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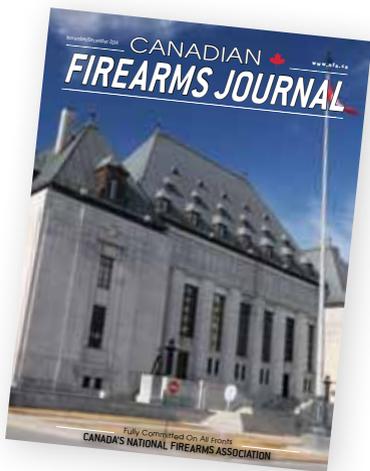
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

Thanks To Our NFA Members!

A historic milestone has been reached. On Oct. 8, 2014, for the first time in Canadian history, a pro-firearm organization intervened at the Supreme Court of Canada. We intervened in Quebec's attempt at obtaining the long-gun registry data, represented by Guy Lavergne. In an unprecedented second opportunity, the NFA will be returning to the Supreme Court on Nov. 7, 2014, to intervene in the Mandatory Minimum Sentence challenge, represented by Solomon Friedman. The NFA is the only pro-firearm organization fighting for your rights at the Supreme Court of Canada.



Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of



**CANADA'S NATIONAL
FIREARMS ASSOCIATION** 

In defence of freedom

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From The Editor's Desk

Chris McGarry

Celebrating The Diversity Of Canada's Firearms Community

Using our broad base and narrow focus to educate

Of late, anti-gun activists in Canada have been viciously stepping up their efforts to discredit or outright attack members of this country's law-abiding firearms community. The predominant tactic the antis employ in their smear campaign is painting all firearms enthusiasts as the same negative stereotype: white male, rural dweller, extremely conservative politically and narrow-minded (at least by the standards of these loony progressives.)

There has been a lot of activity on social media recently, from those who argue for stricter gun laws or an outright prohibition on the private ownership of firearms. These antis have been aggressive about making their views known. The NFA has begun to counter this assault on the firearms community by creating #psychoantigun, which is a compilation of the worst of the anti-gun Twitter messages. To quote one message, "Where does this Neanderthal brain come from. Boys and girls with guns. Real ammunition. A culture of fear, bigotry, racism, homophobia and Islamaphobia."

Because it has been so well promoted by Hollywood and the mainstream media, this is an image of the modern-day firearms enthusiast that some Canadians have. In reality, nothing could be farther from the truth. While this false stereotype still rings true in many instances, Canada's broadly-based firearms community is very much a diverse group of individuals. Our rising numbers include

Canadians of all varied backgrounds and interests.

Go to a shooting range in any Canadian city and you will hear an assortment of languages, often spoken by people who've escaped oppressive regimes.

Canada's firearms owners are representative of the diversity of Canadian society. While it is unfortunate that the general public is unaware of the diversity of Canada's firearms demographic, it is even more worrying that many left-leaning politicians are ignorant of this fact or chose to ignore it altogether.

A perfectly good example of this is Canada's New Democrat Party, which is socially progressive on a number of issues. However, the NDP is alienating many people, who would otherwise vote for its candidates, by attacking those who enjoy the ownership and use of firearms.

There is no denying the fact that firearm ownership among women is growing in this country. An increasing number of women are learning how to shoot for sport, as well as self-protection. In spite of this, the vast majority of politicians would still prefer to see women legislated unarmed and defenceless, instead of repealing laws that prevent them from effectively protecting themselves.

The bottom line is that politicians and the media can no longer characterize gun owners the way they've been doing for decades and expect the public to blindly go along with it. As Canada's population becomes more diverse, so does our firearms community. Using our broad base and narrow focus, we will be able to educate our elected officials and the general public. Only then will we be able to bring about reform of Canada's unnecessary and draconian gun laws.



Canada's firearms community is made of people from all different walks of life. Together, we need to start educating elected officials and the public about what it means to be a firearms owner.



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Consider Firearms Rights When Casting Your Vote

Firearms owners need to be heard by politicians

One of the essential problems with our expensive and unnecessary firearms laws is that there is an instant stigma of guilt when someone is spotted with a firearm. The reason for this calamitous situation is quite simple: it is illegal in Canada to be in possession of a firearm, and it has been that way for several years since the Liberal former *Bill C-68* came into effect. The licensing of firearms owners is tied to the provisions of S. 91 and 92 of the *Criminal Code* that define the offense and make the licence the defence to the charge.

The problem is that when someone is seen with a firearm, the presumption is that he or she is in illegal possession, until the licence is produced. That's why kids with cap guns and teens with airsoft guns and paintball markers are getting into conflict with the police. Many people can't tell the difference between a real, functioning firearm, a replica firearm, a deactivated firearm, a paintball marker or an airsoft gun.

When it looks like something scary, the default reaction is to involve law enforcement. In psychology, there is a phenomenon called closure in which people fill in gaps where they don't expect a gap to exist; that is, they see what they are expecting to see, and since what they expect to see carries with it a criminal penalty, they react accordingly.

When I was a young teenager, I used to be able to take my .22 rifle down to the local range for a shooting day with the local cadets. I would walk down the street with it and no one assumed that I was up to no good. I even remember a police officer waving at me as he drove past. The difference nowadays is that the same activity is federally regulated

and would be a crime, likely more than one. The presumption of innocence has been replaced with a presumption of guilt - it has become the firearm owners' responsibility to prove that he or she is not committing an offence by producing a licence. That license is a get-out-of-jail-free card for doing what, for over 130 years, was perfectly innocent and even respectable behaviour in Canada.

What changed? Is there a higher crime rate? No. As the post-war baby boomers have aged, they have taken crime rates down in most western countries, including Canada. What has changed is that there are more and more people in political office who don't seem to trust the people that put them into power. Many of them hold authoritarian views and simply don't want citizens to have firearms, or choose to narrowly define the reasons that are permissible for people to possess, own and use firearms.

Of the three major political parties in Canada, two of them have clearly indicated these authoritarian views as party policy. Those would be the Liberals and NDP. The third, the Conservative Party, has a significant number of elected members who are not friendly to rights issues regarding firearms possession, ownership and use.

Some of them say things like, "I have seen the damage that firearms can do!" Or, preen that, "We got rid of the registry; wasn't that enough?" As if that useful, but minor, act was somehow a complete solution to the major problems with the firearms law. The CPC also has a few members who are quite supportive of firearms owners. There are not nearly enough, and worse, there aren't enough who speak out.

It is critical to get involved with the political process and start finding challengers to those who think our laws are fine when they are not. The status quo on firearm law simply isn't acceptable. If you have an MP who gets it and supports your civil rights, support that person. Help him or her with your time and your money.

However, if you have an MP of any party who doesn't support you, or simply appears to ignore your concerns, you should not be supporting him or her. It is simple: don't donate, don't take a sign and don't vote for that person. This type of candidate is not your friend. There are minor parties that carry strong, pro-firearm civil rights positions, and you may want to consider putting your vote there to send a message. Even if it means that one of the clearly anti-firearm parties gets a candidate elected, the one that lost a seat will certainly examine why.

Make sure you make it clear as to why the lukewarm approach on firearms rights isn't good enough. Let the NFA know about your candidates and their stand on firearms issues. We are revising our politician grades again and we want them to be as accurate as possible. For example, Shelly Glover of Saint Boniface has clearly indicated to me that she doesn't support the NFA and will always vote against us. She is not a friend of firearms owners, whatever she claims about her support for ending the registry. She gets an F on our grading system and so you should not be supporting her.

If you go to a dance, an old rule is that you cut a rug with "the one who brought you." Some of our elected representatives seem to be forgetting who brought them and if they are not willing to dance, perhaps a change in music is needed. That is, if there

needs to be some reflection about who to support on firearms rights, that is sometimes done better from the opposition benches than the government side of the house.

All the parties know who voted last time - they just don't know how, but they do profile those voters. The firearms voter is not feeling respected by the lack of sincere action on the firearms file and thus a change of government, leading to a minority parliament of the left, may well be what happens in 2015. If that is the case, it may well be useful and necessary for the CPC to regain some focus on our issues if it is sincerely interested in the support of the firearms voter in the election that follows, whatever happens after the next federal election. Among

other matters, best left to individuals to determine, lack of action on the firearms file is costing the CPC significant support from gunnies. It is up to that party to see if it wishes to court the favour of firearm rights voters and civil libertarians by doing the right thing and making real changes as suggested by the NFA.

Rapport du Président

Sheldon Clare

Armes à feu envisager droits quand le casting votre vote

Les propriétaires d'armes à feu ont besoin d'être entendus par les politiciens

Un des problèmes principaux de nos lois onéreuses et inutiles est la présomption instantanée de culpabilité et le stigmate qui l'accompagne lorsqu'une personne est aperçue avec une arme à feu. Cette situation affreuse existe parce que la simple possession d'une arme à feu est devenue illégale il y a plusieurs années, depuis l'adoption du projet de loi C-68 du gouvernement Libéral de l'époque. La simple possession d'une arme à feu est un crime selon les articles 91 et 92 du code criminel, le permis émis par le gouvernement est devenu la défense contre cette infraction.

Le problème réside dans le fait que lorsqu'une personne est vue avec une arme à feu, on présume immédiatement qu'il s'agit d'un acte illégal jusqu'à ce que le fameux permis soit exhibé. Voilà pourquoi des enfants qui jouent avec des pistolets à pétards et des ados qui s'amuse avec leurs fusils "Paint Ball" ou "Air Soft" se retrouvent en conflit avec des policiers. La plupart des gens ne peuvent pas différencier une arme véritable fonctionnelle, une réplique d'arme, une arme désactivée ou des fusils "Paint Ball" ou "Air Soft".

Lorsque les gens voient un objet qu'ils trouvent épouvantable leur réaction automatique est d'appeler la police. Il existe un phénomène psychologique qui fait qu'une personne voit bien ce qu'elle veut voir. Devant une situation donnée, lorsqu'il manque des informations, le cerveau comblera les vides pour créer une perception cohérente. C'est ce que les gens font lorsqu'ils voient quelqu'un qui tient un objet qu'ils pensent être une arme à feu.

Lorsque j'étais un jeune adolescent je pouvais apporter ma carabine .22 au champ de tir local pour une journée de pratique de tir avec mon groupe de cadets. Je marchais dehors sans problèmes avec ma .22. Personne ne présumait que je voulais faire quelque mal que ce soit. J'ai même le souvenir d'un policier qui m'a envoyé la main en passant, alors que je marchais sur le trottoir avec ma carabine. La différence est qu'aujourd'hui ce même geste est réglementé par une loi fédérale qui en fait un crime qui mène souvent à plus d'un chef d'accusation. Dans ces cas, la présomption d'innocence a été remplacée par une présomption de culpabilité. Le propriétaire d'armes à feu doit prouver qu'il ne commet pas d'infraction en exhibant son permis aux policiers. Ce permis est le document qui l'empêche de se retrouver en prison malgré qu'il pose des gestes qui ont été légitimes voire respectables pendant plus de 130 ans au Canada.

Qu'est ce qui a changé? Est-ce que le taux de criminalité a augmenté? Non. Au contraire, avec le vieillissement de la génération des baby boomers dans tous les pays occidentaux incluant le Canada, le taux de criminalité a baissé. Ce qui a chan-

gé c'est qu'il y a de plus en plus d'élus qui ne font pas confiance aux électeurs qui les ont mis au pouvoir. Plusieurs d'entre eux ont un point de vue autoritaire et veulent interdire les armes à feu aux citoyens. D'autres choisissent de restreindre de plus en plus les raisons permettant aux gens d'en posséder et de les utiliser.

Parmi les trois partis politiques principaux au Canada, deux d'entre eux démontrent qu'ils ont un point de vue autoritaire dans la création de leurs politiques de parti. Ce sont les Libéraux et le NPD. Le troisième parti, le Parti conservateur est composé de plusieurs membres qui sont hostiles au droit de posséder et d'utiliser des armes à feu.

Ils répètent qu'ils "Ont vu le mal que les armes à feu font!" ou bien, "Nous avons éliminé le registre, n'est-ce pas assez?" Comme si ce geste utile mais mineur était en soit la solution complète pour régler les problèmes majeurs créés par la loi sur les armes à feu.

Par contre, le Parti conservateur compte plusieurs membres qui sont sympathiques aux propriétaires d'armes à feu mais ils ne sont pas assez nombreux, pire encore il n'y en a pas assez qui s'affirment.

Il est primordial de s'impliquer politiquement et de débusquer ceux qui pensent que nos lois sont adéquates lorsqu'elles ne le sont pas. Le statu-quo

est inacceptable. Si votre député est sympathique à la cause et qu'il appuie vos droits civils, encouragez le.

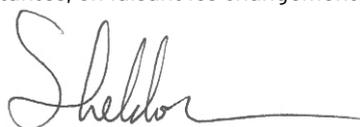
Aidez le, en lui donnant de votre temps et de votre argent. Par contre, si votre député ou son parti est contre vous, ou qu'il ne porte pas attention à vos inquiétudes, ne l'encouragez pas. C'est aussi simple que ça: Vous ne faites aucun don, vous ne posez aucune pancarte et vous ne votez pas pour cette personne - ce type de candidat n'est pas votre ami. Il y a plusieurs partis moins importants qui tiennent des discours favorables envers les droits civils en matière d'armes à feu. Vous pouvez envoyer un message en votant pour ces candidats. Même si le résultat est qu'un candidat anti-arme soit élu, il y en aura un autre qui perdant son siège, sera obligé de se demander pourquoi.

Assurez vous d'affirmer sans équivoque qu'un appui tiède envers les droits en matière d'armes à feu ne suffit pas. Avisez l'ACAF quelles sont les positions des candidats de vos régions sur ces enjeux. Nous sommes entrains de réviser

notre système d'évaluation des politiciens et nous voulons qu'il soit le plus précis possible. Par exemple, la députée Shelly Glover de Saint-Boniface m'a avisé qu'elle n'appuie pas l'ACAF et qu'elle votera toujours contre nous. Elle n'est pas sympathique aux propriétaires d'armes à feu peu importe qu'elle ait prétendue appuyer l'abolition du registre. Selon notre système d'évaluation la note de Mme Glover est un "F" et par conséquent vous ne devez pas voter pour elle.

Si vous allez à un bal, la coutume est que vous usiez le tapis en dansant avec celui qui vous a invité. Certains de nos élus semblent oublier qui les ont invité au bal et s'ils n'acceptent pas de danser avec nous, il est temps de changer la musique. Si nous devons réfléchir à qui nous donnerons notre appui pour protéger nos droits en matière d'armes à feu, nous trouverons probablement en ce moment de meilleurs candidats assis sur les bancs de l'opposition.

Tous les partis savent qui a voté aux dernières élections. Ils ne savent pas comment par contre, mais ils font quand même le profil des électeurs. Ceux pour lesquels l'enjeu des armes à feu est primordial ne se sentent pas respectés à cause du manque d'action sincère de la part du gouvernement. Ceci donnera probablement un Gouvernement minoritaire gauchiste en 2015. Si tel est le cas, il sera utile et nécessaire que le Parti conservateur se concentre mieux sur nos enjeux s'il veut vraiment gagner le vote des électeurs intéressés aux armes à feu aux élections qui suivront celles de 2015. L'inaction des conservateurs leur font perdre énormément d'appui de la part des propriétaires d'armes à feu. Ce sera la décision du parti de courtiser notre vote ainsi que celui des gens pour qui les libertés civiles sont importantes, en faisant les changements nécessaires aux lois tels que suggéré par l'ACAF.



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Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Rights & Responsibilities Versus Privileges & Punishments

Gun ownership is a right

Whenever the debate heats up over firearms ownership in Canada, it always seems to boil down to whether that ownership is a right or a privilege granted by government.

Many people believe rights are inherent, through natural law or by the grace of God, and that this includes the responsible ownership and use of property. Other people take an opposite view of this and see things like the ownership and use of property as a privilege to be enjoyed, but subjected to the will and actions of politicians and bureaucrats. The real truth is probably somewhere in the middle.

The usual suspects advancing the civil disarmament agenda have decided that it is a privilege, simply because our Canadian right and cultural tradition has not been codified like the *Second Amendment* in the *US Constitution*.

Until now, Canadians and other members of the Commonwealth haven't needed that. Our ancient rights come from the *1689 English Bill of Rights*, English Common Law and the *British North America Act of 1867*. But some believe that because these rights were not granted or observed in the 1982 Charter of Rights and Freedoms, they do not exist.

Our ancient rights and freedoms have never been extinguished, but have been undermined in politics and legislation in the modern era.

This is still happening today, based on the assertion that someone without a license to own certain property is an inherent risk to public safety, and that even someone with a license who allows it to expire becomes a risk to public safety simply by allowing that to happen. If you didn't get that right away, I refer to the mandatory firearms license for simple ownership or possession of a firearm in Canada.

How elitist, condescending and offensive. What's even more offensive is the assertion that law-abiding Canadians must give up their basic rights in exchange for privileges so that public safety can be secured and criminals punished.

When we talk about gun rights, a lot of people judge it through a misconception of the *Second Amendment* in the US. That somehow irresponsible or criminal behaviour is a protected right because of it, or that such a right interferes with the ability of law enforcement and the courts to effectively deal with criminals and the irresponsible. That somehow, a right to arms allows you to start your own armed neighbourhood militia or terrorize a community with impunity.

A whole culture of anti-Americanism has been manufactured in Canada around this view of criminality and irresponsibility surrounding firearms in the US, and it has been used as partial justification for every round of punitive and freedom-killing gun legislation in Canada for time immemorial.

Rights can be taken, temporarily or permanently, as punishment for criminal or irresponsible behaviour, but they must never simply be taken by the actions of government or bureaucrats pursuing agendas.

Successive firearms legislation in Canada has done exactly this, and those who have suffered have been law-abiding, regular Canadians, not the criminal or irresponsible.

The interpretation of the firearms issue in Canada as being one of privileges and penalties has been the main factor in the utter failure of Canada's firearms control laws. A system founded and



Gun ownership is a right.

built on the notion that firearms ownership is a privilege and that their use is an inherently suspicious activity, and that private property can be arbitrarily and punitively controlled, classified and confiscated at the whim of governments and bureaucrats, is doomed to failure.

At its core, this was one of the main reasons for the failure of the now defunct long gun registry, and the continuing failure of the *Firearms Act* that spawned it.

When regular, law-abiding Canadians, who wish to comply with reasonable regulations in the interest of public safety, are investigated like criminals, treated like criminals and made criminals as a matter of course by government, law enforcement and bureaucrats, the law has lost its way. Politicians become no longer trustworthy. Bureaucrats become a danger to the rights and freedoms of Canadians.

"So if you don't like the law, change it." Canadians did that in 2012, when legislation ending the registration of long guns was approved by Parliament under *Bill C-19*.

The province of Quebec challenged the destruction of the long gun registry

data after *Bill C-19* was passed and registration ended in Canada.

Quebec appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada and demanded that long gun registration should continue there until a decision on whether Quebec could retain the long gun registry data could be rendered. That means that since long gun registration ended federally everywhere else in Canada in 2012, Quebecers have still been forced to hold registrations for their long guns, register any new guns they buy from out of province and have continued to receive shiny new registrations for long guns purchased in Quebec. All courtesy of the Canadian Firearms Program.

The only problem is, none of this is required or mandated by law. They just do it. The official excuse is that the Quebec Supreme Court appeal keeps long gun registration in effect in Quebec, but the fact is that it is no longer a criminal offense not to hold a registration for a long gun anywhere in Canada. Even in Quebec.

Police in Quebec have seized long guns and charged people for possessing no registrations for them, even though there is no longer any law requiring this.

People who believe that firearms ownership is a privilege would say, "What's the big deal? Get a registration until it is clear that it is no longer required."

People who believe that firearms ownership is a right would say, "It's already clear. It is no longer required by law."

But it is the contempt for law and the will of Parliament by politicians and bureaucrats in Quebec, who perpetrate a charade in the name of public safety and bring the process of law into disrepute; politicians and bureaucrats who view the possession of firearms as a privilege.

You may still disagree that it is your right to possess that .22 rifle you have trigger locked, locked away and secure in your home. Regarding it as a privilege seems ever so more co-operative and reasonable. But remember, you have made a very dangerous decision for yourself and everybody else. Because if you are reading this, you are probably one of the 99.7 per cent of regular, law-abiding Canadians who deserve to have their rights, culture and property respected and protected by government, the courts and bureaucracy.

You will not get these things by trying to defend it as a privilege.

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Lest We Forget - One Hundred Years Of Duty

Remembering those who fought for our freedoms

This year, 2014, is a year of historic significance. It marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. Approximately 75 years ago, on Sept. 1, 1939, the Second World War commenced. This year also marks the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the invasion of Europe that occurred on June 6, 1944.

These two major conflicts affected the entire world. The two fatal shots fired by Gavrilo Princip on June 28, 1914, in the city of Sarajevo, resulting in the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, Sophia, ignited a chain of explosive events that affect us to this day.

For those of us living in the 21st century, it is difficult to understand the social, political and economic conditions of the early 20th century. The alliances that were created in the late 19th century and the early 20th century spun a web of intrigue and mistrust. The British, French and Russians were the principals on one side; the Germans, Austro-Hungarians and Turks formed the opposition.

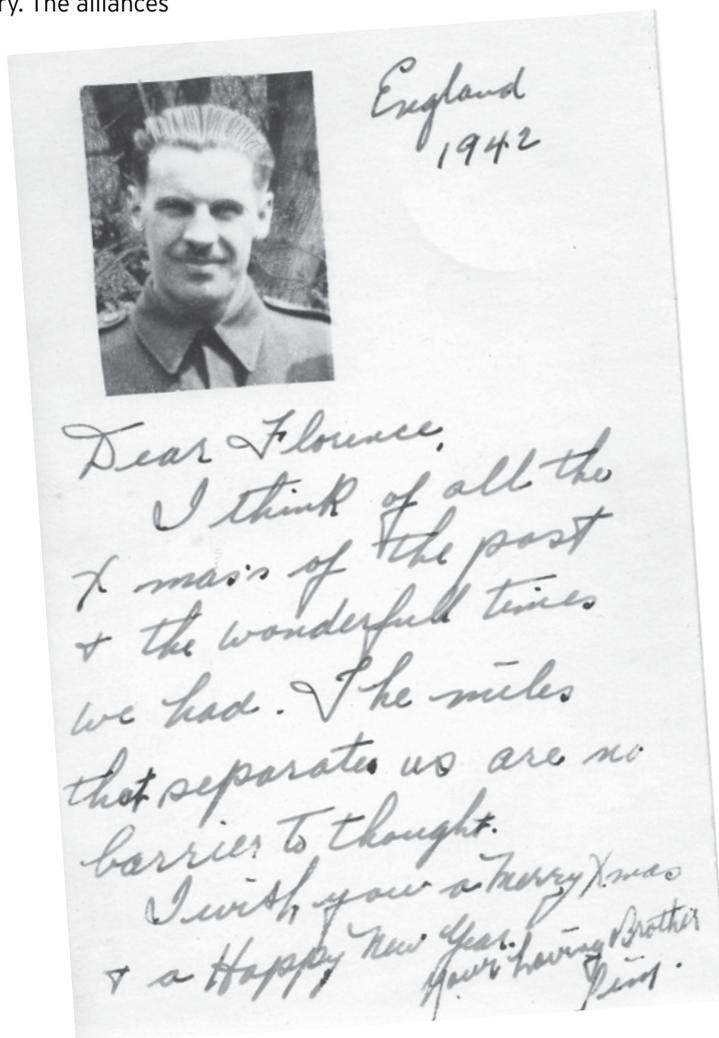
The long-term consequences of all these political machinations were never fully considered. The plots

and subplots that were woven together spelled tragedy for all concerned. Nationalism and ethnic hatreds are still rife nowadays.

There are countries in Europe that continue to harbor the imperialist notion that by annexing neighbour states' land, they will preserve their own national prestige.



The train to Valcartier.



A letter to his sister, Florence, from Sgt. James R. Boyle.



Russell Boyle, Canadian Navy.

The First World War, dubbed the "war to end all wars," unleashed an inferno that would cripple Europe for an entire decade. The destabilizing and displacement of populations, as well as the destruction of economies and devaluing of currencies, led to the rise of communism and Nazism.

The Second World War is much clearer. The imperialism and ethnic cleansing was far more blatant. The alliance between Germany and Japan was recognized by all of the astute politicians of the era.

There were others who felt that diplomacy would carry the day. The events that unfolded in 1939 were shocking and world altering. The invasion of Poland was rapid and brutal. The Nazi war machine was well prepared and used to devastating effect against neighbour states, who at the time continued to use 19th century tactics and technology.

The call to arms and the sense of duty at the onset of the First World War was rapid and intense. Canada and the other members of the British Empire contributed with incredible speed. At the Declaration of War, Aug. 4, 1914, Canada began to mobilize.

At the time, Canada had a regular army numbering around 3,110 men, as well as a small navy. From Halifax to Victoria, the call to serve king and country was heard loud and clear. About 32,000 men gathered at Valcartier Camp, Quebec. By September, Canada had naval convoys on the Atlantic.

On arrival in England, the Canadians were sent for training on Salisbury Plain. The first Canadian unit to reach France in December 1914 was the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. In February 1915, the first Canadian division reached France. During the First World War, a total of 620,000 Canadians mobilized.

This large force included the world's first combat nurses' corps, its members whom were commissioned as officers in the Canadian Army. About 3,100 Canadian women served with distinction throughout the war. The First World War claimed the



Lt. Col. Russell Lambert Boyle with his horse, Jack.

lives of 66,000 Canadians, including 53 nurses.

The sense of duty in the first half of the 20th century was very strong. The response was equally as strong during the onset of the Second World War. Men and women joined in the struggle believing their contribution would help win the war. A million Canadians, out of a population of 11 million, responded for the Second World War and 45,000 paid the price with their lives.

In the First World War, one of those who responded was a young horse rancher and cowboy from Crossfield, Alta. Lieutenant Colonel Russell Lambert Boyle, a Boer War veteran, was killed in action during the second battle of Ypres, in the fighting at Kitchener's Wood.

In the Second World War, George Alfred of Victoria, BC, 19 years old, who had apprenticed to the tire vulcanizers trade, joined the army and became a tank driver. Alfred was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. His rank on demobilization was gunner.

James Russell Boyle, a young cowboy from southern Alberta, joined the Canadian Army and became a Bofors gunner, attaining the rank of sergeant. He survived the war.

During the Cold War, Russell Boyle continued the Boyle legacy, joining the Canadian Forces at 19 and serving in the navy until retirement.

There are some who suggest we should not remember those who have served in the forces or have gone to war, as they feel this glorifies war. This concept is far from reality.

Most individuals do not like war. However, when there is a threat to freedom and democracy, these stalwarts who respond and answer the call to duty and to de-



George A. Smith and his tank.

fend must be honoured for their service. They must never become the forgotten. For if we do, we dishonour their contribution and their dedication to duty.

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The NFA Goes To The Supreme Court Of Canada

For several years, a legal battle has raged between Quebec and the federal government over the data of the long-gun registry (LGR). Back in 2012, when then-Minister of Public Security Vic Toews filed Bill C-19, also known as the *Ending the Long Gun Registry Act*, Quebec announced its intent to create its own long-gun registry and requested a transfer of the LGR data. It did so through a motion of the National Assembly, which is a symbolic gesture, as it carries no legal or binding effect. Not a single MNA voted against the motion, as the topic is a sensitive one in Quebec. Over here, the LGR is generally viewed as a memorial to the victims of the École Polytechnique shooting, and anti-firearms groups are not only quite vocal, but also most of the local media carry their message as if it were gospel, without ever questioning or challenging its inaccuracies and misleading statements.

In spite of Quebec's request, Ottawa refused to transfer the LGR data. As a matter of fact, Bill C-19 specifically provided for its complete destruction. Within a day of Bill C-19 becoming law, Quebec applied for and obtained a safeguard order from the Quebec Superior Court, arguing that it had an interest in the LGR data, as the Canadian Firearms Program was supposedly the result of co-operative federalism and that the destruction of the LGR data was an attempt by Ottawa to prevent Quebec from exercising its own constitutional powers. That safeguard order was eventually renewed and turned into an interlocutory injunction. The federal government was ordered to maintain the Quebec portion of the LGR in effect, not to destroy the data, and to keep registering long guns from Quebec. Strangely, the Bill C-19 amendments to Section 91 and 92 of the Criminal Code were not suspended. Quebec did not even ask for it. In effect, regis-

tration of long guns continued, but anyone who failed to do so could no longer be criminally prosecuted.

Quebec's streak of luck continued through the Superior Court process. The case was assigned to Justice Marc-André Blanchard. Justice Blanchard rejected two motions for leave to intervene, including one by the NFA. Eventually, Justice Blanchard transformed the temporary injunction into a permanent injunction. In his final judgment, he ordered Ottawa to transfer the Quebec portion of the LGR data to Quebec within 30 days. This never happened, as Ottawa chose to appeal the judgment to the Quebec Court of Appeal. At that point, the previously issued injunction remained in effect, but the data remained with the federal government.

Ottawa's appeal of the judgment was successful and proceeded swiftly. Ultimately, a panel of five Quebec Court of Appeal judges overturned Justice Blanchard's judgment. The Court of Appeal ruled that Ottawa had the power to abolish the LGR and to order the destruction of the LGR data. It also found that Justice Blanchard had significantly erred in appreciating the underlying facts.

Quebec immediately announced its intent to seek leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada from the Court of Appeal decision. It made a motion to the Court of Appeal to stay its own decision, pending the motion for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. Justice Dalphond denied that motion. At that juncture, Public Safety Minister Stephen Blaney announced that there was no longer any obstacle to the destruction of the remaining LGR data. However, soon afterwards, he changed his mind and agreed to continue to accept long-gun registrations from Quebec, on a voluntary basis. Meanwhile, Quebec and its Chief Firearms Officer continued to pretend that long-gun registration was still mandatory, in spite of the absence of legislation or of a supporting court order. The Quebec CFO even suggested that any Quebec firearm dealer who would not continue to register transfers of long guns would be liable to lose its dealer licence. Of course, that threat had no legal foundation, but the Quebec CFO does not appear to believe in the rule of law, although it is embedded in our constitution.

At that point, the NFA and Boutique l'Archerot, a Quebec-based firearms dealer, made a joint application to the Federal Court to end the illegal conduct of the Quebec CFO in forcing dealers to continue registering long-gun transfers. Unfortunately, that application was stayed at the request of both Ottawa and Quebec. The Federal Court ruled that it should not take the risk of issuing an order that might interfere with the Supreme Court process, without further ruling on the legality of the underlying issues. Whether that ruling was proper is highly debatable, but when Quebec effectively obtained leave to appeal before the Supreme Court of Canada, that issue became a theoretical one.

At that point, acting on behalf of the NFA, I made a motion for leave to intervene before the Supreme Court of Canada. That motion was granted, as was the simultaneous motion made by the Coalition for Gun Control (CGC). As a result, both the CGC and NFA became parties to the Supreme Court of Canada appeal process. Both parties were authorized to present legal arguments, but were prohibited from introducing new facts or new issues, as is customary in any appeal process. A few weeks later, I filed a legal brief, also known as a *factum*, with the Supreme Court. My legal arguments had to be different from those raised by Ottawa, as that is one of the conditions for being allowed to intervene.

Essentially, I argued:

- Quebec had no property interest in the LGR data

- Prior court rulings had failed to address the privacy rights of Quebec long-gun owners
- Ottawa had a legal and constitutional duty to protect privacy rights and that such duty was sufficient justification for the destruction of the data
- Quebec's request to obtain the data from Ottawa was made in violation of the federal *Privacy Act* and of its own provincial privacy legislation, thus amounting to an unreasonable search and seizure, in violation of Section 8 of the *Charter of Rights*.

Further, I pointed out that Quebec had never enacted legislation purporting to create a provincial LGR. In fact, if the LGR data were to be transferred to Quebec today, it would not be able to use it, as it lacks the infrastructure, budget and legal powers to use and maintain it. But let us not forget that Quebec seems to believe that the rule of law does not apply to Quebec government bodies.

The Supreme Court heard the case on Oct. 8, 2014. At the hearing, the Quebec government attorney had to concede some of the positions advanced by the NFA in its legal brief, in spite of previously arguing the contrary.

Quebec conceded:

- The data of the LGR is indeed personal information and is thus covered by the Privacy Act
- Such data is the property of the subject individuals, and not of any government body, whether provincial or federal
- The Quebec CFO is an officer whose existence and powers are created by federal legislation alone; that it is a federal institution in spite of being appointed by the province

These three admissions are very significant, as they significantly undermine the arguments made by Quebec, which arguments were at the core of the Blanchard judgment.

It could be several months before the Supreme Court of Canada rules on the matter. When and how it will rule is impossible to predict. All nine of the court judges heard the appeal, which is a sign that the court views this as a serious matter and/or may be divided on the issues at stake. Few of them gave any

indications of how they lean. Until then, we can only hope for the best, knowing that we did our best to protect your rights and further your interests. I will no doubt revisit the issue, once the judgment comes out.

Guy Lavergne
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Executive VP Shawn Bevins stands in front of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Team NFA

Megan Heinicke

Performing Under Pressure

My mental approach to biathlon shooting



Megan Heinicke, shooting on the Olympic stage.

It is a question that fascinates many athletes, coaches and psychologists: how much does being under pressure really affect performance? This is a particularly important topic to address in a sport such as biathlon, which combines maximum physical exertion with the precision of shooting. While it is certainly nothing new, for me performing under pressure and having the right mental approach has become a critical topic over the last two years.

As a young athlete still competing in the youth and junior categories, I really had no problem with pressure. They say that success breeds success, and despite the fact that I started with a mediocre ski speed, I was a consistently good shooter. I still look back longingly on the times when I felt excited coming into the shooting range because I knew I was going to hit the targets, because I was sure that I would make up time on the leaders. I was confident as can be and my mental plan was just to aim for the black. In training, I worked very hard on perfecting the details until I felt like each trigger squeeze, the consistent shoulder pressure, the slow drop of my sights onto the target and each breath were automated, like second nature. I could execute a bout of five shots with my heart rate of over 175 beats per minute and a shooting rhythm that allowed 26 seconds for the complete process from habit alone.

With time, my perspective got a bit more complicated. Competing at the World Cup, against the best in the world, meant that the few seconds of leeway I was used to having in the shooting range were not there anymore. Every second was the difference between one or two spots on the result list. I started to look at my shooting much more analytically and I began going into my races with very specific shooting plans. Suddenly I was including details like the



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snow conditions, my start position, athletes around me and the race format in a much more significant way. Should I play it safe and shoot in 29 seconds no matter what? Should I take the risk and shoot in 26 seconds? But what if I miss in the first bout; should I keep shooting aggressively or be more careful? Or what if I am having a great race and taking a risk opens up the possibility for a top 10 result? There is always a lot to consider.

This kind of thinking and analyzing lead me to my best shooting performances ever. The 2010 Winter Olympics are the perfect example. I had whooping cough just a few weeks before the Games, which meant I went into the event of my life knowing I wasn't in top form. In addition, I was one for the youngest competitors in the biathlon event and the races were literally in my own back yard in British Columbia, not to mention the uncountable generous sponsors and supporters whom I didn't want to disappoint. Needless to say, I felt a lot of pressure. I don't think I have ever wanted to perform more than those weeks in February 2010. I also rose to that pressure and I went into the third biathlon competition of the Olympics as the best shooter in the Games. I couldn't have asked myself for more.

The next season, I had very high standards. I knew what I was capable of, so I expected nothing less than the best from myself. A few poor shooting races here and there didn't seem too traumatic, but I was not nearly as consistent as I had been in the past. Over the next 18 months, I went from being one of the top shooters on the World Cup circuit to not even being ranked within the top 40. Suddenly the tables had turned and failure was breeding failure. I was determined to find an explanation and looked deeper and deeper into my shooting performances until I was well into the realm of overanalyzing. I became so determined to have every detail under control that I was no longer able to relax. The girl who was looking forward to dominating the shooting was suddenly dreading the very idea of it.

The interesting trend for me was that I continued to shoot well in training, so the ability was still there, but it proved



Getting into the right frame of mind for her competitions was a struggle for Megan, but she is back on the road to success.

to be next to impossible for me to get into another headspace for my competitions. The Olympic example comes around again - heading into Sochi 2014 this February, I was in good health and in good shape. It should have been possible to put together best ever performances. My struggles on the shooting range continued and I effectively shot my way out of reaching my goals. It was heartbreaking and frustrating. That is the nature of biathlon and while I was far from being the only athlete with such frustrations, I was very disappointed. Then something interesting happened. In our women's relay (a race format where each of four women skies a total of six kilometres and shoots two bouts before tagging off) I put together a nearly perfect race. That calm, controlled and confident side of me was back in action. I shot a perfect 10 out of 10, made up time on the leaders and passed off in fourth position, less than 15 seconds behind the podium. The post-Olympic World Cups also saw me with 90 per cent shooting, placing in the top 16. It seemed like once the pressure was off a little bit, the old me was able to come back.

So the big question for me is what now? I know the mental approach that I want to have and I certainly know the approach that I want to avoid at all costs. But as usual, it is easier said than done. With the help of my coach and a sports psychologist, I have come up with a unique plan for this season. Basically, I want to reset everything I know about shooting. I have reduced my shooting training by 65 per cent this summer and while I have always picked a technical aspect to focus on while shooting, I have not allowed myself to make goals related to time or hit percentage. The pressure is off. I will be going into this season determined and as focused as ever, but with lower expectations and a more relaxed approach. It has been surprisingly tough - I have always been a person who likes to have everything under control, so stepping back and just following my instinct on the shooting range has made me pretty nervous sometimes. A big part of me was very skeptical about the laidback approach, but right now, I feel like I have nothing to lose. I recently participated in a training camp that included three shooting tests with the German National Team, and I won. You can imagine my surprise!

Right now it is full speed ahead. The good news for me is that I am looking forward to the season and putting my new, easy-going shooting attitude into action. Of course I am hoping for the best and will be sure to let you know what the crazy sport of biathlon teaches me next!

Putting Common Sense Into 2014 Canadian Firearms Laws

By Graham Dalton

To ensure that freedom endures, Canadians must never tolerate laws that cater to political advantage, religion or special interest groups, and certainly never a law that is based on ignorance or falsehood. Canadian law should be based solely on need, fact and logic.

The Liberal government of 1994 put forward *Bill C-68*, which by means of their majority in Parliament became the *Canadian Firearms Act* and thus a part of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. That act, under which Canadians now live, contains clauses based upon technical falsehoods to justify measures for which a need did not exist, except to seemingly fulfill a political agenda, which still exists. (1)

Proposed 2014 Conservative government-sponsored *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act*, by its very name, has the opportunity to address and correct those falsehoods.

Technical falsehood – handgun prohibition by barrel length

Photo number one exemplifies the irrational logic used by the Liberal government in 1994 to justify a part of their firearm law under which reasonable Canadians are expected to live.

- Both firearms employ the same cartridge type.
- Both firearms have the same overall length.
- Both firearms have the same distance from breech face to muzzle.
- Both firearms are equipped with precision adjustable target sights.
- Both firearms produce successful results on the target range.

Despite their similar attributes, the revolver in this photo falls into the prohibited category of the *Firearms Act*, while the pistol escapes prohibition. How can this be? The situation is brought about because the barrel length of a revolver is defined in a different manner than that of a pistol, despite the fact that the distance of bullet travel within these two firearms is equal. The length of a pistol barrel is allowed to include its chamber, while the revolver is penalized; the length of its chamber plus the cylinder bore through which the bullet travels is disallowed.

Under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, owners of revolvers are therefore treated in a dissimilar manner to owners of pistols, either by intention or a lack of technical understanding during the writing of the *Firearms Act*. (2) Equality should be created between revolver and pistol owners, under the *Criminal Code*, by recognizing that it is not the length of the barrel that should be considered, but the distance of internal bullet travel from the breech face to the muzzle. Such technical flaws could easily be corrected in a new Conservative *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act*.

The Liberal government supported the prohibited handgun category by means of releases to the media that handguns having barrel lengths of 105 millimetres or less were too inaccurate for legitimate target work and too concealable for use by persons having criminal intent.

At the time of *Bill C-68*, the four-inch (101.6 millimetres) barrel was the most common length of barrel being fitted by firearm manufacturers. Setting the minimum permissible restricted barrel length a scant 4.4 millimetres longer than this industry standard served Liberal policy (1) by ensuring the quiet confiscation of this prohibited property by means of owner attrition over time. By this ploy, a huge percentage of handguns in Canada were forced from their former restricted



1



2

category into the new prohibited category and dictated by the Act to only be retained by and acquired amongst those (grandfathered) surviving to do so.

Of the claims that a prohibited 105-millimetre barrel is more easily concealed than the non-prohibited 106-millimetre barrel and that a barrel just 4.4 millimetres longer is more accurate than the industry standard 101.6-millimetre barrel, neither stand the test of logic, practicality or truth.

- Knowing that a raincoat can conceal a completely assembled shotgun, whether the length of a handgun barrel is 101 millimetres, 106 millimetres, or any length, is a mute point. It is not the length of a barrel that implies criminal intent; it is the intent of the person who causes that gun to be concealed.
- To use a firearm for criminal purpose is already against the laws of our nation, concealed or not. A prohibited designation being placed on a handgun barrel plays no part in preventing its use by one who is already intent on using a firearm in a criminal act.
- The writers of the present *Firearms Act* wrongfully claimed that handguns with barrels of 105 millimetres or less are inherently unsuitable for target work. If so, firearm manufacturers would not be equipping such handguns with adjustable target sights, and if indeed they were inaccurate Canadian police forces, for many decades, would not have issued such as a duty sidearm.
- A great many competitive shooters, who consistently produce excellent scores, employ handguns having a barrel length less than 106 millimetres.
- A rifled bullet, once having exited the muzzle, will travel in a straight path no matter the barrel length from which it is propelled and that bullet will only deviate from its path by the influences of gravity and crosswind.

Technical falsehood - handgun prohibition by calibre

Is the revolver in photo number two prohibited?
The answer: No, no and yes.

- It is **not** prohibited if it is a Smith and Wesson K-22 Masterpiece.
- It is **not** prohibited if it is a Smith and Wesson K-38 Masterpiece.
- But it **is** prohibited if it is a Smith and Wesson K-32 Masterpiece.

Other than the calibre, these three firearms are dimensionally equal to the very millimetre and gram. What causes the difference in their classification under the present *Firearms Act*? Do not expect logic to be involved.

The prohibited K-32 fires the .32 S&W Long cartridge, the non-prohibited K-22 fires the less powerful .22 Long Rifle cartridge and the non-prohibited K-38 fires the more powerful .38 Special cartridge. Barrel length has nothing to do with this aspect of prohibition. The K-32 is prohibited just because it is a .32, while handguns that fire less powerful and far more powerful cartridges are not prohibited. Yes, this lack of logic is part of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, under which we all live.

The .32 handgun calibre uses a bullet diameter of 0.311 or 0.312 inches. Not just one cartridge type, the .32 calibre encompasses a whole family of cartridges. In the hysteria to ban .32 pocket pistols, a section was written into the Act that by the convenient simplicity of its wording allowed the government of that time to prohibit vast numbers of other handguns chambered in .32. By means of such a non-technical, one-size-fits-all approach, besides the pocket pistols all handguns (with very minor exception for Olympic use) that fire .32 Smith and Wesson,

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.32 Smith and Wesson Long, .32 ACP (7.65mm Browning), .32 Colt, .32 Long Colt, .32 H&R Magnum and .32-20 also became prohibited and therefore a legal liability and a financial loss to owners, while the day before the Act was passed they were not.

To follow this logic, all cartridges of .32 calibre must be more of a threat to public safety than those of other calibres. Why then were rifles using a similar bullet diameter (for example, the .303 British) or even those rifles .32 in name, not prohibited? By this omission, the need for prohibiting a whole group of firearms by their calibre, no matter what their cartridge type, is thus proven false by the very writers of the Act. So what was the prohibiting of handguns by a whole calibre really about? (1)

Conclusion

Using barrel length and calibre to contrive the idea of a prohibited handgun category within the Firearms Act demonstrates how technical falsehoods were embedded in legislation to convolute laws for political purpose; laws under which many responsible, legally minded, thinking Canadians now frustratingly abide.

The prohibited category for handguns provides no enhanced level of public safety beyond that of the restricted handgun category, which was already in effect at the time of C-68. What the contrivance of a prohibited category did provide was a method of quiet confiscation of property to the detriment of responsible owners and their estates, citizens who had broken no law.

We must remember that 19 years have passed since *Bill C-68*

was put into effect and citizens still view it with contention. Good law would not be so. Its paranoia has overridden constitutional protection of citizens, from both search and seizure without warrant and the right to remain silent; it has wasted over a billion dollars in the failed long gun registry, built a huge money-sucking bureaucracy, enabled the writing of regulations into law by police and firearm officers, while the technically knowledgeable still ridicule its falsehoods and fabrications.

Created under the guise of public safety, the present *Firearms Act* in many ways does not meet the test of common sense. It has required the use of many amnesties and the dismantlement of one of its major sections in attempt to correct its flaws. Legislation built upon such content should be rescinded in its entirety by the present majority government, which has the power to do so, to be replaced by a document based solely upon fact and need.

REFERENCES

(1) *Liberal Party of Canada, Resolution 151 (2014) - BE IT RESOLVED that the primary objective of a Liberal government firearms policy shall be reducing the number of firearms in Canada...* <http://www.liberal.ca/151-guns-violence/>

(2) *Australian Firearm Laws, Category H, minimum handgun barrel lengths permitted: Pistol 120mm, Revolver 100mm (accommodates 4" bbl.)* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_politics_in_Australia

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Victoria Women Shooters

The club that's changing perceptions

By Myrna Francis

Due to Sybil Kangas' article *Women and Guns* (*Canadian Firearms Journal*, January 2014) the word is already out that the Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association (VFGPA) is the home of Canada's only women's shooting club, the Victoria Women Shooters (VWS). As the fledgling group celebrated its third birthday in September 2014, this seems like an appropriate time to share some surprising observations, insights and unique results the group has noted in its limited life.

Ancestry

On April 18, 2009, VFGPA held the first women's shooting event of this century, organized by Val Macdonald. The occasion drew 12 delighted participants, who unanimously suggested repeats, but there were too few qualified women leaders for this to happen. Nothing changed in the next two-and-a-half years.

But the world did keep on changing

It was steadily becoming more obvious that many women were developing an openness and interest toward firearms/shooting sports. The VFGPA's dozen or so long-time women shooters began to realize the momentum could no longer be ignored. Demanding attention were big increases in:





Women shooters are becoming less of an anomaly now that they have their own place to learn and grow.

Shooters at the Victoria Women Shooters club are teaching the next generation that guns are safe and that they're an enjoyable pastime.

- Couples: More girlfriends/wives were showing up at the range with their significant other;
- Public interest: Corporate rentals of the VFGPA shooting ranges for team-building events would bring whole, enthusiastic office staffs of mixed genders and all ages;
- Personal experience: Many new women acquaintances would show extraordinary interest when they discovered that a woman was a target shooter. It struck me that there must be scores of women like these, and that maybe admitting and discussing my passion would not get me lynched, nor subject me to a leftist meltdown in a public place. This proved to be correct from the moment I resolved to be less secretive - definitely an encouraging sign;
- Suggestions: Proposals and requests to start a women's shooting club were becoming more frequent and more strongly expressed - mostly by women from the corporate groups we hosted, but also from those chance acquaintances.

Cautious consideration

Initially, as we began to ponder the idea, a women shooters' club within the VFGPA seemed redundant. Like many shooting clubs, VFGPA was proud of its 90 years of tacit acceptance of women shooters. The most common two views expressed then continue to prevail in many clubs today:

- "...[there are] many female shooters among our members... [Women who] enjoy shooting are always welcome to participate in all activities," or/ and,
- "...Our [annual] well-attended ladies' event is our way of showing the community that we're not [at all as the media likes to portray us] and that shooting is an enjoyable, safe sport." Although seemingly modern and politically correct, there was one uncomfortable truth: this status quo had not motivated many women to take up shooting, despite all of that interest being out there. To our knowledge, through all of the preceding years, up until the launch of VWS in late 2011, no novice girl/woman had ever contacted VFGPA and inquired about firearms training. The best that can be said is that some wives regularly accompanied their husbands to take part in shooting activities and competitions. Something new was needed.

Decision time - a women's shooting club?

During deliberations on the proposed new club, one of the most enticing considerations was the fact that the Canadian population includes roughly as many women as men. It could, therefore, be expected that if we would accept and encourage this trend in the women's demographic, our pro-gun population could almost double in a single generation. Also obvious was the fact that each citizen we can involve in the true nature of the firearms community could be worth two votes: 1) the one she/he doesn't cast for a political purveyor of misinformation, and 2) the one she/he does cast for the candidate who supports the truth. Given that 1) a new approach seemed necessary, 2) there were advantages to gain and 3) very strong demand had provided the motivation, VWS joined the family of official VFGPA shooting clubs in the fall of 2011.

Surprising insights

We now find that inquiries from women seeking shooting experience number from at least one per month, up to five or six. Hesitancy has disappeared. Our introductory events average 28 participants.

Apparently having a separately designated women's group implies that women are just as present in the shooting world as men. This message that, "Women are already here, and are an integral part of our club," is less intimidating for a lone woman - one isn't an "oddy" as women are expected. That has a far more positive impact than, "Women are welcome on our range." This latter is perceived as, "It's our club but we'll tolerate you," even though that is likely not the case at all. Many traditional clubs may fail to see this point, but it truly is a big deal to many women. The degree of understanding of the concept probably depends on whether you are from Mars or Venus.

The VWS e-mail list numbers 219, even after a little judicious weeding. This means 219 (and counting) people are reminded at least twice monthly that shooting is fun, safe and commonplace. Even the inactive members are getting the "guns are OK" message at least 24 times a year. Familiarization is a powerful tool. If something is always hanging around in your life, it soon becomes no threat.

Of special note, and very surprising, is that Sybil's (see above) identified lost generation who were subjected to the "guns are evil" media hype of TV advertising in the 1980s to 1990s are gradually shedding that influence and a few are showing up at our events, some with their daughters! (In some cases, it is moms and sons. VWS is determined to be an equal partner in the firearms community and both genders are welcome.)

It's exciting to see evidence that the "lost generation" is now being educated by their offspring, who are:

- Absolutely certain that gender restrictions no longer exist and they are free to pursue any interest/activity they choose;
- Thoroughly educated to test older paradigms and form their own conclusions;
- Impervious to the irrational cultural beliefs of the media-programmed 1980s young people, who are now the older generation who must endure the age-old arguments, "Mom, don't be so old fashioned!" and, "All my friends are doing it!" (which,



Group photo from the Mom & Me shoot, hosted by the Victoria Women Shooters club.

judging by the numbers, appears to be true);

- Training and certification classes fill up quickly and are consistently comprised of both genders, similar to other parts of the country. Some classes have more women than men.

Positive effects on the parent club, VFGPA

One of the greatest benefits to the parent club is the enormous increase in the pool of qualified and willing volunteers. We have women Range Safety Officers, Range Orientation presenters, Relief Range Caretaker/Managers, as well as volunteers at promo events, such as outdoor shows in the community. The 24-member board/executive is 29 per cent women, including first vice president, past president and membership chair.

However, most VWS contributions are of a financial nature:

- Increased membership sales: Individual women members in 2010 numbered 18. Now in the first half of 2014, there are 67. Families to this July already equal the total for last year.
- VWS is already holding its own financially, and even contributing some

event revenue to VFGPA.

- Free marketing and promotion: A club of women shooters is enough of a novelty that outdoor shows have been donating large display bays for VWS to help people shoot at VFGPA's indoor air gun lanes at exhibitions. Normally there is a considerable charge for bays, so the savings are significant.

Challenges, blessings and the future

There is still a deficit of qualified women leaders, but we are indescribably blessed by the generous support and encouragement of the skilled men and women members who so often lend a hand. Our goal is to stop having to depend on them before they start begging for mercy. With our huge number of new PAL holders, that may happen soon.

Our greatest desire is to use this opportunity wisely to alter the non-shooting public's irrational perceptions of guns.

Our other prayer for the future would be for many more women's clubs across our nation to join us in helping to bring about the sane, safe and reasonable changes in laws that we all know are needed.



A group photo from an introductory shooting event.

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The 99 Savage RIFLE

By Bob Campbell



A classic rifle
with a long history
of use



These tip-off scope mounts are an excellent addition to a fast-handling, lever-action rifle. the scope is in the tipped-off position.



The author feels the Savage rifle's leverage and well-designed lever are among its best features.



Among the all-time great classic rifles is the Savage 99. This rifle is the product of the fertile mind of Arthur Savage, a legend in his own right.

The Savage 99 was designed for military use. A contract with the military was what all rifle designers of the day wished for. Savage hoped to combine the precision of a bolt-action rifle, with the speed of fire of the lever action. He also designed a magazine that he felt was superior to that of any other rifle, and even added a cartridge counter in the receiver.

The rifle's unique action allowed the bolt to cock a striker without the extra force needed to cock a hammer. As a result of this design, the lock time of the rifle was much faster than that of other lever-action rifles. Rather than waiting for a hammer to fall, we wait for the striker or firing pin to crack the primer. Lock time has a significant effect on accuracy. The en block magazine allowed the use of pointed bullets. This resulted in a much greater ballistic coefficient for the .300 Savage cartridge. The rifle was far more advanced than the lever-action rifles offered by Marlin and Winchester.

Despite these features, the Savage rifle was never adopted for widespread military use, despite the introduction of musket versions, complete with bayonet lugs. The Canadian Home Guard used the rifle, but large-scale military sales were not in the cards. By the same token, several American National Guard units tested and desired lever-action rifles, but the Krag Jorgensen was pressed upon them. Just the same, the rifle went on to be produced for over 70 years, with some one million manufactured.

The Savage 99 is a short-action rifle, which means it handles relatively short but powerful cartridges, such as the .300 Savage and the .250-3000 Savage. The only contemporary lever-action rifle that was comparable in power was the Winchester Model 1895 with its .30-40 Krag and .30-06 chamberings. The .405 Winchester, of course, outstripped the Savage calibres in raw power. The .250-3000 Savage was the first factory cartridge to consistently make 3,000 feet per second and the .300 Savage was the basis for the later .308 Winchester.

The Savage 99 works more like a modern bolt-action rifle than a lever-action rifle. The spring-loaded rotary spool-like magazine is comparable to

that of the Steyr Mannlicher in beauty of function and reliability. By contrast, the majority of lever-action rifles, with under-barrel tubes and helical springs, place the cartridge bullet nose against the primer of the next cartridge in line. As a result, a pointed bullet cannot be used for fear of an accidental discharge during recoil. There is a cocking indicator on the tang and a well-designed safety near the trigger guard. The Savage rifle is easily fitted with an optical sight, which isn't true of the Winchester 1894. Perhaps the best thing about the rifle is its appearance. This is simply a good-looking rifle that also handles well and looks and feels right. The point of balance of the Savage rifle is in the magazine. This balance makes for a rifle that is easily carried without a sling and which comes to the shoulder quickly.

It is a mark of a rifle that was used in the field that the bottom of the receiver would be worn. The rifle was prized by discerning riflemen and is still used by many hunters today. Weighing just over seven pounds and featuring a medium taper, 24-inch barrel, the Savage 99 is the ideal size for a hunting rifle. It is light enough to carry afield, but heavy enough to absorb the recoil of .308-class cartridges.

The Savage is a great lever-action rifle that is less like the traditional lever-action rifles than most. I will not take anything away from the Marlin .30-30, as the Marlin 336 is often a very accurate rifle. However, the Savage is more powerful in most of the calibres the rifle is chambered for. Like all le-

The Marble peep sight.



ver-action rifles, handloaders must full length resize the cartridge case for the Savage rifle, while sometimes we may only neck size the bolt-action rifle's cartridge case. Since the rifle is not a volume shooter, this doesn't matter to most of us. The Savage has plenty of leverage for ejecting and loading cases, but it is not as fast handling as one of the pistol calibre carbines and it shouldn't be. The Savage is a deadly accurate hunting rifle with just the right mix of nostalgia and class.

My personal rifle is fitted with a neat set of rings and bases that allow the scope to be swung to one side if need be. I never liked see-through mounts, although they were quite popular at one time. These old Leopold bases are a superior and more elegant fail-safe in the event of scope failure or a game animal encountered at close range. The scope rides low, just above the bore axis, but if need be I am able to access the iron sights with a flick of the wrist. I like that.

I have fired the Savage extensively over the past few years and found that the rifle is capable of 1.5 MOA or so with quality ammunition, with the occasional brilliant group a bit smaller, and the occasional larger group, as well. The

average is very good and the rifle is a capable game getter to 200 yards or a little more. There is something satisfying about hunting with a rifle designed over 110 years ago and in most cases produced over 50 years ago. The Savage 99 is a classic rifle well worth its price on the used market.

The Marble peep sight: I recently ordered a Marble's aperture sight for my second Savage 99. This rifle is pretty smooth, but the stock was a mess when I obtained the rifle. It has been painted green and the rifle also had an aluminum screw holding the lever together. That's ok; it was someone's deer killer. Among the upgrades was one that I have wished to own for some time. I ordered a Marble's aperture sight for the rifle. After drilling and tapping the tang for the sight, I have a first-class, close-range hunting sight that offers a true classic look. Overall, a great rifle that lives up to its heritage. While the first 99 will be used when long-range shooting is a possibility, the other Savage is well suited to woods hunting and hog hunting. I could do worse as an all-around

tactical rifle. Yes, any rifle this fast handling and accurate has a tactical side. And it is a .308!

My rifles are chambered for the .308 Winchester cartridge. This was happenstance, simply what was found on the used rack. While I have the greatest respect for the .300 Savage and the .250-3000 cartridge as well, ammunition is more difficult to come by. The .308 suits my needs.

Three-shot, 100-yard groups from a solid bench rest, with the scoped rifle	GROUP IN INCHES
Black Hills 168-grain BTHP	1.1
Black Hills Gold 150-grain Nosler	1.2
Federal Fusion 150-grain JSP	1.4
Hornady 155-grain SST	1.5
Hornady 165-grain A Max	1.25
Nosler Custom 168-grain BTHP	1.5
Winchester 147-grain USA FMJ	1.85
Winchester 150-grain Super Max	1.2
Handloads	
Berger 168-grain VLD Hunting/Varget Powder	.95
50-yard groups with the economy-grade, fixed-sight rifle	
Winchester 147-grain FMJ	2.0
Black Hills Gold 150-grain Nolsler	1.5



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Point Blank

Chris McGarry

Firearms & The Madness Of Modern Liberalism

Tightening gun laws won't stop crimes from happening

The Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary defines insanity as extreme folly or unreasonableness. Folly is defined as a lack of good sense or normal prudence and oversight, while unreasonableness is defined as not acting according to reason.

These words are a perfect description of the approach governments in Canada have taken over the past three or four decades when dealing with pressure from the public to curb violent crime. Instead of putting more funding into social programs or locking up those who pose a danger to society, opportunistic politicians, gutless to attack the issue head on, have consistently used members of this country's firearms community as their whipping boys. According to their logic, inanimate objects, and not the people who misuse them, are the true culprits.

"If we could just ban handguns," or, "all guns" as certain politicians, community leaders and lobbyists claim, gang violence would somehow just disappear from the streets of our cities. Gun laws in Canada have increasingly gotten more stringent since the 1970s; all the while the same governments who enact these unnecessary laws have been mollycoddling violent offenders in the name of rehabilitation.

Modern liberalism has perverted what used to be the social order in Canada, and indeed most other western nations. Those who elect to offend and be a menace to society, regardless of age, are often viewed by professionals not as what they truly are, but as individuals who've had a hard life and can be fixed up and put back onto the street in a relatively short period of time.

To put it another way, an individual is not fully responsible for his or her actions, as other factors are always to blame. And while we're on the subject of crime, let's start with Canada's failed young offender system.

From Halifax to Victoria, young offenders, and especially youth gangs, have become increasingly brazen and violent over the past two decades. A few years ago, Vancouver Police reported that it has become fashionable for young gang members in the city to carry illegal handguns.

The hard truth is, if more children and youths were taught valuable life skills, such as how to safely hunt and shoot, fewer of them would be joining gangs and killing each other with black-market handguns. Despite this, the social engineers will not listen to facts and prefer to pursue their pie-in-the-sky agenda.

Albert Einstein is quoted as saying that insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result each time. Older gun owners sadly remember the day, close to 40 years ago, when Canadian citizens could no longer just walk into the neighborhood Canadian Tire or Eaton's and buy a shotgun or hunting rifle without jumping through a million bureaucratic hoops.

Canada's first school shooting occurred in Brampton, Ont., on May 28, 1975. Sixteen-year-old Michael Slobodian walked into Brampton Middle School and shot three people dead and wound-

ed 14 others before taking his own life. This often-forgotten tragedy was the driving force behind the Firearm Acquisition Certificate (FAC) system, which was implemented in 1978.

Flash forward to 14 years later: Marc Lepine entered into a Montreal college in 1989 and murdered 14 unarmed women, an action which led to the passing of the Firearms Act in 1995. A shooting at another Montreal college in 2006 has led to calls for tighter gun laws. People have to stop believing that feel-good laws are the answer to preventing future massacres. And now we have factions of the anti-gun crowd calling for the banning of certain firearms because they're too "scary looking" or "contrary to Canadian hunting traditions."

How did we get to this point? The most likely answer is a few generations of people who've grown up in suburbia and have no practical knowledge of firearms, other than what Hollywood has taught them. It's time for Canada's firearms community to push back against politicians who've used them as scapegoats for all of society's ills for much too long. Regardless of which laws are on the books, bad people will always find a means in which to do bad things.



Instead of dealing with criminals appropriately, politicians coddle them and tighten gun laws even further.



Should Lead Be Banned To Protect Public Health?

GARY MAUSER

Is it politics
or science
behind the idea
to ban lead?



United Nations bureaucrats are poised to exploit concerns over lead poisoning in game meat, to justify banning lead in bullets and to even require gun ranges to remove lead from their premises. Such a ban would undermine civilian firearms ownership by making it ruinously expensive for hunters and target shooters. There is no doubt that lead is a dangerous neurotoxin, particularly for children and pregnant women, but banning lead ammunition is not a rational approach to curtailing this risk. A ban is unwarranted and may even create more problems than it solves. In this article, I explore important questions that have been raised about the quality of research that is used to justify an ammunition ban.

Is the UN our friend?

Both the UN and the European Parliament are seeking to ban the use of lead in recreational equipment by 2015. The UN Council of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Migratory Species is meeting in Ecuador from Nov. 4 to 9, 2014, to decide on the recommendations of its science committee regarding a sweeping, worldwide lead ban. This treaty will have substantial impact on the sporting use of lead, including ammunition, fishing weights, and other products that use lead, such as brass. Their plan even requires a mandatory removal of lead from facilities such as gun ranges. Sporting groups are organizing to combat this bureaucratic excess.

The case against lead is supported by the findings of a number of studies published in reputable scientific journals, which show that young children are exceptionally vulnerable to the neurotoxicity of lead. An elevated blood level of lead in children is inversely correlated with reduced intelligence. Over past decades, the lead that occurs naturally in the urban environment (primarily in cereal products and in lead paint, even tap water) has been considerably reduced, but the dangers of ingesting lead persist. Officials are concerned about setting a minimal threshold as tolerable. Bureaucratic concern has been made worse by recent research showing that lead is toxic at very low levels - levels once thought harmless - and at levels well below the long-established Centers for Disease Control benchmark (blood lead level of 10 micrograms per deciliter) requiring intervention in children. Recently,



Since Sept. 1, 1999, the possession or use of lead shot while hunting most migratory game birds has been banned in all areas in Canada.

the European Food Safety Authority announced that no minimum level should be set. Accordingly, officials now think that any exposure to lead is a serious threat, and that all sources of lead must be eliminated. This seems excessive.

How does this affect the gun owner? Anyone who uses lead bullets or shot, such as hunters and their families, are at risk of lead poisoning in several ways: ingesting lead shot pellets or lead bullet fragments or residues in game meat, ingesting lead residue from handling lead

bullets or inhaling airborne lead during ammunition reloading or at shooting ranges. An increasing number of studies have identified high lead concentrations in game meat, from visible lead fragments to very fine dust. These dangers have long been known, but the claim that there is no acceptable minimum level of exposure is new and disturbing.

Politics or science

Despite these frightening findings, there has never been a documented

case of lead poisoning among humans who have eaten game harvested with traditional ammunition. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the Iowa Department of Public Health, Countryside Alliance in the UK and various European hunting organizations all support this statement. If such problems existed, one would think it would have been noticed after centuries of eating game meat.

There are serious flaws in the logic of this research into the dangers of lead. Proponents of the proposed ban on all lead ammunition are relying on public ignorance of the differences between relatively inert elemental (metallic) lead used in ammunition and toxic organo-lead compounds, which used to be present in paint and gasoline. Metallic lead is not readily absorbed into the blood stream by either wildlife or humans. It must first be metabolized as lead salts. Recent research in Europe, by Ulf Qvarfort and Christer Holmgren, has uncovered grievous problems in studies that purport the dangers of lead ammunition. Not only has the amount of metallic lead in game meat been exaggerated, but also the dangers of lead ammunition have been vastly exaggerated by assuming that metallic lead in bullets can be metabolized as fully as lead salts.

Qvarfort and Holmgren's research into the conversion of metallic lead fragments to bio-available lead compounds in the human gastrointestinal tract has found that the bio-accessible part of metallic lead is less than two per cent. Even this may be an over-estimate of the accessibility of lead bullets, as in vitro studies in the US have found that the bio-accessibility of lead shot was only between 0.3 and 0.8 per cent by weight.

Research by the University of Illinois in 2008, into the effects of eating venison shot with lead bullets, found that the use of lead ammunition poses no health risk to people. In fact, they found that the average lead levels in hunters tested was actually less than those found in the average American. As for children of hunters, those under six had lead levels less than half the national average and children over six had levels even lower. As well, the Iowa Department of Public Health has been testing blood lead levels for more than 15 years. They reported that in testing 500,000 children under age six and 25,000 adults, there is no problem with lead in hunted venison.



Research has found the levels of lead in processed game meat to not be toxic.

There has never been a documented case of lead poisoning among humans who have eaten game harvested with traditional ammunition.

Conclusions

The push by the UN to ban the use of lead in recreational equipment by 2015 is unwarranted. Scientific research does not support the claims made by its advocates. Proponents of the ban on all lead ammunition are relying on public ignorance of the differences between relatively inert elemental (metallic) lead used in ammunition, and toxic organo-lead compounds once used in paint and gasoline. They also ignore the fundamentals of modern science-based wildlife management. For nearly 100 years, wildlife has been successfully managed across North America under the concepts first championed by the famous conservationist Aldo Leopold.

Even if lead does pose a serious risk at much lower levels than previously thought, the question must be asked about what constitutes the best approach to handle this risk. Because hunters play an indispensable role in wildlife conservation, any proposal that could drastically reduce the numbers of men and women who could afford to hunt, such as banning lead ammunition, would have a detrimental impact on wildlife populations themselves, and not only on quarry species. The American Pittman-Robertson legislation (actually the *Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937*) mandated a steady cash flow in the form of an excise tax on ammunition sales that goes directly into conservation. Pittman-Robertson provides an enduring principle pivotal to all good animal management that is still in wide use today. Loss of that income from heavily reduced ammunition sales would have a direct and highly damaging effect on wildlife populations of all sorts.

To the extent lead contamination poses a human health problem, it is reasonable to call upon the traditional outdoor organizations to educate hunters in butchering game. However, it is not reasonable to throw the ammunition baby out with the supposedly toxic bathwater.

These tables demonstrate toxicity levels in game meat, using different ammunition.

Table 1. Bullet - Nosler partition

Sample	Bullet weight		Bioaccessible lead	
	in vitro mg/kg ww	mg/kg ww	% bullet weight	
1	131	0.54	0.41	
2	72.39	1.12	1.55	
3	341	1.09	0.32	
4	221	2.03	0.92	
5	1955	1.25	0.06	
6	84.8	0.88	1.04	
7	22.3	0.34	1.52	
8	13.8	0.06	0.43	
9	589	1.25	0.21	

Source: Lead in Game Meat: A study of bioaccessibility of metallic lead fragments
Working paper
Ulf Qvarfort and Christer Holmgren
Dec-12

Note: the meat included in this study came from the wound channel which is the part of the animal that is most contaminated with bullet fragments. This sampled section of the animal is routinely cleared away and discarded during normal butchering practice. Thus this meat would not be used for consumption. The sampling methodology was designed to obtain sufficiently high levels of meat contaminated with lead in order to conduct a "worst case" in vitro gastrointestinal study.

Table 2: Bullet - Norma Oryx, bonded core

Sample	Bullet weight		Bioaccessible lead	
	in vitro mg/kg ww	mg/kg ww	% bullet weight	
1	58	0.83	1.43	
2	12	0.24	2	
3	13	0.19	1.46	
4	3.7	0.09	2.38	
5	590	0.74	0.13	
6	390	1.6	0.41	
7	100	0.73	0.73	
8	14	0.23	1.64	

Source: Lead in Game Meat: A study of bioaccessibility of metallic lead fragments
Working paper
Ulf Qvarfort and Christer Holmgren
Dec-12

Note: the meat included in this study came from the wound channel which is the part of the animal that is most contaminated with bullet fragments. This sampled section of the animal is routinely cleared away and discarded during normal butchering practice. Thus this meat would not be used for consumption. The sampling methodology was designed to obtain sufficiently high levels of meat contaminated with lead in order to conduct a "worst case" in vitro gastrointestinal study.

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Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

More Guns. Then What Happened?

The American experience shows more guns doesn't equal more crime

The great defining idea of the anti-gun crusade is contained in the theory that more guns equals more crime. The justification of our current firearms legislation rests on this theory and the utopian benefits expected from gun prohibition; benefits so great and obvious they overwhelm any reasonable objection.

Unfortunately for the anti-gunners, when they tried to sell this "scientific," "reasonable" theory and the eradication policies that stemmed from it, they ran into a firestorm of opposition. The Liberal Party's attempt to hop on the political bandwagon failed to gain even a fraction of the political support they needed for the outright prohibition of civil firearms ownership.

Responding to this setback, the antis changed tactics to win by other means. The first change, championed by the Liberals, was a transformation of the ancient and honourable right to arms, part of our common law heritage, into a criminal offence. To support this radical change, they severely weakened our rights to property, privacy and due process. (The inevitable consequences of this can be seen in the High River gun grab.)

Manoeuvring around the political resistance stirred up by their attack, the antis adopted a strategy of incremental legislation. This strategy would see the creation of newly autocratic bureaucracies empowered to legislate criminal law and embodied in firearms officers

and the RCMP. (Some commentators are still trying to sell the story that this is merely a matter of administration, unfortunately our firearms law is not administrative and is part of the *Criminal Code*. Changes to firearms regulations are legally binding amendments to the *Criminal Code*.) The Liberals also shifted the legislative process away from the contentious arena of Parliament to the more controllable venue of the governor and council. Future firearms legislation would be pursued in an autocratic manner more in tune with our colonial past than our democratic present. This strategy of incrementalism would gradually crush Canadian gun owners under an ever-increasing load of restrictive bureaucracy and legal hazard.

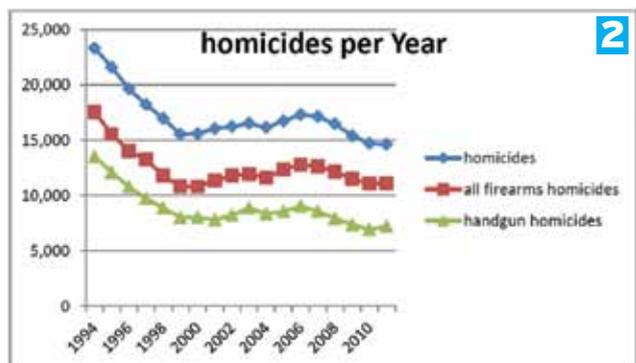
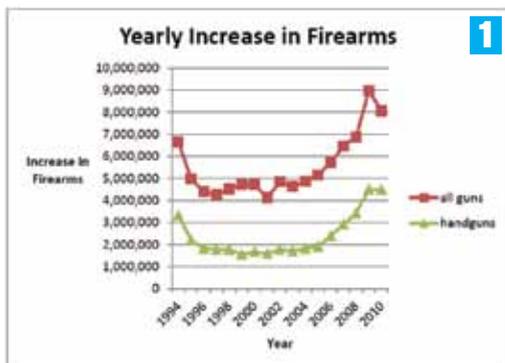
In short, the anti-gun forces in Canada created the machinery necessary to social engineer the transformation of Canada and Canadians. This radical political agenda was justified on the grounds of public safety, crime reduction and the protection of the vulnerable, especially women and children. It was assumed and asserted that the steady reduction in the number of firearms would eradicate the supposedly violent gun culture and achieve these noble ends. This article examines their basic assumption: that more guns cause more crime. To do this we will examine the real world American experience.

The American experience

A 1994 survey by the Department of Justice estimated that something in the neighbourhood of 200 million guns were owned by 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the US population. In the world of gun regulators, universal registration would correct these uncertain numbers and give us exact information on all firearms. In the real world, registration only relates to the law-abiding, while guns owned by criminals, the ones involved in crime, go unregistered.

Fortunately, in our assessment of how guns impact crime, the change in firearms numbers is more important than the total. We have some excellent numbers because the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) maintains records of manufacturing, importing and exporting of all firearms. If the theory that guns cause crime is true, increases will result in crime increases and vice versa. Official records of manufacturing, imports and exports give the following increases in firearms over a 16-year period, as seen in image one.

As we can plainly see, the number of guns owned by civilians in the US has increased dramatically. Total firearms stocks increased over the 16-year period (1994 to 2010) by some 93,965,151 firearms. Handguns, a category of particular interest to anti-gunners, increased by 40,681,376. (Some guns were destroyed over this time period and some enter the market through unofficial channels - neither figure is knowable.)



So what happened to crime?

As seen in image two, homicides dropped dramatically (37 per cent), including firearms homicides (36 per cent) and even handgun homicides dropped (47 per cent). Let's compare the increase in firearms with homicides to determine how a massive increase in firearms impacted homicides, in image three.

As the number of firearms increased by 93,965,151, the number of homicides per year dropped from 23,326 to 14,722. The anti-gun theory that an increase in firearms results in an increase in violence and crime is completely unsupported by the actual evidence on the ground. The pacifist theory that violence is caused by the presence of arms also fails to conform to reality.

Let's look at this again, only this time highlighting the relationship between handguns and crime, in image four.

Handguns increased by 40,681,376, while homicides and handgun homicides both dropped dramatically. So again we find the firearms theory of violence and crime fails the test of real-world data.

Image four is of special interest because handguns are a particular concern of anti-gunners. There are a number of reasons for this. The banning of handguns is a favourite halfway house on the road to banning all firearms. It's a way to sow division in the firearms community, with the smaller part targeted. Ideally, with just a bit of luck, the much larger rifle shooting and hunting community will not notice how the campaign against "some" guns is being followed by campaigns against "some" hunts and "some" rifles.

Another argument against handguns is that they are murder machines that have "no purpose" except killing people. To support this demonization of inanimate objects, the firearms debate must be carefully controlled. Police carrying and using handguns must be dismissed as irrelevant to mere civilians. All the various shooting sports involving handguns must fade from view. The deterrent effect of self-defence on criminals must be contemptuously dismissed as both morally unworthy and untrue. The preferred cost benefit analysis of the anti-crowd is one with all costs recorded and zero benefits recognized.

Moving on from rhetoric to the real world, we can examine actual firearms use in the US. In the US, there were some 65 million handguns in the hands of the civil population (1994 Department of Justice survey). If we add in the known increases since then, we have a current figure of 105 million handguns. This survey also tells us how those handguns were being used. For all firearms owners, 46 per cent had guns primarily for self-defence (67 per cent for women). For those who only owned a handgun, some 75 per cent kept them primarily for self-defence and 40 per cent used them for recreational shooting. The anti-gun rhetoric of "murder machines" used only for killing is clearly incorrect. Tens of millions of Americans are using handguns for recreation and even tens of millions are using them for the purpose of legitimate self-defence. The survey found that some 14 million Americans had carried a firearm (mostly handguns) for self-defence within the last year. Gun Owners of America have compiled state-level data to conclude that there are now some eight million concealed carry holders in the US (2013 data).

Are millions of Americans deluded in their reliance on arms for self-defence? To answer this we must sort through some quantitative difficulties. Statistics for Defensive Gun Use (DGU) are hard to pin down due to disputes over what constitutes self-defence, whether people are assessing each incidence correctly and

the difficulty verifying incidents after the fact. There are, however, a number of estimates that give us a reasonably good idea of what is happening on the ground. The Victimization Survey (NCVS) identifies 108,000 DGUs per year. A 1994 telephone survey by Gary Kleck and Mark Gertz found 2.5 million DGUs. The Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report on Firearms Violence 1993 to 2011 identified 235,700 instances where firearms were used for self-defence and a further 103,000 times they were used in the defence of property.

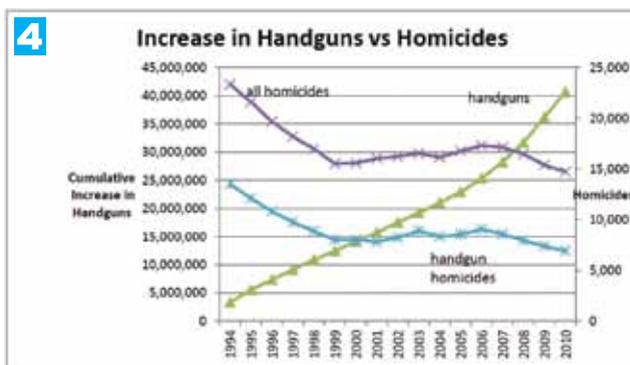
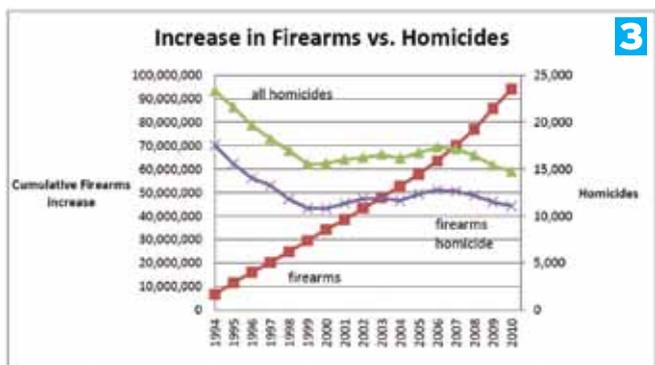
No matter which of these numbers one chooses, they all show that self-defence with a firearm is a common occurrence. The impact of this on crime must be multiplied to include the intimidation effect armed citizens have on criminals.

Within the literature, the causes of America's declining homicide rate are contentious. However, it can no longer be argued that it is due to fewer guns or increased restrictions on the availability of guns for self-defence. In the US, unlike Canada, the government is no longer empowering criminals with the guarantee of unarmed and defenceless victims. The American experience demonstrates how access to firearms and the right to self-defence can be effective tools in the suppression of crime and in support of public safety.

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Antique Firearm

THE HUOT AUTOMATIC RIFLE

By Blair Hagen



The Huot automatic rifle on profile.

Canada's contribution to automatic small arms development during the Great War

It's 1916. The allied expeditionary armies are short of light automatic weapons. The massive loss of troops in the bloody trench warfare of the western front has decimated divisions on both sides; calls to give the troops more firepower to compensate for their reduced numbers is causing armies to expand experimentation in use of automatic and semiautomatic firearms of all types, from pistols to rifles, to both light and heavy machine guns.

Although the Vickers and Maxim heavy machine guns dominate the trenches, it quickly becomes apparent that light, mobile firepower is needed for advancing troops.

The Germans have adapted their Maxim MG08 heavy machine gun to this role, in the form of the lightened MG08/15, and begin to arm Infantry and Sturmtruppen with it. They even begin experimenting with machine pis-

tols in the form of the Bergmann MP18. The Americans begin experimentation with John Browning's B.A.R. However, British and Commonwealth troops are forced to rely on the expensive-to-produce and too-few-in-number Lewis light machine guns.

The Canadians rely on the Lewis LMG, but there are simply not enough to go around and the general effectiveness of light automatic weapons available has suggested that they are useful in assaults, and might be key in breaking the stalemate in the trenches.

The Ross rifle, Canada's straight-pull infantry rifle at the beginning of the war, has proven problematic in trench warfare. Jammed rifles in the filthy conditions of the trenches and the mud-choked battlefields are killing Canadian troops almost as effectively as the Germans themselves. Issued .303 ammunition is not reliable in the Ross. In 1916,

they are progressively withdrawn from service and replaced with the British-made Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) and the bulk of the Canadian Ross rifles are returned to Canada to be scrapped.

Gun manufacturer Joseph Huot, of Richmond, Que., was keenly aware of the allied shortage of light and portable machine guns and their importance in the war effort. He also knew that experimentation was being done worldwide, using existing firearms designs and adapting them for the light machine gun role. The Farquhar Hill, the M1909 Benet Mercier and others all were being developed to fulfill the need for light, mobile auto fire for the allied armies.

But Huot has an advantage. Ross rifles had been returned from France, and were surplus to the government of the Dominion of Canada. Other international designs had to be developed from



A close up of the Huot action and drum magazine.

the ground up and manufactured, or adapted from existing designs of other weapons already in production with all of the logistical problems created by these processes. Huot has thousands of surplus Ross rifles at his disposal, which could be remanufactured relatively easily as automatic rifles, saving both design and production costs for the Canadian government.

Huot adapted the Ross to use a gas-operated, piston-driven system, using a 25-round drum magazine and a cooling system similar to the already-in-service Lewis light machine gun. The calibre, of course, was .303 Inch.

The gas piston system is added to the left side of the rifle, and a sheet metal assembly sheaths the reciprocating bolt. The adjustable gas valve is found on the left side of the barrel and the straight pull bolt and action of the Ross rifle lends itself easily to redesign as a blowback automatic. Cyclic rate is 450 rounds per minute.

The Huot Automatic Rifle is offered to the Canadian Army in September 1916, and its potential is immediately recognized. Initial production is started at the Dominion Rifle Factory with Major Robert Mills/Seaforth Highlanders

About 5,000 Huot Automatic Rifles are ordered in October 1918 and it is envisioned that it could become a cheaper alternative to replace the Lewis gun in the allied armies, but a month later the Great War ends.

of Canada, assistant inspector of small arms, overseeing the project. Testing takes place between October 1916 and October 1917 and is successful enough that the recommendation is made that the Huot Automatic Rifle also be offered to the British Army.

Tactically, it falls somewhere between the British Lewis and the American B.A.R., although the Huot's magazine capacity is not as great as that of

the Lewis, and spare magazines can be carried with greater ease than the large 47-round pans of the Lewis. The Huot's 25-round drum magazine is of greater capacity than the 20-round box magazine of the B.A.R. and is capable of longer sustained fire.

The Huot is taken to the UK in January 1918 by Master of Ordnance Colonel Blair of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada for testing and performs favourably. Testing also takes place in France, and the troops like it. The Huot is light, its drum magazine holds sufficient ammunition for both the assault and defense and it is easily loaded.

The gun passes immersion tests where others fail and is resistant to fouling - essential under trench warfare conditions. It can be under most circumstances cleared in the field without fieldstripping. The Huot can even be fired upside down.

About 5,000 Huot Automatic Rifles are ordered in October 1918 and it is envisioned that it could become a cheaper alternative to replace the Lewis gun in the allied armies, but a month later the Great War ends. The battlefields fall silent. There is no more need for the Huot Automatic Rifle, and the order is cancelled.



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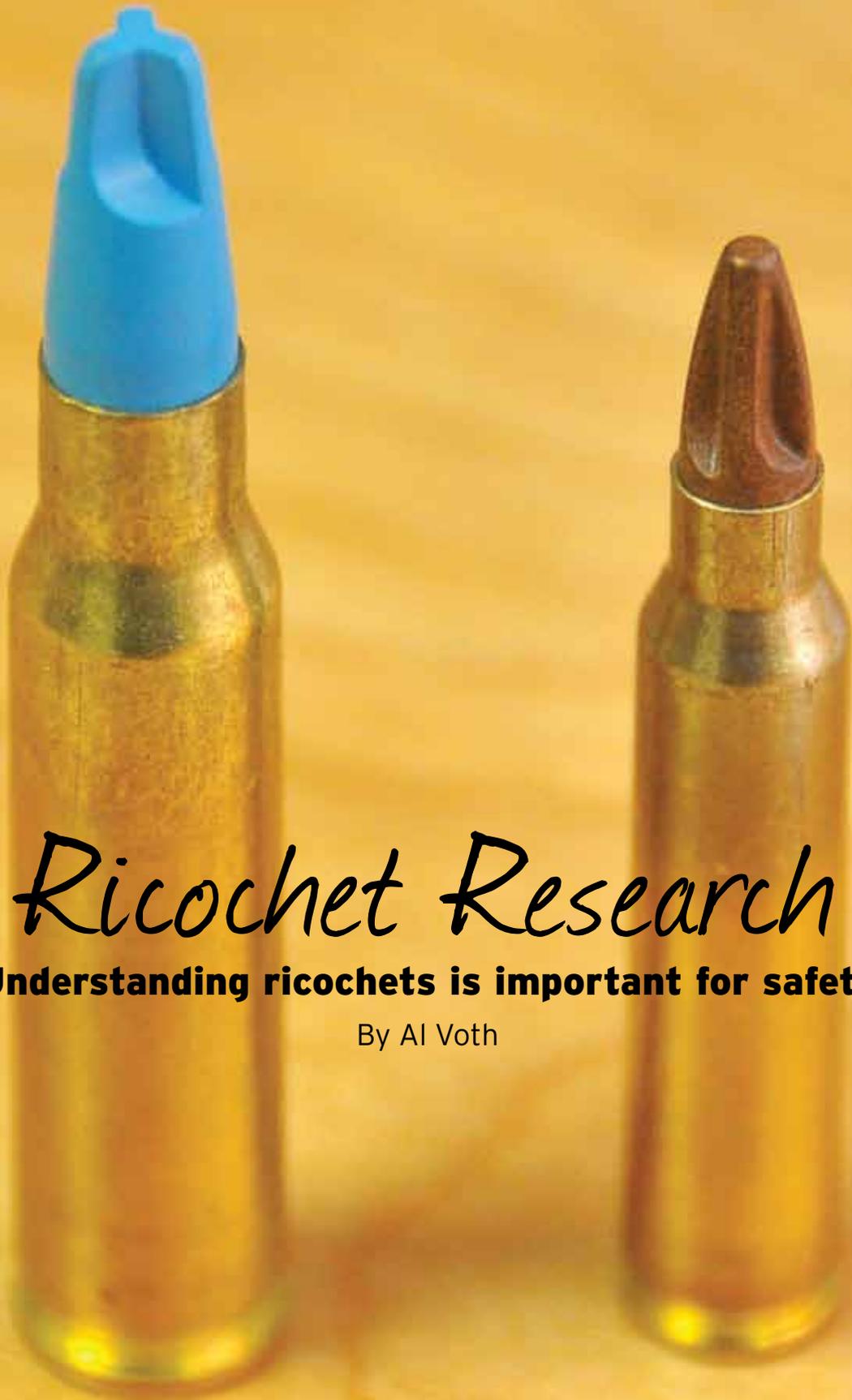
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Ricochet Research

Understanding ricochets is important for safety

By Al Voth

We've all heard it: the distinctive whine of a bullet ricocheting into the distance. If you're at all safety conscious, it makes you cringe every time. After all, now there's much less control over where that bullet is going. Hollywood doesn't cringe though. The world's premiere entertainment industry seems particularly fascinated with that sound and on the big screen. In the movies, I've seen bullets ricocheting off haystacks and feather quilts.

That's okay, because it's all make believe. And although knowledgeable shooters know fake gunplay when they see it, not everyone does. Unfortunately, when it comes to ricochets, mistaken beliefs can cause problems for shooters, gun clubs and even the residents living near gun clubs. However, among shooters there's one myth about ricochets that I cannot entirely blame Hollywood for propagating. One of the reasons I'm writing about this topic is that I've seen otherwise knowledgeable firearms people propagate it in writing and presentations.

It's the idea that bullets will ricochet or bounce the same way a rubber ball does. The idea is usually expressed by referring to the angle of incidence and the angle of departure (or reflection) and suggesting that the two angles are always equal. In other words, the angle at which a moving object strikes a surface will be same angle at which it departs when it bounces off. This is certainly true for tennis balls, eight balls off the side cushion and even beams of light. However, when it comes to bullets, it is completely incorrect to suggest this will happen all the time.

As hunters and shooters, why should we care about ricochets? Simple: because we are responsible for every bullet we launch and if we understand how and why ricochets happen, we can take action to prevent them. And not just for our own shooting. If you belong to a gun club, that organization has likely dealt with constructing and/or maintaining the range in such a way that design features and rules of operation work together to control ricochets.

Anyone who has done a lot of shooting under a wide variety of conditions will have a ricochet story or two to tell. I have a few of my own and I'll get to those eventually. But first, where do we go for authoritative information on ricochets? Does anyone actually study them? The answer is yes, and the people who do it are forensic firearms examiners. These are the folks you sometimes see on the nightly news, working at reconstructing what happened at the scene of a criminal shooting. They match bullets back to the gun that fired them and do all that other exciting and dramatic stuff you watch on CSI. I'm officially retired from

that profession but still doing consulting work in it (and no, it's nothing like CSI).

In looking through my files, I came up with over a dozen research papers from North America and Europe that have studied specific aspects of ricochets that help shed light on this fascinating topic. A review of all of them based on my personal experience resulted in the following synopsis.

Bullet characteristics

Generally, the "rounder" the bullet, and the more robust its construction, the more likely it is to ricochet. This makes round-nose bullets more likely to



ricochet than pointed bullets and tough, solid bullets more likely to ricochet than fragile bullets. The perfect projectile to ricochet is large, round steel shot like T or F, while the worst would resemble a fragile varmint bullet with a huge hollow point and made with a powdered metal core. Following this line of reasoning, some ranges ban the use of steel core bullets, a design feature which makes these bullets more prone to ricochet off the range property.

The characteristics of lead buckshot is why police agencies, which issue a shotgun to patrol officers, spend time teaching bounce shooting to their offi-

cers. The scenario usually envisioned is a bad guy who has taken cover behind a car and is shooting at the officer. If no clear shot is available, the solution is to discharge a load of buckshot into the pavement ahead of the car; it will skip along under the vehicle, largely intact, and take the bad guy's feet out from under him on the other side. This works great with buckshot, but not nearly as well with a patrol carbine in .223 loaded with frangible hollow point bullets.

The reason is differing bullet characteristics and the message for shooters is to be aware of what's loaded in your firearm. While nothing is completely

ricochet proof, there are a lot of bullets out there with a ricochet potential close to zero. Depending on your activity, it may be appropriate to choose a bullet with those characteristics.

Velocity

The potential for ricochet decreases as velocity increases. And although there is nothing specifically in the research to indicate why this is the case, I believe it's because increasing velocity enhances the potential for penetration of the surface being struck and for fragmentation of the projectile. If the bullet penetrates, there is, by definition, no ricochet. If it fragments, the remaining pieces may not have enough mass to cause any problems. So, if you want to prevent ricochets, drive your bullets fast.

Surface characteristics

Bullets can ricochet from almost any surface. In the research I referenced, forensic examiners were able to bounce projectiles off water, stone, concrete, sand, turf, wood, glass, Lexan, gypsum wallboard, plastic and steel. The degree to which this was possible was largely a factor of the angle of incidence. At least, it was with the smooth, even characteristics of the surfaces used in the laboratory experiments that comprised this research. None of the researchers tried to work with surfaces less than smooth and homogenous. That, however, is what we see in the real world and where the current gap between theory and practice exists. After all, would you volunteer to run an experiment intended to make bullets bounce back at you?

Some handgun silhouette shooters unknowingly did so in the infancy of that sport when they started using old railroad track to set targets on. When flipped upside down, the track provided a long, solid, flat surface on which to set their steel targets. Shooting at flat steel silhouette targets is, of course, perfectly safe.

However, they quickly found that the sculpted profile of that beautifully hard track was ca-



It's important for ranges to conduct their own ricochet research, or to seek professional help, in order to make their range as safe as possible for shooters.

pable of capturing a bullet and sending it back to the firing line at dangerous velocities. What's the difference between the target and the target stand? The shape of the surface, or surface characteristics; which is why you have to be careful with steel targets on your range. If they are cratered or pitted, they should be replaced, as they are fully capable of turning bullet fragments 180 degrees and returning them to the sender. A cratered steel disc at 50 yards taught me that lesson personally, when a chunk of lead bounced back, hit me in the face and resulted in a blood donation to the range floor.

Angle of incidence

Surfaces have a critical angle of incidence below which projectiles will ricochet. A great illustration of this is the lakeshore pastime of skipping stones across the surface of the water. Toss the stones so they strike the water at a low angle and they will skip; make the angle too steep and they break the surface and plunge beneath it. This same principle is true with bullets and all other surfaces; with the added proviso that, because of their velocity and construction, bullets might also break apart to some degree as part of their response to striking a surface.

Bearing in mind the variables of bullet construction, research tells us gunshot angles of less than seven degrees into water have a potential for ricochet; greater than that and a shot will likely penetrate, not ricochet. Hard surfaces have some ricochet potential at anything less than 90 degrees, but if they do ricochet, the good news is they'll bounce off at a shallow angle. Which brings us to steel targets, a topic worthy of an article all its own. For now, let's just say that smooth, hard, steel targets provide the ultimate in predictable ricochet management, which is why they are safe to use.

Angle of departure

Researchers are unanimous in their finding that only rarely does the angle at which a projectile leaving a surface match the angle at which it approached. On yielding surfaces like water or loose sand, the departure angle is usually greater than the angle of incidence. On hard surfaces like stone or steel, the departure angle is normally less than the angle of incidence, often dramatically so.

Shooting angles of 30 degrees to a hard surface can easily yield departure



A lot of new information is being learned about ricochets and what causes them to occur.

angles in the single digits. This is why the previously mentioned bounce shooting taught by police agencies works. It's also why some agencies teach officers not to move or stand close to a brick or concrete wall when the possibility of incoming gunfire exists; the theory being that a miss to the front can kill because the projectile can strike the brick and essentially travel along the wall at a low angle until it finds something to hit.

It's worth adding that when dealing with spin stabilized projectiles, it is quite common for ricocheted bullets, fired from a barrel with a right-hand (clockwise) twist, to have a lateral component in their angle of departure, following a track that angles slightly to the right. If the barrel has a left-hand twist, a ricocheted bullet will often follow a path that angles somewhat to the left. This is

caused by the same effect we see on a table tennis ball when a talented player puts a spin on that little white ball. When it bounces off the table, the ball can angle to the right or left depending on the direction of induced spin.

Potential distance

When a projectile ricochets, there is always some velocity loss associated with the event and some degree of instability imparted to the bullet. How much of each and the effect on the distance a bullet may travel has largely been guesswork until recently. The increasing availability of Doppler chronographs is now allowing researchers to measure both of these factors and the results are fascinating. As you'd expect, velocity loss is highly variable and appears to depend on a number of factors,



A fragile varmint bullet would be one of the least likely to ricochet.

not all of which are completely understood yet. So far I've seen velocity loss values recorded from 25 to 600 feet per second. This would seem to indicate the potential distance a ricocheted bullet can travel is highly variable, but that's not the case.

As every long-range shooter knows, ballistic coefficient is a measure of how efficiently a projectile moves through air. The higher a bullet's ballistic coefficient, the higher its retained velocity over distance and the further it has the potential to travel.

Doppler chronographs are allowing scientists to calculate the ballistic coefficient of ricocheted bullets by measuring actual bullet speed after the ricochet event. And when bullet speed is known over a given distance, it's possible to calculate the ballistic coefficient, and then maximum distance. So far the results are surprisingly uniform.

Finding that a bullet which remains largely intact, but destabilized into a tumble, can be expected to have a G1 ballistic coefficient in the range of .02 to .03, a number that holds true for both rifle and handgun bullets. This ballistic coefficient is so low that even with a retained velocity of 3,000 feet per second and an optimum angle, the maximum range of a ricochet is only 600 to 700 yards. Bullets that fragment can be expected to have an even lower ballistic coefficient, less mass and travel a shorter distance.

All of this suggests that shooting ranges need a much smaller safety area to deal with ricochets than we previously thought. Also, the preoccupation some CFO range inspectors have with preventing ground strikes may not be

warranted. A range with a safety zone of 800 yards past the targets should have more than enough space to contain any ricochet that may occur. It all implies that a club's safety efforts might perhaps be better directed at preventing shots going over the berms, rather than eliminating ground strikes.

Retained energy

This brings us to the last point: bullets that ricochet may have enough mass and velocity left to cause serious injury or death. Okay, that one's obvious. But I had to mention it anyway. Projectiles lose mass and/or energy when they ricochet, but it may not be enough to make them harmless within the distance they will travel. That is why we must take reasonable steps to prevent them or at least arrange for them to be funnelled into a safe spot.

Predictability

We've talked a little about this already, but it bears specifically mentioning that ricochets do have some predictability. That's why action shooters use steel targets and forensic examiners shoot into water tanks to recover fired bullets. It can all be done safely because of a knowledge about how bullets will or will not deflect on impact.

Gun clubs, and the people that live near them, often want to know the ricochet potential emanating from a shooting range and this body of research provides some good guidelines. For clubs that need more information, the best solution is conducting a series of controlled experiments designed to answer their specific questions. Doing this will definitively address any issues that

might come up when it's time for a CFO inspection or to make pre-emptive safety modifications. My advice is to get some professional help, do the research and educate yourself. And, of course, never rely on the entertainment media to form your knowledge about ricochets.

And that's where we started this discussion. But if you're an experienced shooter there are likely no surprises here. The scientists have found that fragile bullets driven fast are much less likely to ricochet than solid bullets going slowly. Also, the surface struck determines where a ricochet will go. And finally, ricocheted bullets are only grossly destabilized projectiles and we know tumbling bullets don't go far. Imagine that, scientific theory matches reality.

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NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

Smith & Wesson

A Handbook for Collectors
Revised Edition

Smith & Wesson 1857-1945
A Handbook for Collectors
Revised Edition

Authors: Robert J. Neal and Roy G. Jinks
Publisher: R&R Books, Livonia, NY USA 1996
Hard cover with dust jacket, 10.5 by 7.5 inches, 434 pages, black and white photographs. ISBN: 1-884849-19-9

The "Neal and Jinks" book, as it is known by Smith & Wesson collectors, was originally published in 1966. A revised edition was printed in 1975 to incorporate new information that had been discovered through additional factory research. Advanced Smith &

Wesson collectors relied heavily on *Smith & Wesson 1857-1945* and original copies were soon very difficult to obtain.

In 1991, R&R Books was formed to reproduce classic firearm, military and sporting books, which were no longer readily available. The company utilizes modern technology and materials to produce books that are considered to be vastly superior to original editions. Through the efforts of R&R publishers, firearm enthusiasts are now able to enjoy many classic firearm texts.

As *Smith & Wesson 1857-1945* covers an 88-year time period, which included the US Civil War, plus both world wars, the variety of firearms produced is enormous. Models were available to meet the needs of citizens, as well as armies throughout the globe. Smith & Wesson are certainly best known for their extensive line of revolvers. However, they also produced a variety of single-shot handguns and even 1,010 9mm semiautomatic light rifles, which were manufactured for the British government during the Second World War.

Smith & Wesson produced various models based upon frame size. Frames identified by number, such as 1, 1 1/2, 2, etc., could each be used to create a variety of handguns or even revolving rifles.

Neal and Jinks were presented with the monumental task of organizing such a diverse line of firearms in a way that would allow Smith & Wesson enthusiasts to readily access specific information. They chose to divide *Smith & Wesson 1857-1945* into chapters based on the best known calibre in which a particular model was originally chambered.

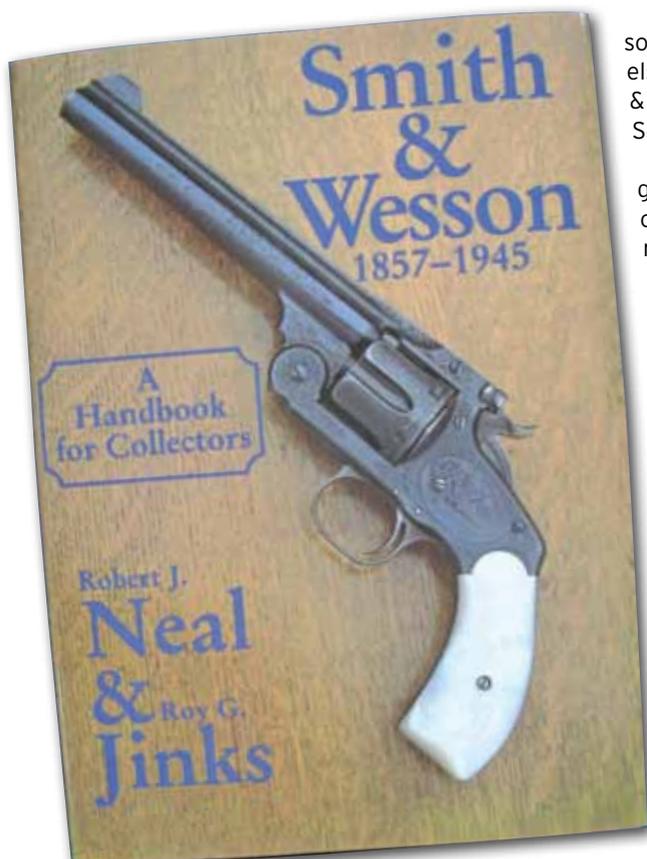
An example is Chapter 4, titled *Calibre 38*, which initially provides some interesting information, including the fact that over 30 models were produced in .38 calibre. The significant volume of Smith & Wesson production is verified as over 600,000 38-calibre British Service Revolvers were manufactured.

Placing basic facts regarding each variation at the reader's fingertips was accomplished by utilizing a structured format throughout *Smith & Wesson 1857-1945* immediately after each model designation, the authors have provided the following information:

- Manufacturing dates
- Ammunition
- Serial numbers
- Barrel lengths
- Finish
- Stocks
- Sights
- General

Smith & Wesson 1857-1945, as mentioned previously, is a reprint of a much older version and the almost 400 photographs are black and white. They are of sufficient quality to allow the collector to observe details that differentiate one model from another. Neal and Jinks certainly met their primary goal, which was to create an accurate reference book at a reasonable cost for serious Smith & Wesson enthusiasts.

The list price for *Smith & Wesson 1857-1945* is \$65, but it may currently be found online for \$52 US. Years ago, the late Doug Prue, who at one time was a vintage gun dealer in Markham, Ont., and a good friend of mine, gave me great advice: "Whatever you decide to collect, buy the best books available on that subject first."



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