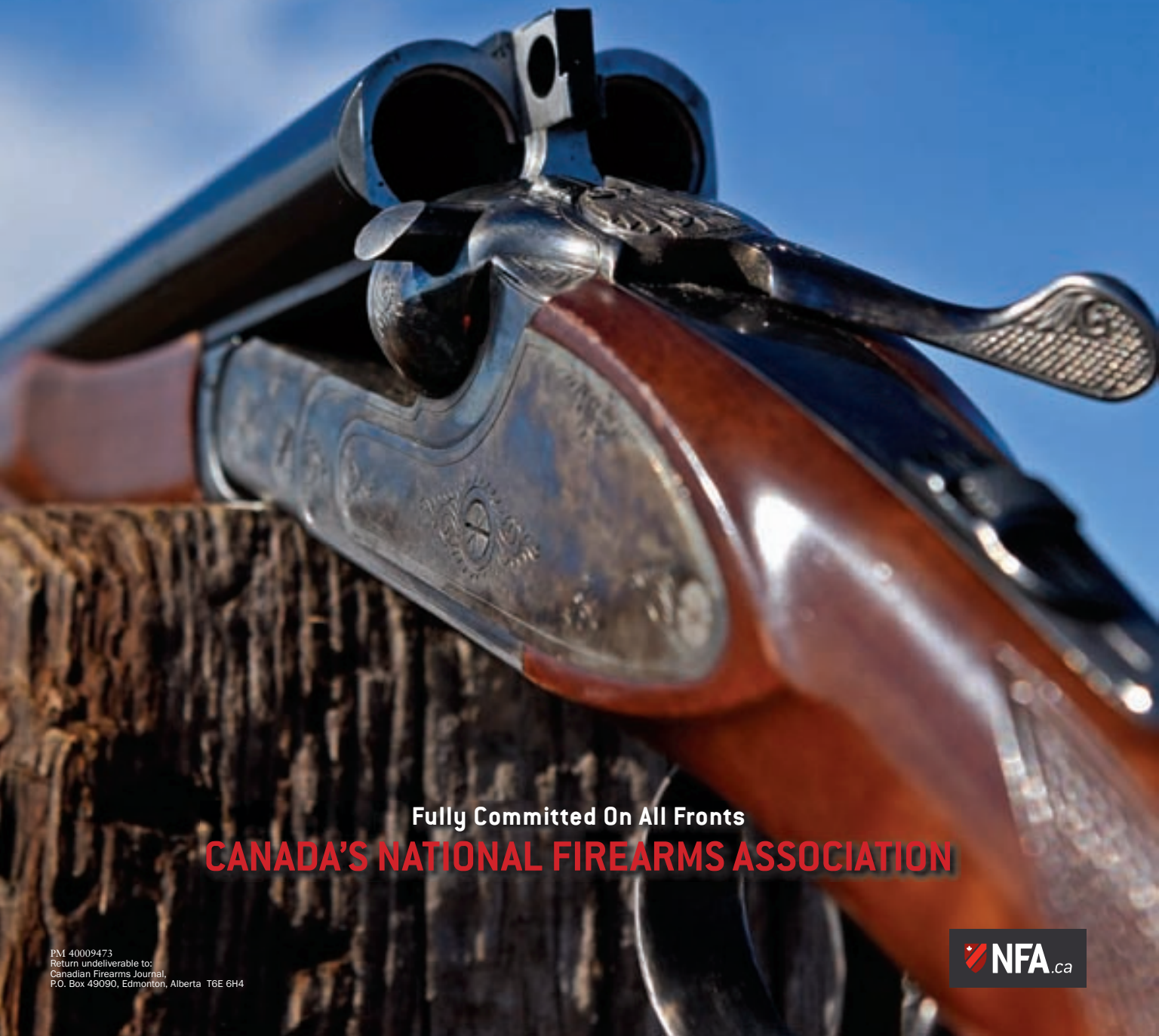


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CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

September/October 2016



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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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On The Cover

CZ Shotgun

Photo by Lowell Strauss

This month's cover comes from the camera of Lowell Strauss. It shows a CZ shotgun taking a break on a prairie fencepost during an upland bird hunt. The gun is their discontinued Ringneck model, in 20 gauge. A similar gun is still available, but it's now called the Sharp-Tail. There's something "proper" about hunting upland game with a side-by-side.



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Getting Ready For Hunting Season

If there's one thing that unites Canadian gun owners, it's the annual fall tradition of hunting season.

This issue will be arriving as most Canadians are starting to think about preparing for that annual autumn ritual, and so that's our theme. Of course, hunting seasons vary tremendously across Canada, and that's a good thing, because it means the travelling hunter can pursue game of some kind for many months. That available variety of game means it's tough to decide which articles go into a magazine like this, but we've tried to put together an assortment that will interest plenty of NFA members.

For shotgun hunters, Jeff Helsdon brings us a review of the Weatherby Orion over/under, while Duane Radford interviews an experienced waterfowl guide for tips on how to hit fast-moving

ducks and geese. The gap between gun and game is covered by Brad Fenson, who discusses some of the latest hi-tech ammunition offerings for shotgunners. As you'll read, the performance ammunition manufacturers are squeezing out of shotguns is amazing.

I'm more of a rifle guy, as opposed to a shotgunner, and I've recently had the opportunity to use a new brand of rifle available to Canadians. The Bergara line of rifles are a great new choice for consumers and you can see a review of their B-14 Hunter in these pages. The name may not be familiar, but the quality is certainly there.

There's also a quick look at the new Weatherby True North rifle, a uniquely Canadian version of the well-known Vanguard. As a bonus, buying one also supports a Canadian charity.

If a planned hunt takes you across the US border, you'll want to check out Lowell Strauss' article on how to navigate the paperwork for a hassle-free trip. And, as a hunter, you'll likely want to stay hidden from your quarry when you get there, so take a look at Ed Osborne's lesson on the science of camouflage.

And there's lots more, including the usual executive messages and political commentary. I particularly want to point out Guy Lavergne's *Legal Corner* column, for its discussion about the proposed Quebec long gun registry. This is an issue that should concern all of us, whether we live in Quebec or not. Take the time to educate yourself and make your voice heard.

And if you have a minute, let me hear your voice, too. I always appreciate the feedback I get about this, your magazine.



Hunting season is upon us.



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

National & International Developments

At the time of my writing this, there has been a lot going on in the fight against senseless firearms control. In a significant reversal from previous Conservative policy, the Trudeau government has announced that it will sign the UN *Arms Trade Treaty* (ATT). This treaty has the potential of causing much trouble for Canadians, and the NFA critiques of this terrible treaty are well known. The ATT and the separate, but seemingly related, UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons continue to generate much talk at international conferences. Fortunately, the NFA has been representing you at these conferences and our voices have been challenging those who would attack the civilian ownership of firearms.

I have taken time from my family and employment to attend discussions on global gun control efforts at the World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities (WFSA) in Nuremburg, to present at the UN Biannual Meeting of State 6 (BMS6) in New York City and to maintain communications on these matters with our international allies. Besides our North American friends, our allies include a growing movement in Europe, intended to build up the civilian users of firearms, and get them active in lobbying their elected representatives in the face of more calls for gun control. Firearms United is still in its fledgling stages, but has much potential as its momentum builds. I was humbled to be elected as a director of the WFSA at the meetings in Nuremburg. In order

to challenge global efforts to further restrict civilian ownership of arms, I will be attending UN talks on the *Arms Trade Treaty* in Geneva this August, along with a delegation from the WFSA.

At home, you will have heard that the NFA is challenging the Quebec government on its firearms registration program. We have filed our challenge and the Attorney General for Quebec has responded. Interesting for us, the federal government has chosen not to intervene either in favour of, or against our challenge. In addition, Senate Bill S-223 continues as a live bill to be held on the order paper for the fall. This situation should be of grave concern, as we had expected it to have dropped off of the order paper with the close of this session; however, it was kept on the agenda. Please contact your senator and your MP and warn them of the dangers of this bill and tell them that the NFA speaks for you.

We have engaged the services of Fred

Delorey, of Ottawa, as our lobbyist and communications specialist to assist with NFA advocacy. We are glad to have him working with us, and we have already seen some tremendous successes because of his involvement.

We are all very saddened about the loss of one of our long-time friends and office volunteers, Ernest McKenzie, who passed away after some significant health issues. We have lost many stalwarts over the last few years, but fortunately others have been joining the fight to take their places.

The NFA is poised to have a terrific year, and with your support we will continue to make great strides in fighting for more freedom and a fair and reasonable legislative regime. We are continuing to build relationships and strengthen ties, and for that I am grateful to all of our members for their support and encouragement in helping the NFA move forward victorious.



The Trudeau government has announced that it will sign the UN *Arms Trade Treaty*.

Image: iStock.

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Développements Nationaux et Internationaux

Au moment d'écrire ces lignes nous sommes encore profondément impliqués dans une lutte envers un contrôle insensé des armes à feu. En contradiction radicale des politiques du gouvernement Conservateur précédent, le gouvernement Trudeau viens d'annoncer qu'il signera le Traité sur le commerce des armes (TCA). Ce traité peut potentiellement créer de graves problèmes pour les Canadiens. Les critiques négatives de l'ACAF envers ce Traité sont bien connues. Le TCA ainsi que le Programme d'Action sur le Commerce des Armes Légères et de Petit Calibre de l'ONU continuent à générer beaucoup de discussions lors de conférences internationales. Heureusement l'ACAF vous représente sans cesse lors de ces conférences et notre voix s'oppose vivement à celle de ceux qui veulent interdire la possession légitime d'armes à feu par des civils. Je me suis absenté de mon travail et de ma famille pour assister à des discussions sur le contrôle global des armes à feu au World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities (WFSA) à Nuremberg en Allemagne, dans le but de faire une allocution devant la Sixième Réunion Biennale des États de l'ONU à New-York, et pour maintenir une bonne communication avec nos alliés sur ces enjeux. À part de nos amis Nord-Américains, nous découvrons des alliés Européens qui font parti d'un

mouvement grandissant pour accroître le nombre d'utilisateurs légitimes d'armes à feu. Nous travaillons pour qu'ils militent auprès de leurs élus face à une appel accru du contrôle des armes. Ce mouvement Européen Firearms United, en est à ses débuts mais démontre un avenir prometteur si la tendance se maintient.

Ce fut un honneur d'être élu parmi les directeurs de la WFSA aux réunions de Nuremberg. J'assisterai aux réunions de l'ONU à propos du TCA à Genève au mois d'août avec une délégation de la WFSA pour combattre les forces globales qui veulent restreindre plus sévèrement la possession légitimes d'armes à feu par des civils.

Vous avez sûrement entendu parler que l'ACAF viens de présenter une requête en Cour Supérieure qui conteste la validité Constitutionnelle du registre Québécois des armes longues. Celle-ci fut accueilli par le Procureur Général du Québec. Curieusement, le Gouvernement Fédéral a choisi de ne pas s'impliquer dans notre contestation. Le fameux Projet de Loi S-223 a survécu cette session parlementaire et se retrouvera à l'ordre du jour en septembre. Ceci est un Projet de Loi dangereux. Nous nous attendions qu'il meurt au feuilleton mais il fut conservé pour l'automne. Non vous priions de contacter vos députés et vos sénateurs pour les prévenir des dangers de ce

Projet de Loi, dites leurs que l'ACAF vous appui.

L'ACAF a engagé les services de M. Fred Delorey d'Ottawa comme lobbyiste et spécialiste en communications pour nous assister et faire la promotion de notre programme. Nous sommes heureux de l'avoir avec nous et avons connu du succès grâce à son implication. La perte de plusieurs amis et bénévoles à notre bureau chef nous attriste énormément. M. Ernest McKenzie est décédé récemment des suites d'une longue maladie. Nous en avons perdus plusieurs depuis quelques années mais heureusement qu'il y a eu des braves pour les remplacer et continuer la lutte.

L'ACAF prévoit avoir une année formidable, avec votre appui nous pourrons continuer à faire du progrès dans notre lutte pour la liberté et l'obtention d'un régime législatif juste et raisonnable. Nous continuons à créer des liens et de bonnes relations. Je suis reconnaissant à tous nos membres pour leur appui et leurs encouragements qui ont aidé à ce que l'ACAF progresse de manière victorieuse.





Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

The Many Faces Of Gun Confiscation

A lot of people think gun bans look like the mass bans and confiscations we saw in the UK, Australia and elsewhere. A law is passed, an order goes out, and the gun-owning public is compelled to turn in property or face criminal charges. It's not necessarily so. Civil disarmament programs come in many different forms, and although it borrows heavily from gun control lobbies in the US and internationally, the Canadian gun ban and confiscation program has many unique qualities.

As you can read in the *Legal Corner* column of this magazine, Canada's National Firearms Association has launched a constitutional challenge of Quebec's decision to enact a provincial Long Gun Registry. The basis of the challenge is that Quebec intends to use this registry, for all intents and purposes, for the enforcement of federal criminal law, as an adjunct and support to the federal *Firearms Act*, the Long Gun Registry component of which was ended nationally in 2012.

Governments and bureaucrats are keenly aware that in order for civil disarmament programs to be effective, they must first know who is legally allowed to own guns, and, secondly, exactly what kind and how many they own. Once they have this data, they can begin programs and initiatives to target legal firearms owners and user groups using data, regulation and law.

This, of course, entails mandatory licensing of all lawful firearms owners, which we are still burdened with in Canada today. It also means universal registration. Canada has had a registry of handguns since 1934, a registry of machine guns owned by collectors since 1945 and additional registries of other firearms deemed restricted through the 1970s and 1980s.

The 1990s saw the most punitive and draconian anti-gun legislation ever visited on Canadians, with expansions in the numbers of firearms restricted, registered, prohibited and even some cases of confiscation. Half of the registered handguns in Canada were banned in Canada in 1995, and have been progressively confiscated from their registered owners and their families according to *Firearms Act* regulations since then. It's the same with registered machine guns and prohibited long guns.

In the early 1990s, the restrictions and prohibitions placed on certain semi-auto firearms were messy and incomplete. Compliance with registration initiatives was low, and without mandatory licensing and universal registration, police and bureaucrats had little idea how many guns were to be confiscated or who had them. The civil disarmament lobby learned from that fiasco, and knows that universal registration is key to an effective program that will achieve their far reaching goals.

The Long Gun Registry was to set the stage for the categorization, management, progressive re-classification and confiscation of the rest of Canada's firearms, according to existing political realities and opportunities. Once the program was fully implemented, the Canada Firearms Program could then develop strategies, with partners in law enforcement and government, to facilitate firearms re-classifications and prohibitions, registration revocations, license revocations and then selected and targeted confiscations.

Thankfully, the federal universal registry failed to achieve full implementation. The failure of the Long Gun Registry was spectacular. Not only did the firearms program fail to convince the majority of Canadians to licence themselves and register all of their rifles and shotguns, it failed to re-register all the previously registered handguns, machine guns, restricted and prohibited rifles from previous registries, as was mandated by law.

Confusion and controversy was the order of the day. It still is.

The ending of the Long Gun Registry in 2012 brought a reprieve of sorts for Canadians and their property. Except it now appears in Quebec. In reality, the Quebec registry is two things. For Quebec politicians, it is a symbol of disdain for what firearms represent to them, and the continuation of a social engineering experiment at the expense of the rights and property of Quebecers.

Quebec looks at their effort to impose a provincial registry as a model for the return of universal firearms registration in the rest of Canada. Quebec believes other provinces will be compelled to impose their own registries, based on a perceived usefulness or success of a Quebec registry, and that the data collected in these provincial registries can be used by some future renewed federal universal firearms registration program. A continuation of the same ideology that imposed the failed 1995 *Firearms Act* on Canadians

Quebecers have already figured this out, of course. If the Quebec registry ever gets going, compliance will be low despite the threats and bullying of the Quebec government. But compliance numbers will be adjusted, the politicians and bureaucrats will get what they want, and a lot of innocent Quebecers who have no criminal intent will lose their rights and property in this latest attempt at social re-engineering, just like what happened federally between 1995 and 2012. Canadians have seen all this before.

The methods change based on the politics of the day. But there are many roads to civil disarmament. Some are closed, like the pre-2012 universal registry. But others have opened, like the Quebec Long Gun Registry. Civil disarmament lobbyists aren't sentimental, they change with the seasons. The goal, however, remains the same. That is why Canada's National Firearms Association remains ever vigilant against these threats. It's not just a Quebec problem, it is a problem for all Canadians.



Point Blank

Chris McGarry

Too Much Suppressor Noise

We've all seen them. They're a fashionable prop used in countless Hollywood action flicks; terrifying little devices that enable the vilest villains and the most lethal of assassins to kill their opponents silently.

In actuality, sound suppressors (labelled as silencers by the media and anti-gun organizations) should be considered an essential tool of any shooter's equipment. Unfortunately, due to a heaping dose of misinformation, fear and outright ignorance, sound suppressors, whose only function is to protect one's hearing, have been categorized as prohibited devices in Canada. Therefore, an individual caught in possession of one can expect severe criminal sanctions.

From a standpoint of common sense, not to mention public health, banning a gadget that suppresses the deafening sound of a gunshot, and therefore prevents hearing loss, makes little sense. As has been proven with Canada's failed gun control experiment, only law-abiding citizens follow laws. The criminal element doesn't. Consequently, should a gang member decide to use a sound suppressor for nefarious purposes, no amount of bad legislation will prevent that individual from doing so.

At ranges from one end of Canada to the other, target shooters predominately use plugs and muffs to protect their hearing. But there is no good reason to prevent these normal, hardworking, taxpaying Canadians from legally using sound suppressors. After all, although they are banned completely in Canada and strictly regulated in the US, they are legal and mandatory in many western nations. In several western European nations, generally more densely populated than Canada, many jurisdictions have passed bylaws

decreeing that hunters must use these devices in order to cut down on noise pollution. In Scandinavian nations such as Finland and Sweden, using a sound suppressor while hunting or target shooting is seen as being courteous.

Even in our fellow Commonwealth nations of the United Kingdom and Australia, both of which have much stricter firearms legislation than Canada, sound suppressors are legal and used often by sport shooters concerned about protecting their hearing. So why, then, is the possession of these devices banned in Canada?

Like most of our useless firearms legislation, in which firearms are placed in either non-restricted, restricted or prohibited categories, often based on how "scary" they appear, sound suppressors are most likely viewed in the same man-

ner. It seems politicians and bureaucrats tasked with creating these asinine laws based their decisions on watching too many farfetched action/crime films. It's sad, but in our media-saturated society, many folks (not only those in government) are heavily influenced by what they see on television and in movies. If something appears scary, it must be banned and the facts be damned.

Although it is unlikely that Canadians will ever see concealed carry laws on our books anytime soon, it isn't out of the realm of possibility that sound suppressors could someday be allowed. Seatbelts are mandated by law as a public health issue, and have been for decades. Public awareness campaigns about the safety benefits of legalizing sound suppressors might also change peoples' attitudes about them.



Sound suppressors are a matter of public health and go a long way to preserving a shooter's hearing.



Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

A Veritable Dianna

A Dianna is a mythological, ancient Roman divinity depicted as a huntress. The illustrations of Dianna vary, but a popular one depicts a woman with a bow, accompanied by her hunting dog. This vision describes a lady named Dawne, a modern-day Dianna.

Dawne is extraordinary. Born in the late 1950s to a city-dwelling family, she is private school educated, a business woman, renowned dog breeder, competitive practical pistol shooter and passionate hunter. As a young woman in her teens, she was a champion bicycle racer

on Canada's national team, becoming an Olympic prospect. Dawne is an athlete and has the will to win. She thrives on competition. In 1985, she turned to body building as her primary focus, winning the Western Canadian Championship.

Even though city raised, she has been fascinated with guns, outdoor pursuits and hunting since her teens. This pull led her to Finnish Karelian bear dogs, a rare breed of hunting dog used in northern Europe for hunting bear, moose, lynx and wild boar. With these dogs, Dawne discovered her outdoors persona. From the mid

1990s to the present, she has developed an international reputation, showing and breeding these athletic and fearless hunting dogs.

Her father had a negative view of the ownership and use of guns, and out of respect for him she kept her firearms thoughts private. But her interest in firearms never diminished, and when her father passed away in 2002, Dawne began accompanying hunters, studying their techniques and learning the ways of the outdoors. In 2009, she accompanied an individual to a shooting range. That



"When hunting, I get to be with great people, in a great country, and if I am lucky and have the skill, I will bag a great animal."

event ignited a passion and the process to owning and using guns was inaugurated. By 2011, she had qualified for her non-restricted possession and acquisition licence.

She became active in gun clubs, volunteering at events and learning the culture. In 2011, while volunteering at an air-gun booth, Dawne became acquainted with Al and Laurie Page, two avid shooters. Al's shooting career measures over 45 years. A champion rifle shooter and a shotgun competitor, Al was on the Canadian team attending the IPSC World Nationals held in South Africa in 1979. Al began mentoring and training Dawne in all the firearms disciplines. Dawne's appetite for enhanced firearms proficiency was whetted. Then in 2011, she enrolled in an NRA shooting camp for women, held at the Whittington Center in Raton, NM. The intense, one-week camp covered shotgun, archery, handguns, black powder and rifles; including, on the last day, cowboy action and long range shooting.

Upon her return home, she acquired her restricted PAL and purchased an H&K P30L pistol. Dawne began competing in practical pistol events, and now shoots 1,000 rounds a week to improve her skill level. She believes you must practice, drill and rehearse to become a champion.

With her exciting experience at the NRA camp, the die was cast. Her fervour for hunting was inspired. In 2012, Dawne took a hunter training course, which further fired her desire to pursue big game. The successful completion of the program enabled Dawne to acquire her British Columbia Fish & Game Wildlife ID Number, and then to obtain her hunting licence.

Dawne's first guided hunt was in Nunavut in 2012. She prepared herself by practising regularly with her 270 Winchester, while wearing 40 pounds of survival gear in the heat of August. On the first day, she harvested a musk ox in -40 degrees Celsius, using her Tikka T3 fitted with a Swarovski Z3 3x9 scope. On the second day, she took an Arctic caribou with the same rifle. The experience was exhilarating. Dawne's revelation in the north was that hunting is a cultural experience, and is an integral part of the cultural fabric of Canada.



A musk ox, harvested at -40 degrees Celsius.

In short order, Dawne has become a skilled hunter, harvesting animals humanely and honing her techniques in skinning and butchering, as well. She believes strongly that all parts of the animal should be used. She takes home the meat for consumption, after sharing it with her guides, and also tans the hides and shares the bones and antlers with First Nations. She believes that none of the animal should be wasted. She has since hunted mountain goat, mountain caribou, moose, black bear and Atlantic walrus. In all weathers and temperatures, Dawne has been dauntless in her pursuit of prey.

She says, "When hunting I get to be with great people, in a great country, and if I am lucky and have the skill, I will bag a great animal".

Dawne has immersed herself in the firearms world, also becoming a collector of Mosin-Nagant rifles. She is constantly improving her proficiency with rifle and pistol, learning from other competitors, and even employing laser targets as training aids. Dawne's vision for the future includes becoming a serious competitor in IPSC Production Class, a tough division due to the volume of competitors and their level of skill. It also includes more hunting adventures, particularly a hunt for Tahr bearded goats in New Zealand. She is a living example of a modern Dianna who is preserving our hunting and firearms heritage.



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

The Root Cause Of Firearms Control

The advocates of increasing firearms restrictions, which will lead to effective civilian disarmament, have adopted the rhetoric of public safety and an attitude of moral superiority. The public safety payoff, presumably something of interest, is seldom examined; a process reinforced by carefully and deliberately failing to collect the data needed to assess the policy. For example, the handgun registry has been in effect since 1934, yet when its supporters were questioned in Parliament, they could not produce a single example to support the claim that it solved crime or protected police. The law enforcement data, documenting when and how often the registry helped, or not, has never been collected. How many billions have gone into this policy with no attempt to see if actually works? The long gun registry was a repeat of the same - big claims, and then no relevant records kept.

Government organizations across the country indulge in highly publicized gun buybacks. In each case, the spokesman solemnly declares that we are all safer because a certain number of "dangerous" guns are finally "off the street." The demonstrable reality behind this public relations fan dance is that no study has ever demonstrated that the guns collected were ever "on the street" in the first place. When confronted with this, the buyback supporters produce the lame rationale that someday, perhaps, they might be stolen and then, maybe, used in a crime. Actual percentages of guns stolen each year (very small) and then used in crime (even smaller) are not discussed.

The dogma of more guns equals more crime is endlessly repeated, like a secular version of a Tibetan prayer. The real-world experience of other jurisdic-

tions with different ownership rates is ignored. For example, if we examine the actual experience in the demonised US, we find that in the 1990s, the US increased its gun supply by 93 million firearms, while firearms homicides decreased by 36 per cent. An increase of over 40 million handguns saw a handgun homicide rate drop by 47 per cent. Yet, somehow, the massive drop in homicide rates remains a non-fact of absolutely no interest to our moral superiors. The claim of a public safety motive is debunked by the lack of interest in actual results. Our examination of this pattern reveals how the public safety claims are just a cover for other motives.

Canadian values

A study of the House of Commons debates in 1995, when the current gun control laws were debated, opens a window into the true root cause of gun control. During debates, legislators often stressed the policy's faithfulness to underlying Canadian values. Allan Rock said that more restrictions would help build the "kind of Canada we want for ourselves and for our children" (House debates, June 13, 1995).

A representative of the Canadian Association of Police Boards testified that the firearms legislation "represents a logical step in regulating the use of firearms in a manner so as to protect the public interest." He said that strict firearms regulation was a "right" because there was a human "right" to a safe environment. The importance of this human right was contrasted with the mere "privilege of owning a firearm." (Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, May 4, 1995, 15:45). This right is in accordance with the United Nation's position that only nations have the right

to self-defence. For their citizens, there is no such thing as a "right to self-defence." Instead, their safety is a matter under state control, exercised through laws and other restrictions. This authority is never delegated to mere citizens. (Note how all rights are sourced from the state alone, with an utter lack of recognition of any inherent natural rights.)

Liberal MP Beth Phinney insisted that all must "act as good citizens and accept their responsibility" by submitting to the "reasonable" restrictions set out in the gun control legislation (House debates, June 13, 1995, 16:35).

Bloc Québécois leader Lucien Bouchard dismissed the case for individual rights with the statement that "a society such as ours, which claims to be reasonable, vigilant and civilized has a responsibility to ensure that the use of firearms is better controlled" (House debates, June 13, 1995, 11:00).

If we look at these, and many other assertions, we can see the re-writing of Canadian history and our cultural values. The main political struggle in Canadian history is the struggle against the arbitrary rule of a powerful government. From our early colonial days, we fought against the dictatorial rule of governors. The establishment of voting rights and responsible government was part of that struggle. Of course, some members of our elites see things differently. Many admire the "efficiency" of dictatorships and see many advantages in moving government away from democratic control. Shifting firearms legislation out of Parliament and to the Governor in Council is part of this agenda. Shifting firearms law to international treaties removes even the pretence of democracy.

The desire to shape Canada and turn back our history is not limited to the



Image: iStock.

Canada's roots play an essential role in who we are, as a nation, today.

formal realms of government. The supporters of ever more regulation often demonstrate total trust in the state's ability to shape social, political and cultural practices. As one commenter said, "... we believe romantic attachment to guns is behind the desire of many people to allow access to paramilitary and military weapons. We have become desensitized to violence in our society and therefore allowed an acceptance of these guns. The measures to prohibit certain weapons will help change the values that precipitate a culture of violence" (SCJLA, May 16, 1995, 15:45). A willingness to acknowledge hunting and target shooting as legitimate does not remove the underlying motive of social engineering. Nor does it remove the agenda that the primary definer in social affairs and the nation's culture is the all-powerful state.

Conclusion

Our inquiries lead us to the conclusion that gun control is only a part of a larger agenda to social engineer historical Canada out of existence, and replace it with a Canada of our elite's invention.

This conclusion was confirmed when our new PM went to New York and declared that there is "no core identity, no mainstream in Canada." He said, "There are shared values ... (that) make us the first post-national state."

This is a scandalous disgrace of a Canadian PM going to a foreign country to declare a radical re-envisioning of Canada and her people. How deep a colonial cringe do you want? This is the sheer arrogance of a self-appointed philosopher king and assistant high school drama teacher re-writing Canada's history and current reality.

There is the undeniable historical fact of Canada's identity, with its deep British and French roots. There is the French identity of pre-1759 and the decisive English identity that followed the conquest. These two core identities have merged and evolved together. Both were given formal recognition in our 1982 Constitution. Politically, Canada's core identity rests on classic British Liberalism and is based on the Westminster system of parliamentary government. This is not, nor can it be, a history-free and culture-free "post-national state."

To describe Canada in this way is dangerously delusional and deeply disrespectful of the people of Canada. A people best described as one with a shared culture and a shared identity with many roots. This is a far cry from the hyphenated, politically correct culture of enforced identity politics that is clearly in the PM's dreams.

As others have identified before, the fight for firearms rights is tied to larger battles and is a necessary part of winning the struggle for Canada's heart and soul. The struggle of law-abiding firearms owners to repeal draconian and unnecessary laws is part of a struggle to preserve our culture, our heritage and our future.

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RAINING BIRDS

A photograph of a field at sunset. In the foreground, there are several large, conical hunting blinds made of a mesh material, partially covered with dry grass and leaves. In the middle ground, a pair of waterfowl, likely ducks, are standing in the field. The background shows a bright sunset over a body of water, with a cloudy sky. The overall scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun.

Shotgunning tips for waterfowlers

BY DUANE RADFORD





Outfitters often recommend steel #2 shot for ducks and BB for geese.

When I approached Blaine Burns for an interview about shotgun shooting tips for waterfowlers, he replied, "It's a good topic, as most people don't know squat about gun fit and how important it is." And, that's just for starters. Burns has a lifetime of waterfowl shooting knowledge and experience, which he subsequently shared.

Burns ought to know about shotgun advice for waterfowlers; he's been the owner/manager of Alberta's Black Dog Outfitters, a waterfowl hunting business, since 1977 (www.blackdogoutfittersalberta.com). He works with his wife, Jane, out of Tofield, a small town in the aspen parklands east of Edmonton. Waterfowl hunting has been a big part of his life since he was a teenager. He started hunting at 16, and is 60 now. He owned a sporting clays range for many years, has guided hunters for the past 20 years in Canada and Argentina and has spent a lot of time instructing shot-

gun shooters. I first met Burns when he worked for Ducks Unlimited Canada as a biologist and area manager. So, I asked him how shotgun hunters can improve their hit percentage. Despite my having hunted waterfowl for many years, I was surprised by some of the common sense answers he provided.

Burns says guns that break open can be a bit of a problem in a layout or stand-up blind. On the other hand, there aren't any issues with a pump or semi-automatic shotgun. He also says shotguns with longer barrels are more efficient when shooting at longer ranges and "don't blast your partner's ears" when shooting out of blinds.

Burns claims that a semi-automatic shotgun is probably one of the best going for waterfowl hunting, but pumps are also okay. "Camo finishes are probably a bit of overkill," he said. "It's more for consumers than birds." Burns says, "It's important that guns don't shine. In

Alberta, with the prevailing northwest winds, shiny barrels can flare birds that pick up reflected sunlight when landing into the wind."

Regarding chokes, Burns is adamant that improved cylinders work best on decoyed birds because of their wider patterns. However, he says for pass shooting patterns need to be tighter, so a modified or full choke works better there. Burns recommends shooting three-inch #2 shot for ducks and three-inch BB loads for geese over decoys, but maybe three-and-a-half-inch shells for pass shooting at longer ranges. He says, "Just one-and-one-eighths ounces is ample shot in most cases. But you'll need 1,500 feet-per-second velocity for knock-down power when shooting steel shot. Mass times velocity creates the energy delivery necessary to bring down birds."

Burns believes that most brands of shotgun shells are similar, but some brands seem to shoot better in some guns and with different chokes; so, he suggests a process of trying different loads to find a brand that works best in your gun.

"I don't know that I've shot enough different brands to really make a good assessment," he said. I asked whether there was much difference among the popular brands, to which he replied, "Not in my mind. When it comes to hitting a duck, it's all about confidence. If you're confident when you pull that gun up and you know you've got a good load, you'll shoot well." He also said that if you take the time to pattern your gun with different ammunition, you'll develop a higher level of confidence in both your shotgun and loads. This is something seldom done by waterfowlers.

"People shoot differently in terms of how low they get their head down on the gun. And then, some guns shoot a higher percentage of the shot pattern above the gun barrel than below the barrel," Burns said. He says guns like the Browning Citori shoot perfectly out of the box for him, because he tends to follow targets below the plane of the rib, and this brand tends to shoot a bit high,



Blaine Burns and his granddaughter, Sahara, after a successful harvest of ducks.



Blaine Burns tends to favour autoloader shotguns for waterfowl hunting.



Typical 12-gauge ammunition for shooting clay targets has a velocity of about 1,200 feet per second. Steel hunting loads are normally well over 1,400 feet per second, with the very fastest steel loads clocking in at around 1,700 feet per second. That velocity spread makes a major difference in the amount of lead required to hit a moving target.



To learn whether you're shooting in front of, or behind, your target, try Winchester's Tracker ammunition when practicing. The highly visible wad follows the shot charge, allowing a friend looking over your shoulder to easily spot the direction of the miss.

giving him good success. He says that's just how he shoots, and consequently he enjoys the same success with the Benelli brand of shotguns. On the other hand, he says when he has a Beretta in his arms, it takes him a while to adjust to it. Burns said the Beretta shotgun line seems to be made for people who tend to hold their heads upright more than he does. He says these are just some examples regarding how shotguns can be different, especially for people who are a little smaller than normal or have long arms. You need to make some adjustments to really shoot a gun well.

While marksmen are made, not born, those who shoot well tend to shoulder a gun effortlessly and have good eye-hand co-ordination. A shotgun should come to your cheek first, then your shoulder. Your cheek should be firmly on the comb, and all the while your head should be erect. Your dominant eye should be looking down the barrel.

The bead should be on the target. In other words, ideally, the gun should fit your body frame and feel natural in the ready position. If your shotgun doesn't have a good fit, you won't be able to find the target easily, lead it properly and squeeze the trigger at the right time.

Burns says that sporting clays provides a good variety of targets for hunters wishing to improve their waterfowl shooting skills, especially with high crossing targets and/or birds settling in, and then dropping, as in field conditions. But he cautions that light, lead pellet target loads are noticeably slower than steel hunting loads, making it necessary to shorten your leads with the latter. He says when he goes to Argentina, where lead shot is still legal, it takes him a while to adjust because it is slower than steel shot. He has to recalibrate, and when he comes back to Alberta in the autumn he has to lead birds a little differently.

"Everybody makes those adjustments fairly quickly," he says. "Faster loads make most shooters better if they hold on the bird. Unless they're a long way out and crossing, you don't need a whole lot of lead."

Personally, I'd suggest you don't over think your shots or you might lose focus, which is sort of like typing on a keyboard - just do it. If you know the keyboard, you don't need to hunt for the letters. It just happens. And if you don't practice your shotgun shooting skills, you'll be handicapped when it comes time to shoot waterfowl. It's imperative that you practice the fundamentals of shooting a shotgun until you master them. And the best place to achieve this goal is at a local shooting range.

Burns agrees, to a point. "You can over think your shots, but doing more of it can help you get better. Don't do any thinking until you're consistently missing the target," he says. Good waterfowl shooters are able to quickly pick up their target and point a shotgun in the right direction more or less automatically. If you find yourself consciously thinking

about what you should do, you'll probably miss the shot. Burns says what you must do, though, if you're not consistently hitting, is try to and figure out what's going wrong. For example, are you shooting in front of or behind the target? And if so, then you should make some adjustments to your technique.

When it comes to safety concerns, Burns says, "Your shotgun barrel always needs to be above the bar in a layout blind. The doors of the blind always close over the gun. Never point your barrel across the blind. It should be pointed up at all times. Don't shoot over your partner. Stay in your zone." This is one of the reasons Burns doesn't like short barreled over-and-under and side-by-side shotguns, because some hunters keep these types of guns under the bar in a layout blind. He knows of one instance where a hunter shot his toe off under these circumstances. As a courtesy, and for reasons of safety, don't shoot over your partners. Their ears will be ringing for days if you don't follow this rule.

He says the best wing shots he sees

come from places like Arkansas, where they are used to hunting in timber and keying in on waterfowl in narrow shooting lanes. He sees this as a matter of being efficient and picking your spots when shooting is tight. Things typically happen quickly during a waterfowl hunt, so you don't have much time to analyze shot opportunities. You must be able to react and take advantage of your chances. You must learn to shoot by developing a proper lead and follow through with your swing. Pick the point where you will insert the muzzle as you make your move. If you're a swing-through shooter, this will be behind the target; if you shoot maintained lead, it will be in front. If pull-away, it will be the target's leading edge. Be sure to keep a hard visual focus on the target. And absolutely never flock shoot. Focusing on the target solves many ills on the clays course and in the field.

With practice, you'll develop reflex shooting skills where all the proper steps are executed automatically. To be a consistently good shot with a shotgun, it must shoot where you look.

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THE WEATHERBY ORION

BY JEFF HELSDON

WEATHERBY'S OVER/UNDER HUNTER HAS RETURNED

The Weatherby name needs little introduction to gun owners. It has stood the test of time since the 1940s, when Roy Weatherby launched the company with the birth of the Weatherby magnum calibres. The Mark V rifle followed in 1957 and became legendary as a premium rifle. Interestingly, when Weatherby started designing and selling shotguns in the 1960s, the company took a different approach. The shotguns were designed by Weatherby and were up to the company's quality benchmarks, but a different manufacturer always built them. Weatherby shotguns also weren't premium priced.

My association with Weatherby shotguns started on a sporting clays range in the early 1990s. I was having an off day shooting with my 20-gauge pump, when one of the other shooters offered to let me try his over/under Weatherby Orion. I started crushing the targets, and immediately thought I would own one of these guns some day. When that particular gun was traded in and I saw it on the used shelf at Goble's Firearms, I quickly put a deposit on it.

My Orion was of the SKB era, when that Japanese firm was manufacturing shotguns for Weatherby. But stepping back further in time, Weatherby over/

unders were originally introduced in the Regency line from 1967 to 1982, with Angelo Zoli as the manufacturer. From 1977 to 1981, the Olympian line was built by Nikko, the same company that manufactured Winchester's 101. SKB was behind Weatherby shotguns for the longest time, from 1982 to 2007. They built two grades: the plainer Orion and the higher grade Athena. That relationship ended when SKB stopped building guns for all other manufacturers. The same pattern was followed when Fausti built Weatherbys from 2008 to 2011, under the name Athena d'Italia and Orion d'Italia.



The safety also functions as a barrel selector.

The Orion has a box lock action and automatic ejectors.

Following a short down time, the latest version of the Orion was launched in late 2014. It is manufactured by ATA in Turkey. Notably, this is a different Turkish company than is presently manufacturing Weatherby pumps and semi-autos.

"Turkey now reminds me of what Italy was in the early years, with a lot of manufacturers," said Dean Rumbaugh, Weatherby's historian.

There is a wide range of products coming from Turkey, with huge variations in the quality level. Several well-known manufacturers have guns built in Turkey, including Winchester, Stoeger, Mossberg and Webley and Scott. Rum-

baugh assured me there are no concerns about the quality of the Orion.

"If Weatherby's name is on it, it will be a quality product."

Out of the box

When taking the Orion out of the box, the first thing I noticed was the strikingly modern Weatherby name in gold lettering on the receiver. This is tastefully done and well executed. The gun I have has 26-inch, chrome-lined barrels, with a vent rib. A matte finish on the rib's surface serves to cut down glare. Its point of balance is at the front end of the receiver, and with three-inch chambers it's

obviously a hunting gun. At present, the only other option is 12 gauge, but with 28-inch barrels. A single brass bead, common for hunting guns, is the only sighting device. Although many guns have moved to fibre optic beads, a brass bead seems appropriate for this classically styled gun.

Length of pull comes in at 14-and-five-eighths inches, drop at heel is two-and-three-eighths inches and the drop at the comb is one-and-five-eighths inches. The weight of both versions is seven pounds.

Throwing the gun up to my shoulder, I found it has nice balance and pointability - something that impressed me even



with my older SKB Orion. Putting the new Orion next to it, I noticed both have a box lock action and A-grade walnut, with a high-gloss finish. The receiver of the new Orion is trimmer though, something that contributes to faster handling. Unlike some of the lesser Turkish guns, the Weatherby is outfitted with ejectors.

A feature I like about the older SKB version is the ability to select which barrel fires first, utilizing a push button on the trigger. But most modern two-barrel guns put that barrel selector on the sliding tang safety, including this new Orion. I've often thought it impractical to slide a switch to the side on the safety, as a way to get the gun into action quickly, especially with gloves on. But that's just my personal preference.

Something that hasn't changed from the early 1980s is the choke system. The SKB guns were built with Winchester thread, which was introduced by Winchester and has been used by Mossberg and the first generation of Browning Invector. This choke system has been around for a long time, is commonly available and reasonably priced.

The forend on the new Orion is bulkier than the SKB and its removal has changed to a push-button system. The recoil pad has a modern look, with rounded edges and a Weatherby "W" embossed in the middle. Because the gun is new, the action is stiff, but it's not overly tight and did loosen up with the shooting I did while testing it.

Range time

I always thought if I was to buy a 12-gauge over/under, it would be a Weatherby to match my 20 gauge. That's one reason I looked forward to testing the new Orion.

"It will shoot flat," a voice said beside me on the trap line. Looking over, I saw Oxford Sportsmen's Club member Kyle Crawford, also shooting an Orion. The first target flies, and although I am taking Kyle's advice, I shoot under it. The next one breaks soundly and then I'm onto it.

I have two boxes of target ammunition with me, one each of one ounce and one-and-one-eighths-ounce loads. I chose the different loads to see how this gun handles recoil. And as I finish the first box of shells, the one-and-one-eighths ounce, my shoulder can tell I've shot a whole box. But, for the record, when I shoot trap, I always use one-ounce shells, and have been spoiled further by shooting a recoil-absorbing semi-automatic.

My score improved slightly with the one-ounce loads, and at no time did I feel I needed the heavier load. The recoil was manageable and the Orion tamed it as well as many trap guns I have shot. While at the trap range, I experimented with a modified choke in one barrel and a full choke in the other. Both broke targets well and I didn't see any pattern inadequacies responsible for a missed bird.

Next stop was the skeet range at Waterford Sportsman's Club. This is where the gun really shone. While I wished for a longer barrel at the trap range, the Orion with 26-inch barrels worked great for skeet. Actually, even though it was only the third box of shells I put through the gun, it fit well enough to have a familiarity to it. I knew then I wouldn't hesitate using this gun for hunting.

At the patterning board, the Orion held its own. Using Score one-ounce target loads with #8 shot through a full choke, the pellet count in the standard 30-inch circle was 268. There are about 410 in that load, so it averaged 65 per cent at 40 yards. With Winchester one-and-a-quarter pheasant loads and #4 shot, there were 122 in a 30-inch circle. That equates to 72.6 per cent. Both of these loads are within the normal 65 to 75 per cent expectations for full choke. It would take a lucky pheasant to squeeze through any of the small holes in the #4 pattern. There were a few holes in the target load pattern a clay bird would fit through, but all were tiny enough that there is little doubt they would be crushed.

Through the three boxes of shells, the gun operated flawlessly. The ejectors worked well, throwing the shells clear if I opened the gun with that intention in mind, or enabling easy removal if at a range.

Parting thoughts

Many shooters have wondered if a higher-grade twin will follow the latest version of the Orion, so I asked Rumbaugh.

"We're only making the Orion," he answered. "We have no plans at this time for the Athena."

With many options out there for Turkish-made double barrels, there is no doubt you could spend less money than the Orion's \$1,200 to \$1,300 price tag. But, you can also spend a lot more. However, in my opinion, you won't find one that gives as much value. That value, and the Weatherby name on the side, means this gun would be high in my rankings when looking for a 12-gauge stack barrel.



The Prince of Wales grip

The rounded pistol grip has been called many things over the years. Browning calls it the Lightning on their guns and others call it a half pistol grip. But the original name of this design is the Prince of Wales grip. Looking closely, the difference is more than just a rounded grip cap. Each gun manufacturer has different standards, but generally the Prince of Wales grip isn't as tight a circumference as a conventional pistol grip. In fact, it's often considered to be a compromise between a straight grip and a pistol grip.

In the 19th century, straight grips were popular on English doubles, as it allowed easier transition from one trigger to the other on the side-by-sides with double triggers that predominated. The problem is there is less control of the right hand with straight stocks. The modified design is attributed to the Prince of Wales - later King Edward VII - who wanted more control in his right hand when shooting.



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THE OTHER 300 SAVAGE

The little-known Savage Model
1920 bolt-action rifle

BY BOB CAMPBELL

I have recently discovered the Savage Model 1920 bolt gun, and it's been an interesting experience. Most people are under the impression that Savage only made lever-action rifles back in the day. Not true. Their 1920 turn-bolt rifle is based upon development work Savage did on a military rifle during the First World War.

The Springfield rifle was in short supply at the time, and most American troops were armed with the Enfield rifle. Therefore, Savage was contracted to begin work on an alternate rifle. However, the war was over before a military model could be finalized, so Savage released the rifle on the civilian market. Rather than a heavy military-type rifle, Savage elected to produce the Model 1920 as a lightweight hunting rifle with a slim sporter profile barrel.

The sights are typical of the day, with the rear sight adjustable for elevation, and not dissimilar to the lever-action rifle sights in vogue at the time. The stock features a pistol grip and Schnabel forend. The wood is checkered and the



overall level of fit and finish seems high, as best I can judge workmanship 95 years after the date a craftsman turned out the rifle. In an almost-custom touch, the top of the receiver is nicely matted.

I don't know how many times my rifle has been fired, but there is no trace of eccentric wear and the barrel is solidly fixed in the receiver.

The locking lugs are sturdy and designed to contain the highest-pressure cartridges of the day. Those lugs are located at the head of the bolt, and Mauser-like, the action cocks on opening.

The bolt design offers excellent primary extraction force and is a controlled feed design. Meaning, as the cartridge is fed from the magazine, the extractor catches the rim of the cartridge and maintains control of it during the feed and firing cycle. In addition to the locking lugs, the base of the bolt handle also locks into the rear of the receiver, serving as a safety lug.

When handling the 1920, the first thing people notice is how light the rifle is. They should, because it weighs in at

only five-and-three-quarter pounds. It isn't willowy, it handles well, but just the same, the rifle has a different feel than many other rifles of the day.

The rifle was available in the hot 250-3000 Savage calibre, and also the new 300 Savage chambering. My example is in the latter chambering and has a 24-inch barrel. The rifle was designed to be a modern hunting rifle with plenty of power and strength that didn't weigh the hunter down. In an age of takedown rifles, the Savage was a more powerful and accurate alternative. Takedown rifles were pretty neat in the buckboard or stowed in early vehicles, but hunters soon realized the Savage and similar rifles were more accurate.

The five-round magazine is blind and, therefore, loads through the top of the receiver. It appears to be compatible with stripper clips. To load, simply press the cartridges down onto the follower, where the magazine captures them. Of course, scopes weren't in common use back then, so stripper clips weren't a problem and returning troops were familiar with their use.

Like all quality rifles of the period, the Model 1920 was manufactured with a steel buttplate. However, this rifle has a modern addition that deviates sharply from the Mauser template: it features a sliding sear-blocking safety at the rear of the bolt.

Despite its quality, the rifle was not a huge success for Savage, maybe because Savage introduced this rifle at the end of the age of proprietary cartridges. The 30-30 WCF and the 30-06 Springfield quickly became the gun enthusiast's cartridge of choice, much the same as the 303 British did in other parts of the world. Although the 300 Savage had good performance, it simply wasn't popular compared to the other calibres. Also, the rifle is lightweight and, while the kick isn't punishing, you know when you've fired it.

After a few years in production, Savage brought out a different model. This rifle featured some changes in overall dimension and was slightly heavier than the previous rifle.

A Lyman peep sight was added



The bolt is Mauser-like and therefore has excellent feeding and extraction.



The tang-mounted safety was unusual in its day.

to the rifle in lieu of barrel-mounted sights. The barrel was heavier, and the rifle seemed more capable of taking hard use. In the end, the rifle weighed about a pound more than the original. The original design was manufactured until about 1925, and the later version enjoyed a relatively short production span from 1925 to 1928.

Arthur Savage introduced the 300 Savage cartridge in 1920, and initially chambered it in the Model 99 lever-action rifle, where it is best known. But the Model 1920 is the "other" 300 Savage and it works just fine in this rifle, too.

The cartridge features a 150-grain

bullet at 2,630 feet per second. This was about 70 feet per second short of the 30-06 Springfield. Astute readers will note that the 300 Savage is basically a 308 Winchester, as far as ballistics go. In fact, most authorities feel that the 7.62mm NATO round was developed from the 300 Savage. The cartridge was popular in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the US. The lever-action rifle's flat profile and easy handling are probably why the Savage 99 was more popular than the bolt-action Model 1920.

Firing the Savage Model 1920 off hand is a pleasure. The rifle handles quickly, comes to the shoulder smoothly

and features a natural point. Firing from a solid rest, I was able to coax those iron sights into delivering two-and-a-half-inch groups for three shots at 100 yards, using Hornady's 150-grain SST Superformance loading. The powder burn was clean, and accuracy was comparable to my own handloads. But if you fire this rifle from the bench, do yourself a favour and place a pad between the shoulder and that steel buttplate.

The Savage Model 1920 is a nice, lightweight hunting rifle, even by today's standards. It's a piece of history, and another fine rifle that sprang from the fertile mind of Arthur Savage.



WEATHERBY'S TRUE NORTH RIFLE

A Canadian Vanguard to support Wounded Warriors

BY BRAD FENSON

The Weatherby True North rifle is a uniquely Canadian version of Weatherby's famous Vanguard line. But it's also a great example of the Canadian tradition of supporting our troops and first responders.

The rifle began as the brainchild of Scott Pulvermacher, who is the senior product merchant for hunting/firearms with Wholesale Sports, a sporting goods retailer with a dozen stores in western Canada. Pulvermacher had an idea for a special rifle, and he approached Weatherby to collectively design a firearm customized for Canadian hunters and shooters.

The True North name was inspired out of the designer's respect for our country and for the Canadian Armed Forces. The pairing of modern technol-

ogy with strength and tradition brought to mind one of Pulvermacher's favourite sayings, "True north strong and free, because of the brave," thus the name True North.

Weatherby quality shows through with the Vanguard True North, sporting an A-grade, satin finish, walnut Monte Carlo stock with rosewood forend. The 24-inch barreled bolt action is finished with Cerakote burnt bronze, giving it a distinctive look. Like all Weatherby rifles, it comes with a sub-MOA accuracy guarantee. The True North is available with a hinged floorplate in 243 Win and 300 Win Mag, or with a detachable box magazine in the 30-06 Sprg. and 270 Win. The rifle retails for \$999.99, and there's also a package deal available with Leupold scope, mounts and Hornady ammunition.

Wounded Warriors Canada

Tying the True North rifle even closer to Canadians, Wholesale Sports will be donating \$100 from every rifle sold to Wounded Warriors Canada, to help those who have made sacrifices for our country and its citizens.

Wounded Warriors Canada is a non-profit organization that supports Canada's ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members, veterans, first responders and their families. Through a wide range of national programs and services, Wounded Warriors Canada provides a spectrum of care that is focused on mental health and, particularly, post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Weatherby Vanguard True North was inspired by Canada, made for Canadians, and with a Cerakote barreled action rifle with a walnut stock, it will have appeal from coast, to coast, to coast. And, supporting Wounded Warriors makes the project truly reflective of Canadian spirit and appreciation. Limited quantities have been produced.

To learn more about the True North rifle and Wounded Warriors Canada program, visit www.wholesalesports.com/store/wsoo/en/true-north. Information on Wounded Warriors Canada can be found at www.woundedwarriors.ca.

Tying the True North rifle even closer to Canadians, Wholesale Sports will be donating \$100 from every rifle sold to Wounded Warriors Canada.





CROSSING

The
LINE

Travelling to the US with guns

By Lowell Strauss

Image: iStock

Does the idea of taking your guns into the United States intimidate you? Perhaps it's the difficult paperwork. Maybe you don't understand their firearms laws and are afraid of doing something wrong. It's understandable to be nervous. A different country has different laws, right? Yet once your paperwork is in order, you are more likely to be scrutinized for that orange in your lunch bag than the firearms in your trunk.

Let's have a closer look at what to do and what not to do when transporting firearms and ammunition into the US - and back into Canada. You can make your experience on both sides of the border quick and easy.

Why travel with firearms?

The two main reasons to head stateside with your guns is for hunting or competition. For me, it's my love of upland bird hunting. But others travel to test themselves against top US competitors in one of the many shooting competitions across that country.

I travel with my own firearms for a few reasons, but mainly because I like to shoot my own guns. Serious shooters know how their guns perform and have taken the time to tune them to their specific needs. Precision rifle shooters collect data about how their ammunition shoots at different distances - critical information to be successful with a long-range competition. There is a lot to be said about being familiar with your own gear!

Secondly, it may be difficult or impractical to borrow a firearm from a buddy in the US. In the event that you damage something on buddy's gun (and it'll only happen with a borrowed gun), you don't need to worry about getting it repaired during your trip. My pheasant hunts are self-guided, but if you book with an outfitter they may charge a rental fee if you use one of their guns. Travelling with your own firearms keeps costs lower.

Paperwork to enter the US

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) regulates the movement of firearms and ammuni-



Image: Brigitte Dittberner/Department of Homeland Security

The process of transporting firearms and ammunition to the US for recreational shooting is relatively simple when you know what's required.

tion into and out of the US. Canadians wanting to take their firearms and ammunition into the US need to apply for a permit using ATF Form 6NIA (5330.3D) *Application/Permit for Temporary Importation of Firearms and Ammunition by Non-immigrant Aliens*.

Once approved, the permit is valid for one year. In order to apply for this temporary import permit, you will need a current hunting license from a US state, or an invitation/registration to shoot in a competition. Applications can be submitted by regular mail, though I typically fax mine in. To expedite the process further, it's a good idea to provide an e-mail address on the form. Once approved, the permit will be mailed to you. Be sure to keep an eye on your spam folder, as

that's where my correspondence from them seems to end up.

The ATF tells us that it can take eight to 10 weeks to process, or longer if your application is denied or partially denied. I know this guy (OK, it was me) who forgot to apply for his permit until three weeks before a hunt. I applied, fully expecting to delay my hunt because of my oversight. But two weeks later, I had a permit in my inbox! The hunt went ahead as planned. Don't count on those kind of short turn-around times, but in this case it worked for me. It's best to plan ahead and get the paperwork done as soon as you have confirmed a trip.

Like all government paperwork, read the application carefully and make sure to fill out the form completely. One of

my first attempts at applying for a permit was denied because I forgot to record the barrel length of my Remington 700 rifle. The form then needs to be resubmitted, which increases the processing time. If it's for a competition or a planned hunt, that delay can make you miss out.

Serious shooters often use handloads. It is possible to include your own ammunition in the application form: simply state "handloads," rather than an ammunition brand name. For factory ammunition, you will need to record the name and address of each company. I list more types and quantity of ammunition than I need, in order to provide some flexibility.



A secure lockable case (Nanuk) and TSA approved lock. Essential gear for transporting firearms by air.

Transport in the US

Regulations differ from state to state for transportation of firearms. The individual states set the rules, rather than the federal government. Be careful to check the transport regulations in each state you will be travelling through. If in doubt, default to the lowest common denominator - unloaded and locked in a secure storage container.

Flying with guns takes a few extra steps. Both domestic and international flights require that firearms and ammunition be transported in separate containers. PCP air guns will need to have



their cylinders degassed. All firearms need to be encased in a lockable container. If you're in the market for a baggage-handler-proof, made-in-Canada protective case, check out Nanuk Cases, at www.nanuk.com. They also sell a TSA (Transportation Security Administration) lock for these cases. It's a special padlock that can easily be opened by US airport security with a master key. Cases can be inspected and then locked

again. A visual indicator lets you know when the case has been opened with a TSA key.

Coming back to Canada

Unfortunately, we can't bring ammunition back to Canada if it is not listed on the ATF permit. In fact, I'm often questioned at the border if I purchased ammunition while in the US. Legally, you need an export permit, which is beyond the scope of



Once your paperwork is in order, you are more likely to be scrutinized for that orange in your lunch bag than the firearms in your trunk.

SUMMARY

- An ATF temporary import permit is required to bring firearms and ammunition into the US.
- Plan ahead. Apply for your permit as early as possible (minimum six to eight weeks) to avoid disappointment.
- Read the ATF application form carefully. Fill it out completely.
- Take more than enough ammunition with you.
- Know the rules and regulations for transporting your firearms both in Canada and in the American states you'll be visiting.
- Have your firearms license (PAL) and registration certificates for any restricted firearms for your re-entry into Canada.
- Enjoy the ability to shoot in a new location!
- The process of transporting firearms and ammunition to the US for recreational shooting is relatively simple when you know what's required. Once you've figured it out, a whole world of shooting opportunities will unfold. The only other advice I can give you is to eat that orange before you get to the border.

most individuals. Simply take a generous amount of ammunition, more than you think you'll need for your hunt or competition, and you'll have no issues.

Have your PAL ready to present to the customs officer upon re-entry into Canada. Remember, registration certificates are required for restricted firearms. The usual Canadian transport requirements need to be followed once back on Canadian soil.

CONTACTS

- **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**, Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch, 244 Needy Road, Martinsburg, WV 25405. Forms can be faxed to 304-616-4554. <https://www.atf.gov/>
- **Canada Border Services Agency**, www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/
- **Canadian Firearms Program (RCMP)**, www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/



HEAVY HITTERS

MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE SHOTGUN LOADS

Find the right load that works for you and your intended target

BY BRAD FENSON

The lone speckle-bellied goose winged towards our blind, stretching its neck from side to side as it scanned the decoys below. You could tell it had encountered a hunting spread before, and was more than a little leery.

As it passed directly over me, I shouldered my shotgun, swung well ahead of the speedy honker and squeezed the trigger. The goose folded mid-flight and careened to the ground. It wasn't so much my shooting that was impressive, but the distance the shot went, hitting the goose like our old lead loads used to. In fact, it hit the goose so hard, I discovered when cleaning, that some pellets passed completely through two layers of feathers and the entire cavity of the bird.

That goose was an honest 75 metres in the air, and when it folded my hunting partners erupted in disbelief. Now, before you accuse me of being a sky buster, let me explain why I even attempted the shot.

Hevi-Shot

I had just picked up some Speedball

loads made by Hevi-Shot and knew they offered more punch than even the biggest three-and-a-half-inch magnum steel loads I had at home. The combination of speed and pellet composition makes the shells extremely lethal at ranges where most of us can't even calculate the proper lead for a bird.

The technology in these shells includes a type of polymer used in the base of the wad, allowing the encompassed shot to reach 1,635 feet per second, without increasing chamber pressures. The pellets are a 50/50 mix of Heavier Than Steel and Heavier Than Lead, which are layered inside the wad. The steel-core, Heavier Than Steel pellets have a copper coating nearly 22 times as thick as traditional copper-plated shot, giving them high density and energy. Combined, these features make Speedball even harder hitting than traditional Hevi-Shot.

The downside to Speedball is the price, as it retails in Canada at over \$3 a shotshell. Recoil must also be considered, as the heavy payload certainly creates a punishing kick. But I always

keep a box of them in my blind bag, just for those days when the birds aren't fully co-operating, or later on in the morning, when ducks and geese tend to hover outside the range of traditional steel.

Hevi-Metal shotgun shells, another Hevi-Shot product, are not only hard-hitting, but also pattern extremely well, even at 40 metres. Hevi-Metal uses what they call Pattern-Density Technology, which means the wad and shot work together to fly straighter and farther. The pellets are produced with a sharp edge, which cuts and spins on contact, making them even more lethal.

The Hevi-Metal loads are a hybrid, with about 50 per cent steel and 50 per cent Hevi-Shot in each shotshell. The shotshells are marked as to the steel shot diameter, but it's important to note that the Hevi-Shot portion in the load is three sizes smaller. A box of 25 retails around \$30, making them a more affordable option.

I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention the insane Hevi-Shot Hog Wild loads, which come in two offerings. The first



The combination of speed and pellet composition makes the Hevi-Shot Speedball shells extremely lethal, at ranges where most of us can't even calculate the proper lead for a bird.

is a three-inch shotshell loaded with two, .625-inch magnum balls travelling at 1,250 feet per second. The second option is a three-and-a-half-inch shotshell with three of the .625-inch magnum balls, also traveling at 1,250 feet per second. The loads group tightly, at around four centimetres at 40 metres, and the pellets, or balls, are frangible, meaning they deliver incredible energy and won't ricochet. Hog Wild is the hardest hitting shotshell I know of without going to a slug.

Federal

For many waterfowl hunters, the extra dollars associated with a matrix pellet are hard to justify when there are high-performance steel options that are

easier on the wallet, and still kill birds cleanly.

I fondly recall a late-season honker hunt when the landscape was starting to freeze up, and the geese were armour-plated with a full set of thick feathers and down. After being hunted for several months, the big honkers, weighing in around five kilograms each, were challenging to knock out of the air. Twice that morning I shot triples, but only had to chase one bird, that also fell at the shot, and didn't glide. The first cock decoyed well and steel patterns on the head and neck were the main reason for success. However, the second cock was more of a pass-shooting scenario, as a group of five honkers flew over us heading to another

field. The three shots fired started at 40 metres, with the last at an honest 65 metres.

I was using Federal Black Cloud FS Steel - three-and-a-half-inch loads with BB shot. The one-and-a-half-ounce load, traveling at 1,500 feet per second, hit hard. The wad design is part of the magic of Black Cloud, as it holds the pattern together over a greater distance, meaning if you are shooting straight, more pellets are hitting the target. The proprietary Flightstopper pellets are designed with a cutting ring on the equator of the pellet, which creates large wound channels and quick penetration. The Black Cloud FS Steel also comes in a three-inch version, pushing a one-and-a-quarter-ounce

load at 1,450 feet per second.

Federal's Black Cloud FS Steel Snow Goose hits hard with more speed than payload. This shotshell pushes a one-and-one-eighth-ounce load at a burning 1,635 feet per second. It is ideal for fast-moving targets like small and medium-sized geese, as well as bigger ducks.

Winchester

You could tell Winchester engineers are pheasant hunters when they developed Rooster XR loads. Anyone who has chased wild roosters knows their tendencies to push at ranges that challenge the average shotshell. Rooster XR is a one-and-a-half-ounce load of lead moving at 1,300 feet per second. You'll see the proprietary name Shot-Lok Technology, Rooster XR and, in short, it means the wad will ensure the shotstring creates tighter patterns and longer shot capability than traditional pheasant loads. If you can centre your pattern at greater distances, you'll be impressed with the results.

Using the same Shot-Lok wad tech-

nology, Winchester also produced one of the hardest-hitting turkey loads on the market. The three-and-a-half-inch Long Beard XR comes in #4, #5 and #6 shot sizes. With two-and-one-eighth-ounces of lead packed into a wad designed to shoot extremely tight patterns, this shotshell will extend the range of most turkey hunters.

I patterned several shots (with the recoil I didn't want to do more) and could put dozens of pellets in the kill zone on a turkey. I shot a big gobbler this past spring at close to 60 metres and topped him in his tracks. The Long Beard also comes in a three-inch version and is also offered in 20-gauge.

On Winchester's waterfowl side, the three-and-a-half-inch Super-X was one of the first on the market to provide speed to improve the range of steel. The three-and-a-half-inch shotshells have a one-and-a-quarter-ounce load of steel, traveling at 1,550 feet per second. Traditional wads help maintain good patterns downrange, and this product is priced for those on a budget or shooting higher volume.

Browning

Browning has entered the ammunition market with a premium waterfowl load, called the BXD Waterfowl Extra Distance. Using premium plated steel shot and an aerodynamically stabilized wad, the shot patterns well at greater distances, ensuring more pellets find the bird. These are three-inch loads pushing one-and-a-quarter-ounces of steel at 1,450 feet per second. This ammunition patterned very consistently and proved its effectiveness on a duck hunt last fall, when I was able to get in on ground-level testing. We shot limits of ducks, with mallards, pintails, gadwall, wigeon and teal taken at a wide array of distances, out to 60 metres. While Browning ammunition is in full production now, it isn't expected to hit the Canadian market until 2017, but it is something to watch for.

Browning also has BXD Upland Extra Distance shotshells that use nickel-plated shot to reduce deformation and maintain velocity downrange. They are a three-inch shotshell loaded with one-and-five-eighths-ounces of #5 shot, trav-



Federal's Black Cloud FS Steel Snow Goose pushes a one-and-one-eighths-ounce load at a burning 1,635 feet per second. It is ideal for fast-moving targets like small and medium-sized geese, as well as bigger ducks.

Winchester's Long Beard XR has the potential to extend the range of most turkey hunters.



elling at 1,350 feet per second, which is fast for an upland load.

Remington

Remington really kicked up its game when it introduced HyperSonic Steel. It offers three, and three-and-a-half-inch shotshells that travel a blistering 1,700 feet per second. The three-and-a-half-inch is pushing one-and-three-eighths-ounce loads in shot sizes BB, 2 and 4. This increased speed can reduce a hunter's required lead on a duck by about 20 centimetres, or about the body length of a mallard. The specially engineered wad helps keep the shot together at the faster speed, making the standard steel pellets lethal.

Kent

Kent also has a product that drives steel pellets faster and farther. Its three-and-a-half-inch Fasteel, in shot sizes BB, 1, 2 or 3, comes in a one-and-a-quarter-ounce load traveling at 1,625

feet per second. It also has a three-and-a-half-inch load pushing one-and-three-eighths-ounces of steel at 1,550 feet per second.

Kent also makes Bismuth loads in shot sizes #4 and #5. Its three-inch shotshell has a one-and-three-eighths-ounce payload, moving at 1,450 feet per second. Bismuth can be shot in full choke or high-end fixed choke shotguns where the hardness of steel is a concern because of barrel damage.

Predator loads

If you're a predator hunter and haven't tried some of the coyote loads on the market, you don't know what you're missing. Winchester Varmint X shotshells use a Shot-Lok wad to shoot a load of BB that can put 20 pellets in a 'yote at 60 metres. The three-and-a-half-inch load travels at 1,300 feet per second.

Hornady Heavy Magnum Coyote comes in a three-and-a-half-inch shot-

shell, firing one-and-a-half ounces of nickel-plated BBs at 1,300 feet per second. It patterns well to 50 metres and hits hard.

And Hevi-Shot Dead Coyote is simply lethal. The three-and-a-half-inch shotshells are loaded with one-and-five-eighths-ounces of Hevi-Shot in size T shot. The big, dense pellets will extend your coyote range well beyond any lead product.

There you have it, a number of speciality shotshells offering huge advantages to hunters looking to be successful in the pursuit of various game. With high-performance products available for turkey, pheasant, coyote, waterfowl and even hogs, they're all worth taking a closer look at. Now is a good time to pick up some likely contenders for the type of hunting you do and test them on the patterning board at your local range. Then, come hunting season, your ammunition bag will be loaded and ready.



TYPE 81

SEMI-AUTO 7.62X39

PRE-ORDER

Introducing the NON-RESTRICTED Type 81SA rifle -exclusively sold and distributed by Tactical Imports.

The Type 81 is a gas operated, magazine fed, semi-automatic rifle. It uses a short-stroke gas piston, located above the barrel, and a two-position gas regulator. The bolt group (of the rotating bolt type) is borrowed from the Type 63 rifle. Type 81 rifles also retains the Type 63 bolt hold-open device, which catches the bolt in the open position after the last round has been fired from magazine. The fire selector - safety switch is located at the left side of the receiver, just above the pistol grip, and can be easily operated with the right hand thumb. Barrel and gas system is chrome lined.

Developed by the Chinese military as a replacement for their Type 56 rifles (license produced AK-47). Was designed to have a longer service life, higher accuracy, improved durability and better controllability in full automatic firing.

Comes with two 5/30 magazines, choice of fixed or folding stock. All parts and components are 2016 new production, not surplus. Limited number of rifles inbound on the 2016 shipment, without a pre-order it is not likely there will be stock left over. Delivery expected Q3 2016. Priced at just \$999.

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THE SCIENCE OF CAMOUFLAGE

Stay hidden for greater success in the field

BY EDWARD OSBORNE

The ability to stay hidden is a key component of any successful hunt, because being spotted by your quarry is a quick route to going home empty handed. Along with scent masking and noise discipline, effective camouflage ensures the hunter stays hidden until the moment is right.

Camouflage was a novel concept for much of the 20th century, but we are now entering an era where camouflage patterns are the field standard, and are getting better with each technological revelation. Lessons learned in military research and applications are now bleeding over to the sporting side of camouflage. One of the most telling statements about this ongoing evolution comes from the patent documentation of the US Marine Corps and their MARPAT pattern. When they wrote, "Camouflage is an art in the process of becoming a science" in 2001, the authors knew that more changes were coming.

In some ways, hunting camouflage and military camouflage are very different, but they share the fundamental goal of masking the human shape.

While military patterns ultimately need to scale from men, to tents, to tanks, hunting camouflage is trying to fool a very different set of eyes, and often at much closer distances.

We saw the first formal use of camouflage during the First World War. British ships proved an easy target for German submarines, because it's hard to hide the smoking chimneys of a destroyer on the open ocean. So, the Royal Navy adopted a system of "dazzle camouflage," where the goal was not necessarily to hide the vessel, but instead to make it difficult for observers to determine the ships' size, speed and velocity, the key pieces of information for putting a torpedo on target. The bright white zigzags and swirls of grey dazzle were the first widespread adoption of a camouflage pattern. They were hand-painted by camoufleurs, a French slang term meaning, "to disguise." Simultaneously, in the trenches of Europe, engineers were constructing false trees to disguise observation posts and snipers. These hides represented a leap forward in visual deception on the battlefield.

By the end of the First World War,

the major European armies had learned the hard way that dressing soldiers in bright regalia and solid primary colours led to massive casualties. It became clear that remaining undetected was a key part of surviving the modern battlefield.

These days, we talk about mimicry camouflage and disruption camouflage. Mimicry camouflage is trying to emulate something else. Think of a moth with eyespots on its wings, pretending to be an owl. Disruption camouflage aims to break up and distort the overall shape of its subject, like the stripes on the body of a tiger. With mimicry, you will still see your subject, but see it as something else. With disruption, the goal is to make the subject blend into the background and become nothing in the eyes of the observer.

While most of the camouflage in hunting today uses disruption techniques, you still see certain elements of mimicry in the enhanced tree bark patterns common in the Mossy Oak lines. Disruption is largely favoured, partially because it is more flexible in terms of equipment and environment, but also



The Optifade pattern is designed in Canada by HyperStealth Biotechnologies, and is specifically designed for the limited colour palettes in the eyes of big game like elk, antelope and deer. Without the presence of red cones, ungulates perceive the world in a mix of greens and greys.

because it is less likely to provoke investigation from the target.

Right now, there is an ongoing debate in modern camouflage design between proponents of blotch patterns versus pixelated patterns. Those in favour of digital schemes point to a mathematical relation based on fractals, which can be exploited to fool the eye. While those in the opposing camp make a biting observation: "There are no right angles in nature."

Arguably, the most popular blotch pattern in the western world right now is MultiCam, a military-focused disruption camouflage that emphasizes an ability to blend in across many different terrains and environments. The layout of MultiCam encourages an

observer to emphasize the tan components of the camouflage in a desert environment, and emphasize the green components in a forested environment. More than 30 countries currently issue some version of MultiCam to components of their armed forces, including Canada. While the standard issue uniform in the Canadian Forces is the pixelated CADPAT pattern, Special Forces soldiers in CANSOF regularly appear wearing MultiCam.

The primary argument against digital patterns comes from the US Army's abandonment of the Universal pattern in 2014. This particular green-grey digital print suffered from isoluminance, a phenomenon where similar colours will blur and lighten when viewed at a

distance. In some environments, this led the Army's pattern to actually highlight rather than conceal its subject. The colours selected did not match the environments of Iraq or Afghanistan very well, and as a result the project is widely regarded as a failure.

But fractal-based patterns can be adapted to a specific environment by analyzing the specific colours present. The Canadian CADPAT woodland and arid patterns have been much more successful than their American counterpart. And when your target is an animal with limited colour perception, that process becomes even easier.

A pattern like Gore's Optifade Open Country is a perfect example. The eyes of ungulates (cloven-hoofed animals



Image: Matt McCormick

Ducks and geese see colours much brighter than we do, and can even see other colour spectrums in the realm of ultraviolet.

like deer, elk and antelope) cannot see red pigments, which means they see the world as a mix of blues, yellows and greys. Because their eyes are positioned on the side of their heads, they also have a much wider field of view, but limited binocular depth perception and without the same kind of sharpness as human vision. While human beings generally have 20/20 vision, a whitetail will be closer to 20/40.

So while the digital grey patterns of Optifade patterned equipment might look conspicuous to us, they present a very different image to animals in the field. The Open Country pattern is more horizontally focused, so it's best for mountainous terrain and the rolling plains of the west. Their Elevated pat-

tern has its colours tweaked for boreal forest tree stand hunting, and specifically adds vertical break ups designed to emulate a sky-through-trees light pattern.

A different quarry can require an entirely different approach to camouflage. When looking at waterfowl, the game changes. Additional cones in the eye mean that ducks and geese see colours much brighter than we do, and can even see other colour spectrums in the realm of ultraviolet. Their eyes are also especially sensitive to motion, which is why the subtle shift of a pale face or a shiny shotgun stock can still trigger a response, even when the birds are moving at altitude. Take this exceptional eye, and put it in the high-con-

trast environment of skyline and water reflections, and you've got a real challenge for hunters. It's one of the reasons that so many pieces of equipment are available in camouflage patterns. A full suite needs to be brought together to ensure that no single item serves as a conspicuous flag.

When it comes to buying and using your own camouflage equipment, you will have to walk the tightrope balance between adopting a pattern that is useful in many hunting scenarios and a pattern with maximum specific effectiveness based on your location and discipline. There's more to it than simply throwing together earth tones, and you'll have to make strategic choices to ensure the best chances for success.



The Black Hills Match ammunition came out the winner, with an average group size of 0.93 inches.



THE MODERN SPANISH HUNTER

Review of the Bergara B-14 rifle

BY AL VOTH

"What are you shooting?" asked the fellow next to me on the 100-metre range.

"I'm working with a Bergara rifle," I replied. The puzzled look on his face was expected, and so I took the time to show him the rifle and explain what I knew about its background. His reaction was similar to that of most hunters, in that the name Bergara is rarely recognized. And even for me, the B-14 rifle, leaning against the desk as I write this, is the first Bergara rifle I've ever shot. But it's not the first Bergara barrel I've used.

A little history

My history with Bergara goes back several years, when I had the opportunity to shoot an assortment of in-line muzzle-

loaders equipped with Bergara barrels. That work included a lot of shooting, as well as time spent with a borescope looking at the inner surfaces of the barrels. Note that these weren't Bergara guns, but rather another brand that was using Bergara barrels. My shooting results and my borescope inspections confirmed this manufacturer made a good decision when they decided to use Bergara barrels.

Subsequent research revealed that Bergara, of Spain, was the company behind these quality bullet-launching tubes. It seems they decided to build barrels and wanted to do it right, so they contracted with Ed Shilen (yes, that Ed Shilen, of benchrest and barrel mak-

ing fame) to come to Europe and teach them how to make barrels. They must have been paying attention, because now they are not only making high quality production barrels, but also producing excellent rifles.

The Canadian connection

So, how does a Spanish-built rifle get into Canada? Through a Canadian distributor, of course. In this case, it's Trigger Wholesale of Ontario. They saw the market potential in these guns and are importing them for Canadian hunters and shooters. The Bergara line includes rifles that are designed for hunting, like the B-14 rifle I've been shooting, but it also includes full-house custom tactical

and long-range rigs designed for the most serious kind of accuracy.

The Bergara factory is located in the Basque region of Spain, with their North American operations headquartered in the American state of Georgia, where the guns reaching Canada are assembled. The rifle I reviewed for CFJ readers is the B-14 Hunter, and it's the lowest priced offering in the Bergara line. It retails in Canada for about \$1,175, while the other end of the price spectrum is occupied by the chassis-equipped tactical rifles costing many thousands.

The basics

The B-14 Hunter is a bolt-action repeating rifle that uses a fairly typical two-lug bolt design. That bolt is of the push-feed variety, and uses a Sako type extractor. A spring-loaded plunger in the bolt face accomplishes ejection duties. The nose of the bolt is slightly cone shaped to facilitate feeding, a feature I really appre-

ciate. This is because it allows a hunter to simply toss a single cartridge into the open action and slam the bolt closed, knowing the cartridge will find its way into the chamber. I tried this hurried single-round loading numerous times and the rifle never failed to feed. I wish I could say the same for every rifle in my collection.

The other end of the receiver houses a convenient bolt-release button on the left side, and a two-position sear-blocking safety on the right side. In the on/safe position, the bolt can be opened for loading and unloading. Personally, I prefer a safety that locks the bolt closed when on/safe, or even better, a three-position safety. However, I know liability lawyers prefer the gun can be unloaded when the safety is engaged. So be it.

The action enclosing that bolt is round in profile and has a recoil lug sandwiched between the barrel and the action. However, Bergara has done this

sandwiching in the most elegant way possible, in that the lug is completely recessed inside the action and only protrudes through a slot in the bottom of the action. This extra machining step not only looks great, but also traps the recoil lug in the perfect orientation as the barrel is torqued into the receiver.

The bottom of the action has the obligatory magazine box opening, while the top of the receiver is drilled and tapped in a pattern that allows the owner to use Remington 700 scope mounting bases. That certainly simplifies life.

The trigger is a good-looking unit that is user adjustable and comes from the factory set at three pounds. I measured mine and it was half an ounce lighter than that, and according to my digital gauge - amazingly consistent. When shooting from the bench, I was able to detect a tiny amount of creep prior to the sear releasing, but in field shooting that vanished.

The B-14 Hunter works well on the range and in the field.



The barrel on the 308 Winchester version I've been shooting is a hair over 22 inches long and measures 0.645 inches at the muzzle. I checked the interior with a borescope, and it looks just like every other Bergara barrel I've ever looked at: perfect. There are no reamer marks, chatter marks or tool marks of any kind visible; just a long tube of smooth steel. The rifling is conventional, six groove with a right-hand twist and one turn in 10 inches.

The stock that supports all that steel is of a fairly classic design, and does its job admirably. I found the buttstock a little short, but then I'm tall enough to encounter that with most rifles. Bergara reports the stock is made from a glass fibre reinforced polymer, and there are metal pillars moulded into the stock at each of the action screws. I can't confirm either, but I can say the stock has excellent rigidity and is an asset to the rifle's handling. The barrel floats along the entire length of the forend, there are standard QD sling swivels at each end and the recoil pad is soft enough to have good traction on the shoulder and provide some cushioning. You can see most of those features in the photos, but one thing you can't see is the touch of tackiness on the stock's surface. Bergara calls it a SoftTouch coating and it reminds me of the Hogue OverMolded finish. In any case, it's a big improvement over the typical slick synthetic stock.

Shooting the B-14 Hunter

As with any new rifle, the first order of business was to take this rifle to the range and get it zeroed. A Zeiss Terra 3X scope, in their 4-12X42 configuration, served to handle the optical chores. I had three different types of factory ammunition on hand, but no time to work with handloads.

However, I did check some of the specifications important to handloaders, and found the length of the rifle's magazine box is about 2.85 inches. Checking this length against dummy cartridges loaded with bullets seated to contact the lands means bullets with long points, like the Hornady A-Max, can't be seated close to the lands and

still function in the magazine. They are just too long. A more conventional lead-tipped spitzer, like Sierra's GameKing, can likely be seated 0.020 inches off the lands and still work in the magazine. Of course, all factory ammunition should work just fine.

During my shooting, I encountered no failures of any kind. The rifle fed perfectly from the magazine and ejected everything just as reliably. The bolt knob is a beefy 0.865 inches in diameter and grasping it enhances that feeling of solid reliability that permeates the rifle.

I fired a pair of five-shot groups with three different kinds of ammunition, including Black Hills 168-grain Match, Winchester 150-grain Super-X and Federal 168-grain Match. The Black Hills Match ammunition came out the winner, with an average group size of 0.93 inches. Not far behind, with an average of 1.15 inches, was Winchester 150-grain Super-X. This is hunting ammunition, not match ammunition, and it still shot great. In this rifle, it even outshot Federal Match ammunition, which averaged 1.27 inches over the 10 rounds. This illustrates again just how individual rifles are, and how strange they can be in their ammunition choices. Of course, more ammunition research and/or careful handloading might shrink these groups further. In any case, the rifle will shoot, and meets Bergara's minute-of-angle accuracy guarantee.

Hunting

I reviewed this rifle in mid-July and there's not much hunting to be done at that time of year. But as luck would have it, shortly after receiving the rifle, I got a call from a farmer complaining about losing young pigs to coyotes. With the Bergara rifle already sighted in, I grabbed it and some of the Winchester 150-grain ammunition and went hunting.

The sun was already down, and daylight fading fast, when a coyote slipped out of the trees and into the pasture where I sat making rabbit noises. The 'yote was trying to figure out what I was as the crosshairs settled on his chest, but the bullet got there before he realized I was a threat to his piglet-killing

ways. Yes, a 308 Win. is overkill on a coyote. So far, I've taken two of them at this farm, and my trail camera tells me I'm not done yet.

Obviously, the B-14 Hunter works well on the range and in the field. And why not? It's a well-built rifle that has been assembled using some great components. If it has the features you're looking for in a hunting rifle and meets your budgetary requirements, this is definitely a rifle to consider. It originates in Spain, and it's not a household name yet, but it promises to be a capable Canadian hunter.



SPECIFICATIONS

Bergara B-14 Hunter

Action: bolt action

Classification: non-restricted

Magazine: internal box with a hinged floor-plate, some calibres available with a detachable magazine

Magazine capacity: standard calibres 4+1, magnum calibres 3+1

Trigger: factory set at three pounds

Chamberings: 6.5 Creedmore, 270 Win., 7mm Rem. Mag., 308 Win. 30-06 Sprg., 300 Win. Mag

Weight: short action at 7.05 pounds, long action at 7.35 pounds

Barrel: #3 contour, 4140 CrMo steel, short action at 22 inches, long action at 24 inches

Length of Pull: 13-and-three-eighths inches

Overall length: 41.5 inches

Metal finish: matte blueing

Warranty: lifetime warranty, managed by the distributor

Distributor: Trigger Wholesale Inc., Waterloo, Ont.

Websites: www.triggerwholesale.com, www.bergararifles.com



Team NFA

Matt Neumann

What's Good? What's Bad?



I shoot about 10,000 rounds per year, and being frugal, I'm constantly looking for a good deal.

We've all been there. You're standing in an aisle at the hardware store, comparing prices and products, when a bright yellow "sale" sticker catches your eye. There's an initial excitement because you've found exactly what you're looking for, and it comes at a crazy discount. Blinded by the amount of money you saved, you can't wait to get home and test the product. Fast forward a month or two, and your money-saving experience has turned to disappointment when you realize what you bought was probably on sale for a reason, and the quality you need just isn't there. It happens at the grocery store, it happens when we buy electronics, tools, cars, beer, and it most definitely happens when shopping for guns and ammunition.

I'm no stranger to looking for a good deal. My most recent lesson in being frugal came in the form of ammunition

selection for my 22 LR competition rifle. I come from a biathlon background and have been competing for 17 years. Having paid between \$2.50 a box, up to \$25 a box for my ammunition, here are my lessons and advice.

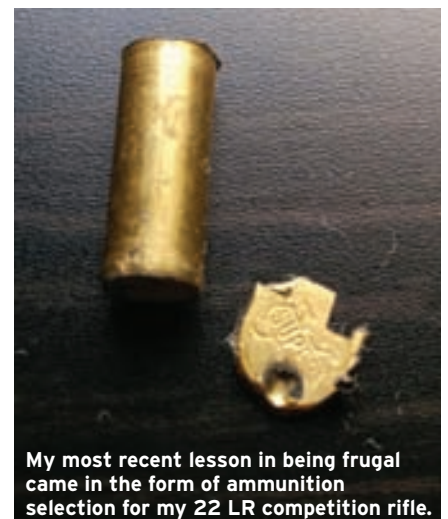
The low end

Bulk pack Remington, Federal, Winchester and CCI are all common choices for recreational target shooters and hunters. And why not? The price is right! I shoot about 10,000 rounds per year, and being frugal, I'm constantly looking for a good deal. At 10,000 rounds a year, the difference between \$2.50 a box and \$25 turns into a potential \$4,500 in savings, year after year. So why not buy the cheap stuff?

I recently purchased a box of Winchester Super X (approx \$2.50 per box) to test the waters of cheap ammunition

and hopefully make my point. I took seven shots without much consequence, but on my eighth shot, BOOM! Ears still ringing I looked around to see what had just happened. My magazine was in a dozen pieces on the ground and wood splinters from my stock added to the debris. In disbelief I gave the chamber a closer examination, and found the cartridge case head blown completely off the body.

A freak accident? Probably. It seems unlikely that 1/8 (12.5 per cent) of Winchester ammunition is over charged. I shoot high-quality ammunition nearly every day of the week and this has never happened. The lesson is to be careful when looking for a deal, because as with most things in life, you get what you pay for. I've found cheap ammunition can shoot deceptively accurate groups in warm temperatures, but a certain level of inconsistency is absolutely certain. This may appear in the form of a relatively tight group, but with one flyer, or as in my case, an over-charged round. If you choose to save money, may I always recommend earplugs, eye protection, low expectations and a firm grip on the rifle stock.



My most recent lesson in being frugal came in the form of ammunition selection for my 22 LR competition rifle.

The high end

When looking at .22 calibre biathlon ammunition, this tier refers to anything around \$15/box and up. This is the category I am most familiar with, as I only compete using thoroughly tested, trustworthy, top-of-the-line ammunition. So, what am I paying for? The easy answer is tight quality control and consistent accuracy in all weather conditions. Every bullet is individually weighed and inspected for consistency and similar performance, especially when the mercury dips well below zero.

But to find the best ammunition for your gun, you'll need to invest some time to experiment. I suggest setting up a bench rest and shooting groups, remembering that extreme temperature changes can vary the results. For the most accurate results, test at the temperature you will be competing in. I have access through our national team to a refrigerated testing chamber, but for most of us, Mother Nature will have to do. Once you find a favourite brand, I suggest further experimentation with different lot numbers until you find the perfect fit. I then proceed to buy as much of that lot as I can. Unfortunately, this means ammunition can't be used as an excuse for missing.

The happy medium

As with most products, there is a point of diminished return. Let's finish with finding a balance between price and performance. This happy medium category seems to be in the \$6.50/box range. Cheaper and you can expect misfires or flyers, more expensive and you're paying for a quality you may not need. Even for the most meticulous, this tier will often satisfy. I do the majority of my shooting with SK Standard Plus, which is my new favourite.

Again, some experimenting can go a long way. I suggest you bench test Eley, Lapua, Fiocchi, SK and RWS to reach your own conclusions. Simply take into consideration your budget, your performance needs, potential temperature variables and your personal testing results to identify that not-too-hot, not-too-cold perfect balance.



Nathaniel Milijour, RightWingNation.ca



Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Constitutional Challenge Of The Quebec Long Gun Registry

A Bit Of History

In Quebec, the Long Gun Registry has always been regarded by the general public, and politicians in particular, as much more than a piece of legislation. It was literally a memorial to the 14 women killed by Marc Lépine on Dec. 6, 1989. Unfortunately, it also made every single law-abiding gun owner a scapegoat for the senseless actions of a crazed killer.

Over the past several years, every time Parliament hinted that it would dismantle the Long Gun Registry, Quebec responded with a motion from the National Assembly, almost always unanimous, imploring Ottawa to back off and leave the Long Gun Registry alone. When Ottawa finally ended the Long Gun Registry in 2012, through Bill C-19, Quebec launched a constitutional challenge, which it ultimately lost in front of the Supreme Court of Canada. The NFA took part in that litigation as an intervener before the Supreme Court, coming out on the winning side.

Following the Supreme Court's decision, Quebec reiterated its will to re-create the Long Gun Registry. It even begged Ottawa to change its mind about destroying the registry data.

Bill 64

In early December 2015, Quebec filed Bill 64 before the Quebec National Assembly. Bill 64 purports to re-create, at a provincial level, a thinly disguised version of the defunct federal Long Gun Registry. The legislation was passed into law by the National Assembly in June 2016. It is now known as the *Registration of Firearms Act*. Although passed into law, it is not yet in effect, since Quebec must first create the infrastructure required to make it functional. It is expected to come into effect within about one year. Much

like its predecessor, the Quebec registry is based upon the false premise that all firearms are inherently dangerous, and that gun owners have to be put under permanent surveillance, like would-be criminals.

The Data Still Exists

Over the course of the parliamentary debates leading to the enactment of the *Registration of Firearms Act*, Quebec's Minister of Public Security openly admitted that Ottawa was willing to transfer the remaining, albeit partly obsolete, data of the defunct federal Long Gun Registry. If this were to happen, Quebec would get a very helpful (to them) head start in creating its own registry.

If not for a court action launched before the federal court by Suzanne LeGault, the Information Commissioner, all data from the Long Gun Registry would have been destroyed a long time ago. A copy of the data has been put under seal and is being preserved pending the outcome of litigation. With power in Ottawa shifting over to the Liberal Party, it now appears likely that the federal government will eventually transfer that data to Quebec. What is most ironic is that one of the roles of the Information Commissioner is to preserve the privacy of Canadian citizens. In this instance, her initiatives may actually lead to a massive breach of the privacy rights of half a million Quebec gun owners.

The NFA's Court Challenge

As most of you already know, shortly after it was passed into law, the NFA launched a constitutional challenge of the Quebec *Registration of Firearms Act*. The NFA's constitutional challenge was filed in Quebec Superior Court on Friday, June 17, 2016. Philippe Simard, a former

NFA director and lifetime NFA member, is a co-plaintiff. I have the privilege and immense responsibility to act as the plaintiffs' attorney in that court case.

The NFA's constitutional challenge is based upon the notion that the Quebec *Registration of Firearms Act* is, in pith and substance, criminal law, which is a matter of federal jurisdiction. Quebec will no doubt argue that firearms are property and that, as a province with jurisdiction over "property and civil rights," it has the power to create registries for all kinds of property, whether it is cars or firearms.

Under the *British North America Act of 1867* (the *BNAA*), which is the cornerstone of our constitution, Ottawa and the provinces were each awarded certain fields of jurisdiction, though firearms are not expressly mentioned anywhere. Rather, sections 91 and 92 of the *BNAA* award jurisdiction over criminal law, the armed forces and customs to Ottawa, and property and civil rights (amongst other subject matters) to the provinces.

Indeed, provinces do have the power to regulate certain aspects of firearms and they have certainly done so in the past, albeit to a limited extent. Historically, most significant gun control legislation has indeed originated from Ottawa; the 1995 *Firearms Act* being the most significant such legislation in recent memory. Through its powers in the fields of customs, and most importantly criminal law, Parliament has enacted gun control measures.

In 1996, further to the enactment of the *Firearms Act*, Alberta challenged the federal legislation before its own Court of Appeal, on the basis that it infringed the province's powers to legislate over property and civil rights. More specifically, Alberta challenged the registration

and licensing provisions that are at the core of the *Firearms Act*. The case ended up before the Supreme Court of Canada, and is known as the Reference re Firearms Act (2000) 1 S.C.R. 784.

In that reference, the name given to a case centered around a constitutional question put before a court by a government, the question was not whether firearms are a matter of exclusive federal jurisdiction, but rather whether the *Firearms Act* was valid criminal law, hence, falling under federal jurisdiction. The Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Attorney General of Canada. In doing so, it came to the conclusion that the "pith and substance of the *Firearms Act* is directed to enhancing public safety by controlling access to firearms." As such, it constituted a valid exercise of the federal powers in respect of criminal law matters.

Even though it ruled that the creation of a federal Long Gun Registry was valid federal legislation, the Supreme Court left the door wide open by noting that provinces may very well have the power to enact legislation with respect to the property and civil rights aspects of firearms. However, as the latter question was not before the Supreme Court in the context of that constitutional reference, no formal ruling was made on that point. Hence, arguably, provinces do indeed have the power to enact legislation in relation to firearms, and they have done so in the past, albeit to a limited extent.

The issue that is now before the Quebec Superior Court is not only whether they do have such power, but rather whether this particular statute, which purports to replicate the scope, effects and purpose of the defunct federal Long Gun Registry, is a valid exercise of the provincial powers over property and civil rights. I think not.

Ever since the issue of creating a Quebec provincial Long Gun Registry first came up, the avowed purpose of such a registry has always been to replace the defunct federal registry. It has always been about gun control and concerns over public safety stemming from the possession of firearms. It has never been

about regulating trade within the province, or ownership of firearms. As far as I am concerned, if a gun registry "directed to enhancing public safety by controlling access to firearms" was indeed "criminal law" in 2000, then it is still criminal law in 2016, simply because the constitution of this country has not changed since 2000, at least not in respect of the allocation of legislative powers between Ottawa and the provinces.

Further, the Quebec statute does not purport to form part of a property regulation scheme. Rather, it creates a self-standing Long Gun Registry, and it attaches very significant penalties to non-compliance. The minimum fine is \$500 for failure to comply. For subsequent violations, the minimum fine is \$1,000 and it may go up to a \$10,000 maximum fine.

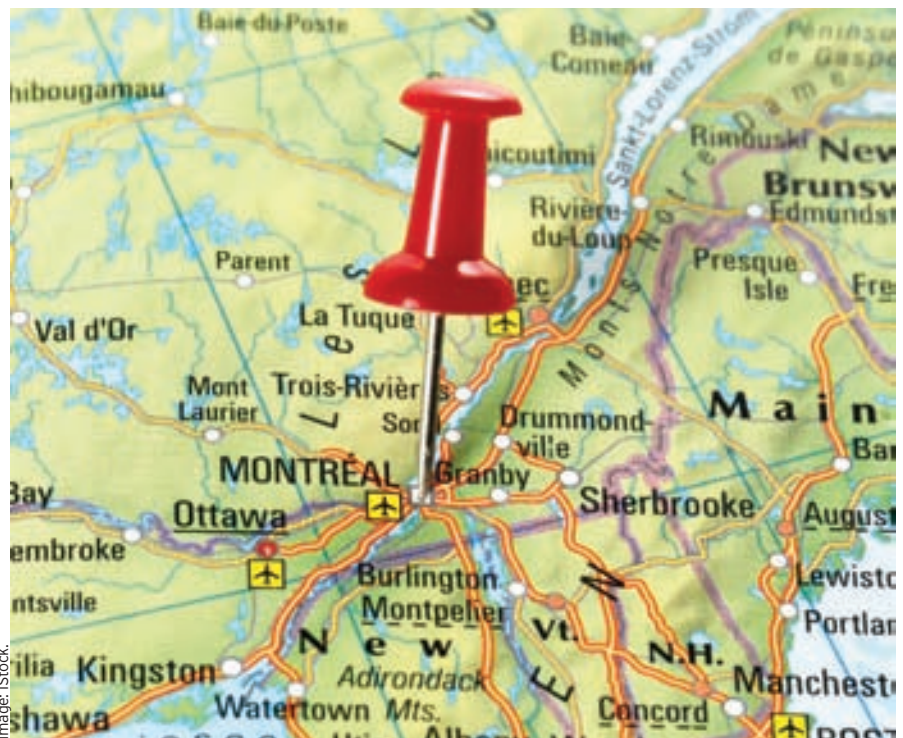
This will be a long fight. One that will likely go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada, five years or so down the road. In spite of there being several organizations throughout Canada pur-

porting to represent law-abiding firearms owners and fight for their rights, the NFA is the one that took on this fight. Needless to say, the NFA needs your support in order to be successful.

Although it revolves around a Quebec statute, this court challenge should matter to all Canadian gun owners. There are nine other provinces and three territories with essentially the same legislative powers as those of Quebec. Should Quebec be successful, the door would be wide open for any and all of them to follow suit.

Correction

The Editor's Note that prefaced last issue's *Legal Corner* mentioned that Senator Anne Cools was the new sponsor of Bill S-223, following the retirement of Senator Hervieux-Payette. This is incorrect. Senator Cools is opposed to the bill, and it is Senator Joan Fraser's efforts that are helping it live on into the fall session.



Although it revolves around a Quebec statute, this court challenge should matter to all Canadian gun owners. There are nine other provinces and three territories with essentially the same legislative powers as those of Quebec. Should Quebec be successful, the door would be wide open for any and all of them to follow suit.



One Gun's Story

Duane Radford

Papa's Gun

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

I inherited a Winchester Model 1895 repeating rifle, chambered in 303 British, from my grandfather, Albert Sapeta. He was born in 1882 and died on Feb. 18, 1969, at the age of 87.

While the rifle has its own story, there's also one behind the inheritance. From a young age, my grandfather, "Papa" as we called him, always said he wanted me to have this rifle. Regrettably, after he passed away, another family member took it from his home and as the saying goes, "Possession is nine points of the law." I'll give this relative the benefit of the doubt, in that perhaps he didn't know about Papa's last wishes. Needless to say, this incident created hard feelings that persisted for over two decades before the rifle was eventually returned to me. I can still remember picking up this family heirloom from a third party like it was yesterday. It was finally home where it rightfully belonged.

The rifle is actually a carbine, as it's the version with a 22-inch round barrel, straight grip stock and a hand guard forend. However, it doesn't have the saddle ring on the left side of the receiver, which some carbines came with. Like many Winchester designs, this one also originated in the fertile mind of firearm genius John Browning. It provided a platform for the new high-powered smokeless cartridges being introduced at the



Papa with the author (on right) and his brother Jim (on left), circa 1950

time and eventually became famous as the favoured hunting rifle of US President Theodore Roosevelt.

But it was the family history that was important to me, so I took the rifle to a local gunsmith for servicing, to make sure it was safe to fire. That precipitated another story because he disassembled the rifle and lost some of the parts. Then his business went bankrupt, so I had to take it to another gunsmith to get the job fin-

ished. Yikes, I was beginning to think this rifle was cursed!

If Papa's worn and battered gun could talk, what exciting stories it would tell - of hunts on horseback in the Alberta Rockies after 1900, before there were any roads, stories of close encounters with grizzlies and alpine adventures in pursuit of bighorn sheep and mountain goats. This rifle is one of those heirlooms that grew in stature as time went by.

Although 1911 Canadian census records indicate he came from Austria, Papa was born in Rodziechowy, which is located in what is now southern Poland. I've been told that boundaries changed frequently in this part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. He immigrated to Canada in 1906, at the age of 24, being one of the first pioneers to settle in Coleman, Alta., in an area called Bush Town. He married his wife, Victoria Mika, in Poland in 1906. She joined him in 1909 after crossing the Atlantic Ocean, and Canada, on the Canadian Pacific Railway - alone, unable to speak any English. Grandma passed away in 1973. To put these dates in perspective, it wasn't until 1905 that Alberta became a province.

My grandfather was a coal miner from 1906 until 1925 when he bought and operated the Grand Union Billiard and Bowling Hall, which he re-named Albert's Billiard and Bowling and ran until his death. While he wasn't a large man, he didn't suffer fools gladly. During times when I visited it to shoot a game of billiards, I can clearly remember him running ruffraff out the pool hall at the first sign of trouble.

There was a barn at his home in Bush Town, where my grandmother kept a milk cow and he raised Belgian hares. A taxidermized, full-size mountain goat was kept in a corner of the barn. Papa had several saddle horses pastured nearby, which he used during his big game hunting trips both north and south of Coleman, at a time when there were only bush trails to follow.

My grandfather told me if I ever got lost in the bush to follow a creek downstream, it would lead me home; and to always pack spare shells, as they could save your life. He also taught me that the universal distress signal was three shots fired into the air. He never owned a car and walked to and from home to his business, daily. These long walks no doubt kept him in good shape for his hunting excursions with this rifle.

Papa also told me how he used this 303 British carbine to shoot at least three near-Boone & Crockett class bighorn sheep and a number of grizzlies and black bears. A book of local history contains a photo of him with some of these

rams on the walls of his living room in his home in Coleman. He had learned to be a taxidermist in the old country and preserved many of the trophies he shot with this rifle. That same history book has an uncaptioned photo of another hunter holding what appears to be my grandfather's rifle. The reason I think it's his rifle is because of the peculiar positioning of the swivel on the buttstock of this rifle - well ahead of where it is normally found. This matches the exact location where it's positioned on Papa's gun. The man in the photo might have been one of my uncles, as I believe I can see a resemblance. At the time, elk and moose were scarce in the area, whitetailed deer non-existent and mule deer low in numbers.

Papa's closest encounter with a grizzly occurred in Gravenstafel Creek, near the Castle ski resort, while he was hunting bighorn sheep. The bear arose unexpectedly from a patch of huckleberry bushes about 10 paces distant, whereupon he shot it in the neck and killed it. There were several huge grizzly bear rugs in his home. When I was a kid, my grandmother used to have rows of quart sealers filled with bear fat in her pantry, which she swore by to cure whatever ailed you. I recall asking Papa what kind of big game he enjoyed eating the most. Without hesitation, he said mountain goat was the best, ahead of bighorn sheep, bear and deer.

Papa was still hunting bighorn sheep with this rifle at 76 years of age. He climbed Barnaby Ridge in the West Castle River valley in pursuit of a ram that year. I believe he shot his last deer with it when he was 84 on the Trans Canada pipeline right of way near Coleman. He was still hunting well into his 80s.

But why this rifle, why a carbine? Papa used to say a carbine was the best rifle in its day for horseback hunting trips. It fit into a scabbard tied to a saddle. In a jam, he could reach it easily if necessary. It was relatively light for a mountain hunt and could take a beating. Being a repeating rifle, it was possible to quickly get off extra shots when hunting dangerous grizzlies. Nowadays, few hunters would use a 303 British on a grizzly hunt. Rather, they'd opt for a magnum calibre with a scope.

The Model 1895 was the first Winchester rifle to feature a box magazine located underneath the action, instead of the traditional tubular magazine design. This feature allowed the rifle to safely chamber military and hunting cartridges with spitzer (pointed) bullets. The Model 1895 was initially manufactured in 30-40 Krag (often stamped .30 US Army), 38-72 Winchester and 40-72 Winchester. These later chamberings were never big sellers and were discontinued in 1909. The 303 British was added in 1898.

Every time I visited Papa at his home in Coleman, he gave me an American silver dollar. Then he'd take me into the pantry and ask me what kind of bottled pop I'd like to have. Being in the billiards business, he had cases of it at his home. When he showed me the old Winchester rifle, the blueing worn off the barrel and receiver, its stock marked and scratched, you could see the twinkle in his eye as he recalled so many fond hunts in bygone days.



Papa's gun.



NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

THE ULTIMATE OPTICS GUIDE TO RIFLE SHOOTING A Comprehensive Guide To Using Your Riflescope On The Range And In The Field

Author: Reginald J. C. Wales
Friesen Press, Victoria, BC
Published 2015
Soft cover, six by nine inches,
180 pages
Black and white photographs
ISBN: 978-1-4602-7337-1

Author Reginald Wales is a long-time shooter, firearms safety instructor and retired member of the Canadian Armed Forces. He has served his country at home and abroad, where he sustained life-altering injuries. Currently employed with Vortex Optics (Canada) as a technical field advisor, Wales continues to openly praise those who wear the

uniform, knowing they may someday find themselves in harm's way. As he still considers himself a "soldier on the inside," he wishes to give back by sharing the knowledge he has gained about using optical rifle scopes.

The goal of *The Ultimate Optics Guide* is to educate shooters and make them more proficient when using their optics. A shooter who learns to use a riflescope effectively will have more first shot hits on game animals, shoot higher scores in competitions and be able to better defend comrades against hostile targets in battle.

The purpose of a riflescope is quite simple. It is a sighting device that allows the shooter to aim the rifle bore down-range at a point where the bullet will strike the selected target. Wales introduces the parts of a riflescope in textbook fashion, explaining why high-quality components are important to those demanding the highest level of accuracy.

Wales provides advice on selecting a scope that will suit the individual shooter's needs. He believes a suitable scope should cost approximately half of the total rifle/scope package. The purchase of such a scope can seem costly, but should be considered a lifetime investment. Replacing an initial purchase with a higher quality scope at a later date can be much more expensive. This does not include

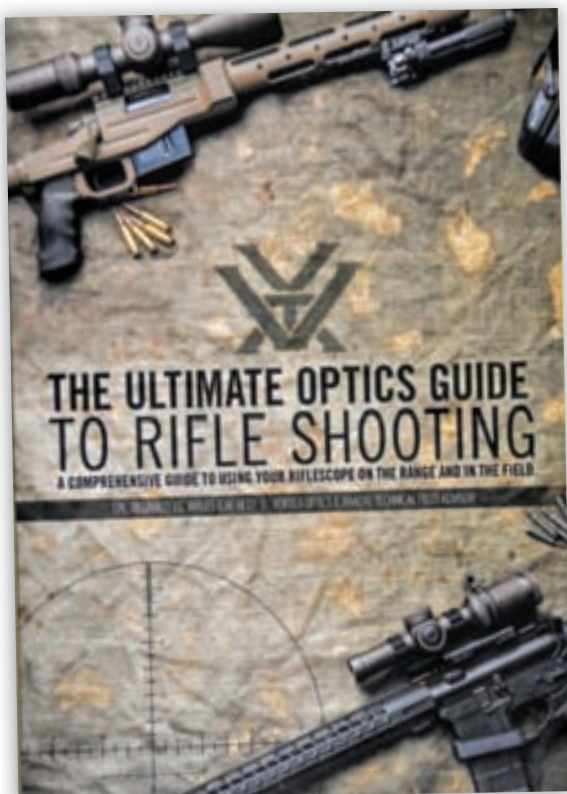
the many rounds of expensive ammunition wasted trying to obtain satisfactory results.

Wales says improper installation of a riflescope is most often the cause of erratic groups, which can cause soaring blood pressure and eliminate any confidence the shooter has in a rifle/scope combination. He advises that the highest quality bases and rings available should be purchased and proper installation of everything is a necessity. He explains why an inexpensive torque screwdriver is necessary to enhance accuracy and avoid damaging the scope.

The Ultimate Optics Guide provides information that can make you a more confident and effective shooter. As your skills progress, you will advance to the more technical sections of this book, which could easily be part of a college-level course. Understanding the more complex features available on expensive optics involves mathematical equations that allow the shooter to obtain the utmost benefit from the rifle/scope combination. Regardless of knowledge gained, the author advises that obtaining maximum accuracy will require time and practice.

Purchasers of *The Ultimate Optics Guide* will include those who simply wish to understand riflescopes and to use them effectively. Individuals considering a new scope will have the knowledge needed to purchase the best available within their budget. Employees of a retail store selling optics will be more knowledgeable and better able to respond effectively to customer's questions.

The Ultimate Optics Guide To Rifle Shooting is available from Vortex Canada, or at any of the firearm dealers across Canada that sell Vortex products.



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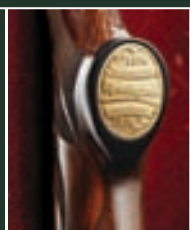
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