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CANADIAN

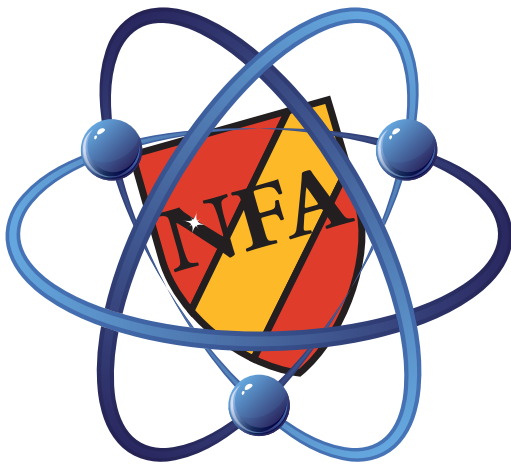
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# FIREARMS JOURNAL



Fully Committed On All Fronts:

**Canada's National Firearms Association**



# Around the NFA

## A Summer of Action!

by NFA Directors

Summer 2012 has been a busy time for your NFA. In July NFA National President Sheldon Clare was in New York City to attend the on-going talks related to a proposed United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. The National Firearms Association was in attendance in its role as an officially recognized NGO by the United Nations. The delegation sent by Canada's National Firearms Association was the only Canadian pro-firearms NGO to attend on behalf of Canadian firearms owners.

The proposed Arms Trade Treaty or ATT could have a devastating impact on civilian gun rights and there is great fear that it would essentially destroy the retail firearms industry in Canada and across the free world.

In his prepared statement to the UN, President Clare laid out the NFA's concerns, stating that:

**“Our members are concerned that UN attempts to regulate trade in arms are misdirected and will have an unfair and unreasonable effect upon the ability of free people to have access to firearms and ammunition for perfectly legitimate purposes.”**

He noted that proponents of the ATT were operating under what he called, “a false premise,” arguing that civilian access to small arms was never the problem.

To counter the sweeping restrictions and control systems advocated by various government delegations and pro-gun control NGOs, Canada's National Firearms Association instead recommended that:

**“...Controls on small arms and light weapons be limited solely to major weapon systems possessed or sold by nation states - not firearms owned or desired to be owned by civilians, also called non-state actors. The rights and property of Canadians, and our firearms businesses engaged in the lawful trade in firearms and ammunition, including surplus firearms and ammunition, must not be subject to UN edict or control. Quite simply, these are matters of national sovereignty, civil freedoms and property rights.”**

In a coordinated media blitz, President Clare and Executive Vice-President Blair Hagen made multiple appearances on Canadian radio and television, including extremely well-received appearances for Hagen on CKNW AM 980 radio and Clare on Sun News Network's **Byline with Brian Lilley**. (Visit [www.nfa.ca](http://www.nfa.ca) to watch the interview).

In a later media release, President Clare hammered home the dangers inherent in such a treaty, warning that:

**“A global ATT would only be in the interests of those who would seek economic advantage by limiting market opportunity and of regimes who would use such a treaty to disarm their citizens in order to rule through fear.”**

Due in no small part to the contribution of respected NGOs such as Canada's National Firearms Association and our allied pro-firearm rights, through membership in the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities, the ATT talks ended in July without an official treaty being agreed upon.

However, the push for a global ATT is not dead and organizations such as Canada's National Firearms Association must remain ever vigilant. In August, Sheldon will be headed back to New York as head of the NFA delegation for the scheduled United Nations SALW talks on the regulation of what the United Nations call “small arms and light weapons.”

Internationally, Canadian gun owners continue to face a significant threat to their future gun rights because of the machinations of the global gun ban movement. Groups like the Coalition for Gun Control, faced with set-backs at home, have changed strategies and are taking their message international; choosing to forge even stronger ties with umbrella organizations such as the International Action Network on Small Arms, (IANSA) - groups that are dedicated to complete civilian disarmament.

Here at home, the summer of 2012 has been equally hectic for NFA execs and directors. In order to help promote NFA, staff and directors once again headed to Wild TV's Huntfest events across the country. June saw Sheldon and the gang take in the Chilliwack Huntfest. By all reports it was a great success, tons of new memberships were sold and many other NFA members availed themselves of the opportunity to renew theirs or make a donation. Visitors and members got a chance

**Around The NFA - Continued on Page 44**



## On The Cover

“Plinking” is one of those funny terms that is unique to our shooting sports. While it may sound funny, if you do it right, “plinking” is serious business. Many of today’s generation of adult shooters got their start plinking in the back yard with their dad or grandpa. While more stringent gun laws and regulations may somewhat preclude backyard target practice in certain municipalities these days, there remains many viable options for families wishing to engage in safe and fun shooting activities.

Learning to shoot safely teaches kids discipline and respect, for the firearm, for themselves and for their parents. As summer gives way to the start of the fall season, please make the time to go plinking with your kids. In this new era of economic restraint, “plinking” has a lot to offer a budget conscious family. If you think about it, what other activity can you share with your spouse and children that will typically cost you less than \$20.00 and keep the entire family entertained for a full afternoon?

Cover Photo: Oleg Volk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Canada’s National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defence; 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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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### REGULARS

<b>Around the NFA</b> .....	2
A Summer of Action!	
NFA Directors	
<b>From the Editor’s Desk</b> .....	4
Sean G. Penney	
<b>From The NFA Bookshelf</b> .....	5
Mauser - Military Rifles of the World - Fifth Edition	
Wm. R. Rantz	
<b>President’s Message</b> .....	6-9
Putting the Arms Trade Treaty into perspective	
Sheldon Clare	
<b>Vice President’s Column</b> .....	10-11
Canadian gun rights should be decided by Canadians	
Blair Hagen	
<b>Letters to the Editor</b> .....	12-13
Sean G. Penney	
<b>Preserving Our Firearms Heritage</b> .....	14-15
Hell on Wheels Policing	
Gary K. & Sybil Kangas	
<b>Politics and Guns</b> .....	16-19
A dirty little secret no more!	
Sean G. Penney	
<b>TEAM NFA Update</b> .....	20-23
<b>Member’s Soapbox</b> .....	28-29
One Down, Many More to Go	
Chris McGarry	
<b>Guns n’ Gear</b> .....	30-31
Vortex Razor Red Dot Sight	
Al Voth	
<b>The International Front</b> .....	36-37
More Guns, Less Violence	
Gary Mauser	
<b>Western Lawman</b> .....	38-43
Sheriff Pat Garrett - Part I	
Jesse L. “Wolf” Hardin	
<b>Last Word</b> .....	46-47
Bridging the Police-Citizen Divide: A Tale of Two Shootings	
Sean G. Penney	
<b>FEATURES</b>	
<b>Bertram Bullet Company - Part II</b> .....	24-27
Darrell Hartwick	
<b>The EMP 36 - The Missing Link</b> .....	32-35
Michael Heidler, with Sean G. Penney	



# From The Editor's Desk



***"No, I'm not a good shot, but I shoot often."***

- Teddy Roosevelt

***"A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his acts, they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than by a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact."***

- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

As I was sitting at my computer desk, contemplating the topic of this editorial, a covey of 12 Ruffed Grouse walked across my driveway; placidly feeding on wayward grass seeds. Being able to sit at my computer and still enjoy such a treat is one of the perks of living in rural Newfoundland. The appearance of the covey was a reminder that my absolute favourite time of the year, hunting season, was almost here! With a mild winter and one of the nicest springs and summers on record, this fall hunting season is shaping up to be one for the record books. With good weather and easy access to food, mortality rates amongst game species typically go down, while natality rates go up.

After a forced hiatus from hunting for much of last year due to some health problems, I'm really looking forward to getting back afield in 2012. Duck, Turre, Coyote, Bear, Moose, Grouse, Partridge...I want to do it all! I've got a couple of new guns to break-in and my poor four-legged hunting companions are already starting to get that antsy look in their eyes when they know hunting season is just around the corner.

Nonetheless, before I even think about pulling a trigger on a live animal I have a lot of work to do. Shooting, like almost any skill, is perishable. You have to work hard to develop it and almost as hard to maintain it. I am of the firm belief that there will never be a more important tool in a shooter's arsenal than trigger time. Trigger time is a "real world app" for shooting and no gee-whiz gadget, pocket computer or piece of technology can ever replace it, not even iSnipe for your latest generation iPhone!

Plain and simple, - if you don't get behind a rifle or shotgun regularly and put in the necessary trigger time you get rusty. That doesn't mean stapling a paper plate to the 50m target at your local range the day before hunting season opens and banging off half a box of bargain bin clearance ammo to "sight-in" your gun. Yet far too many fellow hunters do exactly that and proceed to later shoot at a living creature that deserves better.

As an ethical hunter, I believe I owe it to the animals I hunt to give them as quick and painless a death as possible. My greatest fear is a muffed shot and a wounded animal that isn't recovered. Not only is my prey denied the efficient death I so fiercely desire, but its sacrifice would be in vain should I fail to recover the animal.

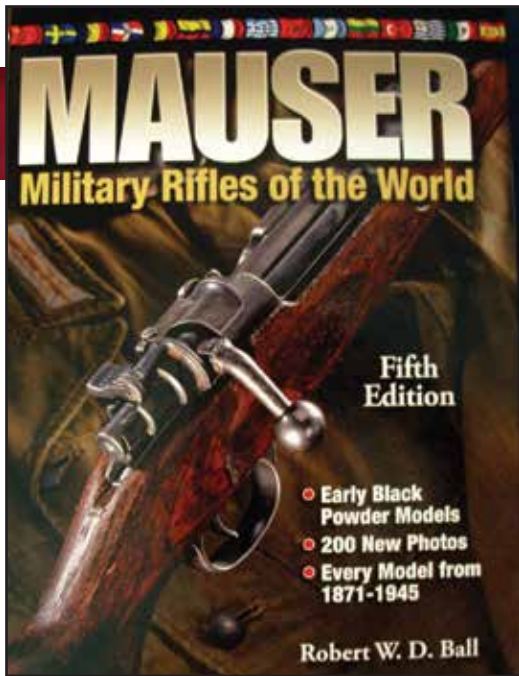
In this regard I'm a big fan of the instant "bang-flop" kill, but I never assume that's going to happen. Too often I see television personalities with their own hunting shows squeeze off a round and then raise their head from their firearm to admire their shot. Not me. I want the extra insurance a second or third bullet hole offers, and I keep shooting until I know the animal is going down. Sure I give up bragging rights to having made another "one-shot kill," but I'm okay with that knowing I'd honoured the animal and done my best to harvest him/her as humanely as possible.

My own hunting ethics aside, at the end of the day it is up to each individual to determine their own personal value system. Nevertheless, I hope each will take to heart the wise words of Aldo Leopold above.

This fall will also mark the first hunting season in a very long time that none of us (Quebec excepted) will have to bother packing along scanned and laminated copies of our rifle's registration certificates. I await with interest my first encounter with local conservation officers while afield with my new IWI TAVOR bullpup .223 coyote rifle! It should make for an interesting story.

For those of you who may find yourselves in similar straits, please keep your cool, be polite, but don't be afraid to firmly correct any LEO or conservation officer who automatically assumes your black gun is a dreaded prohibited "assault rifle" or "machinegun." Educate them! Firearms like my new TAVOR, Swiss Arms, RobArms XCR, and other non-restricted "black rifles" are a growing segment of the Canadian firearms market. They continue to grow in popularity and will inevitably be seen in the hands of ever increasing numbers of hunters from coast to coast. Cosmetically they may seem scary to the uninitiated, but they are nothing more than the next generation of modern sporting rifle. I plan on fielding mine with pride! Until next time, shoot safe!





## NFA Book Shelf

by Wm. Rantz

### MAUSER MILITARY RIFLES OF THE WORLD – FIFTH EDITION

**Author:** Robert W. D. Ball

**Publisher:** Gun Digest Books, Krause Publications 2011

**ISBN-13:** 978-1-4402-1544-5

**Hardcover:** 8 ½ x 11

**448 pages, Colour Photographs**

**MAUSER Military Rifles of the World - Fifth Edition** is the culmination of many years of research by Mauser authority Robert Ball. Although this book is not about the history of the Mauser brothers or the Mauser Company the author has condensed the most significant information onto a single introductory page. This allows the reader to appreciate the basic history culminating in the development of what many consider to be the world's most widely used military rifle.

Mr. Ball has focused his attention on presenting the reader with the most accurate and up to date information related to Mauser rifles which were produced from 1871 to 1945. Over this 74 year period the shooting world saw black powder replaced by smokeless. The military of many countries required a variety of cartridges and rifles to suit their specific purpose. The result was a large number of variations built on the basic Mauser bolt action.

As research progressed, an increasing number of Mauser rifles have been identified as to model, special features and the purchasing country, the task of organizing such information became very challenging. Readers want to be able to locate relevant information as quickly as possible. **MAUSER Military Rifles of the World** has succeeded in presenting the most comprehensive and up to date information available in a user friendly format.

The 56 known countries which used Mauser rifles are organized in alphabetical order in the table of contents along with the corresponding page number. Upon locating the chosen country the reader will find a brief history of significant political developments and

military conflicts. The models of Mauser rifles which are known to have been used by that country are then presented in order of the date introduced. Once the desired Mauser is located the reader will find a brief summary of that model, followed by a chart listing specific data such as overall length, weight, barrel length, caliber, rifling, operation and sights.

The comprehensive index at the end of the book also enables the reader to locate specific models quickly. There are 118 variations of Mauser rifles listed under Germany for which it is estimated over one hundred million Mauser rifles were produced.

**MAUSER Military Rifles of the World** provides extensive visual support as this book contains several thousand quality photographs to supplement the text. Pictures range from those displaying an entire rifle to close up photographs which focus on the smallest of details. Each picture is of a high quality and all are captioned to explain the significance of the subject shown. Many older black and white photographs showing soldiers carrying or firing Mauser rifles are spread throughout this book. These pictures reflect the historical significance of Mauser rifles in armed conflicts throughout the world.

There is no doubt that **MAUSER Military Rifles of the World** is a quality reference which will allow Mauser enthusiasts to identify and authenticate individual rifles. Whether you are a serious collector, own a single Mauser rifle or simply wish to expand your firearm knowledge this book will be a valuable addition to your bookshelf. The current cover price of **Mauser Military Rifles of the World 5th edition** is \$52.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Putting the Arms Trade Treaty into perspective.

by Sheldon Clare

Canada's NFA was in New York to protect your right to own and use firearms. After a week of meetings in New York listening to the representatives of 193 countries argue for an Arms Trade Treaty any sensible observer would be stocking up on ammo and heading for the hills. Instead, I brought my laptop and my smart phone and headed to the meetings.

Without breaking this all down into who said what, there seem to be four main categories under which participants in these talks might be classified. If you want the details, you can see the position papers of the participating countries and groups at: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/ATT/statements/>

Canada's NFA was there as part of the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities. Our paper was presented by hand to all of the delegations and NGOs and has been published on our website.

First, there are those that seem naïve and idealistic. This is the place of many of the anti-firearm Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The world view of these folks tends to be one of "...if we eliminate small arms and light weapons there will be peace. If we control, mark, and track all ammunition we can prevent all sorts of misery in the world." The basic failure of that position is that firearms and ammunition are basically simple tools and they can be readily made without complex technology. As well, arms control is a legal fiction – a chimera. Trusting a piece of paper to protect you is problematic at best. In the real world, arms control is like anything prohibited, all such laws do is drive up the value of the illegal item. Those who want them will find some government to sell them what they want, if they can't make it themselves. The NGOs want to disarm everyone, while the idealistic government statements are aimed at disarming nations,

rather than individuals. Some certainly want individual civil disarmament too, but I'll get to that in a moment.

The second cluster of arguments tends to be based upon a combination of national self-interest and greed. The goal from those taking this view appears to be that more arms control will lead to more money for our particular regime. Allegedly, the UK is pushing the ATT primarily to reduce competition for the sale of its military hardware. The money would come in a number of ways, but the two main cash cows would be the implementation support unit, a body which some see as Team UN Arms Control World Police, complete with record keeping and transfer tracking. The second cash cow is an innocuous sounding dream called the Victim's Assistance Fund. Many third world countries see this as a means to obtain funding. There is some logic, twisted though it may be, in wanting money for such a project; after all, Canadians have some experience with the high cost of licensing and registration which is why we have gotten rid of part of that scheme – it would certainly be expensive, and the UN is funded by its member countries who get all of their money from taxes. Under the Victim's Assistance Fund proposal, victims of gun violence would be compensated for their injuries through a fund established by the UN and paid for by its wealthy member countries.

Putting aside the fact that such a fund would be insanely expensive to administer, let alone award, the potential exists for the fund to be used corruptly. For example, consider a poverty stricken family that decides that giving a child a bullet wound could lead to financial compensation. Sounds farfetched? Not really, I personally saw child beggars in Africa who had been injured by their relatives so as to make them more pitiful and thus better at begging. The other aspect of



*Sheldon Clare with members of Canada's ATT Delegation*

the corruption would be the old-fashioned direct kind in which rogue bureaucrats and state governments merely pocket the money.

The third of these increasingly insidious categories is the desire of some countries to achieve better access to arms in order to make use of them to repress their own citizens. This dovetails nicely with much the same bunch seeking improved controls on firearms and ammunition access, trade, and transfer so as to disarm their civil populations so as to better rule through fear.

The fourth major grouping is of countries who would support terrorist movements to advance their own political goals. This gets sticky as there are some who would like to support revolutionary freedom fighters. Where it gets contentious among the assembled countries is that the difference between terrorists and freedom fighters is hotly disputed.

As you can see, the UN Arms Trade Treaty Talks were a fascinating display of international politics with significant potential to affect Canadians. What can you do about it? Never give up – keep fighting for your rights. Realize that Canada's NFA needs your support if you want to have a strong voice.

There is significant international pressure to get to a deal on a treaty. By the time you read this, that deal may well have been made, but even if there is no deal, the work on the Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons will continue with a meeting scheduled at the UN at the end of August and beginning of September.

Unfortunately for us, the gun grabbers are extremely well-funded. Even without an Arms Trade Treaty,



there is a significant likelihood that some countries will make a deal anyway - one that would likely exclude those countries that seek a narrowly focused, limited treaty that would protect civilian gun rights. This could be very bad; as such a treaty may not be based on consensus, and would have severe implications for Canada even if we don't sign it.

Some countries want everything tightly controlled and especially access to firearms by so-called "non-state actors". Ostensibly, these are rebel or terrorist forces, but the term would actually include anyone who is not a member of the national police or military forces. That term "non-state actor" can be and has been interpreted to include civilians, and that means you and me. One thing is clear, the Arms Trade Treaty and movement towards one is not going away regardless of the outcome of the meetings this summer in New York. As always, Canada's National Firearms Association remains fully committed on all fronts, but we still have a tough fight ahead of us. With your help and continued support I'm confident we will emerge victorious.



# MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

## L'ONU et le Traité sur le Commerce des Armes (TCA)

Par Sheldon Clare

L'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu (NFA) a été à New York afin de protéger vos droits de posséder et d'utiliser des armes à feu. Après avoir écouté pendant une semaine les représentants de 193 pays débattre de la nécessité de créer un traité sur le commerce des armes, tout observateur censé aurait été poussé à se sauver le plus loin possible avec une grande réserve de munitions. Plutôt que de faire cela, j'ai assisté sagement aux réunions, muni de mon ordinateur portable et de mon téléphone intelligent.

Sans vous énoncer les dialogues mot pour mot, je peux classer les participants en quatre groupes distincts. Si vous voulez consulter les débats en détail vous n'avez qu'à consulter le site web suivant : <http://www.un.org/disarmament/att/statements/>

La NFA faisait parti du World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities (le forum mondial sur l'avenir des activités de tir sportif). Notre mémoire a été remis en main propre à tous les délégués et tous les Organismes Non Gouvernementaux (ONG), il est publié sur notre site web.

Le premier groupe de participants aux réunions de l'ONU sont ceux qui semblent naïfs et idéalistes. On y trouve parmi ceux-ci plusieurs ONGs anti-armes. Leur vision du monde se résume ainsi : 'Si nous éliminons les petites armes la paix règnera. Si nous contrôlons, marquons et retraçons toutes les munitions nous pourrions prévenir toutes les misères du monde.' Cette idée est insensée puisque les armes à feu et les munitions sont des outils simples et facile à fabriquer sans moyens technologiques complexes. De plus, le concept même du contrôle des armes est en soit une chimère. Car se fier sur un bout de papier

pour sa protection est une prétention douteuse qui ne fonctionne pas. Dans la réalité, le contrôle des armes a le même effet que n'importe quelle prohibition, cela ne fait qu'augmenter la valeur des biens devenus illégaux. Ceux qui voudront des armes mais qu'ils ne peuvent pas s'en procurer ni en fabriquer, trouveront un gouvernement qui sera disposé à leur en vendre. Les ONGs veulent désarmer tout le monde tandis que les Gouvernements idéalistes cherchent à désarmer les nations plutôt que les individus. Certains pays veulent aussi désarmer les populations civiles, mais je vous en parlerai dans un moment.

Les points de vue du deuxième groupe d'intervenants semblent se baser sur des intérêts nationaux et motivés par l'avidité. Leur objectif est de faire faire plus d'argent au régime de leur pays en exerçant plus de contrôle sur les armes à feu. Le Royaume Uni semble-t-il, encourage fortement la création du TCA pour réduire la compétition au commerce de sa propre quincaillerie militaire. L'ONU veut générer des fonds de deux sources principales. La première est dans la création d'un organisme perçu comme étant la police mondiale du contrôle des armes qui se nommera l'Unité de Support dans l'Application du TCA. Ce sera une bureaucratie complète avec un registre mondial et une agence qui retracera les armes. La deuxième source de fonds sera la création d'un irréaliste Fond d'Assistance aux Victimes. Plusieurs pays du tiers monde espèrent recevoir de l'argent grâce à ce fond. Il y a une certaine logique tordue à vouloir créer ce projet après tout, les Canadiens connaissent bien les coûts élevés des systèmes de permis et d'enregistrements des armes : Raison pour laquelle nous en avons éliminé une partie. Le projet de l'ONU serait très coûteux, l'ONU



est financé par ses pays membres qui y contribuent grâce aux payeurs de taxes. Le Fond d'Assistance aux Victimes qui compenserait les victimes pour leurs blessures par balles, serait financé par ce Fond dont l'argent proviendrait des pays membres les plus riches, qui lui serait géré par l'ONU.

Un tel fond serait extrêmement onéreux à administrer et le risque qu'il soit utilisé à des fins corrompues est immense. Imaginez une famille pauvre qui réalise qu'en blessant un de ses enfants par balle, puisse bénéficier d'une aide financière. Impossible vous dites ? Non, pas vraiment, j'ai moi-même été témoin d'enfants Africains qui mendiaient après avoir été blessés par leur parents pour pouvoir faire plus pitié et rapporter ainsi plus d'argent à leur famille. De plus, plusieurs fonctionnaires corrompus n'auront qu'à garder l'argent pour eux plutôt que de la remettre aux victimes légitimes.

Le troisième groupe d'intervenants est un des plus insidieux, ce sont ceux qui veulent faciliter leur accès aux armes pour s'en servir pour réprimer leurs propres citoyens. Ils s'entendent très bien avec le premier groupe qui veut augmenter le contrôle des armes à feu et l'accès aux munitions, leur commerce et leurs transferts pour désarmer leurs citoyens et gouverner par la peur.

Le quatrième groupe d'intervenants est celui dont les pays supportent les groupes terroristes pour faire avancer leurs propres objectifs politiques. Ceci devient un sujet épineux puisque certains veulent appuyer les combattants révolutionnaires qui cherchent la libération de gouvernements tyranniques. Mais le problème est qu'aucun des pays assemblés ne s'accordent sur la différence entre des terroristes et des combattants révolutionnaires.


Comme vous pouvez le constater, les rencontres de l'ONU à propos du Traité sur le Commerce des Armes sont un spectacle fascinant de politique internationale qui ont le potentiel d'affecter directement les Canadiens. Qu'est ce que vous pouvez faire ? Ne jamais capituler

! Continuer de vous battre pour conserver vos droits. Vous devez réaliser que la NFA a besoin de votre appui pour faire entendre votre voix.

La pression internationale est très forte pour qu'il y ait une entente sur ce traité. Quand vous lirez ces lignes, il est possible qu'une telle entente ce soit réalisée. Mais même si ce n'est pas le cas, ceux qui travaillent sur le Programme d'Action sur les Petites Armes et les Armes Légères vont se rencontrer à l'ONU à la fin du mois d'août et au début de septembre.

A notre plus grand malheur, ceux qui veulent nous désarmer sont très bien financés. Même en l'absence d'un Traité sur le Commerce des Armes, il est fort probable que certains pays concluent un marché entre eux - un marché qui exclurait les pays qui veulent un traité restreint qui protégerait les droits de possession d'armes par des civils. Ceci pourrait être très néfaste puisqu'un tel traité ne ferait pas parti d'un commun accord et il y aurait de conséquences graves pour le Canada même si nous ne le signions pas.

Certains pays veulent tout contrôler sévèrement et surtout l'accès aux armes à feu par ceux qui ne sont pas selon eux des 'acteurs de l'état'. Ces gens qui ne représentent pas l'état sont, semble-t-il des rebelles ou des terroristes, mais la définition du terme inclus toute personne qui ne fait pas parti d'une police nationale ou d'une force militaire. Tous les civils sont inclus dans la définition du terme 'non-acteur de l'état', et cela veut dire vous et moi. Le mouvement vers un traité sur le commerce des armes est une certitude qui va continuer peu importe le résultat des réunions à New York cet été. La NFA demeure toujours pleinement engagée à se battre pour défendre vos droits sur tous les fronts. Une dure lutte nous attends. Avec votre appui continu j'ai confiance que nous serons victorieux.





# VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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## Canadian gun rights should be decided by Canadians

Blair Hagen, Vice President, Communications

The United Nations Arms Trade Treaty talks kicked-off the week of July 10th in New York City, with NFA President Sheldon Clare in attendance to represent the interests of Canada's firearms community.

The UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) has been represented to constitute an international effort to control the proliferation of military small arms in a bid to prevent regional destabilization from occurring in potential hot spots around the world. The larger goal is to discourage armed conflict, while promoting peaceful conflict resolution worldwide. The proposed treaty logically includes military weapons systems and materiel such as main battle tanks, artillery, guided and unguided missiles, as well as small arms and light weapons. However, proponents of the UN ATT also want to include sporting arms and ammunition commonly used by civilians under the latter umbrella definition of small arms and light weapons (SALW).

Such an ATT is not a new idea. As early as the mid 1990s, the UN disarmament commission and anti-gun nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) were writing treaties and designing systems and campaigns to lobby for gun control in first world countries like the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

Canada, under the Liberal Government of Jean Chretien and then Justice

Minister Alan Rock (of Bill C-68 infamy), were early and avid supporters; signing the country on to any civil disarmament agreement that could be found. An example being the UN small arms marking program, due to be implemented in Canada in December of this year unless the current Conservative Government stops it.

The C-68 Firearms Act was, of course, written to facilitate civil disarmament in Canada. Gun control advocates, both here at home and at the United Nations, saw mandatory firearms licensing and universal firearms registration as being absolutely crucial to beginning the universal disarmament process. Contrary to some opinions, such forces will never be appeased by half-measures and those willing to throw handgun owners and semi-automatic rifle owners under the proverbial bus should take note.

Thankfully, the Conservative government of Stephen Harper has taken Canadian firearms control in a much different direction since their election in 2006; including ending the long gun registry portion of the failed C-68 Firearms Act and even making a strong statement in support of leaving sporting arms out of the UN ATT.

Not surprisingly, the Canadian government was subjected to strong criticism for these actions internationally, including widespread condemnation by international gun

control lobbyists, civil disarmament groups and third world dictators who it should be noted, do not allow their citizens the right to possess arms.

The strong language previously used by the Government of Canada in defense of the rights and property of Canadians in its position on the ATT served Canada well. Canada was positioning itself in a leadership role against the civil disarmament goals of UN gun control bureaucrats and third world thugs and dictators. Unfortunately, they've opted to moderate this position somewhat.

The Government of Canada now maintains that protections for the firearms freedom of Canadians can be secured, even with the inclusion of civilian firearms in the ATT and under the definition of SALW.

It is somewhat reassuring that the Government of Canada still believes that it can continue to protect Canadian sovereignty and the rights and freedoms of Canadians with the changes in language and tone, but preventing privately owned civilian arms from being included in the definition of SALW would do much more.

Nevertheless, the question must be asked: If Canada officially supports a UN Arms Trade Treaty, what safeguards are in place to prevent a future anti-gun Canadian government from abandoning the relatively responsible positions of the current government on the regulation of small arms; and

choosing instead to claim that Canada has not lived up to its international treaty obligations and therefore more stringent civil disarmament legislation must be adopted? Or perhaps even taking a position that the imposition of UN small arms edicts does not compromise Canadian sovereignty?

The Conservatives have demonstrated a certain propensity to undertake treaties and agreements that ostensibly protect innocents and civilians from conflicts. However, there is also a great many pro-civil disarmament NGOs and anti-gun UN bureaucrats standing in opposition to such efforts. The latter have no compunctions against taking advantage of such idealistic initiatives in order to advance their own agendas. They are masters of manipulation and have proven willing to take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself to advance the cause of universal civilian disarmament.

Without proper vigilance and constant pressure from Canadians, such altruism could be abused by putting the Government of Canada on the spot to support an ATT that does negatively impact Canadian domestic laws and legislation. We could even see the re-imposition of the long gun registry; not because the government supports it or thinks it's a good idea, but because UN treaties that Canada is a signatory to demand it.

Why do UN civil disarmament lobbyists seek to impose gun control laws on countries like Canada?

The answer is rather simple: Freedom is anathema to those who seek only to control others. As such, they fear the power and protections our hard-won civil rights and liberty grants us and the potential ramifications for their own authoritarian worldviews.

While the United States and the Second Amendment of the American Constitution are the main targets of international gun banners, Canada is of growing importance and a close second on their "hit list;" especially in light of

recent set-backs for their movement. The election of a pro-firearm government and the utter collapse of their anti-gun political allies, along with the dismantling of the failed long gun registry; long considered the crowning jewel in the anti-gun movement's list of achievements is particularly galling. With the high probability of additional legislative initiatives aimed at repealing the Liberal's failed gun control regime, Canada is fast becoming a lightning rod for the international gun control movement.

The Canadian long-gun registry is no more and gun control politicians and candidates have been defeated at the polls. This is a most un-Canadian state of affairs to the gun ban crowd, both here and internationally, and the Canadian government can no longer be relied on to give a rubber stamp to civil-disarmament initiatives that might constrain the rights and freedoms of Canadians, or undermine Canadian sovereignty.

And so they seek to shame and hamstring Canada back into the international civil-disarmament fold at the UN through the ATT. Unfortunately, Canada signing on to the ATT can only have one outcome; our willing creation of the very mechanisms by which international gun-control advocates will facilitate the complete disarmament of Canadians and the utter destruction of our firearms culture and community.

The ultimate blame for such a terrible potential fate will most likely never come to rest at the feet of the present Conservative Government, but much more likely at the hands of some future "progressive" Canadian government with a civil-disarmament agenda. Remember too, both the NDP and Liberal parties favour further gun control measures and firearm bans, so it may very well be that such a travesty is little more than a single election away.

Keep in mind that it has not been that

long since we've seen one of those so-called "progressive" governments in power. As recently as 2005 the Liberal Government of Prime Minister Paul Martin was fully involved in international civil disarmament initiatives, as well as trying to implement the C-68 Firearms Act and universal registry here in Canada.

The Government of Canada is taking the rights, freedoms and sovereignty of Canadians more seriously than any previous government in recent memory. Nonetheless, there remains a legitimate concern that the government may find itself being maneuvered into signing a treaty or agreement that doesn't necessarily represent the best interests of Canadians

There is little doubt that the change in language used by the Government of Canada on this issue might not immediately have the direst of consequences on the rights and freedoms of Canadians; but what about the future? Wars are won by strategy, not tactics, and our gun-grabbing opponents here at home and abroad have always approached this fight from that perspective. We must do the same and think long-term. We cannot afford to remain reactive, but must become more proactive. We need to be thinking 3-4-5-6-7 moves ahead of the gun grabbers. That takes dedication; it takes a solid support-base, and a well-funded war chest. It is up to Canadian gun owners to provide Canada's National Firearms Association with the tools needed to continue to prosecute this most important of battles on their behalf.

At the end of the day, Canadian firearms laws should and will be decided by Canadians and not some would-be "world government" conceived of by a cadre of hare-brained United Nations utopians or tin-pot third world dictators.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors,

The shooting tragedy that took place on July 16th during a block party in Toronto's East End is a grim reminder of the illegal use of firearms in Canada. The incident is also telling in regard to the apparent absence of a designated police presence (I wonder why not?), the slow response of emergency medical teams, and according to some news reports, the apparent chaos that persisted even after the police arrived. As seems to be the case in many media reports of heinous crimes of this type, the public will probably never learn if the firearm was illegal (unregistered, stolen or smuggled) or if the shooter was licensed (unlikely).

The lesson here is twofold. Firstly, the incident demonstrates once again that even in an urban setting with a large police force, we cannot depend upon the police for our own personal safety. Secondly, that more Toronto gun control laws will never be an effective solution, especially given the city's close proximity to the United States with its near limitless sources of illegal firearms. In hindsight, one is left wondering how many lives might have been saved if some of the civilians attending the block party had been licensed to carry a concealed firearm?

The only cost-effective and relatively efficient solution to the city's on-going crime problems involving the use of illegal firearms is one that places more responsibility on individuals for their own personal safety. The modern police role in Canada is more so that of a clean-up crew, rather than white knight and defender of the defenceless. As such, there is a legitimate argument to be made in favour of issuing CCW concealed carry permits to certified and qualified citizens.

Of course, such actions could only occur in concert with necessary changes to current federal, provincial and municipal laws and regulations to allow both concealed carry and formalized government recognition of Canadian Castle Doctrine, including the creation of "Stand-Your-Ground" laws. Many U.S. state and municipal governments learned this lesson decades ago and have gone so far as to allow non-residents, including many Canadian "Snowbirds," to apply for the same CCW permits and licenses they issue to their own residents.

At this juncture, other solutions that come to mind are simply too costly and probably just as ineffective as Toronto's current personal safety infrastructure appears to be. At the end of the day, I believe that the city's leaders do realize that despite the very best efforts of the Toronto Police Service, they cannot even begin to guarantee the personal safety of residents, especially those folks that are

forced to live and raise families in the more crime-ridden and "disadvantaged" parts of the city.

A major paradigm shift is clearly needed. One that does not penalize Toronto's entire shooting sports community for the despicable deeds of street gang felons or the mentally-ill who are somehow still able to gain access illegal firearms despite already tough Canadian gun laws. If the police cannot protect us, then Canadians should have the right to do so themselves and without fear of unjustified legal reprisal from the state.

Charles S.

Dear Charles,

You make some great points. It is time to put political correctness and anti-gun bias aside and have a real debate on the issue of self-defence in Canada. High profile incidents such as the cases of David Chen, Larry Manzer, and Ian Thomson show that the majority of Canadians support the idea of a right to self-defense, - just as they disapprove of the Crown's decision to prosecute these same individuals. All we need is a federal government willing to put lives before politics. I urge all readers to write to their representatives and the Prime Minister and voice their support for the Canadian right to self-defence, and to request changes to the ATC-3 (Authorization to Carry) permit application process to make CCW more widely available to qualified, law-abiding citizens.

- Editors

Dear Editors,

I would like to share the experiences that I had at Front Sight, a training facility located about 1 hour outside of Las Vegas. They provide training in handguns, rifles, shotguns and more. I first attended a 2-day defensive handgun course and was immediately hooked! I have since bought a lifetime membership and attended the 4-day defensive handgun course as well. The professionalism and level of training is incredible! These courses are really for everyone and anyone. Each student gets the push that they need to further develop the skills they already possess, correct the bad habits they've acquired and learn new techniques to help make them better shooters.

Previous experience is not necessary. When I took my more recent 4-day course, shooting on the same range with me was a 17 year-old girl, who had never shot a gun before, as well as an air marshal in his mid-40s, with years of shooting

*experience under his belt. Yet everyone was able to take something beneficial from the course. This latter experience shows the rather diverse range of skills and backgrounds the instructors at Front Sight are able to work with and to make better shooters out of. You can check out their website at [www.frontsight.com](http://www.frontsight.com) or better yet, sign-up and see for yourself in person!*

Rob W.

Dear Rob,

Thanks for sharing your experience at Front Sight. Seeking out professional training and instruction is always a great idea for any gun owner looking to improve their gun handling and shooting skills. Unfortunately, marksmanship is a perishable skill. Without regular practice such skills will atrophy. The US boasts many great training schools, in addition to Front Sight, including Thunder Ranch, Gunsite and the Chapman Academy of Practical Shooting. Lucky for Canadian shooters, it seems that we may soon see several professional homegrown training programs established in this country.

- Editors

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# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

## Hell on Wheels Policing: Jack Kirkup Part II

By Gary K. & Sybil Kangas



The B.C. Police was initiated as a Territorial Police force by Sir James Douglas in 1858. The B.C. Police force is the second oldest territorial police force in North America; preceded only by the Texas Rangers. Initially, the force's constables had no uniforms, only a badge.

The law in British Columbia was well established by the 1880's. The west was not lawless, but rather it still remained largely wild & wooly. From the Fraser to the Kootenay's, the B.C. Provincial Police were

tasked with maintaining law & order throughout the region. It was an enormously challenging mission simply given the sheer size of the area to be policed. While they brought the law to the area, response times could be an issue.

By the mid 1880s there were still only 44 permanent provincial policemen called "Provincials" who would appoint local dependable individuals as deputies. These appointees were labeled "Specials." Provincials were employees of the province, while Specials were called up as the need arose and they would subsequently bill the province for their time and expenses.

This was the milieu that the newly-minted Provincial Policeman John Kirkup was introduced to. His only support was the Specials, and a limited number of NWMP personnel at Fort Steele and the NWMP post at Farwell.

Jack was first posted in Yale and then Savona following the route of railroad construction. His primary duty involved keeping peace and order from Yale to Revelstoke. Complicating matters was the fact that in those days liquor flowed freely, cocaine, heroin and opium were legally sold in pharmacies, and opium dens were common. Fights, fueled by drugs and alcohol, involving fists, knives, shovels, picks, axes and guns could erupt at a moment's notice, as intoxicated railroaders, miners and cowboys rubbed elbows at local saloons and bawdy houses.

This little slice of "frontier paradise" was John Kirkup's to police.

Working in Kirkup's favour was the fact that he was actually a good-humored diplomat; a lawman who would rather negotiate than resort to physical violence in order to make an arrest or keep the peace. When such efforts failed, however, the law-

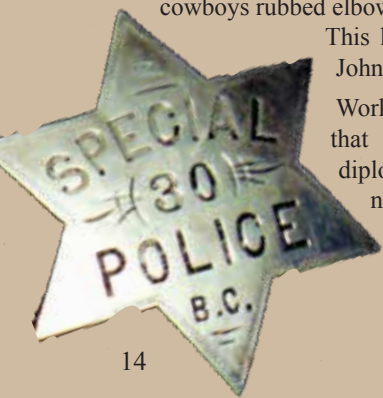
breaker often rued their ill-advised intransigence in complying with Jack's orders; usually as they nursed their wounds or contemplated their bleak future from behind iron bars. When violence of action was necessary, Jack Kirkup was not a man to shy away.

Thieves, bunco steerers, swindlers, robbers and murderers were pursued relentlessly. Kirkup tracked notorious murderer William Brown and captured him for the slaying of one Mary Purcel. Yet, Kirkup's brand of justice was colour-blind and he played no favourites. If you broke the law in his jurisdiction you would pay the consequences, for instance, Jack once arrested and jailed a NWMP Sergeant for public drunkenness; an event that is still relatively rare even today. Kirkup's law applied to one & all, - no matter who was disorderly, involved in an assault, drunk or impaired on drugs.

In this era the neighbouring Northwest Territories comprised what would eventually become the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Unlike British Columbia, this territory was "dry" and liquor was prohibited throughout the region. As a result, illegal whiskey peddling was a problem. In British Columbia, saloon owners only needed to purchase a liquor license from the local provincial authorities in order to conduct business.

Unlicensed liquor sales were illegal and not tolerated. Illegal booze peddlers found themselves arrested, fined and had their spirits confiscated by the law. In his bailiwick, Jack Kirkup was that law. He was aggressive in enforcing such laws and he did his best to minimize the incidence of what the more genteel citizenry viewed as inappropriate behavior. When not dealing with more serious crimes, Jack was kept busy jailing drunks and warning saloon owners to use discretion in over-serving their clientele.

When the railroad was completed, Jack was posted to Revelstoke. He assumed his new post in about 1886 and for the next nine years made it his home. As the years passed, his reputation only grew and his exploits were frequent subjects





of discussion in the press. Eventually Kirkup was to be immortalized by famed western artist Frederick Remington. The latter sketched Jack in 1889. It was this same sketch that was later published the following year in Harpers Magazine, securing Jack's reputation as a legendary western lawman.

Romance had also entered Jack's life during his tenure in Revelstoke. He married Susan Kerr in 1891. She was 11 years younger than Jack. They had two sons, one of whom would follow in his father's footsteps and join the provincial police force.

Jack Kirkup's honesty and forthright manner was annoying to many beaurucrats and politicians. After some tense issues he resigned his post in 1895. The town of Rossland was quick to hire him as their new police chief, while the provincial government opted to appoint Jack as a government agent as well.

Rossland was a prosperous boom town at the time and the potential for bonanza attracted a multitude of characters, some of which were less than honorable. The émigrés to Rossland were an eclectic group of saloon keepers, miners, cowboys, business men, fortune-seekers and those that preyed upon them, the gamblers, card sharps, thieves, robbers and murderers. All were drawn to this Eldorado of the Kootenay.

Rossland, at that time, was a brawling, boisterous little burg. The wildest part, no question about it, was called Sourdough Alley. The "Alley" was the haunt of nefarious characters of every stripe and the rule of law simply did not exist for its residents. The city fathers feared this criminal enclave was verging on anarchy and could possibly jeopardize the future of their town. To set things right and restore order, only the services of an experienced, hard-as-nails lawman and peace keeper like Jack Kirkup, was required. The town council appointed Kirkup their new Chief of Police, and authorized the hiring of two deputies. His legend would be affirmed, once and for all, in what was called the Golden City. Kirkup's ability with negotiation, Colt .44 pistol and shot loaded cane quickly brought stability and order to the camp.

Kirkup's cane later became something of a trade-mark of his. The local paper, the Rossland Miner, in a piece dated April 30th, 1895 even reported on its acquisition. The story read, "Constable Jack Kirkup was presented the other day with a walking cane. It is made of sole leather with a steel rod down the centre and is heavily loaded at the butt and silver mounted. Its construction occupied the leisure moments of a convict in the Idaho penitentiary and its appearance would warrant the arrest of anyone except a constable who carried it."

It was reported that the fabrication of this Billy-cum-cane, was supposedly done in a penal institution in Idaho. It was a leather covered iron rod with a shot loaded head designed to inflict a knock-out or stunning blow to the malefactor or miscreant in breach of the peace. It was with this novel walking stick that Kirkup was able to subdue some of the worst Rossland ruffians. Some say it is reminiscent of the same silver-headed cane sported by actor Gene Barry in the TV series about another legendary lawman Bat Masterson. (Incidentally, the real Bat Masterson was born in Henryville, Quebec.)

In the course of his career, Jack was forced to regularly risk life and limb dealing with the scum of the earth, including stone-cold killers, professional stick-up men and gun slicks. But it was his confrontation with Jack Lucy, a pistolero from Idaho, which was to define the classic Kirkup law-enforcement action. He confronted Lucy at arm's length, grabbing him by the shoulder, while his other hand was poised to strike or draw. Powerfully squeezing Lucy's shoulder, his entire demeanor offering the threat of immediate mortal danger, he simply "suggested" that the gunman should consider a return visit to Idaho, as it would not be in his best interest to remain in the Rossland area. Lucy took Kirkup's advice and returned to the U.S. without delay. On another occasion Kirkup heard an uproar and gunfire in a Sourdough Alley saloon! Barging in, he confronted two erstwhile duelists, who lucky for them, appeared to have missed their targets. Faced with the enormous lawman & his well-respected shot-loaded cane, the two dropped their pistols and swiftly departed.

Kirkup's sixteen months as police chief saw the town transformed and law & order restored once and for all. Alas, his methods and strong-arm tactics caused a rift with the town's mayor that eventually led to Jack being relieved of his office. Provincial authorities were not similarly inclined and they retained Kirkup as both a government agent and Gold Commissioner.

A quote from the Mining Record, dated September 1896 perhaps sums up the Jack Kirkup story best. "Jack Kirkup" as he is familiarly known throughout the length and breadth of Kootenay, is one of the most prominent characters connected with the development of the district. To his individual courage and skill is largely due the fact that the mining camps of British Columbia are the most peaceful and law-abiding of any in the world. His wonderful tact and judgment has on numerous occasions prevented bloodshed and disorder and today his single word, the influence of his presence as chief of police in Rossland is sufficient to command the most thorough respect for law and order throughout the town."

Jack, his wife and sons lived in Rossland until 1912, when he was transferred to the government office in Port Alberni, Vancouver's Island, and later to Nanaimo. Jack remained an employee of the provincial government until his passing.

Jack passed away November 2, 1916, and was survived by his wife and two sons. His legacy as a lawman and peace keeper is a valued addition to our history and firearms heritage.

I extend my appreciation to the Rossland Museum, Ridge Records and the Kirkup family for their contributions.

# POLITICS & GUNS

by Sean G. Penney

## A dirty little secret no more!



For those who have never had the experience, shooting sporting rifle, service rifle or benchrest-type competition well requires not only a good measure of natural skill, but the ability to focus body and mind to one purpose; all while eliminating any extraneous distractions or variables that might negatively impact your shot. It's an extremely difficult ability to develop and master fully and I remain in awe of the shooters who return triumphant from Bisley or Camp Peary each year, trophy in hand; having shot a group or target at a size or distance once thought impossible.

As impressive and difficult as these feats are, unless you're actually competing or shooting yourself, in most cases it is also as exciting as watching paint dry. All the drama, all the roiling of emotion and inner doubts is internalized by the shooter. Most experienced high power shooters essentially project an external aura of blank intensity when they're in "the zone." They make the difficult look easy and the impossible doable.

There is no question that such shooters are athletes of the highest order. To reach that pinnacle most competitors started shooting as kids, progressing from backyard plinking and BB guns to more formal competition and training as teens. They devote literally years of their life to becoming elite competitors and they sacrifice greatly in their effort to become the best shooter possible. In years past the Scouting movement, 4H and Army/Navy/Air Cadet movements offered youth the opportunity to develop and compete in formal sporting rifle competition. Perhaps the apex of many young men's or women's amateur sporting rifle career was to compete at their province's official Summer Games.

The 2012 Ontario Summer Games, scheduled for August, was to be just that for a number of talented young shooters, including Chris Baldwin, 18 and Sabrina Sergeant, 17. These two young people so-well exemplified the best qualities of their sport that they were chosen to serve as "youth ambassadors," and to help the host city of Toronto to promote the games to the public.

As part of their promotional duties, Chris and Sabrina were expected to attend a number of official functions and events, including the "World Record Camp Games." The latter event was intended to build up buzz and anticipation for Ontario's Summer Games by hosting a



series of organized athletic competitions across the dozens of summer day camps scattered throughout Toronto - on the same day and at the same time. City organizers hoped that by having all enrolled children participate under the one banner they could possibly set a new world record for “the most athletes competing in a multi-sport games event.” Organizers contended that such an event would “...*create awareness around the Games, as well as inspire youth throughout the Province to become active in sport and lead healthier, active lifestyles.*”

Certainly laudable goals that I’m sure would have the unqualified support of gun owners across the country. However, like so many law-abiding gun owners before them, young Chris and Sabrina found their rights and privileges sacrificed upon the altar of political correctness and unadulterated political pandering, - just days before the games were to begin. In a curtly worded E-mail, event organizers withdrew the honours bestowed upon the two amateur athletes, along with their invitation to attend the World Record Camp Games in their role as youth ambassadors. In the E-mail organizers state:

***...Due to the untimely shootings that have taken place in Scarborough and the City recently...we can no longer have the Sporting Rifle Athlete Ambassadors present on stage at the World Record Camp Games event.***

Chris and Sabrina, through no fault of their own, found themselves the latest victims of Toronto’s dirty little not-so-secret: Toronto has a gang-crime problem! It is ludicrous to attempt to make any sort of connection between the highly specialized world of competitive sporting rifle with the tragic events of the Eaton Center shootings or the July 16th Danzig St. block party shooting. The latter events involved criminal shooters, with known gang ties and extensive police records, demonstrating their complete lack of respect for the law, and a complete disregard for innocent lives.

The “alleged” Eaton Center shooter, Christopher Husbands, was actually under house arrest for a previous sexual assault at the time of the Eaton Center shooting. According to city records, Husbands had actually been employed by the city of Toronto as a after-school camp councillor, working with

6-12 year-old children until just a couple of weeks before the shootings. He’d been facing numerous additional gun charges from previous incidents, but had seen those dropped by the Crown.

Having never met either Chris or Sabrina, but having been extremely impressed by the poise with which they handled the ensuing media storm over their “disinvitation,” I checked out their ambassador profiles posted on the official 2012 Ontario Summer Games website to learn more about them.

According to his profile, Chris has been competing since he was 11 years old. Among his many honours and titles he currently is:

- The Overall National sporting rifle 3-position champion, and has been three years in a row.
- National Junior prone champion, and second place grand aggregate.
- Competed in the 2008 and 2010 Ontario Summer Games where he won triple gold medals.
- Provincial Junior champion in prone, 3-position, and grand aggregate.
- In air rifle was a gold and silver medalist at the 2011 Canada Winter Games and first place in 2009 at a Youth Olympic Games MQS match held in Colorado Springs, USA against youth from North and South America.

When he is not training, Chris likes to give back to his firearms community by coaching a multitude of younger shooters in various shooting disciplines and age ranges. His ultimate goal is to make the podium at the Olympics and he continues to train with that objective in mind. Chris is currently preparing for his first year of university, but in the meantime continues to train and coach religiously. It is his desire to, “...*introduce as many people to my sport as possible.*”

Sabrina Sergeant’s shooting career also began at a relatively early age and she has enjoyed much competitive success over the past five years as well. She competed at the 2010 Ontario Summer Games where she won gold in sporting rifle. Like Chris, she also enjoys shooting air rifle and has enjoyed success in this discipline as well. When asked about her love for the shooting sports, Sabrina responded by stating

that, "I enjoy the individuality of the sport, as well as the supporting, calm, and respectful environment put forth by the other athletes." According to her profile, Sabrina was looking forward to the 2012 Summer Games and "competing as a more experienced athlete."

So here you have two earnest, respectful, well-spoken young athletes whose accomplishments, character and demeanor caused them to stand out, from an already stellar field of amateur sport shooters; such that they were chosen to represent their entire sport as youth ambassadors. They obey the law, use their firearms responsibly, never horse-play with them, pose zero public safety risk, and may potentially represent our country at the Olympics in a few years. Hmm... Dare I say the ideal amateur athletes to, **"...create awareness around the Games, as well as inspire youth throughout the Province to become active in sport and lead healthier, active lifestyles."** That's a direct quote from the organizing committee spokesperson.

Yet rather than address the enduring complex socio-economic and gang-related problems that have been the bane of Ontario's elected representatives for several decades, Game organizers and the City of Toronto opted to throw these kids under the figurative bus; stripping them of their duties and publicly embarrassing them in the process.

That they saw fit to lump these fine young people with the likes of Christopher Husbands provides clear evidence of the hypocrisy that infects almost everything associated with the Toronto political machine. The city's website expounds upon the major boon such grand sporting events will be for the city's tourism sector and the long-term benefits of living a more active lifestyle for Torontonians. I'm sure it's true, but their hypocrisy is also most clearly highlighted by the assertion that as host to such events, Toronto demonstrates its support of amateur sports and athleticism.

In light of recent events I would assume such "support" is rather "qualified" if it involves a rifle. Remember, this is the same city that has been trumpeting its success in winning the bid for the 2015 Pan-American Games for several years, and which didn't have any problem using Chris and Sabrina to promote their city, the 2012 Summer Games or the upcoming Pan-American Games when it was convenient. However, thanks to "inconvenient timing" and the actions of a couple of know-nothing punks with criminal records a mile-long, Chris and Sabrina were essentially deemed persona non grata by the Mandarins in Toronto City Hall.

The latter preferred to sacrifice these two outstanding young people on the altar of political correctness, rather than have to justify to anti-gun elements and media representatives the presence of "lethal weapons" in their Summer Games. That such target rifles are virtually useless for any other purpose other than punching holes in paper is beside the point. In their hoplophobic worldview, GUNS=EVIL, GUNS=VIOLENCE, GUNS=DEATH and they are

incapable of differentiating between a \$4000.00 semi-custom target rifle and a mass produced 9mm Glock pistol illegally smuggled into the country from the USA.

Although I'm sure it was cold comfort to either Chris or Sabrina, the spokesperson ordered to withdraw their invitation recognized that the decision made little sense and apologized for having to take such unnecessary actions.

What the anti-gun elements within city hall failed to realize was just how badly this decision would play throughout Canada's recreational firearms community. The shoddy treatment of Chris and Sabrina was simply inexcusable and patently unfair. Not surprisingly, the backlash was immediate and overwhelming. Unprepared for the ferocity of this fallout, City of Toronto staff were forced to bow to public outrage and criticism from the sports community and reversed their decision to bar the two youth shooters from the scheduled events and ceremony. In response to Canadian Firearms Journal queries, Senior Communications Advisor Deborah Blackstone released the following message:

Upon further reflection, and discussion with the Games Organizing Committee, the City of Toronto regrets the decision that was communicated...and supports the participation of all athlete ambassadors in the on stage welcoming ceremony of the World Record Camp Games. The athlete ambassadors representing the sport shooting have been invited to participate in the welcoming ceremony at the World Record Camp Games.

The City of Toronto very much values the participation of all Ontario Summer Games athlete ambassadors in the World Record Camp Games event and looks forward to hosting all athletes representing all 28 sporting events at the 2012 Ontario Summer Games.

So, win one for the good guys, right? Not quite. While I'm sure we're all pleased that this terrible decision was reversed, that it happened at all is even more troubling. It is obvious gun owners have to become more vocal in their own defence. Twenty-five years ago another much-maligned minority that was expected to keep quiet and not make waves finally grew fed-up with their mistreatment at the hands of the biased and bigoted. Saying "No More!" - they embraced their differences and uniqueness, and threw all the hatred, bigotry and ignorance that was once heaped upon them back in the

*“Canada has a proud and diverse gun culture. That we enjoy exercising our right to own, collect and use firearms is not some dirty little secret that we must be embarrassed about or should hide from friends and neighbours.”*

faces of the small-minded, ignorant and petty tyrants that tried to keep them down. Today Canada's Gay, Lesbian and Transgendered community enjoy widespread acceptance, each year there is a parade in their honour held on the streets of Toronto and the entire weekend has become a massive revenue-generating entity, as special events, parties and charity events are hosted across the GTA.

Canadian gun owners, unfortunately, find themselves in the exact same position as Canada's gay community a quarter century ago. Liberal social re-engineering initiatives and a hostile “mainstream” media have contributed to forcing law-abiding gun owners into the role of the unwanted, red-haired stepchild.

The public has been indoctrinated to view gun owners as potential spree-killers or as lunatic-gunmen-in-waiting. Those within our firearms community who prefer to own handguns, or compete with modern sporting rifles like the AR-15 (demonized as dreaded “assault rifles) are viewed even more negatively. The gun control lobby continue to argue that such firearms are only designed to do one thing, KILL! That this assertion is patently untrue is besides the point to gun control supporters.

As for the gun control lobby's pocket politicians, they've always been more inclined to pander to their anti-gun base, rather than actually take steps to deal with the root cause of gun crime in Canada. Instead, such politicians have always preferred the grand public policy gesture that makes them seem to be doing something about the problem, rather than actually working to solve their community's ills. Issues of race, poverty and the break-down of the nuclear family are strictly verboten.

As a result, kids like Chris Baldwin and Sabrina Sergeant are thrown under the “progressive” media bus in the vain hope of making Toronto's gang-crime problem go away. That kids such as Chris and Sabrina are no longer off the table marks a new low in the on-going battle over gun control. Chris and Sabrina were chosen as youth ambassadors for their sport for a reason. They represent the best and brightest their generation has to offer. They can set an example for all those disadvantaged, “at-risk” kids who come from broken homes, are dealing with poverty issues, or are forced to get by with

just a single parent to love and care for them. Many of these same kids unfortunately end up joining gangs in search of the support, discipline and structure that is otherwise lacking in their lives.

Sports, including the shooting sports, are a fantastic way in which to divert such disadvantaged kids from choosing the wrong path. Organized sports can open-up many new options and opportunities for such kids and show them that they can have a different future if they are willing to work for it. Instead of focusing on this fact, Toronto politicians went for the cheap stunt and banned them from the events in question; perhaps counting on the old maxim of “out of sight, out of mind?”

I've got news for such politicians: Canada has a proud and diverse gun culture. That we enjoy exercising our right to own, collect and use firearms is not some dirty little secret that we must be embarrassed about or should hide from friends and neighbours. Statistically speaking, licensed gun owners in Canada are the most law-abiding, responsible, and trust-worthy demographic in the entire country. These facts are indisputable and are available for all to review on Statistics Canada and the RCMP databases. In fact, it can be argued that Canada's gun owners are the citizen model that all others should aspire to, rather than denigrate, as the left-wing media does all too often.

Canadian gun owners need to take a page from Canada's gay community a quarter century ago and to start standing up for ourselves more often and more vocally. We enjoy a rich and unique culture, and regardless whether the left-wing, “progressive” elements like it or not, Canada has a proud gun culture. It is one that I'm extremely thankful to be a part of. From this day onward, I'm committed to making it a point to share my passion with anyone who'll listen. It's time we did a little social re-engineering of our own!

Incidentally, the World Record Camp Games took place at the end of July. With 28 sports included in the Summer Games and two ambassadors per each sport, a total of 56 youth ambassadors were selected to participate. Only four showed up; Chris and Sabrina, our two Sporting Rifle ambassadors, another from Skeet and one from Fencing.



# TEAM NFA Update

By Grayson Penney

## ROB "FANG" ENGH

Rob was heading to Europe for a mini-race tour at our last update. I'm happy to report that he is safe and sound and back on Canadian soil. The tour was a success in that Rob shot pretty well, comparatively speaking, and managed to post a 53rd place finish at the big Czech shoot.

According to Rob, the Czechs once again put on an amazing match, with a strong emphasis on physical conditioning, plus straight up shooting ability. Unfortunately, it would seem Rob wasn't quite as recovered as he believed prior to heading to Europe. It isn't surprising that Rob wasn't happy with his ranking at the end of the competition, with him being far more used to placing much, much higher. However, even he acknowledges that he was still far from recovered from his knee injury and that definitely affected his performance. Nevertheless, his numbers weren't totally dreadful and he still managed to turn in a performance that actually hit some 68.11% of champion shooter Eric Grauffel. Incidentally, Grauffel is now shooting Production Division!

Compounding Rob's troubles in Czech was the fact that he'd just endured the rigors of a 21 hour drive to the Czech Republic from Norway, after competing there as well. A strike at the Norwegian Airport necessitated the road trip, and being cramped up in a vehicle almost a full day didn't do Rob's knee any favours. Between the impromptu road trip and competing in two major matches in less than 4 days, Rob

found his energy reserves all but depleted by Day 2 of the Czech shoot.

That was unfortunate, as Day 1 had seen Rob turn in solid performances on most stages and even he called it a "good day." Unfortunately, he was not able to keep up the same frenetic pace and momentum on the second day of the competition. Getting his second wind on Day 3, Rob rallied his energies and managed to pull himself out of what he describes as his self-made "hole," noting that, "I salvaged what I think was a decent performance in the end."

If nothing else, Rob will take from the match a recognition that he has to temper that drive to compete and dominate with the recognition that he has to allow his body time and rest in order to fully heal. He returned to Canada a few weeks ago, with a new appreciation for the havoc international travel and competition can play on his body; and noted that the associated negative fall-out from such adventures can hit when you least expect it.

For all his trials and tribulations, Rob remains upbeat and is effusive in his praise for the Czech match. The experience, in his words, "Was awesome," and he acknowledged that being "squaded" with another group of such amazing shooters as he was - was truly humbling. He asked to say a special thanks to, Angus Hobdell, Ljubisa Momcilovic, Frank Garcia, Maria Gushina, Lars Hagemann for making the

shoot such a pleasure. Summarizing the match, Rob called it a, “Phenomenal learning experience, and just plain fun - one of the best matches of the year on a great range with great hosts.”

Back in Canada, Rob really didn't let too much grass grow between his toes and hit the competition circuit again running, taking two second places to Nick King at the Nanaimo Qualifiers, again held on Vancouver Island.

Still unable to run properly, or go to low positions very well, Rob is happy with the performance. Luckily for him, his home club of Abbotsford now offers Steel Challenge shoots, which doesn't require much movement, and the competition there is expected to be fierce. The club's first USPSA/Steel Challenge sanctioned matches were scheduled for the weekend of July 28th and 29th.

This is actually a ground-breaking event of sorts, according to Rob, as it is the first time in Canada for such a sanctioned match. That it happened at all is due in no small part to Rob working with the CFO to gain approval for club members and visitors to legally shoot steel targets at 7 yards. This changes previous BC CFO policy of permitting the shooting of steel targets at no closer than 10m with pistols. According to Rob, he had the range inspector come out and watch them demo on 7yard steel to prove that it's safe. In the end, the demo went extremely well and the club is just waiting on the

official paperwork to arrive.

August will probably pose Rob's biggest challenge of the season, as he is slated to leave August 1st for Brandon, MB and the Canadian Nationals. Rob is looking forward to competing with everyone from across the country again and getting reacquainted with old friends and good-natured rivals. He's also bringing along a new pistol for this match. Rob recently changed things up and is now running a new 2012 Canadian Edition CZ Shadow. Thus far Rob says he is simply amazed by the new pistol. According to him, the new special edition offers a “massive improvement” on the standard Shadow, thanks perhaps due in no small part to its hand fit frame, slide and barrel. Rob informed me that the new Shadow has already passed the 2000 round challenge (no cleaning or lubing for 2000 rounds) without any issues and he expects that it will prove equally reliable in competition. Best of luck Rob!

## MEGAN HEINICKE

Chatting with Megan recently there is no question in my mind that she is as focused as she's ever been on maximizing her training time and efficiency, - while keeping her eyes on the prize of a winning race season. Last season had been



a series of highs and lows for her and unfortunately the trend was to continue this past June as her husband and coach iLmar took a bad spill on a downhill during the first stage of the Tour de TransAlp bike race. His front tire blew out which caused a crash and ultimately put iLmar in hospital with a broken hip.

Such a sudden and violent event would shake almost anyone to their core, but both iLmar and Megan, in addition to being totally committed to each other, are also consummate professionals. They broke down things clinically and decided that the Tour de TransAlp offered too much valuable training time and experience to abandon the opportunity. Their joint decision was made for Megan to continue the grueling seven-stage race alone. In addition to her professionalism, the race also highlighted her improved physical conditioning from the same period last year. Following her return to the course, Megan posted race times that would have been good enough for 5th, 4 x 4th and finally a 3rd place in the women's division. Unfortunately these times remain unofficial, as a result of her departure from the first stage following iLmar's accident and hospitalization.

The Tour de TransAlp and the month of June would ultimately mark the last month of dedicated cycling/road work per Megan's current training regime, as she switched focus to more ski-specific training exercises. Despite everything that happened, June was ultimately a fantastic training success for Megan. Some of June's training highlights included:

- Megan setting a new personal best for the 3000m run with 11:11.
- Megan achieving a new best time for her grueling uphill double-poling test that kicked-off this spring's training regime.
- Incorporating mini-video cameras into the training process, this allowed for immediate technique feedback, and really helped Megan identify

areas for immediate improvement to her training regime and current techniques. That should translate into improved performance on the race course in the upcoming race season.

When Megan wasn't riding her bike or training for a race, she was at the range focusing on improving her rifle technique. Based on performance, Megan is actually a better than average rifle shot, by biathlon standards. However, she remains critical of her skill set, claiming that she needs further work to become the "excellent precision shooter" she wants to be.

Consequently, most of June's range time focused on position and precision shooting drills, including putting an additional 1000 precision rounds down range compared to the same period last year. Megan noted that while she found that the new regime took a lot of extra mental focus to stay calm and patient, and not to rush the shot, she was rewarded with some new personal bests. It is her hope that this progress will serve to lay an even better groundwork for the high heart rate shooting that will be demanded of her come race season.

By the end of the month her coach was already shifting the focus to set-up speed. As any high-level competitor knows, it is critical to have a smooth and efficient set-up when fractions of a second count. Even losing just a second or two per shooting bout would add up to 10 seconds by the race's end, and that could be the difference between a spot on the podium or falling out of the top 10.

According to Megan, she trained for this by starting most of her shooting sessions with standard "drills," which involved sets of 10 prone set-ups, followed by 10 standing set-ups without pause. A prone set-up should take 8 seconds and a standing set-up 7 seconds. Under her regime, anytime she fell behind the target time she was required to do 10 push-ups for every imperfect set-up. I'm sure that served

as a definite source of motivation for Megan, all things considered!

July also brought with it a new focus on combo training (shooting, combined with a wide variety of physical activity). Of course, shooting with a high heart rate is critical in biathlon so the entire month saw Megan and her trainers combine shooting with just about every physical activity they could imagine, including: roller-skiing skate technique, roller-skiing classic technique, running, bounding, Parcour course, team relays and mountain biking!

Megan informed me that she even competed in the first ever "Biatrilon" as a fun competition which involved a 6km uphill roller-ski transitioning to 60 shots (1 min penalty per miss) with a 500m running loop between each bout and then transitioning to a road ride wrapping up with an 8km uphill to the finish. Megan credits her improved shooting skills for her 2nd place finish, allowing her to also beat the junior men as well!

Summer 2012 really has been a "summer of firsts" for Megan. She has also added one more new focus to her training this summer: building max strength. According to Megan, after several weeks of regular sessions lifting close to her 'one rep max' in a variety of exercises, there is no question that she is stronger than she has ever been before. She remains excited to see what this new-earned strength can bring to her skiing performance in the months to come. For now, Megan is heading to a high-altitude training camp in Andermatt, Switzerland, where she'll train for most of August. Megan is no stranger to Andermatt and is looking forward to three weeks of hardcore roller-skiing, shooting and training at altitude in the Swiss Alps

She asked that I make a special effort to pass along her heartfelt thanks to all NFA members and readers of Canadian Firearms Journal who have

been following her career and that of her fellow TEAM NFA members. If you'd like to pass along messages of support you can contact Megan or Matt via their blogs or drop Rob a note via Facebook.

## MATT NEUMANN

Summer 2012 has been an especially busy time for our favourite male biathlete. He's still training at the Canmore facility, but is kept hopping; attempting to balance his training with a part-time work schedule, while also dealing with a lack of motorized transportation (no car) and training 12-25 hours a week. Ideally, he'd like to spend 100% of his available time in training/recovery, but such is the life of the talented amateur Canadian athlete.

Matt tells me that after getting home in the evening, his usually routine is to fix dinner and then go straight to bed for a 5AM start to his work day on the nearby golf course. After work and during free periods, he concentrates on road work and strength training, trying to keep his body in peak physical condition.

Amazingly enough, Matt has somehow found the time to compete in an impressive array of races and events so far this summer including racking up a slew of top five and top ten finishes, including:

- Banff Bike Fest (Banff AB June 14-17th) -
- 2nd in the 1.5km Prologue.
- 2nd in the 21km Time Trial.
- 3rd in the 30km Criterion Rundle Mountain Stage Race (Canmore AB July 14-15th) -
- 3rd in the 4.5km Prologue.
- 6th in the 20km Criterion.
- 2nd 74.5km Road Race.
- 2nd overall in the stage race.

According to Matt he's won more prize money in his first year of road racing than all of last year in Biathlon. He maintains his sense of humor, adding that given his circumstances, it's clear that athletes like himself are certainly not racing biathlon for any financial benefits! This is sad, but true, for most amateur athletes and even Olympic hopefuls. However, Matt remains upbeat and far from being bitter, quietly added that, "It's because we [athletes] have a deep passion for the sport and improving ourselves that we keep doing it."

Matt noted that while he loves cycling and has had a lot of fun racing this year; his primary focus is still skiing faster and hitting all the targets. Cycling has been an important part of his training and he acknowledges that he has gained invaluable race experience that can be directly translated to biathlon competition as a result. The problems and trying



situations he encountered while on the cycling race circuit presented him with many new experiences and situations that required him to observe, analyze and to develop a solution for, - all while also learning to cope with the extra stress such extreme situations create.

Perhaps the highest profile event Matt has participated in this summer has been the annual "Biathlon National Team Festival." Every year the National team has a series of shooting and physical tests in Canmore/Banff in the spring/summer, which serves as a bench mark form year to year. Matt's schedule only permitted him to participate in two events this year (The first uphill roller-ski being on his birthday July 11th). The results:

- 6th - Uphill double pole Norquay 6km (July 11th).
- 3rd - Uphill roller-ski Norquay 6km (July 13th).

Matt had a solid time and race the second day and used the first day as a "mental warm-up." From his perspective it was a good indication of where he stacked-up compared to the top guys in Canada and allowed him to see how far he needs to go to bridge that last gap. Overall, Matt was pleased with his results and times and feels he's in a good place heading into next season. Of course, he also noted that he still had a long summer ahead with a lot of significant training ahead of him. He finished our interview, wryly commenting that, "a lot can happen in a couple of months and I'm focused on making the most of it!"

# BERTRAM BULLET COMPANY

## MAKING A CARTRIDGE CASE


### - PART II

By Darrell Hartwick

Watching the drawing process of a Bertram brass cartridge case, from beginning to end was an amazing learning experience. While the process is based on a precise scientific knowledge of metallurgy, at the same time it is almost elegant in its simplicity. Independent of the cartridge cases to be made, the starting point for almost any cartridge case is a small “cup” that has been punched out of sheets of 70/30 brass. This combination of zinc and copper is the standard for cartridge cases and is used by cartridge manufacturers around the world because it provides the best combination of strength and durability. While Bertram has the cupping presses to do this work, the pre-formed cups are sourced out of Asia from sub-contractors who must meet Bertram’s strict standards in order to gain acceptance.

In the drawing process the brass cups are progressively run through a number of dies that lengthen the cup to the size needed for a given case. At each drawing the brass becomes increasingly more limited in the number of cases that it can be used for. At the first or second draw a cup can be routed to as many as 10 – 15 different cases and this is one of the ways that Bertram is able to maintain production efficiencies. By doing large runs of cups and not taking them to the final stages, they can be routed to whatever types of cases are scheduled to be produced.

One of the reasons that drawing a case results in superior strength and resilience compared to turning one from brass stock is that as the brass is pushed through a die and stretches,



*Bins of drawn blanks are waiting to be directed to specific manufacturing lines and could be turned into various finished cases.*





the grain structure becomes enhanced. However, at the same time the drawing also work-hardens the brass - something that is desirable for the head of the case but not for the neck and shoulder region

When a round is fired the propellant gases expand the case to provide a positive seal and prevent them from bleeding back into the action. Hence having a soft flexible neck is important. During the drawing process, if the brass is

too hard, it will not draw properly and can damage the dies. Between each drawing the cups are annealed to maintain the correct hardness. When they are removed from the annealing furnaces the characteristic brass colour is changed to a silvery patina due to oxidation of minute amounts of zinc on the metal's surface.

After the final drawing the blank is trimmed to a suitable length for a given cartridge before it is formed further. This way excess metal is removed so that it does not interfere with subsequent stages.

Once the blank is the proper dimensions, it is streamed to the production area where the cylindrical drawing is converted into a case. The headstamp and primer pocket is one of those things we all take for granted yet how they are formed onto the case is a case-study in complex simplicity.

A cylindrical drawing is picked up by a ram that forces it into a header die which carries the reverse impression of the headstamp and primer pocket. Under immense pressure the brass "flows" around the raised details on the die. As the



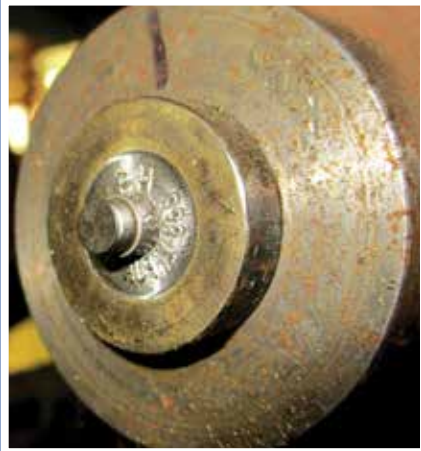
*The trimmer cuts surplus material from the formed blank before it is formed into a finished case*



*The case head after it has impacted the heading die (L Top) that carries the headstamp in reverse (Bottom - L).*

ram withdraws the case falls into the collection bin with only the hole in the primer pocket yet to be punched.

The next step is to form the case to its final dimensions and trim it to length. This step is crucial to have a case that will chamber and function perfectly. Unlike the sizing dies that we use – that only return a case body to its initial dimensions, the dies at Bertram’s force material both in the head and body of the case to the correct specification. As the primer hole is formed, the head of the case can expand beyond what would be acceptable and by sizing the case down past the web, it ensures that it will chamber properly.



After the primer hole is punched, the case goes to a have the rim and/or extractor groove cut. While the dies are made to extremely tight tolerances, parameters such as rim thickness, diameter and concentricity can only be obtained by turning them. If it is a rimless case the extractor groove is



cut at the same time. With older cases, these dimensions can vary quite a bit so Bertram has an extensive list of “official” dimensions that they work from.



*The case forming dies are similar to those that we use to handload except these are heavier and held to exacting tolerances. Depending on the case the number of sizing dies will vary.*



*Left: An annealed case shows the characteristic coloration due to the heating of the brass. Above: The annealing station softens the shoulder/neck to ensure long case life.*

The final manufacturing step is to anneal the case neck and shoulder area in order to improve case life, especially for handloaders who will repeatedly reload and size the brass. In addition, if the neck is too hard it will not expand and seal the chamber properly which can result in gas blowing back into the action. With older rifle designs this is an important safety consideration.

No case is really finished until it is bright and shiny, since we all judge a case by the degree of polish, even though the degree of shine has no effect on the performance of the brass. Once the cases are formed they are cleaned to remove lubricant used during the drawing process, as well as the oxides that form at the various stages. Before leaving the manufacturing plant every piece of brass is left bright and shiny. Only then do the cases go to packaging where they are boxed and prepped for shipping.

With a product list of over 150 cases it would be impossible to make them to order. Instead, unlike a lot of companies, Bertram inventories significant amounts of each one. Obviously there will be times when a particular case will be temporarily out of stock. However, after seeing their standard inventories such incidences must be exceedingly rare.

In these increasingly difficult economic times, the Bertram Bullet Company has the distinction of being not only a sustainable, but a growing business. Yet it is more than that. By supplying obsolete and correctly headstamped cases to the handloading market, it has kept countless firearms in operation around the world. While it may be possible to make or form some obsolete or rare cases using more readily available brass, i.e., forming

9X57 Mauser by running an 8X57 case through a forming die, the headstamps will not be correct. Besides, this obvious detail being wrong, some countries insist on the headstamp matching the rifle's marked caliber for legal reasons.

By producing brass for old rifles and handguns, and exporting it around the world, Bertram's has given us all a chance to shoot guns that otherwise would be silent today. So regardless if it is your father's old .303 Savage lever action, a .400/350 Nitro or a big bruiser like the .505 Gibbs, Bertram can most likely get you shooting again. If you haven't already done so, why not give some thought to breaking out that dusty old milsurp or family heirloom that has been pushed to the back of your closet for years and putting some of Bertram's fantastic brass to work!





# Member's Soapbox:

## One Down, Many More to Go

By NFA Member Chris McGarry

Ding-dong, the witch is finally dead! After 17 years of bureaucratic grief brought about by a useless make-work project that “only” cost taxpayers \$2 billion; this past April the Conservatives demonstrated the political will to abolish the much-maligned long-gun registry. By doing so they removed a very large and unneeded burden from Canada’s millions of hunters, farmers and sportsmen.

As members of the firearms community celebrate this small, yet historic victory, gun orgs like NFA are already gearing up for the next big fight. Hopefully we’ll see another swift victory culminating in the complete overhaul of Canada’s intrusive, nonsensical, and unfair Firearms Act. Common sense public policy-making demands it. Unfortunately, it seems to me that common sense has been an increasingly scarce commodity in Canadian public-policy making for several decades or more.

Back in the mid-1990s, the Liberal government of Jean Chretien saw an excellent opportunity to expand its voter-base by capitalizing on the public horror and outrage over the 1989 tragedy of l’ecole Polytechnique; crassly dubbed the “Montreal Massacre” by the mainstream media. At that time, the needless deaths of so many promising young women were still fresh on the minds of Canadians. The Liberal’s new gun control program was intended to appeal directly to not only urban Quebecers, but to “gun-shy,” latte-sipping intellectuals and urban dwellers in English Canada; along with various anti-gun and generally left-wing “progressive” elements in our society. It was an easy sell for the latter groups, as they had always opposed civilian ownership of firearms anyway.

All the same, the crucial addition for the Liberals proved to be the tens of thousands of upper and middle-class suburban soccer moms who swallowed their anti-gun propaganda hook, line & sinker.

From one end of the country to the other, the Liberals ensured that their new Firearms Act offered a little something for every gun control advocacy group in the country. Ultimately, the losers were law-abiding gun owners. They found their basic rights and freedoms, - rights and freedoms established by almost a thousand years of English Common Law, sacrificed on the altar of political correctness in order for the Liberals to guarantee another electoral victory.

Despite hard evidence clearly showing that tighter gun laws are counterproductive, then Justice Minister Allan Rock was bound and determined to make his dream a reality. Subsequently, his Firearms Act gave us what I like to call the “unholy trinity” of registration, licensing and safe storage provisions.

If totalitarian-style gun registration wasn’t a hard enough pill to swallow, hardworking and law-abiding Canadians; citizens who had never been in trouble with the law before, suddenly found themselves potentially facing criminal charges if they failed to obtain a firearms license. These are individuals who had been safe gun owners for years, if not decades, and whose old shotguns or hunting rifles had quite literally been in their families for generations.

Be that as it may, they faced the real threat of becoming “paper criminals” if they failed to obtain a license to possess their own property! This, my fellow Canadians, is why licensing is the single biggest

affront to the cause of natural justice in Canada today, and it is why it must be abolished. There has been some questions raised that Canadians no longer enjoy the right to own firearms as property since the Trudeau Liberals deliberately failed to include them in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Nonetheless, an argument can be made that such a belief is a fallacy. What most gun control advocates choose to ignore, or perhaps conveniently forget, is that the much reviled American Second Amendment and the gun rights it seeks to protect, is based upon the same English Common Law as our own constitution. That the right to own firearms is not specifically laid out does not necessarily mean that they are precluded under our legal traditions.

Still, the ill-informed among us, (including many gun-grabbing politicians) have unsuccessfully tried to justify the need for firearms licensing by equating it to the wholly dissimilar process of vehicle licensing and registration. However, this argument is a non-starter. Anyone with half a brain and a heartbeat is able to figure out that vehicle licensing is required only if one chooses to drive on Her Majesty’s highways. In this respect it is a “user-pay” system, very much like the requirement to purchase hunting or fishing licenses. As such, your car, like guns or fishing rods, is property. Under the law you can own an unlimited number of vehicles without ever having to obtain a license to drive one or register it with the government. The same goes for your fishing rod, yet guns, for some reason, no longer qualify according to gun control advocates.

Owning a car that we can drive on public roads is a privilege. We aren’t born with the

right to drive a 5,000 lb. hunk of steel and plastic 100 km/h across the country. In order to avail ourselves of this privilege we are required to register our cars and pay a fee for the service. The monies we pay are then used to maintain and build new highways. This is where the user-pay system comes in. If you don't drive, you don't have to pay. It's the same for hunting and fishing. The money fishermen and hunters spend on their permits is used to pay for the conservation efforts required to protect and preserve our natural environment and wildlife. If we don't drive on a public highway or opt to hunt or fish, we do not have to obtain a license or register with the government. Most importantly, there is no threat of potential prosecution if we choose not to obtain a special license or registration, while still choosing to legally own a car or truck, or even a fly rod.

Firearms are different. The Liberal's failed Firearms Act saw to that. Before C-68, guns were simply considered property and they were bought, sold, traded and bartered for on a daily basis by thousands of law-abiding gun owners and citizens. After C-68, all such transactions were criminalized. The only way to avoid prosecution was to obtain a de facto "get out of jail free card" from the government in the form of a firearms license. With the stroke of a pen, the Chretien Government turned an almost thousand year-old right into a privilege.

There was no rhyme or reason for this action, other than crass political opportunism. That there was virtually no risk to the public safety was irrelevant. In fact, there have probably been more innocent civilians killed in traffic collisions on Canadian highways each year than have been slain by legally held firearms in the last two decades. Perhaps it is the economy of scale? A dozen innocent deaths at the hands of a mentally-ill madman are a tragedy; yet 3,000 vehicular deaths a year are merely a statistic? The logic here escapes me. Somehow the one inanimate object, the gun, is demonized and by association so too is its owner, while the other is blithely accepted as a necessary part of our daily lives no matter the thousands who die in one every year. It's ridiculous!

Then there is the issue of "safe storage." Interestingly, it was the "progressive" movement's most revered poster-boy for social re-engineering, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who once said that

government has no place in the bedrooms of its citizens. However, his ideological successors apparently disagreed; subsequently forcing government's unwanted attentions on gun owners, including in their own homes by imposing draconian "safe storage" requirements on them. Since then charges of "un-safe storage" have become the most prevalent charge levied against Canadian gun owners. On this topic, to quote pro-gun Calgary West MP Rob Anders: "These provisions pervert a sense of natural justice." But then again, the left has never really been about "justice."

As such, it is extremely difficult to reconcile the often contrarian positions on civil rights adopted by the political left in Canada. They seem completely oblivious to their own blatant hypocrisy. Yet, most still truly see themselves as defenders of civil liberty, despite whole-heartedly approving government regulations that strip those of law-abiding gun owners.

What would it take for them to recognize the reality of their perversely contradictory positions on civil rights? Imagine if the government passed a new law allowing police to enter any home, without a warrant, simply to check if all medicines, cleaners and sharp objects were safely locked up nice and secure; since a child could potentially be harmed or even killed if not. There is no question in my mind that the same groups, that support such intrusive safe storage laws for firearms, would be just as irate as gun owners if the same regulations and legal obligations were applied to their property and homes. They excuse and justify the government trampling upon the rights of legal gun owners by arguing that if such measures saves just one life it is worth it. I wonder if they'd feel the same if the proverbial shoe was on the other foot? I think not.

Though Canada's history is more civil and a bit less violent than that of the United States, we too have a proud firearms heritage in this country going back hundreds of years. Nevertheless, it's kind of funny, but sad, that certain Canadians seem to enjoy boasting of our moral superiority over our "less couth, gun-toting cousins" to the south. I find such ignorance and arrogance embarrassing as a Canadian.

Over the past few decades, gun control has become popular in regions of the country rife with anti-Americanism. "We don't

have their crime rates, so we don't need American-style gun laws," was a statement I've heard far too often in this country. While it is true that the overall crime rate in Canada has been falling since the 1970s, the nature of many violent crimes has become increasingly vicious and the fact remains that many Canadian provinces actually have higher crime rates than their corresponding American border states.

In recent years, incidents such as the senseless and brutal slayings of Manitoba's Tim MacLean and Halifax gay-rights activist Raymond Taavel, are proof that Canada is far from being a peaceful utopia and dangerous individuals do indeed stalk the streets of our cities. As such, it might be time for those same progressive elites to climb down off that morally superior pedestal they so love.

While I do not believe it is necessary for Canada to mimic the U.S.A, in all things, it is obvious that we do need a concerted push for legislation that fully protects the rights of law-abiding gun owners; while still placing maximum emphasis on control of the criminal use of firearms & firearms trafficking. A good place to start is the complete overhaul of the Firearms Act, or preferably its replacement. In addition to resolving outstanding licensing and storage issues, the registration issue also needs to be put to rest once and for all. This means also scrapping the equally pointless twin to the failed long-gun registry, otherwise known as the restricted/prohibited firearms (handgun) registry. It is simply just another hollow symbol of failed public policy-making that has been around since the 1930s; a symbol that has yet to prevent a single crime or save just one life at the cost of hundreds of millions of tax dollars. The waste must end!

Governments, now and in the future, will have to recognize our firearms rights, heritage and culture. At least if what has transpired in recent years is any indication. It would seem that Canada's firearms community is simply not content to just sit back and let the gun banners run rampant any longer. Perhaps they've finally grasped the object lessons offered by the Australian and British and are finally heeding the warnings. Whatever the reason, Canadian gun owners seem to have finally taken the initiative. Hopefully we'll keep it. For now, the demise of the hated long gun registry means that there's one down, but many more to go. Let's get to work!

# GUNS N' GEAR

## VORTEX Razor Red Dot Sight

[www.vortexcanada.net](http://www.vortexcanada.net)

By Al Voht

Photo credits: Al Voht. Select images used with permission of Vortex Canada.

Sighting devices that utilize red dots instead of crosshairs aren't anything new, they've been available for years. However, the latest generation of these sights are smaller, lighter, more rugged and brighter than anything that has come before. So far, all of those adjectives seem to apply to a new red dot sight from Vortex I've been working with for the last two months.

Vortex has assigned this sight a spot in their Razor line, which means it's the best they make. At less than two inches long it's also the smallest sight they produce and one of the most versatile. There are mounting options for fitting onto the slide of many semi-auto handguns and onto Weaver or Picatinny rails of long guns. I got mine with the latter two mounting options and have so far tried it on two different firearms.

There's no doubt that reflex red dot sights like this one are perfect for close and fast shooting situations. That's one of the reasons three-gun

competitors often have them on their guns. However, I wanted to see what sort of accuracy this one is capable of at longer range, especially since I got mine with the smaller (3 MOA vs. 6 MOA) version of the two dot sizes available. But before clamping it to the rail atop my AR-180B, I shot five round groups at 50 and 100 yards using the optical 2-7X scope that normally resides on this gun. Then I switched to the Vortex red dot, repeated the test and looked at the results. Overall, the scope at 7X averaged only 0.35 MOA tighter groups than the red dot. And with a 1.60 MOA group at 100 yards, the Vortex proved itself capable of



### Vortex Razor Red Dot Specifications

Magnification	1 x
Eye Relief	Unlimited
Dot Size	3 MOA
Adjustment Graduation	1 MOA
Max Elevation Adjustment	170 MOA
Max Windage Adjustment	114 MOA
Parallax Setting	Parallax free
Length	1.83 inches
Weight	1.4 ounces

Left: The tiny Vortex Razor red dot sight was used to shoot this 1.6" group at 100 yards. Pictured here, next to several rounds of .223 REM, readers can appreciate just how compact it really is.

Right: Mounted on a non-restricted AR-180B, this Vortex sight will be superimposing its red dot onto coyotes this winter.

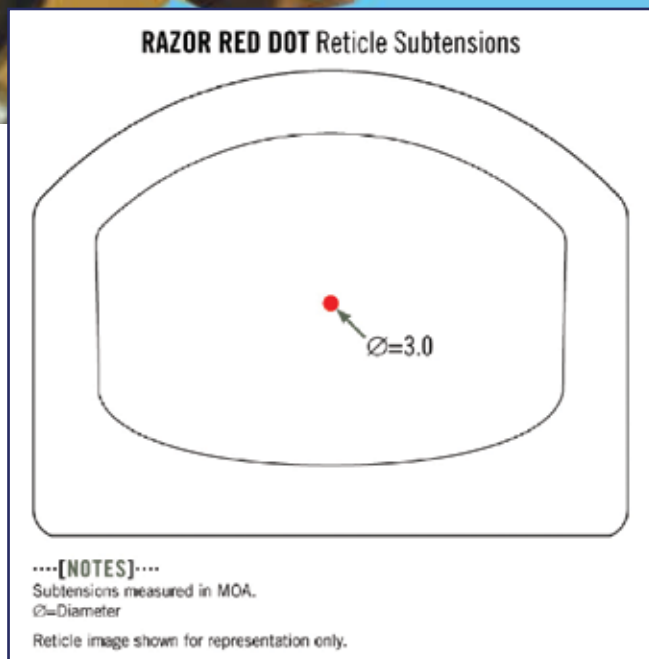


surprising accuracy. I'll definitely be trying it on coyotes this winter and there's no reason this sight wouldn't work just fine on a short range deer rifle.

Like most red dot sights of its type there is no magnification of the

image, it's parallax free and the brightness of the dot is adjustable. The sight is easily zeroed using elevation and windage dials with 1 MOA click adjustments, which lock in place to ensure nothing moves when it shouldn't. A snap on/off plastic cover protects the sight when not in use and the whole thing is powered by a small CR 2032 battery that is protected from absent minded shooters like me, by circuitry which automatically shuts down after six hours.

From the AR, I moved the sight onto a pistol/carbine that's a marriage between a Colt 1911 in .45 and a HERA-ARMS CPE. This is a fun-gun that is particularly easy for novices to shoot and I always take it along when new shooters come to the range with me. The rail running along the top of this unit is perfect for mounting the Vortex and a morning burning through a pile of ammo showed just how slick this sight works inside the 50 yard mark. Stacking bullets on top of



each other and chewing the centre out of paper targets is fast and easy. I didn't quit until I ran out of ammo.

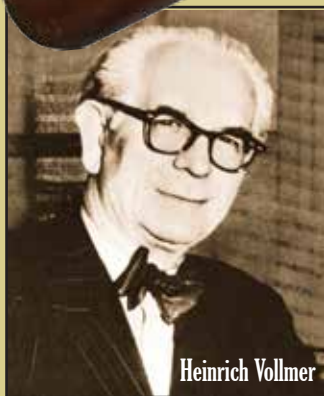
The Vortex has performed perfectly so far and I see no reason why that won't continue. If there is a problem, the sight is covered by a warranty which guarantees lifetime repair or replacement for any manufacturing defects. So, now I'm torn as to where this sight will find a permanent home. It's great on either of the two guns already mentioned, and it would also work fine on a shotgun of mine. What to do? Where do I put it? Looks like the only solution is to buy one more.

# The EMP 36

Michael Heidler, with Sean G. Penney



## — The missing link



L: Heinrich Vollmer (\* 26. July 1885 / + 1. July 1961), one of Germany's most famous arms engineers. His company "Vollmer-Werke", founded in 1909, is still in existence and produces grinding and eroding machines.



The first official manual D(Luft) 5602 showing the new MP 38. The muzzle is protected by a removable cap.

At the beginning of 1938 the Erfurter Maschinenfabrik (ERMA) received an official order for the development of a new submachine gun from the Heereswaffenamt (Office for Army Weapons). Just a few months later, at the beginning of June 1938, ERMA presented the "Maschinenpistole MP 38." This achievement is most impressive, especially given such a short time interval from concept to working firearm. Not surprisingly, the speed with which ERMA was able to present their new machine pistol raised many suspicions that perhaps rather than starting from scratch, the ERMA design team already had near-completed blueprints sitting on their design table. Once the official call came, it was a relatively simple matter to refine the design and get it ready for the unveiling. The naysayers guessed correctly. History tells us that the MP 38 wasn't a complete new construction by any means, but rather the advancement of a nearly unknown predecessor model: the EMP 36.

Their history begins sometime during the secret rearmament period, following Hitler's seizure of power in the year 1933. Today it is not easy to shed light onto the darkness of that time as so much documentation and records were lost during the war. The full story and exact circumstances surrounding the development of the EMP 36 will probably never be fully documented. Nonetheless, what research has shown is that the weapon is an advancement of the

1931 manufactured ERMA submachine gun, or in short form "EMP" (ERMA MaschinenPistole). The EMP 36 was the brainchild of famed German arms engineer Heinrich Vollmer. It turns out he had started development of the weapon between 1925 – 1930, in co-operation with the Reichswehr IWG (Inspector for Weapons and Equipment).

In truth, Vollmer had actually begun secret trials to improve the MP 18, a World War One design of Hugo Schmeisser, as early as 1922. He actually developed several different models of machine pistol in several different calibers, but it was his own submachine gun design, designated the "Vollmer MaschinenPistole 25," that seemed to offer the greatest potential for developing a successful combat weapon. Known as the "VMP 25" for short, its most identifiable characteristics were the front wooden handle and the recoil spring covered by a telescoping tube. Later, in June 1933, Heinrich Vollmer was granted a patent on his dirt-protected telescope spring (No. 580620) with the title: "Firing pin for submachine guns, automatic rifles and similar".

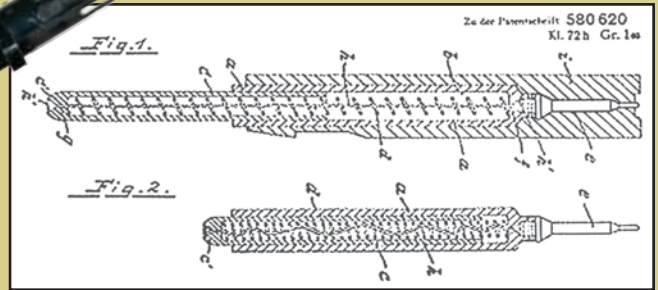
After the IWG had stated interest in the VMP 25, Vollmer submitted a further improved, mass-cooled model without barrel-jacket (VMP 26) in October 1926. The competing candidates were well-known names like Rheinmetall and Bergmann. Although the tests were





Left: One of the early VMP-models with advanced mass-cooled barrel. But the Army preferred old-style weapons with barrel-jacket.

Below: Sketch from Vollmer's patent No. 580620 of the spring protected by a telescope tube.



successful in securing domestic sales as well, with the SS ordering large quantities of EMPs. Based on a serial numbers study, the total EMP production run was something over 10,000.

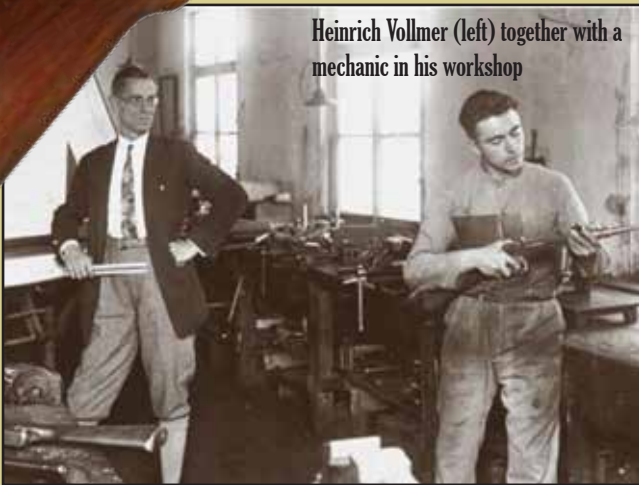
The crunch question:

With over 10,000 units sold, why would a company such as ERMA go through the great expense and effort to re-engineer an arguably successful weapon like the EMP? The simple answer is money. The German military was less than enthused with some of the EMPs more unusual features and they had their own hard and fast set of requirements as to what they felt they needed in a field-ready combat arm. If ERMA wanted to cash in, they needed to give the customer what they wanted.

As a result the design was tweaked and suggested improvements incorporated into the design. For example, the EMP 36 has a mobile hook at the barrel's underside close to the muzzle. This feature was added so that when shooting from vehicle hatches it would be next to impossible for a soldier to accidentally withdraw the weapon while firing. Accidentally discharging an automatic weapon inside the hull of an armoured vehicle was a sure-fired recipe for disaster and would undoubtedly have devastating consequences for those riding inside. Likewise, the MP design incorporated a folding stock so that it could more easily be handled in confined spaces found inside an armoured vehicle and aircraft when issued to specialized airborne troops. Such relatively significant design changes rarely happen without a rather pressing need or motivation, and ERMA was most definitely looking to secure large and very lucrative contracts with the German military for their little machine pistol, or as it is more popularly known today: submachine gun.

The end result of ERMA's gamble was the creation of what was to prove one of the truly ground-breaking submachine guns of the 20th century – the "EMP 36". The new and improved EMP offered many of the same features that would dominate the SMG design process for the remainder of the century; while eliminating needless complexities. At the request of the military, Vollmer's proven dirt-protected telescoping recoil spring system was abandoned, a vertical magazine well replaced the wooden front grip, and the wooden stock was supplanted by a skeletonized folding stock made of metal. To prevent over-heating or barrel burn-out, the original barrel jacket was eliminated in favour of a heavier barrel profile that offered better mass cooling functionality.

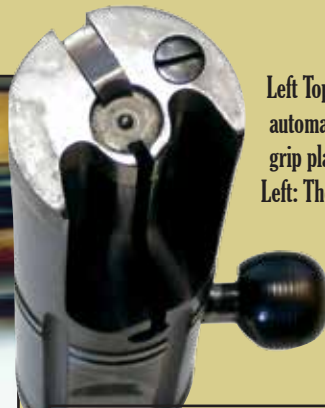
The new EMP also offered a number of rather unusual features, including a new magazine well design that was bent 30° to the



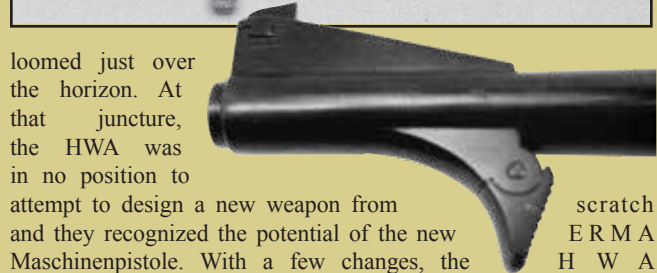
Heinrich Vollmer (left) together with a mechanic in his workshop

successful, the IWG criticized the missing barrel-jacket and rejected the weapon. Alas, Vollmer did not have much better luck finding a buyer for his improved model submitted to the IWG four years later. Dubbed VMP 30, it too was rejected, this time the weapon's high rate of fire (cyclic rate of 700 RPM) was criticized. Shortly thereafter the German Army withdrew from future collaborations with Vollmer. It is believed that less than 400 complete VMP machine pistols, of all the different VMP models combined, were actually built. Nevertheless, a few actually found their way into the hands of foreign customers, including Bulgaria.

After the withdrawal of the Reichwehr from the project, Heinrich Vollmer had little choice by to sell-off what he could to cover his losses. Recognizing the bargain being offered by Vollmer and his little machine pistol, ERMA seized the opportunity and struck a deal with him on October 31, 1931. With slight modifications, the Vollmer design was subsequently sold under the new name "ERMA Maschinenpistole" ("EMP" for short) with some success on the international market. Main customers were South America, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. EMPs even showed up in the nasty fighting of the Spanish civil war. Starting from 1936 onward, ERMA was



Left Top: Press-through fire selector for single and automatic fire. The grooved trigger and the patterned grip plates indicate a high-quality manufacturing. Left: The spring-loaded hook avoids accidentally withdrawing of the weapon when shooting from cover. Center: View of the bolt front with firing pin and extractor. Below: Bolt with dirt-protected telescope spring developed (and later patented) by Heinrich Vollmer.



left and slightly forward. The decision to change the weapon's magazine well placement and geometry was quite radical for the time and was an early attempt at improving firearm ergonomics. The objective was to improve overall weapon functionality and accuracy by allowing the user to mount it more securely and naturally. Other features of the new EMP included a new selector design that allowed the shooter to easily select between semi-automatic, single-shot mode, and full auto via the simple push of a button located over the trigger. To disassemble the weapon for cleaning or repair, a take-down locking button had to be pulled out at the underside of the receiver and turned. Then the receiver tube could be pulled-out in a forward movement with a slight turn, thus leaving the weapon field stripped and ready for maintenance or repair.

Despite its innovation, the EMP 36 is not well-known outside of select circles, and knowledge of the design is mostly relegated to the ranks of rather specialized military weapons collectors, certain WW II militaria collectors and a few Second World War military historians. When compared to its later and far more famous offspring the MP 38, the EMP 36 may be considered a commercial failure of sorts. The exact reasons why the EMP 36 design failed to garner wide-spread acceptance have never fully been determined, as almost no official documents relating to its production and sale still exist.

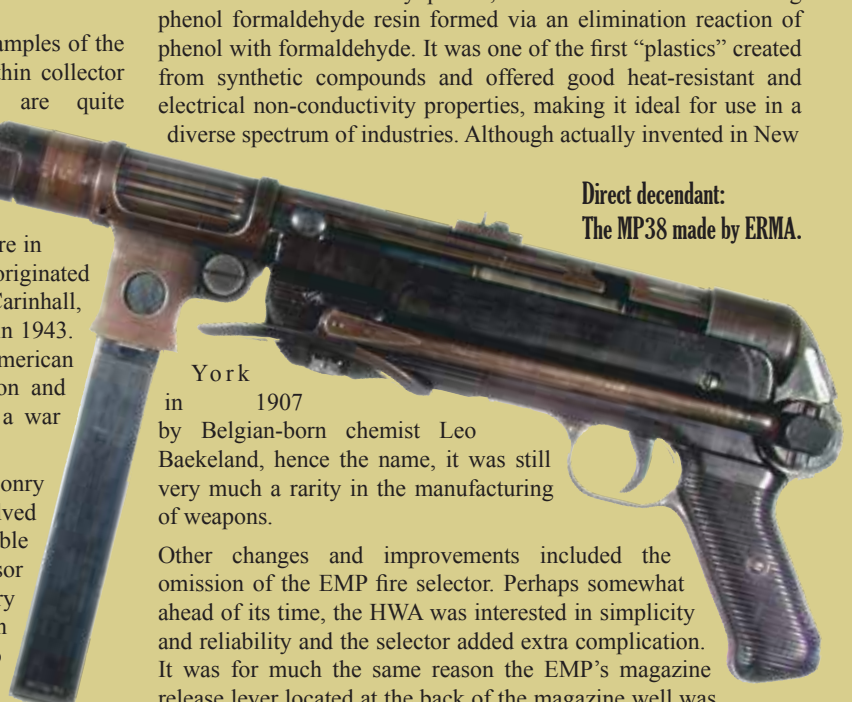
In fact, today there are only 2 bona fide examples of the EMP 36 still in existence. Within collector circles, both are quite well-known. EMP 36, Serial No. 1 currently resides in a military museum in Prague and the other, Serial No. 14, rests in a private American collection. Both are in as new condition. The weapon No. 14 is said to have originated from Marshal Hermann Göring's countryseat of Carinhall, where it was captured during an US commando raid in 1943. The claim is that one of the raid's participants, an American officer with the rank of major, captured the weapon and eventually brought it back to the United States as a war trophy.

The Heereswaffenamt or HWA for short was the weaponry office for the Wehrmacht or German Army. It was involved in weapons research & design and was largely responsible for ensuring that the original Reichswehr and its successor the Wehrmacht were provided with the necessary weapons and other armament they required. It was in this role that the HWA approached ERMA in 1938 to discuss their EMP 36 design and the Wehrmacht's pressing need for a new weapon, especially as war

loomed just over the horizon. At that juncture, the HWA was in no position to attempt to design a new weapon from scratch and they recognized the potential of the new ERMA Maschinenpistole. With a few changes, the HWA believed that they could have a production-ready weapon in short-order. Under pressure from high command, it wasn't by sheer coincidence then that the Heereswaffenamt came knocking on ERMA's door

The weightiest change, in the true sense of the word, concerned the manufacturing of the weapon's receiver. For reasons of weight reduction the original solid steel receiver of the EMP had a series of oblong grooves machined into it, while the vertical magazine well got a large round cut-out on each side. The lining of the EMP receiver's lower part was originally made completely of wood, but with the new MP 38 the much lighter "Bakelite" synthetic material was substituted. An early plastic, Bakelite was a thermosetting phenol formaldehyde resin formed via an elimination reaction of phenol with formaldehyde. It was one of the first "plastics" created from synthetic compounds and offered good heat-resistant and electrical non-conductivity properties, making it ideal for use in a diverse spectrum of industries. Although actually invented in New

Direct descendant:  
The MP38 made by ERMA.



York in 1907 by Belgian-born chemist Leo Baekeland, hence the name, it was still very much a rarity in the manufacturing of weapons.

Other changes and improvements included the omission of the EMP fire selector. Perhaps somewhat ahead of its time, the HWA was interested in simplicity and reliability and the selector added extra complication. It was for much the same reason the EMP's magazine release lever located at the back of the magazine well was



Top two photos: The EMP 36 with serial number 01. The weapon is missing its rear sight. Viewed from the left and the right.



replaced by a button on the left side of the well. This change consequently necessitated a redesign of the EMP's magazine. As a result, the original EMP 36 magazines would no longer be interchangeable with the new SMG. For shooting out of armoured vehicles, a new barrel rest made of aluminum was fixed to the underside of the barrel. Its hook-style end replaced the mobile hook employed by the older design. The folding stock of the EMP, however, remained nearly unchanged and the barrel nut and the cocking handle underwent only a slight modification. These and a few additional minor design changes or improvements resulted in the MP 38 that is so well known today.

the MP 38 went rather slowly at first and when Germany launched the attack on Poland ("Fall Weiss") on September 1, 1939, just 8700 MP 38s were listed in German inventories. In the rush to war, the distribution of the new weapon took place rather hurriedly and there was no time for special field trials. As a result, the MP 38 underwent the most extreme field testing possible, - actual combat! Selected units were chosen to field the new submachine gun and were tasked with sending regular field reports back on its performance, issues and suggestions for improvement on a continuous basis.

The actual EMP 36 product design and improvement program was completed in an amazingly short time period. The lion's share of the accolades for this feat has to go to ERMA's talented team of weapons designers and engineers. In just seven months, ERMA's new MP 38 went from the drawing board to working prototype, with even some preliminary field testing having been completed. The official introduction of the new weapon took place on June 29, 1938 with full serialized production starting in July of 1938. Initial production of

The MP 38 stayed in service until the end of the war, but most were eventually modified with an improved safety from the follow-on MP 40. Production of the MP 38 was subsequently supplanted by the improved model MP 40 in spring 1940. While the MP 38/MP 40 went on to become one of the iconic submachine guns of the 20th century, making it instantly recognizable to war veterans, firearms collectors, and movie goers alike, it would never have existed without the pioneering work of Heinrich Vollmer, the engineering team at ERMA and the product of their labour, the EMP 36.



Disassembled EMP 36. The barrel is screwed into the receiver.

Clearly visible are the three telescope-tubes to cover the spring.

Both known examples of the EMP 36 are marked the same way: "EMP 36 / ERMA Erfurt". The visible button is intended for disassembling the weapon. It keeps receiver and grip-piece together.

# The International Front

## MORE GUNS, LESS VIOLENCE



By Gary Mauser

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) hangs over Canadian and American gun owners like the sword of Damocles. At the time I'm writing, what the UN decided this summer about the ATT is unknown.

Supporters claim the goal of the ATT is to suppress terrorists and criminals, but in attempting this, the UN does not discriminate between upstanding citizens or criminals, or even between democracies and dictatorships. All civilians are distrusted and must be disarmed. Everywhere. Only governments can legitimately have guns. Remember, the UN is a league of governments, not citizens. Thus, the UN treats all countries as equally legitimate. UN treaties are anti-democratic as there is no formal recognition that government legitimacy relies upon civilian support.

The ATT is particularly menacing this year because Canadians do not have former US president George Bush to protect them. The Obama Administration has reversed the previous Administration's position by deciding to support the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty. Harper's Conservative government stands virtually alone. Few countries are willing to stand in the way of the UN steamroller because supporting the ATT is currently fashionable with UN delegates. Luckily, the UN prefers procrastinating to making decisions. It is possible that determined criticism from a few courageous countries like Canada will derail or at least postpone the ATT.

At its heart, the ATT assumes armed civilians pose a threat to peace and political stability. This may be true in dictatorships or fragile third-world countries, but it is not the case in stable western democracies, like Canada or the United States, where there is a culture of political responsibility. In these countries, the vast majority of citizens, including law-abiding firearms owners, supports the national institutions and tolerates a relatively wide range of social and political differences. At the same time, the government and police serve the basic needs of the populace and are reasonably responsive to public opinion.

Civilian firearm owners are not violent and make a positive contribution to a country. Consider the preliminary crime statistics in the US recently released by the FBI showing that

violent crime rates, particularly the murder rate, have fallen yet again. For the past 20 years, criminal violence in the US has dropped almost every year. This shocks gun grabbers because it flies in the face of increasing gun availability. More and more states allow responsible citizens to carry concealed handguns in public. Violent crime rates tumble when more Americans own and carry firearms. Unfortunately, the UN popinjays are unwilling to recognize these facts.

The FBI recently estimated that the annual number of murders dropped 1.9 percent from 2010 to 2011 in the US. Put another way, the per capita rate of murders fell approximately 2.5 percent. This means that the nation's murder rate has been cut by about 53 percent and the total violent crime rate has been cut by about 49 percent since 1991, when violent crime hit an all-time high. Note that this is just the preliminary report. The final figures will be announced in September.

This drop in violent crime rates corresponds with the growth in the number of armed Americans. Since 1991, the number of states that allow responsible citizens to carry concealed handguns in public has increased from 17 to 41 and the number of Americans living in such states has increased from 25% to 64%. Wisconsin was the latest state in 2010 to liberalize its gun laws. (There are 39 shall-issue states, and two others that have fairly-administered carry permit systems. Only Illinois has no provision for citizen carry permits.) John Lott explains this in an easy-to-read manner in *More guns, Less crime*.

See "Firearm Ownership" Chart

In Canada, gun control supporters like to claim that the drop in homicide rate since the early 1990s was primarily due to the increasingly stringent gun restrictions that were introduced by the Liberals in the late 1990s and early 2000s. But how to explain that homicide fell faster in the US than in Canada over the same time period? The Canadian homicide rate has decreased only 40% since 1991. The US has taken the exact opposite approach by permitting, even encouraging, law-abiding citizens to own and carry firearms.

Armed civilians contribute to social and political stability outside the United States as well. Internationally, the

### Firearms Ownership versus Liberty Indices, by quintile

Quintile	Firearms Per 1,000 Population	Freedom in the World (1-7, lower is better)	Corruption Perceptions Index (0-10, higher is better)	Index of Economic Freedom (0-100, higher is better)
Top Quintile	448	1.36	7.44	71.37
Quintile 2	180	2.83	5.33	66.73
Quintile 3	121	2.5	4.21	60.86
Quintile 4	64	2.96	4.37	61.35
Quintile 5	20	2.25	4.54	64.12

source: Kopel, David B., Carlisle Moody & Howard Nemerov. Is there a Relationship between Guns and Freedom? Comparative Results from 59 Nations. TEXAS REVIEW OF LAW & POLITICS. Vol. 13, 2009. Available from SSRN, <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1090441>

countries with greater percentages of armed civilians are more politically stable, not less. In a recent article David Kopel and his colleagues use a variety of data sources to examine the link between firearm ownership and good government. Specifically, they used the Small Arms Survey's estimates of numbers of civilian-owned firearms; Freedom House's ratings of political rights (such as free elections) and civil liberty (such as freedom of religion); Transparency International's ratings of government corruption levels; and Heritage Foundation's ratings of

economic freedom to scrutinize the 142 United Nations member states that are rated by all three organizations—Freedom House (Freedom in the World), Transparency International (Corruption Perceptions Index), and the Heritage Foundation (Index of Economic Freedom).

As can be readily seen, countries that have more civilian-owned firearms are better governed in general. Of course, these are correlations, not causal links, and there is wide variability. There's no guarantee that a country can improve its standings by increasing the numbers

of guns in the hands of civilians. For example, some countries are relatively well governed but drastically limit civilian gun rights (such as England).

### Conclusion

Why would armed civilians pose a threat to peace and political stability in dictatorships and in third-world countries, but not in stable western democracies? One way to answer is civic culture. In stable countries, such as Canada, the US and Switzerland, virtually all citizens accept the legitimacy of the governing institutions and believe that those in authority will usually act in a just manner. The government, in turn, responds to serious problems and demonstrates its legitimacy by so doing. While the governments of all countries disappoint some of their citizens, in stable democracies governments manage to meet their citizens' basic expectations, at least minimally. However in less stable countries, such as found in the third world, a sizable fraction of the citizenry distrust the government to such an extent that they have greater confidence in political groups other than the national institutions, such as local warlords, ethnic or religious leaders. Such countries resemble patchworks of fiefdoms rather than stable entities. Arming civilians in such places could indeed precipitate civil unrest. While this would upset the local rulers, it of course raises the question of legitimacy. The ATT demonstrates that the United Nations favors tyrants over responsible citizens.

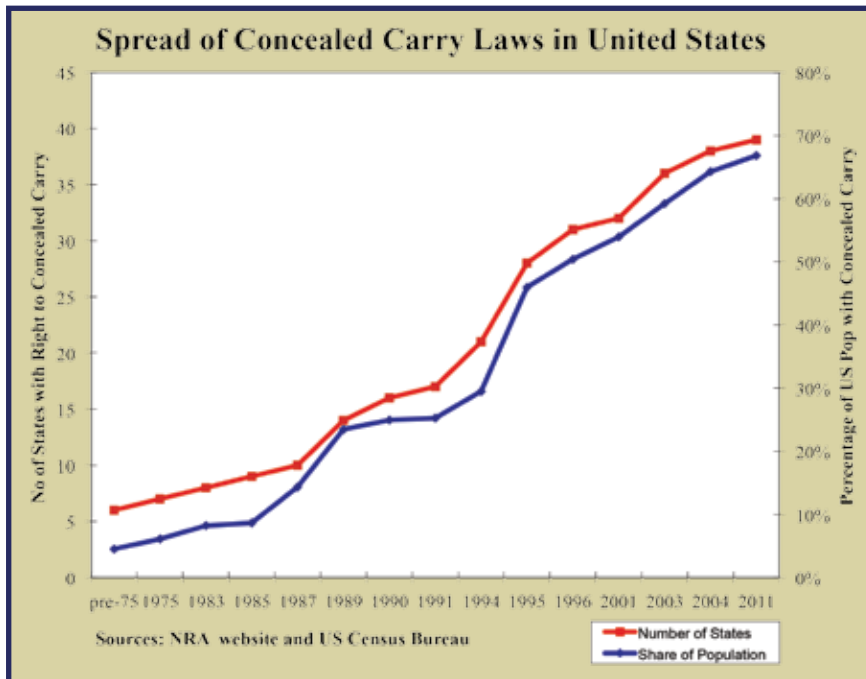
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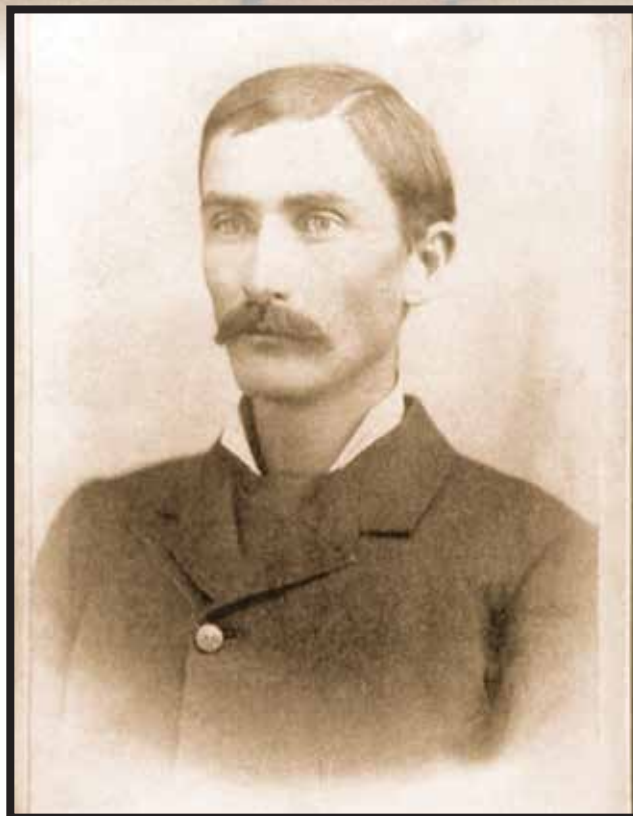
# Western Lawmen Sheriff Pat Garrett - Part I

by Jesse Wolf Hardin

If there is any one thing imparted by these varied stories of famous lawmen, it is that both the most laudable and least respectable among them were naught but fellow human beings, affected by insecurities and fears, balancing personal needs with the requirements of others, making choices that are sometimes honorable and at other times expedient or even despicable. Like us, they were an amalgam of easily recognizable qualities as well as generally less commendable traits. Yet, they were still capable of acts of both apparent selfishness and unqualified magnanimity; even while responding to the most difficult of situations -situations that they may or may not have helped create. They walked the forked path of life not as gods, but as thoroughly mortal men, not yet immortalized in sacred myths that generations of people would fear to question or challenge. Unlike the mythic and supernatural, they were gunslingers and shootists. Mere mortals, they didn't always hit the target, sometimes shot the wrong person by accident or on purpose, and on occasion – at least in the case of Wyatt Earp's brother Morgan – entered into a gunfight without remembering to first load their gun. They pulled their pants on one leg at a time, the same way we do, and sometimes made regretful sounds in public. And just like us, they would inevitably need to stop to answer the "call of nature."

Proud, onetime sheriff, Pat Garrett, was answering that same call along the side of the Mail-Scott Road, when on March 1st, 1908 near New Mexico's Alameda Arroyo, the over six feet tall lawman – known to most only as "the man who killed Billy The Kid" – took a bullet through the back of his head. Some would argue it was kismet.

While a larger-than-life legend had grown about him, the ex-lawman had led a demonstrably human existence since that fateful day on Pete Maxwell's place. At 57 years of age, Garrett was an alcoholic and deeply in debt. He was also cohabitating with a prostitute, while his own family did without. Most who met him characterized him as "troublesome," while those who knew him well were less generous. Even his most loyal sympathizers and supporters described as, "One mean S.O.B." His reputation, as the

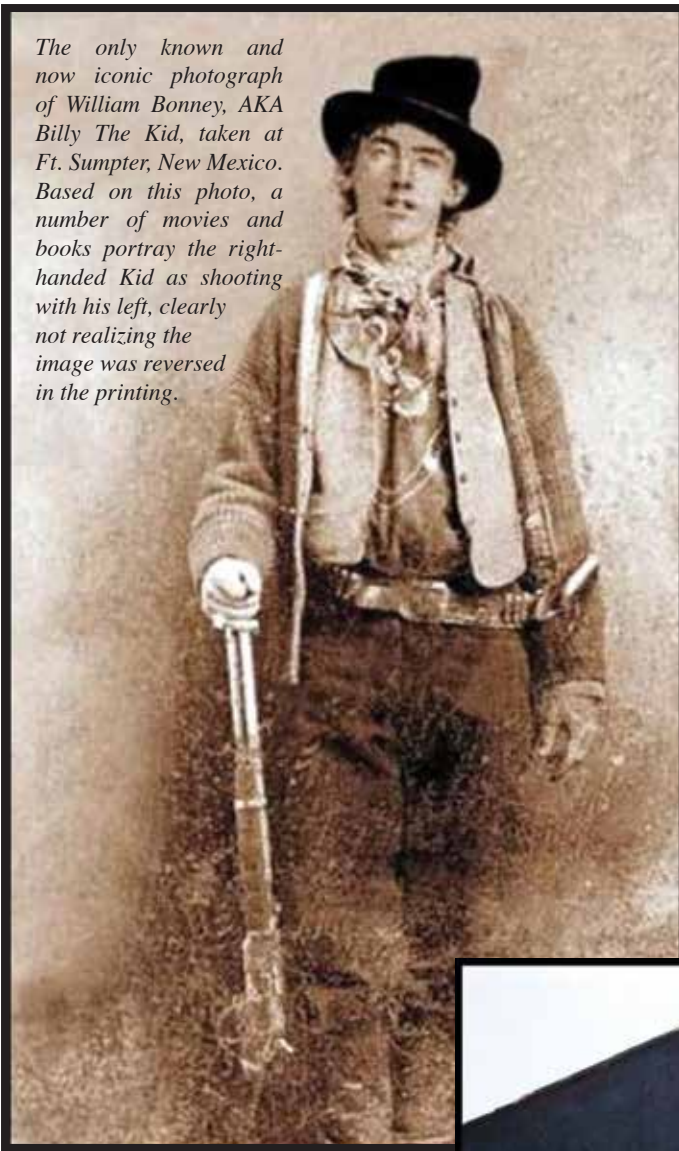


*Patrick Floyd Garrett was a courageous and sometimes effective lawman, while destined to be remembered as a bullying scoundrel, a mean drunk, and the assassin of Billy The Kid. Here we see him as he might have looked around the age when he first befriended the Kid.*

Kid's arguably lawful executioner, had done nothing to enrich him and won him mostly criticism from much of the Southwest's population. Nonetheless, even years later he was still considered a dangerous, if near friendless, man.

It was not, however, the beginning of Pat Garrett's disrepute. His indisputable courage and doggedness as a manhunter can only be fairly measured against a lifetime of questionable value choices and unsavory acts; from his betrayal of his friend, the Kid, to his mercenary tendencies, ornery temper

*The only known and now iconic photograph of William Bonney, AKA Billy The Kid, taken at Ft. Sumpter, New Mexico. Based on this photo, a number of movies and books portray the right-handed Kid as shooting with his left, clearly not realizing the image was reversed in the printing.*

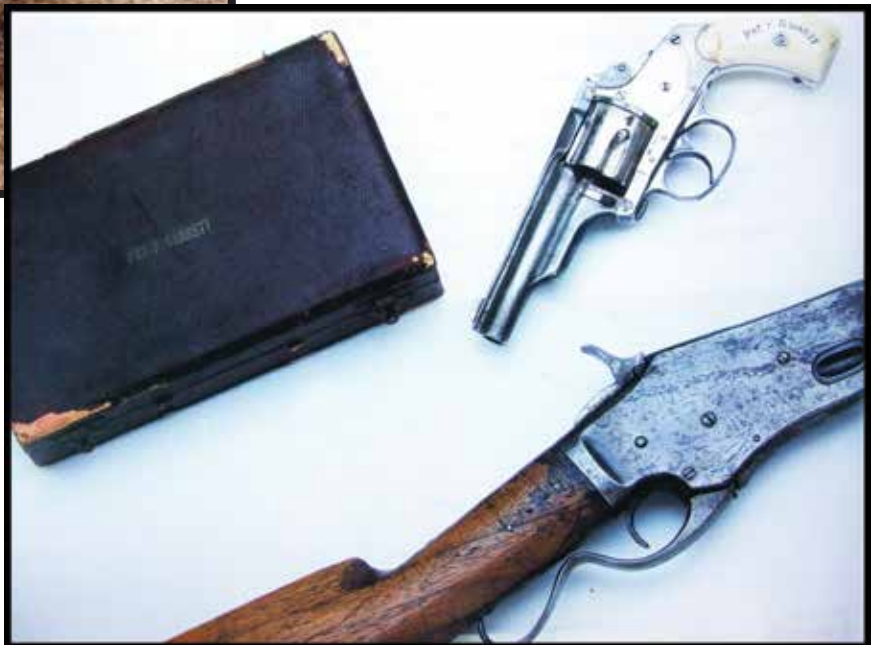


and unrepentantly arrogant, Garrett had become the sort of fellow that “littler men” like Billy viewed with contempt and whom he would have well-loved to kick around.

Patrick Floyd Garrett’s troublesome life began in Chambers County, Alabama on June 5th of 1850. When he was six, his parents moved with him to a Claiborne Parish plantation in northern Louisiana. Their fortunes declined under the conditions of the post-Civil War reconstruction era. Then, in 1869, the explosive 19 year old threatened to kill a brother-in-law for doing commerce with the hated northern “carpetbaggers,” - those opportunistic investors rushing to the southern states to take advantage of the dissolute there and amass their properties. Whether to spare his sister the grief or to avoid what could be a deadly fight, Garrett left home immediately after the confrontation.

Now on his own, he first found work as a cowpuncher in Texas’ Dallas area, and later spent time hunting some of the last remaining buffalo herds for their hides up in the Texas panhandle. It was there he shot and killed his first man in 1878. Garrett and a fellow buffalo hunter had argued over the ownership of some buffalo hides. The argument became physical, ending with Garrett having killed his first man. One commentator later noted that the fellow should have known better than to bring a camp axe to a gunfight.

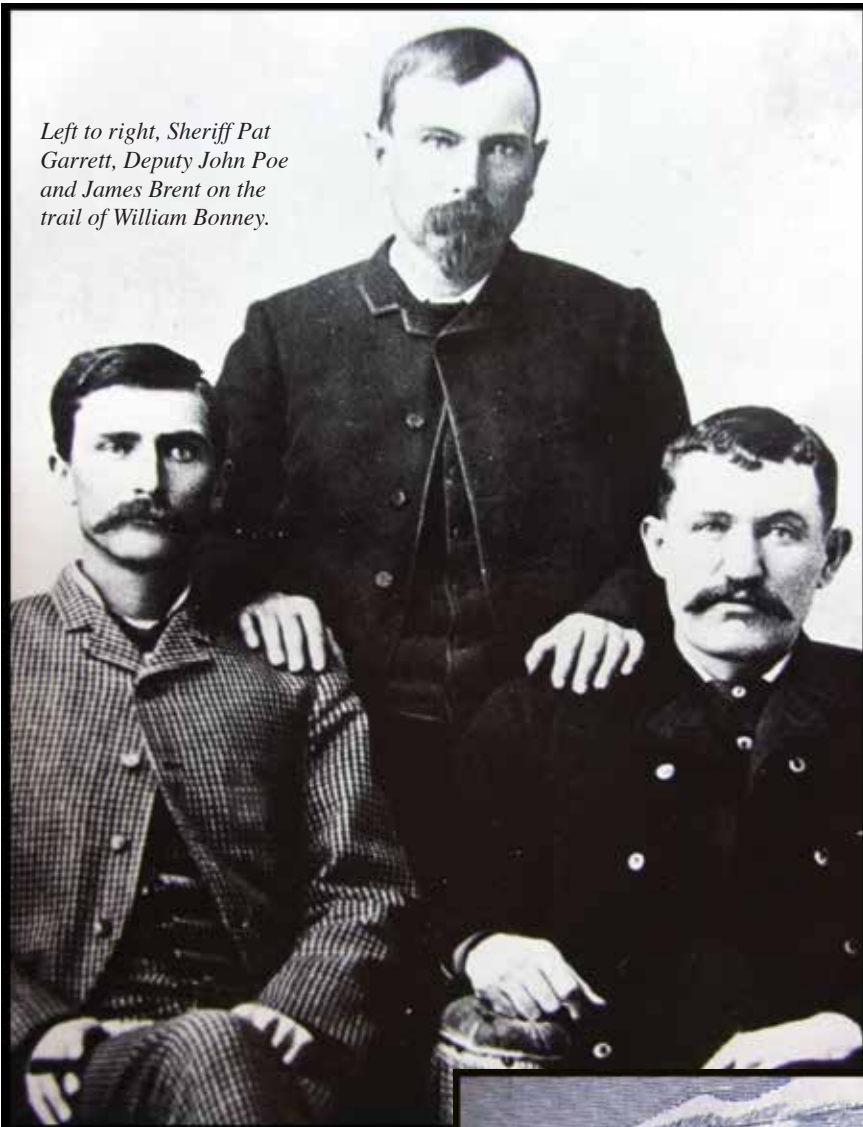
Having had his fill of the buffalo hide game, he next pushed on west into New Mexico, where he briefly worked for Pete Maxwell before being fired for rustling cattle. Ironically,



and outright dishonesty, not to mention a gambling addiction that had left him with an embittered craving for the kinds of riches, power and privilege he would never claim. Pat envied the upper crust of the local agrarian-based society, with their seemingly easily-won wealth and ability to curry political favors; they had the life he wanted. Unfortunately, for him, he had proved particularly ill-suited for both business and public office. Still, he continued to serve these same elite’s and their vested interests right-up until the moment his habitual drunkenness, thievery, surliness and reputation for unpaid debts forced them to finally disavow him for good. Ever entitled,

*Pictured is one of Garrett’s revolvers, along with a rifle once owned by Billy. The ivory grips on Garrett’s Merwin & Hulbert pocket revolver have been scrimshawed with his name. The rifle to its right is just one of the many carried by Billy the Kid over his career. This one was reportedly given to Marshal Eugene Van Patten to thank him for his kindnesses while the Kid was in his charge. It’s a lever-action Whitney-Kennedy, an early and rather high quality challenger of Winchester’s dominance of the repeating rifle market.*

*Left to right, Sheriff Pat Garrett, Deputy John Poe and James Brent on the trail of William Bonney.*



this was the same Maxwell Ranch where he would later ambush William “Billy” Bonney/Antrim, otherwise known as the Kid. Interestingly, that same year he is said to have partnered with the Kid and another rustler by the name of Barney Mason and eventually gathered a sufficient number of other people’s cows to open up his own saloon with his share of the profits. Garrett’s place quickly became a preferred drinking hangout for the majority of the local outlaws. Being such a “tall drink of water,” he soon got the nickname of Juan Largo (Long John), and he and Billy were sometimes called “Big Casino” and “Little Casino” because of their size difference when standing together at the bar. Two years later he

married Apolonaria Guterrez, and they industriously went to work making the first of what would be a total of nine Garrett children.

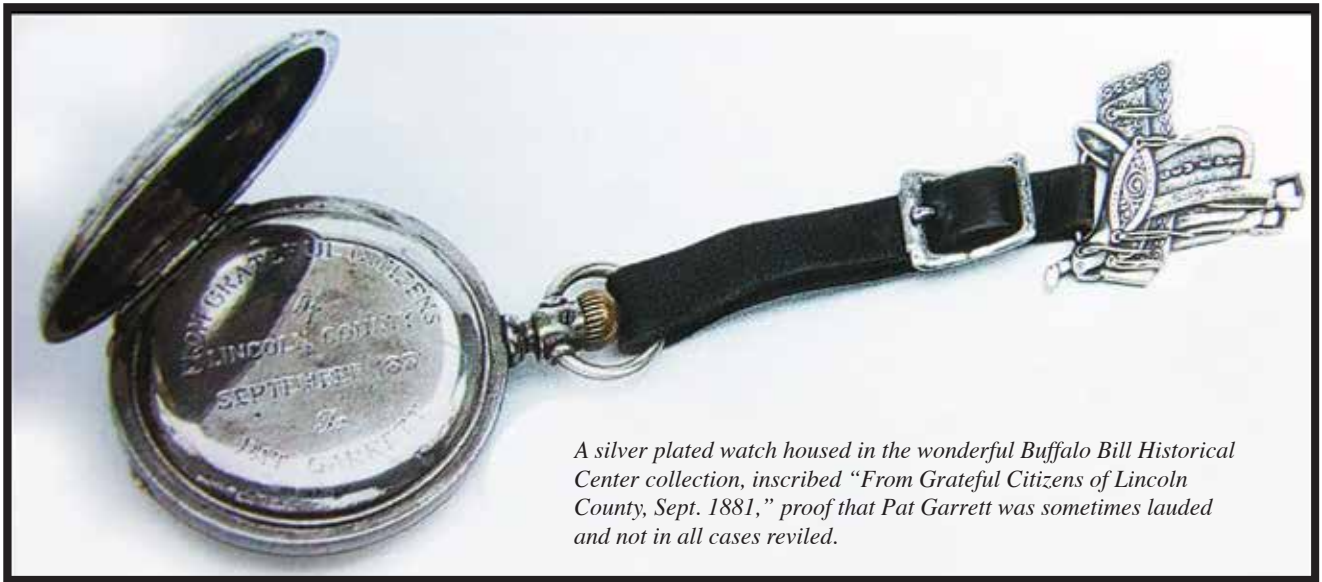
The sheriff of Lincoln County, New Mexico, George Kimbell resigned on November 7th, 1880, two months before his term officially ended. As Kimbell’s successor, the Democrat-run county temporarily appointed Garrett to fill in, and later pushed him to run for the job as a Democrat despite the fact that Pat had always been a Republican. They picked Garrett, not because of his upstanding morals, but precisely because he knew and had the trust of the area’s miscreants, in particular Billy the Kid. By this point the Kid was already wanted for murder because of his part in what would later be known as the Lincoln County War. While Garrett went through the motions, buying drinks and handing out cigars to potential voters, it was Billy who was to inadvertently win him the election.

Lew Wallace, the governor of New Mexico territory at the time, sided with the corrupt “Santa Fe Gang” of lawyers and politicians that essentially controlled both commerce and elections in the future state, and against all those



*An illustration fairly accurately portraying the cabin where Billy and crew were captured, taken from The Authentic Life of Billy The Kid, a book that Pat Garrett commissioned his drinking buddy Ashmun Upson to write to cast him in a more generous light.*





*A silver plated watch housed in the wonderful Buffalo Bill Historical Center collection, inscribed "From Grateful Citizens of Lincoln County, Sept. 1881," proof that Pat Garrett was sometimes lauded and not in all cases reviled.*

seeking justice and redress, including the Kid. The cash reward Wallace posted for Billy's killing or capture inspired the first posse to go on the hunt, but while they did overtake the Kid and friends, they only managed to shoot to pieces one of their own men, Jim Carlisle, during failed negotiations.

Pat Garrett would prove more effective, largely because he had actually used most of the region's outlaw hideouts during his career as a cattle rustler and knew where to look. Just as important, he also knew who to question to get the information he needed to track down his old drinking buddy. Included in his posse, was an investigating federal agent by the name of Wild, Deputy Marshal Bob Olinger, a man

whose own mother described as a "natural born killer," and the very same Barney Mason that chummed with Pat and Billy during their cattle-rustling days.

Garrett needed a starting point for his manhunt. He subsequently corralled Billy's pal Charlie Bowdre and tried to strong-arm the sometime cowpuncher, and erstwhile outlaw, into giving up Billy. Bowdre refused to rat and rejected Garrett's promise of a pardon if he sold out his saddle partner's location. With Bowdre refusing to talk, Garrett and his deputies nabbed another Billy sympathizer at Fort Sumner by the name of Juan Gallegos. They beat and tortured Gallegos until he revealed that Billy was hiding out

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*Tales and Twists Of The Old West*  
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at a nearby ranch. Garrett then bribed another man to tell the Kid that he had left the area; so as to draw the Kid out of hiding, and hopefully allow him to ambush Billy and his gang the moment they arrived in town. Garrett's plan worked beautifully. However, despite catching Billy and his gang flat-footed, the outlaws were somehow able to shoot their way out of the ambush! Miraculously they all made their escape, except for gang member Tom O'Folliard. When the smoke cleared, he was left in the middle of that dusty Fort Sumner street, clutching the agonizing stomach wound that would soon kill him.

A bright moon and fresh blanket of snow made following the tracks of the Kid and his gang easy, and Garrett could already guess that they'd lead to the old Stinking Springs forage station where they'd often hung out together. Arriving a few hours before dawn, Pat positioned the others in places of concealment and waited. First to step out of the casita was Charlie Bowdre, who was gunned down as he carried a bag of feed to his horse. They also shot the horse, when they saw that Billy was trying to pull it inside for a safe mounting and getaway. A standoff resulted, broken only the next day when the Kid and his three pardos smelled the bacon cooking in the posse's camp. It seems they had stockpiled plenty of guns and ammunition, but nothing to eat.

Garrett jailed his young prisoners, and then proceeded to the capital of Santa Fe to claim the \$500 reward. However, Governor Wallace was back East, promoting the novel he had just completed, "Ben Hur." The acting governor refused to make the payment due to a technicality, but the sheriff's political backers and unofficial territorial leaders – the so called "Santé Fe Gang" – were quick to reward Garrett. In appreciation for his service and aid in helping rid them of Billy's distraction, while delivering a blow to their political rivals, they handed him a cheque for \$1000. On March 28th, 1881, in Mesilla, N.M., the Kid was tried for murder. Mesilla was one of the few courts where it was believed the "Santé Fe Gang" could get a guilty verdict given Billy's wide-spread popular support. Sentenced to be hung, Garrett moved him to the Lincoln County courthouse to await execution.

Garrett was actually off conferring with politicians again when the Kid made his most daring escape; either retrieving a hidden Colt Peacemaker from beneath the outhouse privy, or else seizing it from the holster of his guard, J. W. Bell, before shooting and killing him with it. Either way, it is certain that he was back upstairs and leaning out of the east window when his second guard, the abusive Bob Olinger, heard the shot and came running out of the saloon in his direction. Billy cradled in his arms the same 10 gauge shotgun that

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- NFA President Sheldon Clare

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Germany



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Olinger had often tormented him with, describing the effects it would have on the Kid if he cared to try and escape. Now the tables, or shotgun, were turned, and those imposing loads of .33 caliber balls ripped through the air and in the direction of Bob below. "Watch out," someone had yelled, "the Kid has killed Bell!" "Yes," Olinger muttered just before the balls ripped into his chest and cratered out his back, "and he has killed me too."

In the ensuing weeks, Garrett's reaction was said to be lackluster, even disinterested, as he continued to feel snubbed by the elites he supported. What's more, half the territory's Anglo population and nearly all of its Spanish speaking residents treated him like a pariah for betraying his friends in exchange for a tin star. Under increasing pressure to act, Garrett returned to Fort Sumner and resumed his heavy handed questioning of the locals. He soon found out that the Kid was staying with Pedro "Pete" Maxwell, the rancher who had years before fired him for dishonesty.

Sometime after midnight on April 18th, 1881, Garrett snuck into Maxwell's compound and prepared to ambush Billy when he woke the next morning. According to Garrett, the Kid woke up hungry while dawn was still hours away. Armed with a pistol in one hand and a large butcher knife in the other, Billy headed toward the kitchen, presumably to cut himself a hunk of meat from the haunch of beef hanging

there. Sensing that there was someone lurking there in the shadows, he is alleged to have twice asked imploringly "Quien es? Quien es?" Translated, he asked, "Who is it?" Claiming to be in fear of his life, Garrett answered the Kid's questions by firing his unholstered Colt revolver twice; the first round hitting Billy directly in the heart, and the second going wild. Billy the Kid, murderous outlaw and romantic hero to the downtrodden and dispossessed, was likely dead before he hit the ground. He was just 21 years-old.

While dead he was, eyewitness reports told a drastically different tale than Garrett's. The sheriff was accused of actually having slipped into the bedroom of Billy's girlfriend – Maxwell's daughter Paulita – early in the evening with the intention of ambushing the Kid. In order to keep her quiet, Garrett is alleged to have tied Paulita up, keeping her hidden in the room with him. According to the opposing account of events, Garrett never used his Colt, but is said to have opted for his powerful Sharps buffalo rifle. It was said that Billy was slain by a single .50 caliber rifle bullet that entered his back directly below his left shoulder. The bullet's path led straight through the Kid's heart, exiting above the nipple. Interestingly, neither the Kid's gun nor the knife Garrett claimed Billy was carrying was found at the scene.

*(Continued in Part II, next issue. - Editors.)*

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**Megan Heinicke (formerly Tandy). An Olympic Athlete and proud member of the NFA**

**Around The NFA - Continued from Page 2**

to chat with the NFA executive, voice their opinions and share their stories. Complimentary copies of Canadian Firearms Journal were freely distributed, along with neat NFA swag.

In July, the Edmonton, AB and Orangeville, ON Huntfest events were just as successful. In addition to adding new members to our ranks, the latter events also allowed NFA to introduce some new faces to the firearms community from our growing cadre of extremely dedicated volunteer field officers. If you are interested in becoming a FO, please give us a call at 1-877-818-0393 or E-mail info@nfa.ca.

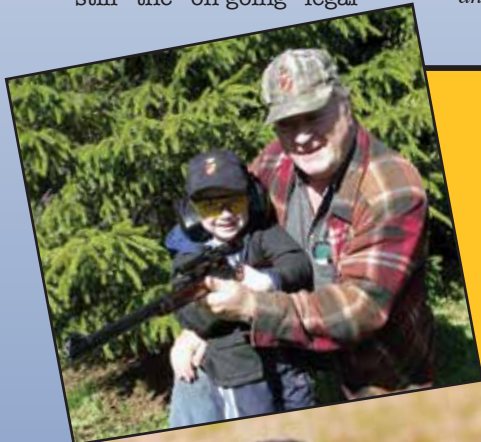
If that didn't keep us here at NFA hopping, there was still the on-going legal



*Dedicated volunteers staff the Orangeville HUNTFEST, July 2012 Top to Bottom: Charles Zach, David Hartwick, Ted, Ginger and Blair.*

drama in Ontario and Quebec over court challenges related to passage of Bill C-19 and the scrapping of the long gun registry to contend with. In response, we're pleased to announce that Canada's National Firearms Association has filed for intervener status in both cases. In Ontario our request is in response to the application by the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic to maintain the firearms registry; while in Quebec it is in direct response to the Charest government's actions to preserve the registry.

In terms of legal representation, in Ontario we've partnered with Mr. Solomon Friedman of the Ottawa firm Edelson, Clifford, D'Angelo. You may remember Solomon from his guest columns in the National Post or his numerous national television appearances this



# PHOTO CONTEST!!

Starting now and running until the end of September, CFJ will be holding a photo contest seeking a future cover for the magazine. The rules are simple; we want safe, fun images of fellow shooters enjoying our sport in a safe, legal manner. Safety equipment is a must for "action" shots. For posed shots – keep fingers off the trigger and observe ACTS & PROVE!

Remember to set your camera to its highest resolution and aim for file sizes of 2-3MB. By submitting a photo for consideration, the sender is granting CFJ permission to print the photo and releasing all copyright claims. Send photos to Sean@nfa.ca

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year speaking on firearms law reform. In Quebec, NFA interests are being ably represented by Ms. Mylene Turcotte of Montreal's CMB Avocats Inc.

While such legal actions can be prohibitively expensive, Canada's National Firearms Association felt it had no choice but to take action. The NFA has always stood firm in defence of Canada's millions of law-abiding gun owners and their precious core civil, human, and property rights. There is no question that if such challenges are ignored and the courts find in favour of the applicants our rights as responsible firearms owners would be harmed, perhaps irreparably so. Certainly, there is no question that much work remains to be done in order to right the grievous wrongs wrought upon Canadian society by the Firearms Act. However, we cannot fail to also take all necessary steps in order to protect what gains have already been made. Ending the registration of long guns is one such gain.

Canada's National Firearms Association is the largest pro-firearms organization in this country fully committed to protecting these fundamental freedoms, and the only



*NFA President Sheldon Clare, flanked by ON Director Henry Atkinson and several Field Officers, chats with gun owners at the Orangville Huntfest held this past July.*

one engaged in legislative and legal action to actively preserve those same rights. While it will be up to the courts to decide whether or not our application has merit, NFA will continue to be engaged in the fight to defend our firearm rights on all fronts.

Please remember that it is only through your continued support and donations that we can sustain this fight. If you haven't already done so, please check out our website [www.nfa.ca](http://www.nfa.ca) and renew your membership today, or give serious consideration to

making a donation to our legal defence fund. No donation is either too big or too small given the task before us.

As long as the Liberal C-68 Firearms Act remains law, the freedoms, rights, and property of all Canadians remains at risk. Fundamental firearms law reform will not have been achieved until the Government of Canada replaces the 1995 Liberal C-68 Firearms Act and the previous Bill C-17 with new legislation that respects the rights and property of ordinary Canadians.

-NFA Directors

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# Bridging the Police-Citizen Divide: A Tale of Two Shootings

By Sean G. Penney

**To be a real policeman  
Be big and strong by heck  
But let the strength be always found  
Just above the neck.**

Excerpt from the poem *Courtesy is the Best Policy*,  
*Ranger Bulletin* (No. 6, 1943)

The Newfoundland Rangers served as the official police force of the pre-confederation Dominion of Newfoundland from 1935 to 1950. They provided law enforcement and other government services to the Newfoundland outports and the Labrador as well. The Newfoundland Commission government modeled the Newfoundland Ranger force on the Canadian RCMP; after Confederation it was rolled into the larger organization.

The Newfoundland Rangers, while they existed for only a short time, quickly became legends because of their feats of personal courage and stamina and the professionalism with which they conducted themselves. As a young boy I recall my grandfather sharing many stories of their daring-do, and I grew to share his affection and respect for those dedicated men who maintained order and did their best to help the people of Newfoundland & Labrador.

Operating alone and in the most remote areas imaginable, the Rangers often came to rely on the aid of the average citizen to accomplish their mission. For the main part, these helpful citizens were simple folk, of good character and fierce loyalty, and whose principal interests were simply to help keep their community safe. They did not volunteer their help for accolades or reward, but did so for the common good. The Rangers recognized this simple truth and they shared a mutual respect and admiration for each other. Sir Robert Peel's Nine Principles of Policing were obviously a keystone of the Ranger ethos.

I hadn't thought about the Rangers in ages, when last week all of those old stories and their near-forgotten history came rushing back to me. After reading about the heroics of Early, Texas resident Vic Stacy. It seems one sleepy Sunday afternoon; the last weekend in July, Mr. Stacy was enjoying a quiet afternoon at home when multiple gunshots rang out, shattering the tranquility of the Peach House RV Park where he resided.

It later turned out that the gunman was another Peach House RV Park resident by the name of Charles Conner. Something of a loner, Conner had assumed the role of the local crackpot.

He had been feuding with his neighbours, David House and Iris Calaci, over the couple's two dogs. On that fateful Sunday their long-standing feud would end with both House and Calaci and the two dogs, slain by Conner's rifle.

Sgt. Steven Means of the Early Police Department was the first officer on the scene. He was barely out of his cruiser when he found himself ambushed by the gunman and pinned down behind his car in a hail of gunfire. While Sgt. Means took cover behind his police car and returned fire with an AR-15, Conner's was the superior position and eyewitness accounts all maintain that it would only have been a matter of time before Conner gained the upper hand and killed Sgt. Means.

However, Means and Conner weren't the only two people with their attention riveted on the gun fight. Enter one Vic Stacy, another resident of the RV park. Mr. Stacy saw the gun fight break out and recognized the mortal danger the Sergeant faced from Conner's rifle. Without hesitating, he ran to retrieve his personal .357 Magnum revolver and quickly assumed a flanking position to engage the deranged shooter in hopes of saving the trapped officer's life.

That a private citizen in this day and age willingly placed his own life in jeopardy for a police officer is quite rare, but what Stacy did next was even more amazing. His target was far beyond "normal" handgun range and by most estimates lay anywhere from 150 to 165 yards away! Taking careful aim, Stacy raised his revolver and fired, scoring a solid hit to the gunman's thigh. Now fully distracted from his mission to kill Sgt. Means, Conner turned his rifle on Stacy, firing multiple shots, but failing to find his target. Both Stacy and Sgt. Means returned fire, with Stacy scoring with his next four rounds and the Sgt. hitting Conner twice more with his patrol carbine. Conner's rampage would be ended by this fusillade of lead, and the people of Early, Texas would breathe a sigh of relief as a consequence.

Local police and RV park residents alike have called Stacy a hero, but it's a moniker he's rejected. He said that he's just an "average workin' person" who was just "trying to help an officer out." In the shooting's aftermath, Brown County Sheriff Bobby Grubbs later said, "The citizen that fired these shots did a tremendous job out there. Had he not had a gun and the presence of mind to do this, we don't know what the outcome would've been." The Sheriff added that no charges were pending against Mr. Stacy as a result of his actions.

While he'd sustained no injuries, Stacy did not emerge unscathed. He later told a local reporter that he hadn't been able to sleep the night of the gun battle because of the inner conflict he felt over his actions that fateful day. However, those doubts were greatly assuaged thanks to the efforts of local

police; who reassured him that he had acted appropriately and had saved lives.

Stacy added, "I hate that it happened. But I'm glad that we got him down. I felt sorry for those people."

Vic Stacy certainly doesn't fit the stereotype of the trigger-happy redneck that has been endlessly perpetuated by the North American gun control lobby does he? Instead, he comes across as a normal, well-adjusted person who did a very brave thing under the most difficult of circumstances. In risking his life, he saved the lives of untold innocents, not to mention that of Sgt. Means. If anything, his heroics should make him a role model for all citizens to emulate.

Some would argue that had the shooting played out up here in Canada it is doubtful that even a single Canadian gun owner would ever consider getting involved. For the past forty years Canadians have been indoctrinated by both successive Liberal governments and the police to submit to aggressors, to give them what they want and to play the role of victim, - not hero.

On the flip-side, for those few who choose to ignore this "sage" advice and refuse to be made a victim of, all too often the Crown will swoop in afterwards to punish transgressors of the unwritten no-gun "code." All too frequently, anti-gun prosecutors opt to lay, what any normal citizen would view as unwarranted and unjustified, criminal charges against otherwise law-abiding citizens. Alas, justice or a sense of fairness rarely enters the equation when there is an anti-gun agenda being prosecuted. The Ian Thompson, David Chen or Laurie Manzer cases immediately come to mind. In either scenario you end up victimized; leaving you with a choice between either the criminal or the state.

While my own personal admiration and respect for most Canadian police forces (as institutions) has waned since I sat at my grandfather's knee listening to stories of Rangers Dean Bragg, Frank Mercer and Danny Corcoran, I'm not completely jaded. I still have hope that the good men and women that serve on the front lines will force the senior ranks to reform their services and return once more to Peel's Principles. I believe we can still bridge the divide that now separates citizen and constable if enough men of good character will it so.

Contrary to what gun control advocates like the Coalition for Gun Control may argue, narratives like that of Vic Stacy are not unknown here in Canada. Thankfully there are still good men and women of character willing to stand up and be counted when the chips are down. In fact, 10 residents of the remote Nunavut community of Kimmirut each put their lives on the line in the early morning hours of July 28th to come to the rescue of several RCMP officers.

Cst. Allan Jagoe, a 36 year veteran of the force and Cpl. Wendy Cornell, herself a 15 year veteran, faced every police officer's worst nightmare as they were brought under fire by an unknown assailant armed with a high-powered hunting rifle. In total, some 21 rounds were fired at the two officers, their detachment building and several nearby vehicles. Luckily none of the gunman's bullets found their mark.



Cst. Jagoe and Cpl. Cornell, like Sgt. Means, found themselves outgunned and almost out of options, until local citizens decided to get involved. Thanks to the actions of the Kimmirut 10, the 21 year-old shooter (who has yet to be identified), was disarmed and placed under citizen's arrest by armed members of the community. Commenting on the early morning events of the 28th, RCMP Superintendent Hilton Smee of the Nunavut RCMP "V" division, acknowledged the group's bravery, noting that, "All of these people put their lives at risk to assist our police officers in a highly volatile situation. There just aren't enough words to express our gratitude."

Gratitude is all well and good, but what the citizens of Kimmirut, and indeed all communities across Canada and the United States want and need is mutual respect. I can only hope that RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson is a fan of Sir Robert Peel. Guns, in the hands of law-abiding Canadian firearm owners, present no threat to public safety. The ingrained anti-gun ethos of such respected forces as the RCMP, the Toronto Police Service and the Sûreté du Québec must be excised. Law-abiding gun owners and police were once natural allies against the forces of social chaos and criminality.

That relationship can be restored once again if the powers that be have the courage to abandon political correctness and forty years of anti-gun propaganda; and finally recognize our gun rights and the contribution armed law-abiding citizens may make toward reducing crime if given the chance. The work of such noted scholars as Professor Gary Mauser, Gary Kleck and John Lott Jr. all support such a "novel" concept. In this process, I would argue that such forces must rediscover the common-sense principles of policing, as first quantified by Sir Robert Peel. As Peel so eloquently put it more than a century ago in his 7th principle:

**Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.**

And that's the Last Word...



<Canvas Hats  
Black not shown

# Merchandise Order Form

ITEM	COLOUR	QUANTITY	UNIT (\$)	TOTAL (\$)	PRICE
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvas Hat	<input type="radio"/> Black <input type="radio"/> Clay <input type="radio"/> Royal Blue <input type="radio"/> Hunter Orange <input type="radio"/> Camouflage		___ X	15.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Oilskin Hat	<input type="radio"/> Brown		___ X	20.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Leather Hat	<input type="radio"/> Black		___ X	40.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> T-Shirts	<input type="radio"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL <input type="radio"/> Sand <input type="radio"/> Kelly Green <input type="radio"/> Forest Green <input type="radio"/> Royal Blue <input type="radio"/> Red		___ X	20.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> NFA Bag	<input type="radio"/> Red <input type="radio"/> Grey <input type="radio"/> Blue		___ X	20.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Stainless Steel Travel Mug			___ X	15.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Belt Buckle			___ X	20.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Knife with Carry Pouch			___ X	15.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Pen			___ X	3.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Crest Lapel Pin			___ X	5.00 =	___
<input type="checkbox"/> Embroidered Patch			___ X	5.00 =	___

<Oilskin

<Leather



<Stainless Steel Travel Mug



<Embroidered Patch - 4" tall x 2.81 wide



**SHIPPING & HANDLING**

- UP TO \$20.00 purchase total \$5.00
- OVER \$20.00 purchase total \$10.00

**SUB-TOTAL**

**TOTAL**



Belt Buckle



Large Crest Lapel Pin



Knife with Carry Case



NFA Bags



Various Stickers available. Call for details

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

VISA / MASTERCARD / AMEX (circle one)

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRY \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**

**Canada's National Firearms Association**  
Box 49090, Edmonton AB T6E 6H4  
**1-877-818-0393 FAX TO: 780-439-4091**