting our message. Please work to make sure that your Member of Parliament, or any potential candidate regardless of party affiliation, gets the NFA message.

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# Rapport du Président

Sheldon Clare

Au moment où j'écris ce rapport, je me souviens quand je regardais les informations en 1992, lorsque la ministre de la Justice progressiste conservatrice Kim Campbell essaya pour la deuxième fois d'introduire une législation déraisonnable relative aux armes à feu. La première fois était la loi ratée C-80, et la nouvelle loi était censée s'appeler C-17. En raison de ses efforts et de ce que j'entendis quand je défiai sa loi lors de sa visite à Prince George cette année-là, j'étais extrêmement inspiré pour travailler dur afin d'assurer qu'elle et ses candidats seraient vaincus lors des élections fédérales de 1993 - et ils l'ont été. Entre autre, elle interdit et limita de façon arbitraire des centaines de catégories d'armes à feu différentes dans le cadre d'une réaction opportuniste en réponse à la scandaleuse fusillade à

l'École Polytechnique. Elle présenta aussi des lois relatives à l'entreposage sécuritaire qui n'étaient en réalité que des lois contre l'autodéfense; l'entreposage sécuritaire devant être une question de l'ordre de l'éducation et non de la législation du Code criminel. Il fut clairement établi à ce moment-là, et depuis lors il a été vérifié scientifiquement, qu'aucune des lois canadiennes depuis 1974 jusqu'à présent n'a eu le moindre effet sur les actions criminelles impliquant des armes à feu. J'espère sincèrement que les membres de la version actuelle du parti qu'elle représenta feront de sérieux efforts pour réparer les graves erreurs de Kim Campbell et la conséquente législation libérale accaparatrice d'armes à feu.

Jusqu'ici, l'inclination des Conservateurs d'agir au nom des propriétaires d'armes à feu dépend de votre résolution à demander un changement. Cela signifie que vous et vos amis se doivent d'écrire des lettres et de rencontrer vos députés afin de leur expliquer que les réformes souhaitées par l'ACAF sont raisonnables, nécessaires et appuyées par des évidences scientifiques. Un député du Parti conservateur m'a dit à la Convention de Calgary, « On vous a donné le registre d'armes d'épaule, ce n'était pas assez? Vous n'êtes jamais content, vous ». Je trouvai ce commentaire extrêmement insultant et dénigrant, surtout de la part d'un représentant de l'approche de gestion de crises pour traiter les questions relatives aux armes à feu. Ce n'était pas l'ACAF qui voulait que les questions relatives aux armes à feu soient distinguées dans cet approche progressive - non, nous avons dit très clairement que nous voulons que la Loi sur les armes à

feu et ses règlements connexes de l'ère Kim Campbell et Allan Rock soient éliminés. Et sur ça, nous sommes prêts à voter.

Cette loi draconienne qui punit les propriétaires d'armes innocents est simplement une approche inappropriée qui doit être démontée. L'actuel gouvernement a longtemps prétendu être notre ami, et s'ils sont nos amis ils commenceront à agir. Cependant, il est devenu clair que l'ACAF a été un meilleur ami du PCC que ne l'a été le PCC avec l'ACAF - ce n'est pas comme ça que les amis traitent ses amis. L'ACAF a été supportée par le PCC pendant longtemps, puisque nous savons qu'il y a beaucoup de députés conservateurs qui sont d'accord avec nous sur ce qui doit être fait. Ce sont de braves gens qui ont fait part de nos préoccupations et ont essayé de changer des choses. Malheureusement, il y en a aussi plusieurs qui travaillent contre nos intérêts. Néanmoins, le Parti conservateur ne se montre pas encore comme étant notre ami. Étant donné que le gouvernement actuel gagna sa majorité avec à peine 6 000 votes sur l'ensemble du Canada, je suggérerais que le vote des pro-armes à feu ne devrait certainement pas être tenu pour acquis. Et je dis le vote des pro-armes à feu, et pas le vote des chasseurs, car, malgré les efforts pour souligner la chasse, nos lois ont été claires que la chasse est une question provinciale, et que la propriété des armes à feu et son utilisation relève du fédéral. Il s'agit des armes à feu, des gens, et pas pourquoi on les possède.

Une partie du problème du Parti conservateur est qu'ils ont peur de faire quelque chose qui leur coûtera les élections en 2015. Le parti craint que le fait de donner à la communauté pro-armes à feu ce que l'ACAF requière lui en coûterait les votes dans les milieux urbains, alors il va simplement renforcer son appui aux circonscriptions sûres. Et à ça, je dis n'importe quoi. Les gens auxquels le Parti conservateur essaie de faire appel ne choisissent pas leur vote en fonction des questions relatives aux armes à feu, et ceux qui s'opposent aux réformes des lois concernant les armes à feu ne sont pas susceptibles d'appuyer le PCC de toute façon. Il y a beaucoup d'électeurs pro-armes à feu qui n'ont pas encore été reconquis par la coalition du Parti conservateur, qui commence à ressembler de plus en plus au parti jadis détruit de Kim Campbell. Les diverses incarnations du Parti conservateur qui ont interdit plus d'armes à feu que n'importe quel autre doit décider maintenant si ce parcours est celui dans lequel le succès électoral se trouve. Il y a des votes réels là dehors, dans tous les partis du Canada, y compris Québec ; des votes qui reviendront au PCC si ce parti décide de les prendre au sérieux.

Le fait de ne rien faire de significatif avant les élections de 2015 est garanti de coûter des votes au PCC dans plusieurs circonscriptions tout au long du pays lorsque beaucoup de propriétaires d'armes à feu feront ce qu'ils firent avec Kim Campbell face à une situation sans alternative évidente. Ils restèrent à la maison et attendirent quelque chose pour lequel voter, plutôt que de voter sans crainte. Certainement, ce qui s'est passé par la suite était aussi dur à digérer, comme le prouve les lois libérales qui ont criminalisé la possession d'armes à feu et qui ont été soutenues en exigeant aux gens de payer pour un permis pour posséder leur propres biens. Récemment, les libéraux ont commencé à être un peu plus hésitants dû au manque de succès regardant cette question. Mais nous attendons notre heure, en travaillant pour une transformation radicale de la politique qui réparera les erreurs de l'ère Mulroney et Chrétien. La question qui se pose aux électeurs pro-armes à feu est, jusqu'à quand attendrons-nous avant de choisir d'une autre voie? Nous avons attendu un changement significatif depuis 2006 et il est assez clair que la disparition du registre d'armes d'épaules a utilisé une petite quantité de capital politique. Il n'est même pas clair que le registre soit disparu - nous avons des preuves qui montrent que plusieurs organismes de police ont utilisé une version obsolète du registre dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. Nous avons montré ces preuves à plusieurs députés du PCC et à la Commission des plaintes du public contre la GRC. Il reste à voir quelles actions auront lieu. Des mesures partielles et des re-

touches n'attireront pas des votes de la part des électeurs pro-armes à feu.

Dans tous les cas, nous intervenons auprès de la Cour Suprême du Canada afin de faire valoir la différence entre fusils à plomb et armes à feu, nous luttons également contre la tentative de Québec à vouloir conserver le registre d'armes d'épaule. Nous finançons ou de façon partielle plusieurs autres affaires importantes dans le but de protéger les droits des propriétaires d'armes à feu canadiens face à l'attrition juridique et aux processus onéreux qui punissent même les plus honnêtes avec des dettes écrasantes. Nous continuons également à remarquer les efforts de l'ONU en ce qui concerne le Programme d'action au regard des armes légères et de petit calibre, et l'ACAF se rendra à l'ONU cet été afin de faire entendre les préoccupations de tous les canadiens et propriétaires d'armes. Si nous sommes en mesure de mener ces actions, c'est grâce à l'élargissement de notre réseau d'adhérents, au développement de notre programme d'agents de terrain, et à la continuité de nos efforts de lobbying. Vous contribuez à soutenir ces projets importants par le biais de vos dons et cotisations. Merci - votre soutien fait vraiment la différence, et s'il vous plaît continuez!

J'espère que lorsque cet article sera entre vos mains, il y aura des annonces faites de la part de notre gouvernement fédéral à propos de changements réels et significatifs à réaliser au sein de lois canadiennes relatives aux armes à feu. J'ai hâte d'entendre une demande au Parlement Fédéral d'une enquête judiciaire sur les saisies d'armes à feu de High River pendant les inondations. J'espère qu'ils nous entendront. Engagez-vous afin de faire passer le message de l'ACAF auprès de votre député, ou n'importe quel candidat indépendant de son affiliation.





# Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

## RCMP Reclassification The Last Straw

Swiss Arms reclassification  
a slash at Canadian rights and freedoms

In late February, RCMP firearms bureaucrats reclassified two series of non-restricted semi automatic rifles to the prohibited classification. This includes the .223 Remington Swiss Arms (SAN) Series, which includes the Blue Star and the Classic Green, as well as several other variants, and certain 7.62X39 CZ 858 rifles manufactured and imported into Canada in 2007 or later. These two series of rifles had been approved by firearms bureaucrats and imported into Canada for over a decade. Thousands of Canadians even held registrations for them under the now defunct long gun registry.

The Swiss Arms rifles are high-end target rifles, popular with Canadian Swiss Shooting Club members and other serious target shooting aficionados. Examples start at around the \$3,500 mark and go up in price from there. CZ 858 rifles retailed for about \$700 to \$800 and are popular with hunters, plinkers and target shooters.

The RCMP had actually put the two series of rifles under scrutiny at least a year earlier. Imports were stopped, but RCMP refrained from attempting any reclassification in full knowledge of the controversy that would result. What further complicates matters is the end of long gun registration in Canada. It is no longer required to hold a registration for a non-restricted long gun, and most of the Swiss Arms and CZ 858 rifles affected fell into the non-restricted category.

Outside of Quebec, where long gun registration is still in effect, RCMP have absolutely no idea where most of them are or who has them now that long gun registry data no longer exists.

Or do they?

These firearms are among a litany of

others the RCMP has been trying to convince the Government of Canada to take action against for some time now. Under the 1995 Bill C68 legislation, firearms reclassification was supposed to take place on a continuing basis every year; new firearms were to be deemed prohibited, preventing them from being imported into Canada, and models already available in Canada were supposed to be progressively reclassified, prohibited and taken out of circulation.

Under the Liberal governments of the 1990s and early 2000s, few reclassifications took place after the initial firearms prohibitions that were part of Bill C-68. The Liberals knew it would be difficult to convince Canadians to register their guns if they were actively banning others. That all changed when the Conservatives were elected in 2006. The firearms bureaucrats knew that the new Conservative government didn't really support the spirit of the Liberal Firearms Act legislation, but that the firearms prohibition agenda put in motion by that legislation had to continue if Canadians were to be disarmed.

Since the Government of Canada was failing to support the Firearms Act by aiding in the prohibition of firearms through Order in Council or by toughening the Liberal legislation, the RCMP decided they would do it themselves. Technically, firearms reclassification falls within the purview of the government, so the RCMP began an agenda of "properly classifying" firearms from the non-restricted and restricted classes to the prohibited class, true to the spirit of Bill C-68.

This initial effort consisted of firearms of which there were very low numbers im-



**The Canadian government needs to take a hard look at the reactions that the recent reclassification has sparked.**



**The devils are in the details of the Firearms Act. Demons, vampires and Frankenstein monsters lurk in its myriad of un-Canadian freedom and rights-killing regulations.**

ported - 20 here, 30 there at the time prior to 2012 when universal registration was still in effect. The RCMP firearms bureaucracy knew where they were and who had them.

Minor controversies resulted, and in some cases the government forced the RCMP to pay compensation for the firearms they confiscated. The RCMP also targeted some firearms based on their appearance or design, which resulted in a bizarre reclassification of the Walther G22 .22 rimfire carbine, which is now a non-restricted/prohibited hybrid. The Walther G22 stock is deemed a "prohibited device," while the rest of the gun is considered non-restricted.

And this enhances public safety how?

Between the mid 2000s and today, somewhere in the order of 14,000 Swiss Arms and CZ 858 rifles were imported and sold in Canada, and these rifles represent the largest reclassification and prohibition of private property RCMP has attempted since the Conservatives won power in 2006. Thousands of Canadian firearms license holders are affected, and the controversy generated by the RCMP action hit Ottawa like a tidal wave. Outrage over the attempted gun grab has forced Minister of Public Safety Steven Blaney to announce a two-year amnesty for possession of Swiss Arms and CZ 858 rifles until the Government of Canada can find a solution to prevent RCMP from abusing the rights and property of Canadians again.

And it's not just gun owners who are outraged. Property rights advocates, civil rights advocates and just plain folks who wonder what property of theirs might be next on the RCMP hit list have also joined the chorus of outrage, demanding that the powers used by RCMP to facilitate this reclassify and prohibit gun ban agenda be stripped.

Right from the beginning, Canada's National Firearms Association has pointed out that simply making minor fixes to Canada's failed firearms laws, such as ending long gun registration, as necessary and welcome as that was, are not going to stop the firearms bureaucracy from undertaking other initiatives to strip Canadians of their rights and property.

After long gun registration ended federally in 2012, RCMP provincial chief firearms officers began to implement their own long gun registries. The minister of public safety had to put a stop to that.

It is alleged that the federal long gun registry data that was supposed to be destroyed under Bill C-19 still exists and was used to facilitate RCMP firearms search and seizures during the flood crisis in High River Alberta earlier this year.

The devils are in the details of the Firearms Act. Demons, vampires and Frankenstein monsters lurk in its myriad of un-Canadian freedom and rights-killing regulations. The RCMP have made an argument that what they are doing is lawful and indeed commanded by the legislation, and the minister of public safety and the government are certainly hearing that from them now.

But the Government of Canada and the Conservative Party had better choose which masters they serve: Canadians, their rights, property and freedoms, or the RCMP and its civil disarmament agenda.

In many ways, this latest RCMP reclassification action is a last straw. If allowed to stand, it may indicate that the Conservative government has no stomach for further firearms law reforms beyond ending long gun registration. If so, that will be a sad testament to a government that had so much potential to institute sorely needed reforms to Canada's broken and failed firearms laws, but chose the easy path of status quo.

For details on the Swiss Arms/CZ 858 Amnesty, the RCMP reclassification effort and what you can do about it, please visit [www.nfa.ca](http://www.nfa.ca).



The Firearms Act, in its entirety, needs to be repealed.



# Point Blank

Chris McGarry

## Police Attitude Towards Gun Owners Troubling

If any average, middle/working class citizen was ever in doubt about the growing misuse of police authority in Canada, last summer's dreadful mishandling of our most fundamental liberties during the horrendous flooding that devastated the south-western Alberta community of High River should have been a wake up call. As residents fled to emergency shelters, members of the Alberta RCMP, justifying their actions under the guise of the blanket phrase "public safety," descended upon 1,900 locked, abandoned homes, which they then proceeded to ransack and steal 542 firearms.

It's no secret that in recent times law enforcement agencies across Canada have displayed a monstrous amount of disdain and lack of discretion towards this country's fast-growing firearms community. Truth be told, Canada has many unnecessarily strict firearms regulations, which the police are tasked with enforcing. While that in itself is not the issue we are bemoaning today, police should be focussing their time and resources on investigating real crime and ensuring that the streets of our cities are safe from drug dealers, murders and child molesters. Unfortunately, instead of doing what makes the most sense, these public servants have been working overtime making life miserable for innocuous, law-abiding hunters, sports shooters and collectors, the very people (many of whom make less money in the private sector) whose taxes pay their salaries.

This column is not an assault or criticism against the thousands of respectable, morally upright men and women who don the uniform every day to protect and serve their communities. But what it does aim to do is highlight a growing problem and educate people about it.

There has been considerable media coverage lately regarding decisions made by RCMP bureaucrats to re-classify certain types of firearms on the basis


that they can be converted into fully automatic mode. Anyone familiar with firearms law in Canada knows that re-classification of firearms in order to confiscate them from legal owners is one of the provisions built into C-68. What is truly troubling here is that unelected, unaccountable, senior, high-ranking Mounties, including Commissioner Bob Paulson, have been advising the federal government (who should be working diligently to repeal this draconian legislation) and even persuading Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney to allow them to enact additional bans. Perhaps I'm just getting a bit carried away here, but if police have the power to not only enforce, but also make laws, isn't that a police state? Right around the time of the High River debacle, RCMP Sgt. Brian Topham unashamedly stated to news media that police seized these 542 firearms "simply because of what they are." Other RCMP members interviewed stated that they were merely "following orders."

In modern Canadian society, we live relatively benign, carefree lives, but if people were to dust off the old history books once in a while they might be shocked to learn that throughout the 20th century, unspeakable atrocities were committed by those who were merely following orders.


In this day and age, there is a growing segment of the law enforcement community, especially the younger members who've been inundated with antigun propaganda their entire lives, who view good folks that responsibly own firearms with the same contempt as genuine criminals. Not to sound like a tinfoil-hat-wearing conspiracy theorist here, but it would be a fair question to ask why increasingly militarized police forces, who have access to fully-automatic firearms, armoured personnel carriers, helicopters and even drones, don't want the general public to be able to own guns.

There are no simple explanations as to why such a mammoth divide has grown between law enforcement agencies and lawful firearms owners, or more specifically, why many of the members of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police support tighter gun laws while knowing full well that they have no effect on violent crime, which, by the way, has been on the decline in Canada for decades.

Education and a shift in public opinion will go a long way in remedying this very tenacious issue. While many of the higher ups in police agencies tout the politically correct line, quite a few of their frontline counterparts, who are out there every day working on the streets, fortunately don't take the same view. A few years ago, when the debate about scrapping the long-gun registry was in full swing, Edmonton Police constable Randy Kuntz had the courage to speak the truth about its uselessness. If more officers could find the audacity to speak out without fear of repercussions from their superiors, the tide would most definitely roll in our direction.



It's no secret that in recent times law enforcement agencies across Canada have displayed a monstrous amount of disdain and lack of discretion towards this country's fast-growing firearms community.



# Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney At Law

## The Legal Aspects of the Swiss Arms And CZ 858 Change Of Status

Several weeks ago, the RCMP re-classified thousands of Swiss Arms Classic Green rifles and certain CZ 858 tactical rifles proofed after 2007 from non-restricted to prohibited. With the stroke of a pen, or rather the click of a mouse, thousands of Canadians, who had acquired these firearms as non-restricted firearms, became criminals in the eyes of the law. How can that be?

The RCMP does not make the law. Rather, it is in charge of applying it. Part of such application entails determining which category a particular firearm falls into, in the light of legal definitions. The application of the law entails a certain amount of leeway, in the form of administrative discretion, mainly because the legal definitions are sometimes not as clear-cut as one would like them to be. The way in which that discretion is exercised ultimately influences the status of firearms, and the rights of their owners.

According to the RCMP, the aforementioned Swiss Arms and CZ 858 rifles are prohibited firearms because they can be readily modified to work in full automatic mode; that is, they can readily be modified in such a way that they will fire multiple projectiles in rapid succession during one pressure of the trigger.

The various categories of firearms are defined in the Criminal Code, more specifically in paragraph 84(1) of the Code. Pursuant to paragraph 84(1) prohibited firearms include an automatic firearm. The latter is defined 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." One would logically think that such definition refers to what the firearm is capable of doing in its current condition, without modifications. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court of Canada does not agree. In a 1993 decision (R. v. Hasselwander, (1993) 2 S.C.R. 398) a majority of three out of five judges of the Supreme Court of Canada held that the definition of automatic firearm also encompassed firearms that were readily capable to discharge projectiles in rapid succession during one pressure of the trigger; that the word "capable does in fact include a potential for conversion," although that "potential aspect must be given some reasonable restriction." The Supreme Court went on to conclude that the definition meant "capable of conversion to an automatic weapon in a relatively short period of time, with relative ease." The question is then whether the RCMP is correct in asserting that these firearms can be readily converted to full automatic mode "in a relatively short period of time, with relative ease." Therein lies the question that may eventually be litigated.

Meanwhile, and in spite of the short-term amnesty that has been put in effect by the Canadian government, Swiss Arms and CZ owners find themselves in a strange predicament. They legally acquired property, with that same government's blessing, based upon its then classification as non-restricted. Now that the RCMP has changed its mind, they can no longer use that same property. If not for the am-

nesty, they would be liable to seizure of their property and to be charged with a criminal offence. Even with the amnesty in place, they are now the proud owners of very expensive and totally useless personal property and have to await a government decision that may never come. Meanwhile, the RCMP and the government are washing their hands of this fiasco and blaming the manufacturers/importers of these firearms.

In closing, it is enlightening to reproduce the words of the majority of the Supreme Court bench in the Hasselwander case, as to the underlying reasons for the Supreme Court's favouring such a broad interpretation of the definition of automatic firearm: "Let us consider for a moment the nature of automatic weapons, that is to say, those weapons that are capable of firing rounds in rapid succession during one pressure of the trigger. These guns are designed to kill and maim a large number of people rapidly and effectively. They serve no other purpose. They are not designed for hunting any animal but man. They are not designed to test the skill and accuracy of a marksman. Their sole function is to kill people. These weapons are of no value for the hunter, or the marksman. They should then be used only by the Armed Forces and, in some circumstances, by the police forces. There can be no doubt that they pose such a threat that they constitute a real and present danger to all Canadians. There is good reason to prohibit their use in light of the threat that they pose and the limited use to which they can be put. Their prohibition ensures a safer society.

"The American authorities should not be considered in this case. Canadians, unlike Americans, do not have a constitutional right to bear arms. Indeed, most Canadians prefer the peace of mind and sense of security derived from the knowledge that the possession of automatic weapons is prohibited."

Canadians prefer the peace of mind  
and sense of security derived from the knowledge that the  
possession of automatic weapons is prohibited.



# Classic Firearms

Norman Gray

## Smith & Wesson's 460XVR: X-treme Versatility Revolver

A timeless manufacturer brings versatility to the revolver world

Whether you're a Smith & Wesson (S&W) disciple or just a revolver enthusiast, 1852 was a landmark year. It marked the modest beginnings of Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson's company, named the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company, of Norwich, Conn. Under these two men's direction, the revolver would undergo changes that would help make it what it is today. They produced their first lever action pistol, fittingly named the Volcanic pistol, but eventually financial difficulties forced them to sell the company in 1866 to Oliver Winchester. Winchester saw great potential in S&W's design and incorporated it into his Winchester lever-action repeating rifle and established the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. In 1856 S&W re-established their business and using a patent they owned from 1854, manufactured the first self-contained rimfire cartridge-firing revolver in the world.

By 1869 S&W had designed a new revolver and were promoting it by 1870 as the S&W No. 3 American single action, available in .44 S&W American or .44 Rimfire Henry. With the American Cavalry and the Russian Imperial Government as their first customers, success was within their grasp and the rest falls into the archives of history. Today, if you are fortunate enough to own the No. 1 (Small Frame) in .31 cal., in 70 per cent or better condition, it would fetch you a whopping \$40,000. As of the Blue Book of Gun Values, by Steve P. Fjestad, there are about 183 pages covering S&W firearms, testament to the company's 160 years of innovation in firearms manufacturing and design.

Fast-forward 160 years and the power of the Internet allows you to research your next firearm purchase in your bathrobe. Ok, maybe you're not so tech

savvy, so you turn to the pages of your favourite firearms publication or local gun shop. Then maybe you're an impulse buyer who just has to buy the latest and greatest, while others conduct painstaking research before they buy. Whatever type you are, the choices are staggering and firearms manufacturers want your hard-earned money spent on their products. But, if you're like me, there may be one other category sometimes overlooked that you may fit into and that's the versatility buyer.

I know what you're thinking, "There is no solitary firearm that will do everything!" And you're right. If there were, a lot of us writers would be looking for new jobs. Although I'm sure you noticed firearms manufacturers have been starting to hit the versatility market hard with modular designs? Something I've practiced for years is starting to become trendy and why? If you have a budget for a firearm, let's say a shotgun, you want one that will allow you to do multiple things like shoot slugs for deer, shot for ducks and that evening be ready for a Three Gun Match or for use in home defence. Making interchangeable parts for that shotgun, like the Mossberg FLEX, allows you to tackle almost any shooting situation and that makes perfect sense in today's economy. This concept allows you to stretch your dollar as far as it can go while still being able to buy a box or two of ammunition.

Now with that idea, wouldn't that same philosophy make sense in a hunting revolver? The S&W 460XVR X-treme Velocity Revolver's middle name is versatility; well, in a metaphorical sense, but you get the idea or you will. As I stated in the beginning, S&W are the go-to guys when it comes to revolvers, in this writer's humble opinion, and they have hit a home run with the 460XVR revolvers. This one revolver allows you to fire four different calibres, starting with its namesake the .460 S&W Magnum, followed by the .454 Casull, .45 Colt and the .45 S&W Schofield. The first three you most likely have some experience with or heard about and the last has a history all its own, but they're all 0.452 (.45) calibre and this gives you the versatility to hunt a wide range of game.

S&W manufactures 12 models of this remarkable X-Frame revolver in two calibres, starting with the well-known .500 S&W Magnum, which also fires the .500 Special, and this is followed closely by its little brother (little not being the operative word), the .460 S&W Magnum. Seven of the 12 are manufactured in .500 S&W Magnum and the other five are in .460 S&W Magnum - both offer the revolver hunter different configurations to meet their needs. I have no doubt that if you mention the .500 S&W Magnum in the company of shooters, someone will be aware or have shot of the S&W .500 Magnum. The wow factor of the .500 S&W Magnum is without question, but the pure hunting prowess of the S&W 460XVR and its many calibres is undisputable. In the end, isn't it the choices we make that define us?

Let's examine the S&W 460XVR in detail and see what this remarkably flexible revolver brings to the table for handgun hunters. The 460XVR has a growing fan base within the handgun hunting community, mainly because it offers the hunter numerous choices in the .45 calibre field. There is a vast combination of factory ammunition and bullets and powders that allow handloaders to custom fit the ammunition to what they're hunting. Now I can sit here and tell you things you have already heard about S&W, but I feel 160 years in business has made that evident. Instead, let's cover the features that matter in a hunting handgun and why the



The Smith & Wesson 460XVR revolver and all of my favourite accessories.

460XVR should be right at home next to your favourite hunting rifle.

The S&W 460XVR is in all respects a standard revolver in its façade and operation, be it an extra-large one, with a few added features to make it a hunting thoroughbred. Firing the 460 S&W Magnum with handloads can generate up to 61,000 pounds per square inch with Sierra's 300-grain JSP and 34 grains of Accurate's No. 9, generating a muzzle velocity of 2,208 feet per second. To help combat the recoil, S&W manufactured a very effective compensator into the 8.38-inch barrel with six ports placed at the muzzle beneath the fibre optic sight. Along with these two removable compensators that work in conjunction with these ports, recoil now generates a firm push instead of intense barrel rise like most revolvers. The first removable compensator consists of 12 slots that work in conjunction with the six existing ports on the barrel and is for use with jacketed bullet.

### SMITH & WESSON 460XVR

- SKU: 163460
- STATUS: Available
- CALIBRE: .460 Smith & Wesson Magnum
- CAPACITY: Five rounds
- BARREL LENGTH: 8.38 inches or 21.3 centimetres
- OVERALL LENGTH: 15 inches or 38.1 centimetres
- WEIGHT UNLOADED: 72.5 ounces or 2,055.4 grams
- WEIGHT WITH OPTICS AND AMMO: 95 ounces or 2,721.5 grams
- GRIPS: Synthetic
- ACTION: Double action
- FRAME: X-Large
- FINISH: Satin Stainless
- FRONT SIGHT: HI-VIV Interchangeable
- REAR SIGHT: Adjustable black blade
- WARRANTY: Lifetime repair policy
- MSRP: \$1,319.00
- MANUFACTURER: Smith & Wesson, [www.smith-wesson.com](http://www.smith-wesson.com)
- PHONE: 1-800-331-0852 (USA) Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time  
1-413-781-8300 (International) Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time
- FAX: 1-413-747-3317 (USA) or 1-413-731-8980 (International)
- E-MAIL: [qa@smith-wesson.com](mailto:qa@smith-wesson.com)
- MAILING: Smith & Wesson 2100 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, MA 01104

The second removable compensator extends from the barrel a quarter of an inch and has nine holes, but does not use the six smaller ports on the barrel. The second compensator is mainly designed for use with lead bullet ammunition. Why two separate compensators? Lead bullets generate more debris and the larger openings in the compensator allow lead particles to escape without clogging the compensator. Softer lead bullets driven at higher velocities can lead the inside of the barrel and particles may break loose. Bullet manufacturers fix this problem by using lead bullets that have a higher content of tin and antimony, making them harder (known as solids or hard cast) and will help with this problem. These bullets can be driven harder (fired at a higher velocity) than softer lead bullets without leading becoming an issue. Some lead bullets employ a gas check (a copper cup on the base of the bullet) to aid in reducing leading of the bore and can be driven faster than they normally would.

These compensators can be changed out in under a minute with the supplied 2.5-millimetre hex wrench. Simply place the hex wrench into the screw under the compensator and turn clockwise about three turns until it stops. Rotate the compensator a quarter of a turn with your fingers or supplied breaker rod to either the left or right and pull straight out. There is a top and bottom to the compensators and they can be installed incorrectly. Just remember that both compensators have notches cut into them and these notches need to be facing down in the six o'clock position. While holding the compensator with your fingers, tighten the screw under the compensator counterclockwise until it stops, about three turns, and be careful not to over tighten the screw.

S&W revolvers manufactured in 2001 to 2002 are equipped with an internal locking mechanism, located on the cylinder latch side of the revolver. Simply open the cylinder and unload the revolver and while the cylinder is open insert the supplied key. Turn counterclockwise 90 degrees (an arrow is engraved into the frame showing the direction of turn) until it stops. A small flag marked "locked" will pop up next to the hammer indicating the revolver is now locked. This action will prevent any hammer or trigger motion from taking place. To disengage the lock, insert the key and turn



**I became good friends with RCBS, Hodgdon and Accurate and re-loading became a full time job while testing loads, but it was fun and educational.**

clockwise until the flag drops into the frame. If you travel with your 460XVR in the locked position, make sure you carry one key on your keychain and the other in your wallet or some place you will not misplace it. Arriving at your hunting camp and not being able to unlock your revolver would stifle your hunting trip severely.

The 460XVR's rubber grips are molded with finger grooves to provide you with a tacky, secure grip; anything else could cause you or a bystander injury, so hold firmly. I don't recommend the 460XVR to new or inexperienced shooters, unless firing the .45 Schofield or .45 Colt, as recoil from the .460 or .454 could prove too much to handle. The 460XVR comes standard with a green fibre optic front sight blade and I find this a great option if using the revolver without optics. The downside is the carbon from the compensator tends to darken and stain the sight pipe. If you're using optics, it can be replaced with a supplied gold dot metal sight blade, making it easier to clean that area. The front sight is in a spring-loaded foundation, so push back on the sight and the pin removes easily - a padded vise or friend will make this operation go much smoother.

The rear sight is a simple black blade, adjustable for windage and elevation, and the top of the barrel is grooved to reduce glare. The trigger guard is large enough for gloves, with an equally wide trigger for positive finger contact. The single-action trigger pull is pleasant and breaks at 3.75 pounds, while the double action is a smooth draw of around 14.5 pounds. The hammer spur is very generous in size and easy to cock with an aggressive non-slip diamond pattern cut into the top of the hammer. Esthetically speaking, the revolver is pleasing to the eye, although the size tends to scare and amaze any shooter who holds it, but the size and weight are a boon to the absorption of the recoil that's generated from the .460 S&W and .454 Casull.

A deciding factor in what type of optics to use with a hunting handgun is ultimately decided by the game you intend to hunt. Longer shots on an elk or buffalo in open terrain is where magnified optics will maximize the .460 Magnum's long range potential; hunting dangerous game such as grizzly or moose in deep cover where you could be charged may make such optics a hazard to your health. Hunting with OEM (Original Equipment Manufactured) iron sights or Leupold's DeltaPoint Reflex Sight gives you the ability to draw, aim and fire without trying to find a charging bear or moose inside a scope tube. Once you have planned your hunt and equipped the 460XVR appropriately, your hunt will be more successful and you will not be placed in more danger than necessary.



The muzzle breaks can be changed in a couple of minutes to suit the loads you are shooting and reduce the muzzle climb to a controllable push.

The Leupold DeltaPoint is an electronic red dot reflex sight that replaces the factory iron sights in minutes. The unit comes with a mount made for the S&W 500 and 460XVR, as well as mounts and dovetails for other revolvers, semi-automatics, shotguns and rifles. I highly recommend thread-locking compound to install the specialized mount on the DeltaPoint, as recoil will work the screws with every shot. Some of the key features that make this sight state-of-the-art is the motion activated on/off feature - just move the revolver and the sight comes on and after sitting motionless for five minutes, the sight switches to sleep mode. The Intelligent Brightness Control (IBC) automatically adjusts for the light available in the direction of the target. If the light is low, it increases the brightness level of the red dot and if it's bright daylight, it will adjust accordingly so the dot is clearly visible.

The sight comes with a rubber cover that not only protects the sight, but also applying it will put the sight into its lowest power setting, preserving the single CR2032 battery life. (I advise carrying a spare battery.) The sight is also completely waterproof so hunting in the rain or snow will not affect its performance, but it is not recommended that it be submerged as this may result in diminished battery life. If your sight becomes dirty, just wash it off with distilled water and dry the sight. The sight is small and lightweight, with unlimited eye relief and a wide field of view and was designed for the rigors of the field. Since the DeltaPoint employs a 3.5 MOA Dot, it's easy to acquire after drawing from a holster, taking only a second to get the dot on target and you keep both eyes open while aiming. I fired 126 full power .460 loads and 152 full power loads from the other three calibres and not one anomaly. The DeltaPoint Reflex Sight is solid and with all the mounts retails for \$564.99.

In order to wring out every bit of the 460XVR's 200-yard potential, a

handgun scope with magnification was needed and Leupold's VX-3 Handgun 2.5-8x32mm with their Dual Dovetail mount (53564) and rings (52313) was a clear choice. Any optics mounted on the 460XVR must survive the pounding magnum recoil would give it. I also wanted the flexibility the 2.5 to 8 power setting would give me, to maximize the 460 S&W Magnum hunting ammunition like Buffalo Bore's new 275-grain Lead Free Barnes XPB, Federal's 300-grain Swift A-Frame and the 200 yard Hornady 200-grain FTX ammunition. The 460XVR comes pre-drilled and tapped along the top strap, with three holes to mount your optics. Mounting VX-3 Handgun to the base was an easy process, taking only 10 minutes, and placing the rings in place with Leupold's rings wrench made it effortless. The Leupold VX-3 Handgun 2.5-8x32mm scope retails for \$689.99

To cover all of the possible factory loads for this revolver would be a daunting task, although I wanted to use as many types in these three calibres as possible. Hornady, Buffalo Bore, Federal and Double Tap each sent me their premier loads in 460 S&W Magnum, .454 Casull and .45 Colt to run through the chronograph and they performed as expected, and in some cases better than expected. The .45 Schofield is available from companies like Ultramax, Black Hills, TEN-X and Goex and all these are safe and fun to shoot through the .460XVR, but there are no hunting loads available. I choose to experiment

Manufacturer	Calibre	Bullet	Average Velocity	SD
Buffalo Bore	.460 Magnum	275-grain Barnes XPB	1,772	21.6
Buffalo Bore	.460 Magnum	300-grain JFN	1,581	40.1
Buffalo Bore	.460 Magnum	360-grain LFN	1,471	39.6
Federal	.460 Magnum	300-grain Swift A-Frame	1,582	18.6
Hornady	.460 Magnum	200-grain FTX	2,106	17.8
Buffalo Bore	.454 Casull	325-grain LBT-LFN	1,531	12.3
Buffalo Bore	.454 Casull	360-grain LBT-LWNGC	1,450	6.2
Double Tap	.454 Casull	250-grain Barnes XPB	1,621	10.5
Double Tap	.454 Casull	400-grain WFNGC HC	1,280	8.3
Federal	.454 Casull	300-grain Swift A-Frame	1,551	8.4
Hornady	.454 Casull	300-grain XTP	1,588	5.7
Buffalo Bore	.45 Colt +P	260-grain JHP	1,369	14.5
Buffalo Bore	.45 Colt +P	300-grain JFN	1,352	17.7
Buffalo Bore	.45 Colt +P	325-grain LBT-LFN	1,489	13.2
Federal	.45 Colt	225-grain SWHP	896.8	9.1
Hornady	.45 Colt	225-grain FTX	850.9	7.4

with my own loads and you can read about those later in the article.

Velocities are the average of 10 shots measured on a Competitive Edge Dynamics M2 Chronograph at 15 feet. Accuracy is the average of five shots from an MTM K-Zone rest at 100 yards for the Hornady 200-grain FTX, Buffalo Bore and Federal .460 Magnum ammunition. All load groups easily fit under a paper plate, which I used to simulate a vitals hit.

Re-loading for all these calibres was quite an undertaking and I always learn a few things along the way. RCBS provided the dies to load all four calibres. As for the shell holder, the .460 S&W Magnum uses the number 04 shell holder, .454 Casull and .45 Colt both use the number 20 and the .45 Schofield uses number 35, but you can use the number 04 with all the cases when re-sizing cases. While bellinging and seating bullets, they favoured their own shell holders to work smoothly. Also keep in mind you must use magnum rated bullets for the .460, .454 and some .45 Colt loads or the velocities will tear them apart. I used Hornady magnum bullets for all three calibres and a mix of Laredo and Rainier bullets for the .45 Schofield.

I also loaded some unique application loads since the .460 S&W Magnum provides the case capacity you need to work with. These are unique loads for hunting or defence and depend on your handloading skill, adventuresome spirit, location and the supplies at hand. The first is a shot load using number 6 bird shot, very handy for pests (remove the compensator when firing shot loads); number two is a black powder load and while messy, if black powder is all you have available it works well.

For the rest of my re-loads, I used Hodgdon, Accurate, a few others and Starline brass. Being able to load four calibres, the bullet/powder combinations are vast and it will take some work to find that sweet spot for your favourite load. But then again that's why we love what we do and the S&W 460XVR gives you just what you put into it. There is no greater satisfaction than taking your elk, moose or bear with your own handloads. Some of my loads were great and some were not, but I had a lot of fun working them up and seeing some good

Manufacturer	Calibre	Bullet	Powder	Average Velocity	SD
Hand Load 1	.460 Mag	Shot Shell	12x231	N/A	N/A
Hand Load 2	.460 Mag	250 RNFP	50xFFfg	869.6	11.1
Laredo	.460 Mag	300 HC	25x2400	1,352	32.9
Hornady	.460 Mag	225 FTX	47xLilGun	1,645	15.6
Hornady	.460 Mag	225 FTX	49xH110	1,958	17.6
Hornady	.454 Casull	225 FTX	33x2400	1,469	12
Hornady	.454 Casull	300 XTP	26x5744	1,277	16.8
Hornady	.454 Casull	225 FTX	33x2400	1,469	12
Hornady	.45 Colt	250 XTP	7xTite Group	905.7	9.7
Hornady	.45 Colt	250 XTP	8x231	906.2	16.6
Laredo	.45 Colt	250 RNFP	7xTite Group	905.7	9.7

Velocities are the average of 10 shots measured on a Competitive Edge Dynamics M2 Chronograph at 15 feet. All load groups easily fit under a paper plate, which I used to simulate a vitals hit.



**This is just a small sampling of the ammunition choices for the .460 Magnum, the .454 Casull and .45 Colt is equally vast showing you the amazing versatility you have.**

numbers at the end helped broaden my large calibre knowledge base.

Carrying a scoped 460XVR weighing in at over 6.4 pounds loaded while hunting wouldn't be my first choice and having a well-made holster for this task is only a mouse click away. Galco Gunleather of Arizona has the perfect solution to carry your scoped or reflex sighted hunting handgun: their Kodiak Hunter Shoulder Holster is specially designed for the .460XVR's 8.38-inch barrel. The Kodiak enables you to front carry at an easily accessible angle for a fast draw and secures the revolver in the holster with a finger break. The Kodiak's open top design allows you to position the scope on the barrel based on your model and the muzzle and front sight is protected inside the Kodiak's muzzle guard. The Kodiak has a wide padded shoulder strap and torso strap that can be adjusted for heavy winter clothing or a large body shape and is extremely comfortable for all day wear. It is available in Havana brown and retails for \$199.95.

Accessories like a great holster make any hunt easier and more enjoyable, and unlike firearms that use magazines, revolvers employ speed loaders for fast re-



loads. If you enjoy having speed loaders for your revolver while hunting, Five Star Firearms makes some of the finest speed loaders I have seen for the .460XVR. Made from 6061-billet aircraft aluminum and made on state-of-the-art CNC machines, they use premium parts, are hand assembled and tested to ensure 100 per cent reliability. I was impressed when I received the speed loaders; when I used them in the field and they worked flawlessly. They also carry leather and nylon pouches that will hold two to four speed loaders. (In the .460 Mag, the pouch only holds one speed loader.) The bull's blood leather speed loader case is the closest color to the Kodiak holster I have found. The Five Star Firearms aluminum speed loaders for the .460XVR retail for \$24.95 and they work with all four calibres.

I would also recommend a quality trigger stick to take your shot from, because you never know what the terrain will throw your way and if you will have a natural rest to shoot from. I prefer a model that unfolds from a single unit to a tripod and allows you a two handed hold with the 460XVR. Primos is my first choice simply because it makes a fine walking stick and with a simple squeeze of the trigger, drops the legs to your desired height of 36.5 inches to 61 inches. The V yoke is removable for attaching range finders, binoculars and cameras, as well as other field equipment. They offer 10 models with varying features and come in every price range from \$60.95 to \$195.95 and are built to survive the rigors of the field.

"Expect the worst, hope for the best." It's always a good idea to carry OEM iron sights for an emergency back up. I would encourage you to carry a spare revolver with its own sights or a spare scope if you have the means. When you arrive at base camp, re-check your zero on paper with your ammunition that you originally zeroed your revolver with, as elements and altitude have an effect on some powders and ballistics. If you hand or re-load your ammunition, check the fit and function of the rounds, as you may be hard pressed to find dies and press at base camp. Bring plenty of ammunition and cross pack it (have someone else carry some of your ammunition) if you can when traveling so that if one suitcase gets lost you won't be out of ammunition. Plan ahead for emergencies when you're on an expensive hunt hundreds or thousands of miles from home - it's far better than going home empty handed.

I know one thing: I wrote a cheque for this S&W 460XVR and it's in my safe and I am looking forward to my first hunt with it - I know I'll remember it for years to

come. Or maybe you're not a hunter and just want to create some thunder at the local range and want the challenge of punching holes at 200 yards. The good thing is you can do all of the above with this versatile revolver and after putting 500-plus rounds from all four calibres through it, I can recommend the S&W 460XVR to anyone who appreciates a powerful revolver. The 460XVR will serve you and your sons and daughters for many years to come and help them create their own hunting memories. Oh, and invest in a good outdoor camera to record the grins!

Before shooting the 460 or 500 S&W Magnums or any other high-powered revolvers for the first time heed this warning: You must never place your hand or fingers next to or in front of the flash gap. (The area in front of the cylinder where the bullet crosses into the barrel) The pressure that these high-powered revolver cartridges operate at will easily sever fingers and/or destroy tissue. Use extreme caution when selecting your hold to avoid this danger. See page 19 of the owner's manual for this warning and have a great day shooting or hunting.

**SOURCES:**

- Smith & Wesson: 460XVR  
[www.smith-wesson.com](http://www.smith-wesson.com)
- Accurate Powders:  
[www.accuratepowder.com](http://www.accuratepowder.com)
- Buffalo Bore Ammunition:  
[www.buffalobore.com](http://www.buffalobore.com)
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[www.doubletapammo.com](http://www.doubletapammo.com)
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- Primos:  
[www.primos.com](http://www.primos.com)
- RCBS:  
[www.rcbs.com](http://www.rcbs.com)



The thickness of the cylinder allows the containment of the massive pressure involved in shooting the .460 Magnum and five shots is enough to convince you of that.

# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

## Outlaw Guns

### The story of career criminal Bill Miner

Firearms are tools; they are inanimate objects that need to be operated by a human hand. A firearm does not function on its own.

Firearms may be used for hunting, shooting competitions, collecting, self-defence or crime. The firearms do not make the choice. The user determines the purpose.

The 1983 Philip Borsos movie *The Grey Fox* portrayed Bill Miner, played by Richard Farnsworth, as a nice bandit - quite benign, well mannered, cultured and kind. He is pictured as civic minded, helpful and caring.

This was the persona Miner fostered in real life. He was charming, engaging, knowledgeable, literate and well informed. Miner enjoyed socializing, dancing and parties. He was well dressed, courteous and friendly.

The public Bill Miner character captured the interest of all that surrounded

him. Miner portrayed himself as a legitimate entrepreneur, mining engineer and philanthropist. The surface character was credible and believable. Miner's alias in British Columbia was George Edwards.

The real Bill Miner was a hardened career criminal in the southwest US before coming to Canada in 1903. He had been a criminal for 40 years. He was a stage-coach robber and horse thief who had spent 33 of these 40 years in prison.

In 1903, Miner entered Canada riding a fine horse and well turned out near Haney, BC. He entered in the guise of Edwards - cowboy, mining engineer and businessman. Being an excellent horseman, knowledgeable about mining and appearing to have a keen sense of business, he was welcomed into the ranching and mining milieu of early 20th century BC.

In reality, Miner was a well-armed and dangerous sociopath who could make people believe in him. He was a callous individual who would give up accomplices in an instant. Miner was a drug addict, frequented brothels, poker palaces and pool halls. Research indicates that he was armed all the time with a 1903 .32-calibre Colt hammerless semi-automatic pistol. He was also known to carry a .41-calibre Colt Bisley revolver and a Smith & Wesson Schofield revolver in .45 S&W.

There are excellent documented quotes from Peter Grauer's book about Miner, *Interred With Their Bones*.

J.E. Stevenson would recollect, "that he saw Mr. Edwards around the time before the Exposition, always with plenty of money. He also saw him sporting a .32-calibre Colt automatic pistol."

An additional quote: "Miner/Edwards had an altercation with a hotel owner by

the name of McKenzie during a drinking bout, who had asked questions of Miner/Edwards that were concerned with who he really was, where he was from and where he got his money. Miner/Edwards did not take this lightly and confronted the hotel owner the next day. He accused McKenzie of being an informant and of compromising Miners/Edwards integrity. He threatened the hotel keeper that he told others and now would tell him he would not pick a physical fight with him, but would use his pistols to shoot him down like a dog. With that, Miner/Edwards pulled back his coat and placed his hands on his pistols." These would in all probability be Miner's Colt, Bisley and Smith & Wesson Schofield.

This free spending, high roller was certainly a person of interest to CPR detectives, Pinkertons and the BC police. However, he kept his illicit activities well submerged. Miner would steal horses in the US and bring them to Canada and



Pictured, handguns used by Miner.



A picture of Bill Miner.  
Photo by City of Vancouver Archives

have young, innocent cowboys break and train them. Miner was working in concert with unscrupulous ranchers who would then sell these fine horses on the legitimate market.

Miner was very persuasive and manipulative. He recruited a petty criminal, William (Shorty) Dunn, and a tubercular ex schoolteacher, Lewis Colquhoun, with whom he conspired to rob a train in September 1904 near Mission, BC. This was their first successful train robbery and it was very profitable.

During the robbery, Miner also acquired another gun, a blued Smith & Wesson .38 Special. This firearm was taken from an Express Agent on the train. Miner and his gang were pursued, however, their identities were never uncovered and they were not captured. Suspected certainly, but not proven. The trio went about their business as ordinary folk - Miner and Dunn working as cowboys and farmhands, Colquhoun worked as a clerk or bookkeeper. As Lewis had tuberculosis, he did not pursue as active a lifestyle as Miner or Dunn.

As stated in Peter Grauer's book, *Interred With Their Bones*, Colquhoun's personal revolver was an Iver Johnson, likely a .38 and possibly one of the new hammerless models. These types of revolvers had a hammer, but a shroud covered it so it would not catch when being drawn from a pocket. Some models of these hammerless revolvers had a built in safety that required squeezing the back of the grip frame. They were dubbed "lemon squeezers."

Miner and his accomplices, Dunn and Colquhoun, were expanding their armory. Miner purchased a 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol that he gave to Dunn. They also acquired a second 1903 Colt .32 semi-auto pistol and another large frame revolver, which has not been identified. They were preparing to strike once more.

May 8, 1906, Miner, Dunn and Colquhoun pulled their last robbery in Canada. As the evening drew to a close, the three boarded the CPR train just east of Kamloops, which was known as Ducks Station. The trio brought the train to a halt just after

midnight. They chose the wrong car as the express car. They had entered the mail car and found nothing of value. The only loot they left with was \$15 in cash.

By morning, the telegraph wires were burning with news of the brazen robbery and the three heavily armed men who had perpetrated the act. Poses of Special Constables and trackers were sworn in. The BC police were on the move. The chase was on. By Saturday, May 12, the entire area and the Nicola Valley was swarming with posses of Special Constables, provincial police, Royal Northwest Mounted Police, skilled trackers and armed cowboys.

On May 14, 1906, the chase was over. A group of RNWMP constables surrounded the gang near the Nicola River. The only resistance was from Dunn - he drew his Luger and a large framed revolver and after a brief gunfight with the Mounted Police, Dunn received a bullet through the leg and the miscreants were arrested. Miner, Dunn and Colquhoun were tried, convicted and sent to the BC Penitentiary.

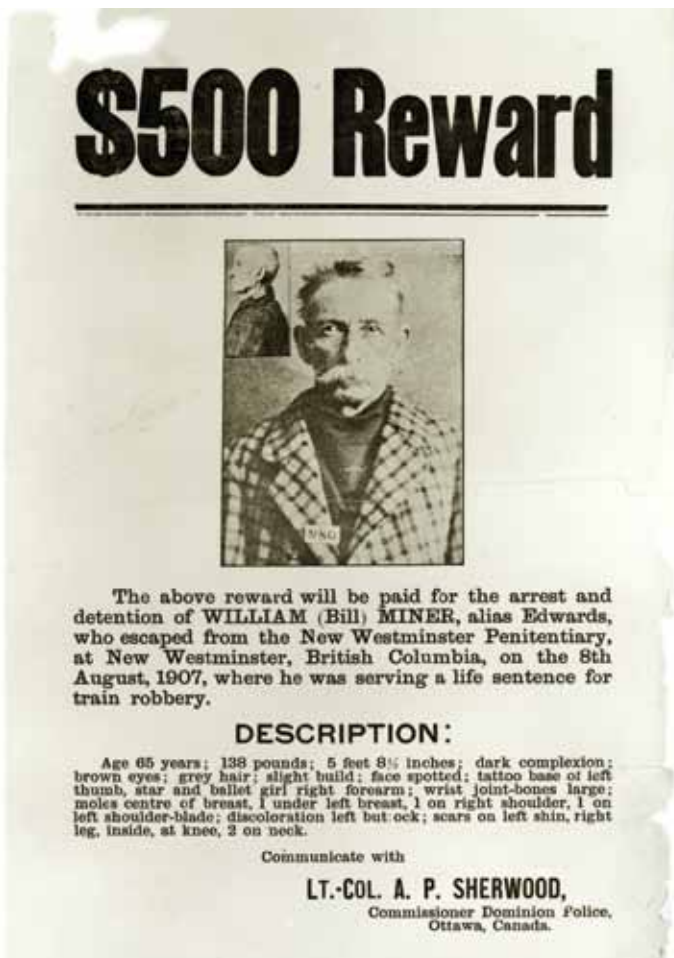
Miner escaped from the BC Penitentiary, returned to the US and was involved in various train robberies and was caught and sentenced to the Milledgeville Prison in Georgia. He attempted to escape; however, old age had caught up to him. He died and is buried in the prison yard. Dunn did his time, returned to legitimate prospecting and died in a boating mishap. Colquhoun succumbed to tuberculosis in the BC Pen.

Many of the firearms used by the trio are in museums or private collections.

The author wishes to acknowledge the late Tom Bongalis for sharing his documents and research on Miner in 1989 and having the author photograph the jewel of his collection, the Bill Miner Colt.

The author also wishes to acknowledge the late Peter Grauer for writing a wonderful book, *Interred With Their Bones*, about Miner's time in Canada. The book is filled with incredible details about life in the cattle and mining country of 1903 to 1906 BC. The author also wishes to thank Peter's heir for granting permission to quote from the book.

*Interred With Their Bones* is out of print; however, if someone would like a copy, please contact the author's e-mail at [gkangas@telus.net](mailto:gkangas@telus.net). It may be possible to obtain a copy.



A reward poster for Canada's most notorious criminal. Photo by BC Penitentiary

# SHOT Show

## Report Part II

### Black Guns And Handguns

BY AL VOTH

I've been going to the annual Las Vegas-based SHOT Show long enough that I can recall when the first floor space was dedicated to law enforcement and military-type firearms. They had their own little section off in a dark corner and it signalled that black guns were being recognized. They weren't much of a factor in the firearms market then, but that's changed dramatically. Black guns are now mainstream and holding their own with the traditional firearm categories. It's why we're devoting an entire article to highlight some of what was announced for this firearm category at the 2014 SHOT Show.

#### Smith & Wesson

This legendary company announced a number of new handguns at SHOT, with two interesting revolvers catching my attention right away. The new 929 is built on Smith's N frame and is an eight-shot 9mm revolver intended for competitive action shooting. It's all stainless steel, except for the titanium alloy cylinder, which is cut for full moon clips. It has a removable compensator and a hand-tuned action. The other revolver is similar but built on the smaller and lighter L frame, so it only holds seven rounds of 9mm and has a five-inch barrel. Labelled as the Model 986, a titanium cylinder and moon clips are standard here too but there's no compensator. Price on both will be in the \$1,200 range.

#### Ruger

Not to be outdone by Smith & Wesson, Ruger trotted out their version of a competition revolver as well. They call it the Match Champion, a 357 Magnum, six-shot, built on the standard GP100 frame. If the gun I shot is representative of what will be coming off the line, the double-action is the best I've ever seen on a factory GP100. This wheelgun has a 4.2-inch barrel, so it should be fine for importation into Canada and will cost around \$900.

#### Remington

Of interest to followers of corporate activities in the firearms industry is the acquisition of Storm Lake Barrels by Freedom Group, the parent company of Remington. Storm Lake is well known for making high quality pistol barrels and this will no doubt have a trickle down effect on Remington's already good shooting 1911s. I see Remington isn't wasting any time running a promotion for their 1911 R1 pistols that includes the consumer's choice of a rebate or an extra Storm Lake barrel.

There's also a new version of the 870 Express Tactical shotgun. If I remember correctly, the only change is the colour - flat dark earth. With the metal finished in Cerakote and matching Magpul furniture, it's a nice change from black.

#### Redfield

Redfield introduced a 6-18X44 rifle-scope that is part of their Battlezone line and looks like a lot of scope for the money. With a feature list that includes finger adjustable turrets, a reticle with MOA hash marks, fully multicoated lenses and a lifetime warranty, it's still only \$325. And if you shoot 223 or 308 you may not need to purchase custom turrets, because each scope also comes with two free turrets already distance-marked for those calibres. I really like the idea that the scope's MOA marked reticle is duplicated in Redfield's Battlezone 10X42 binocular, so your spotter can call corrections and you're both referencing the same reticle. The binoculars are only \$199.

#### Timney

The Tavor is a popular rifle in Canada, but like most bullpups suffers from a poor trigger pull. Timney has addressed that problem with a replacement unit that takes a 10-pounds trigger down to three to five pounds. Their unit is a single stage trigger with no provision for adjustment, but it's completely drop-in and replacement takes only a minute. My dry firing test on the show floor showed a big difference in trigger quality. Price will be in the \$350 range. While that's pricey, if you want to shoot a Tavor accurately, a good trigger is a necessity and this is a huge improvement.

## Modular Driven Technologies

This Canadian company continues to crank out new versions of its popular chassis systems. At SHOT they were displaying some new lightweight (1.6 pounds) chassis for the Tikka T3 and promising one for the Mossberg MVP in May of this year. The Mossberg chassis intrigues me because the rifle already takes AR magazines. Put AR furniture on the rest of that bolt gun, as the MDT system allows, and it should make for an interesting rifle. Chassis price is \$399.

## Glock

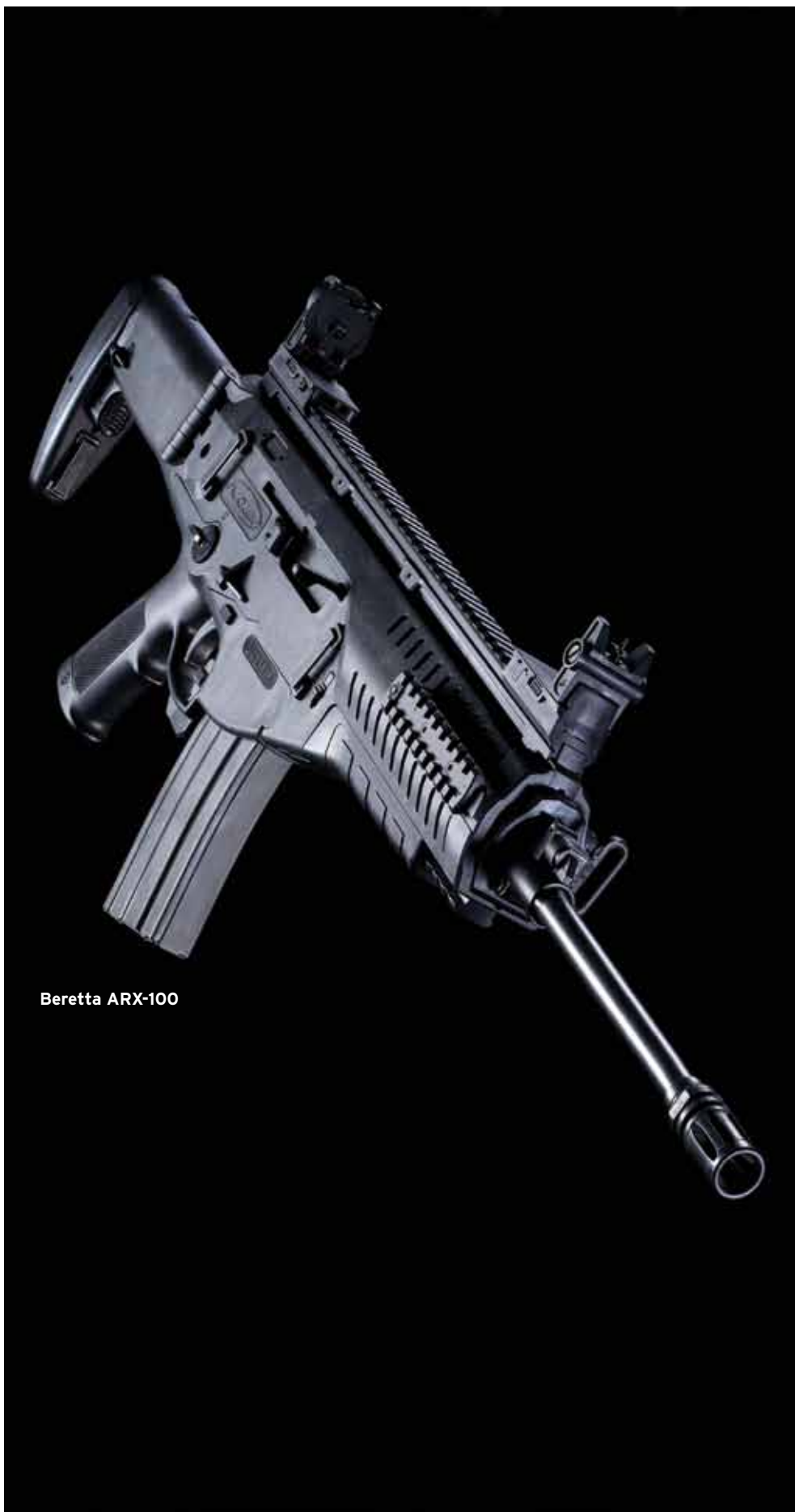
Glock is adding a couple of new pistols to its line this year, but because of barrel length, only one will make it into Canada - the Glock 41. This is, of course, a Generation 4 gun and has all the refinements that entails, including a modular back strap system, textured grip surfaces and dual recoil spring assembly. It's a 45 ACP and the big news is its barrel length of 5.31 inches. That longer sight radius should make it noticeably easier to shoot well. Price will be around the \$650 mark.

## Vortex

Black rifles and red dot sights are a great combination, and Vortex introduced a big selection of the latter for 2014. I like the compact Spitfire prism scope, which is available in either 1X or 3X versions. Each sight has its own specific reticle pattern, with the 1X sight using dots and circles exclusively. The 3X sight uses only one circle with a six o'clock wire that provides holdover and ranging references from zero to 500 yards. Both sights feature an illumination control offering five levels of brightness and a red/green option. Prices fall between \$400 to \$500.

## Beretta

The ARX-100 is Beretta's entry into the civilian black rifle market. It's billed as a multi-calibre rifle that is so ambidextrous you can even choose which side the cartridge cases eject to. Disassembly is also worthy of note, in that it can be done without a single tool. Magazines will be AR compatible and the rifle will cost around \$2,000. If we can get a version with a long enough barrel it should be non-restricted, and with the barrels being user changeable that shouldn't be a major problem. Delivery is promised for the middle of this year in the US. Feel free to speculate on when they might arrive north of the 49th and then add another year for the non-restricted barrel version.



Beretta ARX-100

## Bushmaster

The sport of 3-Gun is growing rapidly and Bushmaster must be noticing, as they've announced an AR rifle specifically built for this sport. It's called the XM-15 3-Gun Enhanced Carbine and features a bright red upper and lower receiver, 16-inch stainless barrel, Rolling Thunder compensator, Timney trigger,

Magpul furniture, Arrendondo magazine release and other goodies. About \$1,700 will put one in your safe and the resulting trophies on the mantel.

Also of note is the announcement of the Bushmaster ACR-DMR. This is the restricted ACR they've been producing for some time, but with a long enough barrel that it moves this version into the non-restricted class. DMR

stands for Designated Marksman Rifle and that's how this rifle is put together. A heavier barrel, Geissele trigger, Magpul PRS stock and other enhancements are intended to make it more accurate. Weight without optics is 8.75 pounds, so it's no lightweight. Of course, it's in 223 Remington, so it could make a fine coyote rifle. Price is around \$2,700.

## Winchester Ammunition

Also taking note of 3-Gun is Winchester's ammunition division. They've introduced a complete line of ammunition marketed to 3-Gun shooters. It includes 9mm, 40 S&W and 45 ACP for handgun, a 55-grain 5.56mm round and 7+ and 00 buckshot in 12 gauge. The handgun ammunition uses a lead free primer and fully encapsulated bullets, so it'll be exceptionally clean shooting. All the product packaging is marked WIN-3-GUN (get it?) and the handgun ammunition is even labelled with the power factor.

## 5.11

I always like talking with the folks at 5.11 because they know where Canada is and work hard to ensure there are dealers here carrying their product. This supplier of tactical clothing has a blizzard of new items for 2014. They've added storm grey as a colour option to much of their load carrying gear and some clothing as well. It's an eminently practical colour that looks good too. I also like their new Skyweight boots, probably because I'm getting old enough that less weight on the feet is always seen as a good thing. And being completely metal free, right down to the eyelets, these boots are scanner-friendly.

## SIG

Long a holdout in the polymer-framed, striker-fired pistol wars, SIG has now entered the fray with a gun designated as the P320. We'll see it first in 9mm and .40 calibre, with others to follow. It seems to have the usual SIG quality, but it's entering a competitive arena, late in the game, and will really have to impress in order to survive in the marketplace. The fact the fire control group is the serialized part might do the trick. You see, the gun is modular and various grip frames, slides and barrels can all be interchanged. Price point is \$700.

Of course, all of this is just a glimpse of what's to see in the world of black guns at SHOT. Next issue, we'll look at the more traditional hunting guns and gear.



Many companies are paying closer attention to the 3-Gun competition market, including Winchester.



Smith & Wesson recently introduced a number of new handguns to the market.



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

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mingle with the directors  
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**Saturday, May 24**

**Open panel discussion, AGM,  
silent auction & banquet**

Evening dinner with door prizes

## GUEST SPEAKERS

Solomon Friedman, LL.B. of Edelson Clifford D'Angelo Friedman • Derek A. Birch, Barrister & Solicitor  
Professor Gary Mauser • Rod Giltaca from Civil Advantage • Phil Watson Executive Director of IAPCAR  
Lorne Gunter from Sun News and the Edmonton Sun • Murray Morrison of All Sport Insurance Marketing Ltd

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# The Big Bang

By Jeff Helsdon





# Theory

Conventional theory is when shooters pull the trigger the gun goes bang. When shooting a ported barrel, there is literally a bigger bang.

I set out to test both ported and unported guns to see if all the hype about porting is hype, or if it makes a noticeable difference in recoil and muzzle jump. At the same time, I tried to judge if there is a noticeable noise increase.

My test guns were a Remington 700 VTR, a unique gun with a triangular barrel and three slotted ports, against a Remington Model 7 Predator. Both were in .243 Winchester. I also tested a Browning A-Bolt Medallion with both a ported BOSS and a BOSS CR, which has the BOSS system but no porting, and a Mossberg 20-gauge Model 500 Bantam that came with a ported slug and conventional barrels.

## Test time

Putting the two Remingtons head to head, I wanted to test if there was a difference in recoil, muzzle jump and noise. I decided the best way to do this was to judge the amount of muzzle jump and to fire three-shot groups rapidly to see if I could get back on target quicker.

My impression was there wasn't much difference in recoil, but the .243 Winchester is not a big recoil gun and both guns had good recoil pads. I did notice more jump with the Model 7. Both guns had 22-inch barrels, but the Model 700 is half a pound heavier. Firing several three-shot groups and timing it, I had an average of 22.78 seconds with the Model 7 and 20.40 seconds with the Model 700. Although there was a difference, it was negligible.

I shot at 50 yards, figuring I could acquire the target quicker if it was closer. Most groups were around an inch. Interestingly, the best was .77 inch and was with the Model 7. Test ammunition was Remington, Barnes Vor-TX and Winchester Supreme. There was no difference in what I was testing with the different loads.

The Browning was a .270, so with a little more power it showed the effects of porting more. With the ported BOSS, I didn't notice much recoil difference in switching between the .270 and .243. When the ported BOSS was replaced with the CR, recoil increased noticeably. So, too, did muzzle jump.

BOSS is more than a porting system though. It also allows tuning the barrel harmonics to the ammunition. When a shot is fired, the barrel vibrates. To explain it simply, BOSS controls the vibrations to keep the barrel as close as possible to the point where it was when the trigger was squeezed. I didn't put a lot of time into testing this aspect, as that wasn't my goal, but did play with it some. With targets at 100 yards and settings of two and three, my three-shot groups were more than an inch. When I dialed the control to four, the group shrank to .80 with Federal Fusion and .95 with Winchester Supreme. I am sure more fine tuning could improve the groups further.

While exploring blogs to see what shooters said about BOSS, most found it did work, but some found the increased noise was too much. There was some banter back and forth if the same results were possible by reloading your own shells. It was pointed out, however,

that if a certain load suggested between 44 and 48 grains of powder ABC, the best grouping might be with 44 grains. BOSS would allow loading the maximum and still getting a good group.

While there is no doubt BOSS worked, its commercial success hasn't been overwhelming. Daniel Legault of Browning Canada told me the BOSS would only be available in the BAR Mark II Safari in 2014. He heard Browning product developers are working on a similar system that is more "sleek and better looking," but nothing is final yet.

My testing with the 20 gauge and three-inch Federal sabot slugs included the rifled slug barrel and a plain barrel with an improved cylinder choke. Since sabot slugs should be shot out of a rifled barrel, this test wasn't an accuracy comparison. The difference in muzzle jump and recoil wasn't as considerable as with the BOSS system.

Porting is nothing new for Mossberg, as the company has been using it since the mid-1990s across many products. Media relations director Linda Powell gave Mossberg's reasoning for using porting as it reduces perceived felt recoil and muzzle rise.

## A 'hole' lot of noise

While in a local gun store, I ran into an acquaintance with a .257 Weatherby magnum, with Weatherby's Accubrake, their version of a muzzle brake. Famed for its magnums, Weatherby's policy is any gun over its .30-378 magnum is shipped standard with Accubrake. In fact, the company will only ship a gun over that mark without Accubrake if the customer signs a waiver. Weatherby's

with Accubrake also ship with a blank that threads in the end with no porting.

My acquaintance said it made a big difference in recoil and the Accubrake allowed him to keep the gun on the paper at long distances for a follow-up shot. He also said he made the mistake of shooting it once without hearing protection.

"My ears rang for a day and a half," he said.

Although my testing was limited to four guns, as well as some input from others, I noticed if there is porting in the upper portion of the barrel only, which is almost always the case with shotguns and with the Remington VTR, the noise increase doesn't seem as great as with what one considers a true muzzle brake with larger holes covering the entire circumference of the barrel. This conclusion was not scientifically proven, but did seem to prove true with my tests and it does make sense.

When I was testing the Model 7 and 700, I asked two other shooters their opinion on the noise levels. One thought there was little difference, and if anything the Model 7 was louder. The other couldn't tell any difference.

With the Browning A-Bolt, there was no doubt: it was louder with the ported BOSS than the BOSS-CR. I couldn't tell the difference with the Mossberg shotgun, but a decibel meter app on my iPhone showed a slight increase.

## The expert weighs in

Stephen Milton, of Precision Arms and Gunsmithing Ltd., is not only an expert gunsmith and choke manufacturer, but also a champion trap and sporting clays shooter. He also wanted to complete his own testing and come up with his conclusions on porting. His testing spanned many years and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

In rifles, he found porting could reduce recoil as much as 40 per cent with some rifle designs and calibres.

Shotguns are a different story and he estimated the maximum reduction in felt recoil is only 10 to 12 per cent.

"It's hardly enough to worry about it, not enough to make a gun ugly," he said.

Milton does not have porting in his own competition guns and also mentioned he doesn't have choke tubes that extrude beyond the end of the barrel as he doesn't see any advantage to these. Speaking about choke tubes, he said only in some cases, and only with extremely tight chokes, will porting make a difference in the pattern.



The author tested four different guns to determine how porting a gun stacks up.

"The difference is so small, so tiny, and there's not always a difference, it's not worth doing," Milton said.

When asked why there is such a difference in the effectiveness between rifles and shotguns, Milton answered, "It's just the immense pressure in a rifle."

The more pressure you can get rid of after the bullet reaches its terminal velocity, the more effective the muzzle brake will be. He also found it is most effective if there are holes on opposite sides of the barrel, be it the top and bottom or right and left sides, and if the brake is close to the bullet diameter without touching it.

Speaking to muzzle jump, Milton said porting doesn't actually reduce it, but it seems like it due to less felt recoil. Instead, he said muzzle jump is due to a combination of the shape of the stock against a human. For instance, he said if the stock were held upside down when the gun is fired, the muzzle blast would push the barrel in a downward direction.

## Punching a hole in it?

To get down to the nitty gritty, is a ported barrel worth it? The answer depends on the application.

If you are shooting a magnum rifle, it definitely cuts down on muzzle jump and recoil. With some of the bigger magnums, it is the solution to being able to practice with a gun at your range without developing a flinch from heavy recoil. These same guns, though, are the ones where the porting makes the most difference in the noise factor. Don't shoot them without hearing protection. At the same time, having an option to remove the porting is best

for hunting. Some African countries ban the use of ported barrels because of the negative effects on guide's hearing, for good reason.

With a non-magnum calibre, the difference isn't as noticeable, so it's more of a personal choice. Still, hearing protection is mandatory.

On shotguns, porting is most common on competition models for both the recoil and the muzzle jump on second shots. In this application, the shooter is almost always wearing hearing protection so this is not an issue. On hunting barrels, such as the Mossberg slug guns, obviously hearing protection won't be worn. But the noise increase isn't as great on these guns either. Keeping in mind what Milton said, I wouldn't let porting be the make or break factor whether or not to purchase a certain shotgun.

The ultimate choice if the shooter wants more bang for the buck will be up to the individual.

## WEAVER QUAD LOCK RINGS

In the need for scope rings to outfit the guns, I headed to a local gun shop and came home with Weaver's Quad Lock rings.

These aluminum rings feature two straps with four lock screws instead of a solid piece of metal. These rings look modern and the metal that would traditionally be between where the screws hold the scope in place is not missed. The rings were simple to put on and seemed every bit as strong as steel rings.

# Politics & Guns

Chris McGarry

## The Financial And Societal Cost Of Unnecessary Gun Control Laws

In the dog-eat-dog, appease and compromise world of politics, time and again the simple (make that the only) answer touted by our elected officials to remedy all of society's complicated, thorny issues is by way of the easiest route conceivable, or, to put it more bluntly, a quick fix or Band Aid solution.

Back in the early 1990s, these types of resolutions were front and centre on the minds of such freedom-loathing politicians as the so-called conservative Kim Campbell, draftswoman of Bill C-17, Annie "Get Your Guns" McLellan, oh, and while we're hot on this topic, let's not forget the biggest party pooper in the room, then-federal Justice Minister Allan Rock, architect of the Firearms Act, the most draconian law in Canadian history and author of the infamous quote, "I came to Ottawa with the firm belief that only police and military should have guns." As not to keep the public in the dark, these visionaries for a gentler, safer Canada justified their actions by using the rationale that forcing law-abiding hunters, farmers and sports shooters to register, license and lock up their firearms would magically reduce rates of crime and domestic abuse down to almost zero.

Whether this unashamed abuse of civil rights was intended to harass the firearms community into total disarmament or, as stated above, as a quick fix to a burgeoning social ill (violent crime rates in Canada were already at a 25-year low in 1995), all it did was transform the largest minority group in Canadian society into a new breed of criminal, one whose lives could be ripped to shreds for inane paper offenses or trivial safe storage charges that completely negate a sense of natural justice as in a man's home is his castle and has been since 1215.

While law-abiding gun owners, previously a respected and valued component of Canadian society, suddenly found themselves the object of extreme prejudice and subject to the whims of an overbearing and power-hungry firearms bureaucracy, it was business as usual for armed robbers, gangbangers and members of outlaw motorcycle gangs and the Mafia. Sadly, all these tighter laws did was create a boon in commerce for the Canadian legal establishment, crown prosecutors looking to make a name for themselves as well as police forces, who, having the convoluted and confusing Firearms Act to enforce, lately have been finding it much easier to target the tiniest infractions committed by gun owners than investigate and arrest genuine criminals.

The general Joe Six Pack/suburban soccer mom public, upon reading in the daily news that their negligent, careless neighbour has been convicted of unsafe storage charges, might be tempted to cheer that a human life has potentially been saved (it's for the children, remember) but what these same folks don't seem to grasp is that every time the state drags another "paper criminal" through the meat grinder, he/she isn't the only one who pays - Mr. and Mrs. Canadian taxpayer end up having their wallet pilfered as well.

To use a few concrete examples, the recent frivolous prosecutions of such good citizens as Laurie Manzer, Ian Thomson and Bruce Montague cost taxpayers untold sums of money.

The latest breed of firearms to be banned by the RCMP through provisions in the Firearms Act, the Swiss Arms and CZ 858 rifles, should the authorities ever take a notion to confiscate these hard-earned pieces of property, as many as 13,000 otherwise law-abiding Canadian citizens have the potential to join the ranks of the "paper criminals." Forget how many millions would be swiped from the public purse just to prosecute these dangerous menaces to society. If the

government planned to send each and every one of them on an all-expenses paid trip to some of our country's finest correctional institutions for a three-year stint, at roughly \$113,000 a year, the taxpayers, who already have the privilege of seeing half of every dollar they make taken from them by force, would be on the hook for a whopping \$4.4 billion!

Since all these hardened felons would now be considered criminals in the eyes of the law, many would either turn to welfare or crime to survive. In order to see just how devastating these laws are for society, perhaps the average citizen needs to spend less time away from the TV or running little Johnny and Sally to every organized activity on the go and more time educating themselves. Then we might actually see an outcry from the public.

The legendary Mahatma Gandhi is famously quoted as saying, "An unjust law is no law at all." In addition to placing an enormous financial strain on those who are charged and prosecuted by the Firearms Act (they are victims, in my opinion), unjust laws merely create contempt for the law. If that wasn't severe enough, there is a growing distrust of governments by the citizenry of Canada and the United States.

You're probably wondering what the best solution is for this mess. It's simple - repeal the Firearms Act. While we're at it, trimming mushrooming budgets for federal and provincial justice departments would go a long way in putting an end to these inconsequential prosecutions (or rather persecutions) of innocent citizens. With limited amounts of taxpayer money in which to work with, provincial crown attorneys would be forced to focus their efforts on prosecuting violent criminals and sex offenders - not duck hunters, farmers and sports shooters.



# GUN JOBS

## DEFENCE CONTRACTOR

By Al Voth

Long, difficult shots are the daily task of our military's snipers. The rifles needed to make those shots are highly specialized and building the guns takes as much skill as using them. Canada is fortunate to not only have some of the most skilled snipers in the world, but also to be home to one of the world's premier builders of sniper rifles. Canada's PGW Defence Technologies may not be a well known name to owners of sporting guns in this country, but they are known around the world in military circles as the builders of the Canadian Force's sniper rifles and as world-class defence contractors in the precision rifle business. I recently took a tour of their Winnipeg facility in order to bring their story to readers of this magazine.

PGW Defence Technologies started out in 1991 as Prairie Gun Works, the shop of Ross Spagrud, a recent graduate from the Colorado School of Trades' gunsmithing program. Ross told me he set up Prairie Gun Works as a general gunsmith shop, where he did repairs and built custom rifles. As any good businessman would, he closely watched for trends in the firearm industry and when he saw a movement toward lightweight hunting rifles he started to market a custom rifle featuring a titanium action. This was an impressive enough product that some US gun magazines wrote about his rifle and he felt it worthwhile to take on a partner. At this point, Steve Altstadt, a competition shooter who was already a user of Ross's rifles and a millwright, joined the company. Steve had the engineering and manufacturing expertise needed to help take the business to the next level.

The two were still focusing on hunting rifles when they took a booth at the SHOT Show in an effort to further promote their products and services to the US market. While at SHOT, they happened to speak with representatives of the Canadian Forces who were there looking for a new sniper rifle design.

Ross managed to convince them to include rifles from his shop in the trials. More trials and tenders with Canadian Forces followed and it all served to induct the two partners into the world of government contracts.

More steps were involved in those trials than I have room to write about, but one part of them was an accuracy requirement that specified the ability to hit a chest sized target at 1,200 metres, 90 per cent of the time. PGW rifles achieved a 95 per cent hit probability and were ultimately selected as the new Canadian Forces anti-personnel sniper weapon. The C14 Timberwolf MRSWS (Medium Range Sniper Weapon System) in 338 Lapua went into service in 2005, just in time for Canada's 2006 expanded role in Afghanistan. The contract to build those rifles was the pivot point that flipped PGW from a gunsmithing shop to a volume rifle builder and defence contractor. It meant they had to make a large investment in modern CNC machining centres and all the other tooling and measuring equipment needed to produce high quality rifles in quantity.

"We haven't looked back since," Ross told me. "The Afghan conflict took our guns and the guys who use them all over the world. The quality of the guns speaks for itself and we're fortunate in that the people using them, be they military or civilian, always seem willing to recommend our rifles to anyone who will listen."

A tour of the company's production floor showed me what Ross was talking about. They were in the final stages of fulfilling an order for 250 sniper rifles for a foreign government. All of these units being their big gun, the LRT-3 rifle in 50 BMG calibre. And they don't just supply the rifle, for this order they put together an entire package that includes the rifle, a Schmidt & Bender scope, five magazines, cleaning gear, a suppressor and a Pelican case to hold it

all together. "That's what the customer specified in the order," said Ross, "so we source all the pieces and assemble the package for them."

At this point it's worth noting that PGW rifles are largely built in-house. The action is their own design and manufactured in their 10,000-square-foot facility, as are the magazines, the aluminum stock/chassis and many other parts. However, the barrels are obtained from an outside source, as are the triggers and suppressors. All this work is done by the two partners and their eight employees.

"What does an average work day look like for you guys?" I asked the two owners.

"We each have different roles," said Ross. "So, there's no average day that applies to both of us. But the list of tasks I perform in order to keep this place humming include things like contract negotiations, sourcing parts and services, maintaining supplier relations and co-ordinating training for our clients. Throw in some trade shows and international travel becomes a big part of the job, too. I make about a dozen significant business trips a year."

"I work more on the production end," added Steve. "That includes product development and design, CNC programming, tooling issues and product scheduling. And, of course, there are those other mundane tasks common to all businesses. We both look after things like personnel and payroll."

"Tell me the worst part about being a defence contractor," I said.

"That's easy," replied Ross. "The worst part is dealing with certain government bureaucracies. Not all of them," he added quickly, "just some of them."

"How about the best part of the job?"

Steve was quick to answer that question. "It's hearing from the guys who are actually out there using our rifle systems. When they come over and

shake my hand, thanking me for making a rifle that will deliver the accuracy they need, and that they can count on no matter what the conditions are, that makes my day."

"What's in your future?" I asked next.

"We'd like to penetrate more into the US civilian market," said Ross. "We think there is some significant potential there. Many of our military contracts came about because of 9/11 and the resources governments needed to fight the war on terror. Some of that

seems to be scaling back now and it may give us the production room to do more civilian sales."

More retail sales sounds good to me, because I'd like to add a PGW Coyote to my own collection. If you do too, it's already possible because all their rifles are non-restricted firearms and available for civilian sale. Just don't ask them to produce anything of a custom nature right now, or for a suppressor. Currently, they are only offering a fixed product line of three models in three

calibres: the 308 Win. Coyote model, the 338 Lapua Timberwolf model and LRT-3 in 50 BMG. All of these rifles are built to the same specifications as their military contracts. In fact, the rifles they offer for sale to civilians are essentially contract overruns, because a military order for 200 rifles means they will set up to manufacture significantly more than that in a production run. When the contract is filled, any extra guns become available for purchase.

Be warned, however. Their rifles aren't cheap. When I asked the guys what makes their rifles worth the extra money, I was told that it's the engineering and testing that goes into the product.

"Of course, they are supremely accurate rifles," said Steve. "But, they are also supremely rugged. Our guns have survived the worst ordeals military testers all over the world have been able to dream up. In one test, a bullet was deliberately stuck halfway down the barrel. A follow-up shot just stuck another bullet behind it, but it didn't rupture the barrel or damage the action. The entire rifle is built to take that kind of abuse and maintain it's accuracy."

Okay, that's tough. And it's nice to know rifles of this quality are in our troop's hands. Our Canadian snipers are skilled enough to deserve the best gear. While I'm nowhere close to being in their league, I still look forward to the day when I can get some trigger time on one of these rifles myself.



Nothing says "Made in Canada" as well as our symbolic maple leaf.



A PGW employee assembles an LRT-3 rifle.



Steve Altstadt with a PGW Timberwolf in 338 Lapua and an LRT-3 in 50 BMG.



Ross Spagrud, one of the owners of PGW Defence Technologies, has a contract to put a complete .50 calibre rifle system into each of these Pelican gun cases.

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# Where Are We As A Firearms Community?

By Robert Paddon



It's important for clubs to support all types of shooting sports.

Are the efforts by the various clubs, provincial and federal firearms and wildlife organizations, gun stores, etc. in the firearms community helping or hurting our community? Are we growing bigger as a firearms community, are we stagnate or are we declining? I would like to say we are getting bigger but I have run into many issues recently and wonder if we are not shooting ourselves in the foot.

For example, I teach the Canadian Firearm Safety Course and Canadian Restricted Firearm Safety Course and always encourage new participants in the sport to join their local shooting club. I have had many discussions where the new participants saying they cannot find a club to join due to membership ceiling levels, restrictive joining practices such as having to be sponsored by a member, the excessive cost of membership, etc.

I have seen in-fighting by clubs where the clubs fail to support the shooting sports. It is okay to shoot trap and your hunting rifle, but using pistols, semi-automatic rifles and tactical shotguns is frowned upon. Traditional longbows are okay, compound bows are somewhat condoned, but crossbow usage is forbidden at this club.

I have seen where we burn out executives because no one volunteers. Do you have a club where the president has

held the position for five years and cannot retire because no one is prepared to step up and take the leadership role?

The issues listed above are not good for our firearms community. What are you doing and what is your club doing to prevent these items from happening? What is your personal and your club's ethos?

**Ethos** is a Greek word meaning "character" that is used to describe the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize a community, nation or ideology.

My personal ethos towards firearms ownership and usage are:

1. Join an organization and support your fraternity.
2. Volunteer to help make the organization work, don't just pay dues.
3. Encourage new participants into the sport and help train them.
4. Keep your views and mind open to try new things, such as three-gun shooting.
5. Being critical and complaining is counter-productive unless you have suggestions or are actively and open-mindedly seeking ideas from others. When you make suggestions to improve your club and firearms community, be prepared to step forward and implement the suggested actions.
6. Always look at the big picture. For example, you are not just a rifle shooter, you are a shooter in a shooting community.

I have been a member of the firearms community since the 1970s. This personal ethos is what has driven me to run for and hold numerous executive positions and to contribute many volunteer hours. My efforts have made improvements to the firearms organizations I have joined and overall to the firearms community.

So what is your personal ethos toward firearms ownership and usage? What drives you to be a supporter of the firearms community? How are you helping out your firearms organization? What have you done recently to promote the shooting sports?

From a club's perspective, I believe it would be beneficial for the executive and membership to get together one Saturday to discuss the ethos that drive their organization. To help you out I would suggest that clubs might consider the following six items for their ethos:

1. Good governance takes effort.
2. We are not an Old Boys Club.
3. Shooting is shooting no matter what discharges the projectile.
4. Volunteer organizations cannot be run by the one per cent of its membership.
5. Training and development are important.
6. Change is normal and continuous improvement is what your organization should strive for.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE TAKES EFFORT

Clubs become a legal entity by filing Society Act paperwork with the government. In this paperwork you need to establish the aims or objectives of the organization, in this case, to promote the shooting sports. You submit bylaws that explain items such as membership types and requirements, executive positions and duties, meeting procedures and financial and audit requirements.

Do the executive members have copies of these bylaws? Have they read them and are they familiar with their con-



tent? Are the bylaws readily available to the members? Are you complying with the bylaw requirements when you hold your Annual General Meeting, such as quorum, presentation of financial records, director reports, auditing of financial records? Are you filing your annual report with the government to keep the society legal? Have things changed in the years since the bylaws and aims were written, or is it time to review and update them (such as notice of AGM must be posted in the local newspaper, what about the use of e-mail?) Do the bylaws adequately prescribe the duties of all the executive and any committees? Do you have a process in the bylaws to discipline or revoke membership if someone does something unsafe at your club or contrary to the aims of your society?

If you answered no to any of the questions maybe it is time to strike a committee to review your bylaw and or educate your executive. If you have not been filing your annual reports with the government, your status as a society may be struck by the government. Don't be surprised when the Chief Firearms Officer also revokes your shooting club and shooting range approvals.

### **WE ARE NOT AN OLD BOYS CLUB**

My definition of an Old Boys Club is one that restricts membership or imposes hurdles that prevent anyone from joining their club. If you look around and only see the same guys that have been members for 20 years and you all have grey hair, chances are you are an Old Boys Club. Where are the youth and women members? Does your club represent a cross section of your community with all race, creeds and colours in your membership?

When it comes to joining your club, how easy or hard is this process? Does only the membership chair sell memberships? Can memberships be obtained at the local sporting goods store or online from the club's website? Do you have to present yourself at the monthly meeting in order to get approved and voted into the club? Do you have to be sponsored by a current member in order to join your club? Is there an initiation fee to join your club? Do you get full privileges upon joining or do you only get partial membership privileges until some time period has elapsed, such as no range key for a year? Can any member, no matter what town they come from, be an executive member? Is there a ceiling on the number of members?

If these questions made you think about your membership process, maybe it is time to review the process. We want to grow the clubs and thus the firearms community. We want and need the participation by all members of society in your club. We need to ensure that we have a process when someone joins the club that they are given orientation to the club and the ranges before they use them. We need to encourage new members to participate in club events, take leadership roles and join the executive.

### **SHOOTING IS SHOOTING NO MATTER WHAT DISCHARGES THE PROJECTILE**

If it discharges a projectile and it is legal to use, we should be support it as a shooting sport. At the club level, we do not need club-imposed rules that prevent the use of certain firearms and archery equipment at the club. At the personal level, if you don't own a handgun, you should still support the ownership and usage of them. All types of shooters need to stick together to promote and help ensure continued rights of firearms ownership.

Ask yourself the following questions: Are the various

groups of the club - trap, rifle, pistol, etc. - working together, or are they at opposite aims or fighting for control of the club? Does your executive adequately represent the interest of all the groups in your club? Does the club allow new shooting opportunities like three-gun shooting? Is the club working together to support and promote all the groups in your club or is it favouring one specific group, like the trap boys started this club so we will always be the trap club every other group is subordinate to trap?

After reviewing these questions you need to go back and also look at the aims of your society. What type of club do you want to be? Be sure to take steps to ensure you club supports and promotes all shooting sports.

### **VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS CANNOT BE RUN BY THE ONE PER CENT OF ITS MEMBERSHIP**

To many times volunteer organizations fail to recruit or encourage membership participation. We end up with the one per cent of the membership doing the bulk of the work for the group, which could mean 500 members and only five members running the club. We fail to encourage membership participation and thus the workload. We eventually burn out the executive. Just because you are the club president does not mean this is now your full time/part time job. You need to learn how to delegate work.

If you look around the executive meeting table and it has been the same guys for the last five years, you have a problem. If you cannot meet the quorum requirements at your meeting, you have a problem. If no one volunteers for work bees, you have a problem. If someone from the executive dies or quits and no one is prepared to step forward and take that position, you have a problem.

Can your club achieve the 10-80-10 rule? Ten per cent of the club membership is active and holds executive or committee positions, 80 per cent of the club member is the silent majority. They support the 10 per cent and when asked will assist the club in some activity, like coming out to a work bee. When was the last time you took the membership list and each executive member phoned 10 people to tell them about the work bee next weekend? Nowadays we use e-mail to tell members about events and work bees. Personal contact gets better results than hoping the members read the club newsletter.

The last 10 per cent of the club membership is the frustrating portion. They feel that since they pay dues, they have a right to complain about how the club is run by the first 10 per cent group. They are not willing to provide any suggestions for improvement, help out at a work bee, etc. They want to play official opposition. As an executive member, I am always open for criticism and suggestions. But if you are suggesting something you better be prepared to step forward and be part of the solution - "The target boards are shot out and they need to be replaced." Great, will you be here this weekend to assist at the work bee? If the answer is yes, the range chair gets support. If the answer is no, thank you for your comment we will get to it when we have member support.

As an executive member, it is your job to plan and organize, not to do all the work. Get your 80 per cent of the membership out to do the work. Many hand make light work. Also, the executive needs to determine when the organization has grown too big that you need paid assistance, like a part time grounds keeper to cut the grass and repair the targets, provide range orientation, etc. Make sure that if you cannot get volunteers to perform the task that you increase dues to cover the cost of part time help.

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ARE IMPORTANT

What are you doing to train new shooters and develop the shooting sport? What are doing to train the executive and membership in the operation of your club?

We need to encourage new participants into the shooting sports. Clubs should have members trained and qualified to teach the Canadian Firearm Safety Course, Canadian Restricted Firearm Safety Course, Hunter Education, Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Black Badge, etc. These courses should be made available at a reasonable price and frequent enough to meet the needs of the programs. We should reward these instructors with a stipend to cover their expense and time. We should formally recognize instructors who go that extra mile and help out, like a President Achievement Award for Volunteering.

We need to look at the training and development needs for the executive and membership as it relates to the operation of the club. Do we have enough people trained as Range Safety Officers? Has your club caught up with technology or are you still doing things old school? Does your treasurer use software to keep the club's books? Do some of your volunteers need a course in basic computer usage and software? Have we got members trained in any of the following: first aid, food safety, liquor serving, etc.?

The club should look at its training and development needs by performing a needs assessment. First off, determine what the problem is. For example, the problem is that members are unsupervised while shooting and we are getting damage to the range and complaints from neighbours. Then come up with some solutions. Solutions could include:

1. Do we have adequate range rules and are they posted?
2. We need to provide range orientation to the members before they can use the range.
3. We need to train members to be Range Safety Officers to provide the range orientation and supervise the shooting.

Now come up with a plan to achieve these solutions. Assign people to complete each part of the plan and establish deadlines.

## CHANGE IS NORMAL AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IS WHAT YOUR ORGANIZATION SHOULD STRIVE FOR

It is said that people do not like change. But change is a normal part of life. We cannot run a gun club the same way we did 30 years ago. We have legal obligations for the club to meet, such as being an approved shooting club and shooting range. Society as a whole and our membership require us to be more responsible and accountable - members want to see proper financial and accounting procedures in place. What was once acceptable, but due to changes in ethics and laws, can no longer be permitted. For example, 30 years ago it was a social norm to shoot trap on a Sunday and go into the club house and have a few beers, and then go back and shoot some more. Today we cannot condone or permit this activity.

We need to perform our preventative maintenance to keep our club assets. Have a look around at your clubhouse and ranges. Could it be used as a movie scene from the 1950s or 1970s because the furniture is that old? When was the last time the clubhouse saw a new coat of paint?

In addition to preventative maintenance, what are you doing for the continuous improvement of your club? Do you have target stands made of steel with wooden target boards? They still work when you change the target boards. Can they be improved upon? The answer is yes. Make the target stands of wood so you can reduce the potential of ricochet at your range. Install a berm in front of the target stands so the base holder does not get shot out. This will reduce your maintenance cost and thus save you money.

Just because we have done something for 30 years does not mean we cannot do it better. As a group, get together and determine what needs improvement at your club. Set goals, develop plans and assign duties with deadlines so that you can achieve continuous improvement. Your improvements don't have to be major projects. Taking one small step at a time will help you toward your reaching your goal of continuous improvement.

## CONCLUSION

I hope that the suggested six ethos will create discussion among the club executive and membership. Organize a meeting and get the executive and membership together. What are the Ethos going to be for your club?

Remember that insanity is defined as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

Thinking of your ethos more than likely will not be the same old thing.

Once the discussion has started, you need good leadership to help create a plan of action. For some clubs the idea of a planning may be foreign to them. It is not hard. Determine what the problem is, brain storm and come up with possible solutions, determine what solution you are going to act upon and assign realistic duties and timelines.

Come up with a six-month, one-year and five-year written plan for the club. Get buy-in from the membership and raise the funds, solicit the volunteers and put the plan to work. Failing to plan is planning to fail.

Building a bigger and more active club is where we need to take the firearms community.



Proper training for your members and encouraging women and children to join will only enhance your club and the experience of shooting there.



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# Mossberg 30-30

*A reliable and cost-friendly deer hunting companion*

By Bob Shell





## Mossberg 30-30

**Calibre:** 30-30 Win Model 464

**Capacity:** 7

**Barrel:** 20 inches

**Sights:** Bead with adjustable rear

**Scope:** None

**Twist:** 1:10

**Length of pull:** 13.875 inches

**Finish:** Blued

**Stock:** Wood, straight grip

**Weight:** 6.75 pounds

**Overall length:** 38.5 inches

**MRSP:** \$497

In the 1890s, smokeless powder was catching on and was being used in sporting rounds, as well as in the military. The Winchester Model 94 came out and was offered in a few chamberings, including the 25-35, 32 Win Special and the 38-55. For the most part these rounds fell by the wayside, but the 30-30, which came out in 1895, is still popular today. Someone who isn't familiar with the 30-30 or a lever-action rifle might wonder why it's still around. The best reason I can think of is that it works. If it is used as intended, deer and similar sized game will continue to be harvested by this ancient round. The lever-action rifle in the 30-30 will continue to harvest more deer than practically anything else available.

Many millions of lever-action rifles have been produced since the 30-30 came out. Winchester, Marlin and Savage have and still produce the lever models. Mossberg, who has produced many quality guns at reasonable prices, now offers their version of the 30-30. At first glance, it resembles the Model 94 of years past. Unfortunately, Winchester decided to price their lever-action rifle beyond the price point that a hunter would expect to pay for a utility rifle. I am not sure as to why they did that, but the Mossberg will fill the gap very nicely.

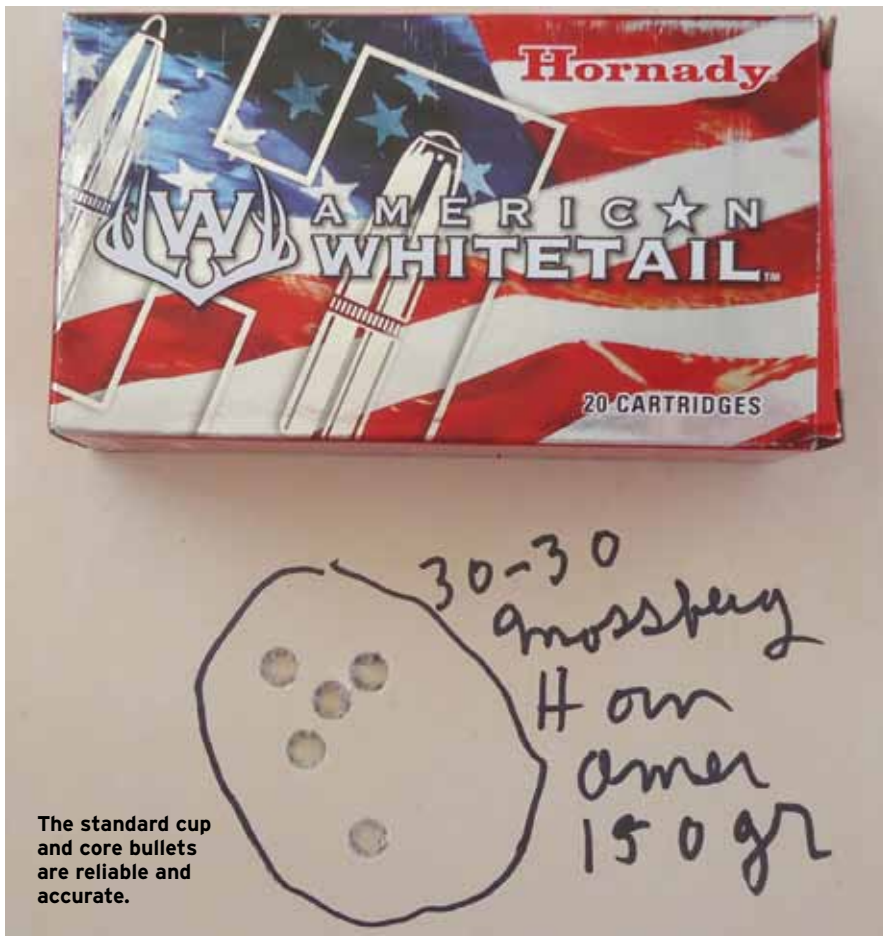
Like the 94, the Mossberg is light and handy to carry, which makes it lighter than a Marlin in 30-30. Both are great guns and it would be a matter of personal choice as to which one you would select. My idea of a lever-action 30-30 is a working person's rifle, which has been true for generations. It should be affordable for the average, working class person, which the Mossberg is. I had a 13 year old, who is small for his size, shoot it and he fell in love with it. He has no problem with the weight or recoil. He has made suggestions about something under the Christmas tree for him.

The Mossberg is a good-looking rifle with decent checkering and bluing. The fit from wood to metal is ok and it has a thin rubber butt pad. For the price, the cosmetics are entirely adequate. Like many Mossberg products, it has a safety behind the tang - when the red dot shows, it is ready to fire. It resembles the safety on the famous Model 500 shotgun. With the safety on the hammer still falls, but doesn't contact the firing pin. I don't see the need for a safety on this type of gun, but we have to be politically correct and lawyer proof. It has adjustable sights, which will be adequate for

woods ranges. I would touch them up a little to be able to pick them up easier in low light. It is drilled and tapped for a scope but no mounts are offered with the gun, which is an inconvenience because for a couple of dollars they could be included. The gun ejects through the top, so a side-mounted scope may be more desirable, however, the receiver isn't tapped for a side mount so that might be an issue for some folks. The lever has to be held closed in order to fire, which might be some sort of safety feature, but I don't see the need for that. The lever stays open about three-eighths-of-an-inch, unless you manually close it all the way. It may be a way to make sure that you have a proper grip on the rifle prior to firing it. The trigger has a lot of travel and is somewhat mushy, but not excessively heavy, but it seemed to improve after some shooting. The gun is light, which is very important to me, as I am not that mobile anymore. It comes up nice for a rapid shot and if you can pick up the sights then you have a good woods rifle, as the shots are frequently quick and at close ranges. This type of hunting is where the Mossberg should shine. They also offer the Model 464 with a black stock and other features that make it more modern looking, so that is an option for someone who is into black rifles and likes the lever models.

I received a Hawke scope, model HK 3030 that is 2x7x32. Other features include a dual reticle, which has red and blue lighting and is also adjustable for light and colour. The compact scope should work well on the Mossberg, but due to the top ejection there is a problem there. The optics are very clear, a feature I always get with the Hawke scopes. Possibly later on I may have it drilled for a side mount. A range session verified my concerns about the top mount. The empties just hit the scope and fell back into the action. On the other hand, the Hawke performed well from 25 to 300 yards. Since part of my testing used the Hornady Flex Tip bullets, we shot at the 300-yard target and seeing it was easy with the Hawke scope set at 7X. With that bullet and a good scope, the 30-30 is a legitimate 250 to 300-yard deer gun in competent hands. The parallax was easy to set at all ranges and the clarity was excellent. Once I get the proper mount, it will be a permanent fixture on this rifle.

Another advantage to having this model is the chambering. The 30-30 has been around for 118 years as of this writ-



various brands of levers. I have found that a good rifle with a scope can produce one-inch groups at 100 yards with three shots. Your lighter guns will go into about two inches at the same range, which is more than adequate for its intended purposes. Careful load development can shrink groups somewhat, but it isn't needed for woods hunting. Since we have a tubular magazine, other than flex tips no other pointed bullets will be used. I have used bullets as heavy as 220 grains in a strong single shot, but I don't recommend them in a typical lever action. I did, however, swage down some 180-grain Remingtons meant for the 303 British to .308 in diameter. If you were contemplating hunting a large black bear or boar, the 180-grain round nose would be something to consider. Of course, you would have to handload that slug. As we are aware, components can be hard to come by because of the demand. The nice thing about the Mossberg in 30-30 - it isn't fussy. I tried the brands listed, plus others such as the Speer and Winchester. Everything shot well enough to be usable for its intended purpose. Unlike some of the more modern rounds, especially the magnums, it isn't hard to cook up a good recipe. I can get groups in the area of one-and-a-half inches to two inches at 100 yards with a good rest and taking my time. One of the rests that I used wasn't comfortable and I feel that it made my groups somewhat larger.

Hornady sent me two types of ammunition for testing and some flex tip bullets for reloading. The factory ammunition is the 160-grain flex tip and the 150-grain Whitetail bullet, which is

ing and shows no signs of going away. Everyone who makes ammunition has at least one loading in the 30-30 round. In spite of its pedestrian velocities, it works well on deer, black bear and pigs, not to mention other similar game. Handloading produces great small game and practice loads. Ammunition isn't really expensive and most gun stores carry it - another upside. Most loads feature a 150 or 170-grain flat nose soft point, which is entirely usable for deer-sized game at 100 yards or so.

Like many other older chamberings, new bullets and powder have improved the performance of this old round. Hornady offers a 160-grain flex tip, which extends the range quite a bit due to the point. In the hands of a good shot, ranges can realistically be extended to 250 yards. Most knowledgeable hunters feel that it takes 1,000 foot-pounds of energy to reliably anchor a deer and the flex tip can produce that out to 300 yards. Of course you still have to hit him well to produce good results. Barnes offers a lead-free bullet for tougher game, if desired.

Some of the new powders, such as Hodgdon's LEVERevolution powders, can safely increase velocity - a real ben-

efit with the flex tip bullet. Since the recoil isn't bad, most youngsters and women should be able to handle this rifle. So the old 30-30 gets a new face-lift, making it more flexible and potent for big game hunting. Cast bullets? You bet! So you have a nice hunting package for a reasonable price. I have been using Hodgdon's HS-6 for cast bullets in various rifles and have found it to be a useful propellant for that purpose. The Mossberg does well with cast bullets at reduced velocities, making it a nice small game load. I use a lot of Hodgdon's powders in my reloading because they work so well, and they also have an online loading manual that is quite handy for someone looking for loading data. I have loaded some 30-30s with Hodgdon's LEVERevolution powder and I am here to tell you that it does increase velocities in the lever action rounds and with Hornady's flex tip bullets ranges are definitely extended.

The proof, of course, is in the shooting. There is a great selection of ammunition and bullets so we are looking for the accuracy and reliability of this rifle. I have shot a lot of 30-30s in a variety of guns and action types. Those include single shots and bolt actions, besides

Some of the test ammunition used by the author.



the basic load. I have shot the Hornady basic ammunition in the past and it is always accurate and consistent. The bullet is a basic cup and core design, which has worked well for many years. The flex tip is a legitimate 200 to 300 yards if you possess the necessary skill. That way if you are on the edge of a bean field and a deer steps out on the other side, you would have a better chance of getting him.

I received some Barnes lead-free bullets, which will make the 30-30 a better black bear round and will be legal for any lead free areas. I also shot some of their factory ammunition and it performed well, which is good news for the non-handloader. In addition, California recently passed a law requiring lead free bullets for hunting statewide, so you are in luck if you use a 30-30. I expect that some other states will follow suit. Never mind that lead bullets don't harm the environment as stated; the purpose is a

form of harassment by anti-hunters as the copper bullets are more expensive and harder to get. The joke might be on them because the Barnes bullets are very effective hunting slugs. In addition, other manufacturers are making copper bullets so they will become more available and possibly less expensive as time goes by.

Berry bullets, which are copper plated, are ok for reduced loads, but are not accurate with full powder loads. Probably somewhere between 15 and 1,800 feet per second is the velocity limit for accuracy, depending on the rifle being used. The same is true with cast bullets. Both should be used for small game and target loads. If you have a youngster shooting it, such as I did, reduced loads with the Berry or cast are just the ticket. The youth that shot this gun was nervous about the recoil until he shot it. Now he wants one for his hunting rifle. So it would be safe to say that

this would be a good first hunting rifle for a kid or woman who isn't fond of heavy recoil.

I also received some 150-grain Sierra flat tip bullets and I have found they were very accurate in this weapon. I have used Sierra bullets of all calibres and they always produce good accuracy. The 150 and 170-grain bullets would be an ideal deer load.

As with most new guns, it was tight until we put some rounds through it. After about 75 rounds it started to

loosen up, which made it that much easier to shoot and cycle. The trigger pull isn't too bad and it seemed to improve a little after some shooting. Offhand shooting didn't prove to be a problem due to balance and light weight. Hitting targets out to 100 yards isn't too hard, though you have to look for the front sight a little. A little orange should cure that. There were no jams or any other malfunctions that could be attributed to the gun. I had some 118-grain cast bullets that didn't feed, but they are way too short so the gun can't be blamed for that problem. The balance is great for carrying, especially without a scope. As good as the gun is, I have two complaints: first I don't like the safety. I realize that it is a liability issue, but for practical purposes I just don't have any use for it. In addition, I wish Mossberg would supply the correct mounts and rings at least as an option. Yes, I know that it will boost the cost a few dollars, but it would be convenient for the consumer. Besides, in most cases they will go out and buy that equipment anyway. Why not buy it from Mossberg?

The 30-30 has been around for generations and I expect that as long as there is hunting it will always be in the mix. For someone looking for a moderately priced 30-30 I recommend the Mossberg. This particular gun will be used in my deer hunting on various occasions as I have complete trust in it.

LOAD	BULLET	VELOCITY	COMMENT
10-grain HS-6	118-gr cast	1,533	consistent
12 X HS-6	150-grain Berry	1,571	nice load
35 X WC 844	150-grain Berry	2,361	not accurate
35 X WC 844	150-grain Winchester	2,350	ok
35 X WC 844	150-grain Sierra	2,389	decent load
Barnes	150-grain TSX FN	2,389	good load
Hornady	150-grain AM Whitetail	2,311	very consistent
Hornady	160-grain Flex Tip	2,239	consistent
8-grain of HS-6	165-grain cast	1,188	nice
32 X WC 844	180-grain RN	2,107	bear

# Black Americans

## A Little-Known Tradition Of Arms

By Gary Mauser

*"I am," she answered crisply, "a Second Amendment absolutist."*

Growing up in Birmingham, Ala., in the early 1960s, when racial tensions rose, there were, she said, occasions when the black community had to exercise its right to bear arms in self-defence, becoming, if you will, a well-regulated militia.

- Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Aug. 6, 2000

What comes to mind when thinking about guns and Afro-Americans? The media typically portray blacks as either criminals or anti-gun activists. Here is a glimpse into the real story.

Television tells us little about the real America. Black Americans, like other Americans, have long used guns to defend their homes and families against violence. They did so even while enslaved in the 18th and 19th centuries. After the end of slavery, blacks found guns vital in protecting themselves against white marauders and other criminals. Recently, black plaintiffs have taken decisive steps to advance Second Amendment rights for all Americans. Otis McDonald, for example, a black Chicago resident, driven by a desire to protect his family from criminal violence, launched a legal challenge to the Chicago gun ban that resulted in the Supreme Court forcing Chicago to allow residents to carry concealed handguns.

The history of armed blacks in the US illustrates why many Americans do not trust their government. There is widespread agreement among American black leaders, men such as Frederick Douglass, WEB DuBois, Robert Williams and Martin Luther King, Jr., in support of black people using firearms to protect themselves and their families from attack. This is largely unknown because the mainstream media ignore any story that contradicts their progressive vision. According to progressives, the only role for black people is to serve as defenceless victims of white oppressors - and to wait passively to be rescued by the Democrat Party. The truth is much more interesting.

### Democrats and black intellectuals

Democrats also attempt to erase the tradition of responsible firearms usage by blacks. When the Democrats can't ignore black libertarians or conservatives, they routinely ridicule them. Nevertheless, distinguished black intellectuals, such as Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and economics professor Thomas Sowell, senior fellow at the Hoover Institute, continue to play important roles in defending individual liberty for all Americans.

Joining this eminent group is Nicholas Johnson, a black Fordham law professor who was the lead author of a well-received legal tome, *Firearms Law and the Second Amendment*.

His recent book, *Negroes and the Gun, the black tradition of arms* (Prometheus Books, 2014) tells the captivating story of armed black Americans. He graphically portrays a vital part of the American experience that is all but unknown. It is eye opening to read about these farmers, doctors, janitors and ministers using firearms to protect themselves, their families or their neighbours from attack. Unfortunately, not all of these stories of armed self-defence end happily, but many do.

Only war freed the slaves in the US. The Civil War was precipitated by the Supreme Court's 1857 Dred Scott decision, destroying the delicate balance between free states and slave states. The Court denied Dred Scott's claim to be free, even though he had lived as a free citizen in a free state after escaping slavery many years earlier. The court argued that blacks couldn't be citizens, because if they were, then they would enjoy full citizenship rights, including being allowed to have and use guns.

### Republicans freed the slaves

After the Civil War, the federal government, dominated by Republicans, passed the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments with the express purpose to free the slaves and guarantee them full citizenship, including voting rights and the right to "keep and bear arms." The Republicans ruled Congress because almost all Democrats, being from southern states, had resigned to join the rebels at the start of the war.

Reconstruction, following the Civil War (1865 to 1877), was a tumultuous period. In the countryside of the former Confederacy, ex-slaves and former slave owners attempted to work out a way to live with each other. Unfortunately, this often involved violence. Many of the newly freed slaves armed themselves, not only to hunt for food, but also to defend their families from criminal attack. White supremacy had been re-established by 1877, in part through the Ku Klux Klan enforcing Jim Crow laws and working in connivance with racist local police. Importantly, this period saw the first general gun control laws introduced - primarily to disarm blacks.

Black Americans have long owned and used firearms for personal protection. Not all such uses turned to their advantage, particularly when the local authorities backed up their attackers. But, consistent with modern research, no shots are fired in almost all cases of defensive gun use. Aggressors back down when confronted with armed force, so blacks could often save themselves by brandishing a firearm. Early in the 20th century, black communities organized to defend their legal rights, especially the right to armed self-





defence. In one famous case, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hired Clarence Darrow to defend Dr. Ossian Sweet and his family, accused of murder in 1925 for shooting and killing members of a white mob.

### Self-defence and political non-violence

Professor Johnson explains how the black leadership simultaneously embraced private self-defence and political non-violence without contradiction. Martin Luther King carefully distinguished the use of arms to defend specific individuals against an immediate attack from using arms to advance group political goals. The first is the natural right of everyone, and consequently armed self-defence has won the widespread support of many, including Mahatma Gandhi. The second is much more problematic, and in that case, King argued for non-violent "socially organized masses on the march."

During the 1960s, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Council staged dramatic scenes where blacks attempted to exercise their civil rights in a non-violent manner, provoking a violent response from white authorities. King saw non-violence as a strategy, not ideological dogma. Television images of blacks being beaten, gassed, even attacked by vicious dogs, helped pressure the federal government to wrest control from racist state governments. This approach was effective in winning the sup-

Bridget Johnson prays as she holds a clock of Martin Luther King, Jr. that she brought with her to City Park on Jan. 18, 2010, in Denver, Colo. The event is the largest Martin Luther King Day Parade in the country.



port of many Americans for the plight of blacks under the Jim Crow laws of the south. Then-president John Kennedy finally saw the political advantage of backing Reverend King.

Despite relying on non-violence, Reverend King was not a pacifist. Behind these carefully scripted scenes, patrols of armed blacks protected the non-violent marchers and demonstrators. Armed stand-offs between the KKK and the black militia, such as the Deacons for Defence and Justice, Civil Rights Guards and other spontaneously formed groups of friends and neighbours, never made it to television but many such confrontations, often at night, effectively protected the lives of numerous pacifists and demonstrators. It was a transformational time. White pacifists travelled south to participate in challenging racist authorities. The pacifists were shocked to discover that their black allies came from a rural tradition of armed self-defence.

Professor Johnson recounts instances where black communities pushed the boundary of armed personal defence by arming themselves to rally as a group in order to rescue individuals threatened

In Washington, DC, Aug. 24, 2013, this man holds a sign with a message from Dr. King at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for the 50th anniversary of the civil rights march on Washington, DC.

by white mobs or even local authorities. Perhaps surprisingly, such efforts were often effective. As in individual armed self-defence, firearms often did not need to be fired to be effective. At other times, however, community defence efforts turned out badly.

### The 1960s and the Second Amendment

For many reasons, as Johnson explains, this all began unraveling in the 1960s when the civil rights movement metastasized into black radicals advocating political violence under the rubric of armed self-defence. At the same time, young black leaders won election as

mayors of large urban cities, such as Los Angeles, Detroit and Atlanta. Unfortunately, they proved unable to control urban riots and black-on-black violence (usually drug related) in their cities. Opportunistically, the new generation of black leaders joined with the emerging gun-control movement to create the progressive coalition that exists to this day. With the complaisance of the media, the modern paradigm soon supplanted the long tradition, generations old, of armed individual self-reliance.

The Second Amendment is only secondarily about people defending their families from criminals. Its primary purpose is to enshrine the natural right of citizens to defend themselves against government depredations. As the quotation from professor Rice observes, members of the black community have traditionally armed themselves to resist the unacceptable actions of malevolent authorities. Their efforts fall squarely in the American republican tradition and in accord with common sense.

#### FREE PEOPLE OWN GUNS. SLAVES DON'T.



After the Civil War, the federal government, dominated by Republicans, passed the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments with the express purpose to free the slaves and guarantee them full citizenship, including voting rights and the right to "keep and bear arms."



The Second Amendment is only secondarily about people defending their families from criminals. Its primary purpose is to enshrine the natural right of citizens to defend themselves against government depredations.

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# The Western Lawmen

Gary K. Kangas

## Guns Of Law And Order

### Early 20th century BC lawmen

The turn of the 20th century was a time of transition. British Columbia evolved from the frontier old west to the modern west.

In this era, policing also evolved dramatically. There were multiple police forces operating in various jurisdictions. There were municipal police forces in the larger towns and cities; the railroads,

both Canadian National and Canadian Pacific, employed their own police; there was also First Nations Tribal Police; the Pinkerton Detective Agency; and the best known, the British Columbia Provincial Police, the second oldest territorial police force in North America, preceded only by the Texas Rangers. Like the Texas Rangers, in the early days the BC Police did not wear uniforms. Their only identification was a badge.

The BC Police were an early example of community policing. There were Chief Constables who were employed by the province, and these Chief Constables would swear in local, dependable residents that were called Specials. These Specials, who were deputized, might be sworn in for a particular investigation or

manhunt. They also could have specified duties in the area they patrolled. The two categories became known as Provincials and Specials.

The Provincial Constables could arm these Specials, however, many supplied their own firearms, horse and equipment. Long Alec, a south Okanagan First Nations resident, was appointed a Special in the late 1880s. Alec was six feet, six inches tall, a most imposing lawman, and he patrolled the border country from the late 1880s to the early 1900s. Alec may have carried his own revolver or was issued one. An image of Alec displays a revolver in a flap holster carried cross draw. Horsemen favoured this carry method. It cannot be determined for certain, however the noted firearm is likely a medium I frame Smith & Wesson hand ejector model of 1896 in .32 calibre long or a model of 1899 Smith & Wesson K frame in .32 Smith & Wesson, .38 Smith & Wesson or .38 Special.

The arms provided by the local Provincial would sometimes be quite eclectic, ranging from modern to nearly antique and varying in size from pocket pistols to big bore revolvers. Just after 1900, the province issued some of the early model of 1899 K frame Smith & Wessons in .38, with a holster plus handcuffs. The province also, on occasion, supplied Winchester 1892 and 1894 model rifles. In many cases, the Provincials and Specials carried their own personal side arms. John Kirkup, Chief Constable in Rossland, carried an 1873 Colt single action revolver, five-and-a-half inches, in .44-40. His son Jack would become a second generation BC police-



Long Alec and an unidentified First Nations woman. Photo by Osoyoos Museum



**A pair of .38-44 Smith & Wessons.**

man who would wear the new uniform, which would be adopted later, and would carry the standard issue revolver in either .38 Special or .38-44 heavy duty. Chief Constable Bunbury of the Boundary district carried his personal pearl-gripped, nickel-plated four-and-a-quarter-inch Colt Bisley in .32-20. This revolver was presented to him by his friend R. Case, City Marshall of Oroville, Wash. Bunbury served in the border country from 1908 to 1911 and then became the Chief of Police in Greenwood, BC. Many policemen carried large frame Colts and Smith & Wessons, some adopted the new semi-automatic pistols. Constable Fernie of Kamloops had a 1903 Colt .32 semi-auto pistol.

During the 1920s, the BC Police began to standardize their equipment and uniforms. In 1923, the uniform adopted was a khaki tunic and trousers, tall Strathcona style boots, a knife-edge Stetson hat and their leather was a Sam Browne belt and holster. The standard revolver was a Smith & Wesson K38 in .38 Special. Many police agencies of this era wanted a more powerful .38-calibre revolver. Smith & Wesson responded by designing a .38 revolver based on their .44-calibre N frame. This large and more powerful revolver would become available in 1930. It was known as the .38-44 heavy duty and was a large, robust firearm. It utilized a .38 Special high-power cartridge that had a velocity of nearly 1,100 feet per second. This cartridge was the precursor of the .357 magnum. The BC Police purchased the .38-44 to serve with their K38s. To supplement their long gun assortment, the BC Police also purchased a number of Thompson sub-machine guns. There is an interesting vignette regarding a Thompson used during a manhunt in the early 1940s of a very dangerous, homicidal individual. One of the BC policemen who was involved in the investigation was issued a Thompson fitted with a 50-round drum magazine. The only situation was he was on a motorcycle with a sidecar, so whenever he had to stop the trooper carried his Thompson wherever he had to go on foot.

Prior to the 1920s, the BC Police contracted their detective services from the Pinkerton Detective Agency. Various Canadian government agencies were the Pinkerton's largest customers in the early part of the 20th century. In 1920, the BC Police developed their own Detective Division. Many of the detectives were armed with the Colt 1911 .45 ACP semi-automatic pistol. The winds of change were altering the methods of policing. The BC Provincial Police were being viewed as a highly professional and progressive agency. They adopted a training program and many other modern innovations.

The 1920s and 1930s saw an era drawing to a close. Automobiles were replacing mounted patrols, the BC Police were utilizing mobile radios - the technology



**BC Chief Constables would swear in local, dependable residents that were called Specials.**

became sophisticated and scientific. The BC Police were the first police force to adopt an inter-city radio telegraph system in North America, using radio-equipped cars. They were also the first police force to establish a crime laboratory, including ballistics and identification. They were truly the leading edge of modern police techniques. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police assimilated the BC Police in 1950.

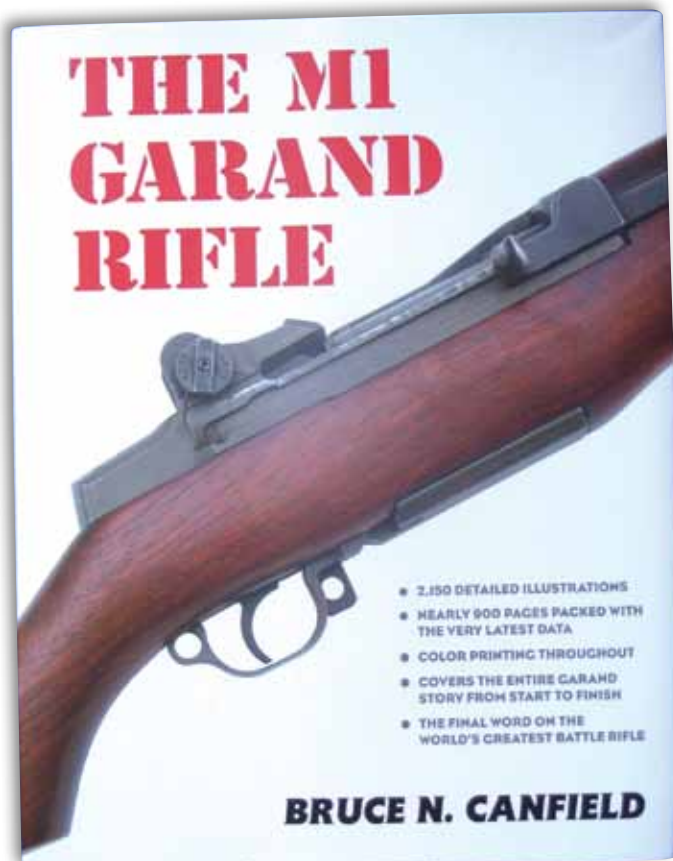
The BC Police have left a great legacy, adding to Canada's firearms heritage.

The author wishes to acknowledge Gary Owens, BC old west aficionado and historian, for supplying research material, plus sources on information regarding policing in the Boundary country that would otherwise be unavailable.

# NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

## *The M1 Garand Rifle*



Author: **Bruce N. Canfield**  
 2013 Andrew Mowbray -  
 Publishers  
 Hard cover with dust jacket,  
 8.5 by 11 inches  
 872 pages, black and white/  
 colour photographs  
 ISBN: 0-931464-56-1

Author Bruce Canfield is well respected within the firearms community, as he has written a variety of firearms-related books since the 1980s. These include such titles as *US Infantry Weapons of the First World War*, *O3 Springfield Service Rifle* and *Complete Guide*

to the M1 Garand and M1 Carbine.

*The M1 Garand Rifle* is the latest release from Canfield, who set out to pen the most comprehensive book ever written on the M1 Garand. He respectfully refers to the subject of his latest book as, "the most iconic US military firearm of the last 200 years."

My first impression upon the arrival of *The M1 Garand Rifle* was that it is a physically massive publication, rivaling most dictionaries or medical encyclopaedias in size. Weighing slightly less than six pounds and containing 872 pages *The M1 Garand Rifle* obviously exhibits the potential to be the ultimate authority on this famous semi-automatic battle rifle.

Organizing such a massive amount of information in a user-friendly format is a challenge for any author. Browsing the table of contents, the reader will note that *The M1 Garand Rifle* is divided into a total of 34 chapters, each with a title that clearly indicates the actual content. This is important as few will sit down and read such a book from cover to cover. Most will be attracted initially to those chapters which relate to their specific area of interest.

The development of the M1 Garand, its use in battles throughout the world, variations, collecting and the life of inventor John C. Garand are some of the topics contained within *The M1 Garand Rifle*. Itemizing the complete content of such a comprehensive study is simply not feasible, nor is it the intent of this review.

One chapter that caught my interest was *M1 Garand Sniper Rifles - World War II*. The technical challenges of creating the best sniper rifle involved various mounts, scopes, cheek pads and flash hiders. Anyone attempting to verify the originality of one of these desirable and expensive rifles should read this chapter very carefully.

*The Tragedy of Demilitarization* chapter describes the destruction of hundreds of thousands of M1 Garand rifles by order of the American government. Many receivers that had been cut in half and sold as scrap metal were purchased by resourceful entrepreneurs. They welded them back together, added the necessary parts from surplus and resold them to the civilian market.

Information in each chapter is presented in concise but easy-to-read text. Subtitles, printed noticeably larger in bold, are used effectively to divide content into relevant sections. Over 2,000 quality photographs and illustrations are included throughout this book and each is captioned to specify its significance.

*The M1 Garand Rifle* is definitely intended as a reference book for the serious Garand enthusiast who demands access to the most accurate information available. It is unlikely that a more informative book will be written on the M1 Garand in the foreseeable future.

Collectors, firearm historians and gun dealers will refer to this book frequently to fully understand each and every M1 Garand they encounter. The current list price of \$95.99 US is justified by the extensive content and high quality printing.

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