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CANADIAN 

FIREARMS JOURNAL



Fully Committed On All Fronts: _____

CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

PRESENTATION OF THE NFA's 2013 MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS



In recognition of his dedicated service as a NFA volunteer field officer, Mr. Gary Ramsay is presented with a Life Membership.



Sheldon Clare presents NFA Executive Vice-President, Shawn Bevins, with the Ted Simmermon Memorial Award.



Long-serving NFA exec, Henry Atkinson, accepts the David A. Tomlinson Award in recognition of his many decades of loyal service.



Sheldon Clare presents the Des Keddie Memorial Award, which recognizes "Rights in Reporting," to Sun News journalist Brian Lilley.



Sheldon Clare presents the Des Keddie Memorial Award, which recognizes "Rights in Reporting," to Andrew Craig and Canadian Reload Radio team.



On The Cover

Kids are the future of our shooting sports. However, each of us need to ask ourselves what sort of legacy will be left for them to inherit if we allow the RCMP, and their allies within Ottawa's gun control bureaucracy, to continue to wage their undeclared war upon legitimate firearms ownership?

Pictured on this issue's cover is Canadian Firearms Journal co-editor Grayson Penney, with grandson Caleb.

While already an ardent outdoorsman, skilled marksman, hunter, and trapper-in-training, - I fear for Caleb's future. When he comes of age, I wonder if he will still enjoy the same gun rights that we do now.

At the moment, it is the semi-automatic "black" gun types who are in the crosshairs, but you can bet the gun-grabbers will never content themselves with banning just the "ugly" or "scary" guns. We must stand together to ensure that young Caleb, and all the other "Calebs" across our great country, will inherit a future where our gun rights are both protected and preserved.

Canada's National Firearms Association cannot do this alone. We need your support. If you haven't already done so, please consider becoming a card-carrying member of Canada's official "gun lobby" today, renew your membership early, or perhaps pick-up a gift membership for someone special.

By the way, if you're wondering, Caleb's absolute favourite guns are currently manufactured by Nerf® & Daisy®. ☺

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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From The Editor's Desk



My folks always taught me that part of being a responsible adult is accepting responsibility for your mistakes and taking action to correct them. And that is the position I find myself in today as I take pen in hand to write this *mea culpa*.

Although *Canadian Firearms Journal* is published by a dedicated group of volunteers, at times circumstances dictate that we must avail ourselves of the services of professionals. These services often include sourcing appropriate photographs that enable us to better tell a story or make a point. In order to publish such photographs we have to purchase the right to do so from the copyright holder.

Unfortunately, I goofed when putting together my "Last Word" column in our most recent May/June issue. While several of the photos were taken by myself and pictured my own family, there were others that were supplied by a professional contributor. It was only after some readers brought it to my attention that I realized that the image of the young man pictured with a semi-automatic shotgun was actually holding a blue jay; a protected species in Canada. In the rush to get the issue out, I hadn't paid that much attention to the bird, believing it to be a legal game bird of undetermined species; perhaps a dove... boy was I wrong!

After several readers raised concerns over the photo I went back and more closely examined it and recognized that, indeed, it was a blue jay. Obviously, neither the *Canadian Firearms Journal*, nor Canada's National Firearms Association, encourages or endorses the illegal harvesting of a protected species; nor do I, as a life-long responsible hunter. Howsoever, as Editor-in-chief, the buck stops with me and I take full responsibility for the mistake. The photo should never have been published.

After giving the matter some thought and more than a little upset over my *faux pas*, I

followed up with long-time CFJ contributor Oleg Volk to get more background on the image he shot. It was my hope that he could better help me to put it into a fuller context. According to Oleg, the photograph was actually taken in Tennessee several years ago during a photo shoot for S.W.A.T. Magazine. The young man was actually the son of the property owner on whose land the photo shoot was taking place. The shotgun pictured was unloaded and completely safe at the time of the photo and the object sticking out of the end of the muzzle was a bird call. Certainly not an ideal place to lodge such an item, however temporarily, but I was assured it was removed immediately thereafter and there were no questions or safety issues related to said firearm.

Whether or not the jay was harvested legally remains undetermined, as certain U.S. jurisdictions actually allow the shooting of wildlife considered to be pests under some circumstances; primarily if the wildlife in question poses a threat to crops or livestock. However, a special permit is often required, even in the case of affected landowners.

Here in Canada, most *Canadian Firearms Journal* readers who contacted us over the photo were under the assumption that blue jays were a federally protected species. A little additional investigation by staff revealed that jays are not actually one of the families of birds included under Article I of the federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. (Check out Article I for yourself here: https://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=496E2702-1#_004). As it happens, the blue jay belongs to the Corvidae family, which also includes crows and ravens. For the most part, the hunting of these species is regulated at the provincial level.

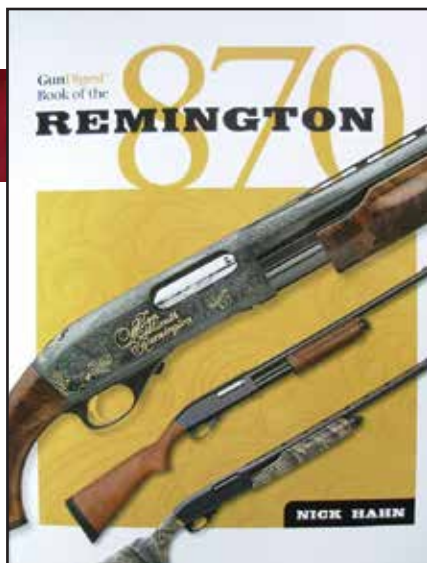
While it is legal to hunt crows in some Canadian jurisdictions, I am unaware of any that legally permit the harvesting of jays.

As an ethical hunter and sportsman I never harvest an animal that I cannot personally use or one whose death does not serve a useful conservation purpose, such as in the control of varmints. While we may lack the gophers and prairie dogs that are the scourge of mainland farmers, Newfoundland has its own predator control issues thanks to our exploding coyote problem. As such, I am happy to remove such pests where and when I can. Even so, I always make it a point to retain the fur and other body parts where I may, so as to ensure the entire animal is used in as constructive a manner as possible.

Obviously, circumstances depicted in the offending photograph are a little different. In this case, even the fattest blue jay would make for a very poor meal. I cannot conceive of ever viewing it as a legitimate game bird as such; no matter even if the appropriate regulatory body ever opted to establish an open hunting season. And while annoying, especially to backyard bird-feeder hobbyists, it is debatable whether or not the blue jay can be properly quantified as a *de facto* "pest" species.

As such, I cannot condone the killing of any blue jay. That the jay depicted in the photo published with my story was harvested in a different country is of little consequence. Therefore, I must offer my abject apologies for having published the offending photo. It was a mistake that should not have happened and I will do everything in my power to ensure that there is no repeat. I would like to thank those who wrote and provided constructive criticism on this matter. Taking the time to do so was quite heartening and proves to me that you share my deep-felt affection for our little magazine. Until next time...





NFA Book Shelf

by Wm. R. Rantz

Gun Digest Book of the REMINGTON 870

Author: Nick Hahn

2012 Krause Publication

Hard Cover, 250 Pages, Colour Photographs

ISBN -13: 978-1-4402-3211-4

Remington has long been known as a producer of quality firearms which, according to legend, began in 1816 when Eliphalet Remington built his first muzzleloading rifle. The Remington Arms Company was initially formed to produce muzzleloaders, but later became well known due to its production of high-quality breechloading rifles and cap-and-ball revolvers. Large military contracts, procured by the company starting with the Mexican-American War (1846–1848) and running through to World War II, allowed Remington to expand its production facilities exponentially, and confirmed its place as one of America's top gunmakers.

Remington also expanded by purchasing such competing companies as Parker Brothers in 1934. It secured long-term financial stability in the 1930s when a portion of the company was acquired by DuPont; in the process also establishing Remington as a dominant U.S. manufacturer of ammunition. Various types of sporting firearms were offered by Remington over the years, including several very popular models of slide-action shotguns. Sales of the latter type first began in 1907, with the introduction of the Remington Model 10A.

The Remington Model 870 pump-action shotgun was introduced to the firearm community in 1950 to replace the Model 31. The simplified action of the 870 required fewer parts than the previous model and significantly fewer machining operations during production. This enabled Remington to market their new shotgun, then commonly referred to as the "Wingmaster," for under \$70. The Model 870 was entering a highly competitive market dominated by the Winchester Model 12 and the Ithaca Model 37 pump-action shotguns.

In order to gain and retain a significant portion of the worldwide market share the new Remington Model 870 had to offer the shooter more than just an affordable shotgun. It needed to be lightweight, appealing to the eye

and dependable in the field or duck blind. Remington's ability to exceed these standards is reflected in the fact that today, over sixty years later, the 870 remains mechanically the same as when introduced. The irrefutable success of the 870 is perhaps best evidenced by its incredible production numbers, making it the best-selling shotgun in history. In fact, the photo gracing the cover of the **Book of the REMINGTON 870** depicts Remington's Ten Millionth Model 870. Remington celebrated this stunning milestone on April 13, 2009.

Nick Hahn, author of the **Book of the REMINGTON 870**, acknowledges that he wrote his book as a "tribute" to this remarkable shotgun. The information presented in text, photographs and reproductions of documents will satisfy the interest of readers who wish to know the detailed history of the Model 870, –from its introduction to present day.

The Table of Contents itemizes fourteen chapters, which cover technical information as well as all Model 870 variations. These range from the earliest hunting shotguns to tactical versions used worldwide by military and police forces. Included are over one hundred large, full-colour reprints of vintage Remington sales brochures, catalogs and classic advertisements. Flipping through the pages is an entertaining trip down memory lane for senior shooters. Younger shotgun enthusiasts will note the evolution of the Remington 870, from its inception to the many variations currently available.

The Book of the REMINGTON 870 will be a welcome addition to the library of any gun enthusiast. It has a list price of \$34.50, but may be found online for under \$23, plus the cost of shipping. However, if possible, please consider purchasing from your local firearm retailer, as they are an important part of our recreational firearms community and need our support.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Canada's Gun Politics: Building a New Paradigm.

by Sheldon Clare

Canada's National Firearms Association is coming of age as a modern 21st century lobby organization. With the recent addition to our professional staff of Mr. Shawn Bevins, we will now have the ability to engage in Ottawa lobbying much more frequently. In addition, we will be concentrating on organizing the 500,000 licensed firearms owners in Quebec into a viable force of political action that can be cohesive in the face of onslaughts against them and their hobbies. One third of Canadian firearms owners live in Quebec, and the NFA is the only organization working to help them. Modern Canadian gun control has its roots in Quebec, and it will be uprooted in the same place. We plan on keeping Shawn busy with building up our ability to represent firearms owners and in further professionalizing our organization. We are working hard to reach that great mass of firearms owners who have kept a low profile and not gotten involved in our brand of civil rights advocacy. These are the people who need to be joining us – you know them, for they are your friends and neighbours.

These activities will make us much more able to achieve the kind of change we need to reform Canadian firearms laws. Highly motivated volunteers remain the key to our growing organization, but there comes a time when you need to have key people who can do the work full time. Your efforts have made our growth possible. Volunteer efforts have tripled our membership in Quebec in only a few months, and we are well aware that we can achieve much more with our full attention on better organizing, not only in that province but in others as well. We are going to win this fight with the organized mass of firearms owners speaking up with their membership in the NFA. Right now that mass is smaller than it should be, but that will change. If at least 3-5 percent of Canadian firearms owners were to join Canada's NFA, we'd be much larger than any political party and all of them would have to take us much more seriously than they presently do. Right now the only party that is listening to us is the Conservative Party, and that group needs some stiffening before its MPs will make the changes that we all want. Certainly, none of the other major parties are paying any attention to us, but that aloofness will continue to be at their political peril.

The key aspect of the problem is that our firearms laws should not be criminalizing ownership and use of firearms and their accessories. If there is no victim, then there is no crime. It

is a simple concept really, but many do not seem to grasp it. Why is simple possession of a firearm a crime in this country? The answer is because a Liberal government made it one and succeeding governments have been unwilling to restore that fundamental aspect of our right to own, possess, and use our own property. Administrative law should not be in the criminal code. We can restore this basic aspect of our civil, property, and human rights, but only with more members and the resources that members provide.

The power of our membership has become apparent in our recent trips to Ottawa to meet with MPs and their staff members. We are well known because of your mail, and instead of merely holding out our hands for what we want in terms of legislative change, we have presented an offer of help in supporting our friends in the next election. We are all fed up with tinkering on the firearms file – significant action is long overdue.

In order to achieve the changes we want, it is time to both look back at one of the NFA's oldest pieces of advice and muscle it up for the 21st century. It's quite simple really – join your local federal party constituency association. Become active in that association, and find other like-minded people to work with you. Push a pro-firearm agenda and choose pro-firearm candidates to represent you. When there is an election get the pro-freedom voters out to vote. It is pretty clear who are not our friends; let's ensure that those who claim to be our friends are prepared to support that friendship through deeds rather than words alone.

If there is any doubt about the importance of getting out the vote to secure electoral victory, one needs to look no further than recent provincial elections in BC and Alberta. It's pretty clear that even the victors didn't get all of their voters out – they were just marginally better at it than those who lost. The greatest danger to the CPC in maintaining power is that they forget who put them there. Such a lapse would not cause firearms supporters to vote for another party – most likely many would merely stay home as they have in at least two other federal elections when there was nothing there for us. Ending the firearms registry was a small step towards real change, but it is important to realize that tinkering will not fix this bad legislation – wholesale repeal is what is

Continued on Page 39



MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Par Sheldon Clare

L'Association Canadienne pour les Armes à Feu (ACAF) devient adulte. Notre équipe professionnelle s'est enrichie récemment avec l'arrivée de M. Shawn Bevins. Ceci nous permettra d'intensifier notre lobbying à Ottawa. Nous allons aussi augmenter nos efforts pour regrouper les 500,000 propriétaires d'armes à feu Québécois pour qu'ils deviennent une force cohésive afin de résister aux attaques répétées dont ils sont victimes. Le Québec comprend le tiers de tous les propriétaires d'armes à feu au Canada et l'ACAF est la seule organisation qui tente de leur venir en aide. Le contrôle des armes à feu des temps modernes trouve ses racines au Québec et c'est de cet endroit qu'il sera déraciné. Shawn sera tenu bien occupé à augmenter notre habileté de représenter les propriétaires d'armes à feu et de rendre notre organisation des plus professionnelle. Nous travaillons avec acharnement pour atteindre tous ces propriétaires d'armes à feu qui sont restés discrets et ne se sont jamais impliqués dans cette lutte pour nos droits civils. Ils sont ceux qui doivent joindre nos rangs - vous les connaissez, ce sont vos amis et voisins.

Ayant ainsi augmenté nos activités, nous serons mieux équipés pour effectuer les changements nécessaires aux lois sur les armes à feu Canadiennes. Les bénévoles extrêmement motivés sont toujours essentiels à notre organisation grandissante mais il arrive toujours un moment où des travailleurs à temps plein doivent être engagés. Les efforts des bénévoles ont été essentiels à notre croissance. Depuis seulement quelques mois nos membres au Québec ont triplé grâce à vous. Nous sommes très conscients qu'en militant mieux, nous pourrions grandir d'avantage non seulement au Québec mais ailleurs aussi. Nous allons gagner cette lutte en créant un groupe organisé de propriétaires d'armes à feu qui se feront entendre grâce à leur adhésion à l'ACAF. Ce groupe est présentement plus petit qu'il ne doit l'être mais ceci va changer. Si seulement trois à cinq pour cent des propriétaires d'armes à feu Canadiens devenaient membre de l'ACAF, nous serions plus nombreux que n'importe quel parti politique qui seraient tous obligés de nous prendre plus au sérieux qu'ils ne le font présentement. Le seul parti qui nous écoute actuellement est le Parti Conservateur qui a quand même besoin d'un coup de fouet pour que leurs députés fassent les changements que nous voulons tous. Évidemment aucun autre parti ne se préoccupe de nous, mais leur nonchalance continuera d'être à leur péril politique.

Le problème central de nos lois sur les armes à feu est qu'elles continuent à criminaliser la possession et l'utilisation des armes à feu et de leurs accessoires. S'il n'y a pas de victime, il n'y a pas de crime. Le concept est simple mais plusieurs ne le saisissent pas. Pourquoi est-il un crime au Canada de posséder une arme à feu? La réponse est, parce qu'un gouvernement Libéral a conçu ce crime et les gouvernements qui lui ont succédé n'ont pas eu la volonté de restaurer notre droit fondamental de posséder et d'utiliser nos propres biens personnels. Les lois administratives n'ont pas leur place dans le Code Criminel. Nous pourrions restaurer nos droits humains, civils et de propriété seulement à condition d'être plus nombreux et avec les ressources supplémentaires que ces nouveaux membres apporteront.

Le pouvoir de notre groupe est devenu apparent lors de nos visites à Ottawa pour y rencontrer des députés et leurs employés. Nous nous sommes fait connaître grâce à vos lettres. Aujourd'hui, plutôt que de faire uniquement des demandes de changements législatifs, nous avons offert d'appuyer nos amis lors des prochaines élections. Nous en avons assez des changements mineurs faits aux lois, des changements majeurs sont requis depuis longtemps.

Pour obtenir les changements que nous voulons, nous devons nous référer au conseil de base de l'ACAF et de lui donner du muscle pour faire face au vingt et unième siècle.

Ce conseil est très simple: Devenez membre d'association de parti politique Fédéral de votre circonscription. Prenez une part active dans l'association, trouvez d'autres personnes qui partagent les mêmes idées que vous et travaillez ensemble. Instaurer un agenda pro-arme à feu et choisissez un candidat pro-arme pour vous représenter. Faites sortir le vote pro-liberté lors des prochaines élections. Nous savons tous qui ne sont pas nos amis, assurons nous que ceux qui prétendent l'être le démontre par leurs gestes plutôt que par leurs paroles.

Si vous doutez de l'importance de faire sortir le vote pour assurer une victoire électorale, vous n'avez qu'à vous souvenir du résultat des élections en Colombie-Britannique et en Alberta. Il est clair que même les vainqueurs n'ont pas réussi à faire sortir tous leurs électeurs, ils ont seulement eu un peu plus de succès à le faire que les perdants. Le plus grand danger pour le Parti Conservateur du Canada est



VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Solving the Political Stagnation Conundrum

Blair Hagen, Executive Vice-President, Communications

Political Stagnation.

It's here.

There is no question that the success of Bill C-19, the bill to end long gun registration, also triggered a rather direct regulatory riposte by the RCMP in the form of accelerating unilateral firearms reclassifications. It also provoked a flurry of ancillary political maneuvering on the part of the RCMP, gun-control bureaucrats, and provincial CFOs, – mostly through continued bureaucratic licentiousness.

In Quebec, fallout from C-19 was even more marked, with the provincial government initiating legal action to preserve Quebec-related data files and publicly pressing ahead with legislation aimed at setting up a stand-alone provincial gun registry.

In Ottawa, however, the Conservative government of Stephen Harper has been disturbingly mute on further plans to reform Canada's failed firearms control system. Indeed, some in government go so far as to question whether or not any further reforms are even necessary.

Now, before everybody starts accusing me of selling "tin-foil" hats, let me be clear that some of this political lethargy is natural, and is often symptomatic of a larger political quandary that faces many governments in mid-term.

No conspiracies, no secret agendas here.

When Bill C-19, the legislation that ended long gun registration, was passed by Parliament and received Royal Assent, Conservatives celebrated what they believed was a great legislative victory. Their government had kept an

election promise by ending the wasteful and ineffective long gun registry that had bedeviled and harassed Canadian hunters and sport shooters for over a decade.

Many Conservative MPs believed that they had addressed the most egregious part of the 1995 Liberal C-68 *Firearms Act* by ending the LGR; others knew that the registration of long guns was just one part of a larger problem of an unjust, ill-conceived, and unquestionably politically-motivated gun law that was intended to disarm Canadians.

So Bill C-19 was passed, long gun registration ended, and although only a small part of Canada's famously broken firearms control system was reformed, doing so set a very important political precedent for the Government of Canada, the firearms community, and all Canadians who believe in both individual freedom and responsibility. Legislative change was indeed possible...if the will was present.

Thanks to hard-won experience, Canada's National Firearms Association has long predicted the same type of political stagnation we've observed in the aftermath of C-19. We recognize that such stagnation presents those Canadians, who have long been expecting and demanding much-needed fundamental firearms law reform, with some rather substantial challenges to overcome. However, while certainly formidable such challenges are not insurmountable.

Nonetheless, some overly-optimistic politicians have wrongly assumed that the entire firearms issue would cease to be of pressing political importance in Canada once the "problem" of long gun

registration was addressed. Not so. As long as the 1995 Liberal C-68 *Firearms Act* remains intact and the law of the land, firearms will remain an issue Canadian politicians may only ignore at their peril. There is no question that there are many outstanding points of contention still awaiting resolution.

In truth, it is this lack of resolution that will keep the firearms issue alive.

At present, all of the Liberal's most pernicious and confiscatory regulations remain intact. Canadians still run afoul of these every day and NFA continues to get calls from members asking that we advise or explain the law to them, or assist them when they are charged with offenses that should never have been laid.

If Conservative MPs and cabinet ministers thought that they would cease to get complaints about Canada's broken firearms laws now that Bill C-19 has passed, they are quickly learning otherwise.

The NFA has consistently advised the federal government that there is only one practical solution to the utter legislative and administrative chaos created by the former Progressive Conservative and Liberal governments via their failed gun control policies: Repeal the current *Firearms Act* and replace it with their own.

Ideally, such legislation would respect the rights and property of Canadians, while implementing new measures to deny criminals and the unfit access to arms. The Conservatives have the opportunity to introduce a *Firearms Act* that all Canadians can support; not just those who hold our right and cultural heritage

“The important thing is that average Canadian voters who wish to see fundamental firearms law reform must do their part, or it will not happen”

of firearms ownership in contempt, or who pursue a civil disarmament agenda in Canada.

One thing that the Canadian electorate must recognize is that the firearms “issue” has finally come of age, and must be approached in the same way as any other major political issue. That in itself is progress; as firearms - “the issue” - was barely on Ottawa’s political radar before 1995 and was given little serious consideration by any of the major power players. In many political circles it was all but assumed that additional legislation to regulate, restrict, or prohibit firearms was something all reasonable Canadians supported.

Bill C-68 changed all of that, forcing Canadians to become politically active in support of their firearms rights in a way that they never were before. And that political awakening continues today. The debates sparked by that most controversial legislation finally caused Canadians to start asking hard questions. They finally made the public think about firearms and their place in Canadian culture and society in a way they’d never before considered.

The spirit of co-operation, the national characteristic of working together towards a common goal or to solve a common problem was recognized by many as having been abused by dishonest politicians and civil-disarmament lobbyists in the course of their legislative wrangling over gun control. The rather blunt, bloody-minded, and arrogant way in which the Liberal’s Bill C-68 was imposed upon law-abiding gun owners served to confirm and cement this belief in the minds of many Canadians and not

just those of firearms owners.

It’s a shame—an offense really—that legitimate issues of public safety related to firearms should have been co-opted by politicians and gun control advocates to further civil disarmament. Equally offensive is the imposition of ideologically-motivated legislation that places the onus upon the accused to disprove their guilt, instead of making an assumption of innocence, as the tenets of natural justice demands. That latter distinction, more than any other, I would argue is incontestably “un-Canadian” and demands redress.

While publicly claiming to be ardent defenders of civil rights, I wish I could report that opposition MPs are finally aligning themselves in support of further firearms law reforms, but I cannot. It would appear that the cause of natural justice is superseded by misplaced fear and deeply-felt loathing of anything gun-related within the ranks of both the Liberal and NDP parties.

It would appear then our choices are rather limited: Benign neglect from the CPC or the promise of further gun bans from the Opposition.

Conservative MPs, who are concerned about the firearms issue and wish to see further firearms law reforms implemented by their government, all strongly assert one thing when approached by NFA: Be politically active!

They urge NFA to ensure that their members continue to write, E-mail, call and visit their Member of Parliament at every opportunity in order to drive home, in no uncertain terms, that we expect the government to implement further firearms

law reforms; and ideally they must act to bring forth new federal legislation to do so.

These “sympathetic” MPs freely admit that, at this particular juncture, only this type of pressure will move their government to act. If successful, they will stand shoulder to shoulder with Canadians to make sure that substantive *Firearms Act* reform is made reality, but the spark required to set things in motion need originate with us.

The important thing we must take away from this “insider” insight is that the onus once more rests with us. Those Canadians desirous of fundamental firearms law reform must do their part, or reform will simply not happen.

Therefore, we must recognize that it isn’t the actions of the opposition parties that are preventing reforms, nor is it the actions of the civil-disarmament lobby or their allies in the media and political punditry. Instead, the key to further reform is in convincing the federal government that Canadians want, nay demand, comprehensive reform of Canada’s failed firearms control system.

We need to drive home the point that ‘band-aid’ solutions are no longer acceptable, nor will simply scrapping the long gun registry satisfy the debt the Harper government owes Canada’s millions of responsible firearms owners.

That is how to break the political stagnation that currently impedes political action on firearms law reform.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear NFA,

As an executive officer serving with one of your NFA affiliated gun clubs we hear many complaints from our members about the current Firearms Act and the need for reform. Having a largely rural membership, the one issue that is probably the most vexing for members is the federal firearms regulation that only permits the discharge of handguns and other restricted/prohibited class firearms at an "approved" range.

Many of our members are large landowners, including farmers and ranchers. These individuals often have to drive for hours in order to utilize our club's CFO-approved range. These members may literally own dozens of sections of land. Oftentimes their nearest "neighbors" are a half-hour drive or more away.

While we value their membership, it is silly that such law-abiding gun owners are not legally permitted to shoot their legally-owned handguns on their own property. If you have any suggestions as to what our club can do to support changes in this area, we would be very interested.

Kerry O.

Dear Kerry,

This issue has proven equally frustrating for gun owners across the country. Canada's NFA has been working hard to educate current MPs as to the undue financial burden it places on many rural Canadians who, as you point out, do not have easy local access to an approved shooting facility.

Living in rural Newfoundland, I too share the same plight as many of your club's members. In fact, my nearest range is more than a two hour drive away! With the high cost of gasoline, a single trip to the range often runs me \$100.00 or more when fuel, meals, and related sundries are factored in. I'm sure it is much the same for your membership.

The current regulations have their origins in Bill C-51, were expanded by C-17, and carried forward in Bill C-68 by the anti-gun Chretien Liberals. Rather than enhance public safety, these regulations are specifically designed to constrain ownership of restricted/prohibited class firearms. Essentially, the Liberal's aim was to make it so onerous for individual owners to actually own/use these classes of firearms they'd eventually get tired of the red-tape and voluntarily surrender or sell their guns.

The bureaucratic road-blocks are indeed many. For the moment, licensed owners are allowed to possess their restricted/prohibited class firearms at their registered address or place of storage, which in most interpretations means your dwelling house. However, this does not include detached garages or outbuildings. Restricted or prohibited (12.6/12.7) firearms may only be fired at approved shooting ranges and require an ATT or Authorization to Transport, in order to take them from their place of registration/storage to said CFO approved range for target practice, competition, etc...

Unfortunately, there is no easy work around to these pointless bureaucratic hurdles. Political action, in the form of government-sponsored legislation or a private member's bill is probably the best

hope of actually effecting any appreciable reform. We encourage all members to make the time to contact their MPs and educate them on this issue, and to express their desire for immediate reforms. We need to instill a sense of urgency within the current federal Conservative caucus that such reforms need to be a priority. That's why there will be a dedicated NFA policy team in attendance at the upcoming CPC convention in Calgary this summer.

As part of this same political reform strategy, Canada's NFA is encouraging all affiliated clubs, NFA members and concerned firearms owners to get engaged at a grassroots political level and join their local Conservative riding associations. It is these individual associations that have the greatest influence over which candidate is chosen to represent their constituencies. Should gun owners hold the balance of power within said riding associations, it becomes our call as to who can best represent our interests.

Clearly, we need more genuinely pro-firearms representatives in Ottawa and fewer fair-weather "friends." We need to elect more pro-firearms MPs who are willing to stand-up and fight for the rights of all law-abiding gun owners. It is evident that we already have more than enough "representatives" who are content to offer empty promises and platitudes at election time, but rarely, if ever, deliver.

Politics aside, there is another option for those club members with landholdings of sufficient size and suitable location: Build your own private range. Certainly this may prove an expensive option that few can afford, but for those with the means and who are lucky enough to own sufficient property to do so, it is a real option. There are a number of NFA members who have successfully gained official CFO approval for their private shooting ranges. In most cases it took a lot of tenacity, a lot of paperwork and a lot of perseverance on the part of the successful applicants.

To start the process you will need to contact your provincial CFO and request a copy of their rules and regulations concerning range construction. Included in these documents will be a series of diagrams and templates for various types of ranges, required safety zones and related structures.

Before beginning construction you will need to have the potential build site approved by a qualified representative from the CFO who will inform you of what is required in order to meet approved standards. You can count on multiple inspections and often having to make arbitrary changes or improvements to your range before final approval will be granted.

While far from "easy," such a project remains within the realm of possibility for the more highly motivated within our firearms community. In theory, the same process may also work for those interested in constructing an indoor range.

- Editor

Dear NFA,

As a Canadian snowbird that winters in Arizona, I found your article, A Matter of Trust, very interesting.

I spend the winters in Arizona, and I routinely take a handgun with me. I am a member of a gun club down there and use it for target

shooting & hunting. I also carry it when solo hiking in isolated areas of the state.

In order to do so, I am required to first obtain an import permit from the American BATFE. They used to require a valid hunting license issued by a U.S. state, or an invitation to a shoot in order to obtain this permit. However, last year this requirement was removed for Canadians and others who do not require a visa to enter the U.S.

The state of AZ does prohibit non-U.S. citizens from having guns or ammo. However, if they have a valid hunting license, issued by any U.S. state, they are treated the same as a U.S. citizen. Incidentally, in AZ it is lawful for a citizen to "open carry" a holstered handgun, or carry concealed, (or as they prefer to call it - discreet carry), as they choose. No special permit is necessary. Therefore, Canadians can carry legally in AZ if they have a valid hunting license; the only other requirements are that they are in the U.S. legally, and not prohibited from possessing firearms, i.e., are convicted felons, under a prohibition order, etc...

AZ still issues concealed carry permits to people who want one in order to carry in other states. Oddly they won't issue these permits to non-U.S. citizens.

Nevertheless, if Florida won't issue carry permits to fellow "Snowbirds," perhaps your readers should think of making Arizona their winter destination? Besides being gun friendly, it is a beautiful state with lots of friendly people.

Gary B.

Dear Gary,

Many thanks for your letter. You have certainly given us all extra food for thought when the time comes to book our next getaway or holiday destination. The fact that a foreign government actually places more trust in fellow law-abiding gun owners than does Ottawa serves to highlight just how ridiculous a state Canadian gun laws are in. We hope you enjoy all that "trust," sunshine and clean desert air.

- Editor

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In defence of freedom

The Official Magazine of Canada's National Firearms Association

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

The Rebellion of 1885 - Part III Return to Peace and Order?

Gary K. Kangas and Branko Diklitch

Friday, the 15th of May, 1885, marked the collapse of the Métis' spring uprising. Louis Riel, the leader of the rebellion, was captured by federal scouts. Gabriel Dumont, Riel's trusted general and advisor had been forced to flee; eventually making good his escape by crossing over the border into the United States. He was to receive a rather cool reception from the Americans, and found himself immediately placed under arrested upon his arrival on U.S. soil. Lucky for Dumont it was to be a very short incarceration, and he was released from custody a short time later.

In the wake of the collapse of the Riel and Dumont directed resistance, the deep divides to be found within the Métis community would become starkly conspicuous. An excellent example was the St. Albert militia. Formed in mid-May, the new unit's contingent was primarily comprised of Métis troops, and was committed to the federal cause, rather than the rebels.

Federal sympathizers were elated, and in the initial rush of euphoria, after Riel's defeat, Canadians from coast to coast toasted General Middleton and his federals for their "great victory." Many felt that their new nation of Canada had passed a great test and survived a baptism by fire. The result was the creation of a greater sense of unity and national pride.

However, the fighting was not at an end quite yet. Many First Nations bands, which had fought their own battles against mistreatment and perceived neglect by Ottawa, were still combat capable and remained undefeated. Nevertheless, it

was clear to a number of First Nations war chiefs that, with the capture of Riel, the odds were not in their favour. After learning of his capture, a number of like-minded chiefs made overtures of peace to Middleton. The following is the text of a letter dated May 19, 1885, from Poundmaker to General Middleton, and delivered by First Nations couriers.



Poundmaker

Sir, I am camped with my people at the east end of the Eagle Hills, where I am met by the news of the surrender of Riel. No letter came with the news, so that I cannot tell how far it may be true. I send some of my men to you to learn the truth and the terms of peace, and hope you will deal kindly with them. I and my people wish you to send us the terms of peace in writing, so that we may be under no misunderstanding, from which so much trouble arises. We have twenty-one prisoners, whom we have tried to treat well in every respect. With greetings.

Signed Poundmaker

General Middleton held the First Nations in very low esteem and refused Poundmaker's peace offer, and instead sent an ultimatum to Poundmaker. The following text is Middleton's documented letter, as noted in *Footprints in the Dust*.

Steamer Northwest, May 23, 1885

Poundmaker-

I have utterly defeated the Half-breeds and Indians at Batoche, and have made prisoners of Riel and most of his Council. I have made no terms with them, neither will I make terms with you. I have men enough to destroy you and your people or, at least, to drive you away to starve, and will do so unless you bring in the teams you took and yourself and Councillors, [sic] with your arms, to meet me at Battleford on Monday, the 26th. I am glad to hear you have treated the prisoners well and have released them.

Signed Fred Middleton

When Poundmaker surrendered on May 26th, his band included councilors and headmen, and additional bands represented by Lean Man and Thunderchild; altogether, tallying less than 260 individuals. Upon meeting the First Nations warriors who had voluntarily complied with his unforgiving ultimatum, Middleton would not even pay them the simple courtesy or respect of shaking their hands.

His arrogance and disdain for his former adversaries was made abundantly clear during the interview with Poundmaker and the other chiefs. His address to the First Nations began with these instructions to his translator, Peter Hourie: "Tell them they'd better listen to what I have to say now!" He then went into great detail suggesting he could do whatever he wanted. Warning them that for every white man killed, ten First Nations would "suffer," and if the chiefs had not surrendered, he would have had them hunted down and killed. Brave talk, indeed, from a commander who just short days before, had faced mutiny within his ranks, and potentially utter defeat at the hands of Riel and his rebel forces!

At the same time, it would seem, Ottawa had nearly resolved its remaining logistical issues, and men and matériel was now flowing freely from the east. Federal forces, newly reinforced, were issued new Winchester 1876 carbines, and Colt 1878 double action revolvers in ever-increasing numbers. Re-armed and re-equipped, the federals were ready to take the offensive once more in order to mop up any remaining pockets of resistance. General Middleton was understandably brimming with confidence, and his former reticence to engage the enemy at Batoche now turned to bluster.

Given Middleton's harsh terms, many First Nations refused to surrender and chose to fight on, regardless of the odds. One of the largest groups of hold-outs was the First Nations alliance formed between elements of the Wood Cree, Plains Cree and later Chipewyan Nations. The major voice of the alliance was that of Big Bear. He, along with his mixed force of nearly 500 First Nations peoples, would eventually square-off with government forces. Their successes, or lack thereof, would ultimately help determine the final outcome of the Rebellion of '85.

It should be pointed out that within this band of hold-outs there



The Surrender of Poundmaker to Major-General Middleton at Battleford, Saskatchewan, on May 26, 1885. - Oil on canvas, circa 1887. Courtesy: Picture Division, Public Archives of Canada.



would have been very few men of fighting age, with the majority of the group being women and children. As was later revealed, their alliance had been formed primarily for the purposes of mutual protection, rather than aggression.

Big Bear, one of the alliance's most respected voices, was a staunch proponent of dealing with the government from a position of strength. The formulation of this new alliance was seen as the only practical way to achieve this aim. For the most part, there was little appetite for direct confrontation with the federal forces, and many preferred to head north, —out of harm's



Fine Day, a participant in the Rebellion of 1885 and his son, Toostoos Awasis, circa 1894. Courtesy of RCMP Museum, Regina.

way. Alas, fate had other plans for them.

On Thursday, May 28th, 1885, federal forces under the command of Brigadier Bland Strange launched an attack on Big Bear's camp situated along the Little Red Deer River. The engagement began with a surprise artillery barrage aimed at the camp's center, followed by the advance of federal skirmishing parties. Intense small arms fire was brought to bear by both sides in the ensuing melee, and was to continue into the early afternoon.

The First Nations warriors were now led by Wandering Spirit, the band's war chief. In times of battle and similar crisis, it was the war chief's responsibility to take command. While the federal troops enjoyed a significant tactical advantage, they hadn't caught the First Nations alliance wholly unprepared. In anticipation of the battle, First Nations warriors had dug trenches along a key ridge, permitting them to fire from cover and engage federal troops in relative safety.

Finding themselves at a surprising tactical disadvantage, Brigadier Strange's skirmishers opted to lay low in the face of the withering fire being brought to bear by Wandering Spirit and his men. Eventually growing weary of the stalemate, the pinned-down federals would later attempt to flank the trenches occupied by the First Nations warriors. However, Wandering Spirit countered by directing additional fire against the federal troops leading the flanking maneuver.

The counter worked, and the federal flanking maneuver failed. By late afternoon, and countless rounds later, there were surprisingly few casualties and both sides opted to withdraw. The engagement was later called the Battle of Frenchman's Butte, though it in fact it actually took place on an adjacent ridge overlooking the Little Red Deer River.

Following the fight along the Little Red Deer River, Big Bear and his First Nations alliance finally headed north, and what they hoped was safety. Brigadier Strange's command was to subsequently withdraw from the field of battle in the direction of Fort Pitt. Despite all the artillery and small arms fire expended during the fight, there were only four casualties of the Battle of Frenchman's



Poundmaker and his wife



Big Bear in chains following his surrender, circa 1886



Metis prisoners following final surrender, circa 1885.

Butte. Strange's forces suffered just three wounded, while Wandering Spirit's band incurred just the one; unfortunately the latter warrior would sadly succumb to his injuries the next day. The blood price could have been much worse.

Some days after the fight, General

Middleton and Brigadier Bland Strange finally met and together jointly surveyed the battlefield. They discovered that none of the First Nations that remained in the trenches were casualties. While reconnoitering, one of Steele's Scouts suffered a wound from a shot fired by a fleeing First Nations scout.

Obviously, the battle had not gone as the brigadier had hoped. As so many combat commanders have learned, before and since, –in combat nothing should come as a surprise, and no battle plan remains intact after the first round is fired. No matter how prepared, or well-trained your forces may be, wheels will fall off of wagons and cannons, horses will bolt, and some troops will panic, while others will not. Carl von Clausewitz, a Prussian soldier and military theorist, who fought against Napoleon, called such instances the “fog of war.”

According to Douglas Light, “Major-General Middleton and his column gave up the chase for Big Bear and decided to return to Fort Pitt.” The general did, however, order select units to deploy in a variety of directions to block the more obvious avenues of retreat. Yet, despite the good showing delivered by Wandering Spirit at Frenchman's Butte, more small bands of First Nations insurgents began surrendering to Middleton. Perhaps tired of the constant harassment, poor food, and fear of imminent attack by government forces; whatever their reasons, the fight for many First Nations rebels was done.

Still, Ottawa could not yet declare final victory with Big Bear and Wandering Spirit, along with their Cree and Chipewyan allies, remaining at large. The last important fight of the Rebellion of '85 was to take place on June 3rd, at what is now called the Steel Narrows at Makwa Lake.

In the aftermath of the Battle at Frenchman's Butte, Brigadier Strange ordered his scouts to conduct an extensive reconnaissance of the area to locate the enemy. His scouts eventually caught the First Nations band crossing the narrows between two lakes. Steele's Scouts, having identified the enemy, divided into two columns and attacked. Wandering Spirit and his warriors immediately

counterattacked, hoping to buy enough time for the women and children to safely cross the narrows and escape. After both sides suffered a number of casualties, the federal scouts disengaged, as the remaining elements of the First Nations alliance withdrew across the narrows. They would continue

retreating with little pause. Soon thereafter, Big Bear's band broke up into smaller groups to make them harder to track. Others tired of the constant fighting and hiding simply threw in the towel and surrendered. Big Bear, himself, would surrender the following month.

The aftermath of the Rebellion of '85 was neither pretty, nor politically correct by today's standards. Minister of Defense, Adolph Caron, gave his permission for federal troops to collect "souvenirs," – which translated meant war plunder and loot. The First Nations and Métis camps were subsequently stripped bare, even Gabriel Dumont's fine china and billiard table were carried off.

Many First Nations and Métis were later charged with treason, and a myriad of additional felony offences. Eight were executed in the biggest mass execution ever in Canada. Louis Riel was also hanged. Those that survived, and were loyal to the government, received a medal. Later, in an even stranger twist, the uprising's most prominent general, Gabriel Dumont, was so decorated. The latter remains a story for another day.

Ottawa, in order to prevent a future repeat of the spring of '85, instituted a number of harsh measures aimed at curtailing the free movement of First Nations peoples. Thereafter, no First Nations were permitted to leave their reservation without written permission from government officials.



Courtesy of RCMP Museum, Regina.

Following the end of hostilities, some Métis did receive land grants in Alberta, and Ottawa eventually struck a commission to investigate the Métis and First Nations grievances. Not surprisingly, there was little interest in reform, and many of those same issues remain unresolved today.

Looking back, hindsight tells us that the First Nations forces had mounted a decidedly effective fighting withdrawal through the latter part of May, and into June of 1885. They played it smart and concentrated solely on defence. Leaders like Big Bear and Wandering Spirit recognized the simple truth that they could not win against a better-equipped and numerically superior enemy. What arms and men they did have, however, they used to full effect.

During this period, the quality of First Nations arms varied widely. Amazingly enough, reliable sources and surviving documents indicate that the smoothbore "trade gun" was the staple small arm fielded by First Nations rebels in the uprising. Essentially obsolete by 1885, trade guns, such as those fielded by Big Bear's forces, were usually found in .54 and .60 calibre. They were relatively easy to maintain and load, and accurate to about a maximum distance of 100 yards.

Other documented firearms in the hands of First Nations warriors included various models of Sharps and Springfield

single-shot rifles chambered in .45-70 and .50-70 calibres. These rifles were renowned for their reliability and long-range accuracy. Much to the regret of Wandering Spirit, I'm sure, there were few repeating arms to be found in First Nations hands at this point. Yet, it is believed a few repeating lever action

carbines, like the .44 Henry, may have seen limited action. For the most part, the rebel First Nations used what they could scrounge, including a number of captured government-issued .577 calibre Snider Enfields.

It was a much different story for their pursuers. By the end of the uprising, most government units were extremely well armed; fielding the cutting-edge in firearms technologies. As a sidearm, federal scouts and cavalry were issued the large and powerful '78 Colt double action revolver chambered in .45 Colt. In terms of shoulder arms, most were issued the latest in Winchester repeaters. Both the Colt and Winchester were far in advance of anything their First Nations opponents could field, and gave government forces a decided advantage over their enemy. For obvious reasons, the Colt and Winchester were to prove extremely popular with the troops.

When all is said and done, the danger and romance of the era of the Rebellion of '85, and the desperate actions of the equally desperate armed men that ignited it, – combine to mark a seminal moment in the history of our nation. Whether they were seeking redress of past wrongs, or justice for perceived grievances; or from the federal's perspective, looking to preserve peace, order and "good government," – there is no question that Canada enjoys a richer and more interesting firearms heritage as a result of the Rebellion of '85.



POLITICS & GUNS

Killing the Registry:

Gun Owners Become Collateral Damage?

by Sean G. Penney

As a gun rights activist on the “front lines” of the war against international civil disarmament, the past couple of years have given me new appreciation for the wisdom of the Greek philosopher Plato and his thoughts on who has seen the last of war. Here in Canada we’ve been fighting the forces of Liberal social re-engineering and their entrenched firearms prohibitionist agenda for over four decades now. The progressives’ push for universal gun control has long been a centerpiece of that strategy. The result has been a never-ending assault on the rights of law-abiding gun owners to continue to purchase, possess and use their own legally-held property.

I’ve been personally engaged in this fight for two of my four decades of life, having volunteered with the National Firearms Association as a field officer while still in university. Over the years our opponents have most certainly racked up far more wins than losses, but we’ve made them pay dearly for every single one. Looking back, I’m a little amazed that we accomplished as much as we did, especially given the resources at our disposal.

Back then, the Liberals enjoyed almost complete dominance in the House of Commons, there was an anti-gun, crusading Justice Minister calling the shots on the “gun issue” in Ottawa, and the Chretien government had no compunction against providing the near-fanatical anti-gun lobby groups, like the Coalition for Gun Control, with generous federal grants to fund their lobbying efforts.

But then something wonderful happened; the political tide started to turn in our favour and a minority Conservative government gave way to the first Conservative majority government Canada had seen in well over a decade. This was a new, ostensibly firearm-friendly Conservative government that had its roots in the hard “c” conservative movement of Reform. During this era, Reform and its progeny, the Canadian Alliance and eventually the Conservative Party of Canada became the direct beneficiaries of the unwavering support of the Canadian firearms community. For twenty years Canadian gun owners kept the faith; dutifully paying party dues, making regular donations and were steadfast in our electoral commitment to the party come Election Day.

After almost a decade and a half of “dark times” living under the hostile rule of an anti-gun Liberal government, many gun owners believed that the Harper Conservatives were the answer to their prayers. The latter would right past wrongs, and strike the long-

awaited blow for freedom and justice. The hated C-68 gun control regime would be torn down, and gun owners would be freed from the tyranny of the Liberal’s *Firearms Act*.

At the time, I truly believed the Conservatives were men & women of honour and would deliver on their promises. Alas, C-68 is still with us, firearms ownership is still criminalized and I’ve just learned that the RCMP may be weeks away from officially banning the entire Swiss Arms family of modern sporting rifles. A semi-automatic variant of the brilliant SIG/Swiss Arms SG 540,

the Canadian Swiss Arms rifles have been imported into Canada for more than 12 years. This potential ban comes on the heels of the RCMP’s prohibition of two other legally registered semi-auto “military-style” carbines manufactured by Germany’s Sport System Dittrich, the BD-38 and BD-3008, just six months ago. Semi-auto owners need take heed.

The latest news, however, came as a complete shock, as the Swiss Arms family of rifles had been legally imported into Canada for years and most were classified as non-restricted. Legally, they’re no different than the Ruger Ranch rifle so favoured by farmers across the country for predator control, or the Remington 700 deer rifle that is so profligate in deer stands come fall hunting

season. The Swiss Arms fires the same tiny .223 Remington round favoured by many varmint hunters, and I use mine exclusively for coyote hunting. In its 12 year history in Canada, a Swiss Arms rifle has never been involved in a gun-related homicide, it has never been used to rob a bank or shoot up a school. And, other than cosmetically resembling a Swiss service rifle, the Canadian Swiss Arms family poses zero public safety threat. At a retail price tag of nearly \$4000.00, they also aren’t exactly the firearm of choice of your average drug dealer or petty criminal.

So why then are I and the many thousands of fellow responsible gun owners just like me, now facing the prospect of falling victim to the RCMP and its less and less covert anti-gun crusade yet again? Obviously, the Mounties prefer not to characterize their anti-gun pogrom in quite that way; instead, they continue to claim that they are merely attempting to “fix past mistakes” by “re-examining” the classifications of dozens of semi-auto black guns. That almost every single “re-examination” results in said firearm’s prohibition is too often conveniently forgotten.

“The pervasive rumour that non-restricted firearms will be broadly reclassified is categorically false. There are no plans to alter the process in which firearms are classified.”

- Julie Carmichael,
Public Safety Canada
(National Post, October 24, 2011)



Only the dead have seen the end of war.



- Plato Greek philosopher (427 BC - 347 BC)

TABLE 1. Recent RCMP Firearms Prohibitions: A Timeline

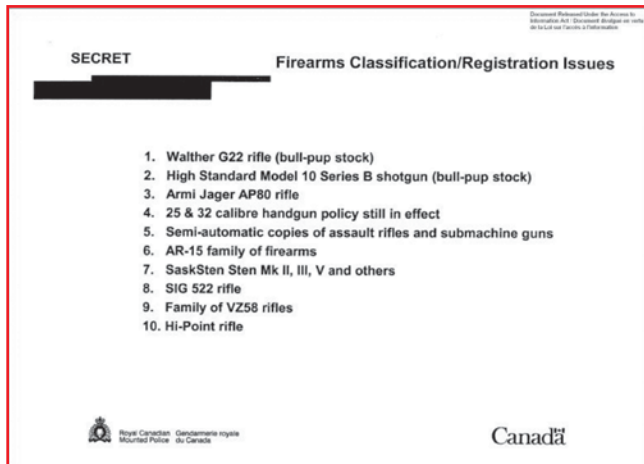
 <p>2005 – Canadian firearms importer and retailer, Armrus (of Dorval Quebec) attempts to import the Saiga .410 ga. semi-auto shotgun. Result: PROHIBITED. RCMP deems it a variant of AK-47. Armrus shipment seized by CBSA/RCMP, and shortly thereafter goes bankrupt.</p>	<p>stock) and FX18IIHB (Folding stock). RCMP contends BB guns were manufactured with authentic frame and receiver from the Chinese Type-56 version of the AK-47 and can be “easily converted.” Result: PROHIBITED.</p>
 <p>2008 – A Canadian firearms retailer attempts to import the German Sport Guns GSG-5 semi-automatic 22 LR. Result: PROHIBITED. RCMP deems it a variant of the prohibited HK MP5 based solely on external cosmetics.</p>	 <p>2011 – (December) RCMP deems all registered Armi-Jager AP-80 semi-automatic .22 LR rifles variants of AK-47. Result: PROHIBITED.</p>
 <p>2010 – High Standard Model 10B bullpup shotgun. RCMP reclassify model as prohibited. Result: Legal owners ordered to surrender their firearm for destruction or have it deactivated. No compensation paid.</p>	 <p>2011 – (December) RCMP informs owners of legally registered, non-restricted Walther Model G22 semi-auto .22 LR rifles that they have deemed the bullpup stock of the G22 to be a PROHIBITED DEVICE. Owners required to surrender stocks for destruction, or transfer them to a properly licensed business. No compensation paid.</p>
 <p>2010 – Norinco Type 97A. Legally imported into Canada some years earlier as a restricted firearm due to bbl. length. RCMP unilaterally reclassifies it as a PROHIBITED firearm. CanadaAmmo, a Canadian firearms importer and retailer partners with NFA to fund a legal challenge that is ultimately unsuccessful. After pressuring the Harper government, compensation is offered to affected owners following surrender of their firearm.</p>	 <p>2012 – (January) RCMP deems the XRAIL magazine extender system for magazine fed shotguns to be a PROHIBITED DEVICE. Properly licensed businesses permitted to retain affected devices. Individuals required to surrender or dispose of their devices.</p>
 <p>2010 – Several firearms importers explore the importation of the SIG SAUER Model 522 semi-automatic .22 LR rimfire rifle. RCMP deems it a variant of the SIG SG 550 rifle. Result: PROHIBITED.</p>	 <p>2012 – (December) RCMP “re-examines” the SSD Model BD-38 and BD-3008 RESTRICTED class firearms and subsequently REVOKES all registration certificates belonging to individuals and some businesses. Result: PROHIBITED. Individuals and ineligible businesses who own these firearms are required to surrender firearms for destruction or have them deactivated. Note: In order to be eligible for compensation, affected owners required to agree to forego their LEGAL option to refer the revocation to a provincial court judge for appeal.</p>
 <p>2011 – (March) S&W M&P 15-22 is a dedicated semi-auto .22LR rimfire rifle. As a variant of the AR-15 it is RESTRICTED. The RCMP deems all OEM factory 25 round capacity S&W M&P 15-22 magazines PROHIBITED devices. Affected owners are required to permanently limit all magazines to 10 or surrender them for destruction.</p>	 <p>2013 – (May) Access to Information requests reveal SECRET RCMP documents highlighting a list of 27 semi-automatic military-style firearms that were targeted for “re-examination” and potential reclassification. Included are many extremely popular modern sporting rifles including the VZ-58, Hi-Point Carbine, etc.</p>
 <p>2011 – (May) Stripped magazine body deemed a PROHIBITED DEVICE as a result of R. v. Cancade decision. Case highlights degree to which previous R. v. Hasslewander decision has become a poison pill for future related legal challenges.</p>	 <p>2013 – (May) RCMP admit they are in the process of “re-examining” the Swiss Arms family of semi-automatic .223 sporting rifles to determine if they should be PROHIBITED as variants of the SIG SG 550/551. The RCMP issue a deadline for the manufacturer and importer to provide proper documentation and any related evidence proving the Swiss Arms rifles imported into Canada are true variants of the earlier SG 540 which is not banned in Canada</p>
 <p>2011 – (May) RCMP “re-examine” the Zoraki Model R1 flare gun and deems it a legal firearm. Result: Affected owners ordered to immediately register their “firearm” or surrender it for destruction.</p>	 <p>2013 – (May) The FRT firearms reference number for the Kriss Vector carbine is pulled from the RCMP’s on-line FRT table for “re-examination.” Result: pending.</p>
 <p>2011 – (June) RCMP “re-examine” the Zoraki Models 914 and 925 blank firing pistols & deem them legal firearms. Result: PROHIBITED. Affected owners ordered to surrender pistols for destruction.</p>	
 <p>2011 – (October) RCMP “examines” Chinese-manufactured BB guns with model numbers FX18HB (Full</p>	

From the list above, it would seem that essentially anything that looks “scary” or “evil,” has a pistol grip or is fed from a detachable box magazine is fair game for “re-examination” and prohibition. Giving further weight to this conclusion is the RCMP’s own admission in a 2010 secret memo that their Specialized Firearms Support Services had some 27 inspections underway at that time.

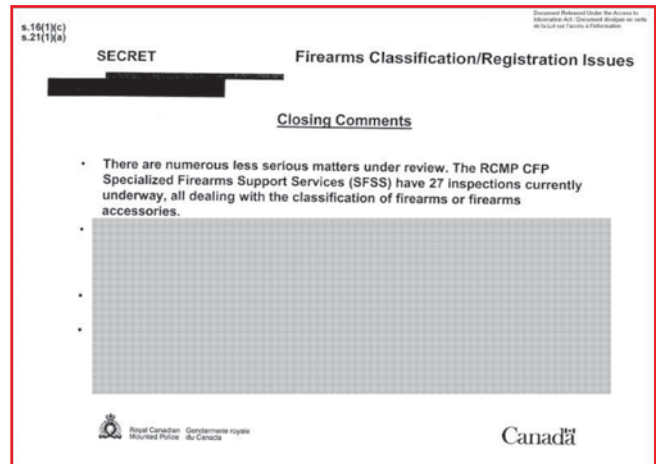
“ Unless certain particularly dangerous firearms are reclassified before the long-gun registry is abolished, it will be easy for organized crime groups to boost their arsenals with military-grade weapons without leaving a paper trail. ”

Jean-Guy Gagnon, chairman of the national firearms strategy council of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. (National Post, October 24, 2011)

RCMP Secret Memo Dated May 12, 2010.



RCMP Secret Memo Dated May 12, 2010.



That Canadian gun owners are facing further unilateral RCMP reclassifications at this juncture is unacceptable. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been resident at 24 Sussex Drive since 2006; yet seven years on, and the Canadian firearms community is potentially days away from the RCMP's unilateral reclassification of yet another beloved firearm: the Swiss Arms "Classic Green" and family? If it happens, it will be but the latest in a long string of similar RCMP "corrections." Yet, according to the Mounties' official cover story, they aren't interested in taking legally owned firearms from law-abiding gun owners, but are merely "fixing" past "mistakes" and "oversights" related to earlier firearms classifications. I'm not so sure former Armi-Jager AP-80 and Walther G22 owners would agree with that particular characterization.

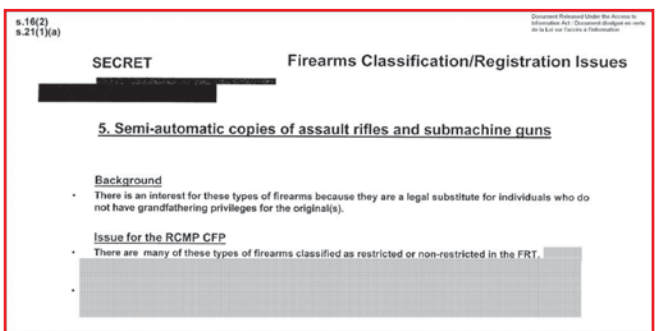
You could almost accept the inevitability of such malicious abuse of power if the Liberals still formed the Government. Undoubtedly they'd have campaigned on a platform of gun bans and prohibitions. But they aren't in power; Stephen Harper and his Conservatives are. That fact makes what appear to be a never-ending stream of RCMP-directed gun bans and prohibitions so personally loathsome and infuriating to me, as both a lifelong responsible firearms owner, and card-carrying member of the Conservative Party of Canada.

And while the RCMP may be so "in love" with the truth, that they prefer to "stretch" it to make it go farther, I'm not buying what they're selling. Gun banners like Wendy Cukier are quick to discount growing fears within Canada's "black rifle" community that the RCMP has a hidden agenda; one that will eventually culminate in a complete Canadian firearms ban. The recent release of formerly "secret" RCMP documents does much to give credence to such a belief.

I've rarely been called the fool, and to paraphrase Kissinger, "Even a paranoid can have enemies." Basing my decision wholly on their past deeds, and not words, it is clear that the RCMP views

gun owners as potential hostiles, and continue to treat us as if we were their enemy. That there is some secret "hit list," there can be little doubt. If belief in said list makes me paranoid, then so be it! For whatever reason, the RCMP is apparently incapable of differentiating between law-abiding firearms owners and the career criminals, assorted gangbangers, and sundry criminally-deranged lunatics that are actually responsible for Canada's perceived "gun crime" problem.

RCMP Secret Memo Dated May 12, 2010.



What is perhaps even more disturbing is a simple notice posted to the RCMP's own website stating that the fact sheets on their list of restricted/prohibited firearms are in the process of being updated.

Knowing what I know now, the question I have to ask myself is where will this all end? When will we finally see the end of this war on the rights of law-abiding firearms owners? Was Plato right?

Quantifying the "RCMP Problem"

If you refer back to Table 1, you can see that the pace of recent RCMP "reviews" and prohibitions really quickened about three

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

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Home > Canadian Firearms Program > Fact Sheets > List of Restricted and Prohibited Firearms

Canadian Firearms Program

Information for...

Police/Public Agencies
Businesses
Canadian Residents

List of Restricted and Prohibited Firearms

Important Notice

The Canadian Firearms Program fact sheets concerning the Firearms Act are currently being revised. Updated versions will be posted as soon as possible.

years or so ago. There was a flurry of new guns added to the prohibited list. In fact, there has been more new gun bans instituted by the RCMP in the past three years than in all of the preceding decade and a half!

Many of the affected firearms had been legally registered in Canada for years and never posed any sort of imminent threat. So what changed? Looking at the timing of things, most of these reviews seem to have been initiated in the months leading up to or following the introduction of legislation aimed at scrapping the Liberal's failed long gun registry. It seems that the most likely culprit was the introduction of private member's Bill C-301 by Conservative MP Garry Breitkreuz. It really put the RCMP on notice that the long-gun registry's days were numbered. When C-301 was supplanted by Bill C-391, and seemed to pick up even more steam, the RCMP's cosseted anti-gun brain trust went ballistic.

It was during this same period that approximately three dozen or so "black" rifles and carbines, basically the most "scary" semi-automatic military-style firearms contained in the registry, mysteriously disappeared for several days from the RCMP's own on-line Firearms Reference Table. Several days later the missing reference numbers reappeared just as mysteriously. No explanation or comment from the RCMP has been forthcoming. Several of those same firearms also appear in the "secret" RCMP memos obtained by Canada's National Firearms Association.

“With the Harper government poised to scrap the long-gun registry, some police groups and gun-control advocates are indeed pressuring politicians to tighten controls on civilianized military-assault weapons before police lose the registry — which allows them to know who owns legal firearms.

- National Post (October 24, 2011)

It can be argued that the most logical explanation for this 'prohibit and ban' jihad the RCMP is currently waging may be a direct result of C-19. The prospect that so many "evil assault weapons" would no longer even be registered in a post C-19 world was simply too horrific a reality to countenance for many in the senior ranks. When asked to comment on the issue in a recent Global News interview, retired OPP Staff Sergeant Doug Carlson, who for much of his career served as a regional firearms officer in Ontario, opined:

“Destroying the long gun registry has made new bans very difficult. It's hard to make something illegal and get it off the street if you don't know who has it... What happens if, for some reason, a currently classified non-restricted firearm is reclassified as prohibited? There won't be any records of who owns the firearms other than in Quebec.”

Viewed from such a perspective, the government-sponsored bill essentially stripped the RCMP of much of their ability to "control" these "deadly weapons" and/or those who possessed them. Perhaps the central issue we need consider then is one of CONTROL. C-68 gave it to them, C-19 took some away, and now the RCMP is seeking to redress this imbalance by simply banning the offending firearms; with due process and the rights of law-abiding gun owners the collateral damage.

With a quasi-sympathetic Public Safety minister in place doing little to dissuade them from their "re-examine & ban" pogrom (remember Vic Toews is a former Crown), the RCMP seem unconcerned over growing discontent and anger within the firearms community.

Nonetheless, the RCMP continues to deny having any ulterior



Hunting rifles serve a legitimate purpose, and we don't object to people using handguns for target shooting, but we draw the line on military assault weapons. Civilians should not have access to military weapons.

- Wendy Cukier, Coalition for Gun Control



motives. However, the sheer number of guns banned is adding up, and Canadian gun owners are taking notice. Staring down the barrel of yet another imminent firearms reclassification, I take no comfort in the Public Safety Minister's pithy assurances that the Harper government has no plans for sweeping reclassification of any type/class of firearm.

Regardless of what Minister Toews may be saying, the RCMP's recent actions would seem to contradict the Conservative's position. When it comes to banning guns, whether you do it all at once or one gun at a time, the end result is the same: complete civil disarmament. I'm honestly not sure whether it is because they simply don't care, or they're content to take gun owners for granted, but the Conservatives have become de facto absentee landlords on the firearms issue...and as the old saying goes, while the cat's away, the mice will play.

RCMP Secret Memo Dated May 12, 2010.

9	Family of VZ58 rifles	Existing Criminal Code Regulations permits these firearms to be non-restricted or restricted; a case could be made they should be classified as prohibited
10	Hi-Point rifle	

If you read the RCMP's entire 2010 "secret" memo, they clearly take pains to reiterate that they do not have a "reclassification" or "prohibition" agenda. But that's pure hogwash. Rather than staying true to their primary raison d'être, as enforcers of our laws, the RCMP have instead begun playing politics; including lobbying Government to green light further arbitrary gun bans, as in the case of the VZ-58 singled-out in their 2010 memo.

They have also made overt attempts at shaping public opinion, and have assumed a de facto law-making role that they obviously believe supersedes the will of our democratically-elected Parliament. That is unacceptable. When and if further prohibitions are required, they should only come at the hands of Canadian parliamentarians, and only after due process has been served; NOT at the hands of non-elected uniformed gun-control bureaucrats.

Fixing the "RCMP Problem"

If the powers-that-be within the RCMP—those who are pushing this anti-gun agenda—continue to insist on playing politics, then they should form their own political party and run for elected office. Let Canadians voice their opinions and support for their gun-banning agenda at the ballot box. However, we know this will never happen. Therefore, the ball is really in the Conservative government's court. If they support the RCMP agenda they should be honest and say so. If they believe in gun control and gun bans as social policy, then say so— and the politics of guns in Canada will change accordingly.

As for Canada's National Firearms Association, we will adapt as always. If not, it is time for the Conservatives to step in and put an immediate end to these seemingly never-ending attacks on our rights as law-abiding firearms owners.

The Conservatives promised no new gun control measures under their watch. Yet, over the past six years we've seen multiple unilateral re-classifications; all while the RCMP and individual CFOs have seemingly been given carte blanche to essentially invent their own regulations, and enforce them as if they carried the full-weight of Parliament behind them.

Nevertheless, what's even scarier is that the RCMP really hasn't come anywhere close to utilizing the full potential of the powers granted them by the *Firearms Act* to effectively harass licensed owners, or erect additional obstacles to continued firearms ownership in Canada. Look to Quebec as the model to fear. What has happened (and is happening) there in terms of enforcement against the firearms community is the same model the RCMP is implementing across Canada.

The idea is to make firearms ownership so completely onerous that many casual shooters will eventually voluntarily give up their guns. As for new and novice shooters, the bureaucratic roadblocks facing them will become so irksome, so vexatious that they will simply opt not to become legal gun owners. Give it a generation or two, and

near complete civil disarmament becomes a reality in Canada! But, there is still some time remaining for us to fix this sorry state of affairs.

Obviously, turning administration of the Canadian Firearms Program over to the RCMP has been a complete disaster. Given the institution's obvious anti-gun agenda, it is time the PM corrected this mistake and removed the RCMP from the equation. Administrative responsibility for the Canadian Firearms Program must be removed from the Mounties and returned to the direct control of Public Safety Canada.

This is a stop-gap measure only, but one that will at least put an end to pending RCMP gun bans, including the Swiss Arms. Ultimately, what must happen is for the Conservatives to replace the Firearms Act with entirely new legislation. Legislation that completely removes civil disarmament as a core component, and places clear limitations on those entrusted to administer and/or enforce Canada's gun laws in the future.

The success of C-19 proves that legislative change is possible, and this is a point upon which there can be no compromise. C-17 & C-68 must go! And while our war may continue, I hope that one day we will prove Plato wrong, as I'd really like to be around to see our dream made reality. With firm resolve and continued dedication, victory is possible.

TEAM NFA *Update*

By Grayson Penney

It has been a while since our last update. As this issue goes to print, the 2013 summer shooting season is well under way for TEAM NFA member Rob Engh. His winter sports counterparts, TEAM NFA members Matt Neumann and Megan Heinicke, however, have just put another grueling competition season behind them and are focused on their conditioning for the upcoming 2013-2014 race season.

Rob Rob has always been a training demon and when we last checked in with him he'd just finished training with B.J. Norris at the Steel Challenge training course at Abbotsford Fish and Game Club. As Rob put it, the opportunity to train with someone of that caliber is a rare experience. The name B.J. Norris is a familiar one to any of us involved in action pistol shooting. Norris is a world champion shooter in Steel Challenge; he holds numerous records in that sport, and as it happens, is also an excellent teacher.

Much to my regret, Rob informed me that because of the terrible weather during B.J.'s visit, it was impossible to snap a decent photo. Shifting gears, to the training itself, Rob and his fellow students learned how to break down the stages in Steel Challenge. Once broken down, B.J. showed his students how to best utilize this knowledge to permit them to react faster to the timer, while working on their draws and transitions on steel.

Rob was particularly enthused to note that Norris ended up borrowing one his own CZ Shadows for Day One of the class. What was so impressive was that B.J.'s times did not slow an iota, even shooting an unfamiliar pistol. In fact, Rob tells me that on a standard 7 yard draw on an 8 inch target, B.J.'s average time with

the Shadow was .58 of a second. Yeah, .58 of a second, with a nice center hit. And he could do that all day.

Assessing the course, Rob described is as simply an amazing opportunity, and one that he is looking forward to again the next time B.J. heads north of the border. He says the training has already paid off for him. At his latest practice night Rob said he was .78 seconds faster, on average, than previously, and was much more consistent. He was understandably pleased with the improvement and believes it will also translate well to IPSC, if and when he resumes competing in that particular shooting discipline.

Unfortunately, internal politics raised its ugly head this past season after the IPSC Nationals. As a result, Rob will not be competing in IPSC this year in any meaningful way. That includes club matches, as well as regional and national matches. Instead, Rob's focus for 2013 will be on representing TEAM NFA in Steel Challenge, along with training. Lots of training.

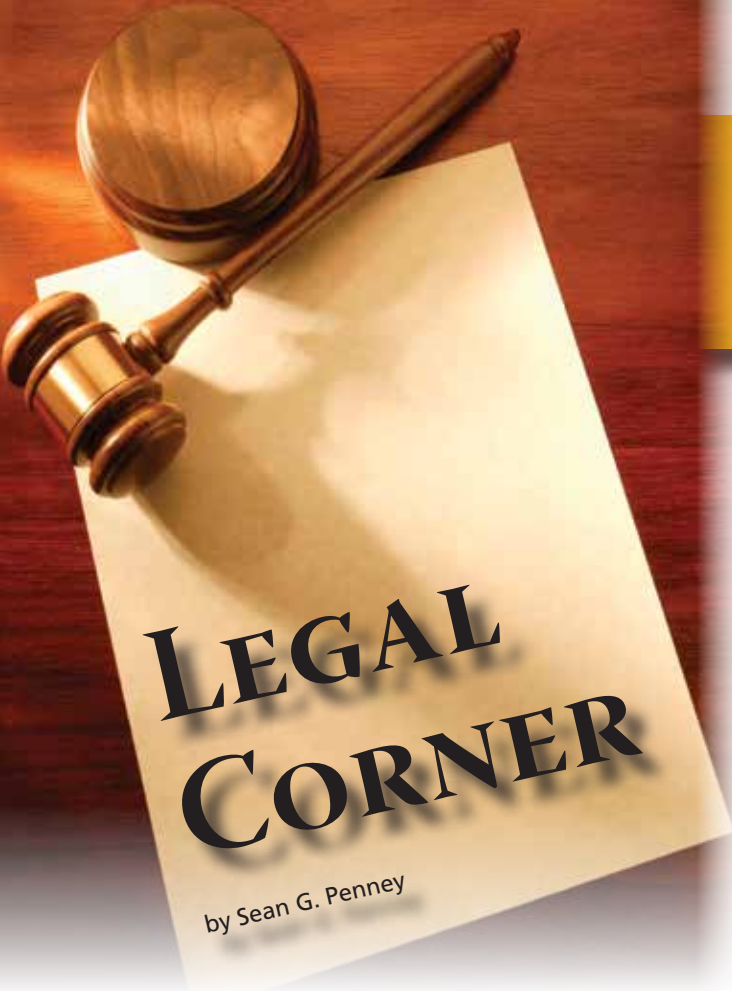
According to Rob, his "Skills and Drills" nights are now seeing as many as 20-25 shooters showing up each week. As Rob tells it, the growth is staggering, and it isn't just experienced shooters looking to sharpen their skills. "There are lots of new shooters on the line, brand new I mean, never shot a handgun before, never used a holster before, and right beside them, a high level ERT member who's never been to the class before either. It's great to watch the growth, in one night, with the new shooters, and the look of amazement from seasoned ones when they pick up something new."

Rob has been overseeing his "Skills & Drills" classes for so long now that he's got the working formula down pat. Most sessions start with cold tests to see where the shooters are at in terms of

TEAM NFA - Continued on Page 31

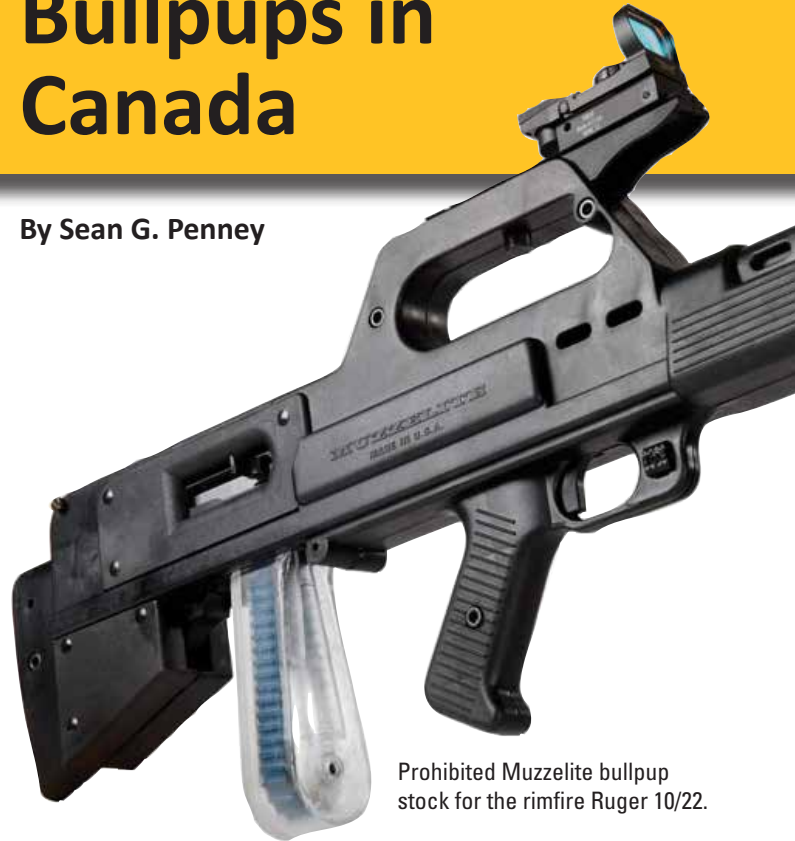
Rob in action.





Bullpups in Canada

By Sean G. Penney



Prohibited Muzzlelite bullpup stock for the rimfire Ruger 10/22.

There are three questions that the staff of *Canadian Firearms Journal* and the gang at National Firearms Association HQ can count on having to answer multiple times every week from our members:

- 1.) How can I help get rid of C-68?;
- 2.) Is the government planning on banning my (insert firearm model name here)?, and;
- 3.) Bullpup's are prohibited, right?

Since this is *Legal Corner*, we'll focus on just the last question. What exactly is a "bullpup" firearm, or as the *Firearms Act* refers to it "bull-pup?" The *Tactical Dictionary* found on-line uses the following definition:

Definition: BULLPUP

Design of rifle where the action is found behind the fire-control group (trigger, grip, safeties) for a reduced compact profile. Examples of a BULLPUP rifle include: Steyr AUG, SA-80, Tavor, FN-2000, FN P90, Bushmaster M-17S.

Source: Tactical Dictionary - Definitions for Military Acronyms & Terminology

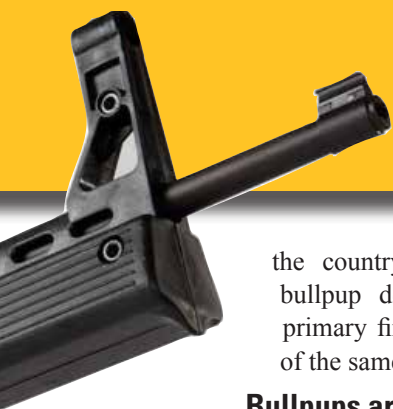
Over the past two decades, many major militaries have been abandoning traditional small arms designs in favour of bullpup configurations. The French, with their FAMAS, was

one of the first, but many others, including Great Britain, Israel and even China have followed suit over the past decade or two. Probably the single most important reason for this switch has been the desire to field a much more compact rifle or carbine, while still retaining a traditional full-length barrel that delivers at least comparable performance to the design it replaced.

Firearms designers accomplished this feat by moving the entire action toward the rear, and/or behind the traditional fire control group and grip area. The end product is a much chunkier shoulder "stock," with an obviously non-traditional profile and radically different ergonomics that, admittedly, does take many traditionalists some time to adapt to.

Offsetting these perceived drawbacks is the ability to retain a full-length rifle barrel in a short, carbine-sized package. The end result is a firearm that gives nothing up to its traditional full-sized competitors, in terms of effective range and accuracy, while delivering the same performance in a smaller, more compact package. One that many military users find much more convenient for entering/exiting vehicles, clearing rooms in CQB-type operations, and participating in airborne operations, etc...

Civilian users, including service rifle and 3-Gun competitors, along with a growing number of "tactical" hunters across



the country are adopting bullpup designs as their primary firearm for many of the same reasons.

Bullpups are prohibited?

But, aren't bullpups prohibited? How can the average Canadian shooter legally possess such a firearm?

The short answer is that purpose-built bullpup firearms are not prohibited under Canadian law, including the current *Firearms Act* or Chapter 39 of the CCC. There are, however, certain bullpup designs, such as the French FAMAS, Austrian Steyr AUG, Valmet M82, etc., that were specifically named in a particular OIC (Order-in-Council) previously and subsequently prohibited.

For the most part, gun owner's confusion most likely arises from former *Prohibited Weapons Order, No. 9* and the current *Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited or Restricted (SOR/98-462)*:

PART 4 - PROHIBITED DEVICES

Former Prohibited Weapons Order, No. 9

2. Any rifle, shotgun or carbine stock of the type known as the "bull-pup" design, being a stock that, when combined with a firearm, reduces the overall length of the firearm such that a substantial part of the reloading action or the magazine-well is located behind the trigger of the firearm when it is held in the normal firing position.

Legal Status: Bullpup Stocks vs. Firearms

As noted in the regulation above, under current law, it is the "bull-pup" stock specifically, and not the bullpup firearm per se, that is prohibited in Canada. If the firearm in question is of a dedicated bullpup design, with an integrated stock design, it is completely legal to import, purchase, possess and use (unless prohibited by name). Classification as either a non-restricted or restricted firearm is purely determined by barrel length. For current bullpup designs such as the increasingly popular IWI Tavor and Kel-Tec RFB, the "stock" forms an integral part of the firearm and if separated from the receiver/action is unable to discharge a live round.



Aftermarket bullpup stocks such as the popular USA-manufactured Muzzlelite or SGWorks stocks meet the definition of a prohibited device as laid out in part 4 section 2 of the schedule of regulation SOR/98-462. Since, these stocks, "when combined with a firearm, reduces the overall length of the firearm such that a substantial part of the reloading action or the magazine-well is located behind the trigger of the firearm when it is held in the normal firing position." As such, they do indeed reduce the overall length of many popular sporting firearms such as the Ruger 10/22 rimfire, Marlin Model 60, Ruger Mini-14 or SKS they're designed to fit, and are therefore "prohibited devices."

Although rather arbitrary, this prohibition remains in effect, and it is illegal to attempt to import such devices or to install them in a firearm. The "sniff test" used to determine if a particular bullpup design should be approved depends on whether or not the firearm can be successfully discharged when removed from the bullpup stock or shell.

Walther G22 "Issue" & other complications

In recent years the legal waters surrounding this issue have been muddled by the case of the Walther G22. Sales of this popular .22LR bullpup carbine began a little under a decade ago, when it was first approved for importation by the RCMP as a non-restricted firearm.

However, several years ago the RCMP opted to re-examine the G22. Following the review, it was the opinion of the RCMP firearms lab that the firearm's stock should be classified as a "prohibited device." Apparently, the RCMP's lab technicians somehow figured out a way to discharge a live round from the Walther, while the action was removed from the stock. Owners of the G22 were quick to point out that, in practical terms, there was no real way to effectively employ the rifle sans stock; arguing that the G22's stock was a critical part of the firearms design and without which the carbine was rendered useless.

The fact remains that the Walther G22 was designed to be



Walther G22 with OEM Factory Hardcase

a bullpup rifle from the ground up. Of that, there is no question. Objectively, it was never designed to be fired without its factory bullpup stock. Furthermore, rather than “reducing the overall length of the rifle,” the addition of the OEM factory stock actually increases the firearm’s total length! Some argue that this fact could possibly make for a legitimate appeal of the RCMP’s decision. For now, it remains a legal gray area; one that the courts will most likely have to address in the near future, especially as more and more new bullpup firearm designs are released.

Nevertheless, choosing to base their decision on legal technicalities, rather than the intent of the original law-makers (and common sense), the RCMP ruled that the G22 bullpup stock was a “prohibited device;” no different than the aftermarket stocks from companies like Shernic Gun Works and Muzzlelite, that actually reduce the length of firearms such as the Simonov SKS or Ruger Mini-14. As a consequence, the RCMP stopped approving further transfers of the G22; leaving both it, and affected owners in a state of limbo.

Registered owners eventually received notification letters from the RCMP

(starting approximately two years ago) informing them that they were now required, under penalty of law, to surrender the offending OEM stock for destruction; surrender the entire firearm; or immediately transfer the offending stock it to a business having the appropriate license.

Ironically, for those who opt to turn in only the stock, the remainder of the G22, including the complete barreled action, remains non-restricted. In point of fact, since the end of the long-gun registry, Canadian G22s are no longer even registered; albeit they’re also essentially unusable sans stock. No compensation has been paid to affected owners for what is now little more than a \$900 “paperweight.”

Political Implications

Given the timing of the RCMP’s re-examination, immediately preceding the adoption of Bill C-19, some owners are of the opinion that the RCMP’s motives were more than a little suspect. They may have a point, especially given that we’re debating the legality of prohibiting something as innocuous as a plastic rifle stock. Where is the clear and present danger

to public safety?

There is little question in my mind that the original ban on aftermarket bullpup stocks was not only unnecessary, but also politically motivated. In the case of the RCMP’s recent Walther G22 action, nearly 20 years after the fact, I cannot help but reach the same conclusion. Obviously, the drafters of the original legislation did not anticipate the revolution in firearms design we are now witnessing, nor the multitude of competing factory-built bullpup rifles now flooding the marketplace.

Yet, given enough time and the vast resources of the RCMP firearms laboratory, there is no doubt the G22 will not be the last dedicated factory bullpup design that RCMP techs somehow manage to fire without its OEM stock. At the moment, all it takes is just a single success, and said stock will join the Walther’s on the list of prohibited devices. The threat of such a possibility will undoubtedly cause more than a few potential buyers to re-evaluate their purchase of a new bullpup firearm; especially guns like the IWI Tavor or Kel-Tec RFB that can easily run in excess of \$2500-\$3000. Unfortunately, such scenarios may be viewed as yet another “victory” for the Liberal’s gun control strategy; with potential gun owners voluntarily restricting their own acquisition of firearms.

In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, there really is no “gun crime problem” in Canada that justifies a ban on “bullpup” rifle stocks. Nor is there any indication that the addition of a bullpup rifle stock, to a legally owned firearm, will suddenly change the morality and values of their otherwise law-abiding owners, or cause them to misuse their firearm. I’m not so sure the same can be said of the RCMP’s behaviour in this case. Sadly, many G22 owners, who have contacted us on this issue, have said that they felt intimidated by the RCMP officers they spoke to on the matter. In several cases, owners also accused the assigned Crown attorney of the same; alleging that they used their position

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SECRET

Firearms Classification/Registration Issues

1. Walther G22 Rifle

Background

- This is a non-restricted rifle equipped with an attached “bull-pup” stock which is a prohibited device (pursuant to Criminal Code Prohibited Devices Regulations).

Note: if a complete firearm is a “bull-pup design”, the stock portion is not a prohibited device.



Prohibited Muzzlelite bullpup stock for the Ruger Mini-14.

and threat of prosecution to exert pressure and encourage compliance. It is not surprising that most opted to subsequently surrender their stocks.

Conclusions

For the moment, the current law remains unchanged and we must obey it. However, like so many other flaws in the current *Firearms Act*, the bullpup issue draws attention to the desperate need for immediate repeal of the entire Liberal C-68 *Firearms Act* and related gun control regime.

“Grandfathering,” and similar solutions to the reclassification issue, offers only a temporary reprieve for current owners. Such band-aid approaches will

only delay the inevitable, —the needless confiscation and destruction of valuable private property. Here again, we see yet another covert objective of the Liberal’s gun control program revealed.

At the end of the day, the real issue isn’t the legal status of bullpup firearms or the prohibition of aftermarket bullpup stocks, but rather the potential for abuses of power that are created by the current *Firearms Act*. It does not matter if such abuses may be laid at the feet of the RCMP, the Crown, or gun control bureaucrats in Ottawa; the fact that they are happening, and will inevitably happen again, demands immediate redress in the interests of natural justice.

Canada’s National Firearms Association

is working hard to lobby the Harper government to enact desperately needed reforms. However, much work remains to be done. An argument can be made that this is not merely a gun rights issue, but rather is a symptom of a much larger Charter issue. Perhaps re-articulating the current legal debate over the bullpup stock question within the larger framework of property rights is the answer. If properly executed, such a strategy could possibly drive home its importance to all Canadians, and not just the small portion of gun owners directly affected. After all, if the government has the power to arbitrarily seize one form of property from law-abiding citizens, what is to stop them from seizing others?

For further research:

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-98-462/page-2.html#sched1>

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/fs-fd/rp-eng.htm>

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regula.../FullText.html>

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/F.html>

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C...e-41.html#h-40>

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☐ NFA Liability Insurance: \$9.95 / person covered, per year. \$5 million coverage. _____ people covered x \$9.95 = _____

*Family Membership consists of 2 adults and anyone under 18, living under one roof.

☐ Enclosed is a list of individuals covered.

Payment Information Total Payment: \$ _____ ☐ Cheque or Money Order enclosed ☐ Visa/Mastercard/AMEX

Credit Card #: _____ Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

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Mail To: National Firearms Association, Box 49090, Edmonton AB T6E 6H4 or Toll Free 1-877-818-0393 or at www.nfa.ca



By Al Voth

In case you missed them, my first report from the 2013 SHOT Show looked at overall trends, while the second focused on handguns and the tactical world. This, the third in my series of SHOT Show reports, will focus on hunting guns and the more traditional shooting sports.

RIFLES

I'm a rimfire fan so I always love to stop by the Anschutz booth. This year they showed me a Fortner-action sporter in 17 HMR. To those not familiar with the Fortner concept, it's a straight pull action that has enough speed and accuracy to

be the dominate action in the sport of biathlon. In .17 HMR this rifle would make an outstanding small game rifle—if you can afford it. I heard estimates from \$2000 to \$4000 for this rifle. It's amazing.

Remington has big rifle news in the Model 783, a rifle designed to compete in the hot mid-price range of the hunting market. In their line, it's one step down from the Model 700 and looks to be a solid choice at the under \$500 price point. It's a bolt action with a detachable magazine, quality barrel, adjustable trigger and good bedding. Calibres range from .270 to 7mm Rem. Mag. this year, with more to come.

One of the hottest rifles on display at SHOT was from TrackingPoint Inc. This is a rifle system that brings fighter-jet-style, lock-and-launch technology to hunters by integrating digital optics and target tracking technology into a shooting system. In use, the shooter finds the target in the rifle scope and "tags" it with a laser, leaving a visible (through the scope) marking dot on the target. The rifle scope calculates the range and tracks environmental data. The shooter then puts the crosshairs on the red dot and



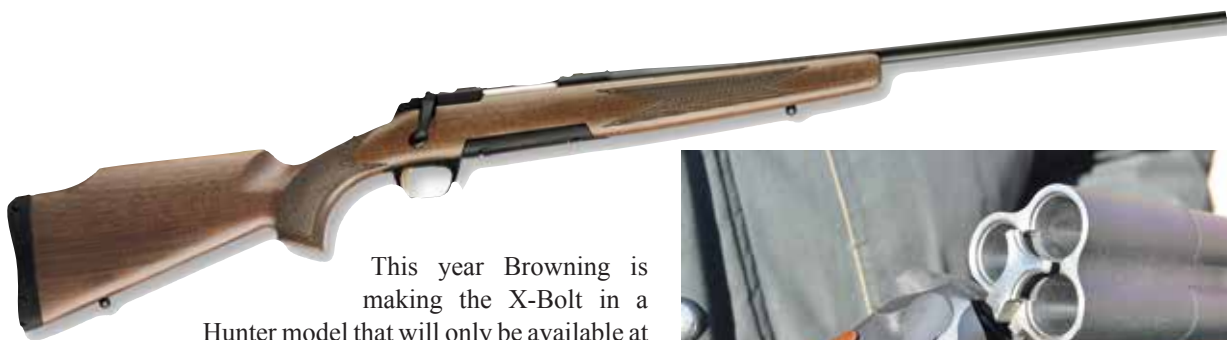


presses the trigger, but the gun won't fire until the crosshairs are perfectly aligned. The gun will even stream live video to a mobile device for immediate coaching or later analysis.

There's no question, this is what the future of high tech rifles will look like. And several months after SHOT Remington announced it has entered into a partnership with TrackingPoint, Inc. to manufacture Precision Guided Firearm (PGF) systems. To me, it looks like a good partnership. Remington can provide the investment, R & D and marketing that a smaller company like TrackingPoint Inc. needs. They are so sure this project will go quickly; the two are suggesting rifles will be available for the fall season. If so, you can expect prices to be very high. The guns at SHOT were quoted as starting at \$17,500. But that includes rifle, high-tech scope, ammo and a case. It's like anything else; if you want the latest in technology you're going to have to pay for it.



At the other end of the spectrum is a classic lever-action rifle that Winchester is bringing back. Their 1873 model rifle is going back into production, no doubt primarily for cowboy action competition. It will have an authentic brass carrier block and a 20 inch barrel. It'll only be available in .38 Special/.357 Magnum calibre and will cost about \$1300.



This year Browning is making the X-Bolt in a Hunter model that will only be available at full-line dealers. It features matte-finished metal and a similarly finished wood stock, a subdued look that I like in a hunting gun. Otherwise it's the same X-Bolt with their detachable magazine, adjustable trigger and 60° bolt lift. Standard and magnum calibres from .243 to .325 WSM will be available. Canadian price should be around \$1000.

Not to be overlooked, muzzleloader fans saw Traditions debut their new StrikerFire™ smokepole. It's a sub-model of their Vortek line and is a typical break-action design with the unusual feature of being hammerless. As the name implies, this .50 cal. is striker-fired and is cocked by pushing forward on a button that looks like an oversized tang safety. It can be decocked just as easily. I've been able spend an afternoon shooting one since SHOT and can say it works perfectly and shoots just as well.



SHOTGUNS

Remington has introduced a Sportsman version of their Versa Max autoloader. This is the same gun as the original Versa Max but they've trimmed back some of the guns features and managed to knock \$400 off the price of the standard model. Cost will be somewhere around \$1000, but you'll give up the hard case, extra choke tubes, fibre optic sights, and the adjustable fit. Your money will still get you some camo choices, barrel options and *Versa Max* reliability.



If you're a competition clays shooter, you'll be interested in the new 692 from Beretta. This over & under shotgun has a 14 inch forcing cone, adjustable trigger, adjustable fit and there's a weight balance system built into the stock. It looks good too and will require most of \$5,000 to put one in your gun safe.

Perhaps the most unusual shotgun at show this year was the triple-barrelled 12 gauge from Chiappa. For hunters who prefer a break action, but have always regretted sacrificing the advantage a third shot offers them when hunting migratory birds, the Chiappa *Triple Crown* is what they've been looking for. It looks solid, is well-made, and would certainly be a unique addition to any duck blind. With a 28 inch barrel it's supposed to weigh in at 8.7 lbs, which will help soak up the recoil of the three inch shells it's chambered for. Price is uncertain but I'll predict at least \$1500.

AMMUNITION



Winchester has released a line of ammo for predator and varmint hunters. It's called *Varmint X* and is designed specifically for that smaller game. Calibers include .204 Ruger, .223 Rem., .22-250 and .243 Win. The bullets all feature a black polymer tip, lead core and thin-walled jackets. I'm hoping to try some out this summer on gophers and if I have any ammo left, I will steer some bullets into coyotes come winter.



Winchester also gave us the chance to try their *TrAcker* ammo. This 12 gauge target load is part of their AA line and is unique in that it utilizes a wad that travels with the shot charge to the limits of its effective range. That's unusual enough, but the kicker is that you can see it in-flight. The advantage being the shooter can easily determine where they're shooting and more easily correct for errors. This will be available mid-year and will no doubt become required gear for training on clays.



The idea works as claimed, and it was no trick to photograph the wad in flight while my partner busted clays. It's the black X in the photo. Price will only be about a buck more per box than standard AA target loads.

Remington claims their *Hypersonic* steel shotshells are the fastest shotgun loads around and I don't see anyone calling them a liar. This fall they'll be adding a Hypersonic pheasant load in 12 and 20 gauges. It'll drive a payload of copper plated lead at 1600 feet per second.



OPTICS

There's a new holographic optical sight for shotguns available this year called *Redring®*. Designed and built in Sweden, it uses a red-coloured ring as the aiming point. The sight automatically adjusts ring brightness depending on light conditions. The size of the ring is calibrated to show pattern size at 20 meters. It quickly mounts to the rib of any shotgun and will cost about \$700. I tried it on clays and it works.



Bushnell announced a major upgrade to their *Fusion* line of range-finding binoculars. This new version is rated as being capable of ranging to one mile, has a new more visible display, and is available in three sizes; 8X32, 10X42 and 12X50. The onboard computer will compensate for angled shots and give trajectory info as well. They should be available in mid-2013 with a price just over \$1000. That's very reasonable for this kind of performance. I'm looking forward to seeing how they stack up against the European brands which cost two or three times that.



My spotting scope is well past its prime and I was semi-shopping for a new one at SHOT. The new Vortex Razor 16-48X65 looked like it would be worth laying some money down for. It's a medium sized scope available with a straight or angled eyepiece. Both models have argon gas purging, lenses made of fully multi-coated HD glass, built in sun shade, rotating tripod collar, dual focus, a padded case and the Vortex lifetime guarantee. Also new this year is a smaller model with a 50mm objective lens and a magnification range of 11-33X. If you're packing a spotting scope into the back country this looks like a great choice. The little guy will run you about \$1000, while the bigger one will be about \$1700—reasonable prices for this kind of quality glass.

RELOADING

Forster has a new measuring unit called the Datum Dial. This looks to be a versatile tool that will measure relative distances between selected points on cases, bullets, and cartridges. It will allow a handloader to set dies for correct





headspace, sort bullets for base-to-ogive length and set cartridge length using the bullet's ogive instead of overall length. The complete kit will do every common calibre from .17 to .338 and only costs \$157. This could become a must have item if you reload for accuracy.

MEC, the well known manufacturer of shotgun reloading tools, was demonstrating the MEC 600 Slugger, a machine built from the ground up to handload slug shotgun shells. I watched it in action and it makes beautiful roll crimp slug rounds. If you shoot a lot of slug loads this looks like the answer to your prayers. It should be available this year but hadn't been priced yet when I saw it.

MISCELLANEOUS

We all need to secure our firearms, and if you're looking for a system that locks a gun to a structure you should take a look at the RAC lock. It's a locking device that allows you to secure a firearm to a wall or a vehicle's interior. It retails for less than \$100 and looks to provide great security while still allowing access as quickly as can be achieved with a key. Single gun and double gun sizes are available. I'm told Remington will be distributing it or it can be ordered on-line from the manufacturer.



My Kestrel weather meter gives me all the environmental data I need to compute shooting solutions, but I have to input it into a ballistic program loaded on a separate device. This year Kestrel will have a new model available with a built-in ballistic program that's capable of working with G1 or G7 coefficients. It includes Brian Litz' library of measured ballistic coefficients and he put in an appearance at the Kestrel booth to explain all the features. It will factor in everything imaginable, including the earth's rotation (Coriolis Effect) and the bullet's spin drift. There was even talk of having downrange anemometers feeding info to the device for range training sessions. Acquiring one will mean one less device to lug around and is expected to retail around \$700.

As you can see there are lots of new products to look forward too. The items I've reviewed in these three reports will make our shooting sports safer, more enjoyable and will improve our performance in the field or on the range.



TEAM NFA - Continued from Page 21

their individual skill sets. From there they will be worked into the night's drills, with a lot of time being devoted to fundamentals, such as proper grip, sight picture/sight alignment and trigger press. With those key fundamentals down, then the work begins, with each shooter repeating each drill at least 20 times before moving onto the next one.

At each stage Rob makes it a point to demonstrate the drill beforehand, so that the students get an idea of what it should look like when they do it. This occasionally means they get to see what it shouldn't look like as well. As Rob admits, he has been known to blow a drill or two. Yet, rather than be embarrassed, he uses those goof-ups as a teaching tool that his students are quick to appreciate.

As Rob noted, they get to see that they aren't the only ones to make mistakes, and that realization usually breaks any tension that's developed in those students who haven't been doing particularly well on that night/week/month. It also gives the others the chance to beat him on the drill, "Which happens more often than one might think," Rob chuckled. Like a proud papa, Rob finished our chat, saying that, "There is nothing better than being beat by a student, it means I've done something right in teaching them." Well said Rob!

MEGAN Megan recently revealed to me that she is of two-minds when it comes to her recent race season. She acknowledges that in many ways it was a success, (we concur!) but somehow she has a nagging feeling that it was a disappointment of sorts as well. When asked to list what she saw as the positives for the season she chose the following:

- ✓ It was her first complete World Cup season with no skipped races since 2010.
- ✓ She had her most consistent season ever in terms of performance. Megan placed between 25th and 55th place almost every race.
- ✓ At the beginning of this season Megan posted her fastest ever ski times - fast enough to be able to place easily in the top 10, with shooting percentages at, or above 90%.
- ✓ Megan completed two thirds of her qualification for the Canadian Olympic Team for Sochi next year, and will be a lock for the team if she can achieve one more top 30 finish during the first three World Cups of next season.
- ✓ Megan also got to compete at the World Cup in Sochi, Russia and was able to check out the Olympic facilities, race course, and shooting range first hand.

However, even though everything went really well last summer, and despite a good beginning to the season, Megan said she was often frustrated as the season progressed. Towards the end of the season Megan said she felt as if she kept making unnecessary mistakes, had to deal with runs of bad luck, or simply wasn't able to deliver the top echelon performances she knew she was capable of. Perhaps her own harshest critic, here is a list of some of the "disappointing" parts of Megan's season, as compiled by her.



Megan competing in the Finish Sprint World Cup in Oslo Holmenkollen, Norway.

- * I managed to catch four colds over the season. Thankfully I only missed two races due to health, but being sick did cause me to miss all three critical mid-season training blocks, which made it a challenge to maintain my ski speed through the season.
- * I had my worst shooting performance since I started competing on the World Cup this season.

My Shooting This Season:

When I started biathlon I was only a mediocre skier, but was both a skilled shooter and one of the most consistent in my category. Over the years I have continued to improve my skiing, and have always been able to trust in my shooting ability. I think my big mistake this year was that I became so comfortable with my shooting that I started to take it for granted. Leading into the season there was a drop in my shooting percentages during training, but I told myself "Don't worry; you have always been a good shooter." When the season started I got one heck of a wakeup call! Despite better skiing, my comparatively poor shooting performance kept me placing around the mid-40s, instead of the consistent top 30 finishes that were my goal. Overall, I have learned a tough lesson this year and am glad to have made this mistake now, and not next year. You can bet that my marksmanship training will be a top priority heading into the Olympic season, and certainly not something I will take for granted again.

- Megan

TEAM NFA Update



Matt competing with TEAM BC in
Whistler - National Championships.
Photo Credit: Alex Dumond.

TEAM NFA Update

After a couple of weeks of well-deserved downtime, following the end of the race season, Megan was back at work and training hard at the start of May. According to Megan, she is readjusting some training priorities for her offseason training regime, and will be focusing more on “fixing” what she perceives as her weaknesses as identified above. In this regard, Megan plans for her new training regime to:

- Have a bigger focus on race pace shooting (ideally under 28 seconds) with less time spent on precision.
- Feature two major altitude training camps in preparation for the elevation of the Olympic site: one in the Sierra Nevada, Spain, and one in Andermatt, Switzerland.
- As much pre-season, on-snow training as possible to help the transition from roller skiing to skiing.
- More complete rest days and less half rest days, in hopes of fighting off those colds!

All in all, Megan seems to have a very positive and upbeat attitude going into the start of her summer training season. And like fellow TEAM NFA members, Rob and Matt, Megan asked that I pass along her gratitude for all the support Canada’s National Firearms Association and individual NFA members have thrown their way this past year. You can reach Megan at www.meagnheinicke.com



MATT The past year has certainly been an exciting one for TEAM NFA member Matt Neumann. It is one that has been jam-packed with lots of international travel, a plethora of new racing opportunities and challenges, grueling training regimes, and according to Matt, has also taught him the importance of “enjoying the experiences and having fun.”

Having gotten to know Matt over the past couple of years, I remain impressed by just how down-to-earth and earnest he is. Unfortunately, those are qualities that are all too often lost in the world of high performance competitive athletics. Not so with Matt. Chatting with him recently for this interview, Matt shared with me

one his personal “secrets” to success at an elite level. It was rather simple, really: “Have fun!”

As Matt said, “I now realize that one of the most important factors for me to perform at my best is to simply enjoy myself and the experience as a whole; you need to make sure you have FUN, otherwise, what is the point? That simple truth sometimes gets lost in the high performance racing world, - that is too often overly focused on results, the number of training hours punched, and shooting percentages posted. But I truly believe that enjoying what you’re doing, and making sure to have fun in the process, is an absolutely fundamental component to success.”

With the Sochi Olympics just around the corner, Matt’s goal for the upcoming year is to simplify his thoughts and basically relax; while not failing to keep his eye on the ultimate prize –Sochi. While Matt is the first to admit it may sound a little silly, it is hard to deny the impact his new “mental game” has had on his most recent successes. As Matt points out, he’s trained for the past 14 years with a single goal in mind: making it to the Olympics.” He’s now convinced that the required skiing speed and the shooting will follow, if he is able to retain the right frame of mind; allowing body and mind to work together as one.

Late spring and summer is Matt’s “off-season.” As with Megan, it also means many days and weeks of intensive training and conditioning, to ensure his body is in peak physical condition for the start of race season. However, as part of his new Zen-like approach to competition, Matt was quick to also point out the importance of recovery time to an athlete’s success.

Without sounding conceited or narcissistic, Matt managed to somehow come across as both bashful, and more than a little self-deprecating, as he admitted the human body continually impresses him with its capabilities and capacity to withstand abuse. He qualified his statement by adding that no matter how tough they are, no high performance athlete can ever afford to ignore the importance of rest. Without rest on a daily, weekly and annual basis, a high-performance athlete will eventually burn out, and his or her body will break down.

In that vein, Matt noted that April is traditionally the biathlete’s annual rest period. This “down time” allows the athlete to recover, both physically and mentally, and to start preparing for another eleven months of intensely focused training and competition.

However, even though training and competition fills a major part of every high-performance athlete’s day, most also enjoy individual hobbies, work off-season jobs, and if they’re lucky enough, get to enjoy the occasional vacation where they don’t have to worry about details like hypothermia or wind-chill factors.

This past April, (for the first time) Matt was fortunate enough to enjoy a week’s vacation in the Caribbean. It was a “working holiday” of sorts, since Matt tells me that while soaking up the sun, he was also attempting to clear his mind of any hang-ups or mental blocks that could possibly hold him back heading into the start of his hardcore summer training cycle. His time on the beach was used to revisit each of his past races this year, and the manner in which he trained for them. His objective was to figure out what he could possibly take away from each experience, and how he could potentially improve upon his performance and training. That is a lot of thinking, as Matt has had a very busy race and training schedule in 2012/2013!



Empowering firearms owners to fight bad gun legislation, and the perils of the legislation, were underlying themes in the NFA's annual convention held in Woodstock, Ontario on May 3rd and 4th.

NFA members came from across the country for the event.

"The progressions in gun laws happened because we accepted a demonization of guns," said John Lott, an American professor and author. "Gun owners are by and large the most peaceful members of society. But every once in a while you need to rock the boat."

The recent repeal of the Canadian long gun registry is a unique situation in the world. "I like to describe gun control like a ratchet wrench," he said. "It usually goes in one direction – tighter and tighter. The repeal of the long gun registry was unique."

As for our community's next step, Lott's advice was unequivocal, –S. 91 and the removal of firearms ownership from the purview of the criminal code. In Lott's view, "No longer should the innocent possession of a firearm be a criminal offence." To reach that goal, he said we have to convince Canadians that criminalizing gun ownership is bad public policy because it's horribly expensive, unfair and simply bad policy.

Ian Thomson, a recent victim of the persecution a person can face when protecting oneself with a firearm, shared his compelling story to a standing-ovation crowd. Thomson, who lives in a rural area near Port Colborne, Ontario, fired gunshots to scare off men who were firebombing his home in 2010. He was originally charged with careless use of a firearm, pointing a firearm and improper storage. The first two charges were dropped, but the Crown attorney opted to prosecute on the last charge, alleging the gun was improperly stored because Thomson sat it on a table while waiting for police to arrive.

"The situation I was forced into was something I knew would inevitably happen once I pulled a firearm to save my life. It's something no Canadian should have to go through," he said

to loud applause from the crowd.

The former firearms instructor said the "malicious prosecution" he faced was a fight for constitutional rights. He was offered a plea bargain, but did not accept, explaining. "If I did, it would result in a ban on firearms and taint my character."

Thomson is now an ardent advocate for the right of Canadians to armed self-defence. The past three years of legal battles have exacted a tremendous emotional toll, but Thomson remains defiant and he credits the support of the firearms community for helping him prevail against an obviously biased justice system.

Despite his subsequent persecution by the state, Thomson remains sanguine, taking comfort in the fact that he was vindicated in the end. "If I stepped out that door without protection, I wouldn't be here now," Thomson asserted. "I'm absolutely convinced of it."

The firebombers could be released from prison as early as next year. Despite the fact they were found with a map to his home in their possession and admitted being paid \$5,000 for the task, the identity of the person who hired them has not been divulged.

Lawyer Ed Burlew, who represented Thomson, explained the challenge is that prosecutors and police look at self-defence as vigilantism. "One of the things we lost in C-68 when it came in was the ability to acquire a firearm for self-defence."

Ottawa lawyer Solomon Friedman gave an overview of how firearms owners can stay out of trouble with his presentation "Staying Out of Jail for Dummies".

Generally, there are three sections that cause firearms owners' trouble.

The first is Section 86 covering careless use of a firearm. Friedman calculated there are no less than 72 separate grounds to be charged with under this section, including using, carrying, handling, transporting or storing a prohibited device in a careless manner. His advice was to avoid the trips in the law.

Of interest is the subsection that makes it a criminal offence to merely contravene the related firearms regulations created by the Act. Generally, perpetrators need to have committed a criminal wrong doing to be convicted. Not so under the *Firearms Act*. "The Crown has to prove one thing and one thing only – that you contravened the Act," Friedman said.

The second issue arises with Section 88 and manifests itself via charges of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose to public peace. "If you have a firearm, you're half-way to being convicted under S. 88," Friedman warned.

Section 101 is the third trouble area for gun owners and covers transferring a firearm in a method other than under the authority of the Act. Friedman said the person making the transfer should have knowledge of the regulations. "Ordinarily, looking at someone's license and seeing it's not expired is enough," he said.

During a presentation earlier in the day, Lott outlined effects of American and global firearms legislation on gun ownership and criminals.

Using the Small Arms Survey data, Lott said the top countries with homicide rates per 100,000 have gun bans. "You find countries with more firearms have fewer homicides," he said. Ireland's murder rate shot up after a gun ban was put in place.

In Australia, there was no change in homicides after the gun buyback in 1996-97, but armed robberies increased. Suicides involving firearms did decrease after the buyback, but were falling for the decade previously. Non-firearms suicides also decreased.

"Right after the gun buyback, people went and started buying guns again," Lott said. "The gun ownership rate in Australia is now about the same as before the gun buyback."

Numbers can be misleading, though. For instance, the United Kingdom has a lower murder rate than the United States, along with a lower rate of gun ownership. However,



REPORT FROM AGM 2013

By Jeff Helsdon



Solomon Friedman



murder rates were even lower prior to the introduction of gun control legislation.

While the police may be laying the charges, Lott said, the ones most to blame are the politicians for passing bad laws. "You should view police officers as friends and potential allies you can get on your side," he said, adding a survey of police officers found 82 per cent said gun buybacks don't reduce crime.

Professor Gary Mauser later provided a Canadian perspective on the gun control issue. When he first studied the gun issue, Mauser had a neutral opinion and no knowledge of firearms. "I was surprised to discover the introduction of the FAC didn't do anything for gun crime," he said.

Mauser predicted the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty would be an issue for firearms owners down the road, although it must be ratified by Parliament to take effect. He gave credit to the Conservatives for repealing the long gun registry, stopping the Chief Firearms Office's backdoor registry and cancelling gun show regulations. Mauser called the opposition "rabidly anti-gun" and believes that gun control bureaucrats will remain a real obstacle to further reforms.

"Canadians who have firearms licenses are less than one-third as likely to commit murder as other Canadians," he said. Yet, firearms owners are more thoroughly screened than convicted violent offenders.

Karen Selick, litigation director at the Canadian Constitution Foundation, told of the battle Bruce Montague faced. The Dryden, Ontario resident joined Canadian Unlicensed Firearms Owners Association and attempted to have himself arrested and charged under the *Firearms Act* in hopes of having the Act overturned on constitutional grounds. He spent seven months in jail and is now fighting an application from the province to seize his home, as he also ran his gunsmith shop from it. The NFA has long been a supporter of Bruce and even sought intervenor status during his earlier court battles. At present, the Canadian Constitution Foundation is now

representing him.

Selick explained the legislation that allows seizure of the home was done under Ontario's "organized crime" bill. Since such seizures are done under civil action instead of criminal law, there only needs to be a burden of probability, instead of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

"In the past decade or so, and in particular since Sept. 9, 2001, North America and the whole world are moving rapidly towards totalitarianism," she said.

Sun Media columnist and television host Brian Lilley admitted most of the people in the national press gallery don't understand guns and are fearful of gun owners. His solution? Have media days at the gun range. "Expose them to the joy and fun that is shooting," he said.

His other piece of advice was for firearms groups to issue press releases when negative gun-related events occur that immediately decry what happened as an "outrage and affront to what the law-abiding firearms community represents."

Canadian Reload Radio host Andrew Craig described how podcasting is becoming vital to talk to the younger generation. "When you listen, each week we may touch on your passion. We try to cover every aspect of gun culture."

Rob Anders, a Calgary MP spoke candidly, advising how gun owners can become more politically motivated and make a difference in rule making.

Attendance at the meeting was down slightly from last year, which was not what National Firearms Association President Sheldon Clare was hoping for. He found out many of the Ontario clubs ended up having a meeting with the CFO the day of the event.

Overall, Clare said, there were a good variety of speakers with compelling messages, and he looks forward to next year's AGM in Vancouver.



Ed Burlew



Brian Lilley



Karen Selick



John Lott



Ian Thomson



Gary Mauser



Ron Anders



< 2013 Board of Directors

The International Front

THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

APPROVES THE ATT

By Gary Mauser

I was not able to be in New York to attend the recent UN sessions in March and April on the Arms Trade Treaty, but readers may appreciate knowing the comments of internationally respected observers such as Dr. Ted R. Bromund, Senior Research Fellow of the Heritage Foundation. This article draws heavily from Dr. Bromund's analysis.

The National Firearms Association and the Second Amendment Foundation joined the World Forum on Shooting Activities in arguing against the ATT at the March Conference. The NFA and the SAF were the only ones that opposed the Treaty because it violated the right of individuals to defend themselves and their families from violence. The WFSA argued that all civilian arms and ammunition be excluded, that the treaty be restricted to full-automatic firearms.

On April 2nd, 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by a vote of 154 nations in favor (including both the United States and Canada), 23 abstentions, and three against (Syria, North Korea, and Iran). The treaty will come into force for the countries that sign when it has been ratified by 50 nations. Though the vote in favor of the treaty seems overwhelming, a closer look shows that the major exporting and importing nations, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, and Russia, among many others, abstained.

The UN vote is a tacit rejection of the treaty by most of the world's most irresponsible arms exporters and anti-American dictatorships, including known opponents of the treaty, such as Venezuela and Zimbabwe. These countries collectively amount to half of the world's population.

The problem with the ATT was never the

idea that nations should have a system for controlling their arms exports: The US is widely acknowledged to have the best such system in the world. The problem with the ATT was always that it would end up constraining the US (and other democracies), but not the genuinely dangerous and irresponsible regimes in the world. The fact that these regimes abstained or voted against the treaty proves that they have no intention of being bound by the ATT.

The treaty is substantially flawed. It was pushed by a faction in the UN, led by Austria, Mexico and Norway, that are distinguished by an exceptionally naïve moralistic view of international politics. Japan, New Zealand and Australia also adopt this so-called "humanitarian" approach. Unsurprisingly, the Norway group has attracted a gaggle of more pragmatic nations that are arms importers or exporters. These hangers-on display a more callous view of treaties and what they can accomplish. Some would merely like to hobble the United States in order to improve their own success in arms exporting, while others appear to support the treaty evidently so that they can look "politically correct" but have no intention of complying.

The general outlook of the Norway faction is explained in key publications of humanitarian NGOs. Oxfam International announced in 2010 that the ATT was to be achieved incrementally over time. Amnesty International's Brian Wood revealed in a 2013 interview that he hoped the ATT would be a historic effort creating severe trade restrictions, domestic gun control, and a new front for international "lawfare" against the United States and American interests.

More importantly, the process by which the ATT was adopted was critically flawed. Moving the vote on the treaty to the UN General Assembly violated a "key US redline" for the treaty negotiations. Consensus decision-making is important not only for countries to protect their sovereignty but also to ensure that all countries can be held to standards that will actually improve the global situation. The US dropped the ball in agreeing to move to the General Assembly. Obviously, not "all" nations are on board with the ATT.

Worse, by supporting the move to the General Assembly, the US has discouraged China, India and Russia from participating in future consensus-based negotiations. They now know that, if push comes to shove, the negotiations can always give up on consensus and go to majority rule in the General Assembly. The adoption of the ATT has gravely weakened genuine multilateral diplomacy. It is hoped that Canada realizes this.

Consensus is important to the interests of Canada as much as to the United States. Every state in the ATT process has long been aware that if consensus is not reached in the Conference process, there are other ways to adopt this treaty, including by going to the General Assembly. It had been believed that this approach would lead to an effective treaty, one that would gain the support of the majority. Clearly it failed.

The next time out, when the "international community" demands a treaty on global warming, for example, or the use of armed drones, or whatever, they will be free to use the precedent reinforced here: If [someone doesn't](#) like the results of a multilateral negotiation, and even if a substantial

number of important states are opposed, shift to the General Assembly and ram the treaty through.

The ATT is vague and open ended. We now have an undesirable treaty, one that will be expanded and elaborated on over time, and one that was adopted through a bad process. This is just about the worst of all possible worlds.

Had the US not insisted on consensus rules in 2009, the scope for the ATT would have been even more aspirational and restrictive than it is. This being said, the Norwegian faction views the ATT as merely a starting point. Eventually they hope to expand the scope of the ATT to touch stakeholders beyond just states and the corporate makers and distributors of conventional weapons.

According to various NGO statements, the Norwegian group sees the ATT as a

base for introducing draconian restrictions on civilian access to firearms or SALW through future amendments to the ATT. The NFA and the World Forum will be following events closely at the UN.

The UN may appear as distant as the moon to most Canadians, but its decisions shape international commerce. The ATT does not accept any civilian firearms ownership. Since Canada manufacturers only limited numbers of firearms for the civilian market, the ATT could restrict access to both ammunition and firearms. The Harper government shows no indication that they wish to impose new firearms restrictions, but they won't rule in Ottawa forever. Remember, past Liberal governments used the UN to justify Bill C-68, and current opposition parties are not the friends of individual freedom. Will the Liberals or the NDP win the next election?

For more information:

Amnesty International. Brian Wood, Head of Arms Control and Human Rights

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/campaigns/control-arms>

Bromund, Ted R. Arms Trade Treaty in Review - Worst Of All Possible Outcomes Published on Monday, April 15, 2013.

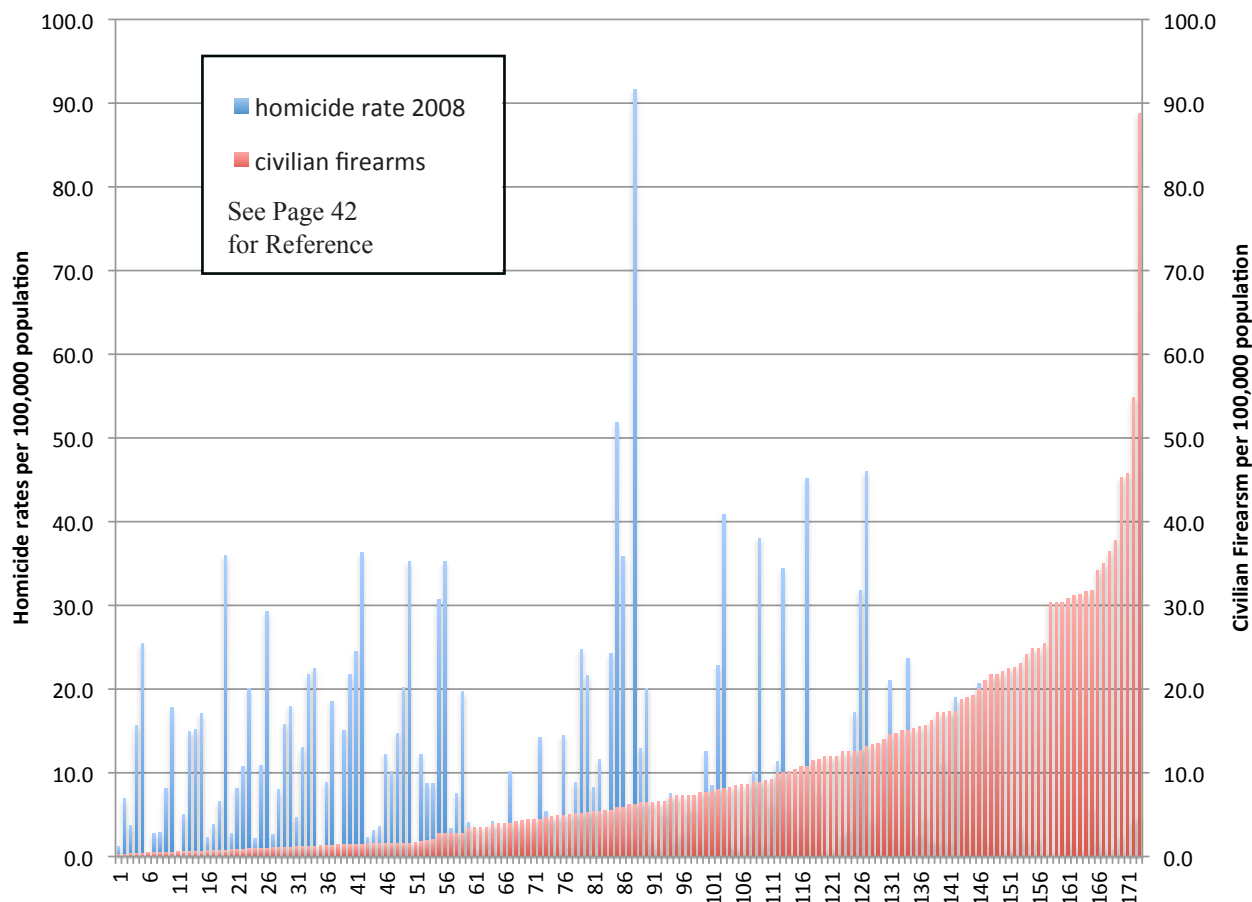
<http://www.ammoland.com/2013/04/arms-trade-treaty-in-review-worst-of-all-possible-outcomes/#axzz2Qe44H1EC>

Heritage Foundation: <http://blog.heritage.org>

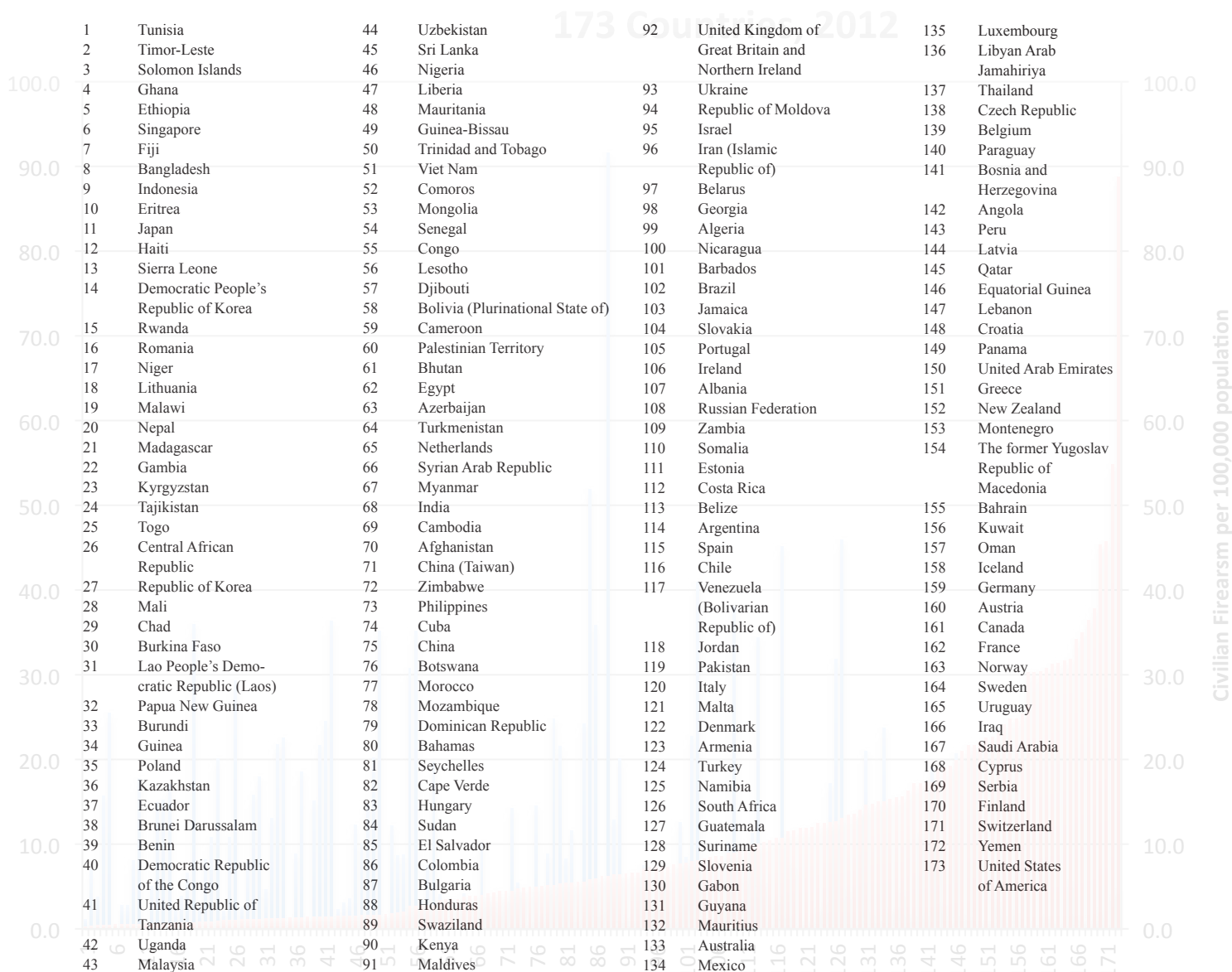
Oxfam international. National Implementation of the Proposed Arms Trade Treaty: A Practical Guide. 2013

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/campaigns/conflict/controlarms>

Civilian Firearms and Homicide Rates, 173 Countries, 2012



Civilian Firearms and Homicide Rates, 173 Countries, 2012



Data are provided to UNODC annually by national police, national statistical offices or other competent national authorities through the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (CTS). Detailed information on can be found on <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/United-Nations-Surveys-on-Crime-Trends-and-the-Operations-of-Criminal-Justice-Systems.html> Source: Annexe 4 SAS 2007

The statistical office of the European Union. Offences recorded by the police.

Global Burden of Injuries, Injury Mortality Data Collection

International Criminal Justice organization

Non-governmental organization: (a) Mayra Brea de Cabral and Edylberto Cabral (2009), "Violence in the Dominican Republic: nature, recent developments and prospects for control". Authors calculations based on data from the national police and the Attorney General of the Dominican Republic; (b) Annita Montoute and David Anyanwu (2009), "Situational Analysis of Gun Related Crime in the Caribbean: The Case of Trinidad & Tobago; Antigua & Barbuda; St Vincent & the Grenadines and St. Lucia". Prepared for the Coalition for Development and the Reduction of Armed Violence; (c) The Venezuelan Program of Action and Education in Human Rights

(PROVEA); (d) Rod Broadhurst and Thierry Bouhours (2009), "Policing in Cambodia: legitimacy in the making?", Policing and Society, 19: 2, 174 -190. Data based on murder recorded by judicial police

National Statistical Office

Organization of American States - Observatory on Citizen Security. Number of offences of intentional homicide recorded by the police.

Observatorio Centroamericano sobre Violencia - The Central American Observatory on Violence. Sourced from national police data.

Pan American Health Organization's Core Health Data System.

Regional System of Standardized Citizen Security and Coexistence Indicators

UNICEF TransMONEE Database. Innocenti Research Centre, Florence.

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Integrated Regional Information Network.

UN Peacekeeping Operations

World Health Organization Global Burden of Disease Mortality Estimates

President's Message Continued

Continued from Page 6

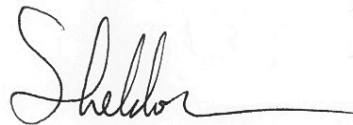
needed. Playing with administrative processes is not good enough because the problem is not mere process, but the law that enables bad practises and ill-treatment of firearms owners to continue.

There will be a federal election no later than the fall of 2015. The time to get ready for that election is now – keep working to get the politicians on side to make real change. Together we can do this, but it will take good old-fashioned hard work.

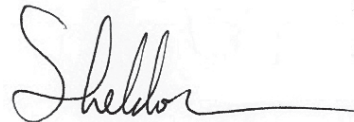
MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

qu'il oublie qui l'a mis au pouvoir et qu'il le perde par le fait même. Les propriétaires d'armes à feu ne voteront pas pour un autre parti mais ils n'iront probablement même pas voter s'ils ne perçoivent aucun bénéfice offert par quelque parti. C'est exactement ce qu'ils ont fait lors de deux élections fédérales. L'élimination du registre n'était qu'un petit pas vers des changements réels. Il est très important de réaliser que ce changement mineur ne pourra pas réparer cette mauvaise loi - il faut l'abroger au complet. Modifier des processus administratifs n'est pas suffisant car le problème se situe au coeur de la loi elle-même, qui permet des pratiques néfastes et des mauvais traitements continuels envers les propriétaires légitimes d'armes à feu.

Neither I nor the rest of our volunteers and staff can do this alone. We need you to help by recruiting your friends to join us, writing and meeting with your MP, and getting active in your local riding association. We are close to being able to achieve our goals and with more members and more effort it will happen.



Il y aura une élection Fédérale au plus tard en automne 2015. Il faut s'y préparer maintenant - continuer de travailler pour convaincre les politiciens d'effectuer des véritables changements. Ensemble, nous pourrions atteindre nos objectifs mais il faudra travailler fort. Ni moi, ni nos bénévoles et employés ne peuvent réussir seuls. Nous avons besoin de votre aide pour recruter vos amis, écrire à vos Députés, les rencontrer. Devenez actifs dans vos circonscriptions. Nous sommes proches du but, avec plus de membres et plus d'efforts nous réussirons.



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

WESTERN LAWMEN

Harry Morse:

Manhunter Part I

by Jesse Wolf Hardin



Californian Harry Morse was at one point the best known lawman in the Old West, famed for his epic manhunts.

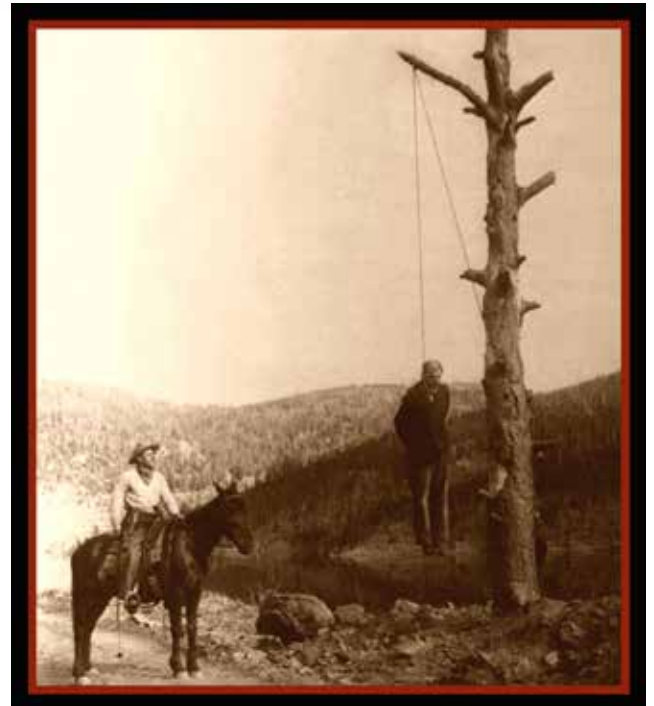
Harry N. Morse was once one of the best known of all Western lawmen. In fact, in many circles he was far better known than many of his contemporaries, including Wyatt Earp. Morse's portraits appeared regularly in newspapers all over the West, first for his exploits as the rifle-wielding sheriff, and later as a pioneering private detective lauded for such feats as helping to collar the infamous poetry-reciting stagecoach robber Black Bart. Harry's greatest fame and most exciting shootouts, however, came as a result of his lengthy and dogged pursuits of notorious Spanish-speaking desperadoes like Juan Soto and Tiburcio Vasquez; the kinds of men who had for decades been the terror of the incoming Anglo townsmen and entrepreneurs.

It is, of course, we writers of history who determine who are

Lynchings and beatings of Hispanics in California and the Southwest set the stage for the rise of "social bandits," wildly popular with their disenfranchised peoples. It's helpful to remember that the dangerous migrants in this case were not the brown skinned residents, but the lighter skinned Anglos excited for the land and gold.

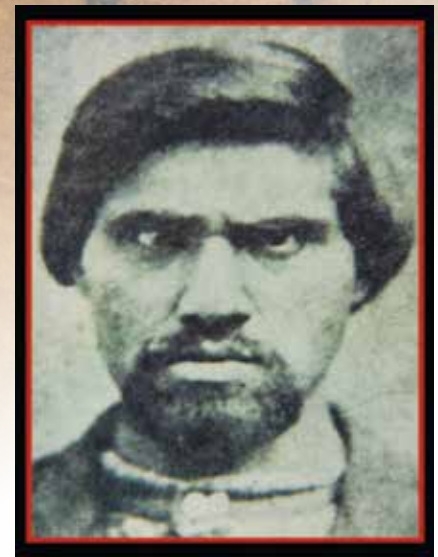
the "terrorists" and whom are the terrorized... and like it or not, the most read histories are almost always those written by the victors and their descendants. While the fears of the Anglos of the era were well-founded, and a terrible number of heartless murders and robberies were indeed committed by brown-skinned *Californios*, it should be noted that the innocents of their own community had also long lived in terror from both within and without.

In the latter case, it was not just local desperadoes that those of Mexican or Spanish descent had to worry about. Just as dangerous to their health were the cutting strokes of Anglo whips, and their equally deadly hemp nooses. Sad to say, but the Old West was a place rife with prejudice and racism, and too many original inhabitants, whether Indio or Latino,





Procopio, an early California bandit and subject of a Harry Morse manhunt, also referred to as "Red Handed Dick" by the Anglo authorities.



Juan Soto - Few of the Hispanic banditos of early day California were as degenerate and bloodthirsty as made out in the press, but the murderous Juan Soto certainly fit the bill... until Harry Morse got him in his sights.

were ill-used by the multitude of light-skinned claim jumpers and plot squatters that had flooded westward. The courts were no help, and were often complicit in the swindling of Latino and Indio victims.

Alas, the once proud owners and inhabitants of modern-day Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California quickly found themselves colonized and then overrun by English-speaking immigrants of primarily English, Irish and German ancestry, with the heaviest influx triggered by the California Gold Rush of 1848. Hispanic land claims were largely ignored, and their gold claims were often "jumped" by the greediest of the late arrivals. The effect on the earliest settlers was both profound and disturbing.

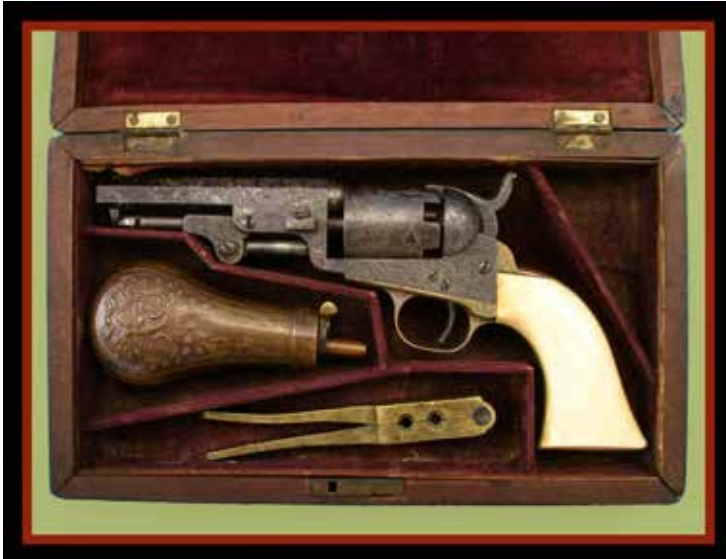
In 1856, Pablo de la Guerra made a powerful speech in front of the California legislature on behalf of the Hispanic population. He described his fellow Hispanics as a people, "...who have been sold like sheep by Mexico, who do not understand the language which is now spoken in their own country. They have no voice in this Senate. I have seen old men of sixty and seventy years of age weeping like children because they have been cast out of their ancestral homes. They have been humiliated and insulted. They have been refused the privilege of taking water from their own wells, and of cutting their own firewood."

The next big flood of immigration began shortly after the outset of the Civil War, with the 1862 *Homestead Act*. The Act was designed to parcel out large sections of "open land," while ostensibly safeguarding pre-existing land claims. In reality, few Hispanics had English-speaking lawyers to represent them and even those who did found that the courts usually sided with the Anglos in any legal dispute. Many saw their ancestral ranchos, farms and orchards seized by the courts for failure to pay near usurious court costs resulting from often spurious litigation or inability to pay assessed "taxes" on their holdings. Few Spanish-speaking families

proved lucky enough to retain control of their lands and titles as a result. Those that were successful in have their ancestral land grants recognized, almost always included a new Anglo son-in-law in their family.

Denied justice, the same double-standard was also applied to social status and interactions between the Hispanics and Anglo populations. Anglo cowboys expected to have free rein with any young Hispanic women, but a man of Mexican blood who even so much as flirted with a "white" woman could be lashed with a rawhide bullwhip or dragged behind galloping horses through the cactus and brush. To the *banditos* of these regions, robbery could be a way of getting back what they felt had either been stolen from them or denied them by virtue of their race. A relatively small percentage of the Hispanic population resisted, with most accepting their sad fates, so that those who did strike back stood out and became lionized folk heroes among their kind. Cutthroats, from Joaquin Murietta to "Red Handed Dick" Procopio, won the support of their communities through their defiance of the common enemy, and by the often dashing way in which these knights of plunder conducted their outlaw business.

It is common, of course, for criminals to justify their acts as righteous retribution; using their status as victims to rationalize their victimizing of others. In recent years, religious and political extremists, from the Muslim "holy warrior" Osama Bin Laden to the all-American Timothy McVey, killed hundreds, while simultaneously playing the very same "victim" card. The Old West outlaw Jesse James too, we must remember, was still robbing banks and dropping the hammer on northern lawmen on behalf of the Confederate cause, long after the end of that unfortunate War Between the States... Later, white settlers' militias were to use alleged "Indian atrocities" as their pretext for driving the entire native Sioux tribes from the rich Midwest farmlands that they coveted.



Top: Colt Army Model 1860 - Morse's main sidearm was a heavy Colt Model of 1860 similar to this one, the newest and most powerful revolver available when he first served as Sheriff of Alameda Co. in 1864.

Middle: Cased Colt 1849 "Pocket Model" - Lawmen, then and now, often carried a back-up gun in case their primary weapon failed, ran dry, or they were disarmed. For added "insurance," Morse carried the Colt 1849 Pocket Model revolver.

The Henry repeating rifle fired a hefty .44 caliber flat or round nosed slug, but the low power of this rimfire cartridge made it most effective at under 100 yards.

Heading westward, some of 19th century California's so-called "social bandits" killed unarmed women and children, as well as men; a number were equally as likely to prey on their fellow Hispanics as the hated white interlopers. But their greatest glory came from the fits they gave the newly dominant powers-that-be within Anglo society. To the English language newspapers, these outlaws were "greasers" and "brown devils." Uncivilized savages to be both feared and, when necessary, exterminated. To the desperadoes, it was Harry Morse who was the devil, –the *gringo* "*Diablo*" who hounded them in their own secret hides and haunts; never letting up

until he finally ran them out of the country or into the ground.

Hunting down suspects or escapees is usually only a small part of what a lawman does, though it fast became Harry Morse's stock-in-trade. It was his ardent Republicanism and reputation as a "take no guff" member of the Oakland Guardsmen militia that first got him elected to the Office of Sheriff of Alameda County in 1864, during the waning days of that awful internecine conflict absurdly christened the Civil War. However, it was Morse's skill and bravery displayed in his pursuit of so many nefarious fugitives and deadly adversaries that left an indelible impression on the public's imagination, –both fans and detractors alike.

In spite of a proven ability to knock his enemies out with a single punch, at 5' 7" and 155 pounds, Morse was anything but an imposing physical specimen, and at the time he pinned on his badge he was still (in his own words) "as green in the business as a man can be." He barely knew how to use a gun, and couldn't even speak the language of a large swath of the population he was tasked with "protecting," as a newly minted keeper of law and order.

His first two years in office were utterly unremarkable, notable only for the paucity of lawbreakers residing in his jail. However, Harry wisely used this time to methodically and painstakingly acquire the skills and knowledge he believed he needed in order to become the most effective and feared manhunter in the entire territory. First on his agenda was learning to speak Spanish so that he could communicate with the network of local informants, who would prove, again and again, to be one of his greatest advantages.

He also worked to become expert on horseback, in preparation for the fast chases and plodding marathon rides that lay before him. He would, after all, be gone from his family for up to five weeks at a time, –much to the chagrin of his loving wife Virginia. Tracking skills were also high on his "git-to" list, and it wasn't long before he was able to discern the number of horses on a trail; whether they were being ridden or not; the approximate weight of the rider; if they were uniformly shod and even their physical condition, including whether they favored a certain foot. Last, but not least, Harry Morse religiously practiced his marksmanship; regularly shooting at both sitting



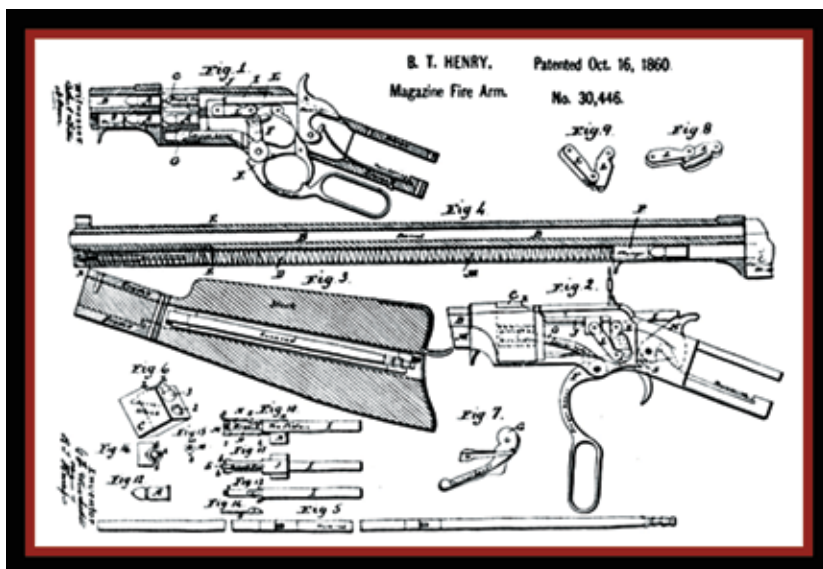
Above: The famed Henry repeating rifle - The iron-framed, tube-fed, .44 rimfire lever-action rifle was Sheriff Harry Morse's first choice for a duty rifle.

Right: Henry Rifle Patent Drawings - The 16 shot Henry rifle was the most advanced repeater of its day.

and moving targets, at a variety of ranges. Shooting was a serious business and Morse was determined to become a top hand with both pistol and rifle. Unlike many lawmen of the day, he wanted to ensure himself every chance of emerging the victor when the time came for deadly gunplay.

When it came to handguns, he joined with a majority of Westerners in laying his money down for Colt's revolvers, both a powerful .44 cap and ball Army model, and a much smaller 1849 Pocket model. However, it was his long guns that he counted on the most. In fact, his first choice in any altercation was the .44 Henry lever-action rifle. The prototype for future Winchesters, (the gun that won the West) the magazine-fed .44 Henry was first introduced in 1860, at the outset of the Civil War. It saw only limited service by either side, but its 16 shot capacity and rapid-fire performance was impressive enough to earn it the affections of the men lucky enough to acquire one. Many Confederates cursed it, describing it as, "the gun you can load on Sunday and shoot all week."

The Henry proved devastating during Red Cloud's War in 1866, when lever and toggle action rifles in the hands of a few miners were used to kill or wound up to 60 attacking Sioux. The warriors were expecting the usual lengthy reloading time of the conventional single shot muzzle loading firearm, and were thoroughly surprised by the fast repeat shots emanating from what was one of this period's true technological marvels. However, as effective as it was at distances of 80 yards or less, it was no way near the "deadly at 1,000 yards" rifle that was claimed in many a magazine article. The cartridge's 26 to 28 grains of black powder pushed the .446" diameter, 200 or 216 grain bullets out of its 29" barrel at only 1,125 feet per second, producing



a modest 568 foot pounds of muzzle energy, –roughly the ballistics of a standard modern .45 ACP round fired out of a short barreled handgun.

The Henry-toting Morse was re-elected in September of 1865, by the same Republican majority. His early failures inspired, rather than discouraged, Morse, after which he "commenced to gather them in," as he put it. Harry's first success at manhunting came the following year, with the pursuit and arrest of fugitive cattle rustler Eduardo Gallego. His first gunfight would follow soon after. Surprisingly, Morse ended up engaging his prey with his Colt revolver rather than the Henry he habitually carried. Much to his chagrin, he'd foolishly left his beloved Henry resting in its scabbard on his hidden mount. Unable to risk retrieving the rifle, Morse was forced to sacrifice the tactical advantage the Henry offered thanks to its greater range and magazine capacity. Instead, he found himself armed with nothing but his holstered Colt as he waited, alone and on foot in the shadows of a back road cantina, for the noted robber and gunslinger Narciso Bojorques.

Bojorques was both widely-feared, and admired. Ultimately,

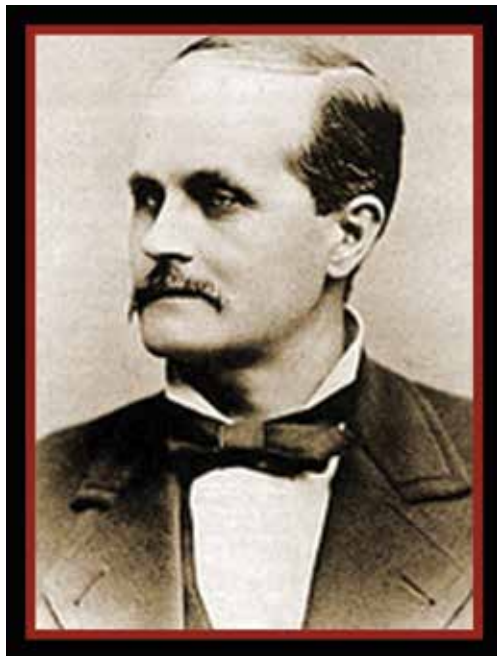
it was his waylaying and “winging” of Bay Area meat-cutter, John Gunnell, which proved the final straw for Sheriff Morse. His patience finally exhausted, Morse was no longer willing to tolerate the criminal activities of the Hispanic bandito and made his capture his highest priority. Interestingly-enough, it was Narciso who had long-bragged that the Sheriff would never catch him –and it was he who had promised that it would be the death of Morse should he ever try.

Warned by an informant that the bandito would be arriving at the remote cantina anytime, the lawman had a pretty good idea it was Narciso, as he listened to the sounds of an approaching rider from the pitch dark. The distinctive clapping of hooves in the proud way of Spanish-trained horses, and an attendant jangling of a vaquero’s over-sized spurs were confirmation enough for the sheriff. Morse stepped out of the shadows, just as Bojorques rode into the small circle of light cast by the eatery’s oil lamps, certain he had the drop on the Mexican bandit.

However, perhaps warned by some sixth-sense, his quarry backed away a split-second before he could grab the reins of Bojorques horse. Almost simultaneously, the Mexican bandito slapped iron, pulling a gun and pointing it in the general direction of his still unidentified antagonist. “No poder, señor,” he is reputed to have said, “It can’t be done;” as Morse fumbled for his still-holstered Colt. Facing any lawman’s worst nightmare, Morse expected to hear the hammer of Bojorques’ guns fall or feel a bullet tear into his breast at any moment because of his fatal error. Fortunately for the sheriff, the bandito astonishingly seemed to vacillate, appearing unsure as to whether he should fire at his unknown adversary or not. That momentary indecision would prove deleterious for Bojorques, as those critical few moments were all the earnest lawman needed to jerk his revolver free and snap off a barely-aimed shot at the Mexican outlaw. Morse scored with his single bullet, smashing the elbow of the rider who was rendered nearly invisible by the black folds of night.

In an instant, Bojorques spun his mount about, racing off towards the distant hills, but was instead forced to spur his mount along the adjacent rail fence; his getaway momentarily stymied. As the outlaw made his break, Morse fired four more

times at the dimly-outlined figure before Bojorques managed to get his horse to leap the fence and carry him safely away. While having made good his escape, the Mexican bandito’s days were numbered, and he would be killed the following year. Ironically, despite being a wanted fugitive, Bojorques ultimately met his demise while engaged in a stand-up fight with an Arizona cowboy over a disputed hand of poker. Those who knew him best thought him fated to die badly in some failed arrest attempt, or in a hail of bullets from some posse’s stealthily-laid ambushade.



Harry Morse

Learning from his mistakes, the Sheriff put his newfound knowledge to work, and one by one, the county’s most wanted men were “nipped” by the determined Morse. It seemed to many that he had made it his personal mission to run down every single lawbreaker that came to his attention. With there being no state police agency, he became the de facto hired gun, enlisted by other counties and jurisdictions to help “resolve” their most “challenging” cases. Becoming a skilled and daring manhunter, Sheriff Morse laid his traps all across northern and central California. And, one by one, brought to justice the region’s most wanted desperadoes. In turn, what had once been an empty jail, just two short years before, was

quickly brought up to full occupancy.

Then, for a second time Morse lost a man he’d shot and wounded, when in October of 1867 he ambushed the outlaw Narato Ponce. Exchanging fire with the wanted murderer, Morse succeeded in shooting the escaping culprit in the back. Unfortunately, he then lost sight of the badly wounded hombre in the concealing dark. However he did it, Ponce managed to make good his escape.

Despite the loss of Ponce, the Oakland Daily News reports crowed that their sheriff was “on the warpath,” and that “if any man can secure the criminal, Harry is the man.” Yet, this “securing” was more than once accomplished by Morse manipulating evidence and perjuring himself before a court of law, –such as when he lied to win a conviction of indisputable bad guy Procopio Bustamonte. Morse bent the law he was sworn to uphold, not out of a sense of vengeance, like Wyatt Earp, but in service to what he saw as justice. To his mind, the ends justified the means. As much as he loved the cash rewards, when he committed “technical” injustices,

it always out of a sense of conviction that he was doing the right thing; taking comfort in the belief that he was making the community safer by helping to send one man after another to the state penitentiary.

Morse's next big feature in the papers came when he set out to take down the notorious Juan Soto, described by his friend Sheriff Nick Harris as "a perfect type of desperado, over six feet high, well proportioned, and quick as a cat, with a countenance the worst I ever saw in a human face." That said, many an amorous young señorita considered him plenty attractive, and it was while visiting a casita known for its womenfolk that he was uncovered by Harry Morse and San Jose policeman Theodore "Sam" Winchell.

Soto was known for his fancy dress and velvet shirts worn over concho-studded breeches that tucked into square-toed, knee-high muleskin boots. Over this outfit he wore a long blue Union Army officer's coat, with a finely woven blanket tied to his shoulders like a rakish cape, and a heavy cartridge belt girdled beneath it supporting a brace of ivory-handled .44s. Unlike many of his contemporaries, however, his fine dress belied his despicable manners. This was driven home by his needless shooting of the unarmed clerk of the Thomas Scott Store on January 10th, 1871. Politely holding the door for Soto as he entered the shop, the bandit callously planted a slug in the Italian immigrant's chest as thanks for the kindness shown him.

It was the following year that Morse got word of Soto dallying with certain ladies, and began closing in on the location that would become the site of his next gunfight. The lawmen

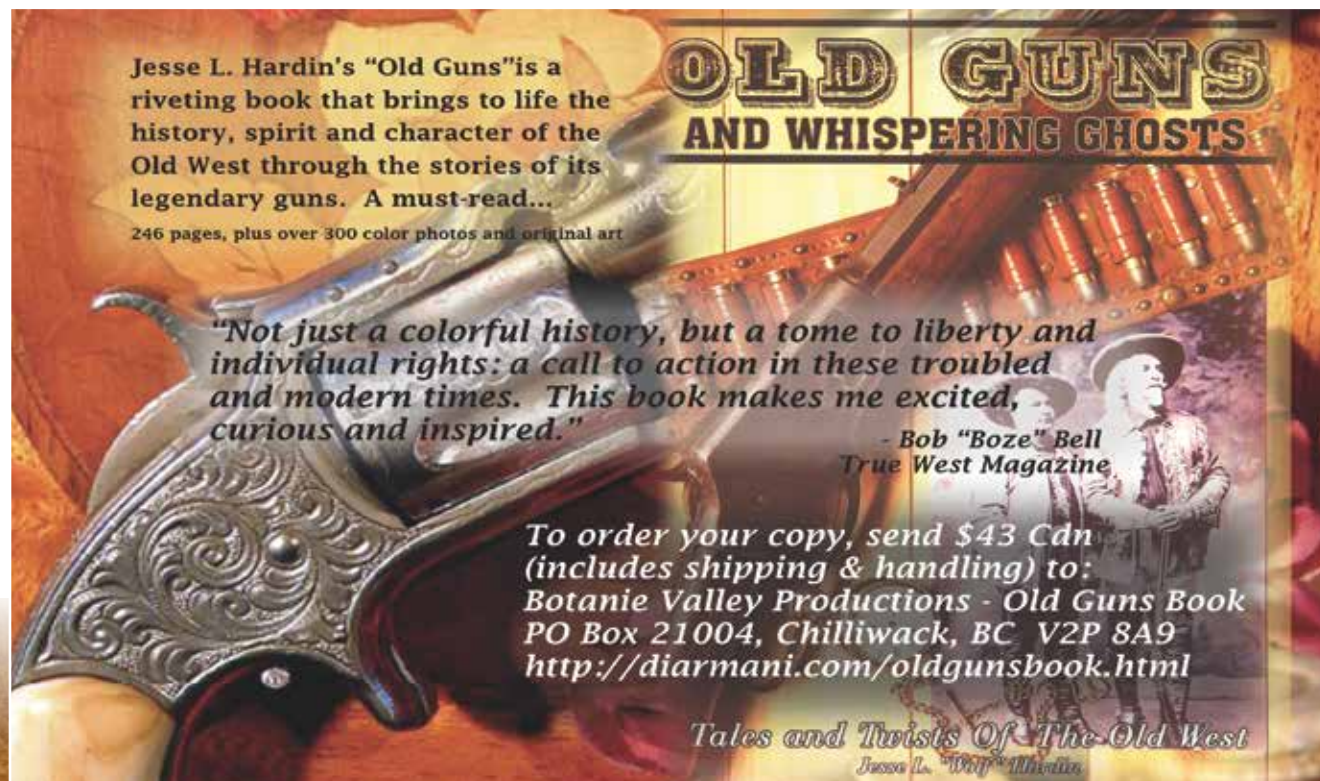
obviously expected Soto to be nearby as they approached the aforementioned casita. Despite their foreknowledge, they would later claim to have been surprised to find the wanted murderer nonchalantly seated at the casita's table as the two lawmen entered the room. Reacting instantly, Sheriff Morse drew and cocked his single-action revolver, shouting in Spanish, "Manos Arriba!" – "Hands Up!"

Rather than complying, the fugitive simply sat and stared at his much loathed enemy, refusing to move. "Put these on him," Morse hollered at Winchell, tossing him the handcuffs. Like Soto, Winchell remained motionless at the order, although seemingly frozen in fear and shock, rather than braced by the outlaw's contempt. A few long seconds of silence passed, until Constable Winchell could stand it no more; his nerve gone, he ran out the door, leaving Morse to face Soto alone.

As Winchell made his escape, Morse found himself assaulted by cries of "No tira en las casa!" – "Don't shoot in the house!"—as the casita's hostess grabbed hold of his shooting arm. Desperately trying to keep Soto and his companions covered, Morse shoved aside the woman he'd later refer to as "a Mexican Amazon;" quickly backpedaling out the same door the cowardly Winchell had just exited. Morse's hopes for a quick and efficient arrest of the deadly outlaw were now dashed. All the lawman could expect from the next few minutes of his life was gun smoke and hot lead from the barrels of the deadly outlaw's guns.

The story of Henry Morse: Manhunter will continue next issue.

Editor



Jesse L. Hardin's "Old Guns" is a riveting book that brings to life the history, spirit and character of the Old West through the stories of its legendary guns. A must-read...

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Tales and Twists Of The Old West
Jesse L. "Wolf" Hardin



Les raisons d'être de l'opposition à un registre québécois des armes d'épaule

Par Guy Lavergne

Au cours des dernières années, de nombreuses voies se sont élevées en opposition à un registre des armes d'épaule. Cette opposition vient des contribuables en général, qui s'indignent du coût prohibitif de cette mesure et se son apparente inefficacité, mais également et principalement des chasseurs, tireurs sportifs et collectionneurs d'armes qui en font les frais et ce, dans tous les sens du terme. Pour le grand public, leurs motivations peuvent sembler obscures. Alors qu'avec le dépôt du Projet de loi 20, le Québec veut se doter de son propre registre des armes d'épaule, cet article se propose de faire la lumière sur les raisons d'être de cette opposition.

Dans un premier temps, il y a lieu de clarifier certaines notions, souvent confondues par les médias et les non initiés. Ces notions sont celles de contrôle des armes à feu, de port d'armes et d'enregistrement des armes à feu. Elles sont distinctes, mais elles sont souvent confondues les unes avec les autres.

Au Canada, le port d'armes est un privilège réservé aux agents de la paix, aux agents de sécurité affectés au transport de valeurs, et à de très rares individus qui doivent porter une arme pour des raisons de sécurité personnelle. Cette situation est fondamentalement différente de celle qui prévaut aux États-Unis.

Le « contrôle des armes à feu » a pour objet le contrôle de la fabrication, de l'importation, et de la vente et l'acquisition des armes à feu. La législation fédérale existante (Loi sur les armes à feu et Code criminel) y pourvoit. Le Projet de loi 20 n'apporte rien de nouveau à cet égard, si ce n'est d'assujettir toute revente d'arme d'épaule à la permission préalable du ministre et au dépôt d'un formulaire.

Les opposants à un registre québécois des armes d'épaule ne s'élèvent pas contre le contrôle des armes à feu, puisqu'un contrôle efficace permet d'éviter, dans une certaine mesure, que des personnes non autorisées puissent facilement se procurer des armes à feu. Ils verraient même d'un œil favorable des mesures de contrôle efficaces visant le trafic et la détention illégale d'armes à

feu, pour éviter justement que des personnes non autorisées aient accès à des armes à feu. Hors, c'est justement ce que le Projet de loi 20, et avant lui le défunt registre fédéral des armes d'épaule, ne font pas.

Au Canada, il existe quatre catégories d'armes à feu : (i) les armes antiques; (ii) les armes à utilisation non restreinte, soit essentiellement les armes d'épaule utilisées pour la chasse et le tir sportif ; (iii) les armes à utilisation restreinte, soit essentiellement les armes de poing et certaines armes d'inspiration militaire; et enfin, (iv) les armes prohibées, pour lesquelles certains détenteurs ont des droits acquis. Les deux dernières catégories sont encore assujetties au registre fédéral, et le Projet de loi 20 ne les vise aucunement. D'ailleurs, il les exclut expressément. Le Projet de loi 20 vise donc uniquement les armes antiques, et les armes d'épaule. D'ailleurs, quant à l'inclusion malencontreuse des armes antiques, il s'agit probablement là d'une erreur de rédaction des auteurs du Projet de loi.

Sauf quant aux armes antiques, pour lesquelles aucun permis n'est requis, tout propriétaire ou possesseur d'arme à feu au Canada se doit d'avoir un permis de la classe appropriée, obtenu en vertu de la Loi sur les armes à feu (fédérale). Pour obtenir un tel permis, le détenteur doit avoir suivi un cours sur la sécurité dans le maniement des armes à feu ; il doit également avoir passé l'examen requis et avoir fait vérifier ses antécédents par les corps policiers compétents. Le consentement du conjoint et des ex-conjoints des deux dernières années est également requis lors de l'émission et du renouvellement de ce permis, qui a lieu à tous les cinq (5) ans. Les personnes qui détiennent ces permis sont donc censées avoir des antécédents acceptables pour les corps policiers ; être compétentes dans le maniement sécuritaire des armes ; et ne pas poser de menace pour leur conjoint. C'est pourtant uniquement ces personnes que le Projet de loi 20 vise, en ajoutant des exigences quant à l'enregistrement de leurs armes d'épaule, à la divulgation de leur lieu d'entreposage, et à leur burinage.

Il y a quelques semaines, lorsqu'un enfant de 12 ans a abattu son frère au moyen d'une arme de poing prohibée, le ministre de la sécurité publique Stéphane Bergeron a déclaré : « Évidemment, c'est une histoire très triste. Et ça indique pour moi qu'il est absolument impératif d'aller de l'avant avec notre projet de contrôle des armes à feu. » L'absurdité de cette déclaration est patente. Lors de cet incident, cet enfant et son entourage ont violé une multitude de lois et règles existantes. Faisons le compte : 1. L'arme était de classe prohibée ; 2. L'enfant n'avait pas de permis de possession d'arme ; 3. L'arme n'était pas entreposée de façon sécuritaire, puisque l'enfant y a eu accès ; 4. L'arme était chargée ; 5. L'enfant a pointé l'arme chargée vers son frère ; 6. L'enfant a tiré sur la gâchette ; 7. L'arme avait été volée. Toutes les règles nécessaires pour éviter une telle tragédie existent déjà. Et plutôt que de mettre en place des mesures visant à faire appliquer ces règles, la réponse du ministre est d'y voir une justification pour imposer des contraintes additionnelles à des personnes qui n'ont rien à voir avec cette situation et qui, quant à elles, observent les règles existantes. Faut-il ajouter qu'aucune des mesures proposées via le Projet de loi 20 n'aurait changé quoi que ce soit à cet incident?

Un registre ne fait rien pour empêcher les éléments criminels de notre société de se procurer des armes à feu ou pour éviter que des crimes ne soient commis. Un registre vise uniquement l'enregistrement, par leurs propriétaires, des armes qui sont détenues légalement. Un registre ne vise que les personnes qui ont déjà le droit de détenir des armes à feu, plutôt que celles qui en détiennent illégalement. À cet égard, il n'ajoute rien, si ce n'est des tracasseries administratives, au contrôle des armes à feu.

En vertu du Projet de loi 20, les chasseurs, tireurs sportifs et collectionneurs devront faire enregistrer et buriner leurs armes. En effet, le Projet de loi 20 requiert que le numéro d'enregistrement de l'arme (et non pas son numéro de série, comme c'est le cas présentement) soit gravé de façon permanente sur l'arme, ou y soit inscrit de façon conforme à une future réglementation. Cette mesure, hormis son absurdité et sa totale inutilité, fera en sorte de diminuer considérablement la valeur des armes qui y sont assujetties. En effet, pour les chasseurs, tireurs et collectionneurs d'armes du Québec,

une arme à feu est également un investissement ; un objet durable ayant une forte valeur de revente éventuelle. Il n'est pas rare que ces personnes aient investi des milliers de dollars, voire des dizaines de milliers de dollars, pour l'acquisition d'armes à feu. Cette valeur va se voir considérablement diminuée par la volonté de nos politiciens de se faire du capital politique sur le dos des chasseurs, tireurs et collectionneurs.

Le Projet de loi 20 exige également que le propriétaire d'une arme d'épaule ait avec lui, en tout temps, le certificat d'enregistrement de l'arme qu'il aura en sa possession, et ce même si cette information est disponible, via le registre, pour le policier qui effectue un contrôle. J'aimerais bien que l'on m'explique en quoi une pile de certificats dans mon portefeuille augmente la sécurité du public.

Le Projet de loi 20 obligera également les propriétaires d'armes d'épaule à dévoiler le lieu de leur entreposage, et à aviser le ministre de tout changement à cet égard. À une époque où l'on clame haut et fort le droit au respect de la vie privée, il semble que les chasseurs, tireurs et collectionneurs n'y aient pas droit, puisqu'ils devront tenir l'état au courant de leurs allées et venues ou, à tout le moins, de celles de plus de sept jours qui impliqueront un déplacement de leurs armes à feu. Ne nous faisons pas d'illusion ; le but de ces mesures est de faciliter la confiscation éventuelle, temporaire ou permanente, des armes assujetties. Car si le citoyen

ordinaire jouit de la présomption d'innocence, le chasseur, tireur ou collectionneur d'armes est considéré et traité par la loi comme un criminel en puissance. Même si statistiquement, les personnes qui détiennent un permis de possession d'armes à feu sont trois fois moins susceptibles de commettre un homicide que la population en général, l'état se prépare au jour où leur détenteur deviendra forcément un criminel. Et voilà le drame : pour rassurer les gens qui craignent le crime, on s'acharne sur une tranche de la population qui respecte les lois existantes et dont le taux de crime violent est plus bas que celui de la population en général.

À une époque où les ressources de l'état sont en quantité limitée, les fonds qui vont être consacrés à cette bureaucratie inutile pourraient être utilisés à bien meilleur escient. Pour justifier un registre, on nous répète sans cesse « qu'une vie humaine n'a pas de prix », mais on laisse les gens mourir en attente de soins médicaux, parce qu'on ne veut pas payer les ressources nécessaires pour les soigner.

Les chasseurs, tireurs et collectionneurs d'armes en ont tout simplement assez d'être les boucs émissaires de cette supercherie. Il serait temps que les autres citoyens ouvrent les yeux sur ces abus, ces balivernes et ce gaspillage éhonté des fonds publics.

(L'auteur est avocat, chasseur et tireur sportif.)





CANADIAN FIREARMS OWNERS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS
has been created to help assist those
affected by the Alberta Floods.

Spearheaded by Canada's National Firearms Association/Canadian Firearms Journal, Reload Radio, Calibre Magazine, Gun Owners of Canada, Weapons Canada, Concerned Gun Owners of Alberta and other industry partners to help rebuild the property and lives of those affected by the devastating Alberta floods.

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Canada's National Firearms Association / Canadian Firearms Journal extend our thanks to: Reload Radio • Calibre Magazine
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